

IDMS2023 | Egypt

Heritage Changes Discussing our responsibility...?

The celebration was organized by "Abu Simbel 50 Campaign" and the "Architectural Heritage - Cultural Identity | Egypt", in cooperation and under the auspices of the Faculty of Engineering at Misr University for Science and Technology "MUST". And in partnership with the Museum of Fine Arts in Alexandria, Ministry of Culture.

Cultural Trip and a Panel Discussion

More than 120 people participated in the event, students, Architects, specialists in heritage, and non-specialists yet interested in heritage.

At the beginning, we visited the **Serapeum of Alexandria** (one of the most important archaeological areas in Alexandria), where we got acquainted with the elements of the archaeological site, and we conducted a number of discussion sessions on the site about the importance of heritage and learning from it, and how it can be an engine for the future with all its challenges.



After that, we went to Museum of Fine Arts, which is a where a panel discussion was held, one of the important cultural and artistic edifices of the Egyptian Ministry of Culture. And it is worth noting that it includes a large collection of art holdings from different eras of famous international and Egyptian artists, which are rare pearls. The museum was established in 1945.



The main seminar was held in the theater attached to the museum, under the title (Our Responsibility for Heritage Changes), where the talks were on five main axes, and in the following order:



Dr.. Ali Said | Museum director
Cultural and knowledge axis

Dr. Ali highlighted in his speech, the role of the museum as a cultural and creative center in the field of preserving heritage, and in carrying out an awareness-raising role. He gave a brief history of the museum and its most important activities.



Dr.. Maha Abu Bakr | Ass. Prof. at MUST University & ICOMOS member
Awareness axis

In her talk, she discussed what happened in last year's celebration, and the university's interest in sponsoring such activities, and the special visions proposed for next year's celebration. Then present how these activities affected the students and added positive values to them.



Dr. Hebatalla Abouelfadl | Professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Alexandria
Education axis

Talk started by a brief introduction to the role of education and heritage through the dual master program Urban design "Revitalization of historic city districts". She focused on the third semester especially the adaptive reuse of old buildings module and how it is directly linked to climate resilient sustainable development. Some examples of adaptive reuse were displayed, then the talk ended by presenting some of students' projects.



Architects Ramez Azmy & Emad Farid | Restoration & Preservation consultants
Practice Axis

They presented some successful experiences in dealing with distinctive heritage areas, from public architecture projects. Among the projects is the restoration of Gournia village, which was designed by architect Hassan Fathy. In their talk, they focused on the importance of linking the project to the community and the societal aspect.



Architect Hamdy EL-Setouhy | Founder of the Abu Simbel Campaign and & Expert member of ICOMOS
Strategic axis

Under the title (RE-Vernacular), he addressed in his talk a strategic vision for bridging the gap between society and its architecture, and how heritage can bring solutions to current and future challenges, the most important of which are climate-related problems. With a presentation of a group of experiments and projects that he designed to achieve these goals.



It is worth noting that the event was attended by many specialists, including Eng. Ahmed EL-Nefaily, Executive Director of the Abu Simbel Campaign, representatives of the Nubian Club, students and faculty members of Al-Nahda University in Beni-Suef, as well the students of MUST University.

The seminar ended by a discussion with the attendees about what was presented and their proposals for upcoming events related to heritage.

