

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

Registration: Register online @summerschoolgaza@gmail.com before May 30, 2024

Workshop dates & Location: From 1st to 13th of July 2024, German Jordanian Univ., Amman, Jordan

ONLINE : First week [1st- 4th of July]: four sessions online from 17:30h to 19:30h GMT+3

IN PERSON: Second week [8th - 13th of July]: in person working sessions with mentors from Monday to Saturday in German Jordanian University, Aman, Jordan. On the 13th 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 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 30-35 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 encourage the selection (through open registration) of a total of 10 students from all the member sections, except for Palestine where there would be 15 students from the different schools of architecture in Palestine and 10 students from the German Jordanian University SABE [School of Architecture and Built Environment]. These 35 participants will form groups of five who will work together in different teams.

Mentors

A total of five- seven mentors will guide each student 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 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.

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 five proposals will be exhibited at venue location to be determined and to inaugurate on 2024 during the celebrations of UMAR's anniversary. Following the inaugural venue, the exhibition shall travel throughout the different 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

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