



Urban (Heritage) Narratives Workshop

Every Taracina has a Story

Port Said - Egypt

Heritage Narratives Documentation Workshop - March 2023



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Introduction to Project

Bazar Abbas: Recovery Lab of Port Said November 2022 - January 2025

BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg, with its local partners in Egypt, has initiated a two-year project to contribute to the recovery process of Port Said. This project is funded by the [British Council's Cultural Protection Fund \(CPF\)](#) in partnership with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).



Entry façade of Bazar Abbas - Status in December 2022 ©Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam

Bazar Abbas is a unique hybrid of local architecture and European modernism that has suffered extensive damage as a result of past conflicts on the Suez Canal. This combined architectural typology is repeated in different shapes and forms all over the city of Port Said, a city with a short yet turbulent history: a history of wars and displacements, prosperity and abandonment, colonialism and resistance, marginalisation and power reclamation and many more. These multiple layers of history have been manifested in the architectural and spatial articulation of the city, as well as within the daily life practices of Port Said residents.

Despite its vulnerable status, the 19th century architectural and urban heritage of Port Said has received little to no recovery measures after suffering in multiple series of wars and conflicts since the mid-20th century until today. Therefore, the project aims to activate the recovery process of the downtown area through the implementation of small-scale, people-centred strategies for urban conservation and development.

The initiative takes Bazar Abbas as a catalytic pilot project not only because this building represents an outstanding architectural heritage but also for its indispensable position in the collective memory and identity of the city, interlinked to conflict, resistance, displacement and daily struggles.

The project offers twofold measures by producing direct tangible results like physical reconstruction and urban heritage mapping while at the same time targeting community empowerment. In this context, the partial reconstruction of the Bazaar will preserve its original features, including the timber verandas. In addition, the combined research, education and training initiatives will recapture the collective memory of the Bazaar's socio-cultural importance, preserve and transfer local reconstruction techniques and eventually provide a model for urban heritage recovery in the historic core of Port Said.

Workshops & Training

1. [Urban \(Heritage\) Narrative Workshop](#)

Port Said - 9th to 16th of March 2023

2. [Urban Recovery Planning](#)

Cairo & Port Said - 5th to 14th of September 2023

3. [Restoration Training](#)

Port Said - October to December 2023

4. [Tourism Training](#)

Port Said - June 2024

5. [Closing Event](#)

December 2024

Project Lead

BTU Cottbus – Senftenberg

Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Urban Planning

Chair of Landscape Architecture, Prof. Anna Lundqvist

[Middle-East-Cooperation Unit](#)

Project Partners

Galala University

Prof. Dr. Maged Zagow

Al-Yakaniya for Heritage and Arts

Prof. Dr. Alaa El Habashi

Port Said Ala Ademo

Alliance Française de Port-Saïd

Funded by

The British Council's Cultural Protection Fund in partnership with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport



In partnership with



Urban (Heirtage) Narratives Wokrshop

Every Taracina has a Story, Port Said - 9th to 16th March 2023

This workshop is the first event in the series of activities planned for the project “Bazar Abbas: Recovery Lab of Port Said” and will address the questions of urban narratives and collective memory, conflict and recovery, urban mapping and heritage interpretation through the perspective of local communities in Port Said. During the workshop, participants will be provided with various inputs addressing the themes mentioned above. Then they will carry out a practice to document and map local-centred urban narratives of Port Said affected by years of war and conflicts in the city. Timber veranda or Taracina, an integral component of Port Said’s Architecture, will be regarded as a leading element during the practice. The outcome of this workshop will further be developed and employed for the planning workshop in September 2023 that will focus on formulating urban recovery guidelines in the historic core of Port Said.

The workshop, in particular, targets Egyptian students and researchers in the fields of architecture, urban planning, and heritage studies. Participants in five groups carried out site-specific studies within the so-called Arab and European neighbourhoods of Port Said with a special focus given to the effect of war and years of conflict on local urban narratives and heritage interpretations. Timber veranda or Taracina, an integral component of Port Said’s Architecture, will be regarded as a leading element during the practice. The workshop had the capacity for twenty-one participants from nine universities.

Through Locally guided city walks, site observations and interviews with locals as well as heritage advocates, the groups went through an intensive experience of exploring Port Said from local viewpoints with its diversity and plurality. Moreover, the workshop focuses on presenting these (heritage) narratives in a creative and accessible way and with a view to the role that they should play in recovery decision-making. Therefore, the outcome of this workshop will further be developed and employed for the planning workshop in September 2023 that will focus on formulating urban recovery guidelines in the historic core of Port Said and the tourism workshop in June 2024 will focus on developing sustainable tourism guidelines for the same study area.

Workshop Structure

Date	Morning 09:00 to 13:00	Afternoon 13:00 to 18:00
Tue. 08.03.2023	Arrival and Check-in at Grand Hotel & Panorama Hotel	
Wed. 09.03.2023	Lectures at AAST Hall B.01 Introduction & Previous Experiences	Site-Visit Port Said
Thu. 10.03.2023	Lectures at AAST Hall B.01 Heritage Narratives & Documentation	Site-Visit Port Said
Fri. 11.03.2023	Lectures at StaBena	Start of Group Work
Sat. – Mo. 12 – 15.03.2023	Group Discussion, On-Site Work, Studio Work and Consultation Per need Studio: Stabena	
Tue. 16.03.2023	Final Colloquium and Round Table at AAST Hall B.01 - Party at Stabena	
Wed. 17.03.2023	Check-out from Hotels and Departure	



Group photo in front of StaBene ©Mohamed Hamdy



Group photo in front of St. Eugenie's Catholic Church ©Mohammed Hasan

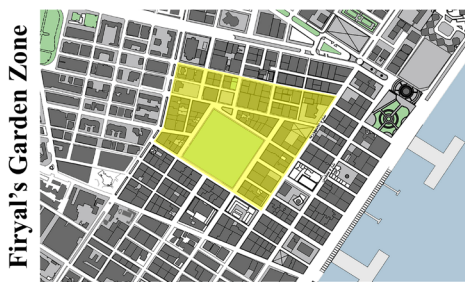
Focus Areas

The participants were organized into five groups, each consisting of four to five members with diverse study levels and backgrounds, ensuring a balanced and collaborative dynamic. The division of participants into these groups was determined based on the specific location that was the focus of their work. This approach allowed for a comprehensive exploration of the urban context, with each group bringing their unique knowledge and skills to address the specific challenges and opportunities.



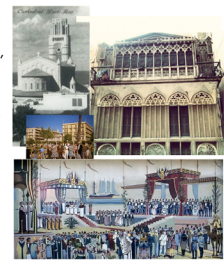
El Bazar Zone

El Bazar zone: the markets zone which witnessed all the historical events since the beginning of the city, through the war, during which part of marche municipal was struck and destroyed, the way to free-zone era and it is still the most used one to the present moment.
Important Buildings: Abbas Bazar Marche Municipal, and Villa Eugenie.



Firyal's Garden Zone

Firyal's Garden zone: the Suez Canal opening ceremony was held in this place, then, it became Abbas square, and The English sporting club, and finally during King Farouk era, it was opened as Firyal's Garden. The square is famous for its beautiful different architectural styles and its wide open balconies.
Important Buildings: Fernande Villa, Co-Cathedral of blessed Virgin Mary and Rio Cinema.



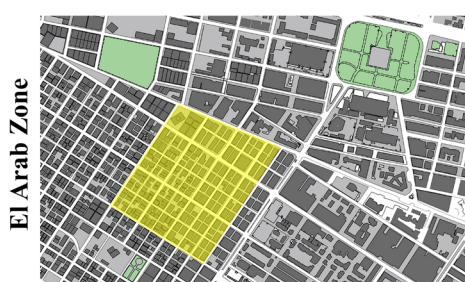
Palestine St. Zone

Palestine street zone: the area is considered as one of the most important waterfronts in the world, it had to be the advertising area for the passing ships.
Important Buildings: Port-said lighthouse, Simon Arzt, Aldrado Theater, Casino Palace, The Historical Garden and Dillisips's statue base
 In the past, French consulate ceremonies used to be held in the middle of the Canal.



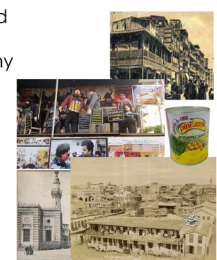
Muhammed Ali St. Zone

Muhammed Ali St. zone: Is the main street in the city, and it separating the Arab district from the foreign one. The area witnessed the memories of the war and popular resistance, it is famous with wooden balconie, and it is also the starting point of Arab zone markets.
Important Buildings: El Abbasi mosque, Authority villas, and Saint George Coptic Church.



El Arab Zone

El Arab district zone: It was the allowed district for Egyptian to live in, narrow streets, small wooden buildings with tiny windows with mashrbyat. It was the starting point of popular resistance groups. The area had its own culture and rules. Also, there are traditional celebrations. Tuzza matches used to be played there by locals, and famous football player.
Important Buildings: El Tawfiki mosque, Khudair Exhibition.



Lectures

General Introduction to Port Said's History and Heritage

Dr. Shimaa Ali, Suez Canal University

The lecture highlighted the key historical periods that left their mark on Port Said. It explores the city's establishment as a vital port during the construction of the Suez Canal and its strategic importance during times of conflict. Additionally, the lecture discussed the unique features and attractions that showcase Port Said's heritage. These include architectural landmarks like the iconic Port Said Lighthouse, historical neighbourhoods d Al-Arab, and notable cultural. Institutions that preserve and promote the city's history.



International Experience: BTU Workshop Outcome in 2014

Prof. Christoph Wessling, TU Berlin

The lecture provided a comprehensive overview of the outcomes and experiences of the BTU Workshop, which took place in 2014. The Brandenburg University of Technology organised the Workshop as a collaborative endeavour to promote cross-cultural exchanges and facilitate knowledge sharing among participants from diverse backgrounds. The key results from the Workshop were highlighted and showcased during the presentation. The objective was to provide a comprehensive understanding of the Workshop's significance and the value it added to the participants' experiences by establishing International connections and knowledge exchange across different cultures and fields of expertise.



Local Experience: Port Said Ala Ademo's Experience

Miran Shouman & Mohammed Hasen, Port Said Ala Ademo

This talk aimed to provide a compelling insight into the unique local experience of Port Said through the personal journey of Ala Ademo, a local initiative from Port Said Ala Ademo's intimate connection with Port Said offers a captivating perspective on the city's history and culture community.

The lecture dug into the life story of Ala Ademo, tracing their roots in Port Said and their deep understanding of the city's evolution over time. Participants gained insights into the cultural fabric of Port Said seen through the eyes of locals who have lived and breathed its traditions and lifestyle.



Moreover, the lecture shed light on Ala Ademo's involvement in preserving Port Said's heritage. Participants learned about their contributions to local initiatives, cultural events, and community development projects, which have helped to safeguard the city's intangible heritage and foster a sense of belonging. This Lecture invited the participants to embark on a journey through Port Said from the perspective of local residents, Ala Ademo. It emphasizes the importance of personal experiences in understanding a place and highlights the city's vibrant culture, hidden gems, and the connection between its past and present.



Port Said from an Outsider Perspective

Dr. Nader Gharib, AAST

This lecture offered an interesting outsider perspective on the city of Port Said, providing a fresh lens through which to explore its history, culture, and significance. Presented by an individual with limited prior exposure to Port Said, the lecture aimed to capture the unique experiences, observations, and insights gained from an outsider's perspective. This lecture encouraged participants to explore and appreciate the unique attributes of their own surroundings, embracing the richness that comes from embracing differences and embracing new experiences.



Collective Memory and Heritage Narratives

Dr. -Ing. Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam, BTU

This lecture explored the intricate relationship between collective memory and heritage narratives, shedding light on how societies construct and interpret their shared past. The lecture began by addressing the paradigm shifts in urban conservation, moving from material-based to value-based and people-centered approaches. It explored the concept of collective memory, elucidating its social and cultural dimensions. Moreover, it discussed how memories are formed, transmitted, and shared within communities, and how they contribute to the construction of a collective identity and a sense of belonging. Building upon this foundation, the lecture delved into the role of collective memory in architectural heritage preservation as well as urban development. Finally, it introduced the possibility of employing heritage narratives as a tool in urban conservation.



Scenes Theory

Dr. Maged Zagow, Galala University

Scenes theory is a research project by Prof. Terry Clark at the University of Chicago to measure the distinctive qualities that imbue social life with vitality and meaning. Qualities such as glamour, self-expression, tradition, and neighbourliness combine in various ways to create the diverse scenes that characterize cities and communities. These scenes are dynamic components of the social process, feeding into economic development, shaping residential patterns, and energizing politics.



Introducing Heritage to Children and Youth : The Multi-faceted Cultures of Port Said

Prof. Dr. Heba Safey Eldeen, House of Egyptian Architecture

The lecture emphasized the importance of cultural heritage education for children and youth, highlighting its role in creating a sense of identity, pride, and understanding of their roots. Specifically, it showcased the cultural activities conducted by the House of Egyptian Architecture in historic Cairo, emphasizing their local and international achievements. The lecture also provided a glimpse into the products resulting from these activities.



Digital Documentation of Heritage between Tangible and Intangible

Dr. Deena Elmahdy, BUE & Cairo Heritage School

The digital heritage documentation talk covered the importance of several new digital tools regarding heritage preservation. Some case studies highlighted the main tools used and the documentation process. In addition, some apps and tools were covered in how we can rebirth the historical sites that no longer exist.



Documenting City's Architecture Through Cinema: Cinema, Architecture & Human Activities

Dr. Moustafa Elzeini, Port Said University

Architecture and cinema are cultural expressions concerned with space, time, and people - addressing the human condition through spatial narrative. The lecture introduced the relationship between architecture, cinema and human activities. It also focused on Port Said movies which document the city's heritage as well as presenting a personal experience using films to document one of Port Said's buildings.



Verandas (Taracinas) in Historic Cairo :
Value and Authenticity

Prof. Dr. Alaa ElHabashi, Al-Yakaniya for Heritage & Arts

A presentation that provides a glimpse of the historical roots of the veranda as an architectural and urban element in the historic city. Exploring its root and understanding its historical use is essential to propose approaches to preserve/rehabilitate verandas in the contemporary context(s). Highlighting the fact that Verandas in Port Said, as well as in Egyptian coastal cities are inseparable architectural/urban components of the historic fabric, whereas in a city like Historic Cairo of an arid environment, this element, even if it is reintroduced as architectural commonality, becomes alien with neither cultural appreciation nor of communal use.”



Toolkit for Narrative Mapping (Interactive Session)

Hadir Hawash, Alexandria University

The session is to help participants get equipped with the essential methods and tools for community-based data collection. During the interactive session, participants could design questionnaires, surveys, and themes to observe during their site visit.



The Reminiscence of Port-Said
(A Documentary Design Film)

Mohamed Radwan, Cairo Designathon

“The reminiscence of Port-said” was made through a collaborative process between designer Mohamed Radwan and emerging filmmaker Tiblyan El Fateh. The Film talks about the city’s unique architectural and cultural heritage, and how this heritage has impacted and shaped the people of Port-Said. The main character of the film is Mohamed Ghali, Ghali is a Semsemya maker, city through Ghali’s eyes, and come to understand how he is motivated to preserve Port Said’s culture and identity, by introducing younger generations to the music instrument. The second character is Mohamed Abd El Qader, a Poet from Port-Said, who narrates a piece of his poetry in which he is reminiscing the city of Port-Said and the citizen’s relationship with the city.



Excursions

The support from our project partner, “ Port Said Ala Ademo”, enhanced the workshop they organized diverse guided tours to showcase and explore the local history and heritage of Port Said. The tours included Port Fouad, with its unique urban fabric and its maritime heritage, the Al-Arab district, with its dense urban fabric and vibrant atmosphere and the European district with its architectural styles and significant buildings. Additionally, the participants got the chance to explore Bazar Abbas and the surrounding urban context. These tours helped the participants to identify the contradiction between the different districts, especially the Arab and European districts.

Another aspect of the guided tours organized during the workshop was the inclusion of Semsemya tours. These unique tours offered the participants a remarkable opportunity to engage with the rich local heritage through the enchanting melodies of Semsemya songs, which were connected to the historical events associated with specific locations. Through the captivating lyrics and melodies of the Semsemya songs, participants gained a deeper understanding of the events, stories, and traditions that shaped the local community.

Overall, the guided tours served as an effective ice-breaking activity by creating an environment where participants could connect, engage, and establish a profound background for the site visits. The tours helped the participants smooth their interaction with the local community and ensured they were well-prepared to make the most of their collective experience.



Abbas Bazar: Recovery lab of Port-said

Port-said founded from more than 160 years with the construction of the Suez Canal. It was considered a dual city (Arab & Foreign) through the cosmopolitan era, which helped in forming city's special identity, culture, and architectural styles. The urban life of the city has transformed many times due to development, nationalization, wars and forced migration, popular resistance, the free trade zone, revolution, and the rebranding era in which we are living now Port-said is famous for its navigation, ships, bambotia men and commercial markets as **Abbas Bazar** 1891, the oldest market, ferries, and semsemya parties. Those tour and workshop aim to get acquainted with urban & cultural history more closely by interaction with citizens, heritage stories buildings, streets, beaches, markets, food popular festivals, and music in some districts to document the urban narratives in a research manner.

جولة تراثية في بورسعيد Port-said Heritage Tour Map

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 2 | كنيسة الأيا يسوع
Saint Bishoy Church | 1 | ميدان المنشية
El-Manshiyya Square |
| 3 | بازار عباس
Abbas Bazar | 3 | كنيسة سانت اوجين
St. Eugenie Church |
| 4 | بازار عباس
Abbas Bazar | 5 | فيلا اوجيني
Villa Eugenie |
| 6 | بازار البلدية
Municipal Bazar | 7 | حديقة فريال
Fryal Garden |
| 8 | مبنى موظفي هيئة قناة السويس
Authority Accommodation | 9 | كنيسة القديسة تريزا المارونية
St. Theresa Maronite Church |
| 10 | القنصلية الإيطالية
Italian Consulate | 11 | مطبخ السيدة العذراء مريم
Co-Cathedral of Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 12 | فيلا فرنانديز
Villa Fernandez | 13 | عمارة كلوفتش
Klovich Building |
| 14 | كازينو بلانك (ساحة مصر)
Casino Palace | 15 | بيت الإيطالي
Casa U' Italia |
| 16 | قاعة كازينو بلانك
Statue of Dilligence | 17 | المنارة
Lighthouse Building |
| 18 | المبنى الفرنسي
French Post Building | 19 | فندق ريجنت
New Regent Hotel |
| 20 | سينما ريو
Rio Cinema | 21 | شارع محمد علي
Muhammad Ali Street |
| 22 | سوق التماثيل و الحميدى
Commercial market | | |

Organized by b-tu In Cooperation with SALALA UNIVERSITY Funded by PORT SAID COUNCIL

Port Said Ala Ademo 's tour map in the European district ©Miran Shoman



Participants during their tour at Bazar Abbas ©Samar Abdelaal



Sememya tour with Port Said Ala Ademo at Firyal garden ©Samar Abdelaal



Mohammed Hasan, CEO of Port Said Ala Ademo, guiding a tour about the history of the Suez Canal ©Samar Abdelaal



The Group heading to Port Said by the Suez Canal ferry ©Samar Abdelaal



Miran Shoman, guiding a tour through Mansheya Square ©Samar Abdelaal

Participants Work

Zone No. 01

Focus Area: El Bazar Street

Group members:

- 1- Ahmed El-Siry
- 2- Hala Khalifa
- 3- Reem El-Nady
- 4- Shadw Abd El-Hakam

Supported by: Mohamed Hamdy



Main Goal

Bazar Abbas, situated in the centre of Port Said city on one of its most vibrant commercial streets, exemplifies a unique architectural style that blends European modernism with local traditions. This distinctive architectural typology, which has significantly influenced Port Said's urban landscape, can be observed in the combination of elevated wooden verandas and Haussmannian arcades found throughout the European quarter. The bazar serves as a hub for various socio-economic activities that have evolved around it and continue to thrive today. The project's main objective is to explore and connect the personal narratives of the local people and their inherited stories about Bazar Abbas. By conducting interviews, examining old photographs, and exploring the building itself, the group aims to construct a comprehensive narrative about the bazaar's development. This narrative will form the foundation of an approach to protect and preserve the site. The group consists of five individuals with diverse backgrounds in Architecture, Urban Planning, and Landscape Architecture. Their educational qualifications range from fresh graduates to postgraduate studies.

Objectives

The Bazar Abbas Group's principal objectives are :

1. Explore the historical significance of the place and examine its impact on the development of the surrounding area since its construction.
2. Investigate the challenges in preserving the building as a cultural heritage asset.
3. Establish connections with the users of the building and establish communication channels with them to facilitate the subsequent steps of the protection plan.
4. Uncover the social dynamics of the area, including identifying key leaders and their influence on the preservation of Abbas Bazaar.
5. Monitor the impressions of the local community regarding the project, and assess their acceptance of it, and determine their willingness to cooperate.
6. Identify various suitable methods of documentation that cater to both the local community and experts, such as interviews, archival photographs, site visits, and engaging with local authorities.

Approach

The team employs various methods to examine the development of the narrative surrounding Bazar Abbas in Port Said over time. These approaches include:

1. Desk research: Conducting a thorough review of relevant literature, including research focusing on the significance of the building, as well as newspapers and articles.

2. Historical research: Seeking old photographs from people to gain insights into the past and visualize the life within and around the building during different periods.
3. Oral narratives: Collecting personal stories from individuals about the building and the surrounding area, capturing their experiences and memories associated with it.
4. Site visits: Actively visiting Bazar Abbas and its vicinity to observe and document its present condition. This involves paying attention to physical changes, ongoing activities, and the interaction between people and the environment.
5. Interviews: Engaging in structured interviews with residents, visitors, and stakeholders to explore their narrative accounts. These interviews serve to gather stories, experiences, and impressions regarding the preservation of the place as a cultural heritage asset.

Outcome

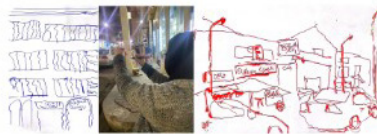
The group used a creative approach to understand and engage with the area and its residents. They collected stories and conducted interviews, which they transformed into storyboards and sketches from their own perspective. They also encouraged people to envision the past and share their experiences of the area. These strategies were employed to highlight the diverse perspectives on the area's development over time. To gain a deeper understanding of the area, the team recorded the soundscape from various locations, showcasing the different socio-economic activities and providing a sense of the area's atmosphere, even though they didn't physically visit it.

Additionally, they captured video footage through short movies, including interviews and their own site visits to the area. During their presentation, the group showcased these strategies and made comparisons between the present and the past. They demonstrated how the area has maintained resilience over time, with consistent socio-economic activities and urban structure. They emphasized the presence of inherited work, with families still practicing the same professions. The buildings in the area have undergone minimal changes since the war, but there are challenges in preserving their historical significance. For example, Bazar Abbas itself holds cultural heritage value and requires efforts to ensure its safety. Supporting small businesses in the area and addressing issues related to ownership status are also ongoing challenges to sustain the area's quality work and vitality over time.

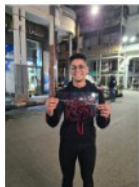


The Space Through People Eyes

The Urban & The Architectural Features



Defining The Place with its Dynamic Function



The Dialogue Between Buildings



The Mass is Defined as Shops



The Place is Defined with Its Inclusion



Sense of Belonging



Space Functions



Zone No. 02

Focus Area: Firyal Garden

Group members:

- 1- Ahmed Azab
- 2- Doha Hassan
- 3- Mohamed Abdelhameed
- 4- Shahinaz Elsayed

Supported by: Miran Shoman



Main Goal

In Firyal's Garden zone in the European district, where Khedive Ismael chose to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal, the main goal of the team was to highlight and honor the heritage significance of the zone. This urban area has witnessed countless memories spanning from the grand opening ceremony of the canal to the present day. Comprised of four individuals from different cultural and educational backgrounds, the team posed a fundamental question, how have the challenges faced by this area over the years impacted the collective memories of its inhabitants ?!

Objectives

To answer the previously asked questions, the team had the following main objectives:

1. Conduct interviews with the residents of Firyal's garden zone, focusing on their memories, and utilizing Taracina as a central element in their stories.
2. Examine the cultural and traditional influences of the various nationalities that have inhabited the area, exploring how they shaped the environment, economy, and socio-cultural aspects of the zone's residents.
3. Investigate the current situation and challenges facing the inhabitants in sustaining their lives, building, stories and streets.
4. Define the circumstances and challenges faced by inhabitants in maintaining their livelihoods, preserving their buildings, stories and street.
5. Illustrate the main differences between the Taracinas and the verandas. The verandas were mainly used by residents of the European District and the team aimed to explore how Egyptians modified them to suit their privacy.

Approach

The team conducted on-site interviews, engaging with inhabitants and shop owners across various age groups and genders. Additionally, they gathered information from various literary sources such as books, maps, photos, videos, and films, which documented significant events and transformative changes in the zone's history, highlighting its connection to collective societal memories. This comprehensive approach unveiled both the tangible aspects such as buildings, and intangible cultural heritage, including foreign games, recipes, stories, and festivals.

Outcomes

The team employed various creative methods to visually document the narrative of the people in Firyal's Garden zone. They utilized presentation tools, manual sketches, music, old songs and video collages to showcase the historical events and stories that have significantly influenced the development of the region. The presentation effectively conveyed the contrast between architectural styles, urban fabric and social standers, shedding light on how these factors have shaped the area and social interaction. Finally, the team emphasized the socio-economic status of the European community and its ongoing impact on the present circumstances.



Zone No. 03

Focus Area: Palestine Street

Group members:

- 1- Mohamed Essam
- 2- Nervana Hisham
- 3- Raneem Saleh
- 4- Salma Osama
- 5- Sara Hassan



Supported by: Samar Abdelaal

Main Goal

Palestine Street, located on the waterfront in Port Said, is one of the city's oldest streets. As a prominent boulevard adorned with iconic structures, it has traditionally greeted incoming ships, serving as their initial captivating sight upon arrival. Over time, this street has witnessed numerous historic events. Now it is a lively area encompassing retail establishments and public spaces. The group's primary goal involved documenting the narratives emerging from the Suez Canal and studying the evolving scenery across the canal.

Moreover, they aimed to integrate a fresh and contemporary layer by incorporating people's perspectives and narratives concerning the current state of affairs in the city. The group consisted of five individuals with diverse architecture, urban planning, and urban design backgrounds. Their educational levels varied from undergraduate to postgraduate studies.

Objectives

The Palestine Street Group's primary objectives are:

1. Exploring Palestine Street's historical and cultural significance, delving into its influence on collective memories throughout different periods while establishing a direct correlation to the Suez Canal.
2. Documenting diverse perspectives from residents, the Bambouti (BoatMan) community, and the younger generation, emphasizing their viewpoints concerning the waterfront and the surrounding context.
3. Monitoring the ongoing transformation of Palestine Street, particularly concerning social, political, and economic challenges, to gain insights into its evolving dynamics.
4. Evaluating various documentation approaches suitable for local inhabitants and professionals, focusing on options that can foster a positive local impact by rekindling connections between individuals and their shared history.

Approach

To effectively study the evolution of the narrative surrounding Palestine Street in Port Said, the group applied a variety of research methods and approaches, such as :

1. Historical Research: to understand the initial development of Palestine Street, its significance, and the events that have occurred there over time. This involved studying materials, documents, and photographs.
2. Oral Histories: Collect oral histories from residents, business owners, and individuals who have witnessed or participated in significant events related to Palestine Street.
3. Site Visits and Observation: Visit Palestine Street and the surrounding area to observe

and document its current state. Pay attention to the physical changes, the activities taking place, and the interaction between people and the environment.

4. Interviews and Surveys: Conduct structured interviews and surveys with residents, visitors, and stakeholders to gather their perceptions, experiences, and opinions.

5. Documentation : Compile the research findings, narratives, and perspectives into a comprehensive product that can serve as a valuable resource for future researchers, urban planners, and the local community

Outcome

The collected information underwent analysis and refinement to create both a video and a brochure. Recognizing the diverse preferences of the target audience, the team strategically employed two distinct methods of documentation. The video content was strategically to be shared on various social media platforms, amplifying its reach and impact, while the brochures were to be placed in coworking spaces, facilitating ease of access and enabling widespread sharing. The video production showcased a compelling blend of digital sketches illustrating the unique characteristics of Palestine Street, intertwined with interviews featuring local individuals sharing their recollections and experiences related to the region.

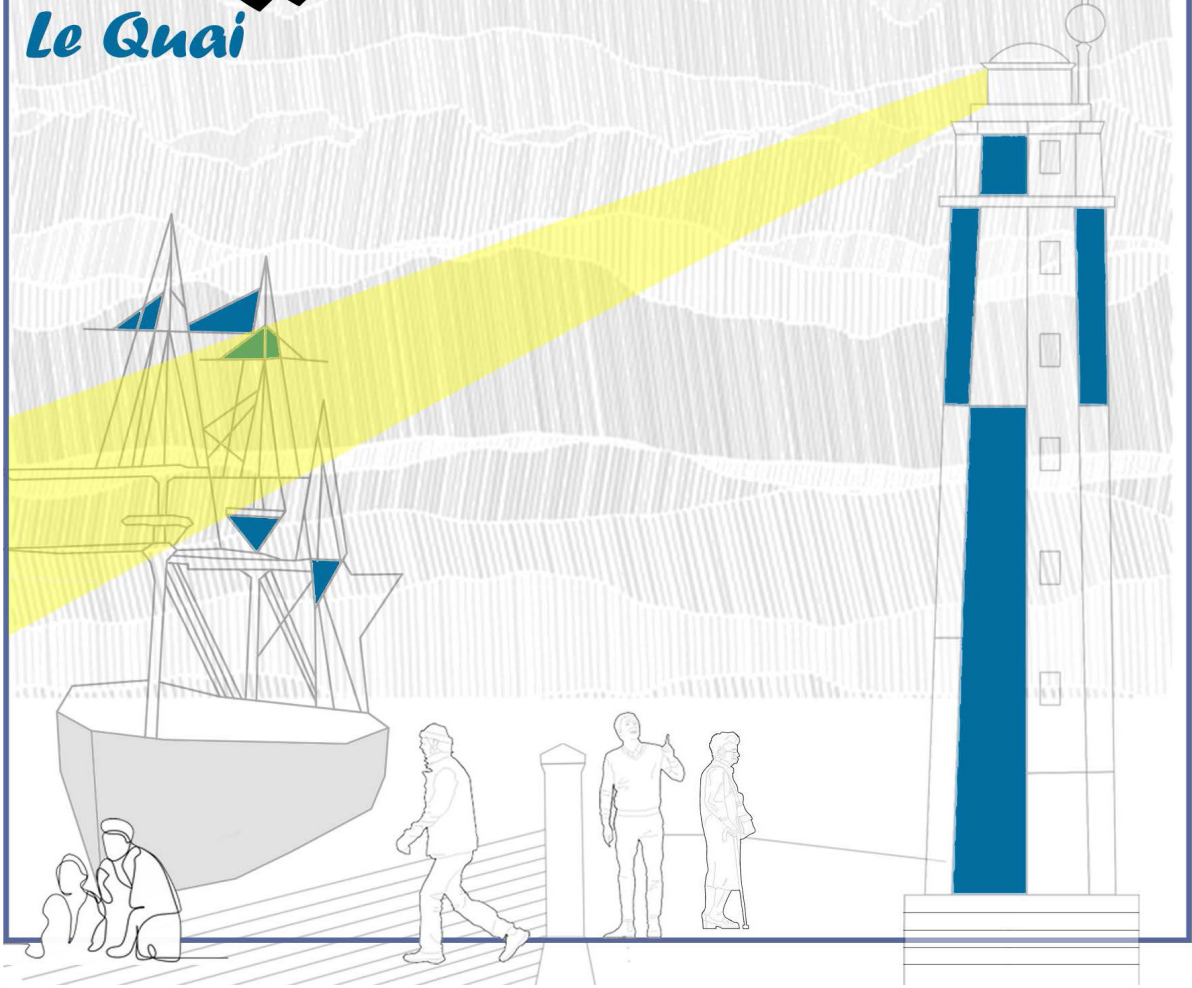
This multi-dimensional approach aimed to encapsulate the essence of the street's narrative and capture the perspectives of the community. The accompanying brochure served as a comprehensive resource, detailing the historical timeline of the street. Complemented by descriptive text and sketches, it provides readers with an in-depth understanding of the street's evolution and significance. By employing these dual documentation methods, the team aimed to engage a broad audience and foster a deeper appreciation for the rich heritage and contemporary narratives associated with Palestine Street in Port Said.



Waleed Montasser, a local photographer, during his interview with the workshop participants ©Group 03

شارع فلسطين

Le Quai



صفر قناة السويس

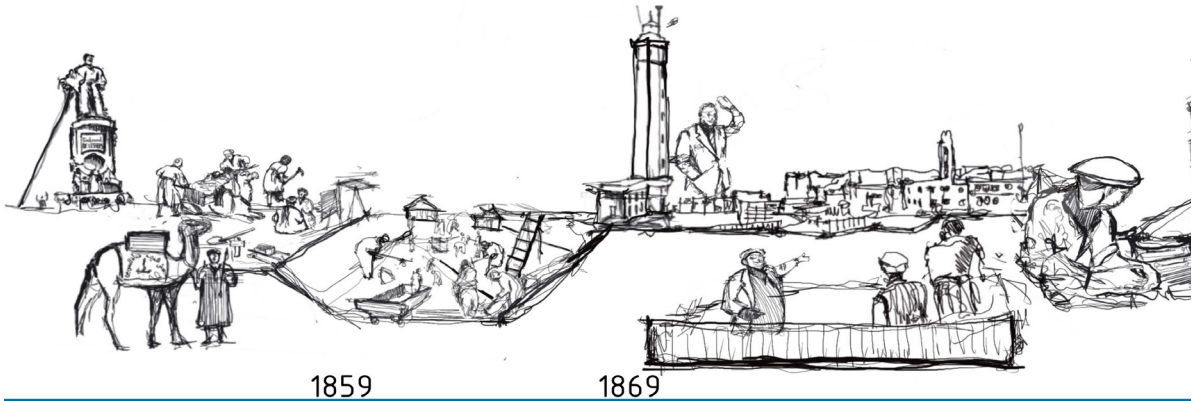
The Digging of Suez Canal

Ferdinand De Lesseps gave the first symbolic swing of the pickaxe to announce the digging of Suez Canal

بور سعيد على الخريطة

The Birth of Port Said

The light house was established announcing the birth of Port Said - The First Terracina of the Comopolitan City



1859

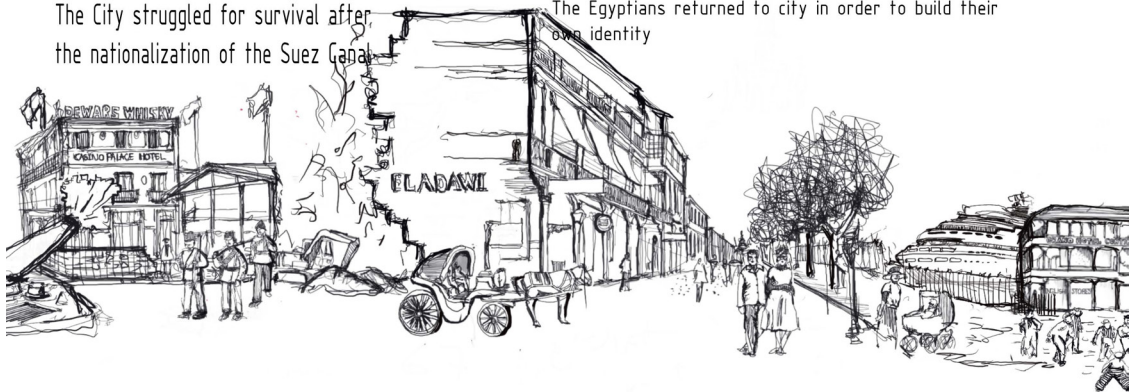
1869

23

العنوان الثلاثي

Suez Canal Crisis

The City struggled for survival after the nationalization of the Suez Canal

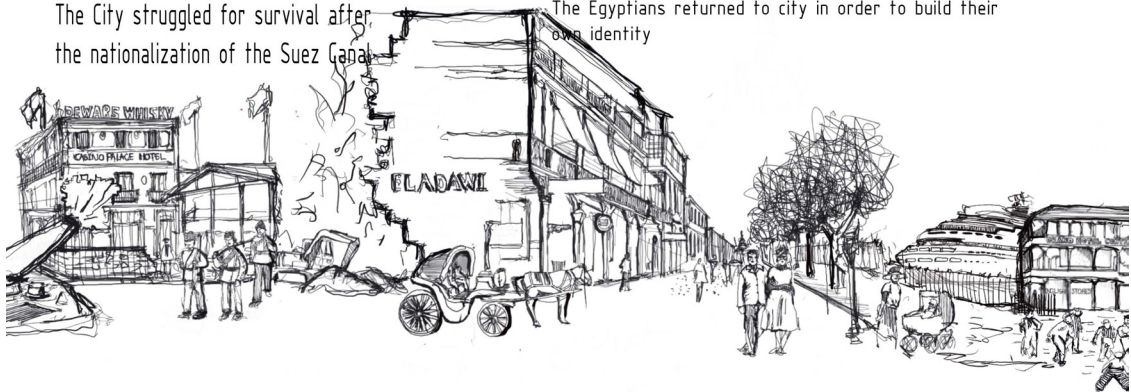


1956

الروح المصرية في المدينة

Reviving The City by the Egyptians

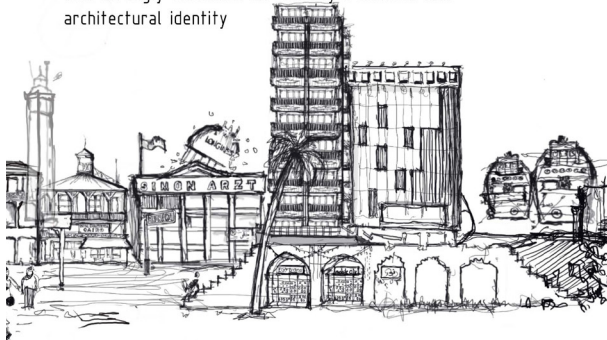
The Egyptians returned to city in order to build their own identity



التحول من الثقافة للتجارة

The Transition from Culture to Trade

Al Sadat announced Port Said as a free zone and this was strongly reflected on the city's cultural and architectural identity

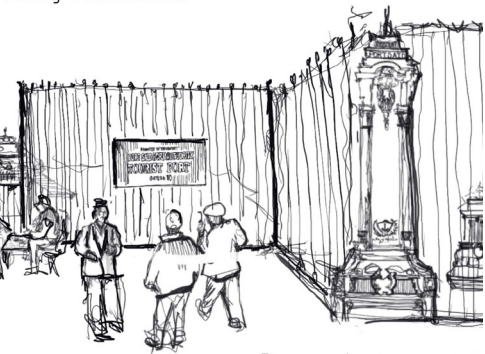


1976

أسوار وراء أسوار

Fences Behind Fences

The present is separating the people from the canal and forming a disconnection

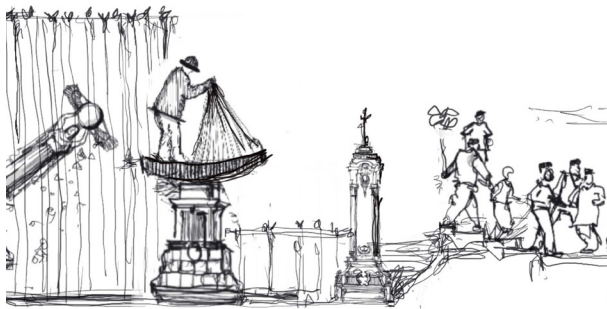


Present

البحث عن الهوية الحقيقية

Looking for the Real Identity

Port Said has lots of potentials to represent its real cultural image



Future

إحياء مدينة بورسعيد

Rebirth the City of Port Said

Demolishing fences- reconnecting the city to the canal- the Light House as a guide towards the future



Zone No. 04

Focus Area: Mohamed Ali Street

Group members:

- 1- Eman Gamal
- 2- Mai El Hadidi
- 3- Soad Samir
- 4- Zeina Mohamedin



Supported by: Mohamed Hagra

Main Goal

Mohammed Ali Street is located between the Arab District and the European District and has witnessed memories of the war and popular resistance. The team's main goal was to highlight and embrace the heritage value of the street. The team consists of five members from different cultural and educational backgrounds who started by questioning whether this street separates or links the two sides. They also explored whether this street affects people's memories of events and the street itself.

Objectives

To answer the previously asked questions, the team's main objectives were:

1. Narrating the memories of the residents of Mohamed Ali Street by conducting interviews with them and using the Tarracina as the main element of their stories.
2. Exploring differences and similarities between the two sides of the street (Arab and European) and their effect on environmental, sociocultural and economic sectors.
3. Investigating the current situation and challenges facing the inhabitants in sustaining their lives, buildings, and the street.
4. Defining the urban and architectural landmarks in the zone by exploring the social, historical and architectural value of the area.
5. Illustrating the main differences between the Tarracinas and the verandas. Verandas were mainly used by residents of the European district, unlike Tarracinas, which were used by residents from the Arab district.

Approach

The team was divided into two sub-groups; the first group conducted on-site interviews with inhabitants from both sides of the street, the European side and the Arab side, encompassing different age groups and genders. The second group collected additional information from literature, such as books, maps, photos, or videos documenting important events and significant changes in the area, particularly concerning the area's history and how it is connected to societal memories.

This approach sheds light on the area's tangible (buildings) and intangible cultural heritage (festive events such as the Alamby festival). When both sub-groups merged their work, they aimed to highlight the relationship between the two sides of the street in the past, present and future.

Outcomes

The team created a visual documentation of the narratives using presentation tools, manual sketches, and photo collages. They presented the narratives of the people in Mohamed Ali Street, chronologically highlighting the historical events of the street and explaining that events had a significant impact on the formation of the region as it is now. The presentations showed interesting contrasts between both sides regarding the architectural style and the urban fabric. The team also highlighted the socio-economic differences between the communities on the two sides of the street in the past and how this still affects them. Although both sides share the same traumatic war events and subsequent victorious events, it was concluded from the presentation that there aren't many differences now, as both sides face the same urban challenges and have similar dreams.

That was evident in the outcomes of the interactive activities the team conducted with the people on the street, where they expressed their vision for the future of the street. The outcomes showed that the people on both sides want the street to return to its original image, with fewer high-rise buildings. They miss the time when each building had only three or four floors with a Tarracina or Veranda for each residential unit.

Finally, the team presented a collage photo of the street, showing the landmarks and events related to the people's collective memory and historical consciousness.



شارع محمد علي

Zone No. 05

Focus Area: Al-Arab District

Group members:

- 1- Ahmad Elgezy
- 2- Donia Youssry
- 3- Nourhan Sameh
- 4- Lama ElShayyal



Supported by: Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam

Main Goal

Arab District is an area which was uniformly designed where Egyptians were cast aside and forced to reside while the Europeans lived in highly spacious designed areas. This district is commonly known as the poor, underprivileged side of Port Said; it is densely populated and has very narrow streets. The project team consisted of four members, and our main focus was the bordered buildings “el Nasya” and their Taracinas. In the current state, most of these buildings are heritage structures strategically located in areas that have witnessed rich events and stories. Our goal was to unveil the forgotten narratives of the people of Port Said.

Objectives

We achieved our goal by interviewing people of all ages and genders associated with the “Nasya buildings”.

The interview categories included:

- a. Commercial places at the bottom of the “Nasya Buildings”.
- b. Teracina’s in the “Nasya Buildings”.
- c. Alleys behind the “Nasya Buildings”.

To make the interviewees more comfortable, the interviewer shared personal stories, resulting in more detailed and shared information. The questions focused on comparing the past and the present, neighbourly connections, and war experiences. The questions guided us and helped us see the people’s current challenges, wants, and needs to live a modern life while preserving their cherished historical culture.

Approach

1. The team initially studied the history of Port Said and then focused on the Arab District to comprehend the significant cultural and economic differences between the different areas of Port Said.
2. Each team member had specific tasks based on their strengths, such as capturing video and photography footage of the interviews, conducting and establishing connections with the Interviewees and capturing footage of the buildings and locations.
3. Selected Question Examples
 - a. How did people use and enjoy their Taracinas?
 - b. Taracina in the past versus the present?
 - c. Neighborhood in the past versus the present?

- d. Experiences with the war and the pilgrimage.
- e. Functions and activities on the ground floor of the Nasya Buildings.
- f. Culture and traditions in the past versus the present

Outcome

People, especially women, were more than happy to share their stories and experiences with us. The outcome primarily focused on the narratives of the Arab District's people because their stories were largely absent through the years.

The team created different types of documentation, including:

- A brochure that provided information about the narratives collected.
- A map documenting the landmarks in Nasya Buildings.
- A map showing the locations and profiles of interviewees.
- A video that digitally sketched past narratives.
- A video compilation of selected clips featuring conversations about Taracina that occurred during the interviews.
- An interactive map that allowed participants to document their memories of the Arab District and pin its location.

These narratives revealed that people had a sentimental attachment to the old days of the Arab District when they had a close-knit community, and all neighbours knew and trusted each other. The most common challenges faced today include a lack of space and overcrowded living conditions in the Arab District. Additionally, the lack of close community relations and feelings of insecurity are also attributed to the high population.



One of the interviewees in the Arab District ©Group 05



حكاوي التراسية وما وراثتها...



PRESENTED BY:
Ahmed ElGezy Lama Yahya Elshayyal
Donia Yousry Nourhan Sameh

Introduction

Stories at each building intersection were the most memory-rich out of all. Hence, we collected peoples narratives and recorded their emotionally intense stories in their Taracinas, since in Portsaid, every Taracina has a story.

كانت القصص في كل التقاطعات (التراسية) هي الأكثر ثراءً بالذاكرة على الإطلاق. ومن ثم ،
فما جمع قصص الناس وقصصهم الملهمة المتعلقة بحياتهم في تراسينا، لأن في بورسعيد ،
لكل تراسينا لها قصة و حكاية

LOCAL NARRATIVES



Mohammed Ghali- Semsemyya maker

1 The taracina is everything to me. I work and sleep there, and sometimes even invite guests there

التراسينا دي كل حاجة، يشتغل و انا
هناك و ساعات كنت استقبل ضيوف



Moahmmmed Shaheen- Carpenter

2 Our envienoments felt safer and people felt secure in each others company

البيوت امان و الناس كانت مطمئن في
بيوت بعض



Mohsen Khodeir- Calligrapher

3 I lose sense of time in our taracina. It is quiet and pleasant all the time

ما بحسش بالوقت و انا في التراسينا
مور جميل و هادي على طول



Gehad- Portsaid Resident

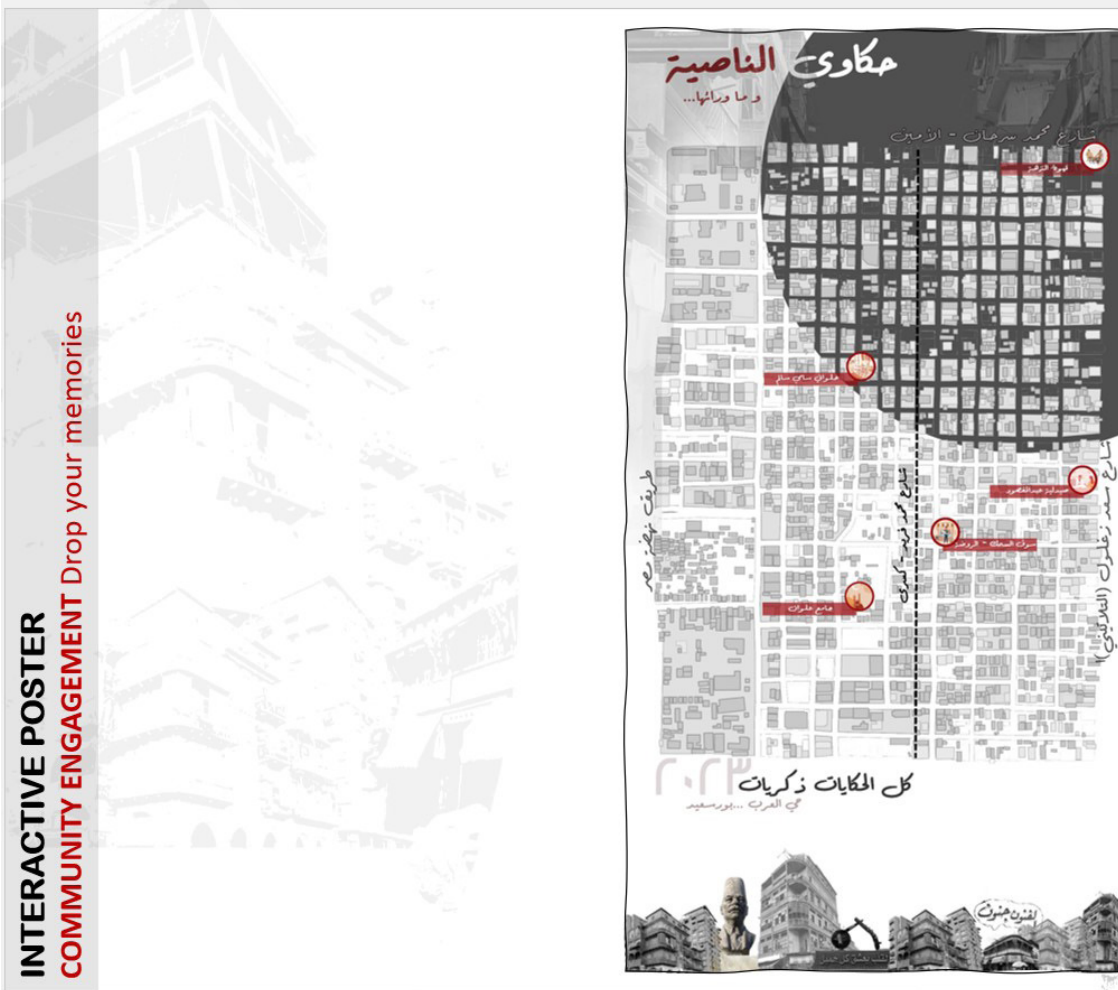
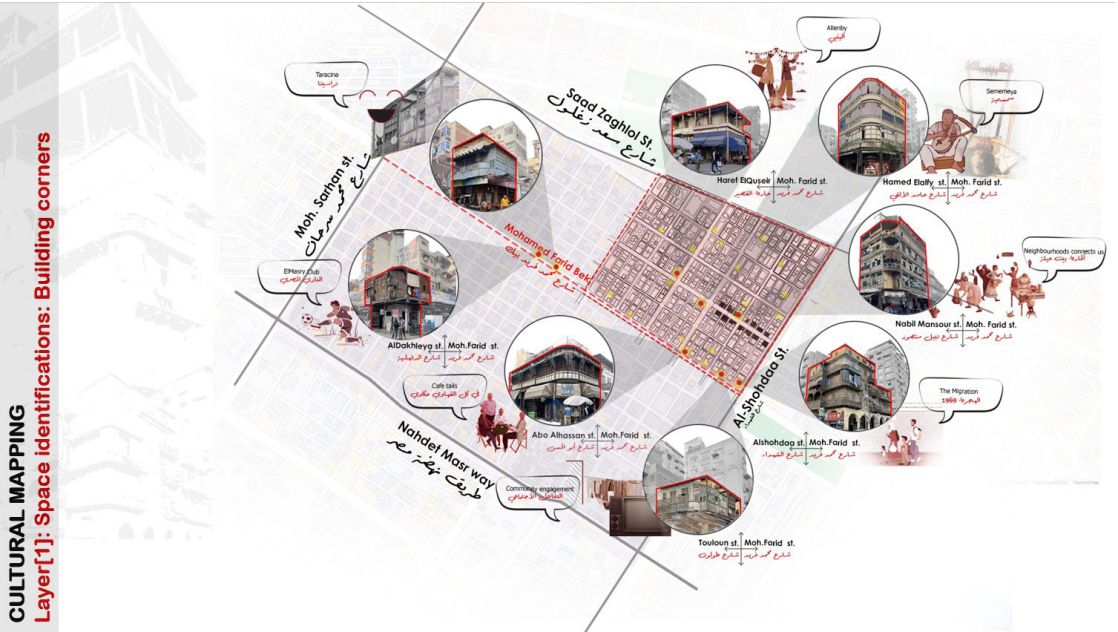
4 We spent unforgettable times in our taracina in Portsaid

اصلى وقت كنا بنفخير في التراسينا
هنا في بورسعيد



حكاوي التراسية وما وراثتها...





Impressions



The workshop's group engaged in a lecture held at AAST, Port Said Campus ©Samar Abdelaal.



The group attending a lecture at StaBene ©Samar Abdelaal



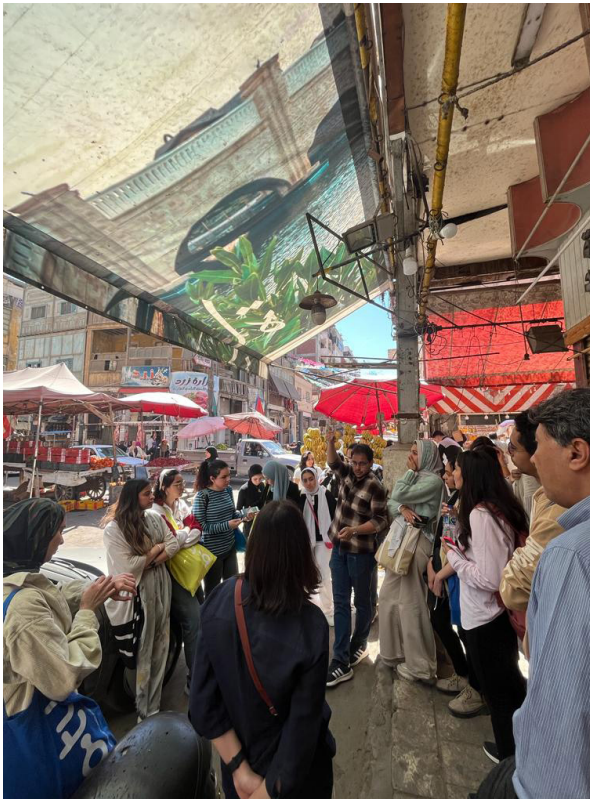
An interview with Mr. Mohamed Ghaly, the Semsemya maker ©Samar Abdelaal



A photo indicates the current situation of Bazar Abbas ©Samar Abdelaal



The project's team, after a fruitful meeting with Port Said's governor Major General Adel Al-Ghadban
©Port Said Governorate



Group tour at the Arab districts ©Samar Abdelaal



Evening discussion at Firyal garden
©Samar Abdelaal



Group photo of participants, project team, and guests after the final event at the AAST, Port Said Campus ©Eslam Kamalo



Round table discussion at the end of the workshop ©Eslam Kamalo

Imprint

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Middle East Cooperation Unit
Bazar Abbas: Recovery Lab of Port Said

Urban (Heritage) Narratives Workshop
Every Taracina has a story
Port Said - 9th to 16th March 2023

This report was prepared by
Samar Abdelaal
Research Associate
Chair of Landscape Architecture
Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Urban Planning Institute of Urban Planning
Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus – Senftenberg.
E samar.abdelaal@b-tu.de
T +49 0355 69 2946

Partners & Workshop Cooperative Institutions

Lead Organisation

Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus – Senftenberg

Middle East Cooperation Unit

Chair of Landscape Architecture

Project Manager: Prof. Dipl. Ing. Anna Lundqvist

Project Consultant: Prof. Dipl. Ing. Christoph Wessling

Project Team: Dr. -Ing. Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam . M.Sc. Samar Abdelaal

Project Partners

Al-Yakaniya for Heritage and Arts

Prof. Dr. Alaa ElHabashi

Port Said Ala Ademo

Miran Shoman . Mohammed Hasan

Galala University

Prof. Dr. Maged Zagow . M.Sc.Mohamed Hagra . M.Sc. Mohamed Hamdy

Alliance Française de Port-Saïd

Chaimaa Mansour . Ahmed Bassem

In Cooperation with

Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime, Port Said Campus

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Fahmy . Dr. Nader Gharib

StaBena

Mohammed Hasan . Muhammed Mosaad . Omar Hasan

Port Said University

Dr. Mostafa Elzeni

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