

Cultural heritage has become a valued asset, and its preservation is considered a main concern among most nations and governments worldwide. The preservation of ancient and not-so-ancient artefacts and the engagement in traditional crafts and practices foster social cohesion and strengthen a sense of identity, which is why they hold a special place in Palestine – understandably so, given its geopolitical context.

This issue offers a look at the preservation of Palestinian heritage and the ways in which this heritage is being claimed. Thanks go to the institutions and individuals who have contributed to this issue, among them UNDP, whose ongoing support for the year 2018 is highly appreciated, and the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation, whom we would like to congratulate on winning first prize for cultural heritage preservation in the Arab region, awarded by ICCROM-ATHAR (Architectural-Archaeological Tangible Heritage in the Arab Region) Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

Contributing authors include artist and anthropologist Dr. Ali Qleibo; director of Friends Boys School Dr. Riyam Kafri; Salaam Bannoura, head of the research and training unit at the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation (CCHP); Ambassador to the Holy See and to the Sovereign Order of Malta, Issa Kassissieh; Junaid Sorosh-Wali, head of the culture unit at UNESCO, and Mohammad Abu Hammad, architect and urban planner; Shirabe Yamada, executive director of Sunbula Fair Trade Organization and Tania Tamari Nasir, classical soprano, preservation activist, and author; UNDP team leader Walid Hasna and program specialist Motaz Dawabsheh; Doa Wadi, executive director of Business Women Forum Palestine; writer and blogger Sabrin Hasbun; Mays Yatim-Salsa', head of the awareness and public relations unit at CCHP; Huda Imam who has worked both in academia and culture; and comedian Amer Zahr. Our Personality of the Month is architect and preservation activist Issam Juha, our Book of the Month introduces Adnan Abdelrazek's *The Arab Architectural Renaissance*, the Exhibition of the Month features *Stone Stills* by Johny Andonia, and *Where to Go?* takes you to Jenin and its environs.

From the entire team at TWiP, we wish a Happy Easter to all who are celebrating.



Sincerely, **Tina Basem**

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## Forthcoming Issues

May 2018: **Al-Nakba, Seventy Years On**

June 2018: **Design in Palestine**

July 2018: **Sustainable Gaza**

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