AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

ADDRESSING FEAR IN PUBLIC SPACES:
DESIGN SOLUTIONS FOR THE RAMLET EL-BAYDA PARK

by

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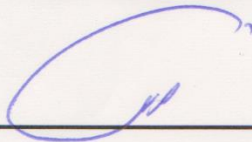
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AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Abir Cheaitli Naseraldine   for   Master of urban Design
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Title: Addressing Fear in Public Spaces: Design Solutions for the Ramlet el-Bayda Park

Despite wide consensus on the importance of public spaces for city dwellers' social lives as well as their physical and mental health, popular discourses and journalist reports reflect a growing demonization of public space in many cities around the world. This is because fear is increasingly associated with representations of the 'public' in many cities across the world. Fear is typically described to stem from terror, crime, or threats posed by "other" social groups. It could also be a fear of certain activities deemed "immoral" or dangerous (e.g. drugs, sex), fear of "political talk" that can lead to violence, fear of vulnerability vis-à-vis the appropriation of space by an "other" who would make it a political territory.

This thesis takes up the challenge of addressing "fear from public space." More specifically, the thesis seeks to understand how fear of public space is constructed around specific public spaces and second, how urban design strategies and interventions can be developed to respond and counter this fear.

To this end, the thesis took up a case study in Beirut, the *Ramlet el-Bayda* park, a site that reflects well the dilemma between on the one hand, a "feared public space" and, on the other, direly needed shared spaces. Largely disconnected from residents living in its surroundings, the Ramlet el-Bayda park elicits fears and avoidance among the majority of its neighbors. This fear is doubled by the proximity of militarized security bodies and the abandonment and deterioration of its spaces, given the Municipality's neglect.

The thesis was conducted in two phases. First, a comprehensive analysis of the public space and its relation to surroundings. It concluded that fear was mostly the outcome of (a) a physical morphology that conceptualized the park as a self-standing, independent object separate from its surroundings, (b) vehicular mobility and wide streets physically separating the park, (c) militarized security, and (d) social behaviors. Second, the thesis sought to counter these findings through design strategies that re-inscribe the park in its surrounding, developing a programmatic and morphological proposal that infuses temporary and permanent functions in the park and translating this proposal into a design intervention that stitches back the Ramlet el-Bayda park within the neighborhood at the block, neighborhood and city scales. The thesis research shows that it is possible to assuage city dwellers' fears from the public through design tactics that address their concerns. The thesis further argues that such tactics need to be complemented with

a proper understanding of the management and organization of the area so that dwellers are brought on board as active participants in securitizing public space.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The importance of public spaces

Over the past two decades, public space has occupied the forefront of research in numerous fields including philosophy, geography, urban design and planning, as well as social and cultural studies. Scholars nonetheless define these spaces in diverse ways. Urban designers typically approach public spaces from a physical/spatial perspective, focusing on their role in the city. Thus, Madanipour (1999), defines public spaces as "multipurpose spaces distinguishable from and mediating between, the demarcated territories of households" (Madanipour, p. 882). Similarly, Carmona (2008) considers that, "public spaces (narrowly defined) relates to all those parts of the built and natural environment where the public has free access. It encompasses: all streets, squares and other rights or way… the open spaces and parks: and the 'public/private' spaces where public access is unrestricted." (Carmona, p.4).

Others have looked beyond the physical to reflect on the social and political implications of these spaces. Henri Lefebvre (1974) defines public spaces like a stage where every citizen can produce and play a role, and where the city is represented in rules, symbols and images of the observations and experiences that every citizen uses when reflecting on it and traveling through it. In this sense, space is something which is dynamic and alive, that is produced and instituted not only through the regulation of the

state, architects and designs of town planners, but also through everyday experience and the ways the common citizen uses and observes it. Craig Calhoun (1986) considers the provision of public spaces as one of the most important social characteristics of cities, in which "relative strangers can interact and observe each other, debate and learn politically, and grow psychologically from diverse contacts" (Calhoun, p. 341). As for the famed urban design Jan Gehl, he argues that the open public spaces between buildings allow for the formation of social activities that range from very simple and noncommittal contacts to complex and emotional connections. This is because they enable one to be among others, to see and to hear others, in addition, to experience other people functioning in varicose situations. Furthermore, the author explains that the presence of people on a public space attract other people, thus stimulating the area (Gehl, 2011). Knox argues that public spaces are more than just empty containers, they have the ability to reinforce cultures (P. Knox, 2010). Talen as well argues that public spaces can create a sense of community, belonging and identity (Talen, 2000). Madanipour emphasizes on the role that public spaces play on reversing the spatial and progression fragmentation and disintegration of modern cities' functions and activities (Madanipour, 1999). Whereas Amin has a broader definition, the city's streets, parks, squares, and other shared spaces symbol collective well-being and possibility, expressions of achievement and aspiration; they are sites of public encounter and formation of civic culture, and significant spaces of political deliberation and agonistic struggle (A. Amin, 2006).

B. Defining the research topic:

Despite the large consensus on the importance of public spaces, popular discourses and journalist reports reflect a rising fear of the 'public' everywhere, one that translates into diminishing use of public spaces. Such fear is typically described to stem from terror, crime, or threats posed by other social groups and/or religious-sectarian groups. It could also be a fear of certain activities deemed "immoral" or dangerous (e.g. drugs, sex), fear of "political talk" that can lead to violence, fear of vulnerability vis-à-vis the appropriation of space by an "other" who would make it a political territory. In many cities, such "fear talk" has translated into deliberate initiatives to reduce the openness of public spaces (e.g. fencing, short opening hours, closures), their functionality (e.g. limiting the freedom of social behaviors and encounters, allocating small and defined uses), and eventually the availability of public spaces in the city (Blomley 2004, Katz 2006) (see Figure 1).
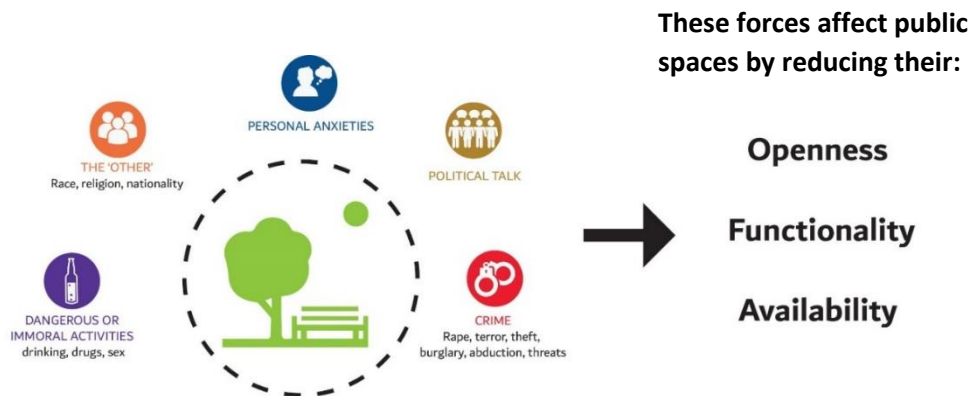
Figure 1: source of fear and their effect on public spaces (Author, 2018)

C. Research problem and significant

1. *Problem statement: Research question, hypothesis and objective*

This thesis takes up the challenge of addressing "fear of public spaces." More Specifically, the thesis seeks first to understand how fear of public space is constructed in particular public spaces and second, to explore how urban design and planning strategies and interventions be developed to respond and counter this fear.

Some of the questions the thesis raises are: what are the fears described by city dwellers about public spaces in today's Beirut? How are these fears raised and/or emphasized by the physical morphology of a neighborhood or a city? What repercussions do they have on the public spaces themselves? Does security mechanism help in generating sources of fear? And what is behind security mechanisms? Are politicians and public authorities benefiting from this fear? Have specific social groups appropriated different public spaces, perhaps at different times of day or night? How might these processes themselves be supported and reproduced by public spaces? What are the rhythms of use of the public spaces and who participates in them? When can they be observed? And who is missing from them? And in turn, what are behaviors and patterns that build this fear? And how have these fears affected spatially the use and practices of the public spaces?

Having developed an understanding of these questions vis-à-vis a specific space in Beirut, the thesis asks: How can design and planning interventions mitigate such fears? Is it possible to apply these strategies in Beirut's public space?

To this end, the thesis takes up a case study in Beirut, the Ramlet el-Bayda park where it began by observation the practices and perceptions of residents living around this park. Largely disconnected from residents living in its surroundings, the Ramlet el-Bayda park elicits fears and avoidance among the majority of its neighbors. Given the municipality's neglect, my findings indicated that fear was mostly the outcome of (a) a physical morphology that conceptualized the park as a self-standing, independent object separated from its surrounding, (b) vehicular mobility, (c) militarized security, and (d) social practices and behaviors that have learned to associate the park with other negative incidents in the city. Thus, residents appeared mitigated between on the one hand, a feared and disconnected public space and, on the other, direly needed shared spaces.

The thesis main hypothesis was that it is possible to design and plan public spaces by proper understanding of the sources that motivate the fear of the dwellers thus informing design and planning proposals that contain the fear of public spaces, reverses its abandonments and protects the parks' public nature. The proposals placed an importance to counter the idea that for a public space to be safe, security mechanisms such as fences, surveillance cameras, private securities and other mechanism should be used to exclude patterns of fear.

It thus started from the premise that in order for Ramlet el-Bayda park to be successful, attention should be paid to the spatial dynamic, socio-spatial practices, in addition the space's accessibility, connectivity and physical configurations.

To respond to this hypothesis, the thesis articulates a multi-layered urban design and planning strategy that seeks to infuse temporary and permanent functions in the park

while also integrating it to the neighborhood through design interventions at the neighborhood block and lot design levels.

The proposal developed a programmatic and morphological strategy that gives the park its own character as a neighborhood-based area by introducing programmatically functions like a market and playground that respond immediately to the needs of dwellers, as well as physically by introducing traffic calming measures and enhancing pedestrian connectivity. Yet, the proposal maintains a level of flexibility that allows for the integration of the Park in the larger pedestrian connectors proposed by the Plan Vert. Accordingly, the vision and proposal for the park balance between physical and social interventions, and places prime importance on developing frameworks of interaction, practices, involvements, encounters and experiences for residents, shop owners, employees and dwellers since they are part of the community that surrounds this public space.

In sum, by providing a well-integrated, connected and safe public space that attracts various age groups through multiple activities and programs, the design strategy activates the space and promotes what has been described as "passive surveillance": the process through which dwellers are brought on board as active participants in securitizing Ramlet el-Bayda park. Fear is hence countered by enhancing practice and a sense of belonging for nearby users rather than the widely adopted surveillance cameras and security systems.

2. *Significance*

Despite the existence of several movements in Beirut that advocate for the protection of public space, little is done to recognize that this neglection is at least partially the result of fear and that such fears need to be accounted for if public spaces are to be functional. Carmona (2010) states that "if people choose not to use a particular place or environment because, at best, they feel uncomfortable there and, at worst, they are afraid and feel unsafe. Such avoidance is a consequence of fear of certain environments as well as fear of particular incidents" (Carmona, P.148). Therefore, this research is important because it contributed to efforts of reversing the ongoing trends in abandonment of public spaces. It further provided an understanding of fear and lack of connectivity between residents and public spaces which is missing in the research of the Lebanese's context.

Moreover, as a resident living near this public space, I noticed that residents have no consideration or interest to be part of the community fabric, they are very dependent on cars, and conceptualize all aspects of public spaces as unsafe and threatening. These aspects in my opinion have partially helped in the deterioration and abandonment of the Ramlet el-Bayda park and sidewalks. Consequently, I believe implementing the project would revive this abandoned and deteriorated public space. It provides residents, shop owners, employees and users a place that is free from fears, well connected with the community, and fosters social diversity especially for vulnerable groups such as women, elderly and children. I hope and aim therefore for Ramlet el-Bayda park to be reintegrated into the neighborhood and be conceived by the community as a crucial asset

in the area. I also hope for Ramlet el-Bayda park to become part of a larger effort to enhance Beirut public spaces.

D. Methodology

1. *Design methodology and scale of intervention*

In order to define my intervention, I needed to understand the different components that interact to generate the physically and socially disconnected configuration of the Ramlet el-Bayda park. To this end, a comprehensive analysis of the public space and its relation to its surrounding was conducted. The main aim was to understand how these configurations and components projected and generated fear. The analysis looked at the neighborhood's physical infrastructure, zoning regulations, land use and other physical analysis. It further looked on how residents, users, shop owners and employees in the Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood relate to the existing public space socially and spatially. Therefore, one scope of the analysis emphasized the existing social practices and activities in the neighborhood and the park. It examined how different social groups interact in the public space, whether the presence of particular people or groups affects the use of these spaces by others, and whether these practices had any physical representation in the spaces. Accordingly, one of the objective of this thesis was to respond to the findings collected by interviewing and observing the above mentioned social groups and translating them to improve our knowledge of the relation between users and the public space as a pre-requisite to inform design interventions and management recommendations.

2. *Data collection*

The study prolonged over a year and was achieved in several phases. A preliminary phase was upon conducting an intensive scholarly literature review to understand the various layers and dimensions of fear of public spaces discussed and proposed by urban scholars. The literature provided me with analytical tools that helped frame the fieldwork research.

The second phase led me to select the Ramlet el-Bayda park as my case study, after considering several parks in the city. Ramlet el Bayda was selected because (i) it provided a clear case of a space abandoned by nearby users and widely associated with narratives of fear and (ii) I was familiar with the space, as a resident of Ramlet el Bayda, and was invested in informing an intervention on this area. I spent six months conducting fieldwork in the neighborhood to understand its physical configurations and the social behaviors and attitudes of residents and users towards this public open space. This was essential to provide an urban planning and design intervention that reflects the types of challenges I wanted to study. For this, I used a multilayers methodology which encompasses Jan Gehl tools' on how to study public life and registering direct observations (Gehl and Svarre, 2013). It included documenting every day spatial practices through field observations, photographing, mapping the social practices and urban fabric, tracking, tracing, test walks, interviews which were all documented in a diary.

A non-participative observation method was formulated for recording basic data about the characteristics and location of groups or individuals within the observation

sites, and it recorded users' involvements, encounters and practices. Observations took place from 2017 to 2018, across all days of the week and in all seasons to capture a wider and more accurate representation of activities in the area of study. The observation strategy was driven by a desire to get a little closer to 'what really happens' in Ramlet el-Bayda park as an extension on what people think happens, or what people say happens inside it.

In total, 40 interviews were conducted among public beach users, the lower corniche, the upper corniche and the park. The interviews included residents, shop owners, employees and users approached directly. For the three categories, a "snowballing" strategy was used, whereby I continued to interview people until I got establish a comfortable consensus. The "snowballing" technique respected IRB regulations, relying hence on respondents to contact other possible respondents directly or through flyers distributed in the area. The investigator gave the contact details of the research team to the potential participants who can pass them on to others who may be interested in taking part in the study. Flyers were distributed and those interested contacted the research team or the research team contacted them if they gave approval to be contacted. I made sure that a private setting was reserved to conduct the interviews for each of the targeted categories. The study has no direct risks on participants, they might have felt uncomfortable to talk about their experiences and fears. The data will be stored in a password computer that will be at AUB professor Fawaz office and will be destroyed only after 3 years.

Once I collected the data on the public spaces, I profiled the activities performed in the four public spaces, how they are being practiced and how they have affected the public spaces through color codes and formulated the data into diagrams. The information collected and diagrams of the four public spaces were then judged using a matrix guide that combined the literature review and four urban and planning design frameworks that emphasize the creation and/or evaluation of the success of public spaces. Accordingly, I was able to categorize the public spaces as successful or feared public space. Therefore, I was able to conclude that the lower corniche is a dynamic, flexible and inclusive open public space, while the park is an exclusive, feared and avoided public space. I also added to the qualitative data method, a quantitative one. Using the start model of publicness by Varna (2010), I was able to numerically also conclude that Ramlet el-Bayda park projects fear.

Furthermore, building on the literature review, the four frameworks of criteria for successful public spaces, and three selected case studies provided me with a rich and wide-range of elements to be used for my intervention. For this, I selected elements that encompass all aspects of a successful public space. The selected elements were all under the concept of 'hybrid public park.'

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Literature reviews on fear of public spaces

Case studies

Principles & Evaluations of successful public spaces

Hybrid public space | Matrix Guide

QUANTITATIVE & QUALITATIVE METHODS

Observation
Interviews
Mapping
Photography
Available Data
Note book
Star Model

Scale

City Design Level

Neighborhood Design Level

Plot Design Level

ANALYSIS

Physical Morphology

Socio-spatial patterns & behaviors

Design Vision & Intervention

Figure: 2 Methodology (Author, 2018)

The final phase consisted of the design intervention where I sought to articulate design strategies that respond to the information I had gathered from dwellers and the analytic mapping I had produced, as well as the design considerations for a successful public space.

3. *Thesis outline*

The thesis is divided into 7 chapters. Chapter 1 introduces the research problem and presents the case study. In the next chapter, I present the literature review and different narratives of fear of public spaces. In Chapter 3, I introduce principles and evaluation criteria for successful urban public spaces. In the following chapter, I present a deeper understanding and analysis of Ramlet el-Bayda, mention the challenges of the park and its neighborhood, profile social behaviors and practices based on my interviews and observations, hence categorize the public space as successful or feared. In the fifth chapter, I propose the concept of a "Hybrid Public Park" backed up with case studies to be used in the intervention. In chapter 6, I propose my intervention, in which I tackle the park and its neighborhood on multiple scales. Each scale was approached with unique

design strategies, along with an institutional framework supporting the management and

maintenance of Ramlet el-Bayda park. While chapter 7 provides research findings and

recommendations.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW 1: FEAR OF PUBLIC SPACE

This chapter reviews the literature about fear of public space. Indeed, multiple narratives of fear have emerged around the world over the past two decades and many authors have conducted research and fieldwork to understand the different angles that explain this rising fear of the public, the mechanism to translate this fear into spatial configurations, and how this fear affects social and physical practices in public space and consequently urban life. In this section, I outline these patterns which are: (1) strangers in the city, (2) territory and territoriality i) establishment of territory and territoriality, ii) territoriality by social behavior, (3) privatization, (4) terror talk, (5) security mechanisms, (6) exclusivity and spatial practice, (7) boundaries, (8) personal space and public space, (9) personal space and overcrowding, (10) defensive architecture and fortified enclaves, and (11) incivilities.

A. Patterns and narratives of fear

1. *Strangers in the city*

The rise of industrial capitalism, the growth of cities, economic liberalism, wars, and refugee mobility constantly change the foundation of social relations in cities. Several well-known thinkers such as David Hume and Adam Smith saw this change as a positive development in human relations where people have more options to choose their friends (Hill and McCarthy, 1999). Others, such as Adam Ferguson were worried about

the rise of individuated societies that have isolating, alienating and soul-destroying effects (Madanipour, 2003). Similarly, Richard Sennett (1976), emphasized the isolation of the individual, arguing that "modern periods witness a decline of public life due to the formation of a new capitalist and secular urban culture where people don't take pleasure in the cosmopolitan city that is rich of strangers" (Madanipour, p. 100). Cities are full of anonymous crowds that not only cause major social changes but also produce fear, anxiety and segregation threatening social cohesion that is merely coming to extinct. In addition, these new productions of social relations and social identities are being translated physically into the urban space. Madanipour (2003) argues that "One of the important components of social identity is its spatial dimension, i.e. where we live, how we move about in the world around us, where we can or cannot go, etc. Through dwellers' consumption of space, among other commodities, individuals establish a relationship of similarity and difference with others, i.e. identifying themselves with some people and areas of the city and distinguishing themselves from others" (Madanipour, p.138). These social relations and identifications with space hold prospect to establishing territories and territorialities.

2. *Territory and territoriality*

i. *Establishment of territory and territoriality*

Governments establish territories through laws, politicians through signs while dwellers through social behaviors. Madanipour (2003) argues that the process of claiming social space and being seen in public becomes a way for social groups to legitimate their right to belong in society. Yet, because public spaces can be used by

everyone, they are often considered insecure and threatening places where the opposition, confrontation, resistance, and subversion can be played out over 'the right to space' (Matthews, H., Limb, M. and Taylor, M. 2000). By displaying particular practices in public space, these practices reveal visible frameworks to establish patterns of similarities, differences or distinctive identities (Madanipour 2003), they can also escalate to become elements of exclusion or appropriation, "The continuous exertion of control over a part of physical space by an individual or a group results in the establishment of a territory" (Madanipour 2003, p.43). Territory is a physical space that gives a feeling of personal identity, control and distinctiveness (Bell et al., 1996:306). While territoriality has been associated with processes defined by environmental psychologists as "a set of behaviors and cognitions a person or group exhibits, based on perceived ownership of physical space" (Bell et al., 1996:304). Even though, ownership is known to be a legal entitlement over a property, territories can be established without legal ownership (Madanipour,2003). Madanipour argues that there is always a hierarchy of power and control involved when it comes to property and wherever the position in this hierarchy, people involved in this physical space will feel a sense of territoriality, a degree of ownership and control. This feeling the author argues, is attained from the familiarity with the space, emotional attachment, monetary attachment, or from the legal and institutional power over a space.

ii.   *Territoriality by social behavior*

The establishment of territoriality by a set of behaviors is a fear that has always been expressed by officials, residents and dwellers. They fear that by certain physical or

social actions, an undesirable group take over a public space, change how the space is practiced, challenge its norms, or blur the boundary between what is public and what is private. Blomley (2004) examined the relationship between private and public boundaries and how certain arrangements and interventions may blur this boundary leading to the establishment of a more overlapping and complicated form of property. Based on a case study done on a neighborhood in Vancouver, Canada, Blomley (2004) argues that boundaries can be challenged, and the margins blurred through visual ownership, encroachment or social practices which leads to heterogeneous and hybrid spaces. Laws and geographical arrangements have clearly defined expectations of what people are to think and to do concerning public/private areas, and actions of encroachments invade these arrangements. For this, encroachments were conceived by the dwellers' in the neighborhood as bad actions not only because they pointed out the privatization of public spaces but because they threatened collective harmony and social peace. Dwellers further say that when an act of encroachment over a public space occurs, it is an act of domination and control over this space and can be used to dismiss others (Blomley 2004).

3. *Privatization*

On the other hand, scholars of sociology, geography, politics and urban studies have extensively examined the increasing privatization of urban public spaces under neoliberalism. Lynn Staeheli and Don Mitchell (2016) examine the regulations of public space, the mechanisms used and the challenges that rise over ownership, occupancy and exclusion. Privatization is taking place through mechanisms such as land trusts which are private organizations that hold ownership of the land 'in trust.' This mechanism emerged

in New York City by the Supreme Court to protect community gardens after an extended

legal and political struggle in the city. This mechanism led public spaces to becoming

increasingly privatized by property regimes where they argue that property "exists as a

regime of practices, laws, and meanings" (Staeheli and Mitchell, p. 53). Regimes of

private and governmental property and other combinations that create "publicly private"

and "privately public" spaces, is increasingly leading to more "pseudo-public" spaces and

"pseudo-private" properties established by new urban property regimes. Spaces that are

privately owned but publicly used or owned by government but policed or controlled by

private agents bringing with them processes of selection and exclusion. These spaces give

the false impression that anyone can be a part of this *space*, while only certain people are

welcome and invited into these *spaces.*

Property regimes and debated views over the public together shape each other

and enable certain kinds of publics to appear in urban spaces. These mechanisms frame

urban centers to look more like consumerist spaces, heavily policed, partially- privatized

and depoliticized, and focused on consumption. Another mechanism to privatize space is

the use of "terror talk" which plays a role in creating the conditions for public space to be

controlled for personal interests.

4. *Terror talk*

In reflecting around the questions of privatization, Cindi Katz (2006) argues, that

"we are witnessing privatization on a world scale that speaks of an individualist

neoliberal politics of choice rather than any notion of public or collective responsibility

for social reproduction" (Low, Setha, and Neil Smith, p. 106). The author examined the

nature of contemporary struggles over social reproduction, dangers of cultural politics of childhood and the ways that notions of power are inscribed in public spaces. Katz (2006) argues that the many articles which emphasis on violence of children in their everyday lives specially in public spaces, increases fear of the outside. She further argues that media amplifies these fears to sponsor for private spaces that could provide a safer environment, in contrast to public spaces where children can be harmed, abducted, molested or attacked while playing outside. Preventing children to use public spaces will make them lose opportunities for gross motor developments develop, opportunities for spatial skills and geographical knowledge and opportunities to build an autonomous culture (Katz, 2006). The author further shows 'terror talks' have a deeper purpose which is beyond the concern with kids' safety. She says its more about a global political economy that presents crises to affect urban public space. 'Terror talk' on children provides a platform where all manners of social phenomena and anxieties could be inscribed in and used to naturalize one thing over another. These platforms had been tied to a set of operations concerning urban public spaces and economic displacements that drove the deteriorations of public spaces. In addition, terror talk on public spaces and capital disinvestments have consequences on the production of socio-spatial relations and the rundown of these spaces. Furthermore, the author argues that, "the real terror is the steady erosion of the environment of everyday life and the privatization of all strategies for dealing with it. These strategies exacerbate the problem along the lines of class, race and gender in utterly unsurprising ways and suggested that it smuggled in and helped to mask a particularly pernicious privatization of public landscapes of social reproduction"

(Low, Setha, and Neil Smith, p. 116). Other types of strategies such as security

mechanisms works to limit the public nature of public spaces as well.

5. *Security mechanisms*

In claiming to protect the common good from threats, the security mechanisms in

contemporary cities have threatened the very core of urbanization in terms of encounters

with strangers and daily practices of urban dwellers (Staeheli and Mitchell 2007, Fawaz

et al. 2012). In the Lebanese context, patterns of control are always seen and experienced

in the daily lives of its dwellers, these patterns are mostly translated into constraints on

mobility and daily practices in city's public spaces (Fawaz et al. 2012). The authors focus

on two kinds of fear, one is fear of crime that is associated with murder, robbery, rape

and other forms of anxieties and insecurities that appeared spatially in the form of gated

communities. The second is fear of terror attacks to target civilians for the sake of a

larger political message which is translated spatially with a variety of measures in the

form of limitations on the use and possible practices in open spaces, no-go areas and

screening public settings. Upon Fawaz et al. extensive fieldwork, it was revealed that a

"threat" in Beirut is "dynamically changing as one moves across the fragmented urban

landscape" (Fawaz et al, p.189) allowing for the formation of agents of securitization in

public and private spaces that act as catalysts for social and political divisions in Beirut.

Several security mechanisms impose their own logic on the city, such as, profiling

criteria tainted by national, sectarian and class stereotypes, or, the presences of soldiers

that reduces the range of possible street practices. There are also neighborhood

committees that protect their neighborhood as a sectarian territory, or, private security

imposed around high-end residential buildings, luxurious malls, hotels, and banks. All these restrict contain spatial practices and exclude certain social groups.

6. *Exclusivity and spatial practice*

The question of exclusivity, spatial practices and the right to the city is a subject researched by Mona Harb 2017. She notes that, high-end real estate developers, particularly in the BCD (Beirut Central District) area, have introduced mechanisms to exclude lower income groups. Harb notes that such exclusive practices typically come with a whole range of "taste-based" statements that consolidate the social position of such developers who she describes as fearing the BCD will become like b. This was seen in the public spaces by the Solidere company where control and heavy surveillance operated by security guards restrict a range of uses. In addition, if some people appear "suspect" to security guards who then ask for identification papers. It is worth noting that security guards are empowered to deny entry, and they do so particularly to individuals such as beggars and vendors who are forbidden access to keep the space "ordered, secured, and clean." The purpose behind these unwritten regulations is to sponsor an appropriate environment for high-end consumption and capital investments. Furthermore, exclusion was also used by the municipality of Beirut who took the decision to keep the largest public park in the city, Horch Beirut, closed for more than 20 years for reasons ranging from moral disorder, the potential threat of sectarian explosion, and people's lack of civility. Such exclusivity and fear restrict spatial practices and so reduces the possibilities of enacting the right to the city for many members of the urban majorities. On this, Madanipour (2003) argues that public spaces are infused with power relations

where certain social behaviors can be regulated, encouraged, excluded or tolerated, depending on the degree to which they might be deemed 'in' or 'out of place'. For instance, acts as loitering, drinking, skateboarding or even 'hanging out' in public may be considered as inappropriate because of social representations about what sorts of groups and activities should be seen out in public (Valentine, G 1996, Wilson, E. 199). The control of behaviors in public spaces happens for several reasons, one is that there are different inscribed intentions for the public space (e.g. Commercial purposes, social class standards, to regulate behavior, or politicize), where public is used as an image, a selling point and a vehicle of differentiation contributing to further social fragmentation rather than social integration (Madanipour, 2003). Exclusion and control of people is also established by physical boundaries to regulate and contain social groups in certain areas.

7. *Boundaries*

Ruling authorities develop narratives, mechanism and strategies to control people living in the suburbs especially poor and marginalized groups to exclude them from ordinary dwellers, fearing their domination over the city and its public spaces. Mustafa Dikeç 2002 examined how this was done in France, by demarcating the boundaries of suburban areas maneuvered by the French urban police. The purpose was to ban possibilities for spatially conscious politics in fighting against injustice and fearing of domination. Mechanisms were used to secure order in the city through effective containment of certain groups, giving the feared ones a fix identity in space. The 'fixation of identities in space' means that "inhabitants of the designated areas are identified by where they live; that is, where they live become determinant" (Dikeç, p.95). Such

confined spatial focus disregards larger dynamics of social relations, social production of space and conceals profound socio-political problems. Dibek argues that "the city produces, and in turn is produced, by an ensemble of social relations and spatial dynamics" (Dikeç, p.97). The author further argues that the right to the city implies not only a right to urban space, but to a political space as well, its potential to generate particular relationship to the political order of things by building political identities and establishing the city as a space of politics and political struggle. Thus, Public spaces are feared since it enables the establishment of political identities, formation of voices and political struggle therefore making the city as a space of politics.

Furthermore, fear and control along with laws of power not only helps in creating boundaries at the national scale to guard state territorial or around suburban areas as in the case of France, but at smallest possible scale: around the person by using the concept of the 'separative self', which is used to secure and protect personal space from perceived threats (Blandy and Sibley, 2010).

8. *Personal space and public space*

As people grow, personal space grows with them gradually, and boundaries are drawn between the self and the other to protect and keep a distance from the stranger. Madanipour (2003) explains that "As children develop a sense of the self and awareness of social codes and of possible dangers around them, they start wearing a protective personal space to keep a distance from the stranger" (Madanipour, p. 25). Here comes the job of the public space, where it can regulate personal space boundaries and decrease social fragmentation. Public spaces expose strangers to coexists, reduce sense of

protection and develops opportunities for communication. Gehl (2011) argues that in-between spaces provide meeting spaces that create coincidental encounters between people from diverse backgrounds. While, Seidam (2009) argues that public spaces are important for they foster mixity such as, "urban streets that are rich in common spaces and attract people of diverse cultural backgrounds fashion a self with porous boundaries who will be comfortable with the challenges presented by encounters with the other" (Seidam, p.5).

9. *Personal space and overcrowding*

Personal space is an essential notion of the private realm and an important ingredient to human life (Madanipour, 2003). It is "defined as a small but invisible protective sphere or bubble that individuals maintain around them" (Madanipour, p.19). As cities grew in the 19th and 20th century, it attracted large numbers of in-comers that threatened personal space. This movement was feared since it had the potential to violate personal space by actions of overcrowding which intriguers loss of control and intrusion. Studies where made to relate overcrowding with crime, fear and threatening to privacy. It was also associated with the fear of the poor and racially different people that gathered in public spaces. Thus, modernist strategies were made to decentralize cities and move the overcrowdings to the peripheries of cities, so this issue could be tackled. Other mechanism where also used to secure personal space through physical barriers of walls and gates. They were used to regulate the relationship between two parts of space, and guard what is private, exclude unwanted social practices, keep the undesirables out and protect oneself from threats and fears.

10. Defensive architecture and fortified enclaves

Today, the same mechanisms are used in the form of "gated communities" which are widely associated with segregation and exclusion. Gated communities or "fortified enclaves" as Teresa Caldeira (1996) identifies them, are mechanism also used to secure personal space and to keep the undesirable out. The author mentions that high fence, walls, private security guards, and electronic devices are mechanism used to control and isolate creating a "defensive architecture", which can consolidate or segregate. Caldeira argues (2000) that, "Among the conditions necessary for democracy is that people acknowledge those from different social groups as co-citizens, i.e., as people having similar rights. If this is true, it is clear that contemporary cities which are segregated by fortified enclaves are not environments which generate conditions conducive to democracy. Rather, they foster inequality and the sense that different groups belong to separate universes and have irreconcilable claims. Cities of walls do not strengthen citizenship but rather contribute to its corrosion. Moreover, this effect does not depend either on the type of political regime or on the intentions of those in power since the architecture of the enclaves entails by itself a certain social logic." (Caldeira, 334)

What is seen in Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood are fortified isolated buildings that hold security and surveillance mechanisms as a major element. Blakely and Snyder 1997b; Low 2003; Baycan-Levent and Gülümser 2007 argue that, there are three general categories of motivations for fortified enclaves: "security," "status," and "lifestyle". Fortified enclaves are a concept based on inward focus that avoids interactions with exterior spaces. The inhabitants of the gated buildings or communities avoid the use of

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public spaces and the interaction with strangers fearing for their safety. Scholars argue that this symptom is generated from lack of using public spaces, which is a characteristic that I noticed in the neighborhoods chosen for this thesis. Inhabitants live in standing-alone gated buildings and they have no relationship with the parks. Furthermore, in contrast to gated communities where the inward space holds various functions and amenities, gated buildings are not self-sufficient, thus, its inhabitants are forced to go out for amenities and leisure, but residents' destinations in these buildings is also gated and secured (e.g. malls, resort). In addition to being surveillance and secured, these destinations are preferable by its users since activities of incivilities are very rare to be found.

11. Incivilities

Research confirmed significant correlations between conditions of incivility, fear of crime and/ or perception of risks for victimization. McCormick, Joel G. and Stephen M. (2015) categorize incivilities into physical and social activities. Physical incivilities include discarded alcohol bottles, drug equipment, condoms, graffiti or ruins of park's property. Whereas social incivilities involved human behaviors such as 'public drinking or drunkenness, rowdy and/or unsupervised teen groups, "hey honey" hassles, neighbors fighting or arguing, late night noise or parties, prostitutes, and from the mid-1980s on, public drug sales and the presence of crack addicts' (Robinson *et al* , 2003, p. 238, McCormick, Joel G, Stephen M, 2015). The authors further said that as fear of crime increases, a cycle towards the feared spaces follows. Its starts with reducing time spent in parks, especially at dusk and evenings, then, avoidance of the space which in turn leads to

greater physical deterioration of the space (McCormick, Joel G. and Stephen M., 2015). The physical deterioration if it remains unrepaired, in reduces residents control over the public space, time spent in them, which in return increases and encourages opportunities for criminal behaviors. The study illustrated a vacation of strategies and methods that can be used to promote park safety and prevent crimes. For example: the presence of security personnel, some researchers argue that the presence of security personal in public spaces in a need for people to feel safe; but others argue that uniformed armed police presence in open spaces induces more fear since visitors may perceive that as, "if there is a need for police officers, then there must be a lot of crime in the park" (McCormick, Joel G, Stephen M, 2015). Another crime prevention tool requires citizens to volunteer to keep an eye on public spaces called 'park watch'. The article explains that in the United States, neighborhood watch programs were associated with a reduction in crime activities. Furthermore, CCTV is another crime prevention tool, but statistics showed its effect on crime reduction is small since there is limitations in monitoring and viewsheds. In addition, this tool encourages crime displacements to places where there are no cameras. The last tool mentioned in the article was improving lighting facilities. Lights in public spaces was acknowledged as the most successful tool to reduce crime, fear of crime, and promote a safe environment.

Furthermore, there are many methods of measuring the success of public space. The following chapter focuses on selected concepts that allow to evaluate the success or failure of an urban public space. They also provide guidelines and strategies for affective interventions in public spaces. The tools were then combined to form a matrix guild to

evaluate the public spaces of Ramlet el-Bayda. This chapter also includes selected case

studies that revolved on supporting diversity, activating abandoned and fear public spaces

through programs, activities, and management frameworks

CHAPTER III

LITERATURE REVIEW 2: PRINCIPLES AND EVALUATION

CRITERIA FOR SUCCESSFUL URBAN PUBLIC SPACES

In order to translate my analytical findings into design interventions, I reviewed frameworks formulated by theorists, practitioners and organizations such as: the multidisciplinary tool of CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design), the organization PPS (project for public spaces), the urban planner W.H. Whyte, architect J. Gehl and, and New York based NGO, Projects for Public Space. At the end of the chapter, I integrate these frameworks in what I describe as "a framework for hybrid public park."

A. CPTED (Crime prevention through environmental design)

Many empirical studies have suggested that fear of crime has a direct link to a reduction in the use of public spaces. This is logical, when parents are afraid to let their children go to the park of the playground, the latter will be less integrated in their neighborhoods and consequently less used (McCormick, Joel G, Stephen M, 2015). Given the failure of securitized approaches, environmental design has gained new attention as an approach to crime prevention. CPTED is a multidisciplinary approach developed since the 1960's as a method of creating safer communities through environmental design. Championed by world renowned scholars such as Jane Jacobs (1961) and Oscar Newman (1972), CPTED focuses on techniques to reduce and mitigate

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crime in public spaces through notions such as "eyes on the street" where street dwellers are brought as active participant in securitization through their active engagement as users. Furthermore, Brantingham and Faust (1976) stated that CPTED relies on "identifying conditions of the physical and social environment that provide opportunities for or precipitate criminal acts and the alteration of those conditions so that no crimes occur" (Brantingham and Faust, p. 289). For this, CPTED is considered today as a design and planning framework that removes or decrease opportunities for crime and encourages positive social interactions in residential, commercial and public areas. CPTED is composed of 4 components (figure 3): "*Natural Observation* (removing hiding spots and maintaining clear sight lines), *Natural Access Control* (using pathways, vegetation, gates or bollards to direct and control (travel) *Territoriality* (identifying park property with signage, vegetation or other positive markings), and *Maintenance* (clean, well-maintained parks indicate that someone cares about the space and usually leads to the elimination or reduction of physical incivilities)" (McCormick, Joel G., and Stephen M. Holland, 2015).

Therefore, CPTED empowers both natural and mechanical surveillance, controls access to certain premises, manages public spaces, and reinforces community ownership of public and private land.
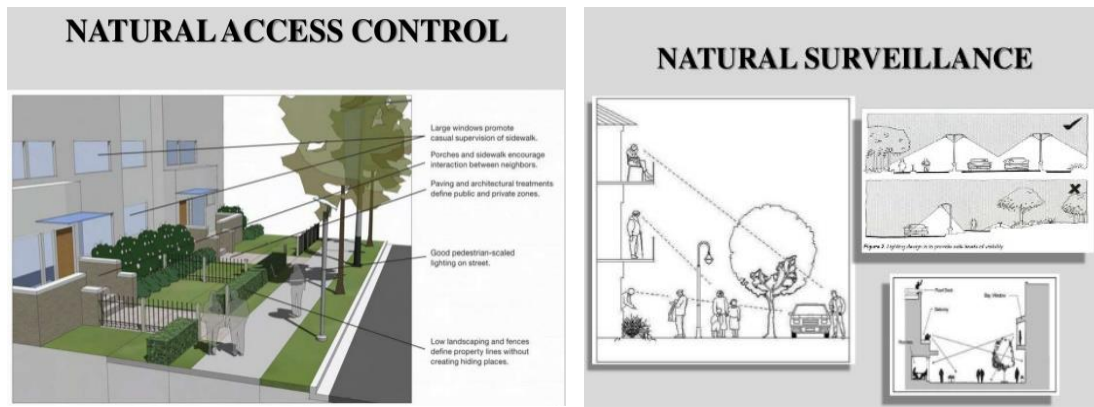
Figure 3: CPTED natural surveillance guidelines (source: http://www.omahabydesign.org/2014/04/cpted-training-set-for-two-city-planning-staff/)

While crime prevention is a tool used through environmental modifications and traditional surveillance and policing techniques. PPS, W. Whyte and J. Gehl argue for building safer cities through holistic improvements and design guidelines that generate vibrant public spaces and consequently encourage further uses.

B. PPS's (Project for Public Spaces) place diagram and placemaking

Project for Public Spaces (PPS) is a famous organization based in New York that developed the concept of "Placemaking" and "successful public spaces." The view of PPS for a great public space consists of four major characteristics: (i) access and linkages, (ii) uses and activities, (iii) comfort and image and (iv) sociability. These basic attributes represent the social, functional and aesthetic dimensions of public spaces, and a complete approach on describing and understanding a successful public space. Figure 4 shows a diagram developed by PPS to help in judging any place. The white represents the studied area, the orange is to evaluate the place according to a criterion, the green is the main intuitive or qualitative aspects to judge a place, and the blue provides the quantitative aspects using statistics or research.

Figure 4: what makes a great place by PPS (source: http://www.irvingcommons.org/makes-successful-public-space/)

Below is a description of each category with examples of questions to be asked when evaluating a public space (PPS, 2018):

1. *Access and linkage:* A place's accessibility can be evaluated according to its physical and visual connections to its surroundings. A public space should be easy to get to and through, it should be visible from up close and a distance, it should have active frontages and edged with suitable streets convenient to public transit. Question to be asked: is it easy to get to and though this space? Are the edges lined by shops or other facilities rather than by a blank wall? Can people reach it using various means or transportation?

2. *Comfort and image:* A place's image and comfort are key elements to its

   success. Comfort refers to the perception of cleanliness, safety and

   availability of seating opportunities. Questions to be asked: does it make a

   good first impression? Are there more women than men? Are there places

   to sit in the sun and in the shade? Are there photo opportunities? Do cars

   occupy pedestrian spaces?

3. *Uses and activities*: A place should offer people a reason to come and

   return to it. Activities are considered as the basic need to activate a space

   and keep users attracted in it.   Questions to be asked: How many different

   activities take place here? Are people eating, Talking, playing, relaxing,

   reading, walking? Are people of different ages here? Are people using the

   space, or is it empty?

4. *Sociability:* A place should foster social activities and provide a space for

   people to see friends, greet or meet their neighbors and feel comfortable to

   interact with strangers. Questions to be asked: Do people meet friends

   here? Do people bring other people here? Do people know each other by

   face and name? Do people smile and make eye contact with each other?

The methodology of placemaking by PPS partially relied on William H. Whyte's studies and its outcomes on how to create successful and safe public spaces.

C. The 7 principles of William Whyte

William Whyte's book, '*The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces'* analyzes various public spaces in New York through video recordings in order to study human behaviors in those places and to understand why some are not used. The findings were turned into a documentary in which the seven key categories that make or break a space were outlined and developed. The categories are: seating, street, sun, food, water, trees, and triangulation (Whyte, 1980). Furthermore, the documentary provides design guidelines and recommendations to create vibrant and successful public spaces. Below is a description of each category with some recommendations:

1. *Sitting space:* Seating should be socially comfortable, provide flexibility, movability and maximize its sittability positions (sitting up front, in back, to the side, in the sun, in the shade, in groups, or alone). Recommendations: provide benches with height between 30 to 100 centimeters, 100 meters depth and be two back sides deep, and planter with low and hospitable design since they are good seating opportunities.

2. *Street:* Whyte argued that the relationship between street and space is the most important thing, and that, if people don't see a space, they do not use it (Whyte ,1982). Recommendations: Designers should include at least 50 percent of the ground-floor frontage to retail and food use. Also, the transit between a private space and a public should be blurred that it hard to tell where one ends and the other begins.

3. *Sun:* Whyte's study evidenced that people do love the sun and tend to meet in sunny areas. Recommendations: provide elements that allow people to have choices for sun, shades or in between.

4. *Food:* "If you want to seed a place with activity, put in food." (Whyte 1980, p. 52). Whyte presented the correlation between the activities in public spaces and food. Recommendations: provide food vendors or markets since people eating attracts people who attracts more people.

5. *Water:* Whyte mentioned that the best thing about water is the look, feel and sound of it. Its sound also can mask other irritation noises like traffic or other conversions. Recommendations: provide water features that are accessible, touchable and splashable.

6. *Trees:* Good looking landscape and trees at the passing scene and, the pleasure of being comfortably under a tree provide a satisfying attachment and protection. Recommendations: Designers should provide a tree for every 7.5 meters of sidewalk and 10 centimeters in diameter. These trees should be combined with trees and seating to enhance pleasurable scene, reduce glare, create shades and cave satisfactory feelings.

7. *Triangulation:* this concept works on buildings social dynamics in public spaces through the establishment of triangulation (Figure 5). The concept is defined as "the process by which some external stimulus provides a linkage between people and prompts strangers to talk to each other as if they were not" (Whyte 2012, p. 154). This stimulus or social catalysts aims to increase the possibility for strangers to interact through a shared experience and acknowledge each other. Recommendation: provide food trucks, performances, music, entertainers, physical object such as sculptures, unique furniture.
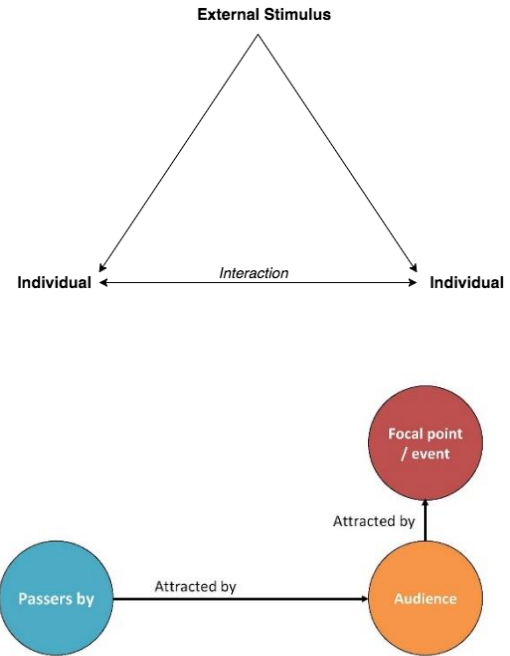
Figure 5 : The figure demonstrates the interaction between the individual and the external stimulus (source: https://ecourbanismworldwide.wordpress.com/2016/08/17/triangulation-a-thesis-recap-pokemon-go/)

Adding to the methodology of PPS and William H. Whyte, is the framework of the architect Jan Gehl whose studies focuses more on urban mobility and the functional part of a public space.

D. Jan Gehl's 12 Step framework to great public space

Jan Gehl advocates for the idea of reducing cars to give cities back to the people and builds on the model of Copenhagen's central pedestrian district since the 60s. He

documents the progress of the pedestrian district, which gradually expanded over the years by removing parking spaces, improving biking lanes and transit spaces. Gehl describes a successful public space through 12 key aspects divided into three criteria (Figure 6), these are: *Protection* (Vehicular traffic, crime and violence and unpleasant sensory experiences)**,** *Basic activities* (walking, standing and staying, contact, play/ recreation and interaction activities, and sitting) and *Delight* (human scale, climate and aesthetic and sensory) (J. Gehl and B. Svarre 2013).

PROTECTION	PROTECTION AGAINST VEHICULAR TRAFFIC	PROTECTION AGAINST CRIME & VIOLENCE	PROTECTION AGAINST UNPLEASANT SENSORY EXPERIENCES
	• Traffic accidents • Pollution, fumes, noise • Visibility	• Well lit • Allow for passive surveil-lance • Overlap functions in space and time	• Wind / Draft • Rain / Snow • Cold / Heat • Pollution • Dust, Glare, Noise
INVITATION	INVITATIONS FOR WALKING	INVITATIONS FOR STANDING AND STAYING	INVITATIONS FOR SITTING
	• Room for walking • Accesibility to key areas • Interesting facades • No obstacles • Quality surfaces	• Attractive and functional edges • Defined spots for staying • Objects to lean against or stand next to	• Defined zones for sitting • Maximize advantages • pleasant views, people watching • Good mix of public and café seating • Resting opportunities
	INVITATIONS FOR VISUAL CONTACT	PLAY, RECREATION & INTERACTION	DAY / EVENING / NIGHT ACTIVITY
	• Coherent way-finding • Unhindered views • Interesting views • Lighting (when dark) AUDIO & VERBAL CONTACT • Low ambient noise level • Public seating arrange-ments condusive to communicating	• Allow for physical activity, play, interaction and entertainment • Temporary activities (markets, festivals, exhibitions etc.) • Optional activities (resting, meeting, social interaction) • Create opportunities for people to interact in the public realm	• 24 hour city • Variety of functions throughout the day • Light in the windows • Mixed-use • Lighting in human scale VARYING SEASONAL ACTIVITY • seasonal activities. (skating, christmas markets,) • extra protection from unpleasant climatic conditions • Lighting
DELIGHT	DIMENSIONED AT HUMAN SCALE	POSITIVE ASPECTS OF CLIMATE	AESTHETIC & SENSORY
	• Dimensions af buildings & spaces in observance of the important human dimensions in related to sences, movements, size & behavior	• Sun / shade • Warmth / coolness • Breeze / ventilation	• Quality design, fine detailing, robust materials • Views / vistas • Rich sensory experi-ences

Figure 6 : 12 Quality Criteria of Jan Gehl (source: https://www.pinterest.com/pin/357684395379800472/)

E. Developed framework to assess public spaces in Ramlet el -Bayda

Using the literature review and the concepts of theorists and practitioners, I have combined and developed a matrix guide to evaluate the public spaces of Ramlet el-Bayda (Figure 7). The framework allowed me to assess the physical and social aspects of the spaces to categorize the public beach, lower corniche, upper corniche and the park as successful and vibrant public spaces or exclusive and feared public spaces.

PUBLIC SPACE

LITERATURE REVIEW

PERCEPTION OF FEAR

STRANGERS
TERRITORY & TERRITORIALITY (physical & sociable)
PRIVATIZATION
TERROR TALK
SECURITY MECHANISM
EXCLUSIVITY
BOUNDARIES & FRONTAGES
PERSONAL SPACE & OVERCROWDING
ENCROACHMENT
FREEDOM OF ACT
INCIVILITIES & SOCIAL PRACTICES

PRINCIPLES & EVALUATIONS

CPTED

NATURAL OBSERVATION	NATURAL ACCESS CONTROL	TERRITORIALITY	MAINTENANCE
-Hiding Spots & clear Sight lines	- Pathways, Vegetation, gates or Bollards	-Sign-age, vegetation Or other positive Markings	-Clean & Well-maintained

PPS

ACCESSIBILITY	COMFORT & IMAGE	USES & ACTIVITIES	SOCIABILITY
-Readable -Walk-able -Continuity -Convenient	-Safe -Clean -Green -Stable	-Fun -Special -Active -Vital	-Diverse -Cooperative -Friendly -Interactive

Whitefly

SI TABLE SPACE	STREET	SUN	WATER	FOOD	TREES	TRIANGULATION
-Benches -Planters -Flexibility -Movability	-Active Frontage -Transitional	-Shade -Light	-Touchable -Accessible -Splash-able	-Vendors -Market	-Pleasurable Scene -Reduce Glare -Shade	Performance -Music -Sculpture -Furniture -Performance

Jan Gehl

PROTECTION	INVITATION	DELIGHT
-Protection against Vehicular traffic -Protection against Crimes & violence -Protection against Unpleasant sensory Experience	-Invitation for walking -Invitation for standing -Invitation for sitting -Invitation for visual contact -Play, recreation & interaction -Day/evening/night activities -Audio & verbal contact -Varying seasonal activities	-Dimensioned at Human scale -Positive aspects of Climate -Aesthetic & sensory

Figure 7: Developed Matrix guide to evaluate public spaces (Author, 2017)

F. Case studies

The following section includes three selected case studies on urban parks that support concepts for diversity and provide concepts to activate abandoned and feared public spaces. Some of the strategies used focus on connectivity, accessibility, programs,

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amenities, managements frameworks and others. In addition, they also include concepts

of ecology and ICT (Information and Communications Technology), which the 4 selected

frameworks for the Matrix guide tend to miss.

The selection of case studies aimed to show 3 implemented projects that work at

different scales (city, neighborhood and plot).

Case study 1 (city scale):

SuperKilen in Norrebro, Copenhagen by Topotek 1, BIG Architects and Superfelx (2012)

Objective: a park that supports diversity

Context: a 30,000 sqm long strip in an urbanely dense populated neighborhood.

Intervention: a giant exhibition of urban practice, which includes a collection of objects

that come from 57 diverse cultures and national contexts. The project focused on activities

in the urban spaces that work as promoters for integration across ethnicity, religion,

culture and languages in the most socially and ethnically diverse area of the city.

The design concept of the park divided SuperKilen into three zones holding 3

different identities and colors (green, black and red) (Figure 8). The different colors and

surfaces of these zones were integrated in a way that they alone or together establish a

setting for various activities and objects chosen by the citizens.

The Red Square (Market/culture/sport) (Figure 9): The red square is an urban

extension of the park offering recreational amenities which allows for residents to meet,

play games, and perform physical activities. The zone includes: a playground, a fitness

area, sound systems, bike stands and a parking area. In addition, it incorporated adjacent

facades visually hereby forming 3-dimensional experiences. Adding to the sport and cultural facilities, the red zone creates settings for urban market-places, thus attracting visitors every day from all around the city. The intervention zone was defined by streets, buildings and fences from all sides. Accordingly, the concept for this zone was to tie the area together by connecting the edges from the surroundings through a big red pattern, thus integrating and merging the surface with the neighborhood though colors and materials.

The Black Square (urban living room) (Figure 9): This square brought local residents to meet around a Moroccan fountain, Turkish benches and Japanese cherry-trees. On the weekends, the square offers permanent benches, tables and grill facilities to serve an urban living room for chess players, backgammon and other games. Furthermore, this zone has delineated the furniture with white lines that move from north to south and curving around available furniture to avoided touching them. The zone also holds towards the north a hill facing south with a view to the square and its activities.

The Green Park (Sport/play) (Figure 9): The architects inherited a number of sports facilities in this zone to encourage informal meetings. The designers considered sports as one of the few institutions where people can still agree on the rules, and that children can almost always meet and play sports across linguistic and cultural barriers. The zone holds hockey tournaments, badminton games and workouts. Furthermore, the surface for this zone was treated with appealing soft hills and green landscapes for families and children to meet for sunbathing, picnics and breaks. The architects also listened to the neighborhood desires to intensify green so the furniture and pedestrian

paths in this area were all painted green. Some of the furniture this zone includes are a

rotating neon sigh from USA, a black bull and big chandelier from Costa del Sol,

American picnic tables, South African BBQs, and swings.

At a city scale, significant vegetation and plants were integrated through the

whole neighborhood in the form of small islands containing divers tree sorts, colors and

blossom periods. New connections and transition of traffics from the neighborhood to

the park were created through a bus passage and bicycle lanes. In addition, it included

signals, extended pedestrian lanes and additions of speed pumps.

Figure 8: Master plan of Superkilen
(https://www.archdaily.com/286223/superkilen-topotek-1-big-
architects-superflex)

In conclusion, this project was able accommodate divers age groups, interests and

activities that range from sports (e.g. boxing, basketball, biking) to more leisurely

activities (e.g. weekly market, picnic, chess). It was also well integrated to its

surrounding and provided strategies for physical and visual accessibility and connectivity

at different city, neighborhood and lot scale
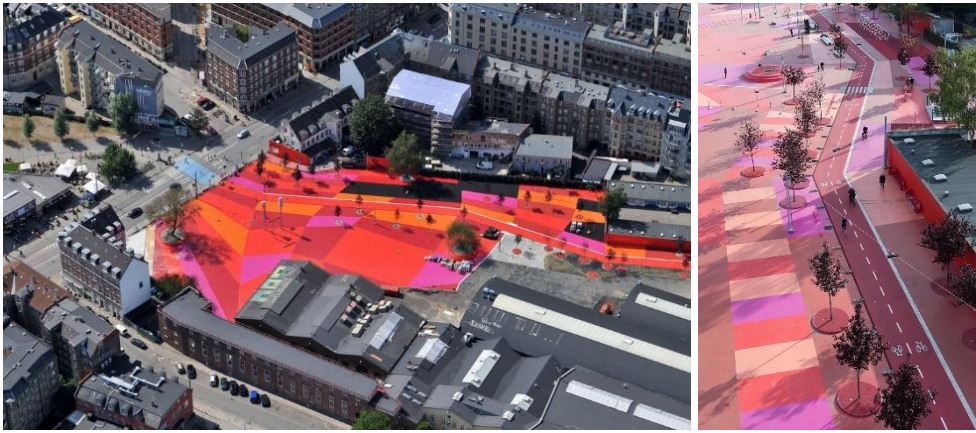
The Red Square

The Black Square

The Green Square

Figure 9: The Red, Green and Black squares of Superkilen park
(https://www.archdaily.com/286223/superkilen-topotek-1-big-architects-superflex)

Case study 2 (neighborhood scale):

The Goods Line in Sydney, Australia by ASPECT and CHROFI (2015)

Project Objective: To transform an isolated and redundant industrial corridor into a vibrant, vital and connected green space that enhances public life and was activate the square thought-out the day.

Context: A 500-metre linear isolated industrial corridor located on a previous industrial railway track at the heart of Sydney's most densely populated and urbanized areas.

Intervention: Using landscape and social infrastructure, the project aimed to create social and work space for students, workers and visitors.

To rejuvenate the blocked rail line, five main strategies where used in the Goods Line project (Figure 10). The first strategy consisted of 'social infrastructure': The Goods Lane park was infused with social activities such as a playscape, WI-FI facilities, an amphitheater, lighting, ping pong tables, and raised lawns. In addition, seating, urban furniture, and platforms for pop-up events and festivals were introduced. The second theme was 'Community and Connection,' with a strategy to provide pedestrian and cycle lanes on two streets in the neighborhoods that surround the park. It also connected the site to the various cultural, educational and media institutions that bordered the park. At the same time, this connection provided opportunities for different age groups to come together, occupy, inhabit and use the space for various reasons at different times of the day. The third scope was heritage: the project used material that were relevant to the site's industrial history such as concrete, steel, gravel and timber, intended to preserve the site's heritage qualities but infuse it with a new identity. The fourth element was

'Greening the City': existing fig trees were incorporated into the design that offered working and social spaces to students, workers and visitors. Various plants were distributed along remains of rails that brought various colors and different texture into the post-industrial site. The fifth design feature was the implementation of 'digital modeling': Pre-cast concrete panels were implemented to provide dwellers with information about upcoming events, activities and other aspects.

In conclusion, this project was a successful intervention that formed a green spine connected to its surrounding community and formed an energized civic space that promoted public engagement, socializing and wellbeing.

Figure 10: The Goods Line (http://www.landezine.com/index.php/2015/10/the-goods-line-by-aspect-studios/)

Case study 3 (site scale):

Reclaiming Bryant Park in Manhattan-New York, USA by BPRC corporation (1980)

Objective: Restoration of an abandoned and deteriorated park.

Context: a 38,860 m2 park in an urban area.

Intervention: an overall design and elements that support a range of uses and activities

for people who work, shop, residents, as well as those who are just visiting.

Originally built a hundred years ago in midtown Manhattan, the Bryant park

(figure 11) had several challenges. Hardly anyone went inside the park because it was

poorly maintained, several design problems attributed to the park's downfall, activities of

drug dealing occurred inside the park, and those who entered the park found little to do

there. As a result, William Whyte was hired by the boarded NY Public Library to analyze

why the park was a hub for criminals. One of the analyses was that the physical

configuration of the park is of an isolated one, it is not connected or well-integrated to its

surrounding.

Whyte's recommendation for the intervention were to remove all fences and

shrubs, improve visual and physical access for vulnerable groups by adding ramps, and

open adjacent building frontages by removing balustrades. The intervention also removed

all graffiti, repaired damaged architectural elements and integrated amenities. The

amenities integrated were flexible seating, a restaurant, temporary kiosk and an outdoor

theater which generated more public activity, thus crowding out undesirable behaviors

and dealers. Moreover, Bryant Park Restoration Corporation (BPRC) was created to

generate a masterplan and manage the park, and the intervention was funded by a

combination of public and private resources. This combination was responsible to

manage the park, the temporary kiosk and public events, but the Parks Departments

maintained veto power over the BPRC's plans. As a result, due to the combination

design and planning strategies, and an innovative and flexible management program;

Bryant park crime reduced by 92 percent and doubled the number of annual park visitors (Bryant Park Corporation). Furthermore, articles on the park mentioned that citizens involvement fostered a sense of ownership and pride which built a desire to keep the park safe. The park also focused on the enforcement of rules concerning incivilities and inappropriate activities to prevent a cycle of withdrawal and reduction in positive use.

To conclude, the case study explains that fear of violence and the perception of fear in an environment establishes a barrier to many people's use and enjoyment of public space. For this, the case study suggests increasing the numbers of people and provide them with tool to stay longer in the space such as better connectivity, accessibility, removal or fences and barriers, and providing flexible seating, shades, food and other activities. In addition, it suggests the establishment of a management and maintenance framework to upkeep and protect a public space.

Figure 11 :Bryant Park (http://bryantpark.org/)

CHAPTER IV

URBAN ANALYSIS

This chapter discusses the findings of the analysis of the Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood. As explained in the introduction, the thesis uses two frames to analyze the Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood and its public spaces. These are: (i) physical morphology and (ii) socio-spatial practices. This chapter begins by examining the physical infrastructure of the Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood such as road hierarchy and vehicular breaks, displaying the outcomes of Ramlet el-Bayda's zoning regulations on the urban fabric, and mapping the security mechanism encountered in the area. The chapter follows by mapping in qualitative and quantitative form Ramlet el-Bayda' park physical configuration, social practices, and behaviors. It then continues by comparing the four public spaces identified in this area using the matrix guide developed in chapter III. The chapter concludes by categorizing public spaces according to their ability to attract users.

The analysis presented builds on several months of observations and fieldworks in which I formulated my findings. My aim through this analysis was to guide an intervention that responds to the challenges that undermine the functionality of the Ramlet el-Bayda park.

A. Urban challenges: The neighborhood diagnostic analysis and design challenges.

The Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood falls under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Beirut, in the Southern end of the city's administrative boundaries. Historically, this area was known for its coastal sand dunes since the French mandate and its urbanization only occurred after the 60s (Figures 12 a and b).
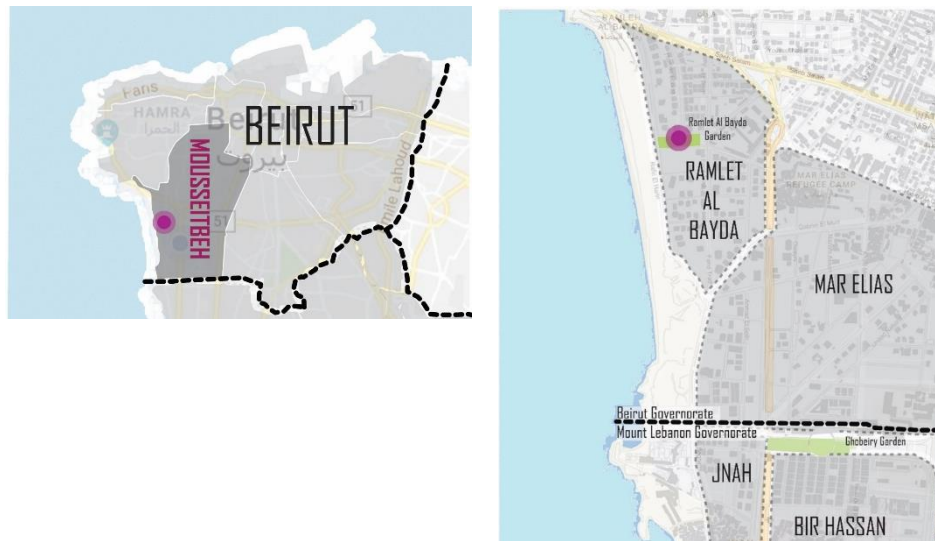
Figure 12: a) Municipal boundaries of Ramlet el-Bayda, b) Location of the Ramlet el-Bayda Neighborhood and public park

1. Road hierarchy and vehicular breaks

The morphological analysis of Ramlet el-Bayda revealed that the infrastructure of the neighborhood is largely responsible for its divided urban fabric. The most obvious element is the Rafic el Hariri highway, which connects horizontally the area to the rest of the city entirely along the coastline, but it divides Ramlet el-Bayda transversally (Figures13 and 14). Road analysis showed that Ramlet el-Bayda is well

accessible and assisted by vehicular lanes from various ends as seen in figures 15 (a, b, c). The adjacent lanes (Rafic el Hariri and Cheikh Sabah el Salem) channel commuters from the northern, southern, and eastern neighborhoods, connecting the area at a city's scale. These connections have however caused a negative impact on the neighborhood's internal circulation. In addition to causing divisions, they are not properly equipped with safety measures for pedestrians.

The Rafic el Hariri highway which stretches all along the coastline creates a physical rupture between the upper level that holds the neighborhood, the Ramlet el-Bayda park, and the upper corniche, and between the lower level where the lower corniche and the public beach are located. Aside from having a speed limit of 70 km/h, this highway lacks safety measures for pedestrian to cross, making it very challenging and unsafe to cross between one level and the other. True, there are three stairs along the upper level leading to the lower level, promoting accessibility for pedestrians to circulate between the two levels and one of them is directly in front of the Ramlet el-Bayda park (figure 16), but site observation revealed the perilous dangers facing pedestrians trying to cross the Rafic el Hariri highway. Throughout the day, pedestrians trying to cross the streets in front of the park gesticulate vehemently to make cars slow down, run at the right moment, or attempt other "safe ways" of bridging this dangerous path. This does not only threaten the pedestrians' safety but also creates motion obstacles for vehicles since the flow of cars in this highway is constant and speedy.

Furthermore, recent traffic reorganization in the city has increased pressure and traffic flows on the Rafic el Hariri highway. For example, the closure of the Saeb

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Salam's entrance point has directed highway traffic to this road. Commuters coming from General De Gaulle and wanting to go to the southern section of the city or beyond had two options before the closing: to continue to the Saeb Salam highway onto take Cheikh Sabah el Salem highway which is an Arterial road, or to continue directly into Rafic el Hariri highway which is a secondary Road. Now, commuters coming from General De Gaulle have to pass under the tunnel since the upper part is blocked and this tunnel channels vehicles into eastern neighborhoods. As a result, vehicles that tend to go to the Eastern neighborhoods depend mostly now on using the Rafic el Hariri highway.

Figure 13: Vehicular breaks of Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood

Figure 14 : Street names

a) **Street hierarchy** (based on street width)

Arterial road
Secondary road
Tertiary road
Blocked roads

b) **Street hierarchy** (based on street connections)

<10

<2
Street blocked

c) **Traffic Flow** (average traffic per week)

Fast

Slow
Street blocked
Source: Google Maps
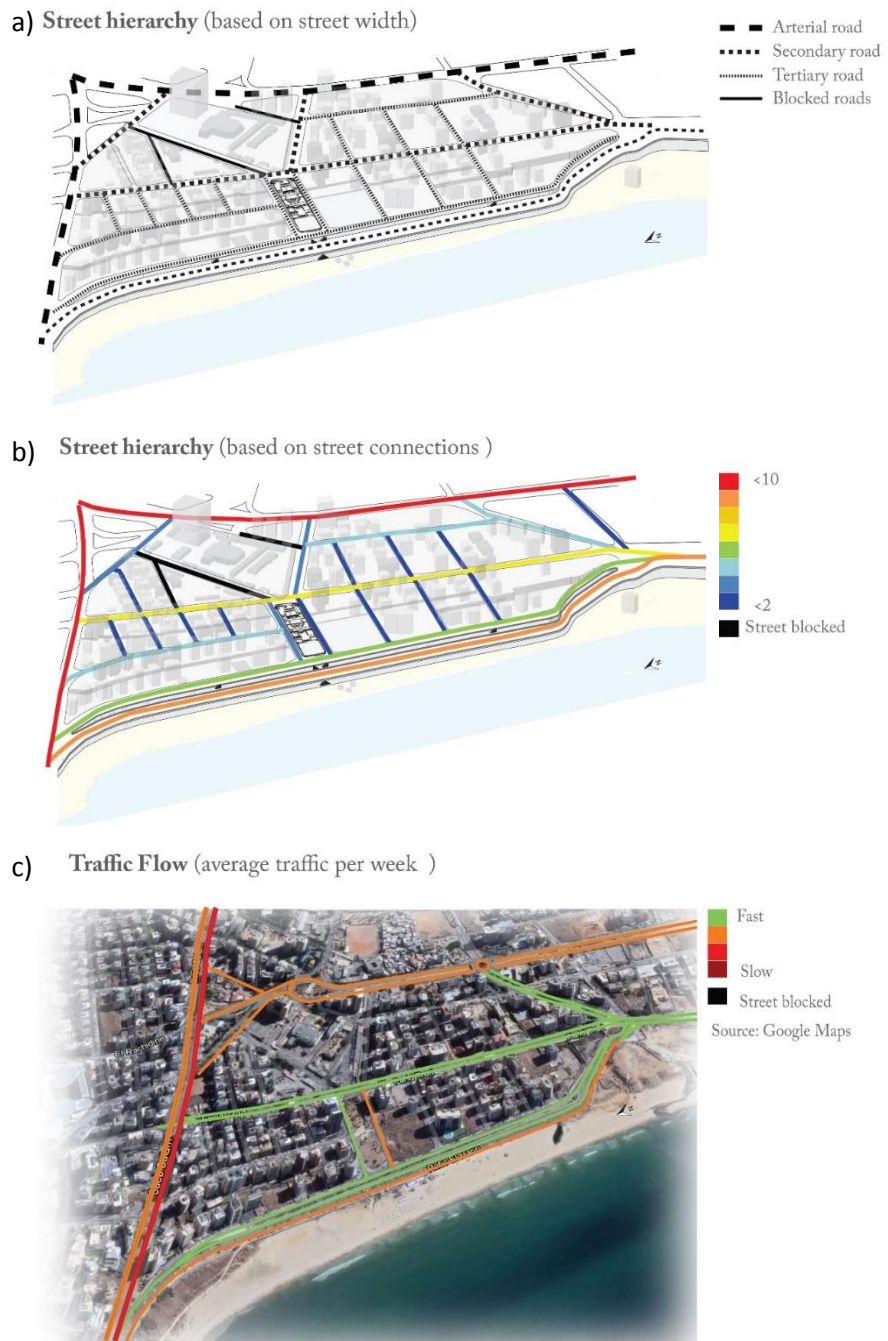
Figure 15 :   Street hierarchy

LEGEND

⟷ Weak connections between upper level
   & lower level (vertical)

◤ Existing stairs

▤ Zebra crossing
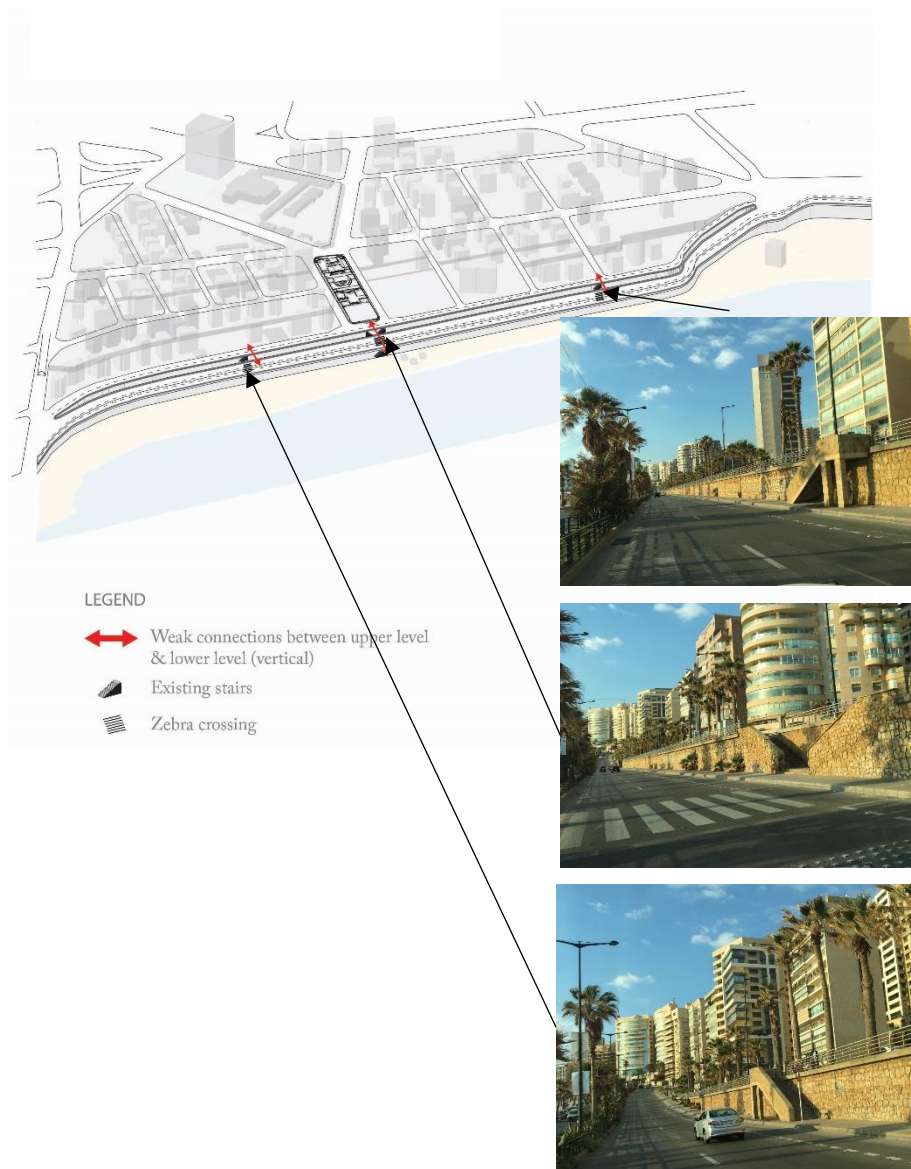
Figure 16: Existing Urban Stair on the Rafic el Hariri highway

2. *Zoning and spatial gaps*

The physical separation is however not only a result of the infrastructure, it is also the result of zoning regulations. The neighborhood holds different zones (figure 17), but its lots are mostly categorized as 'SP', which stands for "special zone". This area was zoned a decade after the rest of Beirut, as part of a deal between land developers and municipal authorities. 'SP' zoning allows for a coefficient of exploitation of 2, a 30% of lot minimum building area, a 60% minimum building projection of façade, and no restrictions on maximum building heights or the number of floors. These guidelines included lateral setbacks and well in line with the 1960s modern standards, conceptualized of buildings as self-standing objects. Figure 18 shows the consequences of the generated urban fabric with horizontal gaps that hold buildings designed as self-standing elements and a public space that also conceived as a self-standing object separate from its surroundings. As shown in Figure 19, buildings heights were further extended following the 2004 building law that now allows for 26 floors in the area while earlier constructions in this zone counted buildings of 10~15 floors.
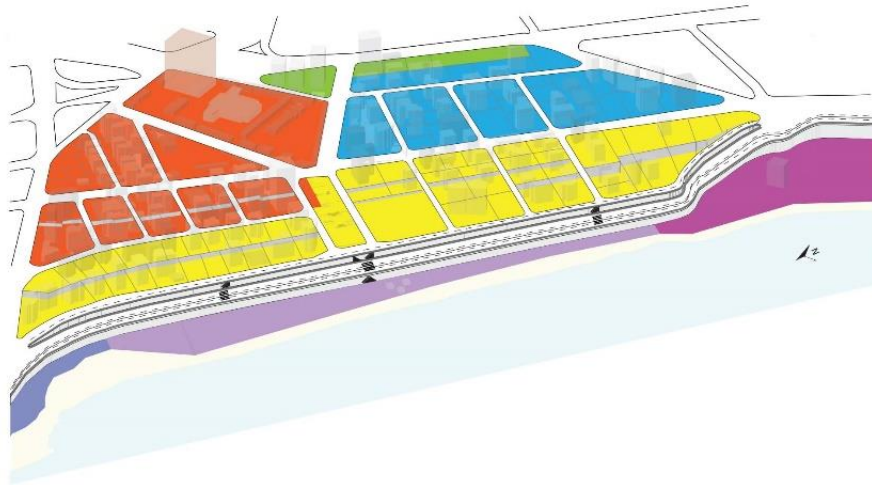
LEGEND

Zone	General Exp. Factor	Floor to Area Ratio (Surface Exp.)	Number of Floors	Maximum Height	% of construction
5	2.5	40%	–	–	40%
SP	2	30%	–	–	60%
8 II B	1.5	25%	–	–	60%
8 II C	1.75	25%	–	–	60%
10-IV	0.2	10%	–	4m	
10-V	Not Buildable				
10-VI	Decrees 4811 & 4918				

Figure 17: Zoning of Ramlet el-Bayda

Horizontal Gaps

Vertical Gaps

Streets

Blocks
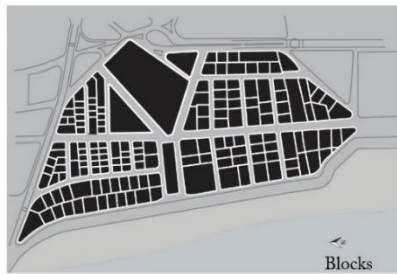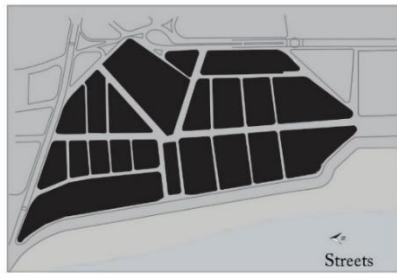
Buildings

Figure 18: Figure Ground
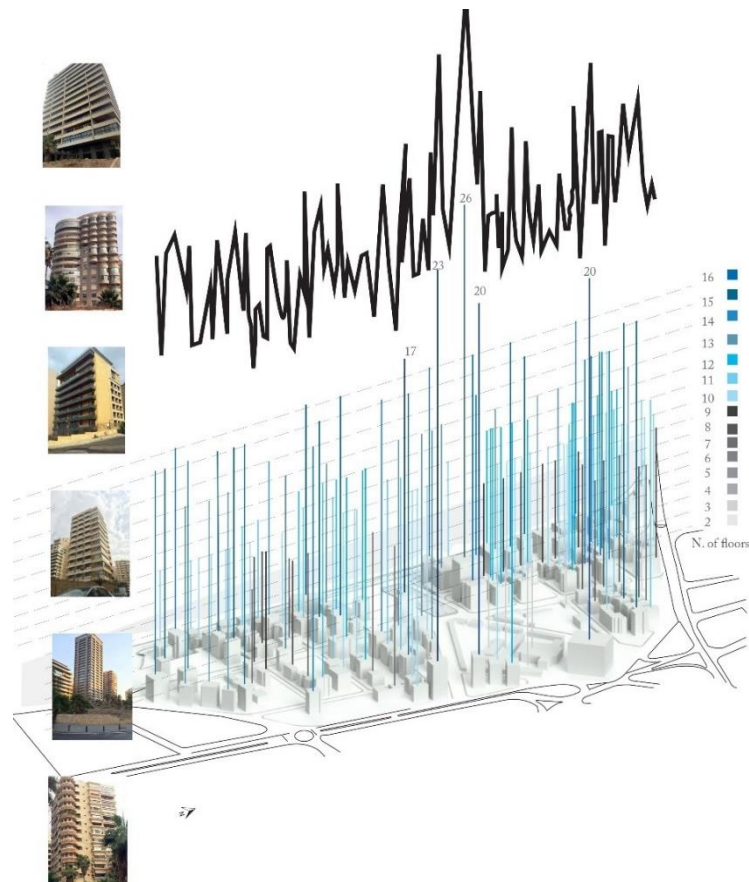
Figure 19: Graphical Representation of Building heights

Land-use analysis (Figure 20) revealed that the Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood consists mostly of residential buildings with few commercial activities. The activities are generally located in the ground floor of the residential buildings and include hairdresser salons, car selling, one supermarket, few shopping stores, and coffee shops. The area also holds institutional buildings such as the Kuwait embassy that is directly adjacent to the park from its northern side and a military base that is adjacent to the park from its eastern side. There are also numerous empty lots that are either left unexploited

or used as parking space. Furthermore, based on my count, the area holds approximately 110 buildings with a total population of nearly 14,800 assuming that each floor consists of 2 apartments inhabited by 5 persons each. Analysis of land prices revealed that the average square meter in the area of a new apartment ranges around 6,000 USD. Therefore, Ramlet el-Bayda is considered an expensive residential zone targeting high-income inhabitants (figure 21). Furthermore, the urban fabric analysis and fieldwork revealed that most blocks in this area hold protected isolated buildings with security and surveillance mechanisms as major elements making this area an intense active surveillance one.

Moreover, the area holds four different public open spaces, which are the public sandy beach, the lower corniche, the upper corniche and Ramlet el-Bayda park. The different configurations and practices of these public spaces is elaborated in section B.
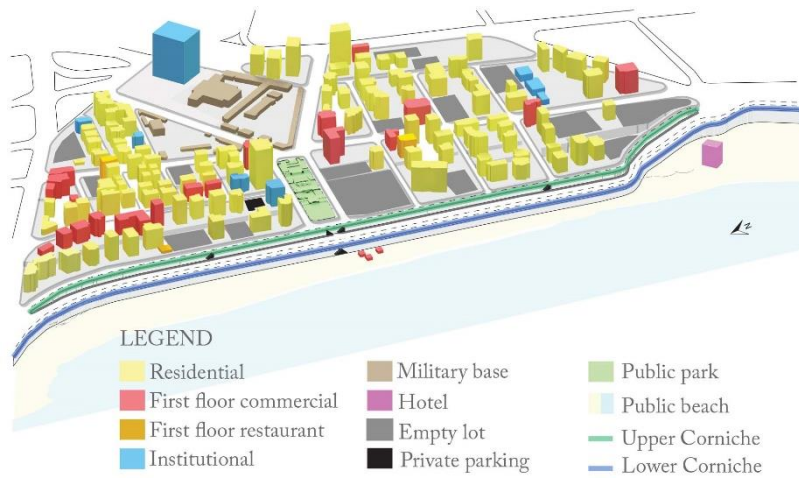
Figure 20:Land Use analysis based on site analysis
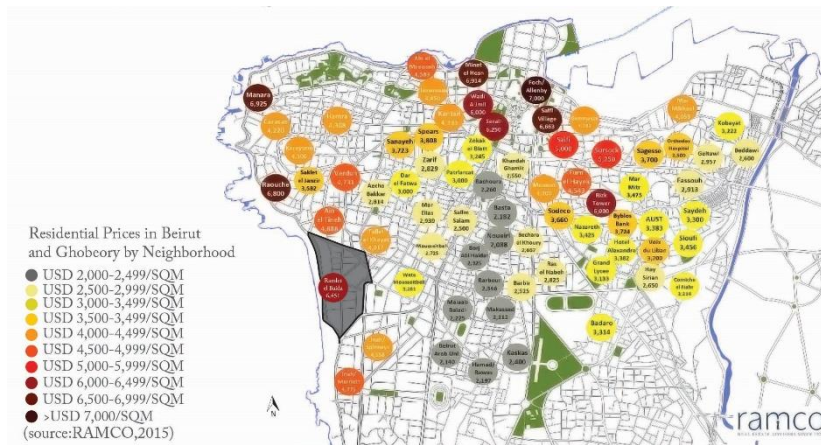
Figure 21: Price of SQM per apartments in Beirut

3. *Security and lack of street life*

Many of the contemporary buildings are gated; they are characterized by fences that separate the buildings from the street. Entrances are controlled by private security guards and equipped with video surveillance cameras. Most residents in these buildings do not show interest or interact with the context beyond the gates (Caldeira 2000,

Touman 2002 and Teipelke, 2011). Indeed, most residential buildings in Ramlet el-Bayda have adopted the above-mentioned qualities, which have affected negatively the urban fabric, causing physical and social fragmentation and division. Gated buildings give a sense of security, safety, and exclusion that is effortlessly observed in Ramlet el-Bayda while walking in its streets. Site analysis, observations, and mapping revealed that the fragmentation is not only on the physical level, but on the social level as well. The public spaces, especially sidewalks, are relatively empty. They lack street life and few residents dwell in them. Upon random chats with an employee in a juice shop called 'Succo Juicery' near the Ramlet el-Bayda park, my respondent claimed that residents are "too snobby" in this area, they rarely enter the shop, most of the times they send their chauffer or household cleaner for the orders. What is interest in that the shop has an appealing outdoor seating area with tables and chairs, but on most of my site visits, the seating area was empty. The direct frontage of the buildings with the sidewalks and their use of fences and wide setbacks had contributed to detaching residents from public spaces and limited the opportunities for dwellers to socialize, have random encounters and everyday exchanges. It has also enhanced the abandonment and deterioration of public due to the lack of interest exhibited by the residents in what is behind the building's gates.

Furthermore, institutional buildings in Ramlet el-Bayda such as the Iraqi and Kuwait embassy in addition to the military base nearby have introduced dense security mechanism that have encroached on public spaces and affected negativly the overall urban fabric and aesthetic qualities of the neighborhood. These security mechanisms are

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part of an ongoing trend in Beirut. The unpredictable conflicts and terror attacks in the

city have caused an overgeneralized security mechanism for these institutions and others

as well (Fawaz et al., 2012). Many security mechanisms such as concrete blocks and

walls are detected in the city. They are distributed and installed along public open

spaces including streets and pavements making these spaces narrower thus limiting

certain actions such as walkability and car mobility. Back in 2012, Fawaz et al.

described Beirut's urban fabric as "blocked streets, deviated passages, no parking zones,

no photography areas, illegal parking, and other security measures imposed daily

harassments, lengthened commutes, and constrained many of our daily practices"

(Fawaz et al., p. 174). Ramlet el-Bayda is not an exception to the militarization of

spaces, where it blurred the boundaries between private lots and public spaces, and it

also generated numerous constraints that affect the neighborhood's mobility and daily

practices. Figure 22 was adapted from the article 'Living Beirut's Security Zones' by

Fawaz et al., 2012 and updated to include recent transformations. By mapping

observations, the figure shows Ramlet el-Bayda to reflect an intense security

configuration, where not only there is security mechanism used by institutional

buildings, but also by residential buildings as explained above.
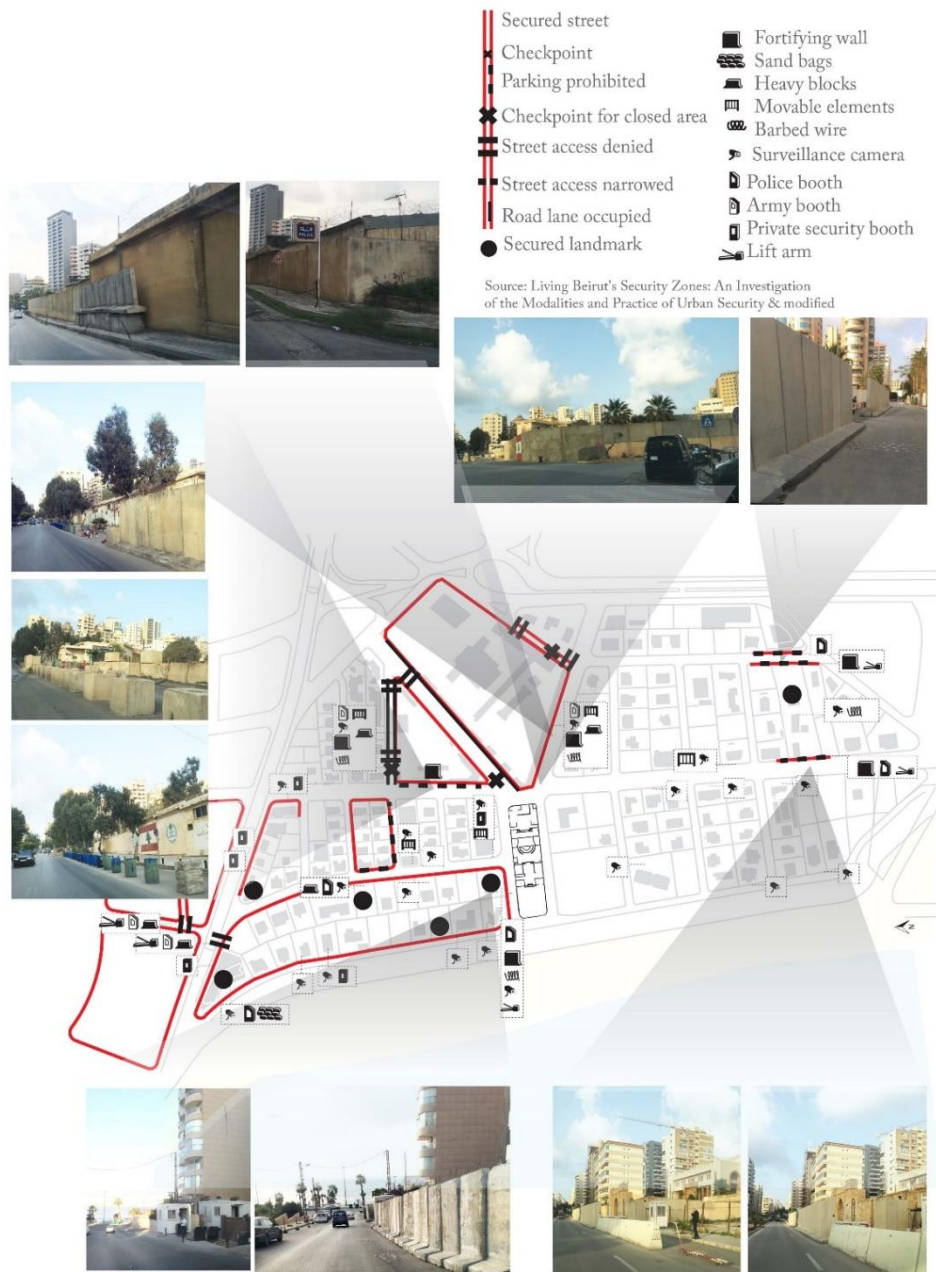
Figure 22: Security mechanism encountered in Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood

The above analysis will guide the intervention, first by rearranging vehicular mobility, providing road calming facilities and pedestrianizing streets, second by adopting the concept of active frontage to activate sidewalks, third by establishing inner

green corridors to regulate the standing along building configurations and create

pedestrian walks away from cars, and fourth by removing security mechanism that have

encroached on the public spaces. These strategies aim to reduce the physical/ social

fragmentation of the urban fabric that has partially contributed to the isolation and

abandonment of the neighborhood's public spaces specially Ramlet el-Bayda park as it

will be further elaborated on the following section.

B. **Ramlet el-Bayda's public spaces analysis**

I began by mapping the physical and social practice in the public spaces and

focused particularly on the Ramlet el-Bayda park. I identified four open public spaces in

the area spaces that vary in the scope and scale on which they function, their physical

composition, and the practices performed in these (Figure 23). The lower corniche is a

pedestrian link and an infrastructure artery spanning across Beirut's coastline. It

functions at the overall city scale along with the Ramlet el-Bayda beach, which is the

only publicly open sandy beach in administrative Beirut. At a neighborhood scale, I

identified the Ramlet el-Bayda park and the upper corniche. The park in its current

situation is not functioning at its intended scale, but rather as an isolated entity that has

no physical or social connections with its surroundings. The upper corniche had limited

and relatively exclusive users, lacking the diversity of users and activities that the

corniche exhibits.

It was important to map the types of activities performed in these four open

public spaces, particularly the park, in order to know how they can be moderated,

developed or boosted. The analysis of Ramlet el-Bayda and its social practices will be

elaborated in the following section with detailed mapping of the activities, user groups, and perceptions of fears discussed in the introduction.
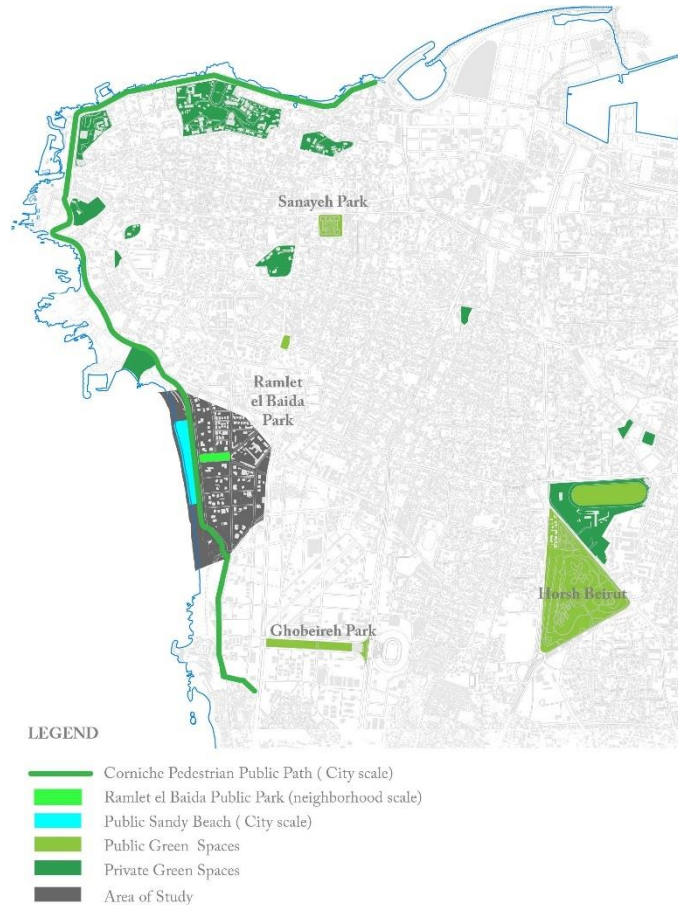
Figure 23: exiting public spaces in Ramlet el-Bayda and Greater Beirut

1. *Ramlet el-Bayda park: Recorded observations*

Ramlet el-Bayda Park represents a small portion of the green spaces available in Beirut. Nevertheless, any open public space is extremely important in Beirut due to the poor availability of green open public spaces.

The park is currently abandoned, and it is gradually deteriorating: feelings of fear and insecurity dominated therefore narratives surrounding the area instead of the feelings of serenity, peace, and calm that one expects from visiting a park. As explained above, the physically fragmented urban fabric of Ramlet el-Bayda has not only affected building configurations but also the physical configuration of the park, but then, this is not the only problem. According to the site analysis, field visits, and interviews the park exhibits major concerns on the social level.

Figure 24 shows the park's location, it has a unique character due to sloped configuration of the land and the outstanding open scenery to the beach. Figure 25 is a zoom in into the park, where the section shows that the current park holds wrecked platforms with scattered trees. This figure also shows that the park in its current situation interacts and copes with seasonal changes. For example, during spring and summer seasons, the park's wrecked grounds are covered with green bushes, while in the autumn and winter, the only greenery found is from the scattered palm trees. On the other hand, lack of management from the municipality and the neglectfulness of residents has led the park to be an attraction point for undesirable activities such as littering, drinking, and an open-air toilet. In addition, numerous bad rumors circulate around the park space, bringing fear and anxiety among residents and dwellers.

Figure 26 illustrates images in various points of the Ramlet el-Bayda park. Images a) were taken from a roof top of a residential building adjacent to the park. Its shows that the park is an isolated entity, sandwiched by roads from the four sides with no safety measurements for pedestrians to cross over, or actual design considerations for

its accessibility from nearby zones. Roads surrounding the park mostly serve as parking spots. Images c) and l) show the park entrances. The park has 3 entrances, the main one is at the upper end of the park but it's completely inaccessible because over the years, bushes and sand have accumulated and blocked it. The other two access points are located at the middle part of the park but are partially blocked by concrete blocks. Random interviewers with users in the area indicated that these blocks were placed by the military base to stop cars from driving in the park. Indeed, until they were placed, cars used to park inside the park and drivers would gather at night to drink, have intimate evenings, or another "immoral" behavior. Image q) shows that the park is used by none Lebanese household cleaners to walk dogs of residents living in the surrounding buildings. Furthermore, image h) shows a homeless man sleeping under a tree. During several site visits, I was able to spot this man using the park as a shelter. Upon a random conversation, he mentioned that he has no home or anyplace to go, thus he uses the park to sleep, eat and hangout with his friends. He also mentioned that residents have complained about him being there, but he refuses to leave saying it's a public space and they have no right to make him leave. The other images show that the park's boundaries walls have graffiti written on them, the grounds are dirty and used are garbage disposable, it has wrecked stairs, it is unsafe for children to play and lacks greenery to create shades for users to stay.

location of the site

Beirut's center and pre-center Green spaces
(Source: Habib Debis, 2013)

Ramlet Al Baida Park

Plan Général *Légende*

Size of Ramlet Al baida park is a 6,800 sqm

Park relation with the streets

Entrances to the park

Park view

Figure 24: Ramlet el-Bayda park location

Existing Vegetation on site and surrounding

Park during Autumn & Winter

Park during Spring & Summer

Existing Material in the park

Tall Date Palm trees | Short Palm trees | Gravel ground | Grassy weed | Sandy ground

Trees on pavements

Beirut`s center and pre-center Green spaces
(Source: Habib Debis, 2013)

Sea | Lower Pav | Lower Street | Lower Pav | Upper Pav | Upper Street | Upper Pav | Park | Upper Pav | Upper street

Figure 25: Park's seasonal changes

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a) Adjacent roads around the park

b) Empty sidewalks

c) Main entrance completely blocked

d) Garbage on the floors

e) Unsafe stairs

F) Unmaintained greenery

g) Wrecked stairs

q) Maids walking dogs

p) Lack physical connectivity of the park with adjacent sidewalk

h) Homeless men shelter

o) Families only

n) Graffiti on park's boundaries

m) Men sit regularly on the parks boundaries

l) Park's entrance partially blocked

Figure 26: Pictures of Ramlet el Bayda park from various angles showing its physical configurations and social practices performed by users encountered in the park

The streets surrounding the park and in the neighborhood were observed for nearly a month at different day and night times. These observations were illustrated in figure 27. These observations revealed 3 categories for the use of parking sports on the inner narrow streets of the neighborhood and adjacent lane to the park. It also illustrates the intentions behind parking in these particular streets and the activities performed inside the parked cars. The first category represents cars that use the available parking spots to go to the commercial facilities located in the site during morning and noon. The second category includes cars that use the parking spots around the park and narrow streets for romantic encounters, alcohol intake, chatting purposes, or other activities. This category was spotted from as early as 6am or as late as 1am. While the third category represents cars that use the parking spots for public spaces. This category was mainly seen at the lower corniche throughout the day and night.
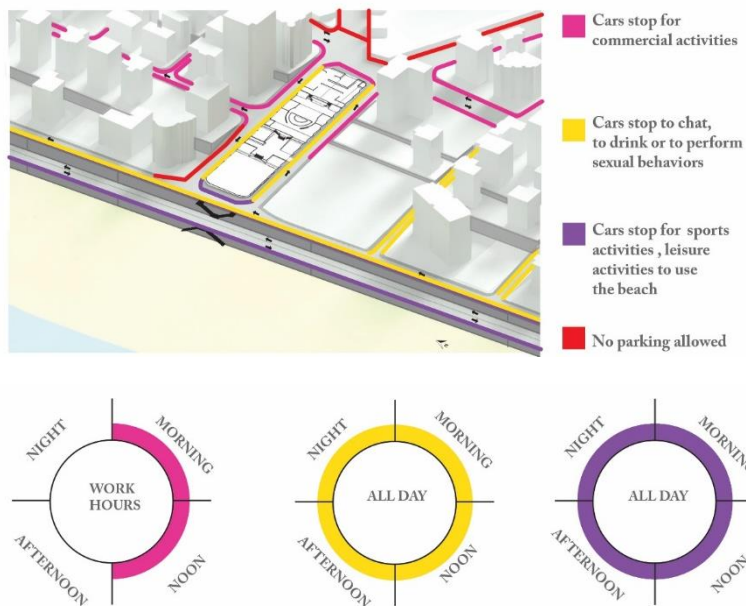

Figure 27: Car parking habits in Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood

Mapping of the occupants in the cars and their behavior revealed another layer of division. The socially unacceptable practices are typically concentrated on the upper level of Ramlet el-Bayda, while the acceptable ones occur on the lower corniche. Analysis showed that the upper part has gained over time an identity: it's an open platform for "immoral" activities (drinking, sex), it's a space for setting hookah on pavements and an area for men gatherings. This is facilitated by the absence of lighting fixtures that make it possible for these activities to occur. Over time, the upper corniche has gained an "identity" of "immorality" and an association with "immoral" practices and behaviors that is well recognized by many city dwellers who avoid it. Upon a field visit, I accidently over heard a man giving directions on his location while talking on the phone. He explained that he is standing on the upper side of Ramlet el-Bayda where the drug addicts and drunk people gather.

Moreover, during field work I noticed that many stories run around the park. Answers about the uses of the park were categorized as rumors and mapped in a quoted form (Figure 28). A rumor is "a tale of explanations of events circulating from person to person and pertaining to an object, event, or issue in public concern" (Peterson, W.A., Gist, N.P, 1951), thus, rumors have the ability to enhance or decay the reputation of a person as well as of place. What was noticed from these quotations from the fieldwork and random chats was that there is a vague but fearful image towards this park. Some rumors included "having found a dead body", "drug selling/consumption", "prostitutes" or "gay gatherings." Others described it as a "public toilet for animals and humans" or again as a "garbage disposal." Some expressed their astonishment upon knowing it is an

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open public space. The below map was helpful to understand on the overall image, perception of fears, emotions, and attitudes towards this public space from different dwellers on the upper level and lower level of the neighborhood.
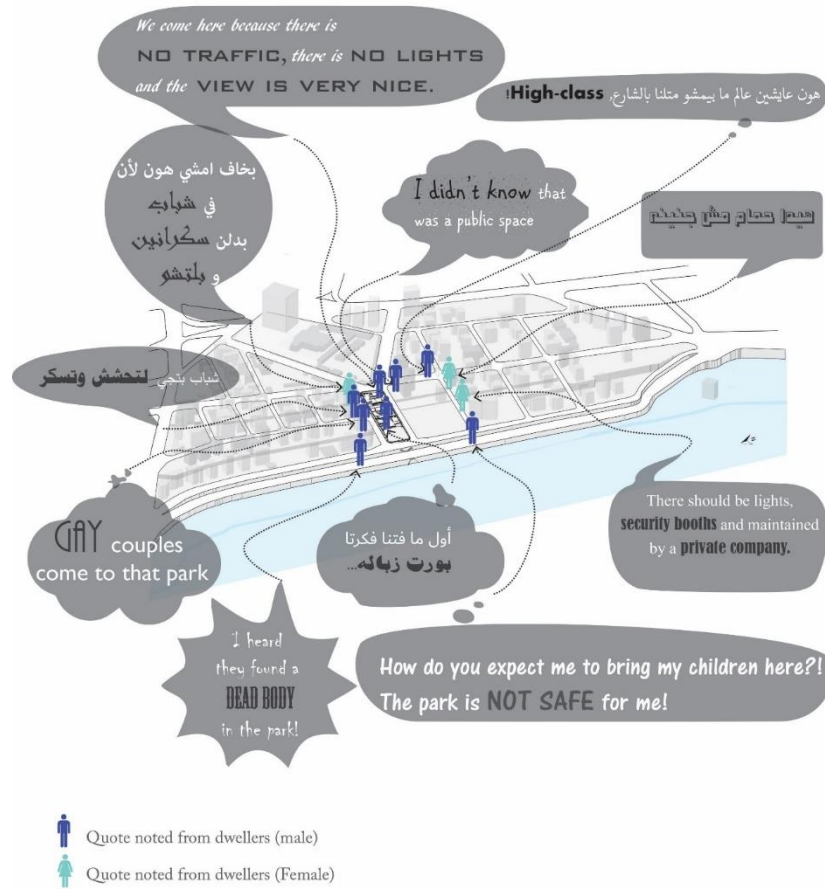
Figure 28: Rumors about Ramlet el-Bayda park

Field observations and interviews also revealed that the park is almost exclusively used by mid-aged men, mostly taxi drivers who hold the biggest share of activities performed. These activities ranged between drinking, smoking, sleeping, eating, romantic dating, or urinating. These men bring their own chairs, table, snacks, and hookahs since none of these are available in the park. Furthermore, these activities

do not only occur inside the boundaries of the park, but also extend to the sidewalks. Women visitors were either non-Lebanese household cleaners walking the dogs, or females accompanying a man in an intimate situation (Figure 29). On Sundays, a few families (mostly Syrian and Palestinians) were spotted, particularly during the summer season, and they use the park to have lunch or play with their children. These activities and users are performed until sunset and then disappear since the park lacks lighting facilities.

After several months of observing the park, the users' faces seemed familiar and this indicates that the park is almost always used by the same people. Upon random chats with these users, they explained that the park's current situation suits them perfectly. One user said, "It's a quiet place, the view is amazing which is facing the sea, a parking spot is easily found, and the lack of lights makes it non-crowded." They use the space as they wish without any restraints or municipalities' laws, giving these visitors an ultimate freedom to perform the activities mentioned above.
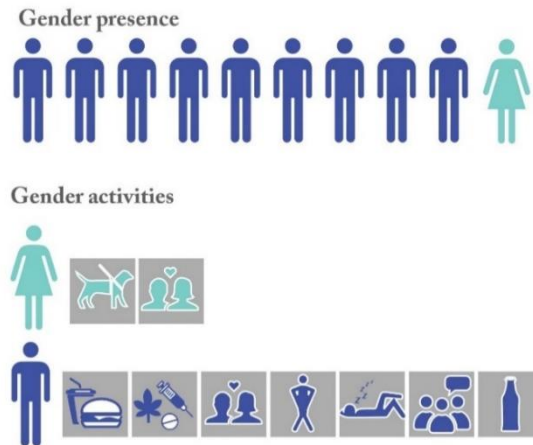
Figure 29: Gender presence and activities in Ramlet el-Bayda park

To understand more the habits observed inside the park, I used a section that crosses the park encompassing horizontally the adjacent streets and sidewalks to the park. Figure 30 shows how the activities occur daily. This mapping was useful to understand how the interrelationship between the physical characteristics of the place accommodates or separates the social activities of the users in the space. The activities and users were illustrated using color codes and diagrams:

– Yellow color represents a resident overlooking from the balcony with a distance from the window. My interview analysis revealed that residents hold physical and social distance towards the park and they are not interested in its management.

– Red color represents police men who regulate undesirable activities. However, with time they became friends with the frequent park users, so their presence became symbolic.

- Orange color represents a frequently observed group of men occupying the pavement either by sitting in their cars or placing chairs and tables on the pavements.

- Blue color represents house cleaners employed by residents living near by the park. These women take pets into the park for walks and discharging reasons.

- Purple color represents activities of couples that use the trees as hiding spots for privacy and intimacy. Residents suggested chopping down trees as a way to confine this behavior.

- Green color represents a known zone as a "Discharging spot." One of the complains I received during my interviews was "I cannot overlook at the park from my window. Men often expose themselves."

- Baby blue color represents homeless men and taxi drivers using the park as a shelter to sleep or eat. Taxi drivers mainly were seen taking a siesta under the trees or having their meals. At night or early in the morning, I spotted homeless men going to and returning from the park while holding plastic bags containing cloths.

- Caramel color represents the intimate activities that occur inside cars allocated adjacent to the park that also spreads along parallel streets.

- Pink color represents women's relation to the open spaces. 'Mounir' is a women's hair salon in front of the park. Interviews with employees in the salon stated that woman avoid walking along the adjacent sidewalks and they rather rely on their chauffeurs as a transport mechanism.

Residents' Inspection:
Residents inspect behaviors in the park in a hidden manner.

Cops' routine:
Cops pass frequently to regulate drinking habits.

Drinking & Smoking with The bodies:
Males in groups use sidewalks adjacent to the park for drinking habits.

Pets' toilet :
Residents around the park send their pets with maids for walks & discharge reasons .

Hiding spots :
Couples use the park for sexual behaviors.

Call of nature:
Constantly children or men go into the park for discharge reason.

Vulnerable people
Homeless men and taxi drivers use the park as a shelter to eat or sleep.

Undesirable behaviors
Constantly couples park their car adjacent to the park to spend intimate moments.

Car reliance:
Women living around the park or nearby are dropped by cars to reach the barber shop, they do not use the park to cross from one end to the other.

Residential building
Sidewalk
Street
Sidewalk
Park
Sidewalk
Street
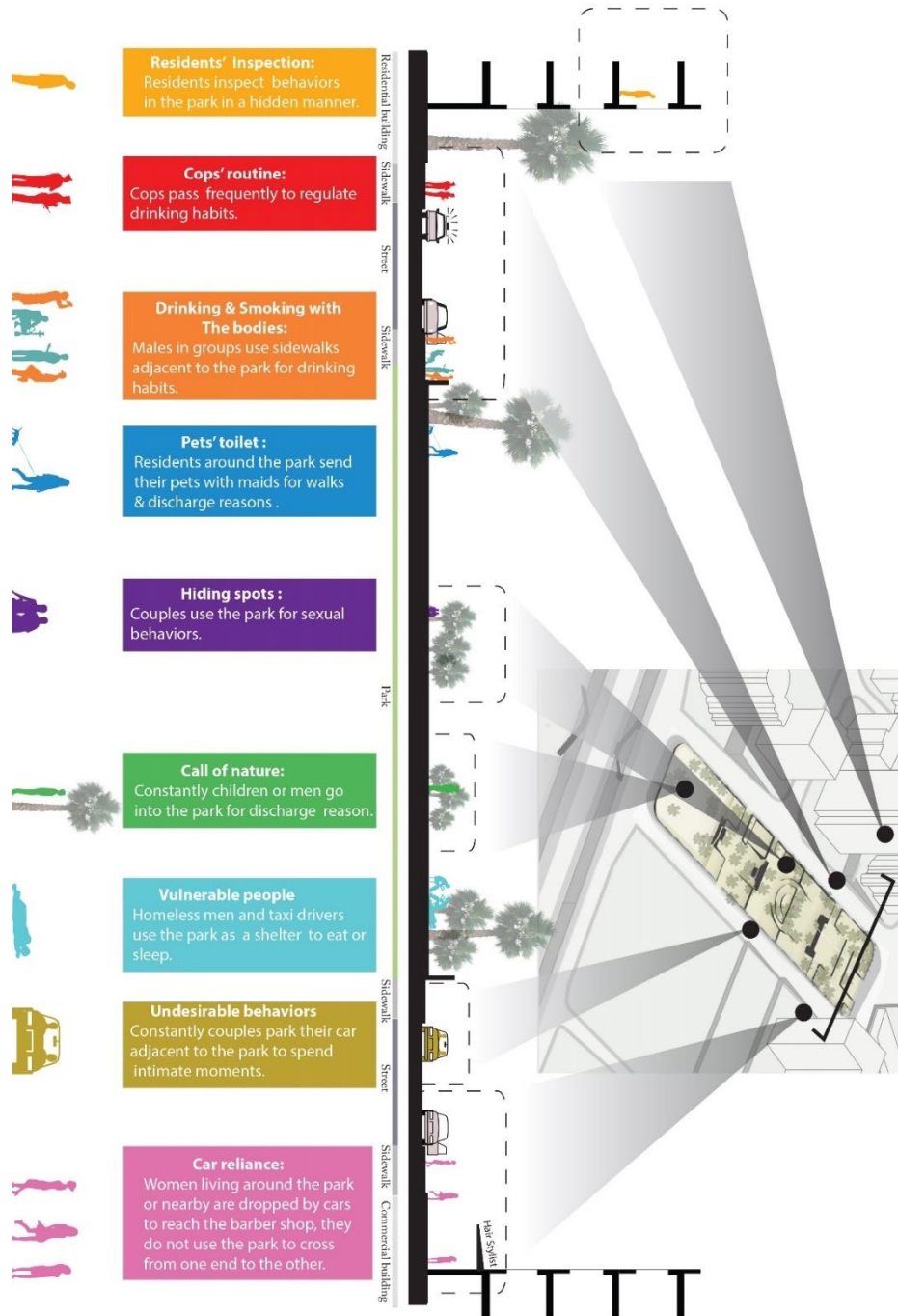Sidewalk
Commercial building
Hair Stylist

Figure 30: Ramlet el-Bayda section and social behaviors

2. *Profiling activities and users*

The analysis of daily practices and social behaviors performed in the Ramlet el-Bayda park and other public spaces located in the area revealed the diversity of users and uses. It also allowed me to compare between the four public spaces and later label them as successful or not using the matrix guide developed in chapter 3. The matrix was formulated to value each public space's physical characteristics, social usage and user groups, as well as its available comfort amenities. Taking these components into consideration, the public spaces were categorized as "successful" public space, "exclusive" public space or "feared" public space. Figure 35 shows the public beach, the lower corniche, and the upper corniche analyzed below.

The Public beach (Figure31)

The public beach is open to the public. Although it has only one main access, the beach is open to all, there is no profiling for users or restrictions on the activities performed. The beach is bounded by the Rafic Hariri highway, making it easily accessible by car or on foot. The beach holds a few amenities such as food kiosks, rented tables, chairs or umbrellas. During the summer, most of the beach users are men from various nationalities and ages, but in the winter, families including women come to the area. Users cover all age groups, nationalities, and sexes and they walk on the

Figure 31:Categorizing the Public Beach

sand, play with their dogs, or sit by the water. The beach also holds spontaneous sports activities such as football, volleyball or yoga. At night usage decreases due to the lack of lighting facilities on the beach, but through observations I was able to spot few couples sitting or walking on the sand.

Lower Corniche (Figure 32)

The linear shaped public open space is an example of a successful public space. Throughout the day, the strip which stretches from Ramlet el-Bayda to Rawsheh and Ayn el Mreisseh functions in spontaneous and flexible ways. The corniche works as a pedestrian connector at the city scale, and is accessible through the Rafic el Hariri highway, which not only provides vehicular access but also allows for direct parking spots alongside the corniche. The lower corniche holds benches for resting, light facilities, a few trees and garbage bins. It also is frequented by different users such as families, elderly, teenagers or single dwellers and, holds various activities for

Lower Corniche			
Scale			
City			
Neighbourhood			
Lot			
Categories	Available	Weak	Absent
Physical			
Accessibility	■		
Connectivity	■		
Boundaries			■
Social			
Passive surveillance	■		
Divers	■		
Exclusive			■
Inclusive	■		
Incivilities			■
Territoriality			■
Encroachments			■
Passive/Active Engagement	■		
Freedom of act	■		
Triangulation (activities)	■		
Comfort			
Maintenance (cleanliness)	■		
Safe	■		
Shade		■	
Sitable	■		
Green			■
Amenities			
Lighting	■		
Vendors	■		
Toilet			■

Figure 32:Categorizing the Lower Corniche

example commercial activities such as street vendors, sports activities such as running, cycling or walking, and leisure activities such as dog walking, promenading, strolling or relaxing on bench. The activities do not typically conflict, making the space open and pleasant to many users.

Upper Corniche (Figure 33)

The upper corniche was observed to have less activities than the lower corniche. The analyses revealed two reasons for this difference: first due to the width of the strip, which is only three meters while the lower corniche is six meters wide, and second, because the upper corniche is served by a more private vehicular lane while the lower is bounded by a highly active vehicular lane (the Rafic el Hariri). The upper strip furthermore lacks benches, shading spots, vendors and garbage bins., Consequently, this zone appears as a "men space". Workers from nearby areas, taxi drivers, and teenagers were seen occupying the path and personalizing it with chairs and tables, encroaching on its public nature. The activities performed evolved around smoking hookah, playing cards or drinking alcohol and chatting. The existing railings also experiences occupation from these groups, I could spot them while driving through the Rafic el Hariri highway sitting on the rail, talking, smoking or drinking. My observations indicated that these activities occur throughout the day but intensify at night. During the day I was able to spot men jogging and few women walking the dog or standing on the railing with a man in an intimate situation, but at night the strip transforms: it holds separate and male dominant activities.

Upper Corniche			
Scale	City		
	Neighbourhood		
	Lot		

	Categories	Available	Weak	Absent
Physical	Accessibility	X		
	Connectivity	X		
	Boundaries			X
Social	Passive surveillance		X	
	Divers		X	
	Exclusive	X		
	Inclusive		X	
	Incivilities	X		
	Territoriality	X		
	Encroachments	X		
	Passive/Active Engagement	X		
	Freedom of act	X		
	Triangulation (activities)	X		
Comfort	Maintenance (cleanliness)	X		
	Safe		X	
	Shade			X
	Sitable			X
	Green	X		
Amenities	Lighting	X		
	Vendors		X	
	Toilet			X

Figure 33:Categorizing the Upper Corniche

Public Park (Figure 34)

The park functions as an isolated entity, holding activities and users group not seen in the above mentioned open public spaces. As mentioned in the previous sections, the wide vehicular roads, the lack of safety measurements for pedestrians to commute, the typology of the residential buildings and their relationship with the streets, the securitization coming from the institutions, in addition to the physical condition of the park, the lack of management from the municipality, the neglection from the neighborhood, the incivilities performed and rumors surrounding this park generated a feared public space. The park is not well integrated with the neighbor, it is bounded by roads from all sides and lacks physical and visual connectivity with other public spaces. Furthermore, it lacks clear access points and amenities, exhibits male domination, exclusive users and usages, and high incivilities.

Public Park			
Scale	City		
	Neighbourhood		
	Lot	■	

	Categories	Available	Weak	Absent
Physical	Accessibility		■	■
	Connectivity		■	■
	Boundaries	■	■	■
Social	Passive surveillance			■
	Divers			■
	Exclusive	■		■
	Inclusive			■
	Incivilities	■		
	Territoriality		■	
	Encroachments		■	
	Passive/Active Engagement		■	
	Freedom of act	■		
	Triangulation (activities)			■
Comfort	Maintenance (cleanliness)			■
	Safe			■
	Shade		■	■
	Sitable	■		■
	Green		■	■
Amenities	Lighting			■
	Vendors			■
	Toilet			■

Figure 34: Categorizing Ramlet el-Bayda Park

Adjacent roads of the park

Men occupation the
sidewalk and railing on the
upper corniche

Men occupation the
sidewalk and railing on the
upper corniche

Stair in front of the

Upper Corniche

Strain for public beach

Lower corniche

Public Beach

Figure 35:Pictures of Ramlet el-Bayda beach, the lower corniche and the upper corniche

3. *Diagrams of day and night life of the four public spaces*

All the activities, user and usage observed during my field work were translated

and profiled into color codes and diagrams shown in figure 36. These color codes were

then used in other illustrations as part of the graphical analysis of available public spaces. Figures 37 and 38 map the activities and behaviors that occur in the public beach, lower corniche, upper corniche, and the sidewalks surrounding the park which was already mentioned in the previous sections, but these images represent diagrammatically the public spaces and the activities occurring during day and the night, revealing the intensity or dilution of activities in the public spaces of the Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood.

Public Beach

During the day, especially in summer times, the beach is rich with activities performed by families, teenagers, couples, and elderly. However, at night, the beach becomes a calm and hiding spot for couples.

Lower Corniche

The corniche keeps its richness and dynamic pattern of activities and diversity or users at any interval of time. Different age groups (elderly, teenagers, and youth) are detected as early as 6:00 am in the morning and as late as 10:00 pm in the night. Women had no problem visiting the corniche late at night.
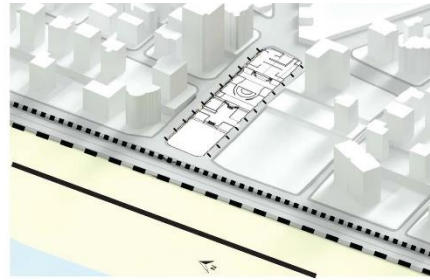
Upper Corniche

During the day, elderly, mid-aged men, teenagers and few women occupy the space to jog, walk the dog, smoke, drink, chat, or sit in the existing railing. At night, the space adopts a homogenous typology holding patches of men figures drinking, smoking, and chatting. While women avoid passing this strip worried to be verbally harassed.
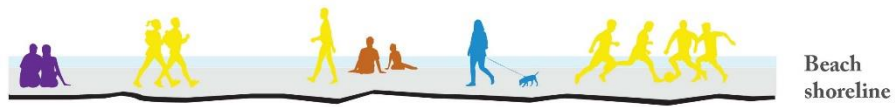
Ramlet el-Bayda Park

The sidewalks of the park hold a monotonic typology of activities and users throughout the day and the night. As mentioned previously, groups are spotted occupying the sidewalks of the park with their own mini tables and chairs to spending their time drinking, smoking, and chatting, and cars park along these sidewalks with couples inside. While Women walking along these sidewalks were rarely seen.

Smoking:
Men as a solo or in groups of different ages and nationalities use public spaces to smoke cigarettes or narghile.

Bench seating:
Single or groups of different ages and nationalities (couples, families, teenagers, elderly) sit or lay on benches.

Elderly habits:
Elderly are spotted walking, sitting, or exercising.

Standing on railings:
Couples or men stand or sit on the railings to gaze at the beach, chat, or have a smoke.

Street vending:
Street vendors sell cotton candy, beans, coffee, corn, etc..

Drinking:
Mnin groups occupy part of the pavement or railing for drinking habits.

Exercising:
Men and females of all ages go for jogging or perform other activities.

Walking:
Single or groups of all ages and nationalities perform long or short walks after or before there daily routines.

Family day out:
Parents take their children to play, walk, or grab a snack.

Dog walks:
men or women take their dogs for a walk.

Romantic moments:
Couples are spotted all along the public spaces but mainly late at night, down at the beach, in the corniche, or inside the park.

Swimming:
Families and group of men visit the public beach to swim and perform beach activities.

Parking spot:
Streets adjacent to sidewalks are used as parking lots.

Couples` spot:
Streets adjacent to sidewalks are parked with cars occupied with couples.

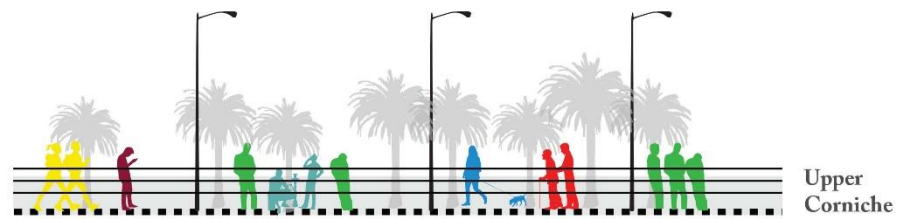Figure 36:Coding of social Behaviors and Activities in the in Ramlet el-Bayda Public Spaces.
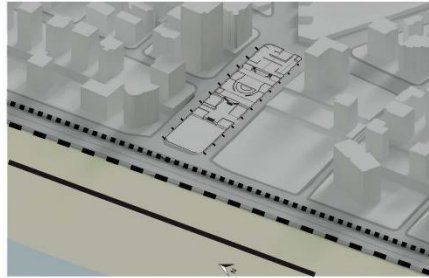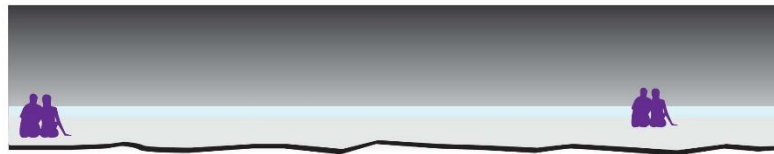
Key Map

Beach shoreline

Lower Cornich

Upper Corniche

Park`s adjacent sidewalks

Figure 37: Activities performed during the day in the public spaces of Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood
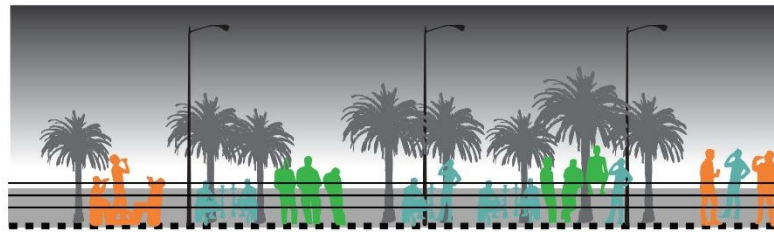
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Key Map

Beach shoreline

Lower Corniche

Upper Corniche

Park`s adjacent sidewalks

Figure 38: Activities performed during the night in the public spaces of Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood

4. *Quantifying fear in Ramlet el-Bayda park*

i. *The Star model of Georgiana M. Verna*

Developed by Varna (2010), the Star model of publicness is a method to evaluate and numerically represent the "publicness" of a space. The model is useful to capture the publicness of the site and identify what aspects need to be improved.

The model consists of 5 meta dimensions and each is characterized by a number of indicators. There are 19 indicators and each indicator has a different weight. The numerical value for publicness is obtained by averaging the five dimensions. Results are studied as follow: The closer to the overall rating value of 5, the higher the publicness and the closer to the value of 1, the lower the publicness (Figure 39, 40& 41).
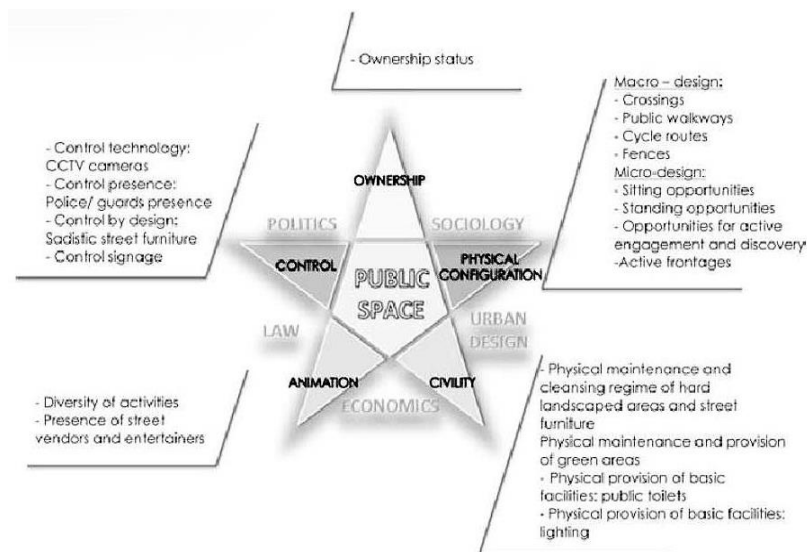
Figure 39: The Star Model of Public Space and the indicators for each dimension.
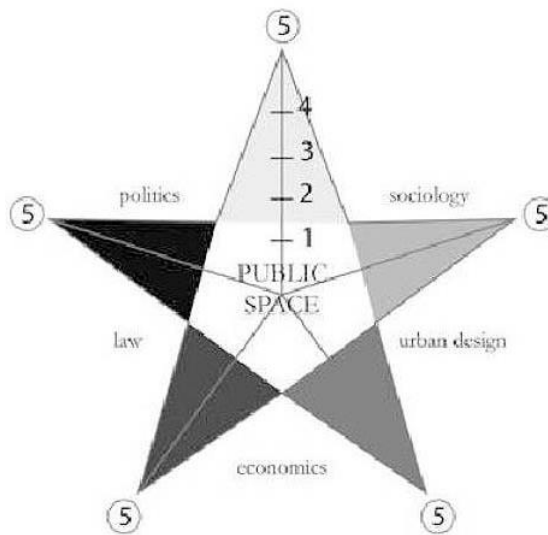Source; Georgiana M. Verna, 2010

Figure 40: Numerical configuration of the model. Source;
Georgiana M. Verna, 2010

More public		Less public
Publicly owned space with public use	OWNERSHIP	Privately owned space with public use
Free use and a comforting police presence	CONTROL	Overt and oppressive control presence – human and electronic surveillance; highly visible security presence
Well-connected/located within the movement system (i.e. on-the-beaten-track); strong visual connection to external public realm beyond space; without obvious entrances and thresholds; a wide range of supports for a wide range of activities	PHYSICAL CONFIGURATION	Poorly connected/located within the movement system (i.e. off-the-beaten-track); poor visual connection with external public realm; with explicit entrances and thresholds; narrow range of supports creating a limited potential for activities
A large and diverse public engaged in a variety of activities	ANIMATION	Dead public space: few people engaged in few activities
Cared-for; well-kempt; inviting	CIVILITY	Untidy, vandalised, dirty and uninviting

Figure 41: Description of 'more public' and 'less public' for each dimension of
publicness. Source: Georgiana M. Verna, 2010.

ii.   *Adapting the Star model to Measure Fear in Ramlet el-Bayda*

The Star model was selected because its dimensions cover all dimensions of

public space. The measured dimensions are: ownership, physical configuration, civility,

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animation, and control. However, the model has been adapted to measure fear in the park instead of publicness using the same meta dimensions and indicators. Results are interpreted as follow: the closer to the value of 1 the lower the fear and the closer to the value of 5, the higher the degree of fear.

The site was observed for a month on daily bases at different times of the day to grade each of the nineteen-indicators belonging to the meta-themes.

The following is the overall evaluation and description on how the ratings were obtained on each indicator belonging to the selected dimension. It is important to note that the park was analyzed in two scales: Macro- and Micro level. Macro-level looked at the context the park and its surrounding with, while Micro-scale looked at the park by itself.

Indicators and Meta Dimensions	Overall Rate
Ownership:	The rating of the ownership of Ramlet el-Bayda park was **0.0** because the park is categorized as a public space by the municipality and no private establishments or individuals hold any ownership or authority on it. Therefore, the park is publicly owned and publicly used.
Control: • *Control Technology* and *Control Police/guards presences* were rated **4.0** • *Sadistic street furniture* was considered the concrete blocks and walls used by the	Control was rated as **3.4.** I analyzed this dimension using Macro-level since at the Micro-level the dimension is not applicable.

municipalities preventing parking and mobility rated **3.0** • *Control signage* in front of the buildings or streets to prevent from parking was rated **3.0**	
Physical configuration: • At the Macro-level, the first indicator, *crossing* was rated **5.0,** *public walkways* indicator was rated **4.0,** *Cycle routes* were rated **5.0,** *Fences* was rated **4.0**. • At the Micro-level**,** the indicators *sitting opportunities* was rated **3.0,** *standing opportunities, opportunities for activate engagement and discovery*, and active *frontage* all rated **5**	The total rating of this dimension was **4.5,** the reason for the high rating is due to lack of landscape and the presence of poor site connectivity with the surrounded urban grid.
Animation: • *Street Vendors and/or Entertainers,* the first indicator rated **5.0** as there was extreme absence of street venders or entertainers seen on the site, while at the Macro-level this indicator was rated **2.0** of their presence on the lower corniche • *Diversity of activities* was rated at the Micro level as **4.0**, while at Macro-level **1.0.**	For this indicator, the site and its surrounding were observed at different times and days to rate the presented activities at a Macro-level and a Micro- level. Animation obtained at a Micro-level a rate of **4.5**, while at the Macro- level a rate of **1.5**. The overall rater obtained was **3.0.**
Civility: • *Physical maintenance and cleansing regime of hard landscape areas and street furniture* was rated **4.0** • *Physical maintenance and provision green area* was rated **4.0**	The fifth dimension had an overall rating of **4.5**

• *Physical provision of basic facilities: public toilets* was rated **5.0**. • *Physical provision of basic facilities: lighting, was* rated as well **5.0**	

iii.   *The Overall Result of the Star Model*

By combining the ratings of the five dimensions, the average rate resulted in a value of **3.08** (figure 42). It places the park "publicness" measure as "fair." It is however important to point out that the compiled outcome is mostly due to the public ownership of the park, which creates the possibility to intervene and improve its uses, creating a space where there are no restrictions on uses or profiling of users.
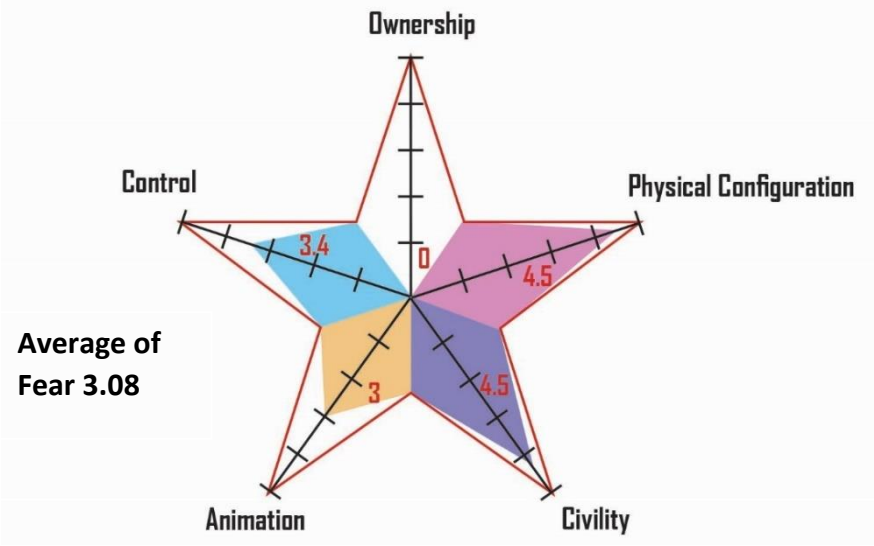

Figure 42: Start model of fear (author)

Based on these findings, one can already deduce a number of recommendations for an urban design intervention: At the Macro-level, any intervention should reply to the need of reinforcing public walkways, active frontages and connections between the park and its surroundings. At the Micro-level, the park needs porosity, physical, social and visual connections and programing. It also needs to provide sitting and standing opportunities, with comfort, greenery and lighting facilities. These interventions would give chances for residents and daily visitors to discover, meet and actively engage in Ramlet el-Bayda park and ultimately contribute to the life of the park.

5. *Walking satisfaction levels on the 4 public spaces.*

Understanding walking experiences and satisfaction levels in the 4 open public spaces is essential to predict the success of a public space. The analysis can further help determine the appropriate interventions needed to improve the quality of this space. I interviewed residents, users and shop owners/ employees about the quality of the space and gathered their recommendation for possible interventions. In total, 40 interviews were conducted in the neighborhood among these 3 groups. Figure 43 compares the walking satisfaction level of the residents, users and shop owners/ employees. The answers then were separated into walking satisfaction levels between men and women as shown in figure 44. For each public space, an average of 10 participants was selected. The interview results revealed that the lower corniche had the highest walking satisfaction among users. Interviewees recognized that the place is vibrant, pleasant, and safe. Conversely, the park ranked lowest in terms of walking satisfaction according to

residents and female users, where they noted that the park reflects an unsafe, fearful, and risky area because it is abandoned and dominated by men.

It is important to note that the small group of men who use the park regularly are currently satisfied with its condition and they prefer the park to stay as it is. They consider that once the park is renovated, more people will be attracted to use it and their own freedom will be curtailed.
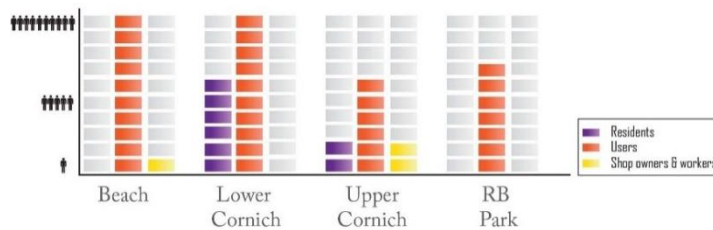

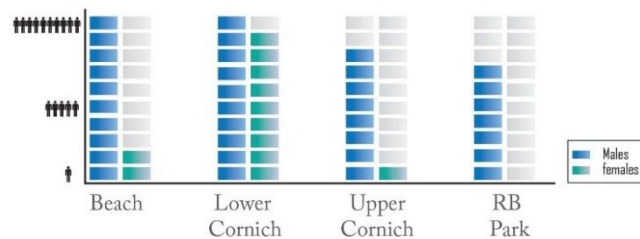Figure 43: Walking Satisfaction level among the 3 interviewed categories

Figure 44: Walking Satisfaction Level among men and women

C. Outcomes

The research findings suggest several recommendations for the design interventions in the Ramlet el -Bayda park and its surroundings. They are summarized in four diagrams shown in figure 45. The first diagram reflects the social territoriality by

men based on the activities and accommodations that were seen mostly inside the park and its surrounding sidewalks. The second diagram reflects physical territoriality spilling over from nearby institutional and residential buildings where private security mechanism that are adjacent to the park. The third diagram reflects how the park was conceived as the most unsafe and fearful public space in the neighborhood by families and women. While the fourth reflects divisions and breaks coming from the wide adjacent streets and building typology.

Therefore, by using a framework of intervention where the strategies revolve around city, neighborhood and lot design levels approaches such as: reducing traffic and enhancing walkability, providing physical and visual accessibility and connectivity, blurring boundaries and introducing more porosity in the fences and at the edges, providing triangulations (activities and programs) inside the park, and other approaches could decrease the isolated configuration of Ramlet el-Bayda park and eliminate the perceptions of fear towards this area.
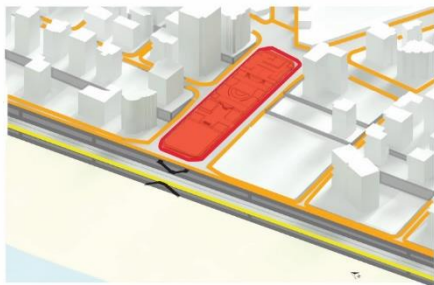
Territoriality by gender activities
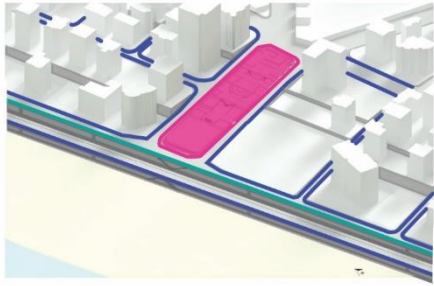
- Men domination in park
- Partially men domination
- No Territoriality

Territoriality by security mechanism facing the park

- Military base
- Private security for embassy
- Private security for residential buildings

Fear Diagram for women and families

- Safe
- Partially safe
- Don`t go

Physical Breaks by infrastructure and zoning

- Rafic el Hariri Highway
- Adjacent street with the park
- Standing alone buildings
- Standing alone Park

Figure 45: The outcomes of the diagnostic analysis and design challenges of the neighborhood.

Therefore, by using a framework of intervention were the strategies revolve around city, neighborhood and lot design level approaches such as: reducing traffic and enhancing walkability, providing physical and visual accessibility and connectivity, blurring and porosing boundaries, providing triangulations (activities and programs) and other approaches could decrease the isolated configuration of Ramlet el-Bayda park and eliminate the perceptions of fear that upholds this area. The above-mentioned strategies were combined under the one concepted which i called 'Hybrid Public Park.' The following chapter elaborates on this concept and provides various case studies and examples that can be used in Ramlet el--Bayda park and surrounding. Afterward, I will propose the vision, strategies and design interventions selected for each scale and problematic laid in the above sections.

CHAPTER V

'HYBRID PUBLIC PARK'

A. A 'Hybrid Public Park'

Based on the analysis of the Literature Review (the 11 narratives and Pattern of fear from public spaces) as well as the Urban Design Frameworks (the 4 Criteria for successful public saves) and Design Examples (the analysis of the three case studies), I integrate here design recommendations into guidelines to guide my intervention. I conceptualize the space that responds to these requirements as a "Hybrid Public Park" and outline its characteristics below.

This section defines, first, what I mean by a 'Hybrid Public Park' and explains, second, the key elements on the basis of the developed literature and case studies.

B. What is a Hybrid Public Space:

I define 'Hybrid Public Space' to be a framework that allows to design or redesign public space with the aim to encourage city dwellers to use these spaces for social, physical, recreational and cultural activities. It conceptualizes the space as a meeting point, socializing place, play area with recreational and commercial activities, a resting and relaxing spot, boosted by programs, events, technology, urban furniture, amenities and landscape. These programmatic elements and design features and amenities should be integrated to establish a safe and positive public space all possible park users including neighborhood residents, employees, and day-time visitors. It

translates into design characteristics such as accessibility, physical and visual connectivity and openness to respond to the need to minimize fears, reduce social exclusion and marginalization.

C. Components of a 'Hybrid Public Park'

The key standards for creating a 'Hybrid Public Park' are: activities and programming, accessibility and connectivity, landscape, economy and active frontage, amenities, lighting, comfort, multi-functional, aesthetic, communication, technologies and ecology.

Activities and programing:

Provide activities and programs for socialization using Whyte's concept of triangulation that accommodates a wide range of users for short-term and long-term visits. Several articles argued that the provision of physical elements and improvements are important in a park (e.g. benches, light), but programming is a critical component that creates parks where people can connect with others (Garrett, 2017). Thus, investments in enhancing amenities should be paired with investments in engagements and programming. In addition, neighborhoods where people are visibly engaged keep parks clean, well-maintained and provide the feeling of safety (Garrett 2017, Kent 2009, T. and Mathew 2017). Some examples are: Placemaking which is a concept able to strengthen the connections between people and their places. It facilitates creative patterns of use, and pays attention to the cultural, social and physical patterns that define and support public spaces. Farmer market has shown succesful patterns of inviting people into open spaces

in intercative, commercial and collaborative ways. Pet training is an activity able to gather different age groups and users to bond over their pets, stimulate conversations and possibly relations. Unique and innovative, urban furniture, sculptures, iconic lights, and waterfountain can create an exclusive identity or establish curiosity for a public space, thus attracting users into the space.

Summer on Queen's wharf is a project in Auckland, New Zeeland that used the concept of **placemaking** and introduced a series of programs and events to activate and encourage people to use the public space. One was food programs and the second was assortment of art and sports activities. (source: http://www.talpaz.org.il/page.php?type=galleryandid=536andht=PlaceMaking)	
Souk el Tayeb is Lebanon's first **farmers market**. The market brings together farmers and activists in support of organic agriculture, the maintenance of culinary traditions, and concern for the earth and the environment (source: http://www.soukeltayeb.com/)	
Beau's Dream **Dog Park** in Michigan, USA is based on the idea of an amusement park, with grass carpets, playing equipment, shades and seating for dogs and their owners (source: https://www.bringfido.com/attraction/1886)	

An **iconic urban furniture** called sun lounge, in Sydney University, Australia by Taylor Cullity Lethlean. These seating created attractions for students inviting them into open public spaces inside the campus. (source: http://streetfurniture.com/au/projects/cadigal-green-sydney-university/)	
Cultural playful sculpture on the island of Muai, Hawaii. This Climber is known for its distinctiveness character which was inspired by the listing form of palm trees and the whimsy of a day at the beach. (source:https://www.luckeyclimbers.com/projects/whalers-village-luckey-climber)	
Innovative lights in las Vegas, USA. The lighting scluptures were incorporated in a new urban park called "The Park" by !melk. In addition to lighting the public space at night, it has become a reference point. (source:https://inhabitat.com/first-urban-park-on-las-vgas-strip-is-an-oasis-in-the-middle-of-the-desert/melk-the-park-vegas-02/)	

Water fountains by Lawrence Halperin, a landscape architect whose work focused on designing elements to generate creativity in others, be inclusive, they include the needs and experiences of people interacting with the environments and lets them be part of its creation.

Justin Herman plaza, San Francisco

Aka Maguire Garden, LA, USA

(source:https://www.google.com.lb/search?q=Justin+Herman+plaza,+San+Franciscoandsafe=strictandtbm=ischandtbs=rimg and http://halprinconservancy.org/)

Accessibility and Physical/ visual Connectivity:

For a park to be accessible, it is important that dwellers are provided with safe connectivity, ease of accessibility and visibility. Sassi and Molteni stated that "the accessibility of public spaces is given by the absence of architectural barriers and the presence of easier pedestrian crossings" (Sassi and Molteni, 2008, p. x). Some examples are: footbridge, underpass, transit stairs with shades, stair-ramp and colored crosswalks.

Footbridge in Brussel, Belgium by NEY + Partners is a steel footbridge which is more a public space than an engineering structure. It offers a central

crossing of the square and has a step system that allows for stands and sitting areas.

(source: http://www.ney.be/fr/project/verboekhoven-square-footbridge.html)

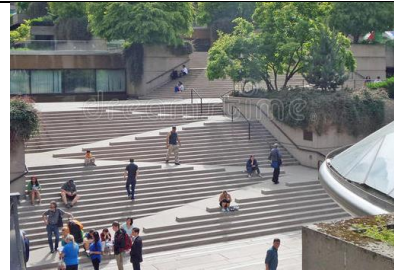|	
Underpass in West Yorkshire, UK was to regenerate the area through a safe mode of crossing. It was design as an inviting element with seating opportunist a visual connectivity by using the red color. (source: https://www.dezeen.com/2008/07/10/tittle-cott-bridge-underpass-by-dsdha/)	
An easy **transition** and an inviting element from an into a public space**.** (source: https://www.pinterest.com/pin/561824122256687192/)	
Stair-Ramp in Ronson Square, Vancouver by Arthur Erickson. This elements was design to create ease of accesibility for variouse age groups and to provide seating and resting opportunities for dwellers. (source:https://cn.dreamstime.com)	
Crosswalk in Madrid, Spain by Christo Gueloy where he used colored patterns as a zebra crossing to enhance visibility and pedestrian safety. (source: http://www.contemporist.com/colorful-and-artistic-crosswalks-are-showing-up-on-the-streets-of-madrid/)	

Comfort:

Comfort from heat, wind and noise is another critical design concept for a successful hybrid park. Landscape is a design and aesthetic tool that uses natural

elements with surveillance opportunities to create shading spots, pleasing scenes and prolong staying. Some examples are: tree canopies, man-made structures, and tensile canopies.

Tree canopies in Melbourne, Australia was a redevelopment project that incorporated wood and concrete benches with lighting poles enhanced by trees to form shades and comfort. (source: https://theconversation.com/future-forecasting-landscape-architects-might-save-the-world-32219)	
Large manmade structures in Centro Abierto, Spain by ParedesPino Arquitectos. The project provides ample shade during the day, and enchanting lights at night. In addition, the structures are used to host local markets and festivals. (source:https://inhabitat.com/giant-rainbow-hued-umbrellas-pop-up-in spain/caac_260810_18-940x624/)	
Small manmade spots in Roma, Italy designed by Startt and Simone Capra as artificial flowers that provide small spot with shade during the day and intimate with visibility lighting at night. (source: https://divisare.com/projects/173017-whatami)	

Tensile Canopies in Bristol and Jubilee Park. They are waterproof tensile shades that are light and permanent canopies. They minimize the amount of framing, enhance the durability of use in seasonal weathers, and allows for visibility and surveillance.

Abbey Wood Retail Park, Bristol, UK

Jubilee Park, India

(source: http://www.basestructures.com/portfolio/projects-case-studies/abbey-wood-retail-park/ and https://www.pinterest.com/pin/296674694186355410/)

Amenities:

A wide range of evidence have shown that the availability of amenities is key factor for dwellers to stay longer in public spaces and enjoy their time (The Universal Design New York, Future Communities and Joseph Rowntree Foundation). Some examples are: garbage bins, solo and sharing benches, durable and technological bench, public toilets, and innovative drinking fountains.

"Protect Lebanon – Recycle Today" Sponsored by Nestle Pure, Spinneys, and Servicorp provide **vending machines** where users return their empty plastic bottles and cans to the vending machines for a small refund.

(source: http://blogbaladi.com/three-reva-reverse-vending-machines-installed-at-the-american-university-of-beirut/)

Interactive and fun **recycle bins** in Deir Taanayel, Beqaa, Lebanon. (source:https://www.lebanoninapicture.com/search/taanayel?p=2)	
Sponsored and branded bins to recycle glass bottles, in collaboration with Greenalmaza, GGRIL (Green Glass Recycling Initiative, Recycle Beirut and Ocean. (source:http://www.creamglobal.com/17798/38804/so-that-beirut-remains-almaza and http://www.theswitchers.eu/en/switchers/garbage-king-beirut-trash-value/)	
Benches in Beirut, Ain Mraysseh's corniche. Each bench was designed in colorful cut ceramic patterns by different artist. The project added a touch of color and cultural by transforming the public avenue into a unique point of attraction in Beirut city (source: https://thisisbeirut.wordpress.com/2011/03/15/more-design-interventions-in-beirut-please/)	
Durable and Technological bench by Paola Mora, funded by concrete company CEMEX. This bench request minimal maintained, can endure rain, and sun and doesn't change its color with time. The bench also introduced technology into it to involuntary make people come together for a common purpose. (source: https://www.behance.net/gallery/9121777/Mobiliario-para-exterior-(banca)	

Sharing bench in South Amsterdam. The benches are centralized with large trees that requiring low maintenance and provide vast shading.

(source: http://www.streetlife.nl/nl/actueel/nieuws/podium-isles-in-de-beethovenstraat-in-amsterdam)

Public toilets in India called Delight, were design as an innovative solution for the lack of toilets in the country. They are unmanned electronic public toilets that are portable, hygienically maintained, and eco-friendly. In addition, the incorporate technologies that turns waste into fertilizer, generates power and even makes potable water. They are also powered by solar panels to eliminate the use of electricity.

(source:https://www.fastcodesign.com/1681798/this-automated-public-toilet-is-being-installed-throughout-india)

Public Restrooms for Homeless and Public in Portland are public restroom built to withstand use, abuse, and discourage any other use except as a restroom.

(source: http://behbg.com/idea/public-restroom-for-homeless-and-public-portland-loo/)

Innovative drinking fountains in San Francisco, USA are public services that help to limit the use of disposable plastic water bottles. (source: http://www.thegearcaster.com/2014/03/golden-gate-bridge-gets-a-water-filling-station.html)	
Graffiti drinking fountains in Philadelphia, USA features a solar-powered touchscreen that encourages social interaction. Basically, one can draw on it then passersby can elaborate on the artwork. (source: https://www.trendhunter.com/trends/philly-fountain)	

Lighting:

Atlas states that 'lighting provides choices' (2013, p. 383). Lighting is key element

of the CPTED

principle and one that

should be

incorporated into

public space if a space   is to
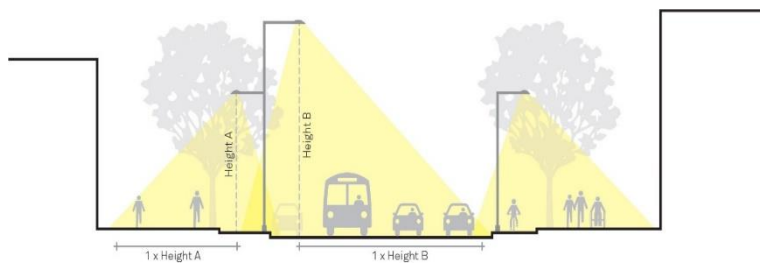
Figure 46: guildlines for the hight and distance light poles in public spaces (https://globaldesigningcities.org)

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become a truly safe and active space. Furthermore, according to PPS (project for public spaces), the placement, type and wattage of lights affect how a public space is used and perceived (PPS, 2008). Lights can also emphasize pedestrian activity over automobile traffic by simply replacing standard overhead street lights with smaller- scale lights (PPS, 2008). According to PPS, the standard height pole for public spaces should be 4.5-6 m and the spacing should be roughly 2.5-3 times the height of the pole (PPS, 2008) (see figure 46). Some examples are: artistic lights, solar lights and work-out lights.

Artistic **Scenographic lights** in Copenhagen. Led lights with various colors and shapes activate the space at night and brings a unique identity to the urban space. (source:http://www.lightonline.ru/news/svetotechnika/7-2013/Lighting_Station_in_Copenhagen.html)	
Solar tree lights created by Ross Lovegrove. The structure was design as a movable lighting tree with seating opportunities. (source: http://www.rosslovegrove.com/index.php/news/page/22/)	

A **working-out gym** in North England generates electricity while working out to light the area at night and invite users. (source:https://inhabitat.com/finally-an-outdoor-gym-that-generates-energy-instead-of-wasting-it/)	

Multi-functional:

For the park to be hybrid, dynamic and habitually active, a range of services and facilities must be implemented and characterized by permanent or temporary structures that create a versatile usage of the space. An understanding should be made considering the different needs and amenities of various age groups. What is enjoyable for infants may not be the same for elderly. Therefore, it is necessary to provide a range of equipment and facilities that encompasses all age groups.   J. Veitch et. all mentioned that the constant usage of public space by children was determined by the range of playing facilities (J. Veitch et. All, 2007). Kitteridge and Boshoff stated that for adolescents to participate in physical activities there should be a supportive environment for those activities (Ketteridge and Boshoff, 2008). While when it comes to elderly users' studies have shown that they prefer facilities that demand less physical activity (Kemperman, 2006 and Sassi, Molteni, 2008). Some expels are: kids' playground, outdoor gym, and activities for all (chest, tawle, billiards, movies etc.).

The **City of Children** in Jerez de la Frontera, Cádiz is a 45,000 square meters with a lot of attractions, such as zip lines, mats, sandboxes, slides, amphitheater for shows, playground, musical instruments, water attractions, swings, pier, suspension bridges.

(source: https://www.elbalcondemateo.es/wp-content/cache/page_enhanced/www.elbalcondemateo.es//los-parques-mas-chulos-de-espana//_index.html)

Outdoor gym at the Marion Diehl Senior Center in Charlotte, N.C provide various working-out equipment in a park.

(source: http://aus.tgogc.com/Packages/The-TGO-Training-Rig/Training-Rig.Html)

Elderly exercising equipment in Carbide Park, USA has equipment to invite elderly to use the park.

(source: https://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local/article/Playground-catering-to-seniors-opens-in-La-Marque-5691582.php)

Cineorama in Dusseldorf, Germany by Erika Hock is a pavilion that holds seasonal film festivals.

(source:https://www.pinterest.com/pin/342273640415033160/)

Tawla is a known table game in Lebanese culture that can bring different age groups together.

(source: https://www.pinterest.com/pin/546835579733272085/)

Urban billiards in Nantes, France by French architect Gwendal Le Bihan. It is a street furniture and sport equipment designed to encourage new urban practices. This billiard is also the result of a reflection on materiality to withstand bad weather and damage. (source: http://www.homecrux.com/billiard-urbain-concrete-pool-table-encourages-interaction-in-public-places/34330/)	
Players and spectators gather at **chess tables** in Pritchard Park, USA. When the weather is nice, and the games get going, passersby often stop and observe a game or two. (source:http://blogs2.citizen-times.com/photography/2014/05/22/the-sunday-frame-chess-in-the-park/)	

ICT (Information and Communication Technologies)

We are living in a digital era where social media, digital networking, and technology have become primary sources of information and entertainment tools used in everyday life among different age groups. Abdel-Aziz, et.al., argued that a new digital layer has been added to the urban landscape that affected the usage and acts in public spaces (A.A. Abdel-Aziz et al., 2016). For this, ICT has a high potential to stimulate social interactions and spontaneously connect park users together. Some examples are: Wi-Fi spots, digital interactive facades, interactive educational display and social medial.

Creating **hotspots** and providing **wireless** internet access encourages the return to a public space for both recreation and work. Wi-Fi infrastructure must be designed in a way that encourages people to interact among each other and with the space.

Free WI-FI in in Qatar

Fair hotspots in Minnesota, USA

(source:https://www.qatarliving.com/forum/news/posts/more-public-parks-qatar-start-getting-free-wi-fi-soon and http://blogs.twincities.com/yourtechweblog/category/minnesota-state-fair-2/)

Digital interactive facades in Denmark by Asrhus. This project installed large screens in an urban setting to increase the social interaction between users themselves and between them and public space.

(source:https://www.mediaarchitecture.org/aarhus-by-light/)

Interactive Educational display in Paris, France by Mathieu Lehanneur was design to include a digital screen to help showcasing general knowledge or location-related information.

(source: https://www.dezeen.com/2012/07/05/escale-numerique-by-mathieu-lehanneur-and-jcdecaux/)

Social Media is a tool able to foster dwellers involvement in urban matters and development of public spaces through media platforms. Reinhold Lehel Stadler argues that "By encouraging people to simply report and maybe solve problems of public spaces they become more responsible, and, ideally, attached to the public space" (Reinhold Lehel Stadler 2013). This process has showed positive outcomes regarding both maintenance of public spaces, community involvement and dialogue between citizens and administration.

(source: https://www.google.com/search?safe=strictandhl=en-LBandq=social+media+icons+vectorandtbm=ischandtbs=simg)

Ecology

Greenways are known for their ability to connect people and places together physically and visually. They have a verity of benefits that effects the sustainability of an area's environmental, economy and social health of its inhabitants. They can be either natural, or man-made where they work as buffers to protect natural habitats, reduce the impact of flooding, improve water quality or harvest rainwater. Raingardens and bioswales are small scale interventions that use simple landscaping features to slow, collect, infiltrate, and filter storm water. In addition, green walls are another ecological concept that uses vertical structures to hold different types of plants or other greenery attached to them (Naava, 2017). The green walls can offer visual benefits by treating concrete walls with agriculture for example, thus affecting the urban environment esthetics looks and enhance air quality through air purification. The above-mentioned systems should be vegetated with native plants that have deep roots to absorb storm water and filter out pollutants.

Rosen-Queralt park in Virginia, USA **collects and filters storm water run-off** from the paved areas of the park and uses the water for irrigation.

(source:http://www.publicartarchive.org/work/cultivus-loci-suckahanna-0)

Rain gardens in Beekman Plazas, New York, USA boosted the use of the plaza by using native greenery that dwellers can identify themselves with. (source:https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/549228117036409848/)	
Stormwater retention harvests rain water in Portland, Oregon. (source: https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/414873)	
Green walls in LA Arena in Birmingham, UK installed vertical walls across a public space. (source: http://devoran-metals.blogspot.be/2012/06/gabion-feature-wall-at-lg-arena.html)	

Economic

Studies and research to fund public spaces mentioned three methods. The first is through General funds from the municipality where specific budgets are hold for public spaces and its maintenance. The second is through local, national and international grants for updating upgrading and regenerating public spaces. This could be from corporate sponsorships and donations that are willing to fund public spaces. While the

third is through fees and charges; this can be done through the establishments of

programs, activities and, amenities for exhibition and other activities that can be rented.

Some examples are: Permanents or temporary kiosks to be rented to artists, artisanries,

cloths venders or other kinds of products, mini food trucks need busy spaces to sell their

fresh products such as public parks, and major advertising companies need a spot to

allocate and display their products through outdoor touch screen advertising kiosks.

Temporary kiosks Book and Game kioks in Travis Park, San Antonio Texas. (source:http://www.wpsprague.com/blog/2017/1/7/we-should-be-planning-places-for-people-with-people-elena-madison)	
Pronto **food Kiosk** in San Francisco, by Aidlin Darling. (source:https://www.utiledesign.com/resources/coffee-carts-and-vacant-storefronts/)	
Screen Advertising Kiosks in USA (source:http://www.lcdtvenclosure.com/outdoor-touch-screen-advertising-kiosks)	

Management and Maintenance:

Unlike other areas in a city, public spaces are the full responsibility of local authorities and governments. The city administration is in charge to maintain, create and manage public spaces with people and for people, but active collaboration and participation of civil society, citizens and private actors is also needed for the success and lifelong of public spaces. Furthermore, a direct correlation has been proven between the absence of aesthetics and maintenance of a public space, and the increase of fears, insecurities and incivilities (k. Hamilton, et al., 2017). Thus, a management framework is essential to keep the public space maintained, visually attractive and administrated.

The United Cities and Local Governments provided a framework for a public space management based on local governments (2016):

- Governments should work with the community, marginalized groups, and the private sector to motivate their interest and active involvement in the pursuit of the common good.
- Local governments should establish a synchronization with international and national governments towards public space to learn from existing implementations and different context.
- Governments should prevent the privatization of public spaces to prevent loss of urban developments.
- Governments should work with multidisciplinary institutions to ensure accessibility for all and good quality public spaces.
- Governments must be transparent about the finance to ensure the defense of the public interest.
- Governments and stakeholders can join to ensure adequate resources for the maintenance and operation of public spaces, and to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Governments are responsible to promote the use of public spaces in an equitable way by finding the right balance between regulation and deregulation of the use and activities.
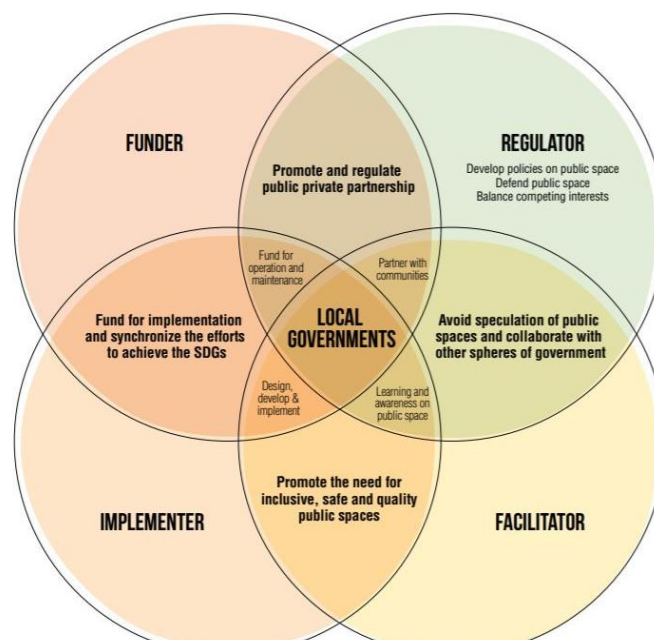
The role of local governments in public spaces (source: UCLG, 2016)

CHAPTER VI

INTERVENTION

A. Vision for Ramlet el-Bayda park

The overall concept envisioned to guide the design of Ramlet el -Bayda park was developed to respond the challenges raised by the urban analysis of the physical, social and landscape patterns of the existing situation, specifically of spatial dynamics gender inequalities and incivilities, on the one hand, and the fragmented urban methodology on the other.

Figure 47: Vision for the park and its surrounding

The proposal was developed and aligned with the literature review and case study profiling that revealed that in order for a space to be successful; the park must provide flexibility, spontaneity, fluidity and diversity of activities and users, and should be visually and physically accessible and connected, thus eliminating incivilities, gender inequalities, rumors and others fearful behaviors.

More precisely, the park is seen as a system of flows and encounters, where overlapping patterns of programs produce meeting points in specific spots generating positive cultural, recreational and economical tensions. Therefore, the vision for the park aims to transform the underused and deteriorated park through the provision of various activities and programs that function at different times of day, at different seasons, they are temporary or permanent, planned or spontaneous, with fixed or flexible equipment.

Accordingly, the vision was to give the park its own character as a neighborhood-based area by introducing programmatically functions like a market and a playground that respond immediately to the need of dwellers. Furthermore, by introducing traffic calming and pedestrian connectivity, changing street layouts, providing a promenade and a stair-ramp that directly connects visually and physically the lower and the upper levels. yet for it, to maintain a level of flexibility that allows for its integration in the larger urban walks proposed by the Plan Vert. Therefore, the strategy for the park balances between (1) a clear program and platforms for activities, and (2) protection from cars, integration of pedestrian networks and maintaining a distance from the corniche since it is a local park yet establishing continuity in the space and neighborhood.

B. Diagrams of the problematics and proposed interventions

Summarizing the problematic generated from the observations, mappings, site visits, interventions, photographs and other analysis, several diagrams were established to illustrate the outcomes of these analytical tools (figure 48). Diagrams where also translated into responses to the problems through multiple strategies (figure 49). These strategies included guidelines adopted from the concept of 'Hybrid Public Park'

summarized in figure 50. The multiple strategies used were later assembled into city,

neighborhood and lot design interventions. They were further developed in the following

section.
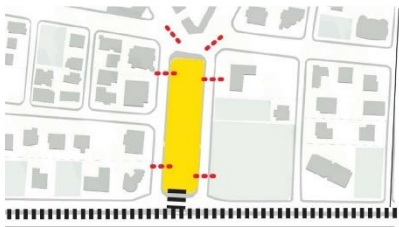
Infrastructure

- Poor physical quality of space
- Poor connectivity and safety measurements with surrounding streets
- Poor connectivity between the upper level and lower level

Activity

- No physical, cultural or environmental activities in the park.
- Fear and negative rumors

Comfort & Environment

- No water collection systems in the park or in the area
- Absence of services, amenities and comfort
- Lack of aesthetic qualities
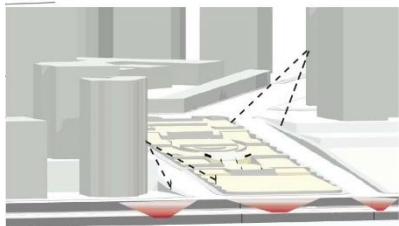
Views

- Visual breaks between the lower level and the upper level

Natural Surveillance

- No natural surveillance opportunities
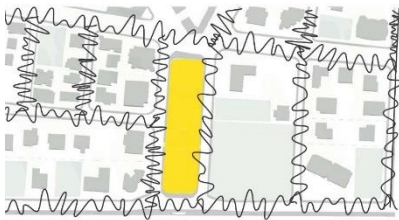
Community

- Fragmentation between residents and public spaces in the neighborhood (streets, sidewalks and park)
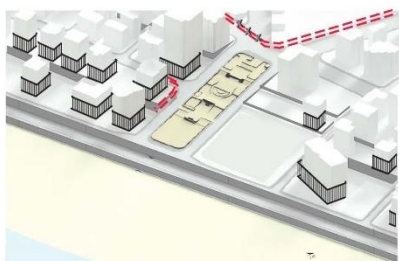
Street-Scape

- Gated building façades with poor visibility and connectivity to open spaces(Streets, pathways & park) and do not positively contribute to the park.
- Active surveillance mechanisms used for security such as jersey concrete walls and steel barriers blocking public spaces.
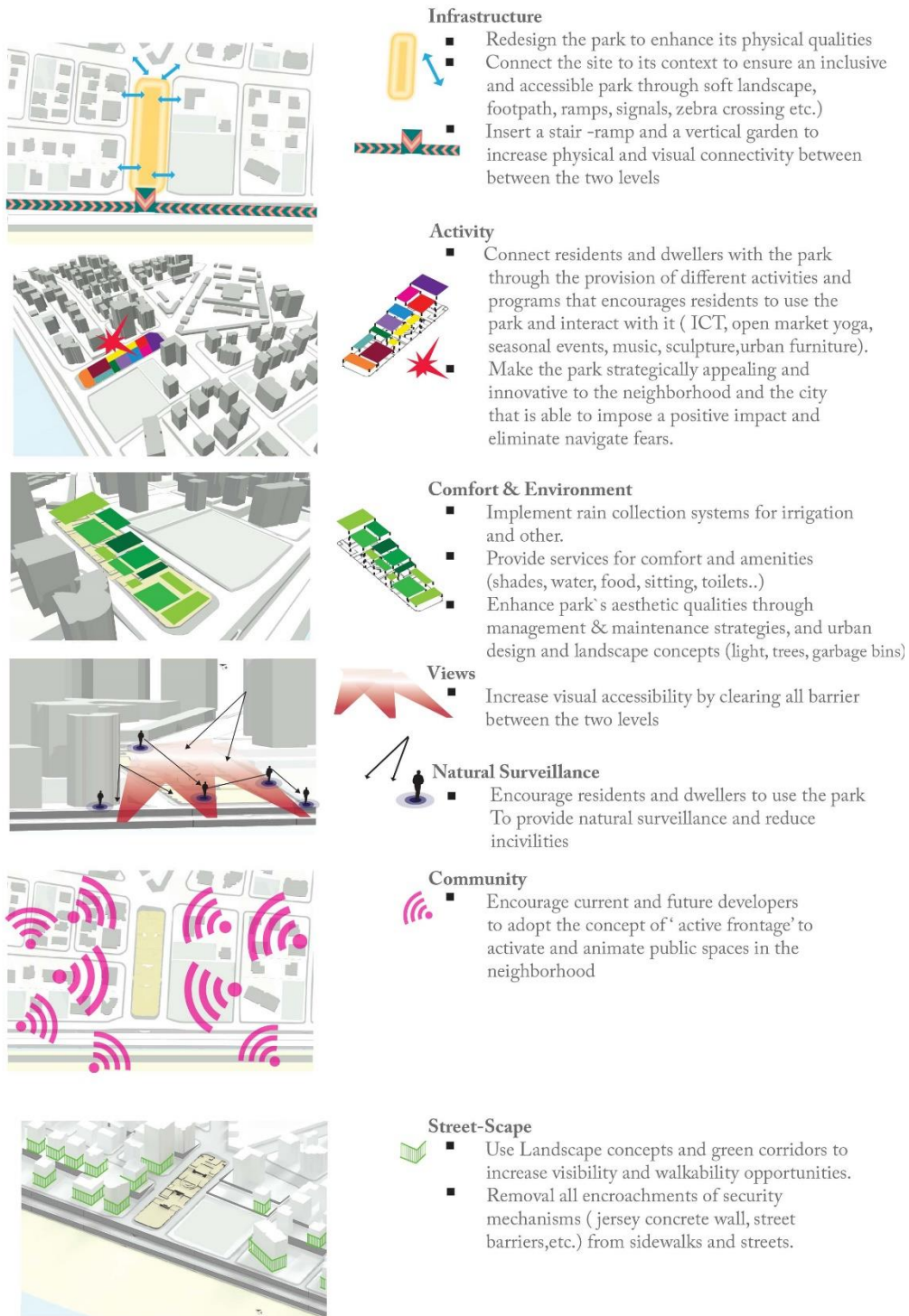
Infrastructure

- Redesign the park to enhance its physical qualities
- Connect the site to its context to ensure an inclusive and accessible park through soft landscape, footpath, ramps, signals, zebra crossing etc.)
- Insert a stair -ramp and a vertical garden to increase physical and visual connectivity between between the two levels

Activity

- Connect residents and dwellers with the park through the provision of different activities and programs that encourages residents to use the park and interact with it (ICT, open market yoga, seasonal events, music, sculpture,urban furniture).
- Make the park strategically appealing and innovative to the neighborhood and the city that is able to impose a positive impact and eliminate navigate fears.

Comfort & Environment

- Implement rain collection systems for irrigation and other.
- Provide services for comfort and amenities (shades, water, food, sitting, toilets..)
- Enhance park`s aesthetic qualities through management & maintenance strategies, and urban design and landscape concepts (light, trees, garbage bins)

Views

- Increase visual accessibility by clearing all barrier between the two levels

Natural Surveillance

- Encourage residents and dwellers to use the park To provide natural surveillance and reduce incivilities

Community

- Encourage current and future developers to adopt the concept of ' active frontage' to activate and animate public spaces in the neighborhood

Street-Scape

- Use Landscape concepts and green corridors to increase visibility and walkability opportunities.
- Removal all encroachments of security mechanisms (jersey concrete wall, street barriers,etc.) from sidewalks and streets.

Figure 49: Diagrams of the multiple strategies used to counter the problematics

Hybrid Public Park Qualities

a) Activities & programing
Program, activities and innovative furniture to accommodate a wide range of users for short-term and long-term and in different seasons.

Fountains | Innovative furniture & lights | Farmer's Market | Pet Training

b) Accessibility & Physical/ Visual Connectivity
Safe connectivity, ease of access and visibility.

Stair-Ramp | Transit opportunities | Crosswalk | Footbridge | Underpass

c) Comfort
Natural or artificial elements to be used to create shading spots and prolong staying.

Tensile Canopies | Small spots | Large umbrellas | Tree canopies

d) Amenities
Various amenities for dwellers to stay longer in public spaces and enjoy their time.

Water fountain | Public toilets | Benches | Creative garbage bins

e) Lighting
Artistic and interactive lighting systems to enable better natural surveillance and increase activity during night.

Working-out lights | Solar lights | Artistic lights

f) Multi-functional
Permanent structures and landscaping that creates a versatile usage of the space.

Table Games | Activities for all | Outdoor gym | Kids Playground

g) ICT (Information and Communication Technologies
Social media, digital networking and technology has become a primary source of information and entertainment tool used in everyday life among different age groups.

Social media | Interactive education displays | Digital interactive facades | WI-Fi networks

h) Ecology
Green infrastructure to connect people and places, management of rainwater and enhancing wildlife.

Green walls | Rain gardens & bioswales | Storm water collector

i) Economic
Programs, activities, structures, platforms for exhibitions and facilities that can be rented.

Advertisement Kiosks | Mini food trucks | Permanents kiosks

j) Management & Maintenance
The aesthetic qualities and managements of park have direct correlation with the success of a public space

No cigarette butts on the floor | No littering | No graffiti | Design & Planning

Figure 50: Summary of the Qualities of a 'Hybrid public Park'

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C. City, neighborhood and lot scale strategies

The strategies for the Ramlet el-Bayda park and neighborhood rested on several design and planning interventions that responded to the challenges raised. Figure 51 illustrates the strategies used, and these strategies aims to tackle:

At a City-Design Level

- *Vehicular Mobility, road calming and street pedestrianization:* rearranging street car mobility in the neighborhood, implement road calming measures and modify street layouts in favor of pedestrian mobility.

- *Link to City Scale Interventions:* adopting city scale interventions such as the green paths to further integrate and connect the park.

At a Neighborhood-Design Level

- *Inner Neighborhood Green Corridors*: Expropriating building the set-backs and pooling them into pedestrian green passage corridors in the aim to reduce the stand-alone configuration of buildings and further create people's pathways away from cars.

- *Security Mechanism and Reclaiming of Public Spaces:* removing obstructions posed by residential and institutional buildings which have encroached on public spaces and are reducing and limiting the physical accessibility and visual connectivity of public spaces.

- *Active Frontage*: regulating future and current developments to adopt the concept of active frontage, in view of activating sidewalks through the provision of

incentives and active frontage guidelines to enhance public and passive

surveillance thus producing a friendlier environment.

- *Vertical Gardens:* enhancing visual connectivity and aesthetic qualities through

  the use of 'living walls'.

At a Lot-Design Level (the park)

- *Accessibility and Connectivity:* Creating multiple accessibility and connectivity

  conditions that link the park to its surrounding and embrace the necessary

  conditions for different age groups to circulate.

- *Porous and Blurred Park boundaries:* Projecting existing and proposed arteries

  into the park such as the commercial artery on the middle northern part of the

  park, Habib Deb's Liaison Douce proposal of a lanscape path on the upper eastern

  side of the neighborhood, the proposed green corridors, and others. Furthermore,

  designing a unified urban carpet that is partially integrated into the park and

  continues to adjacent sidewalks completely blurs the park's boundaries with its

  surroundings.

- *Comfort and Safety*: Designing the park to be aesthetically pleasing and at the

  same time promoting comfort through the provision of comfortable seating areas,

  shades, light fixtures and toilets that encourage longer hour park and hence

  passive surveillance.

- *Activity and Programing:* Incorporating and providing multiple facilities and

  programmed activities or activity generators for a variety of users with different

interests and skills that attract and increase temporary or permanent park use at different times. This is essential for engaging urban residents from diverse backgrounds, creating meaningful park experiences, and reinforcing the interconnection between park use and passive surveillance.

The intervention also proposed a maintenance and management framework that strengthens the ownership of dwellers over the area through a collaborative framework between the local authorities and, the civil society, citizens, and private actors.

In sum, by introducing the above-mentioned strategies and frameworks, I have attempted to formulate an urban planning and design intervention that activates the public space, dismisses fears, and encourages residents and daily visitors to use the park. I also expect that it influences local initiatives and municipalities to improve public spaces and develop the use of them using inclusivity strategies rather than exclusivity ones.

The Soft Link   Commercial Artery   Hybrid Public Park   Green corridors Connectivity   Private street   Vertical Garden

Promenade   Pedestrian Network   Stair Ramp   Zebra Crossing   Traffic Calming priority   Urban Stairs
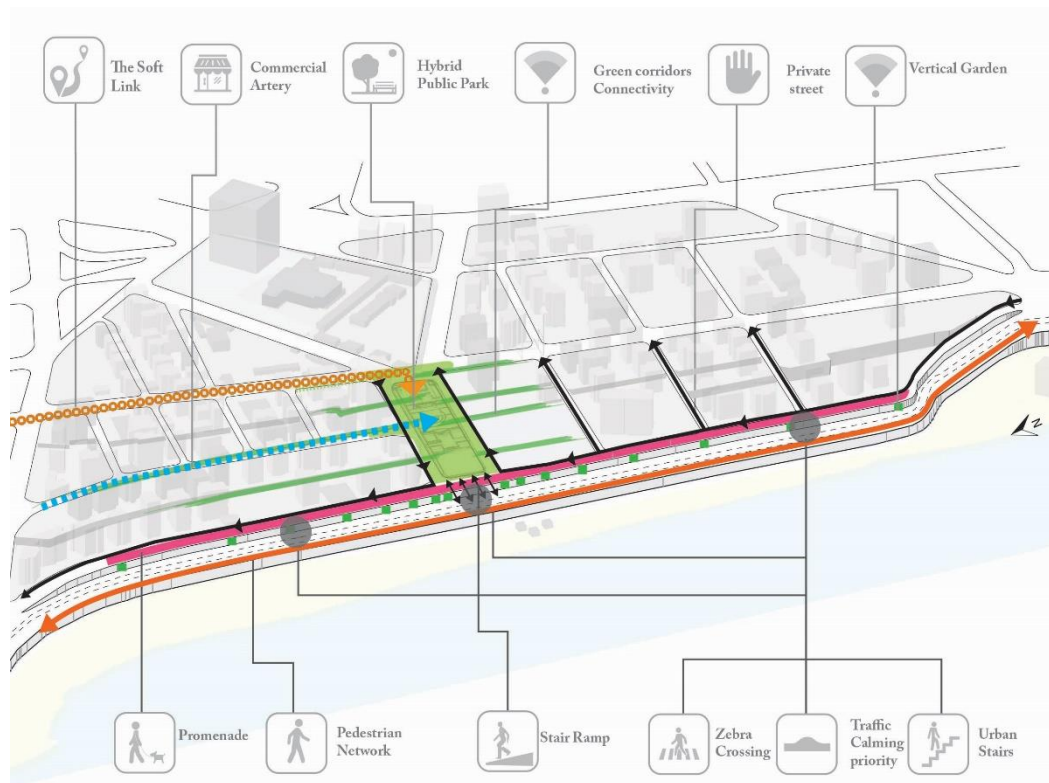
Legend

Porosing and blurring the boundaries of Ramlet el-Bayda Park and integrating it to the neighbourhood by using Hybrid Public Space concepts

Proposed Promenade (pedestrian paved area)

Proposed Private Residential street circulation

Proposed Stair Ramp

Proposed Traffic calming (Speed pumps, zebra crossing, signs)

Green corridors

Reinforcing the commercial artery through its connection to the park.

Connecting Liaison Douce green path through the canopy and greenery

Reduced Speed on Rafic el Hariri highway

Existing lower Corniche (pedestrian link)

Figure 51: Strategies proposed for Ramlet El--Bayda park and neighborhood

1. *City Scale Interventions: Road hierarchy and connectivity*

The overall scheme relies on an overall shift in the infrastructure of the neighborhood towards stronger pedestrian passages at multiple scales achieved through redesign roads and introducing city traffic calming measurements.

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<u>Vehicular mobility, road calming and street pedestrianization</u>

Building on the proposal for the city scale, the intervention elaborates on physical and visual accessibility (vertically and horizontally) approaches and works in favor of reducing traffic and increasing pedestrian safety on the Rafic el Hariri highway. To this end, I propose to implement road-calming facilitates on the Rafic el Hariri highway through the integration of road calming measurements such as, speed bumps and specific devices for pedestrians (walk light, audible signals, and crossroads) that will be allocated directly aligned with the existing urban stairs.

Furthermore, I propose to transform the upper corniche and its adjacent road into a pedestrian promenade with partially vehicular accessibility that will serve mainly residents living in the neighborhood. The promenade was designed as a flexible strip that holds urban furniture, greenery, same lighting typology used in the lower corniche and other elements to enhance comfort and use of the promenade. By changing the street layout of the upper corniche, I aim to increase walkability in this area and introduce further connections with the park through incorporating this promenade into the park, thus opening the park to its surroundings. This intervention also aims to reduce car flows into the upper side of the neighborhood, to reduce dependence particularly in the narrow streets and adjacent lanes and encourage pedestrian use that discourages undesirable behaviors as mentioned in chapter IV (Figure 52). I also propose upgrading the middle existing urban stairs into a stair-ramp that directly connects and opens the upper level with the lower levels physically and visually (Figure 53). Figure 54 is a

section drawn to demonstrate the difference between the negative physical and visual breaks generated by the current stair-ramp, and the positive connectivity and acceptability established by the proposed stair-ramp.

Figure 52: Existing upper corniche versus proposed promenade

Figure 53:existing urban stair versus proposed stair ramps
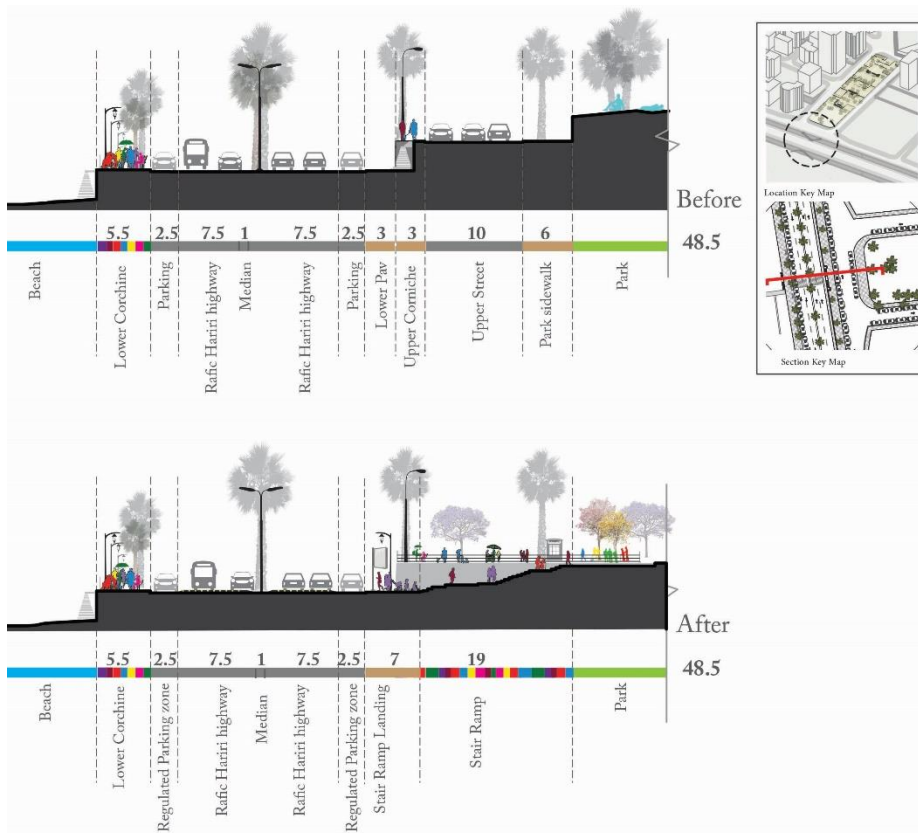
Figure 54: The Rafic el Hariri highway; existing urban stair versus proposed stair-ramp

Links to city scale interventions

Correspondingly, I also propose to adopt the pedestrian "soft link" proposed by the

Plan /vert de Beyrouth on the upper eastern side of the Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood. This

intervention is within the framework of the PDD (Plan Vert et du Plan des Déplacements

Doux), PEV (Plan des Escapes Verts et Paysagers) and SDAL (Schéma Directeur

d'Aménagement Lumière) back in 2013, whereby I begin with the assumptions set by these

plans that a network of green spaces doubled by a network of soft mobility will considerably

enhance the park's connectivity. Figure 55 illustrates the synthesis map proposed by URBI to

the PEV strategy for Beirut in 2013. The synthesis illustrates a strategy of a green grid to provide Beirut with a hierarchy of networks of green links that can counter the negative effects of densification in the city (Figure 56). This strategy embraces Ramlet el-Bayda's park and connects it with a green lanscape network. Within this framework, I am to connect Ramlet el-Bayda to the soft link of pedestrian walkability by working on the park's design at the upper east side and connecting it to its surrounding through using the same typology (vegetation, urban furniture, tiling patters and lighting features) adopted for this link. Figure 57 illustrates the current street layout on Farid Trad and where the proposed green path of URBI is to be integrated. Observations and analysis revealed that this street is underused by residents, and that the eastern sidewalk is completely invaded by the military base. The army has imposed security concrete blocks along the sidewalks encompassing approximately 2 meters of the overall streetscape transversely, preventing residents to commute or cars to park. The proposed section shows the adoption of the green path and the complete removal of the security encroachments to enhance walkability.
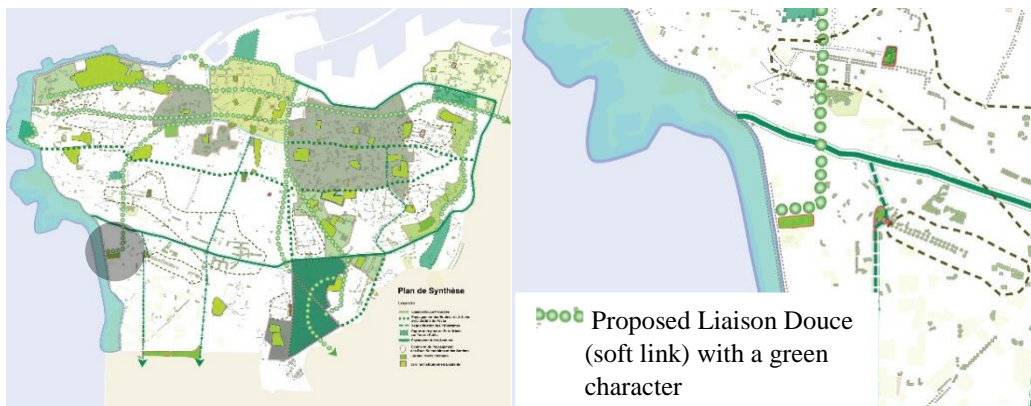
Figure 55: (a)Green and Landscape Synthesis Map with a circle on Ramlet el -Bayda, (b) zoom on the Ramlet el-Bayda park and the proposed Liaison Douce by URBI (Source: Habib Debs, 1013)

Figure 56: (a)The Green Landscape or (PEV) 'Plan des Espaces Verts et paysagers' Master Plan with a circle on Ramlet el -Bayda, (b) zoom on the Ramlet el-Bayda park and the proposed green path (Source Habib Debs, 2013)

Before

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Residential Biding | Sidewalk (3) | Parking (2) | Farid Trad (8.5) | Median (1) | Farid Trad (8.5) | Concrete security Blocks (2) | Sidewalk (3) | Military base

Location Key Map

Section Key Map

After

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Residential Biding | Liaison Douce green path (5) | Farid Trad (8.5) | Median (1) | Farid Trad (8) | Regulated Parking zone (2.5) | Sidewalk (5) | Military base
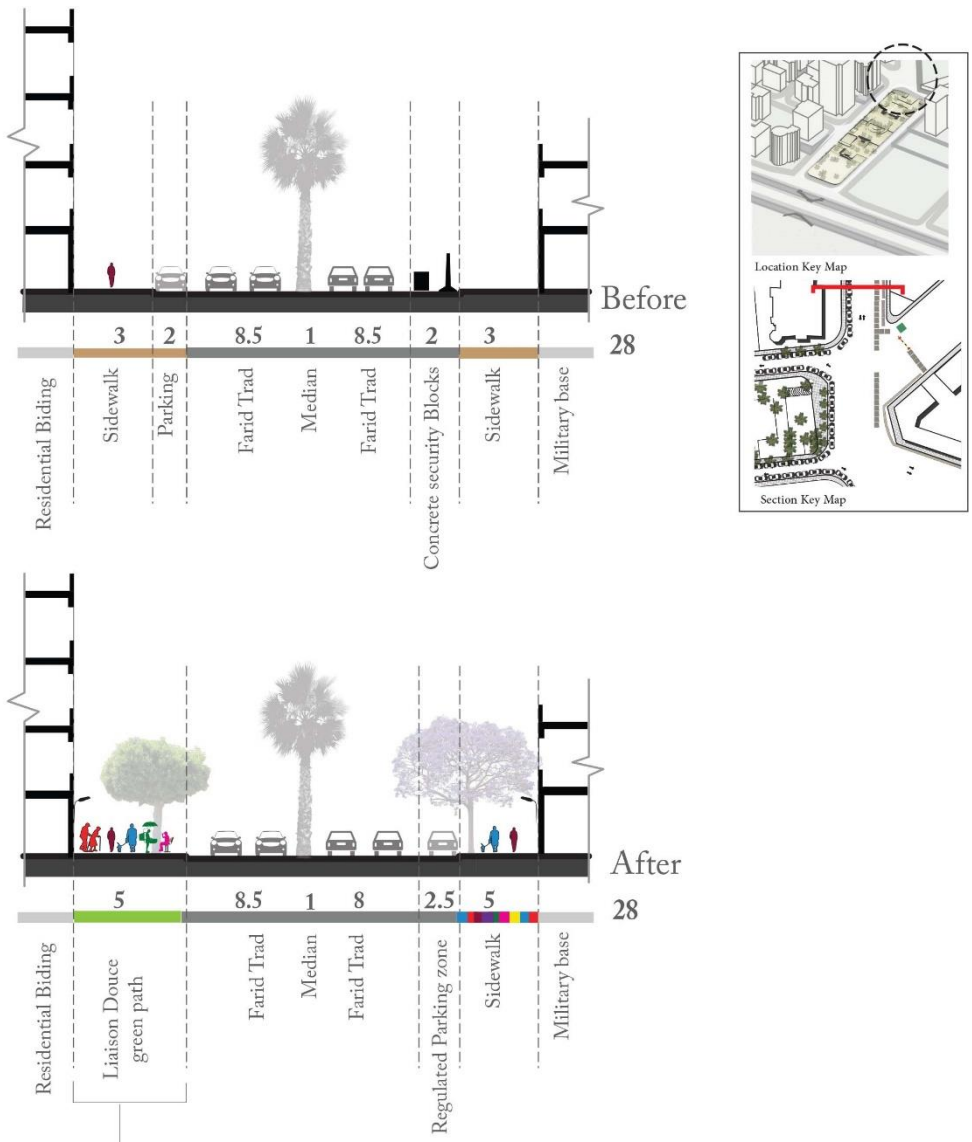
These micro-spaces are located on a width ranging from 4m20 to 5m50 exclusively reserved for pedestrians with setting up a pocket on either sideway The layout makes it possible to release spaces to support of playful, sporadic sports activities and greenery.

(Source: Group Habib Debs Architects, 2013)

Figure 57: Existing layouts of the Farid Trad street scape on the upper end, versus propose section on the bottom.

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2. *Neighborhood design interventions*

At the scale of the neighborhood blocks, the intervention seeks to connect buildings and the park through a network of pedestrian passages that appropriates the in-between spaces of the large blocks.

Inner neighborhood green corridors and walkability

To counter the stand-alone configuration of the buildings in Ramlet el- Bayda hold, inner pedestrian passages can be introduced by appropriating building rear setbacks through fences removed and rear setbacks pooled. Such links enhance connectivity to the outer public spaces, and walkability by creating people's pathways away from cars. The required legal setback for a plot in this area is 3 meters away from the legal boundaries. I propose to offset 1.5 meter from an end of a plot that is bounded by another building, thus establishing a 3-meter pedestrian path as seen in image 58. These pathways would require bringing down fences, relocating cars parking and building generators, and similar measurements for new buildings, the intervention proposed to make shared parking areas for nearby buildings, use setbacks that are large to incorporate green path and enhance connections with outer sidewalks

Location Key Map

Section Key Map

| 3 | 57 | 3 | 3 | 50 | 3 |

Upper Corniche Street

Sidewalk

Residential Building

Required setback
Required setback

Saudi Arabia Embassy

Sidewalk

Thomas Edison street

Existing

Proposed

3m
Required Setback

3m
Required Setback

1.5m Proposed Setback
3m Proposed Green Corridor
1.5m Proposed Setback
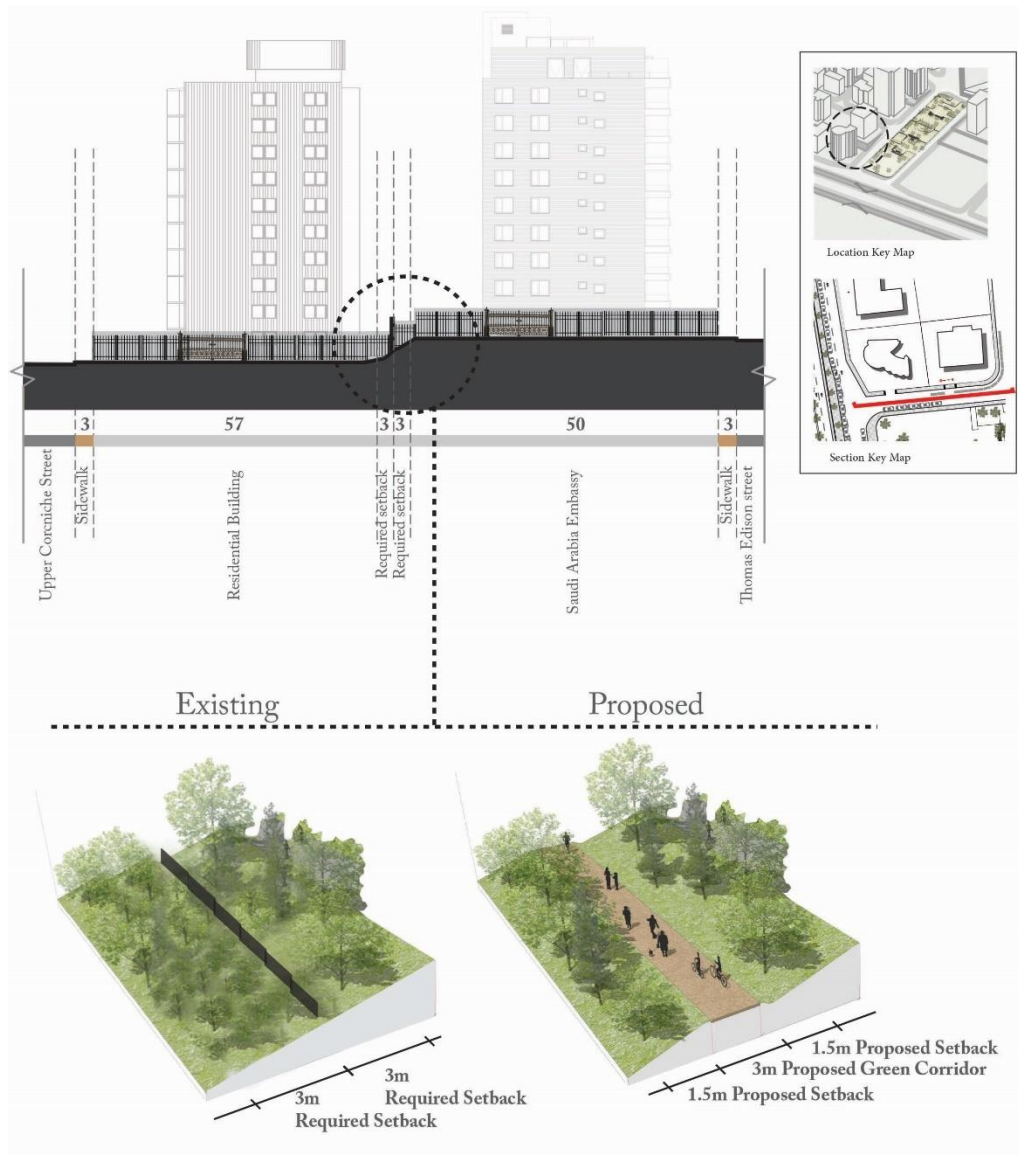
Figure 58:Proposed inner corridor between buildings

<u>Active frontage and regulating current/future developments</u>

In chapter IV, the analysis showed that the adoption of gated building, fencing and the mechanism used to provide the feeling of security and safety (e.g. fences, set back, private security), has transform negatively on of public spaces in Ramlet el - Bayda. Literature and analysis revealed that setbacks when heavily fenced and secured, not only weaken the quality of street life, but also increase insecurity and hence discourage walkability and the use of the street. Fences, dull walls, surveillance camera, private guards or concrete blocks from the existing residential buildings meet pedestrians in upper level of the Ramlet el-Bayda neighborhood. To animate Ramlet el-Bayda's streets, sidewalks and park, I propose the regulation of future and current developments to adopt the concept of 'active frontage' or 'active edge' through the provision of incentives and active frontage guidelines.

Gehl (2006) explains that the ground floor façade of a building must 'learn to make meaningful conversations' both with people and public spaces (p. 47). He argues that if active frontages are well designed, they could create places where people enjoy walking, and spending time and they also encourage social interactions, contribute to a

Figure 59:Interactive versus passive frontage
(http://pedshed.net/?p=78)

flourishing economy, and may significantly affect people's perceptions of a public space in terms of safety and comfort (Gehl, 1971). Furthermore, PPS CPTED, Jane Jacobs and W. H. Whyte among others considers active frontages as a primary urban design element to encourage natural surveillance. Therefore, active frontages provide activity on the streets, enhance public security and passive surveillance addition to supporting the economy viability of the streets through business or retail uses that open directly to the footpath.

The quality of the street enviromnent depends not only on the physical design of the street, but also on the arragments, programming and uses that activate it (sfbetterstreets, 2015). Some ways in which public and private entitities can imporve street vitality and sidewalks are through: parkelts, allocating spaces for streets artisits, street food vendors, temporary outdoor cafes and restaurant openings with seating and others. These interventions can convert underutilized sidewalks and providea functional services and interests to pedestrians.

Furthermore, a mixed-use building type can positively contribute to the street patterns to produce friendlier environments for pedestrians. Legislation with incentive can be produced to promote active building facades to make walking a pleasant experience. This incentive will require developers to include retail services and facilities on the ground floor with open access to the public, in exchange, the incentive could for example exclude the commercial sqm in the calculation of the maximum built up area or it could reduce the tax on the urban property.

Possible guidelines to regulate the design of current and future building developments according to Gehl and others can be summarized as follow:

- A uniform building line that makes a clearly defined space.

- No business or retail shops without visual contact with the sidewalk.

- At least 60% of the total length of the facade along the sidewalk is transparent, with clearly defined entrances and well proportioned, glazed, doors and windows which allow visual engagement from within and out with the ground floor.

- No parking, garages or other passive uses in the ground floor of the buildings facing the footpaths.

- Shop windows should be lit up until midnight.

- Arrangements and detailing which create façade depth and character - making them more interesting and more conducive to stop and stand by.

- Ledges and shelves at sitting heights could be included in the designs.

- Canopies to provide shelter for cafés, dining, meeting and browsing.

- Hanging signage, with personalized signwriting and planted lettering.

Security mechanism and reclaiming of public spaces

Streets and sidewalks represent essential shared public spaces, but these spaces are being privatized in Beirut, including Ramlet el-Bayda. As mentioned in chapter IV, the unexpected terror attacks in Lebanon have imposed the need to implement drastic

precaution and mechanisms to provide safety and security in institutional buildings and others.

According to my analysis, the perceived need for security and the high level of securitization mechanism has imposed physical, social and visual damages and fragmentations into the urban fabric. Figure 60 shows 3 embassies encroaching into the public spaces through the implementation of concrete jersey walls, security booths, and other mechanisms on the streets or pavements thus creating difficult to transport. For this, I propose reclaiming the public spaces through the complete removal of these mechanisms. If these mechanisms are necessary, they require being included within the private spaces. I suggest the establishments of a building law regulation that requires for these institutions to include the mechanism within the projects' design and legal boundaries.
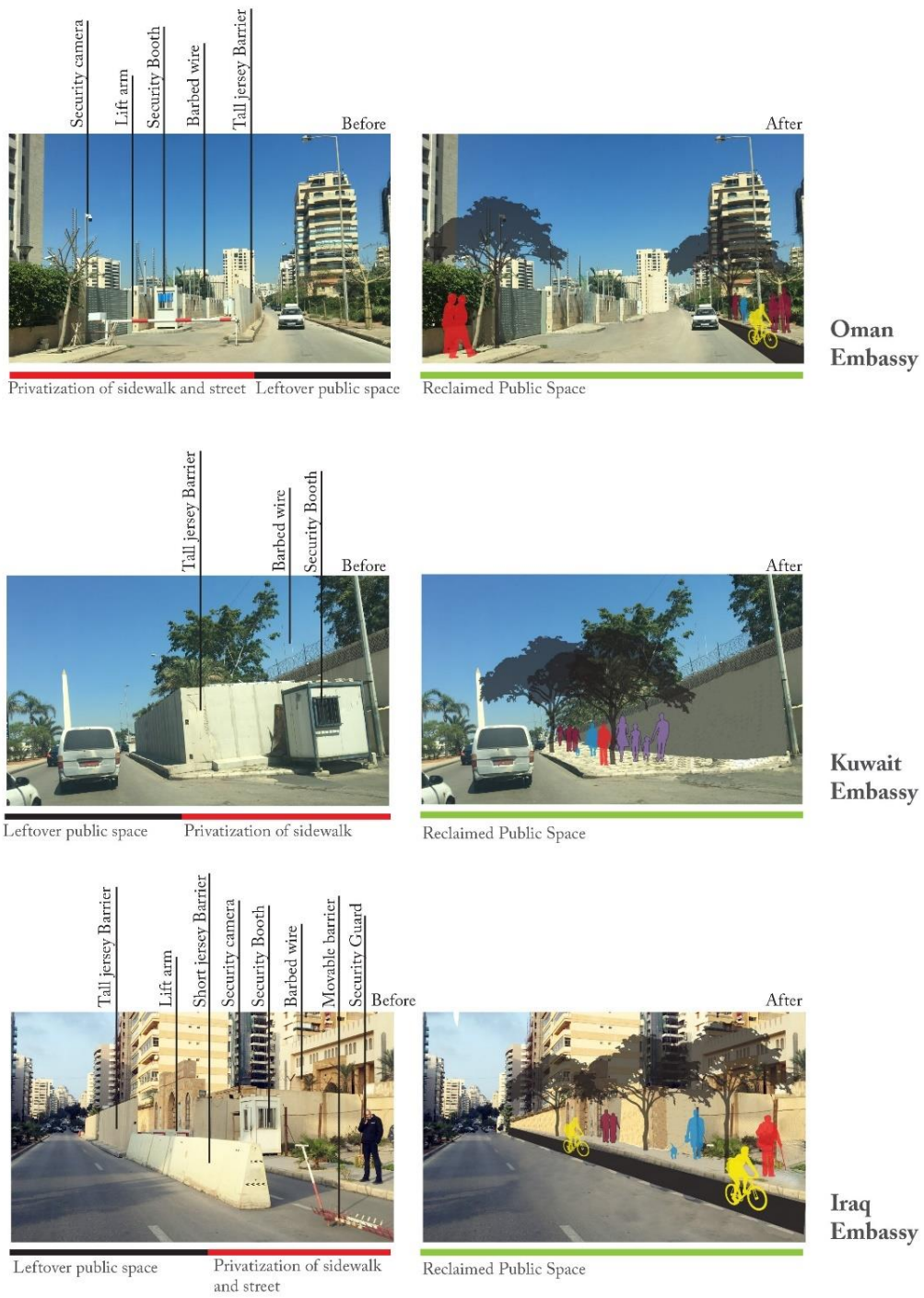
Figure 60: Security mechanisms of the embassies versus the complete removal of them

<u>Vertical garden</u>

One of the challenges encountered trough the interviews was that few dwellers were aware of the presence of Ramlet el -Bayda park. The existing infrastructure of the Rafic Hariri highway and its implementation on the lower level, generated a 3-meter drop in height that created not only a physical but also a visual disconnection between the upper part of the neighborhood and the lower part as mentioned in chapter IV. Vehicles and users on the lower level are not able to see the park that is on the upper level. To elevate curiosity of passing vehicles and dwellers, I adopted the concept of a vertical garden to be implemented all along the lower adjacent wall on the Rafic el Hariri highway. The vertical garden was designed using a rhythmic pattern that starts with disengaged linear greenery patterns when being far from the park and heavily greenery patterns when being near the park (figure 61). This intervention also aims to enhance visual connectivity and walkability on its adjacent sidewalk through implementing the same lighting features and vegetation used on the upper promenade and on the lower corniche.   Furthermore, the typology used for the vertical garden on the Rafic el Hariri's highway wall, will be further integrated on the difference in levels inside the park.

Existing

Vertical Garden & Stair Ramp

3.0 m 3.0 m 2.5 m 2.5 m 2.0 m 2.0 m 1.5 m 1.0 m 0.5 m 1.0 m 20 m 0.5 m 1.0 m 1.5 m 1.5 m 2.0 m 2.0 m 2.5 m 2.5 m 3.0 m 3.0 m

Proposed Stair Ramp

Pedestrian Speed pump

Led Traffic signal

Urban lighting typology used in corniche

Vertical Green walls

Before

After

TYPE OF PLANTS

Impatiens

Plumbago

Chlorophytum

Lantana Yellow

Ficus lyrata

Duranta

Zebrina red

Punahou cereus

40cm

Fixing to prevent swaying

Existing wall

Self-supporting structure (galvanized steel)

Irrigation tube

Waterproof membrane

Drain area with gravel (water recovery container)

Finished curb around drain area

Vertical Garden Section 1/500

Figure 61: Vertical garden on Rafic el Hariri's highway wall

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3. *The Park*

When planning and designing public spaces, it is important to include diverse groups (children, teenagers, adults, or the elderly) who visit the space for leisure, exercises, and recreational activities. Designers should also ensure that visitors are given the proper conditions to perform those activities and to help meet their different needs (Gehl,2002). Below is a diagram (Figures 62) by Jan Gehl that illustrates different types of groups that should be expected to use the park and the activities that should be encountered for the expected groups. Accordingly, the strategy for the park was formulated.

Which types of user groups can be expected to use the public spaces?

1. **The everyday users:** People that live and work in the area or walk through

2. **The visitors/ customers:** people that visit the functions in the area

3. **The recreational visitors:** people that visit the area because the public space is delightful or use the public space in relation o recreational pleasure, exercise, play etc.

4. **The visitors to the events:** people that visit the public space because of special events

Which Kind of activities can be expected in the public spaces?

A. **Daily necessary activities:** to walk to and from or walk through

B. **Daily recreational activities:** breaks and pauses

C. **Recreational activity:** Recreation and play

D. **Planned activity:** to be a spectator/ participant

Figure 62: User groups and activities design guiding (public spaces and public life, 2002. https://www.parksleisure.com.au/documents/item/773)

<u>Accessibility and connectivity</u>, *porous and blur park's boundary*, *comfort and safety*

Using the existing topographical levels of the current park and projecting surrounding active alleys into it, platforms were generated with excellent views to the sea, holding various accessibility entries that are well connected with the surrounding (figure 63). Furthermore, in wanting to blur the park's boundary, and integrate it into its context, the park's peripheries were softened and merged with the surrounding streets

through unified urban carpets. This carpet was laid on adjacent sidewalks to the park, integrated partially into the park and spread all along the proposed promenade.

Existing Topography of park
The park has an area of 6800m2 spread along a sloped topography. By considering the beach as my starting point (zero level), the Northern end of the park would have a level of + 25 approximately.

Create Porosity
The existing analysis and design proposals activated 3 arteries that were projected into the park. The first is the Green Landscape path by Habib Dibs on the upper Eastern side of the park, the second is the commercial artery on the middle Northern part of the park, while the third is the proposed promenade on the lower Western side on the park. In addition, proposed green-ways between the buildings were further projected into the park. These projections generated multiple entrances at different levels.

Platform Locations
The intervention for the park took into consideration the park`s unique and pleasant scenery into the sea, the urban analysis of noisy concentrations and security sensibilities. Accordingly, platforms were allocated in a way that range in temporary and permanent use with spontaneous or planned activities.

Blurring the boundaries through one urban carpet
An urban carpet merged the park with its surrounding through texture treatments to blur the park's boundaries with adjacent streets, pavements and proposed promenade.

Figure 63:Conceptual diagram for the parks' intervention

The circulation between the platforms and levels was designed using Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements to address the needs of persons with special needs, and that requires all ramps to have a maximum slop of 8%. Lighting fixtures, toilets and benches were spread in a strategic form across the platform and adjacent sidewalks. Furthermore, the design incorporated small raingardens with native trees, grasses, and shrubs. It is a sustainable urban storm water management system that collects and infiltrates runoffs. The storm water infiltrations are integrated in the greenery areas of the park and assisted by an underground storm water infiltration tanks to support future irrigation for the park's vegetation and the water fountain proposed (Figure 64).

Accesibility & Connectivity

◀ Axcess at street level

◀--▶ Stair Ramp

■ Elevator

→ Inner Circulation
(Stairs & Ramps)

To enhance the concept of constant flow of users and usage of the park and its platforms, the intervention included various circulation methods and used ADA regulations for people in need.
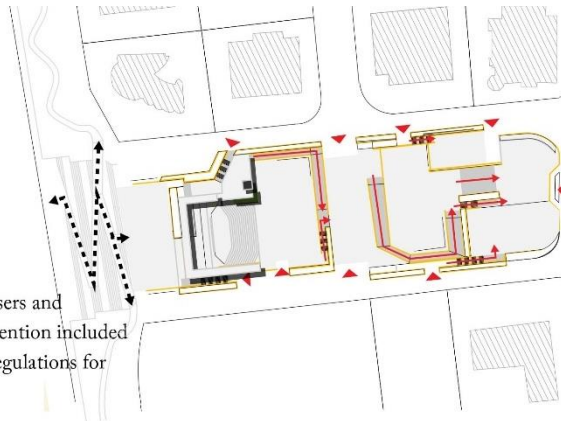
Comfort & Amenities

Greenary & bioswales

Seating

Lighting

Toilets

Figure 64: Selected programs, accessibility and connectivity points, and comfort and amenities

Dynamic programming is a necessity for parks, and leisure services to thrive. Programming is a common tangible medium which touches people's lives, yet, quality programing requires planning and development.

My programming is to provide enjoyable platforms which one can take a stroll in the while enjoying activities such as sports or entertainment. The selection of the programs, activities and position for the platforms were based on the results of site analysis, field work, observations and case studies. The purpose of this was to activate

the park at different day times and seasons through implementing different programs and attracting diverse age groups. These programs were spread over several platforms as shown in figure 65.

Figure 65: Location of the activities across the platforms

The platforms are malleable areas which provide a venue for the variety of activities and events, programmed for both locals and visitors. Furthermore, the platforms were designed to vary in terms of duration of activity (temporary or permanent), time of activities (day/ night or both), functionally of platforms (fixed or flex), performance of activities (Spontaneous or planned) and users as represented in Figure 66.

ACTIVITIES	TIMES (activities)	DURATION (activities)	FUNCTIONALITY (platforms)	PERFORMANCE (activities)	USERS
Sportings	◐	⟳	—	▭	𝄃 𝄃
Seasonal Events	◐	⟳	⌒	☑	𝄃𝄃𝄃 𝄃 𝄃𝄃
Table Games	◐	⟳	—	▭	𝄃 𝄃𝄃 𝄃
Educational zone	◐	⟳	⌒	☑	𝄃
Kids playground	☀	⟳	—	▭	𝄃𝄃𝄃
Open market	☀◐	⟳	⌒	☑	𝄃𝄃𝄃 𝄃 𝄃𝄃
Pets' zone	☀◐	⟳	—	▭	𝄃𝄃𝄃 𝄃 𝄃𝄃

LEGEND

Families	𝄃𝄃𝄃	Day	☀	Temporal	⟳	Fixed	—	Spontaneous	▭
Teenagers	𝄃	Day/ Night	◐	Permanent	⟳	Flex	⌒	Planned	☑
Adults	𝄃𝄃								
Elderly	𝄃								
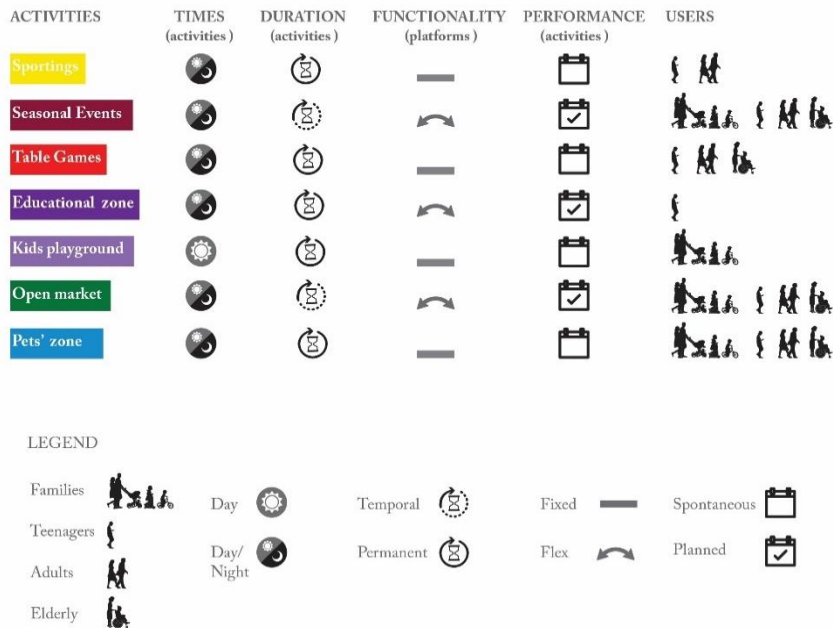
Figure 66: The multifunctionality for the selected programs

The programs selected were:

🟡 **Sporting platform** was to respond to various exercise activities observed on the neighborhood and is planned to target mainly adults, with the addition of a basketball court to attract youth living in the neighborhood; their presence was completely missing throughout site analysis.

- o Minimum space required for an outdoor gym holding 7 equipment is: 8.9m x 7.4m. The gym equipment itself occupies less space but requires the specified area for safety reasons.
- o Minimum required are for basketball area is 20 x 15 m.

🔴 **Seasonal platform** was to respond to seasonal changes which will provide diversity and attractions to users throughout the year. This can be established not only

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through the use of vegetation and greenery that interact with seasonal changes, but also through seasonal events that concentrate across the 4 seasons (fall, summer, spring and winter), and can further integrate cultural diversity into the park. Such events could be Christmas, Ramadan, Easter etc.

● **Table games** was to insert collaborative activities that could be performed by different age groups in a spontaneous and informal way; this was used in the SuperKilen and Goods Line case studies selected for this thesis. Such games could be chest, Tawlah, ping-pong billiard etc.

● **Educational platform** was to insert an interactive and communicative learning platform that targets children and youth. This platform could include study spaces with WIFI, tables to work in groups and temporary Pop up libraries.

● **Kids playground** was to intend to indirectly invite residents specially women to enter the park through stimulating children to play inside it. Playing equipment (sea-sow, slides, swings. etc.), wall climbing, and water fountain can be incorporate into this platform to boost kids into playgrounds, and to introduce them to physical activities

   o Minimum required area for kids' playground with 7 equipment is
      approximately 250 m2.

● **Open fruits and vegetable market** was to insert with temporary or permanent kiosks, a social and commercial activity into the park. Open markets are being used in Beirut at present and displayed successful results for inviting and attracting users; one of the most totable examples is Farmers Market.

o The standard size of the pop-up tents that farmers and vendors typically use is 2.5 x 2.5 m

🔵 **Pets platform** was intended to encourage residents to enter and use the park with their pets and revers the habit of sending their house cleaners for dog walks. Variety of activities like ramps, tunnels, jumps and weave poles can be used to accommodate the many different skill levels of both the dogs and their owners.

Figure 67: Master plan of Ramlet el-- Bayda park and surrounding

Figure 68: previous images of the park on top the versus proposed intervention on the bottom.

In sum, linking back across the multiple scales, the park's design was framed through physical, visual, and perceptual connectivity in line with Beirut's Plan Vert soft links, as well as proposal for promenades, stair ramps, and vertical garden that spreads all along the lower level. In addition, the park's design was framed as a multi-use and programmatical park that provides a wide range of events, creates attractions and destinations for triangulation and passive surveillance, that promotes environmental, cultural and recreational services.

however, for the public space to remain active and well-kept, management and maintenance are fundamental. Before closing the chapter, I present frameworks for the management and maintenance of the proposal.

D. Maintenance and management of public spaces

In chapter III, I mentioned that the maintenance and management of public spaces is of full responsibility of local authorities, but active collaboration and participation of civil society, citizens, and private actors is also needed for the success and lifelong of public spaces. The design proposed has the capacity to work as a catalyst and does not only create a vibrant public space but also raises land value, thus stimulating the interest in stakeholders, resident, and shop owners to sustain the space. The generated increase in land values can be transformed into value capture taxation and taken back by the municipality. The profits can be converted into public revenue and inserted at least partially the profits in the management of the park.

Nevertheless, in Beirut, the fragmentation and unclear mandate among authorities and municipalities for public managements among other issues has led to the deterioration, abandoning, and sometimes privatization of public spaces. The different departments (environment, planning, economy, etc.) involved lack coordination and understanding of the roles each one should accomplish. For this, a clear coordination mechanism needs to be developed to improve communication between the different departments involved. I propose the establishment of a unified public space administrative department for Beirut to improve the institutional coordination in the

management of public spaces. Evaluating other countries' administration, some governments drove my attention; For example, Colombia has established an agency called DADEP 'Defensoria del espacio publico' which translates into 'The Ombudsman for Public Space'. It is an administrative department authorized to inspect, protect, patrol, regulate and oversight public spaces in the capital. Their main goal is to establish an effective defense of public spaces through promoting them as a real estate heritage of the city and a cultural asset that guarantees public spaces common use and stimulates community participation (alcaldiabogota,1999).

The administrative office I propose can be established through combining the frameworks on public space management and maintained from of UCLG mentioned in chapter 2 and DADEP of Colombia. The office will be responsible for the following tasks among others:

- Manage public spaces (cleaning, plantation, safety, etc.).
- Formulate policies, programs and plans related for the inspection, defense, surveillance, and control of public spaces.
- Prepare draft laws, agreements and decrees on the administration, protection, and recovery of public spaces, and that prevent the privatization of these spaces.
- Advise local authorities on applications and distributions of regulations.
- Establish a synchronization with international and national governments on public spaces to learn from existing implementations in different context.

- Work with multidisciplinary institutions and establish administrative arrangements to successfully fulfill the role assigned to different departments.

- Insure transparency in financial transactions to guarantee the defense of the public interest.

- Join forces with stakeholders to ensure adequate resources for the maintenance and operation of public spaces, and to ensure their long-term sustainability.

- Establish incentives for those who positively contribute to improve, maintain or expand public spaces.

- Establish methods to bridge the gap between dwellers of the city and authorities.

- Coordinate activities and programs that is suitable for all, encourages the effective use and prevents deteriorations of public spaces.

- Organize educational and civic workshops and campaigns for the control, recovery, and defense of public spaces.

- Promote the use of public spaces in an equitable way by finding the right balance between regulation and deregulation of the use and activities.

- Work with the community, marginalized groups, and private sector to motivate their interest and active involvement in the pursuit of the common good.

Furthermore, raising municipal revenues to fund the administrative office can be achieved through several mechanisms. For example, land value sharing is a mechanism used in the city of Medellin in Colombia that requests private developers applying for a building permit to dedicate part of their land to public space. When the property to be developed does not include land that can be integrated into the city's public spaces infrastructures, the transfer obligation can be met through a cash payment (Land Value Sharing in Medellin, UN-Habitat 2014). Another way to collect local revenues is through licensing temporary occupations in public spaces such as kiosk vending artisans, food trucks or other small traders. Also, a permit can be regulated to allow for the temporary occupations of public spaces in front of active buildings for recreations proposed in exchange for their maintenance and a fee. Community leases can be issued in exchange for maintenance and guardship, it is a voluntary agreement through which a community organization can use public spaces with the commitment to manage and maintain them with the revenues generated from their productive use.

Furthermore, I recommend establishing a new registration system to engage and keep people informed using the media and social media platforms (Twitter, Facebooks, Instagram). This system can be done through launching a website followed by a mobile application that informs people of programs and events. In addition, it can cast live stream videos, contain photo gallery, maps and reports. The media platforms also update people of press releases, reports, and information on establishments and future projects. Furthermore, the media

platform is a communication tool where it can assist the administrative officials

and authorities to extract comprehensive data for improvement of public spaces

through lunching surveys, pilot projects and other data collection methods. In

addition, the platform can establish interests among urban development

professionals for opportunities to network and establish connections.

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION

A. Research finding

This thesis has attempted to investigate the physical and social challenges facing public spaces in Beirut. By investigating the Ramlet el-Bayda Park and its surroundings, the thesis first attempted to understand the forces that have led to its abandonment. It has shown that a combination of municipal neglect, militarized security, physical/morphological separation and social appropriation by a distinct group of working class males have caused the park to be widely feared by its neighbors. It further showed that despite their apprehension, neighborhoods residents, and nearby visitors and workers were inclined to use the park if better connectivity and visibility are secured.

The proposed intervention on the park can become an operational model to learn from and apply on other public spaces, especially parks. The thesis research showed that it is possible to ease city dwellers' fears from the public spaces through design strategies that address their concerns. These strategies need to be complemented with a proper understanding of the management and organization of the area so that dwellers are brought on board as active participants in securitizing public space. The research counters the idea that for a public space to be safe, active security mechanism such as fences, surveillance cameras, private security, and other mechanisms should be used to exclude fear. It replaces them with active engagement and municipal public space authorities.

In planning and designing a park as a neighborhood-based space, connectivity must be a primary focus to ease the impact of factors that exclude dwellers from using the space. One of these factors is transit mobility, where the study showed the necessity to modify of streets to favor pedestrian walkability and safety. The outcomes also emphasized the importance of connecting the space to city scale interventions and in the case of Ramlet el-Bayda park, connecting the Park to the greater walks of the Plan Vert de Beyrouth. Inner green corridors were further introduced between buildings to minimize the impact of gated buildings and further enhance the walkability of the neighborhood. In addition, the findings revealed the crucial importance of removing all encroachments on public spaces since they affect negativly the overall urban fabric and aesthetic qualities of the neighborhood and its public spaces. It also proposed that the current and future developments be encouraged to adopt the concept of active frontages to animate and further strengthen the use of public spaces.

As for encouraging the use of the space by local residents, my findings revealed that it is essential to get programming right and introduce consequently activities that respond to residents' needs of, thus, attracting people to public spaces and reversing their apprehension vis-à-vis areas they have come to associate with negative experiences. Such programs should be the outcome of research looking at case studies in other contexts as well as, observations and interviews all of which translate in a comprehensive programmatic proposal capable of balancing between nearby dwellers' needs and those of city-wide potential users. Furthermore, a management and maintenance frameworks and incentives to create and enhance public spaces are crucial tools to sustain these spaces. Accordingly, the role of the

municipality, professionals, developers, and city dwellers engagement is needed to support public open spaces' availability, openness, and functionality.

B. Generalizing the Thesis' Findings

What does the thesis tell us about other parks in Beirut? Can we generalize recommendations to improve the current situation of other public spaces in Beirut and to place Ramlet el-Bayda park on the green grid of Plan Vert as a successful case study to be replicated in other public spaces of the city?

Looking at Beirut's Plan Vert, it is possible to identify a number of parks in the city that resemble Ramlet el Bayda, perhaps with unequal levels of abandonment. These include the Mufti Khaled Park (Rashidiyyeh Street), Sioufi Garden (Ashrafiyyeh), and the Ghobeiri Park nearby. Throughout these areas, one notices the same trend: a temporary, minimal male occupation of the area, physical isolation and separation from the city, municipal neglect of the open space, and consequently, apprehension from nearby dwellers who even resent an upgrade that can potentially increase "undesirable" populations. Conversely, we find that actively designed and maintained spaces as in the case of the Sanayeh Garden are overused, showing the importance of indeed improving the parks.

I argue before closing, that some of the urban challenges resulting from this thesis can be further generalized in the current situation of other parks in Beirut. Hence, the fear of so-called "undesirable groups" appropriating a public space through social

practices, behaviors, or just by their presence can be countered by widening the program of the park, increasing its uses, and linking them physically to nearby neighborhoods.

The study has shown that by a proper understanding of the needs of residents, it is possible to encourage its use by locals and to limit these groups, but without alienating the general public. The concern must be to design and organize a space in a way that creates and influences spatial setting to adopt residents' needs. The introduction of a "Hybrid Public Park" and its design guidelines is highly recommended to design a public space as a neighborhood-based area and encourage residents' involvement and use. The diverse angles encountered in this concept allows to shape a space to provide programs, events, urban furniture, lanscape, and other elements that are grounded to establish a design that fits and fosters resident's needs.

This intervention should be further empowered by an institutional framework. Madanipour argues that public spaces especially if located in a residential neighborhood should be maintained by the commitment of those involved in their defense, improvement, and transformation (Madanipour, 2013). He further mentions that the public participation in particular from residents, is very important for the maintenance of public spaces. Their involvement helps to upkeep the space and forces authorities to assume their responsibilities towards public spaces (Madanipour, 2013). Finally, it is recommended to establish an institutional framework that supports active collaboration and participation between the institutions, citizens, civil society, and private actors in the management of public spaces.

There will remain nonetheless a local study to be conducted for each park, to understand its specificity and the actual fears and needs of every neighborhood on case by case basis, as well as the type of physical connections that can be designed for each area. In Ramlet el Bayda, the real challenge was to balance between the promenade and city-wide visitors, on the one hand, and local neighborhood users on the other. It is expected that other challenges will emerge in other areas. These could be the subject of other research projects.

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