



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Revitalizing the Erbil Citadel: The Role of the HCECR in Heritage Preservation and Urban Rehabilitation

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Abstract

Established in 2008, the High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR) was tasked with restoring Erbil Citadel as a vibrant and functional heritage site. Recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, the citadel stands as a testament to the region's unique historical and cultural significance. The revitalization effort began with the development of a comprehensive master plan, which required four years to complete. Following its completion, the HCECR launched a series of initiatives, including archaeological excavations and the rehabilitation of key structures. Priority was given to prominent buildings, such as Salih Chubby's house and the historic Hamam, as well as the fortification walls along the citadel's edge. These efforts underscore the intricate balance between preserving the citadel's rich heritage and ensuring its sustainable integration into contemporary urban life. This presentation will explore the HCECR's strategies and achievements in transforming the Erbil Citadel into a model of heritage preservation and urban revitalization.

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