ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Preserving Ancient Adobe Architecture in Times of Conflict

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Abstract

Conflicts and wars have long posed a significant threat to the preservation of ancient architectural heritage, particularly structures made of fragile materials such as adobe. Especially in the Near East, many historic places have witnessed the devastating impacts of armed conflicts, which can lead to the complete destruction of priceless cultural landmarks and archaeological sites. Among the agents of deterioration for earthen structures are ageing, unfavourable environmental conditions or structural weaknesses inherent to the materials used in their construction. Because of these many challenges, the preservation of ancient adobe architecture has emerged as critical priorities for communities and cultural heritage professionals around the world. Unfortunately, in contemporary times, one of the key aspects of these efforts is the development of effective decision-making methodologies that can manage the restoration and rehabilitation of cultural heritage sites in the aftermath of warfare. Starting with the case study of Tell Mardikh/Ebla, concrete methods for the recovery and the preservation of Syrian cultural heritage in times of conflict will be presented.

Keywords

Heritage, Architecture, Adobe, Earth, Near East

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