

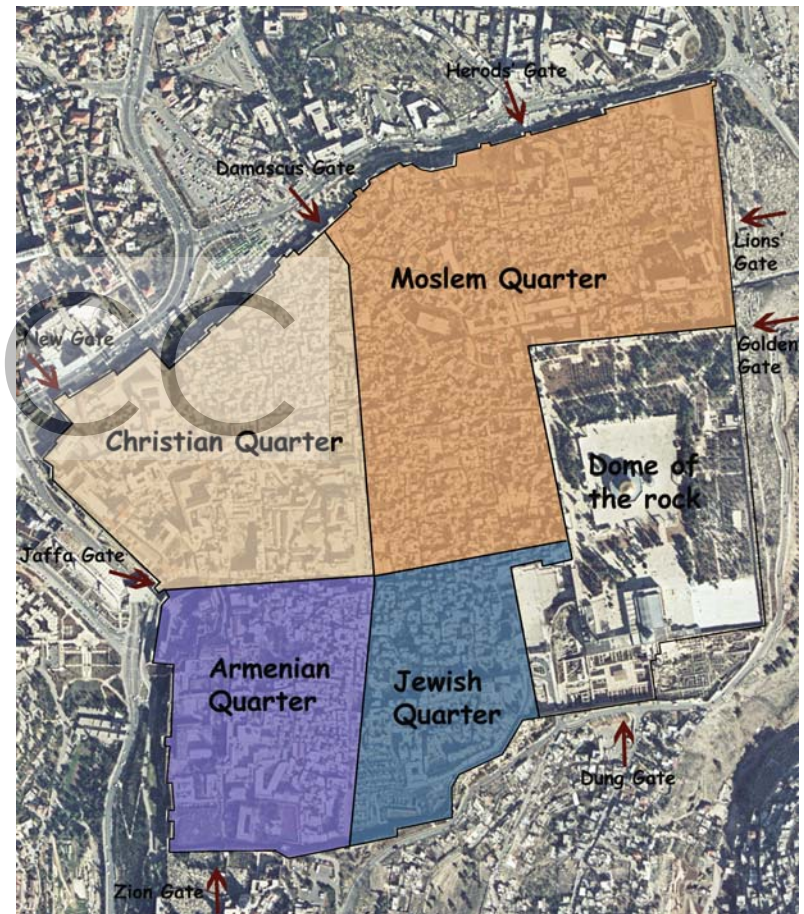
OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM AND ITS WALLS “A WORLD HERITAGE SITE IS IN DANGER”



New Israeli Settlement in Muslim Quarter

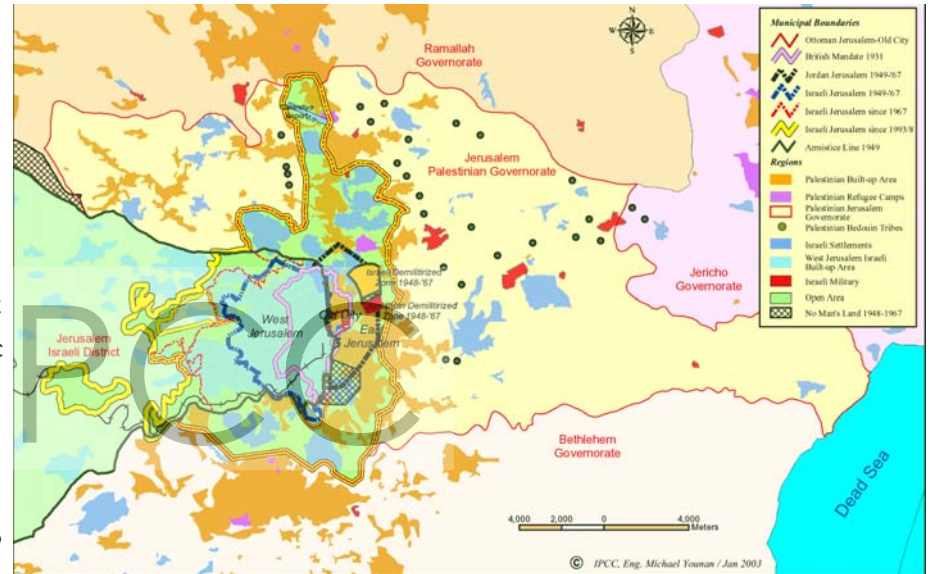
Muslim Quarter Settlement

- The Old City of Jerusalem has an exceptional cultural importance due to its high architectural, religious, historical and spiritual value.
- UNESCO added the Old City and its Walls to the list of World Heritage Sites in 1981 and to the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1982.
- UNESCO has issued a statement against archeological excavation by an occupying force in occupied territory.



Muslim Quarter Settlement

- UNESCO has *condemned* Israel for policies inconsistent with UNESCO's aims.
- Israel continues to *alter* the *historical and urban features* of the city of Jerusalem.
- Israeli policy in Jerusalem aims to *segregate and paralyze* the *urban fabric of Jerusalem* by the continuous establishment of illegal Israeli settlements among Palestinian population centers.



Muslim Quarter Settlement

- This policy has mostly been applied **outside** the walls of the Old City, but recently the **Old City** had been targeted.
- A new **Israeli settlement** in the Muslim Quarter was approved by the planning authorities on July 25, 2005.



The site



Muslim Quarter Settlement

- The settlement, as proposed by the Israeli Ministry of Housing, is planned on **3.759 dunums** (approximately 1 square acre).
- The settlement will be implemented on land plot no. 30859 on part 145.
- The proposed settlements is **politically motivated and threatens the peace process.**



Muslim Quarter Settlement

- Landuse activities have been altered such that:

-Percentage of the **open space** has dropped by 50%.

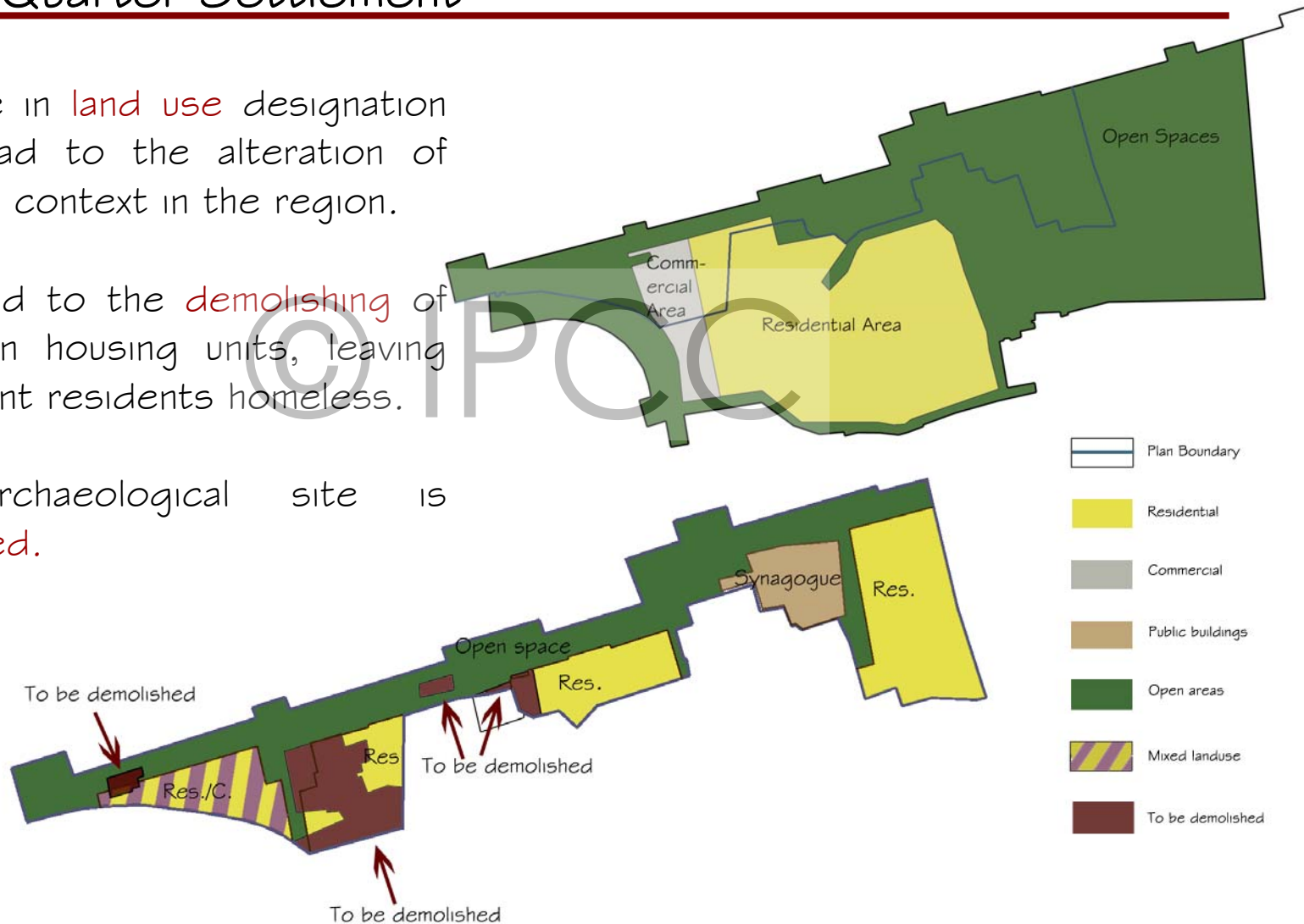
-Commercial land use have been excluded in favor of mixed commercial/residential land use.

-The commencement of construction of **public buildings**.

Landuse	Approved		Proposed	
	Area	Percentage	Area	Percentage
Mixed (Residential+Public Buildings+Commercial)	-----	-----	0.337	9.0
Mixed (Residential+Public Buildings)	-----	-----	0.430	11.4
Pure Residential	0.255	6.8	0.966	25.7
Public open space	3.162	84.1	1.758	46.8
Private open space	-----	-----	-----	-----
Commercial	0.342	9.1	-----	-----
Public Buildings	-----	-----	0.268	7.1
Total	3.759	100	3.759	100

Muslim Quarter Settlement

- Change in **land use** designation would lead to the alteration of the urban context in the region.
- Will lead to the **demolishing** of Palestinian housing units, leaving the current residents homeless.
- An archaeological site is **threatened**.



Muslim Quarter Settlement

Current uses of the site:



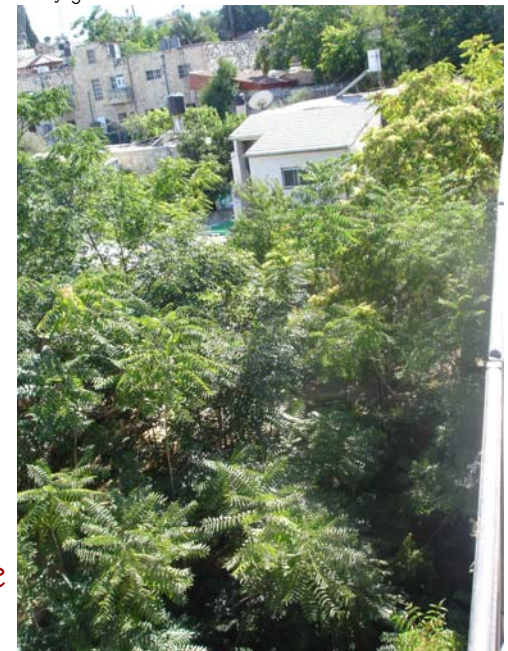
Archaeological Site



Playground



Playground



Home garden

There are no alternative playgrounds in this area of the

Muslim Quarter Settlement

A city is a pattern of *relations* between human groups, a *production & distribution space*, a field of *physical force*, and a set of *linked decisions* (Lynch)

A city seeks sustainability through meeting *social, spiritual, educational, economical, cultural, agricultural* needs, through the *analysis* of different forces acting on the urban tissue of the region. (Lynch)

The question is how can the Old City become a *vibrant and revitalized living city* for the *needs* of its legal residents in the face of *unilateral threats* to the Old City's *cultural heritage*.

Muslim Quarter Settlement

- A “greenbelt” 10m from the wall has been imposed by the ministry of planning.
- Buildings within 50m of the wall are not to be higher than the wall.
- Based on a chronological review of the urban status of the Old City from 1918-2002:
The greenbelt as well as the interior open spaces have been diminishing due to the constant increase of population.



Old City of Jerusalem 1918



Old City of Jerusalem 2002

Muslim Quarter Settlement

- In urban design, an open space is the space set aside within the city boundaries for **environmental concerns**: landscape buffers, playing fields, parks, community paths.

- Therefore, the importance of preserving an **open space** in the Old City is essential to prevent **urban deterioration**.

- Nevertheless, Israel has ignored that fact and is planning to build a new settlement in one of the **few remaining open spaces** in the Old City.



Open spaces | 1918



Open spaces | 1976



Open spaces 2002

Muslim Quarter Settlement

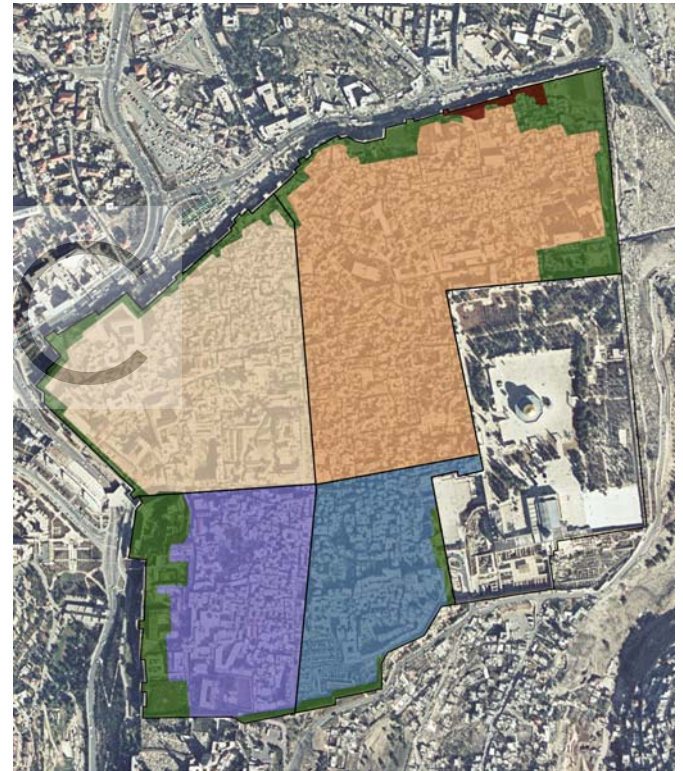
- Not only has the greenbelt along the Old City walls been *diminishing*, but so have the interior open spaces.

Thus, living conditions have *deteriorated* due to the *congestion* of housing units, in addition to the lack of open spaces for *recreational, environmental and entertainment use*.



Muslim Quarter Settlement

- The construction of the **proposed settlement** envisions **21 housing units** under the pretext they are needed to service 3 other illegal Israeli units in the vicinity. There is no consideration for the needs of the **32,000 Palestinians** living in the area.

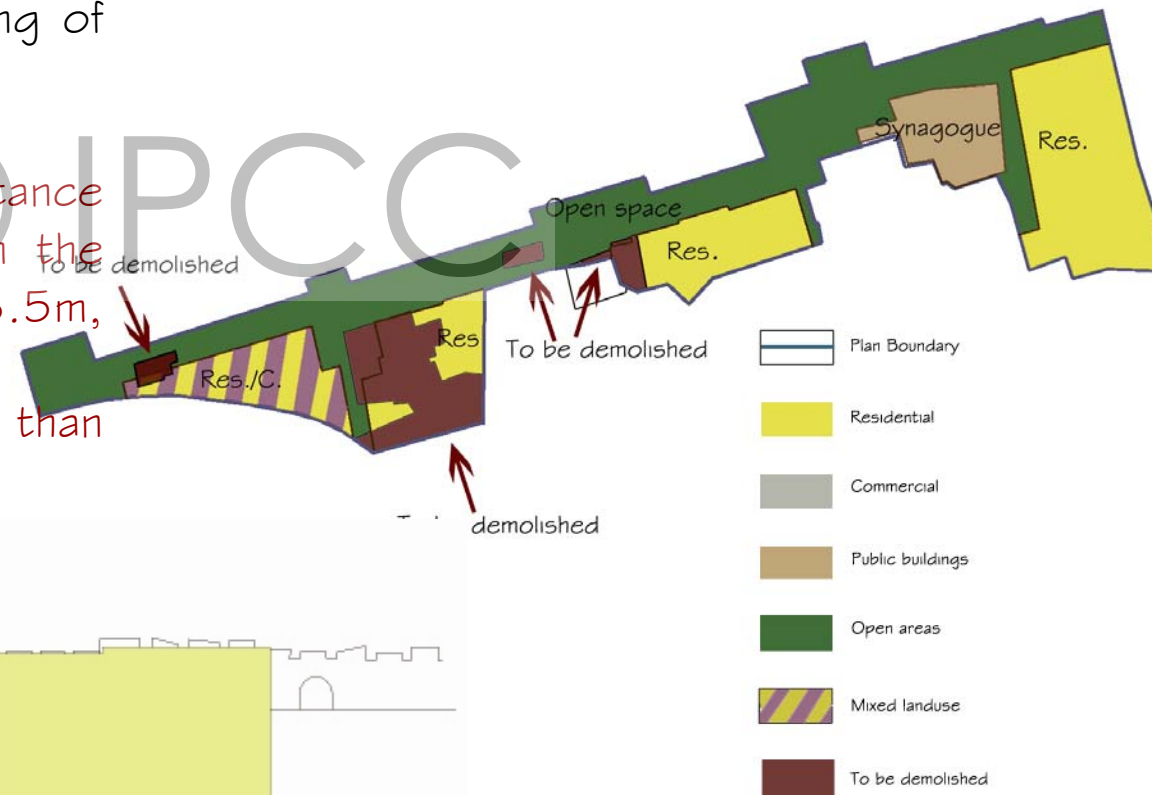
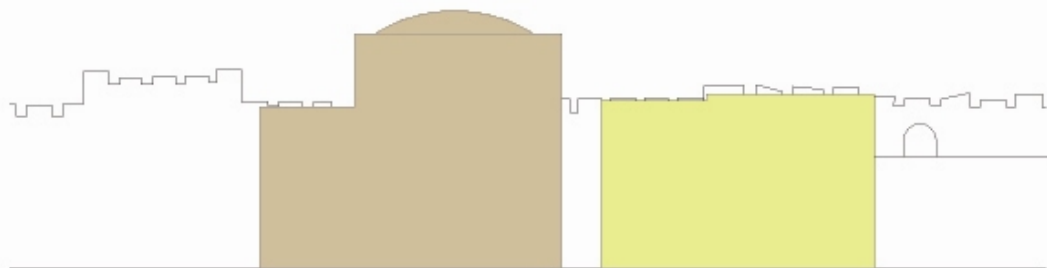


Muslim Quarter Settlement

• The proposed settlement violates the urban restrictions imposed on the urban planning of the Old City because:

- The maximum offset distance from the Old City wall from the closest housing unit is only 3.5m, and.....

- The synagogue is higher than the Old City wall.



Muslim Quarter Settlement

- The gradual takeover of the Muslim Quarter will:
 - Threaten the cultural and historical heritage of the quarter as a Muslim Quarter.
 - Add to the urban decay of the Old City by overpopulating already crowded areas while failing to address the needs of the current legal residents, and
 - Will adversely affect the peace process as Israel prejudices final status negotiations with respect to the Old City.

