

RAMALLAH JULY 21 - 24

DESIGNING
CIVIC
ENCOUNTER

SYMPOSIUM . WORKSHOP . TOUR

DESIGNING CIVIC ENCOUNTER

JULY 21 - 24 / SHAREK YOUTH FORUM

SYMPOSIUM, WORKSHOP, TOUR

Designing Civic Encounter is an initiative by ArtTerritories, engaging in existing and potential forms of urban development and public culture in Palestine. The event will unfold through a bus tour traversing urban locations within and around Ramallah city enabling debates and conversations at different stations, a two-day symposium on questions of urban transformations in Palestinian and Arab cities, and a full day workshop with visionary social architect Teddy Cruz.

Inspired by ongoing dialogues generated on ArtTerritories' website, Designing Civic Encounter opens a forum in the real now for the inquiry and discussion of the public urban experience under the current trends in planning, financing and building practices. Attracting an active local and international roster of architects, artists, educators, environmentalists, community activists and politicians, the public events hope to produce new civic imaginations towards alternative urban policies for a more inclusive social sustainability.

Curated by Shuruq Harb and Ursula Biemann.

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This project is initiated and produced by ArtTerritories an online publishing platform for Art and Visual Culture in the Arab World co-founded by Shuruq Harb and Ursula Biemann.

ARTTERRITORIES

مسارات فنية، اتجاهات نقدية



Centre for Architectural Conservation

مركز المعمار الشعبي



TOUR

URBAN BUS TOUR

JULY 21, 10 AM – 16 PM

DEPARTING FROM RIWAQ

Designing Civic Encounter starts with a commented bus tour in and around Ramallah, highlighting distinctive urban landscapes that can be considered emblematic of wider political issues taking place in Palestine:

Al Manara downtown Ramallah, *Bir Naballah*, a village between Ramallah and Jerusalem designated area "C", Birzeit Housing Complex in Al Tirah neighborhood on the west end of the city, Al Rawabi (the first planned Palestinian city) construction site north of Ramallah, and Jalazon refugee camp on the east end, adjacent to the Beit El Israeli settlement an area designated as "C".

Although Ramallah is a relatively small city, it has experienced radical urban expansions and population growth since the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 and the consequent establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA) in 1996. Real Estate is the main target for foreign corporate investment today. Yet Oslo has introduced uneven developments with areas designated "A", under PA administration, being the primary site of urbanization and investment while areas designated "C", still under Israeli military administration, remain in limbo, suffering from depopulation and isolation, ultimately interrupting the natural expansion of Palestinian built up areas.

Commentary by: Yazid Anani, Taysir Arori, Joharah Baker, Yazan Khalili, Iyad Issa, Khaldoun Bshara, Amir Dajani

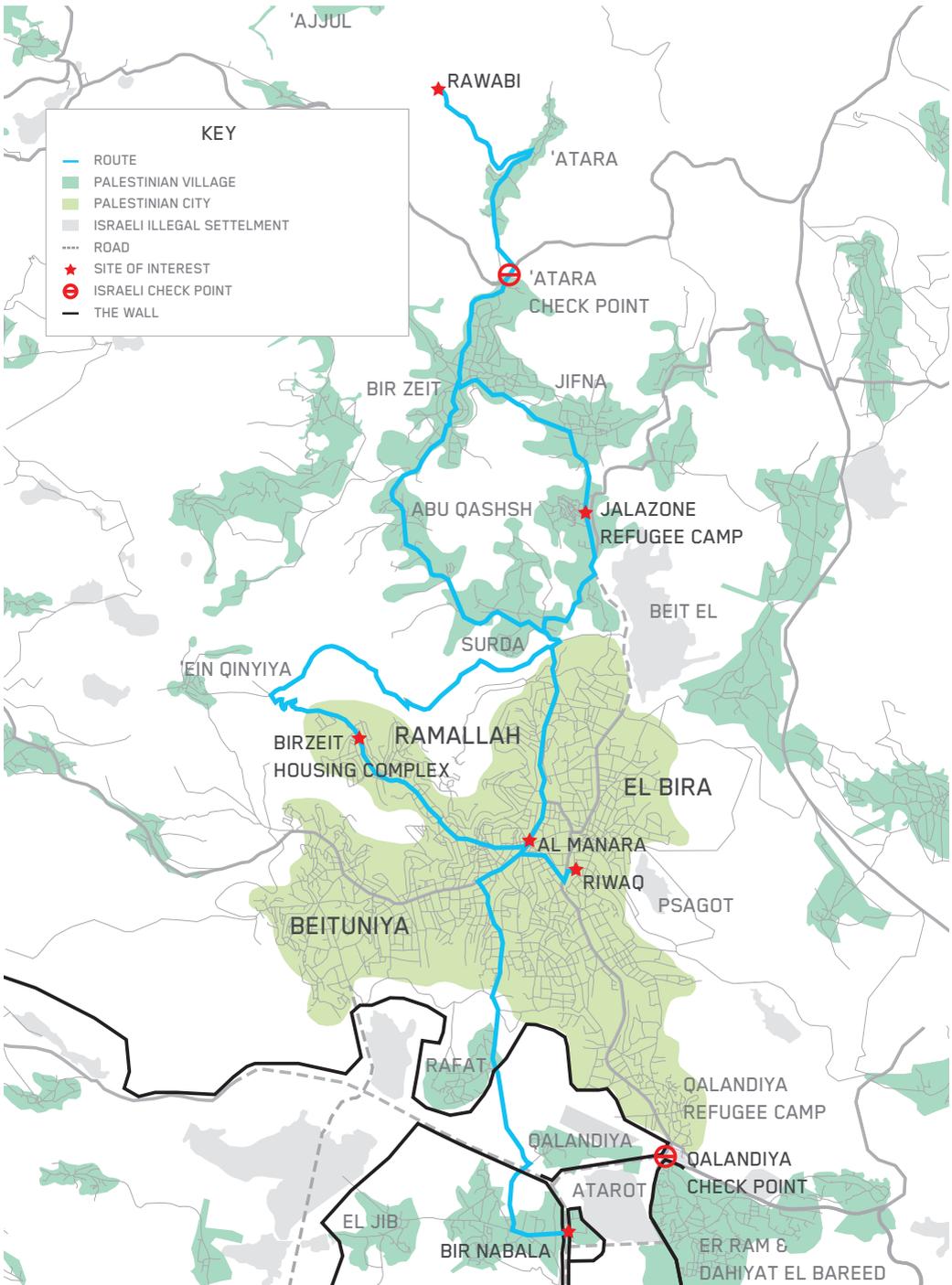
Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

The tour is free and open to the public; seats are limited.

To make a reservation please contact:

c.designingcivicencounter@gmail.com / 0599370860





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SYMPOSIUM

DESIGNING CIVIC ENCOUNTER

JULY 22 – 23 / SHAREK YOUTH FORUM

SYMPOSIUM

The symposium is a public forum for the reflection, visualisation and discussion of current developments in urban life in Palestine and around the region, bringing to light the many connections between Palestinian cities and other urban centers in the region such as Beirut, Amman and Dubai. The city is under investigation through cultural and artistic initiatives, innovative research projects and political visions. The two days are conceived as a vibrant multimedia laboratory of ideas and debate.

A digital publication with the speakers' contributions and additional texts, photographs and art projects will be compiled and made available at artterritories.net later in the year.

The event is free and open to the public.

To make a reservation contact:

c.designingcivicencounter@gmail.com / 0599370860



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LEFT: BURJ FALASTEEN/FALASTEEN TOWER, AL BIRAH/RAMALLAH. PHOTO BY LUCIA AHMAD
RIGHT: LAST DAYS OF CARLTON, BEIRUT, HANGAR, PHOTO BY MONIKA BORGMAN

FRIDAY JULY 22ND, 2011

9:30AM – 5:15PM / SHAREK YOUTH FORUM

09:30 AM REGISTRATION

10:00 AM INTRODUCTION BY ARTTERRITORIES

10:30 AM YAZID ANANI (RAMALLAH)

ACADEMIA, THE MIRROR

Rethinking the education of an architect within economized urban spaces in times of political crisis. There is an urgency of producing an environment of critical and active knowledge that problematizes the hegemony between politics and economy in the city and questions the loyalties of architects and academia.

11:30 AM COFFEE BREAK

11:45 AM RAMI DAHER (AMMAN)

DISCOURSES OF NEOLIBERALISM AND DISPARITIES IN THE CITY LANDSCAPE CRANES, CRATERS, AND AN EXCLUSIVE URBANITY

The video lecture recorded for this event addresses the neoliberal urban transformation in cities in the Arab world in the past 20 years or so due to the influx of surplus petro-dollars from the Gulf region to places like Amman, Beirut, Tunis, Cairo, Rabat, and several other cities. The presentation discusses the impact of real-estate neoliberal investments on cities in terms of creating geographies of inequalities and disparities in the city landscape.

Followed by a skype discussion live from Amman moderated by Yazid Anani

1:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

2:00 PM MUHAMMAD SHTAYYEH (RAMALLAH)

PA ECONOMIC STRATEGIES AND THE PALESTINE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

This presentation will focus on the Palestinian Authority's housing and real estate policies in light of the national framework, focusing on contemporary trends such as vertical expansion, the emergence of suburbia and credit culture.

Followed by moderated discussion by Ibrahim Hantash

3:15 PM COFFEE BREAK

3:30 PM SPACES IN SUSPENSION, AREA C: AMPUTATION, INDECISION, RE-INTEGRATION

ALESSANDRO PETTI (DAAR, BEIT SAHOUR)

THE RED CASTLE AND THE LAWLESS LINE: A LEGAL-ARCHITECTURAL FABLE OF EXTRATERRITORIAL TRANSFORMATION

With areas designated A, B and C already claimed by different forms of cooperating governments that rule the West Bank, we see in the thickness of the Oslo line an extraterritorial territory, perhaps "all that remains" from Palestine, a thin but powerful space for potential political transformations. Political spaces in Palestine are not defined by its legal zones, but operate thoughts legal voids.

OMAR YOUSEF (JERUSALEM)

BIR NABALLAH AND THE JERUSALEM MUTILATION: A CASE OF URBAN AMPUTATION

The presentation provides an overview of Israeli restrictions preventing urban growth of annexed Palestinian East Jerusalem within Israeli municipal boundaries, resulting in an extension of the city's urban tissue towards areas such as Bir Naballah. Suffering from the devastating effects of the Israeli Apartheid wall, Bir Naballah has become a ghost town amputated from its urban tissue and encapsulated within the Israeli wall system.

Followed by a panel discussion moderated by Alessandro Petti (Decolonizing Architecture)

5:15 PM CLOSURE

SATURDAY JULY 23TH, 2011

10:00AM – 5:00PM / SHAREK YOUTH FORUM

10:00 AM TEDDY CRUZ (SAN DIEGO)

CREATIVE ACTS OF CITIZENSHIP: PERFORMING NEIGHBORHOODS

While in the last years, the global city became the primary site of economic consumption and display, local neighborhoods in the margins of such centers of economic power remained sites of cultural production. These are peripheral communities where new economies are emerging and new social, cultural and environmental configurations are taking place as catalysts to produce a new collective imagination, alternative urban policies and more inclusive housing paradigms. Followed by moderated discussion by Ursula Biemann

11:45 AM COFFEE BREAK

12:00 AM SUHAD BISHARA (HAIFA)

CHALLENGING ISRAELI DISCRIMINATORY URBAN PLANNING POLICIES WITHIN THE GREEN LINE

This session examines Israeli urban planning and legal procedures towards Palestinian communities within the green line. It highlights Adala-The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights and the Arab Alternative Planning Center's active legal resistance to discriminatory legal and urban planning policies imposed in Harish in Wadi 'Ara, Um- Alhiran in the Naqab and Tarshiha in the Galilee. Followed by moderated discussion

01:30 PM LUNCH BREAK

02:30 PM HANGAR (MONIKA BORGMAN, LOKMAN SLIM, AMANDA ABI KHALIL) / (BEIRUT)

THE LAST DAYS OF THE CARTLON...

Via custom-made video, Hangar presents *The last days of...*, a series of cultural and artistic projects which embody the archival philosophy and practice of UMAM Documentation and Research in Beirut. Looking at the city as archive, the series exhibits urban landmarks from Lebanon's history, spaces that are condemned to destruction and thus risk being forgotten. Video presentation followed by a skype discussion live from Beirut moderated by Ursula Biemann

3:45 PM COFFEE BREAK

4:00 PM SHUMON BASAR (LONDON)

ZERO CITY, (APPROXIMATE) DÉJÀ VU

If you travelled through Dubai's various 'zones' between the years 2001 and 2008, chances are you'd have felt equally nowhere and everywhere at the same time. All the world was there, for the first time, once. The fate of so-called 'cities from zero' in the 21st century is haunted by the histories of cities-past. This presentation is an awry look – using fiction and narration – at how here is always, approximately speaking, there.

Lecture performance followed by a discussion moderated by Shuruq Harb

5:00 PM CLOSURE

GH0809, ART PROJECT BY TAYSIR BATNIJI (GAZA): During the symposium the artistic series of real estate adds based on photographs taken in Gaza during 2008-2009 are circulated among visitors and participants. Beautifully installed at the Venice Biennial, this mobile version of the art project infiltrates the more discursive nature of the Ramallah event.

BOOTH: Sharaka, community supported agriculture, is a local grassroots initiative started and run by volunteers. Sharaka's mission is to preserve Palestinian agricultural heritage through farmer-consumer partnerships. Sharaka is actively educating consumers to support Palestinian produce, to safeguard Palestinian agriculture against predominately Israeli market competition, and promote self-sustainable Palestinian living.

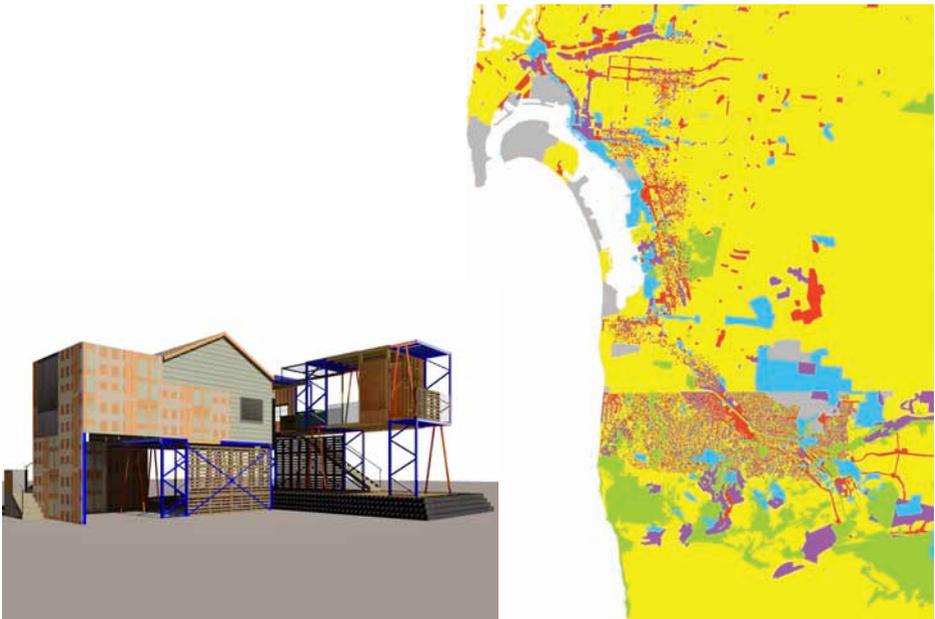
WORKSHOP WITH TEDDY CRUZ

JULY 24, 10 AM – 16 PM / SHAREK YOUTH FORUM

DIAGRAMMING PRAXIS: WHERE-WHY-WHO-WHAT-HOW?

Fundamental to the rethinking of socio-economic inequality and uneven urbanization in the last years is the translation of the entrepreneurial intelligence embedded in many marginal immigrant neighborhoods. The hidden socio-economic relations and resources within these communities' non-conforming patterns of development continue to be off the radar of conventional top down planning institutions.

It is in the context of these conditions where a different role for art, architecture, environmental and community activist practices can emerge. One that goes beyond the metaphorical representation of people, where only the community's symbolic image is amplified instead of its operative dimension. These communities' invisible urban praxis needs artistic interpretation and political representation and this is the space of intervention institutions of culture and governance need to engage.



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NORTH TO SOUTH: URBANISM MADE OF WASTE BY TEDDY CRUZ
SOUTH TO NORTH: URBANISM OF RETROFIT BY TEDDY CRUZ