URBAN COMPLEXITY OF HERITAGE AREA

case study: The informal settlements of El-darb El-ahmar & El-hattaba

RASEM BADRAN
FEB. 16 - FEB. 20

workshop@msa.edu.eg
بولا بنا قلبٍ للكاهو
بولا بنا لاحمياء
MAP ANALYSIS “CHARTS”

Building Conditions

- Brick
- Deteriorating Brick
- Stones
- Deteriorating Stones
- Deteriorating Buildings

Solid & Void

- Voids
- Streets
- Solids

ARCHITECTURAL & URBAN ELEMENTS

Landmarks

- Alty Barakat Mosque
- Fqih Al-Yamami Mosque
- Gomhur Al-Lala Mosque
- Arthur Mosque
- House of Ali Mardit Labib
- Manshi El-Maayyad Sheik
- Al-Mahmoudiya Mosque
- Hassan Fathy House

Context

- Style (buildings) in diversity
  - Different building materials (brick, stone, ...)
  - Different building heights (1 - 14 floors)
- A lot of identity-less buildings

Land use

- Mixed Use
- Residential
- Historical

Building Heights

- 1 Floor
- 2 Floors
- 3 Floors
- 4 Floor
- 5 Floors
- 6 Floors
- 7 Floor
- 8 Floors

ACE:
- Enticing of buildings
  - In its own structure and along group of buildings

ZONE 1

P1
**SKYLINE**

- Mosque has the highest skyline because of its “Hezmaana”.

**OPEN SPACES**

**How we can to use/reuse it depending on:**

- The main axes that link between the two important parts which are Al Sultan Hassan and Rifai mosque with Al-Azhar Park.
- In addition with the main axis’s how we can to exploit all the free spaces that facing the connector axis with courts have a shops or workshops for different handicrafts( that will help the Residents of the area from two directions ) in addition of Provision a commercial facilities.
- Will shows two proposals(A,B) according to the place of the open spaces:

**First Proposal:**
- With Greenline

**Second Proposal:**
- With Redline

**The advantages of Proposal A:**
- The link axis in the middle between two axes from Al-Sultan Hassan mosque (between two sides).
- When you be in the main connector axis you will see all the surroundings monuments.
- And it will across a free spaces which will be used as a courts and handicrafts workshops or shops.

**The advantages of Proposal B:**
- When you be in the main connector axis you will see all the surroundings monuments.
- And it will across a free spaces which will be used as a courts and handicrafts workshops or shops.
- The main connector axis beginning with a gathering point with courts (Other Exploitation for a free space).
SITE-RELATED PROBLEMS

- 1) Services
   - only one school (EASTWELL MIDDLE)
   - not close to everyone
   - no spaces for kids
   - no pharmacies
   - no activities

- 2) Residential
   - garbage
   - afraid
   - buildings out of context
   - new concrete structure
   - lost identity

- 3) Planning
   - very narrow streets
   - parking places, area too far away (not many)
   - people end up parking in narrow streets & blocking them

- 4) Not well Preserved
   - historical monuments
   - not well preserved
   - pieces of art (mashably use) sold or stolen

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- 1) Services & Planning
   - balance
   - pharmacies do not need a lot of space
   - use the land to create a community service center (relying on close & having awareness)
   - keep the garbage
   - create more kids' activities
   - self-sufficiency & money
   - no access not allowed & informal

- 2) Creating win-win scenarios
   - include them in decision making
   - sense of ownership
   - improving their status & feeling when they participate in building

- 3) Potential
   - The place has the potential to become an attraction point
   - linking the historical monuments creating a journey or experiential relationship or linkage to actual place & territorial

URBAN ANALYSIS

- Irregular shape, No usage
- Irregular shape, No usage
- Irregular shape, No usage
- Irregular shape, No usage
- Irregular shape, No usage
- Irregular shape, No usage
- Irregular shape, No usage
- Irregular shape, No usage

ZONE 1

- Open areas
- Roads networks
- Main spin
- Open spaces
Based on the site visit and on the careful study of the map, data and analysis provided, the following problems were detected:

A- Heritage-sites related problems
- Residents not being aware of the value of heritage sites.
- Some of the historical buildings are in a bad condition.
- People build residential buildings on the boundaries of the historical building not leaving any space around it.

B- Lack of Services
- Infrastructure and drainage problems.
- No Schools close to the area and therefore children walk longer distances to their schools.
- No garbage collecting service.

C- Lack of Recreational Areas
- No areas for the kids to play.
- No recreational areas for youth.
- No gathering areas for the community (markets/parks/Ahwa).

SITE-RELATED PROBLEMS

E- Circulation Issues
- Streets are very narrow, yet cars manage to pass and park.
- Some workshop owners complain that cars park in front of their shops.
- No separate pedestrian paths.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

Historical Monuments
that should be an attraction in the area and that could help create an unique journey for both Egyptians and foreigners alike.

Unique Location
1. Center of Historical Cairo
2. Between Salah El-Din Square and Azhar Park

Solid Historical Identity
that brand the place with this unique feel (Fatimid or Olden Cairo)

Opportunities
Crafts and Handmade Works
failed to market these crafts

Topography & Demography
for creating interesting pathways

Wasted & Vacant Spaces
could be used as communal areas be transformed into green areas

Cul-de-sac & Blocked Alleys
could also be used as communal areas or could be transformed into green areas

Heritage Area & Rich Identity
could be used as touristic attractions

Weaknesses

Street Width
nearly enough for humans and still occupied by cars

Crowded Areas
no room for expansion both spatially, spiritually and communally

Infrastructure weakness would lead to damaged, unstable and deteriorating houses throughout the years

Threats

Infrastructure and Unstable Buildings
that applies on the very unstable buildings that are frozen between government permits and disuse

Informal Garbage Disposal System
throwing garbage in the streets, and in monuments damages the value of both the monuments and the people living there

Lack Of Greenery and Ventilation Problems
smog and pollution will eventually take its toll on the people if there are no ventilation outlets
Architectural Urban

there are some residential buildings needs to remove and some other needs to renew it.

Historical buildings needs restorations:
Historical building from different types of mosques or houses need restorations because its bad condition of construction.

Adding workshops and some green elements adding to soft and hard scape.

Social Economical Services Educational

School:
USING THE SCHOOL TO SERVE OTHER SERVICES AND ENTERTAINING, CULTURAL PURPOSES LIKE EDUCATING PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR HERITAGE, HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AFTER SCHOOL DAY.

Garbage Dumps and Collection:
There could be designated garbage dumps known within every sector. Also at points where garbage trucks can fit and be able to collects the bags from the known locations.

Cul de sac [dead end]:
The buildings in this area could be demolished and rebuilt as level in neighboring buildings therefore the inhabitants would still be able to live in the same sector/region.

Topography:
Due to the difference in ground level (contouring) this spacious region could be used as an exhibition on to be on a higher level. This area will be used for bazaars (Khan el Khalili inspiration).

Topography:
Due to the difference in ground level (contouring) this spacious region could be used as an open green space, with bazaar/shops dug into the stone and an entrance/exit to the historical city from Sultan Hassan and Al Refaie Mosque.
EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY

SABIL & KOTAB ROQAYA DUDU

It was built as a place to serve water for pedestrians and as a school for children to learn Quran.

AL- REFAI SCHOOL

STRATEGY:

Using the school to serve other services and entertaining, cultural purposes like educating people about their heritage, historical buildings after school day.

Its facilities can also be used for community services, for example, the playground can be open for children to entertain, some classes can be used for health services.

The Sabil adjacent to the school can be reused to teach children Quran again and/or to educate them about the value of historical buildings through out experiencing one of them.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAYGROUND OF THE SCHOOL AS A TYPE OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

URBAN STRATEGY

- Open areas
- Roads networks
- Main spine
- Open spaces

Ground floors of some buildings can be used to open wider streets and can be used for other purposes such as commercial and exhibition.

Sharing roofs between buildings for activities for recreational purposes.

Shared open spaces between buildings for social interaction.

HARD & SOFTSCAPE

CUL DE SAC USAGE
Deteriorating buildings
Most of these buildings can’t be used again and are with no value, so they will be vanished. Their lands then will be used as open spaces or they will be reconstructed.

Historical buildings
These building will need restoration and they will be open for people.

The roofs of the buildings are with no function, so they turned to a totally destroyed area full of garbage.

The roofs will be turned to green areas with sitting areas.

More green areas

Removing garbage and making fixed areas for them.
putting solutions for the services problems, and use it to upgrade the social and economic problems in the Area.

Example: the garbage problems:

it blocks the streets and the alleys and historical places. removing them will give us more places for social events and recycling them to increase the economic problem.
CULTURAL STRATEGY

Historical buildings:

- **MADRASA ILJAY AL-YUSUFI (MAMLUKI):**
  - very beautiful stalactites over the entrance.
  - Unique curved ribs of the dome.
  - Mosquar facade

Old social habits:

1. Old shops for selling pottery after making them.
2. People that used to be in certain places to clean shoes.
3. Shops for selling elements such as "shisha" and metal elements used for cooking.
node 1
node 2
node 3
Utilising the contours of the land and build terraces to get the best view toward the historical mosques.
**Time Line**

- **Autumn**
  - Gathering point
  - Events

- **Winter**
  - Field trips
  - Christmas
  - Tourists Visits
  - Labours day

- **Spring**
  - Eastern day
  - Tourists Visits
  - Art Galleries

- **Summer**
  - Tanuora festival

- **Other**
  - Maw'a'id Al-Rahman in Ramadan
  - Muslim Eids.
- Integration between the topography and monuments “mosque”
- Creating open space for people to have a drink in front of the magnificent view
- Activities such as reaching and souvenir shopping