

From the Yellow House to Beit Beirut
An innovative heritage project
in partnership between the Municipality of Beirut and the City of Paris

Since September 2008, the Municipality of Beirut and the City of Paris have joined efforts for the rehabilitation of the Yellow House (a building edified in the thirties and still bearing the traces of the civil war), and its transformation into Beit Beirut, a new urban cultural center in the heart of the Lebanese capital. It will open its doors early 2013, after two whole years of work. The project will be publicly unveiled for the first time on April 7 at 8:30 p.m., during a dinner held by the President of the Council of Ministers Saad Hariri at the Grand Serail, in honor and in the presence of Mayor of Paris Bertrand Delanoë.

A project driven and implemented by the Municipality of Beirut

The Municipality of Beirut leads the rehabilitation of the Yellow House, which it owns since 2003. It finances the project and leads its implementation. The Municipality of Beirut has commissioned Youssef Haidar as a Consultant Architect for the rehabilitation and scenography project.

Through this project, the Municipality of Beirut impulses a policy of safeguarding the heritage of Beirut, a highly symbolic gesture in light of the history of this place, of the city and of its inhabitants.

The result of a strong partnership with the City of Paris

The connections between Paris and Beirut are long withstanding and have flourished since 2006, subsequent to the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation.

In this context, the City of Paris provides its expertise to the Municipality of Beirut to bring to fruition the rehabilitation of the Yellow House.

An exemplary consultation process with the Lebanese civil society

The Municipality of Beirut is in dialogue with the civil society through a scientific committee consisting of fifteen scholars, architects and associations. Started in 2009, a series of conferences organized with the French Embassy allows widening the debates. This involvement will result in the role of the civil society in the subsequent management of Beit Beirut, along with the Municipality of Beirut.

The Yellow House: a place of memory in the heart of Beirut

Witness to the history of Beirut, located on the old green line, this unusual architectural object combines:

- An original architecture, by Youssef Aftimos and Fouad Kozah
- War traces, resulting from the actions of the militiamen who have occupied the premises since 1975.

The rehabilitation will combine heritage preservation, sustainable development and renewable energy, contemporary architecture and technological innovation: a perception resolutely directed towards the future.

Beit Beirut: a cultural urban center open to all

Beit Beirut will allow Lebanese nationals and tourists to discover the city through: a permanent exhibition on the history of the city; temporary exhibitions, in particular of contemporary art; an urban observatory, lectures, debates and screenings. It will also host a restaurant, cafe and a multimedia library.

Calendar

2009: Architectural Plan

First sketch of the cultural project

Consultation with the civil society and establishment of the scientific advisory committee.

2010: Adoption of the architectural project

Launching of the rehabilitation works for at least 2 years

Creation of an association in charge of managing the future equipment

Kick-off of the production of the museum and the future cultural programming.

2013: Estimated Opening of Beit Beirut.

From the Yellow House to Beit Beirut, the Municipality of Beirut invites the public to follow the emergence of an innovative approach serving the heritage and the radiance of the city.