

## READDRESSING COMMUNITY-BASED REGENERATION PROCESS AND PROJECTS IN HISTORICAL CONTEXTS

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**Abstract** *Regeneration strategies in historical contexts tend to follow strict guidelines and design regulations provided by governments and specialized agencies in order to protect value, character and harmony of historic urban fabric. Design guidelines generally focus on the physical qualities of the local environments, therefore including communities in decision making through community-based strategies and bottom-up planning became recently among the most common and applied strategies.*

*The current paper examines community-based strategies' need for a regulatory mechanism that secures sustainability, monitors and assesses the application of its guidelines and objectives. It also discusses the factors needed to formulate such regulatory mechanism. As a case study it refers to old historical contexts which are characterized by a high level of mixed uses as well as residential areas.*

*The paper comprises various sections covering: Social sustainability conception, background material related to regeneration projects and user based conceptions, design guidelines in historic settings, legal framework for regeneration projects, the Egyptian case study of 'Aslam' square in 'Al Darb Al-Ahmar', historic Cairo, Egypt, an Agha Khan sponsored community development project, to document project status after implementation and assess the efficiency of the adopted regulatory mechanism, hence allowing the proposition of a community based frame-work for monitoring and evaluating regeneration processes.*