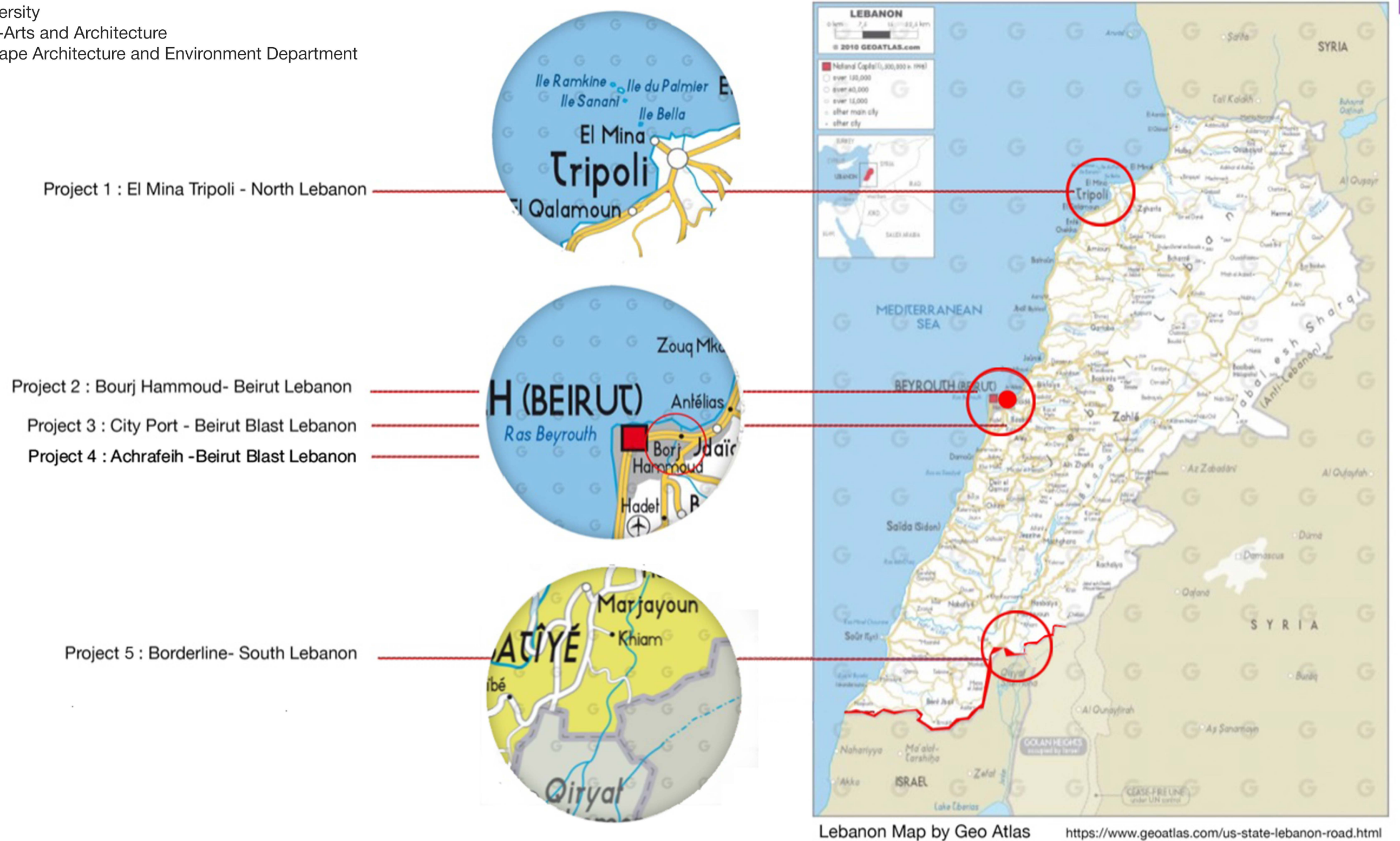


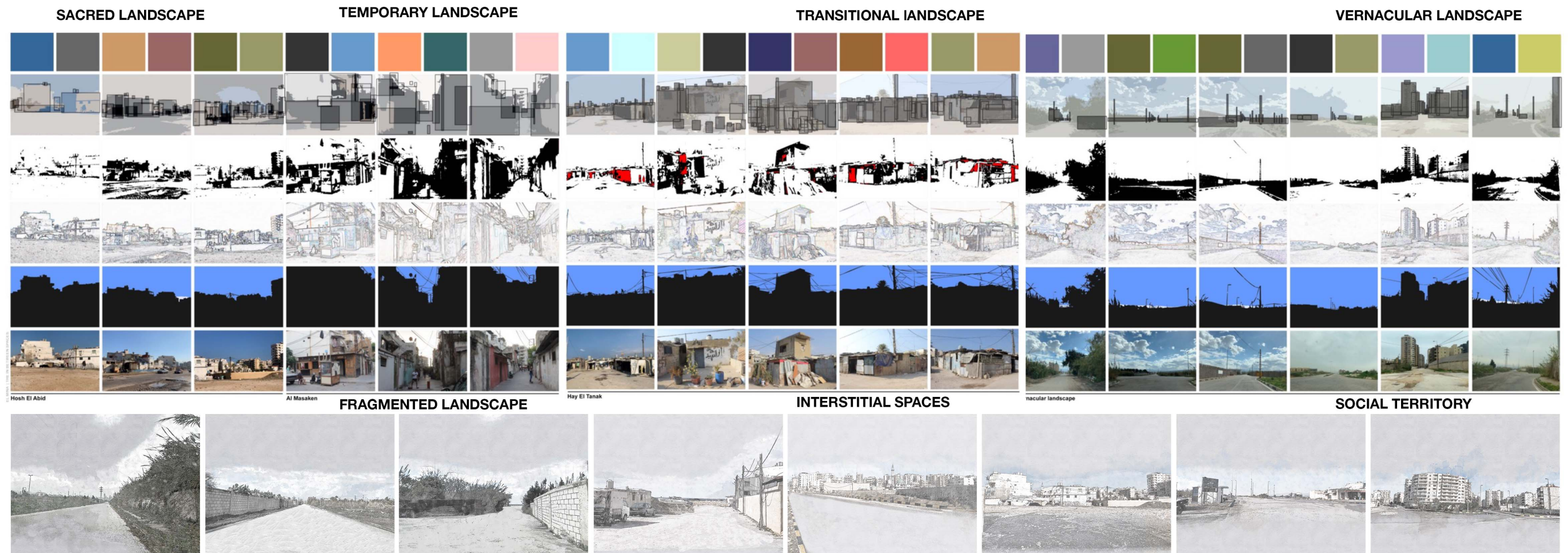


Lebanon Map by Geo Atlas

<https://www.geoatlas.com/us-state-lebanon-road.html>

Please provide a 250-word text explaining the selection criteria used to choose the five projects representing the school in the Ribas Piera Prize. Detail the aspects evaluated, such as conceptual quality, innovation, thematic relevance, technical resolution, or any other criteria considered in the selection process with a single image, characteristic of the academic process, to accompany the text.

'Landscape in Crisis' has been the guiding theme of the Master's in Landscape Architecture and Environment (MAPE), led by a team of professors at the Lebanese University's Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture over the past five years. In a country gripped by overlapping environmental, political, and socio-economic crisis, Lebanon's landscapes, built and natural, are continuously exposed to fragmentation, decay, and transformation. From neglected interstitial spaces to post-blast ruins, from informal cemeteries for refugees to unstable border territories, our landscapes tell the story of a nation in ongoing trauma and of the urgent need to rethink spatial justice and recovery. Five student projects reflect this condition across the territory. In the north, Carole Akkari reclaims El Mina's interstitial voids, transforming neglected urban fragments into spaces of ecological and social value. In Beirut, Laura Matar and Elia Imad confront the aftermath of the 2020 port explosion, mapping destruction and proposing resilient recovery strategies. Also in Beirut, Jean Bernard Cherfane explores the hidden layers of mourning through a transnational cemetery for Syrian refugees in Nabaa, Bourj Hammoud. In the south, Abir Saifi's project on the Southern Lebanese borderscape reveals a fragile terrain shaped by memory, trauma, and resistance. Each project positions the landscape not as a passive backdrop but as an active agent of healing, remembrance, and transformation. Together, they embody MAPE's vision of landscape as a critical tool for inquiry, justice, and socio-environmental repair in crisis-affected territories.



Different Environment, colors, textiles, typology, empty lands, static or dynamic, private or public, formal or informal, relation between inhabitants, variations of cultures and religious, custom and traditions,..... Define the characteristic of the site

"THE IN BETWEEN SPACES"

Country/City	Lebanon / Tripoli - El Mina
University / School	Lebanese University / Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture
Academic year	2022
Title of the project	Reclaiming Interstitial Spaces - The In Between Spaces
Authors	Carole Akkari

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	Reclaiming Interstitial Spaces - the In Between Spaces- El Mina Tripoli Lebanon
Authors	Carole Akkari
Title of the course	Final Project
Academic year	2022
Teaching Staff	Dr Germaine Abed El Hay
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Specialized Master in Landscape Architecture and Environment
University / School	Lebanese University / Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

El Mina, Tripoli, is a coastal city in North Lebanon defined by its rich urban core, historical port, and cultural heritage—elements that shape its identity and collective memory. Since the early 20th century, and particularly **post-crisis** 1975, the area has witnessed major socio-spatial transformations due to **war**, waves of displacement, and the rise of **informal settlements**. Neighborhoods emerged along this evolving urban path, forming boundaries of informal development that continue to fragment the city's fabric

These layers of history have created interstitial spaces—neglected voids born from spatial discontinuities and social disconnect. These micro-spaces reflect a tension between coexisting yet often contradictory types of landscapes: **temporary landscapes** for public/private use, political and cultural landscapes, dynamic/**transitional** and **vernacular landscapes**, and **deathscapes or sacred landscapes** representing life and death. While these typologies rarely coexist in one space, their overlap in El Mina reveals the city's unique complexity and potential

This project proposes an action plan to reclaim these interstitial landscapes and reframe them as spaces of opportunity—where urban, ecological, and social functions converge. The strategy involves four key steps: 1. Reconnecting green areas to enhance ecological and spatial continuity. 2. Rebuilding and restoring the environment by improving habitat quality and preventing further degradation. 3. Restitch & creating meeting points and nodes to foster social cohesion and spontaneous activity. 4. Opening or preserving ruptures, evaluating their ecological and cultural role as connectors or identity markers

By enhancing connectivity through corridors, stepping stones, and managed mosaics (Shlomo Angel, 1990–2000), the plan restores ecological processes and repositions El Mina's interstitial spaces as resilient, inclusive landscapes

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

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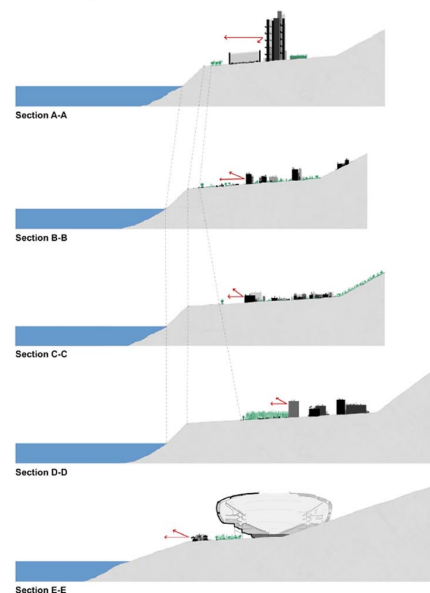
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El Mina | Site Analysis | Ruptures

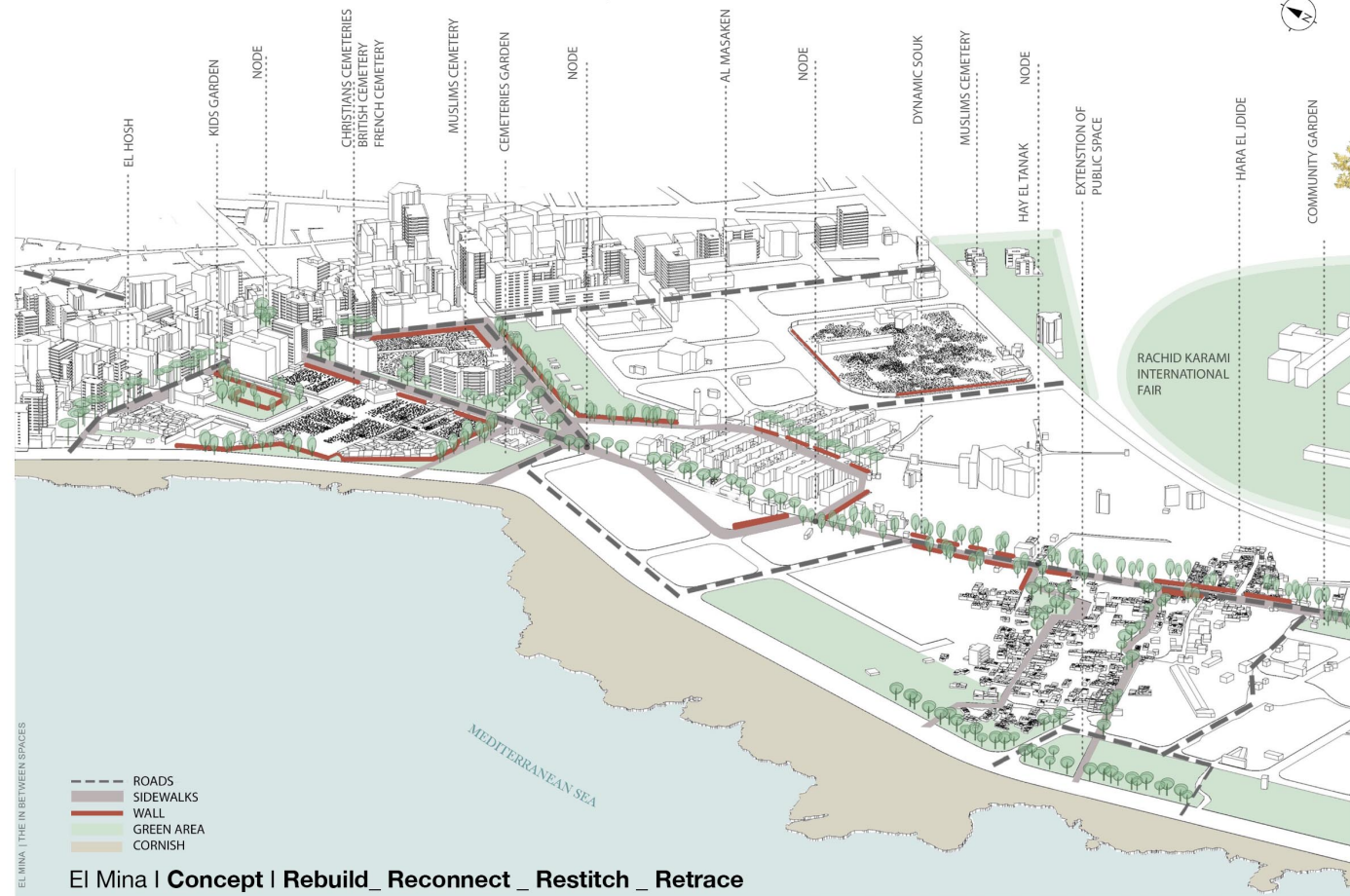
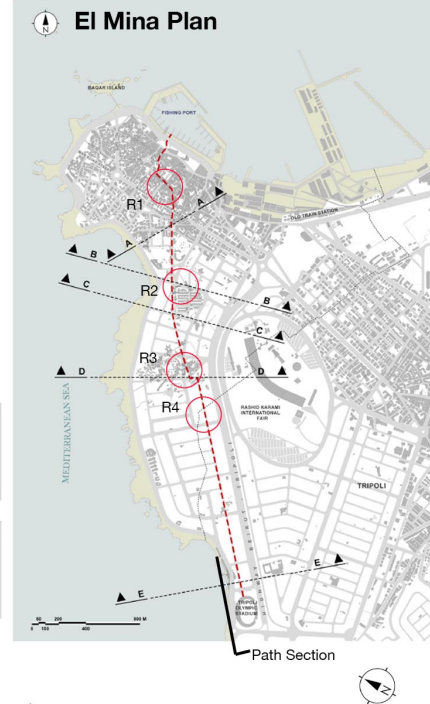


Social & Physical Ruptures

Site Analysis | in relation with the sea



Greenery Role & Relation with the site



El Mina | Concept | Rebuild_ Reconnect _ Restitch _ Retrace

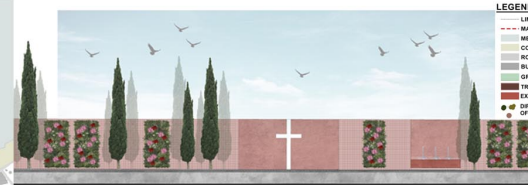


Retrace the old traces in Space & Place, **Reconnect** the ruptures by passage ways of Plantation & transitional Vegetation



Life in **Between** buildings, paths & walls that **Restitch** the dynamics socio spatial

Path General Section



1 In Between walls of cemeteries: Christian & Muslim



1 Symbolic Greenery - Sacred Paths & Sacred Water



2 Visual connection to the sea & Inhabit the wall



3 In between Dynamic & Cultural Landscape



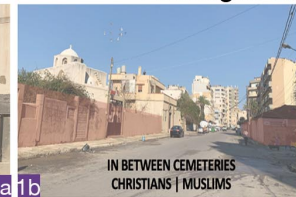
3 Revive & Engage the community

A **transitional vegetations**, Engagement of the nature social contacts, **biopolitical** dynamics more than human landscapes, selection of Native Trees and Symbolic Plants

Existing Area



VISUAL CONNECTION OPEN TO THE SEA



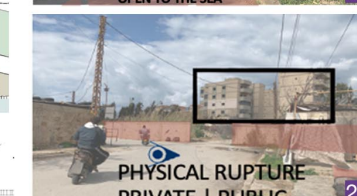
IN BETWEEN CEMETERIES CHRISTIANS | MUSLIMS



Reconnect



Rebuild



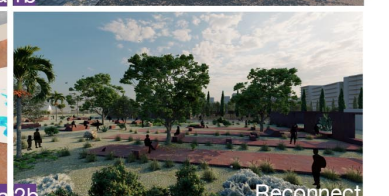
PHYSICAL RUPTURE PRIVATE | PUBLIC



social rupture



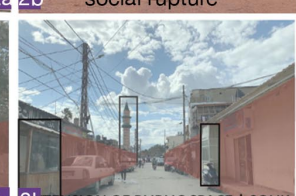
Restitch



Reconnect



COMMUNITY GARDEN



EXTENSION OF PUBLIC SPACE | SOUK

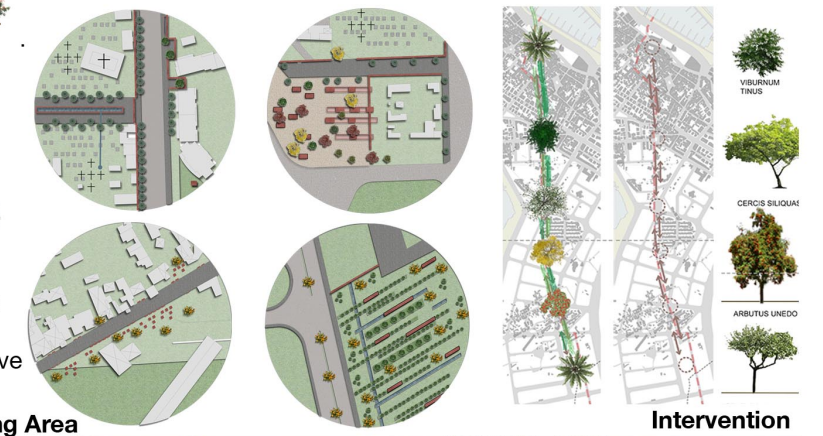


Retrace



Rebuild

Re create Neighborhood by **Reconnect** different type of Landscapes



Intervention

TRANSNATIONAL DEATH



BURIAL SPACE IS BECOMING A PRESSING ISSUE FOR SYRIAN IMMIGRANTS



PROBLEMATIC

HOW CAN A CEMETERY FOR STRANGERS FUNCTION AS A PLACE OF 'TRANSITION' IN A 'MULTICULTURAL' CONTEXT AS AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT IN THIS COMPLEX NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIOPOLITICAL FABRIC TO BECOME A FORMATIVE SITE OF CONVIVIALITY ?

POST WAR CRISIS IN SYRIA, MILLIONS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES ESCAPED TO LEBANON
THE INITIAL QUESTION IS WHERE THE SYRIAN REFUGEES ARE BURYING THEIR DEAD ?



Country/City
University / School
Academic year
Title of the project
Authors

Lebanon
Lebanese university - Faculty of Fine Art and Architecture
2020
TRANSNATIONAL DEATH - A Cemetery for Syrian refugees - Immigrant's Deathscape - THE CASE OF NABAA NEIGHBORHOOD - BOURJ HAMMOUD, LEBANON
Jean bernard chervane

Title of the project	TRANSNATIONAL DEATH - A Cemetery for Syrian refugees - Immigrant's Deathscape
Authors	Jean bernard cherfane
Title of the course	Final Project
Academic year	2020
Teaching Staff	Dr. Germaine abed el hay
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Specialized Masters in Landscape Architecture and Environment
University / School	Lebanese university - Faculty of Fine Art and Architecture



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

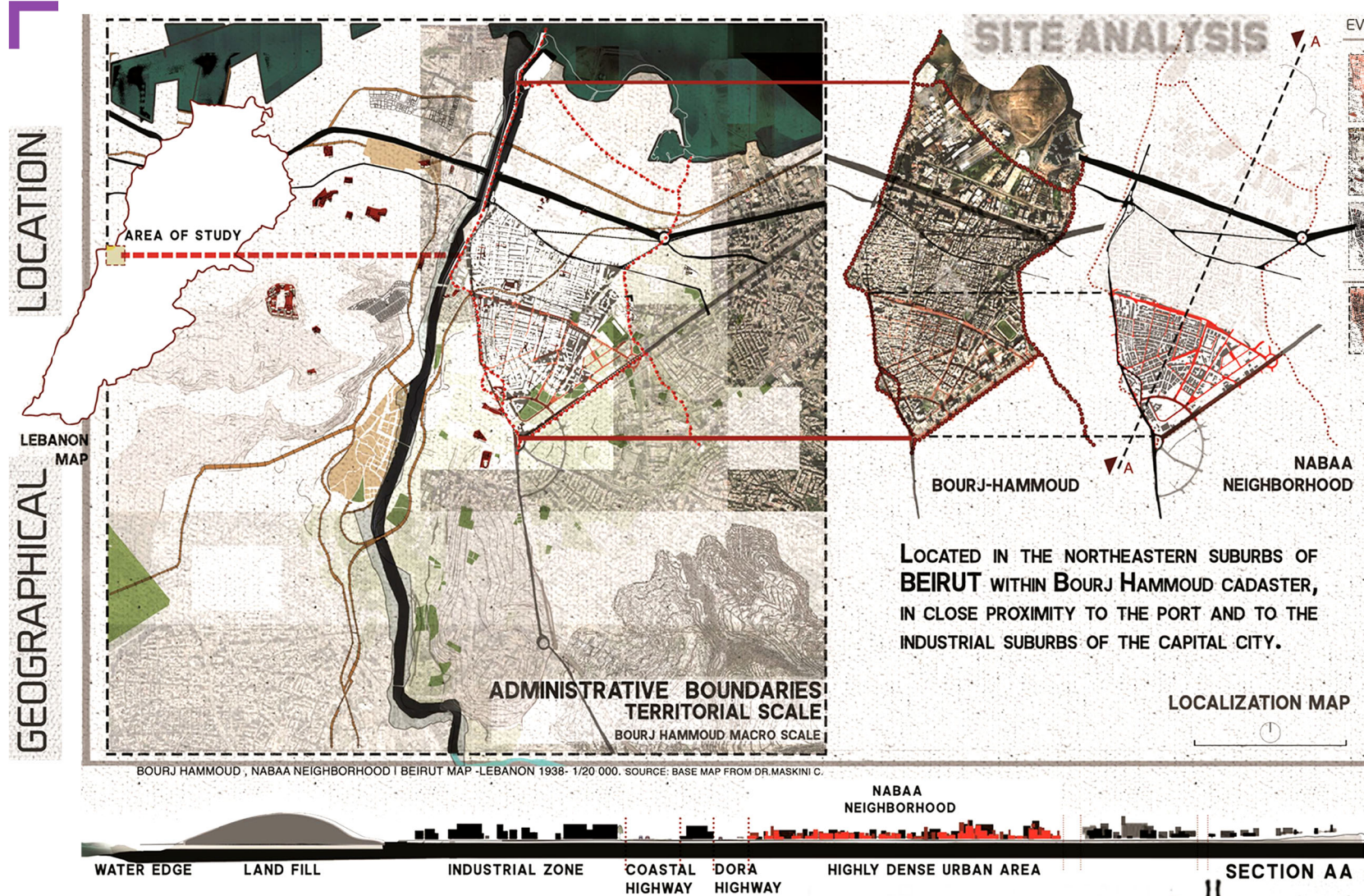
Cemeteries embody our connection to life, memory, and place—yet they now face urgent challenges, particularly land scarcity. In Lebanon, burial grounds are nearly full. Over 1.5 million Syrian refugees (one-third of the population) face growing difficulty burying loved ones. Repatriating remains to Syria is often impossible due to conflict, closed borders, and dangerous conditions. This project proposes a landscape response to refugee burials in Nabaa—a marginalized, densely built neighborhood of Greater Beirut. Once a host community, Nabaa is now predominantly Syrian, neglected by public authorities and lacking essential services. Here, burial practices often involve secret night burials, bribery, and blackmail, shaped by geography, security, sectarianism, and poverty. NGOs estimate 10,000 Syrian refugees die annually in Lebanon—many unrecorded, deepening the burial space crisis. Under the Geneva Conventions, refugees are entitled to individual graves honoring their rites. Yet planning rarely addresses the intersection of migration, death, and land pressures. The notion of Transnational Death reframes burial landscapes as spaces of identity, belonging, community, and memory across borders. The project envisions a holistic urban green cemetery—an inclusive landscape interwoven with Nabaa's fabric. It provides dignified burials honoring diverse cultural and religious traditions, while offering options for repatriation. Designed to adapt to migration's dynamic realities, this evolving landscape becomes a vital space of transition, conviviality, and remembrance—for both refugees and the host community, enriching the urban environment and fostering resilience.

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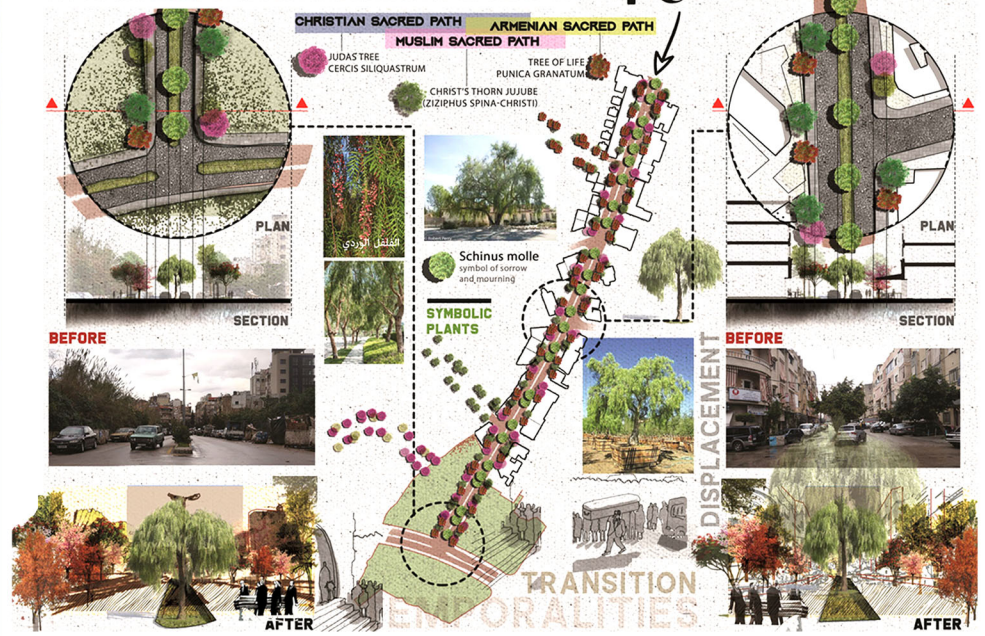




EVOLUTION OF THE GRID



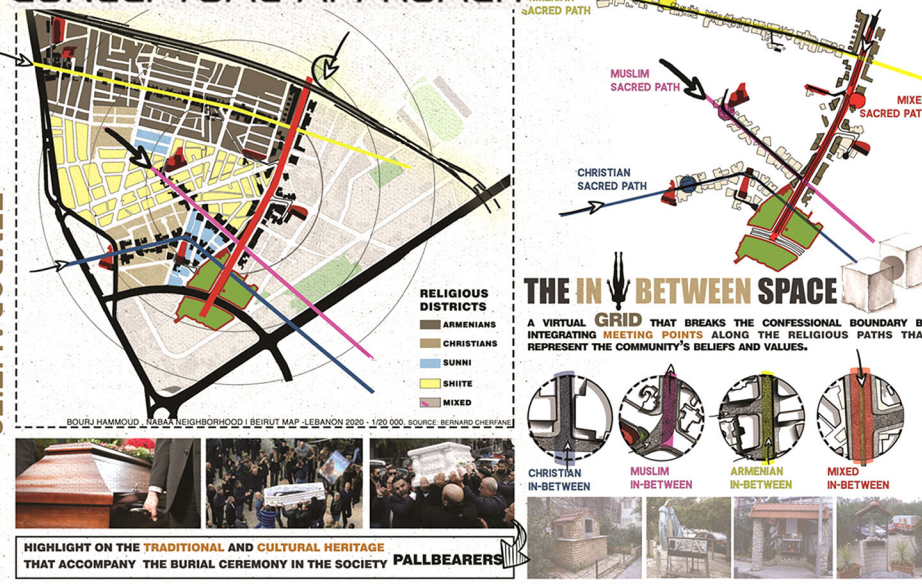
A FINAL GOOD-BYE PATH



A FINAL GOOD-BYE PATH

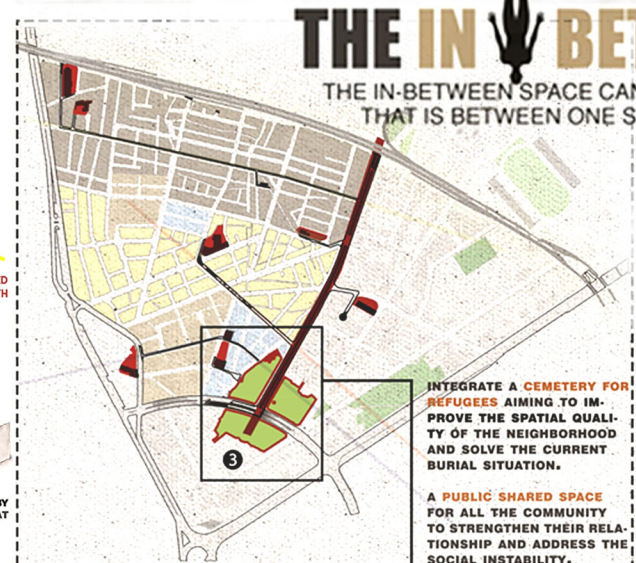
EXPERIMENTAL AND PROGRESSIVE SACRED PATH THAT CONNECTS THE CHURCHES AND MOSQUES TO THE CEMETERY THAT THEY WILL SERVE FOR THE COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES

CONCEPTUAL APPROACH



THE IN-BETWEEN SPACE

THE IN-BETWEEN SPACE CAN BE DEFINED AS "BEING IN A SPACE THAT IS BETWEEN ONE SPECIFIED THING AND ANOTHER"



A LINKING RELATION BETWEEN TIME AND SPACE





pre-explosion

t=4th of August 6:08pm

post-explosion

Post Explosion...4th of August Beirut Blast | Revitalisation of the City-Port Interface

Country/City

Lebanon/Hadath

University / School

Lebanese University/ Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture

Academic year

2020-2021

Title of the project

Post Explosion...4th of August Beirut Blast | Revitalisation of the City-Port Interface

Authors

Laura Matar

Title of the project	Post Explosion...4th of August Beirut Blast Revitalisation of the City-Port Interface
Authors	Laura Matar
Title of the course	Final Project
Academic year	2021
Teaching Staff	Dr. Germaine Abdelhay
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Specialized Master in Landscape Architecture and Environment
University / School	Lebanese University / Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Beirut's growth historically followed the development of its port, railway, and tramway systems, establishing it as a key port city and the "Gate of Damascus." This transportation network connected East and West, shaping Beirut's cultural identity. During the Ottoman and French periods, the port evolved from a small harbor into a global maritime hub, integral to regional trade.

The Lebanese Civil War and the shutdown of the port-railway-tramway system caused a gradual decoupling between Beirut and its waterfront, with Charels Helou Avenue physically isolating the port from the urban fabric. This created a significant visual and social rupture, restricting access to the sea and diminishing public interaction with the waterfront. Furthermore, the crisis triggered by the Beirut blast profoundly impacted the city, emphasizing the need for healing landscapes to foster social connectivity and resilience. The August 4, 2020 explosion transformed the port into a symbol of pain rather than vitality highlighting the fractured connection between the city, the port and the sea.

To reconcile this relationship, Beirut's spirit must be reinjected into the port by establishing the link through Charles Helou Avenue and adjacent breakthroughs, guided by the morphogenetics of ancient landscapes and urban traces.

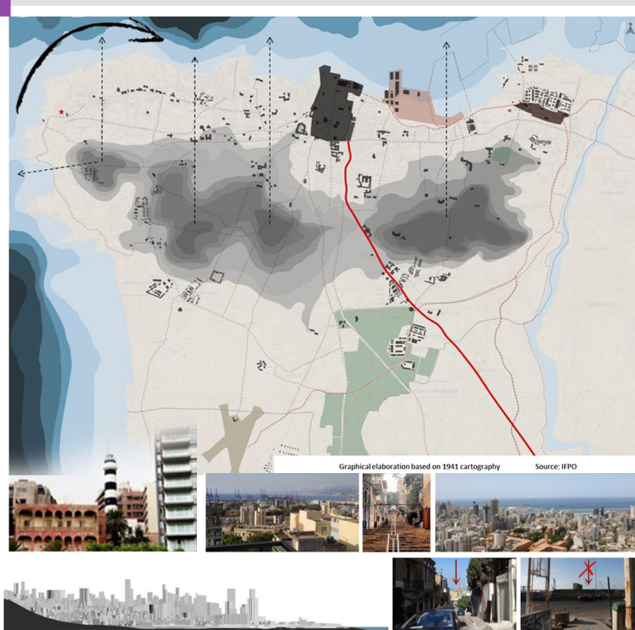
Minimizing the impact of the explosion requires reintroducing the port's dynamism into Beirut. Sustainably retracing the old shoreline, roadways, and monument alignments, while reviving visual, social, physical, connection between city, port, and sea, can rebuild this vital synergy. Ecologically linking green and blue networks will further reconnect Beirut to its waterfront—and to itself.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

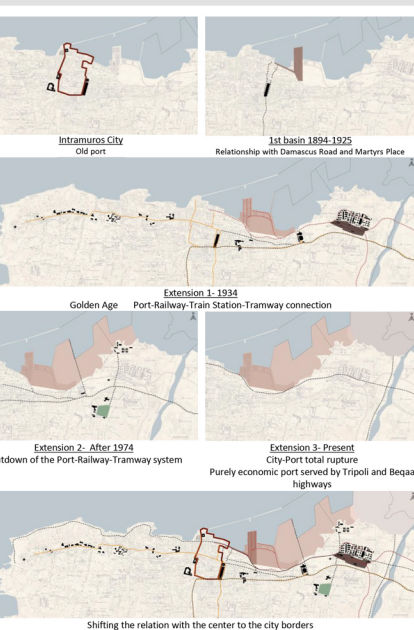
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Topographical Analysis of the relation of Beirut and its Port



Chronological Analysis of the relation of Beirut and its Port



Conceptual approach

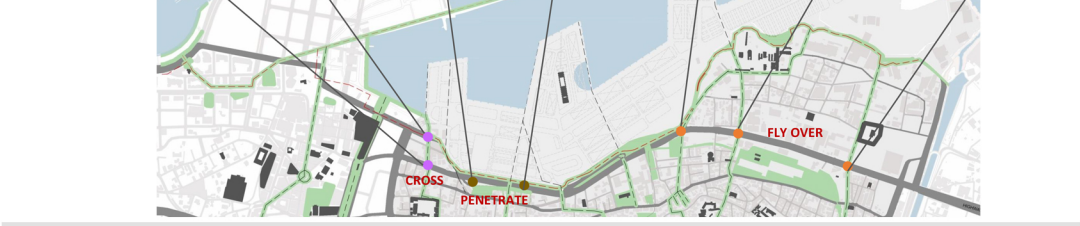
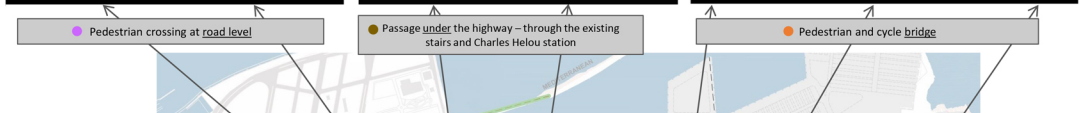


Shifting the relation with the center to the city borders

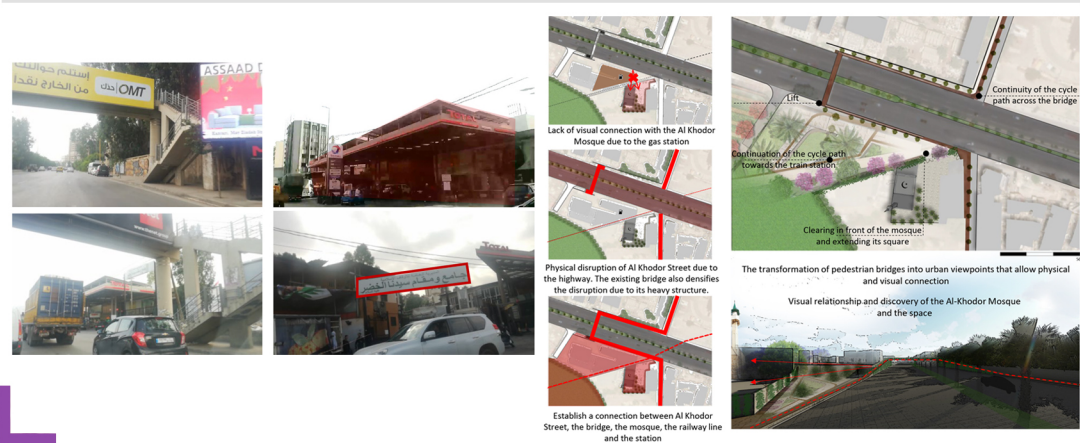


City-Port Interface---Pedestrian Links

Benefit from the three-dimensional landscape to establish the link between Beirut and its port	
Discover different landscape points of view and angles of perception	Discover several experienced landscapes and perceived landscapes
Creation of pedestrian connections all along the Charles Helou Highway	Facilitate and improve traffic between Mar Mkhayel and Mdawar Consolidate the links with the port and the sea Revitalize the ancient traces that existed before the creation of the highway



City-Port Interface---The Bridge-Al Khodor Street



Action Plan
Restoring the relationship between Beirut and its port through social, physical and symbolic connections while adopting a sustainable approach

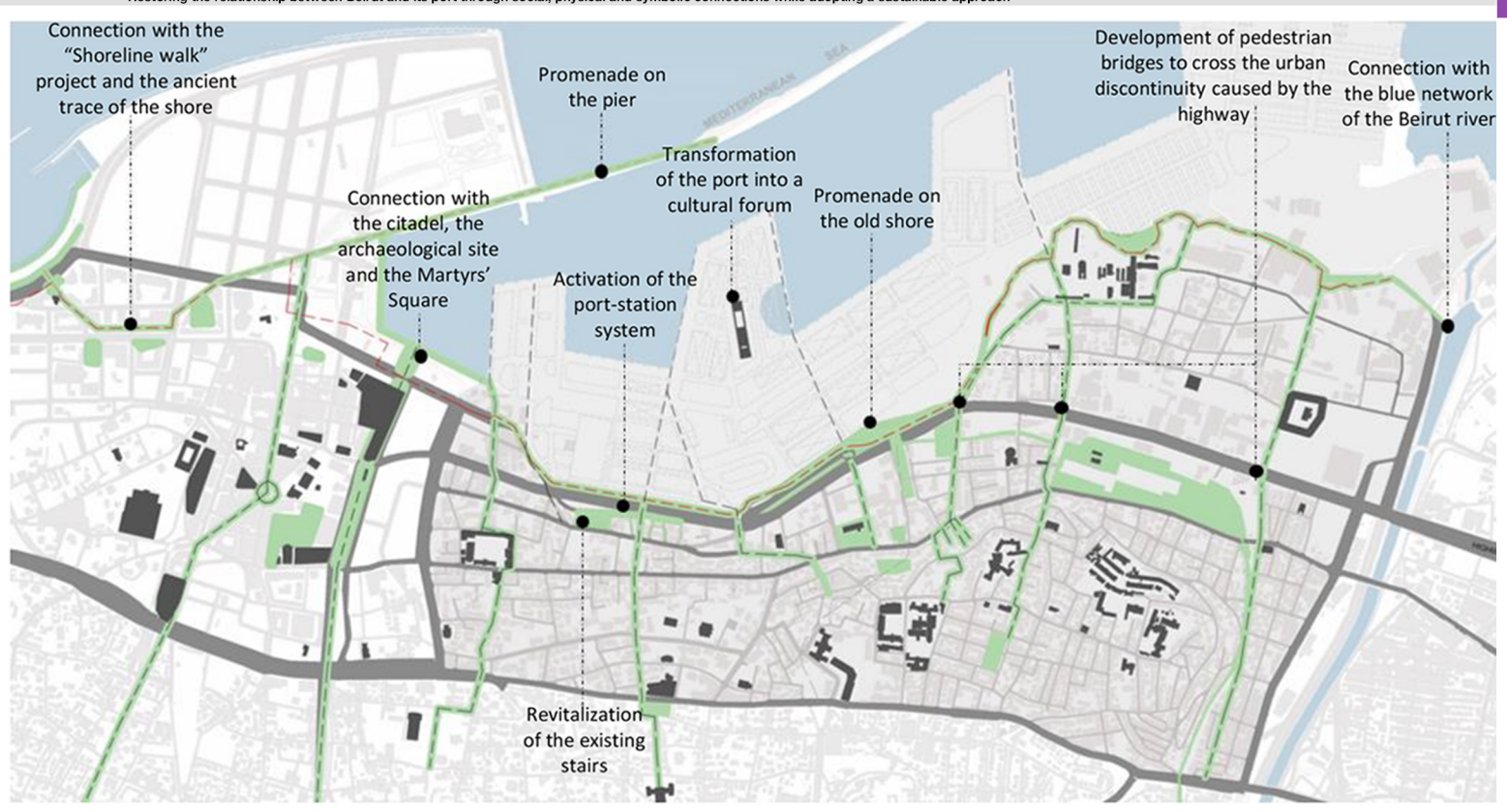
To reconcile the relationship between Beirut and its port, establishing the link through Charles Helou Avenue and the adjacent breakthroughs while basing on the morphogenetics of ancient landscape and urban traces, planning and functionality is proposed.

Inject the city spirit into the port

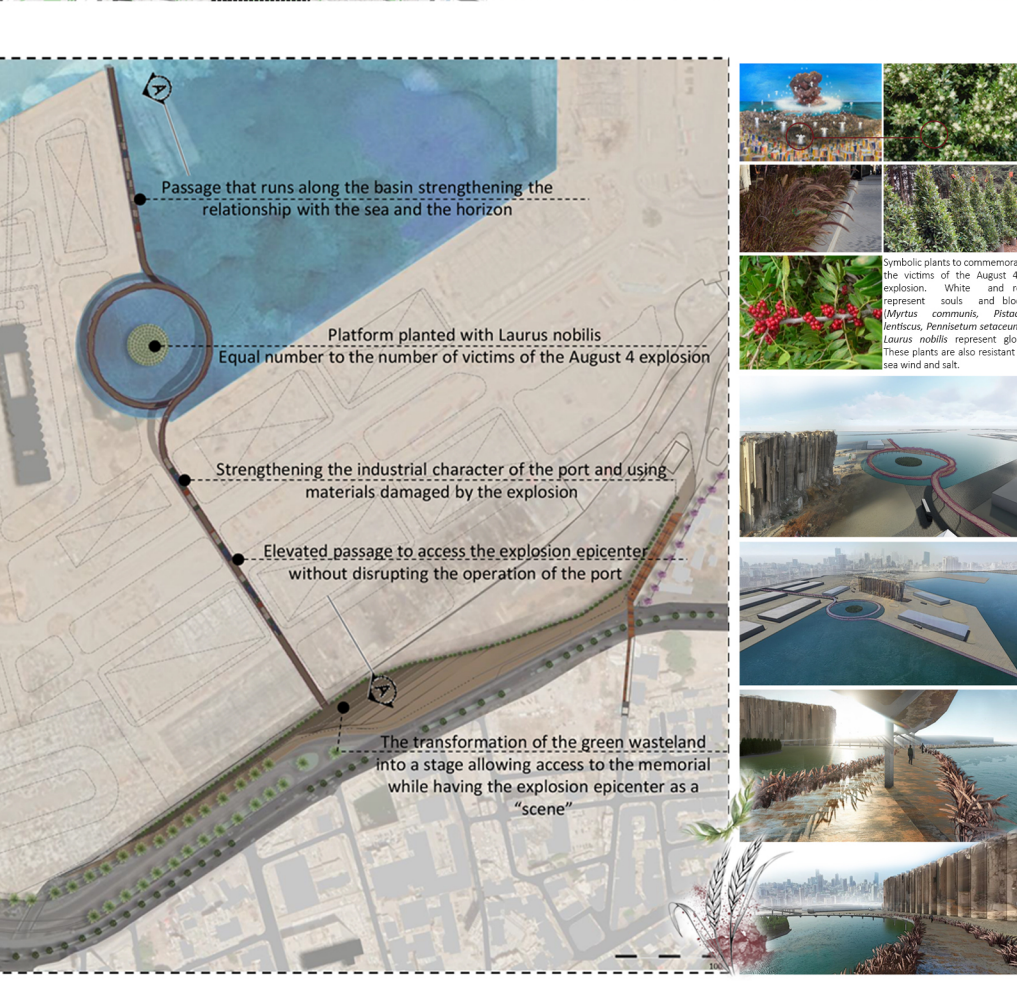
Minimize the effect of the explosion that devastated the city on the material, physical and psychological level

Inject the port dynamism into the city

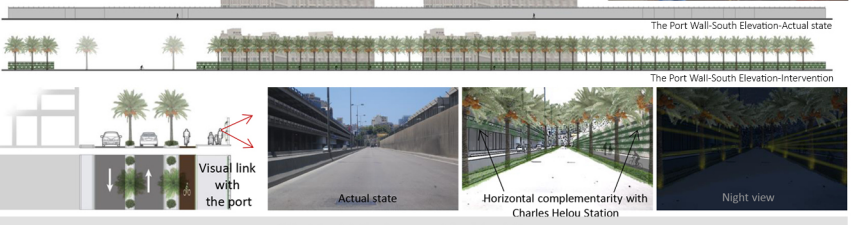
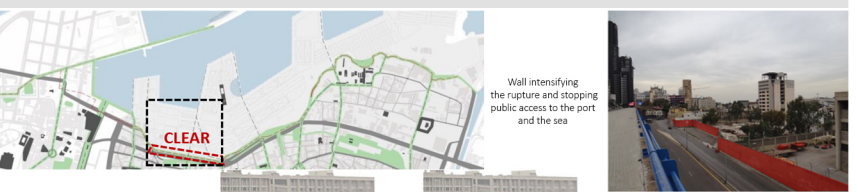
Creating a **SYNERGY** between the city and the port



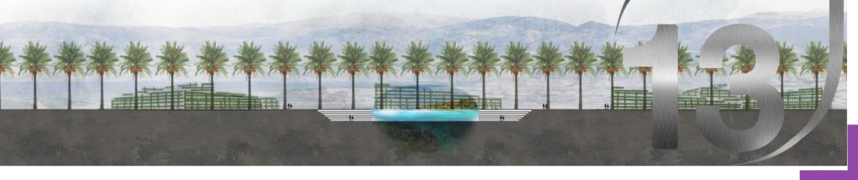
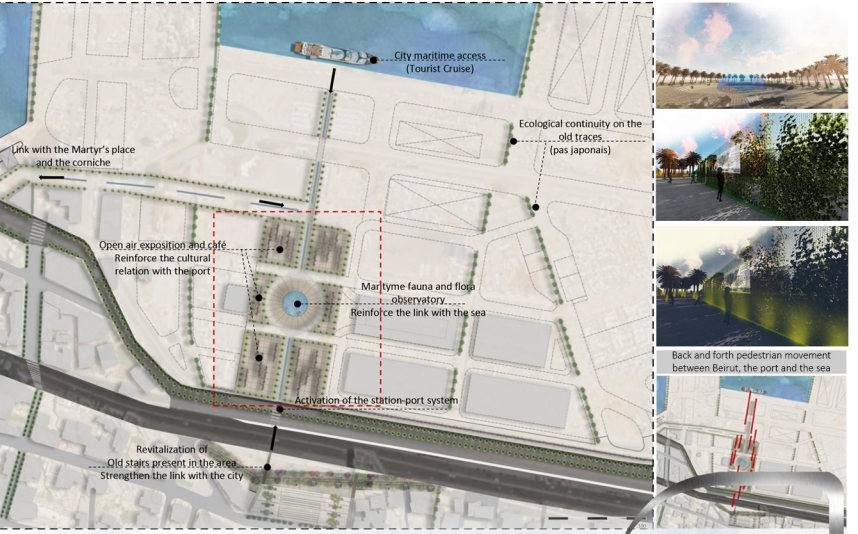
City-Port Interface---The Memorial



City-Port Interface---The Wall



City-Port Interface---The Port Access





Country/City	Lebanon/ Hadath
University / School	Lebanese University/ Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture
Academic year	2020/2021
Title of the project	Post explosion... 4th of August Beirut Blast The Village in the city
Authors	Elia Imad



Title of the project	Post explosion... 4th of August The Village in the city
Authors	Elia Imad
Title of the course	Memoire in Landscape architecture
Academic year	2020/2021
Teaching Staff	Dr. Nina Zeidan
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Landscape architecture
University / School	Lebanese University

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Reimagining the Fouad Boutros Corridor

In the heart of Beirut's Achrafieh district, the unbuilt Fouad Boutros Highway remains a symbol of outdated, car-centric planning that once threatened to fragment one of the city's richest historic neighborhoods. Designed to connect Achrafieh to the port, the proposed road would have destroyed vernacular gardens, erased architectural heritage, and severed community ties.

Today, this corridor presents a timely opportunity to transform crisis into renewal. Over 60% of the area's traditional houses, alleys, and gardens remain intact, and much of the land is publicly owned—making intervention legally and financially viable. Following the August 4, 2020 explosion, which severely damaged nearby Rmeil, the need for a restorative urban vision is more urgent than ever.

A new approach grounded in Resilient Neighbourhood principles is proposed: to restore and reconnect by rehabilitating heritage homes; to recycle vacant lots into productive, community-focused spaces; and to weave green corridors that stitch fragmented neighborhoods back together. Community gardens and small-scale agriculture can support local economies, strengthen food security, and offer therapeutic value—turning urban wounds into shared, healing landscapes.

This people-centered vision prioritizes walkability, ecological connectivity, and adaptive reuse while integrating dense, mixed-use programs and climate-resilient infrastructure. It proposes a shift from demolition to regeneration, from traffic to place-making.

Reclaiming the Fouad Boutros axis as a green, cultural spine can offer Beirut a model of post-crisis urbanism—one that protects memory, reconnects space and community, and fosters inclusive, resilient futures.

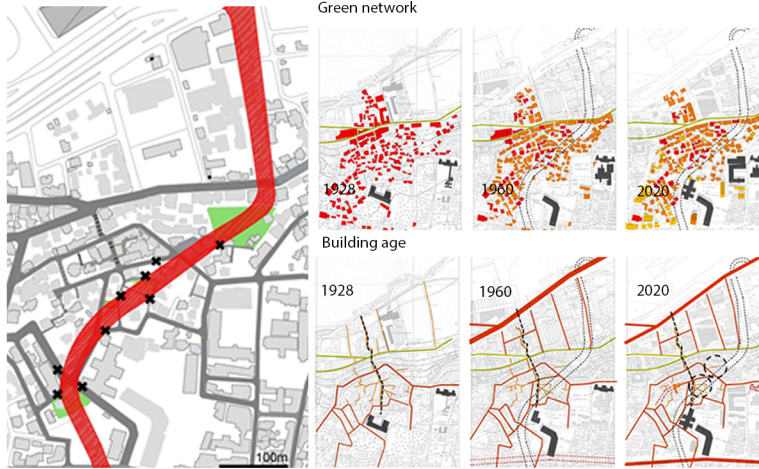
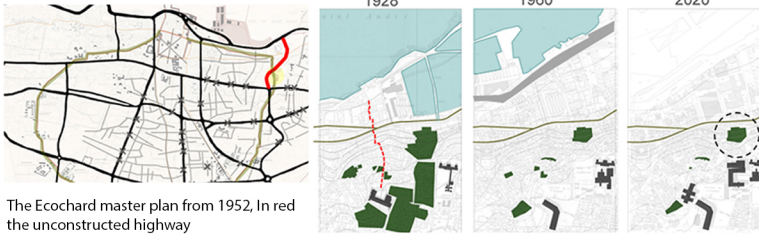
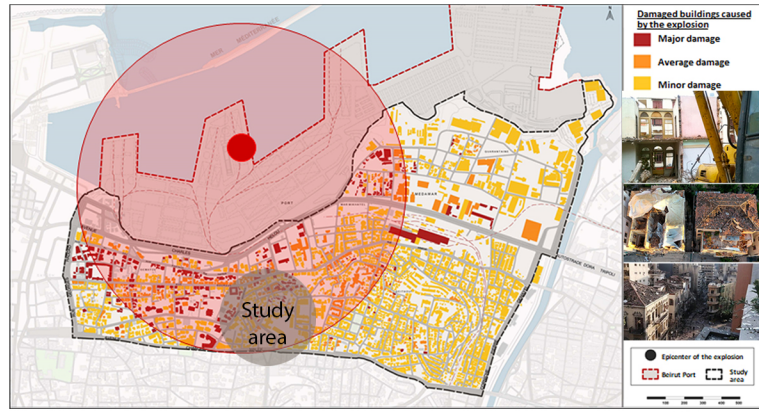
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PROBLEMATIC

The Cultural heritage is heavily endangered Post-explosion giving room for private investors to take advantage



The highway project will cause the demolition of around 30 houses and buildings, many of which are classed under UNESCO

Impact on the character and the quality of the neighborhoods. Small streets, stairways and alleys, small houses and gardens that has a "village-like" atmosphere are to be disrupted.

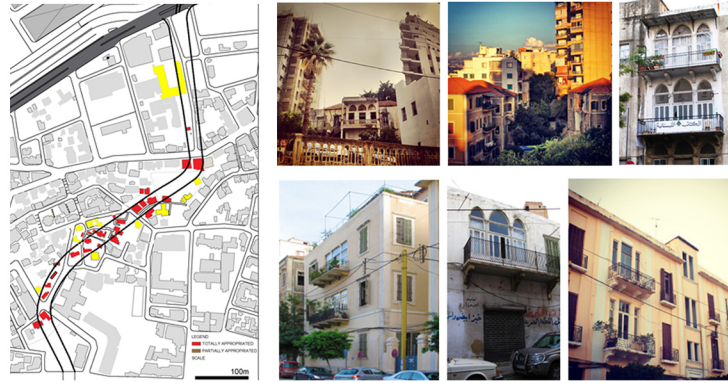
Historical Alleys and neighborhoods



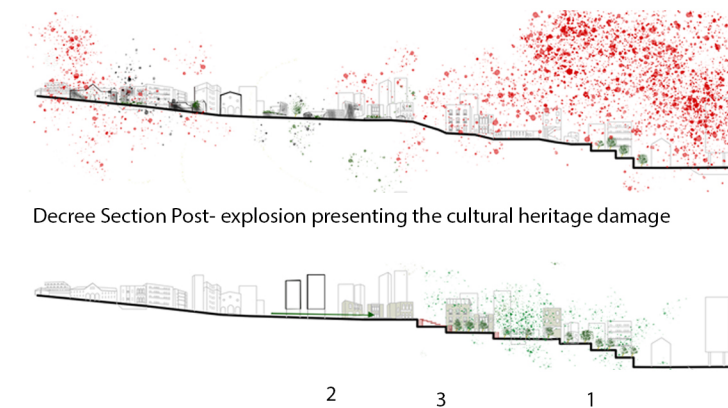
Pedestrian network dating back from the 1920's.

OPPORTUNITY

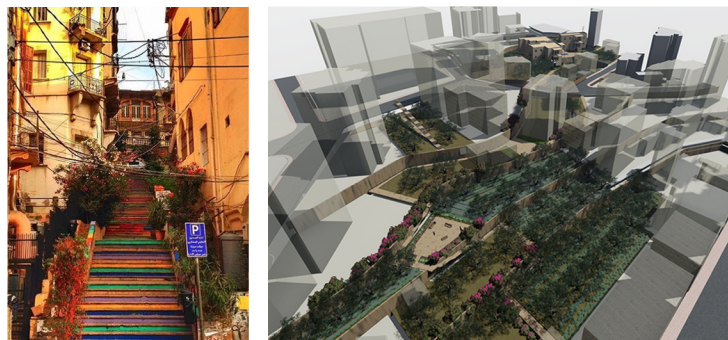
The municipality has appropriated thousands of meters in plots and houses 40+ years ago for the stopped-highway. This is a golden chance to preserve a part of the city's memory.



Terraces corridor implementation



Decree Section Post-explosion presenting the cultural heritage damage

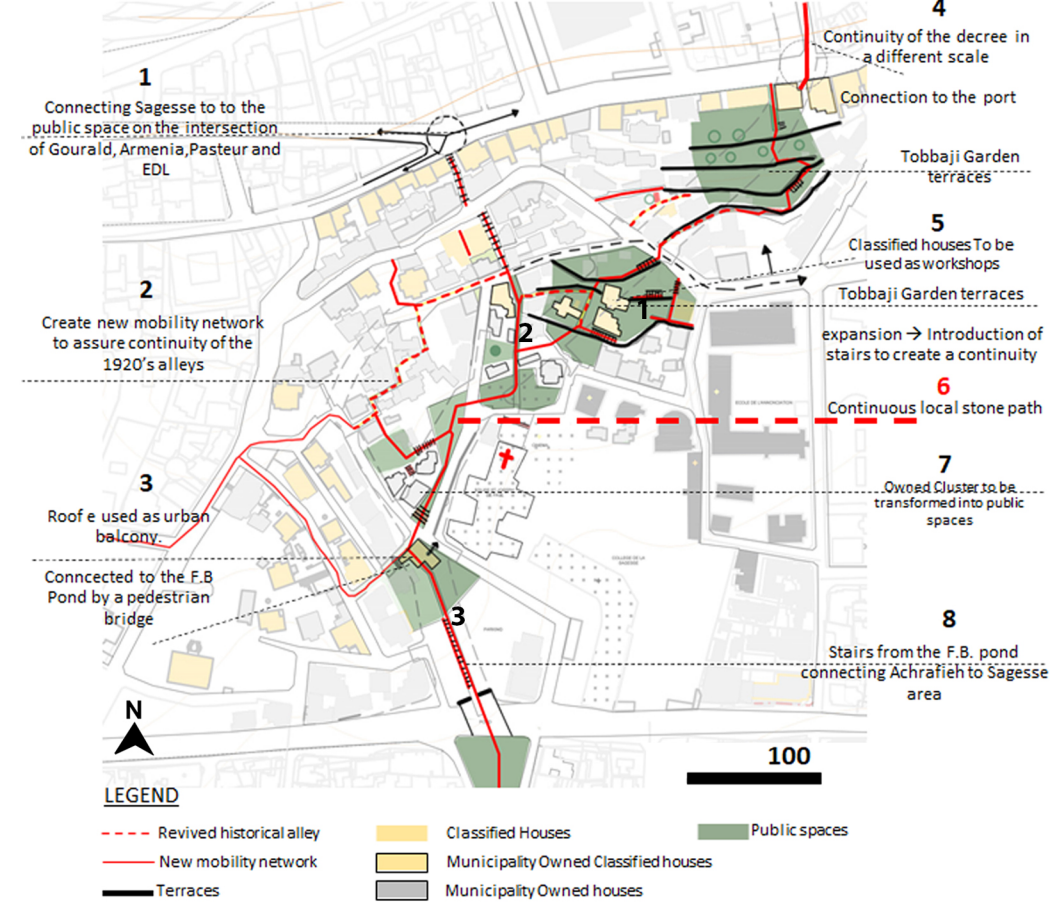


Gholam stairs

Tobbaji garden extension

On the footprints of the decree, the project aim to create a green terraces corridor making use of the appropriated buildings and parcels. The corridor is to be connected to historical stairs of the city

INTERVENTION



1- Tobbaji Garden extension

Ecological and economical importance

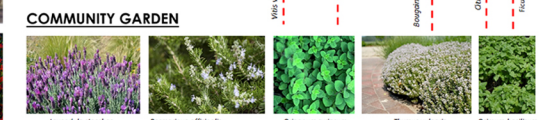
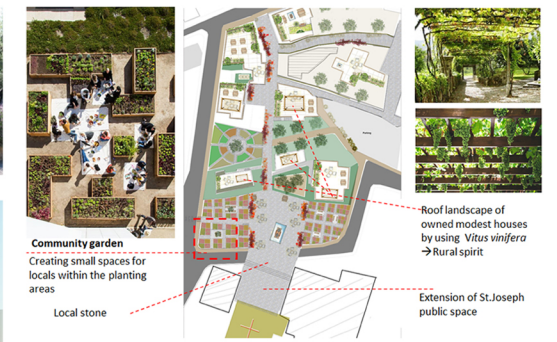


THE COURTYARD



2- Hekmeh Fabric

Social importance- Village spirit



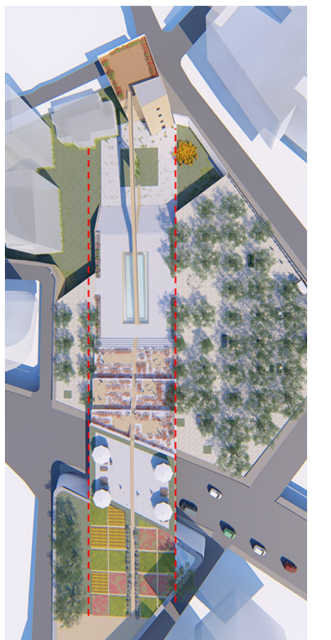
Usage of local stone flooring, bougainvillea and indigenous plants in the connected pedestrian network created in order to highlight continuous walkways -> space perception
System used in many ancient Lebanese neighborhoods perfectly matches the Hekmeh's neighborhood



Lightscape

3- Garden of remembrance

Mobility continuity from Ashrafieh



Transformation of the highway into an ecological pedestrian bridge. Integration of terraces and community gardens



*The Light extending crossing the **Border**, telling the narratives of the people , making the Land a stage .*

Country/City	Lebanon / Beirut
University / School	Lebanese University-Faculty of Fine Art and Architecture
Academic year	2022
Title of the project	Reclaiming the Southern Lebanese Borderscape; from Place Alienation Toward Spatial Retrieval
Authors	Abir Saifi



Title of the project Reclaiming the Southern Lebanese Borderscape; from Place Alienation Toward Spatial Retrieval
Authors Abir Saifi
Title of the course APE 306- Final project
Academic year 2022
Teaching Staff Dr. Nina Zeidan
Department / Section / Program of belonging Specialized Master in Landscape Architecture and Environment
University / School Lebanese University-Faculty of Fine Art and Architecture

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

This project explores the southern Lebanese border—a volatile intersection where Lebanon, occupied Golan (Syria), and occupied Jalil (Palestine) converge in a fragile and elastic border-scape. Throughout time, marked by occupation, resistance, violence, and displacement, this landscape remains unhealed—wounded both physically and emotionally, urbanistically and humanely. Beyond its geopolitical tensions, the region holds a rich, yet painful, collective memory and a strong humanitarian dimension embedded in local narratives.

Our study embraced the border as a landscape in crisis—a living terrain shaped by trauma, exclusion, and resilience. Through field observation, spatial analysis, community interviews, and drawing-based interpretation, we examined how the border’s fluctuating physicality and invisible lines condition the everyday life, identity, and psyche of its inhabitants. Focusing on the Kfarkila–Khiam–Mari triangle, we analyzed the socio-spatial mosaic of topography, memory, and human experience.

The aim was to rethink this ruptured space by linking its fragments into a harmonized experience—shifting from alienation to spatial retrieval. We proposed an action plan addressing local economic, social, and psychological needs through infrastructure rehabilitation, agricultural revival, and commercial activation. A connective path unites these interventions across the region.

At the heart of the project is a symbolic and functional landscape intervention along the border itself: land art installations that reflect the shifting nature and specificity of each border point. These spatial gestures seek to rehumanize and reclaim the borderscape—activating it not as a zone of exclusion, but as a shared landscape of memory, resilience, and future potential.

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Vision and Concept



The diverse nature of this borderscape was effected by the general deterioration of the region, leading to the ruptured and unharmony in experiencing the border, where people are willing and yearning to reclaim and occupy this borderscape. the intervention was done on two level: **part 1** by an active landscape as a action plan to embracing the diverse character of the border and answer people's economical, cultural and physiological needs. interweaved by **part 2**: as land art to express and tell the narratives of the borderlanders.

Part 1: Active Landscape

Part 2: Borderscape Narratives (Land Art)

Part 1: action plan to remanage the territory after being deteriorated for decades, infrastructure rehabilitation, bio farms, agritourism, rain water harvesting ponds, rehabilitation for historical sites.

Part 1: Active Landscape



- 1- creating rainwater harvesting ponds for agricultural irrigation in the plain.
- 2- infrastructure rehabilitation for the roads network, street lights... for accessibility and economical improvement.
- 3- French airport rehabilitation in khiam plain (open anthropology museum).
- 4- local market connecting visually and functionally khiam and Al Marj plains with agricultural processing equipment's.
- 5- a grid tourism improvement in Amra.
- 6- Bio farms in Wazzani.
- 7- ancient caves rehabilitation in Sarada.
- 8- also tourism and memorial open museum in In Majdalat.

Part 2: Borderscape Narratives (Land Art)

Resistance Fear invasion isolation Detention Violence



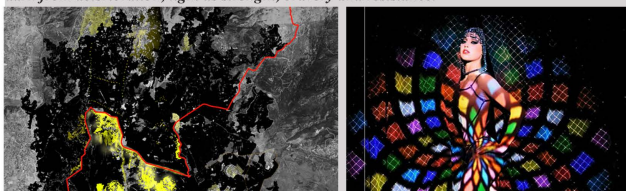
1- Intervention on the border
2- Intervention on the borderland

The path that connects the diverse nature of the borderscape creating in every place an experience reflecting the nature and character of the landscape, people's narratives and answering their demands. Some times on the ground, under the ground, moving upward as a bridge.

The path will tell the story ...

1- Intervention on the border

Inspired by the artist Alain Bernardin.. Crazy horse- paris.. When the light mingles the border of the body to tell another story, another narrative, when the body become the stage, what if the land become the stage?? The border is the stage of something that can cross it changeable, dynamic like the nature of the border always changing, reflecting the truth telling the humanitarian dimension of the borderland.. lebanese side is always dark from deterioration, light as strenght, bravery and resistance.



The Wall As a STAGE

2- Intervention on the borderland

wooden roof

The sphere

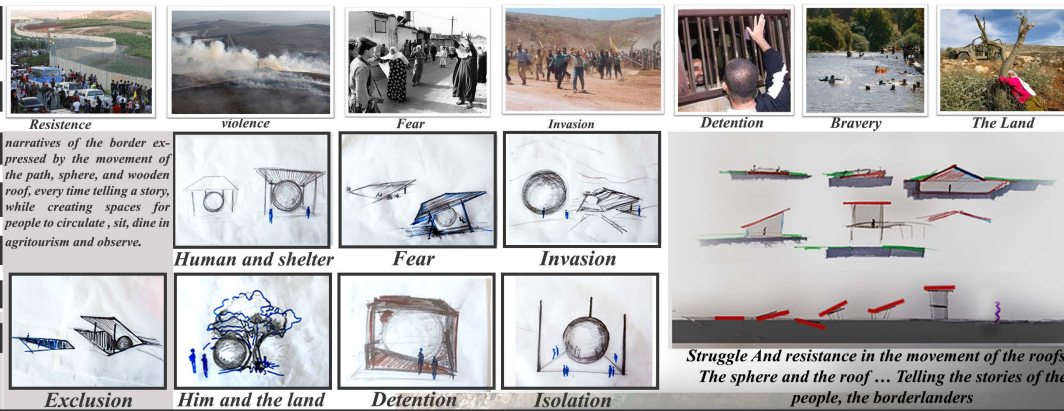
The universe

The globe

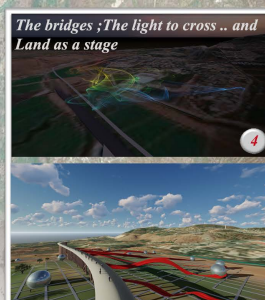
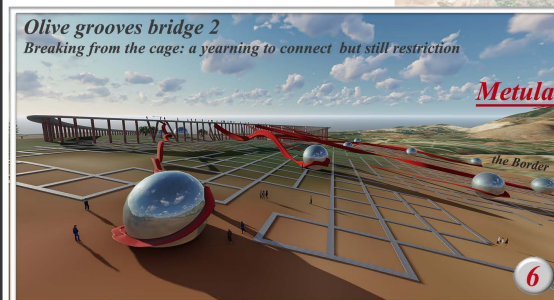
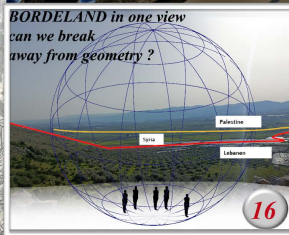
The self

No line border,
No edge
No direction
or
defined orientation

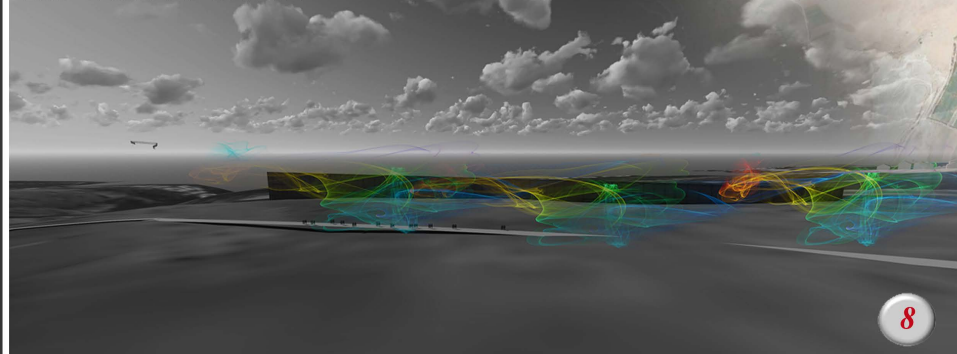
Three Spheres of
Existence
The universe
The globe
The self



The path ,The sphere and the roof ... evolve

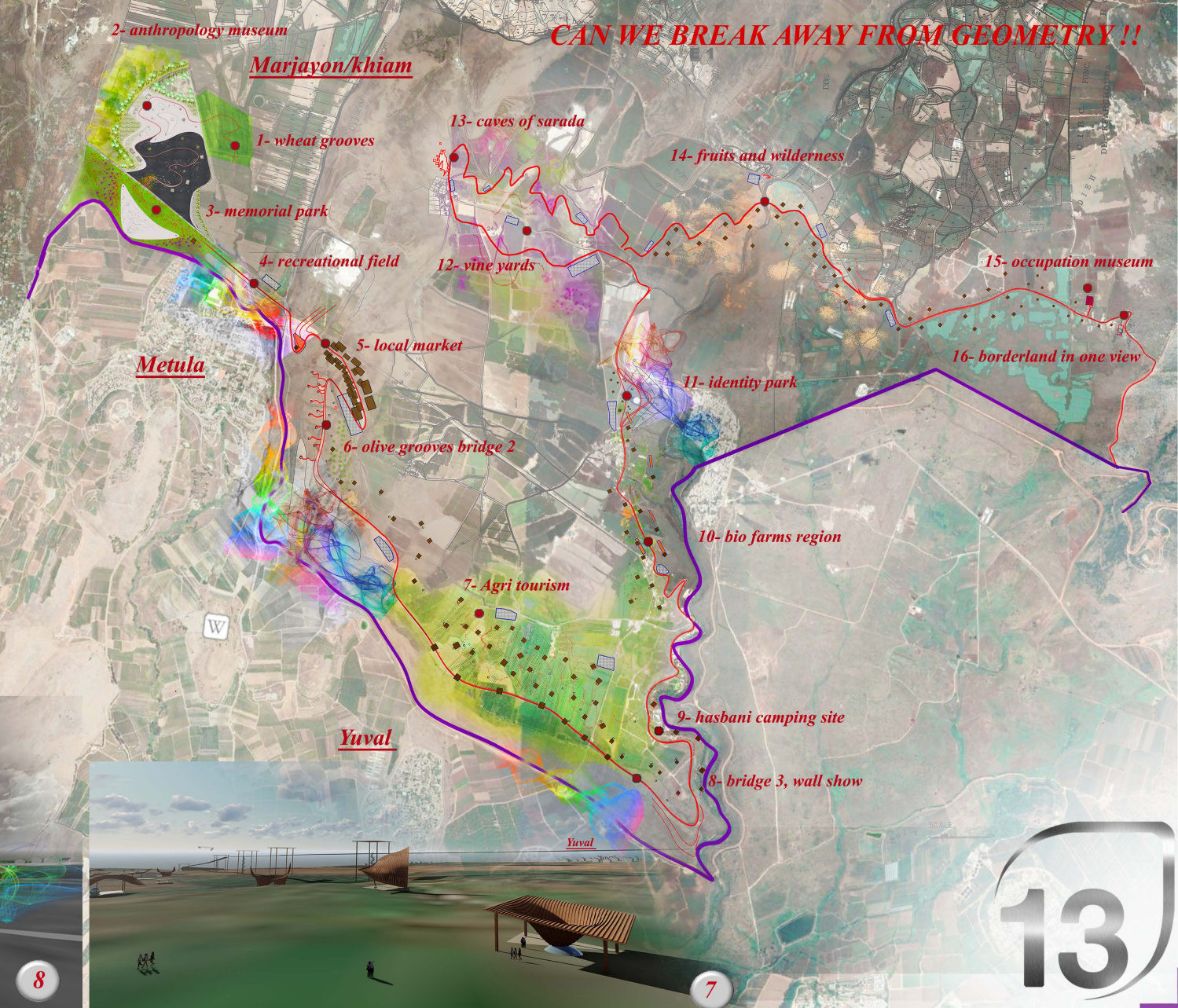


The Wall As a STAGE



BORDERSCAPE NARRATIVES

CAN WE BREAK AWAY FROM GEOMETRY !!



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