dpusummerLab

Leveraging the city as a laboratory for developing socially responsive design strategies

double issue: a retrospective on the 2018 series and a summary of the 2019 series

AMMAN

INHABITING WATER INFRASTRUCTURES

CHENGDU

RETHINKING TOURISM-DRIVEN REGENERATION

BAR ELIAS

PUBLIC REALM AND SPACES OF REFUGE

HARGEYSA

SOCIAL COHESION IN A SEGMENTED CITY

ATHENS

ARRIVAL CITY IN AGE OF AUSTERITY

ATHENS

CO-CREATING THE ARRIVAL CITY

LONDON

CONSTRUCTING HEALTHIER URBANISMS

LONDON

A COMMUNITY-CENTRED ALTERNATIVE TO DISPLACEMENT

Content

Dealing with a regime of 'concerned inhabitance', Giorgio Talocci p.3

AMMAN: INHABITING WATER INFRASTRUCTURES p. 6

Contesting the grand narratives of water scarcity
a conversation with Jawad Dukhgan and Nadine Fattaleh p. 8

Participants' reflections p. 14

BAR ELIAS: PUBLIC REALM AND SPACES OF REFUGE p. 16

Researching public space through design thinking
a conversation with Joana Dabaj p. 18

Participants' reflections p. 24

ATHENS: ARRIVAL CITY IN AGE OF AUSTERITY p. 28

Blurring the threshold between host- and refugee communities
a conversation with Stefania Gyftopoulou and Panagiotis Tzannetakis p. 30

Participants' reflections p. 36

LONDON: CONSTRUCTING HEALTHIER URBANISMS p. 38

Questioning urban health and heritage in neighbourhood planning
a conversation with Kay Pallaris and Stephen Kenny p. 40

Participants' reflections p. 46

special insert: DEPOLITICISING VERTICALITY p. 48

Designing for vertical inclusion
Josue Robles Caraballo p. 49

A SUMMARY OF THE 2019 SERIES WORKSHOPS p. 55
Chengdu: Rethinking tourism-driven regeneration p. 56
Hargeysa: Social cohesion in a segmented city p. 58
Athens: Co-creating the arrival city p. 60
London: A community-centred alternative p. 62

Acknowledgements

DPU summerLab is a collective endeavour, owing much of its success to the endless effort and enthusiasm of partners, collaborators, and friends, who brought ideas and suggestions during the preparation and realisation of the 2018 and 2019 programmes. We wish to share our deepest appreciation to all the coordinators, partners and to all the businesses and individuals in Amman, Athens, Bar Elias, Chengdu, Hargeysa, London, who opened their doors to us with grace and kindness.

In Amman: thanks to local coordinators from Studio-X Amman, Jawad Dukhgan, Nadine Fattaleh, and to Nora Akawi; thanks to everyone attending and facilitating meetings, field visits, final presentations, for sharing their knowledge with us – thanks to Marwan Al-Raggad, Rasem Kamal, Lucine Tasmanian, Leen Fakhoury, Batir Wardam, Hana Namrouqa and Etienne Von Bertrab.

In Bar Elias: thanks to the team at Catalytic Action, and the warmest thanks to Joana Dabaj, Riccardo Conti. Thanks to Henrietta Moore and all the team at the RELIEF centre, that has kindly sponsored the workshop and the participation of a multitude of participants and local 'citizen scientists. Thanks to the Municipality of Bar Elias, to the Nasser club, to the Jesuit Refugee Service and Kayany foundation, to the Al Nahreya school staff, to Vanessa Chemaly, to all the community of Bar Elias.

In Athens: thanks to the local coordinators Stefania Gyftopoulou and Panagiotis Tzannetakis, for sharing their local expertise and critical insigths with us. Thanks to Professor Thomas Maloutas and Harokopio University, as well as to the Syrian Greek Youth Forum.

In Chendgu: thanks to the team at Urban Synthesis Ltd. – thanks Andrew Hilton, Luo Yi, Wang Ruo Chan, Yi Ning. Thanks to the Chenghua District Local Authority, to the Chengdu City Tourism Bureau, to the Taoxi Municipality, to the Yifu Neighbourhood Committe, to the personnel at the library of Yifu. You treated us wonderfully and we would like to express our warmest gratitude.

In Hargeysa: thanks to DPU Professor Michael Walls for his enthusiasm in proposing the initiative and crafting the programme of the workshop. Thanks to the Institute for Research, Heritage Preservation and Development (IRHPD), and Redsea Cultural Foundation for sharing their local expertise, spaces and coordination. Thanks to all the individuals at the Hargeysa Cultural Centre – our deepest thanks go to Jama Musse Jama and Tirsit Yetbarek and also to Hamdi Jinow Ali, Moustafa Ahmad and Abdirahman Musa. Thanks to the Municipality of Hargeysa, to the Mayor and the Minister of Public Works and to the organisers and facilitators of the event Hargeysa Visioning Week, and to the personnel of UN-Habitat.

In London, as for the 2018 workshop: thanks to Kay Pallaris and Stephen Kenny for all their cheerful enthusiasm, kind patience and capable expertise. Thanks to everybody at the Ringway Community Centre for hosting us. Thanks to Professor Derek Clements-Croome, Liza Griffin, Briony Turner, Marialena Nikolopolou, Robb Mitchell, Suzanna Clark, Anne Slater, Barry O'Donovan, Chris Blake, Carolina Vasilikou and Dorothea Kalogianni – all of them having shared important reflections with us. Thanks to Josue Robles Caraballo and the University of South Florida's School of Architecture + Community Design for joining us and contributing to this pamphlet once more. Thanks again to Josue, and to Ayda Keshvar Doost, for assembling texts and materials for the special insert "Depoliticising Verticality".

Again in London, as for the 2019 workshop: thanks to David McEwen (Unit 38) for the fabulous programme he set up, and to the West Green Road / Seven Sisters Development Trust. Thanks to Victoria Alvarez and Save Latin Village, Jamie Hignett (Unit 38), to Alice Devenyns, Nuria Benítez, Greg Barrett, David King.

Thanks to all participants for the energy, the passion and the committed determination in exploring uncharted territories and pushing themselves out of their comfort zones.

Thanks to Azadeh Mashayekhi for the facilitation in Amman and the effort in admin and coordination of both 2018 and 2019 series. Thanks to Giovanna Astolfo and Marisol García González for the facilitation of the workshops in Athens, respectively in 2018 and 2019. The editors Giorgio Talocci and Camillo Boano facilitated, respectively, the workshops in Chengdu, Hargeysa, London, and the workshop in Bar Elias. Thanks to Alex Macfarlane for the web support. Thanks to Nkenji Okpara, Elsa Taddesse, and all the DPU Administration for the support in planning and preparing the initiative, as well as to all the DPU members of staff. And to the DPU Director Professor Julio Dávila for the continuous support and encouragement.

Credits

©2019 The Bartlett Development Planning Unit
ISBN 978-0-9574823-8-8
Editors: Giorgio Talocci and Camillo Boano
The assembly and design of this publication was led by Giorgio Talocci. All texts have been reviewed by Giorgio Talocci. Arabic texts were reviewed by Mina Mokbel Mofid Abdelmelek, who we thank fondly. Photographic images are attributed to participants and coordinators of the summerLab. All works are attributed to the participants of the summerLab.

The right of the editors to be identified as the authors of the editorial material, and the authors of their individual sections, has been asserted in accordance with the section 77 and 78 of the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988. Copyright of a Development Planning Unit publication lies with the author and there are no restrictions on it being published elsewhere in any version or form.

The Development Planning Unit conducts world-leading research and postgraduate teaching that help to build the capacity of national governments, local authorities, NGOs, aid agencies and businesses working towards socially just and sustainable development in the global south. DPU is part of The Bartlett: UCL's global faculty of the built environment.

Dealing with a regime of 'concerned inhabitance'

Giorgio Talocci

This pamphlet is issued later than usual – we are sorry about that! We have tried to make up with our readers including both a retrospective on the 2018 series, and a recap of the events of the 2019 series.

The reader will encounter first four in-depth accounts of the 2018 series workshop – in Amman, Bar Elias, Athens, London. The experience of each workshop is recounted through an interview to our local partners, a series of reflections by the workshops' participants, and a photo-essay on the workshops' grounds of investigation. The interviews were run with the aim of stimulating a reflection on the actual agency that each summerLab workshops has on our local partners' agendas, and on the overall dynamics of transformation of the study areas. One further level of reflection emerges through the words of the workshops' participants, who look back at how the workshops challenged their understanding of the ethics of a socially responsive practice of the built environment, and stimulated their critical thinking. Local researchers in Bar Elias wrote their reflective pieces in Arabic, and we decided to feature it as such. The photo-essays aim to strike the reader showing the ordinary nature of the summerLab's ground of investigation: we explored once again territories which apparently lie outside the mainstream narratives of development, while questioning their role and identity within wider urban dynamics.

There follows a special insert, produced by our partners at the Advanced Graduate Design Studio, School of Architecture and Community Design, University of South Florida (Tampa, FL, US), with whom we have enjoyed a long-term collaboration since 2013. Each year a group of USF students, accompanied by Faculty and Research Associate Josue Robles Caraballo, would join the London summerLab and immerse into an intensive one-week experience around methods for (and critique of) community-driven, people-centred, strategies for urban upgrading. Once back in Tampa, students would then develop their thesis projects, grounding in the territories explored during the London summerLab – in this case in Grove Park, Lewisham. The special insert showcases such projects, preceded by a reflective text by Josue Robles Caraballo himself, who reflects on the challenges of fostering inclusiveness within vertical communities.

The pamphlet closes with a recap of the 2019 workshops – in Chengdu, Hargeysa, Athens and London. It has been a truly challenging series, exploring territories and themes that were completely novel for the summerLab programme – in Chengdu and Hargeysa – while at the same time confirming and refining our engagement in (and understanding of) Athens and London's contested spaces. Further reflections on the 2019 workshops will be published at a later stage, in a special issue that will see the light in September 2020, in occasion of the DPU summerLab tenth anniversary series.

In these almost ten years of journey, the term that we summerLab team have used most often is agency. And the idea of agency is what has loosely structured the interviews to our 2018 local partners and the collective brainstorming sessions at the beginning and end of the 2019 workshops. What is the actual agency of the summerLab design research workshops, over the urban dynamics of a given context? What agency do the workshops have on the agendas of our local partners? What kind of afterlives are the workshops able to generate?

Such questions reflect the longitudinal attitude of the summerLab programme, which grounds upon (and attempts to have an agency on) past and present socio-spatial practices in urban territories. It does so so in collaboration with the intelligences of such territories, be these community-based groups, cultural associations, research groups, non-govenrmental organisations, local authorities, professionals of the built environment. The DPU summerLab is indeed a collaborative effort, whose character builds upon the action-oriented ethos of the Development Planning Unit. Since its inception in 2011, the summerLab programme has aimed to produce knowledge on contested urbanisms and on the possibility of investigating such urbanisms through means of design.

Design is here understood as a retrospective act, as it helps uncover alternative narratives of a context's manifold dimensions of contestation, and to identify local potentials and agencies. Research by

EMPTY BUILDING STOCK
FUNDS
LANDLORDS
REFUGEES
NEWCOMERS
NEIGHBORS

design therefore configures as a resistant act, too, as it aims to contribute to a recalibration of uneven structures of power, and to partake into the struggle for survival and recognition of a multitude of identities put under threat by the grand narratives of urban development processes. The interviews in the following pages show how such struggle takes a different form in each context, depending on the mandate of our local partners, on ongoing socio-spatial dynamics, on development pressures and visions of transformation, on policy frameworks, on existing experiences of activism and levels of community organisation.

Interestingly, in one of the interviews (see page 40), one of the summerLab workshops' local facilitators, Stephen Kenny, elaborated on such struggle stating firmly that he did not like to be called an activist and to be "just a resident, who is concerned". This sentence was striking as it embeds, in a sense, the very essence of the summerLab workshops: in a debate saturated by the idea of urban design and architecture as activism, these few simple words brings back a dimension of, simply, inhabitance, that to an extent is the purest concept upon which the DPU summerLab research endeavours could build upon.

To reside in a place, to inhabit it, defines indeed a dimension of political identity. To be concerned about such place likely entails that such identity has been questioned, or even put under threat. Purcell (2013 – drawing from Lefebvre, 2014) refers to urban inhabitance as key to political inclusion, as it is those who inhabits the city who actually possess the right to such city itself. Inhabitance should therefore be the very disclaimer to confer (or not) the right to participate in place-making (see also: Darcy and Rogers, 2014) – as residents collectively use, imagine, and construct what Lefebvre (1991) defines as lived space, the space where social relations take place, where everyday life is experienced.

But who inhabits the spaces of the summerLab workshops' grounds of investigation? The use of the term 'residents' is problematic insofar as it could be exclusionary toward people that daily use, or take care of, or work in a place. It could be exclusionary toward informal residents, either squatters or unregistered tenants, too. The idea of inhabiting the city should therefore be understood in broad and inclusive terms. The summerLab workshops precisely attempt to understand such dimension of inhabitance in broad terms, acknowledging and mapping out all relevant stakeholders in a given process of transformation, and possibly having an agency in rebalancing the uneven power structures amongst them.

The idea of agency, and the concern about who actually inhabits and uses urban territories, is apparent in all the interviews in the following pages. Jawad Dukhgan and Nadine Fattaleh emphasise the agency that the workshop had in terms of representation – in making visually accessible through videos, infographics, maps, a certain argument that could challenge the mainstream narratives around water scarcity in Amman and in Jordan as a whole. Joana Dabaj focuses on CatalyticAction's design research work in Bar Elias, and how this has been instrumental in revealing common grounds amongst the several groups inhabiting Bar Elias and in fostering the production of inclusive spaces. Stefania Gyftopoulou and Panagiotis Tzannetakis, speak of the summerLab as one further space of dialogue amongst relevant players in the housing crisis currently occurring in Athens. Kay Pallaris and Stephen Kenny elaborate on how the workshop and its international participants contributed to shed light and bring attention over an otherwise forgotten area of London, in so doing supporting the struggle of its residents against an exclusionary development framework.

The same attention for the agency of the summerLab programme in support of a complex multiplicity of 'concerned residents' has pervaded the approach to the 2019 series workshops, too, sparking off discussions amongst participants and leading to develop challenging design research questions. In Chengdu, in the neighbourhood of Yifu, participants felt relevant to look at the realities of both the danwei housing (housing for workers) and the adjacent gated high-rise developments – the latter having become the urban type par excellence of Chengdu's transformation. What is the dialectical relationship between the two environments? Why do danwei's residents want to move to high-rises, and what would such move entail for Yifu's public realm? How could a tourism-driven development potentially be attentive to local narratives and assets? In Hargeysa, the emphasis on the current segmented status of the urban realm brought participants to question the co-presence of different housing types in the same neighbourhoods, often adjacent to one another, and to reflect on the role of clan-based structures in apparently fostering social cohesion at the neighbourhood level. In Athens, the reflection has focused on the role of refugee-focused housing programmes and self-organised small scale initiatives in creating opportunities for an inclusive and just city. While the access to EU-funded housing programmes for refugees has been gradually lost, the housing market prices have been exacerbated by the boom of properties converted into AirBnB facilities, creating hardships for local residents: in such a complex condition, how can emergent housing practices scale-up, and provide a coherent alternative? In London, finally, diving into the reality of the Seven Sisters Market has brought participants to question the very nature and agency of experiences of activism and resistance. An in-depth analysis of the functioning of the market, of its narratives, sounds, networks at the local and city-wide scale, revealed a very complex picture in terms of inhabitance, and the necessity of involving a much wider community into the struggle for survival and recognition against pressures of redevelopment.

In the last nine years, the summerLab has configured as an open ground for experimenting design research methodologies, as a launching platform for engaging with otherwise unknown (to us DPU staff) territories, as an arena where to discuss and stress the social agency of design in contested urban conditions. While we shape the tenth anniversary series, to take place in August and September 2020, we will definitely keep in mind the regime of 'concerned inhabitance' that we have always encountered, acknowledged, deconstructed and attempted to address.

References

Darcy, M., & Rogers, D. (2014). Inhabitance, place-making and the right to the city: public housing redevelopment in Sydney. International Journal of Housing Policy, 14(3), 236–256.

Lefebvre, H. (1991). The production of space. Oxford: Blackwell.

Lefebvre, H. (2014). The Urban Revolution. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Purcell, M. (2013). To Inhabit Well: Counterhegemonic Movements and the Right to the City. Urban Geography, 34(4), 560–574.

Amman
Inhabiting Water Infrastructures

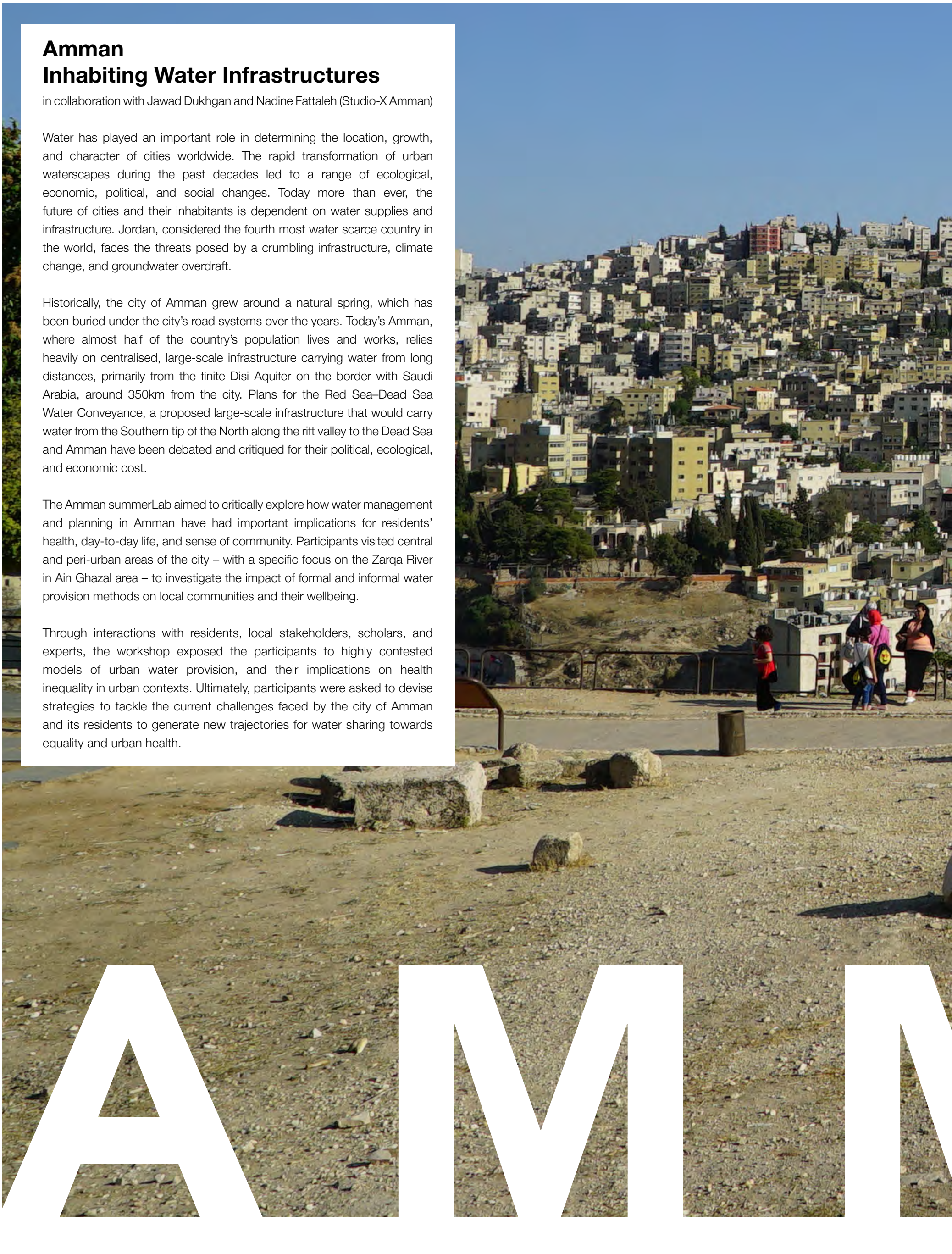
in collaboration with Jawad Dukhgan and Nadine Fattaleh (Studio-X Amman)

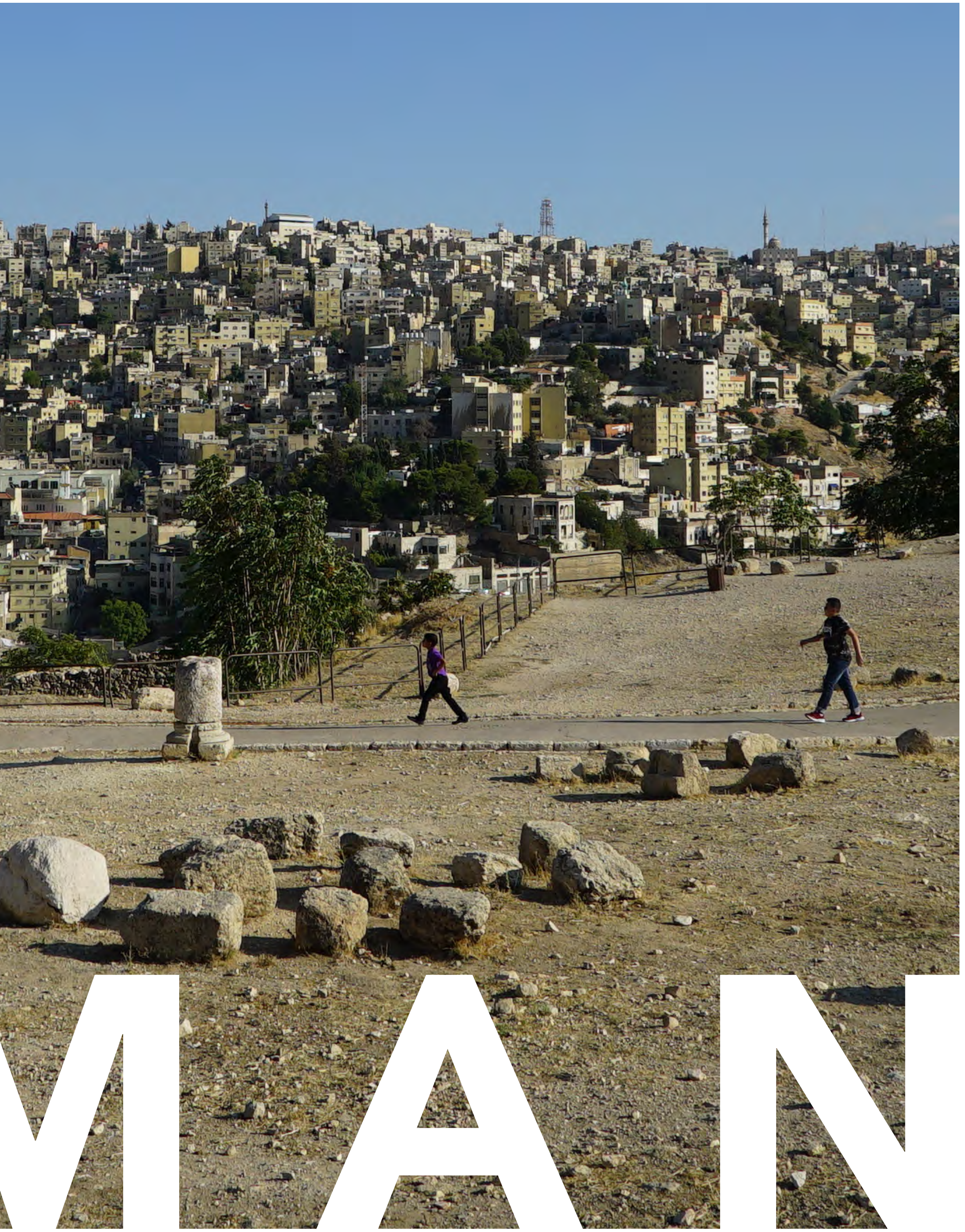
Water has played an important role in determining the location, growth, and character of cities worldwide. The rapid transformation of urban waterscapes during the past decades led to a range of ecological, economic, political, and social changes. Today more than ever, the future of cities and their inhabitants is dependent on water supplies and infrastructure. Jordan, considered the fourth most water scarce country in the world, faces the threats posed by a crumbling infrastructure, climate change, and groundwater overdraft.

Historically, the city of Amman grew around a natural spring, which has been buried under the city's road systems over the years. Today's Amman, where almost half of the country's population lives and works, relies heavily on centralised, large-scale infrastructure carrying water from long distances, primarily from the finite Disi Aquifer on the border with Saudi Arabia, around 350km from the city. Plans for the Red Sea–Dead Sea Water Conveyance, a proposed large-scale infrastructure that would carry water from the Southern tip of the North along the rift valley to the Dead Sea and Amman have been debated and critiqued for their political, ecological, and economic cost.

The Amman summerLab aimed to critically explore how water management and planning in Amman have had important implications for residents' health, day-to-day life, and sense of community. Participants visited central and peri-urban areas of the city – with a specific focus on the Zarqa River in Ain Ghazal area – to investigate the impact of formal and informal water provision methods on local communities and their wellbeing.

Through interactions with residents, local stakeholders, scholars, and experts, the workshop exposed the participants to highly contested models of urban water provision, and their implications on health inequality in urban contexts. Ultimately, participants were asked to devise strategies to tackle the current challenges faced by the city of Amman and its residents to generate new trajectories for water sharing towards equality and urban health.




MAN

AMMAN

Contesting the grand narratives of water scarcity

Jawad Dukhgan and **Nadine Fattaleh (Studio-X Amman)**
in conversation with Giorgio Talocci

Jawad Dukhgan and Nadine Fattaleh from Studio-X Amman discuss the relevance of water infrastructures in the current debate on urban transformation, and how their design work and the summerLab workhop have attempted to challenge the mainstream discourses around water scarcity.

Giorgio Talocci: I would like to start with you sharing your perspective on the relevance of water infrastructure in the current debate on urban transformation, and for the current practice of the built environment. Why a summerLab on water infrastructure in Amman, in 2018?

Jawad Dukhgan: As in any city experiencing rapid growth, such growth in Amman has put a burden on resources – on water, on ecology, on climate. As Studio-X Amman, in the past couple of years we have been running several programmes – one of it was with the Urban Design School at Columbia University, New York. Such programme investigated the several landscapes of water. By water I mean urban waterscapes, and not just in terms of where water is available and for how long. We did indeed try to understand the different typologies of urban waterscapes, delving deeper into the social practices that were taking place around them. It was an exercise around understanding scale. We looked at Jordan at the national scale (digging more into Amman and Aqqabah at the time), and at adjacent countries. We had meetings with researchers, experts, scholars. The reason for such investigation is not to propose solutions – especially at the beginning of the process. It was rather an exercise on understanding how the network of water resources operates, and who are the parties involved – from the political, social, economic and ecological point of view. The summerLab experience came at the right time, as it gave us the opportunity to dig deeper on specific sites. We did identify the water network, and we then zoomed onto specific sites. This is part of what we do at Studio-X. Water and migrations are important issues we are tackling – especially in context of rapid urban growth. Amman had in the 1950s just about 50'000 inhabitants, and now we are talking of almost 4 millions. It is therefore interesting to learn from the city itself, how it adapted to this sort of spatial growth. This gave us a lot of case studies, to understand how the city has been resilient to forced migrations. This is where the DPU workshop came in and helped us push the investigation forward.

Nadine Fattaleh: I'd like to expand on the importance of the topic of water today. Many things happened since the workshop: Jordan and Amman have suffered multiple floods whose cause was somewhat related to the current state of the infrastructural network. One of such floods was particularly bad and happened in a site we were investigating. The bigger issues and keywords emerging in the current discourses – disaster control and extreme weather management – also remark the present importance of the topic.

GT: Did you manage to involve other researchers and organisations in the summerLab preparation process, and to discuss with them whether and how the workshop could have had an impact on their agendas?

JD: It was not the first time we worked with such experts and researchers. It is an ongoing relationship that we built through workshops and seminars. We discussed how we could move forward with this, how to achieve an efficient way to work, engaging with for instance the municipality and universities. Our model is not related to designing and building a new project, but it is rather about nurturing a culture of the environment, about understanding how we can all be engaged in such process – and about how to make things improve, too. The summerLab and what we do is about exchanging ideas and generating a dialogue out of these exchange. So we always try to invite people from the Greater Amman Municipality, researchers from the University of Jordan, geographers, social scientists. This was the audience when the summerLab participants presented their findings. What was great about the workshop was precisely the conversation taking place at the end. Participants were talking from their own perspectives, building upon their experience in their academic and professional careers, upon the empirical knowledge developed on site, but also upon the readings they had made. This conversation was not only enlightening for the participants but also for the other people attending – researchers, members of

local authorities, who were interested in how people mostly coming from a background of architecture and planning would have developed a critical perspective on water-related processes. It was of course interesting for us, as Studio-X Amman, too: sometimes, as architects and planners we miss out on important details that are relevant for local inhabitants and users, that are affected by the issue we are looking into. Hence the final presentation was for us a combination of the summerLab investigation and the curation of an environment able to spark off and facilitate this kind of discussion. We are still touching base on such topics with the other people involved – it is an ongoing process for us rather than a programme-based effort.

NF: We have been working on this project for a very long time, and thanks to every new collaboration and reiteration we have been able to reach out to different audiences, engaging different subjects.

GT: In design research processes we always emphasise the necessity of working in transdisciplinary teams. Do you feel you manage to achieve a level of transdiciplinarity in your daily activities in Amman, or perhaps you run into some frustration, for instance because of lack of dialogue with other subjects?

JD: There is always some frustration, of course. The collaboration with other partners does exist, but in which forms it depends on what kind of lens you are looking at it through. If you are an architect or a planner and you are working on a project with the municipality, that project is going probably to be on a tight deadline. We've been summoned to specific meetings when architects and urban designers had been commissioned specific interventions in Jordan, and presented these to us too in order to receive feedback. This kind of cooperation is becoming more frequent because people are becoming much more aware of how they could be involved in transformation processes – and therefore there is more pressure on the authorities on being transparent on city-wide and nation-wide processes. Social debates in general, recently, have become more frequent – it has been a couple of years that we are noticing a bigger interaction. Nora Akawi, Nadine and I have played a role in-between architects, curators, researchers – a jack-of-all-trades attitude that allowed us to work with different partners.

NF: I'm not an architect or a planner by training, so interactions within the team and the conversations around the genesis of a project are necessarily multi-disciplinary. This has definitely characterised our experience at Studio-X, but of course our activities are conducive to meet also people from many other disciplines.

GT: Do you find the summerLab had any agency, any impact on your work?

JD: Such programmes come with agency – definitely an agency in terms of representation, in showing what we do, document, analyse through mapping, using videos and infographics. We use formats from which you can extract political and social information that could help us build an argument. This agency challenges the current perception on water in Jordan and the rest of the region. It all depends on what one wants to achieve. For us there is a limit on what we can do, we are only three people. Our role is not to fulfil a certain demand, but we are always on the lookout for building a conversation with the municipality and other actors, to build more concrete relationships. We were able for instance to discuss issues related to public spaces, water scarcity and water collection. However, in order to make things work you need to be street-smart, hence to be able to navigate institutions on the ground – that is a different side of the work that is as important as having the info and the data.

GT: Could you elaborate on the approach you used in formulating the workshop brief, to what outcomes it led, and how these were received?

JD: In the summerLab workshop, we stayed away from proposing solutions or, for instance, economic models. We used a series of case studies, based on previous projects and on the learning we had from such experiences. The design was not about developing proposals with all their socio-economic or even physical details. Rather it was about curating the discussion with a possible audience, and engaging with the critiques. This was a good exercise for all of us in terms of understanding what kind of research we should do, and the importance of conducting research. We are trying to represent how the water system works: after that, we will be able to push a project forward.

NF: Just by the format of what we presented, the way the different groups were organised, the different sites that we investigated, we could say that the very organisation of the workshop was designed in a specific way to allow an investigation at multiple scales and an interaction with multiple actors. This allowed us to avoid having any sort of speculative or ungrounded projects – the outcomes were mostly diagnostic and analytical.

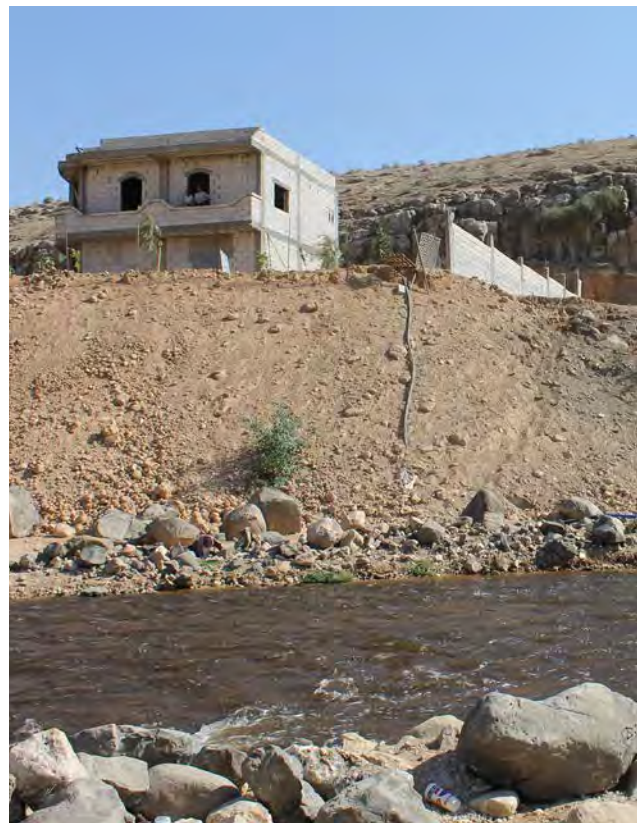
GT: I wonder how the workshop and your reflections fit within an increasingly conflicted and socially fragmented landscape in Amman. I know there is a tendency to speak of water scarcity as due natural causes, so your work is definitely valuable for the current discourses.

NF: These days, the main discourses revolve mostly around refugees and water scarcity, so these are topics you would run into quite often in Amman. There is also, however, a big debate on corruption in relation to water. Some statistics say that 35% of water is actually lost in the network – there are systematic inefficiencies but also people logging into the water networks illegally. This is a prominent and very delicate subject currently.

GT: One last question about future intentions, on whether you have the intention to keep working on such topic and how – perhaps refining your relationship with the municipality and other local actors?

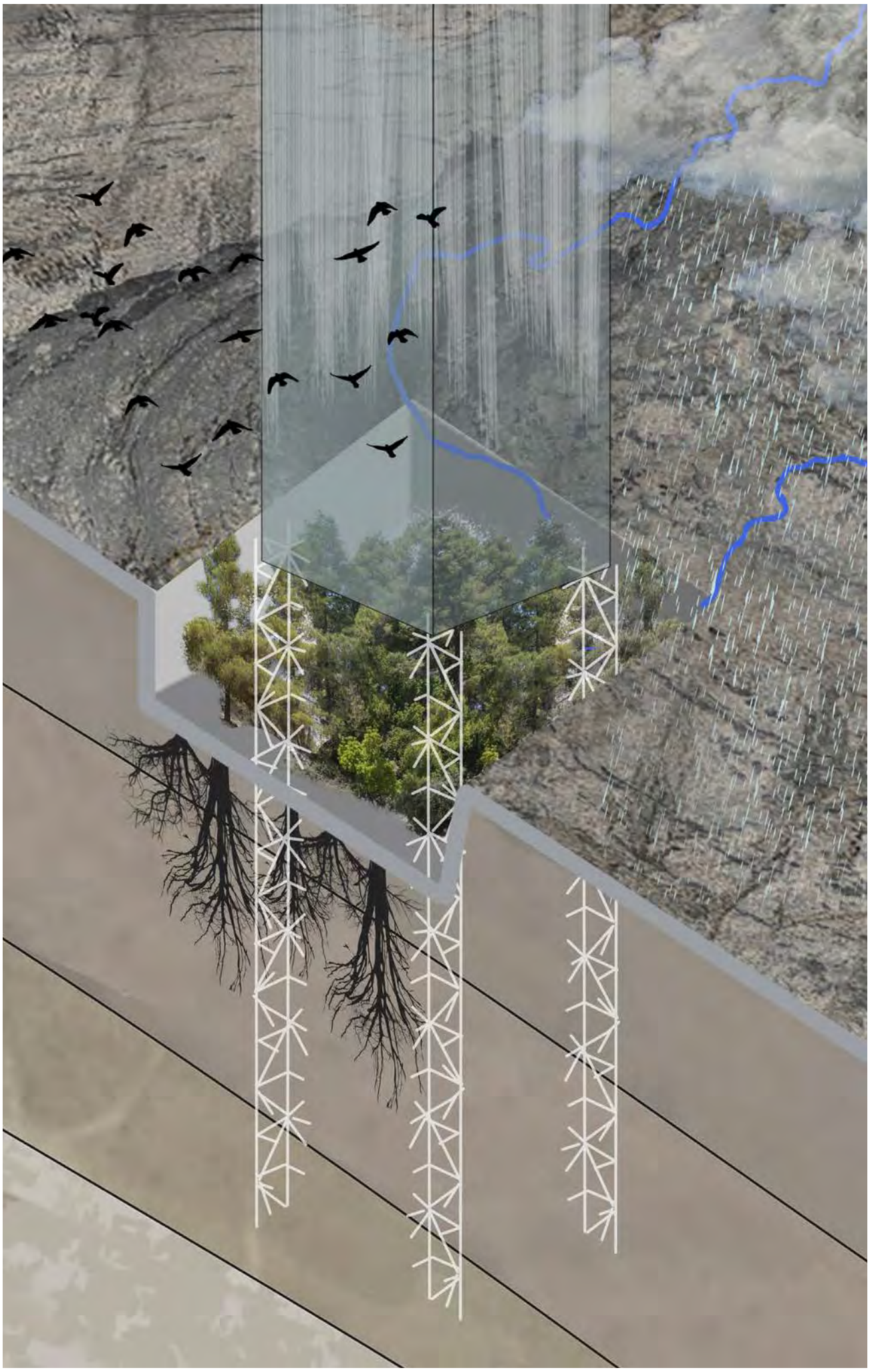
JD: Our strategy is to gather more agency, and more audience. Nadine and I were working on a programme of public lectures related to water infrastructures, focusing on specific sites as the Jordan river. Through these lectures, we will try to see what the public is interested in, it is a way of testing the waters. We hope to do another symposium soon. We are inviting people that have worked on issues of water scarcity from Jordan and adjacent countries, to understand their reactions. From such lecture series, we will develop a series of meetings, again with the municipality – which is currently very busy, there are many projects on water happening right now, and being proposed by multiple actors. We are aiming to work more with them but it's a long process – it is about gaining credibility with local research centres and institutions. It is taking a lot of time but it is happening. The implementation phase is something we haven't yet reached – rushing this stage it is as dangerous as not doing anything. We haven't found yet the right way of pushing our work to this next step: we have to be careful on how we position ourselves, both personally and as Studio-X.

AMMAN



AMMAN

AMMAN



The participants worked on a series of sites in Amman, drawing in part from the work done previously by our local partners, and attempting to reach a holistic understanding of issues related to water scarcity. Emphasis was put on representation, using formats from which to extract socio-political information that could help sustain an argument challenging the current perception on water scarcity and infrastructure in Amman and its region.

AMMAN

Ras Al Ain Park
Elevation ≈ 775 meters
Built on the site of the original source of the Seil Amman.
Currently unused and neglected.
Water pumping station is located at the eastern end of the park.

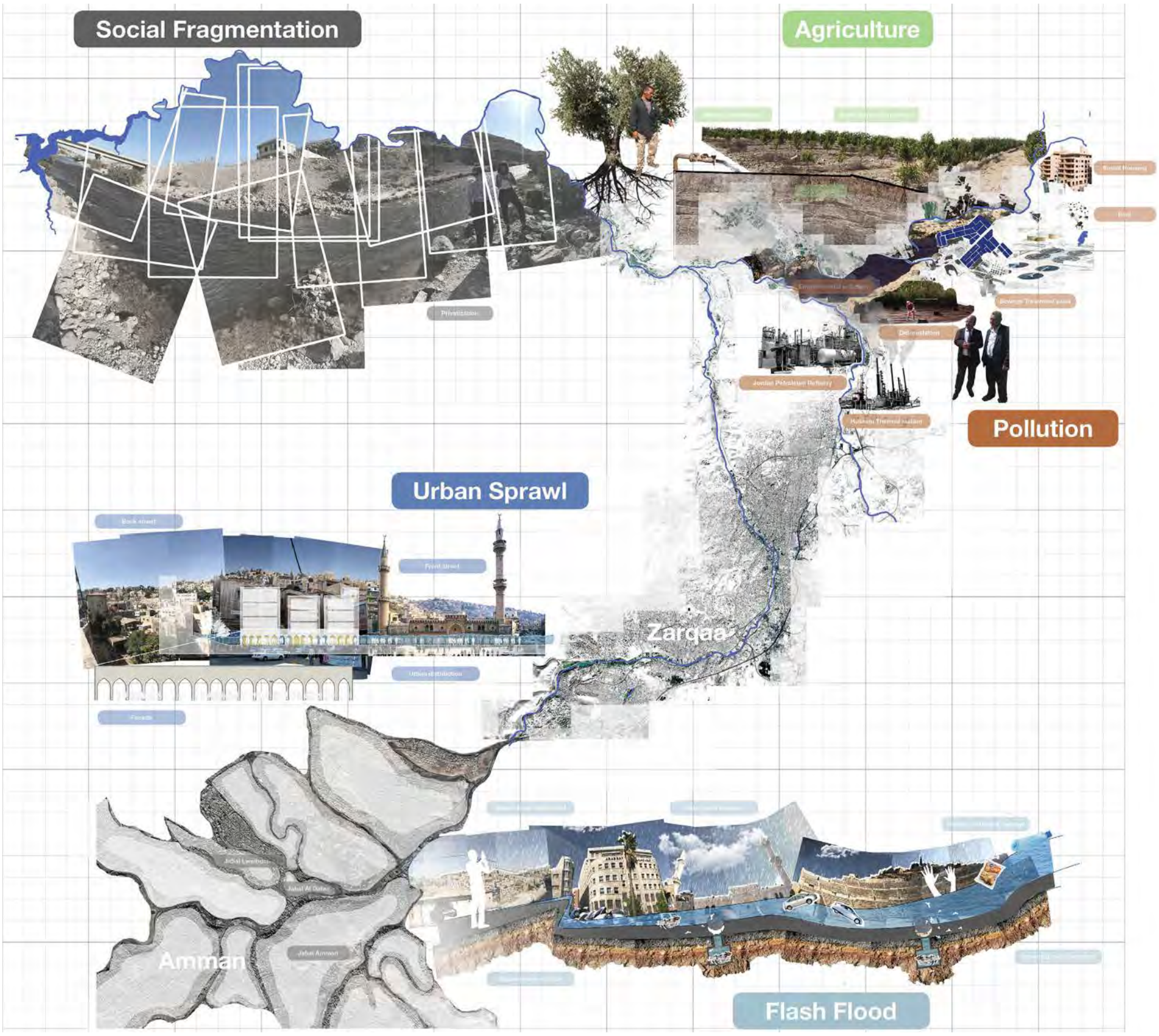
Ain Ghazal
Elevation ≈ 690 meters
Drainage bottleneck for all of Amman.
Catchment area of 500 square kilometers results in serious flooding that sometimes submerges the adjacent Hijaz Railway.

Jarash
Elevation ≈ 565 meters
One site where the dry river bed passes through urban areas of Zarqa.
Houses and other structures on the banks face the threat of flood damage every year.
Dumping of garbage and waste.

Sukhneh
Elevation ≈ 463 meters
Here, treated waste water from Khirbet Al Samra mixes with the Zarqa River.
A local poet and artist has fond memories of swimming and picnicking.
Garbage is now strewn along the banks.

Hashimiyeh
Elevation ≈ 500 meters
The team met here with an environmental organization in Zarqa.
Here, treated waste water makes its way from Khirbet Al Samra to King Talal Dam.
Local residents complain about bad smells and pests.

Farm near Khirbet Al Samra
Elevation ≈ 518 meters
A legal well is located on this farm, which is experimenting with crops that can be safely grown using groundwater and treated wastewater.
A cycle of water salinity negatively affects the groundwater quality.


Social Fragmentation
Agriculture
Pollution
Urban Sprawl
Zarqaa
Amman
Flash Flood

AMMAN

Bisher Tabbaa

Being one of the poorest water countries in the world – while at the same time facing flash floods in the recent years – puts Amman in a paradoxical quandary. Historically Amman was not as dry as it is today as early neolithic settlements were found to inhabit Ain Ghazal due to its fertility and availability of water. However, during the Anthropocene many factors have played a role in putting Amman in the current situation it is currently in.

During the workshop, we explored both historical, and future plans that have changed the lives of Jordanians. Through talks and interviews with architects, activists, artists, and locals, we aimed to understand the many facets that contribute to the water crisis in Jordan. We followed the stream of the water in Amman, to Al Zarqa, to the King Talal Dam, and then to the Ghor region which supplies most of Jordan's vegetation. Each site face specific problems and we hence divided ourselves in groups to dig in-depth into the peculiarities of each are. Eventually, we aimed to tie these analyses back together, to achieve a holistic understanding of the current issues related to water scarcity.

The groups looked at how the water crisis is affecting the socio-economic and environmental landscapes of Jordan. For instance, a group studied the proposed development of Abdoun corridor and how that would further exacerbate the flooding in downtown Amman – understanding how flooding and water crisis affect people differently depending on their different economic class. Such process possibly exacerbate further social inequalities in the city. Another group studied how a particular industrial region in Al Zarqa was polluting the stream, simultaneously conducting ethnographic research to understand how the daily lives and cultures of locals have changed due to the dryness of the Zarqa river.

The involvement of locals was imperative to our research as otherwise we would not have understood how policies affect them in their daily lives. The diversity of our group and having researchers from different backgrounds helped us contribute and perceive the issue in a more comprehensible manner. My undergraduate studies abroad have relatively distanced me from understanding the many difficulties facing my country, but the summerlab has helped show me how I can contribute to the built environment as an architect when I will go back to Jordan.

AMMAN

Bar Elias

Public realm and spaces of refuge

in collaboration with
CatalyticAction and supported by The RELIEF Centre

Bar Elias is a town located in the Beqaa Valley of Lebanon – the main agricultural area in Lebanon. Bar Elias has currently a population of 100,000 inhabitants and in the past few years has seen an increase of 50% of its population as a consequence of the influx of refugees from Syria. According to the UNHCR Lebanon Interagency Coordination Sector, Bar Elias is one of the most vulnerable localities in Lebanon due to the high presence of refugees and the general lack of access to basic needs and livelihoods opportunities.

Syrian refugees (and a number of Palestinian ones) are living in makeshift tents as well as in permanent structures. Recent investments on collective facilities (hospitals, schools, public spaces) have benefited both refugees and ho st population, and in so doing created opportunities for local infrastructural development on one side and, on the other side, for community cohesion.

The DPU summerLab looked at the current public facilities in the central neighbourhood of Bar Elias, with a specific focus on public spaces, their material realities and the use that multiple groups make of them. We sought to reflect on the complexity of the relationships between different group. In so doing we pursued a wider reflection on the host-refugee relationship – very relevant in the current national and international debate.

We started our investigation from a series of public spaces in Beirut, where participants met the workshop facilitators. The group moved then toward Bar Elias, where we had three days of on-site investigation, interviews and meetings with local organisations and municipality. Participants designed interventions aiming to foster community cohesion in the town. The workshop built on CatalyticAction's previous engagement in Bar Elias and DPU partnership with The RELIEF Centre, a GCRF ESRC research collaboration at UCL Institute for Global Prosperity with American University of Beirut, Lebanese American University and Centre for Lebanese Studies, that focuses on one of the world's pressing challenges: how to build a prosperous and inclusive future for communities affected by mass displacement, focusing on Lebanon, which has been home to over one million Syrian refugees since the outbreak of civil war in 2011.

ELIAS

BAR ELIAS

Researching public space through design thinking

Joana Dabaj (Catalytic Action)
in conversation with Giorgio Talocci

Joana Dabaj explains how the summerLab workshop intersected the work of Catalytic Action in Bar Elias, and reflects on the potential of design research in understanding the socio-spatial dynamics of public spaces in contested settings.

Giorgio Talocci: You worked for long in Bar Elias. How did a one-week workshop overlap and possibly cross-fertilised with such a long engagement?

Joana Dabaj: Catalytic Action, as a charity, has been working in Bar Elias for at least 5 years. We have built very strong connections with the local community – both the Lebanese and the refugee community, including both Syrian and Palestinian refugees. We work through a participatory approach, in terms of research, design and construction of spaces. Bar Elias was actually the place where we built our first playground: we started having an interaction with the locals, while at the same time hired labour and found sub-contractors there, too. This is how a series of networks started to emerge. We have worked there in collaboration with The Relief Centre, hence Bar Elias has been a site of enquiry as part of the Relief Centre's Vital Cities research strand, too. And, again in Bar Elias, we then ran a project funded by the British Academy, the Participatory Spatial Intervention, connected to a research project on infrastructures and vulnerability. We saw therefore the summerLab as an interesting opportunity and important step to enrich our research and engagement process in Bar Elias. The DPU summerLab came after a preliminary research done with the Relief Centre. In such research, we trained the local researchers (also known as citizen scientists) – who we recruited through the Participatory Spatial Intervention project – on design thinking. The summerLab became therefore an occasion for local researchers to work along with international participants. This interaction would have then become very important for the Participatory Spatial Intervention project, and overall a good opportunity to build knowledge together and learn mutually. This is how the main theme of the summerLab project was developed, centring around public spaces and spaces of refuge: in so doing, we tried to link all these different activities that were happening with different partners, so to capitalise upon different resources, know-hows and expertise, and consequently further knowledge of (and impact on) Bar Elias.

GT: Tell us more about the role of the local researchers in the DPU summerLab.

JD: In the DPU summerLab we had seven local researchers that played a very important role. In the week before the workshop, they had done the key exercise to highlight and critically understand the main public spaces in Bar Elias. During the summerLab, then, they took all the participants to such public spaces, explaining the research done thus far, and stimulating a discussion on what public space actually means in the context of Bar Elias. We did reflect altogether on the relevance of the high presence of refugees in the town, and on the fact that the latter had grown so quickly. We then decided to divide the participants and local researchers into four groups, choosing four different sites that were representative of four different types of public spaces.

GT: Could you elaborate on the outcomes of the workshop?

JD: The most important outcome is the learning process that occurred for both local and international participants, as well as for the local researchers. Through the action of the local researchers we can achieve a greater impact, because they constitute a group, an entity that already existed prior to the workshop, and that will be taking the workshop learning toward the next step and toward bigger projects – as it has already happened. The learning process did not remain just on paper: we took the workshop's outcomes and reflections, and the tools used for doing research, and brought them with us toward the Relief Centre and the Participatory Spatial Intervention projects. Eventually, for the Participatory Spatial Intervention project, we chose one of the sites that were investigated further in the workshop – the main entrance gate to the city. As emerged in the summerLab's findings, that was the only public space that was used by different communities and groups. Now, eight

months later, we have our participatory spatial intervention already implemented in such space, in collaboration with the local researchers.

GT: Was such participatory spatial intervention already designed, at least partially, in the summerLab workshop?

JD: In the summerLab, we actually worked on both the entrance road and the surrounding areas. We then travelled back to London, looked at the information we had gathered, analysed it and eventually decided to focus on the main entrance road once again, because we wanted to choose a space that could allow all the different communities to encounter, in order to create a positive social impact. One element that was spotted during the summerLab and that re-emerged in the Participator Spatial Intervention workshop was the lack of shade, which became a central design input.

GT: What was the influence of the workshop on the way Catalytic Action works, and on what was the main learning for you?

JD: Something that was very interesting in the workshop was the research and pedagogic model we created, with local researchers and international participants. The model was very successful. It was great to see how exciting it was for the locals to be able to work alongside internationals. And, on the other hand, the international participants appreciated to be able to interact with the locals and have a direct access to their views and thoughts – local researchers were part of the working teams. In spite of the short length of the workshop, all participants were then able to understand the local context without engaging in a long and extensive fieldwork – although, for a week, they were all involved in activities of observation and mapping, and in interviews to local residents.

GT: You said that the summerLab happened at a strategic time, as an experience that could have brought together several research pathways and projects. From such point of view, has the summerLab contributed to put your reasonings in a design perspective? And how have the Relief Centre project and the Participatory Spatial Interventions project developed henceforth? Has the Vital Cities strand got any insight from the summerLab, and was there any cross-fertilisation?

JD: Yes. Importantly, the summerLab was not a standalone experience but was part of a longer research project. We are responsible for the Relief Centre's Vital Cities research strand in Bar Elias, and have run research activities there. Hence we were able to pull this thread, and presented the idea also in the Relief Discovery Day, as a positive way of partnering with different entities and departments. Of course, the outcomes of the summerLab have benefitted the Relief Centre research, too. What we learnt on public space through the summerLab was also beneficial for the Participatory Spatial Interventions project, whose main theme was on infrastructures and vulnerabilities: through the summerLab, we chose to work on public spaces as main urban infrastructures. You can zoom out and you can easily see how these several experiences come together, creating momentum and more impact for what concerns the wider Relief project, which can build also upon a strengthening of the local networks. Importantly, again, the more we are able to train and equip local researchers, the stronger our impact can be.

GT: Were the local researcher involved also in the following project on Participatory Spatial Interventions?

JD: After the summerLab we held a British Academy funded participatory planning workshop in October. The aim of that workshop was to come up with the design brief for the spatial intervention that would have been then implemented on the main road. Such process was facilitated by the local researchers, who were able to outreach toward members of a larger community. This process was important as we trained all participants, again, on design thinking. We took what was learnt in the summerLab and enhanced it further, training participants on how to do research through different methods, and how to understand vulnerability problems linked to infrastructures. From such reflections, we started designing solutions and to understand how such solutions can respond to a local situation. Recently we were able to move forward through the community-engaged implementation of the Participatory Spatial Intervention project.

GT: Tell us more about this project.

JD: The main aims of such project were to make the space of entrance gate to Bar Elias more child friendly, more pedestrian friendly, and to be more safe. Amongst the outcomes of the most recent workshop funded by the British Academy, we also managed to retrofit sidewalks through the use of ramps for wheelchair users, and we added speed bumps. There was no space for resting so we created shadings and benches too, and we created a series of murals, and so on.

GT: Back to the summerLab workshop, amongst the outcomes produced by the participants, some were not really focusing on public space per se. Rather, they were centring on housing units, and attempted to represent how the inhabitants dwell the units' spaces. Could you elaborate on why such particular focus on housing?

JD: A particular group was working on the only public garden that there is in Bar Elias. We were interested in such space as the garden was mostly used by Syrians. We asked participants to draw the several housing types, and in such way we realised that the Syrian households most often live in houses that are actually very cramped, and shared by multiple families. They do not have much natural light, nor ventilation – the spaces are very enclosed, they even do the laundry indoor. That is why they spend more time outdoor in the garden. The same participant also drew the refugee tent, whose space is equally cramped but inhabited by only one family. And a third drawing shows a Lebanese house that benefits of a semiprivate space in the front, and private open spaces. So this research exercise allowed to focus on the impact of several housing configurations on the spatial practices occurring in the public space.

GT: Have you planned a series of interviews and research activities to understand how the perception of the local inhabitants over public space has actually changed, since the beginning of your work in Bar Elias?

JD: Yes, we do have planned a monitoring stage for the Participatory Spatial Interventions project, which will be carried out by local researchers. We do research, so we feel mandatory to go through such stage. We had plenty of feedback thus far. One of the findings was that there was a lack of awareness on the potential relevance of public spaces for the everyday life of Bar Elias. As soon as you put one chair, one bench, that perspective changes.

BAR ELIAS

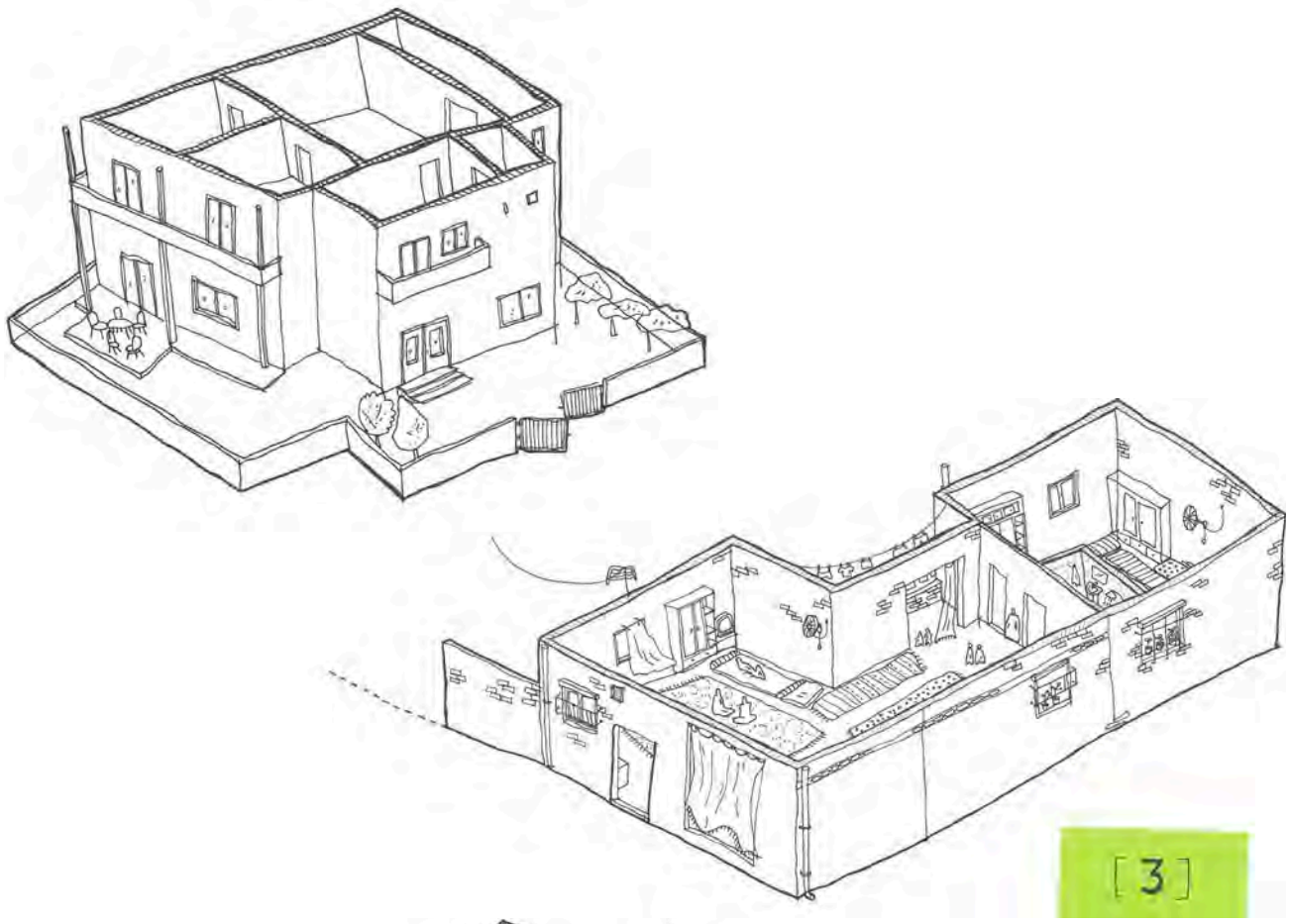
BAR ELIAS

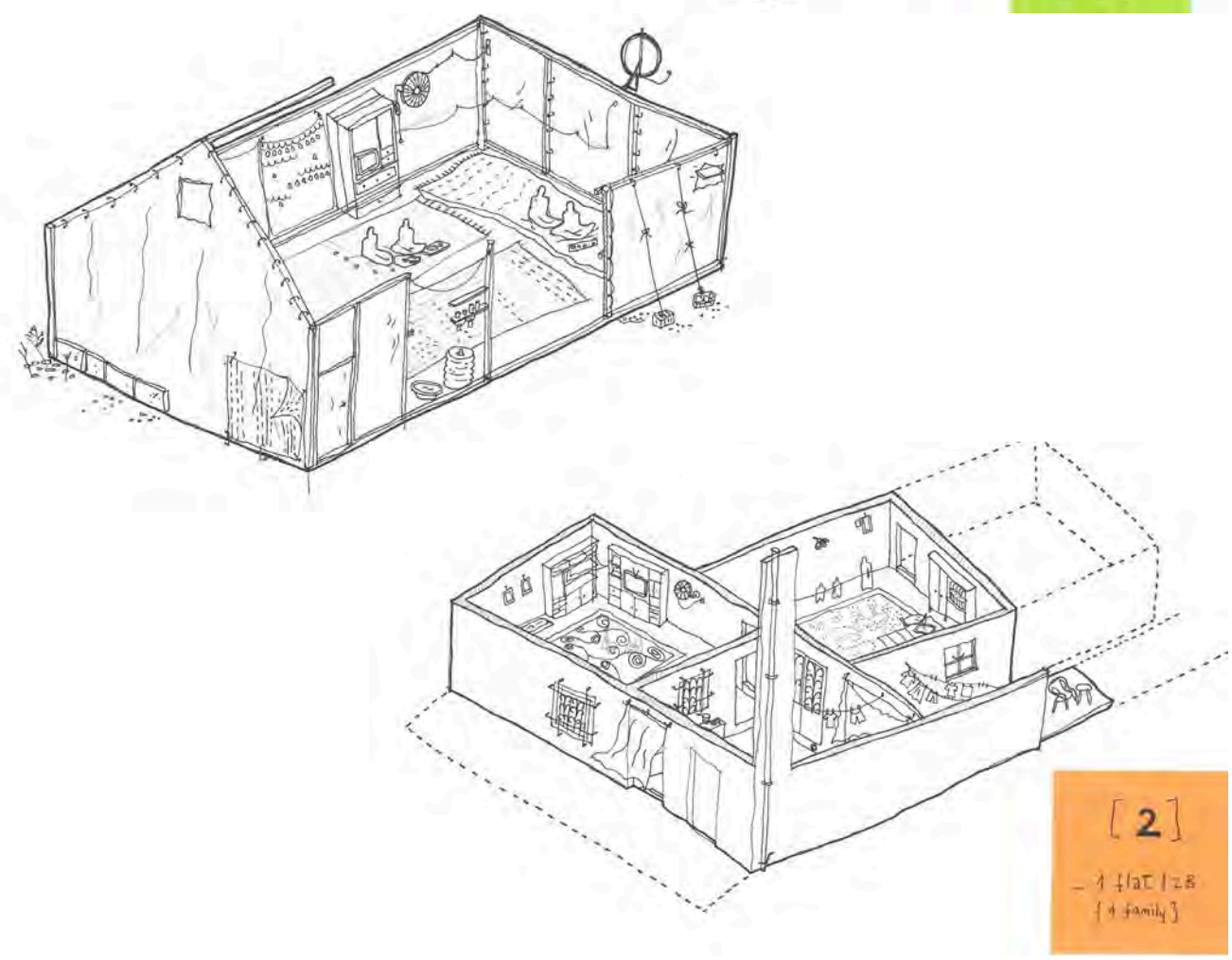
مركز
نادي النهضة
برالياس
TIGER
MOM
Love

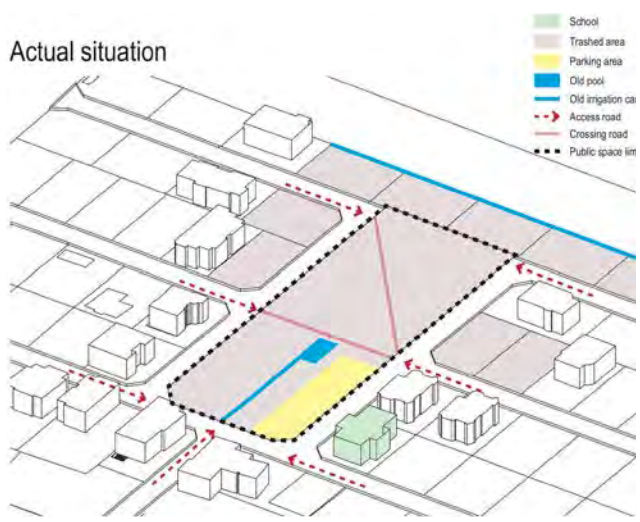
فروج الملك

إفتتاح
Lebanese National High Sch
ة الوطنية اللبنانية-برالياس
2019/2018
للتسجيل والمراجعة
سة الأخوة الوطنية-برالياس
08/510845-08/512842-03/

BAR ELIAS

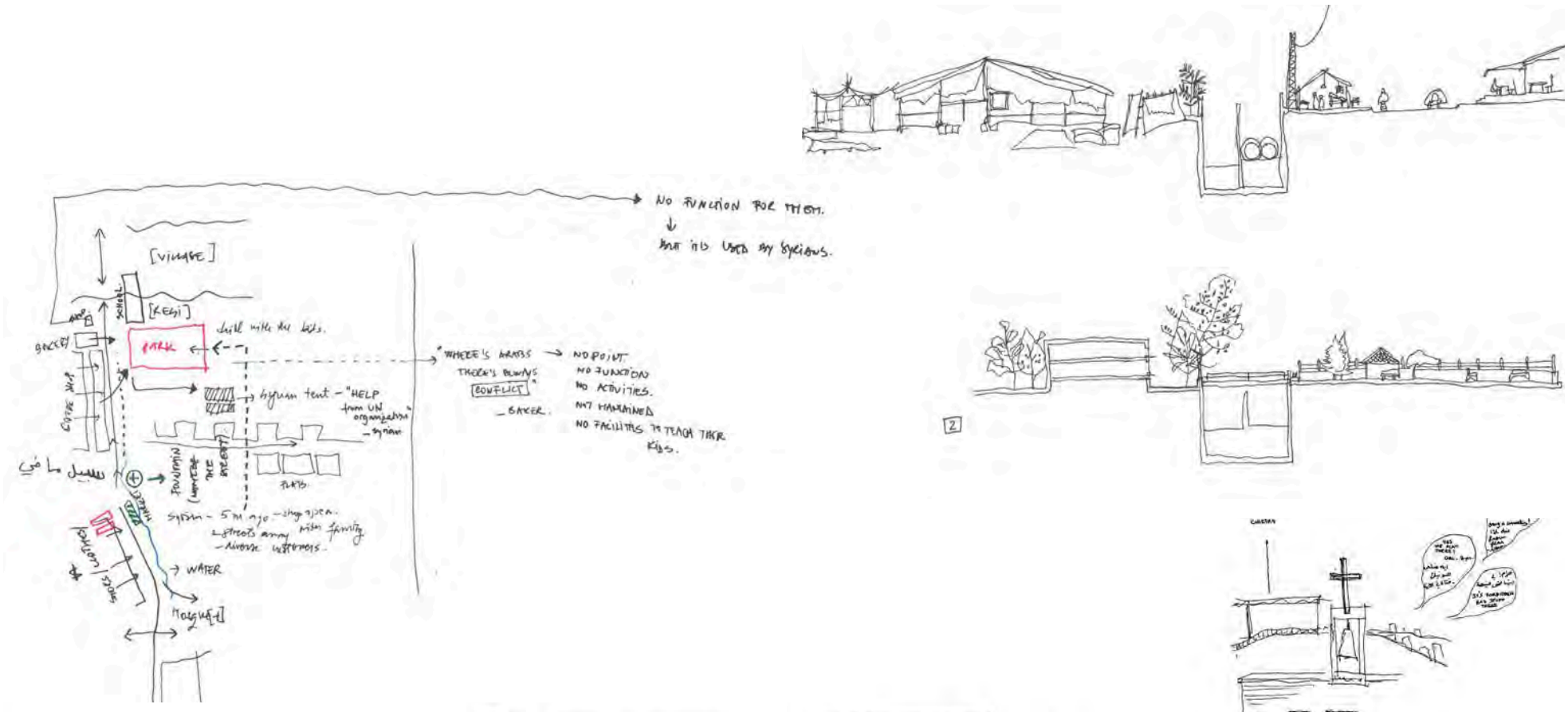


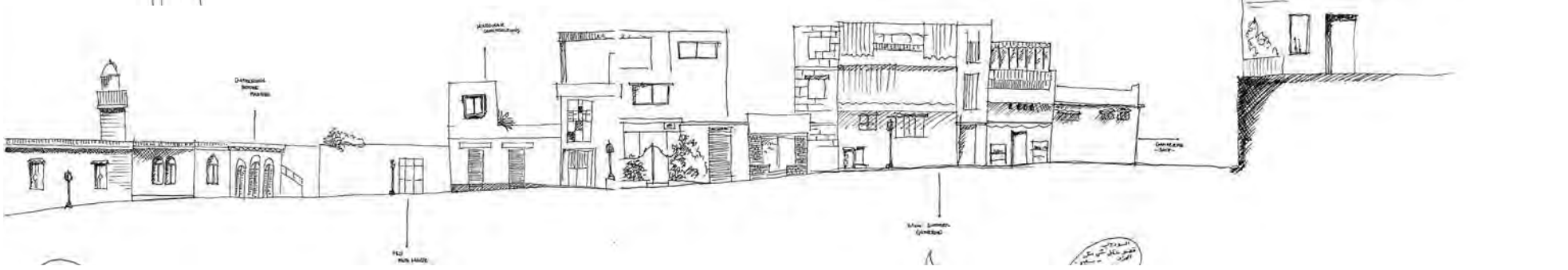




The work of the participants in Bar Elias focused on understanding the significance of public space in a context of rapid urban growth, and of co-presence of a host- Lebanese community and Palestinian and Syrian refugees. The analysis of the housing typology was fundamental in understanding how indoor activities and the housing units' layout have an impact on the spatial practices happening in Bar Elias' public spaces.

BAR ELIAS


NO FUNCTION FOR THEM.
BUT IT'S USED BY SYRIANS.
[VILLAGE]
[KESI]
PARK
"WHERE'S ARABS THERE'S ALWAYS CONFLICT"
_BAKER.
NO POINT
NO FUNCTION
NO ACTIVITIES.
NOT MAINTAINED
NO FACILITIES TO TEACH THEIR KIDS.
WATER
2



وسط البلدة القديمة

BAR ELIAS

Asmaa Al-Haj Khalil

في البداية,أود ان اشكركم على اعطائي الفرصة للمشاركة معكم في ورشة العمل.و ان الشكر و الفضل الكبير يعود الى السيدة جوانا و السيد كميلو الذين سعا في نجاح هذا المشروع.فلولاهما لما كان هذا المشروع في برالياس.

سوف تستفيد برالياس من هذا المشروع وذلك من دواعي سروري لان بلدتي ستستفيد منه. لذلك نتمنى ان يستمر المشروع.فان بعض الاماكن المهمشة او المتروكة التي زرناها بحاجة الى اصلاح و انماء . فان بلدة برالياس مليئة بالاراضي الواسعة الفارغة لان لا يوجد احد يهتم بها . بالاضافة الى ان هذه البلدة تعاني من الكثير من المشاكل كمشكلة الليطاني و تلوث المزروعات و الطرقات الغير معبدة .... كلها تأثر سلباً على البلدة.

ان ورشة العمل التي شاركنا فيها عرفتنا على اشياء كثيرة كالمساحة العامة و اوجه الهشاشة و هي اكثر الامور التي ركزنا عليها فهي كانت بمثابة مفتاح للبدء بالمشروع .بالاضافة الى ان ورشة العمل هذه عرفتني على اماكن في برالياس لم اكن اعرفها و ذلك عن طريق الاستكشاف و الاستطلاع الذي قمنا به اول يوم عمل.لقد احببت هذه الطريقة البحثية للتعرف على الاماكن والمشاكل.ايضاً تعلمت كيفية العمل بمجموعة كفريق بحثي و من خلال هذه المجموعة تعرفت على الكثير من الاشياء كطرق البحث من مقابلة و ملاحظة وتخطيط .و بما انني سنة اولى جامعة في كلية العلوم الاجتماعية استفدت كثيراً منها , ففي السنة الولى نأخذ الاشياء النظرية و في السنة الثانية نبدأ بتطبيق النظريات التي اخذناها وورشة العمل هذه علمتني الاشياء التطبقية و بهذا اصبحت جاهزة و مؤهلة لدخول السنة الثانية بسهولة.

و بهذا اقول كان العمل معكم اكثر من رائع و انشالله دائماً سنعمل معاً , لذلك اشكركم مرة اخرى على كل شيء قدمتموه من عمل و علم.شكراً سيدة جوانا و سيد كميلو و كل فريق العمل. و ختاماً ارجو ان نستمر بهذا لخدمة المجتمع.

Mahdi Al Homsi

في البداية أوجه كامل امتناني وتقديري لجهودكم ومساعدتكم واتاحة الامكانيات الازمة لي ولزملائي الباحثين في مجال عملنا معكم كباحثين محليين, ان تجربتي معكم في جمعية((كاتاليتك اكشن)) هي تجربة فريدة من نوعها في جانبي الشخصي فمن خلال المشروع الذي عملنا به بروح الفريق ككل وبتعاون المجموعة باسلوب مصغر الا وهو مشروع يطال جميع الشرائح في المجتمع باختلاف مكوناته وافكاره وذلك ضمن ما شاهدته وتعلمته من خلال العمل في الساحات العامة و مرافقها التي يستخدمها جميع من ارصفة وحدائق كمفهوم نظري كان فقط يتبللور لي ولكن عند تطبيقنا للبحث الميداني اصبح مفهوم المساحة العامة أكثر وضوحاً وتعبيراً , كما أن العمل الدؤوب والمستمر في البحث خلال فترة عملنا اتاح لي القدرة في فهم ورصد مايدور من حولي من ظواهر وحالات تبدو في ظاهر الأمر وللأنطباع الأولي كشيء روتيني ولكن في جوهر مضمونه وتفاصيله الصغيرة تكمن سر الدراسة وماهيتها, وذلك من خلال ما تعلمناه وتدربنا عليه مع فريق البحث الميداني لكونه يتكون من خليط متعدد الجنسيات من دول العالم بيما فيهم العربية لبنان وفلسطين هذا الامر يجعل تنوع الأفكار والاراء والثقافات أمراً ضرورياً وهاماً لأتمام العملية البحثية العلمية المستوفية شروط البحث العلمي كون تعدد الاراء والأفكار والثقافات أمر ضروري في منهجية البحث العلمية ,وفضلاً عن ذلك وجود عامل اللغة الاخرى التي تعد حافزاً قويا لدي في تقوية مستوى لغتي على الصعيد الشخصي ,كما وجود عامل الثقافات المختلفة ينشىء حالة من التواصل والأندماج فيما بيننا في ميدان العمل البحثي ومن خلال المناقشات التي تدور على ارض الواقع تولدت لدي افكار جديدة ومعطيات تساهم في تطوير معرفتي العلمية ,وكون أن اختصاص الماجستير في العلوم الاجتماعية يعتمد أساساً على تقنيات البحث الازمة في اجراء الدراسات الميدانية فان تجربتي الشخصية في العمل الميداني مع فريق العمل اعطى لمجال اختصاصي خبرة اضافية من خلال استخدامي لتقنيات الملاحظة المباشرة والغير مباشرة فاستخدامي لهذه التقنيات والاساليب يتبللور لدي في ماهية معرفة تفاصيل الظواهر الموجودة على ميدان البحث ومدى فاعليتها والعمل عليها.

وكون الملاحظة خطوة اولية لانطلاق البحث والعمل على تفسيره وتحليله بشكل يضمن معلومات ومعطيات تكون شفافة وموثقة بأمانة علمية اكاديمية , واجراء المقابلات مع أفراد واشخاص من شانه ان يساهم في نشوء نظام تفاعلات بين الباحثين والمبحوثين ومدى تأثيرهم وتأثرهم بما يدور حولهم من الامور الحياتية , كما ان العمل لتحقيق مستوى تنموي وبشري يضمن السعادة والفرح لهولاء الناس على اختلاف جنسياتهم , فمن خلال عملنا وتفاعلنا مع اطفال ونساء وشيوخ حاولنا كفريق ان نرسم الضحكه والسعادة على وجوههم ,كما أن العمل على مشروع البحث على أرض الميدان له تحولاته الكبيرة ولا سيما الأماكن التي بحثنا فيها من تجمعات نهارية ومسائية وحتى ليلية في بعض الأوقات فأن تجربة الباحث الميداني هي مرحلة تطبيقية هامة لي في مرحلة الماجستير البحثي التي أختص في كتابتها الأن , كما أن العامل الاجتماعي والنفسي الذي نستمده من خلال تفاعلاتنا ومراقبة حركة المجتمع عبر ملاحظتنا للظواهر وتدوينها او رسمها وتصويرها وتوثيقها والعمل على تفسيرها وتحليلها وعرضها امام فريق العمل وامام حضرة الأساتذة الجامعيين المحترمين وشخصياتهم المرموقة فعملية اجراء نقاش متبادل فيما بيينا عند عرض البحث وهذا الشيء ينمي شخصية الباحث ويقويه في مجال بحثه العلمي ومعرفة جواتب اخرى ومشاكل نفسية واجتماعية قد نحصل عليها من خلال تفاعلنا مع الناس بأسلوب عفوي غير مباشر يكون أنعكاساً لما يعانوه الأفراد من ضغوطات نفسية واجتماعية في حياتهم اليومية.

فأن مشروع العمل الذي عملنا عليه في مسألة المساحات العامة والهشاشة بمفهوميها اكتسبنا معرفة ثقافية للظواهر التي تلازمنا وتمضي بنا في أنساق مجتمعية هي بحد ذاتها مكونات اساسية في حياتنا اليومية فمن خلال عملي كباحث ميداني والألمام في أخذ خبرة أكثر في ميدان البحث الأن وفي المستقبل فان رغبتي دائماً في العمل كباحث ميداني في مشاريع تنموية أخرى توصلني لتحقيق طموحاتي وذلك من اجل تحقيق استراتيجيات التنمية الاجتماعية القائمة على بنى تحتية من منشات وغيرها وعلى بنى نفسية تعبر عن الذات الشخصية للفرد من خلال إقامة مشاريع وابحاث علميه هادفة لها انعكاساتها ونتائجها الإيجابية على المجتمع ككل.

واخيراً اشكركم واشكر جهودكم المضيئة لإيصال الإبتسامة والفرح والحب والسلام من خلال مشاريعكم وابحاثكم وإنها لفرصة عظيمة بأني أعمل معكم في هذا المشروع بروح الفريق المتعاون ويسعدني العمل أيضاً في مشاريع مستقبلية قادمة تخدم المجتمع وتخدم البيئة وكل ما يحيط بنا.

Omar Al-Mays

ان ورشة العمل التي اقيمت في برالياس والتي تركزت على دراسة المجتمع المحلي عبر العمل مع باحثين محليين اولا هي فكرة وخطة موضوعية توصف الواقع المحلي لبلدة برالياس ليس عبر دراسة كمّية فحسب بل ايضا دراسة نوعية شملت عدة نقاط اساسية يتركز عليها موضوع المشروع وورشة العمل.

بعد ان قرأت الافكار والاهداف التي تنشدها الجهات القائمة بالمشروع، استعديت لأخوض هذه التجربة ربما الجديدة من ناحية سبب واختيار اماكن حددها الباحثين. بعد التمرينات الاولى النظرية، وكانت الحماسة لتقديم اي شيء يسهم في معالجة ومناقشة ازدهار بلدتي برالياس وذلك إيمانا مني بقوة التغيير والذي يجب ان يكون اولا تغييرا فكريا وصولا الى التغيير الذي يفضي الى الازدهار الاجتماعي للبلدة.

والعمل الجماعي والتعاون مع جهات مختصة أجنبية كان مشوقا وجميلا حيث ان تشارك الآراء والتواصل كانا عمودا النجاح بالنسبة للمهندسين الأجانب وللباحثين، وحيث ان ورشة العمل تمّ إغنائها بنخبة رائعة من الباحثين والمتخصصين في الشؤون الهندسية، وكانت فكرة تعلم أساليب جديدة للتفكير بالمشاكل والحلول المتعلقة بالبنى التحتية جميلة وهادفة لان البروفسير كاميليو والمهندسة جوانا استطاعا تسهيل التفكير من منطلق ومنظار آخر للأمور التي تم مناقشتها، وتعرفنا من خلال خبرتهم كيفية معرفة المعلومات حول الموضوع المنوي دراسته وما هي المعلومات التي نعرفها وكيفية توظيفها في البحث. والأمر الجدير بالذكر أنه فضلا عن أهمية الدرس النظري لجهة مناقشة المساحة العامة كان التطبيق على أرض الواقع أهم خطوة وذلك لأن المدربين علمونا كيف ندرس موضوع البحث بدقة عن قرب عبر استخدام منهجية بحثية وهذه الخطوات عززت بكل تأكيد عوامل نجاح دراسة الموضوع الذي بحثه (الحديقة).

وبالنسبة لمشاركة الفتيات اللبنانيات واللواتي درسن وتخصص منهن بالهندسة فقد كانت تجربة العمل معهن في فرق ممتعة للغاية وخاصة اننا تعرفنا على ابناء مناطق أخرى لبنانيين إضافة إلى مختلف الجنسيات الأجنبية التي شاركت، وثانيا للافادة وتبادل الخبرات ووجهات النظر ومما ساعد على التواصل البّناء بين جميع المناطق وكان العمل الجماعي وسيلة لإنجاح العمل الذي كلفنا فيه، وخاصة عندما قمت انا والفريق الذي كنت فيه بمناقشة أفكار مختلفة لجهة الحديقة التي كنا نجري البحث عنها، وكان من الممتع الانتقال سويا إلى مكان العمل وإجراء المقابلات والتصوير والمسح وجمع المعلومات وتحليلها.

شخصيا، لقد أحببت العمل كا باحث محلي مع القائمين بالمشروع الذي يعزز التطور والإزدهار لبلدة برالياس وخاصة مع تراكم المشاكل من كافة النواحي التي تواجهها البلدة وخاصة أكثر مع ارتفاع معدلات الوجود للنازحين السوريين الذين يتشاركون نفس المشاكل التي تعاني منها البلدة وابنائها، وبعد ان لم تلقى منادتنا استجابات حول القيام بعدة اصلاحات بيئية واجتماعية ولما لم يكن هناك اي أذان صاغية كانت فكرة المشاركة كباحث محلي والعمل مع متخصصين أجانب رائعة ومشوقة لاننا بخطوات بسيطة يمكننا تفكيك أصل المشاكل والتفكير بطريقة مختلفة لمعالجتها. ومن خلال ورشة العمل كانت هناك جولة تجوالية سيرا على الأقدام مع أشخاص أجانب ليستكشفوا الاماكن في البلدة أمّر ممتع لأنني نظرت من خلالهم بمنظار آخر لبعض المواقع والأمور الموجودة ولكننا لم نلاحظها كباحثيين الا من خلال مشاركة التجربة مع المهندسين الرائعين الذي أجادوا التواصل والعمل كفريق مع الباحثين المحليين اضافة الى التعرف على الخبرات المميزة لديهم في دراسة الموقع المراد بحثه. وأخيرا وبعد استكمال مرحلة البحث حول المساحة العامة، كان الموضوع الذي بحثته انا والفريق أمر في غاية الأهمية وهو عبارة حديقة متروكة وتم البحث حولها وخاصة أنها كانت في الماضي مساحة عامة ونظيفة وعلى مر السنوات أهملت هذه الحديقة وبدل التفكير بمشاريع حضارية ومدنية تفيد المجتمع حل الدمار بها، وأصبحت مكبا للنفايات مما دفعني إلى خوض التجربة وفعل اي شيئ ولو بسيط لاستعادة الدور وحيوية المكان نظرا لأهميته ولأنه بالفعل يصلح ليكون مساحة عامة ومتنفسا للسكان المجاورين الذين لا تجمعهم سوى هذه القطعة من الأرض والتي بكل تأكيد تساهم في التواصل الاجتماعي وبناء علاقات سليمة في مجتمع متعدد الجنسيات والثقافات، وهذا الهدف هو بالدرجة الأولى يعزز فكرة قبول الاخر وثقافة التنوع والشعور الإنساني باي فرد أو مجموعة مضطهدة وهاربة من ويلات الحرب. وبما أن برالياس بلدتي هي المكان الأكبر والأكثر استيعابا للاجئين الفلسطينيين والسوريين فهي بحاجة إلى كل انواع الدعم وخاصة على مستوى البنى التحتية للبلدة وبما أن غياب التخطيط من قبل الهيئات والبلدية والوزارات المختصة فإن المشاكل يتزايد سريع وان لم توضع الحلول وخطة شاملة ومتكاملة حتى ٢٢٠٢ فإن النتائج كارثية على الرغم من تفشي آثارها الواضحة على مجتمع البلدة وسكانها وهذه النتائج الخطيرة طالت وستطال الصحة والتعليم بشكل أساسي، وعليه فإن الشغف والدافع لهذه التجربة هي مساهمة في حل ما يمكن حله.

Ramona Adballah

Though I had worked before on public spaces throughout my studies and in extracurricular programs, the DPU summerLab in collaboration with Catalytic Action was a totally new and intense experience for me. In less than a week, through the research methods I learned, I got to know a lot about Bar Elias, its people, and its public spaces. As a Lebanese citizen and a resident of Beirut, I've always viewed the rural areas to which Bar Elias belong as alien to me especially after the refugee crisis and the stereotypes and images reflected by the media on these areas.

The most exciting part of the workshop was getting to learn and visit two-stories mud houses. These vernacular structures fascinated me since I visited my hometown for the first time at 8 years old, however we only had them in a single level. This tradition of having them on two levels is still preserved in Bar Elias, though the craftsmanship is lost. And though I learned about them in architecture school, experiencing them and witnessing how sustainable, adaptable and rooted in our identity they are was simply amazing.

Another aspect of the summerLab that gave the entire experience more meaning was working with local 'citizen scientists' belonging to different nationalities and social groups. It helped in understanding the city easier in such short time for they facilitated our contact with the locals. Working with a diverse team, especially participants who aren't architects was very enriching, too. As architects, we tend to focus a lot on the built form and what is to be built; we get absorbed in solving every problem through designing structures. The multidisciplinary team helped me see beyond design, and question more the

BAR ELIAS

BAR ELIAS

importance of every design oriented solution.

A valuable thing we worked on was seeing every problem from different perspectives, and trying to link them back to our knowledge about Bar Elias. This exercise was very helpful to decipher the city and its own concept of public spaces, something that is quite different from the image of the squares and parks. The most intriguing part was that people were actually using 'public' spaces without considering them as such; for them public spaces align with public garden or playground only.

Moayad Hamadallah

لقد تعلمنا منكم الكثير كفريق متكامل حول مفهوم الهشاشة وأشكالها التي نمر بها ، إثناء عملنا كفريق كسبنا الثقة بالنفس ،ومعرفة التعامل مع فريق العمل المتعدد الجنسيات والثقافات.

جميع المواضيع التي كلفنا بها كانت فعالة على أرض الواقع وخاصةً عندما شعرنا إننا سنسعد أشخاص هم بحاجة إلى أشياء معينة منها كألاطفال المحرومة من اللعب في أماكن عامة مطمئنة لسلامتهم وأماكن مخصصة للجلوس بها لكبار السن الذين لا يعملون للترويح عن أنفسهم في لعب طاولة الزهر مثلاً.

وأيضاً العمل على القيام أماكن مخصصة للمشاة ذات ألاعاقة الخاصة ، هذه المشاريع كما غيرها والكثير منها تجعل أشخاص كثيرة في أمان ، وهذا ما يعزز بالقيام بمشاريع أكبر وأكبر.

وللدخول في التفاصيل أكثر لا بد من التطرق لأهمية ما تعلمته من خلال فريق العمل بأن هنالك أمور وأشياء تمضي بنا قدماً وفد تكون هذه التفاصيل مهمة لدينا في إكتساب العديد من المهارات والتجارب على كافة الاصعدة الاجتماعية والثقافية.

بالتالي منذ أول يوم قد بدأت عملي كباحث محلي ضمن مجموعتي والتي تتكون من عدة جنسيات مختلفة ، هذا ألامر يساهم في تكوين نظرة أولية حول أهمية ألاندماج مع الآخر والتعرف لثقافات أخرى فتجربة الحوار إجراء مقابلات مع الناس في ألاماكن والمساحات العامة التي مررنا بها ساهم لخلق ونشوء عملية تفاعل بينا وبينهم .

وهذا جعل لدينا في عملية التوثيق من صور وفيديوهات كساحة الجامع والكنيسة والاشخاص المقيمين حول هذه الاماكن خلق لدينا معرفة حس الانسانية وقيمة التعايش المشترك ، وكما وجود التبادل الثقافي المحلي من شأنه أن يساهم في تكوين نظرة علمية وعملية في آن واحد.

فمن خلال عملنا اليومي مع الفريق بشكل مكثف تطورت لدينا القدرة على تحليل الأشياء التي كنا نشاهدها بشكل يومي وبشكل روتيني .ومن غير هذا كله تطوير ذاتنا وشخصيتنا على عامل أهمية الوقت وإستغلال الوقت مع روح الفريق الواحد ككل ، وذلك من أجل تحقيق وإنجاز العمل الذي يكمن وراء التعاون في الوصول النتائج مهمة ومرجوة.

غير ذلك كله يأتي أيضاً عوامل طرأت على الجانب النفسي أيضاً سواء في الجلسات وقت الاستراحة على سبيل المثال وذلك من خلال الضحك والتسلية وخلق روح التفاعل الذي يعد عامل أساسي مهام لدعم ماهية التعارف وعمل جو إجتماعي مريح بين أعضاء الفريق والمجموعة.

وإجراء عملية التبادل الثقافي من خلال عملية اللغة وأختلاف ألاراء والثقافة بين الشعوب الواحدة على إختلاف جنسياتها ولغاتها فهذا كله يؤدي لتكوين فكرة وإنطباع يساهم في تقوية الرغبة لدي لأجل تعلم لغات وثقافات إجتماعية أخرى تساعدنا في عملية التواصل مع الآخرين فضلاً عن ذلك كله لابد لنا من التنويه على نقطة علمية مكتسبة أيضاً ألا وهي مبدأ المقاربة وذلك تماشياً مع أحداثيات الحاضر الموجود وما تركه الماضي من بصمة سواء تراثية وأجتماعية وثقافية على حد سواء.

وختاماً لما تقدم نشكر جهودكم وتواجدكم معنا في برالياس كفريق عمل بحثي ميداني من شخصيات محلية وعالمية ساهمت عبر جهودها البناءة في عمل ميداني يصل في المجتمع الى مستوى متطور ومرموق وهذا الأمر من شأنه أن يساهم لدي في تطوير مجال علمي كباحث محلي في مشاريع تنموية وإجتماعية وخدماتية سواء في بلدتي برالياس أو غيرها من المناطق اللبنانية على وجه الخصوص والعالمية بشكل عام فأن مهنة الباحث المحلي الميداني هي مهمة ضرورية ومتلازمة مع أحداثيات حياتنا اليومية في سبيل تحقيق مجتمع واعٍ ومثقف ويسمو بإتجاه سعادة الآخرين وفرحهم وذلك يتم عبر تكوين برامج وفرص ومشاريع تنموية إجتماعية تحقق رغبتنا في ذلك وتكون طامحة وبناءة لإبناء المجتمع في الوصول للسعادة والرفاهية المنشودة.

Nana Hmady

Collective action is that the union of a group of individuals and participation in whole or in part. It is for the purpose of accomplishing work for the benefit of all. The importance of collective action is easy to reach and achieve.

My opinion for this work is a wonderful work both personally and in town. The integration and agreement of the groups with each other strengthened the spirit of participation and exchange of ideas among them in each team, as well as this work is of great importance through which we exchanged ideas and experiences that exist and we have applied them through which we know more about the town and its subjects. Also, it created the spirit of exploration in us and development of the region.

I benefited from this work, because it made me more social and loving people and enhance confidence as well as saving time, and getting to know new people. The more importantly that this work has become from my personal experience with people from different countries. All of this taught me that working at the collective level achieves the goal , as soon as possible with better results , Interaction and integration with others. This topic was interesting by the villagers, so they accept to answer some questions and they have the ability to know and inquire about the subject.

Finally, the method of teamwork from different countries is the most appropriate way to conduct any research for a particular area. So that each individual has the skills and expertise he provides. All the teams were happy despite of the fatigue. I enjoyed it so much we did adventures and laughed together either everyone has one goal they are trying to achieve. Thank you for your cooperation, I hope to meet soon and work together in any time.

Sara Monaco

The DPU summerLab in Bar Elias in Lebanon was a great experience under many aspects. First of all, it was truly inspiring to work with several of different people coming from diverse countries and backgrounds, moreover the local researchers were fundamental for us in order to understand the local context.

The object of study of the workshop was the public space in Bar Elias: different kind of public spaces with their own characteristics and dynamics of interactions. The rain can be heavy during winter and the sun really strong during summer, and that makes it not easier to interact in public spaces.

Different groups have studied different types of public spaces: it was really interesting to me to see how the design research methods we used were so various and different in relation to the space we had to analyse. We looked at public spaces underlining especially how people used and appropriated space. Even tough a proper integration between different groups is not yet really happening, the city has shown the ability to deal with differences – for example between Cristian and Muslim who used to meet the in the old square between the Church and the Mosque and use it as a real public space for meeting and interactions.

From the first day we brainstormed a lot on the topic of publicness, and what is the meaning of public spaces for us. It was important to keep this in mind during our research in order to define the uses of the spaces we were observing. In our group, this was extremely helpful to identify the problematics and then provide some possible strategies. What I have learned here was that people use to spend time in public spaces adjusting them with the equipment they need and they provide by and for themselves informally: not necessarily is a very well designed and equipped square or park more appealing to people.

Nikolett Puskás

The short but intensive period of time spent in Bar Elias allowed us to investigate and attempt to gain a deeper understanding on what 'public realm and spaces' means in this particular context – besides, very importantly, to whom. Starting by group walks to get an initial feel of the city and spaces within it, sharing our first thoughts as a larger group, we then moved on to breaking into smaller groups all assigned to a particular space – in my case, the public park. The concept of working together with peers from other countries is exciting and enriching already and in Bar Elias we had the opportunity to also have local researchers in our groups. This provides invaluable insights through experiences of people who live there as well as opportunities to meet and talk to others we might otherwise not be able to.

We started our spatial investigations from our 'base' at the Nasser Club, which is situated along the main road – moving towards the park to fully experience the changes along the journey in terms of traffic flows, rhythms and physical features of the built environment.

BAR ELIAS

Along the way, we conducted interviews, sketched, took pictures, recorded sounds and had continuous discussions within our group, which was all very stimulating and interesting. A notable moment was when sitting in the totally empty park, discussing the lack of shading in a hot late summer day, guessing the uses and occupancy of this space, which just seemed deserted: here came the knowledge of our local partners, explaining how the space transforms in the evening hours, and who are the users of it, thus 'our story' started to unfold. This journey led us to investigate different living arrangements: we got the opportunity to interview some people in their homes, to verify some of our assumptions – constrained by the limited amount of time we had – and also to experience first-hand some very intimate spaces. This was a unique experience we treated with vast gratefulness. Revisiting the park in the evening, we witnessed the spectacular transformation, and reconsidered the role of certain physical features. In the evening a rather different perspective was observed.

The main point, I believe, is to keep challenging our thinking, assumptions and approaches – and this multidisciplinary, multicultural environment really allowed us to do that, offering valuable insights and lessons to grow not only professionally, but personally as well.

The outcome of this collaboration was presented using mixed media: a series of cartoon-like drawings, our developed framework and proposal in written form, section-sketches from the field, with a running slideshow of photos to complement the presentation. This allowed all group members to contribute to different aspects according to own skills and techniques each of us felt comfortable with using. Importantly, we had a lot of fun during the summerLab, enjoying Lebanon's excellent cuisine, learning about local traditions, customs and I personally ventured to practise the little Arabic I have learnt so far, which was also fun and memorable.

Natasha Rassi

Looking back at the experience that I lived in Bar Elias, I came to a deeper understanding of the cohesion between communities in Lebanon as well as the reality of displaced people and host cities. And in fact, one cannot really understand the reality of such places without spending time engaging with their inhabitants.

The work that we've done wouldn't have been the same without the help of the local researchers and the knowledge they have about the area.

More specifically, I got out of the workshop with a new way of thinking about public spaces in Lebanon. In Bar Elias as well as in Beirut and in many other cities in Lebanon, very few public areas are found, and where they are present, they are generally not much used or convenient. This workshop was a useful way to investigate the concept of publicness in a complex society, and to state that defining a 'public space' is not as simple as it looked. There are many factors to take into considerations, as the context of where public space emerges, the way people use it, and the reasons they do, as well as how they perceive it. The key to make public space work is to conceive it with an active participation of the community, in a way that it adds a positive impact on their everyday lives.

Ali Rheial

في البداية لا بد من الترحيب الحار بكل أعضاء الجمعية بلا استثناءوعلى وجه الخصوص الأستاذ المحترم كاميلو, وأيضا كي لا أنسى الأستاذة جوانا اللذاين كانا حريصين على إنجاح أي عمل, وذلك عبر تقديم الخبرة القيمة أوالشرح الوفي عن أي موضوع مطروح أو استفسرات مبهمة,فمهما تحدثت لن أعطي كل منهما حقه, فضلا عن الجهود النفسية او العملية التى وفروها لنا,ثم الى أعضاء فريق العمل جميعا اللذين كانوا على قدر من المسؤلية التي كانت موكلة اليهم, فلم أشعر في أي لحظة أن غريب عنهم بل كانوا كالجسد الواحد , وهذا ما أكسب العمل نجاح عالي ودقة وسرعة في الانجاز . أم على الصعيد الانساني فإن جميع فريق العمل يتمتعون بصفات التواضع والحب والاحترام واعتماد مبدأ المساواة بين الجميع,بإضافة الى هذا كله فهم يملكون قدرات ذهنية وعلمية عالية تجعلهم مخولين لهذا العمل,والتي ساهمت في التأثير الايجابي علينا من ناحية الأسلوب أو اللغة أو طروق التفكير المجدي, فلا يسعني الا أن أشكر الجميع على هذه الجهود المبذلة وكل الحب والتقدير لكم.

في نهاية كل تجربة نطرح على أنفسنا بعض الأسئلة المهمة مثل ما هي المكتسبات أو الفوائد التي تم التوصل إليها ,وهل ساهمت في بناء ذاتنا؟

وبناء على ما تقدم يمكن القول أن هناك الكثير من المكتسبات التى تطورت لدي في هذه التجربة القيمة , والتي تتعلق بجوانب مهمة من القضية المطروحة على المستويات التالية:الإجتماعية,الثقافية,والذهنية والنظرية وحتى النفسية.

١- على المستوى الإجتماعي:التعرف على جميع الشركاء من مختلف الجنسيات والبلدان,فضلا عن إنماء روح التعاون والتواصل مع أعضاء الفريق جميعا بشكل مريح ومرن,بإضافة إلى تطور القدرة على إستخدام أكثر من لغة التي بالتالي ساهمت في الإندماج والإنخراط مع فريق العمل,من ما أكسب أو حقق نتجية عالية من النجاح وكسب في الوقت وسرعة في الإنجاز,وأيضا كيفية بناء العلاقات الإجتماعية مع المحيط,وإعتماد أسلوب إجتماعي متقن لتعامل مع مختلف الشرائح الموجودة في المجتمع.

٢- على المستوى الثقافي:توسيع دائرة الثقافة الموجودة لدي سابقا والعمل على القطع المعرفي مع الأفكار المسبقة,والإندماج والإنخراط مع خلفيات ثقافية أخرى,والتعرف على مدى تقبل الثقافات الأخرى وتوظيفها في البحث لتسهيل عملية الخوض في نقاشات فكرية جلية ونافذة,فضلا عن الإلمام بمستوى الثقافة السائدة في المجتمع (الثقافة المحلية,الثقافة العلمية).

٣-على المستوى الذهني:كيفية ربط التسلسل الذهني مع عامل الوقت, فتحدد العامل الذهني مع عامل الوقت يكسب التجربة سرعة ودقة في الإنجاز,وأيضا ربط التفكير الذهني بتحديد اللأماكن المحددة وإمكانية القيام بتجربة وتطبقها في الواقع,فضلا عن التعرف إلى بعض المفاهيم مثل (مفهوم اللأماكن العامة والهشاشة والبنية التحتية)وكيفية معالجتها,والى جانب هذا ربط العمل الذهني مع التطبيق العملي(الصور ,الرسمات) لتسهيل مبدء تقريب الصور العقلية مع الصور العملية.

٤- على المستوى النظري:الإلمام بجوانب مهمة من القضية المطروحة (التجربة) من خلال تدوين الملاحظات المهمة المتعلقة بالتجربة,وإعتماد إطار نظري متناسب مع الإشكالية الموجودة ومقاربتها مع الواقع,وأيضا معايشة التجربة بالمشاهدة الحية من خلال الشهادات الحية والملاحظة,وعرض بعض الصور والوثائق لتقريب الأفكار التي ساعدت في عملية الشرح.

٥- على المستوى النفسي:الشعور بالقيمة الفردية من خلال إعطاء كل عضو من الفريق فرصته ودوره,توفير الجو والبيئة الملائمين من ما أدى الى إنماء روح التفاعل والمشركة الفعالة,ان تحلي الأعضاء بروح التواضع وطيبة وتقبل الأخر ساهم في الراحة النفسية وبالتالي إنجاح العمل والوصل الى الأهداف المرجوة.

في النهاية يمكن القول أن هذه التجربة كانت أساسا لتجارب الأخرى التي سنسعى الى إنجازها,حيث أنها تكللت بالنجاح على كافة المستويات التي حققت الوصل الى الهدف المرجو,كما أرغب في اجراء بحث مع فرق مختلفة في سبيل بناء الذات والمجتمع .

أخيرا أوجه الإمتنان والحب والتقديرالى الجميع شكرا لكم.

Maysam Salah

كانت تجربتي الشخصية مع ورشه العمل بإشراف الاستاذ كاميلو والاستاذة جوانا تجربة فريدة بالنسبة إلي من حيث :

١- جدّة الموضوع :فلم اعمل من قبل على التفكير والتمحيص ودراسة البنية التحتية والهشاشة التي تعتريها ولم أصغ بالا في يوم من الأيام لمتابعة تسلسل مشكلة أتعرض لها ماهي أسبابها وتبعاتها والخطر الذي قد يحدق بي إثر هذه المشكلة.

٢- متعة تداوله: حيث أن العمل في هذا المجال له طابع خاص جعله قريب من العمل الهندسي من خلال الدراسة المدنية للأماكن والمساحات ومعرفة خصائص المساحات العامة التي لم أكن أعرف المعنى الحقيقي لها سوى المعنى الشائع للعامة بأن المساحة العامة هي الحديقة العامة.

٣- طريقة العمل الميداني: من خلال النزول الى ارض الواقع وجمع البيانات وتقصي الحقائق وتوثيقها من خلال إجراء المقابلات وطرح الأسئلة والتقاط الصور واكتشاف الملومات ومعاينة المعلومة قبل الحصول عليها.

٤- العمل الجماعي التشاركي : كان العمل مع عدة أشخاص بجنسيات مختلفة ذو طابع جديد فيه سمات عدة جعلتني شغوفة لمواصلة العمل مع الفريق فالاحترام السائد بين الجميع كان على قدرٍ عالٍ من الرفعة احترام للآخر قبل احترام ثقافته وأفكاره خاصة كوني مختلفة بلباسي عن الجميع الا أن أحداً لم يشعرني بهذا الاختلاف ،عدا عن تبادل الأفكار ومشاركة الآراء والاطلاع على رؤى الغير ووجهات نظرهم التي كانت معمقة لأفكاري ومغنية لمعارفي.

٥- تداول اللغة الانكليزية : أغلب الجلسات والنقاشات كانت باللغة الانكليزية في الغالب ما أفادني في إنعاش ذاكرة المفردات لديّ واكتساب مفردات جديدة ومصطلحات لم تكن لديّ من قبل ما زاد في إثراء جعبتي اللغويّة.

٦- التعرّف على أشخاص جدّد : كل واحد منهم يدرس فرع مغاير للآخر يروي لك قصة عن دراسته أو معلومة عابرة تضعها في قاموسك سواء من عربي كان أو أجنبي. احدهم سألني عن صورة رآها في الشارع لجمال عبد الناصر ففهمت منه وهو أسترالي أنه على اطلاع بالسياسة العربية قديمة وجديدة ،زميل آخر من الأخوة العرب أخبرني عن حادث سير وقع منذ يومين أصيب شخص بجروح خلال الحديث تبين لي أن الجريح زميل لي في عملي السابق فتواصلت معه وسألت عن صحته.

٧- اكتشاف أماكن جديدة في المنطقة لم أعرفها سابقا: فأنا أعيش في المنطقة منذ سنوات أربع لكن في منطقة بعيدة عن وسط البلدة فتمكنت خلال عملي هذا من زيارة كل البلدة كل الشوارع والأزقة، الدخول إلى المقبرة ومعرفة أنها مشتركة للإسلام والمسيحية ، الدخول إلى الكنيسة ولم أدخل إلى كنيسة من قبل ،زيارة منزل قديم مبني وتصويره والاستمتاع بجمال صنيعه ،سماع قصص قديمة كانت تجري في البلدة جديدة وغريبة كقصة النوبة والحصان.

٨- الاطلاع على مشاكل أهل البلدة وسماع قصصهم والتحاور معهم بشكل أقرب ما مكنّا من معرفة همومهم وتفاصيل مشكلاتهم اليومية ما يزعجهم وما يسرهم أيضا تعرفنا على العلاقة الحقيقية بين الشعبين السوري واللبناني فأغلب اللقاءات كانت تعطي آراء إيجابية عن العلاقات السائدة مع العلم أن البعض يحاول إعطاء صورة مغايرة وإظهار كره بين الشعبين ،أحد الأشخاص قال لي "ما منقدر نكره السوريين أمي سورية مرت فلان سوريه بنت خالي مجوزة عسوريا " شرح لي تفاصيل كثيرة عن تاريخ سوريا والبقاع واسباب الحب بينهما ربما هذا خاص بالبقاع وبر الياس لا أدري لكن هذا أسعدني كثيرا.

ومسك الختام أود أن أشكرك جوانا على اختيارك لي لأكون ضمن الفريق وإعطائي فرصة التعرف على شخصيتك القريبة جدا مني والمحببة على قلبي تلك الفتاة القوية الجريئة صاحبة القرار الصحيح والعقل السليم المتواضعة المحبة للجميع كانت فرصة رائعة تعرفي على أمثالكم انتي والاستاذ كاميلو جنتل مان بكل معنى الكلمة من حسن الاخلاق والصفات وفائض الثقافة والمعلومات.

أنتظركم بفارغ الصبر للعمل واللقاء معا

Athens

Arrival city in age of austerity

in collaboration with
Stefania Gyftopoulou (Open Architecture Collaborative)

Athens has been marked as a city in crisis. Austerity policies have generated rapid social and economic changes, which are already evident in the physical and social urban fabric. Urban development policies – while aiming to re-inform the city – have intensified the conflictive transformation of urban space, its usage, its perception and its appropriation.

Such urban dynamics have been accompanied by abrupt changes in nation-wide immigration and asylum-seeking patterns. Greece, being initially a transit country, has faced major challenges concerning the reception of migrants and refugees, and the coverage of their basic needs. Being this no longer an emergency situation, the Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission (ECHO) has decreased the provision of funds and the dominant rhetoric has shifted from a need of a life saving operation to that of integrating migrants and refugees in the country. Integration – being by definition a dynamic and gradual process with economic, social, cultural, political and legal dimensions – involves both the individual and the receiving society. This is creating the conditions for cross-sectorial urban interventions: while in the humanitarian context the beneficiary of aid is the individual, shifting the focus to the urban realm as a whole, at multiple scales, could allow for a more inclusive and ultimately human-centred process. Many cities, including the Municipality of Athens, have assumed a more active role in terms of governance, for what concerns both the management of programmes an the direct reception of funds. Through participating in nation-wide competitions such as the Mayors Challenge sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropy, participatory design and the culture of volunteerism have taken centre stage in urban politics, providing the opportunity to explore how such methodologies can impact local regeneration in the age of austerity.

The Athens summerLab aimed to offer a contribution and a reflection around the potential role of urban planning, urban design and architecture in supporting the long-term integration of refugees and migrants. In so doing, we attempted to identify and discuss the impact of different urban strategies, and to formulate possible alternative responses. Participants familiarised with the geographical locations of both formal and informal responses to the so called refugee crisis and explored the visible and not-so-visible ways in which the static presence of migrants and refugees alter the urban landscape. Revealing and reimagining the city's available urban and housing stock indicated potential room for the construction of an inclusive vision of urban transformation.

ENS

ATHENS

Blurring the threshold between host- and refugee communities

Stefania Gyftopoulou and **Panagiotis Tzannetakis**
in conversation with Giorgio Talocci

Stefania Gyftopoulou and Panagiotis Tzannetakis reflect about current housing dynamics in Athens and how the summerLab workshop in September 2018 attempted to create one further space of dialogue for a series of urban stakeholders. At page 60, the reader can find information on the workshop held in 2019.

Giorgio Talocci: Could you elaborate on how the summerLab workshop fit within a wider range of activities of yours, back in September 2018?

Panagiotis Tzannetakis: At the time, we were trying to set up the parametres of what a housing model should have been. We had a two way discussion, from us to the participants and viceversa.

Stefania Gyftopoulou: The timing was very right in terms of urban transformation in Greece, as we had initiated a discussion on housing and affordability, in combination with a focus on the neighbourhood scale. We have had a policy change, according to which recognised refugees have to exit their apartments because of the end of the ESTIA [Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation] programme. Besides such programme targeting refugees in the specific, Greece only has a minor social housing programme.

PT: We had the opportunity to explain Athens' context and traditions to international participants, while the participants' insights gave us the possibility to reframe the context of the discussion on housing. We aimed to ask the participants the same questions that we were asking ourselves, and to people working in the field: we are quite saturated and not in the condition of thinking out of the box, whereas people coming from a different context come with a fresh mind. Very high-profile activists, NGO workers and scholars came to speak to the participants and to participate in our activities. The director of Solidarity Now, one of the largest NGOs, left the room being really excited about the fact that a discussion on housing was finally happening, and saw this as the perfect beginning of a longer-term conversation.

SG: She did indeed leave the building being very happy about the fact different partners had come at the same table to discuss the issue, and she then worked with members of the Harokopio University to see how the discussion could have continued. It is something we are keen to explore with the next summerLab, which is meant to capitalise upon the previous one.

GT: What do you deem to be the main challenges you and Athens face today?

PT: Last year's issues are still there and even more accentuated: we don't see yet a conclusive policy or plan to tackle the refugee issue. The problem has remained the same, while at the same time the notion of housing affordability in Athens has worsened. Overall housing is becoming less accessible.

SG: A big change since last year is that, in comparison, the level of discussion on housing in Greece has triplicated. We had a national conference in May, in September we will have another one. A week ago there was another public discussion bringing, amongst others, examples of accessible housing from Germany.

PT: And on top of the interest of academics and 'experts', it is also a topic that is becoming popular amongst friends chatting over coffee or tea.

SG: And, adding to that, the housing issue is becoming important also within institutions, for instance lately it has become a topic discussed at the Ministry of Migration Policy [absorbed absorbed in the Ministry of Citizen Protection as of July 2019]. It was not yet discussed last year, but now they are devising a housing programme, Helios 2, which is for refugees specifically. There has been already an official announcement but the programme hasn't started yet.

PT: There has been also work on the production of social housing as a whole. The municipality of Athens signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Housing Europe, in order to set up a social housing observatory as well as understanding ways to implement social housing programmes in Athens.

GT: In our discussions and in this year's programme there has been an emphasis on the presence of AirBnB. Has this been a matter of discussion also for politicians, or has it remained a sort of informal discussion and critique on such phenomenon?

SG: Both. The Municipality of Athens

organised a conference on AirBnB a couple of months ago, with mayors from other cities invited to discuss how the issue can be tackled. I don't think there's been any decision, but the discussion is happening at the political level.

PT: In addition there is a proposal for an Action Planning Network for Housing that is waiting for approval by the mayor of Athens, and it is led by Barcelona. The Municipalities of both Lisbon and Athens, at the moment, are focusing precisely on the impact of the short term housing market.

GT: Could you elaborate on the summerLab workshop' afterlives, both the ones you were expecting and the ones that, possibly, are currently occurring?

PT: The summerLab gave us a very good chance to bring people together and move toward a discussion on housing that could have been more boldly speculative and hypothetical, rather than focusing just on the policy aspects of the problem.

SG: The summerLab gave us also the possibility to reflect, at a personal level, on the work we do – especially for me, on the work I do in the Catholic Relief Services programme. I could make a step back and reflect on the narrative of the whole programme, highlighting some critical and sensitive aspects that could and should be thought in a more critical way.

GT: Was any of such afterlives sparked off by a specific workshop's outcome?

SG: Yes, one outcome of the workshop was very relevant and challenging for us. This was the proposal for a platform for exchanging skills – for the creation of a team to build design and construction skills, to revitalise derelict buildings and transform them into housing. We weren't able to follow up on such proposal to date, nor to capitalise upon it. However, there was a nice coincidence as the Greek-Syrian Youth had developed this idea by themselves, without knowing what the summerLab participants had proposed and viceversa.

GT: Is this a process that is on-going informally at the moment?

SG: Yes, the Greek-Syrian Youth are using a space in Athens, and working upon the implementation of such exchange skills programme, while looking at housing as social enterprise.

GT: Are you referring to an illegal form of squatting? Is that for housing purposes too?

PT: At the moment the building is being used for cultural activities, so not for housing. Some of the activities that were proposed during the summerLab are emerging here in a similar fashion, although not through a formalised process.

GT: Does this happen because of the lack of a policy framework, or perhaps because of divergences amongst stakeholders?

PT: The reason is that achieving the outcomes of the workshop in a formalised fashion would require specific tools, mainly when it comes to financing. These tools are not currently available. For instance, there is no possibility yet to take a loan from an ethical bank, as we see for instance in Germany. How to work on such housing models in Athens is an open question – a collective called Co-Lab has been working precisely around such question.

GT: Would you elaborate on any personal frustration emerging because of such difficulties?

PT: There are two main issues. The first one is definitely time. The second one is that it's hard to find a strong reason to bring people back together: it happened during the summerLab because the workshop itself was meant to connect different actors, but now we need something concrete to bring people together, without risking to waste their time.

SG: Adding to that, even if we had something concrete, how could these meetings work? What would be a framework of discussion? What kind of team are we and on which basis can we bring people back together? Everyone's time is limited, so this cannot happen just out of good will, or as a group of volunteers interested in the discussion on housing. There should be then an institutionalisation, although I'm not pointing at anything huge. In the programme where I work, for instance, there is a steering group. And the Municipality of Athens has a platform bringing NGO together: they meet once a month, and the platform has a specific role. What would be ours? The Athens summerLab 2019 could be used to answer this question, too, so that its outcomes could be followed up within existing processes.

GT: Do you find that in order to do this you'll need access to a research fund, and are you trying also to work with the Municipality at the same time?

PT: Yes, that would be beneficial. There is no funding at the moment but we have a number of partners in the Municipality such as the Action Planning Network for Cities and Housing. There is the need for funds to support the research activities of such partners, to progress the research on the subject.

SG: On the topic of housing, creating a platform is a very difficult topic. It requires a policy framework to exist, or a financial scheme. This requirement adds a level of complexity. We are at the point in which we are trying to develop a collaborative project, with the idea of having a housing exchange that could benefit people. For instance, the Municipality has created a list of people's needs, while Catholic Relief Services has created a list of skills refugees have. We are trying to intersect the two to develop a collaborative project, with both the host and the refugee community. There is the need to start from something tangible – for instance gardening within public spaces is an activity that is of interest for both sides.

GT: I have one last question on the possible interaction between refugees and locals. In the workshop, there was an emphasis on the shortage of housing but also on Athens as an arrival city. Did you feel that there was a good understanding of how the two spheres overlap? How does the housing shortage for permanent residents intersect the issues of emergency housing for refugees and housing for other newcomers such as migrants?

PT: The emphasis in last year's summerLab was mainly on refugees. However, there was a discussion on the wider housing needs in Athens – especially on the short-term rental market.

SG: The process is happening now, so the overlap between aspirations and needs of the host and refugee communities is good and challenging. For example, the locals, due to tourism development and AirBnB are moving out from areas where they can no longer afford to pay the rent. On the other hand, we have cheaper areas, where refugees would go: the apartments in these areas are rarely on the formal market, as there would not be demand by the locals. Having said that, Athens has now areas where a co-presence between refugees, locals and tourists is starting to emerge. The dynamics are getting exacerbated as the tourists come, the local residents find themselves in the need of a house in a cheaper area. Such dynamics might end up displaicing migrants further.

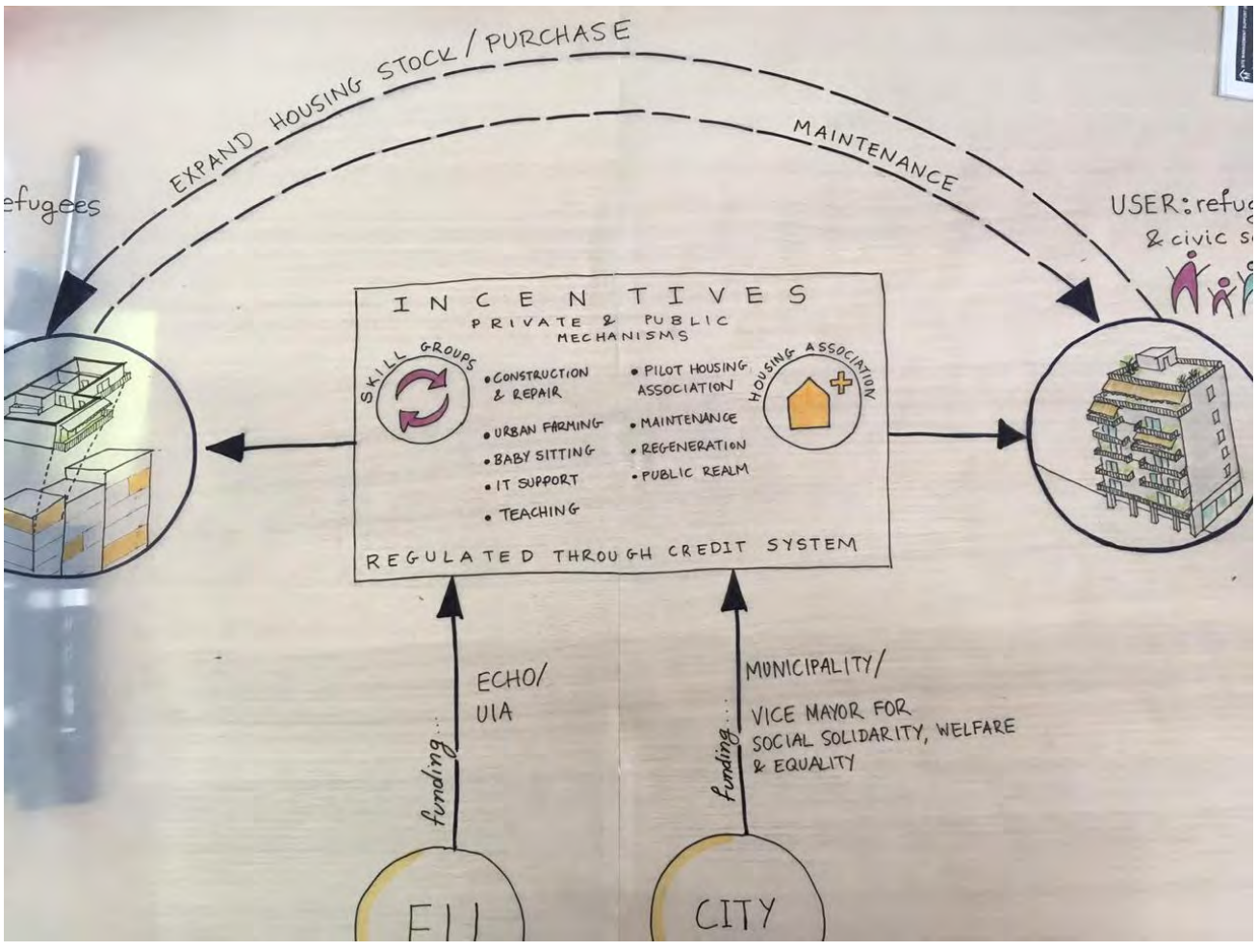
PT: There's a beautiful stencil in Metaxourgeio saying "Tourist out, refugees welcome".

ATHENS

V²
DEVELOPMENT
SOHO
RESIDENCIES
公寓
No.1
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY IN GREECE SINCE 1962
希腊房地产开发公司 始于1962年
vsquared2.com

ATHENS

ATHENS



A series of images from the final public presentation held by summerLab participants of the 2018 workshop in Athens: the works concentrated on producing a sustainable and affordable model of housing provision, for both permanent residents and newcomers such as migrants and refugees.

ATHENS

Social Exchange

EU LEVEL
€CHO
emergency
EU
AMIF
Integration
EU
DG HOME
EU
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
EU
ESTIA 2016-18
new ESTIA 2020
UIA
NATIONAL LEVEL
UNHCR
?
MOMP
Ministry of Migration Policies
MUNICIPAL LEVEL
Athens MUNICIPALITY
CRS
PRAKSIS
SN
ADDMA
ACCMR
SOCIAL HOUSING
Vice Mayor for Social Solidarity welfare and Solidarity

ATHENS

Marina Kolovou Kouri

The Athens summerlab provided a comprehensive view of many of the issues that touch upon its broad title, "Arrival City in Age of Austerity". The conversations and lectures ranged from conflicting interpretations of refugee and migrant integration, the different approaches to housing assumed by small NGOs vs larger schemes, the housing patterns in the city during the last 50 years, the conditions of 'hospitality' towards refugees and their – at times – resistance to see Athens as their final destination. All this input by a wide range of actors, positions and idiosynchrasies had the objective to inform proposals about affordable housing models that fulfill the criterion of bringing benefits back to the city. On that basis, one core aspect of the conversations was the nature of possible exchange mechanisms, that would incentivise local stakeholders – be it small property owners, banks, real estate companies or state actors – into providing and transforming spaces into affordable accommodation. While that objective is understandable, it raised some crucial questions: Why is exchange needed in the first place? Why does one have to prove that they are worthy of support? Why does the protection of people in refuge have to be leveraged with community work, volunteering, or even heroic acts of helping the locals in their times of need, as it happened after the fires of summer 2018?

Without being really in the position to answer comprehensively those questions, we nonetheless wished to formulate these exchanges not only as 'material' ones. However the conditions of an economic crisis and austerity measures often brought back tax deduction and economic incentives as the most convincing ones. This points perhaps to the difficulty of accommodating the "other's" needs, when the host-community itself is constrained by a number of policies and challenges in the absence of a welfare system – something that often results in the emergence of racist reflexes and perceptions of double standards in the spirit of, for instance, "What about the poor Greeks?". Yet the silver lining may be the very conjuncture of the economic and migration 'crises': next to the upsetting rise of nativism and conservativism, Athens is experiencing the rise and reorganisation of political and social movements, of solidarity and activation. On the one hand, the vast unused housing stock and the burden it often poses on its owners for property taxes and maintenance, and on the other hand the still increasing – even though at a slower pace – number of newcomers to the city, could be the two ends that will eventually meet. It goes without saying that the situation is far more complex than that, and for things to improve in the long run, a substantial and integrated housing policy would be required; one that does not operate under emergency conditions, neither relies on external funds that will eventually run out; but one that addresses housing as a multifaceted construct and a stepping stone for the claim of other rights. In doing so, I believe that the study of the current modes of accommodation offers already many lessons to learn from in terms of visibility, recognition, the importance of social connections, the degree of autonomy and self-determination, the encouragement of independence, the respect of the identity of the other. In developing new models that answer to the contemporary needs of a city in the midst of dynamic changes, it is important to engage the potential target groups, remove the stigma of 'beneficiaries' and move beyond the perception of the settling communities as 'guests' – something that symbolically and practically limits their field of action and their chances of feeling accepted in their arrival societies.

Sara Monaco

Experiencing Athens outside of the touristic environment, while dealing with a crucial topic as migration nowadays was an incredible experience. We had the chance to work with people coming from different backgrounds and to meet several people working in Greece and especially Athens: these gave us examples, insights and a very broad understanding of the situation of migrants in Greece. The walks around the city where truly helpful to understand urban and housing typology, to observe similarity and differences in the neighbourhoods and to interact directly with other interesting projects. The topic of migration is crucial now in Greece and also in Europe. The main idea could seem extremely simple: many people need a house, and the city of Athens as a lot of vacant property, which cause per se several problems. Obviously, it is not that easy, and it is important not to forget that we are dealing with something that should be considered at a European scale. Our main concern has been focusing not only on putting a roof on people's head but on letting them being part of the city, which means much more than that, in terms also of a stable economic life and access to services. We discussed options for new housing policies that can take in consideration all these different elements.

It was really challenging to work on two different levels: on one hand, trying to find new solutions thinking beyond common strategies and, on the other hand, keeping in mind the necessity of involving funds, stakeholders, and taking into account legislations. Only by putting all these ingredients in the recipe we understand that finding a solution is certainly not simple, but still possible. The reflection on the possibility to find a model and adapt it was interesting, too: the situation of migrants, as said, is not only related to Athens or Greece, and housing issues are widespread, hence finding a guide model could be very important, but it is always crucial to keep in mind the local factors and differences. Athens is at the moment a really vibrant city, where some interesting projects are on-going and where a municipality is also willing to find better and innovative solutions.

Kenshi Nakazato

This workshop allowed me to realise and comprehend the complexity of the current situation of the refugee crisis in Greece – especially Athens. Through the lectures and the city walks, I understood the several dimensions, actors and scales through which such crisis takes place. The workshop provided me with an opportunity to acquire an ability to see a city in theoretical and practical manners.

I found the interaction with refugees – with an attention on the ethical side of the process, of course – to be a very helpful route to identify their actual needs and what they value in their daily lives. However, although the refugee crisis requires an urgent response, we noticed how our foucs should have been also on many other vulnerable groups of people, such as homeless, elderly and low-income people. An imperative for the future, therefore, which was also the focus of the workshop, is to develop comprehensive approaches targeting multiple groups of beneficiaries.

As urban practitioners, it is imperative to believe the power of even small actions, as bottom-up approaches, and to attempt to implement them continuously. Due to the complexity, it is almost impossible to deal with the circumstance by only one or a few interventions. For the sake of the achievement of a socially just urban transformation, small actions are probably not always able to bring positive or significant impact on the immediate. Nevertheless, the continuity and the accumulation of small actions might be to lead to a change.

Jonah Rudlin

The week I spent in Athens for the DPU summerLab was perhaps the most disorientating fieldwork experience I have

ATHENS

had to date. With our morning discussions spent in the tranquil Horokopio University campus in Kalithea to the South of the city, and our afternoon sessions spent roaming around the migrant neighbourhoods such as Victoria Square and Kypseli market in the North of the city, the contrast in my perceptions was stark. That is not to say, however, that one of these two modes of investigation was invalid.

The workshops we had in the mornings contained a truly diverse array of actors revealing their understanding of the Greek migrant crisis in an effective tandem, ranging from grassroots community experience to hands on engagement with the larger players such as the Athens Municipality and UNHCR. Through these interactions we were able to understand the countless dichotomies involved; political blockages to ample funding from the EU ECHO fund; uneven geographies of aid rendering some camps as havens and others as humanitarian disasters; the phenomena of over- and under-institutionalisation of refugees; and the global geopolitics that had rendered Greece a proxy arena for destructive international policy agendas. This morning barrage of information was truthfully quite disheartening, as it revealed a tangled landscape of networks containing colossal political and economic powers with seemingly little possibility of large-scale cooperation between them.

However, it was only a short while into the afternoon walks that followed the workshops that these pessimistic anxieties began to melt away. Contained within the Polikatikia blocks and across the public squares in the neighbourhoods we visited undoubtedly rich and kinetic communities conducting commerce and conversations everywhere you looked. That is not to say the crisis discussed was not present – it certainly was. But as always, the visceral humanity of urban life is an element that is difficult to grasp without a first-person perspective. And it is this perspective that grants you the reason for why you might choose to spend your mornings in a semi-basement room having frantic and sometimes gloomy discussions on the potential alternative realities that would allow these marginalised strands of civilisation to flourish.

For me, this back and forth between sitting and walking encapsulates what the DPU attempts to achieve with their model of praxis, and was a methodology that I feel successfully submerged me into the Athens context to the fullest extent possible.

London

Constructing healthier urbanisms

in collaboration with
with Kay Pallaris (Mapping Futures Ltd.)
and Stephen Kenny (The Baring Trust)

The design of our built environment can have a profound impact on inhabitants' physical, physiological and psychological wellbeing, irrespective of – and possibly more detrimental with – particular age, gender, class or bodily ability.

The London summerLab critically explored the latest research on how the designed environment can affect our experience of a place. Conventional urban design approaches tend to emphasise design elements such as form, morphology, density, visual aesthetics and materials, with the primary aim of maximising the economic value generated by the spatial transformation of a place. Urban design and architecture are often informed by the subjective bias of designers themselves, and by the logics of marketisation of the design product.

Rarely are the health impacts of such considerations taken into account, yet urban transformation processes affect the micro-climate, air quality, the provision of green and public spaces. All have a direct or indirect impact on wellbeing.

The summerLab asked participants to reflect on a variety of design approaches, provoking a debate on how rethinking urban place-making can put health and wellbeing of people firmly at the heart of redevelopment proposals. A diverse series of research methods allowed participants to experience first-hand the impact of urban design on the manifold narratives of a Grove Park neighbourhood, Lewisham, south-east London. Participants wereasked to collectively work on a proposal for the area's transformation, bearing in mind principles of inclusiveness and well-being.

DON

LONDON

Questioning urban health and heritage in neighbourhood planning processes

Kay Pallaris (Mapping Future Ltd.) and **Stephen Kenny (The Baring Trust)**
in conversation with Giorgio Talocci

Kay Pallaris and Stephen Kenny reflect upon their long-term engagement in Grove Park (Lewisham, London), and on the challenges they face in the attempt to support a community-driven pathway for the transformation of the neighbourhood.

Giorgio Talocci: How did the workshop support your agenda and the dynamics of transformation of Grove Park?

Stephen Kenny: The fact of having the DPU summerLab and its participants in Grove Park was very important for us as a neighbourhood to move forward – in terms of developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan too. It put the spotlight and some pressure over councillors, politicians and local authorities. It showed that there are actors from the outside supporting a very important process – a legal and democratic one.

Kay Pallaris: The subject of the summerLab was actually quite broad. We included all the different community assets – the youth club, the Ringroad community centre, the park (and therefore the idea of an urban national park) and other green spaces, the town centre redevelopment, the Baring Hall Pub. Different community groups, with different endeavours, found the workshop useful. Almost a year later the situation has moved on, though not necessarily to a considerable extent. All the participants' works and the workshop activities keep getting mentioned in all the meetings we have, and somewhat provide the backbone for a continuous discussion. The Ringroad Community Centre has since confirmed that they would like to develop some of the participants' ideas, questioning how we could reimagine the community centre and what we would like it to become. They got quite keen about wanting to find some funding to develop that work. Of course, lack of resources and of volunteer time means that the process is much slower than one would probably expect.

SK: And the lack of political will might play a role, too. It is possible to run into some inertia even if you have all the money.

GT: In those days we saw and shared with the students an almost completed version of the Neighbourhood Plan. What happened next?

KP: At the time there were a few other additional things needing to be completed. For instance a scoping opinion to understand whether we should have gone through a strategic environmental assessment – this got very delayed. And I am now personally struggling to find the time to complete the plan.

SK: This delay led to miss a deadline in January 2019, which meant that everything had to be looked at again – this takes time.

KP: As with any community process, the day-to-day things sometimes become more urgent – since the summerLab we and the wider community were involved in many of such things: the pub came up for sale for instance, and there was an attempt to a community-led purchase.

SK: The community assets that were defined as such in the Neighbourhood Plan became under threat again. We had to reapply to have the Assets of Community Value amended, and that took a lot of time – as it involves lobbying, explaining why assets should be defined as such and so on. The pub sale led to six months of work to raise funds. Three planning applications were filed afterwards, including a riding school.

GT: And the Neighbourhood Plan needs to be amended if such applications are approved, is that correct?

KP: Definitely, if these affect the sites that the Neighbourhood Plan is using or mentioning.

SK: For example, sixty local garages in the Neighbourhood Plan were going to be converted into work spaces. We lost them – along with the employment opportunities they would have created – and these were replaced with a total of just seven houses, not including any social housing scheme.

KP: The Council proposed a series of micro-interventions instead, but those in

our perspective are not really helpful –the community does know how to organise and fund and design 'micro-interventions' by themselves, whereas it is the macro-scale for which they need some help from planning professionals.

GT: Was there room to use funding in a different way?

SK: Yes, and we did spend a year working with HTA Design LLP and Create Streets to understand how to best use those funds... but then you find yourself having to make twenty steps back.

GT: Is there any specific idea developed in the summerLab that might have been taken further through such funding – for instance the idea of improving the access to the park and its role for the neighbourhoods.

SK: In terms of the overarching scheme, the idea of making the Ringroad first and foremost a community centre – while adding uses related to ecology-focused education, and a restaurant – was very powerful. Along with the highlighting the necessity to improve the access ways to and through the Ringroad itself. That idea certainly set the terms for us to move forward: reconceiving the Ringroad as a gateway for the whole park gave suddenly meaning to our proposals.

KP: The outputs were really helpful. We used some of the visualisation in our presentations to Lewisham Council. As soon as you have some visuals, it makes it real and easier to explain.

SK: The fact that participants from multiple countries have spent a week in Grove Park, which is otherwise a forgotten place, was incredibly helpful. Why would twenty students from around the world come to Grove Park? This suddenly sparks interest upon the work we do.

GT: And last year it was, significantly, a really big group... Has the participants' work inspired any of your side projects?

SK: Yes, definitely for what concerns the reopening of the Youth Club, though that is not confirmed yet. Our MP used the example of the Youth Club as an example in a parliamentary debate, stating she wants to reopen it. We are working to get it open again. One year ago this process had not started yet, whereas now we hope that in October it could open up as a Youth Club again.

GT: In terms of urban health, did the workshop make any meaningful contribution?

SK: The participants learnt a lot in terms of urban health but the final outcomes were not too mindful about our inputs, unfortunately – probably because of lack of time.

KP: Yes, the outcomes were very creative but sometimes missed some of Grove Park's reality, which I guess it is an issue affecting designers when time and resources are short.

SK: Yes, especially when there is pressure, when you have to deliver. You end up using tools that you already had, rather than experimenting with the new ones you have learnt during the summerLab week. What we did, however, was still great in terms of learning process, as participants definitely got such knowledge and will now be able to reflect upon it better; at a later stage in their careers: of course it takes long for such knowledge to inform their practices.

KP: Yes, you cannot expect to join a one-week summerLab and reinvent your practice in a week: you gain that knowledge, you experiment, but then it takes longer to reinvent yourself.

GT: Probably it is not only about creativity, sometimes you end up doing compromises for the sake of delivering outcomes. I was wondering whether yourselves, as activists and as professionals of the built environment, had any reflection about this, especially in terms of the (sometimes uneven and problematic) interaction between the dimensions of health and heritage.

SK: First of all, I don't like being called an activist, I'm just a resident – who is concerned. In terms of planning, it is relevant to notice how often people think that built and natural heritage are two separate entities. But as a resident, they are really the same. In the plan, however, we need to issue two separate documents, though this separation should not really be there. A reflection in these terms came out of the workshop, too: if you are doing this kind of work, you need to look at it holistically . If you split it in two separate elements, instead, it is much easier to destroy any form of heritage.

GT: Is this opinion of yours shared by other 'concerned residents' in Grove Park?

KP: Some members of the community might not necessarily care about the pub, for instance, but they might care about Grove Park's natural environment, or viceversa. That is fine too as each of us would naturally have his or her own interest. But being aware of the contribution of each of these elements is important in terms of planning a healthy neighbourhood, in a holistic fashion.

SK: And if you are going to look at this discussion from a policy perspective, policies ultimately have a thirty-year lifespan... hence it is extremely important to have a holistic approach rather than one that is just about ticking boxes.

GT: Did you reflect, after the summerLab, on the methodology we did use?

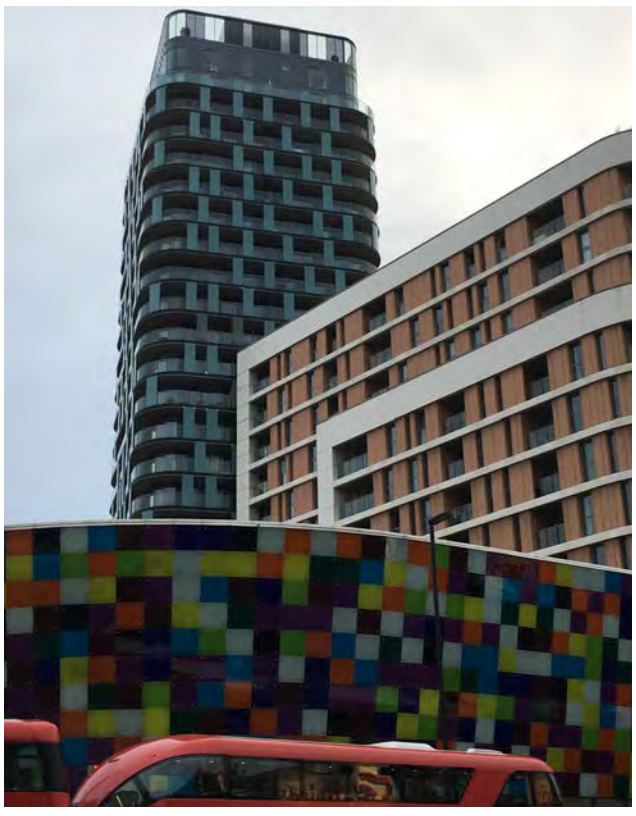
KP: The summerLab is, precisely, a Lab, so it is a bit of an experiment to see how you can communicate what urban health is. Discussing what designing for urban health might mean with urban practitioners has been a rewarding experience. During the week, it was impressive and inspiring how different participants would get stimulated by different inputs. This makes possible to inspire a different approach to urban design and planning. But again, trying to communicate how a healthy community looks like just seems as a uphill struggle all the time. We are all using similar words, but are we really meaning the same things? There is still a long way for urban practice to understand what urban health is about. The experience and learning from the summerLab helps understand how to approach the topic: perhaps more empirical experience is key, along with pushing, definitely, a research-based approach.

GT: Is there any activity or method that you found to be more tangible and enjoyable for participants and, potentially, residents?

KP: It is an interesting question. I would say all the approaches were quite useful, their ensemble was consolidated within a week as a good base for learning what urban health might be about. We ran a presentation the other day and showed the participants' work to the audience, so it all helps in terms of communicating the message. We showed that feelings and perceptions for instance are also evidence, as long as local forms of knowledge and narratives.

SK: Using the headset for instance [referring to one of the methods of data collection used during the workshop, recording brain data] was great for the participants, but in the future I would repeat that and other experiences involving members of the community, so we could have a legacy for those experiences.

LONDON



LONDON

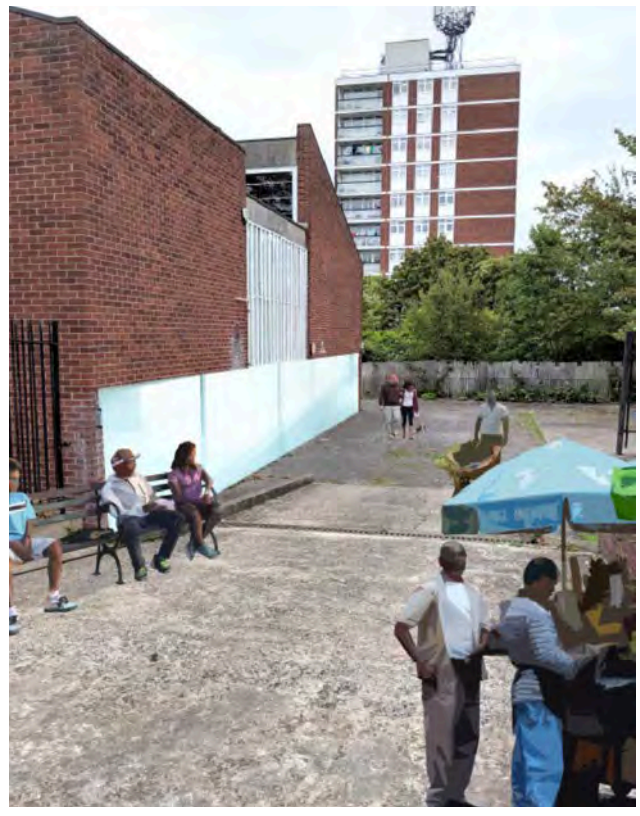
ICON
644 Downham Way
Bromley, Kent, BR1 5HN
020 8860
OPEN

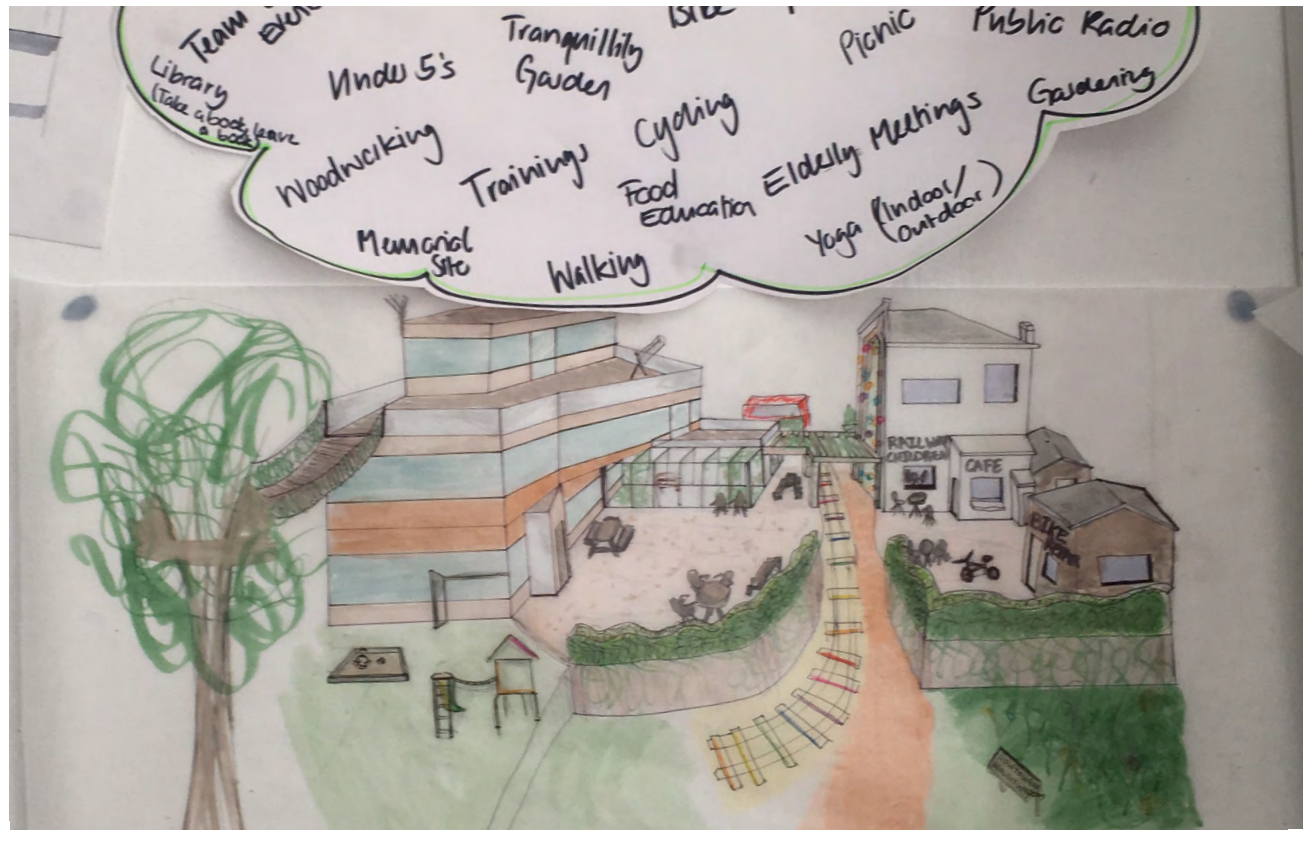
DESTINATION WESTFIELD

LONDON

Participants' works focused on a series of relevant nodes in Grove Park, building upon the inputs of our local partners and other stakeholders we met during the workshop. The works envisioned a network of community assets providing the backbone for an urban national park. Participants reflected on improving the accessibility, visibility, and relevance of such park, through complex programmes of activities addressing the aspirations of a multiplicity of residents.

LONDON




Team
Library
Under 5's
Tranquillity Garden
Picnic
Public Radio
Gardening
Woodwicking
Training
Cycling
Food Education
Elderly Meetings
Yoga (Indoor/ Outdoor)
Memorial Site
Walking
CAFE

LONDON

Fui Amevor

Day 1 was a highly informative, positive and interactive day. Grove Park has a long history in British culture, and an active activist community who are protecting, and fighting to keep their green space. The seminars resonated with me the most. Each of the topics focused on health in the context of urban construction, planning and environments. The site tour was helpful in understanding the local area. I had no idea this urban park existed. On day 2, Barry O'Donovan gave us a tour of the local area and shared both his concerns and aspirations for the local area. The trip with Barry was an excellent learning experience for me, as it gave me inspiration regarding community-led activism. Day 3 was very interactive. I enjoyed working in groups and with Dr Vasilikou's equipment. Visiting Chinbrook Meadows was also educational: I was able to speak with a member of the local community, and hear her views about the local area. The park reminded me of the entrance into the Chateau du Versailles' park, and it looked like it could be marketed as a mini-version of it. On day 4, we had a lot of information and were split into our groups to begin our studio work. The studio work was a great experience for me. It had been a while since I have had to do any group work. Our team worked well together and put together some fantastic ideas. We received some helpful, constructive feedback which we incorporated into our presentation on day five. Day 5 was probably one of the most intense days of the week. However, most groups were getting on with the task at hand. I think this is where practical work experience is beneficial, as the skills required to meet real life deadlines came into effect. It was useful having team members who were from an architecture and design background, as our skills complemented each other.

Erik Hanna

When stepping out of the rail station near the center of town in Grove park my senses were overwhelmed. New construction and rush hour traffic were all around me and my first impressions of the area were in perfect juxtaposition to the rest of my visit to Grove park. How was I to know that a five-minute walk in nearly any direction would lead me to a beautiful park, nature preserve, or a historic local pub that fills to the brim with locals eating and drinking together in the evenings. Perhaps this was because when I was shown the incredible assets of this area by Grove parks friendly and passionate inhabitants, I had to be taken to them as if we were on a treasure hunt, hidden secrets meant to be enjoyed but never spoken of and easily forgotten. Why, in a world so disconnected from nature and filled with social dysfunction, do so many people forget the things that centre us, make us feel whole, and remind us that we are connected to something bigger than ourselves.

It is inspiring to interact with a community that has taken up the fight against losing their identity. The collaboration between many professions was essential to the workshop in Grove Park. Being there, immersed in that place and its people for five days helped more than anything else to motivate our group to come up with possible solutions for the area. Whatever the future holds for Grove Park, I can say that this lab has rejuvenated my own enthusiasm for urban design and urban change. I have brought that energy back with me to my own community.

We all have a problem. People take for granted the things that give their communities character. Communities cannot maintain a quality of life without the desire of its inhabitants to fight against the natural and constant degradation of its human infrastructure. Parks. people community life and mental health cannot be monetized. I thank the parties concerned for their efforts and knowledge, Grove Park is worth fighting for.

Katrin Hofer

What is a healthy environment in an urban area? And how can urban planning help to address health issues in cities? These were the key questions I hoped to find answers to in the DPU summerLab 2018 in London. Having engaged with different research projects related to urban development and aspects of urban health in the past, I had some preliminary answers: creating a healthy urbanism entails contributing to healthy living conditions regarding air quality, water and sanitation, or noise levels, adequate built structures, having access to green spaces, feeling safe and being protected from natural disasters.

Engaging with representatives from the community of Grove Park, I soon realised that having a healthy neighbourhood for them entailed more than meeting objective health indicators such as the ones mentioned above. Being in a healthy environment also means having a voice, having meaningful spaces of participation and – maybe most importantly – protecting the cultural heritage of the neighbourhood and fostering the local sense of belonging. In order to work proactively towards these aims, members of the local community have formed the Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum and have developed a Neighbourhood Plan, emphasising the crucial value of their green spaces and heritage sites and creating what they call an Urban National Park. This seems to be necessary, as the community is facing threats of losing public land to developers buying the land for housing projects.

What I take with from this summerLab is that health aspects are often overlooked when developing and designing a city. Whereas focus is given to the aesthetics of the built environment and financial aspects of development projects, aspects linked to the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of communities are often overlooked. Being an urban sociologist, I have always stressed the importance of considering social aspects such as creating spaces for participation, giving communities a voice and a sense of ownership in development projects to make changes sustainable, to tear down boundaries and to contribute to social cohesion. Having worked in Grove Park, I additionally realised the importance of protecting cultural heritage to foster and protect a sense of belonging – and therefore to contribute to maintaining and further strengthening a crucial aspect of emotional health. This makes me reflect upon my ways of working; I frequently pop into different settings, which are foreign to me, for limited period of times. I engage with my constituencies and have to build trust within a short amount of time – and deliver findings that support their cause. What is my role in this? How do I judge from the outside what needs to be sustained over time to contribute to a healthier environment that is beneficial for the individuals I work for, but also for the community overall? Is change always bad or is it just part of the process? Leaving the DPU summerLab in London, I have more questions than when I started. But even though I might not have the answers to my original questions, this is exactly what makes this learning experience valuable.

LONDON

Skylar Sorensen

Healthier Urbanisms is a concept, built on foundations of what an ideal urban space should be, but what does that entail? What does it mean for the members of the community? In our explorations of Grove Park's important nodes, we tracked not only the vital conversations and histories of each place, but also how we felt, physically and psychologically, transitioning between such nodes and their connectivities. Our visits included historic landmarks, like The Baring Hall Pub. We also explored the chalk grass hillside where Edith Nesbit set the background for her Railway Children book and which is ecologically significant as well. Each of the locations, from the Pub to the Urban National Forest, and the Ringway Centre to the Youth Enterprise Centre, was included in stories of cultural and civic importance: the volunteers have tied these stories to each place's meaningful past for the future.

We were given the task to link these locations and their benefits for the community into developing these vital places into healthier urban spaces. We were able to divide ourselves into smaller groups in order to hone in on singular important nodes we had discovered earlier in the week. Through interviews of community guest speakers, individuals and groups who were already benefiting from the spaces, we discovered how their needs and aspirations could be better met. We began to develop proposals of improvement for the area as a whole, including each group currently using the spaces and those who could benefit from it through inclusive planned improvements.

As we learned from the variety of guest lectures and academics, it is critical to take into account the existing beauty and use of a space that is vital to the community, in this case Grove Park and its people. The value of uniting the ideas of health and wellness and how that value is impacted by our surrounding environment was our driver for design. The importance of a variety of green spaces on mental and physical health is paramount, and providing equal and open access to those spaces is just as valuable as preserving them from demolishment. Creating a place for everyone to intermingle and across demographics allows a key moment to happen and is beneficial to every individual and the community as a whole.

Depoliticising Verticality

a collaboration with advanced graduate design studio, USF School of Architecture + Community Design, Tampa, Florida, US

This year's London summerLab critically explored different means of community and urban research focused on urban health.
The summerLab incorporated both evidence-based analysis and community collaborative workshops. There were multiple objectives accomplished in the workshops. First, develop a deeper understanding on how we frame, analyze and address urban health and wellbeing. Then, experience and analyze through field exploration, how health and wellbeing is impacted by planning and urban design decisions. Next, examine how health considerations can be incorporated into planning and design practices. Subsequently, explore the different ways to measure the baseline conditions and the impacts/ consequences through a number of 'urban analysis' methodologies, with health as a lens of analysis. Then, use the findings as a basis for establishing informed evidence-driven solutions. To build-up, over the course of the week, a framework for health-led planning policies that can be implemented at the local level. At the end, undertake a short practical exercise using a live case study, working with the local community who is impacted by the current proposals.
The summerLab asked participants to reflect on a variety of design approaches, provoking a debate on how rethinking urban place-making can put health and wellbeing of people firmly at the heart of redevelopment proposals.

Ayda Keshvar Doost - Graduate Student at USF-SACD | Research Assistant FCCD+R

Designing for vertical inclusion

Josue Robles Caraballo, Faculty and research associate

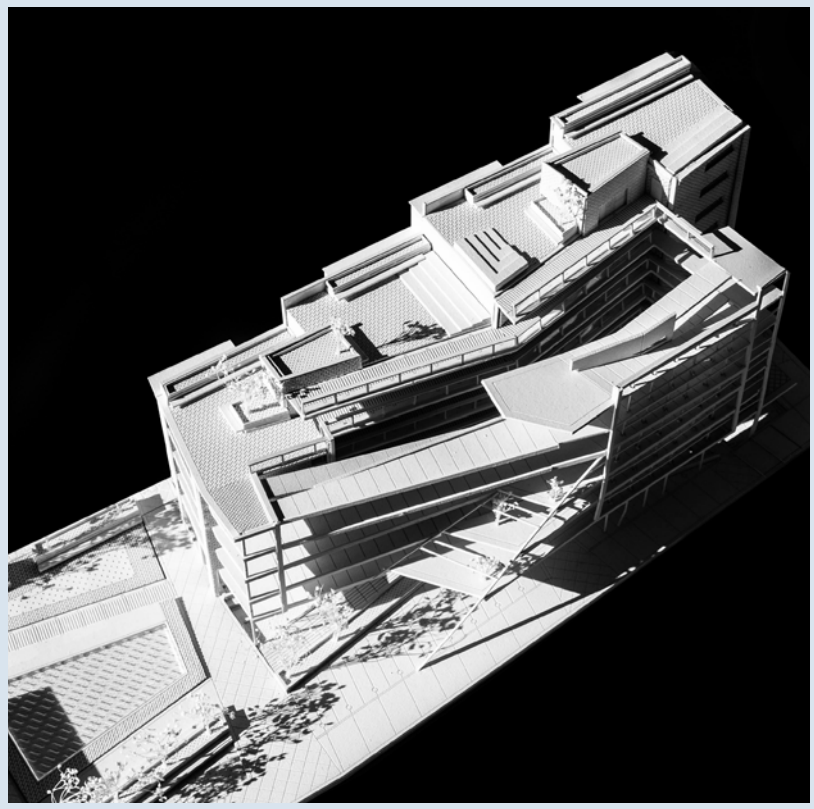
The summerLab London: Constructing Healthier Urbanisms served as a conceptual foundation for this academic exercise by exposing SACD students to the many virtues and opportunities for betterment within the Lee community. The active proposal of the Leegate Centre created a design framework for the graduate studio to build their design parameters.

The academic exercise focused on reinvigorating the Leegate Centre including significant historically vulnerable buildings within the Tigers Head junction. Students were asked to generate spatial opportunities for communal development. Including the extension of green boulevards while elaborating and creating green spaces for both public and private realms. Activate existing and create new pedestrian corridors for civic and business programs. Create sidewalks for healthier pedestrian thoroughfares that are currently affected by pollution and high vehicular presence in the area. Shaping built form solutions that both accommodate the programmatic needs and promote a rich quotidian life.

This effort incorporate the program specified by the existing development application for the Leegate Centre. The program included a food store with parking spaces, shops, restaurants, cafes, an education center, pub, gym, and 230 residential units. Along with addressing the program, the primary objective of the design studio was to challenge the interconnectivity of public and private communal life of both the street and vertical realms. Students' proposals challenged the current available developments within the local market. Units spaces were shaped around the accessibility of natural light and passive ventilation within all units. In addition, each unit was design to have physical access to green and public spaces along the vertical communities.

In addition to communal interconnectivity, students were asked to analyze and propose design solutions for both market rate housing and micro-units. The market rate housing focuses on the needs of growing families and children while developing live-work scenarios that will bring more professional growth to the area. The micro units residents were developed for both young professionals and third generation residents in need of less space. Micro units focused on creating affordable opportunities and programmatic flexibility within a fun and playful ambient. To support both market rate and micro units, a fabric of support spaces was incorporated into each design. Design schemes included communal spaces that focus on social interaction, and visual and physical connectivity to the public realm. This auxiliary support includes wood shops, community kitchens, bike shops, gyms, and educational-business centers that would allow residents to fulfill personal and family needs while creating opportunities for social engagement.

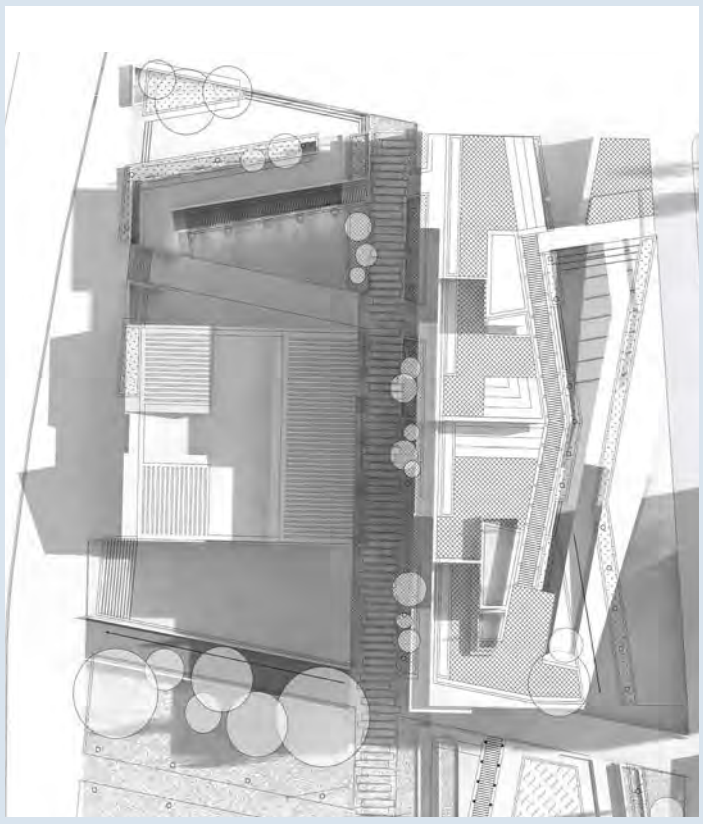
The summerLab's parallel exposure of analysis from international experts and the feedback of the community members allowed the students to have a critical perspective of architectural delivery that is shaped by communal inclusion within vertical communities.



Works by Austin Jenquine (above) and Erik Hanna (below), see next page for more details.

Austin Jenquine

The design goal of "Adit Rise" will help contribute to the success, health, and wellbeing of the youth club center by creating a destination space, bringing in a wide range of community members to the facilities. Healthy Urbanism was an important consideration in the design process, the "Green Adit" scissors across the eastern facade creating a dynamic filter between the building interior and the raw exterior elements. It serves as ramping system connecting all levels and completes the circulation system of the building's exterior corridors. The "Green Adit" is more than just an exterior ramp, rather an experiential promenade vertically with larger spaces between levels to facilitate an assortment of activates.

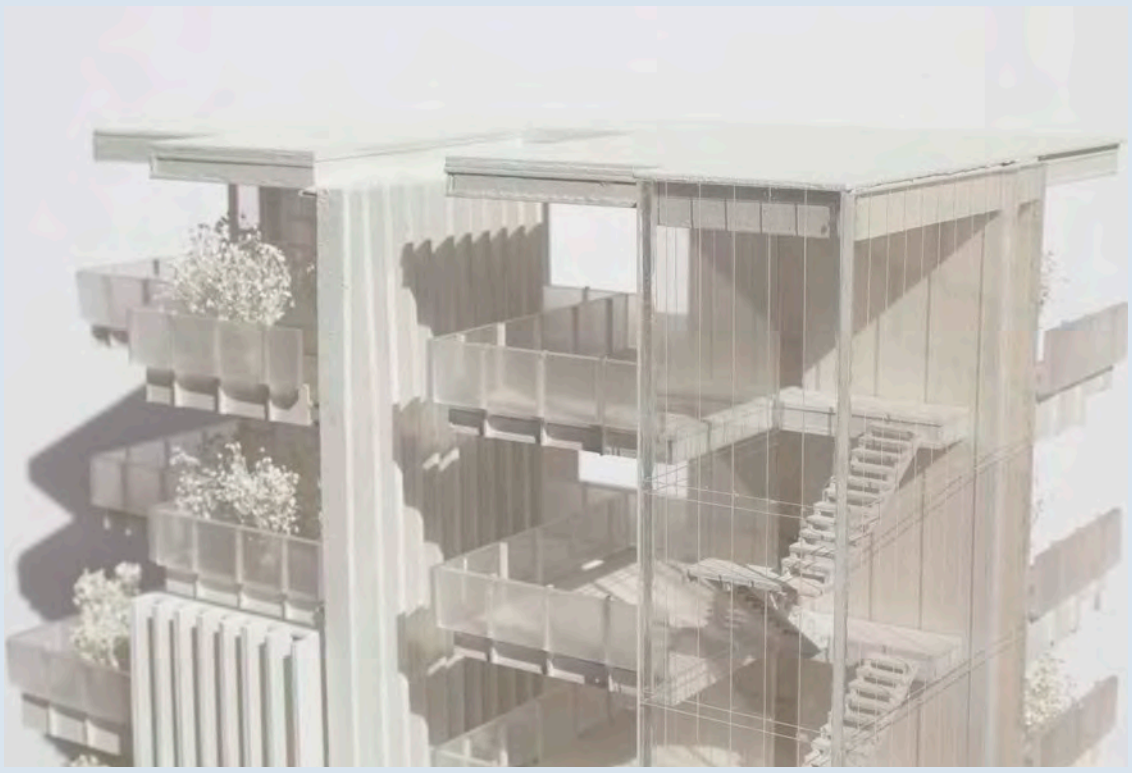


Erik Hanna

In order to re-vitalize the site and the existing facility, the entire site was activated. An open plaza with a moving water feature was added to the south portion of the site. The new large building on the site is mixed use. The lowest level is dedicated to a health facility and the second to fourth floors are residential. All of the circulation is on the exterior and meant to be public space used by the residents. The exterior public space is protected by a grid of aluminum screens to break up the wind. These grids are filled with solar panels on the top and southern sides. Each unit has an interior garden, and the exterior shared space is encouraged to be used as a garden and play space for children.

Danielle Bartoletta

Regeneration of an area surrounding the Grove Park Youth Club. A spatial extension focused on a healthy urban lifestyle within micro housing units. Included for the residents, youth club, and the general public - an “Urban Tile” green space compliments the vision for the community that can serve as a node along the green belt envisioned to connect throughout Grove Park. Each of the 15 residential units has individual pocket gardens landscaped with greenery for a healthy and sustainable component to the design, along with public and private outdoor spaces juxtaposed on diagonals within the unit layouts.



Kseniia Kalinina

The building and the landscape are angulated according to the sun movement to enhance the opportunity of the most light coming in at all times. The main street’s corner (North-West) is framed by a café on one side and health center on the other to draw a passerby in the site. The residents are provided with plethora of green spaces on the site and within the building. Part of the greenery on the South corner is community garden where the youth of the Grove Park can participate in learning agriculture with older generations and possibly utilize one of the retail spaces to sell the growth. The Grove Park Youth Club, the residence and the health center frame plaza to create the most interaction between all occupants of the site.

Lauren Mosher

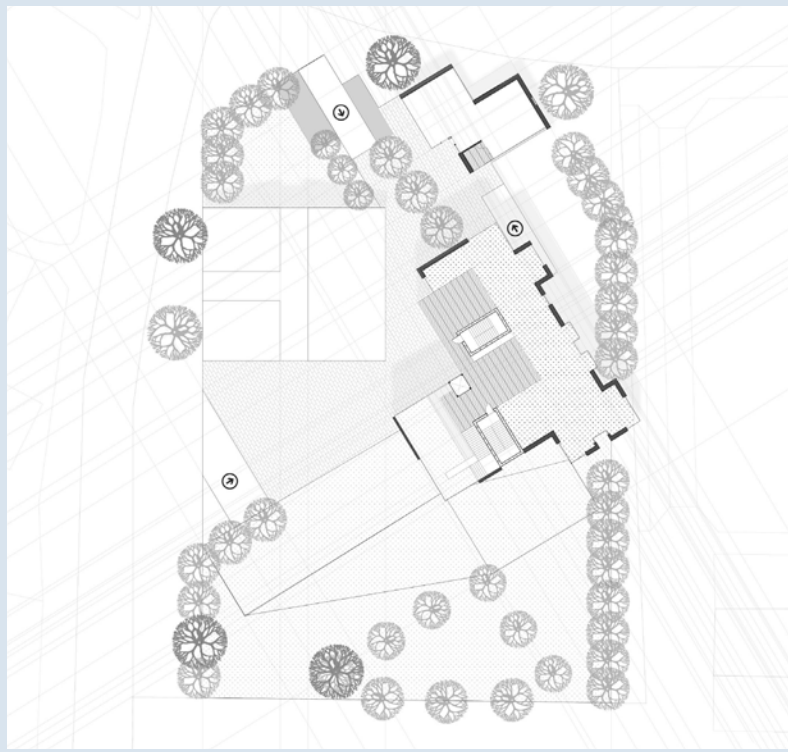
My concept for this project was based around positive mental health and how community spaces can have an impact on it. Each of my residential units have some sort of outdoor terraces connected to them, which have the ability to open up completely, providing an indoor/outdoor feeling. Some units' balconies have a double heighted space with trees that grow up to the next level's balcony area, creating a space where two different units' tenants can interact.
The idea of terracing continues up to the top of the building, with each level scaling back in units to provide public outdoor areas, allowing for the building to remain feeling light, as well as promoting community interaction with a different space on each level.

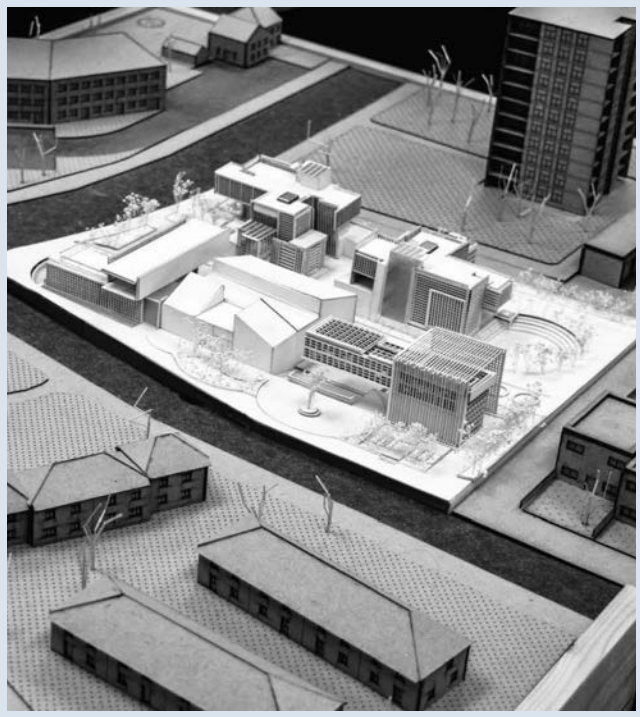
Talia Smith-White

After meeting the vibrant residents of Grove Park, it was apparent a green space for community health and congregation was wanted in order to improve the connectivity within the area and environment. Lewisham's healthy eating and living initiative insipired me to deisgn a space around the well-being of the residents, exploring concepts such as a community green house project, spaces for outdoor recreation, and a walkable mixed-use development able to be accessed by all. The site design is careful to respect the boundaries of the existing youth club, and is designed to flourish recreation of all ages.

Sierra McCormick

In my personal design I wanted to have elvated vertical community spaces within my residential building. They are varied in height and form and offset from one another. I have this part of the building facing the community center and park to encourage safety within the site and engagement between the elevated green spaces, the park, the market, and the community center. As a part of my site plan I used elevation changes to lower the marketplace atmosphere and elevate the green space integrating the park and residential building. This allowed for a hill for children to play, and families to relax on a nice day.



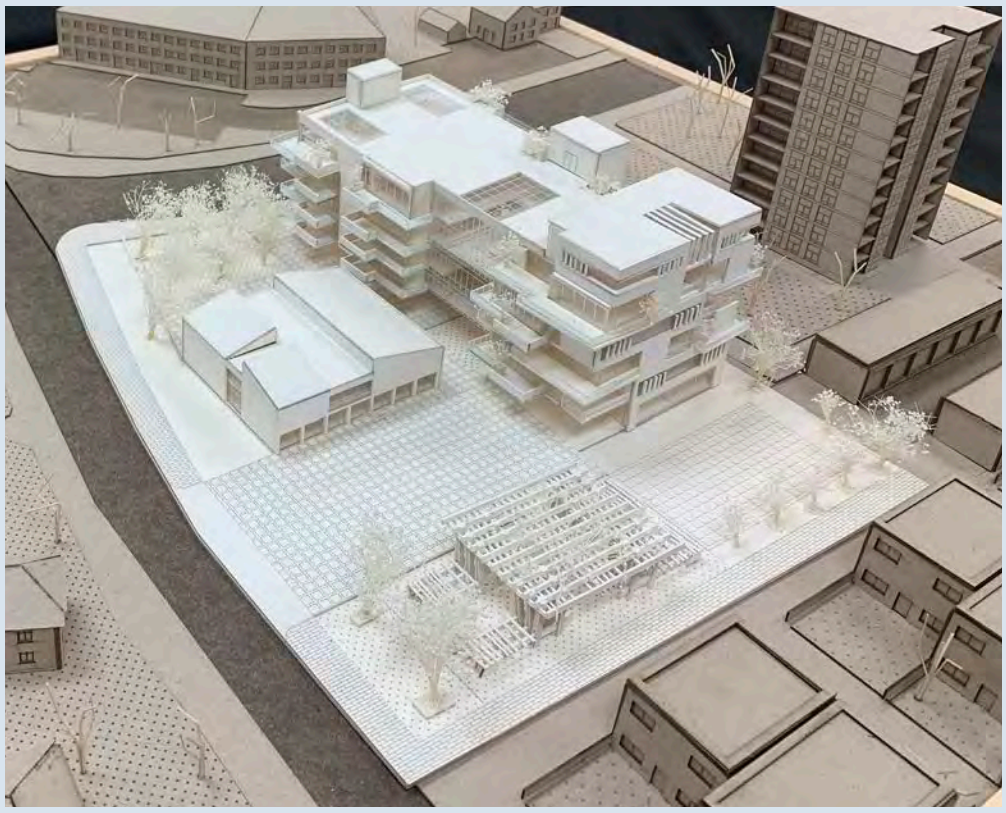


Mateo Irigoyen Garzonk

The site consists on a dynamic design that would offer public, semi private, and private spaces, depending of your necessities. Water is used as an element to bring people inside of the site, interacts with people, or simply to create a ritual space for those who seek for some peace. The residential area is focused on the use of micro apartments with the intention of offering residents a safe place to stay, but also composed of large windows, views and open patios to keep residents mentally healthy and encourage them to go outside. The Health Center building will be used as a research center where students and young people can gather and study together. The building is an extension of the youth club. The café is located in the back of the youth club. The café is a cantilevering gardens, trees and water.

Ayda Keshvar Doost

The design idea mainly focuses on creating a successful, safe, and healthy environment for residents and visitors by using the idea of "Green Bathing"; providng the indoor and outdoor green spaces and using these areas as a feature to reduce the stress and bringing hope for residents. The form and location of buildings allows for all spaces to enjoy natural light and a visual connection to the neighborhood.
The residential building designed with the main goal of providing a 360 degree view to all around the site for residents in each units and considering the indoor green spaces in the common area between units so residents can get together and children can play.



on the following pages: a recap on the DPU summerLab 2019 series workshops

26 - 31 August 2019

Chengdu
Rethinking tourism-driven regeneration

in collaboration with
Urban Synthesis (China) Ltd.

1-6 September 2019

Hargeysa
Exploring social cohesion in a segmented city

in collaboration with the ***Institute for Research, Heritage Preservation and Development (IRHPD)****, and* ***Redsea Cultural Foundation***

with the facilitation of
Michael Walls (DPU)

9-14 September 2019

Athens
Co-creating the arrival city

in collaboration with
Stefania Gyftopoulou *and*
Panagiotis Tzannetakis

16-21 September 2019

London
A community-centred alternative to displacement

in collaboration with ***David McEwen (unit 38)*** *and* ***West Green Road / Seven Sisters Development Trust***

Chengdu - Rethinking Tourism-driven Regeneration

in collaboration with **Urban Synthesis (China) Ltd.**

In line with global development and urban planning trends, urban regeneration in China is now a well-established mechanism for developing and revitalising urban areas deemed to be in decline. One planning tool has been the advent of tourism-centred and culture-centred regeneration strategies. With the emergence of the world's largest middle-class society, tourism has become an important contributor to the domestic economy in China. In an aggressively competitive tourist market, Chinese city planners are finding new ways to brand and market their cities, and to attract a slice of this lucrative economic regeneration tool. In a context of dwindling historical narrative, erased in part through the processes of rapid development, many city planners are now adopting the concept of authenticity, using heritage (either actual or constructed) as a key catalyst in the construction on place identity and place marketing.

Hinging upon these concerns, the summerLab workshop has cast its attention on a growing interest amongst Chinese planners to explore forms of community engagement within such cultural development, to enable local people to benefit from the economic boom and be involved in the production of urban space, rather than being marginalised or displaced by it.

Our partners Urban Synthesis China Ltd. set up a programme which has exposed participants to a complex range of realities in Chengdu, and woven new networks with an astonishing number of urban stakeholders. Participants presented their proposals on a possible tourism-driven redevelopment of Yifu neighbourhood (Chenghua district), showing a great level of critical thinking and sensitivity toward the local context.

Amongst other reflections, the DPU summerLab in Chengdu stimulated us to question the very nature of gated spatialities in the contemporary city. While high-rise residential gated communities are mushrooming everywhere, a careful analysis of the older 'danwei' (housing for workers) type actually showed how danwei communities were and are, in fact, equally gated. A complex system of fencing walls, gatekeeping, and softer means of control (such as a more or less loose forms of neighbourhood surveillance), allows us to establish several links between historical and contemporary urban types. Gated urban types are therefore not a novelty in Chengdu. Huge capital investments, however, exacerbate such picture: the city is increasingly segmented, with rather inaccessible and humongous housing blocks challenging the nature and availability of public space and putting any form of pedestrian lifestyle under threat.

The summerLab discussed how the danwei type should be acknowledged as potentially powerful in countering such tendency: although to an extent gated, its finer urban fabric caters for social interaction and encounter, allowing public space to emerge informally, small economic activities to keep thriving, and civic facilities to be accessible. How to design a sustainable future for Chengdu, empowering localised forms of urban development and heritage while welcoming investment? The summerLab workshop has revolved around this question, as hopefully also our future activities in Chengdu will.

Chengdu - Rethinking Tourism-driven Regeneration

Hargeysa - Exploring social cohesion in a segmented city

in collaboration with **the Institute for Research, Heritage Preservation and Development (IRHPD)**, and **Redsea Cultural Foundation,** and facilitated by **Michael Walls (DPU)**

Hargeysa, the capital city and commercial hub for the internationally unrecognised state of Somaliland is a rapidly expanding city of about 800,000. Almost completely reduced to rubble by the forces of Siyad Barre's Somalia government in 1988, this ex-British administrative centre has seen its population mushroom as people have returned from exile in refugee camps in Ethiopia and from a dispersed globally diaspora. The city now houses about a third of Somaliland's population, although the lack of census data makes that hard to substantiate. The city is divided along clan lines, with areas dominated by each of Somaliland's main clan groups. While there is no formal restriction on where a person may buy land or live, strong social norms ensure neighbourhoods remain relatively segmented. Most housing adopts a villa style within a compound, which retains the pastoralist custom of a temporary dwelling (known as an aqal) in an enclosure. Unsurprisingly, the wealthier the household the more lavish the villa, but most still adopt that broadly similar pattern, from small tin dwellings to large multi-storey structures. A significant number of the poorest, though, live in aqals adapted from rural use, either clustered in Internally Displaced People areas, or dispersed between existing plots.

The summerLab has attempted to understand how Hargeysa's public space interweaves with an apparently segmented private realm, and to understand possible pathways to foster social cohesion in the city. Participants engaged into an investigation on how several forms of ownership and sovereignty overlap and produce Hargeysa's space.

Participants have focused their fieldwork on the neighbourhood surrounding the Hargeysa Cultural Centre, while exploring other areas and tracing connections at the wider scale. The whole group took a short trip toward downtown and discussed how formal and informal commerce coexist and design Hargeysa's public space. One group of participants put particular attention on understanding some of the housing types (buul/aqal, sandaqad, daar) and their inner spaces, investigating how Hargeysa's inhabitants dwell, how they use and design their spaces, both the inner ones and the open spaces adjacent to their housing units.

On the final day of workshop, participants presented a series of thought-provoking proposals, questioning the nature of social segmentation in Hargeysa at multiple scales, and outlining strategies to foster social cohesion. We are confident that our partners at the Redsea Cultural Foundation will keep developing such ideas, which ground critically in their work and aspirations. Thanks to Jama Musse Jama, Tirsit Yetbarek and all the staff at the Centre for the facilitation and for hosting us in a very marvellous week, and of course to DPU Professor Michael Walls for putting on the table the first idea for what turned to be a great workshop. We look forward to the next experience in Hargeysa and Somaliland.

Hargeysa - Exploring social cohesion in a segmented city

Athens - Co-creating the arrival city

in collaboration with **Stefania Gyftopoulou** and **Panagiotis Tzannetakis**

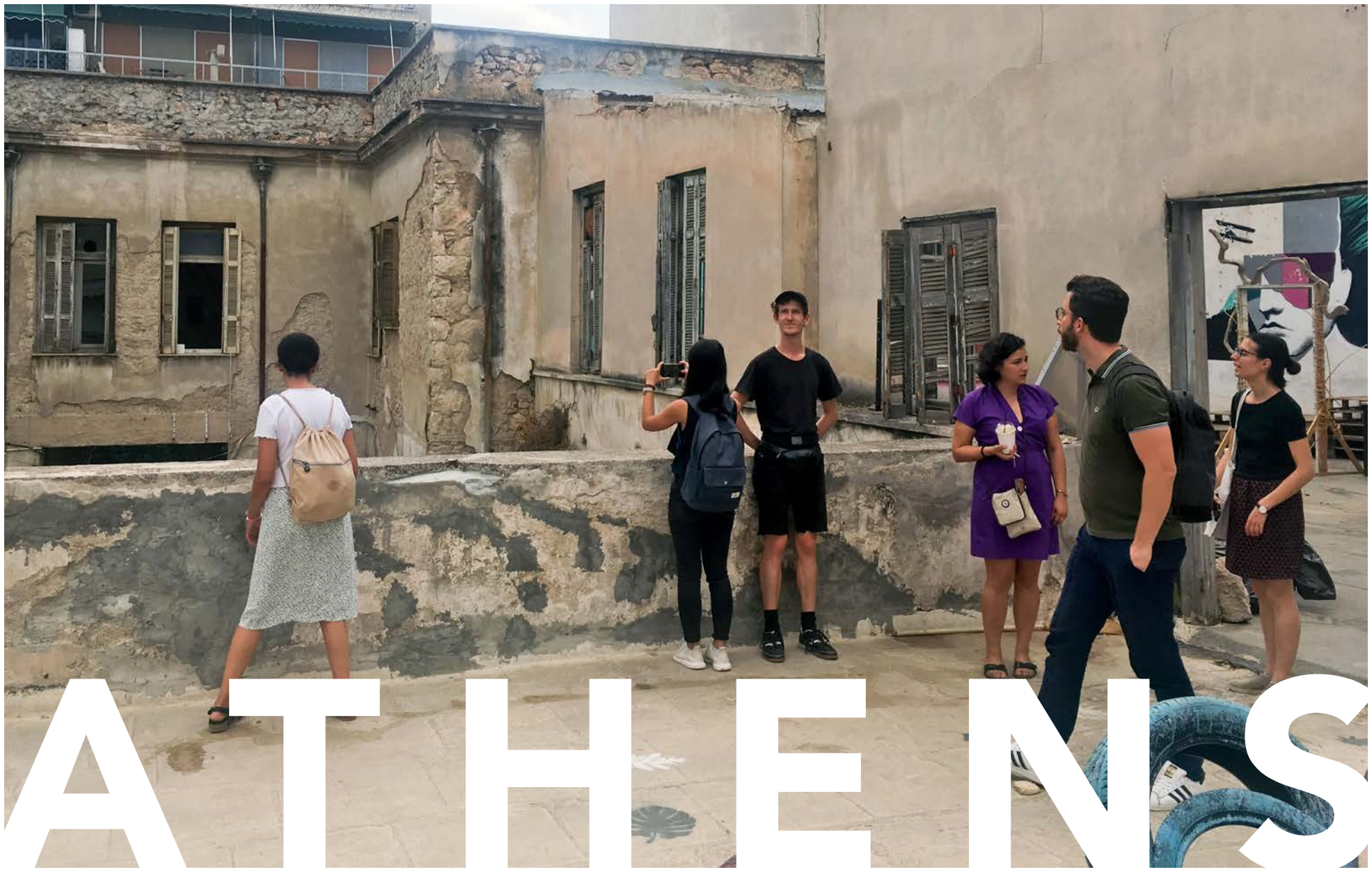
In the past decade, Athens has been marked as a city in crisis. Austerity policies have generated rapid social and economic changes, which are already evident in the physical and social urban fabric. Urban development policies – while aiming to re-inform the city's transformation – have intensified the conflictive dynamics of urban space, its usage, its perception and its appropriation. Abrupt changes in nationwide immigration and asylum-seeking patterns have further exacerbated such condition. Greece, being initially a transit country, has faced major challenges concerning the reception of migrants and refugees, and the coverage of their basic needs.

As immigration is no longer deemed as an emergency situation, the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO) has decreased the provision of funds: initially phrased as lifesaving operation, the dominant rhetoric has now shifted to one of integration of migrants and refugees in the country. Recognised refugees are losing access to EU funded housing programs and are left with no other option than entering the private market. However, during the last two years, the housing rental market has suffered a 20% increase in the municipality of Athens, mainly due to tourism. The impact of Airbnb has become apparent, with a significant percentage of dwellings withdrawn from long-term tenancy, and consequent housing hardships for local residents.

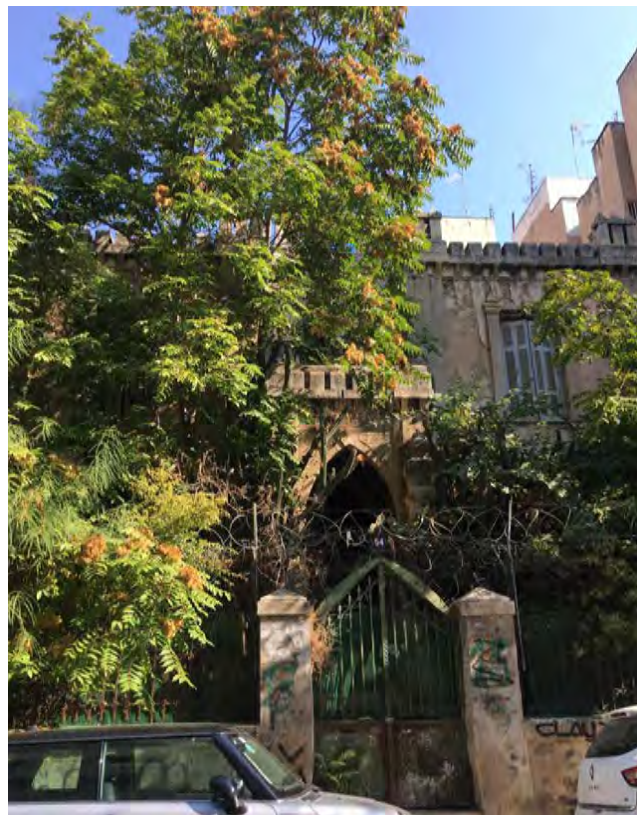
Many cities in the European region have been prompted to rethink their stance on housing. The Municipality of Athens has assumed a more active role in terms of governance, for what concerns both the management of programmes and the direct reception of funds. Through the promotion of nation-wide competitions, participatory design and the culture of partnering with NGOs and civil society organisations have taken centre stage in urban politics, providing the opportunity to explore how such methodologies can impact local regeneration.

The Athens summerLab offered a contribution and a reflection around the potential role of refugee-focused housing programmes, and of self-organised small scale initiatives in creating opportunities for an inclusive and just city. On the first day, participants walked around the areas of Keramikos and Metaxourgeio, and visited Communitism, an open community of creative professional, before having an interesting discussion with the Sirian & Greek Youth Forum and hearing from the Athens Coordination Centre for Migrant and Refugee Issues. On the second day, the group walked around Kato Patisia, Plateia Amerikis and Victoria Square and engage into a discussion with the Victoria Square Project, Human Rights 360 and Mazi Housing Project. On the third day, the exploration moved to the areas of Neapoli and Kypseli: in the latter, participants visited the Municipal Market – a space recently transformed into a collective space by Impact Hub Athens.

The collective work eventually defined a series of design proposals, which attempted to identify, critically analyse and build upon the potential of a series of existing housing practices, while formulating alternative and holistic strategies.



Athens - Co-creating the arrival city



London - A community-centred alternative to displacement

in collaboration with **David McEwen (unit 38)** and **West Green Road / Seven Sisters Development Trust**

Regeneration is radically transforming London's physical and social fabrics. In Tottenham, North London, development proposals will see a very diverse community displaced to make way for luxury residential towers: Seven Sisters Market – one of London's most celebrated migrant hubs located at the 'gateway' to Tottenham – has become the battleground for competing visions for the city.

Seven Sisters Market is home to over 60 businesses from 21 nationalities, employing over 150 traders. Located at the gateway of Tottenham, the market has become the battleground for competing urban visions: it is under threat of being replaced with a set of luxury residential towers, and a new market that would entail much higher rental costs for all traders.

The summerLab workshop wanted to explore the potential for community-led transformation, discussing an alternative to an otherwise exclusionary trajectory of urban regeneration. A group of twelve international participants worked alongside local groups to explore the potential for a community-led transformation. We investigated the market and other experiences of people-driven development in its surroundings, and travelled toward South London, to Brixton, to speak with market traders that are facing similar challenges. In Seven Sisters, participants spoke at length with traders and users of the Market, and collected data through observation, deconstructing the everyday narratives populating the space, and questioning the presence of possibly conflictive visions.

One group developed an interesting work on the rhythms of Seven Sisters Market, carefully representing the variations of sounds, noised, users, economic activities and the way these use the space of the Market. Sound has been qualified as one out of many forms of intangible heritage that are produced in the Market, remarking the relevance of sounds and music within Latin culture. Space has been interpreted as the locus of self-expression and communication, highlighting the presence of multiple, apparently contrasting though yet cohesive colours. Another group has focused on individual narratives and how individuals relate with and perceive the market, for instance noticing the relevance of money transfer businesses for the overall flow of remittances toward the users' and workers' countries of origin, the necessity of including childcare provision in any possible alternative proposal for the market, the overall feeling of insecurity because of the current uncertainties.

Participants attempted to put forward a shared vision for the market, starting from the idea of its space working as a social infrastructure, and building upon some shared values that clearly emerged from the several interviews with individuals and groups. How, in a context threatened with eviction because of regeneration plans, can resistance evolve into an alternative? How can such alternative inspire a wider, community-focused and community-led, strategy for a street, for a neighbourhood, for the whole of Tottenham?

LONDON

London - A community-centred alternative to displacement

dpu summerLab

2020 tenth anniversary series

The DPU summerLab programme is reinventing itself. We will launch our tenth anniversary series in March 2020, and share exciting news: stay tuned for a compelling calendar of events.

UCL

THE BARTLETT
DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING UNIT