

# The Yalla Project

## Urban Regeneration in a Traditional Context During a State of War

Dr. Abdalrahman Kittana

In the frame of **Rehabilitation of Urban Heritage in the Cities of Iraq** Project funded by the DAAD, we are pleased to invite you to the first online lecture.

**The Yalla Project** (TYP) is an applied research hub on socio-spatial issues with base in Nablus, Palestine. TYP tackles the everydayness of communities and their living environment through grounded research and learning-by-doing, hybridising interdisciplinary academic research and social enterprise.

At its first stage, The Yalla Project is directing its activities towards the regeneration and revivifications of the old town of Nablus that has been largely damaged and abandoned after successive invasions by the Israeli army during the years 2002-2008. The Yalla Project believes that revivification of the old town is crucially determined by increasing the flow of visitors and users of its spaces, and then increasing the number of residents. Hence, it started by renovating 3 buildings, one by one, to attract new target groups including students and tourists. It started by a social café, then a guest-house and then opened a rooftop terrace, creating spaces for multiple activities that worked as a social hub for different users. Hence, the Yalla Project capitalized and relied on its rehabilitated quality spaces, personnel intellectual capacity in addition to rich social network towards the creation of a social hub that will eventually expand into a research hub, as well, in the heart of Nablus old town.

The lecture provided by The Yalla Project will address the methodology and challenges that the project tackled during its work.



**Dr. Abdalrahman Kittana** is an architect born in Nablus in 1980 and a founding member of the Yalla Project. He currently joins the academic staff of the department of architectural engineering at Birzeit University. He received his B.Sc. in architectural engineering from Birzeit University and later he obtained his master degree in Architectural Regeneration and Development from Oxford Brookes University (UK). In 2020 he attained his PhD in Engineering Sciences from the KULeuven (BE), with a research on urban resilience and civilian survival in the Kasbah of Nablus during the 2nd Intifada. His teaching experience includes architectural design, urban regeneration and urban design. His research interests are in the fields of city and war, urban resilience, architectural and urban development, and architectural history and theory.

