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**Cairo - Egypt**  
Urban and Achitectural Heritage in Danger Workshop - November 2023

## Al-Darb Al-Ahmar Neighborhood

*Bab Al-Wazir Street*

# Cairo - Egypt

Urban and Achitectural Heritage in Danger Workshop - November 2023





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# Introduction to Ta'ziz Partnership

## Short Measures 2023

October 2023 - December 2023

The Arabic word “Ta’ziz” means “strengthening/consolidation” and is intended to express the program’s aim clearly. The program enables dialogue spaces for reform efforts at universities in North Africa/Middle East and for the integration of non-university actors - because university education and academic cooperation also play an essential role in times of social and political change.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) uses funds from the Foreign Office to support the “Ta’ziz Partnership” program with partner universities in the following countries in the MENA region (Middle East & North Africa): primarily Tunisia, Sudan, Lebanon and Iraq, as well as Egypt and Algeria, Yemen, Jordan, Libya and Morocco.

Since 2012, the DAAD has supported social and political developments in the North Africa/Middle East region. However, more than ten years after the “Arab Spring”, the hopes, wishes and expectations for the people of the MENA region associated with the uprisings and protests have not been fulfilled for most people. In some cases, there was a democratic awakening, but there was also a strengthening of authoritarian regimes, even leading to open armed conflict and state collapse. Against this background, the Foreign Office has reviewed its funding program “Science Partnerships in Transition Countries North Africa/Middle East” and realigned its cultural and educational policy activities with countries in the region under the name “Ta’ziz Partnership for Democracy”.

The DAAD program “Ta’ziz Partnership” fits into this concept and builds on the positive results from the last decade of scientific cooperation between German universities and their partners in the region: strengthening academic freedom, supporting reform efforts at the foreign partner universities, strengthening participatory approaches and knowledge transfer between non-university actors in and to science and increased participation of women and young adults as well as communication and exchange between science and society.

The Ta’ziz short-term measures and scientific cooperation want to bring about additional changes in the establishment and expansion of cooperation structures and the transfer of knowledge between the participating universities and non-university actors, as well as in strengthening the quality of teaching, research and university management. The Ta’ziz networks also create participatory dialogue spaces with non-university actors. On the one hand, they develop a multiplier function and contribute to knowledge transfer and scientific communication between the network partners.

# Urban & Architectural Heritage in Danger Workshop

*Al-Darb Al-Ahmar, Cairo - 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023*

This workshop is conducted as part of the Ta'ziz Partnership - Short Measures 2023 program in collaboration with six universities: Brandenburg University of Technology in Germany, Cairo University and Alexandria University in Egypt, University of Baghdad, and University of Kurdistan - Erbil in Iraq, and German Jordanian University in Jordan.

This hybrid workshop focuses on the pressing issue of architectural and urban heritage in danger, particularly in the face of recent conflicts or unstable situations. The consequences of armed conflicts, such as those in Iraq and Syria, governmental negligence due to non-functioning administrations, or private economic interests, have led to the severe neglect and endangerment of historic city districts and their distinctive architectural ensembles in various Middle Eastern regions. The workshop explores and discusses civil society-driven approaches for preserving and revitalizing these historic areas to address these issues.

By focusing on the case study of Al-Darb Al-Ahmar, the workshop and online colloquium discussed innovative approaches for the preservation and sustainable development of historic districts and architectural heritage facing crises. The insights and outcomes of this workshop will serve as a foundation for strategies and enhancements to existing study modules. Presently, the challenge lies in effectively managing and safeguarding these neighbourhoods through civil society initiatives, with potential support from international organizations.

## **The workshop included the following key subjects:**

- Urban planning and development with old town reconstruction, redevelopment, and revitalization.
- Architecture, focusing on renovation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings within a historic context.
- Urban management, exploring organizational models for old town redevelopment and integrated urban development planning.
- Urban and architectural history.
- Revitalization efforts related to local craftsmanship and cultural heritage.
- Housing strategies within historical contexts.

The workshop accommodated thirty-one funded participants in total. Each partner university had the opportunity to have representation from five students, forming five working groups, each consisting of six students. Nevertheless, logistical constraints led to the inclusion of six students from BTU, nine from Cairo University, seven from Alexandria University, four from the University of Baghdad, one from Kurdistan University, and four from GJU. Additionally, two participants from Kurdistan University joined the online colloquium but could not attend the on-site Cairo workshop due to a visa delay.

## WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

	Description	Day	Date	Morning	Afternoon
Part 01	Online Colloquium	We.	01.11		Input Sessions
		We.	08.11		Input Sessions
		We.	15.11		Input Sessions
Part 02	Arrival Day	Tu.	21.11	Arrival & Check-in	
	On-Site Workshop	We.	22.11	<b>Case Studies + Presentations</b>	Site Visit + Group Discussion
		Th.	23.11	Morning Meeting, Group Work, On-site Work, Consultation per need	
		Fr.	24.11	Group Work, On-site Work, Consultation per need	
		Sa.	25.11	Morning Meeting, Group Work	<b>Consultation with external Experts</b>
		Su.	26.11	Group Discussion, On-site Work, Consultation per need	
		Mo.	27.11	<b>Final colloquium + Round Table</b>	
		Tu.	28.11	Check-out and Departure	

## STUDY AREA

The area of what is known today as Al-Darb Al-Ahmar district dates back to the Fatimids reign and era, where the Cairo site was chosen 3 kilometres north-east of Al-Qatae' (the Tulunid capital of Egypt, founded by Ahmad Ibn Tulun). The area's urban development started to come to the surface when the commercial activities and crafts industries stretched along the extension of AlMoez Street, outside the Fatimid Cairo's gates (Bab Zeweila) into the south. The district's name (the Red Path in English) symbolised the Mamluk's blood that ran down the citadel into the district's streets from the well-known Citadel massacre that took place in 1811, where many Mamluk leaders were killed, following the orders of Muhammed Ali, Egypt's ruler.

With the later urban developments that Cairo witnessed during the 20th century and the creation of new neighbourhoods such as Allmailia, AlTawfiqiyah, and Abidin, the area started to deteriorate when little attention was paid to the older city districts, and when the wealthy population began to migrate, resulting into drastic social, economic, and urban changes to AlDarb AlAhmar.

One of the most famous streets of Al-Darb Al-Ahmar is Bab AlWazir (the Minister's Gate) street, which is named after the minister Nagm AlDein Ayoub, who instructed building a gate in Cairo's eastern wall. Many historians consider the street one of the most distinguished heritage sites due to its richness with the aristocracy.

Mamluk structures, such as Khair Beik Complex, the Blue Mosque, Umm AlSultan Shaaban Complex, Beit AlRazzaz, and plenty of other heritage buildings and structures, some of which, along with the area's fabric are now in danger of collapse, negligence, and unappreciation.

In this workshop, the groups focused on the street of Bab AlWazir, starting from Bab Zuwaila to the end of the street. The street has been divided into five zones, each characterised by a diverse range of historically significant buildings, varying typologies, unique activities, and spatial and urban characteristics.

**ZONE 01**

Start Point: Bab Zuweila  
End Point: Abo Heriba Mosque

**ZONE 02**

Start Point: Abo Heriba mosque  
End Point: Tanbega Al-Mardani Mosque

**ZONE 03**

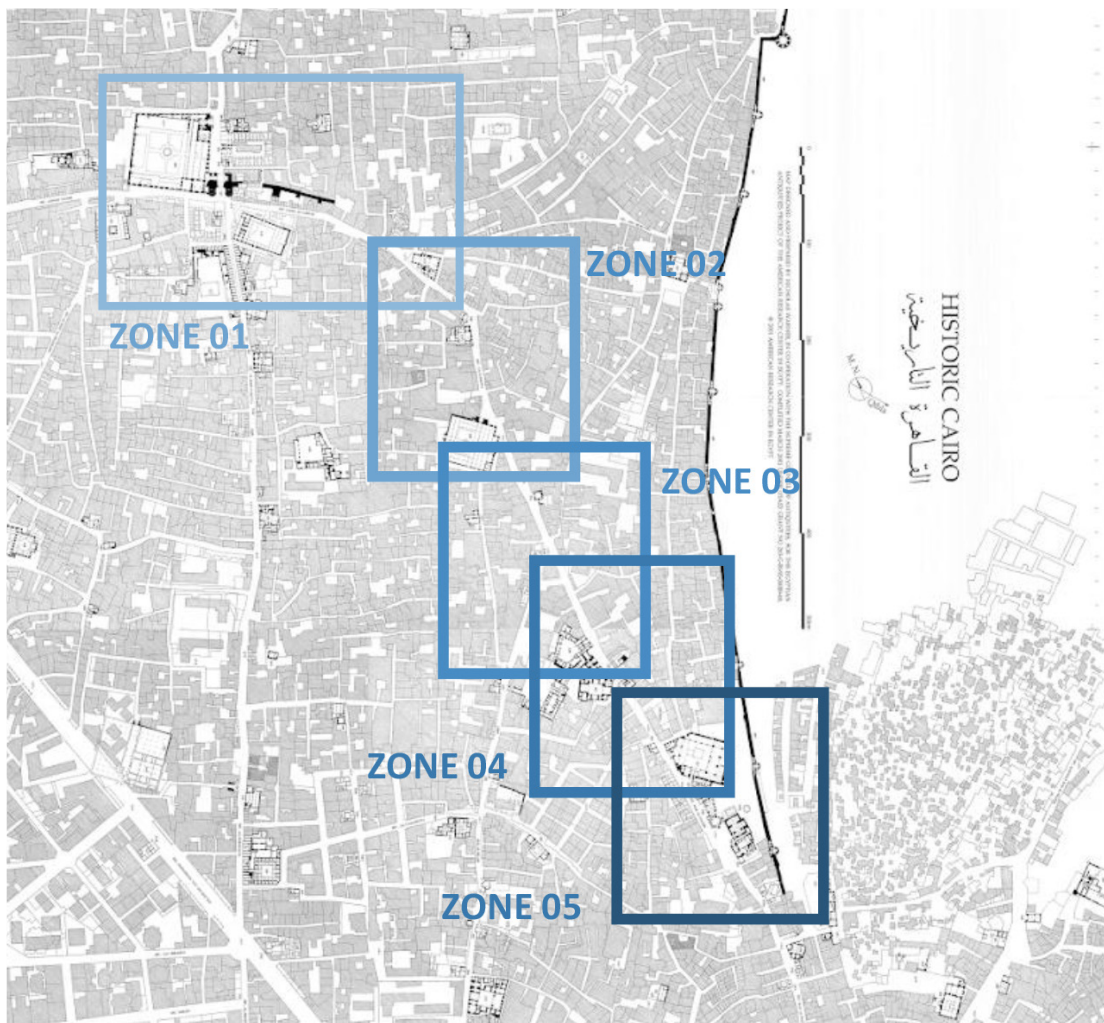
Start Point: Tanbega Al-Mardani Mosque  
End Point: Mosque & Madrassa of Umm Sultan Sha'aban

**ZONE 04**

Start Point: Beit Al-Razzaz  
End Point: Amir Khaybak Funerary Complex

**ZONE 05**

Start Point: Aq Sunqur Mosque (The Bue Mosque)  
End Point: Bab El-Wazir



Zones Maps based on Historic Cairo Map ©Nicholas Warner



## Participants Work

### Zone No. 01

Start Point: **Bab Zuweila**

End Point: **Abo Heriba Mosque**

Group members:

- 1-Haya Amayreh
- 2-Mahmoud Fahmy
- 3- Mai Mourad
- 4- Mays Mahmoud
- 5- Noha Ahmed
- 6- Risha Pandya
- 7- Shajwan Dara

The group's approach is to retrieve the sense of neighbourhood for the residents by formulating a strategy for redefining the urban space provided in the fabric to serve contemporary needs and prevent putting people as well as functional urban fabric inclusively in play. The main aim of this approach is to adjust the agency of the people (Residents and vendors) to manage their environment on three scales: urban, urban/arch, and architecture.

The main objectives of these interventions are empowering the local communities, redefining the sense of neighbourhood, and maintaining the historical typologies of the Rab'e. At the end of the workshop, the team managed to form votes to host economic development that can further adjust, treating the zones as an exhibition and diversifying the investors.

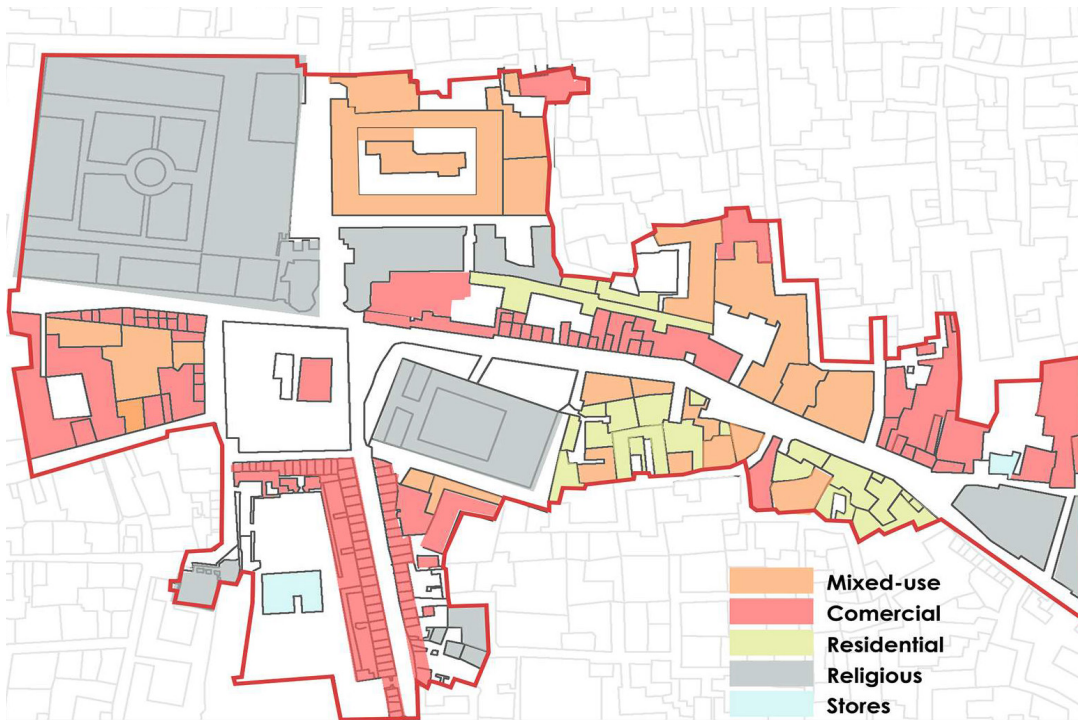
## CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

### Solid and Void



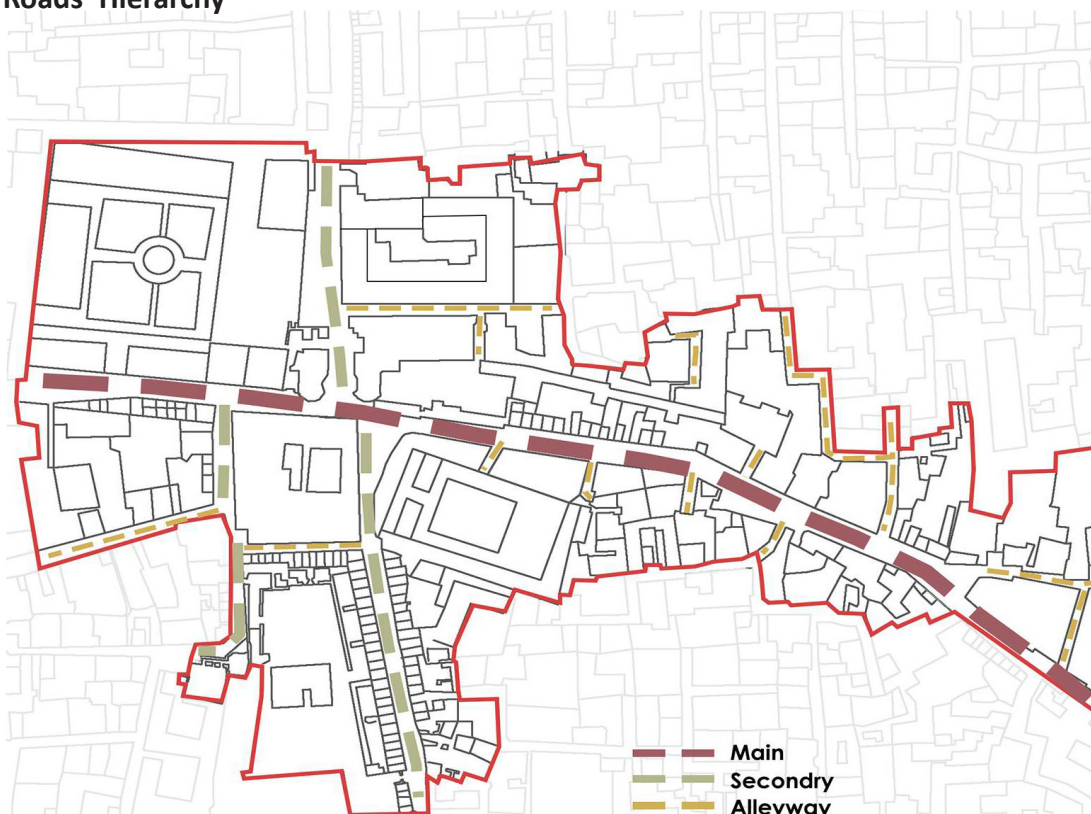
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## Land Use



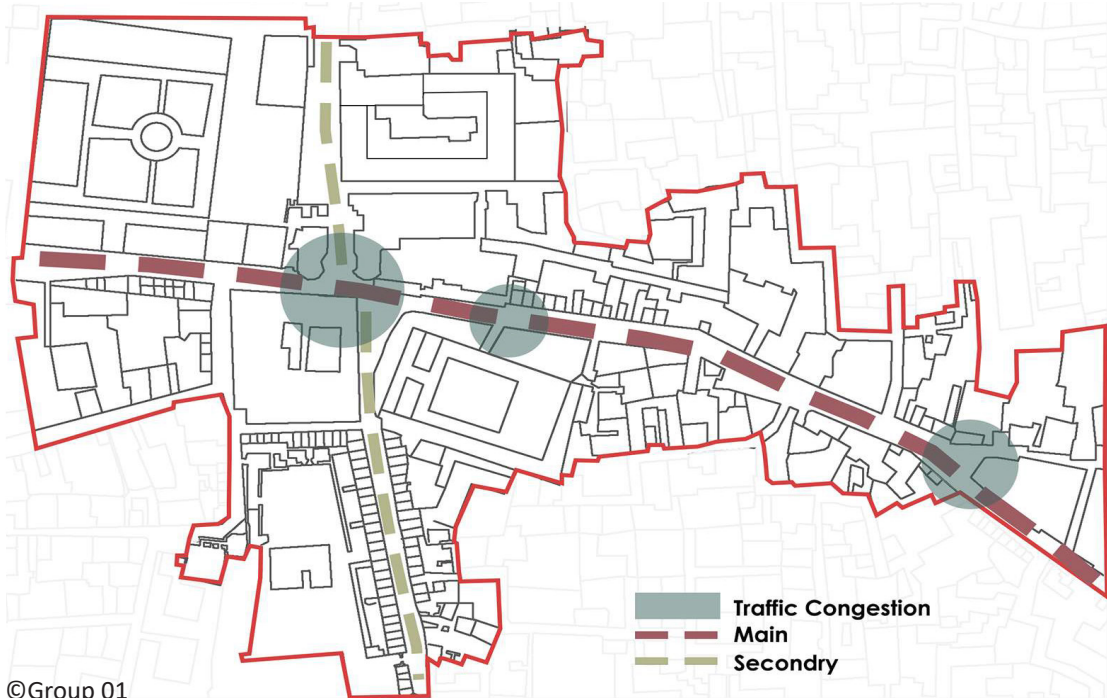
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## Roads' Hierarchy



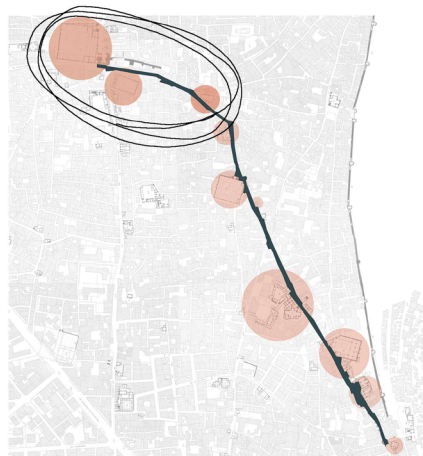
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**Traffic Flow**



©Group 01

**AL-DARB AL AHMAR**

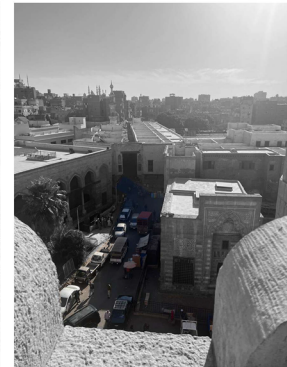


● LANDMARKS — MAIN SPINE  
○ STUDY ZONE

**RESIDENCE CRAFTSMANSHIP**  
**RELATIONSHIP WITH THE URBAN FABRIC**



AL KHEMAYA MARKET

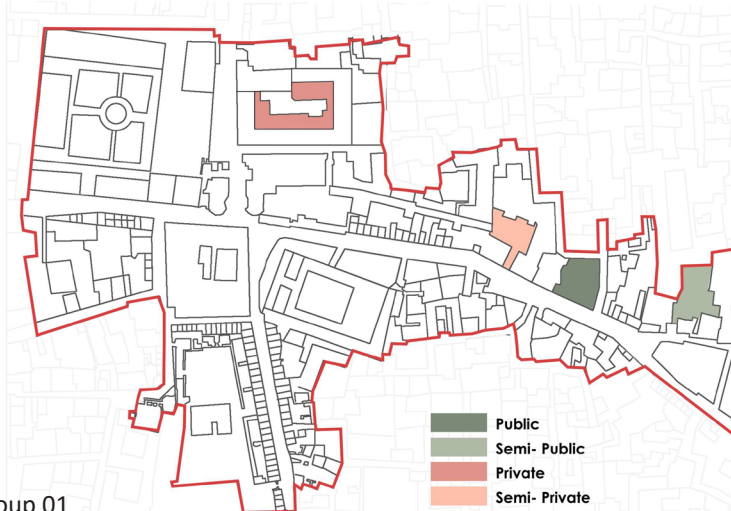


BAB EL WAZIR STREET

**REDEFINITION OF OPEN SPACES**

- PROXIMITY TO THE MAIN SPINE
- PRIVACY LEVEL OF EXISTING FUNCTIONS
- PRIVACY LEVEL OF PROPOSED FUNCTIONS

**HIERARCHICAL DISTRIBUTION**

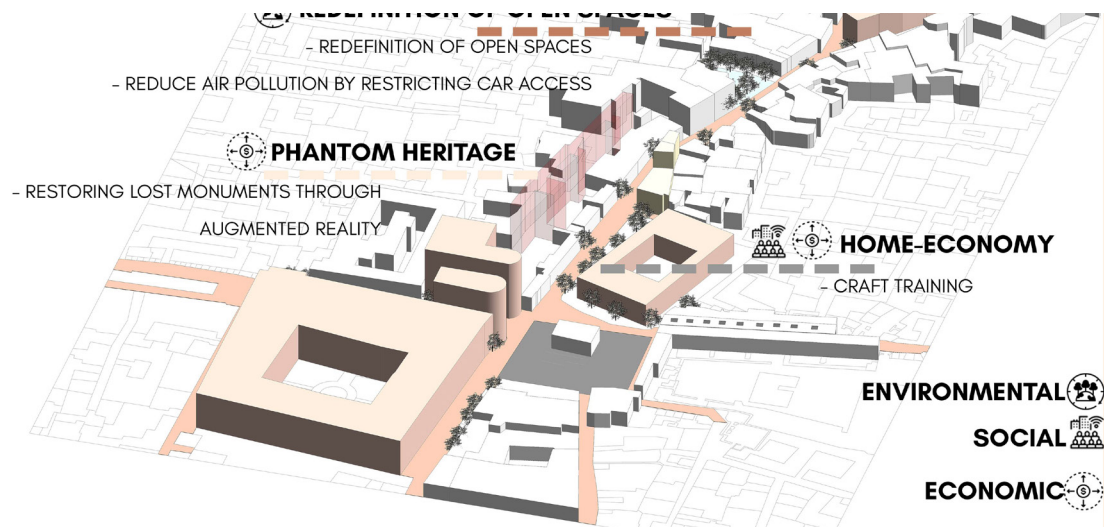


■ Public  
■ Semi-Public  
■ Private  
■ Semi-Private

©Group 01



## Strategy



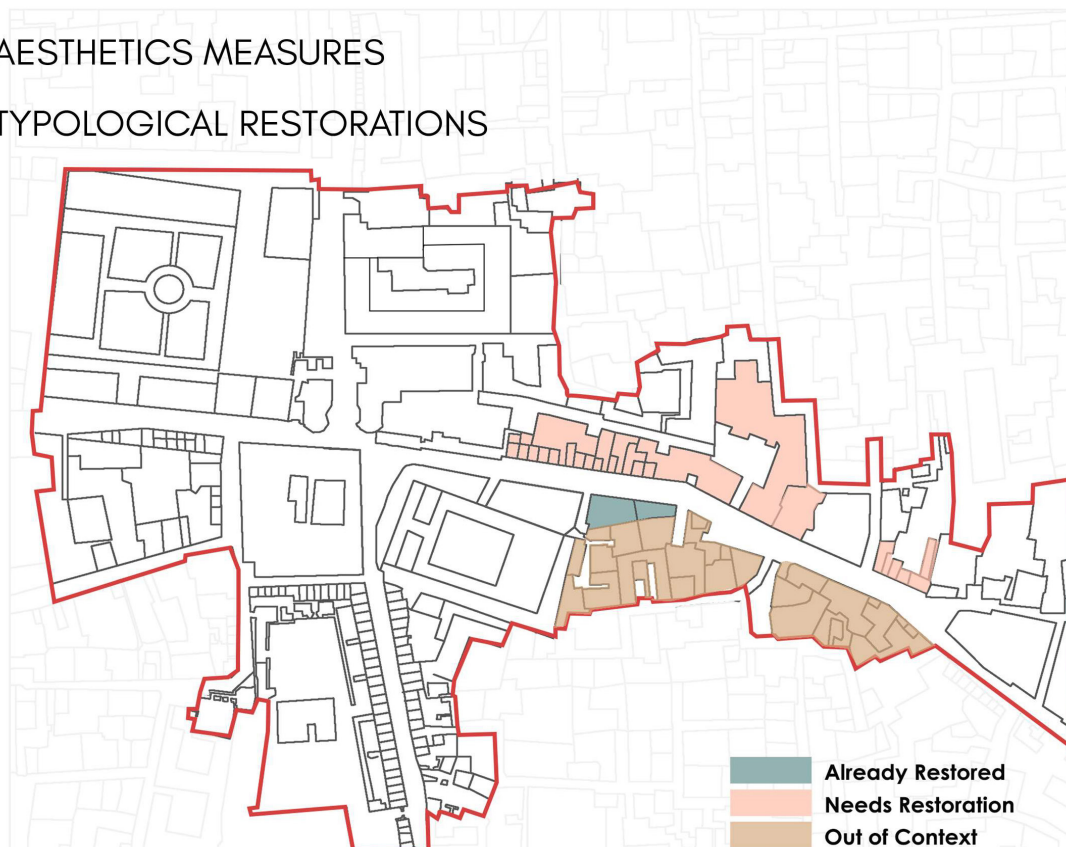
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## Hierarchy of Architectural Interventions

STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE

AESTHETICS MEASURES

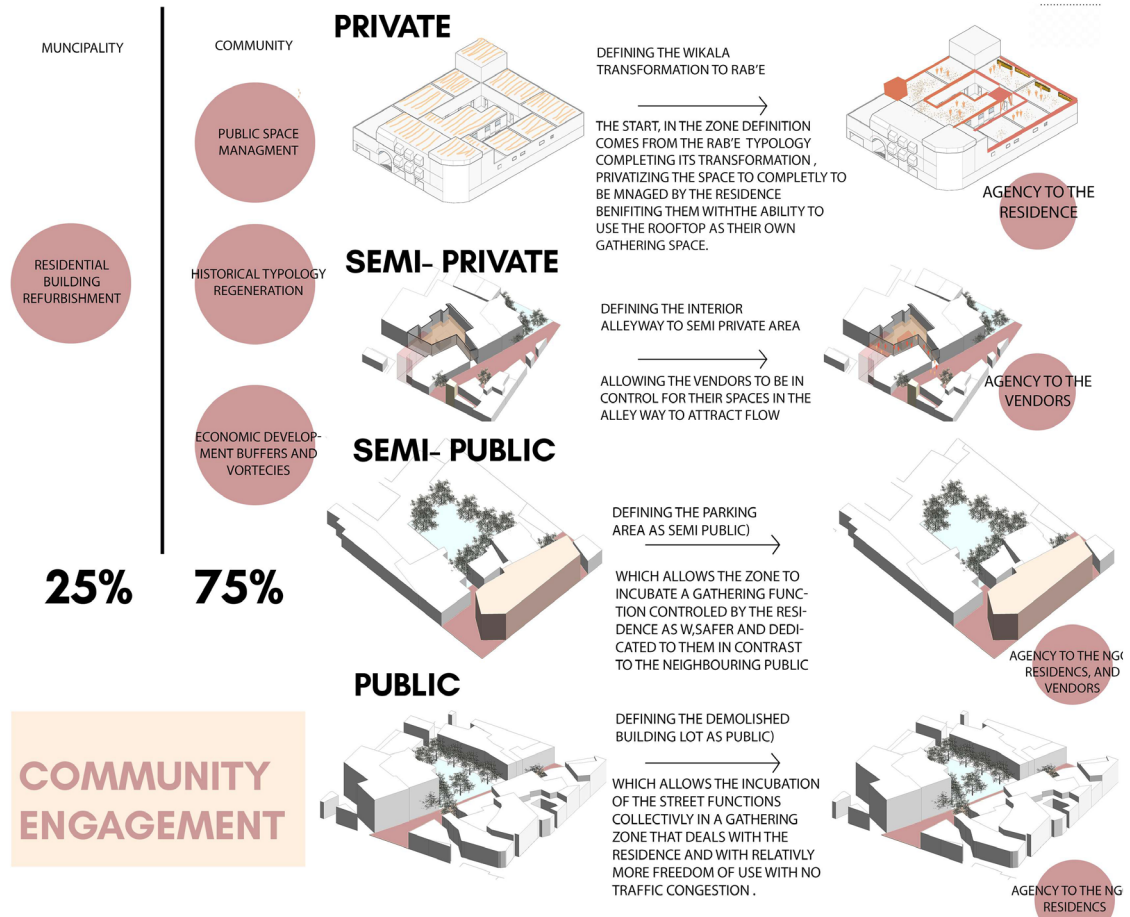
TYPOLOGICAL RESTORATIONS



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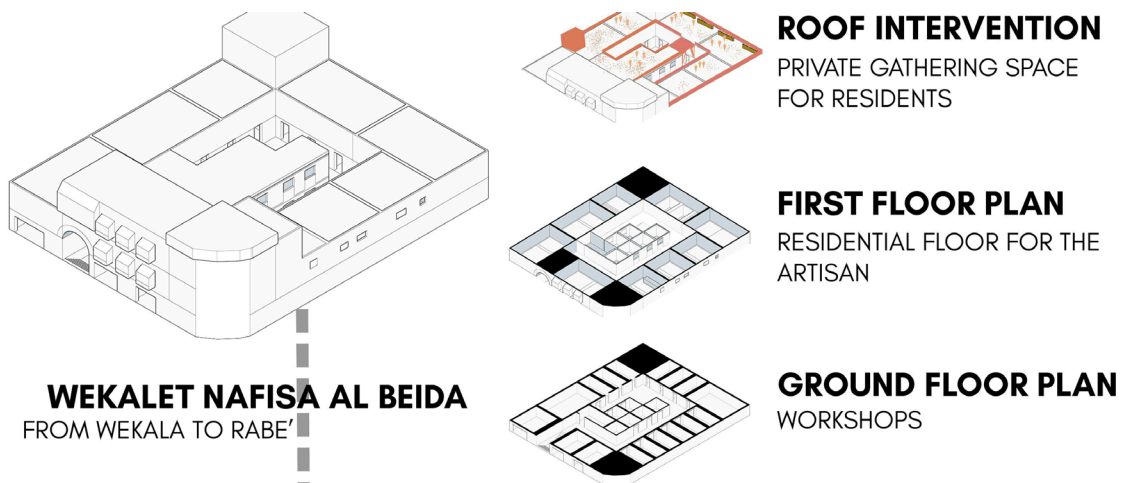
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## Urban Scale : Definition of Open Spaces



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## Urban/Arch Scale: Privatize and Reintroducing The typology of Al Rabe'



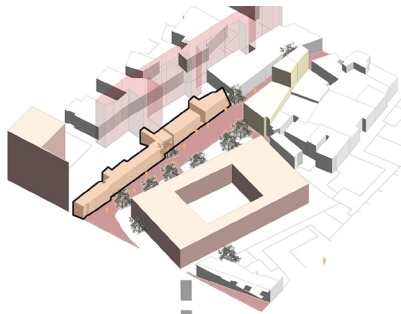
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## Arch. Scale: Phantom Heritage

**BAB ZUWEILA**, BUILT IN 1092, IS ONE OF THE THREE REMAINING GATES IN THE CITY WALLS, MARKING THE SOUTHERN LIMIT THE FATIMID CITY.

THE EXTENSION OF THE WALL COLLAPSED AND GOT INTEGRATED BETWEEN THE PRESENT BUILDINGS AND CAN NOT BE EASILY SEEN



### VIRTUAL RESTORATION OF THE WALL

#### CONSTRATINTS

PRESENCE OF SHOPS AND INFRONT OF THE REMAINING WALL  
- INTEGRATION OF THE WALL WITH THE SURROUNDINGS

#### STRATEGY

INTRODUCING AUGMENTED REALITY IN HERITAGE RESTORATION, PLACING IT IN ORDER TO DISPLAY THE TRUE FORM AND HEIGHT OF THE WALL

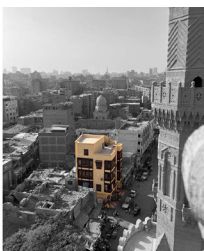
#### POTENTIALS

THROUGH IMPLEMENTING THE VR SPOTS AND CAPITALIZING ON THE LOCAL CRAFTS (KHAYAMEYA, WAX INDUSTRY) MARKS THIS SPOT AS TORUISTICS



AGENCY TO THE NGOS AND HERITAGE MANGERS

## Arch. Scale: Building Envelope



#### PROBLEM

- OUT OF CONTEXT
- INTERVENTIONS
- UNMAINTENANCE OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS
- DILPIDATED STATE OF BUILDINGS
- DEMEANING QUALITY OF LIFE

#### FACADE TREATMENT:

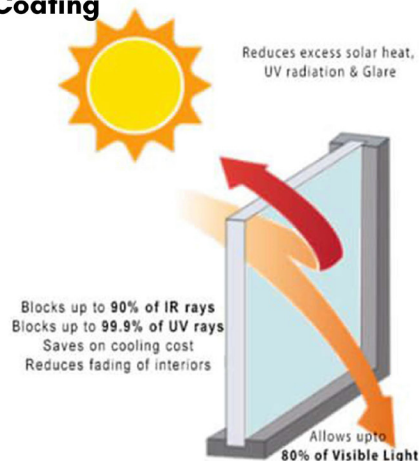
### Novel Nano-Filled Coatings for the Protection of Built Heritage Surfaces

efficient protective surface treatment for compact/porous stone surfaces against water/oil ingress and also for graffiti staining.



#### GLAZING TREATMENT:

### Nanotechnology Based Glass Coating



## Zone No. 02

Start Point: Abo Heriba mosque

End Point: Tanbega Al-Mardani Mosque

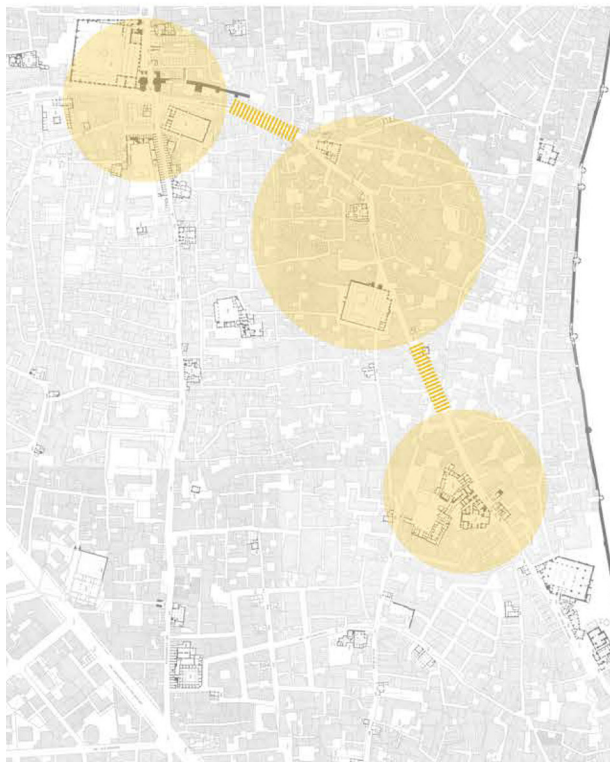
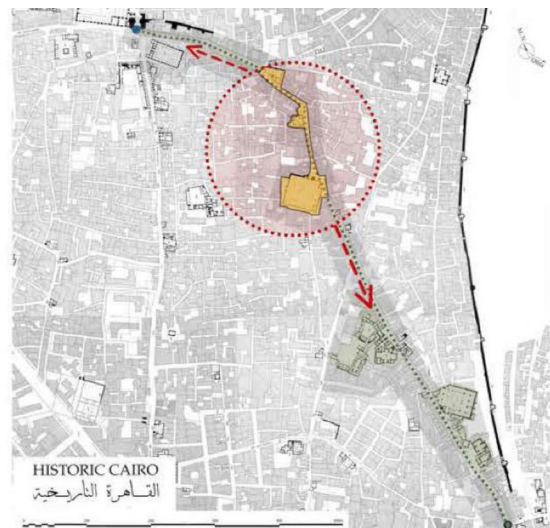
Group members:

- 1- Enas Zaareer
- 2- Haidy Khalil
- 3- Jacob Materny
- 4- Krishna Patel
- 5- Omar Zahran
- 6- Shahad Hassan

### Brief about the project

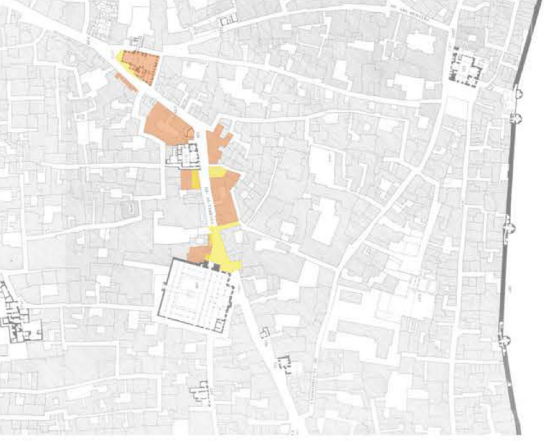
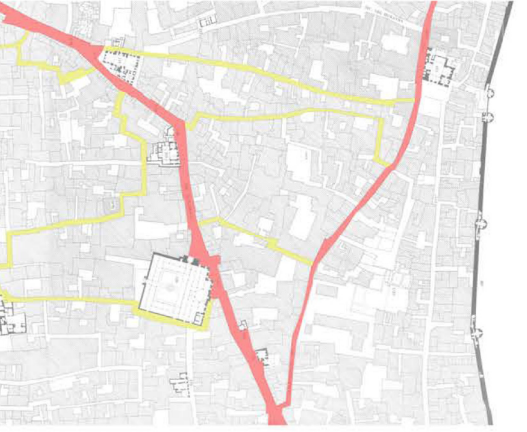
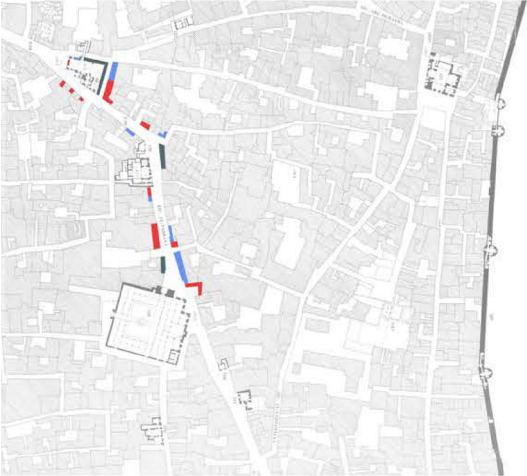
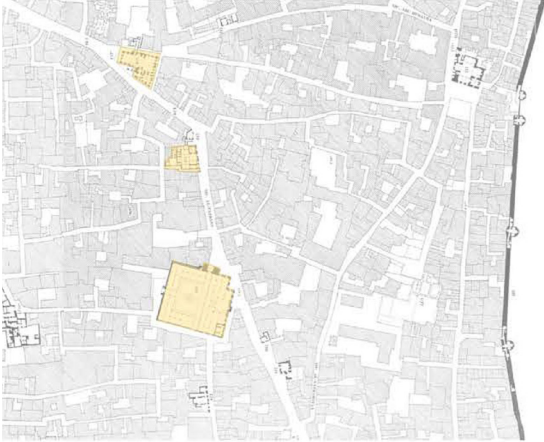
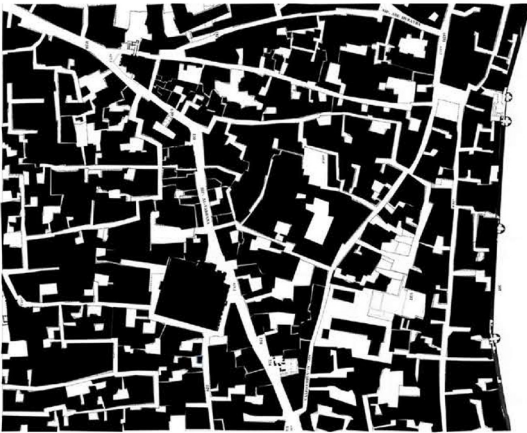
Al Darb Al Ahmar is a historic neighborhood located in the heart of Islamic Cairo. It is renowned for its rich cultural and architectural heritage, with a plenty of historic buildings, mosques, and traditional markets.

Zone 2 is located between two historic and important mosques; Abu Hariba Mosque and Al Maradani mosque; passing by Youssef Agha sabil which is attached to a historical market and a mosque.



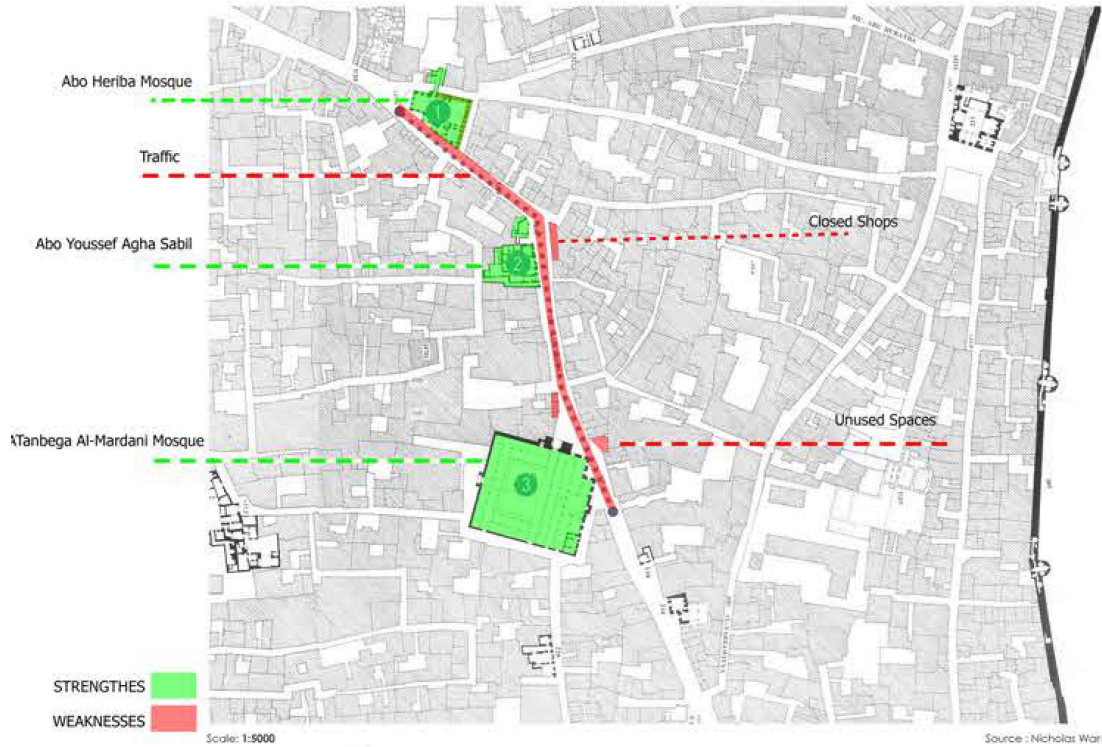


CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

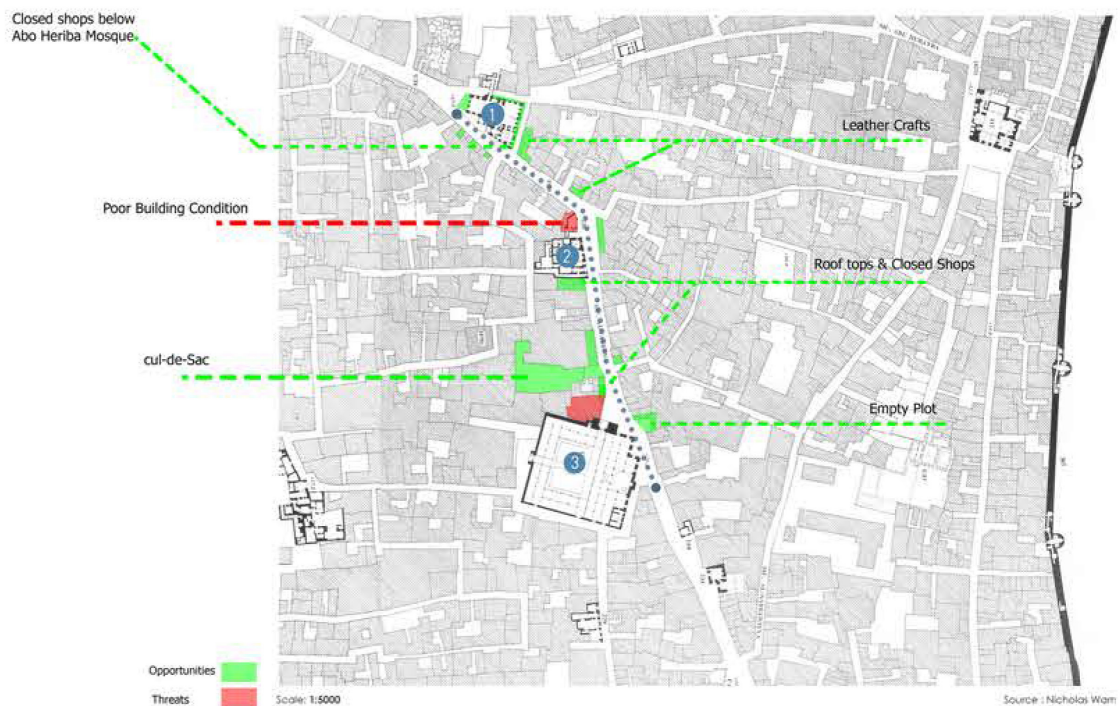


## Concept

Enhance the Urban life of the local community through rebranding the traditional handcrafts and strengthening the economic basis of the community.



©Group 02



©Group 02



## Interventions

The study area is abundant with heritage layers and narratives offering significant potential for achieving a prominent level of development and economic prosperity. Zone 2 is well known for handicraft activities, especially leather crafts. The study area is rich in shops selling different products that are used in the process of creating leather products.



©Group 02

### INTERVENTION ON A LARGER SCALE :

- > Introducing Guidelines to Regulate the New Construction taking place on the street front, in terms of:
  - Architectural elements like the brackets, mashrabeyas, etc on facades ornamenting the Openings such as balconies, Doors, Windows.
  - Building Heights.
  - Regulating construction materials being used facing the street to maintain the architectural language.
- > Tackling the issue of mobility by:
  - introduction of more sustainable public transportation methods.
  - creating user-friendly routes.
  - Assigning time-slots for heavy load vehicles to enter the zone, hence clearing up the roads for the locals and tourists alike during the day.

### INTERVENTION I

Turning the Junction of the roads in front of the mosque into a public space and reviving the basement level pre-existing shops.



### INTERVENTION III

Reviving the Building adjacent to the Mosque and extending the socio-cultural role of the mosque to the building by introducing a community educational institute to further spread awareness about Islamic arts like calligraphy, which indirectly affect the leather-making business.



### INTERVENTION II

Using the sabil and the neighboring building to promote leathercrafts and bring together entities to enhance the traditional commerce.



Comprehensive Map of Intervention for Zone 2

©Group 02



### Zone No. 03

Start Point: **Tanbega Al-Mardani Mosque**

End Point: **Mosque & Madrassa of Umm Sultan Sha'aban**

Group members:

- 1- Ahmed Fouad
- 2- Beata Bugarik
- 3- Hager Abdelhady
- 4- Habiba Mohamed
- 5- Maram Ali
- 6- Hala AbdelGabbar
- 7- Motaz Albitar

### Main Goal

Heritage preservation is considered a critical concern in the area of Al-Darb Al-Ahmar. As part of historic Cairo, several factors threaten both tangible and intangible heritage, as endangered historical structures demand urgent intervention. At the same time, the narratives of local communities and traditional crafts face the risk of extinction.

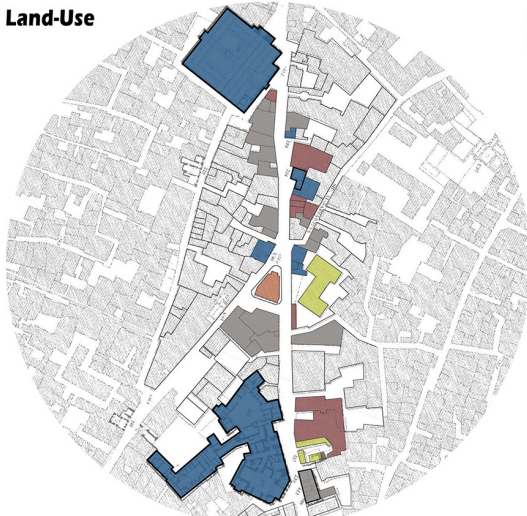
The study area “Zone 3” focuses on and represents a solution that can be adopted along Al-Darb Al-Ahmar Street. The case study had different varieties of local Crafts, small business projects, and educational buildings. The group tried to identify the ownership state of the group, and the stakeholders from private owners, NGOs, and authorities helped the group implement their vision, strategically mending the gaps within the community by creating a third dimension to revive their tangible and intangible heritage.

The envisioned strategy revolves around creating a third dimension to regenerate tangible and intangible heritage. The group’s objective and goal is to foster community engagement, enhance the financial well-being of residents, and integrate historic buildings with courtyards and urban pockets. This approach seeks to preserve historical structures and aims to breathe life into the community by tapping into its rich cultural and economic potential. Through this vision, the study aims to contribute to the sustainable revitalization of Al-Darb Al-Ahmar, ensuring the preservation of its heritage for future generations.



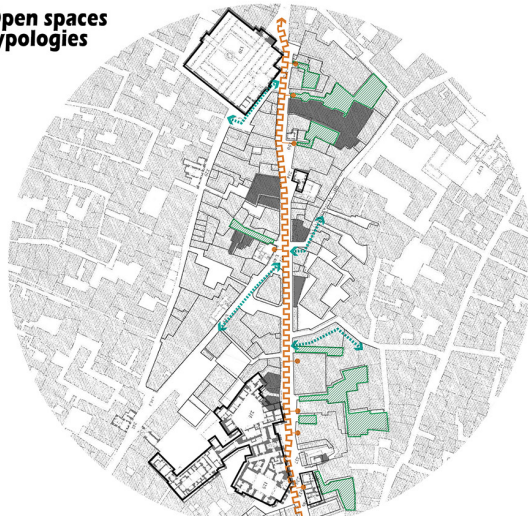
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**Land-Use**



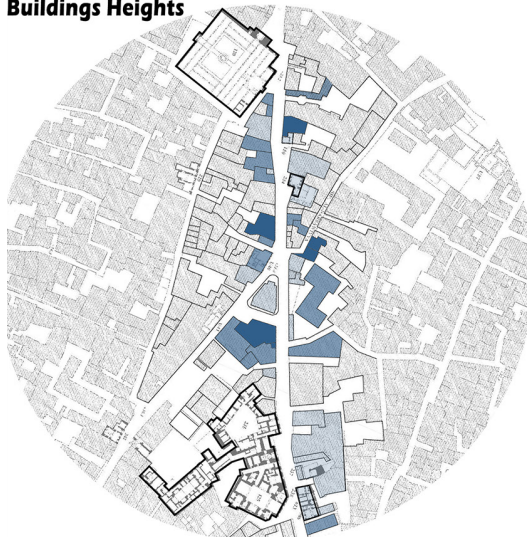
- Educational Buildings
- Residential Buildings
- Social Events Hall
- Mosques & Heritage Buildings
- Mixed Use
- Workshops

**Open spaces typologies**



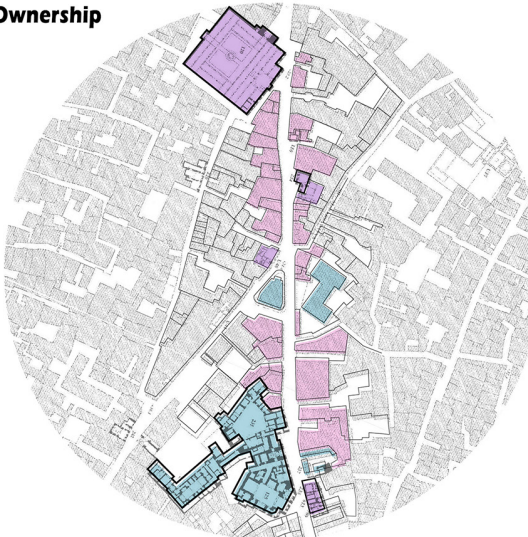
- Courtyards
- Empty Slots
- Main Path
- Main Access
- Secondary Access to Courtyards

**Buildings Heights**



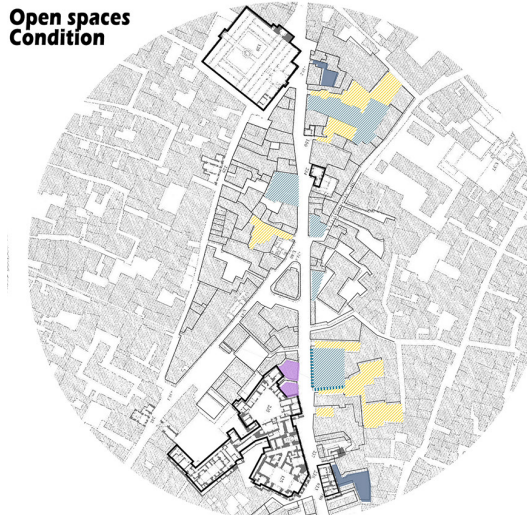
- 1 & 2 store buildings
- 3 & 4 store buildings
- 5 & 6 store buildings

**Ownership**



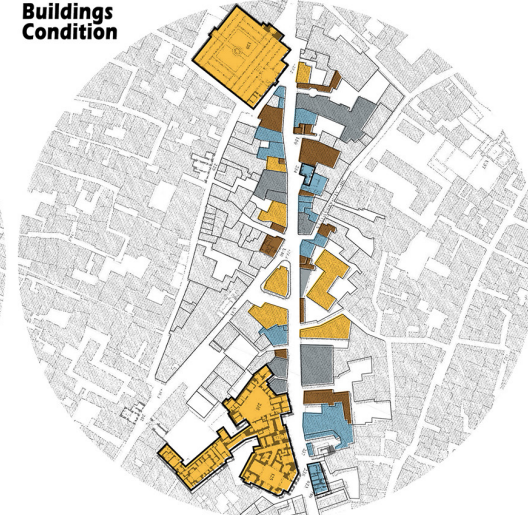
- Private Ownership
- Authority/ Government
- Waqf "Endowment"

**Open spaces Condition**



- Abandoned Courtyards
- Occupied Courtyards
- Empty Slots
- Under Construction
- Remaining Walls

**Buildings Condition**



- Very Good Condition
- Good Condition
- Bad Condition
- Bad Condition

©Group 03



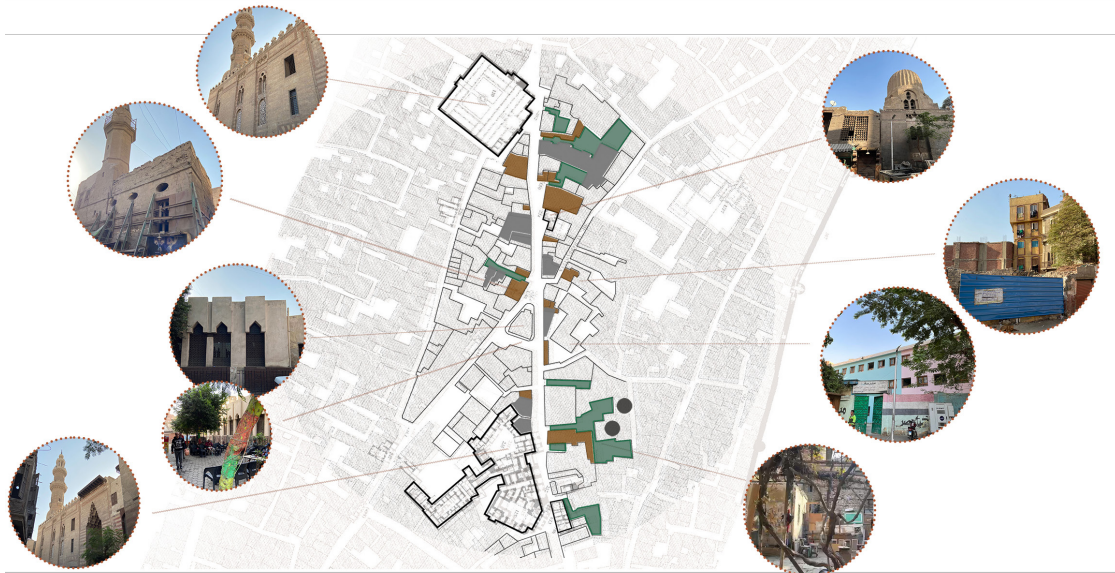
# TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

**Tangible**

- ENDANGERED HERITAGE BUILDINGS.
- UNUSED OPEN SPACES/- COURTYARDS

**Intangible**

- THREATENED TRADITIONAL CRAFTS.
- UNTOLD STORIES
- DIFFICULTIES IN SOCIAL DYNAMICS



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ADAPTIVE REUSE AS A STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE PRESERVATION OF EGYPTIAN HERITAGE NEIGHBORHOODS

**Proposed Vision**  
Intervention proposal



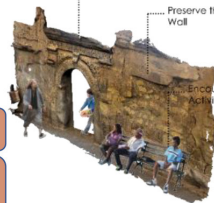
SCAN ME



- 4- Exhibition and show area Courtyard
- 2- Workshops and Community hub Courtyard

5- Bet razzaz as Culture and craft center

6- Contemporary Extension for Bet Razzaz



1-Social gathering Courtyard

3- Local Craft Center and Professional Craft Educational Center

8- public Gathering Space and buffer

7-Keep the Heritage Gate as Main Entrance For the extension

Build Contemporary Building Extension to Bet Razzaz

Preserve the Heritage Wall

Encourage the Social Activity



©Group 03

## Zone No. 04

Start Point: **Beit Al-Razzaz**

End Point: **Amir Khaybak Funerary Complex**

Group members:

- 1- Ahmed Alkasasbeh
- 2- Jette Meckback
- 3- Nourhan Yehia
- 4- Siddhika J. Mahadik

### Vision

The “Fabric of Hope” proposal seeks to elevate the quality of daily life within communities by respecting and using their historic urban structure. This vision encompasses three primary dimensions: social, physical, and economic interventions. In social enhancement, emphasis is placed on creating recreational spaces, green courtyards, and temporary interventions to foster community engagement and well-being.

The physical aspect of the proposal is centred on rehabilitating residential and historical buildings, aiming to optimize their daily utility and preserve the essence of monuments. On the economic front, the proposal seeks to synergize community and monument elements to regenerate local economies. By merging these aspects, the proposal aims to generate sustainable economic growth while preserving the cultural and historical fabric of the community.



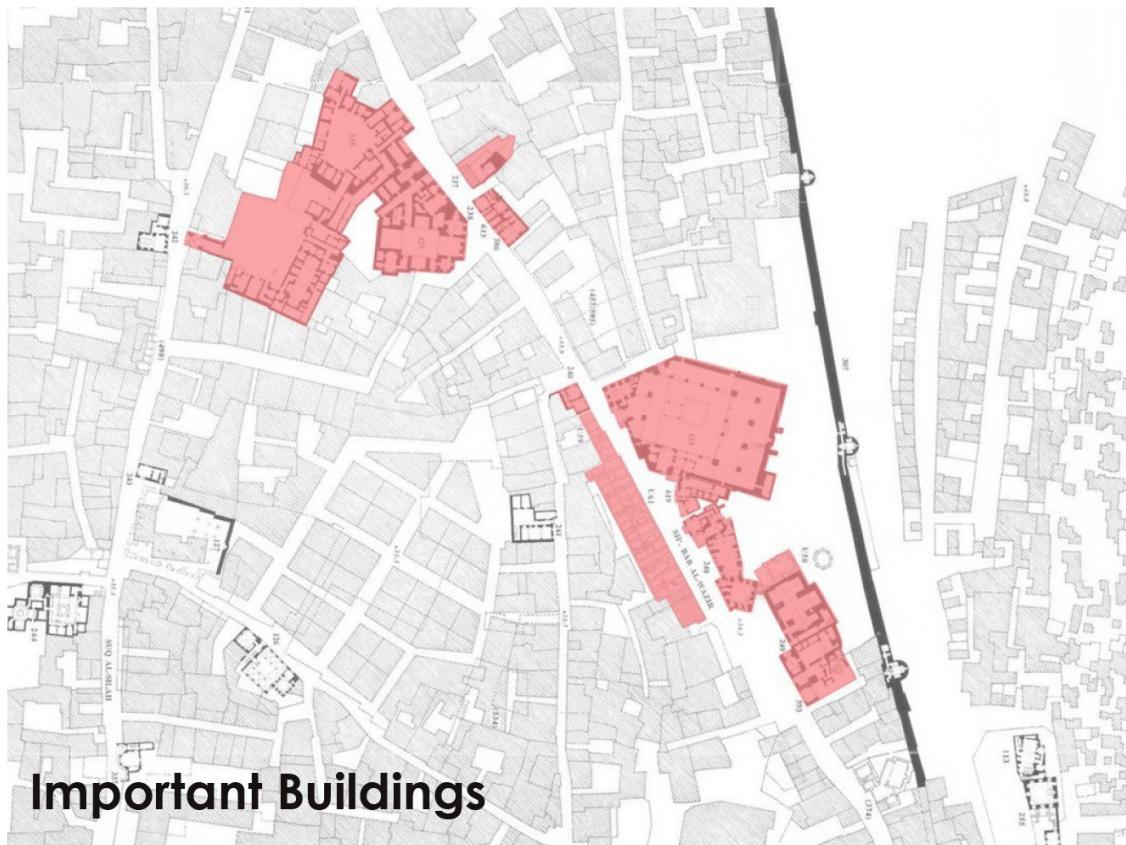
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## CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS



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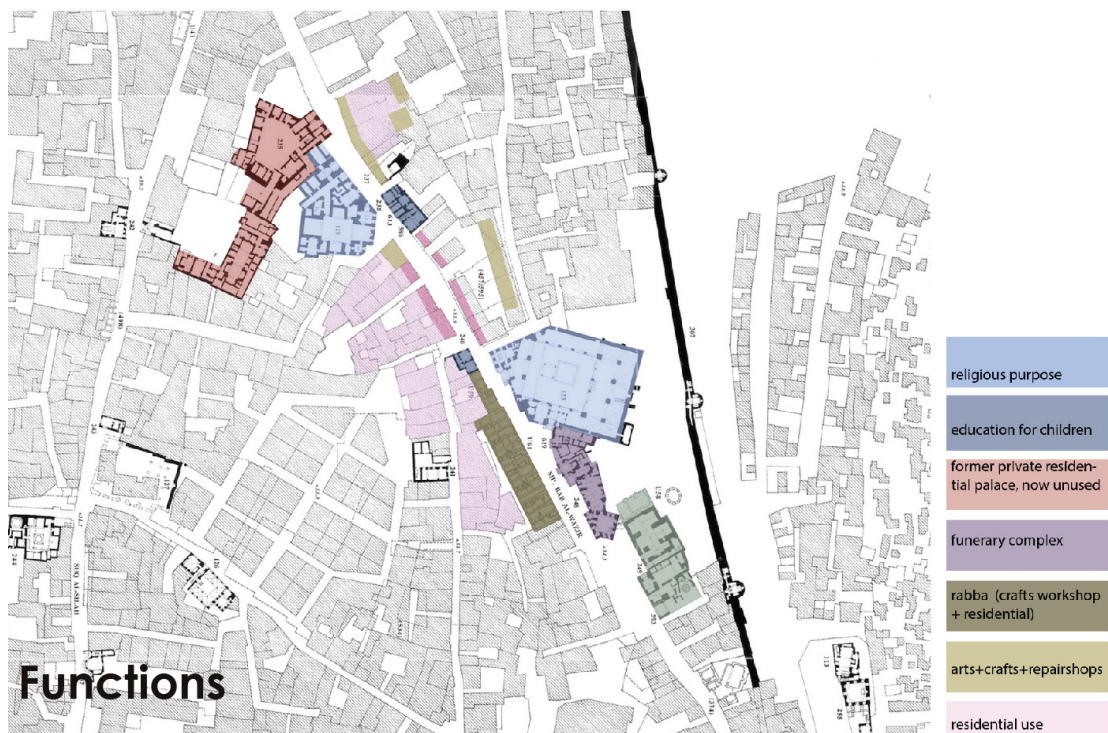


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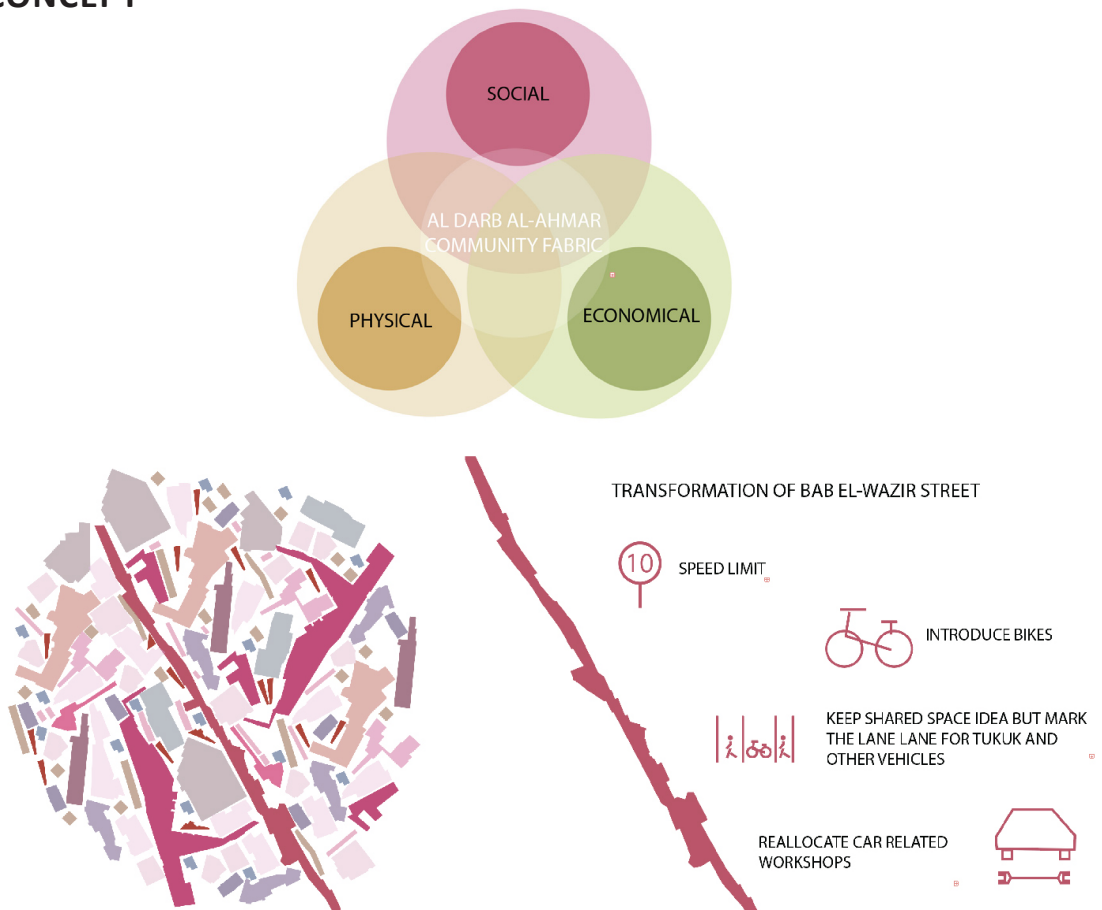


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## CONCEPT



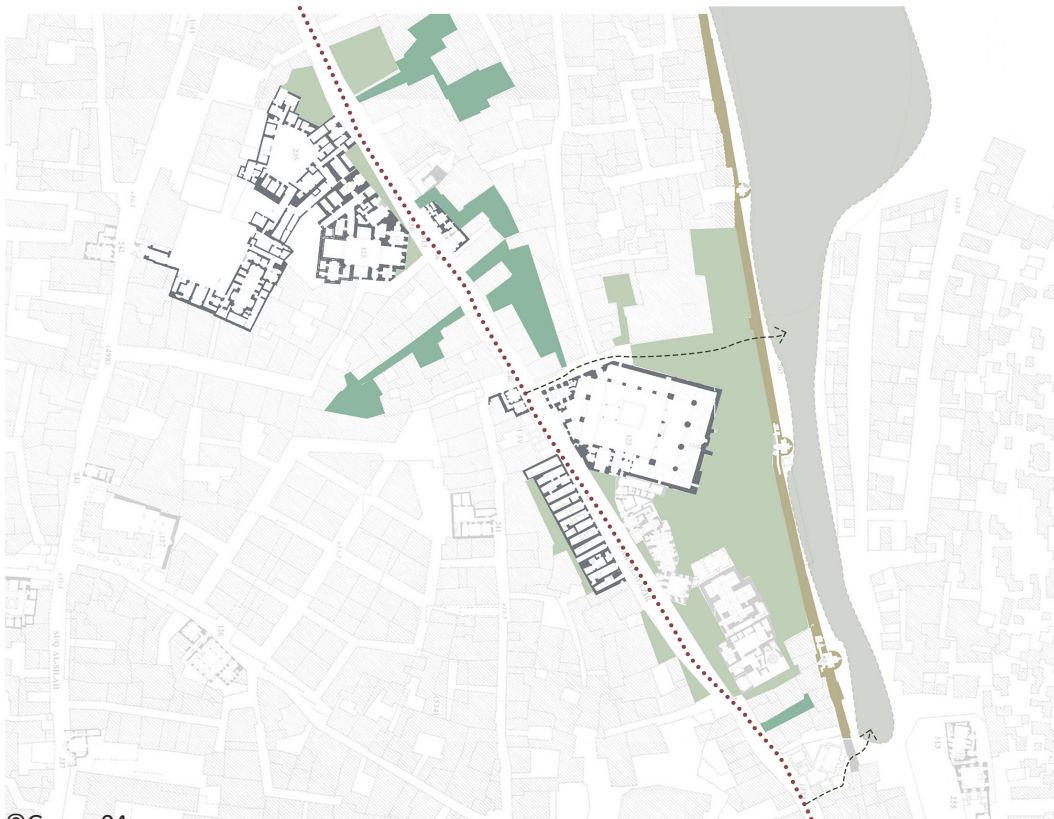
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# GUIDELINES MAP



## A Fabric of hope



©Group 04



Public spaces fabric



Community spaces fabric



Activation of the monuments



Enhance the linking with Al Azhar park



### Activation of the monuments



- CHANGE THE BUFFER ZONE LAW AND CREATE A GREEN SITTING AREA NEXT TO THE BAIT
- AL DARB AL AHMAR HISTORY EXHIBITION SPACE
- ARABESQUE WITH COMMUNITY WORKSHOP AREA
- TOURIST INFORMATION/SHOP
- WIDEN SITTING AREA OF THE EXISTING STREET CAFE
- SHOP/DISPLAY OF THE MOTHER OF PEARLS WORKSHOP
- SHADING ELEMENTS MADE BY THE FURNITURE WORKSHOP NEARBY
- SPACE FOR TEMPORARY USE (E.G SMALL ART EXHIBITIONS)
- BAIT AL RAZZAZ RESTAURANT
- CAFE
- OUTDOOR SPACE SHOWING THE EDGES OF THE FORMER BUILDING, DIFFERENT UNDERGROUND MATERIAL, UNFIXED GREENERY TO REMOVE IT FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS E.G. DANCE WORKSHOPS



- UPPER FLOOR :
- CHANGE THE BUFFER ZONE LAW AND CREATE A GREEN SITTING AREA NEXT TO THE BAIT
  - AL DARB AL AHMAR HISTORY EXHIBITION SPACE
  - ARABESQUE WITH COMMUNITY WORKSHOP AREA
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  - OUTDOOR SPACE SHOWING THE EDGES OF THE FORMER BUILDING. DIFFERENT UNDERGROUND MATERIAL UNFIXED GREENERY TO REMOVE IT FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS EG. DANCE WORKSHOPS

- UPPER FLOOR :
- MUSIC SCHOOL
  - CO-WORKING SPACES
  - HOSTEL IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE BUILDING

ACTIVATE ROOFTOPS

©Group 04



**STRENGTHS**

- PLENTY OF SPACE
- DOCUMENTED HISTORY+HISTORIC VALUE
- RESTORATED BUILDING+COURTYARD
- CALM GREEN OASIS
- ENTRY SPACE FOR BAIT AL RAZZAZ+ MOSQUE
- INTERVENTION IS RELATIVELY CHEAP
- EXISTING NGO, WHICH CAN SUPERVISE THE INTERVENTION

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- TOURISTIC POTENTIAL
- COOPERATION POSSIBILITIES WITH THE ARABESQUE
- SPACE FOR GARDENS, HIGH QUALITY LOUNGE AREA

**THREAD**

- NOT USING THE SPACE MIGHT CAUSE DELAPIDATION
- MONUMENT LAW- BUFFER ZONE

**STAKEHOLDERS**

- ARABESQUE SHOP OWNER
- MOTHER OF PEARL WORKSHOP OWNER
- FURNITURE WORKSHOP OWNER

- OPEN BAIT AL RAZZAZ TO THE PUBLIC AND INDOOR SPACE
- ALLOCATE PUBLIC/COMMUNITY/TOURISTIC USES

**TRANSFORM THE ABANDONED 2ND YARD INTO A FREE PUBLIC GARDEN**

- ALLOCATE RESTAURANTS AROUND IT
- REOPEN THE 2ND ENTRYWAY TO THE BACKYARD
- DEFINE THE EDGES OF THE GARDEN
- USE SEEDS OF THE GREEN-ISLE IN THE FIRST COURTYARD
- USE THE BAIT

©Group 04



# Community spaces fabric



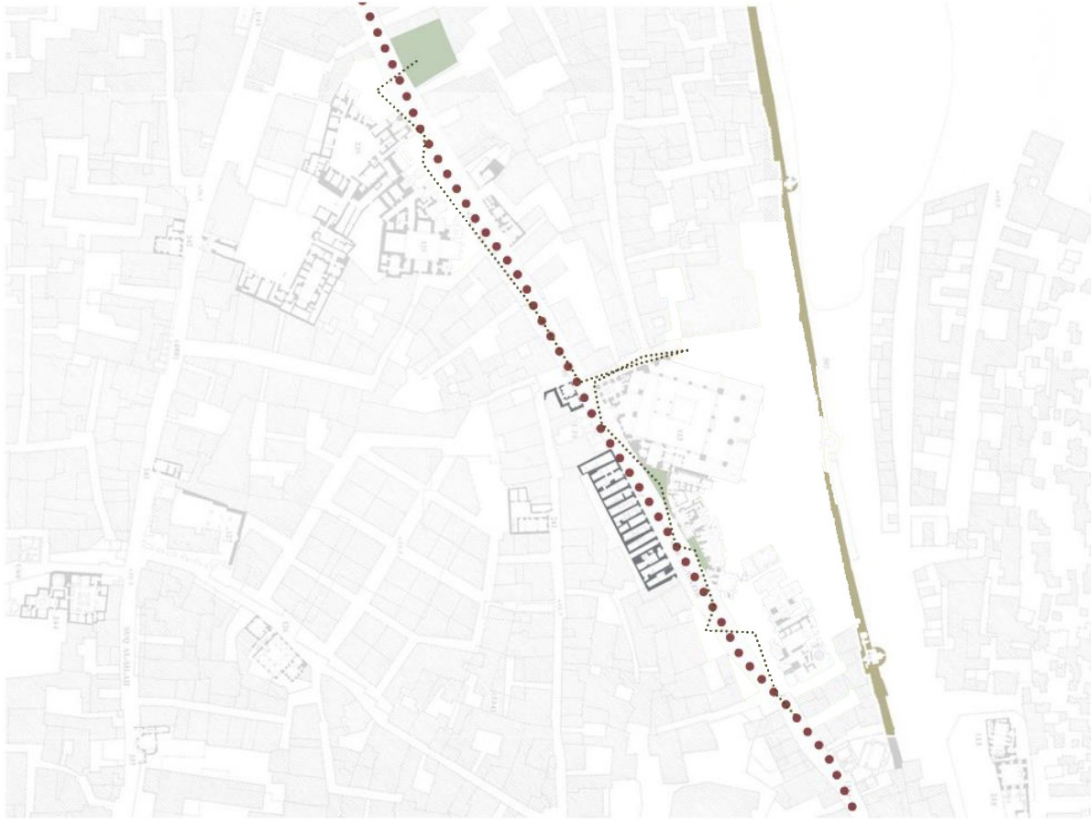
- Residential
- Workshop
- Car parts
- Daily food related shop
- Cafee



- Multi-use (Playgroud area)
- Community Gathering space
- Urban agriculture
- Workshop gallery



# Public Space Fabric



©Group 04



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## **Zone No. 05**

Start Point: **Aq Sunqur Mosque (The Bue Mosque)**

End Point: **Bab El-Wazir**

Group members:

- 1- Ali Q.Fakhri
- 2- Hager Ibrahim
- 3- Nour S. Abu-Youssef
- 4- Orpita Chowdhury
- 5- Samuel Johnson

### **Introduction**

Urban and architectural heritage around the world is facing a grave threat, as numerous factors put these invaluable assets in danger. Rapid urbanization, population growth, inadequate urban planning, and the relentless pursuit of modernization often lead to the neglect, destruction, or alteration of historical buildings and urban landscapes. One of the primary challenges is the lack of awareness and appreciation for the significance of urban and architectural heritage. Many people fail to recognize the cultural, historical, and aesthetic value these structures hold, resulting in their abandonment and subsequent decay. Moreover, the pressure for urban development and the demand for new infrastructure often prioritize economic interests over the preservation of heritage sites.

Another key factor contributing to the endangerment of heritage is natural disasters and climate change. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and seismic activities pose significant risks to vulnerable historic buildings and urban areas. Inadequate maintenance and a lack of disaster preparedness exacerbate the vulnerability of these structures, making them more susceptible to irreversible damage.

Furthermore, the rapid pace of urbanization often leads to the demolition of historic neighborhoods and the displacement of communities. The destruction of traditional urban fabric and the loss of cultural identity are unfortunate consequences of this trend. As cities expand, the pressure to accommodate growing populations often overrides the need to protect and integrate historical structures into the urban fabric.

The challenges in preserving urban and architectural heritage also stem from limited financial resources and competing priorities. Governments, organizations, and communities must allocate sufficient funds and resources to safeguard and restore these valuable assets. However, in many cases, limited budgets, bureaucratic hurdles, and competing demands make it challenging to prioritize heritage preservation.

To address these issues and protect urban and architectural heritage, a multi-faceted approach is necessary. It begins with raising awareness and fostering a deeper understanding of the value and significance of these assets within communities.

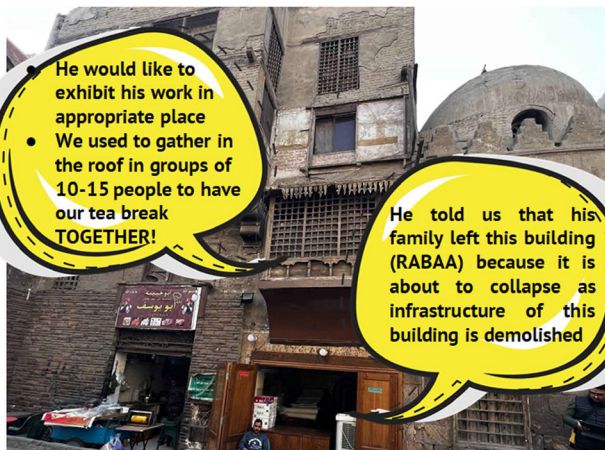
Comprehensive urban planning strategies that integrate heritage preservation with sustainable development can help strike a balance between modernization and heritage conservation.

Additionally, implementing legal frameworks and regulations that safeguard heritage sites, providing financial incentives for restoration, and promoting adaptive reuse can encourage the preservation of historic structures. Collaborative efforts between government bodies, heritage organizations, and local communities are crucial in identifying, documenting, and protecting endangered heritage sites.

### Methodology

The methodology followed by the group combined field observations, interviews, and urban analysis. Key insights gathered from local interviews can be summarized as follows:

- He would like to exhibit his work in an appropriate place. 'We used to gather on the roof in groups of 10-15 people to have our tea break TOGETHER!'
- He informed us that his family left this building (RABAA) because it is about to collapse due to its poor and failing infrastructure.
- I shifted here to escape the 'noise' in the main street.





# Urban Analysis

Site visit path



Building condition map



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New added barrier



Current land uses

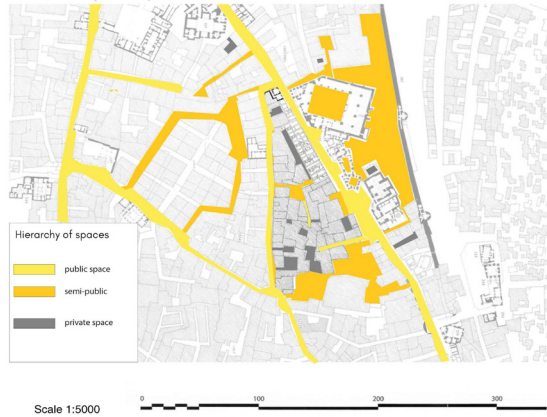


©Group 05

Proposed intervention



Hierarchy of spaces



©Group 05

## Vision

The vision of Zone 5 had many aspects. Firstly, to Revitalize the old meanings in the Al Darb Al Ahmar. That's by understanding the meaning behind the old traditions. For example, the meaning behind the old sabil is that it was about offering free water to a passerby. This can be abstracted now by creating other free services that people might need.

Secondly, it was about breaking the barrier between the monuments and the people, that's by considering the historical monuments a place for the residents and not only for tourists.

Thirdly, the project aims to create zones of atmospheres and not only zones of functions, by creating a vivid atmosphere in the main street while keeping the blue mosque a place for a tranquil feeling for the public, While the residential areas will have a tranquil semi-public atmosphere. All these are to be carried out by raising the awareness of people as a way to delegate the responsibility from the experts to the people.



**GIVING** the community a better life...



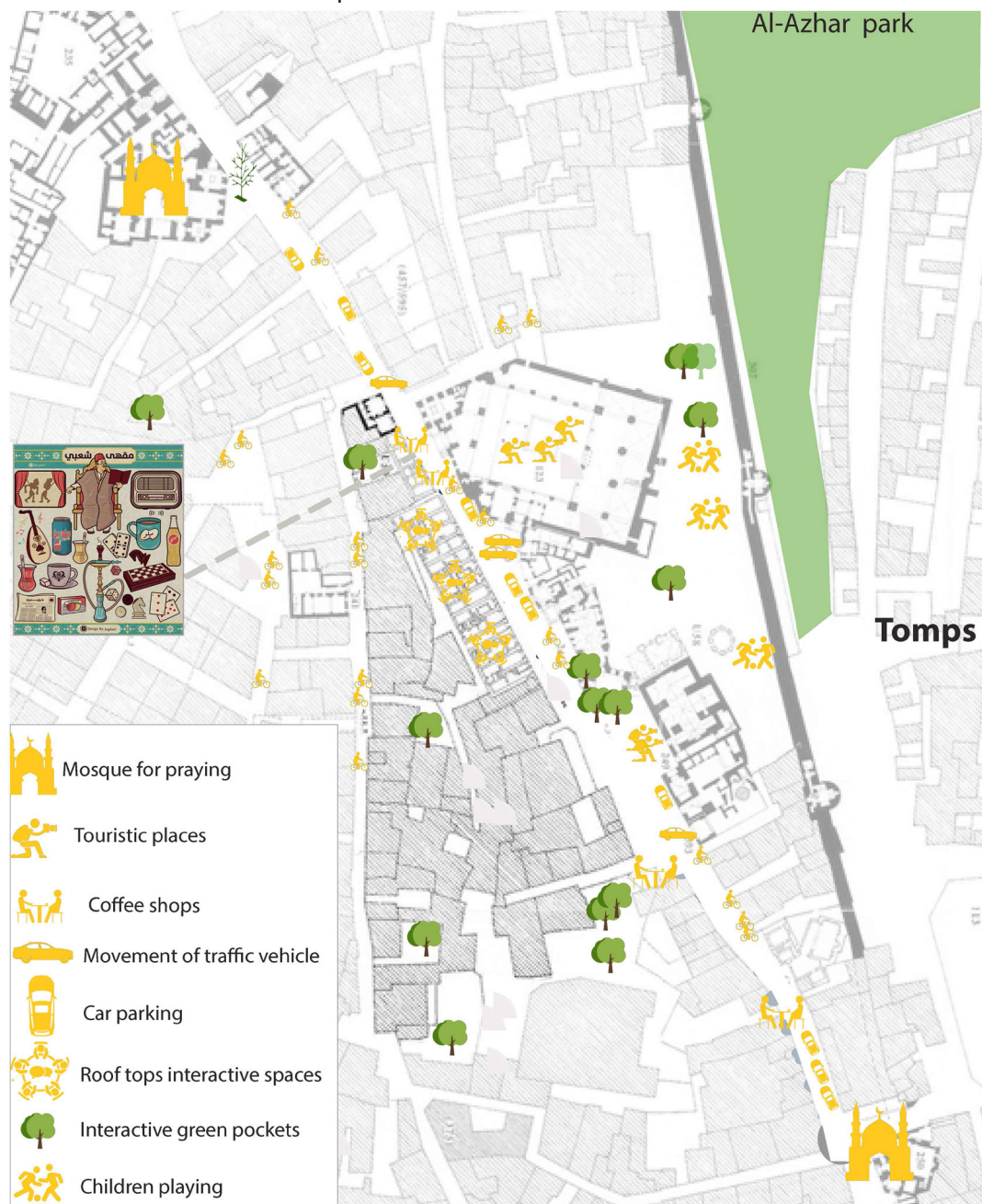
### Interventions:

Our Interventions basically focused on the locals needs and how to respond to those needs, so we created a rooftop unit which will be modular, flexible, easy to construct and replicable.

These units were designed to accommodate a range of activities to develop the community, in addition these activities are characterized by the attention of each family and the local's needs.

For example, these units can be:

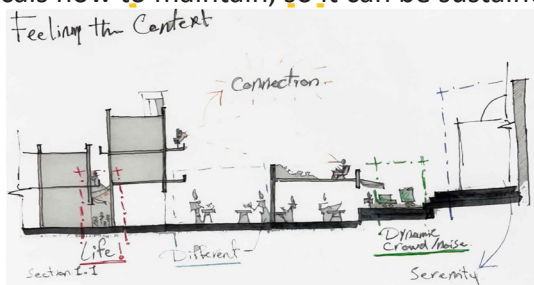
- A family gathering unit, extended family events;
- Women's development programs such as: vocational training, and literacy units;
- Kuttab, where grandpas can teach the kids or Storytelling units;
- Economic uses as: Chicken coop or Roof farm



Back to the idea of giving, our interventions will Give the community what they need, and it will make them able to Give.

Furthermore, we have developed an action plan for the implementation by following a bottom to up strategy:

1. Preparing stage: The NGOs is going to list the local's needs
2. Planning stage: The NGOs will Connect the experts with locals
3. Design stage: the experts will design a unit that meets the local's needs
- 4.1. Construction preparing when the experts will work with the government on laws and regulations.
- 4.2. Construction preparing: the experts and the NGO will educate the locals, how to build the units.
- 4.3. The NGOs and the locals will get the materials from local traders.
5. Construction phase: the locals will build the project with some supervising from the experts.
6. Maintain: the experts will educate the locals how to maintain, so it can be sustained.



Here we have documented the feeling on site with respect to its contexts.

- What could be DONE?

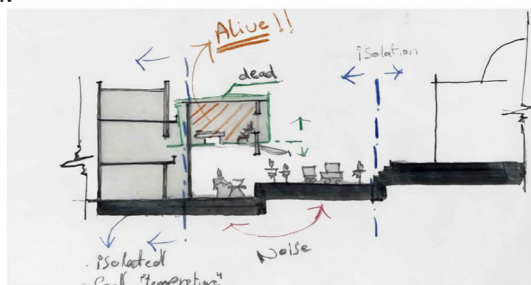
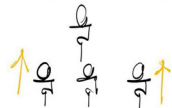


Here we discuss an intervention via a conceptual section of what this area could be.

State Holders:-

- Local Community.
- NGOs.
- Experts.
- Local traders.

Bottom to up Strategy!!



We selected 2 sections in the most interesting spots on site which include different typologies in each.

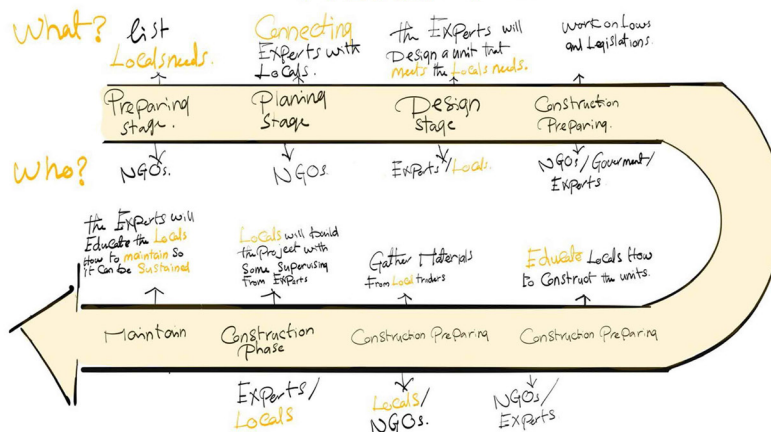
- How it could be DONE?

- Flexible
- Reflect the internal spirit.
- Enhance the social connectivity
- Create A New Typology.
- Replicable

- Re Green (re)vision the internal Courts...

Here we propose actual steps that can be taken to reach our intervention.

## Action Plan







2 Urban agricultural interactive spaces



3 Transformation of rummaged workshop into a communal -social for the locals , elderly and children alike



Roof top interventions



# Impressions



The group during an excursion in front of Beit Al-Razaz, Al-Darb Al-Ahmar ©Archaistic



The group attending a discussion during the last day of the workshop ©Samar Abdelaal





The group in front of one of the workshop destination "Founders Co-Working Space" ©©Archaistic



Group 01 presenting their final presentation ©Samar Abdelaal





Group 02 presenting their final presentation ©Samar Abdelaal



Group tour at Al-Darb Al-Ahmar ©Samar Abdelaal



Group tour at Al-Darb Al-Ahmar ©Samar Abdelaal





Group 02 during a working day at Tikayet Mosafer ©Archaistic



Group 04 during a working day at Tikayet Mosafer ©Archaistic

# Imprint

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Cottbus 2023  
Middle East Cooperation Unit  
Bazar Abbas: Recovery Lab of Port Said

## **Urban and Architectural Heritage in Danger Workshop Al-Darb Al-Ahmar, 21<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

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