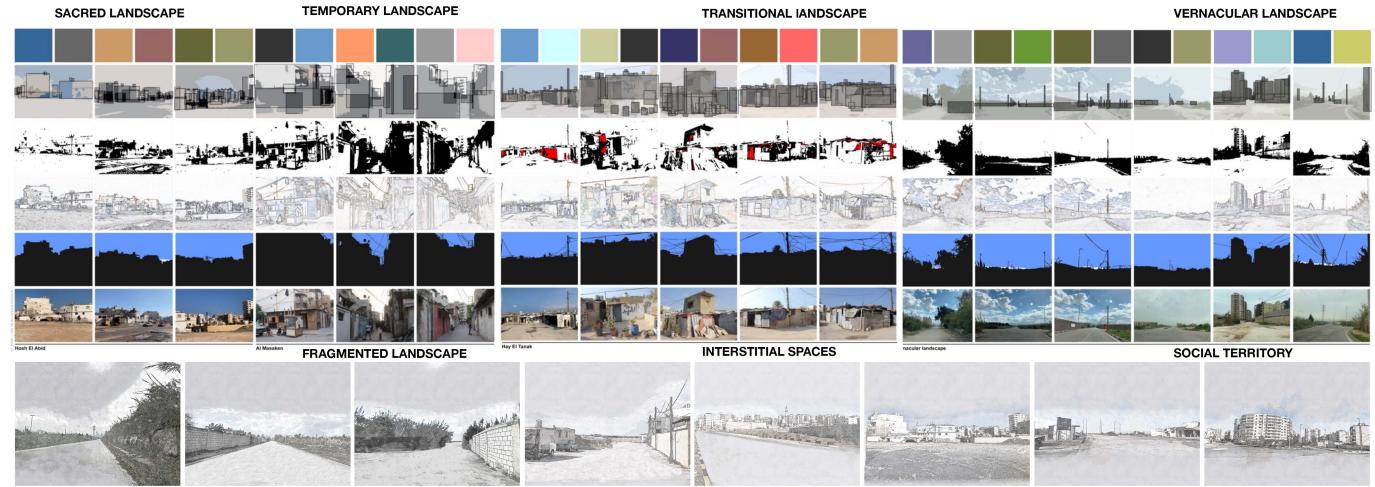


Please provide a 250-word text explaining the selection criteria used to choose the five projects representing the school in the Ribas Piera Prize. Detail the aspects evaluated, such as conceptual quality, innovation, thematic relevance, technical resolution, or any other criteria considered in the selection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





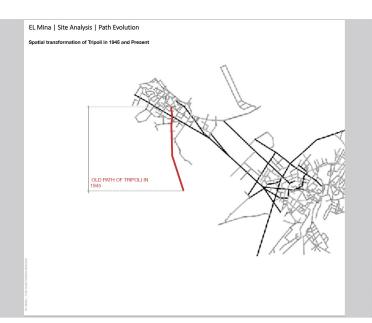
Different Environment, colors, textiles, typology, empty lands, startic or dynamic, private or public, formal or informal, relation between inhabitants, variations of cultures and regilious, custom and traditions,.... Define the characteristic of the site

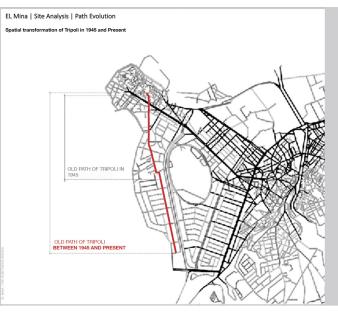
"THE IN BETWEEN SPACES"

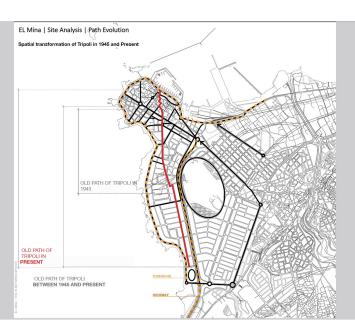
Country/City	Lebanon / Triopli - El Mina	
University / School	Lebanese University / Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture	
Academic year	2022	40
Title of the project	Reclaiming Interstitial Spaces - The In Between Spaces	122001 107
Authors	Carole Akkari	

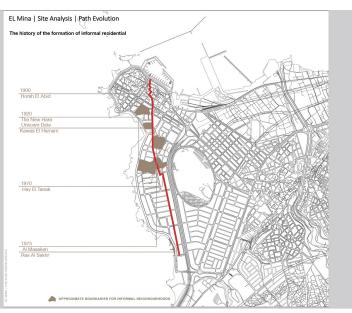
Title of the project	Reclaiming Interstitial Spaces - the In Between Spaces- El Mina Tripoli Lebanon			
Authors	Carole Akkari			
Title of the course	Final Project			
Academic year	2022			
Teaching Staff	Dr Germaine Abed El Hay			
Department / Section / Program of belonging				
	Specialized Master in 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-crise** 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

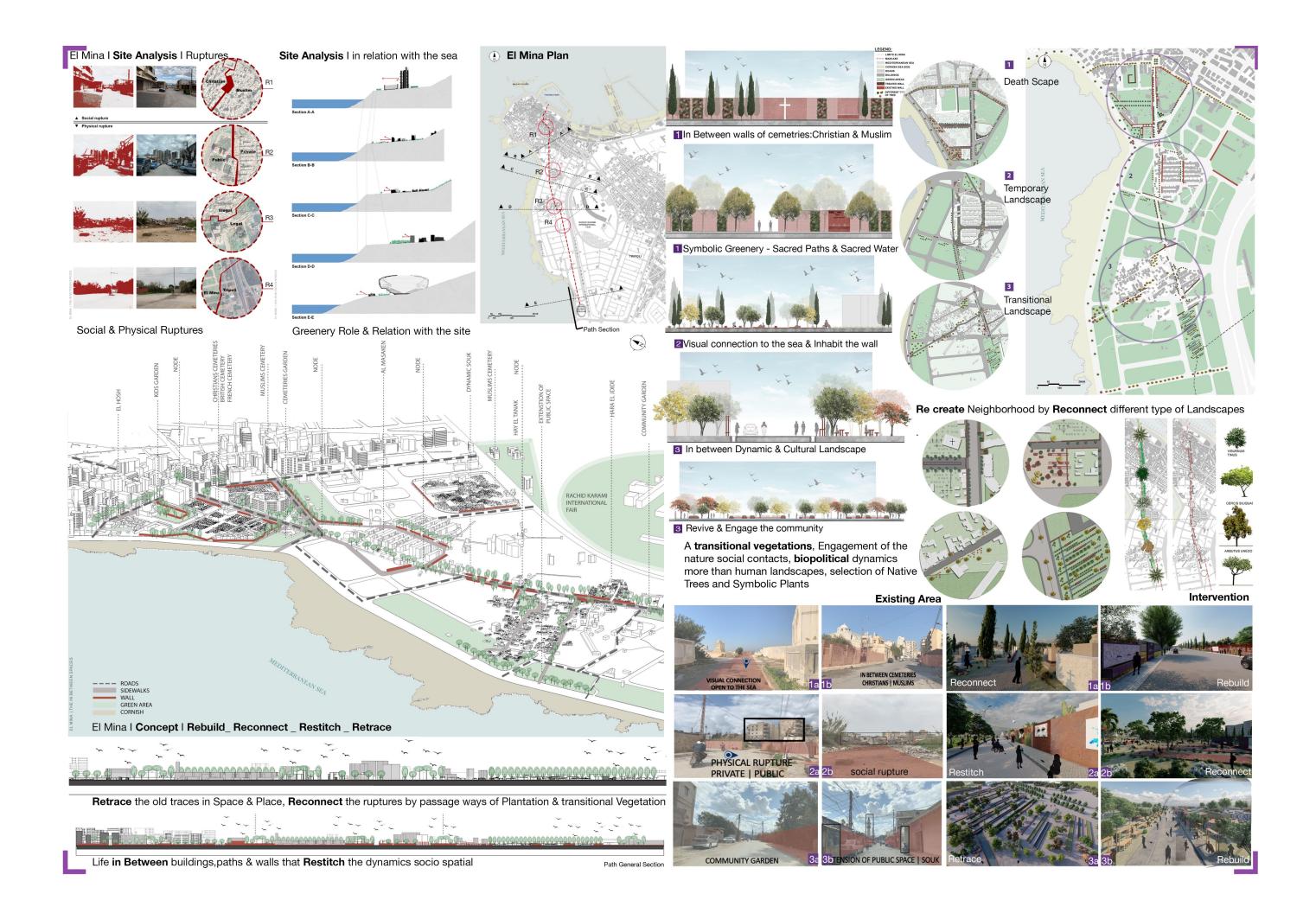
This project proposes an action plan to reclaim these interstitial landscapes and reframe them as spaces of opportunity—where urban, ecological, and social functions converge. The strategy involves four key steps: 1. Reconnecting green areas to enhance ecological and spatial continuity. 2. Rebuilding 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

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Venue

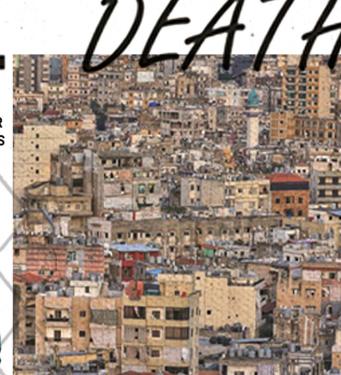


TRANSNATIONAL



BECOMING A PRESSING ISSUE FOR SYRIAN IMMIGRANTS





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



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 FORMATIVE SITE OF CONVIVIALITY ?



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

Jean bernard cherfane



Title of the project
Authors
Jean bernard cherfane
Title of the course
Academic year
Teaching Staff
Department / Section / Program of belonging
Specialized Masters in Landscape Architecture and Environment
Lebanese university - Faculty of Fine Art and Architecture





A CEMETERY FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES - IMMIGRANT'S DEATHSCAPE THE CASE OF NABAA NEIGHBORHOOD - BOURJ HAMMOUD, LEBANON

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

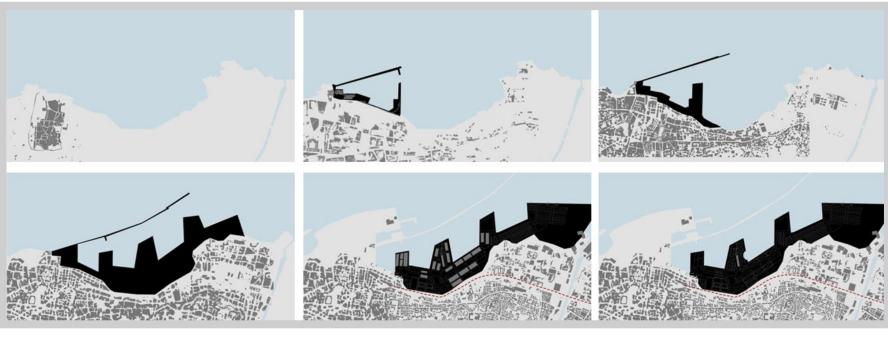
Lebanese University/ Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture 2020-2021

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



Title of the project	Post Explosion4th 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.

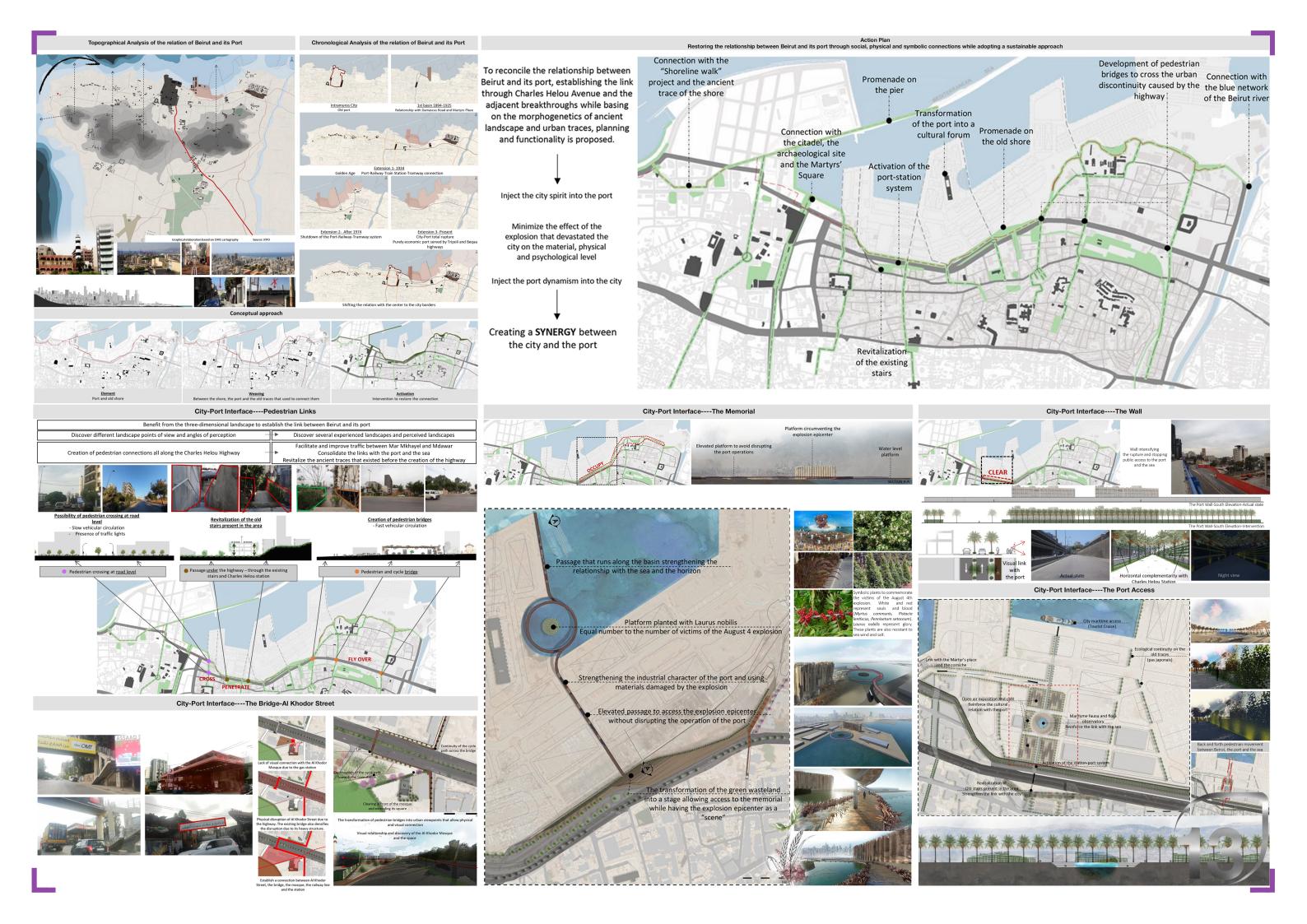
The Lebanese Civil War and the shutdown of the port-railway-tramway system caused a gradual decoupling between Beirut and its waterfront, with Charels Helou Avenue physically isolating the port from the urban fabric. This created a significant visual and social rupture, restricting access to the sea 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.

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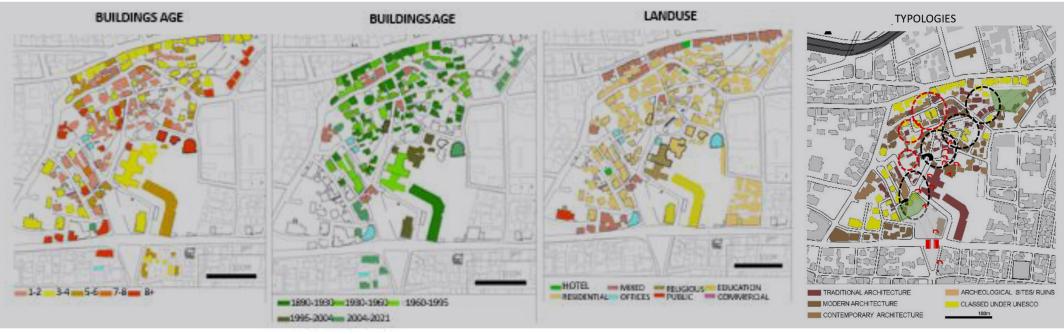
Country/City University / School Academic year Title of the project Authors

Elia Imad



Title of the president	Post explosion 4th of August The Village in the city			
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.

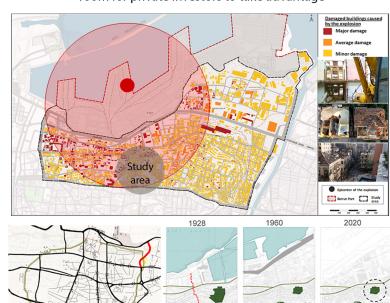
Reclaiming the Fouad Boutros axis as a green, cultural spine can offer Beirut a model of post-crisis urbanism—one that protects memory, reconnects space and community, and fosters inclusive, resilient futures.

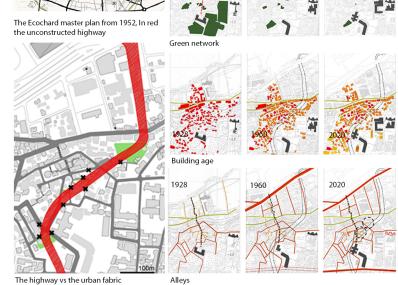
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PROBLEMATIC OPPORTUNITY

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

Historical Alleys and neighborhoods

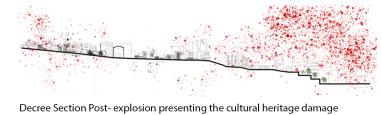


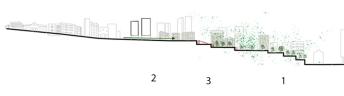
The municipality has appropriated thousands of meters in plots and houses 40+ years ago for the stopped-highway. This is a golden chance to preserve a part of the city's memory.





Terraces corridor implementation



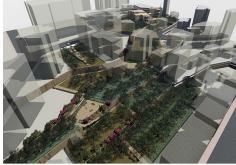


Decree Section Post-healing landscape intervention. Continuity of the tobbaji garden terraces and gardens (1), creation of open visual (2), implementation of stairs that are a key element in the local identity and landcape (3)





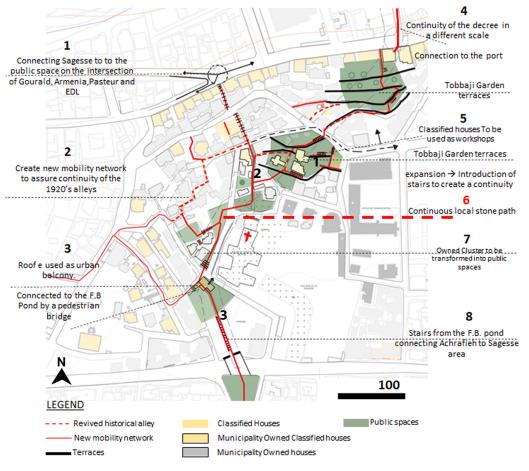




Tobbaji garden extension

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

INTERVENTION



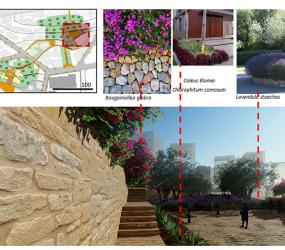




Lightscape

1-Tobbagi Garden extension

Ecological and economical importance





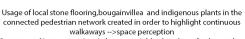


2- Hekmeh Fabric

Social importance-Village spirit







walkaways -->space perception
System used in many ancient Lebanese neighborhoods perfectly matches the Hekmeh's neighborhood

3- Garden of remembrance Mobility continuity from Ashrafieh







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

Lebanon / Beirut
Lebanese University-Faculty of Fine Art and A

Lebanese University-Faculty of Fine Art and Architecture

2022

Reclaiming the Southern Lebanese Borderscape; from Place Alienation Toward Spatial Retriev

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

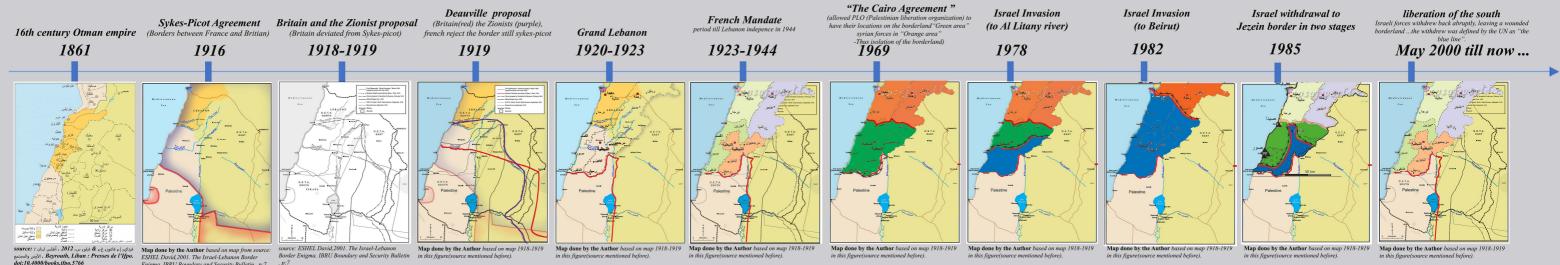
.....

University / School Lebanese University-Faculty of Fine Art and Architecture



The Border's nature...

This border has always been *Elastic*. This elasticity came as a result of a geopolitical reality, conflicts and political squabbles. Moved inward by withdrawal, leaving traces on the boarderscape. still struggling over it till now, and in people's minds it isn't a line, but a grid of patterns shifted and scattered creating a *palimpsest* of place and landscape. This border story was recently invented, but the *borderscape* has another narrative, a long one embedded in the collective memory of the people.



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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Part 1: Active Landscape

Part 2: Borderscape Narratives (Land Art)

after being deteriorated for decades, infrastruc tion, bio farms, agritourism, rain water harvesting ponds, rehabilitation for his



and unharmony in experiencing the

Part 2: Borderscape Narratives (Land Art)



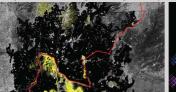
the borderscape creating the every pla experience reflecting the nature a aracter of the landscape, people's nari es and answering their demands. Soi

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 some-thing 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 alw







2- Intervention on the borderland

wooden roof

The sphere









OI

Human and shelter















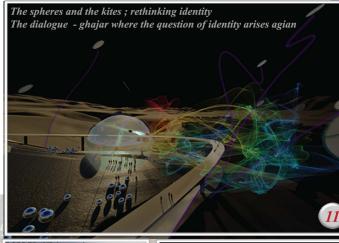


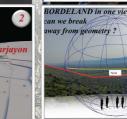


Struggle And resistance in the movement of the roofs. The sphere and the roof ... Telling the stories of the













Fear





Invasion











