

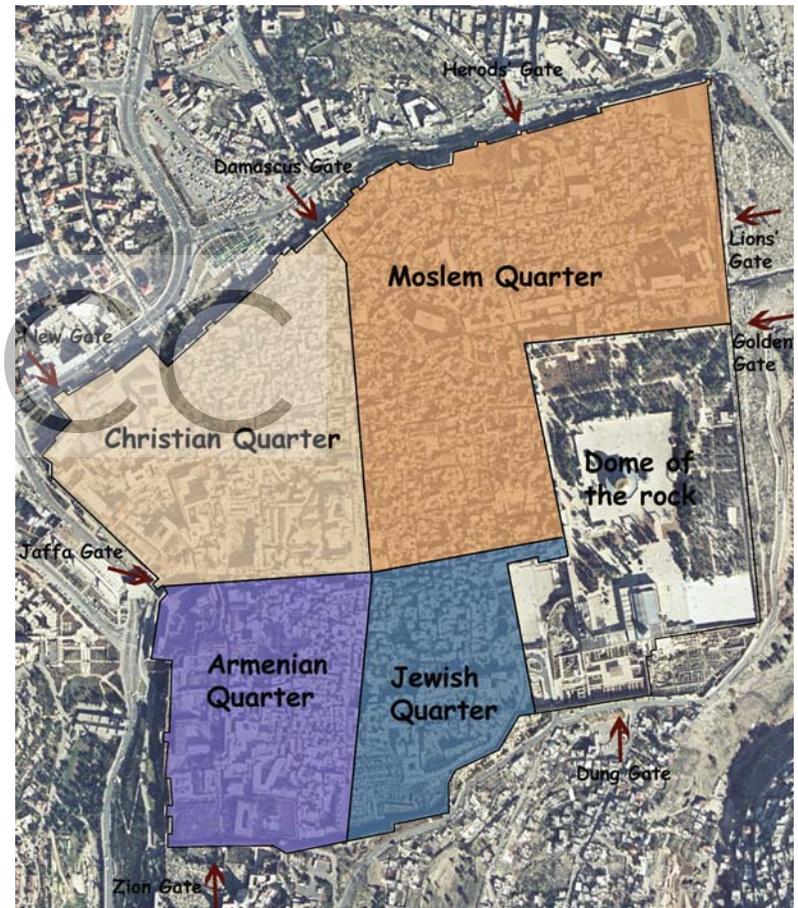
# OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM AND ITS WALLS “A WORLD HERITAGE SITE IS IN DANGER”



New Israeli Settlement in Muslim Quarter

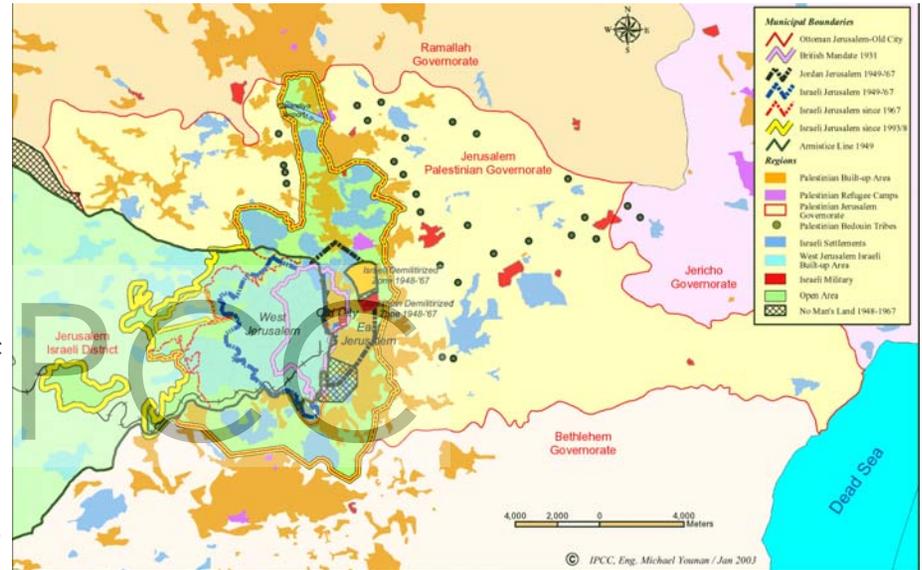
# Muslim Quarter Settlement

- 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.

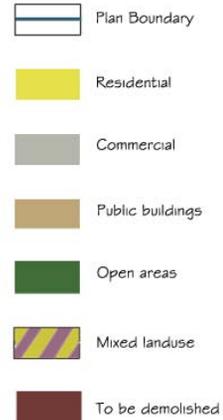
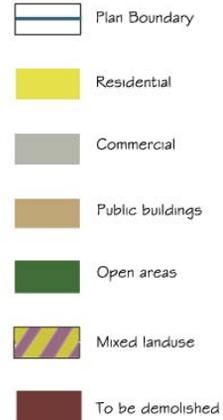


The site



# 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%.

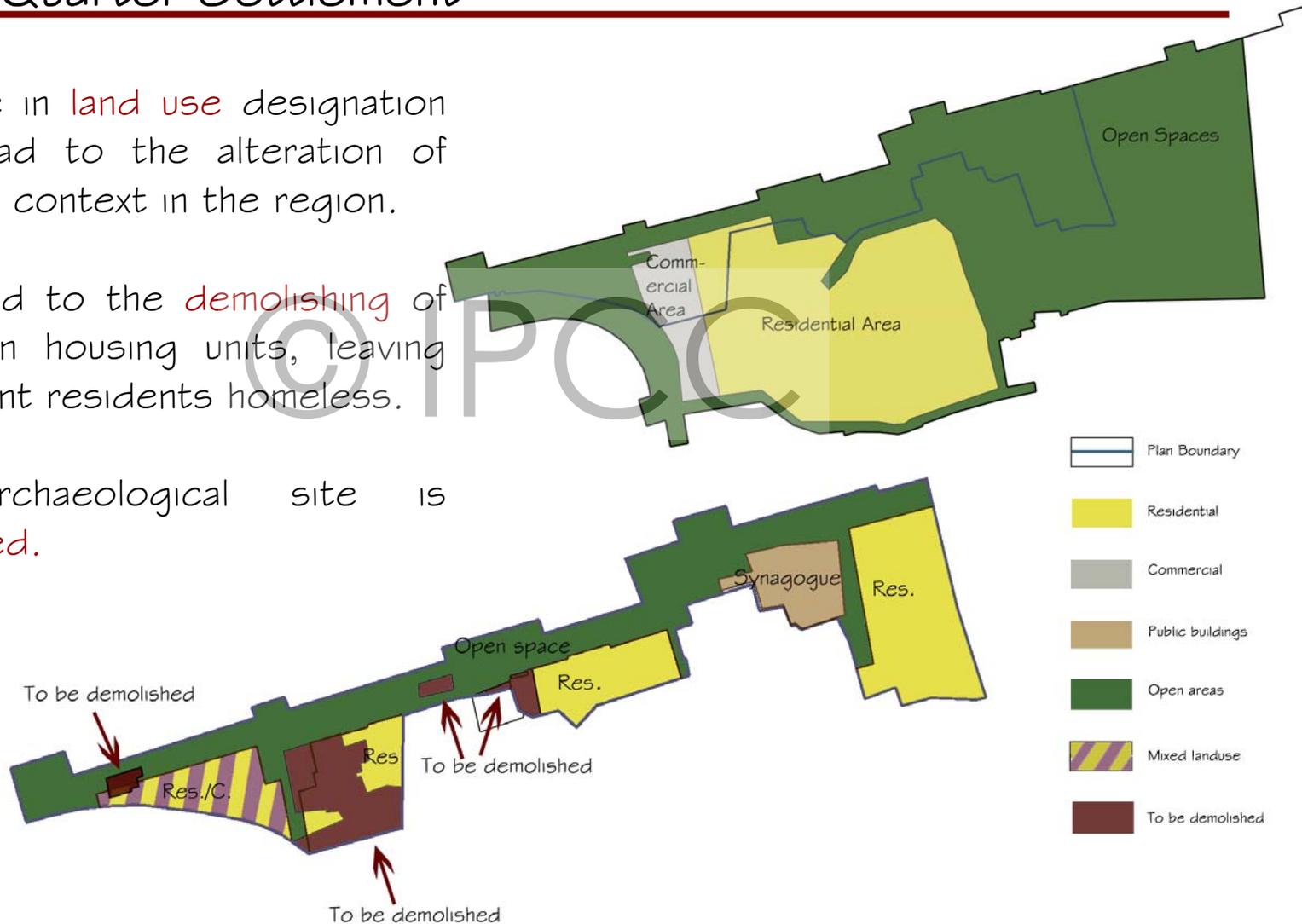
-Commercial land use have been excluded in favor of mixed commercial/residential land use.

-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**.

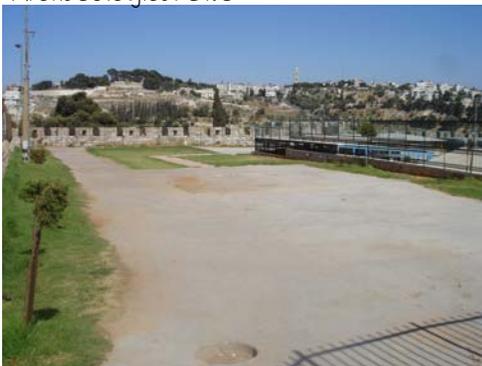


# Muslim Quarter Settlement

Current uses of the site:



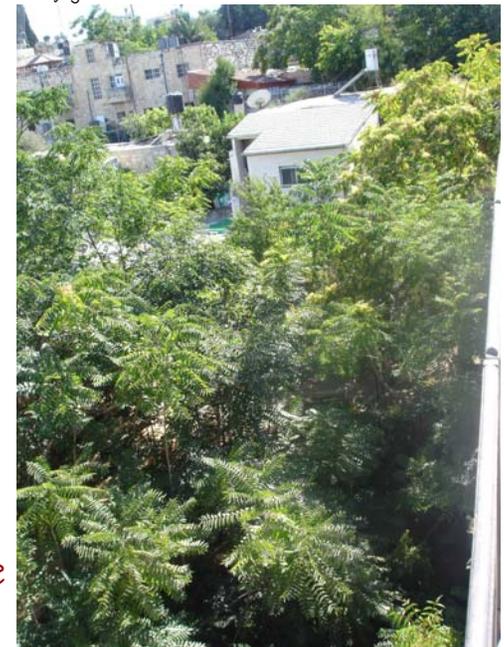
Archaeological Site



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

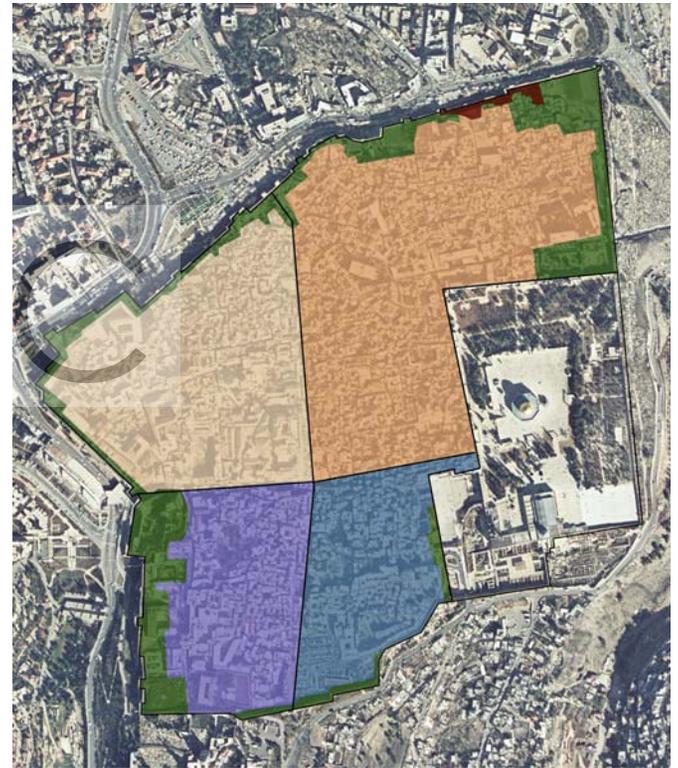
- Not only has the greenbelt along the Old City walls been *diminishing*, but so have the interior open spaces.

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.

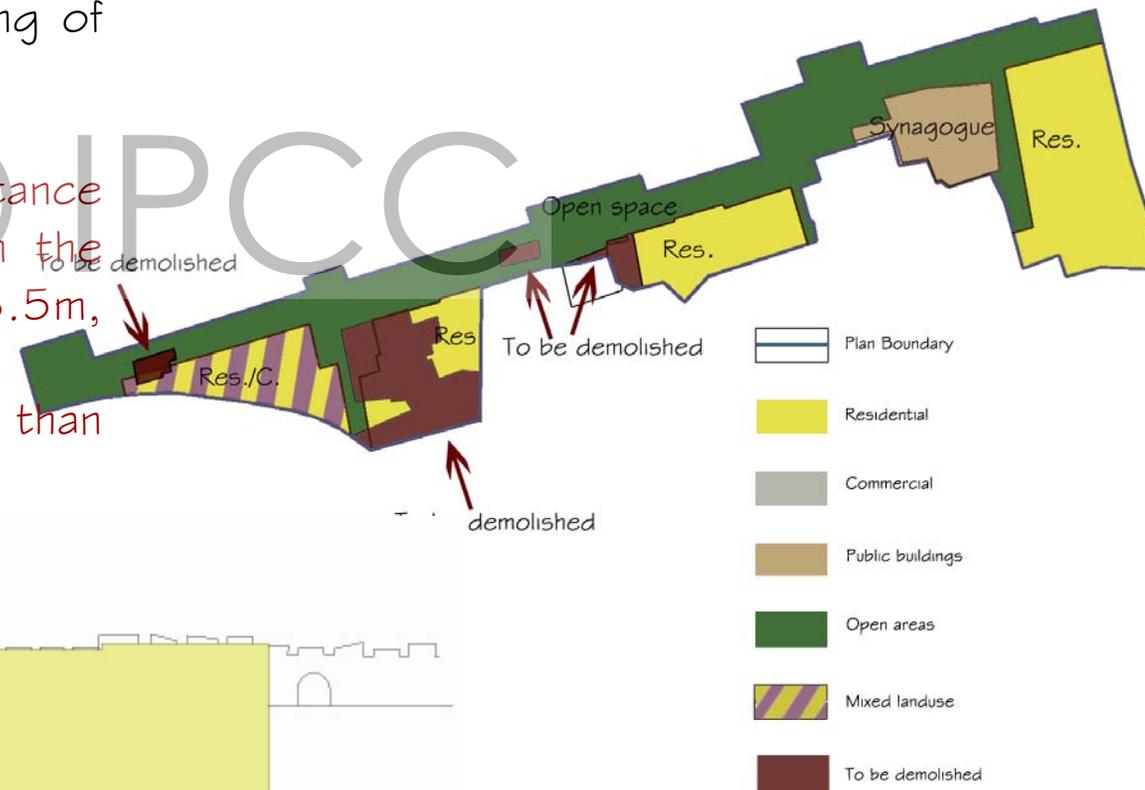
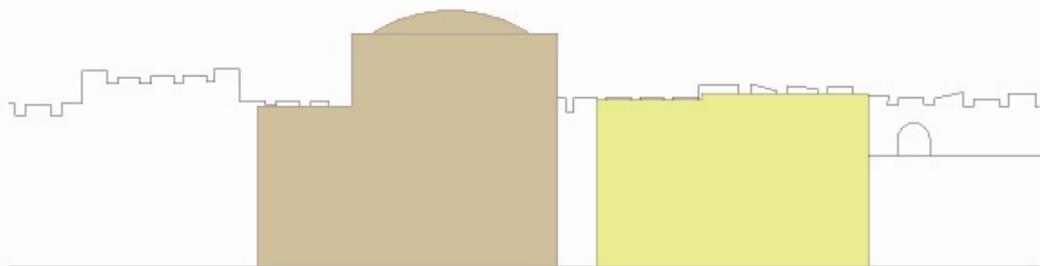


# Muslim Quarter Settlement

• 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.

