

THE RESILIENT SQUATTER SETTLEMENT IN DAMASCUS, SYRIA :

Planning for the public spatial needs of women for conservative backgrounds

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The thesis is about Identification of the architectural forms of assistance that it will improve the use of the public spaces in the location of Kassion mountain in Damascus city, Syria.

Purpose:

- The purpose is clear by defining the terms of these forms as Appropriate which means that it is related to the cultural and social “belief”.

Location:

- The public spaces is measured in vacant areas, Narrow pedestrian, Walkway, stairs, and paths.

Arguments

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Design

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Area Number 2.....
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Post Text

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- Vague Headlines for the contents
- Misunderstanding the sequences of these chapters

- The research started with the housing and the conditions of the poor neighborhood in terms of infrastructure, materials and its conditions.
- She mentioned the governmental solutions of these housing problem in the squatter settlements.
- The history review of the city

Literature review

The section is identifying the city by:

Location

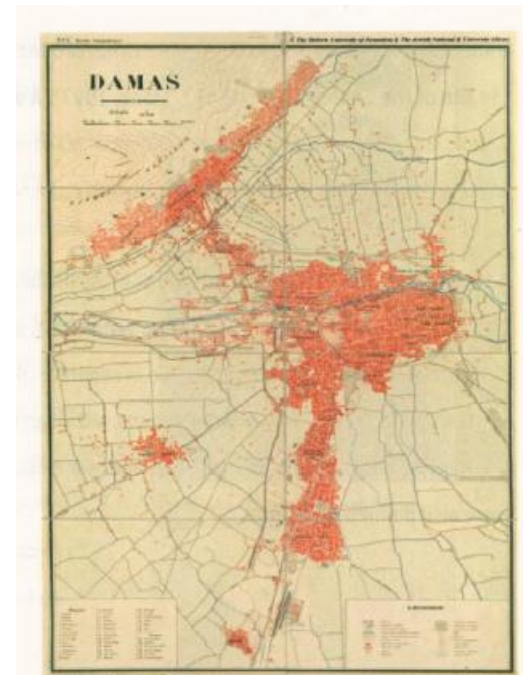
Geography

Demographics

History

No current maps, graphics, pictures of the city

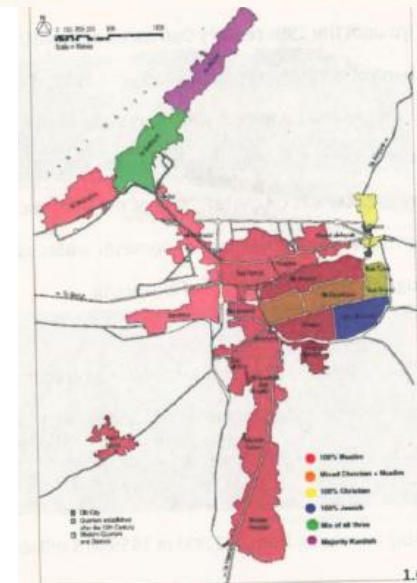
Damascus



Damascus City 1929

Source: Bureau Topographique des Troupes Francaises du Levant (1929)

1.7



Damascus: The residential quarters and their inhabitants, circa 1936
Map from Al-Qattan, (2002). Religious data adapted from Khoury,

1.6

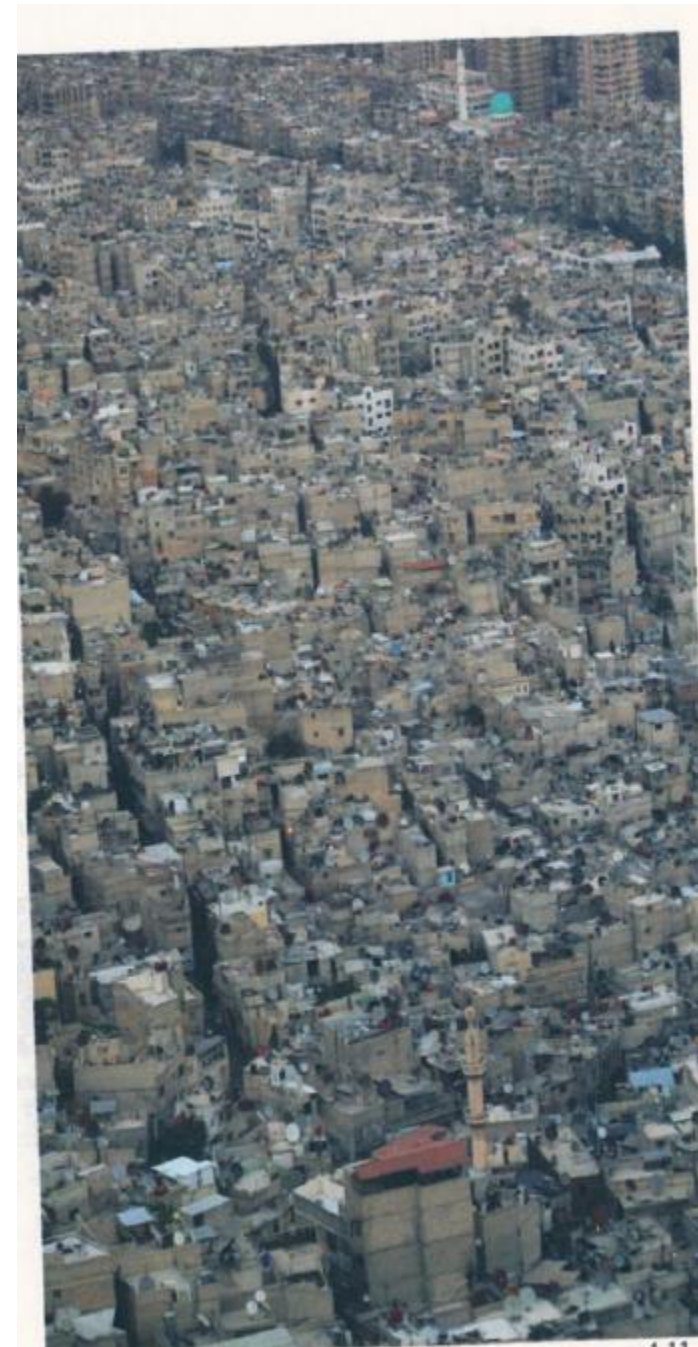
Illegal is different from settlement that doesn't follow the city regulation

Illegal means the land is not belong to the inhabitants like slums.

It is informal settlements that is self- sufficient.

The site that used was a refugees settlements.

Illegal Housing Settlement



Damsacus
Source: Author's own

Politics	Negatives	Positive
Clearance of squatter settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduces the housing stock in the city. - Emergence of squatter settlements in other areas. - Superficial solution to the problem, doesn't address the root. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removes the visual pollution caused by slum settlements. - Transforms the physical environment of an unhealthy environment to healthy.
Conservation of existing conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The problem as it was persists. - Continued population pressures in the provision of infrastructure, facilities, and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintains the existing physical structure. - Maintains the housing stock in the city. - Stabilizes the population in the neighborhood without displacing the.
Upgrading of squatter settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourages the population to encroach land of the government or the private sector in the future. - Increased rates of overcrowding and population density because the neighborhood has become formal. - Raises land prices and rent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewal of the neighborhood and the stability of the population in the same area. - Transforms the neighborhood from informal to formal.
Provision of alternative housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The lack of appropriate housing alternatives for the population in terms of family size, income, and family needs. - All housing alternatives are not derived from the development of the features of squatter settlements so it will not succeed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduces the burden on the government to provide housing alternatives. - An option to accommodate poor people and reduce the emergence of new squatter settlements.

A research about how the government deals with squatter settlements.

Highlight the important polices and expand more to get well structured design interventions.

Diagrams is missed

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Harvard Design Magazine, Spring/Summer 2009

Data collections:

- Informal interview with residents and professors in Damascus university
- Photos.
- Site sketches
- Videos

The purpose is to gain information about the public space and understand the behaviors of the users.

The cases was varied in the location and the culture aspect.

Case studies

She emphasized on it is contemporary solutions that provided without affecting the social and physical fabric.

It was about the housing or community of low income or isolated in place.



World map showing the location of case studies

1.0

- 1- Villa Tranquila Buenos Aires Argentina (public spaces improvement)
- 2- Caracas Venezuela (-Vertical Gymnasium on 1000m2)
- 3- City of Bogota Colombia (Equalizing Mobility)
- 4- Cairo, Egypt Alternative housing
- 5- Damascus, Syria Alternative housing
- 6- Pune India (schools come to the students)
- 7- Bangladesh (floating community lifeboats)
- 8- Bang Bua Thailand(residents are helping to design cleaner places to live)

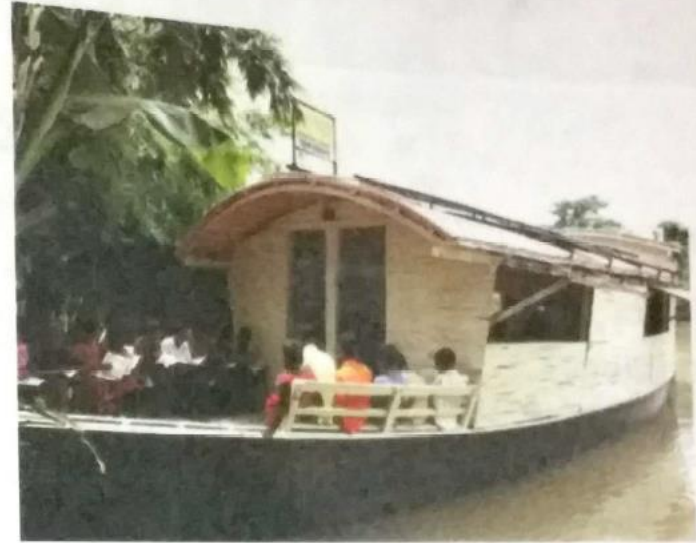
Methods

Project location	The problem	Who started the work	Strategies, steps, interventions
<p>Caracas Venezuela</p> <p>Vertical Gymnasium Cable cars</p>	<p>The larger metropolitan has a population of about 4.7 million</p> <p>1,930 square kilometers.</p> <p>60% of the population (3.2 million people) live in barrios.</p> <p>slums occupy about a third of the metropolitan district.</p>	<p>The Caracas firm Urban-Think Tink</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -weekly meetings in cafes and homes in 1996 -formalized not-for-profit in 1998 -In 2001, it was reorganized as both a design practice and research institute. -UTT's initial activities included lectures and walking tours of Vega. -in 2002 it intensify its activities (The grant brought an international team) to help develop strategies. -Vertical Gymnasium on 1000m2 (prototype for similar cases) -composting toilets -orphanage ,a playing field, and a woodworking shop -modular stairs/ pedestrian bridges to - vertical "growing house" (building up instead of out) -providing infrastructure -cable cars

- Cultural aspect is different

- Insufficient information about the project.
- This section should be expanded more than others

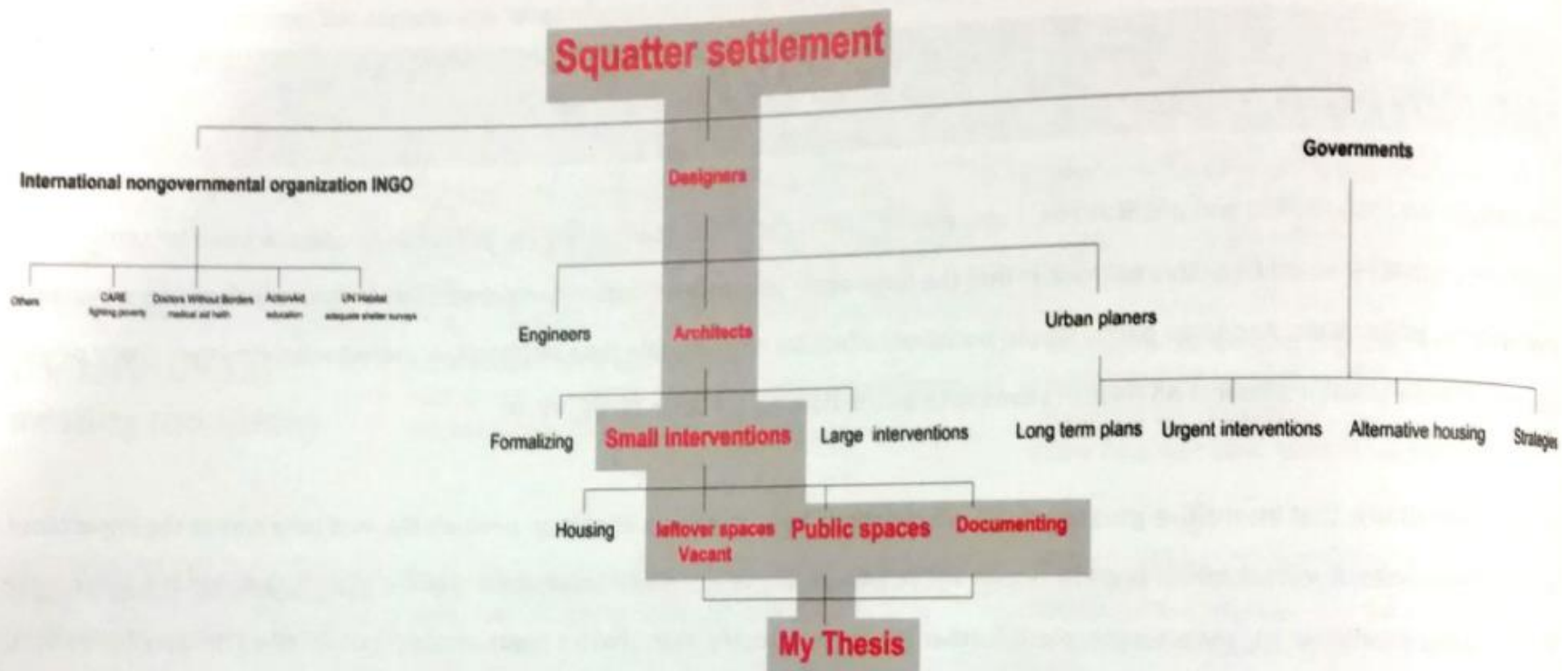
Another example is in Bangladesh, where sea levels are rising. Nearly 20 percent of the land there is predicted to be under water by 2050. The low-lying Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta, the most densely populated area in the world, will flood. Mohammed Rezwan, a local architect, has designed "community lifeboats" that serve as floating schools, libraries and health clinics. Working with native boat builders Mr. Rezwan adapted the traditional flat-bottom bamboo to create the riverboats.



1.3

BANGLADESH: One of Mohammed Rezwan's floating community lifeboats that serve as schools, libraries and health clinics.

Simple design interventions



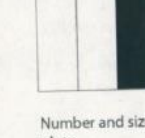
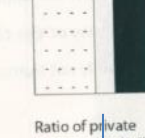
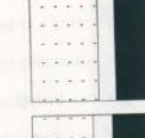
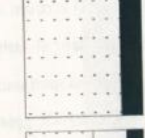
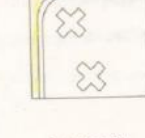
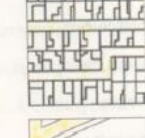
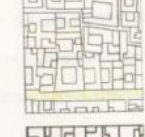
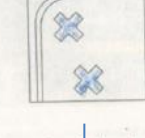
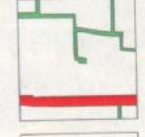
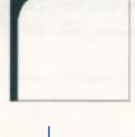
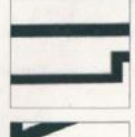
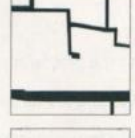
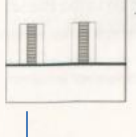
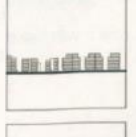
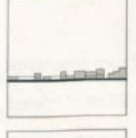
This clearly explains the path of the thesis and highlight its territories of research and design.

Kaslon mountain (studied area)
 Plots/ha = 125
 Average plot area= 66m²
 Public area =1700m²
 Privet area = 8300m²
 built area = 7885 m²
 FSI (floor space index) 0.95
 Building footprint area ratio 1.8

Old Damascus (oldest inhabitant city in the world)
 Plots/ha = 26
 Average plot area= 340m²
 Public area =1390m²
 Privet area = 6810m²
 built area = 5810 m²
 FSI (floor space index) 0.67
 Building footprint area ratio 1.35

most comun urban fabric
 Plots/ha = 25
 Average plot area= 400m²
 Public area =1700m²
 Privet area = 8300m²
 built area = 7885 m²
 FSI (floor space index) 0.7
 Building footprint area ratio 1.5

residential towers
 Plots/ha = 10
 Average plot area= 800m²
 Public area =3300m²
 Privet area = 6700m²
 built area = 5100 m²
 FSI (floor space index) 0.76
 Building footprint area ratio 4.5



- Private space
- buildings footprints
- Public area
- Built area
- Cars and pedestrian
- Pedestrian only
- People density
- Cars density

Descriptive picture

1 ha lot

Section

Private Vs. public

Cars Vs. pedestrian

People density

Cars denkity

Ratio of private (built and unbuilt) to public open space

Number and size o plots

1.8

1 ha lots

Private vs Public

Cars vs pedestrians

Density

Car density

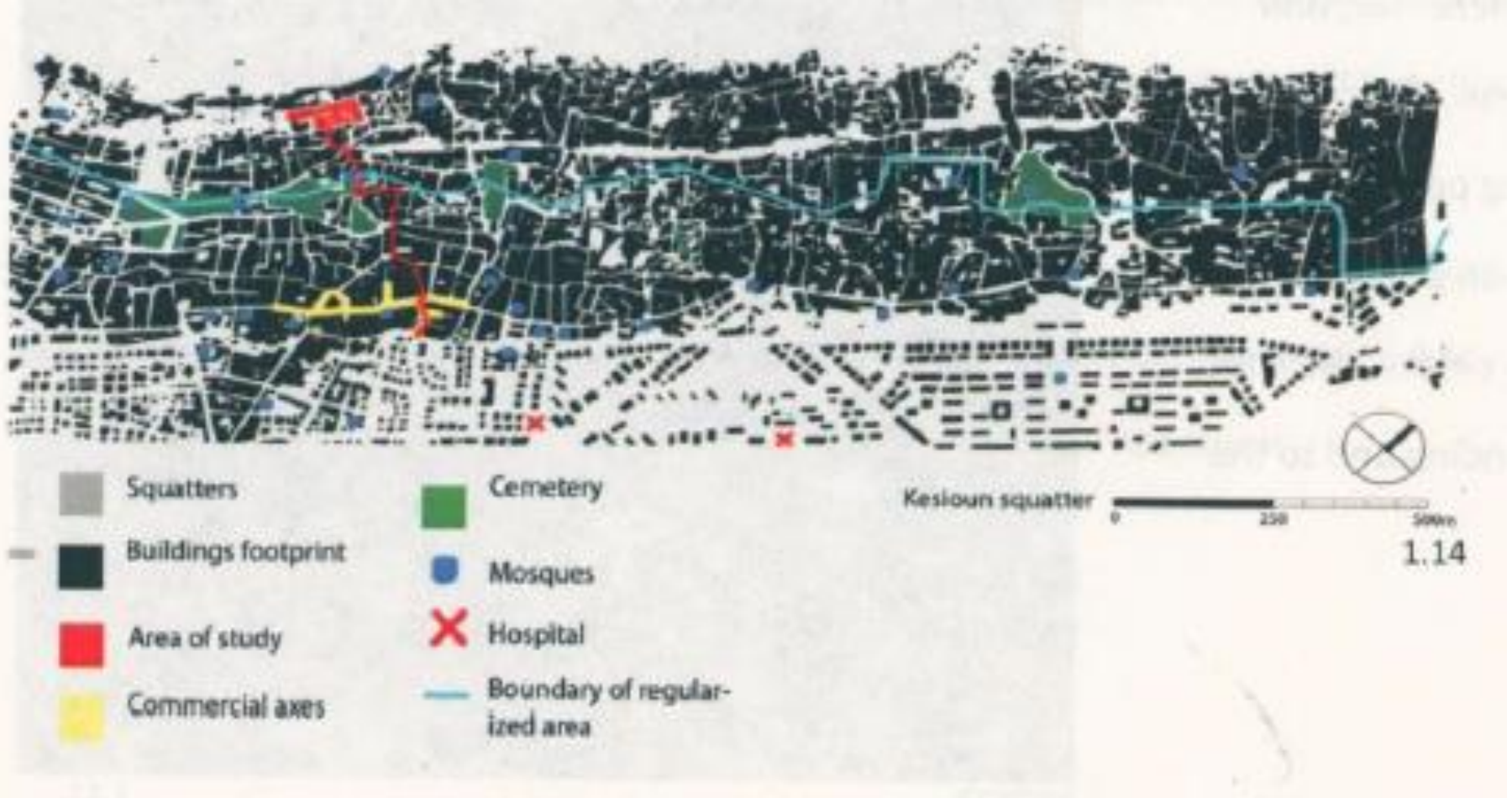
Ratio of private to Open public space

Number and size of plots

Descriptive pictures

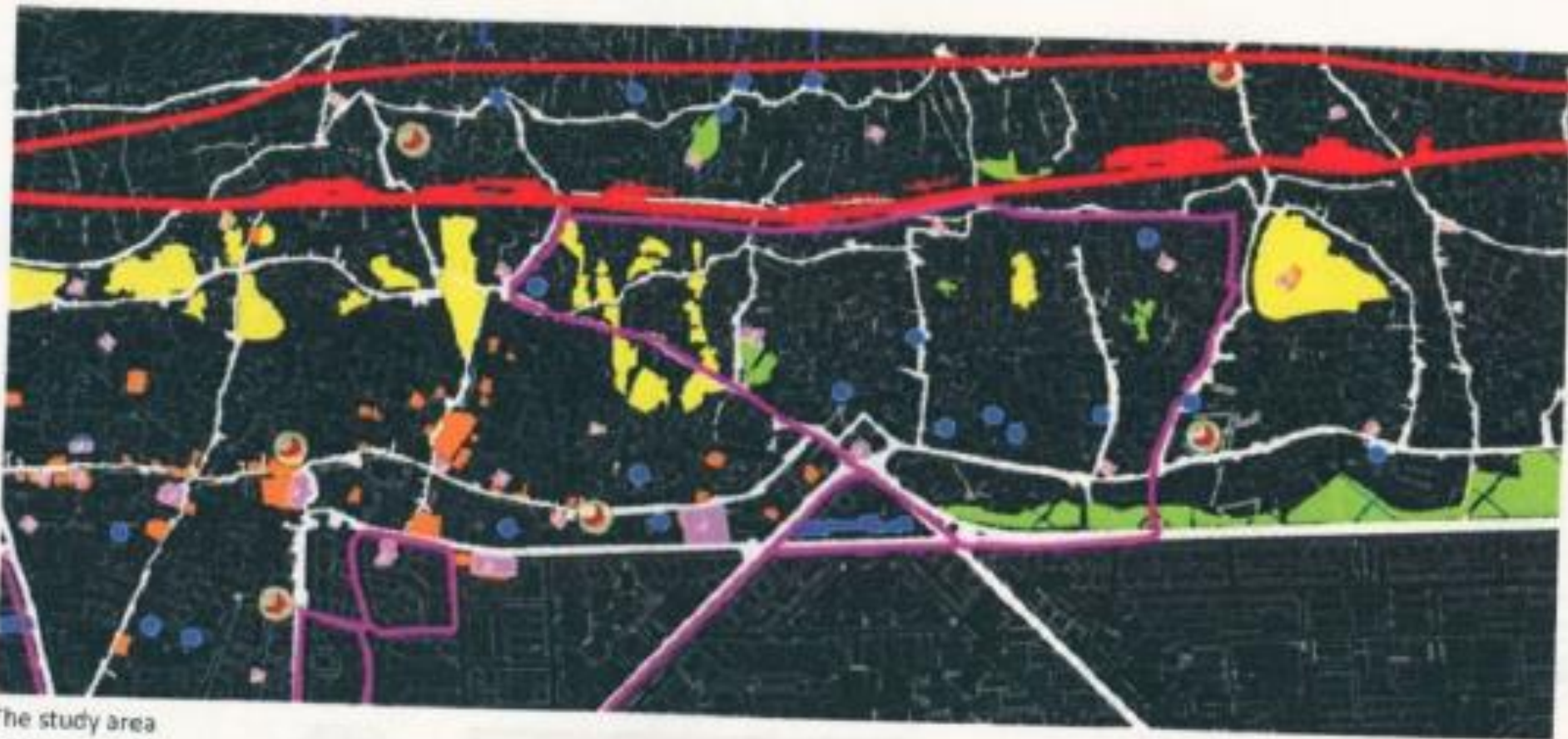
Section

Settlement typologies



Here area of study is located in the boundary of the city.

The populations are refugees, this is different case of study and the users and their culture is important in this term.



The study area
Source: Author's own

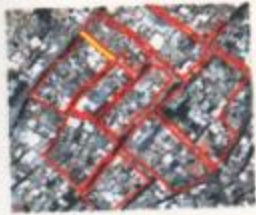
0 250 500m



The area of study is divided by the connections:
Primary streets; Secondary narrow streets, alleys and secret passageways.

Aspect of the Middle Eastern culture are the private, semi private, semi public and public.

OUTPUT



Tracing the satellite image

• A staircase as an example of the work process spotted by interviews



+

Hand drawing for staircase

+

Video for the staircase

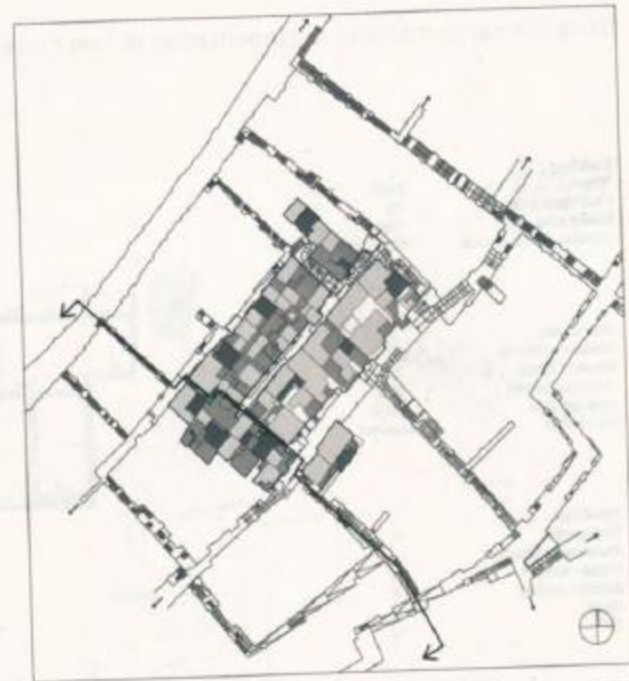


= CAD drawing for part of the map with targeted areas.



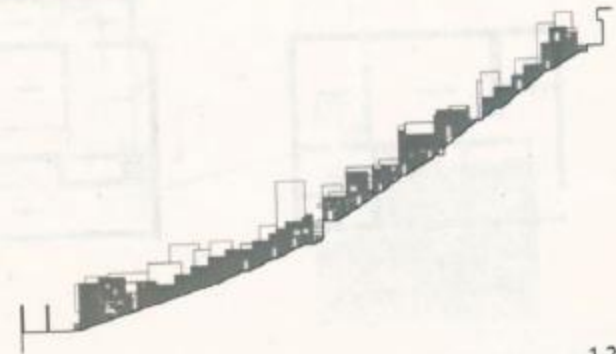
Work Process
Source: Author's own

1.20



Site plan
Source: Author's own

1.21



Section
Source: Author's own

1.22

1. Why mapping?

In the 1970 Syrian Corrective Revolution, better known as the Syrian Corrective Movement, which was a military-pragmatist faction's takeover within the Ba'ath party regime of Syria on November 13, 1970, bringing Hafez al-Assad to power. To increase his popularity he started to use maps drawn by students in Damascus University for the lower part of Kasioun mountain to improve and provide this part of the Kasioun squatter settlement with infrastructure (sanitation, electricity, street pavements ...)

Building :
 Year 1975
 Land area (m2) 79
 Floors area (m2) 104
 Construction materials Clay, brick

Residents:
 Number of family 2
 Person / family 4/5
 Area per person 8/12
 Average age 18/19
 Profession carpenter

Facilities:
 Refrigerator 0
 Washing machine 0
 Video recorder 0
 Satellite (cable) 0
 Radio 0
 TV 0



Section



0



1

House -1- description
 Source: Author's own

Housing documentations

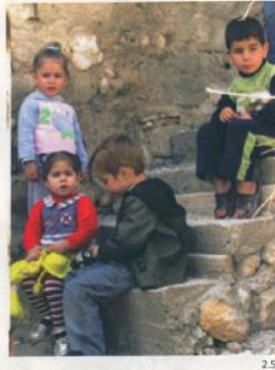
2- Dwellers use vegetation and ivies on the roof for its cooling effect .



5- Teenagers have interest in foreign cultures.



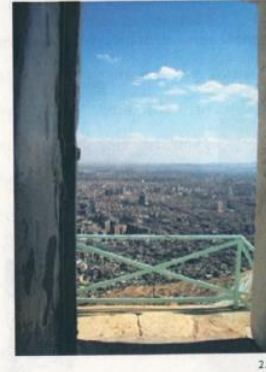
3- Due to the tidiness of the house, sometimes families use the buffer as their living room.



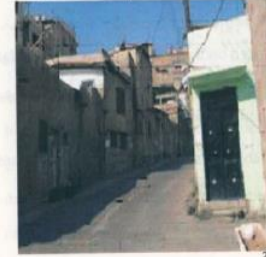
6- Dwellers use the cantilever to gain space.



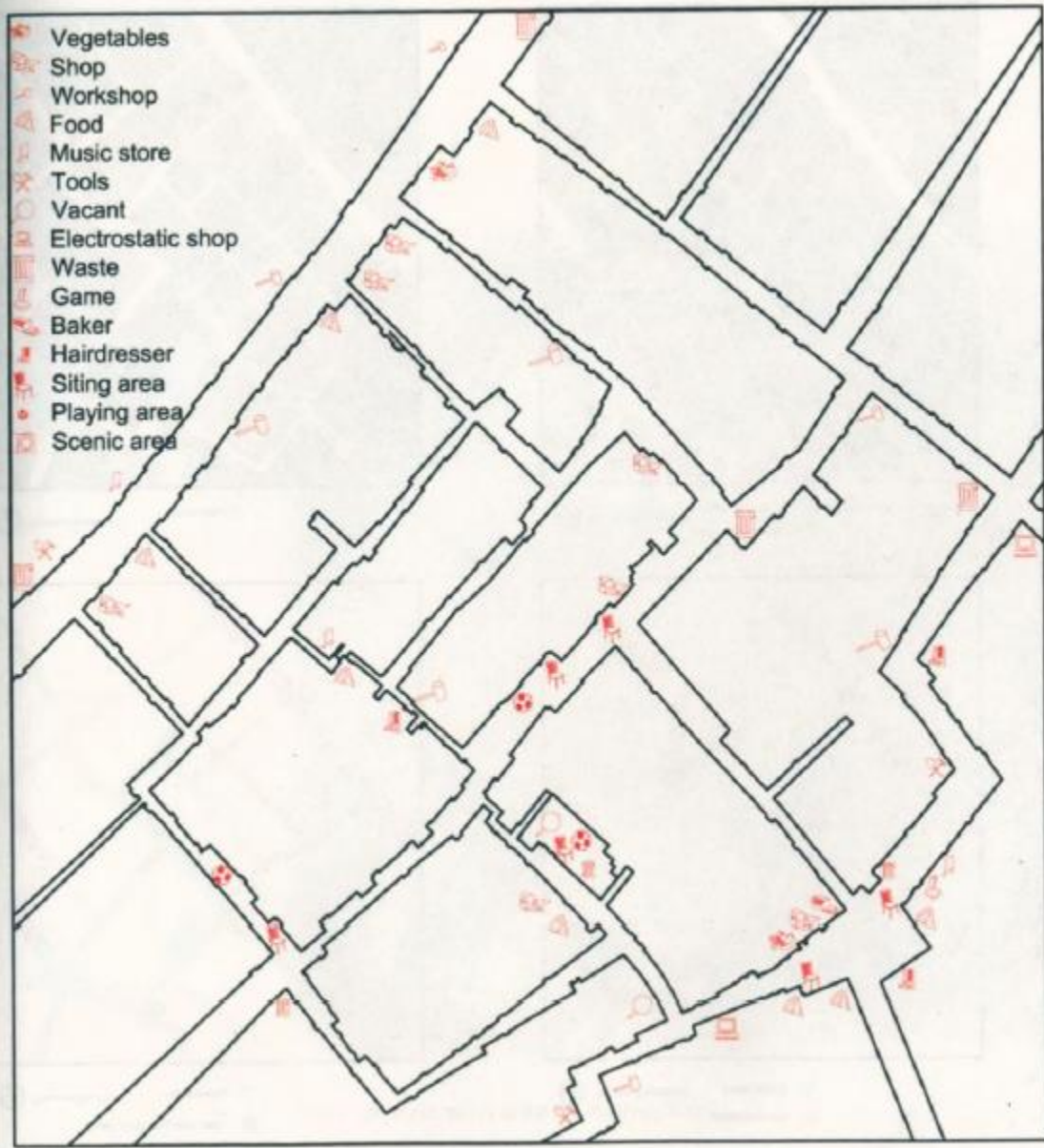
4- Scenic areas are widely available in the site



7- When the space occupied by the family is insufficient, they add living space through encroachment on the public realm,



Observation method



Looking for urban rooms

Activity map





Highlight the opportunities

AREA # 1

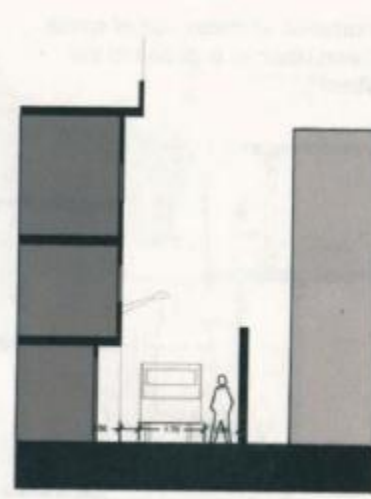


Axonometric with area #1 highlighted

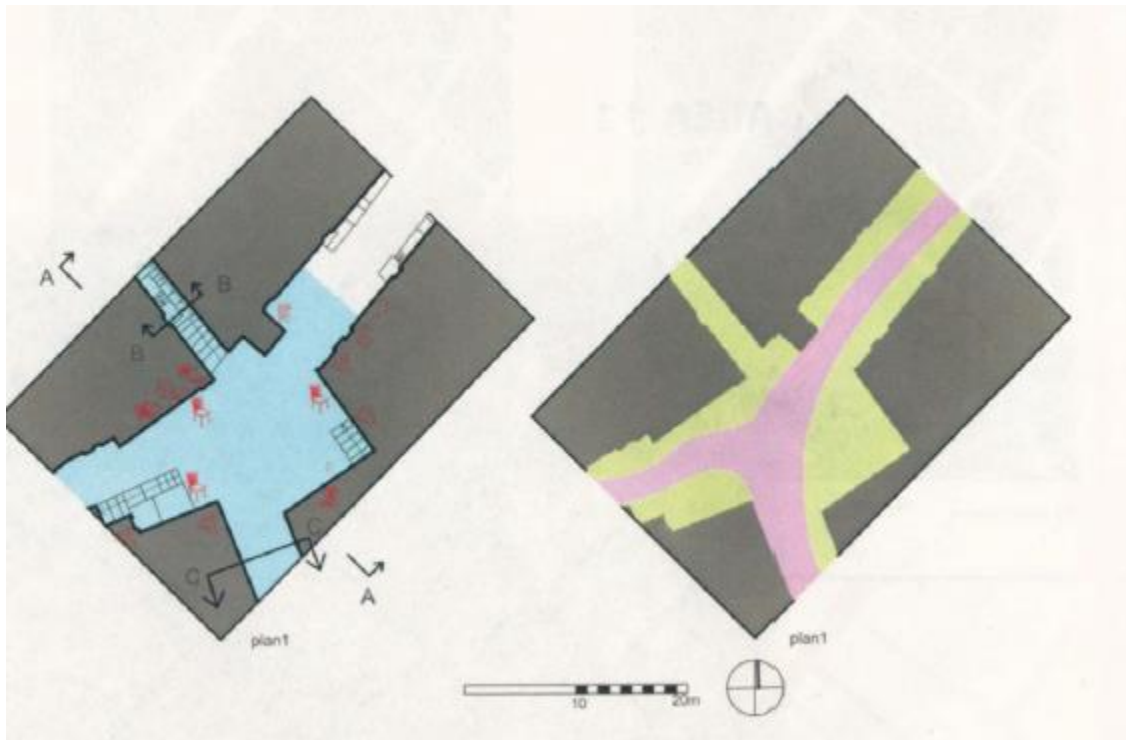
2.14



Section B-B



Section C-C



Various type of site analysis

- Spatial location
- Spatial section
- Functionality
- Materials

Advanced analysis

MATERIAL ANALYSES



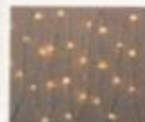
Old cloths and fabrics



Concrete and stones



Twigs



Concrete cast



Plastic bottles



Old wood



Tanks

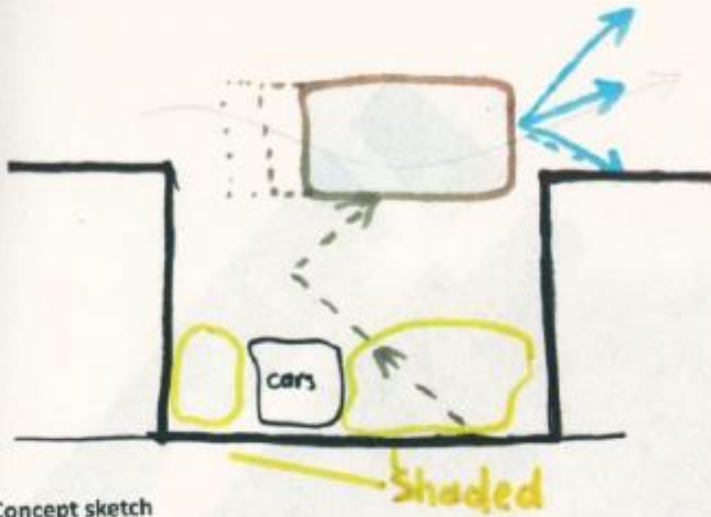


CMU



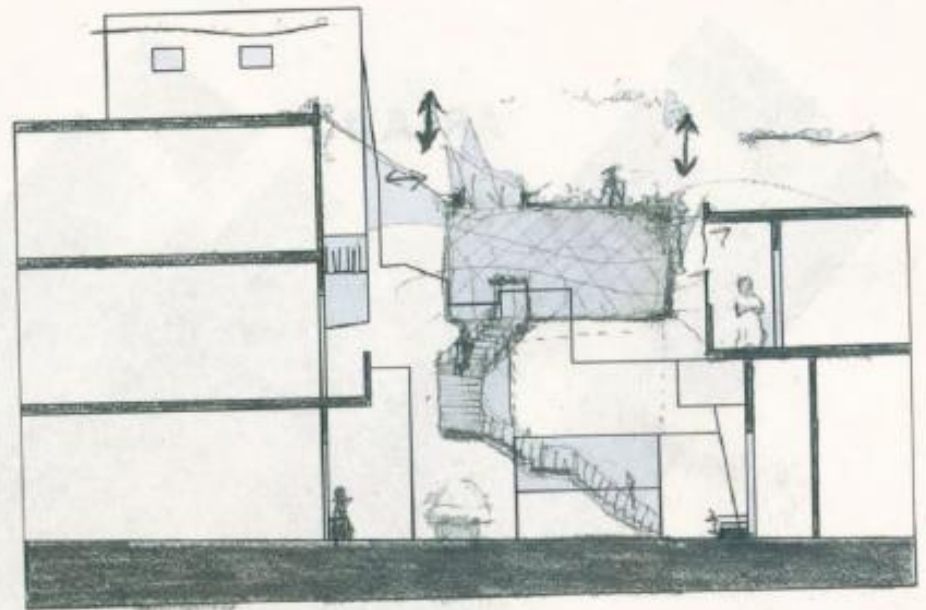
Plants

Raw material



Concept sketch

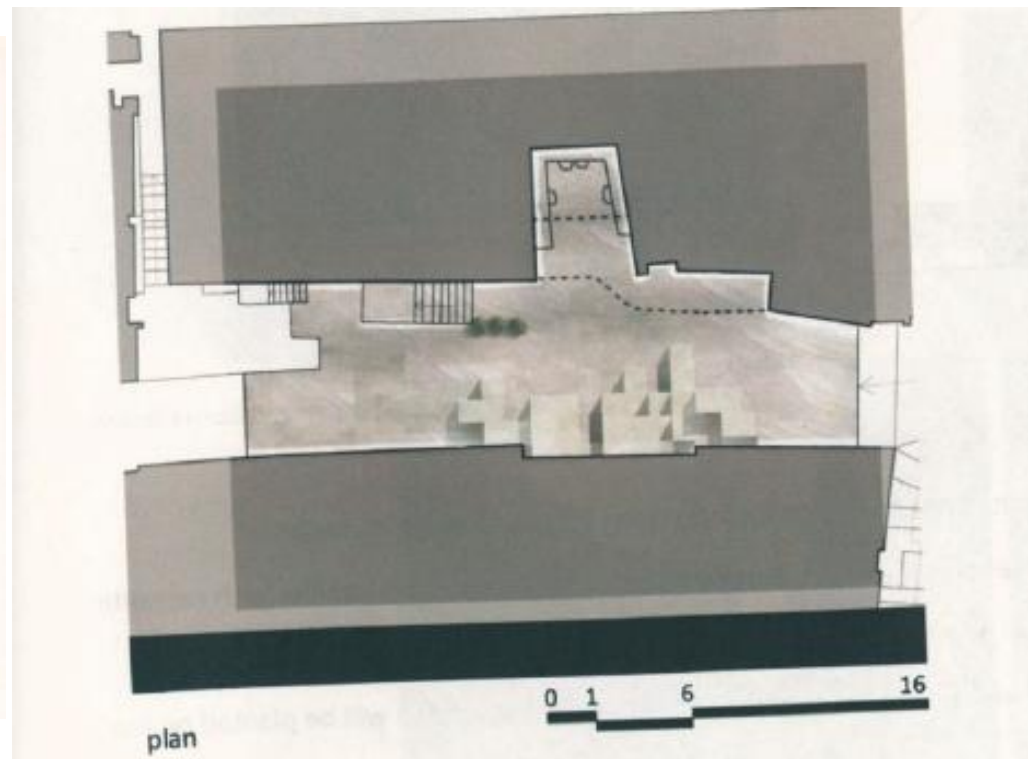
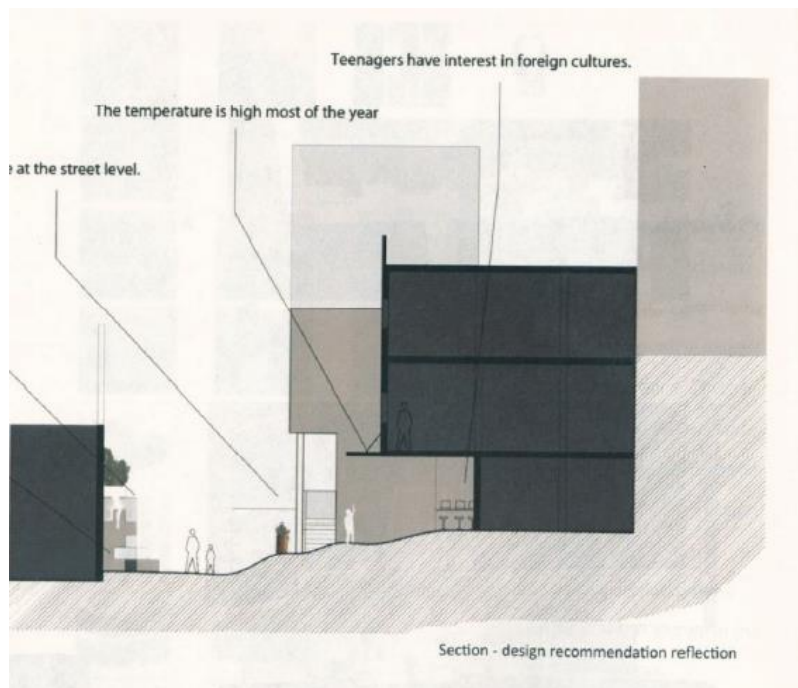
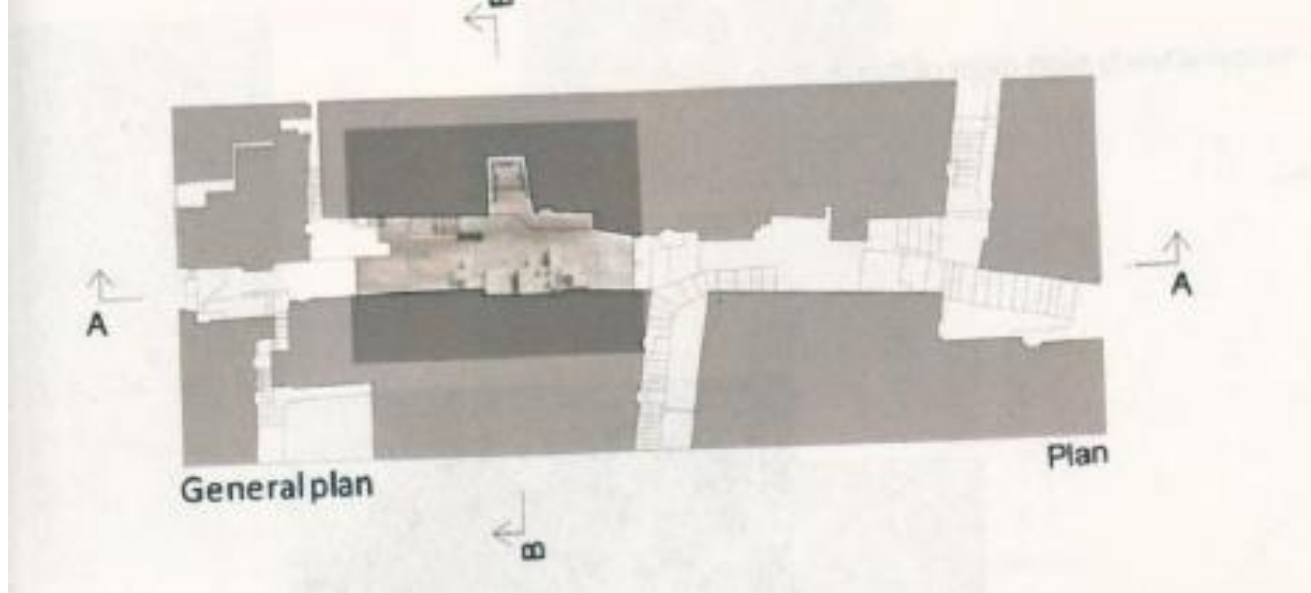
- Some balconies have curtains and blurry glass which refer to women's presence.
- Different step heights around the site refer to different usage,



Concept sketch

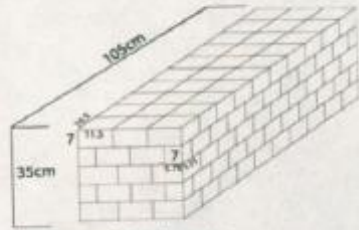
Results

Design interventions

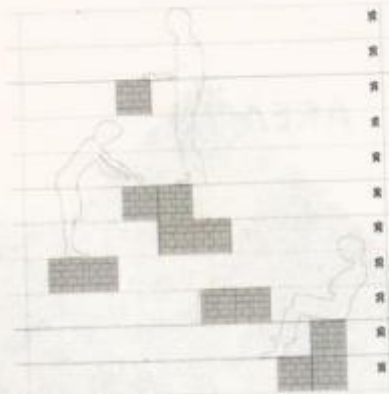




Sketch for the interactive wall 2.26



Concrete cast/unit dimension



Dimension study 2.27



wall in section and elevation



collage for area #2 2.28



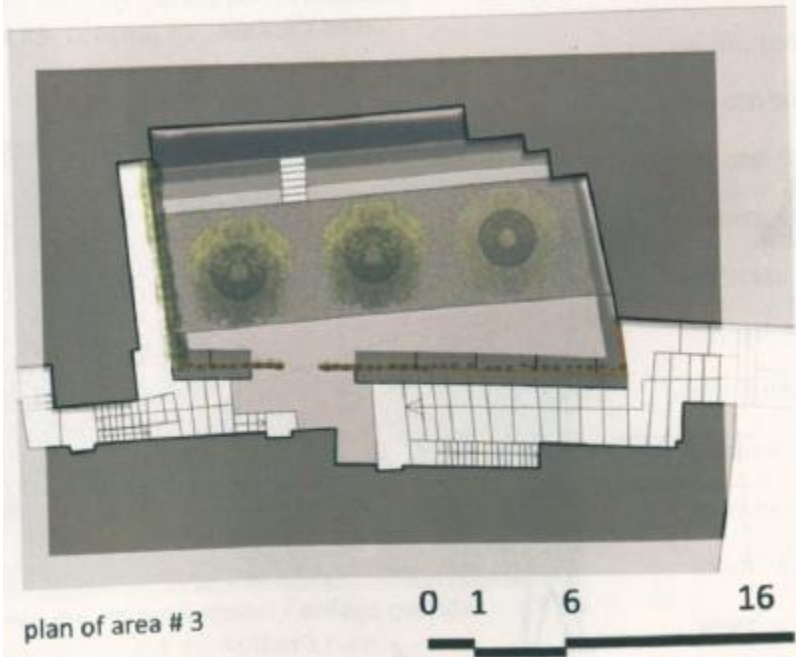
Before - Three dimensional model for area #2 2.29

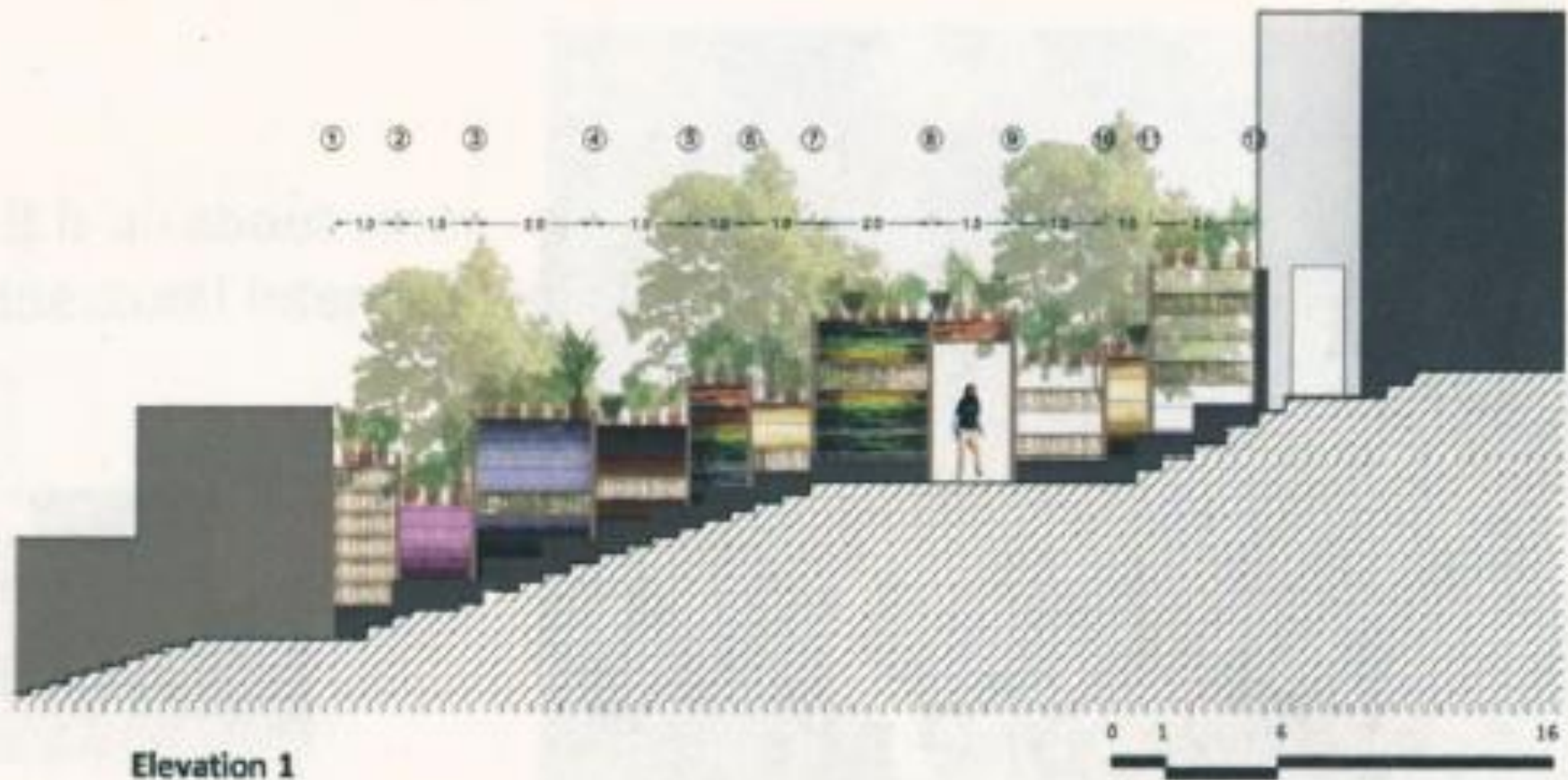


After collage for area #3 2.28



Polymorphic installation – A kinetic double sided bench 2.34





Elevation 1

Conclusion

Critiques:

- Sequence of contents.
- Cases relationship with to settings.
- Critical used phrases.
- Should have more focused research and resources.

Potentials:

- Various types of methods and investigations .

Interviews, observation, videos and photos.

- Various types of analysis: Comparative and comprehensive.
- Various types Design intervention .