

STATE OF PALACE REPORT  
THIRD QUARTER 2007

So far only the Golden Hall and so-called Throne Room have been restored. Yet according to Museum director Ahmed Hisham al-Orabi, "the momentum is already there; the second phase is almost done, and the third phase should be completed on schedule."

Sources within the Ministry of Culture informed FMPM that in the mill are plans to transfer the Youth Club presently located on the adjoining embankment thus restoring the Palace's direct access to the Nile's small branch. The idea is to have tourists arrive by boat.

Hopefully tourists will have access to a first class souvenir shop rather than the typical penny bazaars found in and around tourist spots.

There are plans to replace a makeshift administration office building hastily constructed in the 1960s within the palace grounds with a three-level adaptive re-use building housing a unique textile collection with a professional dedicated workshop situated in the basement. A suggestion was made within the ministry to introduce a tourist cafe on the proposed building's roof with direct access from the street.

Also overheard in the Ministry of Culture corridors is that an Italian expert is expected to re-organize the display of the countless objects listed on the Museum's inventory. The museum gardens continue to be a venue for excessive outdoor events, weddings and exhibitions which presents and added worry regarding this very fragile environment. FMPM has sent a letter addressing this concern to the Ministry of Culture.