

THE SITUATION OF HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE AFTER ARMED CONFLICTS

Case Studies: Aleppo, Homs, Al-Raqqa, Bosra

Joint Workshop, Cottbus, Germany

29th of November – 08th of December 2021

Program



2021 Google Earth images of four historic cities of Syria., from left to right: Aleppo, Homs, Al-Raqqa, Bosra

German – Lebanese University Cooperation to Support Young Syrian Academics and Professionals 21-22

Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus – Senftenberg, Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Urban Planning
American University of Beirut, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture

Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

INTRODUCTION

The third event in the framework of BTU-AUB capacity building project on post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction of Syrian historic cities takes place at BTU Cottbus -Senftenberg. This 10-day event is the follow up of the on-going studies on various historic districts of Syrian cities while having face-to-face interaction and discussion among the project participants as well as the cooperation members.

The event is mainly organized for group-work, independent research, group discussion, consultation with cooperation team and excursions. During these ten days, case-specific problematics and potentials of each study area will be analysed in more details and accordingly recovery guidelines and intervention proposals will be elaborated and examined. On the last day, the outcome of the studies will be presented by each team and next steps of work will be jointly planned. Moreover, the three guest researcher will present the outcome of their research to the group.

Case Studies

Cooperation participants have chosen eight study areas in April 2021 when the project was kicked off. During the second event in June 2021 the following focal points were highlighted by each team which directed their path of further investigations. During this workshop the teams will focus on their case studies more intensively and will present the outcome of their findings and analyses so far, as well as their proposed vision and priorities that would lead to a recovery framework and recovery guidelines.

- **Suq of Aleppo:**
Reconstruction and reactivation of the Suq area as the former socio-economic centre of historic Aleppo and reformulating its role for the post-conflict period
Considering the possibility of recentralization with view to the socio-demographic changes
- **Periphery of Aleppo Citadel:**
Understanding the role and character of Citadel periphery - mainly the southern part - before, during and after the conflict
Defining reconstruction / revitalization strategies with respect to the symbolic and public features of this area
- **Al-Judayda District of Aleppo:**
Reconstruction and revitalization of the heart of al-Judayda with regard to its former characteristics and identity and current damages / changes
Developing a new rehabilitation framework through a participatory approach
- **Al-Farafira District of Aleppo:**
Documentation and reconstruction of al-Farafira with regard to its rich urban fabric and variety of functions as well as extensive war destructions
Understanding heritage values and typologies of buildings versus the extent of damages
Considering the urban changes of this area - as one of the affected areas by former modernisation process of the city - before, during and after the conflict
- **Historic Centre of Homs:**
Social-oriented and people-centred reconstruction process with emphasize on the concept of return
Respecting the historic identity and urban values of the city and paying attention to the ownership rights
Reflection on the link between pre-war memories and urban spaces
- **Historic Centre of Al-Raqqa:**

Reactivation of Raqqa's historic centre while addressing the complexities of the structural, socio-cultural, economic and political challenges, particularly the traumatised society and the stigma related to the Islamic State

- **Historic Centre of Bosra:**

Understanding the relationship between the local community and the historic fabric as living heritage and the changing perception of such relation before and after the war

Heritage as a catalyst for social cohesion while addressing challenges such as Sovereignty dissonance internal / external displacement, ownership right, lack of fund and technical resources

- **Historic City of Maaloula:**

Local strategic Planning of the historic city of Maaloula with respect to its unique character in close relationship with the natural setting and agriculture, religious importance and diversity (tolerance), traditional construction, food industries and handicrafts

SCHEDULE

Date	Time / Location	Agenda
Su. 28.11	All Day	Arrival Day
Mo. 29.11	09:30 – 10:30 LG 2B U.11	Welcome Note and Opening Lecture: Recovery of historic districts and architectural heritage after armed conflicts Christoph Wessling (BTU)
	10:30 – 11:00 LG2B U.11	Introduction to the Programme Sepideh
	11:00 – 12:00 LG2A Studio	Group Work / Individual or Group Research / Consultation per need Christoph and Sepideh
	12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
	13:00 – 15:00 LG2A Studio	Group Work / Individual or Group Research / Consultation per need Sepideh
	15:00 – 17:00	Walk and Talk in Cottbus Christoph
	19:00	Common dinner Pizzeria Ristorante Da Nando, Deffkestraße 10, 03044 Cottbus
Tu. 30.11	10:00 – 11:00 LG 2B U11	Lecture: Historic Urban Landscapes as an Approach to Cultural Heritage Identification in Beirut Blast Damaged Areas Robert Saliba (AUB)
	11:30 – 12:30 LG 2B U11	Lecture: Strategies for a Sustainable and Inclusive Landscape Recovery Giulia Annalinda Neglia (Polytechnic University of Bari – DICAR)
	12:30 – 13:00	Lunch Break
	13:00 – 17:00 LG2A Studio	Group Work and Consultation Robert until 16:00
We. 01.12	09:00 – 17:00 LG2A Studio	Group Work / Individual or Group Research / Consultation per need Sepideh until 14:30 Christoph online if needed (14:00 onwards) Robert until 16:00
Th. 02.12	09:00 – 12:00 LG2A Studio	Group work / Individual or group research
	12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
	13:00 – 16:00 LG2A Studio	Group work and Consultation Robert and Sepideh
Fr. 03.12	10:00 – 14:30	Excursion to Berlin meeting point will be announced Sepideh
	15:00 – 17:00	Visit to TU Berlin / Presentation of TU Berlin Students Christoph
	18:00 -20:00	Visit to Christmas Markets in Berlin

Sa. 04.12	All day	Group Work / Individual or Group Research / Site Visit (Independent) etc.
Su. 05.12	All Day	Excursion to Dresden , meeting point and time in Dresden will be announced Christoph
Mo. 06.12	09:00 – 12:00 LG2A Studio	Group work and Consultation Robert, Layla, Christoph, Sepideh
	12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
	13:00 – 17:00 LG2A Studio	Group Work / Individual or Group Research
Tu. 07.12	09:30 – 11:00 LG 2B U.11	Presentation of young researchers Mounir, Sonia, Diana; each 30 minutes + 10 minutes Q & A
	13:00 – 17:00 LG2A Studio	Group work and Consultation Robert and Layla
We. 08.12	09:00 – 12:00 LG 2C 315	Colloquium Part1 4 presentations; each 20-minutes + 20-minutes discussion and feedback
	12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
	13:00 – 15:00 LG 2C 315	Colloquium Parts2 3 presentations; each 20-minutes + 20-minutes discussion and feedback
	15:00	Closing the event
	15:30 – 16:30	Meeting of Coordination Team
Th. 09.12	All Day	Departure Day

All lectures and presentations will take place in hybrid format.

Link: <https://b-tu.webex.com/b-tu-en/j.php?MTID=m6964b451c8f322167cb32b6401d8e784>

Password (if required): BCKmiAJU322

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Cooperation Participants

Aleppo Al-Judayda

Saeed Asaeed
Jollien Humaidan
Essam Jrko
Diana Salahieh

Aleppo Suq

Sonia Ibrahim
Ola Kouka

Homs

Afraa Mohammad
Grace Arnouk
Radwan Bechnak
Hadil Tinawi

Bosra

Mohammed Zanboa
Ammar Abaza
Ribal Aman Eddine
Jana Ahmad (Online)

Aleppo Al-Farafira

Sara Ibrahim Bacha
Mohamad Bazer Bashi
M. Ghiath Lababidi

Aleppo Periphery of Citadel

Basma Alsous
Dimitri Shammas

Al-Raqqa

Mariam Eissa
Amer Obied
Eyad Alzerkly
Mounir Sabeh Affaki

Cooperation Teams

Robert Saliba (AUB)
Christoph Wessling (TU Berlin)
Layla Zibar (BTU)
Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam (BTU)

Guest

Giulia Annalinda Neglia
Polytechnic University of Bari – dICAR

LECTURE ABSTRACTS

Recovery of historic districts and architectural heritage after armed conflicts

Prof. i. V. Christoph Wessling (TU Berlin)

When reconstructing war-damaged old towns, the main challenges lie in preserving the integrity and authenticity as well as the social milieu and economic networks. On the urban planning level, it is not only a matter of reconstructing and rehabilitating special buildings, but rather of preserving the basic urban structure, the historic urban landscape.

In terms of planning, the method of integrated urban development planning helps in the reconstruction planning, in which a social consensus on the principles, goals and guidelines for future development is brought about on the basis of a precise inventory, within the framework of which many different measures and projects can be implemented according to possibilities and resources.

However, the preservation of the social milieu and economic networks is particularly challenging. How can residents and stakeholders be motivated to return? How can social and societal discord be mitigated and overcome? These are the challenges that take longer to overcome than the material reconstruction.

Historic Urban Landscapes as an Approach to Cultural Heritage Identification in Beirut Blast Damaged Areas

Prof. Dr. Robert Saliba (AUB)

Within the framework of the UNESCO project “Identifying Cultural Heritage Attributes in Beirut Blast Damaged Areas” and in close consultation with the Directorate General for Antiquities, the Beirut Urban Lab at AUB is undertaking an expert study titled *Historic Urban Landscapes as an Approach to Cultural Heritage Identification in Beirut Blast Damaged Areas*. This is part of a greater study that aims to identify and map cultural heritage in the blast-impacted area of Beirut in view of setting an action plan for the protection and sustainable management of the historic urban landscape of these areas. The aim of the presentation is to present the UNESCO *Historical Urban Landscape* approach and methodology and how it applies to Beirut within a framework of identified layers, values and attributes.

The explosion of the Port of Beirut led to an irreversible loss of life and damaged properties including the urban heritage of the surrounding neighborhoods, a cultural landscape that dates back to the second half of the 19th Century when Beirut started its expansion outside the walls. These neighborhoods damaged by the blast were already threatened by predatory real-estate pressure and insufficient protection laws that focus on isolated buildings rather than built environment as a whole.

The HUL Recommendation understands the area “as a result of the historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes”. Therefore, the presentation will address the following questions: What is Historical Landscape in the Beirut context? What are its layers and drivers for change? And how can we identify its key attributes in the selected historic quarters of Beirut most impacted by the blast?

Strategies for a Sustainable and Inclusive Landscape Recovery

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Giulia Annalinda Neglia (Polytechnic University of Bari – dICAR)

WORKSHOP ADDRESSES AND CONTACTS

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Chair of Landscape Architecture
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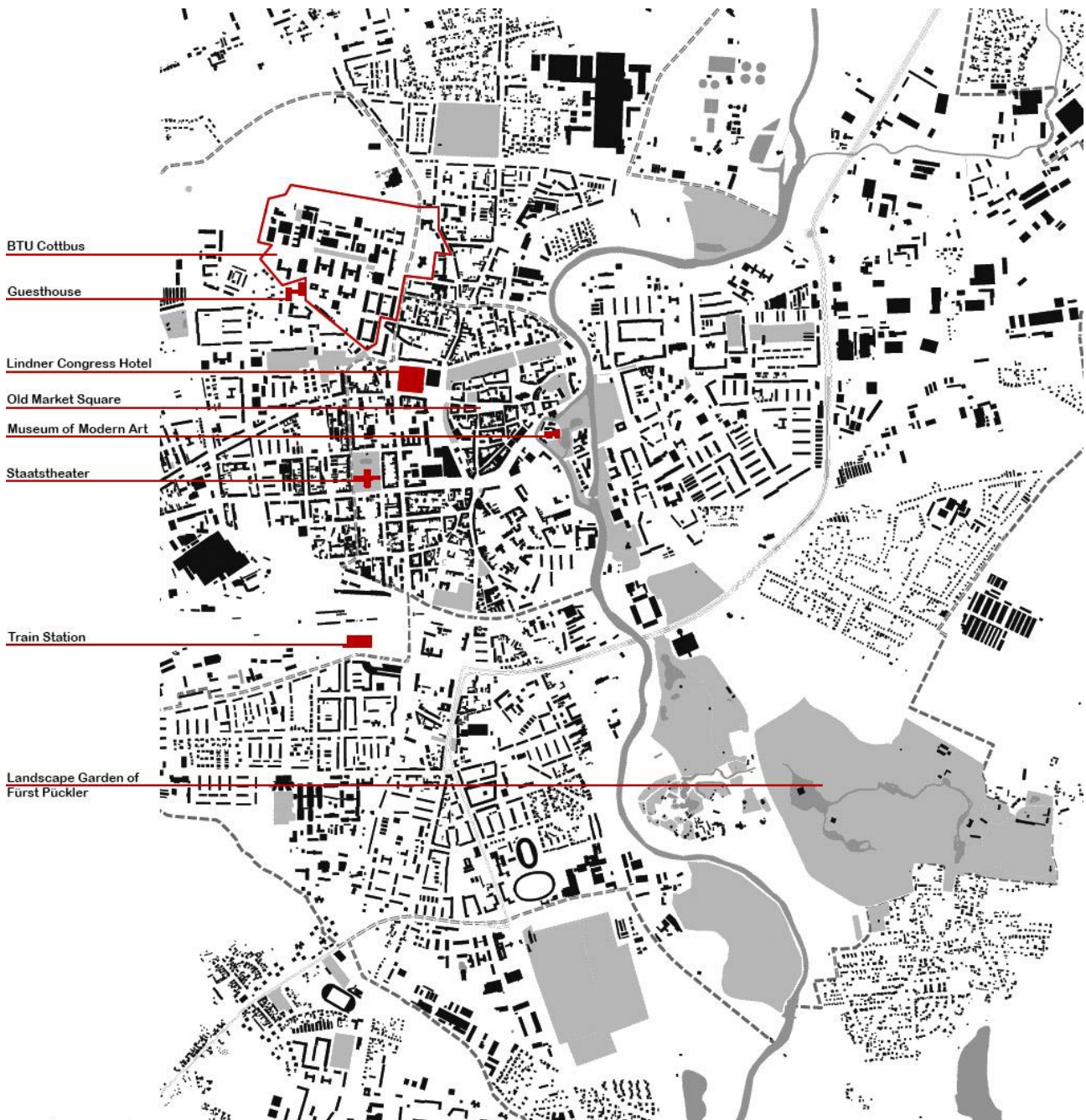
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Responsible for room-booking of workshop participants:
Ms. Stefanie Wehlan
E: serviceleitung@gaestehaus-uni.de
Reception Hours:
Mo – Fr 08:00 to 16:30
Check-in from 14:00
Check-out by 10:00

COTTBUS MAP OF IMPORTANT ADDRESSES AND SITES



Trip from Berlin main train station to Cottbus main train station:

Take Train RE2 from the Berlin Hauptbahnhof (Hbf): 35 minutes past each hour (usually platform 11 or 12).
For other stops in Berlin and possible delays or changes in the schedule see: <https://www.bahn.com/en>

From BER Berlin Brandenburg Airport to Cottbus

Take Bus RE7 to Königs Wusterhausen: 11 minutes past each hour,
Then take Train RE2 from Königs Wusterhausen to Cottbus: 18 minutes past each hour

From Cottbus Station to Lindner Hotel (20 minutes walking distance)

Take either of tram 1, tram 2, tram 4, Bus 15-44, Bus 47 to Stadhalle Station.

From Cottbus Station to the Guesthouse (25 minutes walking distance)

Take Bus 16 to Papitzer Straße Station.

EXCURSION SCHEDULES

Excursion to Berlin on Friday 03 December 2021

09:01	Cottbus Hbf. Departure 09:01, platform 5, train RE2 to Berlin Ostkreuz Berlin-Brandenburg Ticket, 33 euros for 5 persons
10:15– 14:30	Excursion to Berlin (IBA Old and Berlin Historic Centre) with Sepideh (see Fig.1)
10:15	Meeting point: Sbahn Warschauerstraße / Warschauer Brücke
10:15 – 12:30	IBA old: Walking next to Berlin Wall (East-Side gallery), Wrangelkietz, Görlitzer Park, Oranienstraße, Kottbuser Tor, Admiral Straße, Fraenkelufer
12:30 – 13:00	Lunch Break and then to Alexanderplatz with U8
13:00 – 14:30	Berlin Historic Centre: Walking from Alexanderplatz towards Museuminsel, Unter den Linde, Bebelplatz, Gendarmenmarkt, Friedrichstraße, Brandenburg Tor
15:00 – 17:00	TU Berlin, meeting on Campus between Building B and EB (see Fig.2), Presentation of the master project “Rehabilitation of urban heritage in the Middle-East after armed conflicts”, room EB 2.22, with Christoph
18:00 -20:00	Joint evening / visit to Christmas Market in Berlin

Excursion to Dresden on Sunday 05 December 2021

around 9:00	Cottbus Hbf., departure 09:18, track 9, train RE 18 to Dresden, arrival Dresden Hbf. 11:02
11:15	meeting in front of north entrance of Dresden Main Station (entrance Wiener Platz) visit inner city and old town of Dresden, with Prager Straße, Old Market Place, New Market Place, Frauenkirche, Albertinum, Jewish Synagogue, Brühlsche Terrassen at the river Elbe, Semper Opera, Zwinger, etc. walk and talk with Christoph until around 17:00

EXCURSION DAY 1

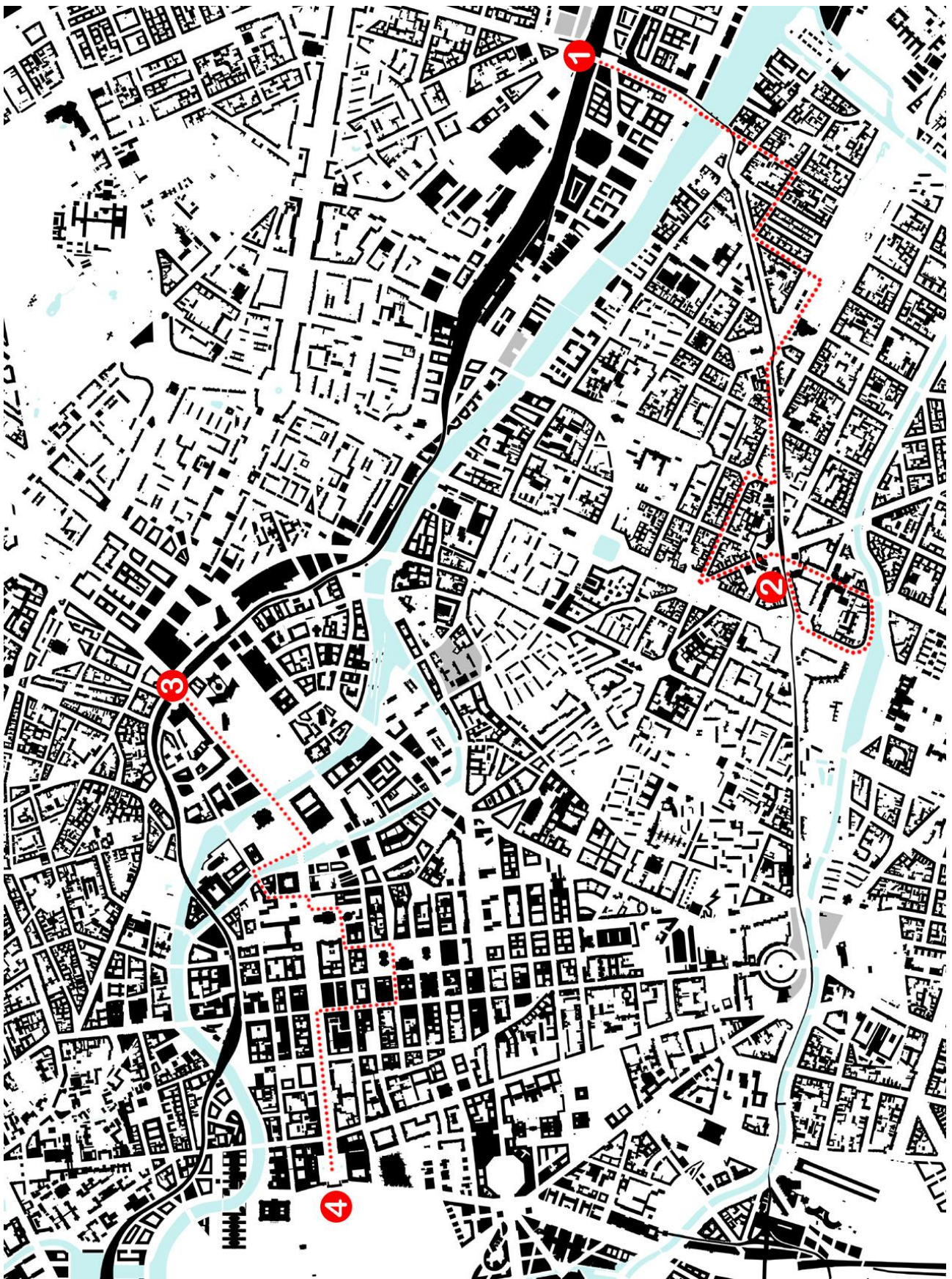


Fig. 1: Berlin (North to the left)

PROJECT CONTACTS

Germany:

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Project Name

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Historic Districts and Preservation of Architectural Heritage after Armed Conflicts [[Link](#)]

Project Partners

BTU Cottbus – Senftenberg and the American University of Beirut

In Cooperation with

TU Berlin, Institute of Urban and Regional Planning

Funded by

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD e.V.)

Within the Framework of

DAAD Programme for University Cooperation with Jordan and Lebanon to Support Syrian University Staff 2021-22 [[Link](#)]



Brandenburg
University of Technology
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American University of Beirut
المعهد الأمريكي للدراسات والبحوث



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service