

(Re)Contextualising Contested Heritage:

Building Capacity & Designing Participatory Approaches to
Preserve Cultural Heritage by the Youth.

Webinar Seminar



30th May 2020

Webinar Sessions from

Beirut Arab University

Lebanon



30th MAY 2020 Online Seminar

Online seminar presented via Zoom. (Beirut time)

11:00 to 11:15

Welcome and Project Introduction

Prof. Dr. Ibtihal Youssef El Bastawissi, Dean Faculty of Architecture - Design & Built Environment, BAU University, Lebanon

Dr Gehan Selim, Associate Professor in Architecture & Urbanism and Project Principle Investigator, University of Leeds, UK

Dr Nabil Mohareb, Director of Faculty branch in Tripoli, Project International Partner, BAU University, Lebanon

11:15 to 11:55

Keynote Session

Dr. Yasmine Makaron, Director of the Center of Conservation and Restoration, at Lebanese University

"CULTURAL HERITAGE AS EDUCATIONAL TOOL AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL"

Dr. George Arbid, Co-founder of The Arab Center for Architecture

"TURATHNA KELLNA YA3NE KELLNA" "EVERYONE'S HERITAGE"

Panel Session

12:00 to 14:00

Understanding local challenges and opportunities towards co-designing heritage narratives. What tools and what methods?

Arch. Youssef Haider, Architect, conservation of Beit Beirut

Ms. Eva Ziedan, Heritage and community development expert

Ms. Joana Hammour, Save Beirut Heirtage (NGO)

Mr. Elie Saad, NAHNOO (NGO)

Prof. Mohammed Assem, BAU University

Dr. Eslam EISamahi, BAU University

Discussions

14:30

Conclusions and Remarks

Prof. Dr. Ibtihal Youssef El Bastawissi



Professor El-Bastawissi has been the dean of the Faculty of Architecture-Design & Built Environment since 2015. Prior to that, she served as the vice dean of Graduate Studies and Research at the Faculty of Engineering – Alexandria University. From 1979 to 2000, she worked her way up at the aforementioned faculty to become a full professor. She received her Doctor of Philosophy in Architectural Engineering from Alexandria University in 1989, jointly supervised by Liverpool University, United Kingdom. Professor El-Bastawissi's experience is not limited to academics it expands to include practices. Nineteen projects and applied researches from the local to the national levels attest for that. She developed strategic tourism plans in collaboration with governmental agencies and foreign bodies such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Ministry of International Cooperation, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, the General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP), and the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). She has been a consultant for many professional organizations that include the Tourism Development, National Bank, and the architectural design unit at the office of the Minister of Culture. In 2005, she was assigned as international expert to study and prepare the Investment Market Forum in Syria by UNDP. She was a member of the steering committee of Syndicate of Engineers -Alexandria since 1996 until 2011. Professor El-Bastawissi's honors include the State Prize for urban landscape in 2007 for the Development of Qaitbay Historic Site in Alexandria City - a collaborative project for TDA. Recently in December 2018, she has been assigned as the Institutional Coordinator for SDG 9 of the International Association of Universities (IAU) thematic Cluster on Higher Education and Sustainable development (HESD), representing Beirut Arab University.

Dr. Gehan Selim



Dr Gehan Selim is an Associate Professor in Architecture and Urbanism and Fellow of The Senator George Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice (2016/17). She obtained a PhD in Architecture from the University of Sheffield and held permanent posts in several international schools of Architecture in the Middle East and the UK. Dr Selim's architectural practice experience includes designing a wide range of urban housing and educational projects, exhibitions and schools. She has over 23 years of experience in teaching, developing and delivering courses in architecture and urban design at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She serves on the editorial board and scientific committee of several international journals and conferences. Dr Selim is an affiliate member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and an Associate Member of the Higher Education Academy (HE).

Dr. Nabil Mohareb



Dr. Nabil Mohareb is an Associate Professor and the Director of Faculty Branch, Faculty of Architecture – Design & Built Environment, Beirut Arab University, Tripoli Campus, Lebanon.

His research is focusing on the relationship between architecture and urbanism; he is interested in social behaviour activities, their mutual effect on both spatial and economic variables in urban spaces. He has participated in number of international funding research related to understanding social behaviour activities.

With regards to his teaching experience, Dr. Nabil has worked for distinguished universities in Egypt, United Arab Emirates and Lebanon.

1. Dr. Yasmine Makaroun



Graduated in architecture from the Institute of Fines Arts at the Lebanese University in Beirut in 1988, **Yasmine Makaroun Bou Assaf** completed her studies in France with a master in management of archaeological sites and holds a Ph.D in archaeology from *EPHE – Paris*. Since 1992, she worked into archeological excavations and on conservation projects for major sites in Lebanon (Byblos, Nahr El Kalb, Beit mery, Tripoli, Tyre, Baalbeck) and Syria. She teaches at the Faculty of Architecture at the Lebanese University since 1997 and was the chairman of the Department of Architecture, Br II (2013/2015). Academic Member of the Center of Conservation and Restoration since its creation in 1997, she is the actual director.

2. Dr. George Arbid



Dr. George Arbid is an architect with successive teaching positions at ALBA, AUB and the Lebanese University. He received a Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures in Architecture from ALBA and a Doctor of Design degree from Harvard University. He also Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the History, Theory and Criticism Program at MIT.

His area of interest covers mostly modern architecture in Lebanon and the region. Dr. Arbid is the co-founder and director of the Arab Center for Architecture.

Dr. Arbid served on several competitions and award juries, including the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award 2019.

He is a member of the advisory committee on heritage at the Ministry of Culture.

3. Arch. Youssef Haider



Youssef Haider pursued his higher education in Paris. He graduated from Ecole Nationale Supérieure D'Architecture de Paris la Villette in 1988, and then worked in several French architecture firms before returning to Beirut in 1994, where he founded his architectural Firm. Since 2017 He founded an associate Firm HFG Architects. Youssef Haider has a wide experience in Renovation and Rehabilitation of Patrimonial and cultural Buildings, His architectural projects include the Soap Museum in Saida Lebanon, The Riad El Solh Museum in Saida Lebanon, the Omari Grand Mosque in Beirut, the Archaeological Museum of the American University of Beirut, and The Museum of Memory and Urban Cultural Center "Beit Beirut". Youssef Haider is an Artist and has participated in several group exhibitions He is a Knight in the Order of Arts and Letters.

4. Ms. Eva Ziedan



Eva Ziedan (PhD) is an archaeologist, heritage specialist and community development expert with more than ten years of field experience in Syria and Europe. Archaeology, working closely with local communities, and negotiating the interpretation of heritage sites are the three interconnected dimensions of her professional and personal experience. This multi-faceted background, both theoretical as well as practical, has given her insight into understanding the relationship between heritage, local communities, and governance. Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis she has been working intensely with civil society networks, community leaders and professionals on various aspects of supporting local actors working on peace building through capacity development, advocacy, project design and innovation, strategic planning, and networking.

5. Ms. Joana Hammour



Joana Hammour (Beirut, 1982) comes from a multi-cultural and professional background which reinforced her belief in embracing one's spectrum of identities. Born in Beirut, from Syrian parents, she grew up in Paris and fulfilled her Masters in Economics and Business Management at the University of Sorbonne-Paris I. Wishing to contribute concretely to the social change in her country, she became involved in the making of the grassroots NGO Save Beirut Heritage (SBH), focusing on preserving the architectural heritage of Beirut. While the current President of SBH, she also works with advocacy NGO NAHNOO, leading the path towards an inclusive society.

6. Mr. Elie Saad



Elie Saad is a young architect and activist who is currently working as an Urban Project Coordinator for NAHNOO, youth-led NGO rallying volunteers across Lebanon to work towards an inclusive society through advocacy campaigns that promote good governance, public spaces and cultural heritage. He is currently working on several urban projects and researches related to the collective memory, Horsh Beirut and the Public maritime domain. As well as several projects to enhance heritage preservation using modern technology, 3D scanning, 3D and 2D photogrammetry and GIS

7. Prof. Mohammed Assem



Dr. Mohamed Assem Mahmoud HANAFI has received his BSc. in Architectural Engineering from Alexandria University (1988), Egypt and PhD. in Urban Conservation from York University, UK(1994)

Currently Professor of Architecture at the Faculty of Architecture – design & Built Environment, Beirut Arab University. Professor of Architecture at Alexandria University since 1995, and has extensive teaching and research experiences in different Academic institutions and universities in Egypt, UAE and Lebanon.

A registered Architect; runs a private practice in Alexandria. Through his practice, he has been involved in a variety of projects: Planning, housing, public buildings as well as Conservation and rehabilitation projects. He won several architectural competitions.

8. Dr. Eslam ElSamahy



Eslam El Samahy is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Architecture - Design and Built Environment at Beirut Arab University. Received his Master and Ph.D. in architectural education from Alexandria University, Egypt. He has many published papers in the field of architectural education especially the architecture design process and the relation with digital tools as virtual reality, and the field of using digital game-based learning, he instructed many workshops that focusing on using mixed reality in collaborative design fields, in addition to his research papers in field of environmental design.

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This seminar aims to regain public interest in cultural heritage, especially among the youth, through establishing a conversation on relevant topics concerning but not limited to archiving, conservation methods, and establishing connections with the public through the use of traditional and new digital technologies methods.

Beirut's Green Line, named after the 1949 partition line between Israel and the West Bank, divided Muslim West Beirut from Christian East Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1991) The busy central area became an arena for intense struggle and destruction and, as the abundant greenery took over, it literally became a 'green' separation line. This soon became a place of wilderness in the midst of a densely developed community, 'nature' created in an urban area, and a sign of urbanity's inability to be a place of coexistence for all. Therefore, the post-war reconstruction of Beirut had many wounds to heal, from physical damage to the painful war memory. In post-war Lebanese culture, the latter has become a sort of a taboo, and hence priority has been given to erasing the physical memory of the war through reconstruction. Beirut was rebuilt with the goal of taking its past picture of glamor back to the Middle East through the reconstruction of the city centre with its confidence and dynamism retained by embracing cutting-edge urban design and principles (Bădescu, 2011).

Currently, there is a need for a national digital archiving system that includes all of the individual experimental approaches to document the contested heritage of Beirut in particular and Lebanon in general. The type and means of documentation should attract and interact with different generations especially the youth, who did not live through the real incidents and only interact with the current conditions. The contested heritage might have different stories to tell; there is no need to select one story when we can provide all of them through applying a digital interactive method, and let the youth interact with all of them.

Questions for discussion:

1. How do you define cultural Heritage (tangible and intangible)? Why is cultural heritage important to you as an individual or a group (memory, identity etc.)?
2. What is the current role of the Youth in understanding the value of the past, what skills and practices are in place? and what actions? (Digital – non-digital)
3. What is the role of local museums in protecting and disseminating cultural heritage? What tools and mechanisms are in place to engage the youth in co-production and co-creating of this knowledge?
4. How can we work in more interdisciplinary ways to engage with this past? What are the main resources we need? What are the challenges: and who are the potential partners?
5. Which are the Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) that engage and correspond to protecting local heritage, how are they tackled and in what manner?

Front Cover Images:

Upper image: "The Egg" photo taken by Arch. Bahaa Abou EL Khoudoud
Lower image: "Beit Beirut" photo taken by Dr. Nabil Mohareb