

Collections of the Hilla Contemporary Museum¹

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Abstract:

The museum was, and still is, a non-profit educational institution established to collect and preserve human heritage for educational, cultural and community service purposes. The idea of establishing museums began with the preservation of valuable objects. The purpose of establishing them is not commercial, but rather the supreme goal of establishing them is to serve and develop society and strive to enhanceThe concept of cultural heritage within it because museums are not just buildings that contain masterpieces of art, heritage and antiquities, these cultural institutions are considered effective factors in promoting human thought, in the city of Hillah, there are four museums, the most prominent of which is the Hillah Contemporary Museum, in addition to that, the city includes museums that include Babylonian and historical antiquities, folklore, art, political and military, currencies, documents, and othersHillah Contemporary Museum is located in the city of Hillah, and is considered one of the most prominent archaeological and heritage museums in Iraq. This museum has received special attention from the Department of Antiquities and World Heritage, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, and Babylon Governorate, making it one of the favorite destinations for visitors wishing to explore its landmarks and sites. The museum attracts tourists from all over the world. The construction of this museum dates back to the last century, and reflects the ingenuity and precision of the design of the engineers and artists of that era. The

establishment of the museum aims to introduce the antiquities and culture of the Hillah community in particular, and the Iraqi community in general. The museum policy seeks to enhance this heritage and introduce it within a cultural framework that suits the needs and requirements of the community. It also contributes to providing accurate information about the city's history and heritage, which contributes to establishing communication and transferring heritage across generations. Museums are considered a strong fortress for our heritage and the heritage of our ancestors throughout the ages, as they embrace a history and civilization dating back to various time periods. It is necessary to highlight this heritage for future generations, as they are our future. We must enhance their sense of Iraqi-Babylonian national belonging and instill in them a love of heritage and civilization. We must also establish a close relationship between the new generations, in their various categories, so that the people have an Arab-Islamic identity in a world of globalization that strives to obliterate this Islamic identity by all means and methods>

Keywords:: Museum, administrative structure of the museum, museum collections, the most famous museum collections, the role of the museum director, Ali Abdul Jalil Shaabath.

1. Introduction

Museums play an effective role in increasing the sense of nationalism among all members of society, due to their clear role in introducing the nation's civilization, which leads to developing feelings of pride, honor, and belonging, as well as the importance of museums in improving artistic tastes. Countries of the world establish them for educational, cultural, historical, and economic purposes to attract large numbers of tourists.

Museums represent arenas of interaction between tourists and local communities, and thus they are considered the mediator in tourism and cultural exchange relations. Tourism plays a major role in activating museums and increasing their visitors, and thus achieving an increase in their income from hard currency if exploited in an appropriate manner.

Today, museums are considered as an institute of science, a center of culture, and a school for various arts. Today's museums are not warehouses for preserving valuable things, but rather scientific and cultural institutions that provide information in a pleasant form.

And interesting.

Iraq is considered an open museum due to the diversity of its environment and cultures, and museums are always a target for tourists and visitors, which requires our museums to play a major role in developing this tourism activity by exploiting social media networks in order to achieve tourism awareness towards these diverse museums. The phenomenon of employing heritage buildings in the form of heritage museums that attract tourists and visitors together has spread in the Islamic world, and this experiment has achieved great success and has actually been used in Babylon Governorate in the heritage building and made it related to life and linked the past to the present and opened it to the Babylonian public. Since tourism is an important economic activity, it has become one of the main economic pillars that many countries rely on to increase their foreign currency revenues to support their budgets. The tourism focus has become directed towards museums or what is known as cultural tourism, which made it better compatible with the increasing tourism activity around museums. He is a One of the windows that lead to important parts of Iraqi history and Hilli in particular. The most important thing that distinguishes this museum is that it is located in one of the most important buildings in Hilla, which is the building of the Hilla Governorate, which dates back to the twenties..

This museum was opened in 2014 with great efforts from its founders. Especially (Professor Ali Abdul Jalil Shaabath), The museum includes several Halls, some sections are dedicated to well-known Iraqi figures, such as the hall of the poet Muhammad Mahdi Al-Basir, which contains most of his belongings. and In addition to the halls that contain valuable heritage items, some of which contain items that represent Iraqi customs and traditions. These items were all donated by the residents who kept them for many years. The most important part of this museum is its library, which includes more than thirty thousand books on various topics. The museum holds several artistic and literary events and activities. One of the activities of the Hillah Museum is holding several specialized training courses in various fields, the most important of which is Arabic calligraphy,

with the support of local figures specialized in these fields. We see that it is necessary to establish new similar museums in every Iraqi province, immortalizing the history of all the cities of Mesopotamia, due to their role in introducing citizens to the history of their country. This research aims to explore museums in Babylon Governorate, with a special focus on the contemporary Hillah Museum, and its role in promoting the cultural and civilizational heritage, increasing awareness of the importance of the ancestors' heritage and their collections, in addition to developing tourism activity. The research was divided into three sections as shown below:

The first section: Research methodology, its mission, objectives, and administrative and urban structure

. **The second section: Museum Policy: The most famous collectibles** Then come the conclusions and recommendations, followed by the various scientific sources. **The first topic (research methodology)**

First: The research problem:

- 1- Lack of research and studies that have linked museums to the information network with the aim of promoting tourism culture, especially in the museums of Babylon Governorate.
- 2- Lack of cultural knowledge about the importance of museums in attracting tourists to Iraq in general and to the city of Hillah in particular.
- 3- Government budgets allocated to the museum are suffering. The bay From a deficiency where it needs improvement and updating.

Second: The importance of research This research deals with museums as a means of spreading tourism and entertainment culture through social media, and their role in enhancing the attractiveness of tourism in Babylon Governorate. The role played by the Hilla Contemporary Museum in the local community and Especially the Hillah Contemporary Museum and the rest of the museums in the region, which contributes to raising the level of tourist turnout. Entertaining and scientific.

Third: Research objectives

- 1- Understand the functions, importance and objectives of museums.
- 2- Exploring the reality of museums in Babylon.
- 3- Learn how museums work in Babylon Especially the Hilla Contemporary Museum As a means of attracting tourists and promoting tourism culture through the use of social networks,

websites and public media through seminars and courses organized by the museum.

- 4- Professor Ali Abdul Jalil hadShaabtThe museum director played a prominent role in attracting valuable artifacts and collectibles to the museum. The management played a vital role in the success of the museum's unique experience.

Fourth: Research hypothesis:The research seeks to reach real results through field visits and collecting statistics from the relevant authorities to know the research hypothesis which states:**Babylon Museums:Study onCollectiblesHilla Contemporary Museum"**

Fifth: Research method: This research seeks to reach accurate results through field visits.For the Egyptian Hilla Museum, and analysisDataCollected from the relevant authorities,The research hypothesis is based on the fact that "museums play an important role in spreading tourism culture through information networks and social media, which contributes to enhancing the tourist attraction of the museums of the holy Karbala Governorate and achieves successful tourism development for it."

Sixth: Research method: The research relied on the descriptive approach, where data related to the phenomenon under study were collected and analyzed through relevant parties.Through this, conclusions were reached regarding the problem raised in the study.

Seventh:Temporal and spatial boundaries The temporal boundaries are set for the current year.2024 ADThe spatial boundaries included the museum.The Egyptian solution, for its prominent role in preserving the cultural and heritage legacy.For the people of Babylon Governorate .

- 1- **Pharaonic era:**The ancient Egyptians are considered the first to be interested in the idea of museums and temples in addition to using them for religious purposes. Although they did not have the concept of a museum in the modern sense, it can be said that their temples were more like museums. Art was used inside the temples to express certain purposes, leaving a special impact on the minds of visitors. The idea of the museum as an independent entity and its origin were associated with the ancient Egyptians, as they appreciated everything that was beautiful and of archaeological value due to its antiquity, especially if it was associated with religious meanings,In Greece, the idea of museums began to appear in cities and temples, where special places were established that collected many statues and artistic relics for purely

decorative purposes. It is noteworthy that the Romans in later times established halls inside the palaces of the emperors to serve as museums. Some individuals also collected antiquities and statues, many of which were inspired by cities such as Pompeii and other Italian cities. In this context, the famous Roman leader Agrippa indicated in one of his speeches that the idea of establishing museums was based on the desire to preserve the precious works of art found in ancient temples. He also stressed the importance of establishing the Alexandria and Pergamum museums in the Hellenistic era, as they were linked to the library, culture and scientific research, and contributed to attracting the active scholars and thinkers of that period (Mohamed, 2002: 23; Haider Diaa, Ali obayes, Museums, 2022, p. 44).

- 2- **middle ages** :In that era, places of worship such as churches and monasteries were transformed into small museums, the magnificence of which was represented in the design of their buildings and the beauty of the drawings and pictures that adorned their walls, especially the frescoes. Their various halls also preserved unique artistic treasures such as finely crafted ornaments, icons, and textiles that filled their cabinets.. In addition, these places contained many relics, gifts and vows brought by pilgrims from far away places that they considered sacred. That period was characterized by great interest in collecting the remains of saints and their belongings, as these belongings were kept in special compartments that were given a sacred character in addition to their archaeological value. Among the prominent examples of this are glass artifacts designed in a style similar to sacred rock crystal, such as the famous Hedwig pieces, which number about thirteen cups distributed between museums and art collections in Europe (Muhammad, 2002: 27).
- 3- **Islamic era**:Muslims had a tradition of collecting precious and rare artifacts, especially after their expansion and conquest of the Persian and Byzantine regions.Although the Arabs did not initially know of private museums or treasuries that kept manuscripts alongside valuable artifacts, the Abbasids showed great interest in collecting these artifacts, acquiring them and preserving them in their treasuries. For example, Caliph Al-Radi allocated a treasury to collect crystal artifacts, and the Arab historian Al-Suli referred to this by saying that he had never seen a king who owned more crystal than Al-Radi or made such dazzling works from it. However, these treasuries were looted and destroyed

during the invasion of Iraq and the fall of Baghdad in 1258 AD at the hands of the rebels. In addition, the Caliphs of Andalusia were also interested in collecting valuables and artifacts in their palaces spread across cities such as Toledo, Granada, Seville, and Cordoba. Over time, the Ottoman Empire acquired many of the rare artifacts it inherited from the previous Islamic emirates. The Ottoman palaces in Istanbul were filled with antiquities and artifacts, the most prominent of which is the Grand Palace, known today as the Topkapi Museum, which houses a magnificent collection of the greatest Islamic artifacts collected since the reign of Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror. (aBa Oktay Aslan, Turkish Arts and Architecture, Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul, Istanbul - 1987, p. 225).

Renaissance: During this era in Europe, there was a special interest on the part of the kings, merchants and consuls of Europe who were influenced by the voyages of sailors exploring the New World and the rare and valuable artifacts they brought back, to begin the largest process of looting and plundering of the heritage of this New World in the name of conquests, education and civilization. The best example of this is the Spanish and Portuguese looting of the treasures of the Mayan people in South America, as well as the French campaign on Egypt led by Napoleon Bonaparte, which led to the looting of thousands of Pharaonic pieces, opening the way for the Italian, German and British excavation campaigns... etc. (Al-Quddus, 121:2001) This period witnessed the establishment of museums as independent institutions, but this was the result of several factors, including nostalgia for the past, modern inventions that were the product of the industrial revolution and their direct impact on the social and economic transformation of human lifestyle, so the working class obtained their social demands, determined working hours, and raised the cultural level that allowed them to care about cultural institutions such as museums and public libraries. Awareness of the role of the museum in educating society increased, the media, especially the print press, became interested in the world of museums and archaeological discoveries in the new colonies. Academic studies were established to update and develop museum sciences and study the effects of various ancient civilizations and attempt to translate them, as the cuneiform and Pharaonic scripts will be translated by English and French archaeologists with an unprecedented competitive spirit. (Marzouq, 42:1981) As for the Arab world, it is late compared to the

Western world, and this is due to a number of political, economic, and religious factors, and perhaps the influence of the Islamic religion is considered the most important of them, as museums were associated in the minds of Muslims with collecting statues and knowing them, which is mentioned. As the Arabs were before the advent of Islam. (Marzouq, 26:1981) The establishment of museums in Arab countries began in the late 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Most Arab museums in the beginning focused on displaying the Roman and Greek civilizations and what was found of statues, pottery, porcelain and glass finds dating back to these civilizations in particular, and the opening of these museums was during the periods of European occupation of Arab countries. (Asir, 42:2003).

Although the origin of museums dates back to the sixth century BC, Specifically to the year 530 BC, Mesopotamia - as evidenced by archaeological discoveries in the city of Babylon, However, the museum as a public institution in its modern form and concept dates back to the fifteenth century AD, in connection with the Capitol Museum in the Italian city of Rome., There is also disagreement about determining the oldest museums in the concept of the modern museum, between the Capitol Museum in Rome, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, and the museum built by Albert V, Duke of Bavaria in Germany in the sixteenth century AD to display various models of world arts for the purpose of displaying them to the public., and The oldest museum in its modern sense is the Capitoline Museum, when Pope Sixtus IV donated a collection of important sculptures to the people of Rome. The donated collections were collected in a building in the center of Rome for preservation and display, and the museum took the initiative to allow the public, without discrimination, to visit and frequent its collections since 1471 AD. Then the number of museums opening their doors to the public increased in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The difference in what the Capitoline Museum did was to announce that the role of the museum revolves around acquisition, preservation and display for the public. Whereas the previously known museum collections were private collections that were not available to the public. (Muhammad Jamal, 2020 AD, p. 27).

Second: The concept of the museum: The museum is defined as “a place for displaying artistic, archaeological, scientific, or other masterpieces” (Intermediate Dictionary). The American Museums

Organization definedAMMThe museum, as “a place for collecting, preserving and displaying human and natural heritage for the purpose of education and culture, and this cannot be realized unless the museum has the technical capabilities and trained expertise.”Therefore, the museum plays a role in strengthening and expressing the components of cultural identity through contemplation of the history of society and its current situation, and it also has the ability to develop this identity through educational and teaching methods. As Martin Heidegger put it:Martin Heidegger))Exhibitions play an important role in defining the philosophy of a museum and the nationalism of a country. Exhibitions identify the items from that country that are most worthy of display, and thus provide a reason for the country's existence, which means that museums display objects from that country. Thus, the most valuable objects in a country without museums, that is, without original, scientific, or historical exhibits, no matter what is there(Mendel 2011,193Steinberg)The British archaeologist Hermann Bazin defined the museum as a “temple in which time has stopped,” meaning that each exhibit lives in its own temporary environment (Munir and Linda, 2016: 14)The International Council of Museums defines a museum as “a permanent institution, open to the public, not for profit, dedicated to the study of the material evidence of man and his environment, collected and preserved for the purposes of education, entertainment and presentation to the public” (Al-Hajj, 2014: 89).).

Third: Museum design standards:

1- Components of the museum building:It is related to the type and size of the museum. Museums usually include exhibition halls that are important to have different sizes and dimensions, so that the visitor does not get bored, and to organize his movement, and the maintenance department, the daily management department, the cultural services department, and entertainment services.

2- Movement in the museum: It is important to determine the movement path in the museum to organize it. Early models of museums forced the visitor to pass through multiple exhibition rooms to reach the main hall, but later the single-lane road system was adopted, which saves space and facilitates monitoring.

3- Display methods: a picture hung on the wall or inside a glazed case, display on a support resting on the wall, directly on the floor without a base, display in fixed or mobile boxes.

4- Museum lighting: Lighting plays an important role in showing the properties and features of the exhibits. The type of lighting (natural or artificial), its strength and distribution must be determined in a way that suits the exhibits..

5- Security and protection: It is important to take into consideration the protection of exhibits from theft and fire. (Naseeb 24:2017).

Fourth: Types of museums:

- 1- **Art museums:** These are museums that preserve, acquire and display fine arts, including paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, fashion and other fine art items. Paintings are the most common and sought-after artistic masterpieces for display. (Wasila, 24: 2017).
- 2- **Historical museums:** These museums are characterised by preserving, acquiring and displaying artifacts from various historical periods, from prehistory, ancient eras, the Middle Ages to contemporary history. Historical museums emerged to suggest national and national pride (Zuhair, 49: 2009).
- 3- **Archaeological museums:** This type of museum conducts archaeological excavations, studies, maintains them, and then displays them in a historical manner that tells the stories and history of the civilizations of past nations. It is a place to display one or several archaeological sites, explaining them, highlighting them, and presenting them in several forms, such as permanent and temporary displays, and means of explanation and clarification. The visitor to this type of museum leaves with a wealth of cultural information about past civilizations, so that he can make connections between several civilizations by comparing the archaeological remains of those peoples, such as tools, utensils, jewelry, and the like.
- 4- **Science museums:** The contents of this type of museum reflect the historical development of scientific fields, discoveries and industries. Its halls may include all scientific branches, including agriculture, medicine, industry, geology, electronic communication and space science. It is sometimes called a technical museum.
- 5- **Open museums:** It is a system that includes the external display of antiquities, monuments, forests, wild animals, and natural phenomena, so that the external environment of those monuments and models is prepared to become suitable for visiting and touring. (Abu Ammah, 23:2008).

Fifth: The importance, goals and objectives of the museum.

1- The importance of museums:

- a. They are scientific and cultural institutes and centers and a diverse source of knowledge.
- b. It helps to convey facts to visitors, whether they are adults or children, in the shortest time and in a simple and effective way.
- c. Provides useful opportunities for effective collaboration in the study process.
- d. It develops in children special tendencies such as careful observation, sound logical thinking, binding responsibility, love of beauty, and raising the level of general taste.
- e. It helps in raising the visitor's ability to understand his position in his local environment, and the extent of the greatness of his country's artistic, historical and cultural development among the world.
- f. It is an effective means of communicating ideas about the cultural achievements of other peoples, about modern science, and about the traditions of each people.
- g. Comfortable places with no pressure, allowing one to learn about various sciences at a pace that suits him.
- h. It plays an important role in spreading education in less time and in a simple and effective way.
- i. The museum's visual style is suitable for displaying a set of facts at one time on a complex topic. (Khalil, 2017: 217)

2- Museum objectives

- a. Direct introduction to the decisive experiences in history that led to great achievements in the field of culture and art.
- b. Dedicated to securing the cultural and historical needs of citizens.
- c. Equality among individuals in all countries of the world.
- d. Preserving the monuments.
- e. Modifying old palaces that were used as museums or making the necessary changes to make them suitable for display, with lighting distribution that helps highlight the importance of the exhibits.
- f. Creating a continuous link between the people and the museum and taking advantage of holiday opportunities to encourage people to visit the museum, or in other words, constantly striving to attract the public.

g. Paying attention to educational and guidance methods that complement knowledge of the importance of the monument, and that provide useful historical and artistic information for museum visitors. (Al-Bahnasi, 61: 2004)

3- Museum objectives: We have indicated that the museum is a building designed or equipped to serve cultural, educational, touristic and economic goals and purposes. Therefore, the museum and its administrators must be in a state of contact with the public and ideal integration with popular and governmental agencies in order to work on the advancement and development of society. Accordingly, the museum has several goals, the most prominent of which are:

- 1- It works to expand the possibility of spreading and reaching the largest segment of society.
- 2- Contributing to strengthening national capacities in the field of early childhood education development by expanding special programmes for early childhood education development. (Lam'i, 2006: 61)
- 3- Disseminating museum culture and highlighting the museum's message and importance.
- 4- Encouraging local communities to contribute to the preservation of their antiquities and heritage.
- 5- Providing information to researchers and those interested in the country's antiquities and heritage.
- 6- Working on creating attractive, convincing and enjoyable plans, programmes and designs for museum visitors of all ages. (Ghanima, 26:1990)
- 7- Contributing to building an integrated database for national museum collections and bringing museum management to a high level of professionalism.
- 8- Working to establish direct museum friendships with the largest possible segment of those interested in antiquities and heritage. (General Authority for Tourism and National Heritage, 21:2015)
- 9- Working to consolidate cooperation and exchange relations in all museum fields with international museums and regional and international organizations specialized in museums, antiquities and heritage.

10-Working on the continuous development of the skills and performance of museum workers and helping to provide human resources with expertise in contact with museums. (Khulusi, 213: 2004)

11-Working to provide financial support and additional funding sources for the National Museum's programmes from the private sector and the local community. (Al-Attar, 7:2004)

12-It gives the visitor a clear idea and a clear picture of the landmarks of that country, which results in the growth of the tourism movement and its economic and national prosperity. (Al-Zaidi and Hariz, 240: 2018)

MContemporary Hilla AntiquesIts administrative structure and organization of exhibition halls:Museums are not isolated entities but an integral part of the communities they serve.,They contribute to local economies, attract tourism, and serve as spaces for cultural events and gatherings. These institutions bridge the gap between past and present, fostering a sense of pride and belonging..One of the windows that leads to important parts of Iraqi history and Hilli in particular. The most important thing that distinguishes this museum is that it is located in one of the most important buildings in Hilla, which is the building of the Hilla Governorate, which dates back to the twenties.,This museum was opened in 2014 with great efforts from its founders..

The museum includes nine halls, some sections are dedicated to famous Iraqi figures such as the hall of the poet Mohammed Mahdi Al-Basir, which includes most of his belongings, in addition to the halls that include valuable heritage items and some of them include items that represent Iraqi customs and traditions. These items were all donated by the people who kept them for many years. The most important halls are:

1- Political History Hall.

2- Popular Mobilization Hall and mass graves:In commemoration and recognition of the martyrs of the Shaaban uprising, the visitor will find some remains of their belongings and clothes., andPassing by the traces of the heroes of the crowd who wrote the history of Iraq with their pure blood.

3- Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Al-Basir Hall, the poet of the 1920 Revolution

4- Jewelry Heritage Hall:

5- Sports History Hall in Babylon: We met with ProfessorMohammed Hadi Al-HamidiAnd he isSports writer and journalist We can say that Babylonian sports began modestly with the establishment of the first elementary school, the Eastern School, in 1918 AD. The sports teachers

were Jews, including Eliyahu Menshi. Then the activities spread to the schools of the West, Al-Mahdia, Safi al-Din, and Al-Faiha. After that, the activity was for the popular teams, and among these teams were Al-Anwar in the early fifties of the last century, and the teams of Al-Tahrir, Al-Salam, and Sumer. As for the clubs, Al-Faiha was the first club in 1953 AD, and it was closed. Then the Babylon Club was established in 1960 AD. Professor Mohammed Hadi said after briefly introducing us to the sports hall's contents, adding: ((Followed by team Al-Fayhaa, Al-Tahrir and Al-Baladi. After the dissolution of Al-Baladi and Al-Fayhaa clubs, Al-Hillah club took over the matter and remained with Babylon club. Babylonian club sports were distinguished by many names who represented the national teams in many games for both genders. Among the champions are Ihsan Bahiya, Razzaq Al-Baghdadi, Qusay Qasim, Ismail Khalil, Khaled Aliwi, Falah Abdul Hussein, Hadi Al-Janabi, Fadhel Marjan and Sabah Kreidi. Hamza Nouri and Najm Obeid. As for women's sports, the champions of Hilla, Zainab Ali Al-Karimi, Sajida Tawfiq, Nahida Abdul Zaid, Dalal Mohsen, Kifah Mahdi and Maryam Arabi, recorded their distinguished presence. The Babylonian clubs played in the Premier League in football, namely Babylon and Hilla. Today, the governorate is represented by Al-Qasim Club in football, handball and volleyball. Al-Musayyab Club represented the governorate in handball. As for the club, it is the champion of the Iraqi League for many seasons in basketball and for all categories, and the champion of Iraq for youth and juniors for more than two decades. Today, there are more than twenty clubs in Hilla, including a club for girls. In Hilla, there are more than ten sports journalists. A decade ago, the Babylon Sports Newspaper was issued with the support of the consulting engineer Salim Al-Rubaie. Today, there are sports pages that continue weekly. In Babylon, there are a number of colleges of physical education and sports sciences that graduate hundreds of teachers, trainers and referees annually.))(1)

6- Lawyer Mohammed Jaafar Ajam Hall.

⁽¹⁾Personal interview on 12/16/2024 at 12:00 noon at the headquarters of the Hillah Contemporary Museum.

7- Fine Arts Hall of the artist Saad Al-Taie²): And he is A special wing for artworks and sculptures: Establishing a hall for plastic arts in the Hillah Contemporary Museum among the halls designated in the museum to display paintings, ceramic works and sculptures and to introduce visitors to the Hillah Contemporary Museum to the efforts and achievements of Babylonian artists, especially the pioneers among them. This hall will be at the service of plastic artists throughout Babylon Governorate, as it provides its services free of charge in order to preserve the history of the governorate's creative plastic artists.

Fine Arts Hall Staff:

1. Wasan Tariq Abdul Hussein / Hall Manager
2. Ziad Tariq Abdul Hussein
3. Iman Mohammed Hadi
4. Wassim Ali Hussein.

8- Contemporary Hall and Library of Hilla: The most important part of this museum is its library, which includes more than thirty thousand books

⁽²⁾ child Saad Al-Taie In Babylon Governorate/Hillah (1935) He obtained a master's degree in drawing from the Academy of Fine Arts, Rome. (1957m) During the period 1957-1986 he worked as a professor of drawing (Institute of Fine Arts). And college Fine Arts Baghdad, He studied drawing since his childhood at Al-Faihaa Elementary School in Hillah city. His first teacher was the late Muhammad Al-Sudani. In high school, he was a student of the late artist Salman Daoud Al-Khalaf., He held his first solo exhibition in Rome. Member of the Iraqi Artists Association/ Worked as a member of the association's administrative body. In 1957, Founding member of the Impressionist group/ Participated in all its exhibitions A, and Member of the Iraqi-Italian Friendship Association, and Light of the Curriculum Development Committee at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and Chairman of the National Committee for Fine Arts / International Association, and He supervised a number of master's and doctoral theses and participated in contemporary Iraqi art exhibitions in Iraq and abroad. I don't Or a number of personal art exhibitions inside and outside Iraq.

on various topics. The museum holds several artistic and literary events and activities. Cultural and courses for school students, workshops and seminars for the children of the governorate.

As you wander around the Hillah Contemporary Museum, you will see many of the city's artifacts placed in special halls for visitors to view. Among these artifacts are many creative works of art that have made their way to the museum, donated by their owners or their relatives. You may see a painting by a visual artist or a sculpture in one of the museum's corners, or a photograph that has made its way to be displayed and viewed. Even the floor coverings were given attention.

And it is considered Hilla Contemporary Museum is one of the most important Iraqi museums. In general and Babylonian in particular the TheinchAI It is newly built and includes heritage and historical collections dating back to scholars. Religion, professors, athletes and academics Babylonians, who had clear fingerprints in supporting the intellectual, scientific and cultural movement And sports With valuable writings and The old Hillah Governorate building, which was built in the year (1973m) A place for him and The museum also houses items donated by well-known jewelry houses. And through purchase, The museum contains many things., like A library containing thousands of books for.

9-Hall A To the professor Mohammed Abdul Jalil Shaabath He was born in Hillah in 1965. He completed his Master's degree in Business Administration. His qualifications include being a researcher in folklore and Head of the Civilization Revival and Modernization Authority in Babylon Governorate Former member of several organizations including: Member of the Iraqi Writers and Authors Union Member of the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate/ Babylon. Member of Al Rowad Cultural Association Member of the Iraqi House of Popular Poetry Association, founding member of the Babylon Heritage Authority. Founding member of Najaf Heritage Authority. Advisor and Founder of the University of Babylon Museum. Founding member of Hilla Contemporary Museum.

He gave many literary and scientific lectures in the halls of Iraqi universities and some foreign universities.

In addition to giving lectures in literary councils In Iraq Especially the councils of Baghdad-Babylon-Najaf-Karbala

He has several books and researches, including: Book of Ornament Windows_ Pictures from Folklore and Koshkol Hali book

andThe Saisan Language Book in HeritageJewelry, andDays in India book_ from travel literatureAnd a bookSeller of worriesandBeautiful Noise BookandBook of the present memoryandMaster's thesis: The role of Karbala Channel in reviving heritageAl-Hussaini, and researchOn the role of the specialist scholar in reviving the Husseini heritage.(3)

ButThe changes that have occurred in Iraq since 1920 AD until now. What have they done to Iraqi society? Has it remained on the same principles?He said: ((All societies in the world change due to the circumstances they live in, and Iraq and its society have certainly changed according to those circumstances, but the Iraqi has remained conservative of many of its principles and authentic Arab and Islamic characteristics compared to some peoples who have collapsed due to the harsh circumstances they have gone through. Iraq is a country of religion, history and civilization. What do the shrines that you visit and document their history mean to you, and what do they benefit the local society that has suffered from neglect for decades?))(4)

He added, "ThatDocumentation is an important part of the history of peoples. Without it, we would not have known many of the facts about our ancestors and the stages of their development. Religious shrines, the graves of scholars, and heritage sites are living evidence of what our fathers and grandfathers left behind, who gave of their knowledge and sacrificed most of their religion and principles, to teach future generations those principles, values, and morals that help them build the present and advance toward the future.; andThe poet is the mouthpiece of his people, as they say. Is this saying still valid? He contributes greatly to preserving the history of the tribe and the events it goes through.

As for the work of Professor Mohammed Shaabath In the contemporary museumHe is: ((I am one of the founders of the Hillah Contemporary Museum, and I have the first hall bearing my name, and it contains many of the possessions that supported this great cultural edifice in service to the

⁽³⁾Personal interview on 12/15/2024 at 12:00 noon at the headquarters of the Hillah Contemporary Museum.

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people of my city, Hillah Al-Faihaa. Do the preserved possessions contribute to crystallizing Iraqi and Hilli thought by returning us to our roots?andPreserving the past, materially and morally, is not a process of ruminating and repeating what happened before, but rather a latent energy that drives current generations to connect with their history, to be motivated by the knowledge and generosity of those who came before them, and to benefit from the experiences of the past, in order to achieve success in the present and move towards the future.)) (**ali obayes, Museum, 2023**)

9-Al-Abbas's Holy Shrine HallThe Holy One: The Blessed Hall was inaugurated on Saturday, October 31, 2020, at the Hillah Contemporary Museum. The opening ceremony was attended by a number of prominent figures from Hillah, in addition to representatives from the Holy Shrine of Imam Hussein (peace be upon him), especially from the Imam Hussein Museum (peace be upon him). The event was also attended by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and His Excellency the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, along with the Commander of Babylon Police, Major General Ali Hilal Jassim Al-Adli Al-Shammari, and a number of directors of the governorate's departments. The hall contains authentic heritage collections and rare manuscripts.

10-Abdul Rahim Al-Fatlawi Hall:

11-Engineer Shawqi Jaber Ali Shaabath Hall:

heengineerandwriterArtist and carpenterHe combined knowledge, culture, literature and modesty. He was born in 1944 in Hillah, Jabran neighborhood, from a family with a long history of literature and culture. He grew up in this literary environment, so he drank from it and became a lover of literature and heritage since his early childhood. He completed his three stages of study in Hillah, then entered the College of Engineering, University of Baghdad, and became one of the distinguished students, as he participated in an architectural project in Kuwait while he was in his first year, in 1964. He graduated from the College of Engineering in 1967. Despite his many occupational concerns, he did not forget his interests in calligraphy, decoration, drawing, and poetry. He held personal art exhibitions of drawing, calligraphy, and decoration, and participated in dozens of exhibitions. He wrote four poetry collections.And the most famousWorks and restoration of the Rad al-Shams Minaret, as well as the expansion of the Ghayba Shrine.Imam Al-Hujjah (PBUH)He suffered a sudden heart attack and passed away in 2003, leaving behind a legacy of

books and poetry collections. He was appointed to several positions, including: He was appointed as the director of Al-Musayyab Municipality. He assumed the position of mayor of Hillah. Water and Electricity Project Manager

Museum guidance:

One of the important units in the Hilla Contemporary Museum is its tasks::

1-Receiving visitors from various Iraqi provinces, Arab and foreign countries.

2-Receiving delegations, schools and universities from inside or outside Iraq.

3-Introducing the heritage of Hillah city through a display of all copper, metal and wooden artifacts.

4-Study and know the history of the city of Hillah in terms of families, personalities and media.

5-Holding lectures and heritage and scientific seminars related to the history and heritage of Hillah.

6-Carrying out all activities related to the unit in terms of official invitations, daily and monthly activities, and creating special schedules for that..

7-Taking care of the local collectibles and protecting them from theft and damage, as well as making ID cards and certificates in Arabic and English..

8-Maintaining the cleanliness of halls and heritage collections.

Professor Ali Shaabath said: ((Museum guidance is responsible for receiving visitors and researchers and introducing them to Hillah's heritage. And the Hilla is the bearer of the religious and intellectual message, and what confirms what we are going to and the establishment of the religious seminary with its integrated elements during the era of the great scholar Jaafar al-Hudhali, nicknamed (al-Muhaqqiq al-Hilli) in the year 676 AH 177 AD, whose scientific council exceeded more than four hundred years of diligence at a time when many countries witnessed periods of scientific and intellectual decline in various countries, so it became The city of Hillah has a civilized and human history that has shed its light on the world. Hillah is the cradle of Islamic heritage since it was honored by the entry of the Commander of the Faithful, Ali Ibn Abi Talib (peace be upon him) into it, and it became a fertile land of contentment for the activity of the infallible Imams from his descendants / the activity that aimed to revive the Sunnah of

the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in his nation. At that time, it made it a haven for students of knowledge and a destination for those seeking its sciences and the knowledge of its people. What we are facing is a huge amount of material, intellectual, literary and scientific heritage written on the pages of history books and biographies and what they manage and what they write down. Perhaps it was greater. Hillah was and still is one of the most important cities and enlightenment centers in various fields, which left its mark through its creators and figures, including Al-Tawus, Al-Nama, Ibn Idris, or those who sponsored the renewal movement at the beginning of the last century, such as Sheikh Al-Basir Al-Mashta, Raouf Al-Jubouri, Ahmed Sousa, Ali Jawad Al-Tahir, and Taha Baqir. Or those who lived with us, such as Muhammad Ali Shaker, And Salman Dawood Al-Khalaf, Sheikh Mohammed Haidar, Najih Al-Maamouri, and Mr. Mohammed Ali Al-Najjar. And the blacksmith and many others whose names are endless and their creativity and communication with everything that motivates a better life, we make all these introductions stand before this contemplative pause to make an effort parallel to the status of Hillah and its symbols. And we present together what we can offer to the Hillah Contemporary Museum project to be a witness, narrator and informant for generations about the truth of Hillah and its virtues. And that this project will be a motivator to be emulated in all the governorates of Iraq. And as you know, the dictatorial Baath organization that ruled the country prevented such a successful hacking of the cities from achieving their rights and finding their symbols and celebrating their heritage, which affected much of their archives and memory with the hand of the Baath and barbarism that trampled everything with its feet and looked at beauty with eyes of ugliness, meanness and hatred, as indicated by the intentional insults to history represented by the construction of presidential entertainment palaces in the most important,

Archaeological, cultural and heritage sites are only to freeze their sick selves and bury more historical facts. We are now living in the throes of freedom. We see the image of the country with the eyes of the future. The city of Hillah is ready to open up to the public. We will reveal through the Hillah Contemporary Museum project what it hides of findings and secrets that tell humanity the history of this virtuous city.))

Urban structure of Hillah District Governorate Building:

Through our study of the architecture of the Hillah Governorate building and its impact on the architecture of Arab museums, we notice its clear impact on Al-Zaher Palace (currently known as the Mecca Museum of Antiquities and Heritage) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is worth noting that the architectural design of the palace is very similar to the design of the Hillah Governorate, which was built (17) years before Al-Zaher Palace, as the Hillah Governorate was opened in (1935 AD), while the construction of Al-Zaher Palace was completed in (1952 AD). Before discussing the architectural aspect of the building, we must address the general conditions necessary for the employment of historic buildings., and heritageTo achieve the ideal use of any historical buildingAnd my heritageIt is necessary to adhere to a set of general conditions that ensure the preservation of its historical and architectural character. These conditions include:::

1-Choosing a new function that is compatible with the building's architectural and artistic characteristics and does not require substantial modification of its original features..

2-If modifications to the building are required, they should be limited and kept to the minimum possible..

3-If the new function requires adding elements to the building, these additions should be made of light materials and different from the original materials used in construction, to avoid compromising its heritage identity..

4-The use of an ancient building may sometimes require its restoration and the completion of its missing elements, and this must be done within the general conditions set by the Venice Conference..

This successful experiment was not limited to the Arab and Islamic world only, but also spread to Europe, as many forts and palaces were converted into museums. For example, a number of palaces in France were converted into museums, such as the Louvre Palace and the Palace of Versailles. In Italy, the Milan Fortress was converted into a museum, and the fort was divided with curtains and barriers made of light materials to perform the function of a museum. In Spain, the Alhambra Palace and the Generalife Gardens were converted into museums for visitors, and other countries((1)Imran Hazar; Deborah George, *Heritage buildings, their restoration, maintenance and preservation*, Mahmoud Zein Al-Abidin,1996, 2.)

The positive aspects of converting heritage buildings into museums:

1-Revitalizing abandoned historic buildings, through restoration and reuse

.2-Protecting the historic building from demolition, contributing to its restoration and permanent maintenance

3-The historic building becomes a point of attraction for visitors, as it is an historic building that witnessed previous historical eras, which increases the percentage of visitors to this building after it is converted into a museum..

4- AThe harmony between the displayed artworks and the interior architecture of the museum reflects an exceptional integration. The historic museum building and its collections form two complementary sides of the same coin..

5-Learn about the building's components and elements, in addition to the exhibits distributed throughout it..

6-Achieving the cultural and touristic dimensions in the process of re-employing historical buildings and transforming them into Museums.

Hillah Contemporary Museum And similar buildings in Arab countries:

The building of the Hillah District Mutasarrifate (currently the Hillah Museum) was built between 1930 and 1935 and was opened on 8 September 1935, on the anniversary of the coronation of King Ghazi bin Faisal I (1933-1939). This was during the reign of Mutasarrif Ahmad Zaki al-Khayyat (20 May 1935-19 December 1936). He held several government positions, where he was appointed as a translator in the General Telegraph Directorate, then served as Director of Kufa District, Secretary of the Ministry of Education, and Qaim Maqam of Hindiyah District (Tourirj). He also served as Mutasarrif of Kut, Amara, and Karbala. He was later appointed to the diplomatic corps as Consul General of Iraq in Muhammarah and India. In 1935, he was assigned the position of Governor of Hillah, in addition to managing the General Directorate of Post and Telegraph until 1941. In 1946, he became Consul General in Jerusalem, and was elected as a representative of Hillah. The Iraqi architect Rashid designed the building, while it was implemented by architect Abbas Shehda (Ahmed Al-Khayat, 2017, p. 12).

We could walk around the many halls in this museum, which lead to:(11)Hall, each of which houses a variety ofCollectibles, antiques and paintings of the people of Hillah andWhich dates back to different historical events, including paintings dating back to ancient times, so you can enjoy

watching the very distinctive architecture of the museum, its corridors, and its windows. And its doors.

The front (eastern) facade of the building is characterised by the presence of four arches on the right side and four others on the left side, in the shape of a horseshoe, while in the middle there is an arch in the shape of a keyhole, symbolising that the rule in the city of Hillah was launched from this place. As for the back (western) facade, it contains arches inspired by Fatimid architecture. When you enter the building in the blazing summer, you find that the ventilation system was used with the ingenuity of the engineers and the abundance of windows on all sides on the first floor and the lower floor.

But the other side (the back of the building) overlooking the main street leading to Al-Ray Street and Doctors Street, is currently used as a public clinic affiliated with the Ministry of Health.

Since its opening, this building has hosted five government departments: the Hillah District Governorate, the Hillah Court, the Treasury Department, and the Education Department. The Babylon Governorate Diwan decided to allocate this building to be a heritage museum for the city of Hillah, pursuant to Resolution No. (7770) issued on December 3, 2006.

The Hillah Museum administration sought to include the building on the Iraqi heritage list, which was achieved by the decision of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities No. (55) of 2010. The text of the decision was published in the Iraqi Gazette in issue (4161) dated August 23, 2010.

. Through our follow-up of international museums, especially Arab museums, we have found that there are three buildings similar in design to the contemporary Hillah Museum building, and they are: Y:

1-Mecca Museum of Antiquities and Heritage: It was built in 1365 AH - 1946 AD by order of King Abdulaziz Al Saud. (Appendix No.) The construction period extended for seven years, and the work was completed in 1952. It was a guest palace until 1378 AH, when it was built as the headquarters of Al-Zaher Intermediate School. On the tenth of Sha'ban 1427 AH, the palace was opened to visitors as a museum for the Makkah region for antiquities and heritage, after it was restored and returned to its previous state when it was built. It contains 13 halls for exhibitions, others for important visitors, a place designated for museum management, a lecture hall, a library, and warehouses. These halls include: the Saudi Antiquities Hall - the Prehistory Hall - the Geological and Natural History Hall - the

Pre-Islamic Hall - the Prophet's Biography Hall - the Development of Writing Hall - the Currency Hall - the Hajj Hall - the Architecture of the Grand Mosque Hall - the Saudi State Hall - the Education Hall - the Makkah Heritage Hall - the Masterpieces of Islamic Art Hall.

)https://safarway.com/property/the-mecca-museum-of-antiquities-and-heritage_10877(

2-Formerly Al Zaher Palace:

It is the second museum that resembles the building of the contemporary Hillah Museum. This museum is considered one of the most prominent landmarks in the Makkah region. Its construction began in 1946 upon the instructions of King Abdulaziz. At first, it was used as a guest palace, which earned it the name "Al-Zaher Palace". Then in 1958, it was given to the Ministry of Education, which converted it into the headquarters of Al-Zaher Intermediate School, where it rehabilitated its rooms and halls to become classrooms. It continued to be used in this manner until 1977. After that, it was received by the Agency for Antiquities and Museums, which carried out a comprehensive restoration of the building, returning it to its original architectural state..

3-**Diwaniyah District Governorate:**(Currently Diwaniyah Treasury Department) The Diwaniyah District Governorate building, currently known as the Diwaniyah Treasury Department, was built in 1934 at a cost of 6,000 dinars. This building still stands today, as it is currently occupied by the Diwaniyah Treasury Department, since the Iraqi government decided to separate the Diwaniyah District from the Hillah District in 1922 AD. (Sami Al-Mansouri and others, 2017 AD, pp. 251-258)

4- **universityThe boat in Carthage known as the House of WisdomIn Tunisia:**It is one of the distinctive Tunisian palaces, as it was built during the reign of the Husainid Beys in the city of Carthage, and was used as their residence. The palace is distinguished by the diversity of its designs that embody the Turkish, Arab and Andalusian styles. The palace was built approximately in 1860 during the reign of Sadiq Bey (1859-1882) by the Tunisian General Ahmed Zarrouk (d. 1881). The palace played an important role as a center for monitoring events in the palace during the Ali bin Ghedhahem revolution in 1864M, In 1922, Mohamed El Habib Bey (1922-1929) purchased the palace for 40,000 Tunisian francs, using it as a residence and office. Later, Bey Mohamed El Amine Ben Habib Bey chose the palace as the royal residence of the Beys in 1943, with some cosmetic

modifications to the structure. And After the overthrow of the monarchy in 1957, the palace returned to the Tunisian state, where it was used as the headquarters of the Office of Traditional Industries and then as the center of the National Heritage Institute. In 1983, with the creation of the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts, known as the Bayt al-Hikma Foundation, the palace became the official headquarters of this institution. (Baya Al-Ubaidi, 2013, 33-58; Al-Hillah Contemporary Museum website).

It can be noted that the architectural influences here are reversed, as the palace was built around 1860, i.e. before the construction of the Hilla Mutasarrifate building, which was built between 1930 and 1935.

5- The white building of the Higher Institute of Fine Arts with the ornate door frame of the central entrance, in Sousse.

6-National Institute of Fine Arts of Tetouan (Morocco): It is an institution for higher education in the field of plastic arts, visual and applied, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture. It is located on Mohammed V Street, in the school district of the city of Tetouan, northern Morocco. The institute was founded in 1945 as the first school in Morocco specializing in teaching plastic arts: drawing, sculpture, painting and engraving, under the name "National School of Fine Arts". Teaching and communication at the institute are conducted in 3 languages: Arabic, French, Spanish. ([National Institute of Fine Arts of Tetouan - Tetouan and surrounding areas guide](#)). [Tetouan City Guide](#).

In the early years of the school, the study was limited to Spanish students and some Moroccan Jews, as Moroccan Muslim students were not allowed to join until the late 1940s. This is due to traditional ideas and religious sensitivities that reflect the conservative view of Moroccans towards modern art in the last century. The sculptor Thami Dad El Kasri is considered the first Moroccan to graduate from this pioneering artistic institution in Morocco, followed by Al-Yazid Ben Issa, Abdallah El Fakhar, El Mekki Maghara, Mohamed El Naciri, Saad Ben Sfaj and other artists from northern Morocco. We found several buildings in the Maghreb and Tunisia with the same architectural design.

The status of the Hilla Contemporary Museum:

It is considered one of the most prominent museums in Babylon, and has received special attention from Babylon Governorate. This museum is

considered one of the most important heritage sites that visitors visit to explore its landmarks and contents, as it receives visitors from all over Iraq and abroad.

Hilla Museum Located south of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, it is a project launched by a group of intellectuals. It later became part of the government institutions concerned with archiving the city's ancient history. The museum includes a variety of artifacts used by the people of Hillah throughout the ages, including tools, costumes, household and industrial materials, reflecting a rich cultural legacy of these people over hundreds of years.

The establishment of this museum aims to introduce the antiquities and culture of the Hillah community in particular and the Iraqi community in general., andThe museum supervisor explained,ProfessorAli Abdul Jalil, that "the contemporary Hillah Museum represents a civilized, intellectual and cultural front for all the people of Babylon Governorate, due to what it contains of cultural and intellectual heritage, in addition to rare and valuable possessions that document important stages of the history of the governorate from its founding until today.))(Personal interview)

Abdul Jalil added that "the museum attracts hundreds of visitors daily, both from inside and outside Hillah, and contains various sections that include hundreds of artifacts that embody the lives of the Hillahis, in addition to a huge archive of artifacts, currencies, costumes, and private possessions.)))(Personal interview).

andResearcher Dr. Saad Al-Haddad pointed outSaying:"The museum represents a collective national memory, a memory that must be preserved by researching our history and collecting the remaining material samples, as some of these elements have disappeared due to continuous neglect, and others we have collected for their importance related to the past of this dear country and the lives of our ancestors, while the museum policy aims to enrich this heritage and display it in a cultural framework that suits the taste of society.)))(Personal interview)

Al Haddad stressed that "the contribution of this museum lies in providing accurate information about the city's history and heritage, which enhances communication and the transmission of this cultural legacy across successive generations."

It is worth noting that all the pieces donated to the museum came from Hilliya families, expressing their pride in their past and their desire to

immortalize their heritage. With its collections exceeding thousands of archaeological and heritage pieces, the museum is a living document of Babylon's contemporary history. The museum is located in the oldest building in the city, the Hilla Governorate, which was built in 1937.M.

This highlights that those who created such masterpieces belong to a beautiful time, which brings back fond memories of the past. When we contemplate the building of the contemporary Hillah Museum, we feel proud of this great edifice that is distinguished by the splendor of its magnificent architecture, despite the many years that have passed since its construction. This distinction and creativity in this facility is enhanced by the presence of the possessions of the people of Al-Hillah Al-Fayhaa, which makes us celebrate these precious artistic masterpieces and realize the importance of preserving them.A

The museum reminds me of The history of the Berlin Palace, now the Humboldt Forum, on Museum Island is an excellent example of this. In 1701, Elector Friedrich ordered the Renaissance palace to be remodeled in the Baroque style. The Baroque facade now symbolized the ruler's power within Europe. His coronation and investiture by the Protestant bishops of Königsberg was expressed architecturally and culturally in the Baroque facade of the palace, which now gave him the same level of prestige as other European rulers. Its power is also demonstrated through the palace's collection and display of art and artifacts from all over the world. What is interesting here, apart from the prestige and international importance of the art collections, is the attempt to abolish the diversity of these artifacts in a unique and homogeneous system of ownership and the institution of the palace, in the double Hegelian sense. The collections were kept in the palace where they were stored and placed here. However, their diversity in origin, form and design now demonstrated the ruler's power and absolute might, and their original significance, cultural contexts and history were largely negated in the sense of negation. Today, museums and collections face a challenge... ⁽¹⁾(, Julius Heinicke, 1998, 448.)

Courses, seminars and lectures :

In ancient times the museum was an institution dedicated to the promotion of literature and learning, and included regular worship with priests and rituals for the worship of the Muses. It served as a center for scholars, poets, philosophers and scientists. Especially mathematicians and astronomers. and Famous scholars and scientists were supported there by the

general endowment.,At the heart of this institution was the library and the observatory.,The most famous museum in antiquity was the literary academy founded by Ptolemy Philadelphus in Alexandria in the first half of the 3rd century BC, which continued until the civil wars of Aurelian in the 3rd century AD.,There was no inspiration for painting and sculpture, but as in other shrines, the works of pictorial art contained in the museums were there primarily in a pre-voted capacity.. (**Osborne, Harold (1985): 41–51**)

Museums and other spaces dedicated to the display of cultural life have increasingly come to occupy a distinct conceptual space in discussions of contemporary culture., seminars, workshops and lectures,The museum, in particular, has been used as a general model by many writers who aim to express historical themes or tensions. This has occurred largely at the level of rhetoric and metaphor, so that the museum has come to represent or act as a signifier of another cultural product, space or event (see Rogoff 1998; Lumley 1988: 2; Ball 1996M:2)

The museum staff and employees made an effort.The Hillah Contemporary Museum is exceptionally hosting courses and seminars that serve this city. The museum itself will provide a variety of activities for the entire community by allocating spaces for workshops, competitions and art education classes, in addition to educating the public about a range of cultural, historical and heritage topics. One of the most important roles of the museum is also supporting the national curricula through activities dedicated to students.And he mentionedThat is what Malraux said in his book "The Imaginary Museum":((The role of museums is great, as they shape all our relationships with distinctive artistic masterpieces. Here, the importance of educational activities and the importance of workshops that have been integrated into the new program of this museum emerges, which represents the achievement of a number of goals, including the following: Ensuring continuous activity in order to provide accurate and complete information about the country's history and heritage, in order to establish communication and build direct relationships with that culture, through various permanent and temporary exhibitions. Creating a reference and official site to host cultural and artistic meetings, as well as the possibility of testing practical work in the light of this museum's workshops. Motivating and educating young people on the importance of heritage, and this is done by establishing traditions for analytical approaches to exhibits, and

preparing various activities that contribute to the continuous invitation to visit the museum, such as: seminars, public discussions, as well as meetings with the technical and technical staff))

With a very important change in the concept of the museum From a stagnant and closed place, it became today A place where people can meet and have fun. In it, thus embracing a new identity imbued with vitality and To know, as well as artistic enjoyment. The beautiful This transformation has reached its peak. for where A Morning this The building itself is an integral part of the artistic experience. And the popular heritage of the people of Hilla.

and These days, museums are increasingly integrated into city and town life, becoming true landmarks.. and Museum management strategies should aim to bring communities together, enhance competitiveness and promote public welfare..

The scientific community is increasingly recognizing the role of art and the humanities in creating well-being, and how museums are now becoming more important in relieving stress, improving mood, and promoting people's mental and physical health.

It is becoming increasingly clear that these spaces in contemporary Hilla do not only display artworks but also play a pivotal role in promoting and celebrating the artistic and cultural diversity of the local area.

Museums act as bridges between their physical environment and the vast art scene they represent, and must take responsibility for establishing relationships with associations, institutions, schools, foundations, universities and other local actors, thus fostering synergies and fruitful partnerships. This relationship is vital to ensuring that the museum remains relevant and meaningful in contemporary society..

In the countries of the world, especially in Korea and Japan, for clear historical reasons, Legal protection of intangible cultural heritage has become one of the ways to assert the cultural rights of communities, and to recognize identities and differences within communities themselves. To emphasize this interpretation, let us consider the definition given by the two legal systems of intangible heritage: performing arts, traditional music, handicrafts, and other elements of special historical and artistic value, including "living human treasures," that is, natural persons who possess "skills and knowledge so highly developed" that they are protected in themselves. This is what we found in the contemporary Hilla Museum, and

with the skill and intelligence of the museum's management, the products of scholars, thinkers, and artists of the people of Babylon were taken care of. (Pier Luigi Petrillo,⁷²&S. Koo, From Korea to Japan, 2021, pp. 89–116.)

andThe national legal system sets itself the goal of ensuring the protection of intangible cultural heritage, and does so in order to secure the cultural rights of minorities.,On the other hand, it is sad to know that the first objective of the victors during armed conflicts is to destroy every cultural symbol belonging to the vanquished: the voluntary destruction of cultural assets always aims to destroy what this asset represents in order to erase or remove from its territory the symbols that may represent the history, traditions and identity of the defeated people. The international community, as well as the International Criminal Court, has repeatedly considered the “murder of memory” a crime against culture and therefore a crime against humanity. (N. Boulgourdijan, JC Toufeksian, C. Alemian (eds), Buenos Aires, 2002, p. 151.)

The most prominent courses and lectures are:

1- History of photography, its methods, mechanisms and stages of its prosperityandAs part of the museum's efforts to advance and improve the level of its employees, due to the important role that photography plays in aesthetically highlighting the collections..

2- Summer courses for students, including:Graduation of the summer course of Al-Furat Vocational Secondary School for GirlsFor a period of(45) days inthemuseum.

3-Lecture series (toImproving writing (for museum members).

Museums in the Digital Age:

In the future of the contemporary Hilla MuseumMuseums embrace digital technology to expand their reach and impact.To the global communityVirtual tours, available groups and locations are available.InternetFor people from all over the worldnoExplore the exhibitstoMuseum from the comfort of their own homeandThis digital presence enhances accessibility and presents the museum's treasures to a wider audience.

andModern technologies such as virtual reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) to deliver museum experiences.Contemporary solutionOnline.for meVisitors can now take virtual tours ofJewelry heritage,

and interact withThe possessions of the people of Hillah andHistorical figures, exploring artwork in new and unconventional ways.

andDigital platformsI enabledMuseums extend their impact beyond geographical boundaries.,People who have never had the opportunity to visit a particular museum in person can interact with its collections and educational resources online. This global possibility contributes to the democratization of culture and knowledge..

Under the leadership ofProfessorAli Abdul Jalil Shaabet, Beehive seeks to provide content that attracts audiences of all ages and backgrounds.andThis team aims to make the museum a suitable destination for all families.Iraqi, catering to all tastes.andThe museum offers a variety of community activities and has conducted a careful study to ensure that interactive opportunities are provided for the public, thus contributing to attracting the largest possible number of community members.

andThe museum aspires to revive history.The solutionIts heritage and culture in a completely innovative way through its galleries that offer a multi-faceted, interactive, experiential experience..

The administrative structure of the museum includes:

1-Director: Mr.Ali Abdul Jalil Ali Hussein Ali Shaabat, born in the year 1967m,Job Title Senior Manager;andAcademic qualification: Bachelor of Fine Arts Marital status: marriedGResidence address: Babylon / Hillah.

theResponsibilities assigned to him:

A-Director of the Civilization Revival and Modernization Authority in Babylon Provincial Council as of 11/19/2006

for-Director of the Hillah Contemporary Museum in the Babylon Governorate Diwan as of 12/5/2016

T-Director of the Shiite Shrines Department in Babylon Governorate 3/28/2022

Th-Member of the Babylon Governorate Reconstruction Team by Administrative Order No. (613) of 2009

C-Member of the Committee for the Re-Beautification of All Squares and Intersections by Administrative Order (2170) of 2011

H-Member of the Archaeological Sites Inventory Committee by Administrative Order No. (442) of 2010

X-Member of the Committee for Following Up the Procedures for Developing the Shrine of Mard al-Shams from the Shiite Endowment

Office, No. (3422) for the year 2014. He had many committees, thanks, circles, workshops and seminars.

2- Technical Assistant: Job title Technical Director: Mr. Fadhel Hassan Kasad Al-Karaawi.

The museum includes several units, the most important of which are:

1- Management unit.

2- Media Unit: Includes the center's activities and presentation.

3- Technical Workshop Unit: The history of maintaining antiques and antiquities dates back to ancient times. The history of conservation in archaeology dates back to ancient times, but the concept of conservation as we know it today has gradually evolved over the centuries. The development of the conservation of antiquities can be divided into several main stages: the classical Greek and Roman eras. They were restoring temples and shrines. To preserve religious texts and manuscripts, and Renaissance and Antiquities are exposed to several factors that lead to their deterioration and damage, which poses a threat to human heritage. The most prominent of these reasons are: (Environmental factors Like humidity and Biological factors and Human factors This workshop maintains and preserves antiques such as doors, windows, cameras, etc. A solar camera was maintained, treated, and cared for, and a burnt door crown was maintained. The museum helps preserve the rich heritage and ensures that its realistic details are passed on to new generations, not just guests. The solution It also highlights a very important aspect of popular folklore and traditional lifestyle. For local families The ancients so that generations may see their wonderful past.

Types of artifacts in the Hillah Contemporary Museum:

I consider donations as one of the important sources for museums to obtain collections, as they depend on the level of cultural awareness of citizens regarding the importance of preserving these collections, as many citizens are accustomed to contributing to enriching them (Zahdi, 1987, p. 124).), Track The museum's display methods and techniques are historical and chronological in most of its exhibits, whether at the level of halls or heritage pieces. As for the display methods used, they include displaying the pieces inside glass cabinets (vitrines) with wooden frames, which are located in the middle of the exhibition halls. This method is based on displaying a set of pieces. Heritage Small and medium sized items are stored

inside these cabinets, such as coins. Watches, pens, seals, manuscripts, books, and heritage house collectibles, the most prominent of which are:

1- Decorative artifacts: The vessels include decorative plates, vases, antiques and earthenware jugs, which reflect aesthetics and cultural symbols. The materials used in their manufacture vary, such as pottery and metal. And the glass, and now a large hall has been opened that includes these artifacts..

2- Written artifacts: include inscriptions and writings on doors and panels, engraved Babylonian bricks and paper manuscripts. Including (a very small Quran) ,These artifacts are considered important sources for understanding the history and civilization of peoples. It includes rare manuscripts and displays official documents and newspapers issued in different time periods, especially during the royal era.

3- Metal artifacts: which include tools used in the daily life of the people of Hillah, the most important of which are (jugs). Kitchen tools Weapons and jewelry made of metals such as iron and bronze.

4- Textile artifacts: As you walk around the museum you find Dozens of scenes of daily life from different periods using these fabrics and household items such as bedding and old costumes that have great cultural and historical value. These pieces help to understand the textile techniques and fashion of past eras.

5- Personal artifacts: These artifacts include the characters' belongings. For the notables of Hilla And used in their daily lives Such as (pens, watches, books, glasses, clothes, etc.).

6- A For collectibles Agricultural:

7- Ritual artifacts : Tools and objects used in rituals and ceremonies such as sacred vessels or the pictures Religious, And the flags Which reflects the spiritual and cultural beliefs of peoples.

8- Antiques And the ornaments used in their lives Daily: Includes household items and equipment used in daily life such as pots, dishes, and personal items, which contribute to understanding the daily lifestyle. Which shows the nature of daily life of the people of Hillah in particular and Iraqis in general.

9- Currencies, stamps and medals:

10- **Art panels:** The works of pioneering artists in the field of painting have found their way to the walls of the museum, as the artist Saad Al-Taie donated a group of his works, in addition to paintings by the artist Salman

Dawood Al-Khalaf, the artist Fouad Al-Taie, and the paintings of the calligrapher Hussam Al-Shalah, in addition to a huge amount of oil paintings, graphics, and designs by a group of the governorate's artists. The museum also includes showcases. And it is a glass facade through which the display is displayed. Museum collections and most famous showcases show in the museum hall:

A- History of photography in Hillah. And it was done with a camera to photograph the sun for Mr. Mohammed Al-Moussawi.

B- The history of binding in the city of Hillah and its cedars for Hajj Al-Qayyim.

C- The hallway of the heritage of jewelry: Which includes the mill, mortar, and pestle. Mabil Mats, janbilah, different types of gutters, shekels, and plaster.

D- Showcase for Judge Abdul Amir Al-Taie, Director of the Babylon Court of Appeal.

D- Honor roll for Judge Abdul Hussein Al-Sabbak.

H- Showcase of Dr. Mahmoud Ajami and Professor Khalil Ibrahim Nouri.

H- Youssef Karkoush.

C- Window and glazed panel With Karbala bricks for the shrine of Imam Al-Hujjah, may God hasten his reappearance.

A- Showcase for Dr. Sami Saeed Al-Ahmad.

G- And a showcase for the scholar Sayyid Hadi Kamal al-Din.

F- A showcase containing the building's collections.

Q- A showcase containing a group of weapons.

M- A showcase containing currency and stamps.

S- A showcase containing the handwritten Qur'an of Sheikh Muhammad Ali Al-Mutairi, who is nearly 200 years old, as well as a manuscript of the Qur'an. Y L Mr. Hossam Al-Shalah completes his writing with the heavenly books, the Torah and the Bible.

T- A showcase for Al-Hikma magazine, a pencil case, and a note of honor for the music teacher Mahdi Saleh..

Z- and his windows. Captain of the N. The groan of the former Mohsen Al-Jilawi.

your- And a plaque of honor for Q. Who is Abdul Amir Al-Asadi?

The second topic:

Museum Policy:

The museum aims to Contemporary Hilla and its management, to protect heritage in general And works of art with heritage value, But museum policy is also concerned with enriching this heritage and presenting it within a scientific and cultural framework that adapts to the needs and requirements of society., So I worked This is amazing The museum institution always succeeds in its primary mission, which is to preserve artistic collections of value that rise to the level of public interest, within the framework of a lofty mission as a public service or at least as a public sector., The ultimate goal is to deliver information to a large audience. Achieving justice for everyone's right to education and culture And heritage.

Director of the Hillah Contemporary Museum, artist Ali Abdul Jalil Shaabet : (The museum's policy is to establish a gallery of fine arts to include all the artworks donated to the museum (drawing, sculpture, calligraphy, decoration, ceramics, as well as photographic works).) This is what the museum administration worked on to attract the city's residents to display their creative products, especially since Babylon's artists have been the backbone of the Iraqi art movement since its establishment, such as (Mohammed Ali Shaker, Saad Al-Taie, Salman Daoud Al-Khalaf) and others..

Abdul Jalil adds Saying: ((One of the first donors to the museum was the sculptor Sadiq Rabi' who donated three works to the museum, which were a huge relief sculpture (1.50*1) representing the theme of Jerusalem, executed in 1986. In addition to another sculpture representing the great scholar and Dr. Ali Jawad al-Tahir, he called on all sculptors in Babylon to provide the museum with their creative production.))

One of the activities of Hillah Museum is holding several specialized training courses in various fields, the most important of which is Arabic calligraphy, with the support of local figures specialized in these fields.

We see it necessary to establish new similar museums in every Iraqi province, commemorating the history of all the cities of Mesopotamia., Because of its role in introducing citizens to the ancient history of their country, developing a sense of belonging to the homeland, and strengthening the individual's national identity..

Private hall:

And the museum director is invited Professor Ali Abdul Jalil Shaabat All artists in the province to support the museum for the purpose of documenting the creators to broadcast conclusive evidence that Babylon is

the pillar of the Iraqi plastic arts movement. We also invite the families of the deceased artists to support the museum with the products they have available to take their way to display in the museum halls and to complete the gallery of plastic arts, as the museum plan includes displaying the products in a special hall, and we now own 20% of the plan for the hall, most of which is for pioneering works.

Noting that the process of receiving the artistic collections is done by a committee that is replaced every 6 months and the collections are delivered with a sealed receipt. There are several ways to receive them, including in the form of a trust deposited in the museum or by donation. Pointing out that these controls are strict so that the Babylonian people can be reassured that there is an official body that preserves the Babylonian and artistic heritage, and we encourage everyone to bring their belongings to the museum.

Hillah Museum, the home of hearts and love of heritage:

:As you wander through the museum's halls, you will discover the works of Babylonian artists displayed in a wonderful way., You will also notice that the people of Hilla have deposited their old possessions and paintings in the museum, where they have added everything they own, especially coins. and Paintings, household items And their personal belongings that He was Their ancestors used it. The museum is considered a large house for the people of Hillah, containing all the old possessions and antiques. And the techniques of scholars, writers, sheikhs and works To preserve it from damage, the museum contains a maintenance workshop. All archives.

As you wander through the museum's corridors, you can explore the history of the city of Hillah in the last century, as it reflects the creativity of the people of Hillah in various fields..

This museum is considered one of the largest museums. Babylon Governorate, reflecting the culture People of Hilla By containing more than A thousand heritage pieces and hundreds of books and The museum is not only distinguished by the variety of pieces Heritagereflecting art Cognitive and cultural development, but also by the quality of these masterpieces, which are characterized by mastery, richness and precision in design, which made it a beacon. For the people of Hillah It is an important reference for researchers and historians interested in the history of Islamic civilization and its various fields, such as medicine, engineering, astronomy, and other sciences. and The museum also houses manuscripts and artifacts. And he

wrote Relating to medicine, surgery and herbal medicine, as well as astronomical instruments such as astrolabes and compasses..

In addition to the libraries and books provided by the people of the city, which are considered treasures of what was written by hand, the visitor will notice, upon approaching the entrance gate, the English cannon (the original copy). It is currently under maintenance.) which was seized by the revolutionaries of the twentieth revolution The heroes And you will see Treasures of books and dictionaries, The museum contains jewelry collections that reflect the ancient cultural heritage throughout the ages, and embody the customs and traditions of the people of Babylon, in addition to the books inherited by scholars, intellectuals and historians from Hillah. The museum's administrators invite the people of the province to contribute whatever artifacts they have of their ancestors, so that these collections will be a radiant platform for culture and heritage...

From the collection of the Hillah Contemporary Heritage Museum:

Rose water sprayer 1-Rose water sprayer: It is known as (Kalbadan) or Qom Qom.

It is a hand-made copper bottle with a long neck and a round base. It is filled with rose water and used to perfume guests during occasions by sprinkling rose water on them. It is also used as a decoration..

2-Rescue Medal: It was issued during the reign of His Majesty King Faisal II, may God have mercy on him, and it is one of the distinguished royal medals that were awarded to people who contributed effectively to rescue operations during the Tigris River flood in 1954 AD., The obverse of the medal features a relief image of a man saving a woman's life, with his foot on sandbags symbolizing dams. Behind the man, on the left, are two flooded palm trees, while on the right is a boat carrying rescue supplies. In the far corner of the image, one can see views of mosques and palm trees in Baghdad. On the reverse side of the medal, the words "Rescue Medal" are written, with the words "Iraq Flood 1954" underneath. The ribbon of the medal is made of silk, while the medal itself is made of bronze, which was Track in Swiss and This medal is considered one of the possessions of Professor Halim Jawad Mahdi Al-Kawaz..

His late grandfather, Hajj Mahdi Al-Kawaz, along with a group of zealous residents of Hillah, contributed to forming a committee to collect donations and mobilize volunteers, including: (The late Mr. Ali Imran Al-

Shalah, the late Hajj Abdul Razzaq Marjan, and the late Hajj Naji Jabyour And the late Jassim Hamadi Al Hassan). They received these medals that reflect the generosity of the people of Hillah and their good reputation in providing assistance to all that is good in all the governorates of Iraq..

3- Among the unique collections in the Hillah Contemporary Museum is a map of the city of Hillah drawn by the artist and historian Nasuh Effendi, known as (Al-Matraqi Zadeh), dating back to the year (941 AH / 1534 AD). The map shows the city walls that rise noticeably, and are characterized by their almost square shape, as they were painted white, indicating that they were built of plaster and covered with it. The city wall contains six gates similar in shape and height, distributed on the four sides of the city. The Euphrates River separates the two sides of the city, and they are connected by a floating bridge that depends on wide boats known as (Jisariyyat), and their number is eight gates.

and The museum contains a variety of daily life necessities, such as metal, glass and ceramic utensils, in addition to jewelry, wood, textiles and carpets. The museum is considered a mirror that reflects the level of creativity and high taste achieved by artists, scientists and researchers in the city of Hillah, as it shows the precision of performance and skill of work.

4. Doors, windows, iron door knockers, keys, and belongings of the heritage houses of the people of Hillah.

5- Weapons (old guns and swords), shields and combat helmets.

6- Manuscripts:

7- Old electrical appliances (radios, televisions, etc.).

8. Jugs of different sizes and colors.

9- A war projectile in the shape of a metal ball used by old Ottoman cannons to demolish city walls, which confirms that the walls of the city of Hillah were fortified.

Conclusion

The museum is considered In the fragrant city of Hillah An ideal destination for lovers of Heritage, collectibles and influential figures Art and Culture And science, which includes a wonderful collection of Books and manuscripts And no Worker the Artistic And the belongings of local figures, including libraries and personal belongings of scientists, athletes, artists, and

others. Reflects the city's history and cultural heritage and Whether you are a fan of Folklore or Art or looking for a unique cultural experience, a visit to the museum Contemporary solution It will provide you with an unforgettable experience in the heart of Hillah city.

When foundations, museums and cultural institutions work together, they can play a major role in developing society, enhancing people's well-being and spreading knowledge., and Prove synergies so it is possible to introduce audiences to complex topics using art and innovation as tools for engagement. Which This approach contributes to building a more aware and participatory society..

Preservation is at the heart of the museum's mission., These institutions employ conservation experts, ensuring that fragile and ancient artifacts are protected for future generations. The meticulous care and attention that goes into preserving these treasures is often hidden from the public eye but is essential to their preservation..

Museums aren't just for school field trips. They also cater to lifelong learners., Special lectures, seminars and exhibitions cater to adults seeking to expand their knowledge and explore new interests., Thus, museums play an important role in promoting intellectual growth and personal development..

In a rapidly changing world, museums remain steadfast as guardians of our cultural heritage. They reveal the secrets of the past, preserve our collective identity, and foster education, understanding, and communication within our communities. As we move forward into the future, we must continue to support these Museums value and pride And support it To ensure its ability to perform its mission in the future and enrich the lives of future generations..

Preserving our cultural heritage And scientific It is not the responsibility of museums alone, but rather a collective duty on the part of society. Jewelry in particular and Iraq in general By recognizing the vital role of museums and actively participating in their efforts, we can ensure that our shared history continues and that our cultural heritage remains vibrant and accessible to all.

Although we live in an era full of modern developments, it is necessary to introduce our young generation to the importance of museums in the cultural and educational life of the country. It is true that interest in museums does not bring immediate financial benefits as is the case in other areas, but it contributes to broadening our intellectual horizons, especially

regarding the history and activities of our ancestors. We must work to educate children in schools about the value of museums from a young age, and only then will they develop a real sense of national belonging, which will positively reflect on society as a whole in the long run..

The other facade (back of the building) is on the main street leading to Al-Ray Street. The doctors are currently using it as a popular clinic affiliated with the Ministry of Health. I call on the responsible authorities to hand it over to the museum to preserve it. And it shows Collectibles Heritage Yes And cultural And The museum uses the latest display methods and techniques., and Digital documentation and recording of parts On display, and Also, preserving, securing, studying, maintaining, and restoring it., and Organizing temporary and permanent antiquities exhibitions inside Hillah city, and Holding seminars, conferences, cultural and scientific activities and other activities and events and Community awareness Jewelry With civilization Babylonian and aims Reviving traditional crafts and arts Iraqi

(Bensaidani.Y, 2019, p.66) et seront écrites des mêmes façons à chaque citation, même si plusieurs fois répété.

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