

An aerial photograph of the Old Mosul City, showing extensive destruction and rubble. The image captures a dense urban area with many buildings that have been reduced to ruins. The ground is covered in debris, and the overall scene is one of devastation. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold font.

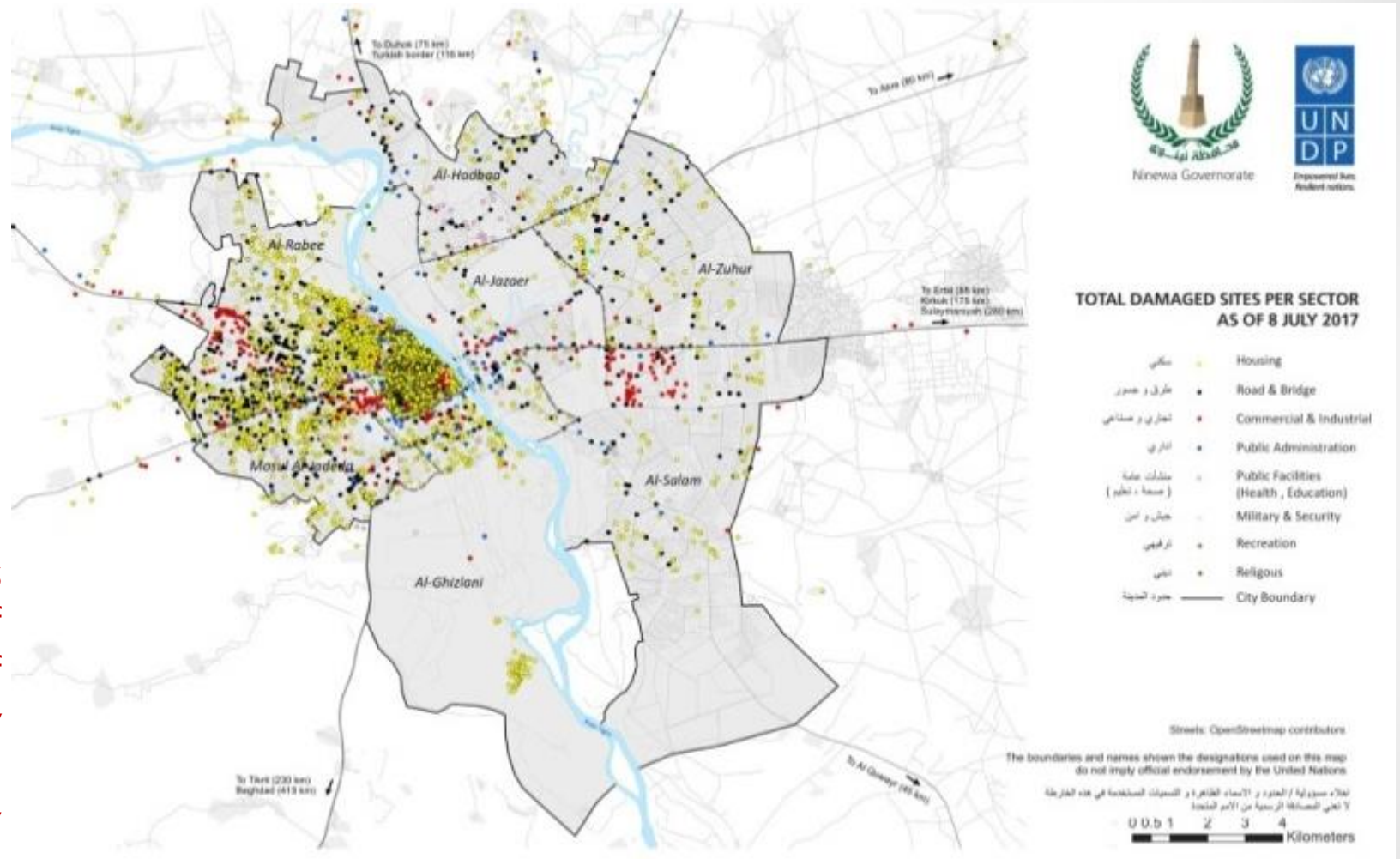
**Postwar Old Mosul City
Considerations of Recovery & Reconstruction**

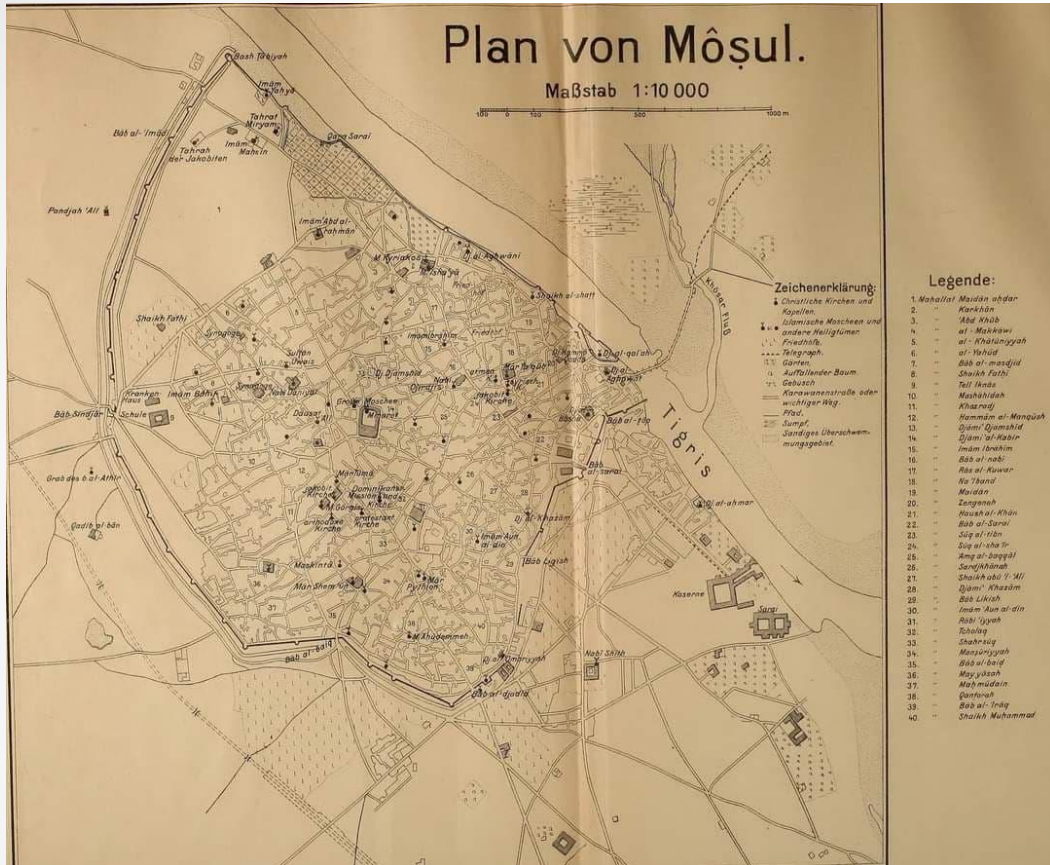
**Ali H. Al Jameel (PhD)
Professor of Architecture & Heritage Expert
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Introduction

As a result of the armed operations that accompanied the liberation of the City of Mosul that had been kindled during the first half of 2017, Old Mosul, as part of the City of Mosul, had witnessed a great degree of damage and destruction. UN reports indicated that in the final weeks of the military operations, the Old City was hit by highly effective air strikes, and more than 5529 residential buildings has been largely or completely destroyed, this equals an area of 126 hectares. According to the aerial photographs, the estimated numbers of the residential buildings that still exist in Old Mosul are almost 16,000, which mean that about two-third of the residential stock has become largely or completely destroyed.

The map in Figure (1) shows the spatial distribution of destroyed sites in the City of Mosul. It shows very clearly that most of the sites which were destroyed are densely concentrated in old Mosul





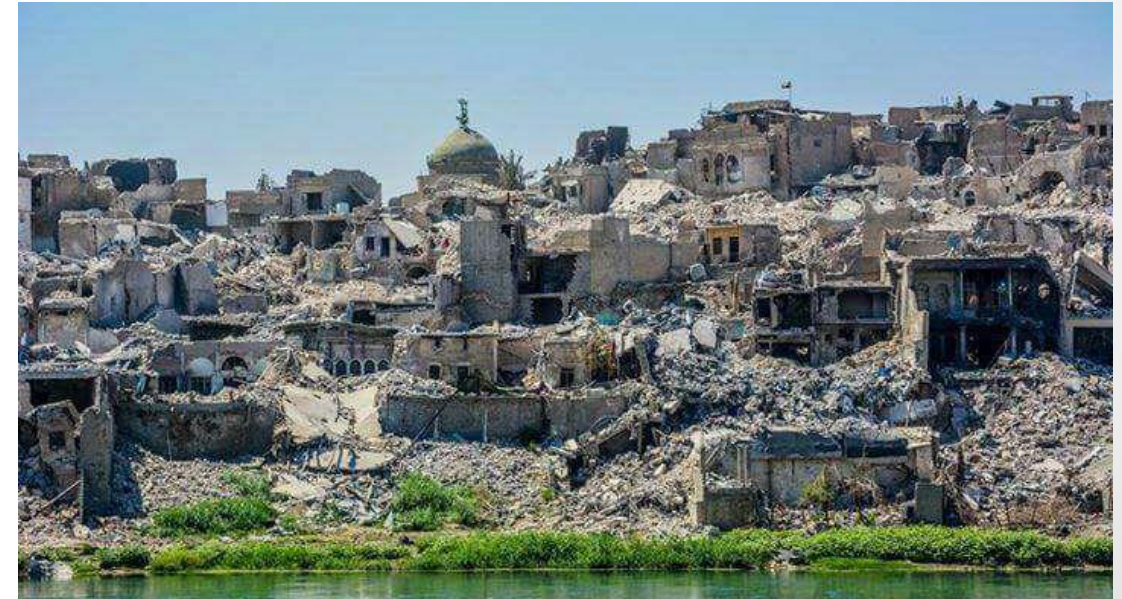
For centuries, Old City of Mosul stood as a neighborhood of densely built districts, houses facing each other across narrow and winding alleyways. Now holes have been punched in that historic fabric with houses reduced to rubble.



The map in Figure (3) shows the spatial distribution of destroyed sites within the Old City.

Images that show the degree and nature of the destruction in different areas of Old Mosul.





Images that show the degree and nature of the destruction in different areas of Old Mosul.

Shortly after the end of the armed operations, the starting of the reconstruction of Mosul City as a whole and Old Mosul City was announced.

Reconstruction of the Old City of Mosul

Reasons and Justifications

The impression formed by going through the aerial photographs and videos of the scenes of destruction in districts and the small alleyways of the old city of Mosul after the end of the military operations seemed dark and tragic. It made any attempt to think about its reconstruction uniquely difficult. However, the reconstruction of the Old City of Mosul is based on many justifications :

- ❖ The exceptional significance it represents for the greater City of Mosul, in terms of urban functions, specifically, the residential function as it forms an important part of the housing balance for the City of Mosul especially for low-income people.
- ❖ In terms of economy, as Old Mosul includes a high percentage of the activities of trade, productivity and service. It overlapped with the Central Business District and included most of administrative functions although some parts moved parts to the left part of the city.
- ❖ Old Mosul has a great significance as for the cultural level due to its extraordinary diverse and rich heritage. This tangible and intangible heritage of different cultures represents the collective identity of the whole Mosul Community. The revival of this heritage is an important part of the reconstruction process.

Main Considerations in Formulating Visions and Planning Decisions

1. A Sustainable Culture-Driven Reconstruction Process:

Reconstructing Old Mosul should not be approached as only to restore normal life as a center for culture and urban activities, but also to preserve its spirit as a place of residence. This process should not be only sustainable but also as a mechanism for economic development combining what is traditional with what is modern.

2. Preservation of Old Mosul multi-cultural identity:

The reconstruction process should include the features and symbols which represent the identity, history and the heritage of people and their roots in their land. An history of more than 2500 years and diverse cultures existed together formed the cultural identity of Old Mosul.

Main Considerations in Formulating Visions and Planning Decisions

3. Preservation of the Collective Memory:

The reconstruction of the Old Mosul should consider preserving the collective memory by returning city to the normal life out from the ruins with the same forms, symbols and the same materials if possible.

4. Providing the Basic Needs and Standards of Modern Life:

The reconstruction process should consider making old Mosul a convenient and easy-to-live city in the twenty-first century, and an attractive place for investment.

5. Cost and Financial Aspects:

It should be considered that repairing/rebuilding the same infrastructure systems would be more cost-effective as the basis of those networks already exist. However, they must be rebuilt with the addition of new infrastructure or repair those undamaged parts.

Main Considerations in Formulating Visions and Planning Decisions

6. Contribution of Community in the Reconstruction Process:

Civil institutions should take the largest responsibility to preserve the city's heritage. The local community must have significant contributions by conducting direct reconstruction works.

7. Contribution of the Young Generations in the Reconstruction Process:

Young generations and university students should be given the opportunity to contribute in the reconstruction process. Many reconstruction tasks are relevant such as comprehensive architectural and urban documentation as a base for the reconstruction works. Also, student projects created in the Design Studios of local Architectural Schools as part of education programs may introduce promising approaches and solutions for the problems faced for the process of reconstruction.