



MUTUAL HERITAGE
Un projet sur le
patrimoine architectural
et urbain récent dans le
monde méditerranéen

A programme funded by the European Union
Euromed Heritage IV: Mutual Heritage
from historical integration to contemporary active participation



**19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE
AND SPACES IN BETWEEN:**
FROM THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS TO THE JORDAN VALLEY PATH

**TRAINING MODULE 2:
CONNECTING HERITAGE SITES**

September 2009

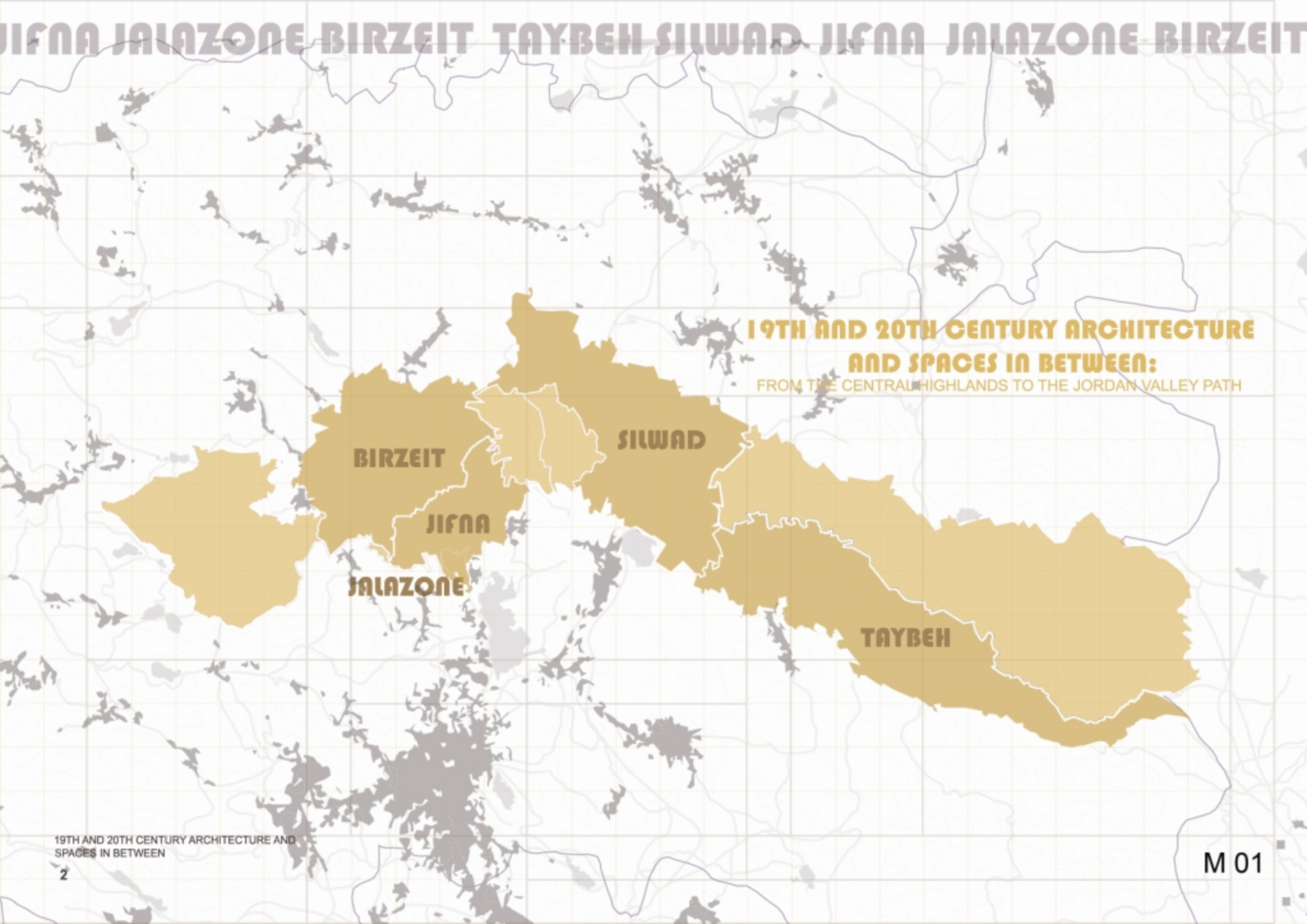
© RIWAQ رواق

Riwaq-Centre for Architectural Conservation:
Nablus Road, El-Sharafeh, Al-Bireh, P.O.Box 212, Ramallah, Palestine.
Tel:+972-2-2406887,2406925/6, Fax:+972-2-2406986, info@riwaq.org, www.riwaq.org

■ ABSTRACT

The major objective of this project is to set up a number of packages or tourist trails with the main aim of highlighting 19th and 20th century architectural heritage. These packages will basically identify and connect the following three main components (attraction points) namely: the significant elements of the 19th and 20th century architectural heritage, the surrounding cultural landscape, and the cultural activities and services available. The selected study area for the trail is entitled "From Central Highlands to Jordan valley path," and it basically connects 9 towns, villages and refugee camps spread over an area of approximately 100 square kilometers.

The main concept of this training course is to train professionals from different sectors (mainly heritage and tourism) on the identification, protection and promotion of the 19th and 20th century architecture through an on-site research which entails walking, researching and discovering the most significant attraction points and activities along the trail. It also entails designing different trail programs for the benefit and entertainment of the Palestinian community as well as international tourists and visitors.



**19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE
AND SPACES IN BETWEEN:**
FROM THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS TO THE JORDAN VALLEY PATH

BIRZEIT

SIWAD

JIFNA

JALAZONE

TAYBEH

TAYBEH



BEDOUIN STRUCTURES ■ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
HISTORIC CENTER ■ ARCHITECTURE OF THE 60'S

OVERVIEW

The town of Taybeh is located 14 km to the north east of Ramallah, and is 930 meters above sea level. Taybeh is considered one of the largest villages in Ramallah governate with total area of 24000 dunam. According to the 'Population, Housing and Establishment Census' conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 1997, its total population at that time was 1504 persons. The town is beautifully located overlooking the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea to the East. Taybeh is famous for olive trees, which cover an area of 1315 dunam beside fig trees and vine groves. It has an extra value for its location over strategic hill which also affects the structure of the urban fabric.

..... BEDOUIN STRUCTURES

The Bedouin tribes are an important part of the Palestinian heritage as they have roamed Palestine for thousands of years. They are spread throughout the West Bank districts from the Hebron mountains in the south to the northern Jordan Valley. These areas are rich in natural resources, such as water and grazing land, as well as many caves which have served as Bedouin shelters for millennia. This land has also been reasonably far from human civilization until recently. Thus, their concentration in Taybeh lands is reasonable with the existence of these elements. Traditionally, the Bedouin tribes have led a nomadic life, moving to the hills in early April and back down to the valleys in early September to escape the weather

..... ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

In addition, to the historic area with its distinctive, harmonious architectural fabric and historic buildings, there are many several, natural heritage sites, archaeological sites and ruins. Taybeh has also a great historical and social importance as it was originally built by the Canaanites. The town has also a number of excavation sites containing building foundations, mosaics, graves cut into rocks, and olive press factories. Six main sites could be found in the city: the old town, El-Bubarieh, El Khader Church, Khirbet Izeiter, Khirbet El-dissi, Khirbet El-Klieh. There are 16 water springs distributed in the lands appending to the present town. There as well a lot of archeological caves distributed on the way to the Jordan valley.



..... ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

Following is the description of one of the main antiquity sites:

El-Khader Church :

The church dates back to times and historic periods from the Byzantine Period (325-638 A.D.) to the early Ottoman period (1516-1850). It is situated to the eastern part of the historic centre and 300 meters away from the main cemetery. Its area is around 1.5 dunam and includes remains of a byzantine church with its mosaic, stairs, water canals, wells inside the rocks and cemeteries under the church. The residence of Taybeh are still offer sacrifices and light candles as a traditional superstitions and religious practices.

El-Bubarieh:

The historic periods of El-Bubarieh dates from the Crusaders period (1099-1187) to the early Ottoman period (1516-1850). It is located to the north western part of the city center. Its area is about 840m but can be much bigger when the adjacent buildings are included to arrive to 2 dunam. It contains remains of a crusaders castle which its northern wall is still exists beside ruins of its western part. It includes several rooms with half barrel vaults, wells and internal courtyard.

..... ACTIVITIES

Taybeh is known cultural activities such as Taybeh Oktober Fest. Also it is famous for its religious tourism which includes activities candle and pottery making and olive oil pressing.



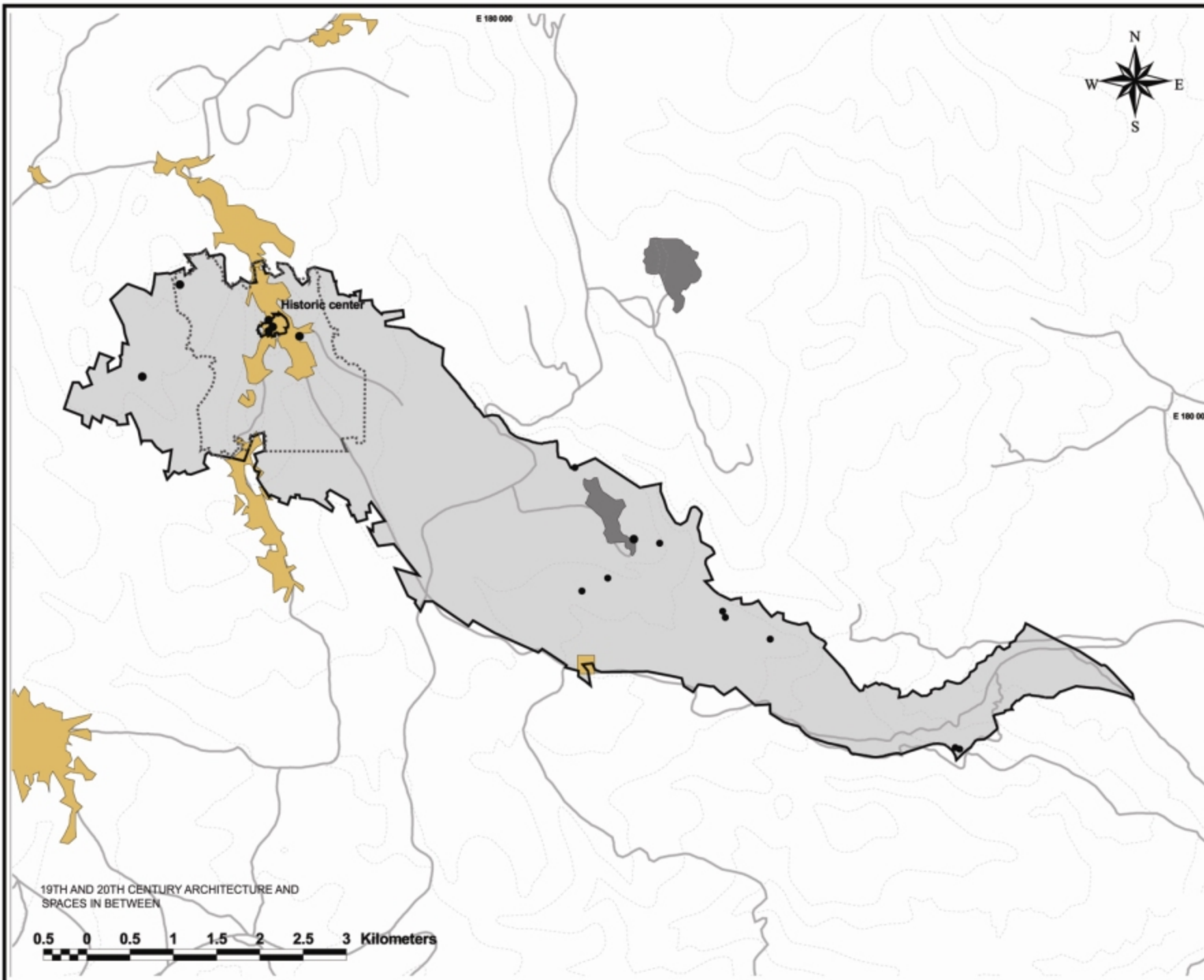
HISTORIC CENTER

The historic centre of Al-Taybeh is composed of a group of historic buildings forming courtyards streets and alleys. It is unique for its position on top of the hill and the way these spaces integrated with the topography to form the historic centre. The historic center is divided into four neighborhoods corresponding to the main clans of Al-Taybeh. The total number of historical buildings in Al-Taybeh is 246; 194 are within the historic area forming the historic fabric of old center and 52 outside. The total Area of the Historical Center which needs protection forms 1.6% of the total area of the master plan of Al-Taybeh village. The Table below summaries the information about the Historical Center.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE 60'S

The 60's buildings in Birzeit concentrated in the areas around the historic centre especially from the northern side and southern side. Though Taybeh village is not relatively close to Ramallah compared with Birzeit, yet the 60's buildings had a lot of similarity to those built in Ramallah in the same period. Some of those buildings were copy pf Ramallah's houses showing sence in architecture, taste and rich of owners. The main 60's building in Taybeh were built for residential uses and it is realized that families used to build in the same area creating a neighborhood instead of a courtyard in the historic center.





- Legend**
- Archeological Feature
 - Main Archeological Site
 - Palestinian Built-up Areas
 - Israeli Settlement Built-up Area (1997)
 - Silwad Lands
 - Historic Center Border
 - Coordination Grid
 - Contour Line
 - Roads Network
 - Silwad Village Border
 - Silwad Master Plan Border
 - District Border

TAYBEH General Map

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES IN BETWEEN

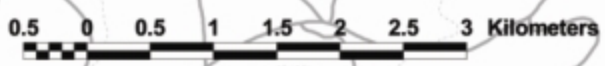
Euromed Heritage IV: Mutual Heritage Project

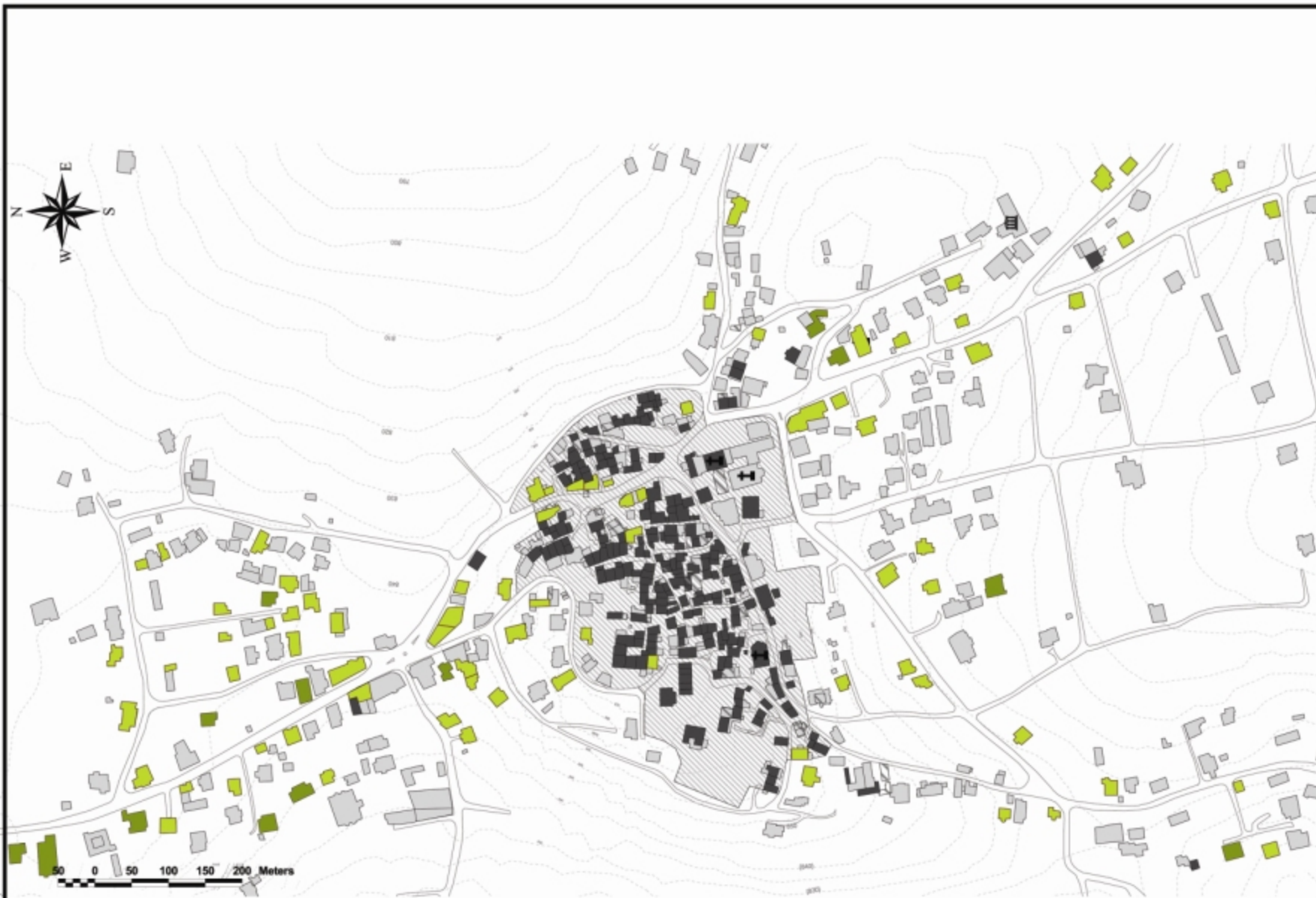
October 2009



M 02

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES IN BETWEEN





- Legend**
- Building of the 60's
 - Distinguished building of the 60's
 - Historic building
 - New building
 - Historic building
 - Church
 - Municipality
 - Contour line
 - Main road

TAYBEH Historic Center and Buildings of the 60's

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES IN BETWEEN

Euromed Heritage IV: Mutual Heritage Project

October 2009

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES IN BETWEEN



M 03



CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ■ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
HISTORIC CENTER ■

OVERVIEW

The town of Silwad is located 12 km to the north east of Ramallah, about 5 Km away from the Nablus-Jerusalem highway, and is 860m above sea level. It is bordered by Ein Yabroud from the South, El Mazra'a El-Sharqia from the North, Deir Jarir and Kufr Malek the East and Yabroud from the West. Its land is about 18880 dunam. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the town had a population of 7,250 inhabitants in mid-year 2006. The climate is Mediterranean- mountainous and is suitable for growing figs, cherries, nectarines, kiwifruit, grapes and olives.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Silwad contains several cultural and natural heritage sites beside its historic centre. There are scattered **qusur** all around the town surrounded with agricultural lands and stone terraces. According to Suad Al-Amiry in her book "Manateer" Silwad is one of the well-known regions in the West Bank with a rich landscape ornamented by an intensive distribution of qusur within its mountains. In addition to building the qusur, stones were used to construct and repair terraces at the borders of lands lots. Together with the qusur, these terraces form a landmark component of Palestinian mountainous landscape. In many cases more than one qaser (single qusur) are located close to each other, indicating familial relationships between their owners and signifying the need for protection and social relations.

Silwad was famous for planting figs and grapes; therefore it was famous of drying figs, which was one reason why the qusur were distributed within the region intensively. Another reason was that collecting figs needed to be done during the very early morning, hence farmers used to sleep in the qusur and collect their crops before sunrise. Other than that, building the qusur was a means for recovering stones from planted fields as people rowed them annually.



E 180 000



Legend

- Archeological Feature
- Main Archeological Site
- Palestinian Built-up Areas
- Israeli Settlement Built-up Area (1997)
- Silwad Lands
- ∧ Historic Center Border
- ∧ Coordination Grid
- ∧ Contour Line
- ∧ Roads Network
- ∧ Silwad Village Border
- ∧ Silwad Master Plan Border
- ∧ District Border

SILWAD General Map

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES IN BETWEEN

Euromed Heritage IV: Mutual Heritage Project

October 2009

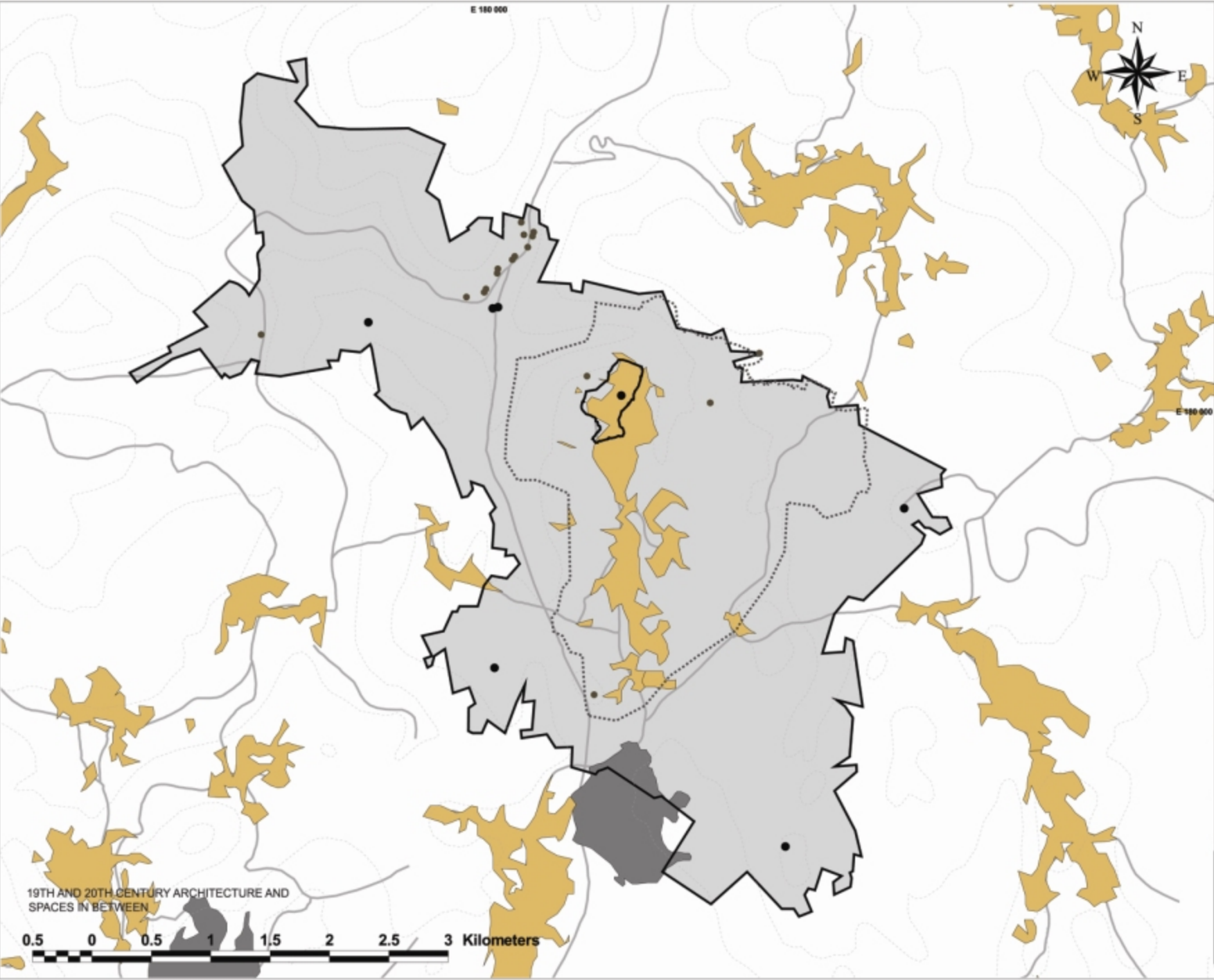


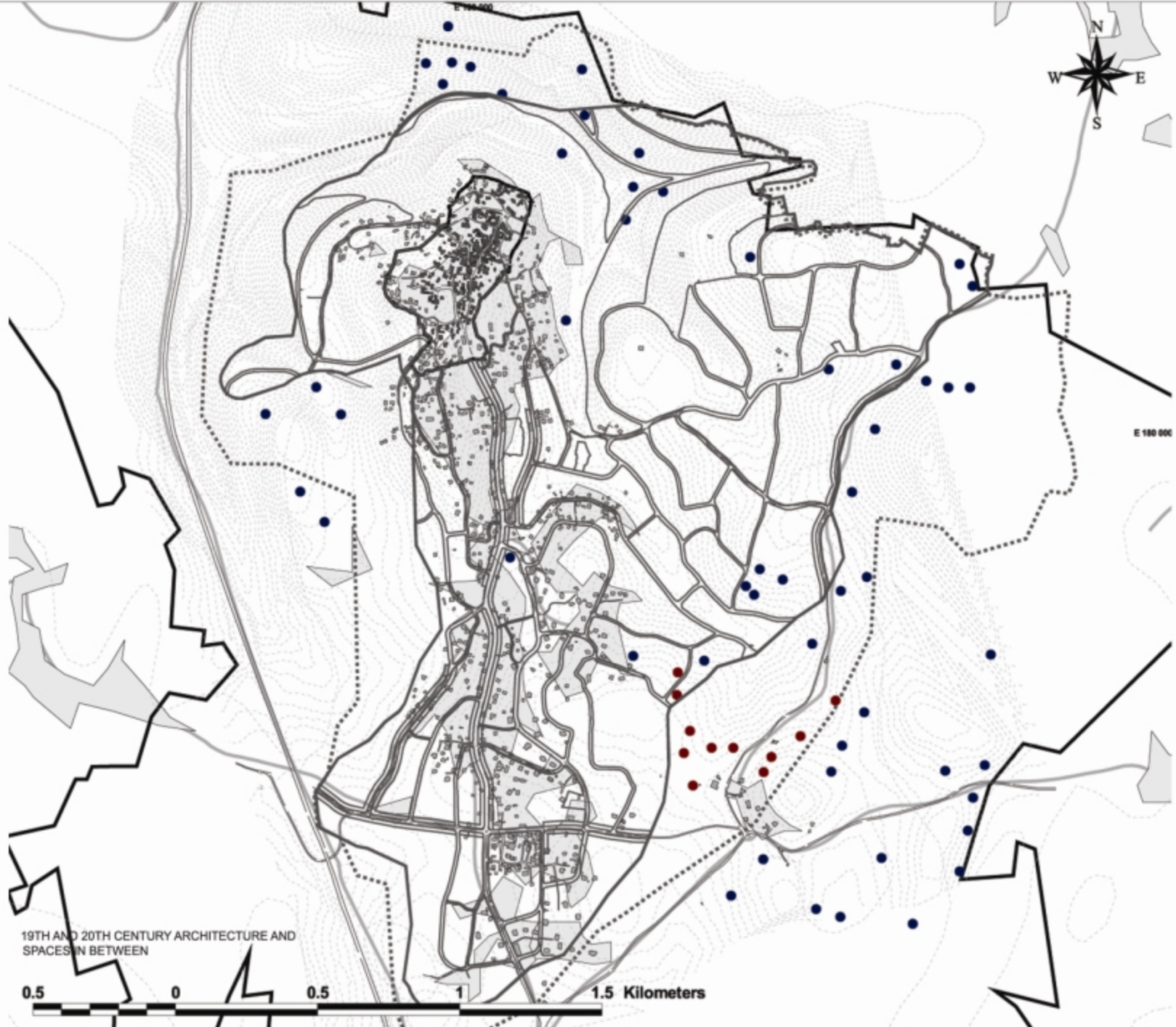
M 04

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES IN BETWEEN

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 Kilometers

E 180 000





Legend

- Silwad's Qusur
- Target Qusur
- Palestinian Built-up Areas
- Israeli Settlement Built-up Area (1997)
- Silwad Lands
- Historic Center Border
- Coordination Grid
- Contour Line
- Roads Network
- Silwad Village Border
- Silwad Master Plan Border
- District Border

**SILWAD 's
Qusur**

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY
ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES
IN BETWEEN

Euromed Heritage IV: Mutual
Heritage Project

October 2009

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND
SPACES IN BETWEEN

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Kilometers



M 05

Silwad includes many sites classified as **antiquity** sites in the surrounding areas which specify its richness and historical importance. Silwad was one of the sites in which the major commercial ways connecting Damascus and Jerusalem (North-South commercial way) and Jordan valley and the western coast (East west way). There are 30 major and minor archeological sites in Silwad. Twelve main sites could be found such as: The hill of Asour, Burj El-bardawil (Crusader castle), Kufr 'Ana, and Khirbet El-Khan. There is also 9 caves and a site of tombs carved in stone.

Following is the description of one of the main antiquity sites:

Khirbet Kufr 'Ana: The inhabitation of the Khirbet dates back to times and historic periods: the Byzantine period (325-638 A.D.), Umayyad Period 638-750 A.C.), the Crusaders period (1099-1187), The Ayyubid period (1291-1187 A.D.) The Mamluk period (1291-1516), the Ottoman period (1516-1917).

It includes remains of a whole village which was deserted by its people around 1910. It also includes a watchtower, oil presses, under earth storages, water wells, rock-carved tombs, roman columns, and a floor tiled with mosaic which is highly possibly to be remains of a Byzantine church. Most of the Khirbet houses still exist with their remains with their vaults and roofs as well as ruins of a small mosque.



REFUGEE CAMP ARCHITECTURE ■

..... OVERVIEW

“Jalazone camp was established in 1949 on 253 dunum of rocky hillside 7 kilometers north of Ramallah. Most of the original refugees came from 36 villages in the Lydda and Ramleh areas. Like other West Bank camps, it was established on land UNRWA leased from the government of Jordan. The camp came under joint Israeli-Palestinian control following the Oslo agreements. According to the 2007 census there are 7813 residents in Jalazone refugee camp”



The buildings in refugee camps have the basic function of a shelter which meant to be temporary especially in the beginnings. These shelters were built from economical materials and planned as military camps, with intersecting rows of tents with some large tents for common social facilities. The Palestinian refugees were accommodated in tents until the late 1950s when UNRWA replaced the tents with more durable shelters. Early shelters were made from thick textile with wooden posts provided by UNRWA. Up to three persons inhabited a one-post circular tent. A family with more than three persons was given a three-post tent. The tents were arranged back-to-back, opening directly onto a six-meter alley. The space between was also a possible circulation space. UNRWA provided public spaces for different facilities such a milk centre, a nutrition center, and several sanitary units, a medical centre, a mosque and schooling for refugees.

In 1953 UNRWA started building refugee camps from more permanent materials. They replaced the tents with concrete structures especially after the snow in 1952. Again, there were three types of rooms: small room about nine square meters to host up to three person, the medium size about twelve square meters to host up to six inhabitants, and the two-room model about eighteen square meters to accommodate families with more than six members.

The cells had walls built from ten-centimeter thick hollow concrete blocks, five-centimeter thick concrete floorings, and a slightly inclined eight centimeter thick slab (roof). The two and a half meter high cells were provided with sixty by eighty centimeter windows and eighty by one hundred ninety centimeter doors both made of wooden boards with simple hinges. UNRWA built a clinic, a nutrition centre, a milk centre, a school, a youth club and common sanitary units from concrete. UNRWA provided cedars to be planted in common spaces and around the public services. The refugees also started to plant some fruit trees in the camp once they possessed their own plot. They planted trees that were suitable for the new area and which also provided food.

Nowadays, the camp still has the military plan with intersecting streets and a central square with the mosque as the most dominant building. From the principal alley, smaller pathways (corridors) transect the refugee camp dividing it into blocks. The blocks were named after the villages or towns that the refugee of that particular block came from. Sometimes these areas became large enough to have blocks were named A, B, C, and so forth. UNRWA schools were set at the edge of the camp and as a result of the camp's expansions they become part of the camp. Today, with the urban expansion limitations, the camp has been developing vertically up to five floors. However, few structures from the 1950s have remained.



- Legend**
- Historic Buildings Outside Historic Center (already registered in RIWAQ registry)
 - Historic Buildings Inside Historic Center (already registered in RIWAQ registry)
 - Historic Buildings (have been added to RIWAQ registry in the updating process)
 - New Buildings
 - Historic Area (As proposed in master plan)
 - Public Plaza
 - Contour Lines
 - Main Roads
 - Master Plan Border
 - Mosque
 - Church
 - Municipality

**JAIJAZONE
General Map**

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY
ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES
IN BETWEEN

Euromed Heritage IV: Mutual
Heritage Project

October 2009

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND
SPACES IN BETWEEN



M 06



ACTIVITIES ■ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
 HISTORIC CENTER ■ ARCHITECTURE OF THE 60'S

OVERVIEW

Jifna is located 8 kilometers to the north of Ramallah and is 655 meters above sea level. The town's area is 6015 dunum while the built-up area is 163 dunum. It is surrounded by Birzeit Ein Sinyia, Surda ,Dura Karei' and Abu Qash. According to the 2007 census the town has a population of 1716 inhabitants. Jifna was known as Gophnah at the time of the First Jewish-Roman War, and after its conquest became a Roman regional capital. Later the town grew less significant politically, but nevertheless prospered under Byzantine and Arab rule due to its location on a trade route.

..... HISTORIC CENTER

The historic centre of Jifna is a relatively small fabric, and is composed of a group of historic buildings. The total number of historic buildings in Jifna is 122 of which 74 buildings are made up from one floor, 29 from 2 floors, and 109 of the historic buildings can be considered in good structural conditions.



..... ARCHITECTURE OF THE 60'S

Jifna has grown relatively slow till recently when residents of Jalazon refugee camp started to build and dwell in the town. Thus, the expansion of the town wasn't much in the 60's with around 22 buildings built in that period only.

..... ACTIVITIES

Jifna is known for its cultural activities especially the Apricot festival. It is also famous for the local cuisine and food industry which is part of its local tourism.



..... ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

Jifna is known for its archeological sites which are mostly religious. It has different churches and monasteries that date back to the Byzantine period. Also Jifna has an agricultural Castle (Tower) called El-Burj in Arabic as well as many Byzantine cemeteries and caves. There are two main archeological sites in Jifna as well as 6 minor sites such as springs, caves, and a cemetery. Most of those archeological sites are in the historic centre of Jifna adding more value to it.

Following is the description of one of the main antiquity sites:

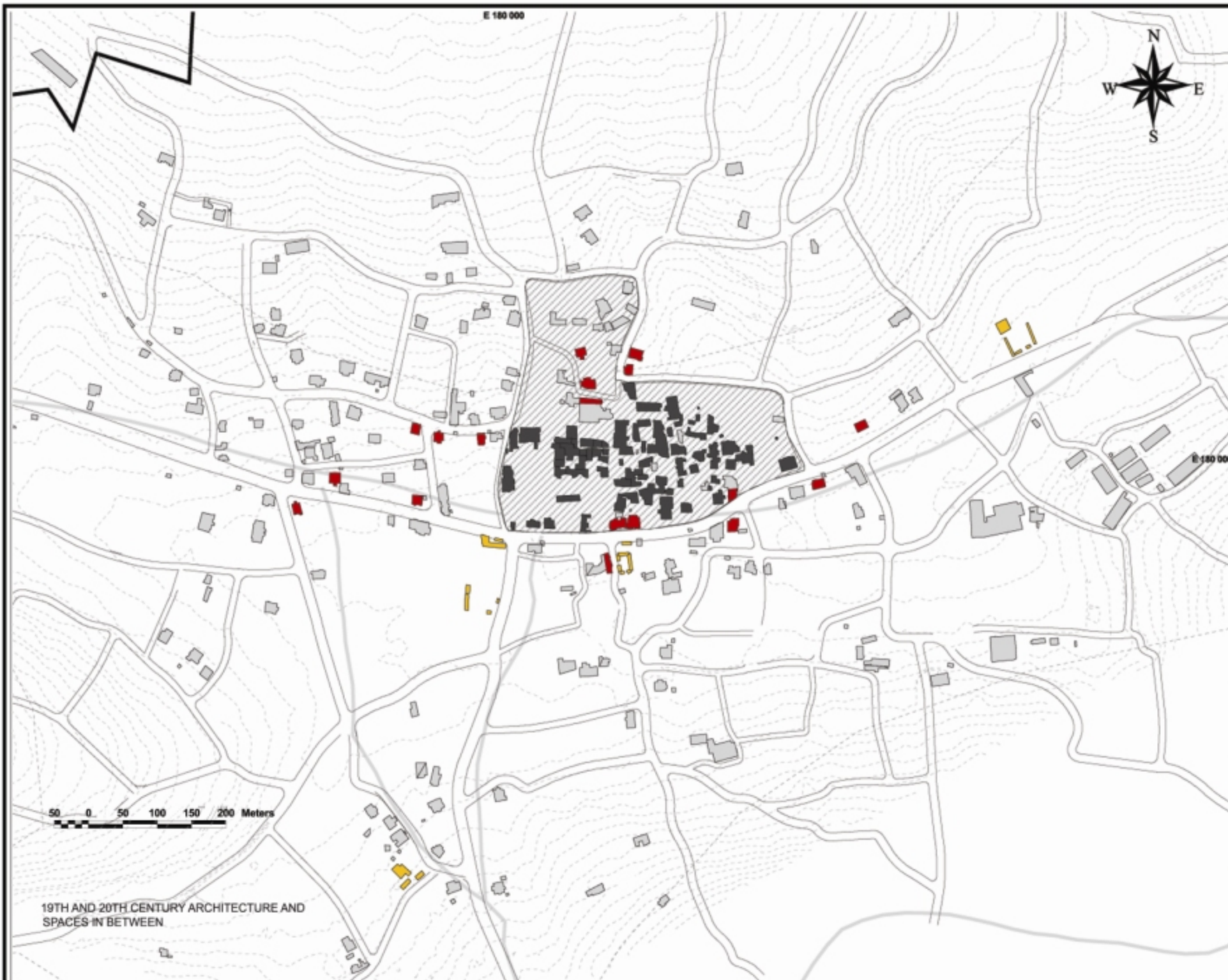
Khirbet Jifna (El-Burj): The historic periods of El-Burj date back to the Bronze age (1200-1750 B.C.). The khirbet is situated on the western side of the historic centre and within its borders. It contains an inner courtyard, several rooms, main entrance, old olive press. The khirbet includes mainly a tower (Burj) which is believed to be built during the Roman Empire. The tower has been restored and is currently used as a restaurant.

Legend

- Archaeological feature
- ⦿ Main Archaeological Site
- Palestinian Built up Areas
- Israeli Settlements Built Up Area (1997)
- Et Taiyiba Lands
- Historic Center Border
- Coordination Grid
- Contour Line
- Roads Network
- Et Taiyiba Village Border
- Et Taiyiba Master Plan Border
- District Border

Jifna General Map





E 180 000



Legend

- Archaeological feature
- ⊙ Main Archaeological Site
- Palestinian Built up Areas
- Israeli Settlements Built Up Area (1997)
- Et Taiyba Lands
- ∧ Historic Center Border
- ∧ Coordination Grid
- ∧ Contour Line
- ∧ Roads Network
- ∧ Et Taiyiba Village Border
- ∧ Et Taiyiba Master Plan Border
- ∧ District Border

E 180 000

50 0 50 100 150 200 Meters

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES IN BETWEEN

Jifna Historic Center and Buildings of the 60's

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES IN BETWEEN

Euromed Heritage IV: Mutual Heritage Project

October 2009



IRUA

M 08



ACTIVITIES ■ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
HISTORIC CENTER ■ ARCHITECTURE OF THE 60'S

OVERVIEW

The town of Birzeit is located 10 kilometers to the north of Ramallah. It is 780 meters above sea level, and is considered the largest village in terms of built up area in the district of Ramallah; the town's area is 14088 dunum (1 dunum equals 1000m²) while the built-on area is 861 dunum. Birzeit is famous for olive trees, which cover an area of 3800 dunum, it is also known for vine groves, and fig trees. It is considered as one of the important places in Palestine in relation to its historic, social and academic backgrounds. Birzeit is distinguished for its beautiful and central location and for hosting the first and the foremost

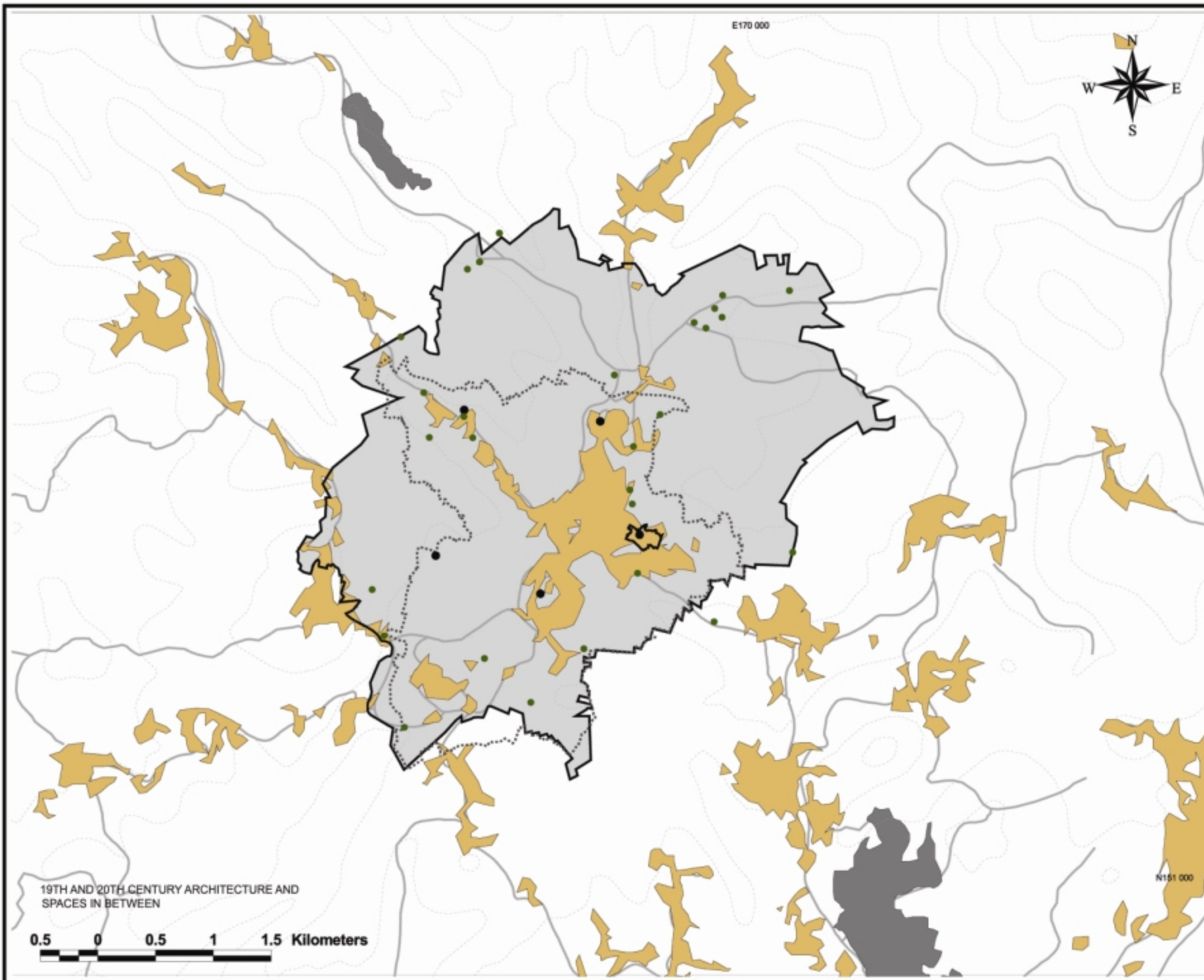
HISTORIC CENTER

The historic centre is a clear well defined traditional fabric, and is made up from historic buildings forming courtyards (private space), streets and alleys (public spaces). The historic center is divided into several neighborhoods corresponding to the main clans of Birzeit. The total number of historic buildings in Birzeit is 174; 108 are within the historic area forming the historic fabric and 66 outside. Moreover, 85% of those historic buildings are in a good or relatively good structural condition while 53% of the buildings are abandoned. The total area of the Center is 39.14 dunum, and the area of the master plan project is 6663.5 dunum. This means that the total area of the historic center is 0.005% of the master plan area of the town of Birzeit.



ACTIVITIES

Birzeit can be considered a vibrant lively village for its location near Ramallah and mostly for the existence of Birzeit University. There are a lot of cultural activities that take place in Birzeit such as cultural heritage week which is organized by Rozana association and usually take place in summer. Also there are a lot of cultural local and national institutes that work in the village such as Riwaq working along with the municipality on the rehabilitation of the historic center of Birzeit, The Edward Said national music conservatory, the Palestine Circus school, Rozana association, people's museum and many others.



- Legend**
- Archeological Feature
 - Main Archeological Site
 - Palestinian Built-up Areas
 - Israeli Settlement Built-up Area (1997)
 - Birzeit Lands
 - Historic Center Border
 - Coordination Grid
 - Contour Line
 - Roads Network
 - Birzeit Village Border
 - Birzeit Master Plan Border
 - District Border

BIRZEIT General Map

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES IN BETWEEN

Euromed Heritage IV: Mutual Heritage Project

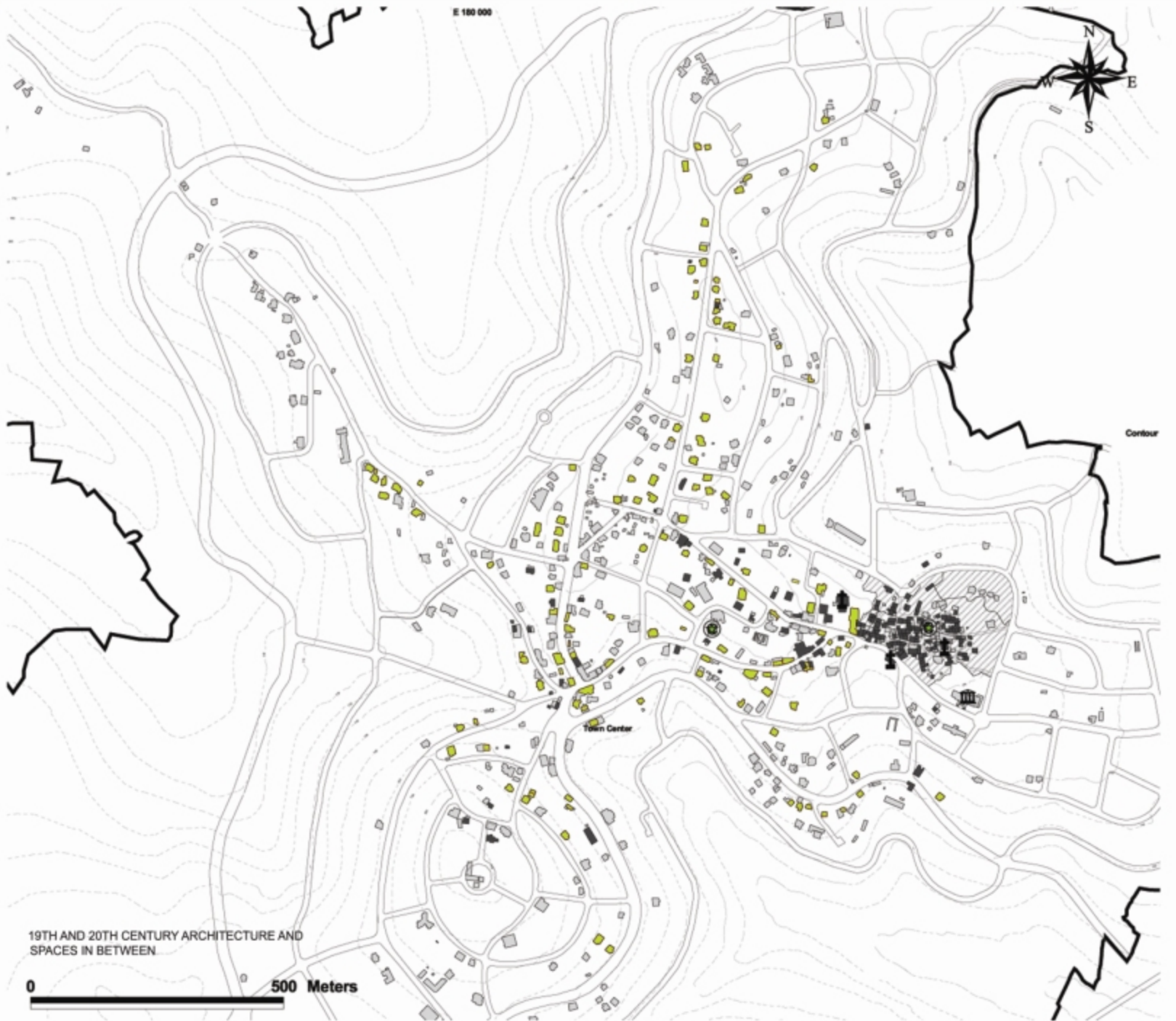
October 2009



M 09

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES IN BETWEEN

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Kilometers



E 100 000



Legend

- Building of the 60's
- Historic building
- New building
- Historic building
- ✝ Church
- ⚔ Municipality
- ⦿ Mosque
- Contour line
- Main road

Contour

Town Center

BIRZEIY Historic Center and Buildings of the 60's

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES IN BETWEEN

Euromed Heritage IV: Mutual Heritage Project

October 2009

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE AND SPACES IN BETWEEN



M 10

..... ARCHITECTURE OF THE 60'S

The 60's buildings in Birzeit are concentrated in the areas around the historic centre creating like a buffer zone around it especially from the northern side through Attara street and southern area surrounding the street to Jifna. The building license data from the municipality shows that most of the buildings were built in the end of 50's till 1967 which indicate people's fear to build after the 1967 war. The buildings were mostly simple with a mixture between historic buildings and modernity of that time style. Although these were built in a modern style, they used traditional stone techniques along with concrete and iron work. They were well integrated with their surroundings as gardens and open spaces and were open from the four sides to the environment. On the other hand, new types of commercial buildings started to formulate especially on the major streets which shows that people, at that time, started to move away from agriculture activities towards commercial ones.

..... ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

There are many sites that are classified as antiquities sites in the surrounding areas around the town of Birzeit. These locations vary from a major archeological sites such as the Khirbet and the old town, or a minor site like water wells and lime kern. Five main sites could be found in the city: the old town, Khirbet Birzeit, Khirbet Al-Ras, Khirbet Deir Al-Oqban, Khirbet Rujm Al-Rujman, and a site of tombs carved in stone (Al-Marj). There are 16 water springs distributed around and 11 locations for lime kerns.

Following is the description of one of the main archeological sites:

Khirbet Birzeit : Historic periods: the inhabitation of the Khirbet dates back to the early iron age (1200-1000 B.C.) up until the early Ottoman period (1516-1850).

The Khirbet is situated on top of a hill about 2 kilometers southwest of the village. Its area, as specified in the antiquity site of the structural plan, is 41.800 dunum. The Khirbet includes obvious antiquity remains of what seems to be a large old building on the top of the hill known as "Al-Bobriyyeh." There are also ruins of a wine press and tombs carved in stone around the edges of the Khirbet.

