

## Recognition and enhancement of the surroundings of historical monuments: Case of the Citadel of Annaba

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### Abstract :

In heritage studies, the notion of environment is becoming the new framework of consideration. Through this study, we will address the issue of surroundings of cultural heritage by highlighting the dysfunction between theory and urban reality in Algeria. We will examine their role in heritage enhancement through the case of the Citadel of Annaba. We will propose a descriptive and explanatory analysis of our opposing approaches. The first results show that coordination between different actors of city, involvement of society and reinforcement of the legislative system will contribute to the enhancement of the surroundings of the built heritage.

**Keywords :** Enhancement - surroundings - historic monuments – Built cultural heritage - society

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Today's cities are witnessing rapid, anarchic and disproportionate urban growth which is transforming their landscape and urban, architectural, historical and cultural morphology.

As a result of this urban sprawl, the identity of the city is strongly altered.

The identity of the city is expressed primarily through the monuments and historical remains inherited from previous civilisations. The latter are in most cases isolated from their surrounding area, which is detrimental to this heritage and urban ensemble.

Today, more than ever, the question concerns the fate of the monument-approach duo, which can in no way be treated separately and requires an in-depth study and effective action strategies to be applied on the ground.

The notion of the surroundings of historic monuments is a very fashionable theme given the importance given to heritage today. However, the problem of dealing with the surroundings of historic monuments is hidden behind a charming modesty: in the expression surroundings of the monument what counts is obviously the monument itself, everything that happens around it is subordinate and, at first sight, remains secondary. Nevertheless, modesty can be deceptive, and this is the case here.

The subject of the surroundings occasionally proves to be just as important as that of the monuments, and as a rule, more difficult to deal with. Indeed, all studies have proven the indissociability of this duo and the obligation to treat the whole.

Consequently, today more than ever, it is urgent to put in place the necessary instruments for the protection and management of this complex urban heritage, which is an indicator of the history, identity and culture of civilisations.

In the light of our research, we will present in this article some proposals for a better consideration of the surroundings that can be adapted to the Algerian context and this at different scales of intervention.

## **2. THE SURROUNDINGS OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS: A PAST WITH A FUTURE**

The rapid evolution of the concept of "Heritage" has made its approach more complex as successive definitions reveal significant differences, some of which are contextual, others conceptual<sup>1</sup>. The protection of the said heritage has always been in continuous extension and tends to go beyond the limits of the latter by

including its surroundings. This is apparent from the first thoughts on heritage protection, resulting from the debate between the restorers' movement (Viollet le Duc)<sup>2</sup> and the curators' movement (John Ruskin)<sup>3</sup>. Camillo Sitte (1843-1903) also criticised the intentions of the restorers and advocated instead the spatial relationships that link an architecture to its immediate environment (1980)<sup>4</sup>. According to him, the surroundings are defined by the visual relationship with the monument.

The protection of monuments in the Italian doctrine, for example, did not only concern the physical and visual aspect of monuments, but also took into consideration their surrounding space. To this end, Gustavo Giovannoni<sup>5</sup> synthesizes the two opposing approaches of curators and restorers (1995, 2nd ed.) by attributing the value of history and art to singular monuments and evokes the notion of *Ambiente*, which can be translated into the notion of environmentalism and context. Through this notion, GIOVANNONI declares the need to preserve the perspectives, volumes, colours and the set of urban characters that define and specify a historical space without having explicit limits. GIOVANNONI also insists on the measures of intervention on the surroundings of the monuments which depend on several cases, in particular the case where the monument is a simple tourist exploitation or the case where a monument still has its use value. He then sets control measures taking into consideration the views from the monument, the diversion of traffic and the use of vegetation around the monuments, giving simultaneously a monumental value and a use value to the old urban complexes<sup>6</sup>.

As a result, the concept of a historic monument cannot designate a singular building, cut off from the built context in which it is inserted. He therefore proposes to link monuments to their context, i.e. the urban fabric. According to him, the very nature of the historic city and its traditional urban ensembles, their *Ambiente*, is the result of this dialectic of the monument and its surroundings. For GIOVANNONI, isolating or clearing out a monument means, most of the time, mutilating it.

Since then, ideas have constantly evolved, each time pushing the limits of the object of heritage. Indeed, the internationalisation of the notion of the surroundings was affirmed with the treaties of the Athens Charter in 1931, when the entity represented by the surroundings was affirmed as a spatial category belonging to the historical heritage. Then, with the advent of the Venice Charter

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in 1964, the object of heritage changed significantly, and the historic centre is now recognised as a heritage category. Hence the problem of the surroundings has developed, in addition to the aesthetic criteria, the historical value and the value of the environment are recognised.

Indeed, the value of the environment is now becoming the new framework of consideration ; where the protection of historical heritage is included in urban and regional planning policies, as explained in the Amsterdam Charter of 1975. The notion of the environment was affirmed a few years later with the Krakow Charter in 2000. The environment must be spatially, socially, economically and culturally linked to historic areas. This same notion represents one of the major principles of the charter for the interpretation and presentation of sites and cultural heritage in 2008.

Through this long and continuously evolving process, the spatial figure represented by the surroundings has undergone a worldwide theoretical advance, following several international conferences and general assemblies, all with the aim of recognising that the heritage work is not limited to the building itself but extends to the surrounding framework from which it cannot be detached.

### **3. THE URBAN REALITY OF THE SURROUNDINGS IN ALGERIA**

Algeria was the first country in the Maghreb to have introduced a law relating to the surroundings of historic monuments. The approaches to heritage emerge with the notion of protection zone within the framework of the elaboration of the Plan de Sauvegarde et de Mise en Valeur des Sites Archéologiques (PSMVSA, article 30) applied after the appearance of the classification of historic monuments and archaeological sites. It appears in the Algerian legislation by emphasising the fact that a monument or a site is inseparable from its immediate environment. However, their study is still complex and depends on the only parameter of visibility, calculated according to a distance of 200m and really one evokes, more the heritage than its surroundings

The degradation of the urban heritage in Algeria is due to several factors, including urban development, which is carried out to the detriment of monuments and their surroundings, but also to looting and illicit occupation. Nevertheless, the worst cause is the result of the timid intervention of the state which has not ensured the strict application of the heritage legislation, knowing that no

necessary financial resources have been advocated for the preservation and restoration of monuments and historical ensembles.

Contrary to the momentum of evolution that the approaches have experienced worldwide, this concept has been timidly treated in Algeria, even though - as mentioned above - the latter was the first Maghreb country to have introduced a law relating to the approaches to historic monuments. Since its independence, Algeria has produced two legal texts relating to the protection of heritage: Ordinance 67-281 relating to archaeological excavations and the protection of historical and natural sites and monuments, which refers to the renewal of French laws, made applicable to Algeria, and Law 98-04 on the protection of cultural heritage. The approaches to heritage emerge with the notion of protection zone in the framework of the elaboration of the Plan de Sauvegarde et de Mise en Valeur des Sites Archéologiques (PSMVSA, article 30) applied after the appearance of the classification of historical monuments and archaeological sites. It appears in the Algerian legislation by emphasising the fact that a monument or a site is inseparable from its immediate environment. However, their study is still complex and dependent on the sole parameter of visibility, calculated according to a distance of 200m, and in reality, the heritage is evoked more than its surroundings.

For Yassine OUAGUENI, a member of ICOMOS Algeria, notwithstanding the introduction of laws relating to the protection of heritage, the latter was condemned by the opinion of the time to disappear because of its "inability to assume modernity"<sup>7</sup>. In other words, despite the laws dealing with the protection of this historical heritage, the heritage as it is and where it is located does not assume the evolution of the city that surrounds it. It is important to be aware that taking heritage and its surroundings into consideration is a key issue for the development of the cities of the future in economic, social, cultural and urban planning terms.

We note that it is indeed unthinkable to manage an isolated space within a city without taking into account what is happening around it. This would jeopardise the monument in question and damage the architectural, urban and landscape interest on the scale of the site and the city.

The theme of the surroundings of monuments has aroused the interest of many researchers and heritage practitioners. However, the future and the role of this urban entity in the enhancement of the monument remain vaguely addressed.

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There is often talk of the reuse of historic monuments, the process of intervention on old fabrics, restoration, and use as a factor in the enhancement of monuments. Other work focuses on the legislation and the actors involved in the safeguarding and enhancement of urban heritage. The latter have provided a theoretical insight into the complexity of the notion of surroundings, its appearance and its evolution over time and through legislation. Furthermore, the notion of surroundings was also dealt with from the point of view of the legibility of the landscape, its components and the cultural landscape. Here too, we are witnessing a description of the state of affairs of the surroundings in Algeria.



Photo 1 : Théâtre romain de Skikda et ses abords. Source : Pages Web.



Photo 2 : Vue sur la grande mosquée d'Algiers ainsi que le parking à étages. Source : Auteur / Juillet 2017.



Photo 3 : Les Abords de la villa Hassan-Khodja nommé aussi « Palais du Dey » Alger. Source : Archives AASPPA.

The examples below bear witness to the state in which the surroundings of monuments in Algeria find themselves today and explain the gap between the theoretical objectives and the reality on the ground.

The surroundings of the Roman theatre of Skikda (photo1) this monument, which was almost razed to the ground like the rest of the remains of Rusicade, were sacrificed because, in 1933, the Emile Maupas Girls' College (now En-Nahda High School) was built on its orchestra, thus burying other remains of this theatre. Part of the stage has therefore disappeared, and only the substructures of the bleachers remain today. One also finds, the surroundings of the Great Mosque of Algiers (photo 2) located in the navy district, whose surroundings were used as ground for the realization of a large multi-storey car park which modifies by its function the historical and identity value of the place.

The most alarming example is the case of the Hassan Khodja villa (photo 3), drowned in the illicit urban landscape that surrounds it, the surroundings of this flagship monument of Algerian architecture, contribute negatively to the neglect and degradation of the said heritage. They constitute an obstacle to the enhancement of this heritage work.

The list of examples remains exhaustive. The article by TOUIL Amel, which appeared in the magazine Vie de villes in 2006, supports the reflection on the urban reality of Algeria. It refers to the nuisance caused to historic areas and their surroundings : "... immovable cultural properties, despite the proclamation of their classification, continue to suffer various forms of nuisance. Nevertheless, the same applies to their surroundings which, in terms of the legal procedure that follows, have not been applied in any way ! This is indicative of the complexity of the situation. »<sup>8</sup>

#### **4. SURROUNDINGS OF THE CITADEL OF ANNABA: A MARGINALIZED URBAN HERITAGE:**

The Hafside citadel of Annaba will be the subject of this article in order to better contextualise the problem of the surroundings of the built heritage in Algeria. Through this choice, we intend to emphasise the importance of taking into consideration both the monument and its surroundings, and its impact on the enhancement of the latter.



**Photo 4** :Location map of the Citadel of Annaba.**Source** :Google Earth photo processed by the author 2017

Built in 1300, the Citadel occupies a remarkable site in the town of Annaba, in fact from the 109 metres of the mamelon on which it was built - the highest point within a radius of one kilometre - it dominates both the town to the south and the hinterland to the west, and exerts an easy surveillance of the cornice to the north and the bay to the east. A memoir by the French military engineers presenting the Citadel in 1837 wrote : "The Kasbah is situated 100m above sea level on a hillock

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400m to the north-east of the town, which it dominates by 73m, its fires take the back and can reach all the houses. The Kasbah is thus by its position the key to Bône ... "

The citadel is bounded by the Beauséjour district to the north-west, and to the south facing the old town on the way to the aqueduct. It is bordered by the chemin de l'Avant-port to the east and the Santons district to the west.

The site benefits from a strategic location as it is situated high up, in the heart of the town of Annaba, which gives it a breathtaking view of the town and its surroundings. It allows the articulation of the northern part to the southern part of the city centre.



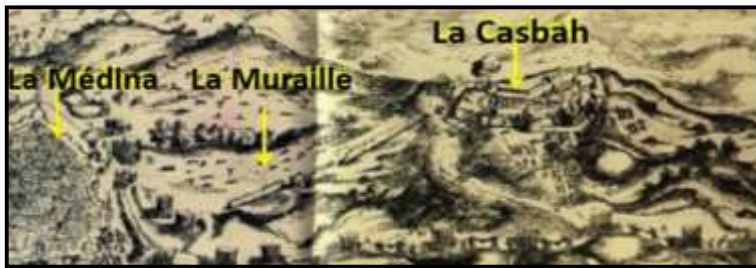
Photo 5 : Situation du Site des Caroubiers et de la Citadelle par rapport à leur environnement immédiat. Source : Google Earth traitée par l'Auteur



Photo 6 : Vue extérieure de la Citadelle Source : Auzer 2017

However, it was connected to the city by a wall that was destroyed over time. This situation distinguishes it from other citadels which are directly integrated into the city, such as Algiers, Constantine, Bejaia, and many others where they are integrated into the plan of the central core of the city. However, in the far west of Algeria, there is the citadel of Honaine, which has the same peculiarity as the example of Annaba, separate from the city and built on a hillock which dominates the city and the port.





**Photo 7 :**Map of the city of Annaba and the Citadel in 1607. **Source :** Roger ROSSO<sup>9</sup>

The Citadel of Annaba has passed through several eras, each of which has marked its existence through the architecture of its buildings. In spite of their dilapidation, this fortress remains the witness of seven centuries of history.

Of the medieval building, only the ramparts remain today. However, documents dating from after the medieval period, mainly graphic, have made it possible to sketch out the structure of the Citadel, namely a map of the town in 1607, as well as a plan drawn up by the engineering services of the French army in 1830.

Long before the colonial period, there were outbuildings originally built by the Hafsids (1300-1535) such as : bastion, palace and mosque and those built during the Ottoman period such as towers and projecting launches.

In 1607, After 4 years of the spanish occupation, the citadel was taken by the Tuscans following a surprise infiltration where they only stayed there for a few hours, as René Bouyac reports in 1891 : "Bône, after a few days, was taken by force".



**Photo 8 :**The surroundings of the Citadel in 1833.  
**Source:** Original painting of the City of Bône in 1833  
Treated by the Author

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In 1832, the French took possession of it following a high treason. The French army turned it into a barracks and a huge arms depot.

Looking at the evolution of the surroundings of the Citadel since its construction, we noticed that the surrounding space was composed of a vegetal landscape that highlights the existence of the citadel high up on the hill Djebel Abed (photo 10)

It was only in 1970 that the construction of a new housing estate "Lotissement les caroubiers" began, on the outskirts of the citadel leaning against the north-eastern rampart (Photos 13). From 1970 to the present day, the Citadel has been visibly immersed in the surrounding urban landscape with no exceptional appearance or demarcation requirements allowing it to be seen from the city. The principles of architectural, urban and landscape coherence of the areas surrounding the historic monuments have not been respected. (Photo 11).



**Photo 9 :**View of the Citadel surroundings from the north-east / Caroubiers housing estate against the wall. **Source :** Author / May 2017

**Photo 10 :** Citadel rampart. **Source:** Author 2017

Despite its historical and urban heritage importance within the city of Annaba, the citadel only benefited from a simple national classification in 1978, focusing on its ramparts without taking into consideration its surroundings, which constitute the urban and landscape environment of the citadel from which it cannot be detached.

Abandoned, poorly maintained, considered as easements governed by law, these surroundings are marginalised and do not facilitate the visibility of the citadel or its enhancement in relation to the city. This urban entity alters the historical, urban and landscape richness of the site, despite Law 98-04 through its article 17, which stipulates that the protection of the fields of visibility of the built heritage is mandatory, and which requires a protection zone of 200 m.

This perimeter of 200m, imposed by law 98-04, challenges us as to its scope in order to enhance a monument with an important historical weight ? Should we focus solely on the landscape and perceptual aspect and neglect the urban planning aspect and the important role played by the surroundings of the citadel ? The 200 metres should be the subject of a more detailed study which would emphasise the role of the surroundings and confirm the role of the latter in the enhancement of the historic monument.



**Photo 11** :View of the citadel from the Basilica of St Augustine in Annaba.

**Source** : Author 2017

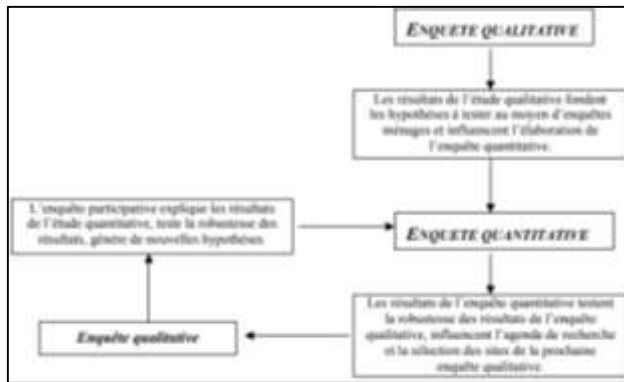
H'sen Dourdour, years before the present research, wondered "This Kasbah, though old and forgotten, why not turn it into a cultural centre with a museum, educational and artistic activities, and yet the panorama lends itself to it".

The citadel today represents the main fortification work of the city of Annaba, which has persisted since the construction of the first urban nucleus. It remains a unifying and generating component of the heritage entities of the ancient fortified town.

Today, the issue of the ancient fabrics has become one of the main axes of the debate on the city of tomorrow. The case of the citadel of Annaba is one of them. This fortress, with a very valuable urban and landscape architectural heritage, deserves more attention from the authorities and the population in order to reintegrate it into the city which is in constant development. Through this research, it would be important to focus on the adaptation of the space known as the 'surroundings' of the citadel, as an ancient fabric, to the new urban culture which the city of Annaba is following in the era of its metropolisation.

## 5. CORRELATION AND COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN TWO MODES OF INVESTIGATION: COMBINING QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE APPROACHES:

The interest of this research, as Le Corbusier would say "Medicine or Surgery", is to draw the elements of the puzzle from the country itself, impregnated with this culture, which can enliven a reflection concerning the way in which one must act to remodel the urban framework of the citadel of Annaba as well as its surroundings and thus to connect the various fabrics and to integrate the historical aspect into the current urban fabric.



**Photo 12 :** Complementarity between two approaches : qualitative and quantitative. **Source :** Robb, C.M., 1999

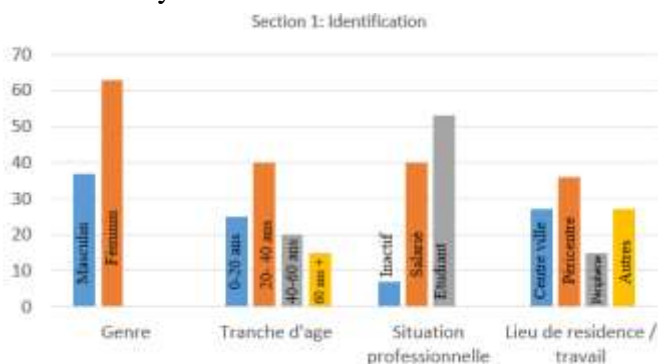
Besides the fact that our research is mainly based on a qualitative approach, the elements observed in the field do not allow us to omit the choice of combining the two qualitative and quantitative methods. Each of the qualitative and quantitative formulas leads to a precise methodological reflection, each of which uses specific tools and techniques with the sole aim of answering the initial questioning.

This research is exploratory in nature and is supported by a questionnaire and directive and semi-structured interviews to facilitate direct contact in the collection of information. The discussions were more in-depth. These approach techniques target the population of the city of Annaba as well as local decision makers in the field of heritage and urban planning.

During this research work, we used two methodological tools : the questionnaire and the interview. We also used the interview to facilitate direct contact in the

collection of information. The discussions were more in-depth and this allowed us to complete the results of the quantitative survey.

The questions were divided into four sections. The first aims to identify the respondents while preserving their anonymity. In the second section, the respondents are asked to test their knowledge about heritage, historical monuments and their surroundings without using very precise vocabulary, but rather remain open to allow people to answer in generalities. The third section aims to clarify the use and habits of the Bernese people with regard to their heritage. The fourth and final section focuses on the case study which is the Citadel of Annaba. Starting from the idea that the population has a large part in the enhancement of a heritage ; our questions aim to shed light on everything that concerns this monument in terms of use, perception, and the way people appreciate this urban entity.



The interview is an interesting analysis methodology which allows for the collection of qualitative data. The interviews were carried out with a number of actors who intervene directly in the heritage of the city of Annaba, in particular, the Directorate of Culture, the Directorate of Urban Planning and Construction, the Directorate of Tourism and some architects.

In order to create a specific sample for heritage studies in relation to society and with the means at our disposal, we were able to question 150 people.

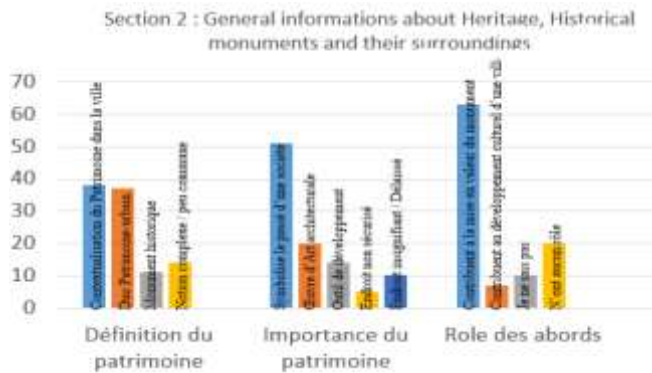
We found that the sample was composed mainly of women, civil servants and intellectuals with a dominant distribution of young female students.

The majority of the respondents are from the city, living or working in the city centre of Annaba and its surroundings.

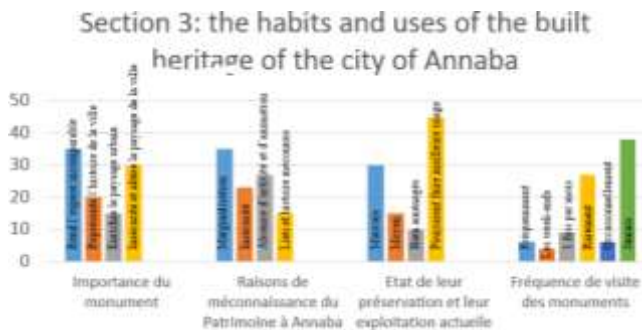
Although their status may be important within society, their awareness of heritage and its protection is relatively average. In relation to the urban heritage, the people questioned testified that this notion is complex and unusual in their use of the term.

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Most of them agree that heritage is a vector of economic and social development, despite the fact that it is in most cases an unsafe place. They are, however, aware of the importance of the surroundings and their role in the enhancement of monuments.



With regard to the habits and uses of the built heritage of the city of Annaba, we tried to find out whether the population is sensitive to the heritage landscape and whether they frequently visit these places. As a result, the built heritage of the city is marginalised by its society. Even if they are aware that it represents the identity stamp of the city, they do not express the need to visit it due to the lack of animation and awareness of their unknown history, but also for reasons of insecurity. The monuments are, in most cases, abandoned.



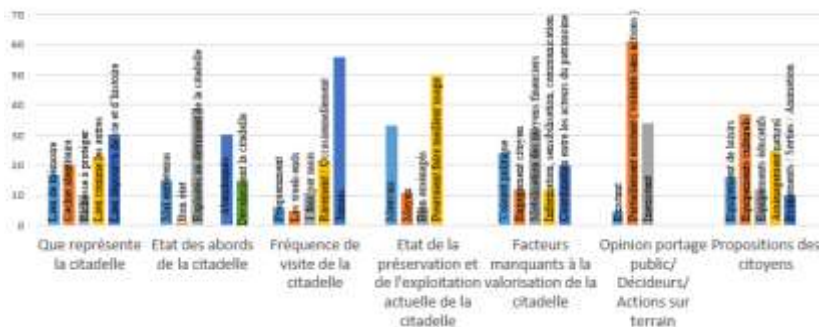
This also applies to the citadel of Annaba, which despite its classification is abandoned by society and the state. In approaching the case study of the Citadel, we were surprised to find that most of those questioned were not necessarily aware of the existence of this citadel or its history. When asked what the Citadel meant to them, the majority of the respondents replied that this monument represented a place devoid of life and history, a place like any other. Others noted

that this monument represents the identity stamp of the city, a wealth to be protected.

In addressing the question of the condition of the surroundings of the citadel, the responses were very similarly divided between those who thought that the surroundings were being exploited to the detriment of the citadel and those who thought that the latter were completely abandoned. This confirms the very low or even non-existent frequency of visits. With regard to the state of preservation and current use of the citadel and its surroundings, the majority of those surveyed felt that this heritage ensemble could be put to better use. A large proportion thought that the state of preservation was poor, due to a number of factors missing from the projects to be undertaken to enhance the citadel. The factors most frequently mentioned are linked to the mobilisation of financial resources, political will, lack of coordination between the main heritage players, but also the lack of citizen involvement, which remains very minimal.

The opinion of the respondents with regard to political support, the will of decision-makers, regulatory achievements and actions to be taken was mainly centred on the idea of theoretical will and the non-existence of actions in the field. The people questioned translated their thoughts into a few proposals that could remedy the current state of the surroundings of the monument by proposing cultural, educational, sports facilities, etc.

Section 4: Case Study of the Citadel of Annaba and its surroundings



No project is planned to remedy this situation, confirms the director of culture of the wilaya of Annaba. It is said that despite the classification of its ramparts, the Directorate of Culture is trying to work to protect the citadel and enhance it. However, this conditions the involvement of several actors and a considerable financial budget, which has provoked the freezing of several projects related to heritage. We also mentioned the non-conformity of written and graphic

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documents relating to the Citadel, especially with regard to the establishment of easements and the exact perimeter of the citadel, the 200m law is directly applied and is in most cases insufficient. This has accentuated the complexity of the interventions on the latter. It follows from the debate around the surroundings that there should be measures to be undertaken on the whole site, not just the citadel, given the particular importance which should be attributed to the surroundings of the monuments.

**6. THE ROLE OF SURROUNDINGS AND THEIR NECESSITY FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND BUILT HERITAGE : INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATION :**

Talking about the need to protect the surroundings of historic monuments as we have done in front of local authorities, architects and decision-makers does not seem to be relevant for some people in charge, given the financial blow and the work of reorganisation of the laws and the legislative system that this entails. Notwithstanding these constraints, it solves a consequent number of urban and societal evils related to the enhancement of monuments and will put an end to the marginalisation of the surroundings, given the considerable number of studies already carried out on the citadel of Annaba but which have been frozen or which have not led to positive results.

The perceived lack of heritage legislation was mentioned. The Algerian laws governing heritage protection represent a renewal of the French laws, which excludes the particularity of each site.

The survey thus carried out and the primary results it led to allow us to note and confirm, in a first place, that the application of the 200m easement remains insufficient and insignificant in the case of the Citadel of Annaba due to the importance of the urban and cultural landscape values of its surroundings. It is therefore important to go beyond the purely geometrical figure of the latter and to draw up a new grid of criteria based not only on visibility but also on the urbanistic aspect, while taking into consideration the material and immaterial characteristics of the context in which the Citadel is located. In other words, it would be necessary to opt for a modified perimeter which is considered at the same time as the monument. Secondly, this also confirms the lack of collaboration with other potential actors of heritage in Annaba, even if there is a



strong consideration of the fact that heritage protection is a process that requires multidisciplinary and a multitude of approaches. Finally, the marginalisation of the monument and its surroundings is a striking fact in our cities, which is illustrated by the lack of awareness of society towards its heritage. This results in the abandonment of these places of history and identity, i.e. a low frequency of visits also due to the lack of development and animation. The intervention to enhance the surroundings adapted to the Hafsid citadel of Annaba, with facilities, attractive cultural activities but also educational and leisure facilities with a view to the revitalisation and coherence of this place of collective memory and of a landscape affirming the identity stamp of society, could be an edifying reaction adaptable to the problem of the surroundings of the built heritage.

These results allow us to affirm that the classification of a monument should not be limited to the built environment alone, as this leads to its mutilation and isolation from the rest of its surroundings. However, for the success of a process of enhancement of the surroundings and of historic monuments, vigilance at three (3) levels is essential : at the level of society, at the level of local decision-makers and actors and finally at the level of the state and the legislative system.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

The field of intervention on cultural heritage can hardly be limited to the single consideration of the built environment. Cultural heritage is architecture inhabited by the population. Knowledge of this heritage remains incomplete to this day, despite the many rehabilitation, restoration and conservation projects. As such, the involvement of society in the enhancement and reintegration process would be one of the best ways to fight against the marginalisation of this urban heritage.

The surroundings of the built heritage, with all their values, constitute a support that clarifies and enhances the emblematic and material existence of the built heritage in a new dynamic of representation and enhancement of its identity values. The current laws relating to heritage protection represent a renewal of French laws. This shows the inadequacy of the decrees and laws that govern and enhance the surroundings of monuments. Progress in the Algerian legislative system remains hesitant and should be improved and strengthened. A case-by-case study, for example, would be the appropriate solution for the enhancement of the surroundings of monuments according to the particularities of each site and

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each heritage ensemble. Also, by referring to the decree of the Burra Charter (ICOMOS, 1999), the principle of discontinuous surroundings could be a plus to the system for the enhancement of monuments in Algeria and their surroundings. Or else, introduce the principle of a modified perimeter in order to free itself from the current geometric and calculated design of the surroundings, represented by the 200m easement.

In addition to this, there is the lack of coordination between local actors with regard to protection and enhancement projects, but also the lack of awareness of society with regard to its heritage. The marginalisation of the surroundings on several scales has led to the emergence and accumulation of a landscape devoid of symbolism, meaning and identity.

Following the example of Algerian cities, the city of Annaba brings together several historical monuments and sites which unfortunately do not receive the necessary attention from the authorities and therefore find themselves marginalised or even forgotten by society. The classification of a monument becomes synonymous with mutilation and isolation. Consequently, the development of a living and shared heritage awareness is the only guarantee for the success of the approach to the enhancement and protection of the surroundings and monuments. The spatial character of the surroundings should be reconsidered at the same time as the historical monument. A cultural and heritage reflection would make it possible to propose developments essentially consisting of cultural, scientific, educational and leisure facilities in order to create an attractive dynamic favourable to the monument, its surroundings and society.

Therefore, the conservation of cultural heritage only makes sense if it is part of a long-term perspective. A special effort must be made to raise awareness among all those involved in this enhancement and conservation process. Giving meaning to its cultural identity is the most important objective for a city, for its future.

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