THE KEY is THE KEY

The deal or ORdeal of the century

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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

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IN
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[THE KEY IS THE KEY]

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- ArDT Project (Architecture Design Thesis)
- GDRP Project (Graphic Design Research Project)

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Lina Akkawi
Palestinian refugee camps are established with the intention of being demolished. As a paradigmatic representation of political failure, they are meant to have no history and no future; they are meant to be forgotten. The history of refugee camps are constantly erased, dismissed.

The only history that is recognized within refugee communities is one of violence and humiliation.
In the world of refugees, there are no definable borders, people live in marginal zones and transit camps, experiencing uncertain relationships to the laws in both the states that expelled them as well as those that have accepted them. It is important to recognize the identity of these people as more than just victims, but people who are looking to reclaim their humanity through a new social space that comes about through collective action.

The borders cross their lives: through their refugee status, Palestinian carry the border within their own bodies and everything is a question of belonging and identity.
Multiple impact layers of identity and belonging

Dilemma of the multiplicity and conflicting identities trying to reconcile and resolve

Right to belong

My family in the home country: I have no voice. No right. I can’t work. I can’t own property.

1- I belong to this camp

2- Do I belong to the host country?
According to UNRWA’s operational definition, Palestine refugees are:

“People whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, who lost both their homes and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.”

UNRWA was established as a temporary agency carrying out the direct relief and works programs for Palestine refugees. Today it serves a population of 4.6 million registered refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. UNRWA as a direct service provider gives it a special status in Palestine refugee communities throughout the Middle East.
71 years since 700,000 Palestinian were forced into exile, from that day Palestinians became stateless and from that day Palestine refugees are on ongoing exile.

"الوطن بين الذاكرة والحقيقة" محمد رونين

Key Actions

Dismantling Palestinian identity
Dismantling UNRWA
Dismantling Camps

How to Architecturally deal with the Ordeal of the century?
Dismantling Palestinian identity
Dismantling Camps
Dismantling UNRWA

Networking | Connectivity
Civic Empowerment
Communal Empowerment

Layers and Scale of Networks: Reconcile and coordinate the multiple identities and belonging - belonging to the cause.
Camp
Holy Palestinian refugee camp
Host Country
Lebanon

Physical
Virtual
Dismantling Palestinian identity
Dismantling UNRWA
Dismantling Camps

How to Architecturally deal with the Ordeal of the century?

Networking | Connectivity
Civic Empowerment
Communal Empowerment

A civic center is a network of spaces and buildings that tailored to support the often very specific needs of communities.

Quality of Civic center Units
- Functionality
- Effective Layout
- Efficient Way finding
- Cost Efficiency
- Security
- Community Amenities
- Sustainability

Empower Camps
Economically sustainable
Aims to Defeat State of Right of Return

Program
- Academic Education
- Health
- Cultural center
- Vocational Education
- Workshops
- Ram in the Working space
- Multipurpose room
- Work
- Market
- Fitness
- Security
- Administrative Area
Dismantling Palestinian identity
Dismantling UNRWA
Dismantling Camps

How to Architecturally deal with the Ordeal of the century?

Networking | Connectivity
Civic Empowerment

Communal Empowerment

Communal shared program

- Common kitchen
- Economic income
- Communal space
- Liberate more space in housing

Dahoula Family
- Family of 6 members (2x to 36 m²)

Ball Family
- Family of 6 members (2x to 36 m²)

Alkhal Family
- Family of 5 members (2x to 36 m²)
Theory Application - Shatila

Exploratory Site
Point in the larger Network
Typology of soha - potential sites

- Courtyard
- Peripheral

Shatila Dwelling - Island
Urban Approach Exploratory Visions
Design Proposals | Strategies
Urban scaffolding | THE CAGE | Mega (Urban) Pergola

THE GRAND (Urban) TENT
Elaboration of Proposal 3
Urban Scaffolding | The CAGE | Mega Pergola
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**Typology 1 | Vertical Towers | Shafts**

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<td>Lack of space</td>
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**SNAP | Tower**
Design Application On Site

The CAGE in Shatila Camp
2. Verticals are inserted in empty saha as seeds.

3. Camp starts dissolving.
4. Horizontal expand and interlock

5. Shatila Camp is totally dissolved
Design Catalogue
To be implemented in every camp
With adaptation
<table>
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<th>Type</th>
<th>Type A</th>
<th>Type B</th>
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### Horizontals

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<th>Communal Kitchen</th>
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Design Implanted in Shatila Camp
Alteration from hundreds of alterations