



REPORT

The Joint Urban Design Workshop - Cairo 2012 - Urban Design in Historic Context - The North Eastern Edge of Historic Cairo

Cairo 17th – 26th of September 2012

(Ed.) Heinz Nagler, Christoph Wessling



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Joint Urban Design Workshop Cairo

hosted by the University of Cairo/Giza

REPORT

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(Ed.) Heinz Nagler, Christoph Wessling

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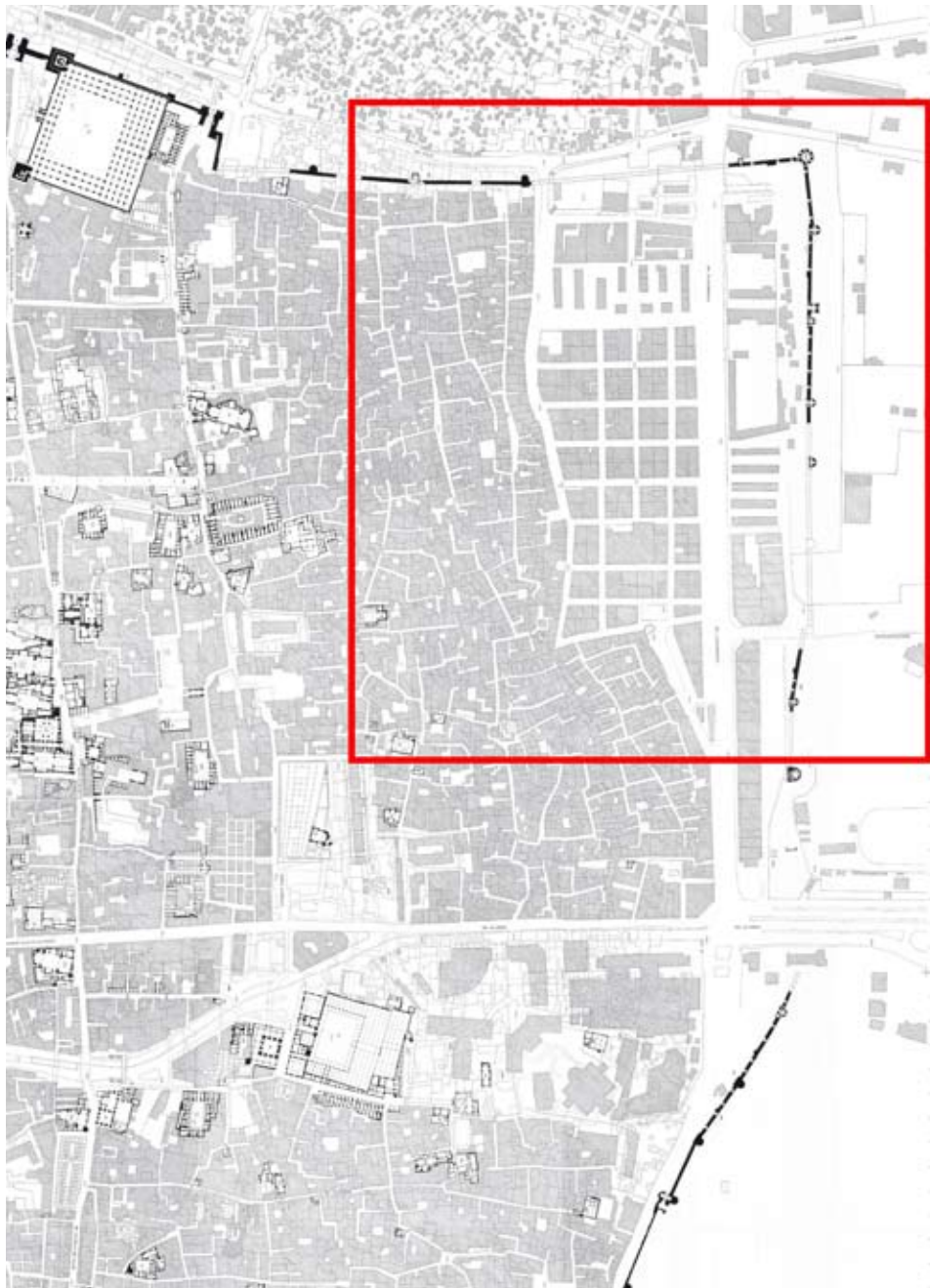
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The Joint Urban Design Workshop Cairo Urban Design in Historic Context - The North-Eastern Edge of Historic Cairo

case study area



Cutout - Warner, Nicholas: Monuments of Historic Cairo, A Map and Descriptive Catalogue / A comprehensive mapping of Cairo's historic Islamic monuments

Foreword

In 2004 we organized the first urban design workshop with participants from Damascus and Cottbus. Since that time we extended and strengthened our academic cooperation with the Middle East step by step. The Joint Urban Design Workshop Cairo in 2012 was the 7th workshop in our cooperation network with participants from the University of Aleppo, the University of Damascus, the American University of Beirut, the Cairo University, the Alexandria University and the University of Technology Cottbus.

The most important aspect of the workshop and our further activities for the academic exchange program is the multilateral dialogue concerning important urban design challenges in our cities. This dialogue was very intensive. Next to lectures and presentations followed by discussions, the dialogue

was mostly based on the practical work in working groups.

The aim was it to elaborate a common development concept for the Al-Dar-rassa area in the North-Eastern Edge of Historic Cairo. The experiences of the Cairo workshop underlines our idea that the best intercultural dialogue is working together. Based on that we hope to continue with our cooperation activities and to strengthen the exchange of the participating universities. The goal of the group is to establish common master study courses entitled "Vitalization of inner city districts". With this we hope to establish a sustainable structures for a continuing exchange between our universities and countries.

Heinz Nagler, Christoph Wessling

Introduction

In Cairo, a mega-city with a population of more than 17 million inhabitants, the topic of the Joint Urban Design Workshop - urban design in historic context - is in correlation with the urbanization and globalization of the whole inner city. The World Cultural Heritage of Historic Cairo is one important element of this development process. The original structures and the historic monuments and buildings must be protected and rehabilitated to maintain the identity and the character of the town. At the same time the city must be prepared for the requirements of international competition between cities. World cultural heritage and innovation for future development are no contradictions in urban planning. In the case study area of the North-Eastern Edge of Historic Cairo we will examine a situation where both poles, tradition and innovation, can fit together in synthesis for sustainable urban development. The needs of the inhabitants, the respect for historic architecture, the characteristics of the existing urban structure, the lack of qualified open space and the challenges of the main streets as barriers to the neighbouring quarters with different urban structures form the basis for study in the workshop.

In Cairo, the building fabric in many historic districts is in a critical state. Social segregation has taken place over decades and the actual state of development planning is often not satisfactory for the protection and revitalization of the historic quarters. There is a great challenge for strategic and conceptual planning for these districts. Today the most important questions are: How to encourage sustainable development? How to combine the protection of historic structures and listed buildings with the challenge of innovative and vital development reflecting economic, social and cultural affairs?

„Since the 1980's, the most important historic districts of Islamic-Arabic towns have received World Cultural Heritage status from the UNESCO. "In the definition of the UNESCO a World Cultural Heritage site is a transferable good that we inherit from previous generations. It is our souvenir from the past. In its broader sense cultural heritage presents antiquity, its characteristic and its spiritual aspects. It is a potent reminder of human achievement. It defines



our origin and expresses to the present generation the glory of ancient times. It is an irreplaceable fortune as well as a unique attribute that distinguishes societies. Cultural heritage resources included on the World Heritage List are examples of outstanding universal cultural and natural value. This global approach of being an exceptional universal example denotes that the preservation of these sites is not only the concern of individual states. It is the duty of the international society."

Case study area - The North-Eastern Edge of Historic Cairo, study area and design area

Cairo aerial picture by Google Earth 2012, date of the picture 12.06.2011





Study Area and Design Area

For the studio work of the Joint Urban Design Workshop we have chosen together with the Architecture Department, University of Cairo the North-Eastern Edge of Historic Cairo. When looking at the Cairo map made by the French expedition around the beginning of the 19th century no traces of urban fabric can be found for this area. The study area is formally called Al-Darrassa. It lies between the eastern edge of the Fatimid edges of Cairo and the eastern wall “the City wall of Salah al Din”. The area was used as a place for “quartering of the strops”. The current urban development was laid out at the beginning of the 20th century and the construction began around the 1930s. Two “rent controlled housing” complexes were built in the areas during the 1960s. Next to the rehabilitation and renewal needs of the area, between the different elements and structures of the area and its neighbourhood there are several brown fields waiting for qualified development.

The case study area is appropriate for the Joint Urban Design Workshop because it is on the one hand manageable in its extent, but on the other hand it reflects many of the important problems of a complex inner city situation.

Lectures

17.09.2012

Prof. Dr. Shahdan Shabka: „Revitalization of Darb Al-Ahmar: Discussion on Sustainability and Community Development”

In her lecture, Prof. Dr. Shadan Shabka presents influencing factors for a sustainable development in historic cities. She points out, that a sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations. In her opinion, the key to handling the pressing problems of poverty and degradation of urban heritage fabric on the one hand and future problems like preserving heritage, socio-cultural values and enhancing local economy on the other hand lies in community development. The local community is determined by the socio-cultural, environmental and economic context.

Prof. Shabka presents the “Revitalization of Darb Al-Ahmar” by the Agha Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) as an initiative that aims a sustainable development. Therefore two very ambitious and nearby projects should have developed interdependences: the Al-Azhar Park and Al Darb Al-Ahmar.

She questions the symbolic relations between the projects and the initiative’s sustainability against the background of the project-duration, historic restoration versus rehabilitation, gentrification and a top-down approach in order to strengthen the community. Maybe, the aims are more dream than reality.

17.09.2012

Prof. Dr. Nabeel El-Hady and Preparation Group: „First analysis of the case study area and a first approach to development needs“



Darb Al-Ahmar; the Quarter and the Al-Azhar Park, the Ayyubid Wall, a neighbourhood street; Aga Khan Trust and Prof. Dr. Shahdan Shabka



Urban design example from the Joint Urban Design Workshop Cottbus 2011, BTU Cottbus

17.09.2012

Christoph Wessling: “Different Approaches to Urban Design? Introduction to the working groups and constitution of the Working Groups“

In this introduction lecture by Christoph Wessling the essence of urban design is characterised by stressing that the town is a complex system, which is based on many layers or shifts like social structure and networks, economic structure and networks, structures of the social and technical infrastructure, structure of public spaces with streets, places and green areas, and furthermore with the structures of plots and different types of buildings.

Urban design is always dealing with the human scale, even though urban design is art, it is always made for the people. With many different best practise examples from the Middle East and from Europe Christoph Wessling shows that urban design is the task of place making, the organization of public and private plots, the composition of different urban elements fitting together, designing the dialogue between the buildings and the space as well as to design a quarter in three dimensions.



„Cairo 2050“ - Developing the Nile Corniche

(Quelle: http://www.urbangateway.org/sites/default/ugfiles/8635_42944_AymanEl-hefnawi.pdf, February 19, 2013)

19.09.2010

Prof. Dr. Khaled Fahmey: “Modernization of Cairo: From „Paris along the Nile“ to „Cairo 2050“

Prof. Dr. Fahmey is a historian and teaches at the American University of Cairo.

In his lecture he gave an outlook to „Cairo Vision 2050“ - the Strategic Urban Development Plan of Great Cairo Region, which was not public presented and discussed until now. Concerning Prof. Dr. Fahmey the Plan is clearly guided by the fascination of Dubai. He dwelled on „A green Cairo - Cairo Central Park“, the transformation of the City of the Death to a Central Park, as well as the development of the Nile Corniche to a skyline of high rise buildings.

Afterwards he explained the history of Cairo by real short stories from the Cairo Archiv by narratives: Khedive Ismail, studied in Paris in 1840 and was highly inspired by the transformation of Paris by Baron Hausmann. After his return to his home country he wanted to realize his vision of Cairo as „Paris along the Nile“.

19.09.2012

Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ouf: “Public Realm in Egyptian Urbanism: Typology and Design Guidelines“

In his lecture Prof. Ouf explained the role of “Public Realm in the City” during the revolution in Egypt 2011: The people flocked to the main formal squares (Midan), rediscovering the public realm of their cities after the January 25th revolution reintroduced them to the public open space. Only at the time of the revolution people forget their different social groups and start to cooperate unequivocally to achieve a common goal. Public space stays for an area creating a new social order between all the social groups of the Egyptian society.

Tahrir Square during the 18 days of the revolution became a Utopian Place that people never experienced before. People felt that they have regained ownership of the public realm and the city. Public celebrations after the stepping down of Egypt’s president on 11 Feb 2011 marked a new start for public realm usage. Political functions in the square are partial among other social and economic functions as whole families would seek the square(s) at night for good family time, others to have a cup of tea or a light meal while others just go to remember the days of the revolution. After the common goal was achieved in all Tahrir Squares, different views about use of the public realm started to diverge making the public realm more persistent and better qualified for either social or economic reasons when no political reason exists. In full absence of any security forces after the police withdrew in 28 January 2011 for months, everyone started to use the square without supervision, surveillance or control allowing every group to bring its own culture to the public realm.

25 January revolution has not created “yet” any new forms of the public realm but rather exposed the already existing local alley activities to the largest and most formal public spaces in the city. Consequently, there is a current need to carefully study the already existing public realm interfaces inside the back alleys of the city before any proposal for a general public realm code of conduct.





Port Said 1936



19.09.2012

Prof. Dr. Dalila El-Kerdany: “Port Said: Challenges for Architecture and Urban Conservation – Introduction to the Excursion“

In her lecture Prof. El-Kerdany introduced the cities Port Said and Port Fouad to the participants of the workshop, as a first impression before visiting the places on the excursion day. Both cities are located at the north coast of Egypt, directly at the northern entrance of the Suez Canal.

First of all Prof. Dalila dwelled on the history of Port Said. The city was founded in 1859, during the construction of the Suez Canal. 1869 the canal was opened and Port Said swelled to a city with 10.000 inhabitants. After World War I, the directors of the Suez Canal Company decided to create a new city on the Asian bank of the canal, for its labourers and functionaries. Port Fouad was established in 1926, containing 300 living houses designed by the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Nowadays it is a metropolitan area with about a million residents.

Further Prof. Dalila went into the details of the unique architectural typology of Port Said. It is characterized by its colonial architecture with continuous timber balconies along the facades - a unique typology in its Egyptian context. Today many buildings are threatened because of bad maintenance conditions, suffering from termite infestation and affected by complicated ownership and rental structures. Several of them have been torn down in the last years and replaced by high rise buildings.

Since 2006 „The Committee of the Preservation of Heritage Buildings“, supported by Prof. Dr. Dalila El-Kerdany, is working on the preservation of Port Said's heritage. In 2011 they enforced the promulgation of 500 buildings listed as heritage sites.

23.09.2012

Mohamed El-Shahed: “1950s architecture between International modernism and Nasserism“

Mr. El-Shahed spoke about the modernist architecture in Egypt from the 1950th - 1970th with a small excursion to its beginning in the 1930s.

In his eyes, modernist architecture in Egypt was the product of an awareness of international discourses on architecture. It was perceived by architects as the language of the time but also of the place. Despite many architects being educated abroad, they returned. In 1950s and 60s the Egyptian state allowed some architects to practice their modern design. The state fully embraced modernist design as an expression of national progress. However, by 1970 when Sadat took office Modernism had died. In the course of the forty years of Sadat and Mubarak Egypt lost much of the modernist heritage.

Further he stressed, Egypt may never have an UNESCO World Heritage site from the 20th century but it is never too late for Egyptians to rediscover what was so common not too long ago.



Villa for Mme Valadji in Heliopolis by architect Charles Ayroul 1938-39



Villa for Kamel Bek Abdel Rehim in Heliopolis by architect Charles Ayroul 1932

23.09.2012

Prof. Heinz Nagler: “Development of public spaces as initials for urban development“

Prof. Nagler started his lecture with the perception of public space, questioning: The void - the peculiarity of the oriental Islamic city? Shari and Zuqaq as the only two types of streets in the Historic Islamic City. He continued with “public space as a physical thing - a container”, showing compositions of solid and void in public spaces. Illustrated by two German competitions, Münster - Straubengasse and Memmingen - Schrammenplatz. Public spaces are defined with different qualities by narrowness and wideness.

Prof. Nagler continued with urban space strategies and narrative public spaces, illustrated by examples of European cities. “Interventions - curate public space” showing the “interactive urban landmark for the landesmuseum Stuttgart ” done by his office SCALA as well as their 1st Prize competition “social seismograph“. A social-political sculpture as an example for “a New Tahrir Square”. The lecture ended with an outlook to the occupancy, appropriation of public space, guerrilla gardening and urban farming.





24.09.2012

Prof. Inken Baller: "Rehabilitation of World Heritage Cities"

The lecture of Prof. Inken Baller was split up into three parts: First topic was the threats towards World Heritage Sites on the example of Venice - tourism versus the habitable city and Istanbul - economic pressure versus conservation. Further she continued with UNESCO World Heritage Site and its charters, tools and strategies. Afterwards she showed two German Case Studies Quedlinburg and Stralsund. Quedlinburg as an example for a World Heritage City, which is not anymore a living city and Stralsund on the other hand an example for a successful development of a World Heritage City to a liveable city.

Stralsund mostly escaped war damages, but the historic city centre got neglected to the point of demolishing some of the old building fabrics during the GDR. Long time ago the historic city centre of Stralsund has lost its identity-founding meaning for its inhabitants. Most of them are living on the outskirts of the city. With the German reunification the few contenders for preserving the historic city centre finally received support. The main goal is not only to create the city centre of Stralsund to a touristic magnet; moreover it should be an important centre for the inhabitants themselves. Both cannot succeed by only high quality reconstruction of old building fabrics. Trend-setting contemporary buildings also have to be generated. In 2006 the Ozeaneum by Behnisch and Partners on the peninsula opened up and gave a strong impulse for the touristic development. Also of particular importance is the development of school locations close to the historic city centre by modern high quality complements.

Moreover the strengthening of the historic city centre as a point of purchase is accomplished by the planning and building of the Quarter 17. It will be an example for integrating a large-scale retail sale in the city centre without building a shopping mall. Only in this way the city can recoup habitants. So Stralsund is on a good way.

Result: Critical reconstruction means parcel orientated preservation of the historical city foot print with contemporary architecture. Only in this way the traditional city can be combined with the present and the future.

25.09.2012

Prof. Dr. Salah Haj Ismail: “Reviewing Aleppo Public Spaces in Terms of Creativity and Co-Living“

The lecture reviewed the different typologies of public spaces in the historic city centre of Aleppo with examples as the courtyard of the Omayyade Mosque and the vestibule in front of the Citadel. Prof. Ismail continued with the human activities in public spaces of the historic town in comparison of traditional duties and the life of today. Thereby the question was: Is identity of public spaces defined by its strategic situation or its dynamic development? After this an outlook to the new communication technology and the lack of real activities in public spaces in the consequence of its influence was given. How can we respond to the new needs of public activities? As an answer to this question excerpts of an impromptu project developed by students of the Aleppo University and students of an Italian University was shown.



25.09.2012

Prof. Dr. Howayda Al-Harthy: “The contested heritage of living medieval cities“

The content of the lecture is about the transformation of medieval Islamic cities, on the example of Fes, Damascus, Riyadh, Beirut and Tripoli. The typical elements and their transformation are shown. Further new developments and actual problems are discussed on different examples in the Middle East, thereby western and modern influences are pointed out.

A basic question of the lecture is: “How do we define Heritage?” Followed by the clearly pointed out answer from Dr. Howayda: “Heritage is how we mediate our relationship with the past”, with the basic elements of „Memory, Identity and Ownership“. Further she points out: “Heritage should rather remain linked to the cultural context to which it belongs, should be defined as that which is beyond the physical and visible and should be recognized as an open process of production and transformation sustained by its rooted links to the community and its local identity. Negotiating heritage is therefore how we mediate our relationship with our “past”.





Curriculum of the Joint Urban Design Workshop

The Joint Urban Design Workshop comprises three basic elements:

- Studio work in mixed working groups
- Lectures and presentations
- Excursions and field studies



Studio work in mixed working groups

The studio work of the workshop was organized in five working groups and each group started from a specific focal point for the urban development of the site. Each group had students from all participating faculties and were guided by two lecturers from the participating faculties. The groups started from different focal points, but all had the same goal: to elaborate a draft urban design concept for the North-Eastern Edge of Historic Cairo.



Through this, lively discussions were warranted because of the different point of views and the need to find compromises for common development suggestions and strategies. The goals of the lessons were to convey the complexity of development planning for historic inner-city areas.

By working collaboratively in practice and by discussing the different strategies for handling the challenges of the development of inner city districts, we reached new insights and enriched the experiences of all participants.

Focal Topics of the Working Groups

1. Development of public spaces as initials for a renewal process
2. Integration of archaeological remains and institutional buildings as initials for a renewal process
3. Design of new building typologies in the historic context
4. Design of community based development strategies
5. Elaboration of urban design guidelines and a 'Masterplan' for the case study area and its adjacent areas



Ass. Prof. / Lectures guiding the working groups:

1. Juliane Jäger, BTU Cottbus;
Ahmed Hassan Moustafa,
University of Alexandria
2. Stefanie Wladika, BTU Cottbus;
Iyas Shahin, University of
Damascus
3. Saoud Al-Jaraki, BTU Cottbus;
Sara Ibrahim, University of Cairo
4. Gabriele Moritz, BTU Cottbus;
Tamer El-Serafi, University of
Cairo
5. Benjamin Wille, BTU Cottbus;
Nourhan Hisham, University of
Cairo



Lectures and presentations

Next to the above mentioned ten lectures several presentations relevant to the topic, an interim and a final presentation of the five working groups were part of the programme of the workshop. The projects of the five working groups were presented in a public exhibition at the end of the workshop in a hall of the architecture faculty Cairo to the representatives of the university and the municipality and to further colleagues.



Excursions and field studies

A visit of Historic Cairo and the Citadel, a sail on the Nile as well as several field studies in the study area and wider inner city of Cairo were part of the workshop. Further the workshop programme contained a half day excursion to the Pyramids of Giza, followed by a visit of the New Settlement „6th of October“ and the Al-Azhar Park in Cairo. The programme also included a full day excursion to Port Said and Port Fouad at the north coast of Egypt guided by Prof. Dr. Dalila El-Kerdany.



Participants

University of Aleppo, Faculty of Architecture

Ms. Prof. Dr. Fatina Kourdi
Mr. Prof. Dr. Salah Haj Ismail
Students:
Ms. May Jamal Aga
Ms. Noura Alsaleh
Mr. Mher Darakjian
Mr. Zohrab Ourishigian
Mr. Mahmoud Hreitani
Ms. Layla Zeebar
Ms. Yara Khouri
Ms. Joelle Zalloum

University of Alexandria, Faculty of fine Arts

Ms. Prof. Dr. Hebatalla Abouelfadl,
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Students:
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Mr. Muhammad Nabeel Abdel Hafez
Mr. Moustafa Fathy El Said Mansour
Ms. Ghada Essam Sayed Ahmed
Ms. Bassant Essam Mahmoud Morsy
Ms. Toka Ebrahim Mohamed Tawfik

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Ms. Joyce Abou Moussa
Ms. Myriam Zaloum
Ms. Salwa Sabbagh
Mr. Rudy Maroun
Mr. Ali Zeineddine

University of Damascus, Faculty of Architecture

Mr. Prof. Dr. Oqba Fakoush, Vice
Dean of the Faculty
Lecturer:
Iyas Shahin
Students:
Ms. Salma Jabri
Ms. Nour Harastani
Mr. Muhammad Mahdy Al Sous
Mr. Samer Said
Mr. Edwar Hanna
Mr. Firas Hawasly

University of Cairo, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Architecture

Ms. Prof. Dr. Dalila El-Kerdany
Mr. Prof. Dr. Nabeel El-Hady (Coordinator of the Work-shop)
Mr. Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ouf
Ms. Prof. Dr. Shahdan Shabka
Ms. Dr. Sherin Ali Ahmed Gammaz
Teaching Assistants:
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Ms. Nourhan Hisham
Mr. Mohamed Elsaid
Ms. Sara Ibrahim
Students:
Mr. Ahmed Ezzat
Ms. Farida Waheed
Ms. Ghada Mourad
Ms. Hadeer Adel Sabry
Mr. Ibrahim El Hadidi
Mr. Mohamed Ehab
Mr. Mohamed El-Dibawy
Ms. Noorhan Mustafa Hanafi
Mr. Omar Mahmoud
Ms. Sameh Shaalan

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Mr. Saoud Al-Jaraki
Mr. Christoph Wessling
Students:
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Ms. Dominika Słaboń
Ms. Ksenia Mitasova
Ms. Sophia Klauke
Ms. Maria Feil
Ms. Anouk Conde Gil
Ms. Ecem Sarıçayır
Ms. Sandra Izabela Lysakowska
Mr. Florian Ibold
Mr. Benjamin Bialon
Mr. Richard Koschorreck
Mr. Lourenço Barreto
Mr. Moritz Mechtel



Results of the Working Groups

Group 1 : Development of public spaces as initials for a renewal process

by Juliane Jäger

As a first step, existing spaces for community interaction in the area of Bab El-Nasr had been spotted and analyzed according to qualitative and quantitative parameters, such as location and configuration, access and linkages, uses and activities, users and control, perception and image. Drawn comparative studies of varying public spaces within the multi-layered morphological context of Bab El-Nasr district and the results of the evaluation matrix allowed students to seize the potentials of the existing situation and defining the needs for further development.

Following the analytical work, Group 1 decided for a design concept with two major aspects:

1. Upgrading and refining of existing public spaces - partly with extended and solidified quarter's structures, accessibility control via traffic regulations, hierarchy of street sizes, surface materials and urban furniture interventions
2. Implementation of a large scale urban element along the historic city wall - as catalyst and interaction platform - that brings together residents from neighbouring quarters, locals and tourists.

During long sessions students discussed, what the role of a historic city wall in the 21st century could be. Their design solution wants to transform it from a limiting border into a spine for cultural activities: in its physical appearance being used as stage or screen of an already existing outdoor theatre and accessible sculpture in a park, in its unexcavated parts being memorized as imprint in the ground figure plan of a newly planned market square serving the already established junk traders, further on being used as archaeological monument and exhibition object in a historical museum and as a track for pedestrians that connects other quarters, other points of attraction and might finally lead to Al-Azhar Park.



Masterplan of Group 1



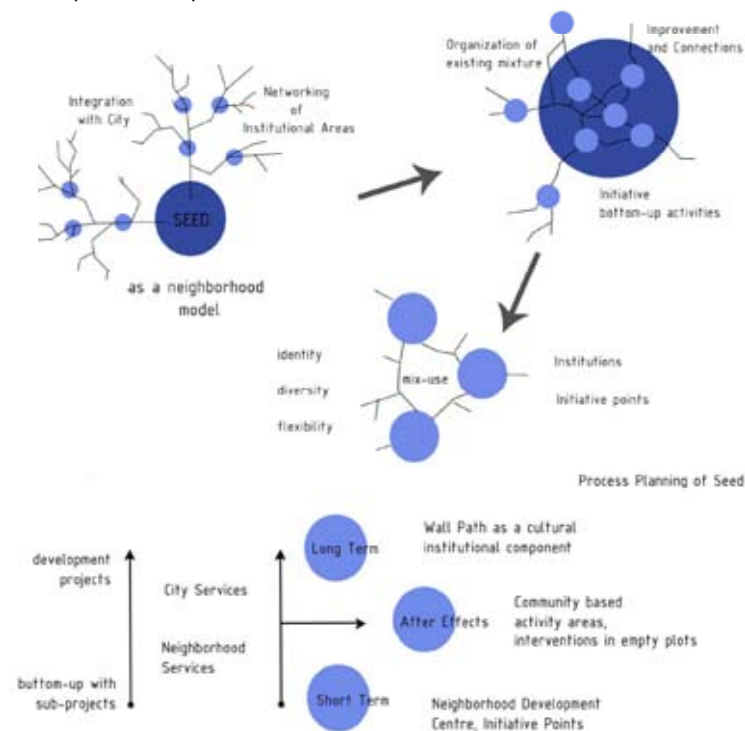
Historic development 1919 and 1978



Perspective open spaces in public housing grid



Masterplan of Group 2



Concept



Group 2: Integration of archaeological remains and institutional buildings as initials for a renewal process

by Stefanie Wladika

A SWOT-Analyse on the area of Bab El-Nasr focusing on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the case study area and its surrounding in order to get a clear idea and determination of position, was the first step of the group. Following this, the students discussed several possibilities for the development strategy. They decided to go for a conceptual bottom-up strategy, with small sub-projects as starting initials and larger development projects at the peak. Further they distinguished in the type of initials between neighbourhood scale and bigger city scale as well as long term and short term initials. Next to these bottom-up initiatives, their proposal included the organization of existing functional mixtures as well as improvements and integrations of connections to other parts of the city.

In order to strengthen their ideas, the group developed four different types of scenarios:

1. **Community Development Centre:** Located in the centre of the residential area, mainly used by direct and adjoining residents of the historical quarter, integrated functions contain educational support for women, children and families, playable 24 hours/day
2. **Initiative Street Development:** Upgrading of public and semi-public places as well as private plots, splitted into short-term initials as direct implementations and long-term initials as an integration of a cultural entrance for locals and bordering neighbourhood, playable 24 hours/day
3. **Entertainment Area Rehabilitation:** Located in the South of the area, revitalization of the former cinema with positive impact on the upstream public space, used by local habitants and citizens of Cairo
4. **Historic Wall as Institutional Connector:** Revitalizing the wall area with an activity path, spread art museum, connection to Al-Azhar Park, used by neighbourhood and tourists

Group 3 : Design of new building typologies in the historic context

by Saoud Al-Jaraki

Dealing with such a complex site with a large variety of existing typologies required a massive amount of analysis and data gathering. Meeting with inhabitants of the area and interviewing them, the team tried to get as much information about their lives and even to get inside their homes and define in which conditions they are living and what are their requirements of internal/external space and the space in between, was an initial key to define the problems and deal with them. In addition, our team planned a nice tour inside Darb Al-Asfar quarter - in particularly Al Souhaimi house - which was a great experience and enrichment concerning old traditional urban fabric and its answers to dealing with climatic issues in those regions. (Knowing what we have phase).

During our site visits we noticed some endangered building statues and some vacant lots which were a potential for new planned zones with new suitable typologies. Overlaying the land use with physical status and the occupancy of space analysis led to pointing out the problematic of the studied area (large empty lots, endangered/bad conditions of built environment, open undefined therefore unused spaces, from the Historic City neglected Ayyubid wall and the enormously wide street cutting through). (Knowing what we need phase).

After long team discussions with a lot of input and proposed solutions. We decided to address those problems each and then combine the solutions with one proposal provided with two different new typologies depending on the situation and the new function.

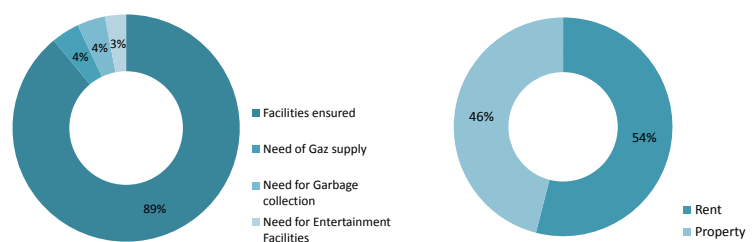
- The mixed-use typology with the courtyard as a transitory space with life qualities between public and private and as an answer to the climatic and social requirements of the area. With housing in the upper floors and commercial-entertainment combination of uses in the ground floor.
- The filling in typology which consists mainly on commercial and free time uses and mainly used to fill in gaps in the urban fabric and



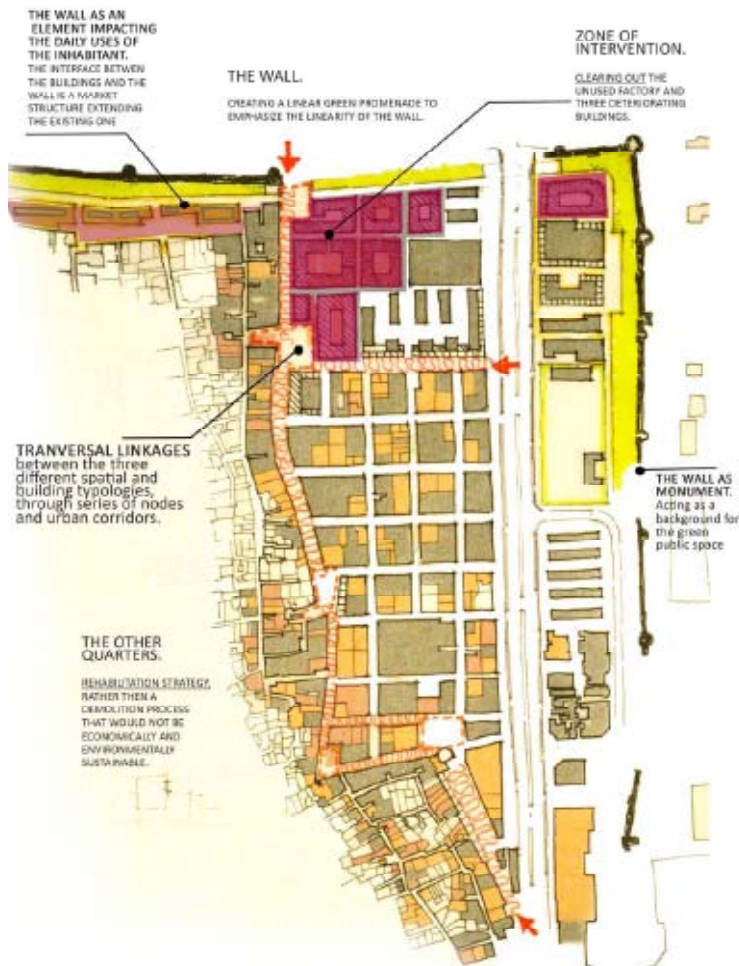
Masterplan of Group 3



Perspective



Facilities and occupancies



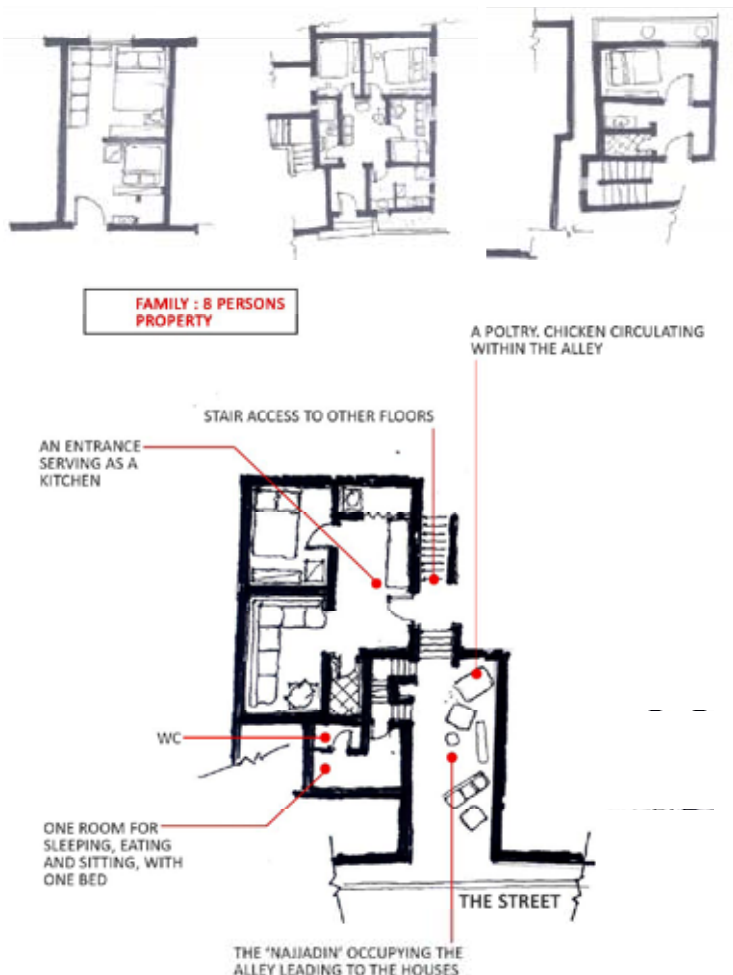
to redefine the edges of the opened undefined spaces.

With the help of those two kinds of typologies and defining the typologies of the voids in our area (the courtyards inside the new typologies, linear voids which are the streets with the proposed boulevard, the nodes like squares, the linear space along the Ayyubid Wall) and providing those spaces again with their hierarchy between public and private lies the key of promoting this area and enhancing its urban qualities.

Reconnecting the quarter with addressing the street as a connecting element rather than a separating one was our next step. With making this street narrower and giving the qualities not only for passing through vehicles but also to the people, to use the wide sidewalks as they need (commercial or free time, social connectivity activities).

Our last step was to deal with the wall as container of the old urban fabric and its main role as a protector of the old town and its inhabitants, keeping outsiders on the other side was clearly for us the best solution, in which we decided to use and give the empty linear space inside and along the wall back to the inhabitants by providing them with a greened space and with potentially a temporarily used market in the gap on the north edge. (What to do phase)

Interventions



Group 4 : Design of community based development strategies

by Gabriele Moritz

The approach to a future urban design scheme was derived from the bottom-up idea of planning; generating guidelines and strategies for the spatial development of the area by closely researching the needs and potentials of the existing community.

The research area is located at the north-western edge of historic Cairo, which displays several transformation phases and has therefore a heterogeneous citizen's structure. The transformation is morphological phrased and spatially visible by an orthogonal grid starting in the west from the edge of the densely grown old town and ending in the north and east by remains of the old city wall. A main traffic road running north-south is dividing the texture and building a barrier resulting in a remaining strip of mixed solitaires east of the road ending at the old city wall. Further analyzing the area within the context of the entire city, a lack of public green space was ascertained. Located at the southern edge one block from our site, we find the existing Al Azhar park, which is one of the most important recreational green spaces within the inner city, although with limited access. The park is ending at an underused strip of waste land which is stretching further north.



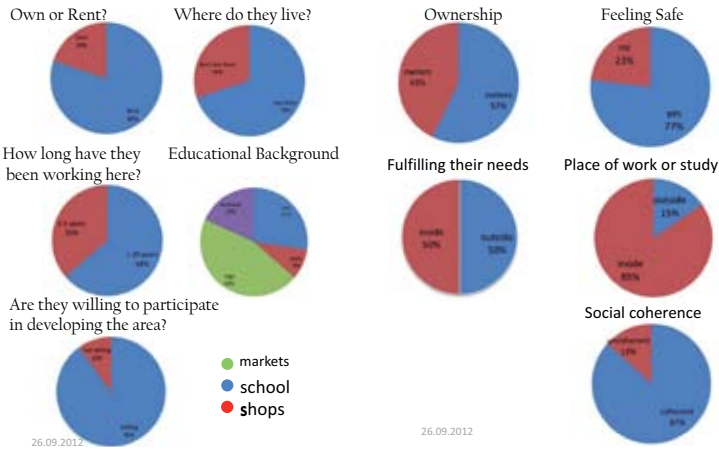
Masterplan of Group 4

Starting by interviewing people from different areas within the neighborhood, we soon found out, that the community consists of several groups, local players and stakeholders with different backgrounds, interests and complaints. Part of the task was to denominate them and to characterize their thoughts and needs when planning developments for the area. A map locating points of interaction, public spaces and buildings with communal footprints was drawn resulting in a connection strategy with visual aspects and action points. Addressing the communal uses such as workshops, stores and markets by emphasizing a spatial network is leading to important linkages with the surroundings and their public and cultural institutions; preserving the typical structure of the old town and accent important old buildings.

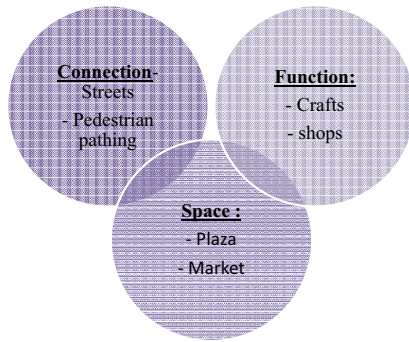
Resulting in establishing a southern entrance point by enhancing the mar-



Strategic plan



Shop keepers Survey and Inhabitants Survey



Strategy



ket function of the public space adjacent to the small community mosque and at the northern edge a small community park with linkage to the public housing blocks. Another spatial intervention would result in inclining the use of the main traffic road to a residential street by narrowing the northern and southern entrance and establishing public uses upgrading its function as a linkage to the eastern parts by extending the main veins of the orthogonal grid. Solidifying the mixed-used, educational and public housing structures would underline that goal and also form a dense edge of the inner city. The underused areas east of the city wall could come in use as a northern extension of Al Azhar park addressing the lack of public green space and spatially elaborating the former structure of the wall as a connectional path for residents and tourists. For our understanding as urban planners and designers participational approaches are key factors for designing sustainable neighborhoods.

Concluding I would like to emphasize that the most rewarding aspects of the cooperation were the discussions and comprehension gained.

Group 5 : Elaboration of urban design guidelines and a 'Masterplan' for the case study area and its adjacent areas

by Benjamin Wille

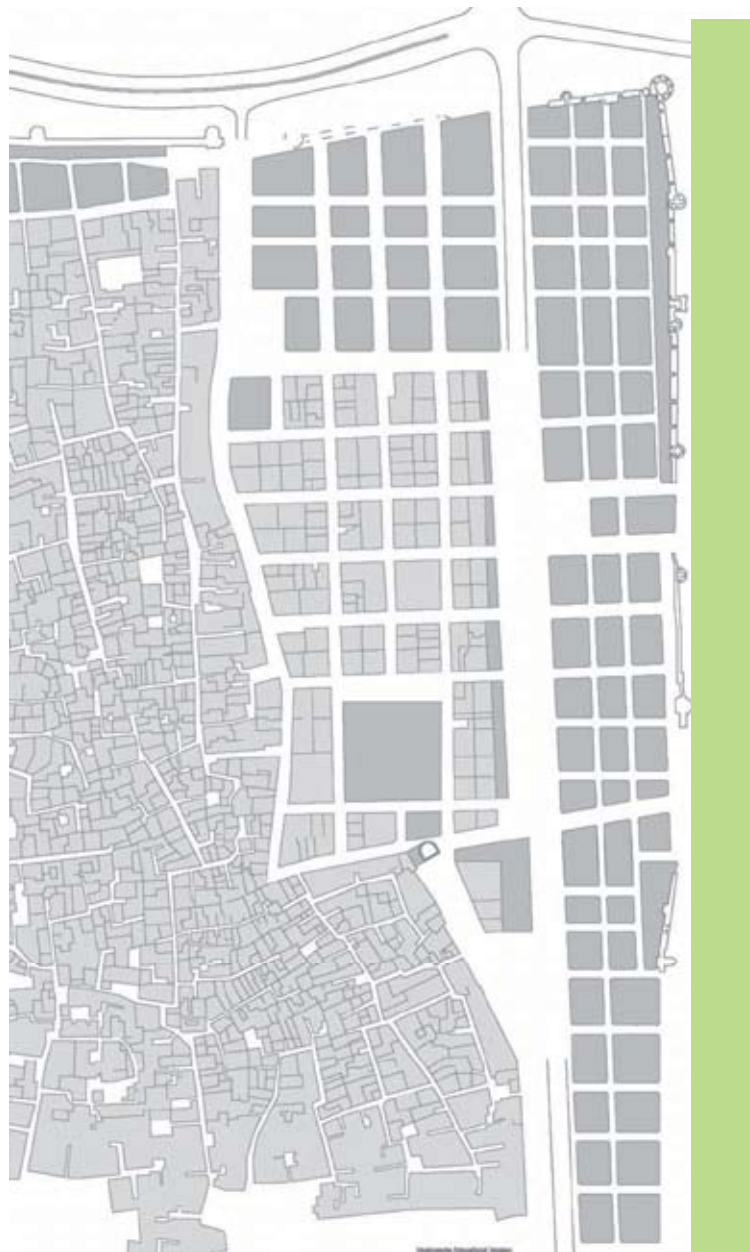
The approach to the developing area, which is located within an extremely heterogeneous surrounding, started in a larger scale by examining the whole inner city. The main results of the top-down analyses were a) a lack of public green spaces within Cairo, except Al Zahra Park which is located nearby the site, b) a main-traffic net with a parallel line through the area, which is not necessarily a main traffic line for transit and c) a long belt of underused spaces east of the planning area with potentials for the site.

Further analyzes of the area and its neighbourhoods followed. The main result here was the division of the site into three parts: 1) the old field in the west (up to the old city wall), 2) the geometric grid in the middle, 3) the mixeduse structures in the north and east (up to the wall), considering that this area marks the end of the dense, compact city or rather the necessity to create a changeover.

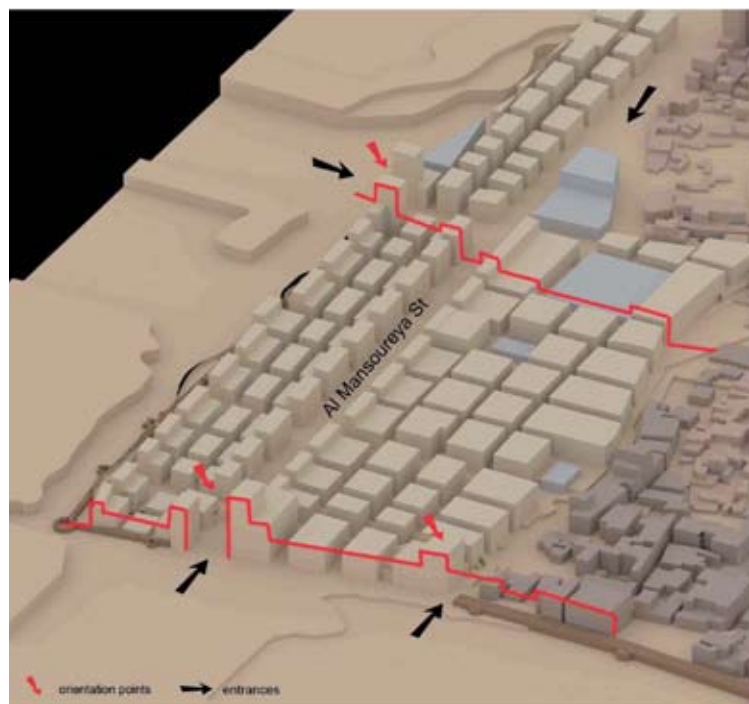
Among these results a greater idea evolved - to transform the heterogeneous belt in the east, as an addition to the existing Al Azhar Park, into a big public green lung. At the same time this park could spatially formulate the end of the inner city very clearly. To emphasize this situation, the density of the inner city should end excessively directly at the park (comparing Central Park, New York).

The development of the area should preserve the old part and emphasize its typical structures – defining rules for the conservation is very important for a careful transformation. The grid of the middle field works quite well – the main street is no longer necessary for transit and should be downgraded to minor residential street. The mixed-used structures should be developed to a dense living area adjacent the park.

All these urban blocks should receive an attractive access to the new green lung to bring the park into second and third row, into the deepness of built space.



Masterplan of Group 5



Perspective 3D Modell

Appendix- Feedback of student participants

Cross-Cultural Cooperation

What kind of positive experiences did you gain?

- I have gained many positive experiences starting from the collaborative group work with students coming from different backgrounds, sharing different ideas and debating in a constructive manner to reach a goal. Some technical issues related the methodological framework of looking into such complex site, a level of conceptualization, different representation methods.(by Salwa Sabbagh - AUB)
- Ten days were enough to learn something new (precious time issue), even short time working in the studio, I mean learning during having fun and exchange cultures was amazing, no pressure and good results even we were a large group it was more creative and produced more ideas for the analysis perspective and then the solutions (Discussing people number) and as a Syrian I could touch the Cairo life by my hand even I knew it before but that helped me more to see the common Arabic characters we have. and also see it from the west eyes (touch reality more as a planning student) so it emphasizes my thinking that to provide a more successful solution touch more people real life and see their life perspective (the solution should be from people and for them). (by Salma Jabri - University of Damascus)
- To get to see my culture through the eyes of others and to have the very perfect chance to judge it accordingly. And to have a quick glance on many distinctive and different individuals representing unique and authentic cultures, exchanging knowledge, thoughts, experiences and friendship.
(by Fira Hawasly - University of Damascus)
- I found the interaction and the collaboration between students from different universities to be very helpful and beneficial. Meeting new people with new thoughts and ideas and ways of work, and last but not least is the making of amazing new friends. (by Ibrahim El Hadidi - University of Cairo)
- Working with students from different nationalities, different branches. Working in a city/ space in Cairo a really different but also somehow familiar situation/ condition of city, but differences in some aspects. Being an observer but at the same time being able to communicate with people, the real people as well as with the city. (by Exem Sarıçayır- BTU)
- Being at this time at such a developing, revolving state and to get a broader understanding about what has been happening during the last year(-s), and to compare the political, religious situation with the surrounding countries, that are also going through a radical change. Getting the experiences from the people living there. (by Richard Koschorreck - BTU)

What was problematic?

- nothing due to the help of the arab student, who were highly attentive to all our needs, from buying necessary things to accompanying us through the city. (by Ksenia Mitsova - BTU)
- A very short-pre-scheduled-term experience regarding the very intensive bulk of information to render and the very problematic issues to solve and interpret solutions. Although this was the main aim of the workshop, but some extra time would have resulted in better-shaped solutions.
(by Fira Hawasly - University of Damascus)
- Maybe because I loved it so much I can't see any problem.
(by Salma Jabri - University of Damascus)

Urban Design and Revitalization of the Historic City District

What have you learned professionally?

- I improved my knowledge about urban planning: how to start the design, what is important, how to do analyses, but the most important thing that I know now is awareness how important knowledge about the culture is, as well as habits of people who will be connected with our design and also climate.
(by Dominika Słaboń - BTU)
- I learned about the special urban features of the muslim cities by the example of Cairo. I also enriched my knowledge about urban planning, regarding different kinds of the urban space. I've learned that there might be some communicative unforeseen difficulties when working in a mixed group (different background and different culture groups)
(by Ksenia Mitasova - BTU)
- As I was at the community group I learned more about collecting data from people and their life analysis I mean some times at the street we think we know what we see but when our Egyptian friends explain to us we see another image, and by the team discussing I learned more about choosing the right question for the case I'm working on, and then how we can reach the final project collecting all our different experience, cultural, methods, and we did it in so short time but it was amazing.
(by Salma Jabri - University of Damascus)
- I have learned new ways of looking at sites of tangible issues like heritage and modernization, how to try and combine two approaches that might be contradictory into a new more responsive and sustainable approach answering the needs assessed. I have enriched my skills in organizing the work.
(by Salwa Sabbagh - AUB)
- Different methodologies of work and design process.
(by Ibrahim El Hadidi - University of Cairo)
- The division of the work groups into focus points helped me to learn in detail about the different levels and scales of urban design, and how to make a project that covers a lot of details. Also I've learned about the importance of the social aspects of urban design and how different cultures can dramatically affect the design process.
(by Mohammad Ahmed Mahmoud Abdelkhalek - University of Alexandria)



How has the project influenced you?

- I loved my work and my specialization more and more because I can help people and that do satisfy me so I should keep improving myself more and more. (by Salma Jabri - University of Damascus)
- How to preserve / respect historical places, old building techniques and city fabrics in my design, and how I learn from these heritage. (by Sameh Shaalan - University of Cairo)
- I will be more sensitive to this for who I will make design, and in which climate, culture. It's really important to know situation for which we make design. (by Dominika Słaboń - BTU)
- As an architect I became more interesting in the urban scale projects. As a person I was impressed by the warm reception of the arab students. I feel that I would be happy to welcome them at my place with the same amount of warmness. (by Ksenia Mitasova - BTU)
- Learned by the actual situation not to think about a developing strategy in a European way. Got a more sensitized attitude towards the existing structure and living conditions of the inhabitants. (by Richard Koschorreck - BTU)



What did you enjoy most?

- I really enjoyed the teamwork and the relation between the students and the teacher assistants during the workshop, I enjoyed the social interaction between many kinds of nationalities during the workshop, many people from many nationalities in one event and no one speaks his native language. It was really funny. (by Ahmed Ezzat - University of Cairo)
- Really enjoyed knowing knew people and the idea of mixed group work, also loved the trips we had with all of the workshop participants. In addition, I really enjoyed mostly the lectures held through the workshop it was really useful and well chosen topics. (by Noorhan Mustafa Hanafi - University of Cairo)
- I'm still studying for my bachelor, I learnt a lot about urban design since I had participants in my team older than me and studying for Masters Degree. Working with different points of view and perspectives was good. (by Ghada Essam Sayed Ahmed - University of Alexandria)
- The debates and discussions held considering the 5 topics, and the different backgrounds and themes presented by each individual. (by Fira Hawasly - University of Damascus)

What did you enjoy least?

- We had two parts in the workshop, first part was for the analysis, and the second part was for the urban design itself, I think we needed more time for the design, something like more 24 hrs. (by Ahmed Ezzat - University of Cairo)
- I wish there were much more time to enjoy cairo at night. (by Muhammad Nabeel Abdel Hafez - University of Alexandria)
- Not all member of our group was interested in opinion or idea of the rest of participant. (by Dominika Słaboń - BTU)



Others / Notes

- We thank you so much for each moment you spent to complete this amazing workshop and i hope that one day we can have it again in my country.
(by Salma Jabri - University of Damascus)
- A very collaborative group of instructors and assistants helped shape the success of this experience. None of what have resulted would have seen the sun if the whole atmosphere was not motivating, comforting and creative.
(by Fira Hawasly - University of Damascus)
- I would like to thank DAAD for funding this workshop, as it was a good opportunity to have such a great experience. I wish the fund could include students from the host city, even only if it possible to book the hotel for them too, because mostly we spend a lot of time together working at night and they hardly could do that. I know it may be needed such a huge budget to include student from the host city but we hope it could be afforded in future workshops.
(by Muhammad Nabeel Abdel Hafez - University of Alexandria)
- As I already participated in some workshops other than this one, I think workshops are a great opportunity for exchange of academic knowledge, ideas and personal culture. I enjoy them a lot and I hope that the cooperation between the universities lasts longer as for other students can benefit from this unique experience. (by Ghada Essam Sayed Ahmed - University of Alexandria)
- The organization was really nice. Egyptian students were always helpful. I don't have complains. I'm thankful that I could take part in this workshop and I wish to take part in the future too. (by Dominika Słaboń - BTU)
- Very well organized, good proportion of working hours and sightseeing activities, an empathetic group leading strategie during the workshop (at least in our group). (by Richard Koschorreck - BTU)



