**Abstract** - The contribution concerns the preliminary inspections of the Great Mosque al-Jami’ al-Kabir on behalf of the National Organization called Social Fund for Development. The Great Mosque, built approximately in 630 d.C., is placed to South of the old city and it is characterizes for being an imposing quadrilateral construction of c.a 100 x 80 mt. The inspections has had as scope the preliminary recognition of the state of conservation of the carves and painted wooden ceilings, in the optical of the planning and yarding of the most suitable conservation intervention. The inspections have had, consequently, the following purposes: one first phase has regarded the execution of the photographic documentation. At the same time we also have been acquired history informations; a second phase of the work has regarded the analysis of the cover of the flat roof, the detailed analysis of the mortars that constitutes the flat cover by means of execution of five stratigraphic diggings; the analysis of the degradation of the structures and the decorations. The specialists who have operated to the aim to develop the aforesaid purposes have been: Renzo Ravagnan Director of the Venetian Institute for Cultural Heritage (IVBC); Marta Boscolo Historical of the art; Giovanna Capovilla – Restorer. For the graphical planimetric elaborates, executed on bases digitized supplied by the Social Fund for Development (SFD), thanks to Federica Foppiani and Roberta Mastropiro. A particular thanks to the technicians of the SFD and to the general coordinator of the works Isam Awwad.

**Construction** - The floors are constituted by lacunari’s wooden ceilings that, although constructively similar, introduce differences in the wood species employed, in the decorative characteristics, for execution date and for conservation state. The lumbers are well worked: the carrying structure is mostly composed by elements squared to the axe, subsequently planed and decorates. The elements that constitute the frames, battens and boards are sawed, planed and at last decorated.

**Damages** - The great part of the damages found on the structures is imputable to the defective state of some elements (shakes from slope of grain or waved grain, lengthen knots and arris knots). Many of these situations attend opportune and urgent safe interventions. The interventions will have to supply to put in safe also the secondary elements (battens, frames and boards) that it turned out to be assaulted from the wood worms.

**Conclusions** - The main structural participations regard subsequently the putting in safe of the defective structures, or near collapses, or already collapsed one. Consequently technically, in order to give again continuity to the woven ones, it will be necessary “sew” the fissures and failures of wooden members with compatible materials.


Review of the English text by Andrea Milan

**PRELIMINARY INSPECTIONS OF WOODEN CEILINGS OF THE GREAT MOSQUE AL-JAMI’ AL-KABIR IN THE OLD CITY OF SAN’A’ - YEMEN**

Francesco Augelli – Via Durando 38/a – 20158 Milano – Italy- francesco.augelli@polimi.it

Politecnico di Milano - Facoltà di Architettura Civile-Dipartimento di Progettazione dell’Architettura

Osservatorio per la conservazione delle opere lignee del Laboratorio di diagnostica per la conservazione e il riuso del costruito