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Port Said - Egypt
Urban Rehabilitation Workshop - July 2024

Heritage For Tomorrow

Workshop on Integrated Urban Rehabilitation

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Introduction

Bazar Abbas: Recovery Lab of Port Said

January 2023 - January 2025

BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg, with its local partners in Egypt, has initiated a two-year project to contribute to the recovery process of Port Said. This project is funded by the British Council, the Cultural Protection Fund (CPF).



Entry Façade of Bazar Abbas - Status in December 2022 ©S.Ghalem

Bazar Abbas is a unique hybrid of local architecture and European modernism that has suffered extensive damage as a result of past conflicts on the Suez Canal. This combined architectural typology is repeated in different shapes and forms all over the city of Port Said, a city with a short yet turbulent history: a history of wars and displacements, prosperity and abandonment, colonialism and resistance, marginalisation and power reclamation and many more.

These multiple layers of history have been manifested in the architectural and spatial articulation of the city, as well as within the daily life practices of Port Said residents. However, being overshadowed by institutionalised and top-down conservation agendas, the 19th-century architectural and cultural heritage of Port Said have received little to no recovery measures after suffering in multiple series of wars and conflicts since the mid-20th century until today. Therefore, the project aims to activate the urban recovery process of the historic core of Port Said from below by employing small-scale people-centred conservation interventions.

Accordingly, this initiative takes Bazaar Abbas as a catalytic pilot project not only because this building represents an outstanding architectural heritage but also for its indispensable position in the collective memory and identity of the city, interlinked to conflict resistance, displacement and daily struggles.

Finally, the project offers twofold measures by producing direct tangible results like physical reconstruction and urban heritage (counter)mapping while at the same time targeting community empowerment. In this context, the partial reconstruction of the Bazaar will preserve its original features, including the timber verandas. Moreover, the combined research, education and training initiatives will recapture the collective memory of the Bazaar's socio-cultural importance, preserve and transfer local reconstruction techniques and eventually provide a model for urban heritage recovery in the historic core of Port Said.

Workshops & Training

1. Urban (Heritage) Narrative Workshop
Port Said - 9th to 16th March 2023
2. Urban Recovery Planning
Cairo & Port Said - September 2023
3. Restoration Training
Port Said - October to December 2023
4. Tourism Training
Port Said - June 2024
5. Closing Event
December 2024

Project Lead

BTU Cottbus – Senftenberg
Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Urban Planning
Chair of Landscape Architecture, Prof. Anna Lundqvist
Middle-East-Cooperation Unit

Project Partners

Galala University
Al-Yakaniya for Heritage and Arts
Port Said Ala Adeemo
Alliance Française de Port-Saïd



4TH WORKSHOP ON URBAN REHABILITATION

Reimagining Bazar Abbas

Port Said, Egypt- 06th to 16th July 2024

This workshop was planned as the fourth event of the “Bazar Abbas: Recovery Lab of Port Said” project, aiming to enhance capacity for the urban recovery of Port Said. This project is a two-year initiative led by BTU in partnership with Galala University, Al Yakaniya for Heritage and Arts, Port Said Ala Ademo and Alliance Française de Port-saïd. It is funded by the British Council’s Cultural Protection Fund in partnership with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

The project involves a series of training and workshops that build upon each other. The first workshop, held in March 2023, conducted site-specific studies in the Arab and European neighbourhoods of Port Said, with a particular emphasis on understanding the impact of war and conflict on local urban narratives and heritage interpretations. The timber veranda or Taracina, as a key component of Port Said’s architecture, played a central role in the workshop. The findings and outputs from previous workshops are shared with the participants of the fourth workshop, focusing on sustainable tourism to provide them with a better understanding of the context. Additionally, a training program on the restoration of Taracina and the rehabilitation of Bazar Abbas was completed in autumn 2023.



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INTRODUCTION TO PORT SAID

Port Said is a city located in north-eastern Egypt, strategically positioned at the entrance of the Suez Canal, which greatly influenced its historic development. Founded in 1859, it was envisioned as a vital trade hub connecting Europe, Asia and Africa. The city flourished as an international port, attracting diverse communities and cultures and displaying a distinctive architecture that reflects a blend of European and Egyptian influences. While Port Said is often celebrated for its cosmopolitan era and the cultural exchange between Europeans and Arabs, it is essential to acknowledge that the colonial nature of Port Said’s urban planning and the enforced segregation between Arabs and Europeans have significantly shaped the city’s urban landscape, leading to persistent and recurring urban complications that have not adequately addressed nor fully resolved.

The historic core of Port Said was divided into two distinct neighbourhoods. Al-Afrang was designed for the European population with wide boulevards, elegant buildings, and spacious gardens. Conversely, Al-Arab was planned for the local Arab population, with a simpler gridiron structure, narrow streets, small building plots and lacking public spaces. This division between the two districts epitomised the social and cultural divisions of the colonial period, with Europeans enjoying greater privileges and resources. However, despite urban limitations, the lively and vibrant Arab quarter never stopped expressing its identity through cultural, religious, and political means.



©Samar Abdelaal

Throughout its history, Port Said faced challenging political and economic circumstances- es, including two World Wars, the Suez Crisis in 1956, the Six-Day War in 1967, the October War in 1973, the declaration of a free zone, and the 2011 revolution. While the city's urban structure and street patterns have remained unchanged, the social fabric and economic conditions have undergone significant transformations. Presently, Port Said is predominantly inhabited by a Muslim majority of Egyptian descent, political conflicts have diminished, and social divisions have started to mend.

Nonetheless, the memories of segregation, anti-colonial sentiments, and a lingering sense of resentment towards foreign influence remain deeply ingrained in the collective memory of the city's residents. Port Said's architectural and urban heritage is currently facing significant challenges due to a lack of effective conservation measures. The modern architectural heritage of the city stands as a testament to its complex history, reflecting both prosperity and cosmopolitanism, as well as the deep-seated issues of segregation and oppression. To address these aspects, it is crucial to implement community-led and integrated urban conservation measures that align with the city's sustainable development goals. Without such measures in place, the existing limited protection laws prove inadequate in the face of mounting developmental pressures, exacerbated by real estate investments.

The importance of community-led development is further underscored by the presence of Port Said's robust intangible heritage, which has endured throughout its history. While tangible heritage represents the physical remnants of the city's past, it is the intangible heritage that animates the community, fostering a sense of belonging and continuity. Therefore, comprehensive efforts towards the recovery and eventual regeneration of Port Said should encompass a holistic understanding of both the tangible and intangible heritage, recognising their interrelation with the city's spatial configuration.



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INTRODUCTION TO BAZAR ABBAS

Bazar Abbas is an outstanding example of a hybrid between local architecture and European modernism. This architectural typology can be seen in various shapes and forms throughout the city of Port Said. Like many other structures of the same period, Bazar Abbas suffers from the absence of protective measures and is under pressure from incompatible development forces. Bazar Abbas has been striving to establish its identity since the decline of Port Said's cosmopolitan culture and the socio-economic turbulences that followed.

After the Arab-Israeli war, Bazar Abbas lost its main users, the international inhabitants. In 1956, the triple aggression in Port Said created an anti-colonisation atmosphere that had a negative impact on its modern heritage. The turning point for Bazar Abbas occurred in the post-1976-war period when the urgent needs of newcomers led to the overpopulation of its first floor. The excessive use resulted in significant deterioration of the Bazar, which continued until 1980 when the government evacuated the building due to safety concerns. Since then, no protective measures have been implemented, leaving Bazar Abbas in a critical state. Today, the ground floor continues to be used as a marketplace and holds high importance for the local community.



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WORKSHOP CONCEPT

The workshop aims to explore innovative strategies, tools and design proposals for the rehabilitation of Bazar Abbas and its surrounding neighbourhood. While our focal area is the Bazar Street in the European district, yet we paid attention to the relation between the Arab and European districts and their proximity and connectivity to the canal on one side and the seaside on the other.

Building upon the success of the previous two workshops, our primary goal was to delve deeper into urban design solutions within the framework of integrated urban development. However, this time, our focus extends beyond mere recovery and places a strong emphasis on harnessing urban heritage for building a resilient and sustainable future. More specifically, we will explore the potential of cultural tourism in driving socio-economic development within our study area.

What is Integrated Urban Development?

The core aspects of the methodology of integrated urban development planning involve establishing common development goals and a unified vision for the city or district, based on a precise analysis of the current situation, and achieving consensus on this with the majority of stakeholders.

Measures and projects that can be implemented swiftly are then identified and developed within the framework of these development goals and the shared vision. When developing these actions and projects, it is important to identify responsible persons, establish realistic timeframes with milestones, and secure necessary funding sources for implementation.

In contrast to traditional master planning, integrated urban development planning is much more focused on the specific situations, conditions, and resources of the people involved. It is a bottom-up rather than a top-down strategy. To ensure all stakeholders are working towards the same objectives and to minimise competition and conflict between various projects and measures, they must be based on common goals and a shared vision. Integrated urban development planning is also process-oriented, meaning that during the development process, the goals achieved and the steps taken are reviewed and, if necessary, adjustments are made. This method was applied in the workshop. Based on existing analyses and previously discussed objectives, the development goals and a common vision will be refined. Each working group developed specific projects and measures according to its thematic priorities. It was particularly interesting to identify synergies between different themes to pinpoint areas (“fields of action”) where success can be achieved most efficiently.

Participants were engaged in intensive group exercises, diving into five thematic groups to address key areas relevant to our workshop’s overarching goals. Emphasising a community-driven approach throughout, we highlight the importance of engaging and empowering local communities as primary stakeholders in shaping their urban environment. Our objective is to formulate sustainable and inclusive urban strategies, tools and design solutions that genuinely reflect the needs and values of the people who live and work in the neighbourhood.



MEASURES

The Project offers twofold measures, one aspect is practice-oriented and produces immediate tangible results like physical restoration or urban mapping and the other targeted community development purposes such as empowerment and know-how transfer. Both aspects are in favour of cultural heritage protection, social engagement and economic development objectives.



Capacity Building	Advocacy	Planning
Narrative Workshop Recovery Workshop Restoration Training Rehabilitation Workshop Rehabilitation Internship Risk Management Study	Fund Application Workshop with Locals Meeting with Authorities Promotion Reports	Documentation Risk Management Study Restoration Plan Rehabilitation Plan Recovery Scenarios Tourism Scenarios



KEY CRITERIA

- 1. Integrated Urban Development Framework: Emphasising a holistic approach, highlighting the significance of coordinated strategies across diverse sectors, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders to achieve a shared vision.
- 2. Community-Driven Approach: Elevating the importance of actively engaging communities and empowering them to shape their urban environments.
- 3. Cultural Tourism as a Driver: Leveraging cultural tourism to boost the local economy and promote cultural exchange, while ensuring tourism development is respectful of local traditions and benefits of the local community.
- 4. Sustainable Development Goals: Ensuring alignment with global sustainability targets in urban development strategies.
- 5. Heritage Preservation: Utilising heritage assets to redefine the city’s identity and envision its future.

Group	Infrastructure & Sustainable Mobility	Built Heritage & Adaptive Reuse	Intangible Heritage & City Rebranding	Public Spaces & Environmental Sustainability	Cultural Tourism & Socio-economic Regeneration
Mentees	Basma El-Asser Ahmed Fouad Fatma Hassan Mohamed Rekka Sally Tawfik	Süreyya Akin Nourhan Diab Sarah El-Sadek Fayrouz Rehan Wessam Tolba	Nada Abdo Fayrouz Ashraf Mariam Assem Yasmin Hatem Habiba Rashed	Riham Bahram Yasmine Gramoun Farida Hossam Prajna Kumaraswamy Mariam Mohamed	Reem Abdelaziz Mostafa Hussam Eldin Nada Sakr Mennatallah Salama Nour Sherif
Mentors	Christoph Wessling (BTU) Maged Zagow (GU)	Alaa El Habashi Taymour Senbel (AU) Samar Abdelaal (BTU)	Port Said Ala ademo Zainab Tahooun (GU) Rawda Abdelhady	Simon Colwil (BTU/ IU) Mohamed Hamdy (GU) Rasha Emad	Rasha Alkadi Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam (BTU) Passant Nurelding (tbc)
Main focus	Historic Development and Urban Structure of Port Said	Architecture Typologies in Port Said	Intangible Resources in Port Said	Public Spaces of Port Said	Concepts of Cultural Tourism and Creative City
Outcome	Case study	Case study	Case study	Case study	Case study
	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

The workshop consisted of various elements, including experts’ inputs, excursions, discussions and teamwork. Participants spent the first three days in Cairo mainly for input sessions, excursions, discussions and group formation. Then spent the following seven days in Port Said mainly for site visits, surveying, intensive teamwork and engaging discussions.

	20.06 Thursday	21.06 to 04.07 Two weeks	05.07 Friday
Focus of Day	Introduction	Independent Learning	Reflection
Kick-off 10:00 to 10:30	Getting to know each other	Independent Reading and presentation preparation	Presentation 5 to 10 mins by each group
Built-up 10:30 to 11:30	Introduction to workshop & assignment		
Wrap-up 11:30 to 12:00	Q & A		Final Discussion

	07.07 Sunday	08.07 Monday	09.07 Tuesday	10.07 Wednesday	11.07 Thursday	12.07 Friday	13.07 Saturday	14.07 Sunday	15.07 Monday
Focus of Day	Framework Context		Vision Objectives	Strategies Concept	Concept Guidelines	Guidelines Design	Tools Design	Detailed Design	Presentation
Kick-off 9 to 10	Project & Workshop	Rehabilitation Leadership	Inputs & Discussion	Inputs & Discussion	Submission of work	Team meeting	Team meeting	Team meeting	Submission of work
Built-up morning	Inputs & Discussion	Inputs & Discussions	Team discussion	Team discussion	Interim Colloquium	Team discussion	Team discussion	Team discussion	Final Colloquium
Deep-dive afternoon	Site Visit European District	Site Visit Arab District	Teamwork	Teamwork	Site Visit Port Fouad	Teamwork	Teamwork	Bazar Workshop with Stakeholders	
Wrap-up evening	Site Visit Bazar Abbas	Exchange	Exchange	Exchange	Rest	Exchange	Exchange	Exchange	
Extra	Joint Dinner					Semmesya in Fish Market			Semsemya Party

LECTURES

Integrated Approach to Urban Rehabilitation

Prof. Christoph Wessling, BTU

This lecture presented an integrated approach to urban rehabilitation, focusing on the preservation and revitalisation of historic areas. Using Stralsund as a case study, it emphasised flexible, stakeholder-driven planning that balances historical conservation with modern needs. Strategies included participatory processes, sustainable development, and adaptive reuse to align heritage with community and economic goals, promoting inclusive, long-term urban resilience.



Sustainable Infrastructure and Transportation: Enhancing Cultural Tourism

Dr. Maged Zagow, Galala University

This lecture examined how sustainable infrastructure can enhance urban spaces and support cultural tourism, with a focus on Bazar Abbas. It highlighted improvements in mobility, eco-friendly transport, and community support. Strategies included public transport upgrades, walkability, and inclusive planning, aiming to boost local economies and cultural heritage through long-term development, ensuring a better quality of life for residents and enriching tourist experiences.



Community-Led Public Spaces: Enhancing Cultural Tourism

Mohamed Hamdy

The lecture focused on how community-led public spaces foster social cohesion and cultural tourism. Drawing on case studies from Berlin, El-Qusier, and Hurghada, it showcased participatory planning, inclusive design, and sustainability. It emphasised empowering communities, overcoming barriers, and creating spaces that reflect cultural identity while serving economic and social needs, ultimately strengthening civic pride and local ownership.



New Architecture

Taymour Senbel

This lecture explores the challenges and opportunities of designing new architecture within historic settings. It examines how new buildings can contribute to, rather than disrupt, the character of established environments. Key themes include contextualism, reinterpretation of history, and the balance between innovation and continuity. Emphasis is placed on creating architecture that is site-specific and culturally resonant, while still expressing contemporary values.



Heritage Interpretation

Dr. Alaa Elhabashi

This lecture presents Heritage Interpretation as a process that reveals the meaning behind heritage resources. It emphasises accessibility, engagement, and emotional connection. Interpretation bridges the gap between experts and the public, moving beyond simple presentation. Key principles include provocation, relevance, and storytelling, essential for inclusive and sustainable heritage conservation.



Adaptive Reuse – Principles and Case Studies

Prof. Heba Abouelfadl

This lecture outlines adaptive reuse as a sustainable approach to repurposing old buildings while preserving their values. It highlights memory, human scale, and sense of place. Strategies include functional adaptations, code compliance, and aesthetic sensitivity. Case studies such as Musée d'Orsay and Hotel Emma demonstrate how reuse can balance conservation and functionality.



Public Spaces and Climate Adaptation

Simon Collwill

This lecture explored the role of public spaces in climate adaptation and mitigation, focusing on design responses to environmental challenges. It presented practical strategies for creating resilient, inclusive spaces. Natural elements like trees and native plants were highlighted as key tools to improve environmental performance and user comfort in urban areas.



Cultural Tourism and UX Experience Approach

Rasha El Kady

This lecture explored cultural mapping as a tool for sustainable cultural tourism, focusing on the Grand Egyptian Museum. Through case studies and hands-on activities, participants examined how heritage and storytelling intersect with visitor experience design. Emphasis was placed on user-centred strategies like narrative curation, spatial planning, and digital accessibility, showing how local culture is transformed into a global narrative.



Safeguarding Intangible Heritage

Rawda Abdelhady

This lecture addressed safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), such as oral traditions, performing arts, and craftsmanship. It emphasised community-based and inclusive protection under the 2003 UNESCO Convention. The El-Max Rescue Project was shared as a case study, showing how local engagement and GIS tools support maritime heritage preservation and urban resilience.



Experiences from Bena Foundation

Rasha Emad

This lecture discussed socio-economic regeneration through the lens of international organisations and policy impact. Case studies, both local and international, were analysed to extract lessons on success and failure in urban development. The session offered practical insights for applying these lessons to future projects and interventions.



Rehabilitation of Bazar Abbas (Internship Output)

Samar Abdelaal

This lecture examined the relationship between space and people through place-making practices. Using various examples, it highlighted social and psychological aspects of spatial use. Key conditions for successful place claiming, such as openness, designability, and symbolic meaning, were explored through both planned and spontaneous interventions.



EXCURSIONS

The workshop was enhanced by the support from our project partners, such as Al-Yakaniya for Heritage and Arts, Megawra and Port Said Ala Adeemo, who organised diverse guided tours to showcase and explore the local history and heritage of Al-Darb Al-Ahmar and Al-Khalifa District within historic Cairo and Port Said. The tours included Port Fouad, with its unique urban fabric and maritime heritage, the Al-Arab district, with its dense urban fabric and vibrant atmosphere and the European district with its architectural styles and significant buildings. Additionally, the participants got the chance to explore Bazar Abbas and the surrounding urban context. These tours helped the participants identify the contradiction between the different districts, especially the Arab and European districts.

Another aspect of the guided tours organised during the workshop was the inclusion of Semsemya tours. These unique tours offered the participants a remarkable opportunity to engage with the rich local heritage through the enchanting melodies of Semsemya songs, which were connected to the historical events associated with specific locations. Through the captivating lyrics and melodies of the Semsemya songs, participants gained a deeper understanding of the events, stories, and traditions that shaped the local community.

Overall, the guided tours served as an effective ice-breaking activity by creating an environment where participants could connect, engage, and establish a profound background for the site visits. The tours helped the participants smooth their interaction with the local community and ensured that they were well-prepared to make the most of their collective experience.



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EXCURSIONS



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PARTICIPANTS WORK

GROUP 01. INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

Ahmed Fouad | Basma El Asaar | Sally Tawfiq | Fatma Hassan | Mohammed Rekka

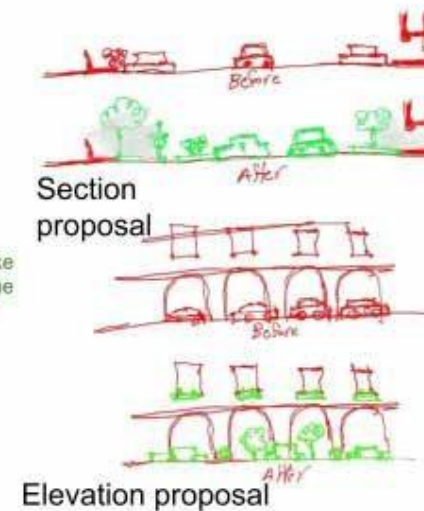
Our vision was to integrate the Bazar into the city's infrastructure, improving mobility sustainability through the implementation of sustainable transportation solutions such as bicycles and e-scooters. This involved raising public and youth awareness of relevant mobile applications and technologies to provide real-time feedback on infrastructure and mobility options, enabling users to select optimal routes. Furthermore, we aimed to promote pedestrian-friendly pathways and reduce vehicular traffic in the city centre.



5 FINDINGS MOBILITY

MAIN GOAL:
Enhancing Walkability

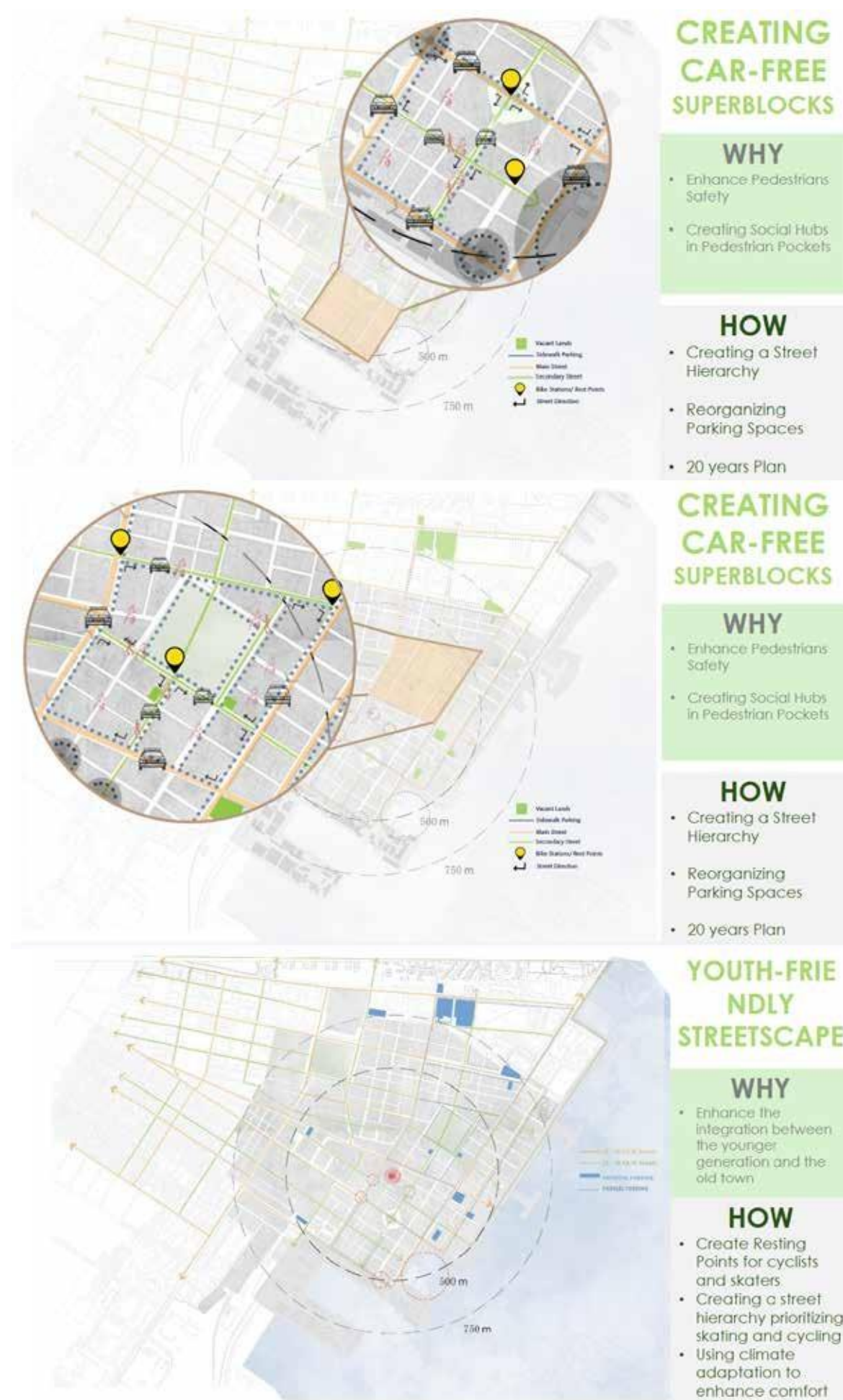
SUB-GOALS:
• Encourage bike usage in the neighborhood



IMPLEMENTING NETWORK COMMUNICATION

WHY

HOW



GROUP 02. BUILT HERITAGE AND ADAPTIVE RE-USE

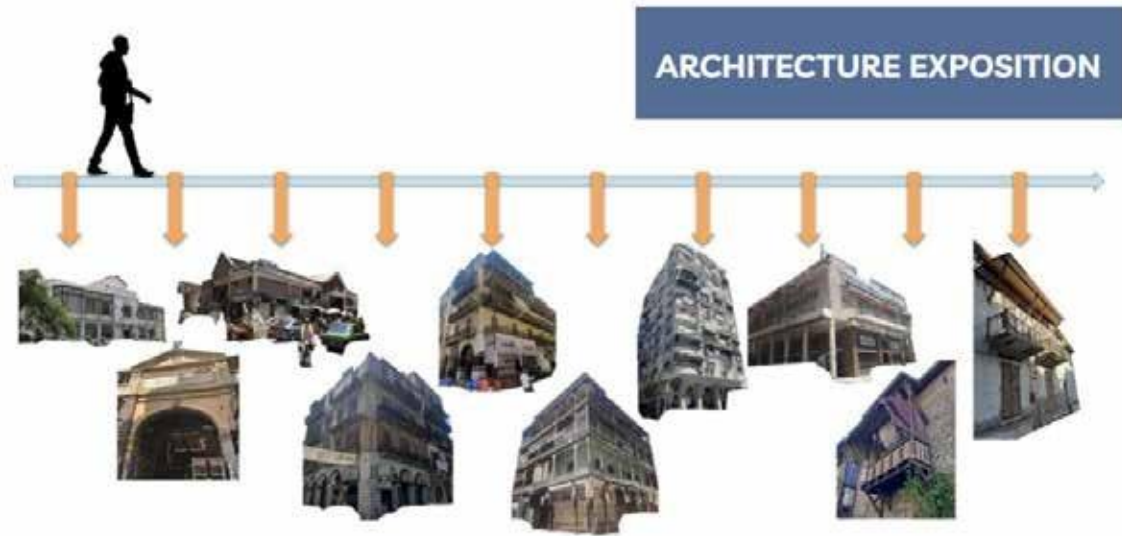
Fayrouz Rehan | Nourhan Diab | Sureyya Akin | Sara El Sadek | Wessam Tolba

Port Said's built heritage faces severe deterioration due to modernisation, misaligned urban activities, and a lack of maintenance and awareness. The project envisions revitalising this heritage by transforming the area into a vibrant social and economic hub, extending from Ferial Garden through Bazaar Street to the Suez Canal. A key intervention involves renovating the historic Marché Municipal, repurposing it to raise awareness of maritime culture and preserve both tangible and intangible heritage while giving the building a renewed, meaningful function.



There is a high level of deterioration to Port Said's built heritage that was caused by several factors including modernization, lack of alignment between activities and the urban fabric, and the lack of awareness and maintenance.

The main vision is the revitalization of Port Said's distinct built heritage through creating a vibrant economic and social hub that acts as a destination starting from Ferial Garden throughout the Bazaar Street and including the route leading to the Suez Canal by going back to the collective cultural identity of the city.





OBJECTIVES

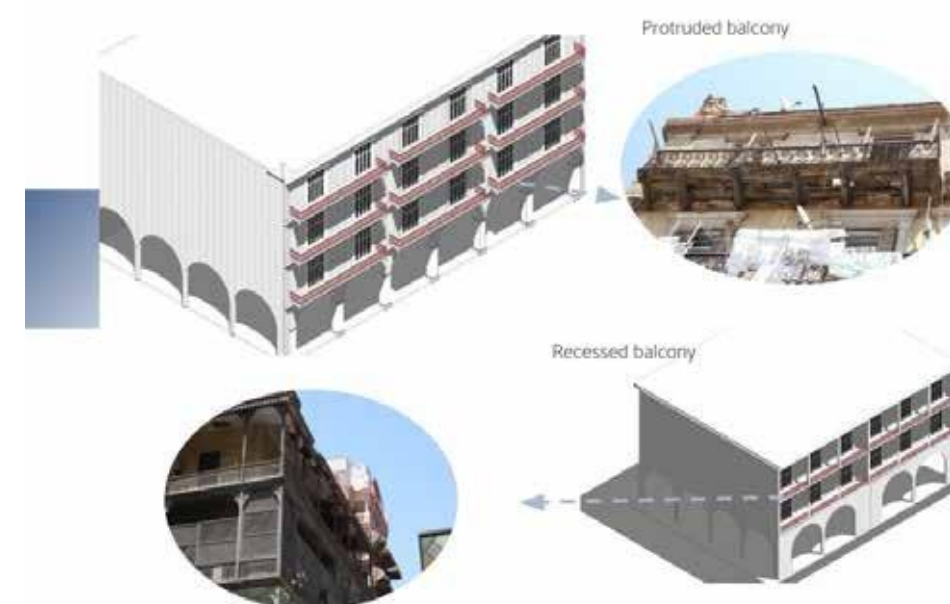
1. Preservation and Promotion
2. Reviving Markets
3. Creating Architectural Harmony
4. Community Engagement
5. Sustainability
6. Creating job opportunities
7. Ensure the ease of accessibility
8. Integrate old and new urban fabric
9. Cultural Heritage

STRATEGIES



1. Arcade clearing and vendor rearrangement
2. Minimal facade interventions
3. Adapting abandoned floors and spaces
4. Signage regulations
5. Identifying distinct architectural elements

FRAMEWORK



CURRENT CONDITION

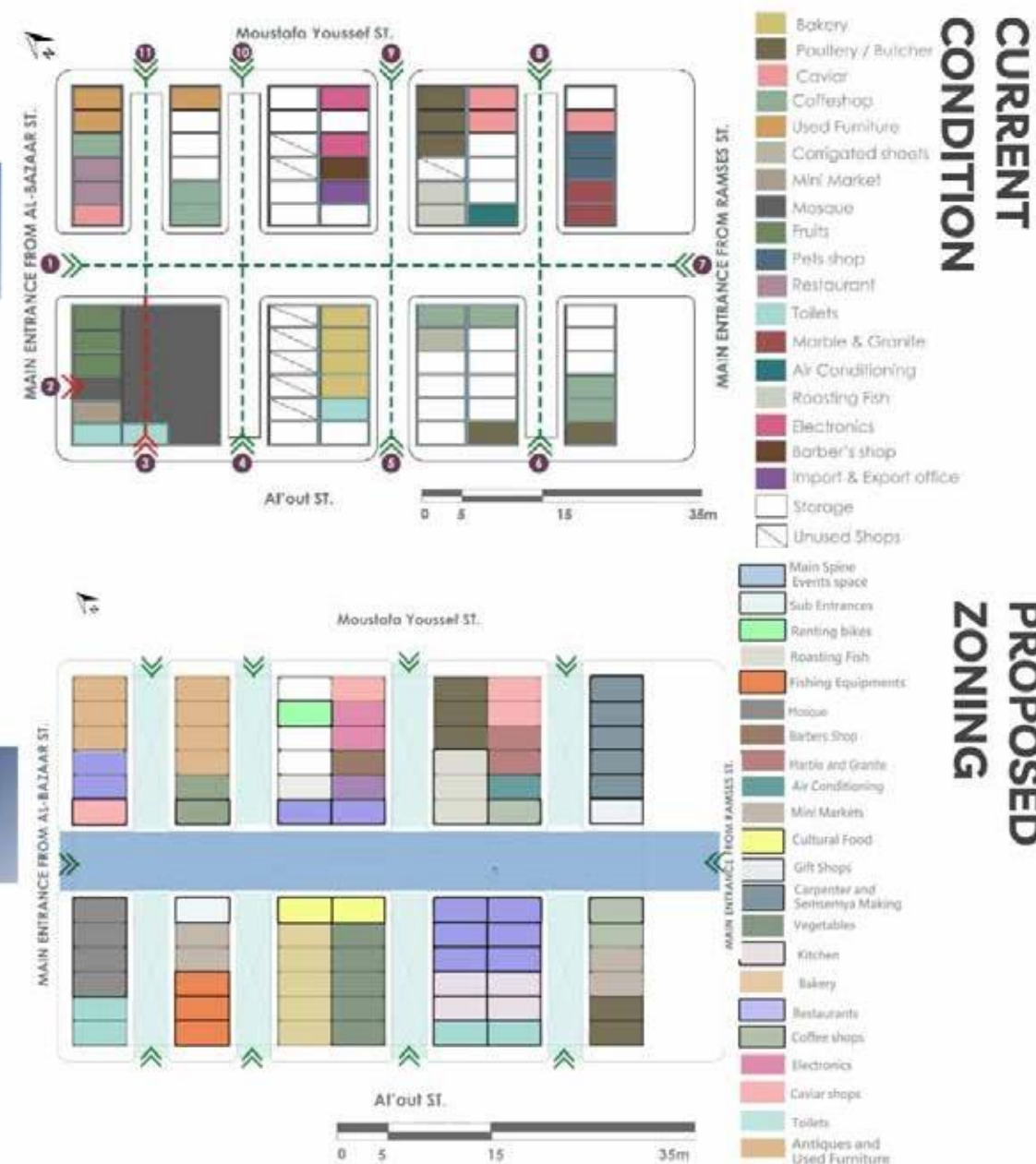
BALCONIES



PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS



PHASE 03



GROUP 03. INTANGIBLE HERITAGE AND CITY REBRANDING

Habiba Rashad | Yasmine Hatem | Mariam Assem | Nada Abdo | Fayrouz Ashraf

The presentation envisions transforming Port Said into a city of memorable, multisensory experiences through the revitalisation of its intangible cultural heritage (ICH). This vision is pursued by mapping ICH elements like music, festivals, games, and crafts, and linking them to urban spaces via mind and sense mapping. The approach emphasises community engagement, documentation, and awareness-building to preserve traditions like the Semsmya music, Bamboutia boats, and local culinary practices. Design interventions aim to integrate these heritage elements into public spaces, fostering cultural pride, tourism, and sustainable development while rebranding Port Said with a unique, heritage-driven identity.



Intangible Culture Heritage and City Rebranding

To create memorable experiences in Port Said by engaging all the senses through the revitalization of intangible heritage.

READY , STEADY,GO!



Intangible Cultural Heritage ICH domains of Port said



Linking Intangible on and Urban Scale ... Sense Mapping

Create a Sense map during walking throw these five elements .

By Mapping the smells, taste, and sound of the city



Throw putting :semsimiya music, traditional foods, In some spots .



4 Port said ICH Current Status

Fishermen Community
B-Kabooty

El Had'' Fishing

El Gar'' Fishing

High active
Maritime traditions
Traditional food
Medium active
Sea utilities crafts
cycling
Low active

Strategy to safeguard intangible heritage

Documentation

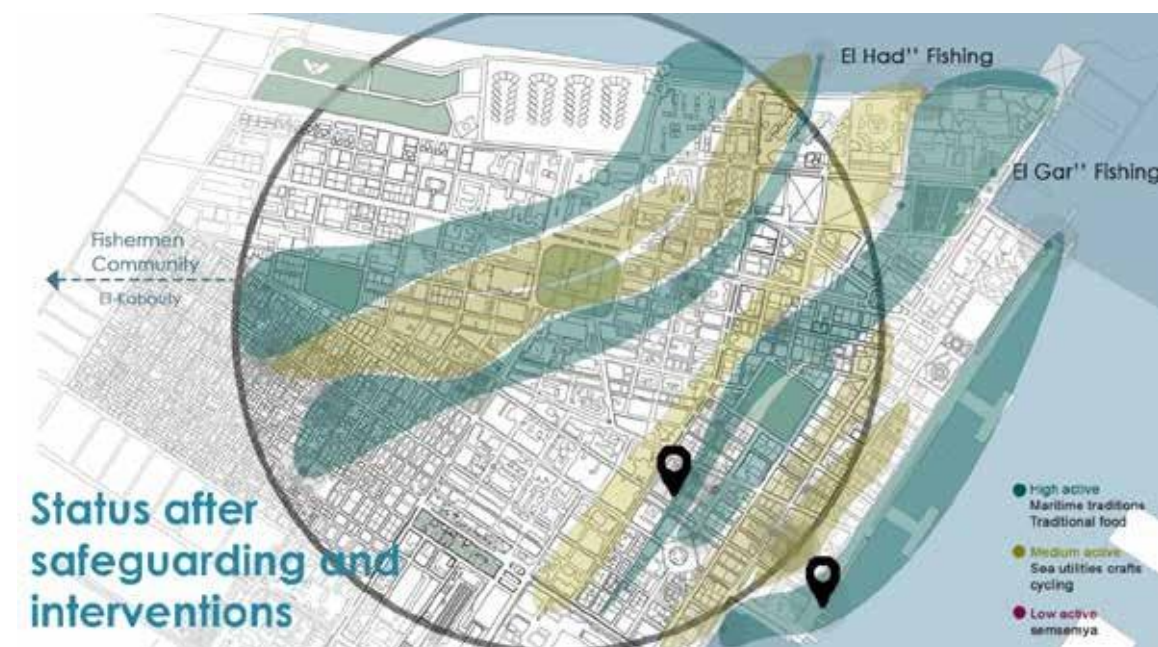
Detailed Documentation to the intangible resources (Written and Visuals)

Sharing Awareness

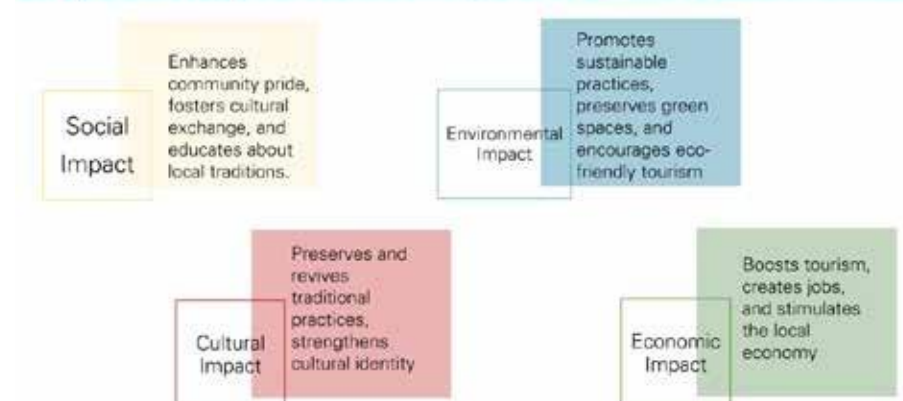
Sharing Awareness through:
- Tours
- Storytelling (People,Qr codes)
- Documentaries (Performances , Movies ,Etc.)

Community Engagement

Teaching and learning through Workshops.
Relationships with community stakeholders to achieve sustainable dialogue



Expected Impact of ICH safeguarding and revitalization



7 Rebranding vision of the Intangible Heritage

City Branding is

the totality of perceptions, thoughts, and feelings that customers hold about a place.
Bill Barker

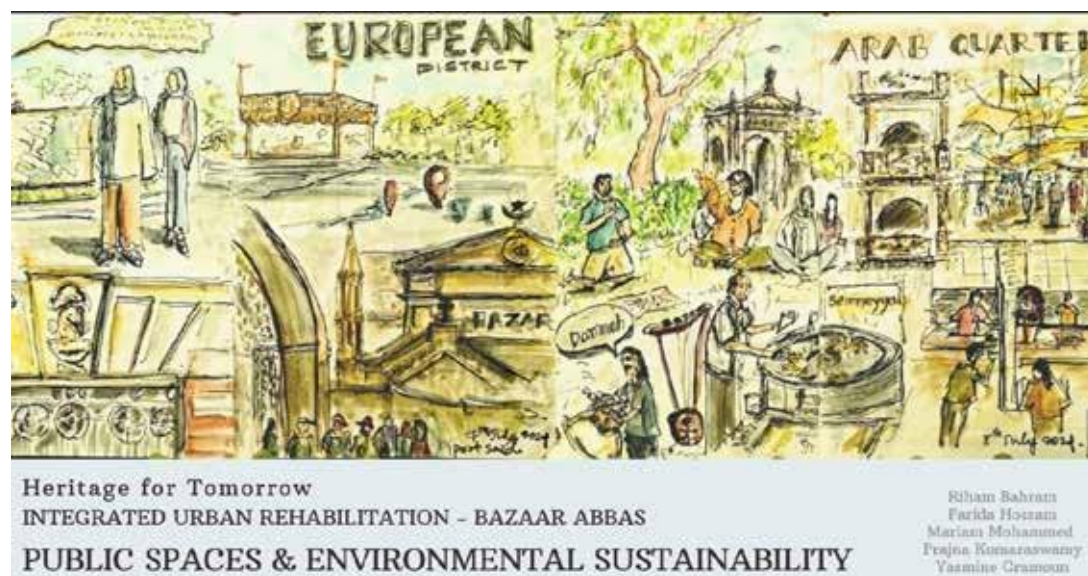
The **memory** that we want the users to remember the place with through **sense mapping**



GROUP 04. PUBLIC SPACES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Riham Bahram | Farida Hossam | Mariam Mohammed | Prajna Kumaraswamy | Yasmine Gramoun

The group's approach aimed to revitalise the Arab and European quarters by reconnecting people to culturally relevant, inclusive, and climate-adaptive public spaces. Key strategies included enhancing thermal comfort with green infrastructure, promoting cultural tourism, and creating pedestrian-friendly networks. Interventions ranged from macro master planning to micro-level upgrades, such as transforming Elwan and Ferial parks into vibrant social and cultural hubs. The vision emphasised connecting heritage, people, and nature through sustainable, locally sensitive placemaking solutions.



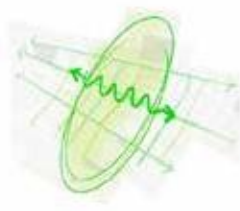
VISION

Connecting the locals and visitors of port said to more liveable, playable and culturally tailored public spaces through placemaking of locally sensitive and environmentally conscious urban interventions.

ENHANCE



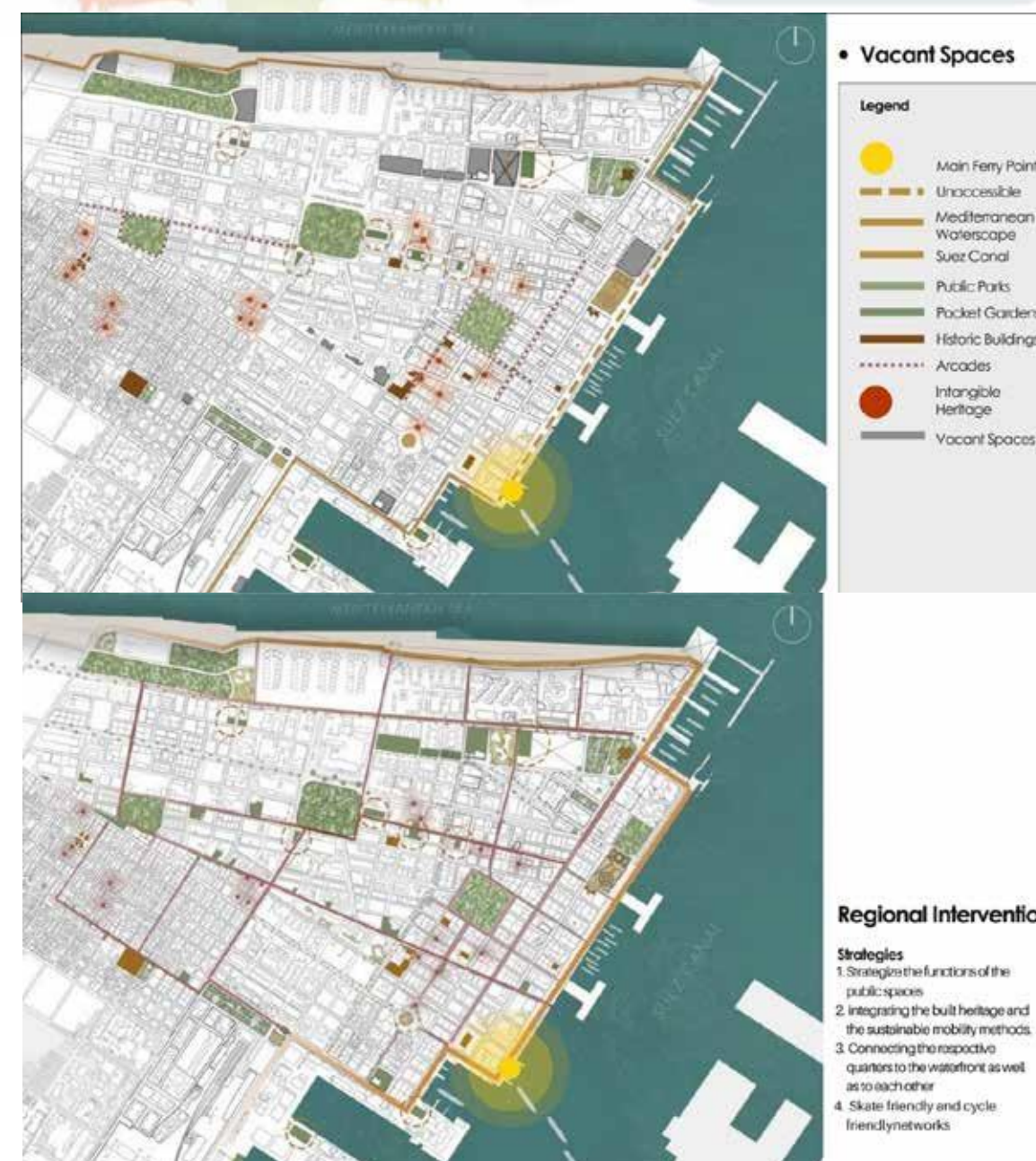
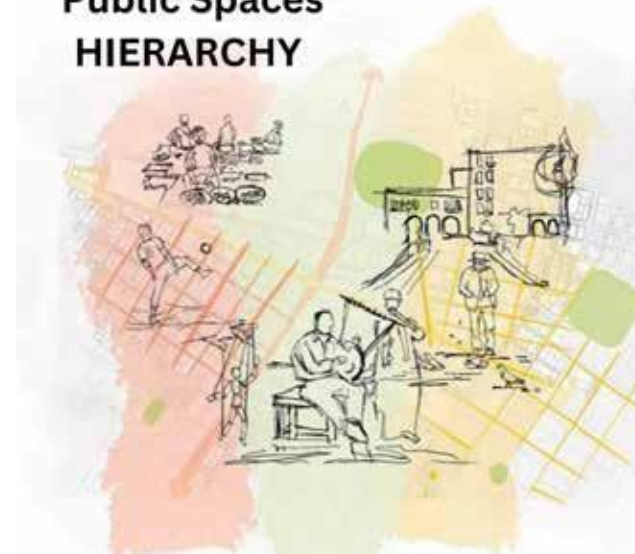
CONNECT



REVITALISE



Public Spaces HIERARCHY





Micro Intervention

- social spaces for cultural activities involving strategies of intangible elements
- resting and breathing points for the dense neighbourhoods



CONNECTION STRATEGY

1. Culturally important functions and activities happening at the selected public spaces from the hierarchy in a city level.
2. Achieving maximum thermal comfort and greening in the following phases after pilots.
3. Interventions connecting the two districts respectively to waterfronts and to one other through series of streetscapes, social points activity and cultural zones.
4. Skate friendly and cycle friendly, playable city port said

GROUP 05. CULTURAL TOURISM AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REGENERATION

Menna Salama | Mostafa Hossam | Nada Sakr | Nour Sherif | Reem Abdelaliz

Creating dynamic and immersive experiences within the city's key nodes to relive its authentic cultural essence. The Ferry transforms into a vibrant tourist experience with shaded seating, cafés and restaurants, offering an engaging journey that celebrates the authentic crossing culture. Meanwhile, the Canal Walkway revitalises the pedestrian and skating passage between De Lesseps Statue and Sahet Masr with heritage integration, sensory elements, and festive programming. Together, these captivating interventions create cultural pulses that reconnect residents and visitors with Port Said's unique identity through interactive and shaded experiences.



RELIVE

ReEngage

ReLax

ReFresh

Reliving the cultural experience in the nodes "hearts" of the city through the **dynamic elements** represented in **Arcades, The Ferry and The Canal**.



OUR VISION:

Creating a dynamic & immersive experience within the **Beating Hearts** of the city. To **RELIVE** the authentic cultural essence of Port Said by creating captivating **nodes** that **beat** across the year.

RELIVE

The Cultural Heritage



RELIVE

The Cultural Heritage



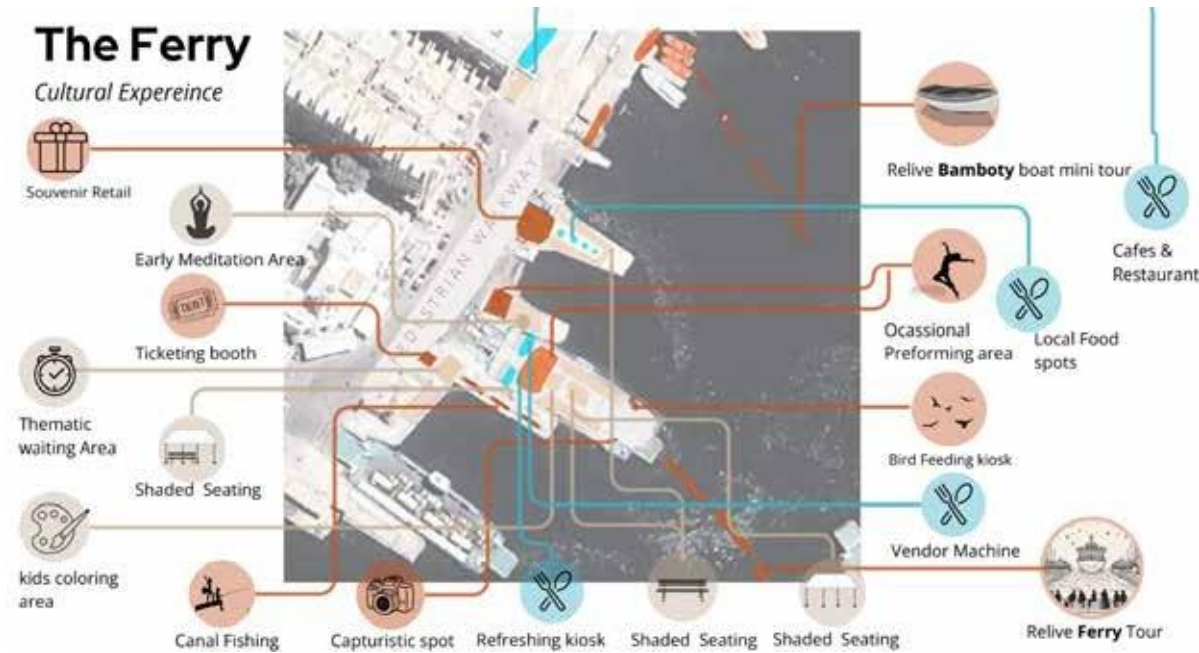
The Ferry

Ferry as a connection

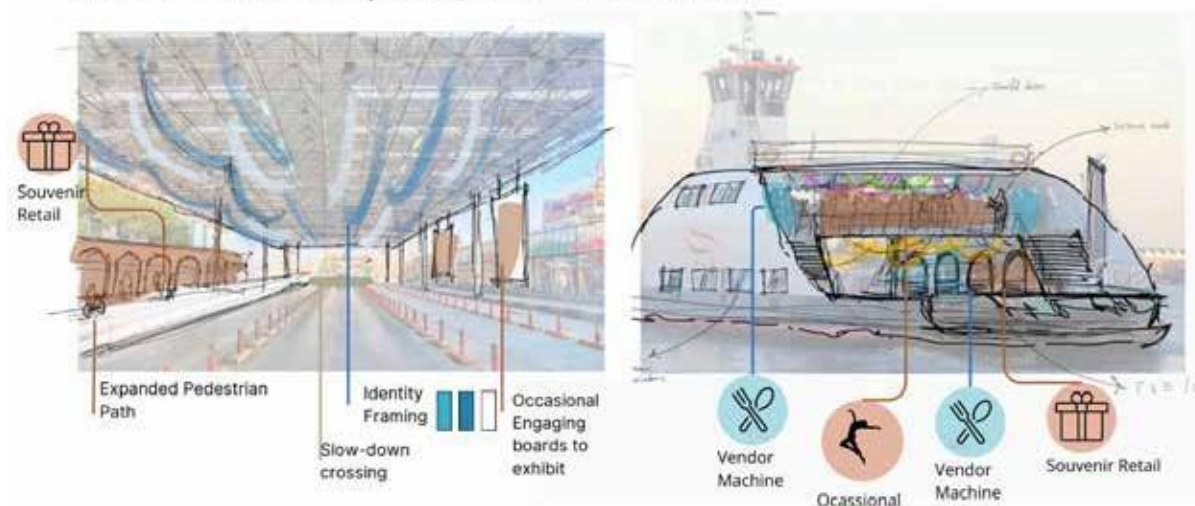


Initial Intervention

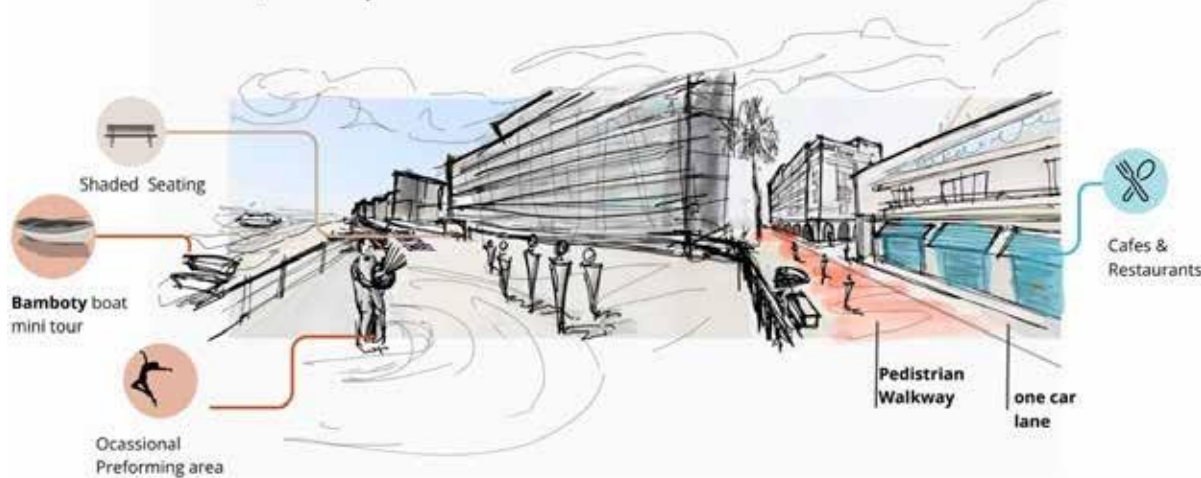




The Ferry Proposed Interventions

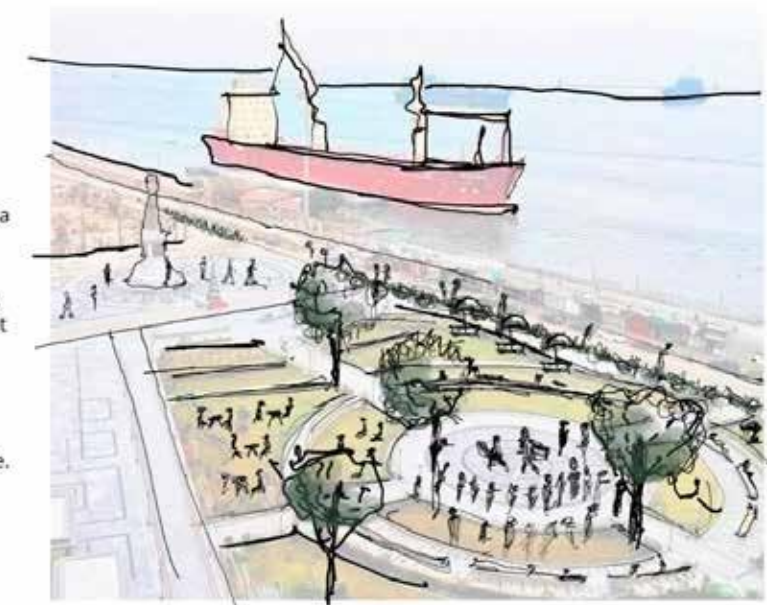


The Ferry Proposed Interventions



RE-live experience Outcome:

The canal shore revival methodology will transform the area into a **vibrant**, heritage-rich destination. Visitors will enjoy a rejuvenated pedestrian and skating **passage**, a lively Grand Piazza Sahet Masr, exceptional skating experiences, immersive **heritage appreciation**, and sustainable, accessible design - creating a captivating and inclusive experience.



The Vibrant Heritage of Port Said is worth **ReLiving**. Creating our **beats** are intended to create immersive **engaging, relaxing and refreshing user experiences** within the node that would help Revive the cultural heritage discovered in the city.



IMPRESSIONS

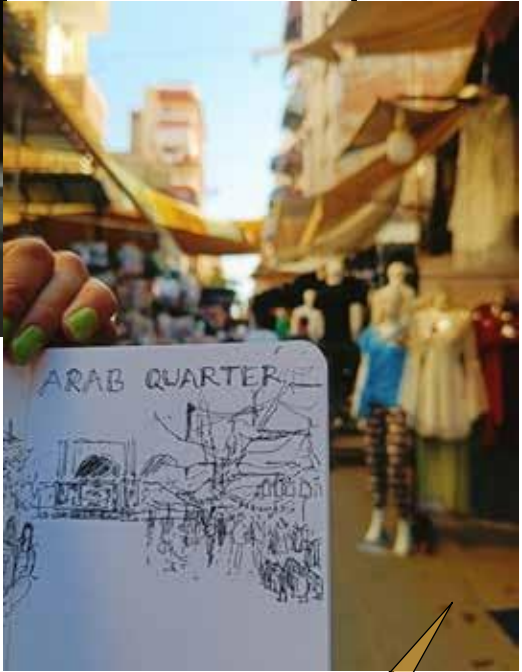
"It was eye-opening to work in thematic groups and realize how interconnected mobility, culture, and public space truly are."

"I appreciated learning how adaptive reuse can balance preservation and innovation in historic contexts."



"The focus on climate resilience and sustainability added a new dimension to how I think about public space. This was my first time engaging directly with a real urban context and proposing implementable design ideas."

"It was inspiring to see how cultural tourism can be planned to benefit both residents and visitors."



"This was more than just design; it was about understanding identity, memory, and urban resilience and the workshop made me aware of my role as a future urban designer in fostering inclusive, culturally rich environments."

IMPRINT

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Cottbus 2025
Middle East Cooperation Unit
Bazar Abbas, Recovery Lab of Port Said

Heritage For Tomorrow- Workshop on Integrated Urban Rehabilitation

Port Said, Egypt- 06th to 16th July 2024

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