International Day for Monuments & Site IDMS 2025
Heritage under Threat : Preparedness and Learning – A Perspective on Places of Religion and Ritual

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ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Places of Religion and Ritual

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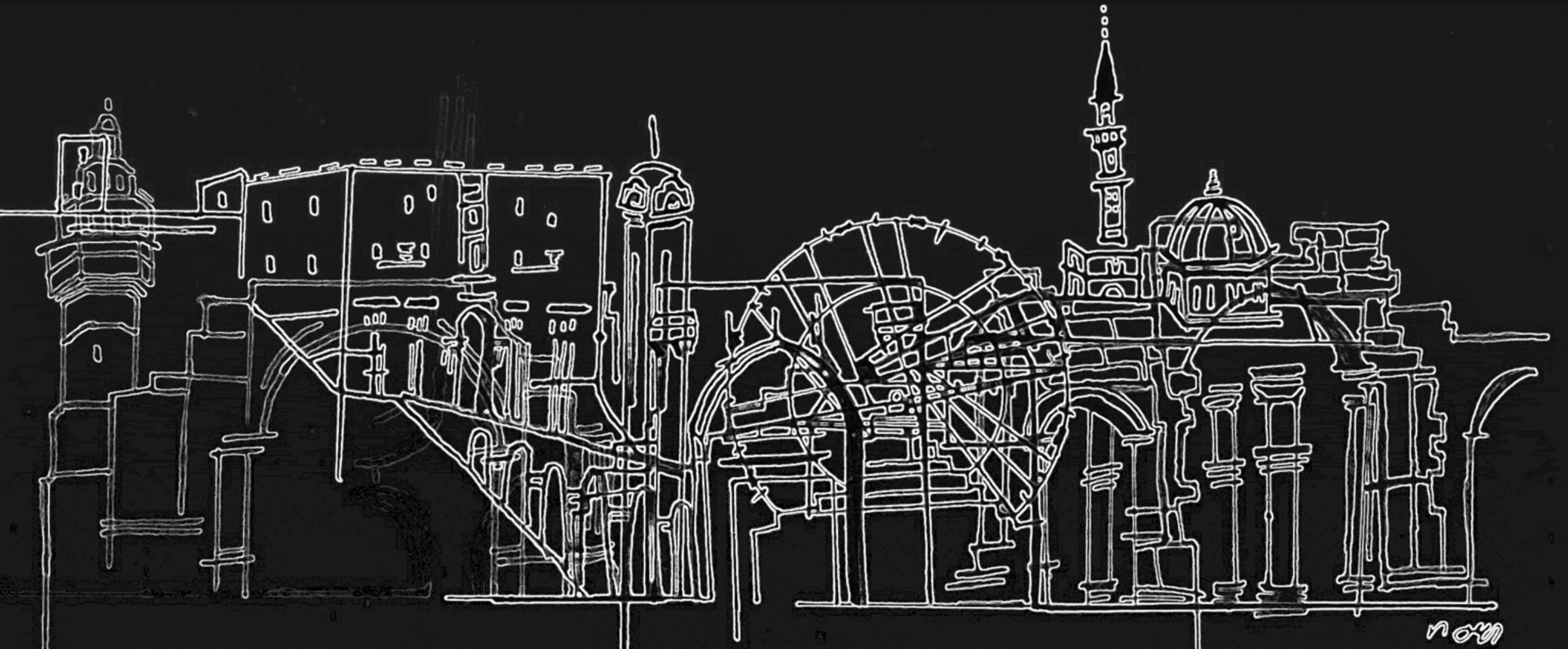
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From the war destruction to the rehabilitation : reviving the Omayyad Mosque of Aleppo

Saturday, 17th of May 2025,06:00 A.M Paris Time

Luna Rajab, Consultant Architect & Cultural Heritage Expert / CEO & Partner at ACE Company
Damascus, Syria, President of ICOMOS Syria

Cultural Heritage of Syria



CITY OF ALEPPO BEFORE 2011 : A LIVING HERITAGE FULL OF LIFE



Earth From Above – Syria April 2009. ©Yann Arthus Bertrand



OMAYYAD MOSQUE OF ALEPPO

Earth From Above – Syria April 2009. ©Yann Arthus Bertrand

OMAYYAD MOSQUE OF ALEPPO





OMAYYAD MOSQUE OF ALEPPO

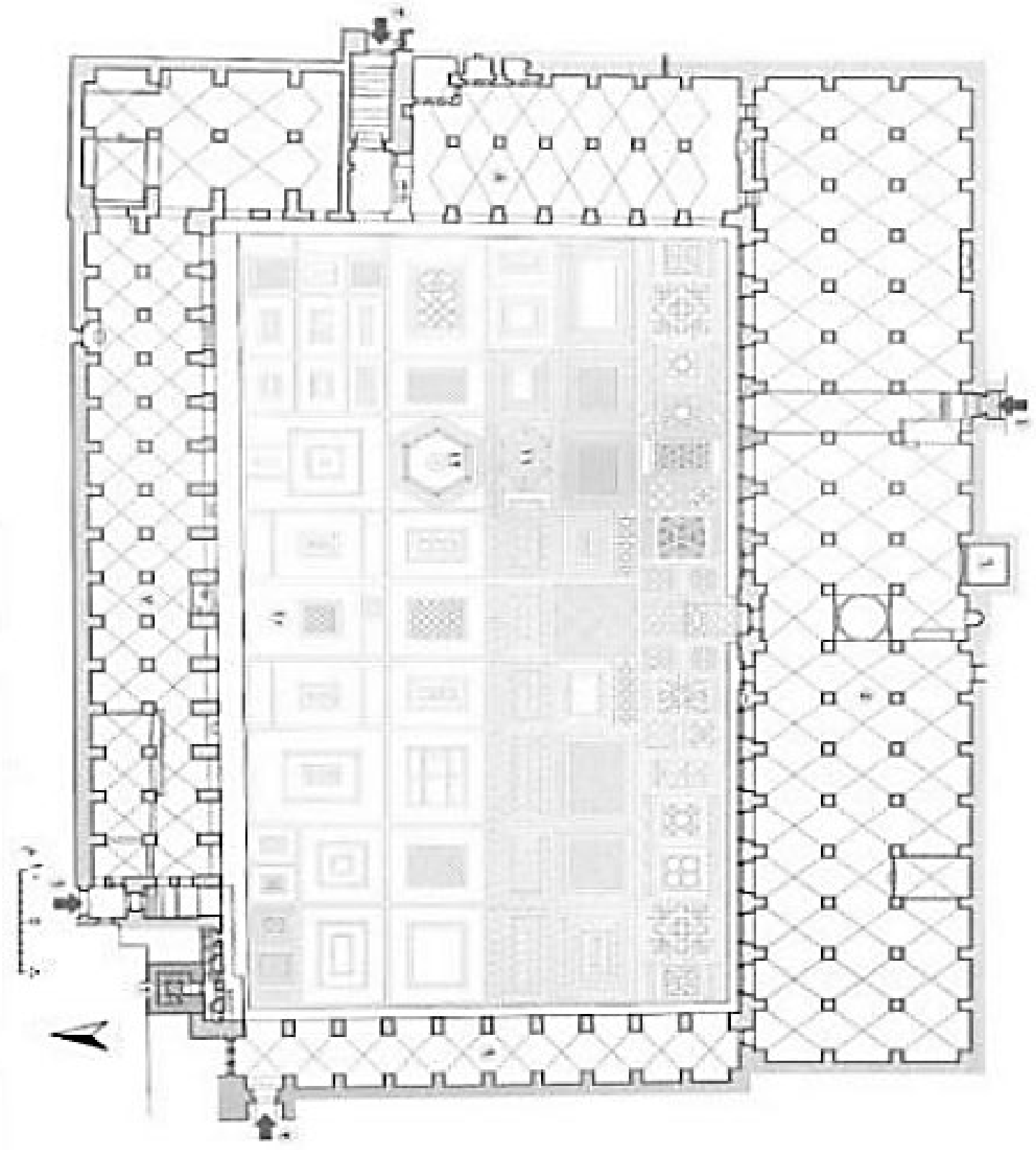
DETAIL OF THE COURTYARD PAVING - OMAYYAD MOSQUE OF ALEPPO



Earth From Above – Syria April 2009. ©Yann Arthus Bertrand

- "When you enter the courtyard, somehow the air changes," says Syrian artist and archaeologist, Zahed Tajeddin, who was born in Aleppo and is now based in London.
- "It's purer, cleaner and you are concealed from the hustle, the traffic, the noise and it's open to the blue sky over your head. There's some kind of calm, serenity, peace. And of course the mosque itself doesn't have a great dome, it had the minaret... standing in the corner of the courtyard. It was quite a striking image."

OMAYYAD MOSQUE OF ALEPPO



PLAN OF THE GREAT OMAYYAD MOSQUE OF ALEPPO 96 A.H/ 717 A.D. CIRCLE OF ALEPPO INDOWMENTS

DETAILS OF THE MINARET OF THE GREAT OMAYYAD MOSQUE OF ALEPPO BUILT AT THE SALJOUKID PERIOD 1090-94 AD



"The cultural heritage in Syria is witnessing a tragic and extremely complex situation as a result of the conflict started in 2011. The current reality can be summarized in the following points:

1. Widespread Destruction
2. Looting and Theft of Antiquities
3. Deterioration of Site Conditions
4. Protection Challenges
5. Protection and Rescue Efforts



Aleppo Old City around the Citadel , by Luna Rajab 2021



Children make their way home from school through Aleppo’s devastated streets in November 2017. © UNHCR-Susan Schulman

Historical Souks of old city of Aleppo around the mosque destroyed by the war and later by the earthquake of February 2023





Urban tissue destruction between December 2011 to August 2014

BETWEEN TOW PHASES OF HIS LIFE




The Mosque deteriorated situation during the wa and before spring 2013
the date of the Minaret destruction

Destruction of the Mosque started with the war and the Minaret was destroyed April 2013



THE MINARET WAS DESTRUCTION IN APRIL 2013





Destruction due to the war
Restauration works in February 2023



Destruction due to the war
Restauration works in 2023


Destruction due to the war
Restauration works in March 2024

Reconstruction after desteuction
the mosque in Ramadan 2025 – March 2025



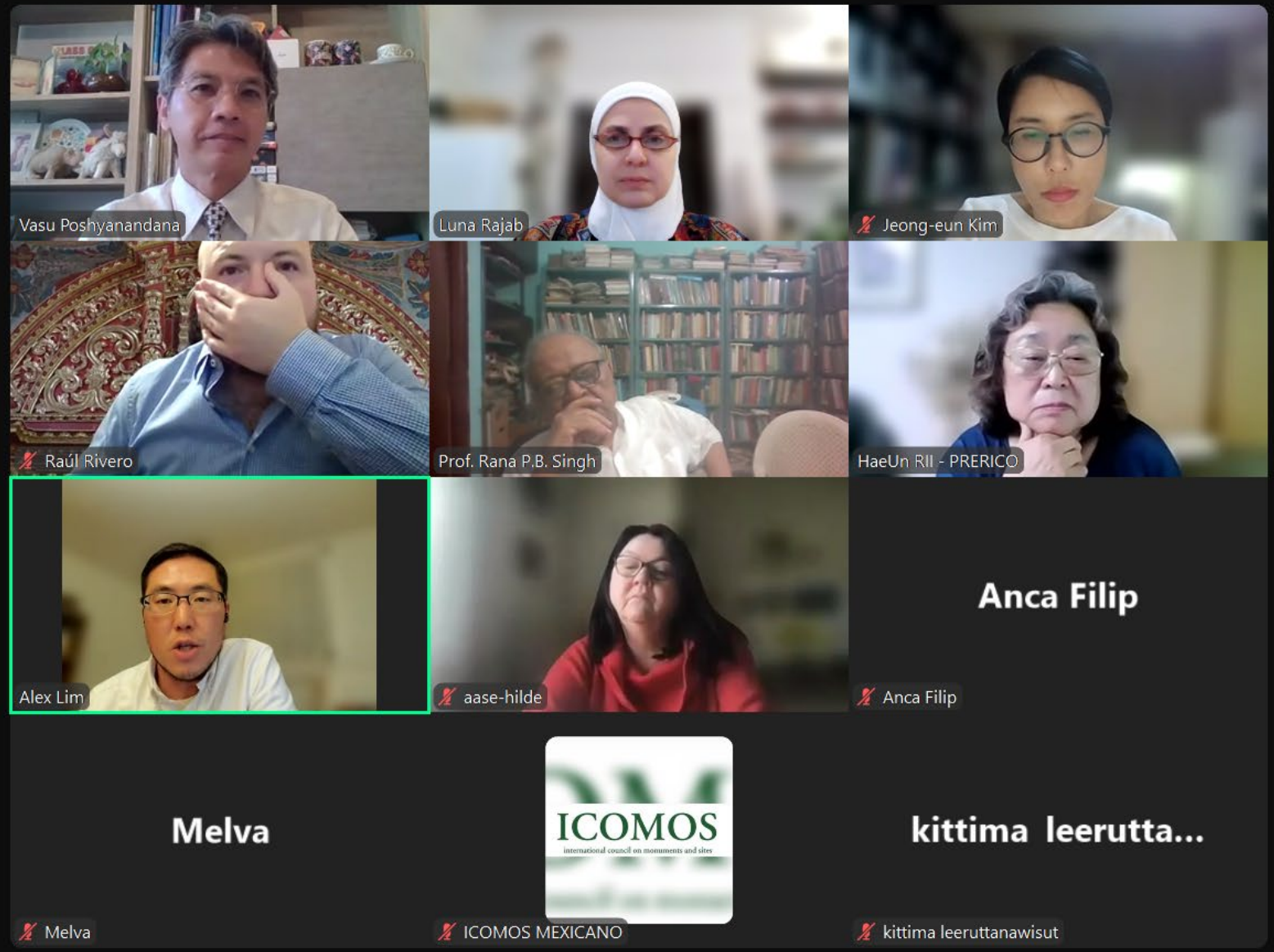

Reconstruction after desteuction
the mosque in Ramadan 2025 – March 2025

"I call upon all international, governmental, and civil bodies, as well as those interested in heritage in all its forms, to break the cultural and humanitarian siege imposed on Syria, its history, and its heritage, and to come forward to assist in a manner consistent with their objectives. History and heritage do not wait.

Thank you for your attention.
We hope to see you all in Syria soon.

Luna Louai Rajab, Architectural Consultant, Expert in Cultural Heritage.
Chair of the Board of Directors, ICOMOS Syria.
Expert with UNESCO, ESCWA, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Ministry of Culture, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and a member of the Sustainability Team at the World Heritage Organization."

zoom
Workplace



PRERICO SS 2025

VP could we have only one question for each presentation?

1

New messages

HaeUn RII - PRERICO 9:59 AM

HR Dear Luna: your presentation gives us many thoughtful things.

1

Alex Lim 9:59 AM

AL Wonderful presentation, Luna. Thank you. My heart goes out to all who survived the war.

1

ICOMOS MEXICANO 10:01 AM (Edited)

Congratulations, very interesting your topic. Thanks you Luna

1

Who can see your messages? Recording on

To: Meeting group chat

Message PRERICO SS 2025

zoom Workplace

Recording View

Vasu Poshyanandana

Luna Rajab

Jeong-eun Kim

Raúl Rivero

Prof. Rana P.B. Singh

HaeUn RII - PRERICO

Alex Lim

aase-hilde

Anca Filip

Melva

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international council on monuments and sites

kittima leeruttanawisut

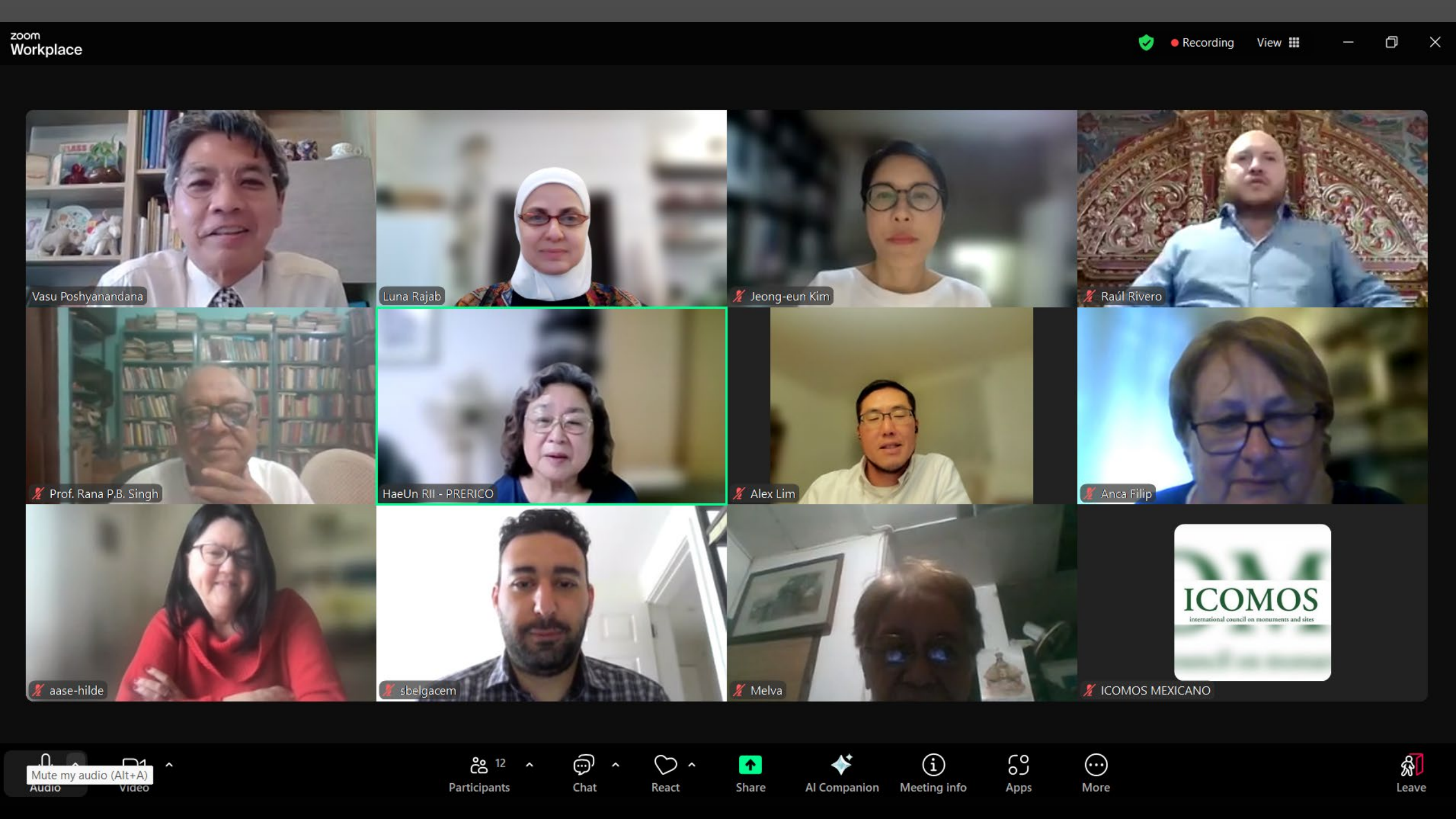
Anca Filip

Melva

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kittima leeruttanawisut

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