ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Revitalizing archaeological assets in NEOM Region: Design of the Al-Muwayleh archaeological cluster

MORISET S. [1]*, GANDREAU D. [1], BOLOGNESI M. [1], GARCIA MARTINEZ F. [1], PET P. [1], VARET A. [1], MICHAIL G. [2], MEKAEL Y. [2]

[1] CRAterre, Grenoble, France
[2] NEOM Heritage Department, Sharma, Saudi Arabia

*Corresponding author

Abstract

The province of Tabuk, in the north-west of Saudi Arabia, is currently undergoing major transformations. Safeguarding and enhancing heritage assets is a priority if they are to be fully integrated into development strategies. This paper presents a project to revitalise a 16th-century Ottoman fort and the remains of a village on the coast of the city of Muwayleh. Devoid of any function, this imposing stone building, the largest of the fortresses on the northern shores of the Red Sea. In order to give new meaning to this place of memories, a project for a one square kilometre archaeological park has been proposed.

This paper develops the process that gave rise to this cultural landscaping proposal, in which diagnosis, analysis of values, materials testing and the search for the well-being of future users were the main driving forces. To enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area, we focused on protecting biodiversity through increased planting, designing discreet facilities, and developing activities with minimal environmental impact, all while utilizing local resources. By encouraging quiet modes of transport and healthy outdoor activities, we acted with sensitivity on architectural remains, ensuring alterations were reversible and fostering heritage values as vectors for social connections.

Keywords

NEOM Heritage, Archaeological Park Design, Ottoman Fort, fostering Heritage Values, Cultural landscape enhancement

Session

3. Heritage and archaeology

Workshop

A15745PS - NEOM, a land for the future of Arabian archeology: surveys, excavations and heritage management in North-West Arabia

Type of paper

Oral presentation