

For those without a place Spaces of Anti-Fragility

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In the frame of **Rehabilitation of Urban Heritage in the Cities of Iraq** Project funded by the DAAD, part of activities between the Middle East Cooperation Unit- in Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU), The University Baghdad, and the University of Sulaimani, we are pleased to invite you to this online lecture.

The Lecture: Siwa Oasis was one of the most important commercial hubs in the ancient world. As a home for more than 20.000 Siwans, it has an outstanding universal value within its tangible and intangible, natural and cultural heritage. The Sivian context is currently undergoing rapid changes as a response to its economic and demographic booming and the evolving needs of its population. Despite their attachment to their identity and local heritage, Siwans are influenced by the pace and specificities of modern life, leading to the loss of cultural aesthetics, the emergence of uncategorized building typology and informal urbanization, and the pollution of the natural environment such the groundwater. "The concept of antifragility was proposed by Nassim N. Taleb in his 2012 book "Antifragile: things that gain from disorder".(2). This terminology goes a step further than robustness and resilience where it does not just imply a "bounce back or even bounce back better, they thrive and improve because of, not in spite of, volatility and uncertainty."(1).

The youth and creative portion of the community/artists in Siwa Oasis have been demonstrating their antifragility through the current status. The presentation aims to highlight the gaps in understanding the ongoing transformations and how initiatives like SIWI tried to capitalize on slippage and emphasises the reign of youth and artists over the public realm through harnessing their internal and personal antifragility and exteriorizing it through acts of public actions.

Insaf Ben Othmane H. is a Tunisian architect, urban development strategist and researcher. She is the founder of Cœcumene Studio ~spaces For Dignity. Her main research interests revolve around architecture in development, urban resilience, empowerment of communities through holistic integrated projects and strategies.



Working for over ten years internationally in the area of community development, urban governance, strategic planning and urban technologies in MENA and Africa regions led her to initiate several projects 'Urban Catalyst' in partnership with local communities and various stakeholders, organizations like UNHCR and Terre Des Hommes and institutions in search of real and effective solutions to urban challenges of this century. She is the Co-founder of Sharnaqa-~placemaking by Children and PlacemakingMena Platform. Parallel to her work she's a guest lecturer in several universities worldwide and she actively works towards decolonizing knowledge. She is also the curator of In-situ community Build Exhibition: Ala-Aboutuh and Architecture-ForChange: Genius Tempus Series.

