



Documenting the Architecture of Ramses Wassef: The Case for the Vernacular

Documentación de la arquitectura de Ramses Wassef: A favor de lo vernáculo

Documentação da arquitetura de Ramses Wassef: Um caso a favor do vernáculo

Daniel Ayad

Since the 2011 revolution in Egypt and the political upheaval which ensued, the urban landscape of major Egyptian metropolises – Cairo in particular – has seen rampant building activity characterized by an increase in informal settlements on the one hand, and major government-sponsored infrastructure projects on the other.

While this phenomenon has been the subject of scholarly analysis, such as in the publications of David Sims or Diane Singerman, the attendant near-systematic demolition of twentieth-century architectural production has

only recently received the attention of archivists, documenting and highlighting buildings whose fate has come to rest with the backhoe operator.

The recent volume on the work of Ramses Wassef (1911-1974) by Conchita Añorve-Tschirgi and Ehsan Abushadi seeks to supplement these records, presenting for the first time in a cohesive manner the complete works of the late twentieth-century Egyptian architect who, alongside Hassan Fathy, albeit lacking the latter's international acclaim and readership, was a major proponent of reintroducing vernacular Egyptian architecture and its characteristic mudbrick and domed vaulting techniques in the building program of modern Egypt: a newly independent state in search of its own architectural language.

Conchita Añorve-Tschirgi, Ehsan Abushadi
The Architecture of Ramses Wassef
 AUC Press, 2020



Regarding Earth, Architecture, and Archaeology

Sobre tierra, arquitectura y arqueología

Sobre a terra, arquitetura e arqueologia

Luis Miguel Carranza Peco

La tierra como material de construcción ha sido utilizada desde que el ser humano comenzó a establecerse en el territorio de forma más o menos estable. Su versatilidad, su disponibilidad y su coste han contribuido a que continúe siendo una de las opciones más utilizadas en el presente y que por ello conforme gran parte de la arquitectura tradicional, aunque manteniendo sus peculiaridades edilicias dentro de cada contexto cultural presente y pasado.

Mientras que campos como la restauración, la bioconstrucción o la etnografía presentan avances significativos, dentro de las investigaciones arqueológicas resultan escasos los trabajos encaminados al análisis arquitectónico. La obra aquí expuesta llama la atención sobre algunas deficiencias de la historiografía española, entre las que destacan la falta de consenso