

# بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



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## REVITALIZATION OF HISTORIC URBAN COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

### A CASE STUDY OF QUSEIR CITY, EGYPT

By:

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B.Sc. in Architecture

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE

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The research is dedicated to my grandmother and mother for their patience, and sacrifices.

#### **ABSTRACT**

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Historic urban coastal environments are extremely rich with their resources and potentialities. They are the world's most important of all areas settled by humans. It is the simple fact that directs special attention to the concern of developing and conserving such environments.

Many historic coastal cities have a sense of place and identity through the natural, man-made, and historic associations they provide. Such associations are often an integral part of the city's charm and appeal, and their visual and functional qualities are often elements of the city's image and identity.

Instead of condemning old coastal cities to non-use, decay and ultimate abandonment, revitalization - which attempt to generate the economic development through a process of direct change - will therefor become increasingly important. Revitalization efforts have had to operate within a sensitive context and environment, which acts as both a constraint and a benefit. All urban areas undergo change, but historic urban coastal environments have to cope with change in their economic fortunes while change in their physical landscapes is restricted and controlled in the interests of conservation.

Translating revitalization principles into tangible actions aimed at improving the historic urban coastal environments is the main purpose of this research. The research, by providing a theoretical analysis and numerous examples of best practice, draws the main aspects required for the revitalization of historic urban coastal environments.

The structure of the research, outlined below, reflects the aim of achieving this purpose. The structure is organized and presented in three parts. Part one: Theoretical approach, identifies the historic urban coastal environments, its potentialities, characteristics, and issues. Part two: Theoretical framework, covers the concept of revitalization, and the main aspects which will need to be considered for the historic urban coastal environments. Part three: The fieldwork, focuses on Quseir as a historic coastal case study. The study identifies the major characteristics of the city to find out the catalyst economic base for revitalization, and presents all the initiated and required actions for revitalization.

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