

Brief Portfolio

Middle East Coopeartation Unit

Middle East Cooperation Unit

Chair of Landscape Architecture

Institute of Urban Planning

Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering
and Urban Planning



Christoph Wessling
Urban Planner and Architect
Co-Founder
Senior Researcher and Lecturer

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020 - 23 acting Professor Chair Urban Planning and Regeneration, TU Berlin
Since 2011 Head of MEC Unit
Since 2007 Lecturer at various universities
University of Kalamoon, Syria, University of Applied Science Zittau, TU Berlin, BTU
2016 – 2019 Mentor Integrated Urban Development Concept, Chernivtsi, Ukraine
2003 – 2004 SSA-Consultat Mitrovica, UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
2001 – 2010 Assistant Professor, BTU
Since 1995 Acting Partner insar consult, Berlin

EDUCATION

2002 Dipl.-Ing. Architecture, TU Berlin
1992 Dipl.-Ing. Urban and Regional Planning, BTU



Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam
Architect and Urbanist
Academic Coordinator
Senior Researcher and Lecturer

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Since 2020 Academic coordinator of Master Programme Urban Design –
Revitalization of Historic City Districts
Since 2016 Research Associate, BTU
Since 2014 Lecturer, BTU and Hochschule Anhalt Dessau
2009 – 2016 Research Assistant, BTU
2007 Programme Assistant for Culture, UNESCO Tehran Office
2003 – 2005 Architect, Tehran, Iran

EDUCATION

2021 Doctorate in Architecture on the theme of Historic Urban Landscape, BTU
2007 Master in Architecture, Shahid Behehshti University, Tehran, Iran
2004 Bachelor in Architecture, Shahid Behehshti University, Tehran, Iran

Established in 2003

Overarching theme

Urban Design

Intersection between architecture and urban planning

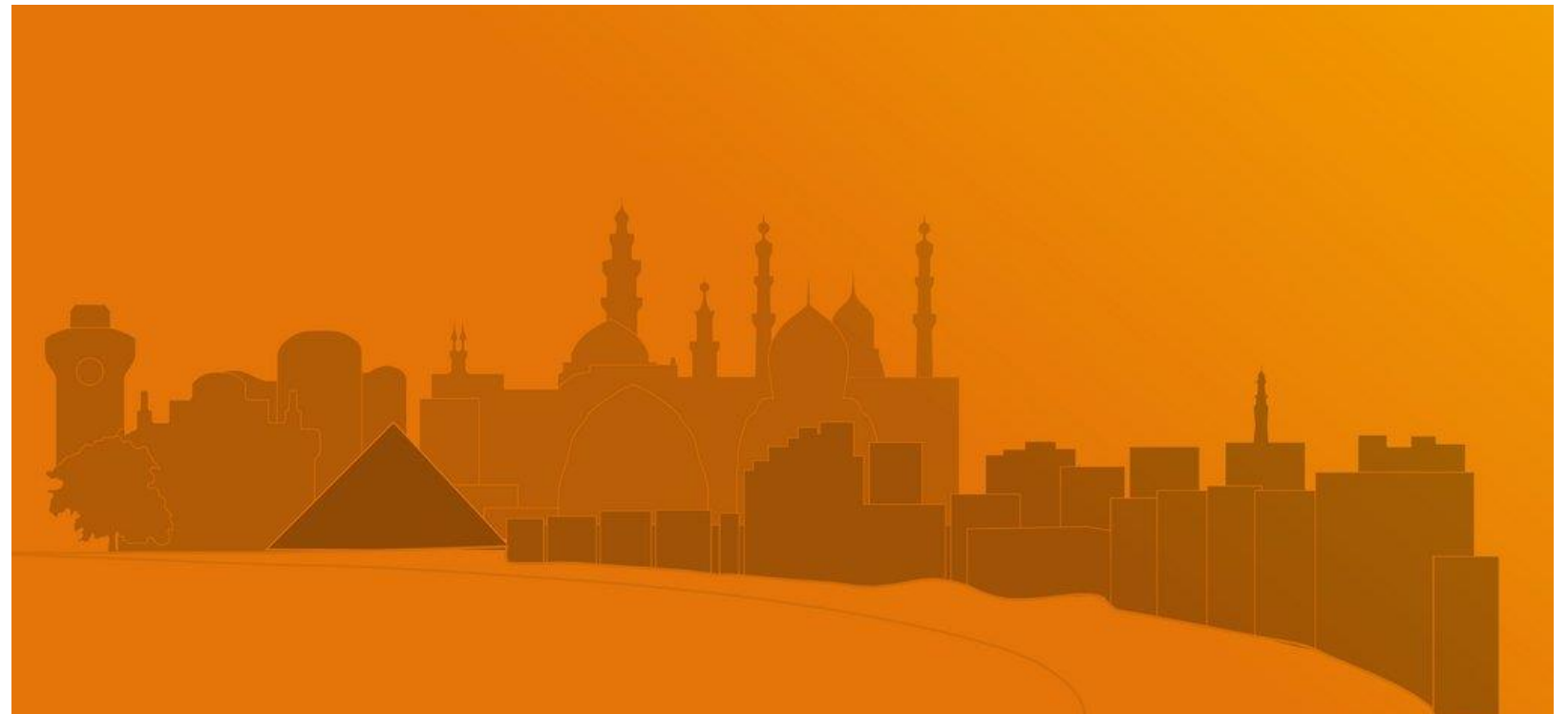
Thematic Focus

Integrated conservation and development of historic cities

Urban Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Revitalization and Recovery

Geographical Focus

MENA Region



Egypt	Alexandria University Arab Academy for Science and Technology Cairo University Menoufia University Misr Higher Institute for Engineering and Technology Port Said University
Iran	Shahid Beheshti University
Iraq	Baghdad University University of Kurdistan University of Sulaimani
Jordan	German Jordanian University
Lebanon	American University of Beirut
Syria	University of Aleppo University of Damascus
Germany	Technische Universität Berlin Berlin Museum of Islamic Art German Archaeological Institute



Urban Design – Revitalization of Historic City Districts

This program was established and designed as a result of long-term cooperation with universities in the region. It is offered as a double degree program between BTU, Cairo University, and Alexandria University. The program aims to address the present-day challenges faced in the development of historic cities and old build districts in both Europe and the MENA region. It focuses on three key aspects of urban revitalization: urban design, urban development, and architecture in historic context.

Christoph Wessling is one of the Co-founder of the Master Programme Urban Design – Revitalization of Historic City District.

Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam has been teaching in this program since its inception and currently serves as the academic coordinator of the program.

<https://www.b-tu.de/en/urbandesign-ms/>



SAMPLE PROJECTS

Plan of the Old City of Aleppo
2016 & 2019

This project involved creating a comprehensive inventory of the pre-war condition of the Old City of Aleppo. The purpose was to provide a tool for guiding post-war reconstruction projects, ensuring the preservation of its urban values and integrity. The project was conducted as part of the "Stunde Null" (Zero Hour) project by the German Archaeological Institute and funded by the German Federal Office. The inventory covered 16,000 parcels and included 400 ground floor plans.

You can view the plans here: <https://www.b-tu.de/middle-east-cooperation/research/research-projects/aleppo-archive-in-exile>

Name	Plan of the Old City of Aleppo
Lead	BTU
with	<p>Dr. Anette Gangler; Friends of the Old City of Aleppo e. V., University of Stuttgart</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Giulia Annalinda Neglia; dICAR Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Polytechnic University of Bari</p> <p>Franziska Laue; Friends of the Old City of Aleppo e. V., University of Stuttgart, Urban Historical Archive and Documentation Centre Aleppo (2008 – 2011)</p>
Collaborator	Berlin Museum of Islamic Art
Fund	<p>ArcHerNet</p> <p>Stunde Null</p> <p>German Archeological Institute</p>

Plan of the Old City of Aleppo



DAAD Projects for University Cooperation in MENA Region

With the support of German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), academic of BTU have spearheaded numerous collaborative initiatives with universities in the MENA region. These efforts have resulted in the successful organization of workshops, summer schools, student exchanges, research stays at BTU, development of study modules at partner universities, and the establishment of a master's program. Examples of the cooperation projects are:

- Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Historic Districts and Preservation of Architectural Heritage after Armed Conflicts – Syria
- Rehabilitation of Urban Heritage in the Cities of Iraq
- Dialogue in Architecture, Urban Design and Management for Curriculum Development – Kurdistan of Iraq

<https://www.b-tu.de/middle-east-cooperation/joint-activities/cooperation-projects>



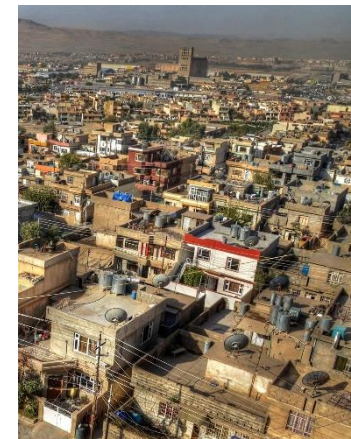
Istanbul Karaköy
contextual design
analysis, transformation and implementation of site specific elements in architecture

Istanbul-Turkey
architectural design workshop - March 2025



inside outside
contextual design, analysis, re-evaluation and re-interpretation of the courtyard typology in the historic core of Sulaymaniyah

Sulaymaniyah - Iraq
architectural design workshop - November 2025



from urban inventory to action
structures and processes of the old town of Sulaymaniyah
Shakhun Quarter in the old city of Sulaymaniyah - Case Study

Sulaymaniyah - Iraq
urban design and management workshop - May 2025



living in historic context
new building typologies for the historic gas plant quarter in Cottbus

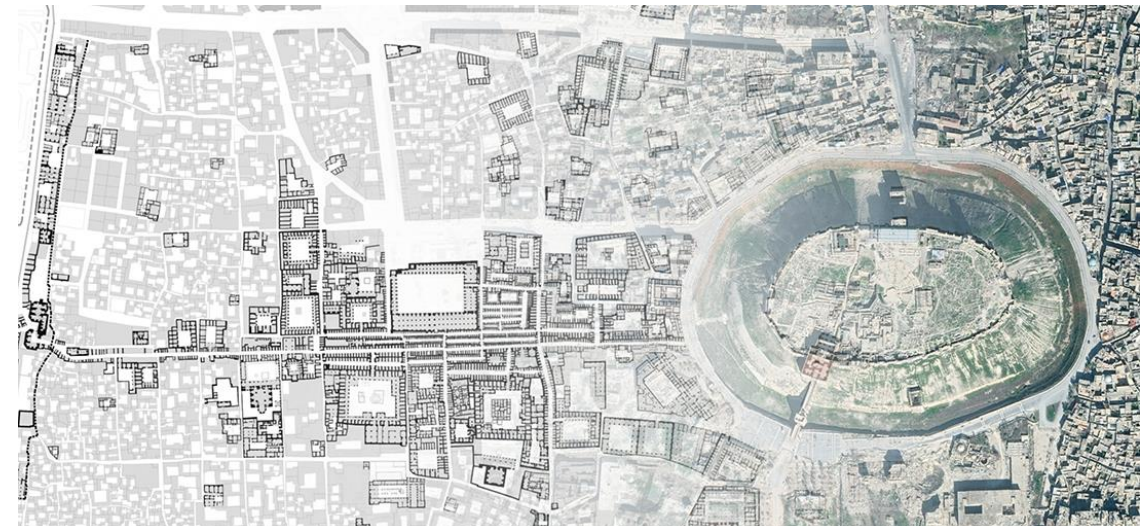
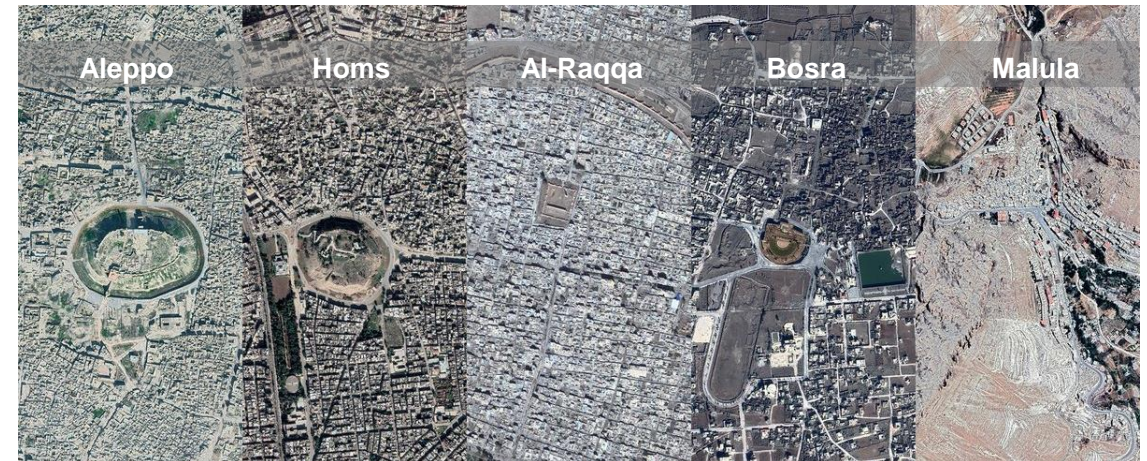
Cottbus - Germany
urban design workshop - December 2024

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Historic Districts and Preservation of Architectural Heritage after Armed Conflicts 2021-22

Funded by the Cultural Protection Fund of the British Council, this project aims to activate the urban recovery process of the historic core of Port Said from the grassroots level. It focuses on implementing small-scale, people-centered conservation interventions. The initiative specifically targets Abbas Bazaar as a catalyst for change and includes several key components. These include a pilot restoration project on the Bazaar itself, as well as providing various trainings on heritage interpretation, urban recovery planning, architectural restoration, and tourism planning.

See more: <https://www.b-tu.de/middle-east-cooperation/joint-activities/cooperation-projects/abbas-bazar-2023-25>

Name	Architectural and Urban Heritage
Lead	BTU
Partners	American University of Beirut Faculty of Engineering and Architecture Department of Architecture and Design Prof. Dr. Howayda Al-Harithy Prof. Dr. Robert Saliba Hana Alamuddin
Collaborator	Technische Universität Berlin Institute of Urban and Regional Planning Prof. Christoph Wessling German Jordanian University School of Architecture and Built Environment Prof. Dr. Omaimah Ali Arch. Msc. Leen Fakhoury
Fund	DAAD Programme for University Cooperation with Jordan and Lebanon to Support Syrian University Staff 2021-22

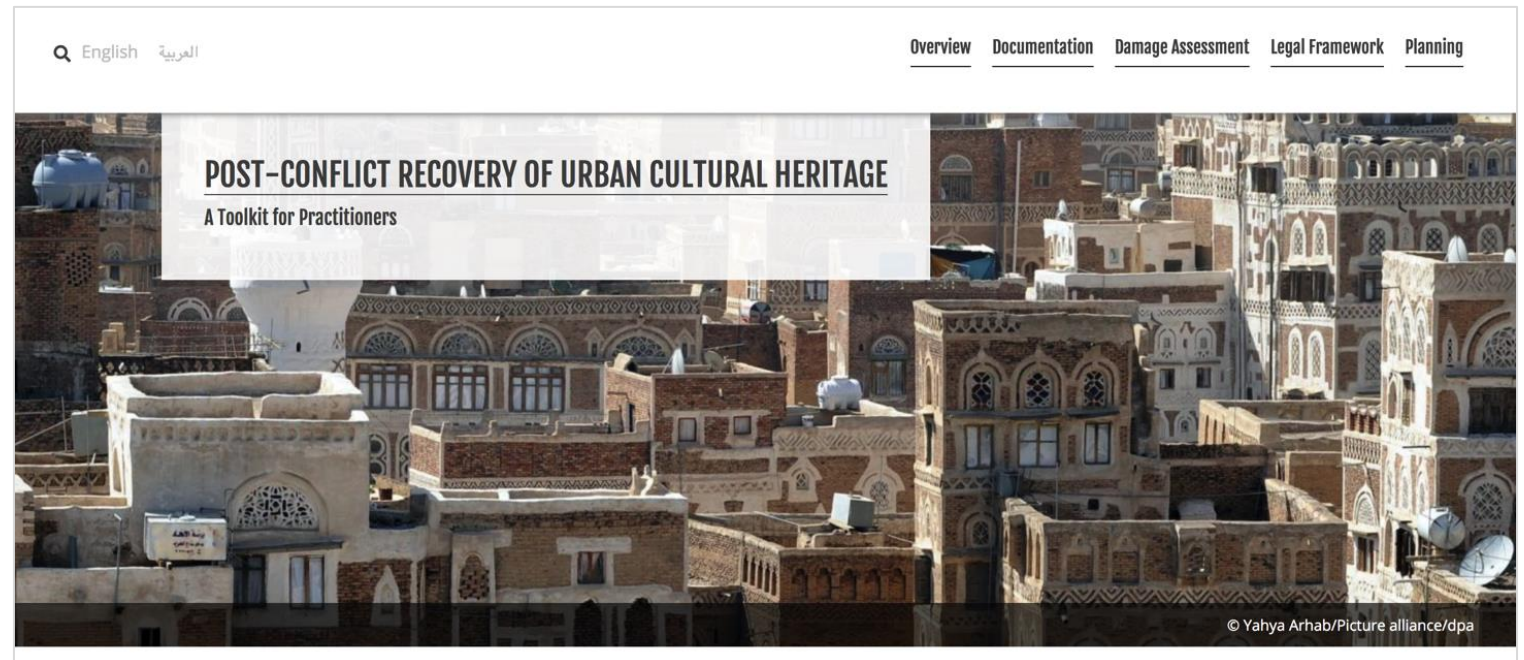


Toolkit for Urban Recovery of Cultural Heritage (Collaboration)

BTU academics acted as co-authors of the planning section of this toolkit which was developed in the context of a project entitled “Urban Cultural Heritage in Conflict Regions”, funded by the German Foreign Office, and implemented by GIZ under the umbrella of the Archaeological Heritage Network (ArcHerNet). The purpose of the toolkit is to enable stakeholders to cope with the demands for conservation and restoration alongside urban redevelopment. It gives guidance and recommendations concerning the safeguarding and recovery of cultural heritage in historic cities in the Middle East upon the cessation of armed conflict. The target audience are Local institutions and actors, local citizens and businesses, service providers as well as international organisations.

Link to toolkit:

<https://www.recover-urban-heritage.org/>



Bazar Abbas: Recovery Lab of Port Said 2023-25

Funded by the Cultural Protection Fund of the British Council, this project aims to activate the urban recovery process of the historic core of Port Said from the grassroots level. It focuses on implementing small-scale, people-centred conservation interventions. The initiative specifically targets Bazar Abbas as a catalyst for change and includes several key components. These include a pilot restoration project on the Bazaar itself, as well as providing various trainings on heritage interpretation, urban recovery planning, architectural restoration, and tourism planning.

See more: <https://www.b-tu.de/middle-east-cooperation/joint-activities/cooperation-projects/abbas-bazar-2023-25>

Name	Bazar Abbas: Recovery Lab of Port Said
Lead	BTU
Partners	Galala University Prof. Dr. Maged Zagow Al-Yakaniya for Heritage and Arts Prof. Dr. Alaa El Habashi Port Said Ala Ademo Alliance Française de Port-Saïd
Collaborator	Port Said University Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport
Fund	Cultural Protection Fund British Council



TRAININGS

SUMMER SCHOOLS-WORKSHOPS

20.11. – 26.11. 2022, Amman

Crises, heritage and urbanity, questions of rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery

29.11. – 08.12. 2021, Cottbus

Situation of Syrian historic cities and architectural heritage after armed conflict

13.09 – 30.09.2021, Online and in Cairo

Living in a Changing Flood Plain

27.09 – 06.10. 2017, Cottbus

The urban morphology of an area and its addition, the old telecom site in Berlin-Köpenick

01.04. – 07.04.2017, Sulaimaniyah

Urban Design Block Course

14.12. – 20.12.2016, Görlitz

Hall Houses, contextual design-analysis / re-evaluation and re-interpretation of the characteristic typology in the historic city of Görlitz, lusatia

23.09. – 03.10. 2016, Sulaimaniyah

Revitalization of Old Town

22.05. – 26.05.2016, Sulaimaniyah

Revitalization of the Old Town, analysis, investigations and basis for revitalization strategy for the old town of Sulaymaniyah

Dec 2015, Cottbus

Living in Historic Context, new building typologies for the historic gas plant quarter in Cottbus

15.11. – 19.11.2015, Sulaimaniyah

Inside Outside; contextual design, analysis, re-evaluation and re-interpretation of the courtyard typology in the historic core of sulaymaniyah

May 2015, Sulaymaniah

From Urban Inventory to Action, structures and processes of the old town of Sulaymaniyah Shekhan Quarter in the old city

06.03. – 16.03.2015, Istanbul

Contextual Design; analysis, transformation and implementation of site-specific elements in architecture, Case Study of Karaköy

12.09. – 21.09.2014, Port Said

The Second Skin; rehabilitation strategies and adaptive re-use of timber balcony buildings

28.10. – 08.11.2012, Alexandria

Revitalization of an old Harbour Area

17.09. – 26.09.2012, Cairo

Urban Design in Historic Context, Case study area: The North-Eastern Edge of Historic Cairo

26.06. – 29.06.2012, Cottbus

Revitalization of Historic City Districts

24.03. – 31.03.2012, Bahariya Oasis

Gardens in the Dessert

06.09. – 16.09.2011, Cottbus

Old Town New - Case study area: Cottbus St. Mary Church / Old Bus Station

19.06. – 21.06.2011, Sulaymaniyah

Training for Young Professionals from the University of Baghdad, the University of Sulaymaniyah and the University of Dohuk, for scientific short time visits in Germany

21.09. – 02.10.2010, Aleppo

The edge of the old town – the integration of the historic town into the inner city, Case study Bab Al-Farag area Aleppo

19.10. – 30.10.2009, Beirut

Beirut - Downtown Extension to the Waterfront in Beirut

20.10. – 04.11.2007, Cairo

The Identity of Architecture and Urban Structure in the Context of the Historic Islamic / Arabic Town, Case study and Urban Design Bab Al Sharyah, Cairo

19.03. – 01.04.2006, Damascus

Urban development of historic districts in Islamic / Arabic Towns, the Saroudja district in the inner city of Damascus

February 2004, Cottbus

Transformation of the Town

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS & EXHIBITIONS

2023

(upcoming) Zarrin Ghalam, S. From Mapping to Capacity Building, Activities of BTU towards Post-War Recovery in Syria. in Thiel & Orabi (eds.) *Recovery of Aleppo*. Springer.

2020

Zarrin Ghalam, S. , Wessling, C. [Making the Past Visible for the Future: Map of the Old City of Aleppo](#). In Edmondson et al. (eds.) *The UNESCO Memory of the World Programme. Heritage Studies Series*. Springer.

2020

Post-Conflict Recovery of Urban Cultural Heritage in the Middle East, Old City of Aleppo. Virtual exhibition on Miro. [Link](#)

2017

Abouelfadl, H., ElKerdany, D., Wessling, C. (eds.) [Revitalizing City Districts. Transformation Partnership for Urban Design and Architecture in Historic City Districts](#). Springer

2013

Nagler, H., Wessling, C. (ed.); *Madinat Bukra – Urban Design in the Middle East and in North-Africa*

2009

Amedi, J., Nagler, H., Wessling, C. The Importance of the Inner City Renewal for the Development of Greater Cairo, in: Altrock et.al. Yearbook for Urban Renewal 2009, Mega-Cities between Boom and Faint? Urban Renewal and Restructuring in the expanding Metropolis of the South, Berlin 2009 ([English](#))

March 2009

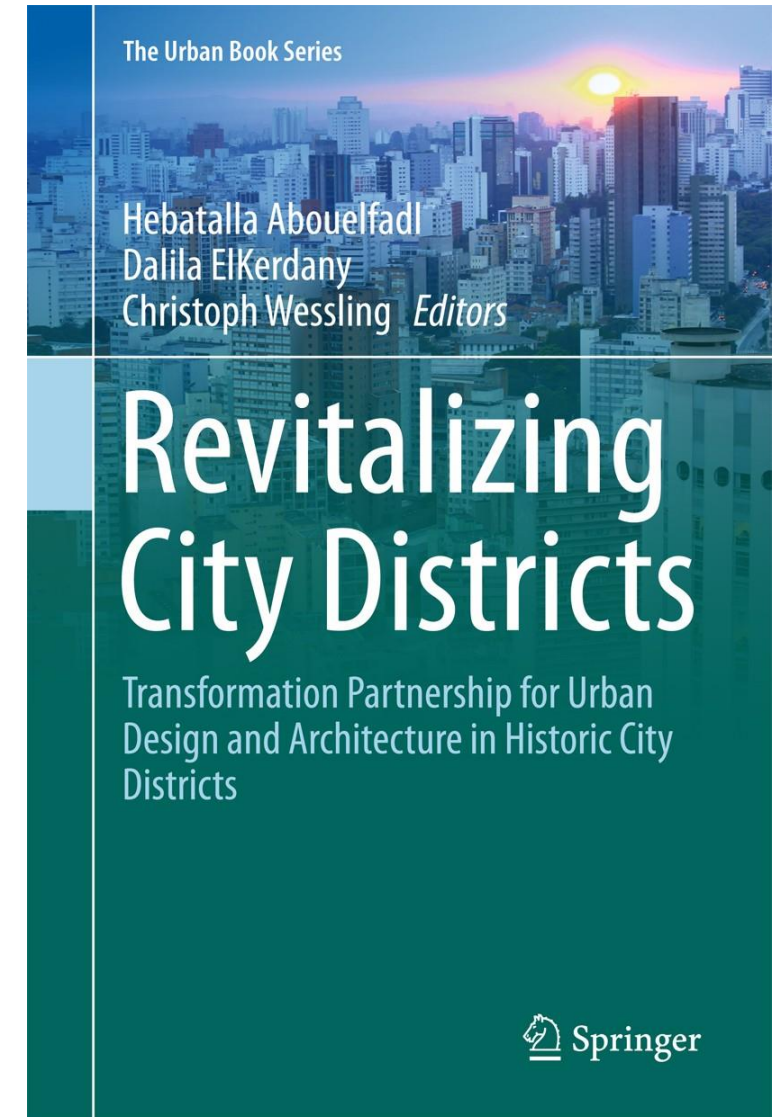
Participation of the Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Urban Planning, BTU Cottbus, represented by Christoph Wessling, as a guest input at the Exhibition "Best Degree-Projects of Arabic Architecture Faculties", exhibited at the University of Damascus

May 2008

Exhibition "Oasis or Desert" at the Information- and Communication Centre Cottbus, Exhibition of the results of the Seminars "Oasis or Desert" at the Summer School Cairo and from the project "Bab Al Sharyah, Cairo"

2006

Gangler, Nagler, Ribbeck, Schwartz; *Uzbekistani Cities between tradition and progress. Urban Transformation Processes of the Central-Asian Cities Taschkent and Samarkand*. Cottbus / Stuttgart



SELECTED MASTER-THESIS

2022-23

Abdelrahman Ibrahim

Fishing in Bahary as a Catalyst for the Regeneration of the Historic District

supervised by Prof. Anna Lundqvist, Prof. Christoph Wessling, Prof. Dr. Hebatalla Abouelfadl and Prof. Dr. Alaaeldin Elhabashi

Francisco Mondaca Molina

Revitalization of the Dreiländerecke Berlin through Traces of its Collective Memory

supervised by Prof. Anna Lundqvist, Prof. Dr. Hebatalla Abouelfadl and Prof. Dr. Alaaeldin Elhabashi

Shanmathi Rajkumar

Temporality in Public Apace: A Dynamic Urban Design for St. Pauli, Hamburg

supervised by Prof. Anna Lundqvist, Prof. Christoph Wessling, Prof. Dr. Hebatalla Abouelfadl and Prof. Dr. Alaaeldin Elhabashi

2021

Ahmed Adham

Abandoned Towns Between the Use and Disuse: A Vision for Revitalizing the Town of Umm El Howeitat

supervised by Prof. Anna Lundqvist, Prof. Christoph Wessling, Prof. Dr. Nevin Gharib and Prof. Dr. Alaaeldin Elhabashi

Samar Abdelaal

Historic Buildings Rehabilitation as a Catalyst to Reconcile Urban Segregation: A Colonial Narrative of Port Said's Historic District

supervised by Prof. Anna Lundqvist, Prof. Christoph Wessling, Prof. Dr. Hebatalla Abouelfadl and Prof. Dr. Alaaeldin Elhabashi

Mirna Ashraf Ali

Connecting the Urban Dots: Archaeological Sites as a Catalyst for Urban Development: Case of Kōm Al Naḍūra

supervised by Prof. Anna Lundqvist, Prof. Christoph Wessling, Prof. Dr. Hebatalla Abouelfadl and Prof. Dr. Alaaeldin Elhabashi

2020

Alia Alaa Sherif

Creative Neighbourhood: Revitalization of Souq Al Silah Street

supervised by Prof. Heinz Nagler, Prof. Dr. Hebatalla Abouelfadl and Prof. Dr. Alaaeldin Elhabashi

Mary Katherine Walker Sprague

Greening Tsukushima: Nature-based Revitalization and Resilience in Tokyo Bay

supervised by Prof. Anna Lundqvist and Prof. Dr. Nabeel El-Hady

2019

Vinicius Mazzoni

Re-thinking an Industrial Historical Site to Support the Urban development of Berlin, Sustainable Living Area between Rummelsburg and Oberschöneweide

supervised by Prof. Heinz Nagler and Prof. Dr. Ebtissam Farid

Natalia Camila Ramirez Arango

Green Haras - A Revitalization of Courtyards and its Relation with Public Spaces within the Historic Urban Landscape of Bayt Madkour Area in Historic Cairo

supervised by Prof. Anna Lundqvist, Prof. Dr. Hebatalla Abouelfadl and Prof. Dr. Alaaeldin Elhabashi

Laura Ximena Vargas Pabon

Rediscovery Routes of Memory in Historic Cairo, the Case of Bab Al Bahr Street, Cairo

supervised by Prof. Anna Lundqvist and Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ouf

2018

Sherine Ahmed Ibrahim Ismaiel Mohamed

Revitalization of Athar El-Nabi District

supervised by Prof. Heinz Nagler and Prof. Dr. Shahdan Shabka

Samaher Soliman

Physical Interventions in Historic Context, the Medieval Town of Köpenich, Berlin, Germany

supervised by Prof. Heinz Nagler and Prof. Dr. Ebtissam Farid

Heba Ibrahim Mansour

Regeneration of Historic Cairo: A Community Based Approach for Bayt Al-Qady Area

supervised by Prof. Heinz Nagler and Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ouf

Dina El Mazzahi

Safeguarding and Developing Kom El-Dikka Urban Heritage District

supervised by Prof. Heinz Nagler and Prof. Ebtissam Farid

2017

Rana Sadek Adopting Heritage

Conservation Strategy in Prospect to Urban Development, Case study: Kafr Abdou, Alexandria, Egypt

supervised by Prof. Heinz Nagler and Prof. Dr. Hebatalla Abouelfadl

Anandit Sachev

Introducing Sustainable Tourism to the Historic Residential Area of El-Quseir, Egypt

supervised by Prof. J. Miller Stevens and Prof. Dr. Nabeel Elhady

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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Institute of Urban Planning
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