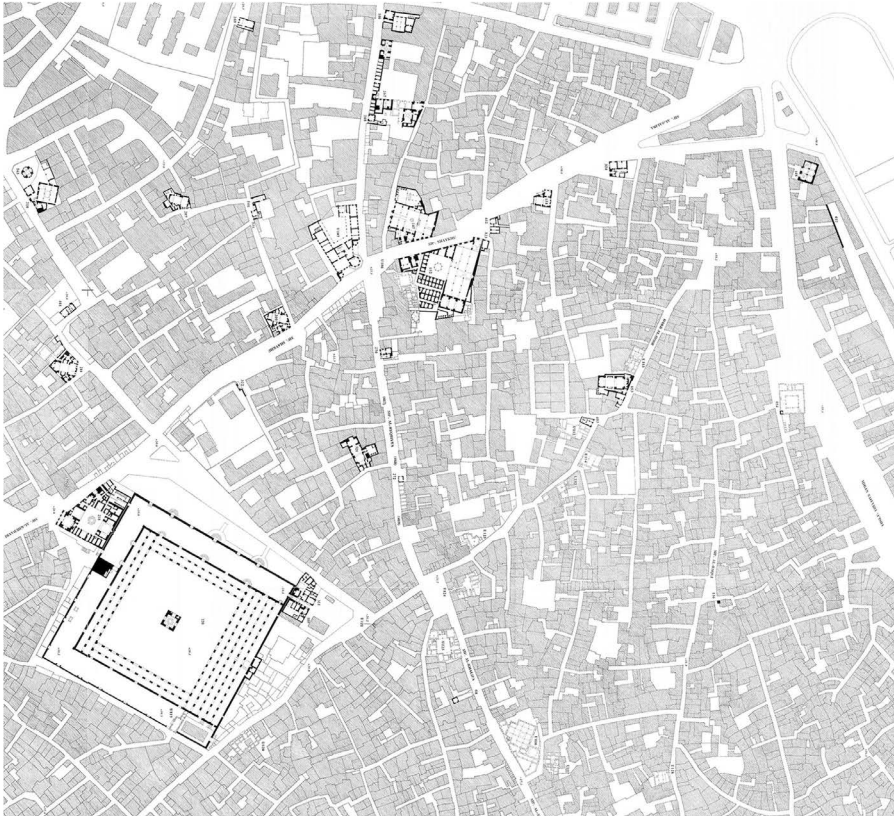


مع المجتمعات، وللمجتمعات: إحياء حيّ الخليفة - التخضير، والرقمنة، وتصميم المجتمعات

WITH COMMUNITIES, FOR COMMUNITIES: REGENERATING AL-KHALIFA | Greening, Digitizing & Community Design

CAIRO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - CAIRO, EGYPT, 03-09 APRIL, 2026

Cairo University | Alexandria University | Arab Academy for Science Technology and Maritime Transport | Bauhaus University, Weimar | Chalmers University | Politecnico di Milano | German Jordanian University | University of Petra



PRO
GREEN LABS

معامل التصميم الحضري
URBAN FORM LAB
مركز الأبحاث والتطوير في التصميم الحضري
Urban Form Lab

سجاورة
السجورة

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CHALMERS


ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY
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CAIRO UNIVERSITY


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GJU
الجامعة الألمانية الأردنية
German Jordanian University

**CAIRO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL | APRIL 3-9, 2026 - CAIRO, EGYPT
WITH COMMUNITIES, FOR COMMUNITIES: REGENERATING AL-KHALIFA
GREENING, DIGITIZING AND COMMUNITY DESIGN**

This International School, **WITH COMMUNITIES, FOR COMMUNITIES: REGENERATING AL-KHALIFA | GREENING, DIGITIZING AND COMMUNITY DESIGN** is one of several initiatives and activities organized within the framework of Pro-Green Labs project.

*** Pro-Green Labs (Promoting Integrated Green Competences for Sustainable Development in Architectural Education through Experiential Lab-based, Active Learning), is an Erasmus Project funded by the European Union # 101129466.

The project brings together eight partner universities, three from Europe and five in the South-Eastern Mediterranean SEMED region; all committed to advancing sustainability-oriented innovation through a created network of labs in SEMED region Partner Universities. The consortium includes: EU Universities | Bauhaus University, Weimar (Germany); Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden); Politecnico di Milano (Italy); SEMED region Universities | Alexandria University (Egypt); Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (Egypt); Cairo University (Egypt); German Jordanian University (Jordan); University of Petra (Jordan).

Together, the partners work to develop green skills, integrate the network of labs established through this project into architectural curricula, and support the transition toward more sustainable futures in the built environment.

WITH COMMUNITIES, FOR COMMUNITIES: REGENERATING AL-KHALIFA | GREENING, DIGITIZING AND COMMUNITY DESIGN is organized by Urban Form Lab – Cairo University in collaboration with Pro-Green Labs project partners.





Al-Khalifa Heritage and Environment Park, Cairo, Egypt, 2026.

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Al-Khalifa Heritage and Environment Park, Cairo, Egypt, 2026.

URBAN FORM LAB



معمل التشكيل الحضري - قسم الهندسة المعمارية، كلية الهندسة، جامعة القاهرة هو أحد المعامل الخدمية والبحثية بالكلية، ومركز للتفكير النقدي والإبداعي، والتدريس، والبحث، ودعم الممارسة المهنية، في مجالات التشكيل العمراني، والدراسات العمرانية - مقره قسم الهندسة المعمارية، كلية الهندسة، جامعة القاهرة.

يهدف المعمل إلى: التعامل والتفاعل مع طلاب مرحلة البكالوريوس، نظامي الفصلين والساعات المعتمدة، والدراسات العليا والباحثين، والمؤسسات الأكاديمية، والمهنية، والجهات التنفيذية ووحدات الحكم المحلي، والمجتمعات المحلية، والشركاء الدوليين - في تناول وطرح، وتدقيق ومعالجة القضايا ذات الاهتمام المشترك، المتعلقة بالمدن والنطاقات العمرانية.

The Urban Form Lab - Department of Architectural Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University is a service laboratory, and a Center for Urban critical and creative thinking, teaching, research and practice in Architecture, Urban Form and Urbanism. The lab was founded in 2021 and is currently based at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University.

The lab aims to engage in and collaborate with undergraduate and postgraduate students, researchers, academic and professional partners, local communities, local authorities and international partners to address and investigate issues related to cities and urban areas.



Urban Form Lab – Cairo University is part of the Lab Network re-established through the EU-funded Capacity Building Project: Pro-Green Labs.

As part of this project, the Urban Form Lab has been equipped with a range of tools and technologies designed to support its mission and objectives. The aim is to enhance and enrich both education and research at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University.

معمل التشكيل الحضري – جامعة القاهرة هو أحد المعامل التي تم تحديثها ضمن مشروع بناء القدرات الممول من الاتحاد الأوروبي: برو-جرين لابس (Pro-Green Labs)

كجزء من هذا المشروع، تم تزويد معمل التشكيل الحضري بمجموعة من الأجهزة والتقنيات المصممة لدعم رؤيته وأهدافه. ويهدف ذلك إلى تعزيز وتطوير التعليم والبحث العلمي في قسم الهندسة المعمارية، كلية الهندسة، جامعة القاهرة.



If you are interested in using this equipment for your project or research, please contact the lab team to explore how we can support your work.

Prof. Dr. Sahar Imam, Prof. Dr. Aliaa Al-Sadaty, T.A. Moataz Hasanein, T.A. Ereny Samir

or contact us via email:

urbanformlab@eng.cu.edu.eg

إذا كنت مهتمًا باستخدام أحد هذه الأجهزة في مشروعك أو بحثك، يرجى التواصل مع فريق المعمل لمعرفة كيف يمكننا مساعدتك.

أ.د. سحر إمام ، أ.د. علياء الساداتي، م.م. معتز حسنين، م.م. إيريني سمير

او تواصل عبر البريد الإلكتروني:

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Urban Form Lab is a service laboratory and centre for critical and creative thinking & practice in Architecture & Urbanism based at Cairo University. The lab was established in 2021 and was upgraded with equipment and applications through the EU Funded Project: Pro-Green Labs.

DIGITAL FABRICATION SERVICES

Provided by **URBAN FORM LAB**

Urban Form Lab is offering a range of advanced tools and technologies to support education and research within the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University & beyond.

**3D
PRINTING**



Bring your digital designs to life with layered fabrication for **prototypes, models or custom parts.**

**LASER
CUTTING**



Precisely cut or engrave on **Wood, Foam, Acrylic, or Cardboard** to create your models and design components.

**3D
SCANNING**



Capture spaces and objects in high-resolution 3D using **3D Camera (Matterport) & 360 Scanner (Insta360)** for digital modeling and visualization.

For more Information

www.ufl.eng.cu.edu.eg

Contact Us

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[/urbanformlab/](https://urbanformlab.com/)

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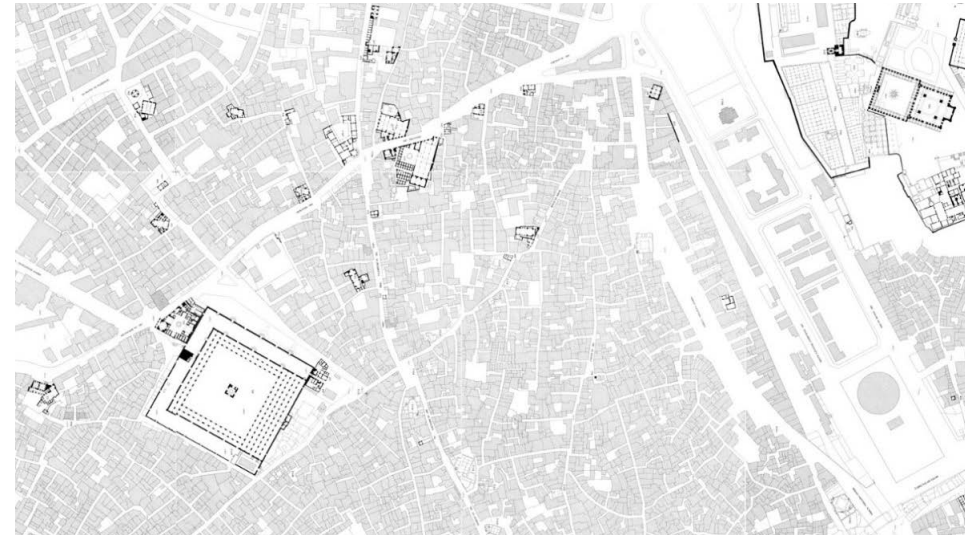


Al-Khalifa, Cairo, Egypt, 2026.

WORKSHOP FRAMEWORK

WORKSHOP FRAMEWORK

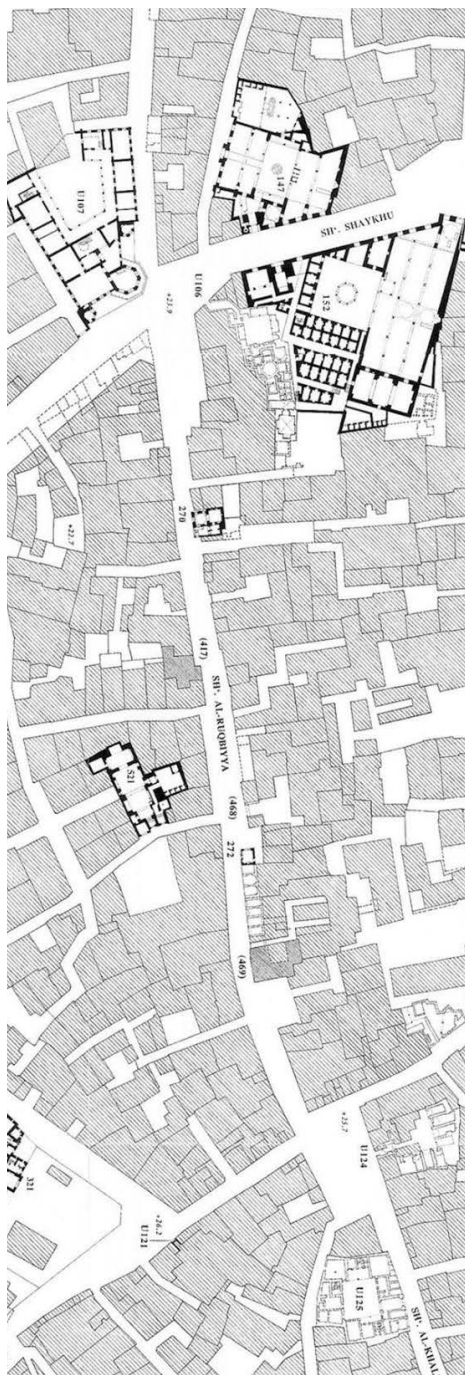
BACKGROUND & RATIONALE



Al-Khalifa is one of Historic Cairo's dense and vibrant districts, deeply rooted in history and shaped by centuries of layered urban development. The area is well connected to major historic landmarks, including Ibn Tulun Mosque, Sultan Hassan Mosque, the Citadel among many other landmarks. It is also linked to numerous shrines and mausoleums of revered Muslim saints and members of the Prophet's family, including Sayeda Aisha, Sayeda Nafissa, Sayeda Rokkaya, Al-Ja'fari, Atika, and many others. This makes the area, and particularly Al-Khalifa Street and its southern section Al-Ashraf Street, both a local and international destination for religious celebrations and visitations. It is also home to annual religious festivities (mawlid), attracting visitors from across Egypt who gather in the surrounding spaces for accommodation and celebration.

The district is bustling with small industries, building trades, and commercial activities, contributing to its dynamic street life. Al-Khalifa also hosts a vibrant community of residents and possesses exceptional heritage value. These tangible and intangible assets offer significant potential for improving the socio-economic conditions of the community if leveraged thoughtfully through heritage-sensitive interventions.

Despite its rich heritage, the district faces multiple challenges, including the deterioration of building façades, fragmented urban infrastructure, and various environmental pressures. A significant concern is the high groundwater level, partly due to water leakage, which accelerates the degradation of historic buildings, undermines street paving, and creates complex social and ecological impacts for residents and the surrounding built environment.



In this International School, Pro-green Labs Project work closely with Megawra – Built Environment Collective, which is a twinship between Megawra, an architectural office specialising in conservation and heritage management, and the Built Environment Collective, an NGO specialising in place-based cultural and urban development. They partner to run Athar Lina, an initiative working in Historic Cairo within a mandate of heritage as a driver for development.

In collaboration with Pro-Green Labs, the International School will focus on the northern segment of Al-Khalifa Street, situated at the heart of the Al-Khalifa district. Al-Khalifa Street is the main street in the district, and it forms a key extension of the historic Qasaba of Cairo, running from north to south and serving as a vital urban spine that connects major religious, cultural, and commercial landmarks.

Within the framework of this International School, students will be organized into groups, focusing on one of the three main thematic streams of inquiry. The first stream will explore the reuse of groundwater, investigating strategies to redirect excess water from damaging historic buildings toward supporting sustainable urban ecosystems, including vegetation and public spaces. The second stream will focus on enhancing street façades, particularly the shopfronts, while preserving the individuality and diversity that define the district's unique urban character. The third stream will engage in digital documentation and 3D modeling, creating accurate records of the area's built environment, streetscape, and heritage assets, which can be used for both analytical purposes and to inform future design interventions. Together, these streams aim to integrate environmental sustainability, heritage sensitivity, and participatory urban design in Al-Khalifa Street.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Aims

The International School aims to engage students in heritage-sensitive, community-driven, & environmentally sustainable interventions in Al-Khalifa Street, Historic Cairo, combining hands-on design, ecological strategies, and digital documentation to enhance the district's urban and socio-cultural value.

Objectives

1. **Support the participants' skills in what concerns Community-Engaged Design**
 - Collaboration with local residents and shop owners to co-develop design interventions that upgrade street façades while preserving the individuality of shopfronts.
 - Foster participatory approaches to strengthen social cohesion & empower the community.
2. **Enhance the participants' awareness of possible Environmental and Ecological Strategies to mitigate the challenges in the area**
 - Explore sustainable approaches to managing groundwater and mitigate its damaging effects on historic buildings.
 - Investigate the potential for urban vegetation to enhance microclimate, biodiversity, & spaces.
3. **Elevate the participants' skills in Digital Documentation and Modeling**
 - Record and model key heritage assets, including Khanqah of Shaykhun
 - Produce 3D digital models that can support future research, design proposals, and heritage management strategies.
 - Create a Physical model for parts of the street segment under investigation

INVESTIGATION STREAMS

During Cairo International School, the participants will work closely with Megawra-BEC in Al-Khalifa, particularly in one or more of the following main streams:

Stream 1 – Street Façade and Shopfront Redesign

Megawra has developed a well-established approach to engaging with the local community, particularly along Al-Rukbiyya Street, through co-design workshops conducted during the design phase of implemented interventions. Gaining insight into users' needs, spatial practices, and aspirations has proven essential to the success and long-term sustainability of these projects.

In this regard:

- Participants of Cairo International School are expected to collaborate with local shop owners and residents to upgrade building façades.
- Participants of Cairo International School are expected to focus on visual continuity, heritage-sensitive design that meets the needs of the community, without standardization.

Deliverables & Expected Outcomes:

Participants are expected to propose architectural renovation designs and strategies for shop-fronts that clearly reflect collaboration with shop owners and a nuanced understanding of their businesses and requirements. Proposals may extend beyond façade improvements to reimagine the street edge as a whole. This could include, for instance, the integration of greenery into façades and public space, the introduction of social pockets such as seating areas or refreshment points, and the incorporation of storytelling elements through signage. Overall, the design vision should aim to revitalize the street edge into an active, inclusive, and contextually responsive urban environment that aligns with the community's identity and everyday needs.



Part of the Northern section of Al-Khalifa Street



1- Grocery



2- Silver Accessories



3- Carpenter



4- Appliances Maintenance



5- Butcher



6- Smoke Shop



7- Coffee Shop



8- House Painting Service



9- Dairy and Grocery



10- Jewelry



11- Refreshments



12- -



13- Barber



14- Grocery



15- Workshop



16- Workshop



17- Grocery



18- -



19- Grocery



20- Coffee Roastery Shop



21- Hairdresser



22- -



23- Clothes Ironing store



24- -



25- Barber



26- Tobacco Workshop



27- Barbeque Grilled food



28- -



29- Glass and Mirrors Craft



30- Tailor



31- Nut Roastery



32- Nut Roastery



33- Detergents shop



34- -



35- Stationery



36- -

Stream 2 – Urban Vegetation and Groundwater Reuse

Climate change and environmental challenges in the built environment have been in Megawra's focus in al-Khalifa, with priority to ground water extraction and reuse. Megawra's efforts in this scope are directed towards 4 main goals:

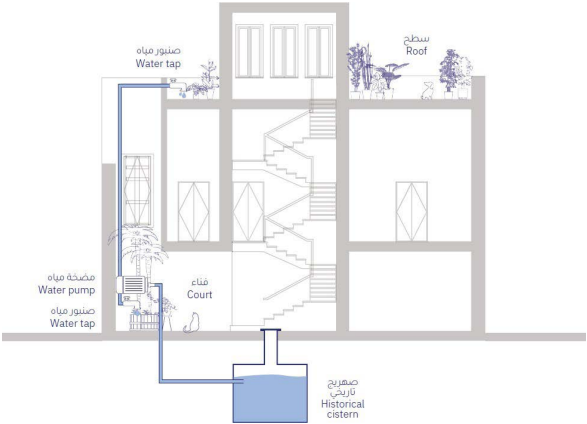
- Ground water reuse/ dewatering
- Enhance ecological biodiversity
- Urban environmental comfort
- Food security (Urban farming)

The executed interventions in this scope include greening public spaces and open spaces attached to monuments, rooftop farming, and ground water dewatering to reduce its adverse effects on the built environment.

The main street, al-Khalifa Street, is rich with heritage sites and is the southern extension of al-Muizz Street in Historic Cairo, its northern section, al-Rukbiyya, is a significant gateway as it is the location of valued heritage buildings and monuments such as Safiyy al-Din Jawhar Dome, Sabil Umm 'Abbas, and The Mosque and khanqah of Amir Shaykhu. In the past 3 years, Megawra-BEC has established multiple urban and conservation interventions within al-Rukbiyya section. Starting with the conservation of Safiyy al-Din Jawhar Dome, where a dewatering system was established to extract ground water. The water is reused in the irrigation of the green backyard space of the dome, 3 public street corridors, 2 farming rooftops, as well as in firefighting and street cleaning outlets. Megawra aims for future expansion of green spaces and ground water reuse, targeting two new potential sites: (Sabil Umm 'Abbas, and khanqah of Amir Shaykhu and its bath).



Established and future interventions by Megawra-BEC ma

Location	Water source
1- Saliba House (Megawra-BEC headquarters): This late 19th century residential building is located opposite Sabil Umm ‘Abbas on al-Saliba Street. It used to suffer from structural problems, mostly due to water damage and loss of cohesion of the upper areas. It serves as an office and cultural space for Athar Lina and contains residential spaces for the use of Athar Lina and the owners. Its roof garden comprises ornamental plants only and the irrigation water is harvested from the historic cistern found under the courtyard.  Saliba House section drawing showing ground water harvesting.	Old cistern
Safiyy al-Din Jawhar Dome: It's a Mamluk mausoleum built in 714 AH/1315 CE by Safiyy al-Din Jawhar who was one of the Mamluk commanders. The building was suffering from rising ground water levels until the intervention in 2023, conservation work focused on dewatering, and architectural conservation.	Ground water dewatering system
Sabil Umm ‘Abbas: Built by Princess Banba Qaden, mother of Abbas Helmi I, in 1867. It's a grand building that served as a public sabil providing drinking water and a school for children.	Old cistern
khanqah of Amir Shaykhu: The Mamluk khanqah was built by Amir Shaykhu in 1355/1356 CE, it served as an Islamic teachings school (madrassa) and a Sofi khanqah, while also containing bath areas, and shops.	Potential ground water source in bath area
Buyut al-Khalifa project An ongoing project executed by Megawra in collaboration with Madinat Masr. It's a three-phase project that aims to restore the buildings facades in al- Rukbiyya Street. The project also includes greening two rooftops for food production which will be irrigated from ground water extracted from Safiyy al-Din Jawhar Dome.	-

In this regard, participants of Cairo International School are expected to:

- Investigate potential for vegetation-based interventions that utilize groundwater sustainably.
- Assess impact on building preservation, street microclimate, and social space enhancement.

Deliverables & Expected Outcomes:

Propose a strategy revolving around ‘revitalization through water’ in the northern gateway of al- Rukbiyya Street, integrating public spaces and heritage buildings (Saliba House, Safiyy al-Din Jawhar’s Dome, Sabil Umm ‘Abbas, and the Khanqah of Amir Shaykhu and its Bath) as sources and spaces for groundwater reuse.

The concept should include possible greening spaces and innovative methods of reusing groundwater that could be interlinked with other potential uses. The proposed strategy should provide holistic coverage of different aspects, such as socio-economic factors, environmental and ecological impacts, and community participation through co-design and heritage education, emphasizing the historical roles of Sabil Umm ‘Abbas and the Khanqah of Amir Shaykhu. The strategy should align with Megawra’s implemented interventions in the area and rebrand the narrative of al-Rukbiyya Street as the northern gateway to al-Khalifa.

Stream 3 – Digital Documentation and 3D Modeling

Digital documentation constitutes a fundamental component of heritage regeneration processes, enabling accurate recording, analysis, and preservation of historic urban environments. In this context, the Urban Form Lab team – Cairo University, will utilize its newly acquired tools and equipment to support advanced documentation and modeling practices within Al-Khalifa.

- Participants will engage in the digital documentation of key heritage assets, with a particular focus on the Khanqah of Shaykhun and selected parts of the northern section of Al-Khalifa Street.
- Emphasis will be placed on producing accurate, high-resolution records of architectural elements, spatial configurations, and streetscape characteristics using contemporary techniques such as photogrammetry and 3D scanning.
- The work will contribute to building a comprehensive digital archive that supports future research, conservation efforts, and design interventions.

Deliverables & Expected Outcomes:

Participants are expected to develop detailed digital and physical outputs that reflect a rigorous understanding of the documented area. This includes the production of 3D digital models representing the built environment, streetscape, and key heritage structures, as well as the translation of this data into physical models.



Al-Khalifa, Cairo, Egypt, 2026.

PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS

Project Partners | professors and architects

Prof. Dr. Frank Eckardt	Bauhaus University, Weimar
Mr. Ahmed Moustafa	Bauhaus University, Weimar
Assoc. Prof. Eugenio Morello	Politecnico di Milano
Dr. Israa H. Mahmoud	Politecnico di Milano
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Prof. Dr. Sahar Imam	Cairo University
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Hana kassem	AASTMT
Omar Karakeesh	AASTMT
Nada Ahmed Ali Aboualfa	AASTMT



Al-Khalifa Heritage and Environment Park, Cairo, Egypt, 2026.

THE PROGRAM

DAY 1: FRIDAY – 03.04.2026		SESSION I: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN PARTICIPATION AND REGENERATION		12:00 – 13:00 Break	
GUIDED VISIT IN DOWNTOWN CAIRO				13:00 – 16:00 Group work at CUFE + Consultation with Professors	
10:00-13:00	Guided visit 19 th C. City Core Meeting point	10:30-10:50	Regeneration by Community: Experiences from East-Germany Prof. Frank Eckardt	DAY 5: TUESDAY – 07.04.2026 DEPT. OF ARCHITECTURE, CUFE	
13:00-15:00	Self-organized lunch break			09:00 – 12:00	Group work at CUFE
15:00 -	Free tour	10:50-11:10	Community Participation in Urban Regeneration and Revitalization Prof. Walter Unterrainer	12:00 – 13:00	Break
DAY 2: SATURDAY – 04.04.2026				13:00 – 16:00	Group work at CUFE + Consultation with Professors
GUIDED VISIT IN ALKHALIFA		11:10-11:30	Evidence-Based Planning for Greener Neighborhoods: CLEVER Cities Experience	DAY 6: WEDNESDAY – 08.04.2026 ARCHCAIRO X CONFERENCE CAIRO UNIVERSITY - NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY	
10:00-11:30	THE FRAMEWORK Venue Al-Khalifa VENUE Aims/ expected outcomes / Groups			09:30 – 14:00	ARCHCAIRO X CONFERENCE
11:30-12:00	Break	11:30-11:50	Discussion Assist. Prof. Israa Mahmoud	16:15 – 18:00	ROUNDTABLE BY PRO-GREEN LABS LIVING LABS FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES Insights from Pro Green Labs Project Partners HYBRID SESSION
12:00-13:30	Guided tour Al-Khalifa	11:50-12:30	Coffee Break		
13:30-16:00	Digital Documentation in Al-Khalifa				
DAY 3: SUNDAY – 05.04.2026		12:30-13:10	SESSION II: APPROACHING COMMUNITY IN AL-KHALIFA Ather Lina Initiative: Heritage, Climate Change, and Capacity Building	DAY 7: THURSDAY – 09.04.2026 DEPT. OF ARCHITECTURE, CUFE ARCHCAIRO X CONFERENCE CAIRO UNIVERSITY - NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY	
09:30 – 10:00	Informal start				
10:00– 10:10	WELCOMING NOTES Prof. Dr. Sherine Wahba Head of the Dep. of Architecture, CUFE Prof. Dr. Sahar Imam - Prof. Dr. Aliaa AlSadaty Professors of Urban Design, CUFE	13:10-13:30	Discussion Dr. May al-Ibrashy Arch. Ahmed Mansour		
10:10 – 10:30	ABOUT PROGREEN LABS & Cairo International School Arch. Ahmed Moustafa Prof. Dr. Aliaa AlSadaty	14:00 – 15:30	END OF PUBLIC EVENT Group work at CUFE	09:00 – 12:00 Final Presentations by Students - CUFE HYBRID SESSION	
		DAY 4: MONDAY – 06.04.2026	DEPT. OF ARCHITECTURE, CUFE	12:00 – 13:00	Break
		09:00 – 12:00	Group work at CUFE	15:00 – 18:00	CLOSING OF ARCHCAIRO X CONFERENCE END OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN CAIRO
				HYBRID SESSION	



Al-Khalifa, Cairo, Egypt, 2026.

OUTCOMES PANELS & PRESENTATIONS

GROUP 01

Mariam Morsy
Cairo University

Aleksandra
Cairo University

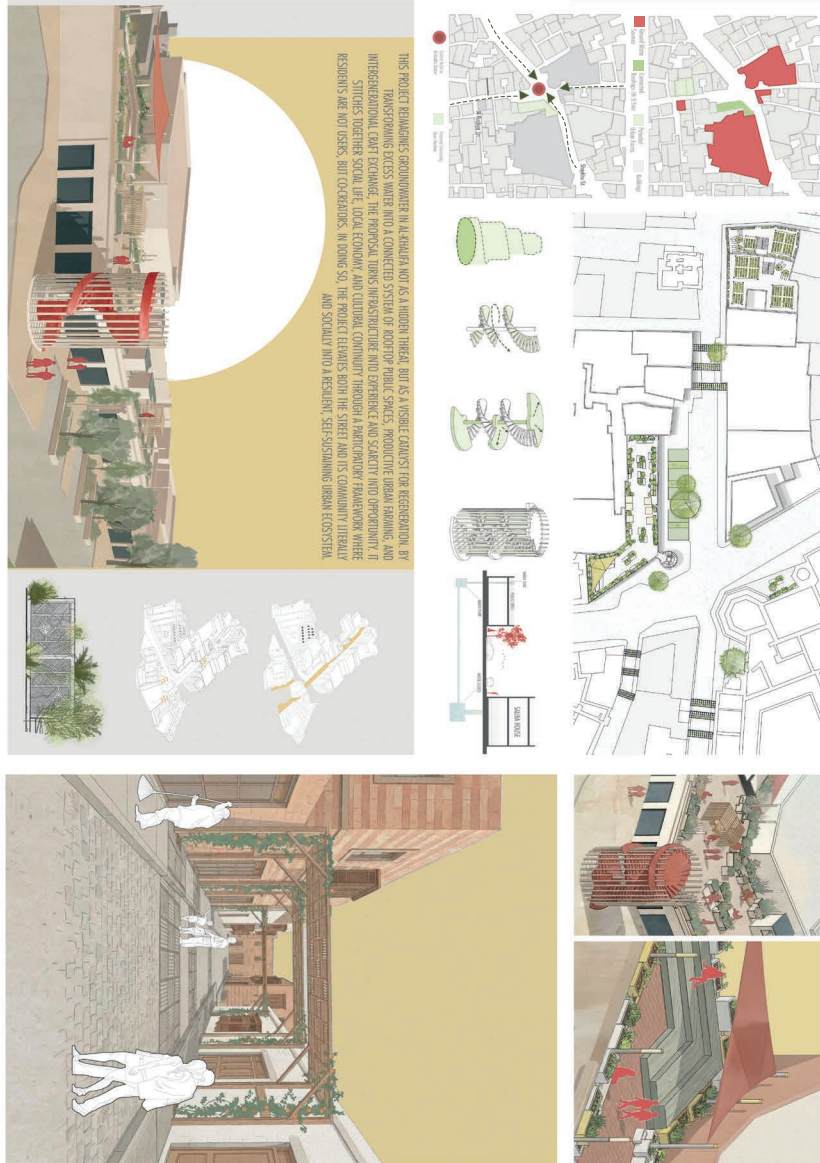
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مع المجتمعات، وللمجتمعات: إحياء حي الخليفة - التخضير، والزقمة، وتصميم المجتمعات
WITH COMMUNITIES, FOR COMMUNITIES: REGENERATING AL-KHALIFA | Greening, Digitizing & Community Design

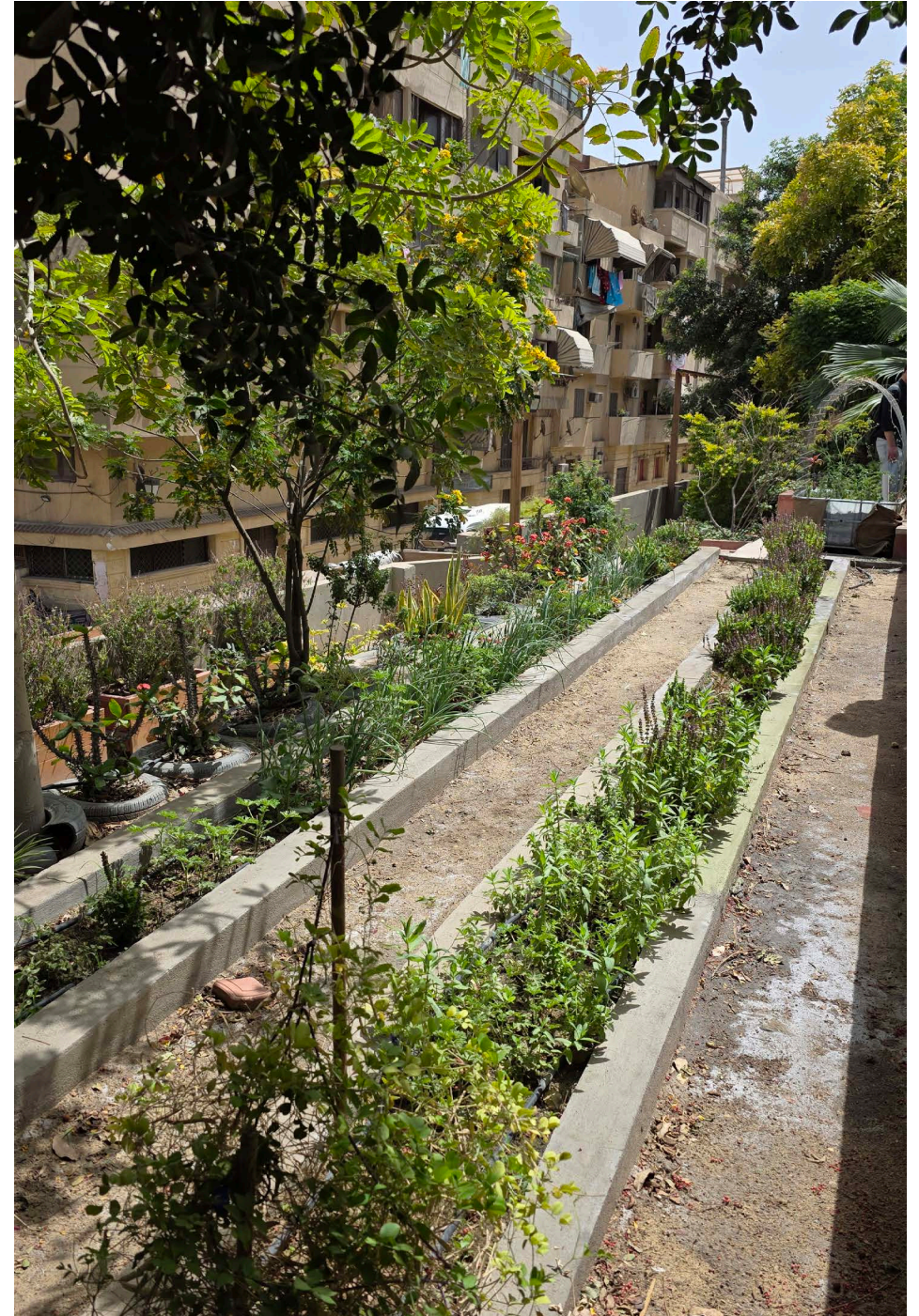
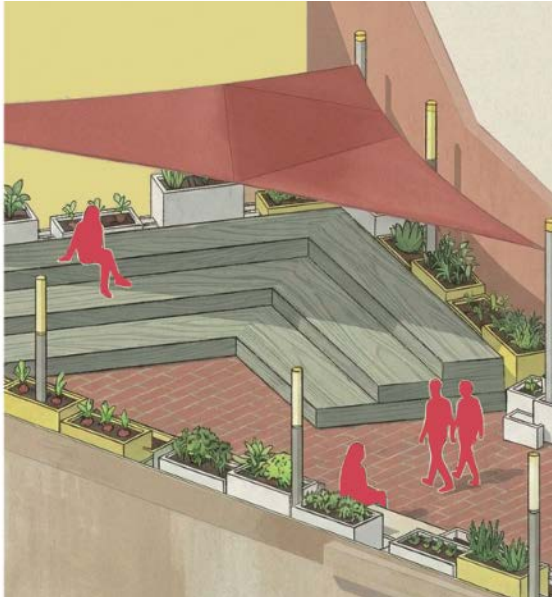
CAIRO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
 CAIRO, EGYPT, APRIL, 2026



Concept

This project reimagines groundwater in Al-Khalifa not as a hidden threat, but as a visible catalyst for regeneration. By transforming excess water into a connected system of rooftop public spaces, productive urban farming, and intergenerational craft exchange, the proposal turns infrastructure into experience and scarcity into opportunity. It stitches together social life, local economy, and cultural continuity through a participatory framework where residents are not users, but co-creators. In doing so, the project elevates both the street and its community literally and socially into a resilient, self-sustaining urban ecosystem.





Al-Khalifa Heritage and Environment Park, Cairo, Egypt, 2026.

GROUP 02

Somaya Metwaly Cairo University		Dina Roshdy Cairo University		Hesham Shikhidris Cairo University		Rana Hazem Alexandria University		Jana Elkhodary AASTMT
Ahmed Ibrahim Cairo University		Reham Lasheen Cairo University						

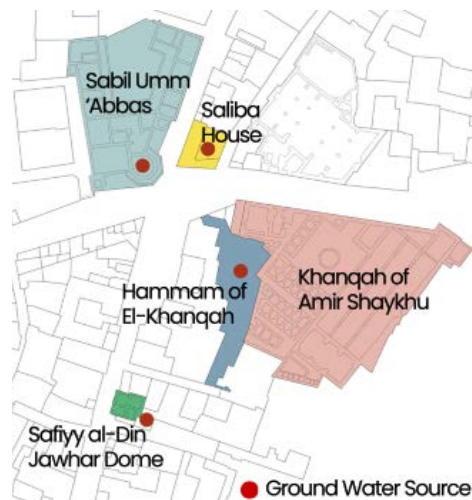
Rugaa رُغَاة



Problem & Observation



- Water collects in four key spots.
- It harms daily life and the urban environment.
- The unused water is wasted and causes environmental issues.



These plants work together to improve air quality and reduce odors through natural filtration and pleasant scents. The mix of aromatic and hardy species creates a resilient green buffer that adapts to low-quality, slightly saline water while enhancing comfort and visual appeal.

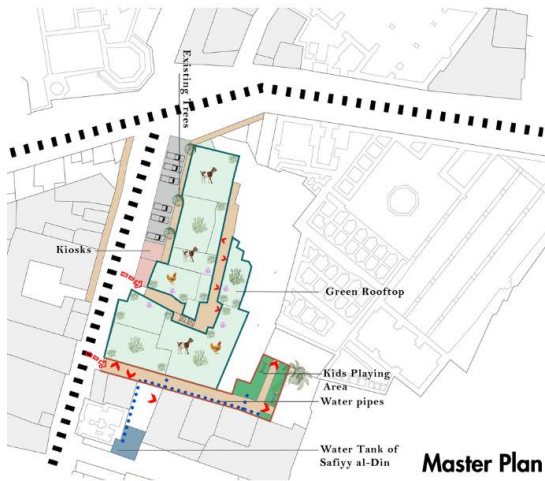


User Analysis

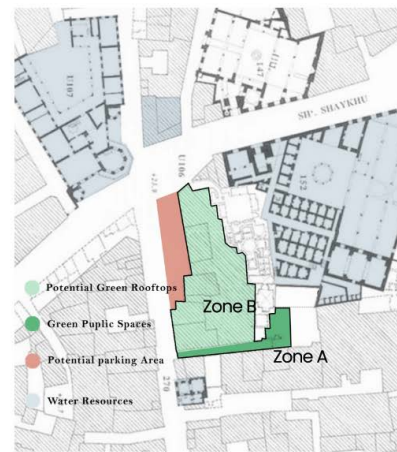


The project aims to enhance quality of life for residents around the historic Hammam of El-Khanqah and the Safiyy al-Din Dam by upgrading housing conditions and reactivating open spaces, the project will introduce social activities that foster community ties, support children's needs, promote healthier living environments and minimize the ground water amount in historic district.





Master Plan



Zoning Diagram



From Space to Create a Green walls

A Quiet Retreat

Interaction with Plants

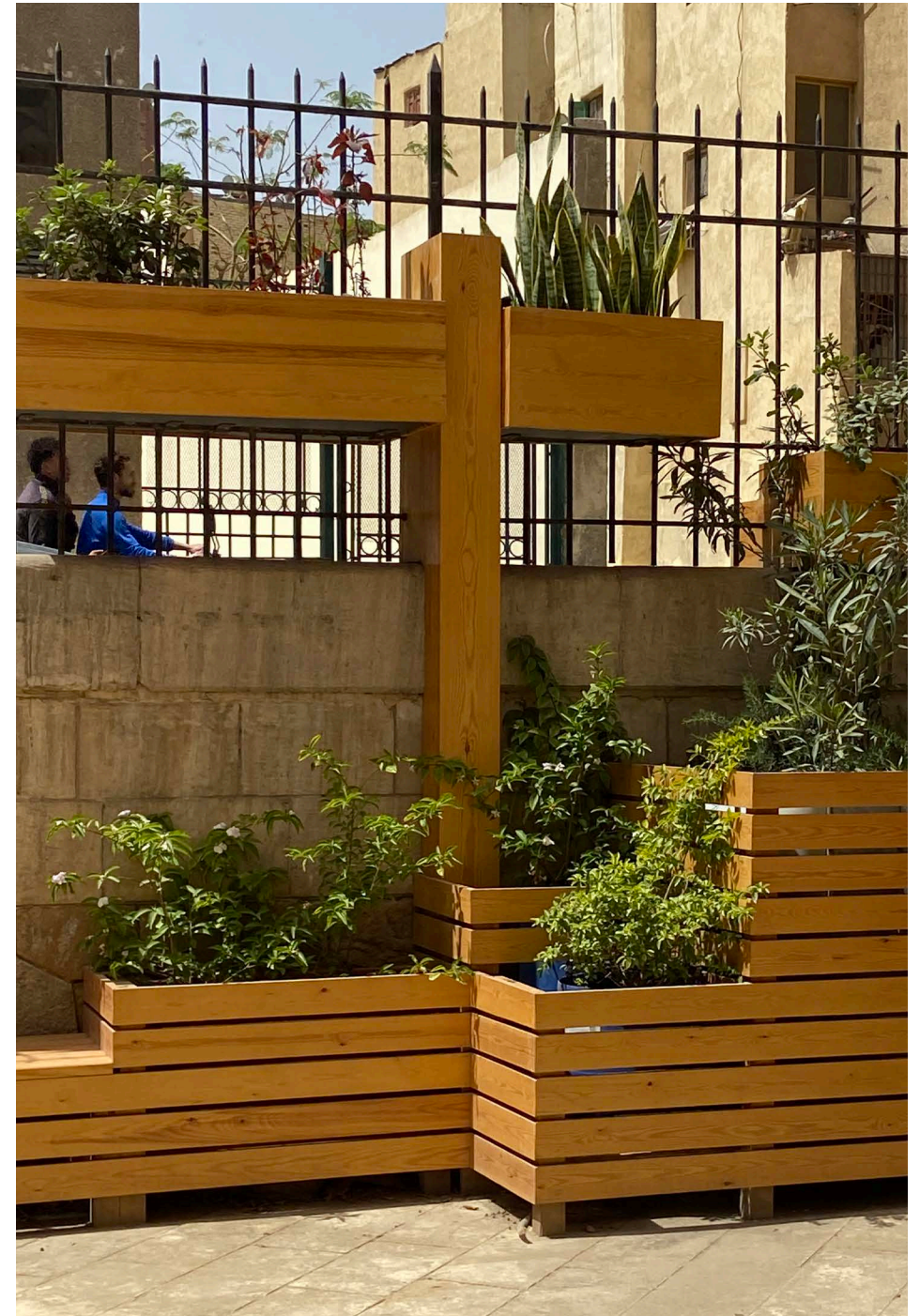
Urban Biodiversity

Proposed Extension of the Project (30.02755N,31.25211E)



Social Hub

Zone A



Megawra - Built Environmetn Collective, Al-Khalifa, Cairo, Egypt, 2026.

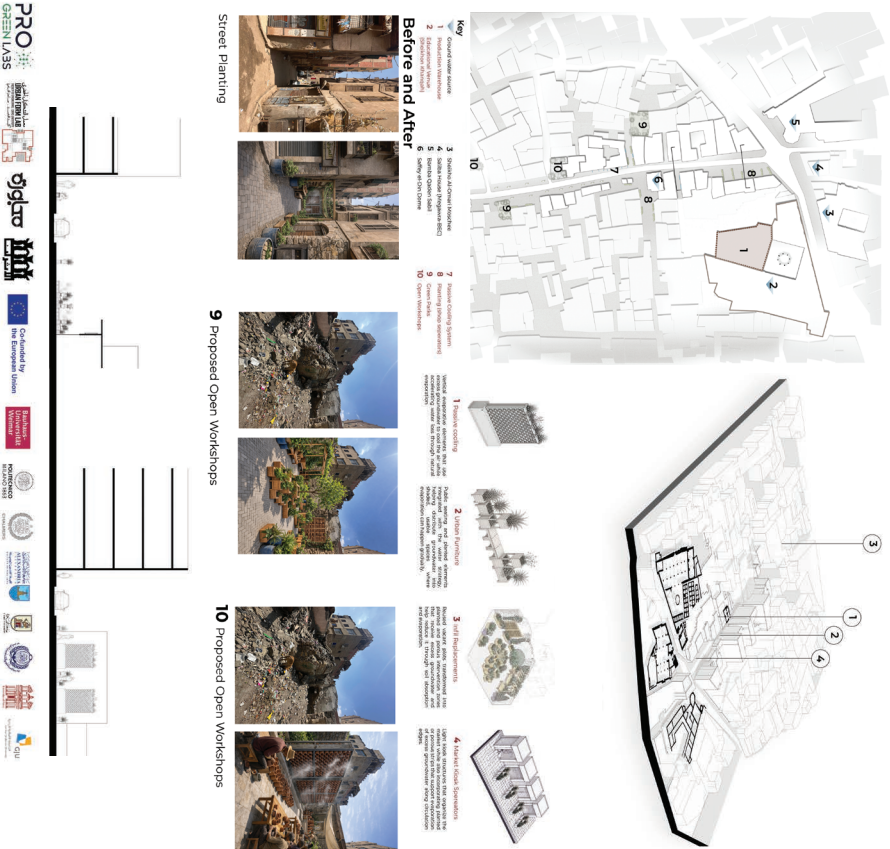
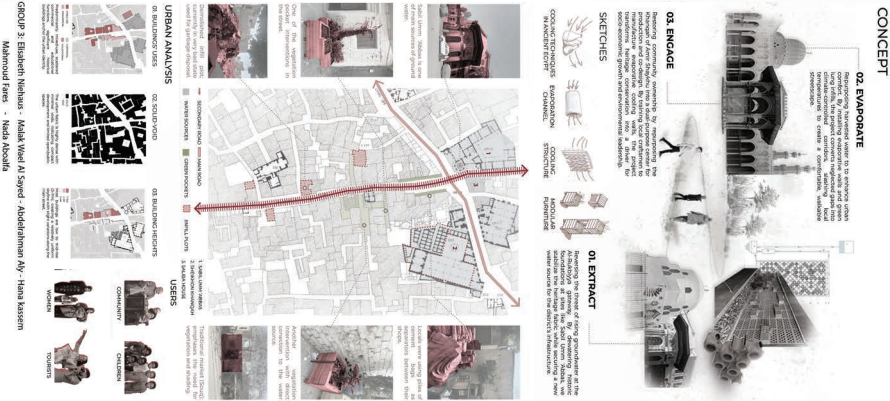
GROUP 03

Elisabeth Niehaus Cairo University	Malak Al Sayed Cairo University	Mahmoud Fares Cairo University	Abdelrahman Aly Alexandria University	Hana kassem AASTMT
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مع المجتمعات، وللمجتمعات: إحياء حي الخليفة - التخصير، والرقمنة، وتصميم المجتمعات

WITH COMMUNITIES, FOR COMMUNITIES: REGENERATING AL-KHALIFA | Greening, Digitizing & Community Design

CAIRO
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CAIRO, EGYPT, APRIL, 2024



Concept

02. EVAPORATE

Repurposing harvested water to enhance urban comfort. By installing evaporative walls and green lung infills, the project converts neglected gaps into climate-controlled corridors, slashing local temperatures to create a comfortable, walkable streetscape.

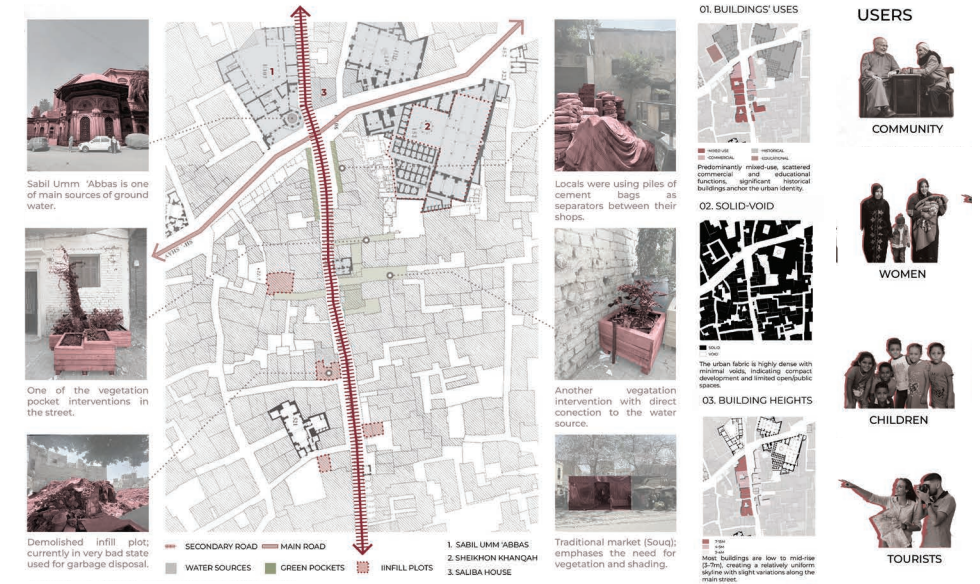
03. ENGAGE

Restoring community ownership by repurposing the Khanqah of Amir Shaykhu into a dual-purpose center for production and co-design. By training local craftsmen to manufacture evaporative cooling walls, the project transforms heritage conservation into a driver for socio-economic growth and environmental leadership.

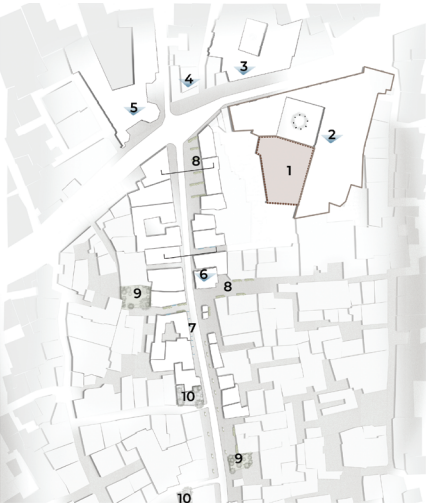
SKETCHES



Observations & Analysis

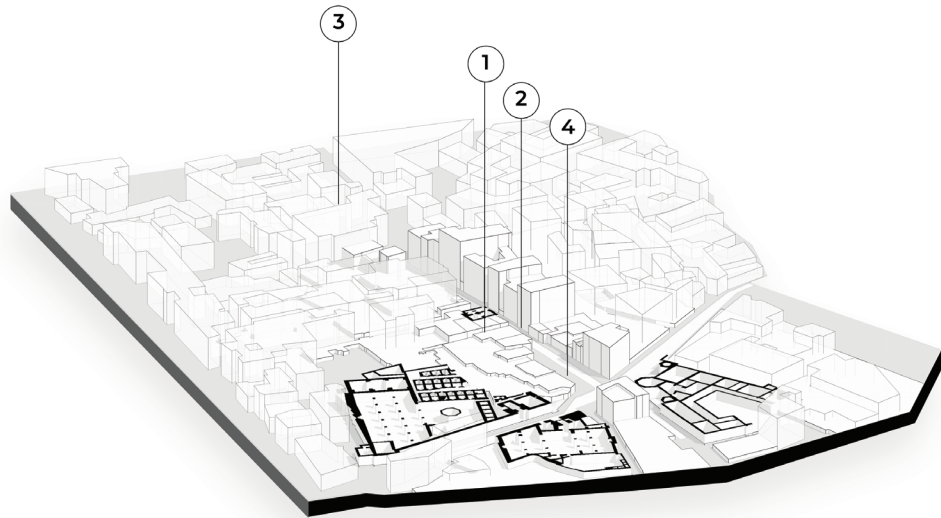


Proposed Plan



Open Workshops

- Key
- | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Ground water source | 3 | Shelkho Al-Omari Mosque | 7 | Passive Cooling System |
| 2 | Production Warehouse | 4 | Saissa House (Megawra-BEC) | 8 | Planting (shop separators) |
| 3 | Educational Venue (Shelkhon Khangah) | 5 | Barraba Qaden Sall | 9 | Green Parks |
| 4 | Saffey el-Din Dome | 6 | | 10 | Open Workshops |



1 Passive cooling

Vertical evaporative elements that use excess groundwater to cool the air while accelerating water loss through natural evaporation.



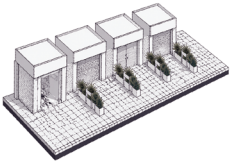
2 Urban Furniture

Public seating and planted elements integrated with the water strategy, helping distribute groundwater into shaded, usable spaces where evaporation can happen gradually.



3 Infill Replacements

Reused vacant plots transformed into planted and porous intervention zones that receive excess groundwater and help reduce it through soil absorption and evaporation.



4 Market Kiosk Separators

Light kiosk structures that organize the market while also incorporating planted or porous strips that support evaporation of excess groundwater along circulation edges.



Roof tops, Al-Khalifa, Cairo, Egypt, 2026.

GROUP 04

Shaza Elba		Samantha Juárez		Zakia Mohammed		Karen Saleh		Omar Karakeesh
Cairo University		Cairo University		Cairo University		Alexandria University		AASTMT

مع المجتمعات، وللمجتمعات: إحياء حيّ الخليفة - التخضير، والزقنة، وتصميم المجتمعات
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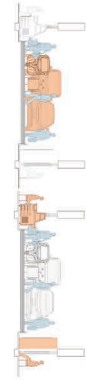
STREET FACADE & SHOPFRONT REDESIGN

1) RESEARCH FINDINGS

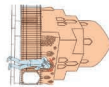
Cars and Pedestrian Conflict

Street function as in formal market

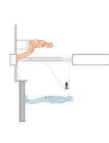
People unawareness of the buildings value



Vehicles and pedestrians danger. Street is cluttered by unutilized space the some narrow space, fixed side.



Historical landmarks are obscured by daily chaos and ignorance.



Increased street levels cause poor sightlines and accessibility.

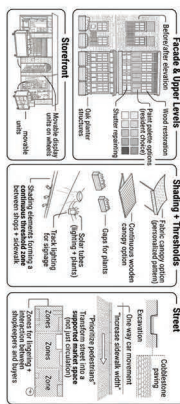


Shops encroach onto walkway, blocking pedestrian flow.



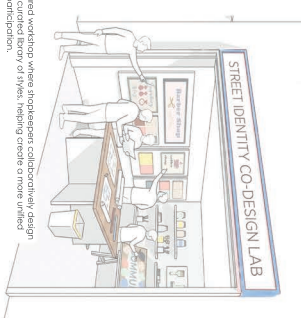
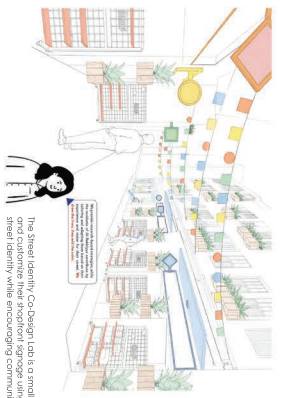
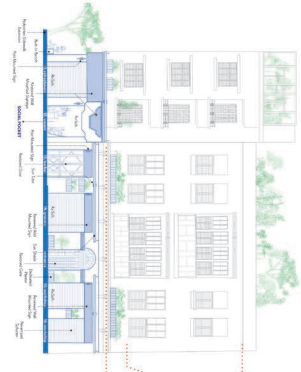
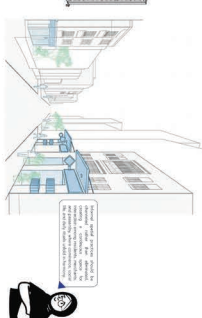
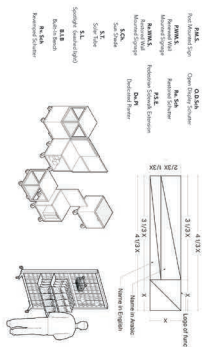
Existing elevation conditions

2) INTERVENTION CONCEPT



3) FULL VISION

INTEGRATED SPATIAL, SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL INTERVENS



Group 4: Shoua Elak | Samerhina Aguirre Juarez | Corina Motomed Adam
 Zahra Hassan | Mohamed | Omar Korash

PRO LABS

GREEN LABS

GREEN LABS

GREEN LABS

GREEN LABS

GREEN LABS

GREEN LABS

GREEN LABS

GREEN LABS

Concept

STREET FACADE & SHOPFRONT REDESIGN

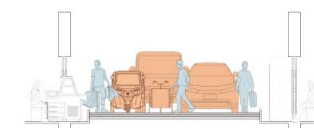
Rukbiya Street is to be redesigned as a shaded, green, pedestrian-friendly corridor developed through a participatory process, where preserved facades and softened thresholds naturally extend life onto the street.

Problems & Observations

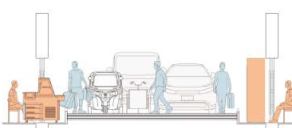
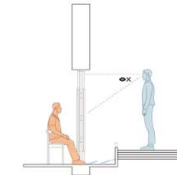
Cars and Pedestrian Conflict

Street function as in formal market

People unawareness of the buildings value



The rose of the street level



The stores' spillouts



Existing elevation conditions



Full Vision

Careful urban renewal, a syncretic approach that incorporates various qualities and elements of participatory methods and professional intervention to improve the appearance and physical conditions of street life. Taking as a starting point the improvement of the physical appearance of building facades and the alleviation of social tensions resulting from the hectic pace of commercial ground-floor activity.



Green Roof
Description: Rehabilitation and implementation of green infrastructure.
Strategy Type: Sustainable Retrofitting

Facade Preservation
Description: maintenance and repair to prevent further decay, and elimination of encroachment.
Strategy Type: material consideration

Green Buffer
Description: a buffer zone between residential and commercial areas
Strategy Type: sustainable retrofitting

Social Frontage
Description: highly active space focused on commercial activities and social interaction
Strategy Type: material consolidation + rehabilitation



Al-Khalifa, Cairo, Egypt, 2026.



Al-Khalifa, Cairo, Egypt, 2026.

ROUNDTABLE BY PRO GREEN LABS ARCHCAIROX CONFERENCE

PRO GREEN LABS

ARCHCAIRO X
Futuring Sustainability
Building a Resilient Future
in a Changing World
2026
ROUNDTABLES 8-9th
APRIL



Promoting Green Competences for Integrated Sustainable Development in Architectural Education through Experiential, Lab-based, Active Learning

LIVING LABS FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURES |

Insights from Pro Green Labs Project Partners ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION - ARCHCAIRO X

Wednesday, 8 April, 2026.

This session will take place at the New Central Library, Cairo University and will also be accessible online via: <https://polimi-it.zoom.us/j/95608940803?from=addon>

Meeting ID: 956 0894 0803

Panelists: **Bauhaus-Universität Weimar** | Prof. Dr. Frank Eckardt; Mr. Ahmed Moustafa. **Politecnico di Milano** | Assoc. Prof. Eugenio Morello; Assist. Prof. Israa Mahmoud. **Chalmers University of Technology** | Prof. Walter Max Unterrainer. **Cairo University** | Prof. Dr. Sahar Imam; Prof. Dr. Aliaa AlSadaty. **Alexandria University** | Prof. Dr. Nevin Gharib; Dr. Hebah Moanis. **AASTMT** | Dr. Yassmin Kandil. **German Jordanian University** | Assoc. Prof. Raed Al Tal. **University of Petra** | Assoc. Prof. Ali Al Maqousi.

| Project Partners



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the European Union

LIVING LABS FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES | Insights from Pro Green Labs Project Partners

This roundtable brings together the partner institutions of the EU-funded Pro Green Labs project to reflect on the role of [Living] Labs as dynamic platforms for co-creation, experimentation, and the development of green competencies in architectural education, research and practice. Building on the project's ongoing activities across diverse academic and professional contexts, the session will explore how Living Lab methodologies can bridge the gap between pedagogy, research, and real-world environmental challenges.

Partners will share insights, lessons learned, and emerging practices from their local implementations—ranging from stakeholder engagement strategies and hands-on applied learning to the integration of sustainability assessment tools and community-driven experimentation. The discussion will highlight how Living Labs support transformative learning experiences, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and nurture a culture of innovation anchored in environmental responsibility.

By presenting different approaches across the different partners' institutional and cultural settings, the roundtable aims to highlight shared challenges and opportunities, map future directions for Living Lab-based education, and reflect on how such collaborative platforms can enhance the capacity of architectural schools to contribute meaningfully to sustainable urban and built-environment futures.

HYBRID SESSION – This session takes place **Wednesday 8, April at Cairo University New Central Library** as part of **ARCHCAIRO X Conference**. The session will be also accessible online through Zoom via: <https://polimi-it.zoom.us/j/95608940803?from=addon> Meeting ID: 956 0894 0803

ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM

Presentation Title	Panelist	Duration
Welcoming and introduction About PRO-GREEN LABS Network	Prof. Dr. Aliaa AlSadaty Arch. Ahmed Moustafa	5 min
From Pro Green to Post Growth: Urban Sustainability Beyond the Laboratories	Prof. Dr. Frank Eckardt Bauhaus-Universität Weimar (Germany)	10 min
Balancing Top-Down and Bottom-Up Strategies in Revitalizing Historic Desert Settlements	Prof. Dr. Sahar Imam Prof. Dr. Aliaa AlSadaty Cairo University (Egypt)	10 min
Keep your Head in the Clouds and your Feet on the Ground	Prof. Dr. Walter Unterrainer Chalmers University (Sweden)	10 min
A City Transformation Lab (CT Lab) for Sustainable Urban Regeneration in Alexandria, Egypt	Prof. Dr. Nevine Gharib Dr. Hebah Moanis Alexandria University (Egypt)	10 min
Universities as Living Labs for Climate Action	Assoc. Prof. Eugenio Morello Politecnico di Milano (Italy)	10 min
From Sustainable Urban Mobility to Integrated Environmental Design: The Evolution of the AASTMT Lab	Dr. Yasmin Kandil Arab Academy AASTMT (Egypt)	10 min
Prospects on Urban Labs in Jordanian Partner Institutions (GJU+UoP)	Prof. Maram Tawil – Mr. Mohamad Zaghmouri - Assoc. Prof. Raed Al-Tal German Jordanian University (Jordan) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ali Maqousi University of Petra (Jordan)	5 min
Recapping and Concluding Remarks	Prof. Dr. Sahar Imam Cairo University (Egypt)	5 min
Discussion Q&A	Moderator Assoc. Prof. Eugenio Morello	20 min



PANELISTS AND SPEAKERS



Prof. Dr. Frank Eckardt,
Bauhaus University, Weimar,
Germany

A professor for urban studies and social research at the Bauhaus-University Weimar, Germany. He holds a PhD in Political Science and publishes a wide range of topics regarding urban life.



Assoc. Prof. Eugenio Morello, Politecnico di Milano,
Italy

An Associate Professor in Urban Planning and Design. The coordinator and research scientist at the 'Laboratorio di Simulazione Urbana Fausto Curti', Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (Dastu).



Prof. Dr. Aliaa AlSadaty,
Cairo University, Egypt

Professor of Urban Design, the Department of Architectural Engineering, Faculty of Engineering - Cairo University, Egypt. She received her BSc in Architecture from Cairo University, then her Master of Science from Catania University - Italy, and her PhD from Cairo University.



Mr. Ahmed Moustafa,
Bauhaus University, Weimar,
Germany

An academic assistant and doctoral candidate at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar—where he currently serves as project manager and coordinator of the EU-funded Pro-GREEN LABS project



Prof. Walter Max Unterrainer, Chalmers
University of Technology, Sweden

Professor in Architecture and Resources at Chalmers University of Technology from September 2019. He has been professor with special focus on sustainability at Aarhus School of Architecture and the coordinator of research Lab 'Emerging Architectures'.



Prof. Dr. Sahar Imam,
Cairo University, Egypt

Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the Department of Architecture, Cairo University. She received her BSc (1998), and her MSc (2001) from Cairo University, followed by her PhD (2007) in a program of Data Collection with 'Université De Montreal' Canada.



Prof. Dr. Nevin Gharib,
Alexandria University, Egypt

Professor of Architecture and Heritage Preservation and currently serves as Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Alexandria University. She represents Alexandria University at the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) - Schools of Architecture.



Dr. Yasmin Kandil, Arab
Academy for Science, Technology
and Maritime Transport (AASMT),
Alexandria, Egypt

A licensed Professional Architect with the Society of Egyptian Architects and a licensed Professional Engineer with the Egyptian Engineers Syndicate. She has delivered numerous public lectures on urban mobility at Alexandria University and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung..



Assoc. Prof. Ali Younis Al Maqousi, University of
Petra, Jordan

Director of the Office of External Funding & Technology Transfer and an Associate Professor at the University of Petra. A Senior IEEE Member and former Head of Computer Science, he earned his PhD from Oxford Brookes University (2003).



Dr. Hebah Moanis,
Alexandria University, Egypt

Assistant Professor of Architecture at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Alexandria University. Her research and teaching move between energy-efficient design, material behaviour, and the rethinking of architectural education through sustainability-led curricula.



Assoc. Prof. Raed Al Tal, German Jordanian
University, Jordan

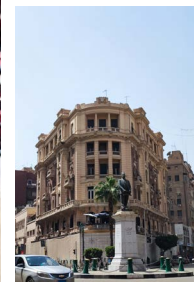
Associate Professor of Architecture at German Jordanian University, School of Architecture and Built Environment. He holds a PhD in Architectural History and Theory, State University of New York, and an MA in Islamic Architecture.



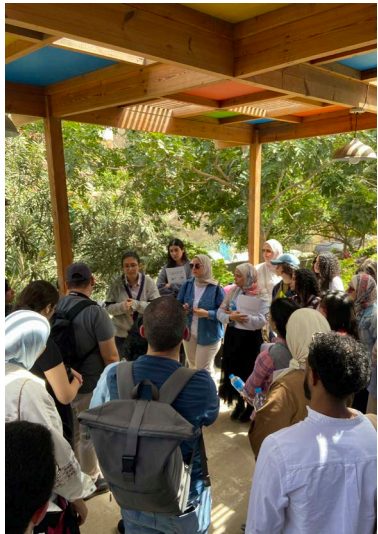
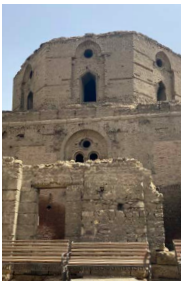


AlKhalifa tour, Cairo, Egypt, 2026.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION



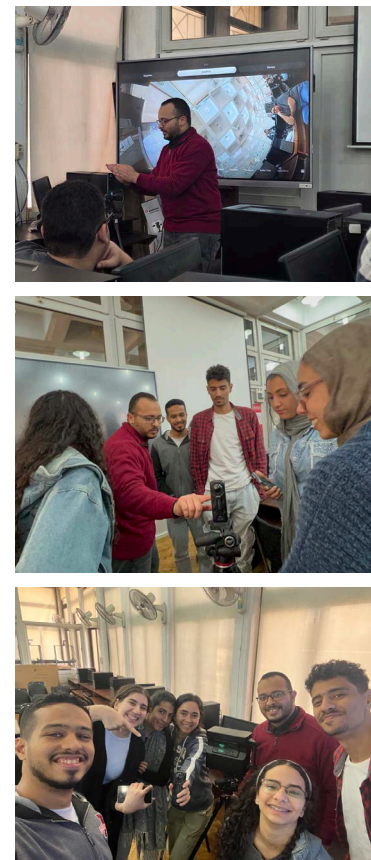
Day 1 - Downtown Cairo tour.



Day 2 - AlKhalifa tour.



Day 3 - Public Lectures, Architecture department, CUFE.



Day 4- Digital Documentation tutorial, Architecture department, CUFE.



Day 6 - ARCHCAIRO X Conference, Cairo University.



Day 7 - Final Presentations, Architecture department, CUFE.



GLIMPSES ON THE SCHOOL EVENTS

CREDITS

The content of this booklet is the result of participants' work, that was created within the context of Cairo's International School, Cairo, Egypt - 2026.

Photos included are by the organizers and participants of the events.

Graphic design & representation by

Aliaa Al-Sadaty & Aliaa Shokry.

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urbanformlab@eng.cu.edu.eg



