

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.

The selection process of the graduation projects was conducted by 3 professors using 7 criteria, evaluated by 100 points, and a bonus criterion with 5 points. The top 5 projects are selected according to the following criteria.

- 1- Design Concept & Vision Originality, including Clarity of vision, interesting narrative, and innovative solutions
- 2- Contextual Integration, including Site responsiveness and Heritage & character respect
- 3- Functionality & Usability including Practicality, Accessibility, and a satisfying user experience
- 4- Sustainability & Resilience, including Environmental strategies and Adaptability to protect natural resources
- 5- Solving a local problem, including A solid methodology, selecting an Important issue, positive social impact, and clear economic impact
- 6- Urban Impact including high connectivity, public realm quality, and acceptable density & land use
- 7- Presentation & Communication, including Graphics & visual quality, and fulfilling the required documents
- 8- Bonus Criteria, including community engagement or participatory design, compliance with zoning/regulatory guidelines, and timeframe/phasing of development



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

Egypt – Giza
Cairo university Faculty of regional & Urban Planning
5th Year (Bachelor's Year) 2024 - 2025
Localization of agricultural tourism community on the northern shore of lake Qarun
Kareem Usama Abosrea



Title of the project ...Localization of agricultural tourism community on the northern shore of lake Qarun

Authors ...Kareem Usama Abosrea

Title of the course ...Graduation Project 2

Academic year ...5th Year (Bachelor's Year)

Teaching Staff ...Prof-Dr\ sameh alalaili – Dr \ Ali Abdeljawad – Dr \ Karim Qutb

Department / Section / Program of belonging ...Urban Design Departement

University / school

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

This project proposes the development of a regenerative agro-touristic community along the northern desert edge of Lake Qarun—an ecologically rich yet severely degraded landscape due to pollution, salinity, and mismanagement. Rooted in the principles of **regenerative design**, the project seeks not just to sustain but to restore and enhance the land’s ecological, social, and economic systems. It envisions a phased development that begins with an **experimental agricultural core**, introducing salt-tolerant crops, solar-powered irrigation, and the reuse of treated lake water—transforming degraded desert into productive land. The second phase introduces an **eco-tourism and heritage tourism hub**, offering nature lodges, birdwatching routes, and access to archaeological sites, creating spaces for environmental awareness and cultural connection. A **coastal development belt** activates the lakeshore with ecological safeguards, combining economic use with natural preservation. In its final phase, the project introduces a **community support center** with education, healthcare, and training facilities, along with **cultural and artisanal spaces** that empower local identity and social resilience. This regenerative model reframes rural Egypt—not as a peripheral or exhausted landscape—but as a living, evolving system. It offers a forward-thinking blueprint for inhabiting arid zones through harmony with nature, community-led development, and the integration of agriculture, tourism, and culture.

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WHAT ARE ERCs (ECOSYSTEMS RESTORATION COMMUNITIES)?

THEY ARE LOCATIONS WHERE PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD CAN HELP RESTORE OUR DEGRADED NATURAL SYSTEMS AND INTRODUCE REGENERATIVE USES THAT WILL ALLOW HUMANITY TO THRIVE



General Problematic

THE LACK OF INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS IN EGYPT AND THE DECLINE IN ECOTOURISM RATES DESPITE BIODIVERSITY

01

EGYPT HAS LOST MORE THAN 30% OF ITS BIODIVERSITY IN RECENT DECADES AS A RESULT OF URBANIZATION, DESERTIFICATION AND WATER POLLUTION

02

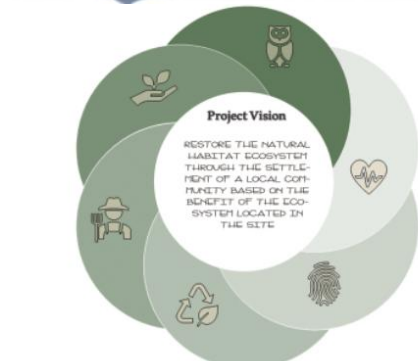
TEMPERATURES IN EGYPT ARE EXPECTED TO RISE BY 15-25°C BY 2050

03

AROUND 50% OF EGYPT'S AGRICULTURAL LAND SUFFERS FROM WATER SHORTAGES DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE WHICH HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

04

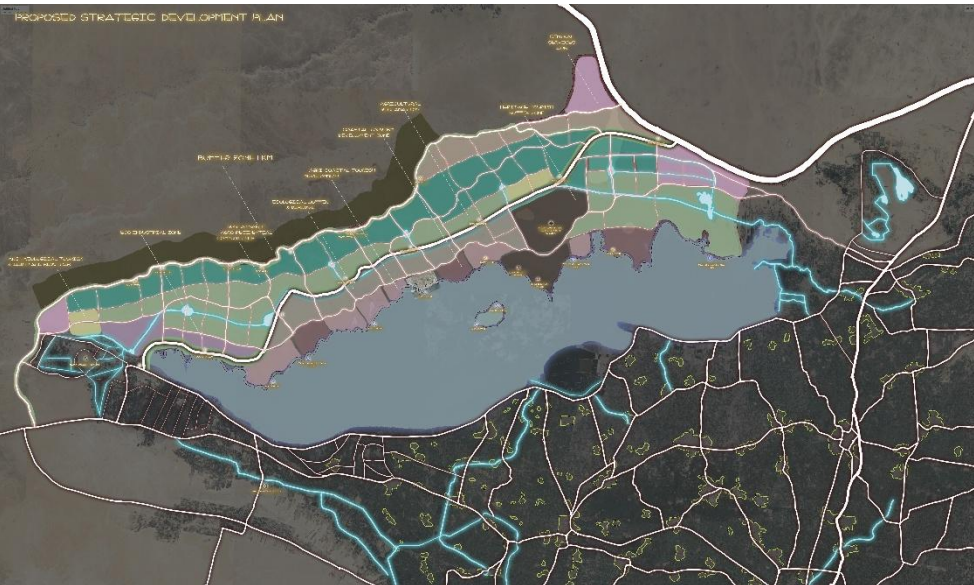
ECOTOURISM RECORDED A 25% DECLINE IN 2020 AS A RESULT OF THE DEGRADATION OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES, ESPECIALLY IN LAKES AND NATURAL AREAS SUCH AS LAKE QARUN



- 4 PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- 5 COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND RESTORING DEGRADED LAND
- 6 INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- 1 BIODIVERSITY RESTORATION AND HABITAT REHABILITATION
- 2 PROMOTING ECOTOURISM AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY
- 3 IMPROVING WATER QUALITY AND REDUCING POLLUTION



Plants to support animal and bee breeding	Aromatic and medicinal plants - to attract visitors and support the local economy	Fruit and vegetable crops - to support agricultural tourism, organic food and agricultural production	Local economic crops - supporting agricultural production	Evergreen trees - to provide shade and resources
 Aflax supports the breeding of sheep and camels in the region.	 Lavender is used in perfumes and natural oils.	 Pomegranate (Punica granatum) - it tolerates salinity and is used in natural juices.	 Salicornia (Salicornia spp.) - Used in the production of oils and feed.	 Palm tree (Phoenix dactylifera).
 Salt-tolerant sunflower - Supports the production of honey and natural oils.	 Mint and Basil.	 The prickly pear (Opuntia ficus-indica) - has low water requirements and has food and medicinal uses.	 Quinoa (Chenopodium quinoa) - A high-value food crop.	 The sidr (Ziziphus spina-christi) can be used in honey production and alternative medicine.
 Aloe Vera has high medicinal value and is used in cosmetics.	 Rosemary - requires little water and is sought after in global markets.	 Salt-tolerant tomatoes.	 Salt-tolerant barley is used in the production of bread and feed.	 Tamarisk (Tamarix spp.).
		 Salt-tolerant strawberries.	 Wild Asparagus - A plant sought after in fine dining restaurants.	





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

Egypt/Cairo
Cairo University
5th year (Bachelor's Year) 2024-2025
Ecological health resort based on medicinal plants and therapeutic water Gara Um EL Sagheer
Salma Tarek Mostafa



Title of the project	Ecological health resort based on medicinal plants and therapeutic water Gara Um EL Sagheer
Authors	Salma Tarek Mostafa
Title of the course	Graduation Project 2
Academic year	5 th year (Bachelor's Year) 2024-2025
Teaching Staff	Prof.Dr.Abbas.El-Zaafarny / Dr.Yassmin.Essam
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Urban Design Department –Bachelor's Degree Program
University / school	Cairo University/ faculty of urban and regional planning

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

My project is a therapeutic and recreational center located on a mountainous site in Gara Umm El-Saghir, characterized by dramatic natural terrain and significant level differences. One of the main challenges was dealing with the site's topography, where levels range from 0 to -60 meters, with slopes between 1/2 and 1/20. I chose to respect the natural land without creating artificial levels, using the site's natural slopes and resources to guide the architectural layout. Pathways and roads were designed with calculated gradients (1/18–1/20) to allow smooth movement for pedestrians and carts.

The site stretches over a 900-meter-wide frontage, allowing for a comfortable layout that maintains the peacefulness of the environment. The project includes 85 chalets: 25 with terraces, 11 cave-style, and 49 standard. The chalets were carefully spaced apart to enhance the feeling of seclusion and tranquility, aligning with the therapeutic goals of the project.

The design also includes two motels: the first is at the highest point of the site, next to an observation tower, stage, steps, and traditional Arab halls. The second is located within the healing zone, which contains medical services, a health care area, a spa with herbal steam, and spaces for herbal treatments. There are also seating areas overlooking the saltwater lake, providing a unique relaxation experience. The project aims to create a natural healing environment and promote mental and physical well-being. It also contributes to the local economy by creating job opportunities, supporting crafts, and showcasing Siwan products—supporting sustainable development.

The architectural design is inspired by the Siwan style, using karshif, palm, and stone, creating harmony with nature while preserving the spirit and identity of the place.

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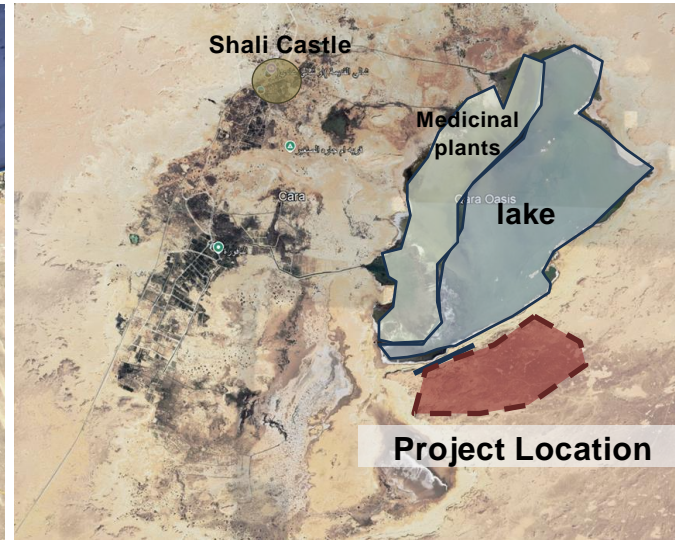
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Project Location



Gara Um EL-Sagheer



Shali Castle



Therapeutic lake



Water with temp 70*



Cooling Fountain



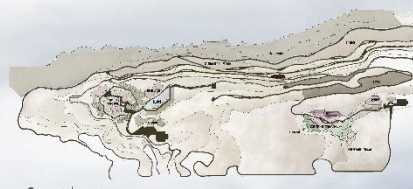
Grading



Ecological Health Resort Based on Medicinal Plants and Therapeutic Water Gara Um EL-Sagheer

Concept

There are three types of tourist accommodation
Chalets in areas with slopes greater than 1/8 of a mile
Chalets inside the mountain in areas with steep slopes
Hotels, which are designated for the elderly, as the hotel is located next to services
The healthcare area has designated areas for spa sessions with medicinal plants for the skin
Places designated for yoga, jacuzzi, and areas for skin and body care



Concept layout 1/4000



Scene for Challet



Scene for Challet



Scene for Challet



Scene for Challet



Stairs



Motel And Observation Tower



3D Section



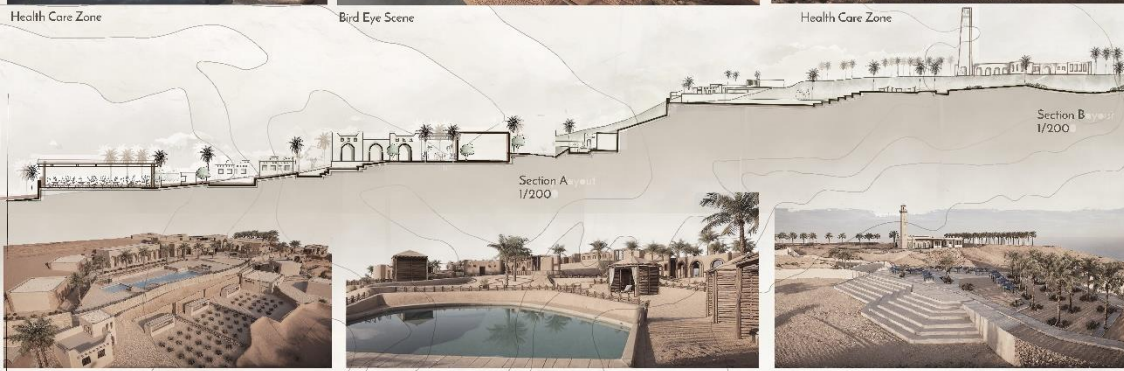
Health Care Zone



Bird Eye Scene



Health Care Zone



Motel Shot With Restaurant



Health Care Zone

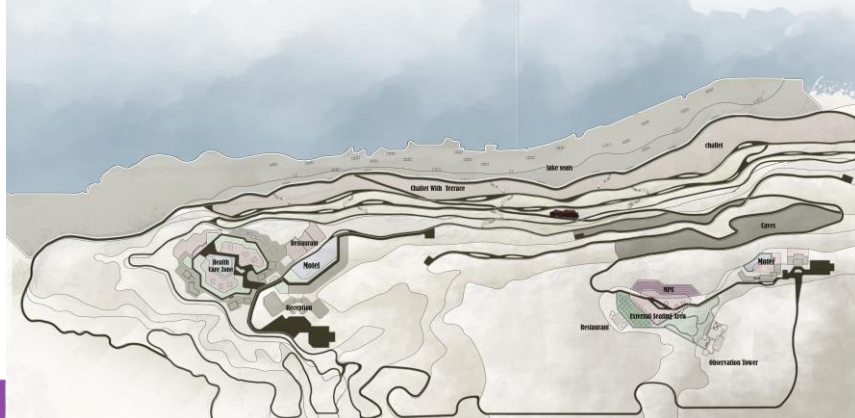


Mpu and outdoor Seating



Master layout 1/500

Concept



Circulation



Motel

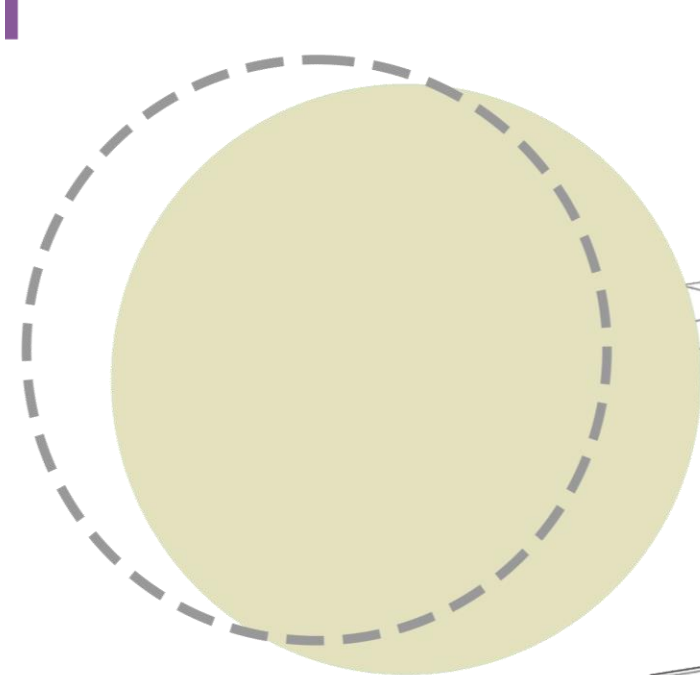


Steps with outdoor seating and Observation Tower



Challet





Country/City : Egypt / Cairo

University / School : Cairo University – Faculty of Regional and Urban Planning

Academic year : 2024–2025

Title of the project : Walkable Korba Experimental Axis length 1.5 km

Author: Yusuf Sabry Elsamalouty

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project : Walkable Korba: Rethinking Streets As Places For Life

Author : Yusuf Sabry Elsamalouty

Title of the course : Graduation project 1-2

Academic year 2024 /2025

Teaching Staff : Prof. Ahmed Abdallah, Prof. Engy Ramadan, TA Manar Adel, TA Omar Essam

Department / Section / Program of belonging : Urban design Department /streetscape & upgrading projects / bachelor program

University / School : Cairo University / Faculty of Regional and urban planning

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

In a rapidly evolving Cairo, Korba stands at the intersection of heritage, urban congestion, and declining walkability. This project proposes a 1.5 km experimental urban axis connecting Merryland Park to Baron Palace—a strategic corridor designed to restore mobility, equity, and vibrant public life in Heliopolis’ historic core. Rooted in field research, spatial analysis, community surveys, and global precedents, the design identifies three critical interventions: a Walkable Heritage Loop, a Smart Transit Network, and a Street Market Experience Zone. Each is supported by micromobility hubs, safe underground crossings, and adaptive programming based on time and user flow.

The proposal responds to local challenges—visual and auditory pollution, unsafe crossings, informal commerce, and unaffordable transport—by introducing low-cost, inclusive, and sustainable design strategies. It reclaims pedestrian space through widened sidewalks, green canopies, and shaded seating while regulating street vendors through a guided zoning and smart permit system. Accessibility for women, children, and the elderly is prioritized using sensory safety principles and universal design.

Korba becomes not only more walkable but more equitable and economically vibrant. Inspired by projects like Istanbul’s Historic Peninsula Pedestrianization, this intervention positions public space as a tool for heritage regeneration and local entrepreneurship. The project’s scalable framework offers a replicable model for other Egyptian and Arab districts seeking to balance mobility, culture, and inclusive development in the face of urban transformation.

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Walkable Korba: Rethinking Streets as Places For Life

Urban studies

A thorough urban analysis was conducted to understand Korba's spatial dynamics and user needs. This included public surveys to identify mobility challenges and preferences, GIS-based heatmaps of pedestrian flows,

Check full questionnaires result from here

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Sq3vzKQ1mmXbKhylAMGbwil1nnCD8DriALWSTDCmw/edit?resourcekey=&gid=190415662#gid=190415662>



Heat map 2025

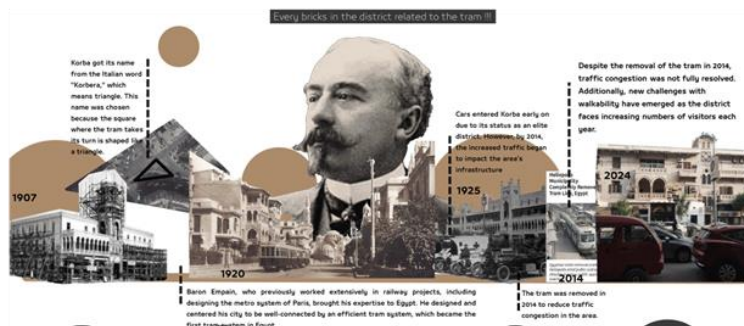


People analysis



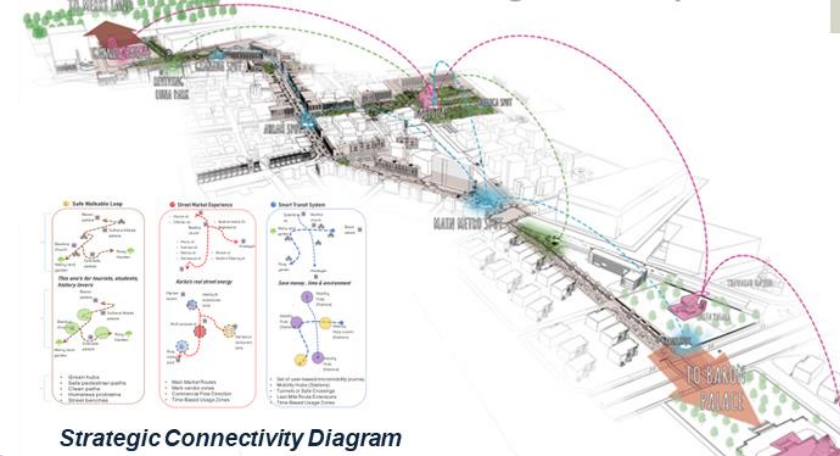
Historical studies

Once a tram-connected, walkable town, Korba's identity eroded with rising congestion. Reviving movement means restoring heritage,



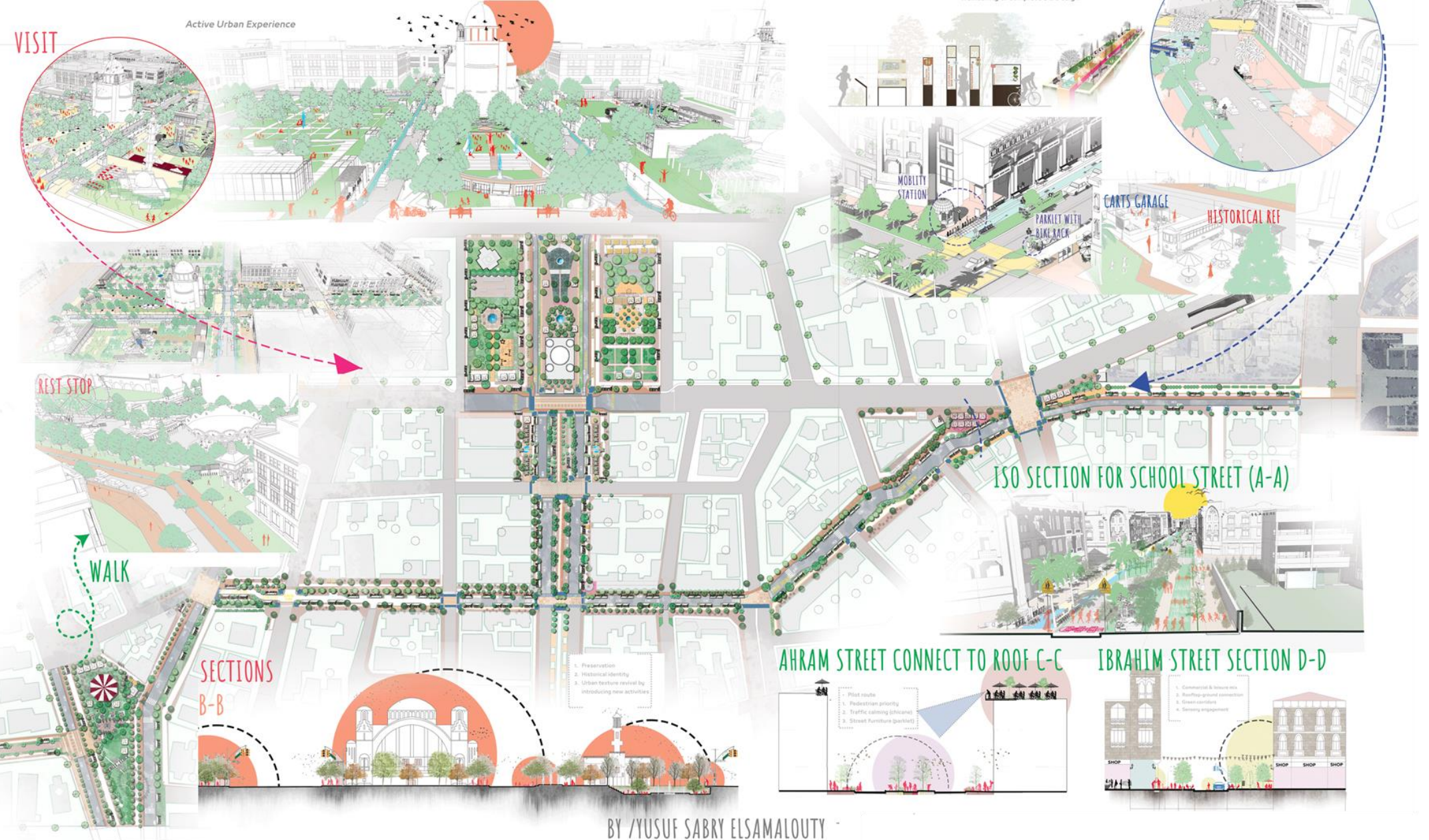
Concept studies

This diagram maps key intervention nodes—mobility hubs, cultural spaces, and walkability zones—strategically placed to reconnect landmarks and enhance pedestrian flow along Korba's spine.



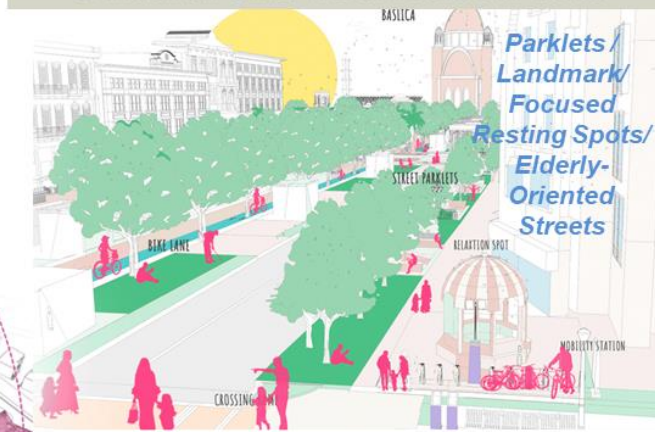
Strategic Connectivity Diagram

MASTER PLAN



BY /YUSUF SABRY ELSAMALOUTY

Cultural and Touristic streets



Mobility routes and applications



scooters / bike station 500 m ranges/ organized paths

User-Oriented Street



Slow speed streets / chicane / organized paths



Country/City

Egypt - Cairo

University / School

Cairo university / Faculty of regional & urban planning

Academic year

5th Year of Bachelor's Degree Year (2024-2025)

Title of the project

Revitalization of the area surrounding Al-Zafar Tower and Cairo's historic walls in the Al-Darassa district

Authors

Haidy Khaled Ahmed



Title of the project **Revitalization of the area surrounding Al-Zafar Tower and Cairo's historic walls in the Al-Darassa district .**
 Authors **Haidy Khaled Ahmed .**
 Title of the course **Graduation Project (2) .**
 Academic year **5th Year of a Bachelor's Degree . Year (2024-2025) .**
 Teaching Staff **Prof. Dr. Samah El-Alaily - Dr. Aly Abdel-Gawad - Dr. Kareem Kotb .**
 Department / Section / Program of belonging **Department of Urban Design – Bachelor's Degree Program .**
 University / School **Cairo University / Faculty of Regional and Urban Planning .**

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

My project focuses on the revitalization of the area surrounding Al-Zafar Tower and the historic eastern walls of Cairo, located in the Al-Darassa district. Al-Zafar Tower one of the most important medieval military structures , is currently buried—along with an 880-meter stretch of the wall—under layers of soil reaching up to 15 meters. This burial is not only due to natural and environmental changes over time ,but also reflects a deep lack of public awareness and institutional care for the site's historical value. This neglect revealed a broader issue: (The disconnection between the local community and their own heritage). As a result , one of the project's primary goals became strengthening community engagement as a foundation for sustainable heritage preservation. Public awareness campaigns were proposed to reconnect residents with the site's significance, and services were carefully designed to reflect their real needs and everyday life.

Location of the project previously state-owned and used for governmental purposes , became available after the relocation of its former uses—creating **a rare 95-acre** opportunity in a historically and topographically unique area.

In response, the masterplan envisions a multi-layered intervention: Creating a green lung for Historic Cairo , placing investment-oriented service buildings along Salah Salem Road to attract economic activity and support the project's viability , and establishing a pedestrian spine that includes services and bazaars to connect the site to Al-Muizz Street with consideration of the architectural character of the new buildings draws inspiration from the historic urban fabric of Al-Muizz Street, reflecting its narrow alleys and compact spatial rhythm. A local stewardship center was also introduced to ensure long-term protection and community-led management.The project combines heritage recovery with inclusive urban regeneration , aligning local action with global values of participatory design.

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Land Use Analysis



Historical Evolution of Cairo's Walls



Study of the Archaeological Landmarks in the Area



Project process scale 1:3500



General situation plan scale 1:3500



Layout scale 1:1500



Current Situation

Proposed Situation

View showing the project's frontage facing the Citadel of Salah al-Din



View illustrating the Historic Walls of Cairo after revitalization

Heritage Landmarks

- 1 Al-Zafar Tower
- 2 Eastern Wall of Historic Cairo
- 3 Northern Wall of Historic Cairo
- 4 Al-Bab Al-Hadid (The Iron Gate)

Surrounding Existing Uses

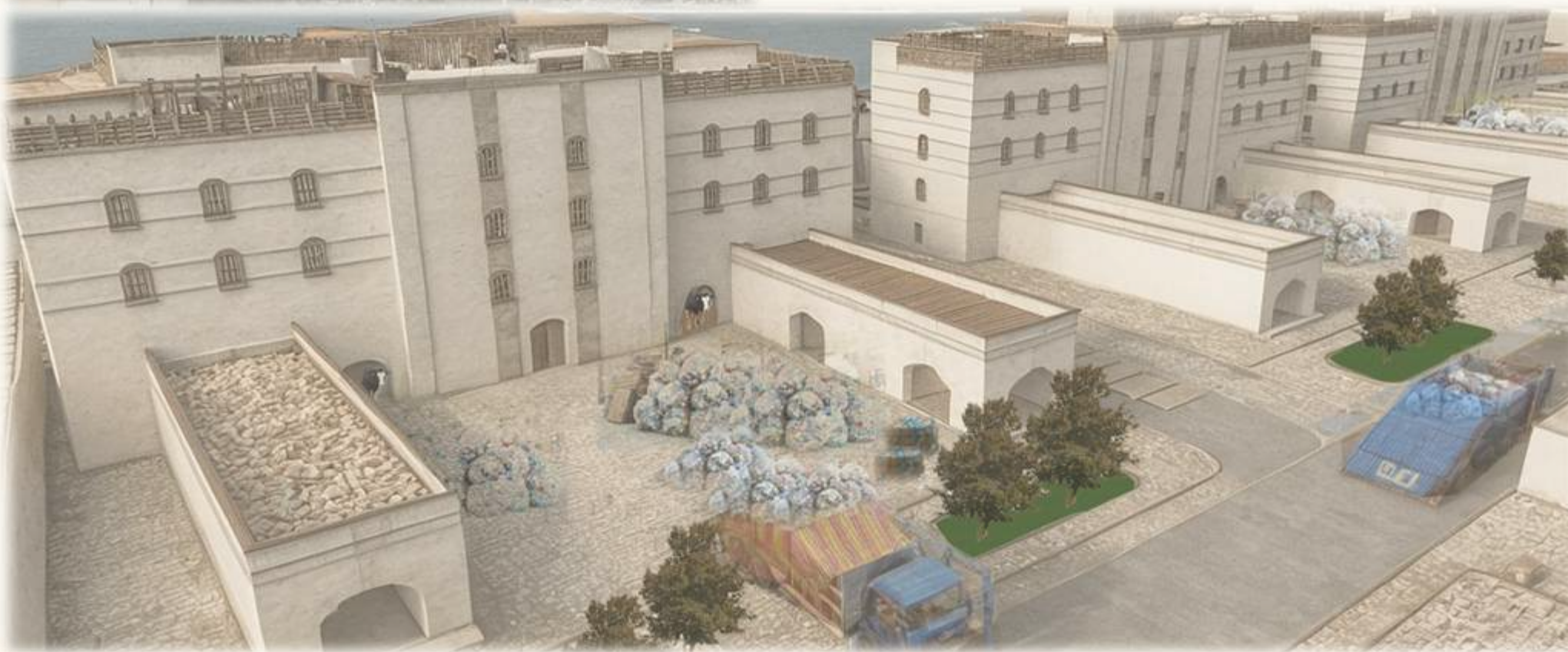
- 5 Police Mosque
- 6 Al-Azhar Park
- 7 Residential Buildings
- 8 Primary Schools
- 9 Preparatory Schools
- 10 Orphanage
- 11 Domes of Bab Al-Nasr

Proposed Buildings

- 12 Heritage Guesthouse
- 13 Heritage Tourism Information Center
- 14 Restoration Training Center
- 15 Heritage Hotel
- 16 Jewelry Craft Workshops
- 17 Pottery Craft Workshops
- 18 Exhibition Spaces
- 19 Bazaar
- 20 Restaurants & Cafés
- 21 Local Stewardship Center
- 22 Traditional Crafts Training Center

Proposed Activities

- 23 Seating Area 1
- 24 Seating Area Facing the Wall Buffer Zone
- 25 Green Seating Zones
- 26 Open-Air Restaurant
- 27 Open-Air Theater



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

Egypt - Cairo
Cairo University - Faculty of Regional and urban planning
5th Year of Bachelor's degree - Year 2024-2025
Solid Waste Recycling City in 15 May City
Sherin Sayed

My project focuses on a recycling system. It is a pioneering and very successful system in Egypt, a system that recycles up to 80 % of collected waste using traditional methods and zero waste.

The project site is the informal recycling district of Al-Zarayeb in 15 May City, where residents have long collected and recycled solid waste and raised livestock. However, disaster struck when homes were built over a natural flood channel causing catastrophic collapse: many lost their homes, livelihoods, and even lives. In response, I decided to develop a planned Recycling City, organized into three main components.

First: a mixed-use residential zone. It comprises apartment buildings with attached sorting yards and access roads for collection vehicles. Each block faces a small front garden, As a breathing space for residents, taking into account the environmental dimension. Within each housing unit, there are shops supplying personal protective equipment such as gloves, masks, and boots. The residential zone also includes essential community services: mosque, school, clinic, retail markets, commercial outlets, and a youth center.

Second: a floodplain park. This landscaped green belt follows the former flood channel built within the footprint of the collapsed area to serve as both a flood buffer and a community recreational space.

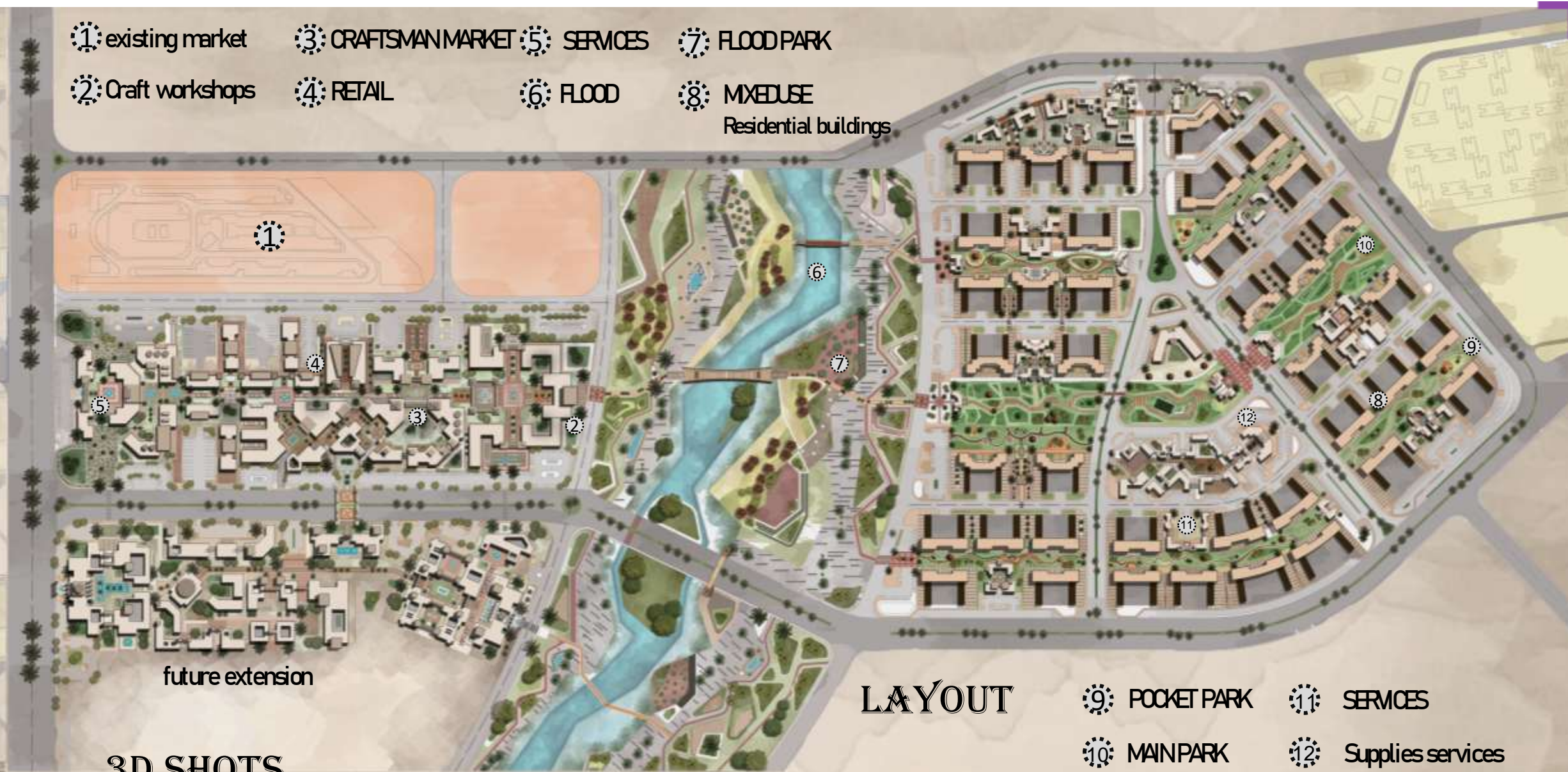
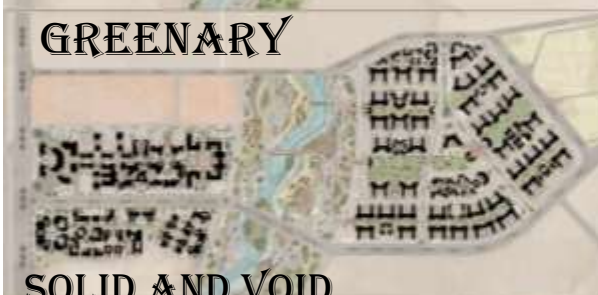
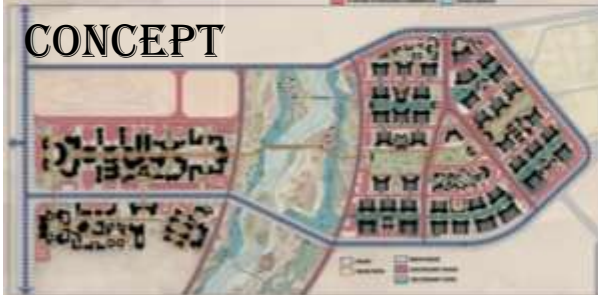
Third: a craftsman and artisan hub. This area features vocational training centers, craft workshops for turning recyclables into handmade products, a visitor-oriented artisan market, retail for raw-material outlets (plastic, cardboard) and cafés, restaurants, and recreational areas for guests.

All three zones are linked by a central green spine, a pedestrian and cycling corridor. It begins at a central garden plaza in the residential district, weaves through the floodplain park, and culminates at the lively artisan-commercial market.

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SHOT ON FLOOD PARK

SHOT CRAFTSMAN MARKET