

UMAR Summer School 2023/2024

56 participants from 13 countries

Seven design groups

School of Architecture and the Built Environment at the German-Jordanian University

Amman, Jordan

1 – 13 July 2024

THE REVIVAL OF GAZA SEAPORT

Water as a catalyzer

إحياء ميناء غزة

الماء كمحفز

The Revival of Gaza Seaport. water as a catalyzer

The Union of Mediterranean Architects (UMAR) summer school is a two-week workshop programme, which is also a design competition, open to all the Mediterranean architecture graduate students looking to start and develop their practice in the region. It is a chance for future architects, from all over the region, to show their talent and get exposure and potentially interact and intervene within their community motivated by a Mediterranean agenda and knowledge exchange.

This year's UMAR summer school course aims at promoting a common reflection on Gaza Port post-war reconstruction among students from different backgrounds. The course focuses on advancing skills for analyzing the present ground context in the Gaza strip conflict zone, translating the last 2023 workshop Port Gaza findings/research and the territory present humanitarian needs into an integrated design response of architecture, infrastructure, and landscape. The students will study the regions' maritime environment as both a local and regionally connected geography, as well as a postwar landscape that is the accumulation of past activities, recent destruction, and the stage for future transformation. This analysis and design-based workshop focus on design strategy and planning as mutually influential wherein frameworks establish parameters with localized programmatic and perceptual rules to guide and direct the students' work into the deliverables.

Summer School

July 01–13, 2024,

SABE, Amman, Jordan

The workshop academic goal is to understand the intrinsically linked nature of these varied aspects of territorial transformations and develop architecture that is specifically tuned to negotiate the fundamentals of human survival and basic principles of resettlement and land use from the sea to the land. A fundamental aim of this workshop will be to develop an efficiency in representation capable of testing the students previous design proposals against varied environmental systems, and across the dramatical context present at the ground. Throughout the course the students will analyze the translation of the observed phenomenon (using the data available online) into organizational frameworks of humanitarian support using the sea accessibility and the port infrastructure. The final output will consist of design proposals for architecture 'nodes' that productively negotiate delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Finally, the central aim of this workshop is to develop an understanding and design methodology for translating design goals across distinct scales of intervention, while it secretly aims at a positive impact in the present situation at Gaza.

Important Dates and facts

ONLINE : First week [1st- 5th of July]:
four sessions online from 17:30h to 19:30h GMT+3

IN PERSON: Second week [5th – 11th of July]: in person working sessions with mentors from Monday to Friday at the GJU-SABE (Jabal Amman Campus), Amman, Jordan. On the 11th July, jury session with invited jury members, deliberation and presentation of certificates and prizes.

Events: Round Table/ conference and exhibition inauguration at venue to be confirmed in 2024. The exhibition will rotate around UMAR's 14 member states.

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Course Expenses and local Accommodation

The attendance is free of academic fees and each student is responsible for its own travel expenses to Amman, Jordan. Students' accommodation and the provision of classrooms and power supply for the extension of the workshop sessions will be provided by UMAR and the Jordan host institutions. Regarding any required visa applications, the Summer School organisation formally states its responsibility for facilitating the international students, assuring the coordination with local Embassies.

Participants

A total of 56 students, graduates of architecture and related disciplines and professional experience in the Architectural field, within the UMAR member states may join. As a goal we encouraged the selection (through open registration) of a total of 10 students from all the member sections, except for Palestine where there would be 20 students from the different schools of architecture in Palestine and 10 students from the Jordanian Schools of Architecture. These 56 participants will form groups of seven to eight who will work together in different teams.

Mentors

A total of seven- eight mentors will guide each students team. Along the first week different lecturers and mentors will present their research and work in the format of remote lecture (one or two session per day during four days) and provide the students with recommended readings. In parallel, a group of four faculty members from Palestinian schools will support the students with research material and facilitate remotely the discussions at the end of every workshop session during these four-fice days, from Monday to Thursday. At the end of each mentor's lecture there will be an open session of Q&A for the participants. This material, the online lectures, the research material and data, and the recommended readings will be published and accessed by the participants at the UMAR website or alternatively these can also be shared by email. The organisation encourages participants to work together in teams and in an interdisciplinary manner attracting support from specialists outside the field of architecture.

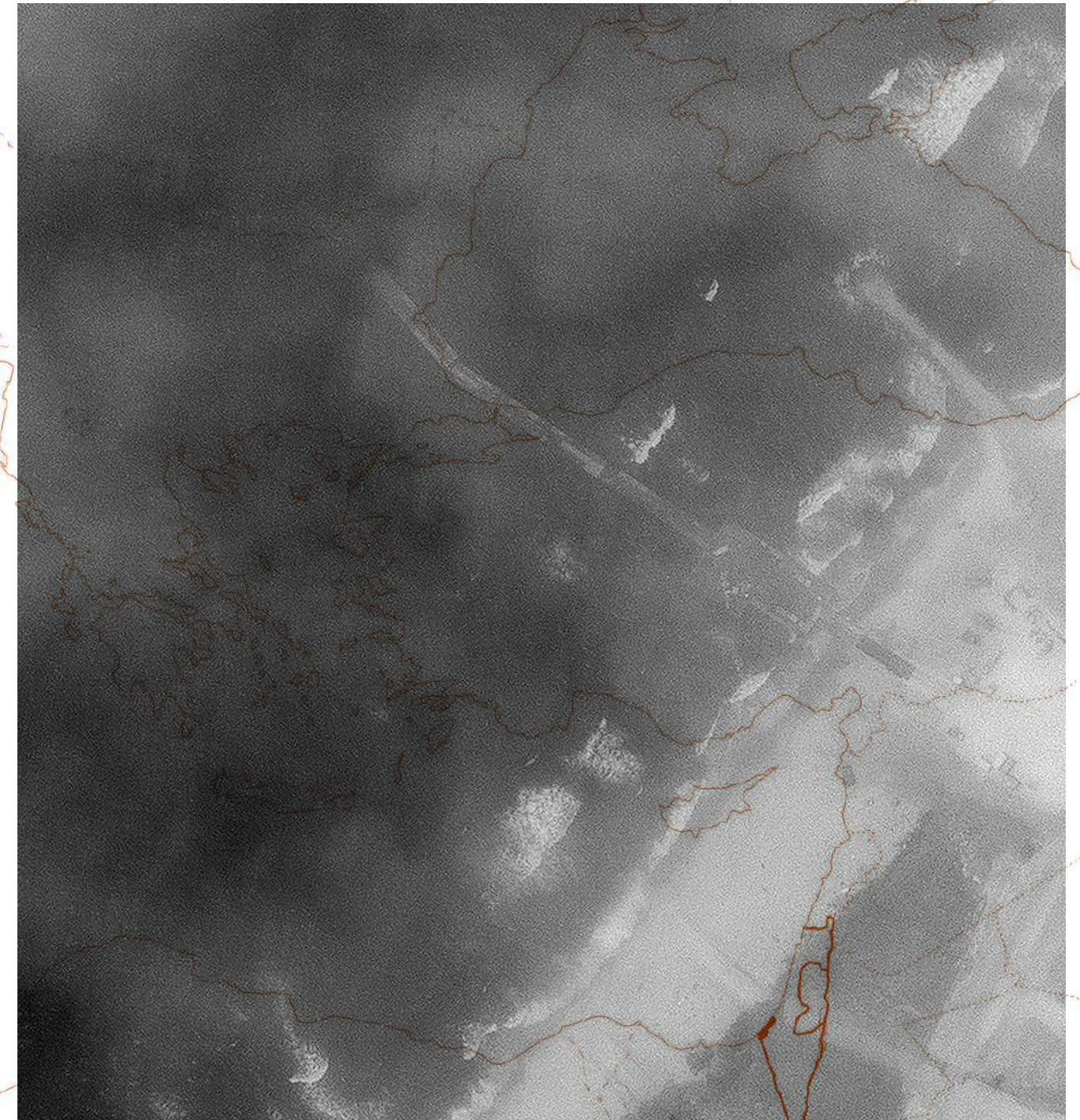
Jury

An external jury of distinct architects, nominated throughout the different member states, will select the winning proposal. The award ceremony and exhibition will take place in October 2024 at the Centre for Mediterranean Architecture (CAM) in Crete, Greece, during the celebration of UMAR 30th anniversary.

Prize

The participant(s) behind the winning proposal shall receive \$1000. The jury will also decide on the number of honourable mentions to assign to the remaining participants. The seven-eight proposals will be exhibited at the CAM during the celebrations of UMAR's anniversary mentioned above. Following the inaugural venue, the exhibition shall travel throughout the different UMAR member sections. It will also be published online at the UMAR website and disseminated through different social networks and architecture online platforms.

For more information e-mail: summerschoolgaza@gmail.com



Tue May 28, 2024 Maxar Technologies satellite image showing US pier constructed off Gaza was broken apart