



Workshop on CONSERVATION-RESTORATION CRITERIA AND APPLIED TECHNIQUES.
ILUCIDARE Urban Regeneration for Historic Cairo Workshop Series
Public Symposium 19-20 SEPTEMBER 2021.

As a continuation of its EU-funded ILUCIDARE capacity building events in Cairo, World Monuments Fund, in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Patronato de la Alhambra y el Generalife and International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), announces the second public symposium within a series of cultural heritage workshops focusing on Historic Cairo.

The future conservation and rehabilitation of Takiyyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani, an extraordinary early 16th Century Sufi architectural complex, is the subject for exploring conservation theory and practice. This two-day symposium is the public component within a conservation-restoration training workshop for a limited group of conservation professionals.

The symposium, to be held on September 19th to the 20th at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, will bring the experiences from European conservation specialists together with Egyptian experts to join a debate on the following topics:

- **Formulating intervention criteria for restoring and conserving a monument**
(September 19)
Experts present practical case studies on the criteria and choices made to preserve cultural and architectural values, particularly regarding the integrity, authenticity and significance of a monument.
- **Conservation of ceramic tile applied to architecture conservation**
(September 20)
In respect to Takiyyat al-Gulshani's tilework, international experts present their experiences on the preservation and restoration of tiles applied to architecture.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the symposium venue is open to a limited to registered attendees only. Online registration is on a first-come first-served basis (Link to registration form <https://forms.gle/TMhp8HWkfrLedhvv5>). All sessions will be broadcast live vis Zoom.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 821394.



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Program

Day 1 (19-09-21)

CRITERIA TOWARDS THE CONSERVATION-RESTORATION OF A MONUMENT

International and Egyptian experts will debate formulating conservation approaches through the presentation of case studies, focusing on the values of authenticity, integrity, and significance. Within those concepts, a range of topics will be discussed, from reconstruction to the preservation of historical layers, cleaning processes and the value of patina, the importance of preserving historic fabric, the retreatability of previous conservation actions, and other subjects such as valorising incremental value through use. In short, establishing the criteria to maintain authenticity values during conservation while adapting the building for reuse.

- 9.00 – 9.30** **Registration**
- 9.30 – 10.00** **Inaugural speeches**
- 10.00 - 10.30** **Presentation of the workshop**
Pablo F. Longoria, WMF conservation architect and urban planner
- 10.30 – 11.15** **Introduction to Takiyyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani Project (TAGU)**
Jeff Allen, WMF Program Director for the Takiyyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani project
- 11.15 – 11.30** **Coffee Break**
- 11.30 – 12.15** **On Restoration and Conservation Criteria** (via zoom)
Valerie Magar, Unit Manager, Programs, International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and restoration of Cultural Property ICCROM
- 12.15 – 1.00** **Conservation and Restoration Projects in Historic Cairo**
Prof. Osama Talaat, Director of Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Sector, Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
- 1.00 – 1.45** **Defining Basic Guiding Concepts**
Werner Schmid, Conservation specialist, freelance conservator and consultant with UNESCO, the World Monuments Fund and other international agencies.
- 1.45 – 2.30** **Lunch Break**
- 2.30 – 3.15** **Alhambra and restoration criteria**
Maria Jose Domene, Head of the polychrome wood restoration workshop at the Patronato de la Alhambra y el Generalife, and **Ramon Rubio**, Head of the plaster and tile restoration workshop at the Patronato de la Alhambra y el Generalife.

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- 3.15 – 5.00 Roundtable Discussion** followed by **Q&A**.
Moderated by **Pablo F. Longoria** and **May al-Ibrashy**, Chair, Megawra-Built Environment Collective
Discussants: **Osama Talaat**, **Valerie Magar**, **Werner Schmid**, **Joao Mimoso**, LNEC (National Laboratory for Civil Engineering, Portugal) Principal Research Office, **Fekri Hassan**, Program Director Master's of Cultural Heritage Management, French University of Egypt in partnership with the Paris-Sorbonne University. **Dina Bakhoum**, Architectural conservation consultant and researcher.

Day 2 (20-9-2021)

ON TILED WALL PRESERVATION

- 2.00 – 2.45 Tiles applied to architecture: Pathologies and dangers**
Joao Mimoso, LNEC Principal Research Office (via Zoom)
- 2.45 – 3.30 The case of Fort Lahore**
Werner Schmid, Conservation specialist, freelance conservator and consultant with UNESCO, the World Monuments Fund and other international agencies.
- 3.30 - 3.45 Coffee Break**
- 3.45 - 4.30 Alhambra and tiles**
Ramon Rubio, Head of the plaster and tile restoration workshop at the Patronato de la Alhambra y el Generalife.
- 4.30 - 5.30 Closing Session**



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About Takiyyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani

The complex of al-Gulshani was the first religious foundation established in Cairo after the Ottoman conquest in 1517, and the first to be named a *takiyya*, a residential religious complex, in its foundation deed. It was built between 1519 and 1524 by Ibrahim al-Gulshani, an influential Sufi shaykh from Azerbaijan whose life in Cairo bridged the period between Mamluk and Ottoman rule. The complex consists of a freestanding Mamluk-style mausoleum in the middle of a courtyard framed by Sufi cells, mosque, kitchen, shops, and apartments for his devoted followers and family members.

In contrast to most shaykhs, who tended to build on the outskirts of the city, Ibrahim al-Gulshani built his religious complex in the heart of Cairo, where the ruling political elite normally constructed monumental edifices. Scholars speculate that Ibrahim al-Gulshani may have had a particular personal concept of his own religious standing and transferred that to determining its location and an architectural arrangement unparalleled in Cairo. The complex features his tomb on a raised platform at the center of a courtyard, a distinct feature and notable for its departure with layouts of the period.

Following the 1992 Cairo earthquake, and until 2011, the city's historic core was the subject of hundreds of restoration projects that breathed new life to its historic architecture. Today, with tourism revenue considerably reduced, investment in cultural heritage in Egypt is limited, and foreign support is now nearly non-existent. Takiyyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani lies in various states of ruin, and the area around it is dilapidated due to economic decline. However, recent interest in its rehabilitation on behalf of local authorities signals a positive shift for the complex, as does WMF's plan to start conservation.

The complex as we find it today is the result of several interventions through time. Originally built in Mamluk style, during the 19th century, the main façade of the dome was renovated by applying to it reused 15th century Ottoman tiles, probably to hide its decay. Many of these tiles have disappeared especially those near the ground. The central platform surrounding the mausoleum has been raised with at least 4 layers.



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