

centres. For this last aspect, the Pilot Project for Tbilisi (1998-2001)⁶⁰ focused on the oldest part of the city, surrounded by ramparts and corresponding more or less to the original medieval city (see Figure 10). The project also was directed, *inter alia*, towards furthering the debate on “rehabilitation of housing in historic centres as a factor for heritage enhancement, social cohesion and economic development”, a subject prompted initially by a request for technical assistance from the city of Lisbon in 1997 on urban rehabilitation which culminated in the publication of a guidance book on the urban rehabilitation process in 2004.⁶¹

Figure 10: Old Tbilisi, Georgia



The Old Tbilisi historic district is located on each side of the Kura River and is dominated by Mount Mtatsminda and the Narikara fortress. Its historic urban fabric comprises an eclectic architecture, mainly dating from the 19th century, but includes buildings and structures from the 5th to the 20th century. *Source:* Robert Pickard.

For the Tbilisi project, a team of four Georgian architects created a systematic site register based on individual plots which included the specific heritage aspects (dating, morphology of built components, characteristic architectural features, iconography), the level of conservation and alteration of the buildings, and their current use. The methods of surveying and recording were refined during the process and a computerised database created, including a “Cultural Heritage Identity Card”.⁶² Following an assessment of the heritage value of all the recorded buildings, sites were selected for potential sectoral rehabilitation projects that could generate an urban rehabilitation process on a larger scale.

60. Council of Europe, *Urban rehabilitation policy in Tbilisi (Georgia)/Etat de la réhabilitation urbaine de Tbilissi (Géorgie)*, Council of Europe Publishing, July 2002.

61. Roth, *op. cit.*, 2004..

62. Khimshiashvili K., “Old Tbilisi, Georgia”, in Pickard R. (ed.), *Management of historic centres*, Spon Press, London and New York, 2001.