

Urban Management Tools as a Contributor in the Preservation of Urban and Architectural Heritage, Case of The City of Tebessa (Algeria)

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Abstract

Algeria is one of the countries endowed with a deeply rooted cultural heritage in the history, due to its vast area and the diversity of culture and history. Tebessa City is one of the most important Algerian cities, with an important architectural and urban cultural heritage, which proves its long history and authenticity, through what the Romans and the Byzantines have constructed, such as the triumphal arch of Caracalla, The Temple of Minerva and others. It is one of the few cities whose architectural heritage is the downtown and its beating heart, however, the lack of interest in it has caused it to deteriorate despite Algeria's laws and legislation for the preservation of heritage, as well as through urban planning and management tools, which are among the most important regulations defining the adopted policies towards the urban tissue of the city. This led us to go through this study, which included, in a certain part of it, the intervention operations on the urban and architectural heritage, to deal after that with Algeria's policy in the field of urban management, heritage protection and tourism. We moved after that to the analytical part.

The research approach is based on a combined method starting by a historical analysis of the case study the city of Tebessa from 12000 BC still today to give a holistic view for the architectural and urban heritage. Next, this architectural and urban heritage is detailed basing on a descriptive presentation from the most valuable documents on Tebessa illustrated by up-to-date photos. In the third step a thorough study throw the different urban management tools is made. Finally, after the main steps a deep analysis based on the SWOT method is presented to have a holistic view on the architectural and urban heritage in Tebessa city and to take the correct recommendations is the conclusion

Key words: Urban management, architectural heritage, Urban heritage, Heritage preservation Tebessa.

INTRODUCTION

Despite all the historical sites and heritage monuments of Algeria, which represent architectural and urban masterpieces, scattered throughout the territory of the Republic, from the East to the West, and from the North to the south, and which go back to many ages of history, a little attention, if not inexistent, has been paid to them, because they are exposed to deterioration day after day, despite the laws and executive decrees set by the State, in addition to the urban planning and management tools, which include the Master Plan for Urban Development and Urbanization, and the Land Occupation Plan, which provide orientations for the protection of this heritage. Tebessa City is among the rich cities in architectural and urban heritage historical sites, located in the center of the city; they mainly include the Byzantine Wall and Caracalla's great arc of victory, which, whenever you look at it, provides a picture of the history of Tebessa and the civilizations and races which passed by it. However, the deterioration and marginalization of this inheritance can only motivate us to study this subject and raise the following problem:

- How is the role of urban planning and management tools (the Master Plan for Urban Development and Urbanization, and the Land Occupation Plan) in promoting the position of the architectural and urban heritage and its preservation in Tebessa City? And how this urban and architectural heritage is invested and exploited to achieve an actual cultural tourism in the region?

The main objectives of this research are to highlight the definitions and diagnosis of the state of the urban and architectural heritage in Tebessa City. Furthermore, to define the directives of urban planning and management tools and the laws and executive decrees related to the preservation of cultural heritage. Finally, provide the ways of preserving the region's urban and architectural heritage and how it is invested in tourism to support local resources.

Operational Framework for Intervention on Heritage Monuments

among the interventions on architectural heritage monuments and historical sites Al-Barqawi (2019) and Shehata and Al-Zawahiri (2019) highlights the following:

- **Preservation:** This policy designates the measures aiming at preventing damage and corrosion and prolongs the life of historical buildings and preserving them. Its concept extends to the urban surroundings of the historical buildings and the facilities of a distinctive architectural character; regardless of their historical value as well as the activities exercised within this urban surrounding such as trade and craft industries.
- **Maintenance:** means the continued preservation of the historical or archaeological building and comes after restoration and preservation, which is a very necessary cycle and can be achieved by reusing the building, employing it and occupying it with individuals who are capable of preserving and maintaining it on a continuous basis
- **Restoration:** A process requiring a very high degree of specialization and accuracy in dealing with the historical buildings having a historical, artistic, architectural or urban value, such as palaces, castles, towers and deteriorated and ramshackle markets within the urban tissue of the historic region, in order to ensure the durability of these latter and the protection of its buildings from deterioration.
- **Protection:** Reduce or prevent environmental and urban degradation factors and protect certain buildings, the urban tissue or the architectural character, because this kind prevents decomposition and collapse factors from continuing, Through dealing with the factors that cause this collapse, regardless of their size or importance, as well as the protection of the visual image at the level of buildings and urban areas - the protection of the social and economic environment and the distinguishing activities of the population.
- **Revival:** The revival of a particular utilization that has not existed and is not limited only to the historical areas but also suitable for existing areas and the ones oriented to urban expansion, through reviving heritage values in planning and creating these areas and trying and achieving continuity and cultural communication between the past, present and future all together. Its methods vary from reviving the shape and architectural and urban character, to reviving the activities and traditional industries while reviving also the function of historic buildings.
- **Reuse:** Indicates that the historical building is prepared for reuse either with the same old function or with a new one. The optimal use will be the one which maintains the historical value and is not incompatible with it; this is done in two ways:
 - ✓ The first is new, through using the building as a tourism landmark, depending on the historical and artistic importance of the building as an attraction factor.
 - ✓ The second is the use of the buildings of lesser importance in traditional functions that serve the community and are adequate with its needs and requirements.
- a) **Copy/repetition:** it is the operation of transferring the replication of a certain element, in order to compensate the damaged or lost parts of the building, which are often decorative parts.

Algeria's Policy in the Field of Urban Management and Heritage Protection

Urban Management Tools in Algeria

At the independence, the Algerian State had only to try to rectify and reconstruct what had been ruined by the colonizer, as well as to improve social and economic conditions and set the country's governance policy, which has to work to achieve balance and organization between the different regions and members of society. As for the aspect of urban development and management, all plans were suspended until 1975, when the same programs and urban plans that the colonizer wanted to carry out in Algeria, which are included in General Charles de Gaulle's Constantine plan (Ahmed 2007), which aimed to put down the Algerian revolution and strengthen the French economic and industrial base in Algeria, after modifying the content of this project, which interferes with the national sovereignty, or creates a gap between the different parts of the country, because the colonial policy was centered primarily on the coast, and less than that in the high plateaus; the independent Algeria adopted the policy of trying to create a regional balance, and adopted the socialist system, which politicians saw as the best system for the country's development and evolution. The major development programs which were adopted are the tri annual, quadrennial and quinquennial programs,

during which the work was focused on the improvement of housing, the living and development framework and the socio-economic aspects. They were based on the creation of new urban housing zones and quotas, as well as industrial zones and the focus on investment in heavy and petroleum industries. The work based on the urban plans inherited from the colonizer started since about 1975, from the Master Urban Plan, the Urban Modernization Plan, in addition to the Municipal Development Program (Maouia 2010, Salah 2010).

In 1987, Algeria introduced regional organization plans (Law 87-03), which are considered a policy of creating a regional balance between all regions of the country, which includes the National Plan for Territorial Development (NPTD), and 09 Territorial Development Plans and 48 Provincial Development Plans. The Law of 1987 was modified and completed in 2001, by introducing a sustainability index into the law. The year 2001 is the beginning of reference to sustainability in the development of the territory through the law 01-20, of 12 December 2001, on the spatial planning and sustainable development of the territory. The National Plan for Territorial Development (NPTD) promises to give development general policy and development programs with a national dimension and divides the national territory into 09 Regional Schemes for Territory Development (RSTD). Each territory is given development policy and territorial dimensions projects, and consists of a group of provinces and each province has a Province Development Plan (WDP). In parallel the National Plan for Territorial Development (NPTD), directs the identification and preparation of sectoral mentoring schemes for each sector, and works on setting a development plan for the sector on the national level. In parallel, there are plans on the provincial level, as shown in the (Figure.1).

Regarding the urban planning and management plans, after 1990, the laws on reconstruction, real estate orientation and state property were issued and the work started with the Master Plan for Urban Development and Urbanization (UDMP) and the Land Occupancy Plan (LOP) for Planning and Reconstruction Scheme was introduced, The LOP, which are considered more inclusive and detailed, compared to the reconstruction tools before them.

The Master Plan for Urban Development and Urbanization (UDMP) is defined as a tool for field planning and urban management, which identifies the primary orientations of the concerned municipality or municipalities, taking into consideration the development designs and development plans, and adjusts the reference version of the land occupancy Plan. " (Law 90-29)

As for the Land Occupancy Plan (LOP), it is a legal instrument which is a detailed plan for land occupancy, developed in the framework of the orientations of the Master Plan for Urban Development and Urbanization (UDMP), as it identifies within (UDMP) the intervention or interventions that must be carried out in the Land Occupancy Plan or Plans, in terms of the intervention area of this plan and the type and nature of intervention within the land occupancy plan (renovation, restoration, modernization, expansion, restructuring...etc.) and the general conditions and rules to be respected and applied in conformity with the nature of the urban tissue and the general nature of the city.

Despite the laws and executive decrees set by Algeria, it is still suffering from not applying them or not being addressed at all, as the case of the directive law for the city 06-06, of 2006, which included several principles: Coordination and consultation between interlocutors, decentralization, proximity management, human development, mature governance, informatics, culture, conservation, social justice (Law 06-06) (Figure.1).

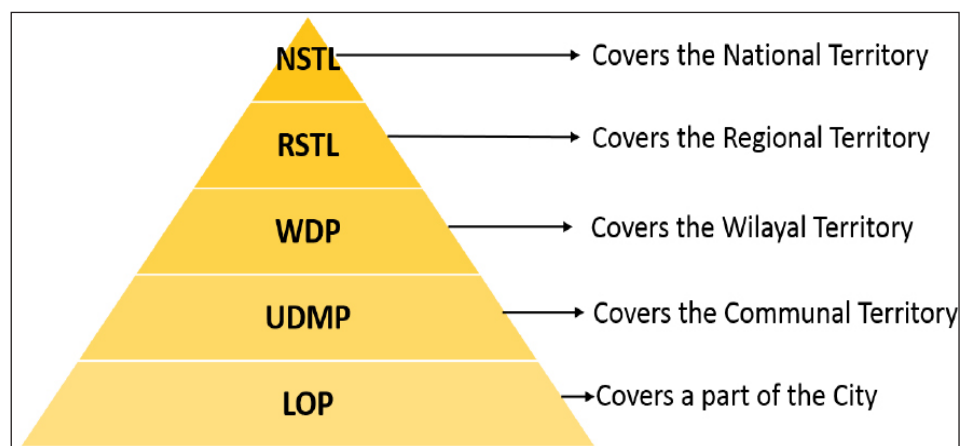


Figure 1. Urban management tools in Algeria, By authors.

Legal Framework for the Protection of Heritage in Algeria

When talking about the legal framework for the protection of heritage in the independent Algeria, we find the first legislation: Ordinance No. 67-281 of 20 December 1967, related to excavations and the protection of historical and natural places and monuments.

Some 30 years later, the most important law on the protection of cultural heritage was issued, followed by a series of executive decrees, which clarify several articles included in the body of this law, and the way they are implemented, respectively:

- **Law No. 98-04** of 15 June 1998 on the protection of cultural heritage, which aims to familiarize the cultural heritage of the nation and set the general regulations for its protection, preservation and valuation.

It is considered a cultural heritage, according to this law, all the cultural, real estate property, as well as the movable cultural properties and intangible cultural properties. Real estate cultural property includes historical monuments, archaeological sites and urban and rural groups.

- **Historical monuments** are any single engineering creation or collection, which stand as witness of a particular civilization or on a general evolution or a historical incident; the concerned monuments are particularly the major architectural achievements, drawing, engraving, decorative art, Arabic calligraphy, luxury buildings and luxurious monument complexes of a religious, military, civil, agricultural or industrial character; in addition to prehistoric structures, funeral monuments, burials, , caves, paintings, rock paintings, memorials and isolated structures or elements, relevant to major events in national history. Article 17
- **Archaeological sites** are spaces built or not built without active function and witness man's actions or interaction with nature, including the subsoil of related lands. They have a value from the historical, archaeological, religious, artistic, scientific, ethnic or anthropological facade and are specifically intended for archaeological sites, including archaeological reserves and cultural barns, article 28.
- **The reserved sectors** take place in the form of reserved urban or rural real estate groups such as *El Casbah*, cities, palaces, villages and traditional housing complexes, characterized by the predominance of the residential area, which is homogeneous, architectural and aesthetic unit of historical, architectural, artistic or traditional significance, that would justify its protection, reform, rehabilitation and valuation, The reserved sectors are provided with a protection, repairing, reforming rehabilitation and valorization, and provide the conserved sectors with a protection and recovery scheme, to replace the land occupancy plan. articles 41 and 43

Following this Law, a series of executive decrees were issued in the Official Journal No. 60 of 08 October 2003, respectively(Algerian-Government 2021, 2006, 1998, 1990, 1982, 1968):

- ✓ **Executive Decree No. 03-322** of 05 October 2003, related to the exercise of works of art on protected real estate cultural properties.
- ✓ **Executive Decree No. 03-323** of 05 October 2003, containing the ways of elaborating a plan for the protection and rehabilitation of archaeological sites and their protected areas and their recovery.
- ✓ **Executive Decree No. 03-324** of 05 October 2003, containing the ways of elaborating the Permanent Plan for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of the Reserved Sectors.
- ✓ **Executive Decree No. 03-325** of 05 October 2003, identifying the ways of storing intangible cultural property in the National Bank of Data.
- ✓ **Executive Decree No. 11-02** of 05 January 2011, concerning the creation of the National Agency for the Reserved Sectors.
- ✓ **Law No. 16-55** of 01 February 2016, defining the conditions and modalities of intervention in ancient physical urban tissues.

The last issued executive decree is the Executive Decree No. 21-124 of 29 March 2021, including the creation of an Advisory Council for Cultural Heritage, as well as its organization and functioning. This Council expresses its views, recommendations and suggestions on the following topics, related to the protection, preservation and valuation of the material and intangible heritage, presented by the Minister of Culture.

b) In the Field of Protection and conservation

- ✓ The legal, institutional and regulatory system related to cultural heritage.
- ✓ Identifying the priorities in action programs on cultural heritage.
- ✓ Projects related to the restoration, preservation and development of historical monuments and archaeological sites.
- ✓ Projects for the completion of memorials, statues and art evidence, aimed for placement in public spaces.
- ✓ Inventory of cultural properties and the classification of tangible cultural heritage and elements representing intangible cultural heritage at the national and international levels;
- ✓ The promotion of partnership with civil society and cooperation with international bodies and organizations, specializing in cultural heritage.

c) In the Field of Research and Valuation of Cultural Heritage

- ✓ Archaeological research projects and historical and anthropological studies.
- ✓ Research projects for underwater monuments.
- ✓ Preventive search projects for monuments.
- ✓ Value the economic dimension of cultural heritage, by exploiting historical monuments in general, and archaeological sites in particular.
- ✓ Encouraging the dissemination in the fields related to cultural heritage
- ✓ Valuing the results of research in the field of material and immaterial cultural heritage.

METHOD AND MATERIALS

The present study is a monothetic analysis divided into four steps based on a the one-factor-at-a-time (OFAT) method (Chaudhry, Buchwald, and Nagel 2021, Ahriz et al. 2021, Ahriz et al. 2022). Instead to the multiple factors simultaneously method the OFAT can be more effective than fractional factorials under certain conditions as the present study where the analysis factors must be additive and independent of each other.

The four steps selected in the present study are organized from macro to micro, starting by a historical analysis of the case study the city of Tebessa from 12000 BC still today to give a holistic view for the architectural and urban heritage. Next, this architectural and urban heritage is detailed basing on a descriptive presentation from the most valuable documents on Tebessa illustrated by up-to-date photos. In the third step a thorough study throw the different urban management tools is made. Finally, after the main steps a deep analysis based on the SWOT method is presented to have a holistic view on the architectural and urban heritage in Tebessa city and to take the correct recommendations is the conclusion (Figure.2).

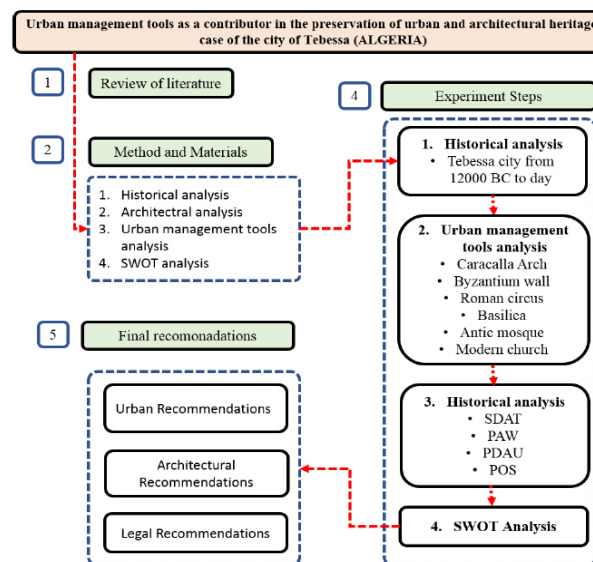


Figure.2. Research Framework.

Presentation of Tebessa City

Tebessa City is a city located in the Algerian East, belonging to the municipality of Tebessa and represents the main gathering and the capital of the province of Tebessa, which was upgraded to a province in the administrative division of 1974, after it belonged to the province of Annaba; It is a province bordering the neighbor country Tunisia, and divided into 12 districts and 28 municipalities.

The municipality of Tebessa, which is almost at the center of the province municipalities and comprises a total area of 184 km². The municipality of Tebessa is bordered to the north, the municipality of *Boulhaf Al-Deir*, to the west, the municipalities of *Bir Mkadam* and *Hammamet*, to the south, the municipality of *Al ma Labyadh* and to the east the municipality of *Bekaria*. The municipality of Tebessa is home to about 30% of the province population.

Tebessa city of is located astronomically on the longitude of 8,11° E, and the width circle of 35,4 ° N. Tebessa city is home to about 98% of the total population of the municipality of Tebessa, where it reached at the last census 223.821 residents(NSO 2008, Google 2022a).

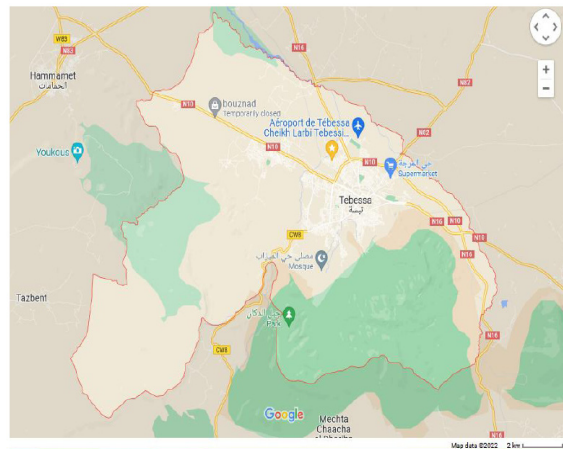


Figure 3. Location of Tebessa City by authors from Google (n.d.), (Google 2022a).

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Tebessa City Throw the History

The region of Tebessa witnessed life and human existence around 12000 years ago, in what historians have known as the Aterian and Caspian civilizations. It was demonstrated by the fossil and archaeological discoveries of the area, which revealed a sophisticated level of urbanization that human beings knew and reached in the region, through tools, means and utensils(Ahmed 2005).

The Phoenicians from *Al-Sham*, which is the region known today as Lebanon, Syria and Palestine(Al-Mili 2018).In the 7th century B.C. after they established the city of Carthage; the determination of the exact date of establishment of the city of Carthage was subject to different views, but it is likely to be 814 B.C. and they extended their influence over the Mediterranean and founded many cities such as Bejaia, Tenes, Cherchel Hippone, Jijel and Oran(Saleh 2002).

At that time, the territory of Tebessa or The vest was within the Kingdom of Micipsa (son of Massinissa) of Numedia, where The vest thrived considerably, and after the death of Micipsa, the territory went to Jugurtha and after ending the war with his treason, he seized the Numidian throne of his brother Gauda; following the African war in 46 BC. The Kingdom of Numidia fell and was set up on a section of its territory the Romanian province of Africa Nova. Tebessa and its territory remained independent outside that province, until the rule of Emperor Tiberius, where Rome decided to place its hand on the territory of Madauros (*M'daourouch*) region and The vest, where they faced the rejection by the population, organized in tribal federations, who declared war against the Roman occupation.

And about 25 B.C. Emperor Augustus decided to send a permanent regular army to stand against tribal raids and protect the boundaries of the Empire's property; the Third Augustan Legion, which, until then, was mobile across Africa, depending on security conditions. The vest was the base of this army, which was composed of 5000 to 6,000 soldiers, in addition to other troops and battalions of cavalry and infantry. This period marks the beginning of the city

prosperity, which has since become an important military hub, giving the city prestigious status, which attracts traders and craftspeople, and then, the roman settlers, it was upgraded to (vicus) then (Respublika), which is an administrative municipal system headed by an elected council led by two judges. It continued to grow until it became a large and rich city (Pierre 2010).

Tebessa witnessed the summit of its flourishing during the Roman rule, with most of the Roman monuments now found between 69/472 AD, until the fall of the Roman rule by the Vandals, who spread corruption and demolished much of what the Romans built, the Vandals remained in it, until it was retrieved again by the Byzantines. (The Romans), who ordered to build a wall around the city, to protect it from rebel tribes, and repaired what the Vandals have destroyed and added several facilities, thanks to the Commander Solomon. Until the Islamic conquests came to the region about 647 AD and conquered it during the year 700 AD under the leadership of *Hassan ibn Nu 'man al-Ghassani*; It was among the cities Islam had reached before other cities in Algeria, despite the resistance of Islamic conquests, which succeeded after several campaigns, the last of which succeeded in establishing Islam in the region. The armies of Muslims have been led by many brave leaders such as the great leader *Okba Ibn Nafi al-Fihri*, *Abdullah Ben Jafar*, *Hassan Ibn al-Numan al-Ghassani* and others... The region remained under the rule of Muslims during the period of Umayyad and Abbasid Islamic system of succession (*Khilafa*), as well as the subsequent Mamluk and Duwailat of Rustamid, Sanhajis, Fatimids, Marabouts, Almohads and Hafsids...etc, till the arrival of the Ottomans in Algeria, when the area remained under the Ottoman administration during the period between (1572 and 1842), a period of nearly three centuries. One of the most important monuments of this period was the antique mosque located few meters from the Triumph Arch of Caracalla (Samir 2013).

After the Ottoman period, Tebessa, like other Algerian regions, fell under the French occupation, which began in Algeria in 1830. Historians see that the first attempt to invade Tebessa city by the French was in 1842, under the leadership of General De Négrier (Abdel-Wahab 2006), and worked to displace the city inhabitants by force or persecution, and expanded into the city inside and outside the wall where many buildings of a colonial nature still exist.

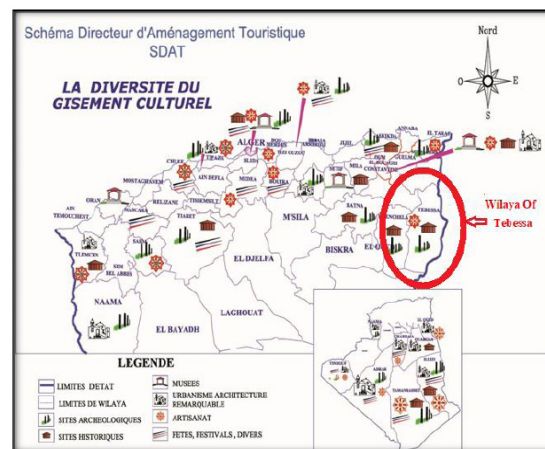


Figure 4. Master Scheme of Tourism Layout of Algeria, (NATL 2015)

The Architectural and Urban Heritage in Tebessa City

Tebessa was and continues to be a distinct historical archaeological city; the present monuments and land prints are witnesses to its authenticity, and constitute essentially the city center and its beating heart, which is traced the Byzantine Wall and the Triumph Arch of Victory Bow of Caracalla; we will address this architectural and urban cultural heritage in chronology as located in (Figure.5):

a) Antique Tebessa (El Khalia)

They are overlapping buildings, belonging to the Roman period, located in the south of the city, through the *Al-Jurf* neighborhood, beside the chaotic *al-Mizab* neighborhood; the area of the current position is estimated to be 3 hectares, where there are many Roman ruins or monuments. However, the total area of this position surrounded by a concrete and iron fence, created to protect it, is estimated at 23 hectares, according to some claims, this area may far exceed 23 hectares. The French colonizer used the stones of the empty city of Tebessa to build the military barracks that he made as a southern extension to the Byzantine Fort (Ali 2016). The picture No. 2 illustrates some of the remainder of the

archaeological site Empty Tebessa. This archaeological landmark of the ancient views and monuments of The vest and Empty Tebessa were registered within the list of national heritage since the year 1900 (Ordinance No. 67-281).



Figure 5. Urban and Architectural heritage of Tebessa City by authors from Google (n.d.), (Google 2022c).



Figure 6. Tebessa El Khalia by authors from Google (n.d.), (Google 2022b).

b) Minerva Temple

It is a rectangular building with a length of 19 m and a width of 9 m, above the temple on the adjacent floor by 4 m. It is climbed with a ladder of 20 steps; it was built during the years (69-79 m) under Emperor Vespasianus and is located near the Triumph Arch de Caracalla(Djabri 2021). This temple was constructed during the beginning of the abolishment of the pagan worship, its builders wanted it to be very luxurious to support a religion on the verge of collapse (Pagan), defying the Christian religion that was in proliferation. It is composed of two sections, one for prayer hall and a sacred one, because it is the temple of Minerva the God of knowledge and wisdom according to Greek pagan belief. This building has partly retained a good position and has been exploited for many purposes; with the beginning of the French occupation, it was a soap factory, converted into an office for engineering interests, then a courtroom for the reception of litigants by the Muslim judge, a restaurant, a military club, a present, a church and was finally converted into a museum of the city of Tebessa, with a Roman mosaic and pottery that reflected the practices, rituals and beliefs of the previous periods. This monument was registered within the national heritage since 14 March 1906 (Ordinance N. 67-281) (Figure.7. b.).

c) Roman Theatre

Created around the years 73or 89; it was adjacent to the western edge of *Oued E-za'ror*, mediated by a circular arena with a diameter between 45 and 50 meters, surrounded by stands of 15 to 16 levels(Pierre 2010). It has two entries, one for wild animals and the other for gladiators. It was discovered in 1859, during archaeologists' excavations during the colonial period(Seree 1952); it is almost one of the first Roman buildings on the land of Tebessa city; it has a capacity of more than 7000 spectators(Abdelkrim 2009). This is a proof that Tebessa was an important city at that time. It was used as a theatre and an arena for fights between gladiators, or between the latter and wild animals(Samir 2013) (Figure7.c.).

d) Triumph Arch of Caracalla

It is located in the northern part of the city, surrounded by the Byzantine Wall; it was constructed around 211/212 AD and finished during 214/215 AD, as the Triumph Arch of Caracalla has four facades or principal entrances, each one of them is decorated by four stone-mounted cylindrical pillars, above every two pillars an arch. It constitutes a unique and exquisitely designed architectural masterpiece, as each facade is dedicated to a member of the ruling family at that time. (Septimius Severus), where the western facade was devoted to the wife of the Emperor Septimius Severus "Julia Domna", whereas the eastern side was dedicated to the emperor "Septimius Severus", the father of the emperor "Caracalla". The latter is the arch builder, and he reserved the southern side for him. The northern side for the emperor "Geta", who was killed during the construction of the arch, and the one who spent for the construction of the Triumph Arch of Caracalla, is the commander of the 14th Legion. "Caius Cornelius Egrilius", on the basis of a will. It was subject to many damages since its creation till now, despite standing steady against many natural and human conditions (Pierre 2010) (Figure.7.d.).

e) The Basilica: Roman Christian Church:

It is located in the northern part of the city, with an estimated area of about 1.8 hectares; it is one of the most important monuments of the historical heritage of the city, as it represents the popular forum, which is considered a public facility built to be a court for litigants, and at the same time a place to meet for the public activities of the people's associations, elites, philosophers and others. It seems that this landmark was as a luxury building, made up of rectangular green spaces, mediated by a cross followed by a hallway or a large entrance, followed by a large ladder also leading to its interior. The construction of the church comes at the end of the third century, where Christianity emerged and was embraced by many Romans, the creation of the church goes back to several stages, some historians see that it was built with the Triumph Arch of Caracalla during the years 211-214, and others (Captain Mall) considers that it was established in the Byzantine era and was a fortified monastery. As for "Gsell", he sees that it goes back to the end of the late imperial era, which witnessed the triumph of Christianity, and that it was set up on a ground basement for worship. Others go on to say that it belongs to the reign of St. Augustine. In addition to the above, the church consists of a group of buildings, fortified with a Byzantine Wall, and it is composed of three churches. The Church took its final form by the end of the 5th century. The most important is that it is one of the world's rare historical monuments that has maintained its original architectural character. s Rights ", was studied by many researchers such as Stéphane Gsell, Léon l'Africain, Siri De Roche (Ali 2016) (Figure.7. e.).

f) Byzantine Wall

It is considered one of the most important symbols of the city and one of its largest monuments, constructed during the time of Commander Solomon's rule on Africa around the year 535. This wall or fort formed a rectangular, 320 m long, 280 m wide, with perimeter walls of about 1370m, built with beautiful and well-measured stones. On these walls have been constructed 14 square-shaped observation towers, four of them are located in the corners of the fort and the remaining 10 are spread over the wall obstacles, with irregular distances ensuring protection (Daumas 1845). the height of observation towers is 15 to 18 meters and the thickness of their walls is 70 cm, The height of the wall is 9 to 10 meters above the ground and between 7 and 8 meters under the ground, and between 2 and 2.5 meters thick. Over the walls, there is a patrol road to inspect and guard, at 8 meters on the floor outside wall; this balcony road surrounds the fortress. It has three doors, located on three southern, eastern and northern facades, and called at that time "the circus door", Solomon door, and Caracalla door in the Triumph Arch of Caracalla (Greenhalgh 2014).

In spite of all these fortifications, wars broke out and there was a defection inside the Byzantines, thus the region entered into a total chaos, since the mid-6th century, in parallel with the death of the Commander Solomon, who was wiped out by the local tribe (the moors) at the city walls. Despite the appointment of a new ruler by Byzantium, the revolts continued until the Moors took control of the area in the late 6th century and became masters of the area until the arrival of the Arab conquests (Pierre 2010). The Roman Church, the Listed Theatre, the Byzantine Wall and the Arch of Caracalla were registered as national ancient monuments in 1982 (ORDER Of October 19th, 1982) (Figure.7. f.).

g) The Archaeological Park

It is a protected area with an iron fence, located near Constantine Road, in front of the central post office, not far from Constantine door. It includes many stones, columns, written paintings and many different sizes and shapes items,

assembled and added to what the site includes, to be preserved and protected. These elements belong to various periods of time: the Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and French colonialism (Figure.7. g.).

h) The Antique Mosque:

It is located in the city center, within the Byzantine Wall about 50m from the Triumph Arch of Caracalla. It is considered the oldest mosque in Africa, after the Kairouan mosque in Tunisia. It was built after the Islamic conquest, and was renovated by the Bey of Constantine "Saleh Bey" in 1798 (Ali 2016) (Figure.7. h.).

i) The Modern Church:

It is located in the north-western part of the Byzantine Fort and was created with the beginning of the French occupation of the city around the year 1845. The construction materials used in its construction are similar to those used in the construction of the wall. They were brought from other Roman sites such as the empty site of Tébessa and other sites spread in the province territory, from which many were dispersed as a result of human conditions, wars and natural conditions also. The Church architecture was almost the same character as the Roman architecture. It is a masterpiece of the historical archaeological architecture of Tébessa city; it constitutes, itself, a museum of antiquities (Figure.7. i.).

d. Triumph Arch of Caracalla



f. Byzantine Wall



g. The Archaeological Park



c. Roman Theatre



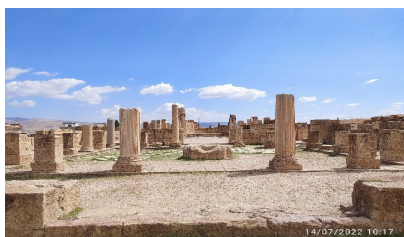
b. Minerva Temple



h. The Antique Mosque



e. The Basilica



i. The Modern Church



Architectural and Urban Heritage in Urban Management Tools

In order to talk about local planning and urban management tools at the level of the province of Tebessa and the city of Tebessa in particular, we must see the directives of these tools in the field of tourism, especially the cultural and civilization tourism, as well as knowing about the recommended interventions at the level of various heritage monuments and historical sites and the ways of preserving and maintaining them, as follows:

Tourism Development Master Plan (TDMP)

The tourist activity in general is dependent on the natural and cultural heritage. Tébéssa, the heiress of a long history which saw passing Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines, Vandals, Arabs, Turks and French, and of an immense archaeological park, its works are pages opened on the history and as many messages transmitted by our forebears, it represents today a living museum of successive civilizations(URBACO 2014).

Indeed, the tourist potentialities of the wilaya of Tebessa through its cultural and artistic wealth, its historical heritage going from the Roman period until the arrival of Islam.

Currently, it becomes fashionable the fact of naming the “tourism” according to the characteristics of the activities on which it leans, the wilaya of Tebessa to a typology of cultural tourism. Tebessa rich of a material and immaterial heritage, exceptional sites such as the historical or archaeological sites: Arch of Caracalla, roman theatre, the Basilica, Quarter of the Zaouïa, site of Tebessa El Khalia, the Byzantine wall.

Wilaya Development Plan (WDP)

The WDP of Tebessa(NATP 2011)deals with the protection and the valorization of the cultural heritage via three different subjects:

✓ Objectives:

- Establishment of a pole of economy of the cultural heritage around the monuments and Roman sites.
- Implementation of measures of inventory and protection of cultural heritage.
- Training and sensitization to the protection of cultural heritage.

✓ Action program.

The program of action thus defined must, in order to achieve its objectives, fit into the framework of the existing policy and be integrated into the development strategy.

- Inventory and classification of movable and immovable cultural assets.
- Data bank of intangible cultural heritage.
- Restoration and enhancement of archaeological sites and monuments within the framework of protection and enhancement of archaeological sites.

✓ The development of cultural heritage

The wilaya development plan WDP must be based on the following orientations:

- The integration of heritage into social and economic life as one of the fundamental aspects of land use and planning at the wilaya level.
- The conservation of specific elements of cultural heritage in order to create productive sectors of the economy, particularly tourism and crafts.
- Finally, the tangible and intangible heritage has a primary role in the education and training of our children by instilling in them values and noble ideals.

Urban Development Master Plan (UDMP)

The UDMP of Tebessa deals with the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage through three different topics(URBA 2018):

✓ **Assets**

- Important tourist potentialities of international scope, given the location of the group on the borders.
- Situation on the border axis allows important exchanges on the international level
- The presence of historical monuments and archeological sites in the city center expose them to several risks related mainly to the land.
- The old city of Tebessa which is disappearing because of the anarchic works of demolition.

✓ **Proposals:**

- Delimitation of the historical sites and their protection from any aggression.
- The development of its sites by maintenance operations, in particular the theatre and the Byzantine wall which have become places of waste disposal.
- The development of the sites by operations of clearing in particular of the lands accumulated over time, and to proceed to new excavations.
- The development of the city center of Tebessa by the preservation of the houses of the ancient city and their restoration and renovation.

✓ **Provisions concerning the protection of historical and archaeological heritage**

- Historical sites and monuments: any damage to ruins and constructions dating from the French colonial era and earlier is strictly prohibited.
- The demolition of the latter is strictly forbidden; they must be carefully preserved and protected.
- The ancient city of Tébessa: it includes all the buildings and constructions located inside the Byzantine wall.
- Considering its historical value, any demolition operation of constructions is forbidden, only the operations of renovation are authorized and according to an identical style to the origin of the construction.

Land Occupancy Plan (LOP)

The land occupancy Plan No. 1 (City Centre) for historical and heritage sites, describes the field as an architectural facade that reflects the character of the city, thanks to its diverse urban tissue and archaeological monuments that tell the authenticity of the field and the city, making it an open museum, as it is considered a point of convergence and inference, as well as a connection (URBA 2009).

The main areas suggested for development are:

- ✓ Protecting and giving value to archaeological sites by highlighting the field as a city center and as a structured point for it, not by modernizing and renovating them or constructing new buildings but by attempting to preserve the original historical value of the first nucleus.
- ✓ Intervene on old residencies requiring restoration by repairing cracks at the level of walls, floors, ceilings and stairs, in order to maintain the public appearance and historical aspect.
- ✓ Develop free spaces and public parks that will be the attractive and inviting element of the archaeological site and that can contribute to highlighting its artistic value.
- ✓ The height of buildings inside and outside the wall shall not exceed the height of the wall, and the constructions in front of the facades of the archaeological city are prohibited.

SWOT Analysis

Strength Factors (Internal Factors)

Most of the historical monuments and archaeological sites we mentioned earlier are within the Byzantine Wall, which in turn is part of the urban and architectural heritage of the city, so we will focus on it to a certain extent, because it is the nucleus of the city since its creation and the consecutive periods of time: Roman, Byzantine, Islamic era...etc. It

is considered a combination of civilizations despite the attempts by the French colonizer to erase everything that is before him and sometimes to attribute everything that is beautiful to him. For example, the military barrack added by the colonizer by the Byzantine wall from the South, is built from the same Roman building materials with stones that were said to have been brought from the historical site Empty Tebessa, and possibly from other Roman sites and carried about the same architectural character.

The proximity of most of these monuments and historical sites is one of the most important factors of strength and attraction, especially because it is the center of the Tebessa city and allows visiting it and moving from one point to another on foot, without the need for transport. For example, the temple of Minerva, which is today a museum with many antiquities, artifacts and excavations belonging to many periods of time that have passed through the region; the oldest among them goes back to the prehistoric era and belongs to the Aterian civilization (Samir 2013), whose traces were found in *Oued al Djebana* in Bir al-Ater area, in the south of Tebessa city for about 100 km; it can constitute an incentive to visit it to learn about the primitive man in the region how he used to fish and what means he used...etc.

The strategic geographical location of Tebessa, which is a border city with the Republic of Tunisia and has a very important border crossing "*Bouchebka*". Most travelers from the inner cities to Tunisia pass through the state of Tebessa. It is also a link between the states of the North-East and the southern Algerian provinces. There is an important network of national, provincial and municipal roads, the railway network between Djbel al-Onk mine and the port of Annaba, passing through Tebessa, as well as a national airport scheduling national flights.

The important area of Tebessa province is estimated at 14227km², it has the capacities and potential to make a tourism offer, thanks to the natural resources, monuments and historical sites as well as the intangible and popular heritage. The legal and legislative regulatory framework governing urbanization, tourism and heritage and defining the powers and actors, in addition to the university of Tebessa, which includes many doctors and researchers in diverse fields, who can be involved in the framework of conventions, and organizing national and international forums, study days, festivals, scientific symposiums, sensitization campaigns... etc.

Opportunities (External Factors)

The promotion of tourism and tourism potential in Algeria and Tebessa province in particular, and the introduction of the available tourism offer, especially cultural tourism, highlighting the importance of the architectural and urban heritage and historical sites, through all the available media, such as social media, internet, exhibitions, symposiums and forums on then national or even the international level, through the cultural centers and the Diplomatic Representations abroad.

The possibility of developing the tourism offer and diversifying it, in response to customers' aspirations. Because Tebessa can meet the new aspirations of diverse tourism demand, by creating a tourist route within the city, as well as a tourist route within the province to introduce and enjoy all the potential of the various municipalities of Tebessa province, from the north to the south and from the east to the west. Perhaps a common international path between the Algerian East and the Tunisian West, which has similar and close social and cultural customs and traditions, to stand on the history of populations that lived in the region, through their buildings and architecture, and the extent of their sustainability and rationality in exploiting their potential.

The possibility of coordination between various actors in the field to boost local development and facilitate investment in this diversified sector, which is a source of hard currency in many countries, as well as work on proximity management, by involving various interventions, mainly the local population.

The existence of laws and legislations in various sectors, as well as planning and urban management tools, from the national and regional ones, to operational at the local level, but they require modernization in line with technological development.

Weaknesses (Internal Factors)

The lack of high-quality hotels and classification, as well as tourist residencies and tourist villages in the city of Tebessa due to the lack of public and private investment in this field, the availability of mid-quality hotels that are in line with the weak demand and the lack of domestic and foreign tourists, in addition to the weakness of the provided services.

The lack of local expertise in the field of maintenance and preservation of heritage monuments and historical sites and

their further degradation each time, as a result of natural conditions and human factors that ignore the value of these architectural and urban heritage, which represents the history and identity of a society, whatever its size.

The interference of powers, sometimes, between many actors, which results in in mismanagement and lack of professionalism, in addition to the lack of associative activities in this sector. The lack of financing and the limited financial resources for maintenance, conservation and restoration, as a result of the weak financial revenues from the region's tourism activity.

The weakness and lack of introduction and advertisement on the region's heritage and natural tourism potential, which led to a lack of interest in heritage monuments, historical sites and heritage in general, and thus to the degradation of natural and urban ecosystems. The absence of specialized institutes at the local level, that assure training in tourism, heritage and tourism services and centralize them in the coastal provinces, which have very important natural tourism potentials. Weakness of control, as buildings proliferates next to and around the historical monuments and sites, especially on the edges of the city, in addition to the lack of respect towards their historical and civilizational dimension.

Threats (External Factors)

One of the biggest obstacles is the attractive tourism offers in the neighboring country "Tunisia", whose economy is based on tourism. Therefore, it provides high quality hotel equipment, which must be completed by providing matching structures and equipment in line with high quality standards. Hotel establishments have been impacted, despite their medium quality services and affected by pandemics such as the COVID-19 pandemic...etc., as well as the lack of demand for high luxurious hotels, which does not encourage public and private investors to invest in hospitality and tourism.

Lack of coordination and cooperation between the concerned departments, and, sometimes, interference in powers between the different actors and the absence of the spirit of initiative in the bilateral cooperation between Algeria and Tunisia in the field of tourism. The unselective spread of "informal" chaotic trade, which is the source of optical pollution, which undervalues the spaces within and around the Byzantine Wall, and constitutes noise pollution by the sound of vendors and traders, as well as the wastes they leave sometimes behind them, which environmental pollution that diminishes the value and status of the city and its center, which is both a heritage and a civilization.

Degradation of archaeological, historical and natural sites due to natural and human factors such as bad population practices, which, even if legal in terms of procedures, are harmful to the physical and architectural character of the Byzantine Wall, such as the height of buildings which greatly exceeds the wall sometimes, as well as the used building materials, not to mention the shape and colors of the used facades, In addition to the unselective and chaotic interventions on heritage monuments and historical sites, with construction materials that are inconsistent with their specificities and character, even on its perimeter, which distorts its image and may blur its identity, like what we have also observed, on the pillars of the Triumph Arch of Caracalla, and in some parts of the Byzantine Wall that were restored with cement, plaster...etc. Which is considered vandalism rather than restoration. This is inconsistent with the directives of the local planning and urban management tools, including the Master Plan for Development and Urbanization and the Land Occupancy Plans, which are considered laws that must be respected and punish those who violate them.

The collapse of some of the private buildings or parts of them and the appearance of some cracks on some of them because of their obsolescence, with the change of activity in most of the buildings on the main axes Cardo and Decumanus, which have become commercial in nature, by transforming the building or the ground floor into shops that do not reflect and adapt with the historical value of the heritage sites.

As for the unbuilt area surrounding the Byzantine Wall, and despite the development it benefited from, in accordance with the Master Plan for Development and Urbanization and the Land Occupancy Plan, which is the creation of green spaces and urban furniture from chairs, tables and pavements in both the western and north-western sides. However, its condition gets deteriorated rapidly, due to a lack of periodic maintenance, as before being created, it was ca deteriorate field that gathered only dirt. And till today, it is occupied by anarchist vendors, especially from the western side, at the level of Constantine Door and the Cardo axis, which includes Carnot Square, which also benefited from the development consisting in tiling and planting some palms, which some historiansclaimthat they represented the forum and meeting place of the Roman era, Concerning the eastern part of the Byzantine Wall from outside, on the Solomon Door side, it is somewhat degraded and suffers from the presence of wastes and dirt, because of the irresponsible practices by traders due to their proximity to the daily covered market, which goes back to the colonial era; in spite of the efforts made by the

City Hall and the National Office for the Management and Exploitation of the Protected Cultural Properties, in collecting wastes and cleaning up the historical and archaeological sites.

The archaeological site of “the Empty Tebessa”, although far from the city center, and located in the south of the city and fenced off, it suffers from the creep of chaotic buildings, which, if they persist, will erase their presence and trace. Thus, all monuments and historical sites need more attention from all actors and at all levels, with strong and active political will, a strict application of laws and concerted efforts to save what can be saved and preserve this architectural and urban cultural heritage, which represents the identity and heritage of the local population and Algeria in general. This responsibility is not confined to a category but is the responsibility of everyone to be a pillar of cultural tourism that may become a source for the local development of the city.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After learning about the historical monuments and sites of Tebessa City and analyzing their reality through SWOT Analysis, and presenting the results, we felt that some of the recommendations and directives in which we believe may help stimulate and promote cultural tourism and contribute to preserving the architectural and urban cultural heritage and driving the region's development; They are as follows:

Urban and Architectural Recommendations

- The establishment of a special committee of the directorates of culture, tourism and the city and all those involved in carrying out a thorough study on each archaeological landmark or historical site individually, identifying its needs and restoring it in accordance with its characteristics, and then assigning specialists in restoration and heritage to give each landmark its appropriate heritage and architectural value, and not to assign this work to construction contractors that are not competent in heritage.
- Provide financial subsidies accompanied by careful follow-up by architectural and heritage professionals, to housing owners that are restorable or buildings that are in a deteriorated state, and present a risk to their inhabitants, for reconstruction; they have to be of an architectural nature consistent with the site, especially through such facades, for the buildings located within the Byzantine Wall.
- Work on the exploitation and use of the techniques and materials which suites the heritage character and architectural and urban pattern of the site.
- Provide hotels and accommodation centers, in line with all types of tourists and visitors.
- Involve scientific elites, the University as well as civil society and the population directly or through their representatives at all levels in the development plans and programs, and the exploitation, preservation and recreation of heritage sites to identify them and visit them locally and globally.
- Focus on international and national scientific forums, study days, festivals, scientific symposiums and sensitization campaigns to introduce and promote cultural heritage, raise awareness of the importance of preserving it, exchange experiences and open up to countries that are considered advanced in the field of restoration, conservation and heritage
- Create a tourist route within the city as well as a tourist route within the province to introduce and enjoy all potentials of the different municipalities of the province of Tebessa, from the north to the south and from the east to the west, and why not creating a common international route between the Algerian East and the Tunisian West, which possesses similar and close social and cultural customs and traditions.
- Rehabilitate outdoor spaces, green spaces and urban furniture surrounding the city center, and work to maintain it periodically to give the image worthy of the value of the heritage city.

Legal Recommendations

- Developing and refurbishing urban management and planning tools and linking them to modern and sophisticated technologies that are consistent with sustainable development and governance while respecting specific laws.
- To ensure the strict application of legislation and special laws which are directly related to construction and housing in heritage sites or in their surroundings, to ensure the preservation and protection of the civilizational and cultural

heritage and its exploitation as a resource for local development, through tourism in general and cultural tourism in particular.

- Development of maquettes for heritage monuments, historical sites, posters and even the provision of data and information base on archaeological and historical sites, and the tourism and hospitality potentials in the province and the whole country.
- Work on the training of specialists in the exploration of heritage sites that have not yet been explored, because Algeria has a great heritage.
- Provide qualified guides to rationalize visitors and explain every possible information about the historical tourism attractions of the city.
- Setting a plan or tourism program at the level of the city, for example, starting from the Basilica towards the Triumph Arch of Caracalla, then the antique mosque, after that the Museum of Minerva, next the Church and the Towers, and finally the Empty Tebessa.
- Focus on investing in human resources in the field of historical architecture, tourism, culture and law...etc., which is the fundamental pillar in preserving the cultural heritage, revitalizing tourism, protecting the environment and achieving the development goals of the city.
- Work on the registration of heritage monuments and sites on the national level and in particular on the international level.
- Stimulate and support tourism agencies to attract tourists and explorers of history and civilizations from all over the world.
- Tighten control over anarchist traders and apply law on them and lessen the different types of pollution, including noise pollution and visual pollution.
- Audit the preparation of the terms of reference, related to the studies or completion, and assure a careful control on the interventions on monuments and historical sites of whatever their size is.
- Give more powers to local communities and local actors and deepen the role of civil society and involving it effectively through its representatives.

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Citation: Sami Brahmi, Atef Ahriz. *Urban Management Tools as a Contributor in the Preservation of Urban and Architectural Heritage, Case of The City of Tebessa (Algeria)*. *Int J Innov Stud Sociol Humanities*. 2022;7(8):15-32.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.20431/2456-4931.070802>.

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