



# World Heritage / Patrimoine Mondial

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**Nationality of author:** Egyptian

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**Title of thesis:** An Approach for Preserving the Historic Gardens of  
Cairo within a Sustainable Development Framework

**Type of thesis:** Ph.D

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**Institution of Supervisor:** Monfiya university, faculty of  
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■ Please provide a 500 words abstract outlining your thesis; you may wish to attach a table of contents or any other relevant material:

Gardens are considered the lung of the cities that suffer from pollution, crowd, and urban density. Based on this understanding, public gardens are established in most of the dense historic centers. In Egypt, and more specifically in Cairo, gardens started to be laid down starting from the nineteenth century, a fact that provided them historic and archaeological values beside their current environmental importance. Through the study of the current status of some examples, the research points to the continuous abuses towards the historic gardens of Cairo because they are considered public properties where the growing needs of the community can be accommodated. This process resulted in disfiguring the identities and the distinctive characters of those gardens. The research highlights the value of the many natural and cultural elements found in these gardens including rare plants, historic irrigation systems and other precious landscape elements. It also traces their conditions through consecutive developments phases.

Given the current pressures to improve the quality of the built environment of the Egyptian cities, the State directed interests to such gardens not only as means for beautification, but also as a necessity to improve the environment, to decrease the density, and to refine the societal behavior. This study urges all current efforts to deal with those gardens as heritage subjects for which many international policies and charters specify types of permitted interventions. It is only by following these measures that those gardens could preserve their historic values and distinct characteristics. The research presents a general strategy on how to reintegrate the Egyptian historic gardens within the urban fabric and to meet the needs of the contemporary society, and meanwhile to respect the charters of the heritage preservation. The research concludes with a proposed action plan designed for a Cairene garden specifying terms that confirm on the possibility and the practicality of modifying maintenance and restoration programs in respect to the historicity of the place from one side, and that meet the needs of the urban and societal growth from the other.

Key words: preservation, historical garden, sustainable development, Cairo

■ Thematic Structure (max. 5)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Routes and Itineraries, Linear Heritage (Routes, Canals, Railways, Rivers, etc.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Built Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Heritage and Environment
<input type="checkbox"/> Earthen Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Geological Heritage
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<input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> Marine and Coastal Heritage
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Landscapes	<input type="checkbox"/> Rock-Art
<input type="checkbox"/> Underwater Heritage / Archaeology	<input type="checkbox"/> Research on Materials Conservation and Mechanics
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<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Tourism & Ecotourism
<input type="checkbox"/> Oral & Intangible Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heritage Legislation (National and International), Conventions, Charters and Declarations
<input type="checkbox"/> Languages and Toponymy	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Impacts on Heritage
<input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy and Heraldry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	