



CONFERENCE DOCUMENTATION

# HISTORIC DISTRICTS FOR TOMORROW

Cairo University, October 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Transformation Partnership in Urban Design and Architecture

Cairo University, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Meeting of Architecture Student Representatives of Egypt (MAS)





Brandenburg  
University of Technology  
Cottbus - Senftenberg

Documentation

## **Conference: Historic Districts for Tomorrow**

Cairo University, October 25th – 26th, 2015

## **Meeting of Architecture Student Representatives of Egypt (MAS)**

Cairo University, October 27th, 2015

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Cooperation project of higher education:

### **Transformation Partnership for Urban Design and Architecture in Historic City Districts**

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Alexandria University, Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Architecture, Egypt

Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU), Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineer-  
ing and Urban Planning, Germany

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Federal Foreign Office



Federal Foreign Office



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



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Alexandria University, Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Architecture

Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus – Senftenberg,

Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Urban Planning

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD eV.)

Menoufiya University

Ain-Shams-University Cairo

American University in Cairo

Arab Academy of Science, Technology and Naval Engineering

Helwan University

Misr International University

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Rana Assen Aly Sadek

Batool Awad Mohamed Awad

Salma Ahmed Farouk Hussein Soliman Nourhan Ayman Mohamed Abdelmoneim

Gaber Asmaa Kamaly

Ahmed Mohamed El Togby

Student Groups

Cairo University

Alexandria University

**Misr Higher Institute for Engineering and Technology (MET)**

Students from different further Universities from Cairo and Egypt

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## Introduction

### Conference

Since 2006 the Cairo University, Faculty of Engineering and the Brandenburg University of Technology in Cottbus, Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Urban Planning are cooperating in the fields of urban design and architecture in historic context. During the last years this cooperation was focussed on Joint Workshops, the exchange of master students, the implementation of the joint master program Urban Design - Revitalization of Historic City Districts and the establishment of a cooperation network with further universities from the Middle East. With the elaboration and establishment of the joint master program the Alexandria University, Faculty of Fine Arts was integrated in the cooperation activities. These three partner universities conducted with the funding of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) the project Transformation Partnership for Urban Design and Architecture in Historic City Districts from 2012 until 2015. In the frame of this project the partners cooperated in Joint Teaching Activities and Joint Research Activities.

With the Conference Historic Districts of Tomorrow the three partner universities would like to reflect the experiences in joint teaching and joint research activities of the last years and open new perspectives for further cooperation activities between the three partner universities and with further partners who share the interest in the development of historic districts in our towns.

## Welcoming Opening of the Conference

Prof. Dr. Sherif Mourad, Prof. Dr. Dalila ElKerdany, Prof. Dr. Sahar Attia, Prof. Heinz Nagler, Dr. Roman Luckscheiter, Prof. Dr. Yehia Mostafa

**Prof. Dr. ElKerdany** welcomed the audience to the event. She introduced the history and progress of the cooperation between BTU Cottbus and Cairo University through joint workshops, exchange of students and staff, exhibitions and elaboration of the common master program together with Alexandria University. Prof. ElKerdany stated that the aim of the event is to widen the scope of cooperation and academic programs, to work with other professionals and firms interested in the conservation field.

**Prof. Dr. Sahar Attia** acknowledged the efforts of the organization team. She elaborated that the aim of this session is to have more collaboration in research and projects, which leads to elevating the academic status of the participating universities. She also discussed the topic of heritage and the risks facing efforts in this field today.

**Prof. Heinz Nagler** introduced the cooperation program and discussed how the program does not only focus on historical districts, but rather offer a scientific approach to understand the image of historic districts as a whole with its different multi-layered issues related to architecture, urban design and landscape. He further elaborated the challenge of investigating the intangible components of spaces, as well as considering urban landscapes as stand-alone monuments that have to be taken into account. Prof. Nagler also mentioned the value of historic cores in times of city growth and he explaining the importance of passing on history and knowledge through researches, workshops and cooperation through stable networks, as a way of communicating a strong vision for the development of our cities.

**Prof. Dr. Yehia Mostafa** welcomed the group on behalf of the dean of the faculty of fine arts, Alexandria University. He stressed on the impact of this fruitful cooperation between the three partners for the students and young staff. He discussed the benefits of such programs, exchanging cultures and opening up to foreign ones. Moreover, these programs are catalysts for changing the present and bringing about a better future. He added that Alexandria University is giving opportunities to its younger generation to reach these exchange programs.

**Dr. Roman Luckscheiter** welcomed the audience on behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Mr. Luckscheiter started by explaining the long tradition of German - Egyptian higher education cooperation. He emphasized that academic collaboration is a sustainable and strong entity that continues to develop and grow through time. Dr. Luckscheiter highlighted that the cooperation between the three partner universities and their project of a cooperative master program succeeded in being an interdisciplinary body that deals with and connects art and architecture. He continued to state that the success of this program is highly related to its nature, which is being based on collaboration between different parties exchanging knowledge and culture. Further Dr. Luckscheiter mentioned that another reason for the continuous success of this program is adding the research component to it.

**Prof. Dr. Sherif Mourad** expressed his pleasure to be a part of the program as the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University. He highly appreciated the effort of the different partners working on the Egyptian-German program. He continued by giving a hint about the history of the Faculty of Engineering, the role of the Department of Architecture in implementing the quality of the education in the Faculty. He mentioned and applauded the department's recent efforts and UIA accreditation. Finally, Dr. Mourad thanked the DAAD and BTU for their fruitful effort.

## Introduction

### **Four years of the transformation partnership project**

Prof. Dr. Dalila ElKerdany, Prof. Dr. Hebatella Abouelfadl, Christoph Wessling  
Prof. Inken Baller (Moderation)

Phasing in the transformation partnership project the thematic focal point of the session was set on the joint researches and workshops covered by this collaboration.

With the beginning of the program the first conference that took place at the DAAD identified and discussed the three main topics of heritage and urban development, sustainable densities for new settlements as well as public spaces research. These topics were implemented into the three main components of the program; joint teaching activities, administrative component and joint research activities (as the PhD-Colloquium for research that was carried out during this collaboration as well as the common and joint publications in progress that are facilitated through the program). This first meeting was the guide for cooperation in the masters and PhD-programs that take place today.

The joint program was discussed as a challenging collaboration between three departments in Cairo, Alexandria and Cottbus, studying different topics of urban design on different scales. The program gathered different students from various countries, all of whom are interested in dealing with historic districts as a historic urban landscape, rather than being just a single monument, as well as to investigate whether the historic fabric characterises old cities, and whether it is coherent with its current surrounding contexts or not. Expressly underlined were the continuous attempts by the coordinators to develop and improve the program through listening to students' evaluation.

The exchange of student representatives from Alexandria and Cairo to Germany started in 2012. This facilitated the meeting and integration between Egyptian and German students and lead on to a collaboration continued through the student initiatives expressed in MAS as a network between students.

The workshops that took place in relation to the program were benefits as part of urban design and architectural projects as well as an intercultural exchange activities between different students from different cultural backgrounds. These workshop assembled the participating students and connected them through working on one academic topic from all possible approaches. One of the challenges was to get diverse student groups to work on a common concept in a short period of time. Displaying the aims and outcomes of the six joint workshops that took place in previous years as well as some projects initiated in the joint master program (exhibited during the conference) that all were dealing with historic traces, contexts and their development in the contemporary setting the importance of international cooperation was emphasised, hoping to be able to achieve more.



### **Prof. Inken Baller introducing the Joint Architecture Workshops**

Prof. em. Inken Baller briefly presented the architectural workshops that were covered by the program in the last years. These joint workshops enriched the professional as well as the personal experiences. Starting with the Baharia Oasis workshop, followed by the showcase of the Berlin Block, finishing with the one in Port-Said she explained the speciality and the richness of the thoroughly chosen areas. Before each showcase was yet ignored and not given any attention or consideration, although all of them had a strong quality and influence in the depending history. Therefore these workshops substantiated the way such buildings and their surrounding areas should be sensitively dealt with either than being demolished as well as to take into consideration the peoples and residents needs and experiences.

## **Opening of the Exhibition Historic Districts of Tomorrow**

The exhibition showed the results of the Joint Urban Design and Joint Architectural Workshops 2012 - 2014 and a poster presentation of selected projects and seminar results from the master program Urban Design - Revitalization of Historic City Districts and some chosen PhD-thesis or PhD-in progress. The exhibition was completed by a walkabout with Prof. Dr. Nabil El-Hady, Prof. Dr. Heba Abouelfadl, Prof. em. Inken Baller.

Exhibition  
**Historic Districts of Tomorrow**



Teaser for the exhibition of the Joint Urban Design and Architecture Workshops



Students visiting the exhibition space



Prof. Nabeel ElHady presenting results of Assuan workshop during the walkabout

Presentation of student projects and master thesis  
from the (joint) master programs  
**Everyday Live in Historic Districts**



**Prof. Heinz Nagler introducing the BTU**

Outstanding students of the joint master programs, as well as some PhD students, taking part in the academic collaboration were invited to present their work done during their studies and to talk about their experiences during the programs.

**Neighborhood  
Integration through  
Public Spaces Network -  
Pistorious Platz**

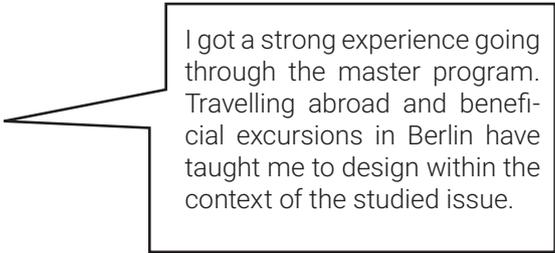
Batool Awad Mohamed  
Awad

The experiences we gained from travelling and come across various spaces and areas, was as beneficial as the study content. What we learnt was much more than urban studies.

Batool Awad Mohamed Awad studied in third term in the double master degree program **Urban Design – Revitalization of Historic City Districts** and presented the research project she had done in cooperation with her colleague Rana Sadek under the supervision of Prof. Heinz Nagler and Dipl.Ing. Christoph Wessling. The project »Neighborhood Integration through Public Spaces Network« at Pistoriousplatz in Germany dealt with urban solutions and their sustainability. Awad illustrated the design process that they went through in their project and explained how they analysed the problems and potentials in the studied area and their approach for adding and introducing land uses to reflect the community needs. Their main idea concentrated on urban farming/agriculture as a tool to integrate two neighborhoods, implementing the concept of sustainable communities by allowing residents to make use of the urban farming products, as well as to profit from them.

**From Architectural  
Background to Urban Scale -  
The Weißensee project**

Nourhan Ayman



I got a strong experience going through the master program. Travelling abroad and beneficial excursions in Berlin have taught me to design within the context of the studied issue.

Nourhan Ayman got her bachelor from Misr International University, and studied in the double master degree program **Urban Design – Revitalization of Historic City Districts** and introduced her thesis »Architectural Background to Urban Scale» placed at the study area Weißensee, a district in the north of Berlin. Her analysis including solid/void, gentrification, densities and open spaces maps, references to historical buildings as archaic factories and churches, as well as its public spaces led her to the idea to create a vital space with dynamic activities. Therefore she divided the area into three zones; entertainment zone, study zone & working zone. Injecting activities into the spaces to connect the three zones around a new Centre for the area and the redesign of a Berlin block, targeting the improvement of quality of the users experiences and the quality of the space in general completed her design concept.

**Heritage Economic:  
A Case Study on Bayt Al-Kritliya  
(Gayer Anderson Museum)**

Mohamed Badry

Mohamed Badrys, student of the Joint Master program **Heritage Conservation and Side Management** between Helwan University and BTU-Cottbus, heritage management study dealt with the significance in the issues of authenticity, cultural and aesthetic values, the architectural design of the building and the distinguished collection of Bayt Al-Kritliya (Gayer Anderson Museum). His economic assessment discussed the economic indicators for the museums imbalance between inflow and outflow using different analysis as admission fees and visitors numbers before and after the revolution. He pointed up the effect of increasing tourism activities to create a balance. Therefore he suggested strategies to improve the situation by creating workshops for the locals and connecting the different surrounding historical sites to one another and highlighted the significance of raising the locals and workers awareness for the importance of the place, to empower them to take responsibility for its preservation.

**Urban Development  
Project for Hussanya  
District - An Emerging  
Triangle of Diversities**

Ian Ding, Salma Farouk

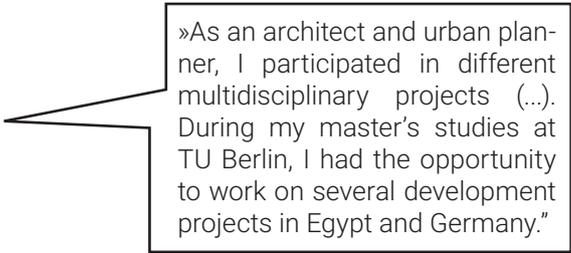
Before participating in the master program my first idea would have been to tear down run-down buildings to replace them. With the program I learnt about the importance of understanding such valuable districts in order to keep the urban form of the historical area.

Ian Ding and Salma Farouk, studying in the double degree master program **Urban Design – Revitalization of Historic City Districts** in third term presented their project »Urban Development Project for Hussanya District - An Emerging Triangle of Diversities». The development timeline of Hussanya stands in long relationship with historic Cairo, isolated by the city wall. Their analysis of the area included the hierarchy of spaces from public to private, their hierarchy in relation to Islamic cities as well as the different stakeholders and activities densities, focusing on values of architectural diversity, functional diversity and aesthetics. The adaptive reuse of historical buildings as well as using different festivals and events that take place in the area were assembled in the approach for the development of the area. Ian clarified that even though the first impression of Hussanya district indicated unsolvable problems, further analysis and studies uncovered various potentials that could be used to develop the area and lives of its residents.



### **Sustainable Urbanization in the Egyptian Desert, the Case Study Heliopolis**

Anas El Alhowaily



»As an architect and urban planner, I participated in different multidisciplinary projects (...). During my master's studies at TU Berlin, I had the opportunity to work on several development projects in Egypt and Germany.»

In his PhD-thesis named »Sustainable Urbanization in the Egyptian Desert, the Case Study Heliopolis« Anas El Alhowaily discussed the issue of new urban communities in GCR (Greater Cairo Region). El Alhowaily talked about the problem of GCR growth in relation to the early sub-urbanisation models in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century (e.g. Heliopolis, Maadi, Qoubah and Helwan). The original approach towards expanding to the desert, which started in the 1970s (e.g. Herouk, Sheikh Zayed, New Cairo and 6th of October) when there was no control over the migration process, lead to the city's expansion more than needed and expected. Analysing the main strategies used to solve the problems related to deterioration in Cairo, he discussed the relation of the issue to the built-up area in Cairo Governorate. Evaluating the environmental and the economic dimension in Heliopolis he concluded that this first garden city, designed and built in Cairo, as an unique set of characteristics and a »brand« of its own is one of the best urban practices towards sustainable growth in comparison to the new urban communities in the GCR.

### **Rehabilitation of Modern Heritage: Appropriating a Framework for Modern Heritage Management with Special Reference to Community Based Approaches**

Dina El Mehelmy

In her PhD-thesis Dina El Mehelmy, deals with the hypothesis of the effect of integrating community-based mechanisms into the management process of heritage sites on the sustainability of modern heritage. The research framework covered analysing previous literature including administrative measures, legislation, procedures and other relevant issues. The »Heritage Assets Management Process« is divided into five phases; identification of the heritage site, strategic planning, detailed planning, implementation and finally monitoring and reviewing. The second main aspect in her thesis is concerned with community based approach in managing heritage sites which is based mainly on communication, consultation and participation between sponsors and public representatives. The outline of an organigram illustrated these interdependently factors of the community-based mechanisms and the ongoing mutual dependency process that explains different cases.

## Improving Living Conditions for Informal Settlements: The Case of El-Arab, Hurghada

Ahmed Khalil

»Urban development is a very broad specialisation that welcomes several disciplines into its context. In order to have a better future for Egypt, Urban Development (...) cannot be ignored in any sustainable vision for the country.«

Ahmed Khalil, **Urban Development** student at TU-Berlin/Campus El Gouna represented the research team of Amr Abd El Aal, Mohamed Abd El Wahab, Hazem Ayash, Mohamed Ibrahim, Kamal Marei and Natacha Quintero working with him on the project »Improving Living Conditions for Informal Settlements: The Case of El-Arab, Hurghada«.

Their widespread research methodology included analysing physical relations, urban dynamics and socio-economic activities through comprehensive analysis, observations, urban and analytic tools, photographic records, activities mapping, interviews as well as theoretical analysis as means for examining informal areas. The team categorised the urban spaces in the area into four main categories and investigated them through spatial analysis and the criteria for selecting the needed interventions in an urban space, to evaluate concepts to improve the informal areas through a number of interventions. These were discovered best to be of small scale, easy to be adapted and easy to be taught to the people. The outcome of the research, was converted into an assessment matrix that evaluates the different interventions by stating the beneficiaries, the space typology and features of each intervention. Among the lessons learnt from this experience was that despite informality of land texture challenges are not severe, collective meetings, continuous and interdisciplinary collaboration are indispensable; despite the challenges potentials exist, and finally the importance and challenge related to local council and governorate representation.



### **Open discussion**

with the (joint) master programs students about their experience and findings

The double-master students were asked about the difficulties they faced and their experience in the program. The response focused on learning by experience, as they started living in a different urban environment in Germany and Egypt, trying to grasp the different approach in urban and architectural documentation and analysis as well as cultural and life style differences. On one hand the students were fascinated by the idea of flexibility in residence in Germany versus the less changeable residential status in Egypt as well as by the differences of the definition of privacy and property in the different countries. Some intimated the Egyptian communities lacks in understanding the significance of public spaces and the quality of urban environment and the lack of system-based management of heritage sites in Egypt, as well as the lack of data relating to heritage sites, while the German community would exhibit a kind of over-regulation of urbanism. It was discussed that academic exchange supports objective examination as a tool for learning. Some raised the question if judgemental analysis of the urban context might pose as a barrier in the learning process while others opposed that pragmatism and expectations in relation to context and design solutions support public awareness of urban problems and the will to develop innovative solutions in light of the current situation of each country and plot.

This directly led to the reflection of the up to this point done exchange program in relation to the academic systems. Although architecture and urban planning have a similar curriculum in Germany and Egypt, the approach used to tackle problems and propose solutions differs. For the double-master students, studying in Germany provided them with a guideline of the different approaches for design and sustainable solutions, while studying in Egypt provided them with the social and interactive perspective needed to implement the different approaches. Therefore, as students as well as professors argued, that the experience of the collaboration between Europe and the Middle East was quite instructive in terms of applying design strategies in Egypt based on German methodology of thinking, which created novel solutions reflecting both expertise.



## Key Note Lecture by Prof. Frank Schwartz

### 9 stolen thoughts on historic cities

Prof. Frank Schwartz took the audience on a journey through nine thoughts related to historic districts. The nine thoughts were interpretations of thesis from Stefano Bianca, who had to cancel his participation in the last minute.

1. Historic cities are cultural **CONSTRUCTIONS**: *In pre-modern times, traditional cities have never been »historic«, but thriving entities capable of continuous evolution and renewal. The modern notion of »historic« is an outcome of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century Western development ideologies, which have opened a hiatus between futuristic technological utopias on the one hand, and romantic nostalgia for the past on the other hand* (Stefano Bianca). This »lost« historic image, the essence of the lost city essentially is expressed and described in the old Paris novel »The Hunchback of Notre Dame« by Victor Hugo from 1831.

2. Modern **INTERVENTIONS** focus on two extremes: *Either radical substitution of »organic«, traditional urban patterns by artificial new structures, or conservation of surviving artefacts through freezing of »historic« appearance* (Stefano Bianca). Thus, historic cities can be considered as multi-layered culture constructions. On the academic level, modern interventions focus on two terms: Traditional vs. historic; according to physical age and appearance. How the fabric can respond to the actual needs of the society can be seen in the pictures of »before and after Mengstreet“ in Lubeca, Germany that express the contrast of new constructions standing side by side with the old fabric and historic buildings.

3. Urban structure as crystallisation of the spiritual **VALUES** that foster cohesion and identity (Stefano Bianca): *Places are social constructs, interweaving the social experience of being in a place, the symbolic meaning of a place and the physicalness of the forms and flows which go on in it* (Patsy Healey 2002). Merging spiritual aspects and identity the urban structure in the city triggers different notions such as the spirit of the place, the symbolic meaning of the place as well as the physical aspects expressed through architecture and urban planning. Illustrated with a children's sketch of a street in Berlin by Janosch a space only can be called a »place«, when social interaction between the users and their environment exists.

4. Schwartz explains the urban **QUALITIES** of pre-modern cities with: *The Pedestrian scale appeals to human perception and corresponding sensory experiences; the strong interaction of different activities and functions within the urban fabric causes an almost ritual sense of using spatial patterns; the social coherence reflects in consistent architectural and urban form; community-controlled urban production modes, driven by »inbuilt«, cultural consensus, as well as internal conflict-resolution - with minimal need for external coercion or abstract planning and the organic evolution »cell by cell«, rather than instant large scale interventions.* So the criteria for determining the quality of urban spaces in pre-modern cities is the relationship between the spirit of the place and the spaces quality, such as pedestrian rights/walkability, social cohesion, community control over urban production and organic evolution. Such are guidelines for describing a sustainable city and urbanisation.

5. Major factors of **DECLINE** and disruption (leading to the current situation of historic cities) are: *The image of »backwardness« inflicted by modernity, the disintegration of traditional social units caused by demographic changes and the lack of regular maintenance and the renewal activities adapted to local structures, the missing public investment in infrastructure, public open spaces and social facilities, the substitution of local self-management by distant bureaucratic institutions and »abstract« governance mechanisms with no affinity to the realities on the ground; as well as cutting the compact urban tissue in order to introduce new vehicular traffic channels and to deliberate destruction through military action (Historic cities as hiding places and symbols of civic identity) (Stefano Bianca).*

6. Urban **REHABILITATION** as a tool to overcome this dilemma and sustain living historic cities *only can come from within by building on inherent values and potentials that are inherent to traditional structures disconvener inherent value (Stefano Bianca).*

7. **WAYS FORWARD:** Urban planning and design:

*Balance the relation between Old and New Towns as these are functionally related but structurally different entities. Accept the complexity of the urban fabric and define qualified modes of intervention. Respect urban morphology and architectural typology when planning physical renewal of ruined areas. »Cell by cell« procedure! Support integrated micro-scale units, each one whole and autonomous in itself. Public investment in adapted infrastructure improvement, enhancement of public open spaces and enhancement of social facilities trigger the effects for private investment. Harness resident's participation in urban management. Combine socio-economic development with physical upgrading projects. Build local governance structures with specific know-how in urban rehabilitation (Historic Cities Development Agencies), create internal fund-raising sources and transfer mechanisms (Micro-credits and small grants for housing improvement) and encourage donor coalitions to finance complex projects (Stefano Bianca).*

8. **GO BEYOND:** Integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to urban rehabilitation, beyond mere conservation of monuments: *Urban regeneration is a comprehensive and integrated vision and action (program) which leads to the resolution of urban problems (forecast/anticipated future) and which seeks to bring about a lasting improvement in the economic, social and environmental condition of an area (activities) that has been subject to change (transformation) (Roberts, Peter/Sykes, HURh (2000): Urban Regeneration, A Handbook. London. S. 17). This process development creates a balance between developing ideas and bringing about the different factors that would complement these ideas for proper and effective development.*

9. **UNDERSTAND:** Main ingredients: Modesty, dialogue and empathy towards architectural, cultural and human substance: *Root the approaches in the culturally grown physical and social realities - rather than being biased by pre-conceived technocratic concepts and ideologies. Adapt the available techniques and procedures to the specific qualities and constraints of the historic fabric - rather than the other way around. Conceive the urban environment as an extension and reflection of deep-rooted timeless human values - rather than allowing isolated economic factors to dominate the field of intervention (Stefano Bianca). Looking at the significance of the qualities and knowing how to apply them by using the available techniques that are context-related avoids creating solutions that are isolated from the reality of the urban areas under investigation.*

## Podium Debate

### Everyday Live in Historic Districts

Prof. Dr. Nabeel ElHady, Prof. Dr. Hebatella Abouelfadl, Prof. em. Inken Baller, Arch. Omar Nagati, Prof. Salah Zaki, Shahira Mehrez  
Prof. Heinz Nagler (Moderation)

*Prof. Nagler: What does a »normal life« in historic districts mean? In Germany some historic cities are shrinking, but the historic core again gains inhabitants; what do you make of that?*

Referring to the German experience of urbanism after WWII and the unification of East and West Germany **Prof. em. Inken Baller** mentioned that taking the example of Stralsund, the city was part-war destructed, had lost its meaning and inhabited poor people. In the beginning, there was a movement and a relocation of inhabitants from the old city to a new urban fabric, where an attempt for a normal life was possible. Afterwards, the people started to realise that they had left valuable entities behind in the old cities and tried to rescue the heritage. After the reunification there were two ways to go: The reconstruction (to restore the city as a place for tourists to use it as a museum) or to make it again the core of the whole city with function and economically valued places for all Stralsund inhabitants. It started with investigating what functions could be integrated in the old city and a lot of difficulties faced the rehabilitation of the old centres. As a step-by-step development the population of the older cities started to increase, and today the old centre of the city contains more services and is more attractive than the new urban fabric. The development and importance of the economic investment affected the rate of development process greatly. Although the process and approach was difficult and needed a lot of funds, shared private and public money and the support from different stakeholders, nowadays it is a flourishing city again and it was all worth it in the end.

*Prof. Nagler highlighted that the old cities should be for all segments of society from different backgrounds and interests, for residents and tourists equally. Switching to Cairo: What are the goals in Hussenya? How is Hussenya related to other parts of the city and what makes this a historical quarter? How can the quarter be upgraded?*

**Prof. Dr. Nabeel ElHady** explored the notion of »understanding« and investigating the historical significance of the Hussenya area and its relations to other parts of the city. Hussenya was built in a rather informal manner as a residential area outside the cities gates but it had a lot of activities in common with the inner, formal city till it became more isolated as a result of certain developments that took place in the era of Abbas II. Today it is a specific community with up to 50% unemployed. In Hussenya a lot of challenges and initiatives with minimal resources that reflect great potential take place. Building upon this, students started to reveal the existing but maybe hidden or wasted resources and to reconnect the area to the surrounding quarters, to bring back life to Hussenya. Continuous investigations uncovered different resources everyday and, within a very critical political and economical context as urban development, aimed to improve the lives of the residents, instead of only addressing investors or political parties. The project created an investment in education and (long-term) job opportunities. As in pre-modern times »historic« cities did not exist, the significance of education and cultural awareness were quite important to convince stakeholders and to foster inhabitants of the certain value of a »historic district«. If tackled and improved it can be rather imperatively effective and develop the quality of life of the residents and the area as a whole.

*Prof. Nagler emphasised how important continuous and renewable development within the existing context is in this relevant issue and raised the question: How to work with ordinary people, and how to create development that they can be proud of and live in harmony with?*

**Prof. Salah Zaki** answered the moderator's question by presenting the development of Al-Darb al-Ahmar area where he is working on the renovation and upgrading of Souq Al-Selah as a »popular« area. In this context the word »popular« is more successful than »historic«, as it expresses that the multi-layered area is still in use and alive. Renovating the existing buildings, whether valuable and listed as historically significant or not, they worked on the infrastructure and rehabilitation of buildings according to the needs of the local community. There had been continuous attempts of different practitioners to reuse and rehabilitate the outdoor areas and old buildings. So they dealt with popular modern housing projects that were re-used as public hotels, added pocket gardens instead of the left over spaces prior used as parking areas, created workspaces for students inside a mosque as well as worked on water and sewage networks. Working on both architectural and urban level, they created different renewed nodes throughout the main thoroughfare of Old Cairo.

*Prof. Heinz Nagler emphasised the importance to be aware of the scale, architectural guidelines and urban motifs. It is a challenge to adapt the new guidelines regulating the modern layers, while respecting the complex aspects of historic areas and important elements. How can you create contemporary architecture that obeys the old cities urban rules by using modern urban structures in renovation and redevelopment processes, short: Is contemporary architecture possible in »historic quarters«?*

In his previous research **Arch. Omar Nagati** worked on urban management and interventions in Downtown Cairo. Maps of Downtown Cairo highlighted that the urban structure was based on urban spaces as alleys and »hidden« passageways. These passages in Downtown Cairo are an urban typology that form a space of negotiation between private and public and a network that makes an alternative image of the city layers visible. Downtown Cairo gained its glamour and special character from its aesthetic architectural buildings, squares and the scale in its variation through different spaces. Furthermore functions and activities in this area clearly differ from one zone to another, where you can find street markets in its very narrow alleys. The students and younger generation architects that worked on the research, framework and revitalisation project »Mapping Downtown Passages« (2014) saw them not only as a physical gap, but as a metaphor of transition. One of these projects, a community garden with art installations and events, was implemented in the Kodak and Philips passageway. The outcome includes a stakeholder map, landscape studies, approvals of working in these areas and photos of construction and implementation of the design. Therefore very limited resources were used, yet they are considered as a start for more projects that would follow the same steps.

*Prof Heinz Nagler emphasised that urban renovation and development processes should not only deal with buildings, but rather take into considerations urban spaces and structures along their different scale as these urban landscapes are where life takes place: How can a modern city and its urban development processes be seen through the viewpoint of those who respect the city's culture and history? What are the means of coping between the modern and western lifestyle, and the traditional culture of Egyptian cities that was suggested to adopt and re-embrace?*

Concerning inhabited cities **Mrs. Shahira Mehrez** confirmed the need to talk about »contemporary« cities instead of »modern« ones. This contemporary city is a very complicated entity, unlike the traditional one. Nowadays the neighbours do not know each other, nor even share one another's important occasions. This contrasts the social essence of the traditional city as a place that *holds mercy towards all people* (Hasan Fathi). The traditional city realised the dream of a society rather than the ones of individuals. Structures were built in proximity without trying to excel each other, but to complete each other in harmony as Sultan Hassan and ElRefaie mosques. To develop the contemporary cities, it is unalterable to study the history, know ones identity and respect the cultures and people. It is necessary to recreate the traditional cities instead of rebuilding them. There's no contradiction between re-embracing our culture, learning from our history, and at the same time living a modern lifestyle, respecting the Egyptian culture and history, but yet open up to the foreign ones seeking additions to culture and work, without sacrificing its distinguished character.

## Discussion

After the enriching panel numerous commentaries were discussed and complementary as well as opposing issues were proposed. Among them was the issue of how the younger generation of architects and researchers can connect and grasp the essence and character of the city's identity methodologically to consider and utilise this dealing with and designing contemporary architecture and urbanism in an historical context. Concerning this topic the identity crisis was tackled as it is not only recognised in Egypt, but in many countries as the famous dispute of living a "modern" life versus sticking to the "roots". A cultural identity of a given individual or community is not a singular entity, but rather a mixture of the multi-layering of history and heritage, as well as the future identity. These identities also tangle the way to deal with the cities. As political economy and stakeholders are much more pressing factors affecting urban development in urban projects than aesthetics, the issue of dealing with valuable buildings and spaces rather than historical ones was discussed in relation to the work presented by Nagati and Zaki during the debate. Dealing with such contexts includes engaging with the community as an intermediate and designer, dealing with the current set of users and understanding the order that they created in their spaces. This lead to the question if the metropolis of Cairo can be planned anyway, as it is a self-moderated entity that cannot be controlled completely. This was counterclaimed by the opinion that historical Islamic cities had laws and controlled urbanism. Even during the years of the revolution, the people in Cairo organised themselves and created order. This order of the informal activities needs to be studied and might be the basis for creating a complex order based on what was categorised as chaotic practices.

*What would you give the students on their way in order to make sure the historical cities are in good hands in the future ?*

We should make sure to pass on the lessons we learn from our existing communities and cities, which does not have to be called »identity«, but rather »lessons learnt«. **Prof. ElHady**

There is a lack of studies that deal with old existing context and an urgent need to change this fact. There must be an understanding of the multi-layering of identity to utilise this in creating diversity. **Mehrez**

To realise that engaging with the community is most important to learn from the hidden order generated by the people. **Arch. Nagati**

First of all we all have to get on learning from other cultures and never forget to have a step-by-step development. By time, we shall add a new layer to our cities; otherwise, they won't have a future. These new multi-layers can continue and encourage the adaptive reuse through changing the function - although Egyptian laws do not permit this. **Prof. Baller**

The suitable method to deal with old contexts is to understand the people and their needs. Next to respectful learning, students should formulate their own knowledge without just imposing the professors' thoughts on them. **Prof. Zaki**

## Egyptian - German Joint Master Programs ...

### Part 1 International academic cooperation beyond politics

Dr. Irene El-Khorazaty, DAAD Office Cairo  
Christoph Wessling (Moderation)

The second day of the conference started with the Egyptian - German Joint Master Programs for Architecture and Urban Planning where Christoph Wessling introduced the four joint programs and their main program coordinators.

**Dr. Irene El-Khorazaty** started her words by looking back upon many different joint programs between Egypt and Germany since 2007, with about 500 registered students and about 200 alumni in various programs in the fields of architectural heritage and urban conservation with the financial support of the DAAD. The focus of her presentation was set in the quality of the different joint programs in general and the challenges facing these programs as well as some perspectives for the future.

These programs are outstanding as they are jointly designed and achieved through cooperation and collaboration. Students study across different cultures and countries, learn from various examples and successful projects, just the same as they learn from the problems facing Egypt and the MENA region to find grand solutions for the problems of all the countries involved. The programs offer students the ability to learn several important skills such as problem solving, practical as well as concept adaptation and the participants are awarded a double degree from both universities. Indicating that the previous experiences with joint programs showed great success, she reflected on the increase in the graduate's opportunities to get a job in the market. About 80% of the graduates acquire adequate jobs after finishing a given joint program. The programs offer highly intensive knowledge transfer and networking, in addition to including interaction with the different stakeholders such as academic faculties and the professional sector. The DAAD aims at utilising these programs to help in building bonds between people and universities and promotes the labor market through conferences altogether with organisations such as GIZ, what motivates companies to finance such joint programs.

The challenges facing the joint programs in general comprise organisation, administration and finance as well as overcoming the difference in cultures and an implication of an active marketing of the programs. What leads to the main challenge facing the DAAD in all the programs is the need to be sustainable in the fields of content, demand and finance.

## ... for Architecture and Urban Planning

### Part 2 Presentation of the Master Programs

#### Urban Design – Revitalization of Historic City Districts

Cairo University / Alexandria University / Brandenburg University of Technology, Prof. Heinz Nagler

**Prof. Heinz Nagler** introduced the program curriculum, structure and progress of the project-based, joint double master degree program Urban Design - Revitalization of Historic City Districts.

The main aims of the program are to let the students learn the design process which is needed in order to reach their approaches and innovative solutions, achieving sustainability, practical experience, encouraging studying abroad, the exchange of faculty members and the building of academic strength in all involved universities. Presenting the observations and findings of the workshops done from 2006 till 2014 in Cairo, Cottbus, Dresden, Beirut and other cities, which formed part of the program, Prof. Nagler stressed the main focus of the master program as to raise awareness of the historic districts and highly protected heritage sites and to learn integrated design by respecting the context what is important in both Germany and MENA region.

Besides the achievements of the program and it's surroundings, the concern of the funding challenge attended with the substantial idea of the program as well as the syllabus being sustainable by itself are always faced. Therefore at a basically tuition-free university the master programs Building Conservation, World Heritage, Heritage Conservation and Site Management are considered as university add-ons, thus paid programs. On one hand this means that only pecunious students can afford such a program. On the other hand it means that as a program coordinator in every intake you have to await the number and mixture of enrolling students and never can reliably projects. As it is proven such a program can work without external support and by minimum resources starting with no scholarships and very little means; but to take a long view to save the program and to allow less fortunate but highly skilled students to participate, a small amount of scholarships that could be provided by contributors as the DAAD or others would be needed.



### **Heritage Conservation and Side Management**

Brandenburg University of Technology / Helwan University  
Prof. Dr. Hosam Refai

Indicating the global importance of cultural heritage and the needs for academic master programs in world heritage in Egypt **Prof. Dr. Hosam Refai** introduced the master program Heritage Conservation and Side Management. He underlined the importance of advertisement and cooperation for master programs by reviewing the background and activities carried out by ICEEM (International Centre of Excellence for Education and Management) and mentioned the challenges of logistic approvals of all involved councils and universities as DAAD, Ministry of Archaeology and others in order to proceed with the program. A great achievement could be seen in October 2015 when the masters defense for the first intake had been held successfully by video conferencing in cooperation with the BTU committee.

### **Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design (IUSD)**

Stuttgart University / Ain Shams University  
Dr. Marwa Abdel-Lateef on behalf of IUSD program coordinator, Prof. Mohamed Salheen

**Dr. Marwa Abdel-Lateef** gave an overview of the IUSD master program, the programs beginning and start-up and discussed the funding and coordination process. IUSD can be seen as a research platform that deals with real life projects in community implementation. The programs focus fields include sustainability, environmental issues and integration among other fields as social and economic aspects of urbanism to create a new generation of leaders and decision makers by exposing them to different cultures as part of the learning process and by strengthening the link between academia and urban practice, as well as bridging the gap between different academic institutions locally and abroad. It has to be highlighted that this special master program targets groups from widespread academic backgrounds what creates a platform for integrating multidisciplinary and international research between different fields, promoting interaction and exchange.

The programs response can be seen in the noticeable increasing number of applicants and intakes containing international students from different countries as Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, USA, Sudan and others as well as in the current employments of IUSD alumni. These include international institutions, the public sector and universities in the MENA region, non-governmental organisations, architectural firms and other sectors. Dr. Abdel-Lateef concluded by explaining the significance of joint degrees, stressing on the need for clear and targeted aims, as well as on studying and the motivations for research.

## **Urban Development**

TU Berlin / TU Campus El Gouna  
Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schäfer

This program differs from the others as it is an entirely German one celebrating its opening in 2012 as a branch campus of TU Berlin in El-Gouna. Although it might be only a German program, having Egyptian students in an Egyptian context it is also considered as an international experience.

The objectives of the not design-based master program are understanding urban areas, unveiling the forces underlying urban conflicts and exploring concrete approaches and solutions. To achieve this under the concept of sustainability the program comprises the four fields urban planning, project management, technical infrastructure and interdisciplinary studies including searching for the balance between the five important elements of ecology, economy, social context, cultural background and governance. The program encourages the inclusion of different backgrounds such as civil engineering, political science, sociology and economics, beside the more frequent fields such as architecture, urban planning and environmental planning with at least one year professional experience in related working fields. In case of career opportunities of the programs students, it was stated that nearly all students that obtained their masters degree in urban development, have found jobs in one of their study related fields and are now considered alumni for networking with students. As an academic outcome of the students work **Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schäfer** mentioned the benefits of adopting the concept of interdisciplinary research combined with utilising students concepts from previous years as teaching methodologies in the future as an continuous improvement process of the program. Next to the research and development work done in the program, one of the programs aims is to address the red sea region and focus on finding research areas within this context.

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schäfer mentioned the challenge in questions of data transfer in Egypt from professionals, as well as libraries and stated wherefore El-Gouna is used as an urban lab and Hurgada as a regional lab that the students can apply their researches on. As part of an university in Berlin, the program has accessibility to the European Institute of Technology EIT, which is highly funded by the EU, hence allowing all students to have the opportunity to research and to take part in events that are organised by it. Furthermore the program holds the climate KIC label. In the last point Schäfer talked about the future of the program under financial aspects. As a fully paid program the university is aiming on getting scholarships for students from the DAAD, Sawires and other organisations.

## Podium Debate

# Challenges and Perspectives of international Joint Study Programs

Dr. Roman Luckscheiter, Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schäfer, Dr. Marwa Abdel-Lateef, Prof Dr. Hosam Refai, Prof. Dalila ElKerdany, Prof. Heinz Nagler  
Prof. Dr. Hebatalla Abouelfadl (Moderation)

*What are the challenges and perspectives facing international Joint Study Programs?*

**Dr. Marwa Abdel-Lateef** classified three main categories of challenges faced by the IUSD program; institutional, academic and professional. First hand the institutional challenges are related to the cultural methodological differences while having a multi-disciplinary program that has to be taught in a professional way. On the other hand the IUSD also handles with funding challenges; in this regard the DAAD was extremely helpful though there would be the need to modify the regulations to make it easier for the students to join such joint programs. The academic challenges included the language of teaching and studying being English. It had been difficult to find professors and teaching staff with strong academic background as well as a professional command of academic English language, in addition to the language challenge for the students as well.

**Prof. Dr. Hosam Refai** indicated that in contrast to Egypt, Cottbus and especially Germany has a lot of programs and modules that address the world heritage management. As a side effect the modules offered in the study integrated BTU Cottbus term are stronger than the ones offered in Egypt, which addresses the issue of consistent content in the programs. Although Egypt is very rich with its archaeological and heritage sites, there is a lack of orientation and focus towards managing these sites. Prof. Dr. Hosam Refai stated his encouragement to widen the awareness of these issues that need professional skills and knowledge which are provided by the program.

*How can these and more challenges of the German-Egyptian experience be solved?*

Addressing the audience **Prof. Heinz Nagler** defined the first step to solve these and other main challenges by moving through different countries and cities as Cottbus, Cairo and Alexandria. It is a challenge, but the experience is worth it, in order to widen the range of innovative ideas and to allow exposure to different cultures. Even so the need for funding continues. Program coordinators might need to work more on advertisement aspects, in order to get funds and to get sustainable in itself as well as to facilitate the process. He stressed the uniqueness of the German-Egyptian experience and that it deserves to be funded.

**Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schäfer** stated that the program is mainly funded by tuition fees and subsidies. Although it is paid and a German-German program the number of applicants, not only because of marketing issues, is growing. He stressed that it is significant to take into consideration the international institutional level, which is expected to take time, yet is important for the program development.

*What is the next student target group?*

**Dr. Marwa Abdel-Lateef** discussed the difficulty of pushing the concept of alumni, but naming exactly this as the challenge. The social media and marketing ways are important to reach a certain target group that is interested in such joint programs. Adopting freedom of thought also comes by working with different interventions as e.g. refugees, children or controversial issues. Students who work in such environments will evidently shift to be professionals in their fields.

## Discussion

Another issue of the programs was the group work in the projects done by students from different destinations, and the extent of the experience and challenges of this teamwork, since students' groups from different backgrounds always find difficulty in developing common concepts based on their different perspectives. It was also supported that these challenges can be overcome through defining the role of each student in a team and having effective communication between the teammates. By this common solutions according to the different experiences and backgrounds by dealing with the differences can come up with a common approach as part of the task assigned for students.

Among the issues raised was the corrective of the international offices for coordination and international academic exchange. It was criticised that except of the international office in Ain Shams University the international offices at Egyptian universities lack in terms of organisation and continuously trained employees. Problems and supporting initiatives were discussed and the DAAD re-emphasised that internationalisation should be a core initiative in Egyptian universities in order to be able to compete with international universities. Although the DAAD does not have a custom program for international offices, they offer activities and essential courses that might help in preparing better international offices in Egyptian universities, such as train the trainers (TOT) as well as the Cairo academy, which includes many different development modules. Those responsible and interested were kindly invited to acquaint themselves with these.

The further discussion included the funding systems of the programs. The DAAD emphasised the need for the programs to establish an independent long-term existence as the DAAD funding helps to start-up but naturally has to be limited in time and resources. As each program is unique every one should find its own focus point to tackle and its own procedure to grow up to a so called sustainable program. In this regard the issue of marketing is quite essential and the program coordinators were encouraged to improve their program marketing in all terms. To name but a few promising opportunities could be generated through proper websites, the use of the social media channels, by extending to events and fairs and by engaging the business sector and media as funding, cooperation or knowledge exchange partners. Alongside the benefits of cooperation with the business sector in order of funding and to help prepare its graduates and attract job opportunities the programs need of making a balance between the business sector and the university was indicated. Besides the time-limited common funding of the programs a funding of scholarships for the programs was highly recommended by the coordinators.

Eventually the set of problems of the various types of degrees offered by the different programs was brought up. The award that the degree MSc offered by some programs cannot be used on its own by students to get into the syndicate of engineering in Egypt brought to light the priority to solve these problems carefully and within a narrow timeframe to achieve transparency and to maintain and increase the students interest in the programs.

## Presentation of the common publication **Revitalizing City Districts**

Christoph Wessling (Moderation)

Christoph Wessling welcomed the audience to the research activities session and introduced the common research work publication done by the partners in the last three years. The goal of this publication is a documentation of different projects, as well as an inspiration for further debates, research activities and postgraduate theses, emphasising how this could open new questions and new thoughts in research.

### **Strategies for the Preservation of the Heritage of the Suez Region and Port Said**

Prof. em. Inken Baller / Prof. Dr. Dalila ElKerdany

Prof. Baller presented the preliminary idea of the publication concerning »Port Said as a cosmopolitan heritage under threat“. Concerning the joint research project in the city of Port Said various older photos and maps of the old city centre of Port Said illustrated the local style of architecture that developed because of the hybridation between the European modernism and the traditional Egyptian style that both existed in Port Said's culture, identity and architecture. The comparison with the contemporary ones of Port Said showed how the city witnessed severe deterioration and demolition of distinguished buildings and structures that evidently need protection and renovation as La Casa d'Italia, the Port Said theatre, the Municipality Market and the Hotel National.

Starting with a general introduction about the already enlisted world heritage sites, exploring different examples and cities all over the world the idea was investigated of how these heritage sites in Port-Said can be conserved in a better way. Prof. Baller criticised the UNESCO's charters as challenging to satisfy the local criteria for each country's heritage but in comparison to the numerous different World Heritage sites in Europe and even Iran the seven enlisted sites of Egypt that were nominated 36 years ago, manifested very few although the country is very rich on cultural heritage. Considering such a small figure the lack of documentation and management plans is alarming. Applying for more heritage sites in Egypt could protect heritage as well as attract a higher base for tourism as in Egypt the heritage sites, with exception of the St. Catherines monastery, don't have variety and mainly touch pharaonic heritage.

An application for a World Heritage Site needs a site to be put on the tentative list, an inventory of countries most important natural and cultural sites. Thanks to the research and the common work done by the Port Said Administration, Urban Harmony, Port Said University and the NGO's of »Saving Port Said's Heritage« around 600 houses had been inventoried and categorised by it's heritage as potentials. Port Said and Suez Canal Architecture now are on this tentative list. There also had been developed ideas for strategies to fund the locals and to use public properties as a potential. Although these buildings are listed, demolition and neglect takes place as until today houses are replaced by skyscrapers to be rent with higher rents.

Another difficult issue that may hinder the process of protection of the endangered buildings to prevent their collapse is finding the fund and help from local authorities although some requirements on the management level as a fundraising plan and financial management, the establishment of an advisory board, safe guarding measures for the endangered buildings in collaboration with the municipality as well as special

management strategies such as local conservation initiatives, development of urban neighbourhoods and not least community awareness are required urgently.

The locals are not caring so much for their heritage, since it's former cosmopolitan community is hard to find in Port Said anymore. So the hope for the protection of the city's history and heritage is in the hands of the younger generation as the key to the preservation process is believing that protecting the heritage benefits the city rather than hindering it. Prof. Baller once more commended the efforts of entities such as NGO's, which reflect the local encouragement of the people to bring about positive change in their city.

## Discussion

Among the issues raised were the questions, what stage the activities in Port Said reached, who's responsible and if all the ideas are properly collected. As the head of the movement Prof. Baller and Prof. ElKerdany are unfortunately still in the phase of collecting ideas and papers. The administrative and management is involved in Port-Said as well as local authorities, stakeholders and NGOs while the government feels responsible but nothing happened so far. Currently they are working on establishing a wider spectrum of involved parties, as further intervention is required from the local bodies such as the Suez Canal Authority. This lead to a discussion about the difference between the theoretical approach and reality measures in conservation and protection processes. It was argued that the theoretical and academic side of the protection process differs from the implementation side of the guidelines set and approvals. Concerning this issues the community should be involved in deciding and implementing the guidelines for heritage protection, as well as finding economic incentives for the community members is necessary in order to encourage their participation and attention.



## **The Transformation of Public Space in Cities of the Mena Region**

Dr. Anette Gangler

Guiding through different historic contexts and locations in the case studies of Aleppo, Taschkent in Uzbekistan and her reflected impressions of Cairo, Dr. Anette Gangler presented the idea that social and political orders are reflected in the public space design and usage of public space.

By presenting pictures of the old city of Aleppo mentioning the transformation of the urban structure in courtyards, open spaces and density she argued that old cities were a product of an informal process. A timeline of Aleppos history underlined its urban transformation process and formal joint interventions and showed how political and economical conditions always affect their context. On the other hand a post-war reconstruction needs to be based on analysis of historical images and lessons to learn from as it can be seen in many successful bottom-up and top-down projects on conservations focusing on public spaces during the last two decades.

Similar to Aleppo, Taschkent as an islamic city changed according to multiple political changes and witnessed many modern interventions. Under the Russian impact and it's independence in 1991 inside the network of historic city structures huge pre-fabricated settlements had been created. In between these residential blocks there hadn't been any private outside space. Later those so called »Mahalas«had been re-collected and privatised by local residents.

The impressions in the case of Cairo focused on the informal settlements where outdoor spaces are used for social and entertainment activities as trade and crafts, while the formal streets designed in the last century are occupied by traffic. Comparable to the old city organisation, during revolution Tharir square got a self-organised space in a self-organised development, when people informally organised each other and in a way created the power of people again. This is what is the driving factor to develop the urban tissue. While public space is a mirror of society and shows social wrongs, urban planning should not be dominated by political ideologies, but be based on the past to develop realistic strategies for the future as public space stands for a participation in an »civil society“.

### **Discussion**

The following discussion concentrated on the question if there really is an invisible power in public spaces. Space boundaries and relations to the surrounding buildings play a role as well as open spaces add strength to a community. The issued example of Tharir Square, mainly has a political factor imbedded in its history, image and it's central position seems to be the most important aspect although form, site and location are all aspects that influence the importance of a place.

## **Challenges for Sustainable Development of Informal Settlements and of Desert New Towns in Cairo**

Prof. Hans Harms

Prof. Harms discussed urban policy and how informal areas could also be sites of sustainable developments just like historical areas. Describing the characteristics of informal settlements in Cairo it was highlighted that informal areas, built in the 1950ies and 1960ies, are characterised by high density, missing any documented history as informal settlements were built on agricultural land in the desert with distinct ownership patterns and boundaries. The informal low density desert towns have no former ownership pattern as it is desert they built on. As development patterns and structures are not pre-formed or planned and as no local authority or government got involved the decision making would create similar morphology to medieval towns. The two study areas of the former informal Boulak El-Dakroul quarter and the Establ Antar /Surour quarter, show how these two areas differ in their structures and dynamics of growth, extension and ownership patterns. Visualised on two images Harms compared the morphology and structure of traditional cities to these informal settlements, where similarities were obviously noticed between both.

These new towns were built far away from the city's center, and because they were and are not accessible by public transport and only 7% of the population own a private car these cities were left with very low occupancy rates even after 30 years of their completion. Although these new towns are far away from water (Nile), 60% of the cities is open space that has to be maintained and is only affordable for wealthy people. All this leads to that the density of the inner city is not working anymore and mainly retail remains in the centers next to a low investment prosperty and high vacancy.

Hence, people searched for areas of residence near the city's center, they built themselves high-density areas. These informal settlements represent the people's needs as they are mixed use areas where many opportunities for work and workshops are given, connected to existing networks in strategically good areas with a close neighbourhood, but a missing infrastructure, local and administrative services and green. 85% of these informal settlements are constructed on agricultural lands, whereas only 10% are on desert lands. Comparing this process to Islamic traditional cities, Bulaq historic quarter is similar to current Bulaq and in the informal areas flats are stil affordable whereas formal areas cost double the prize. The present »New Towns« make up 80% of the total development and let Cairo grow by 40% to let 60% of the population live there.

Concluding, the author raised the question if this is the strategy to develop the city of modern Cairo economically and socially; based on political economy rather than bottom-up policies that answer people's needs. Harms finalised by asking what the future would be. Would public and governmental bodies intervene to help those needing residence but in their own terms?

## **Challenges of Sustainable Urbanisation and the Phenomenon of Densification in Cairo**

Prof. Dr. Sahar Attia

Prof. Dr. Sahar Attia researches on the challenges of sustainable urban development and the phenomenon of density. What is density and what is its definition, how to deal with it, whether it is a product or a matter of rules or a tool that needs to be controlled to realise a certain vision.

Presenting a map documenting unsafe, planned and unplanned areas, with pictures showing the existing contradictory urbanism the case study concentrated on greater Cairo. The first example of the ring road construction showed how urbanism was faster than road construction, which reflects the importance of creating and implementing regulations organising planning and densities in reference to time. The second example of Hay Wast Al-Qahira, according to the formal numbers of CAPMAS, reflects a dense area, which after being observed and studied, shows that it is actually not that dense. Third Dr. Attia compared three informal areas having different quality of life using pictures to compare densities in these areas to new planned cities and gated compounds.

As a result Dr. Attia described the concept of density as tricky as numbers of people in relation to the area of their contexts, where the standards of classifying high and low density change from one place to another. Density is not only related to densification of a certain spot but rather to infrastructure, quality of life, the area, culture and needs. Thus, the difference between net and gross densities is very tricky because densification is not only about people increasing in numbers, but rather about inhabited spaces. In conclusion, Sahar Attia raised questions about densities and sustainability, its relation to urban form, urban identity and needs. She emphasised the importance of applying this approach in historic districts, retaining cultural identity and health, as related to typology, morphology and quality of life.

## Presentation of the common research project

# **Sustainable Urban Density for the Development of Egyptian Cities**

### **Sustainable Urbanisation? Questions to Sustainable Urban Density**

Prof. Frank Schwartz

Prof. Schwartz opened his presentation by outlining some questions that initiated the research groups topic of sustainable urbanisation concerning structures and materials, transportation, communication, energy and resources. Discussing the term density in the context of sustainable urbanisation, Prof. Schwartz highlighted that density helps in realising sustainable developments but always depends on the balance. Avoiding negative impacts through »cautious«planning causes working, intelligent solutions as mixed-use, integrated social and transport and a service infrastructure. But after all, the key factor for sustainable urbanisation is »planning«. Is there a success of planned examples of a high building density? Dealing with factors as limited land, limited control over this land and limited public concern causes and results often were mixed use, zoning, flexibility, density, transportation, renewable energy and noise reduction. As a conclusion planning should intervene to guide the approach of applying high densities in sustainable urbanisation processes. So should planning guide density or should density be the starting point of planning processes?

### **Use density**

Prof. Dr. Nicolai Steinø

Prof. Dr. Steinø introduced his issues of his general field of research in parametric design and considered densities as the writing rule for the design as the current additions witness with or without respecting their morphology and typology of existing structure. The key question is how to add new density while respecting the existing morphology, how to define and how to measure density.

As architects handle density in terms of buildings (FAR) planners are more concerned with the density of inhabitants (population density). Some people own large dwellings and do not spend much time at home, other people have small dwellings and spend most of their time in them. Under the viewpoint of speculation, building more houses does not necessarily increase the population density; what leads to the contradiction between the area of people's homes that can trick the density calculations.

The main question therefore is: How to measure density? The NIC index [hours-m<sup>2</sup>-work] is a measure of the total amount of time spent by the total amount of people in a specific space in a course of a typical week. So high intensity of use yields a high NIC index and the other way around. Taking the example of a person at work, the NIC index also respects the time factor while calculating density, not only the area and the number of people. Some single dwellings sit on large plots while others are stacked and sit on small plots. Therefore it is needed to distinguish between the net NIC index and the gross NIC index. The net NIC index concerns only the single dwellings while the gross NIC index takes FAR into account (gross NIC index = net NIC index \* FAR). Dealing with shrinkage and growth the outcome is that a higher density of use can be created in different ways and the question raised by that: How can we actually make the most intensive use of the spaces that we create?

## **Sustainable (urban) densities**

Prof. Dr. Nabeel ElHady

Prof. ElHady introduced the outcomes of previous researches carried out in different universities as he compared two different urban strategies and key concepts from GOPP and from Berlage Institute for the Upper Egypt area. Questioning whether the two strategies are alternatives for each other or if they are addressing two quite dissimilar approaches as one addresses density while the other addresses sustainability.

These two approaches had been analysed through practical experiments. The first experiment simultaneously took place in New Cairo and Downtown Cairo in Spring 2012 and involved the investigation of the density of buildings as well as people in both areas, in addition to the quality of these densities. The second experiment in Spring 2013 involved the investigation of density's influence on people's activities and social life while in a third experiment in Fall 2014, students were asked to design a sustainable house to measure the different approaches of sustainability. In the fourth experiment, conducted in el Me'temadia area, students studied the urban environment, assessed it and proposed sustainable solutions for the area.

All these student project experiments on housing density in different areas in Cairo showed that density triggers the quality of (cultural) life and a sophisticated handling of urban density could save resources in a significant way as high density of population triggers »social explosion«. Both approaches can be discussed by their challenges and opportunities. While some planners and decision-makers view densification as the best solution for the case of Cairo where land is scarce, others debate that this approach may affect the quality of life and the sustainability of the urban environment.

## Key Note Lecture by David Sims

### **Revitalizing Historic Cairo: Obstacles to Attracting Private Investment**

In 2012 and 2013 David Sims and his team worked on feasibility studies of the medinas of five countries in the arab world as Monaco, Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon and about 30 medinas and historic centers as part of the 2030 Medina investment program. A program of the European Union and the European Investment Program with the main aim to find programs to fund as a mix of loans and grants.

What they found is that there are a lot of common trends and how similar they are. Most of the medinas have witnessed common trends in terms of historic assets and they found out that historic centres face various problems. These were deterioration in the context and weak building conditions, depopulation and a flight of the middle class that lead to a concentration of poverty, deterioration of housing stock and infrastructure, safety issues, traffic and parking problems and the trend of handicrafts and artwork to be in decline. That can be explained by globalisation and modification of the products but is also exchanged by other activities mostly oriented towards tourism. Weak building control and regulations as well as difficult enforcement stress the unique economic role of historic centers as part of the greater city is declining in most cases while the rate of people living in the historic city center only represents maximum 5% of the population living in Greater Cairo. On the other side the historic centres have a lot of upward potentials. It remains a dynamic nature and distinct areas, with a concentration of unique and historic assets. There are locational advantages as these cities get bigger and bigger the historic areas are in the middle of the town. In most medinas the historic fabric and the public infrastructure is not in a that bad condition. In most places is a vibrant traditional commercial activity as at the Khan Kalili in Cairo. Tourism industry is strong in most medinas and there is very little gentrification.

#### **Management of Medinas**

The management of medinas is a very important aspect. So you have to rise the question: Who is responsible for historic centers? In most cases the main responsibility lies with the national authorities but in no case these authorities specifically test with deservng or enhancing or revitalising medinas they have countrywide. Than it usually falls straight to local government. So there are a lot of councils and NGOs that do come together but they tend to be not stable actores and not very influential.

Dealing with the management of the medinas one of the problems when you come to medinas is what you call the limitation to market function and ordering as the property ownership system is not very well organised a very complex ownership structure makes it hard for investors to find a clean title. Another problem is the domination of the old rent control system. The biggest problem is the ability to halt private buildings decay and »illegal” development. On the medina level there often is very little planning, planning control and expertise done and there are limited and very traditional ideas and solutions. The idea that the historic medina has a real estate but also a national value is not very common. There are a lot of individual initiatives and a lot of interventions but they tend to be sectoral at specific spots with very little coordination and thus the impact disappeared. There are the same problems with the undeveloped public financial systems. So one of these problems is that the property tax either doesn't exist or it is so weak that it cannot be transferred as an incentive for private investment. PPPs could be a good way to deal with historic centers but this approach is almost unknown although it is talked about a lot in Egypt. Under all this aspects and the experience that private sector investments in medinas are rare, usually sporadic and small in scale its easier to handle, faster and much more effective to implement many small scale projects instead of one big scale one (small boutique hotels, traditional handicrafts combined with art galleries etc. vs. big museum) that have a knock-on

effect. To reflect the past and current efforts virtually all Medinas have had numerous interventions. Among public space and infrastructure interventions, often by national and ministerial governments, historic building and monument preservation (esp. by agencies and donors), interventions to halt the deterioration of private properties and collapsing buildings as well as the support for traditional handicrafts and commerce. There is a plethora of support from external stakeholders and donors (World Bank, USAID Grants of sovereign loans), technical assistance for studies, capacity building, networking and exchange. Typical interventions can be successful on their own right, but question sustainability without continued external funding and support.

Although non of the counties have a national strategy, institution or funding agency for the historic rehab, nor specific laws for medina reservation and rehabilitation, there are many mixed experiences and approaches. In this context it has to be highlighted that in contrast to other cities, Greater Cairo perhaps has the greatest islamic heritage value and a medina that has great potentials but has as well no concrete plans although many external donors as the Agha Khan trust, many European organisations and the UNESCO were interested in funding aspects of historic city rehabilitation. The strategies of how to deal with historic contexts can be summed up in four main approaches:

### **1. Replication of Classic Heritage and Urban revival packages**

Therefore a state finance agrees with the international donor to take a loan and grant. By creating a dedicated implementation agency (e.g. CDR in case of Lebanon) in cooperation with products of the world bank and PIU (project implementation/management units) based on national and international laws, this agency has the influence and funds, to improve public spaces, conserve and adapt the reuse of monuments and historic buildings, support commercial activities, rehabilitate the housing stocks as well as to enforce zoning and urban regulations. This approach also hosts effective strategies for traffic and parking management, the protection of landscape and green areas, the support of the local economic development, the Project Management Unit and institutional national and local strengthening. Some effects of these approach strategies and the governmental strategies of Cairo can be seen on the current situation of the now accessible Bab Al-Fotou in Cairo.

### **2. Concentration on Management, Project Articulation and Finance**

This approach takes a certain manner to grant supported and technical assistance. By integrating and bringing together the government, the private sector, communities and NGOs, among others at a stakeholder forum it can come to a city development strategy on medina scale. Trying to improve property ownership and registration it is also necessary to work on an establishment and enforcement of basic planning and regulation it is also important to work on the basic public finance foundations as ways to make fiscal transfers and property taxation easier. Preparing project identification is always important as a donor may be interested but is rarely willing to do the preliminary work themself.

### **3. Alternative Co-Financing**

This approach comprises the PPP and BOT financing. Used in mostly industrial European city centers for revitalisation this approach is a successful one as it depends mostly on the funding generated from taxes and tax incentives for private investments as well as from fundraising of specific public sector financing. An integrated development PPP on the basis of a tailor made payment scheme focuses on the integrated area development. Before using this tool it is necessary to have a well working, organised taxation system.

#### **4. Bottom-up Financing**

As a »property-by-property” process it is an asset management for religious endowments. The improvement of districts goes long with the municipalities, as well as social housing units and housing credits, including real estate gentrification incentives, small and medium level businessmen and financial activities innovation and reinforcement. In some cities the municipalities name a special improvement district with a dedicated budget. This approach would be very effective in a weak institutional framework.

As part of the Medina 2030 study the research team prepared a ranking of 16 medinas where Historic Cairo despite its great potentials only was positioned at rank six. Criterias were monumental heritage value, urban heritage value, existing strategies or plans, public property opportunities, potential for revenue generation, tourism potential and public partner support. Practically the Cairean position is mainly due to its historic monuments and valuable assets, yet in terms of plans and strategies that relate to community and poverty limitation but fall back in comparison to other cities such as Tunis and Casablanca in terms of the existing monumental heritage value and the suggested development strategies based on their potentials. Greater Cairo's main investment obstacles are the land, property and registration problems, the very low flow of tourism, the decline of the craft and artisan industry, the restricted vehicular access and parking, poor public space and solid waste management, the little control of illegal construction, the poor institutional ownership and coordination, project-by-project rehabilitation approaches and the no area-specific investment promotion. As advantages can be seen the huge cultural and historical heritage, the prime location within Greater Cairo, the active NGO sector, the good pedestrianisation and the property opportunities.

The main investment opportunities and tools, which are rarely exploited can be the adaptive reuse of historic structures for commercial purposes, PPP and BOT for rehabilitation and reuse of major historic structures, private hotels, restaurants, craft emporiums, gentrified housing units as well as tax and other incentives for investment. The positive effect of reinforcing micro-crafts as a strategy for financial development ever again has to be acknowledged.

Investing in the development of historic centres is a significant approach, one which pays back after the projects reach their expected positive effect within their contexts, and encouraged the need for raising awareness in this regard. Because of the lack of understanding the value and the above problems of implementation, the discovered strategies are now being developed in other medinas but not in the one of Greater Cairo. In summary, the medina of greater Cairo has many investment potentials, but not a good prognosis for private investment in the short term. All the more reason to start to create a conducive investment climate for a range of activities and investors, both big and small.

## Podium Debate

### Historic Districts of Tomorrow

David Sims, Prof. Dr. Shahdan Shabka, Prof. Dr. Hesham Seoudy, Prof. Heinz Nagler, Prof. Dr. Galila Elkadi, Shahira Mehrez, Abdelhamid Salah, Dr. Haby Hosny, Dr. Sherif AlGohary

Prof. Dr. Dalila ElKerdany (Moderation)

*Dr. Sherif AlGohary, as it is one of the major problems of Historic Cairo; How to make governmental bodies talk to each other and which of the approaches David Sims mentioned is the best for Cairo's rehabilitation projects?*

**Dr. Sherif AlGohary:** The case of governmental organisation can be best described at the example of a project before the revolution time in the city of Luxor, organised by a ministerial committee headed by the prime minister. This committee was successful because of a formal coordination and a clear management legislations next to hard decisions makers.

*In the case of Luxor the governor had been an ex-military autocratic leadership what lead to a non-democratic, problematic project progression with the UNESCO.*

Not only for the three year »Egypt without Slums« national program that inter alia deals with slums in historic areas the integration of the private sector and the applicance of the heard approaches into specific action plans is very important and intended as the government is not able to account that alone.

*Mr. Salah, concerning the Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation; are there any innovations in funding and financing and how helpful are public private partnerships (PPP) in the practical life?*

**Mr. AbdelHamid Salah:** The role of the foundation is how to find the rule of the civil society in NGOs in Egypt with ficial agreements in special projects and ideas concerning the historic areas preservation and development to reduce the problem of financing. As there are many initiatives by the civil society trying to investigate innovative approaches to deal with historical contexts problems and development, it is absolutely necessary to create a priority list of monuments and buildings to concentrate on. Than particular attention can be given to the listed priorities before and during a project's implementation as finance is always limited.

*Acting as a mediator, what are the dynamics and advantages for these partnerships?*

Talking about Historic Cairo there only is a plan since the results of the UNESCO project were delivered in 2012. The foundations role as a mediator could be seen when it offered the ministry to prepare the missing priority list what impacted on it to implement the task into the risk management.

*Prof. Galila Elkadi has both European and Egyptian experiences as she has worked in France and Egypt for a long time. By living in Downtown Cairo she is trying to bring the upper class and intellectuals back to the cities center. How is the communication between the two worlds and can the European revitalisation approaches be applied in Egypt?*

**Prof. Dr. Galila Elkadi:** Cairo is facing a real disaster in dealing with historic areas. The everyday loss of parts of Historic Cairo is part of the degradation Cairo witnessed in the previous decays as it has transformed from the city of minarets to the city of informal areas. Since the revolution the situation got worse as the mafia of specula-

tions has invaded historic Cairo. This becomes visible in the old houses being replaced by new constructions without respect for the historic heritage and the informal development that is hiding landmarks with multi-storey buildings. For the needed rescue program it is not possible to adapt European approaches one by one but within a cooperation conservation practitioners can create oriental approaches.

Suggestions for saving and rescuing the heritage are the freezing of the demolition and construction permits for Historic Cairo for one year, the stop of the supply of water and electricity to any illegal building, the creation of an operational unit to assess and study the current condition and do an inventory of all building violations, to activate building and conservation laws and purpose amendments, to find solutions through participatory processes where the civic society is engaged together with all local entities and governmental bodies, to develop long term plans aiming at improving systematic and economical conditions in the historic neighbourhoods as well as to unify and coordinate all historic districts under one local unit.

*How can local expertise be applied in the protection and renovation of Historic Cairo?*

**Prof. Dr. Shahdan Shabka (Professor of Architecture and Urbanism - Cairo University):**

Within the last ten years Egypt has gained a lot of experience in the process of conservation, heritage, development in general and had been involved in a lot of studies and approaches. Concerning the local expertise, the own experiences and collected personal memories of the old city as its life within craftsmanships, cafés and scents, give hints to deal with. Living in a world where expertises are becoming so transferable, the problem does not lie solely in the experience of bodies making plans, but rather in how to transfer the knowledge and experience to the decision makers, the ones who execute the plans.

*Is there a »recipe« for linking innovative ideas to academia and research with the decision making process?*

**Prof. Heinz Nagler:** Working in the area of Aleppo with Anette Ganler and Agha Khan only for ten years it is not possible to come up with recommendations for Cairo for this complex question. Some hints can be given from the experiences of a success story of a big national program in Germany after the reunification. By then the collapse of the former GDR was visible in the collapse of the historic cities. Without waiting for decision-making authorities the people claimed their historic cities in a peaceful revolution what led to the national program »StadtSanierung«. As a young architect Prof. Nagler guided the city of Cottbus, one out of 20 selected model cities. At the beginning 90% of the funding was spent by the state. Later till the very end the financial ratio of rehabilitation was a third by the state, a third by the federal state and a third by the city. Areas for rehabilitation were selected, very sharp outlined by the parcels and set under a local law what limited the rights of the owners within these areas as they could not sell their properties or change them anymore. Everything they invested they had to declare. Second there was an evaluation and judgement of every single lot and house. After the 20 year lasting program this evaluation was repeated and the owner had to pay back the plus. This money was immediately reinvested into the cities. The input of public investment mostly was put into public spaces. A third was put into private houses facades and a few unstable private houses. What can be seen out of the evaluation is that the public money is added five to ten times by private investments. Another fact is, that although the smaller cities are shrinking, the centres are growing.

Although it was a success story there are a lot of failures that can be made. It is absolutely necessary not to forget the issue of including character, identity and history when talking about development of the historic centres, and not only in terms of economic and monetary revenue versus expenses.

## Discussion

In terms of solving the problems of the historic cities it is very important to hold a general vision or a broader strategy, a guiding principle wherein all interventions and actions can work as in this process the top-down approaches as well as bottom-up approaches are relevant. The top-down approach is essential because there the funds, allocation of resources and general strategies are put. The bottom-up approach is essential to deal with the flexible environments, the needs of people and the community development. Concluding, the main challenge is to find the right interface of the different interests and priorities of the two approaches.

On a related topic, it was discussed that the developments in Cairo are not only driven by economic factors, but by political and administrative factors as well. Deliberating the subject of investment placement versus effective outcome the government is generously funding the formal development in the New Towns outside the city. But there is much less for solving the larger urban problems as infrastructure, accessibility and the prevention of informal development nor for planning and the revitalisation of the important historical areas. This does not aid the cities problems in it's essence but marginalises the cities and communities needs. As it came out that the New Towns do not work as expected and the cities centres are more and more deteriorating, the question is why the financial account is not opened to a redistribution of the resources. Transferring some money from the New Town development to the old towns, adding building regulations, control and little incentives done by inspection and the work of capable planners might help.

In terms of economic investment the climate in historic Cairo is very good. However the awareness for and the development of the old buildings in historic areas have to be supported by a working property tax system. As long as it costs nearly nothing to own a building or an empty plot without maintaining it and as long there is no need or incentive to maintain it, there will not change anything; as long as the owners are not gaining appropriate rent payment, because of the old rent control system; as long as no good and clear laws, regulations and ownership structures are implemented the current property taxation law is ineffective. While in German »tax« means »steuern« what stands for the English »steering« in this case it can be paraphrased with «organising a society«. The German experience has shown that a good property tax system has more impact on urban development than planning. Although there were a lot of different positions in the debates all were in common that the European examples are not applicable one-to-one in Egypt and the correct approach is to find solutions that fit within the Egyptian context.



Key note lecturer David Sims



The conferences information desk



Get together in conference breaks



## Meeting of Architecture Students (MAS) **MAS#4 - Cairo: The Right to the City**

MAS is an initiative that brings together students of architecture from different Egyptian universities, in a friendly environment to get connected, exchange and develop. The idea to establish such a network in Egypt started at the »Change by exchange«-workshops between Cairo, Alexandria and Cottbus. Since then four student meetings were organised; composed of discussions, presentations, city walks/rides and activities that also created bonds between students from different universities that pushed them to collaborate in their studies and projects.

Discussions: The third conference day was solely for students. Students presented an initiative they started, a unique experience they had, a project they made, a conference they attended or a book they read. All of these discussions were related to the theme 'The Right to the City'. After that, questions and conversations among them developed, some would evolve to further cooperation. In all cases, students were very provoked by the topics as it felt very relevant to their studies and urban experiences.

Guest lecture: One of the most important architects working in participatory urban development in Cairo was invited. His work defends the rights of people to the city.

City tours: The activity of city touring is an important part of MAS meetings as local students always try to show their colleagues the hidden gems that they love in their cities. Next to the group dinners, the growing movement of cycling in Cairo and popular Cairene food spots were some lovely and architecturally significant details to share on a nightly bicycle ride to discover Cairo in a new way.

Group activity: In all MAS meetings, students tour a city and have experiences in places that are usually not listed on any map. As a group activity students design maps for four cities, personalised with interesting information that are only known by the locals.

Podium discussion: At the end of MAS#4 it was a strong opportunity to present the initiative to the invited professors from Cairo University and BTU Cottbus, to have a very fruitful discussion about the current structure and future plan of MAS between professors, organisers and the participating students.

Seeing the enthusiasm of the students, their thanks messages and further cooperation, encourages MAS to consider it a very successful event.



Edition notice



