American University of Beirut

From Design School to Design Community a space of [...]

a thesis by Dima El-Ayache

Bachelor of Architecture (BArch)

Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture

Department of Architecture and Design

May 28,2020

Beirut

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

UNDERGRADUATE DESIGN THESIS IN ARCHITECTURE

SUBMITTAL FORM

A SPACE OF [...] FROM DESIGN SCHOOL TO DESIGN COMMUNITY

by DIMA EL-AYACHE

ARCH 508/509– FINAL YEAR THESIS I & II FALL/SPRING 2019-2020

ADVISOR: Rana Haddad and Robert Saliba

Approved by Thesis Advisor:

Robert Saliba, Professor

Department of Architecture and Design

Date of Thesis final presentation: May 19th,2020

[Signature]

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

THESIS, DISSERTATION, PROJECT RELEASE FORM

El-Ayache Dima Sami		
Student Name:		
Last	First	Middle
 ArDT Project (Architecture Design These GDRP Project (Graphic Design Researce) 	•	
I authorize the American University of my project; (b) include such copies in th and (c) make freely available such copies t	e archives and digital rep	positories of the University;
 I authorize the American University of my project; (b) include such copies in th and (c) make freely available such copies t after : One year from the date of sub Two years from the date of sub Three years from the date of sub 	he archives and digital report to third parties for resear omission of my thesis. omission of my thesis.	positories of the University;
This		

_28-05-20_____

Signature

Date

This form is signed when submitting the thesis, dissertation, or project to the University Libraries.

Thesis I & II Advisors: Rana Haddad & Robert Saliba

I would like to thank my friends and family for their continuous support throughout. I would also like to recognize the invaluable guidance that both my advisors provided me with during my thesis.

INDEX

Section I: a space of [...]

Introduction

PART I AUB: a space of solidarity?

Dollarization Survey
 Territorialization of spaces : campus edition
 A Secular Map to AUB
 Student Revolutions

PART II Downtown Beirut: an intersectional space?

- 1. Evolution of Azarieh parking
- 2. Graffiti Mapping
- 3. Reclaiming of Public Spaces
- 4. Mapping through Marches
- 5. Solidarity through Social Media
- 6. Revolution as lived by dima

PART III Azarieh Parking

Conclusion

Section II: From Design School to Design Community

Introduction

PART I AUB: Visions & Approaches

1. Vision one

2. Vision two

3. Vision three

4. Construction/Deconstruction/Reconstruction

PART II Deconstructing ArD

1.Design Concept and Program 2. Preliminary Spaces

PART III Design Community

1. Context

2. Showcasing of Original Structure

3. Connections

4. Plans/Sections/Details/Elevations

5. Between Azarieh and appropriated ArD

6. Spatial and Structural Isometrics

7. Moments

Conclusion



A thesis by Dima El-Ayache

American Univeristy of Beirut, 2019

Thesis Advisor: Rana Haddad

INDEX

Introduction

PART I AUB: a space of solidarity?

- 1. Dollarization Survey
- 2. Territorialization of spaces : campus edition
- 3. A Secular Map to AUB
- 4. Student Revolutions

PART II Downtown Beirut: an intersectional space?

- 1. Evolution of Azarieh parking
- 2. Graffiti Mapping
- 3. Reclaiming of Public Spaces
- 4. Mapping through Marches
- 5. Solidarity through Social Media
- 6. Revolution as live d by dima

PART III Azarieh Parking

- 1. Evolution of groups' locations
- 2. Matbakh El Balad
- 3. A space for Discussions
- 4. Temporality to Permanency
- 5. Negotiation of Space

Part IV Script

Introduction

Generally observed as a beacon of social liberalism in a wider ultra-conservative region, Lebanon falls back in its recurrent marginalization of various identity groups which form the "ghettos" of Lebanon's physical and political spaces. The country's sectarian institutionalization has opened the door for demographic sensitivities which allowed for the oppression of minority groups such as Syrian and Palestinian refugees. In addition, religious courts which redirect back to the same sectarian framework were responsible for the active persecution of both women and members of the LGBTQ+ community, particularly related to family-based laws and perceptions of naturalism. It's therefore clear that the sectarian structure of the country has opened doors for conservative outlining positions against "non-normative" groups. Nevertheless, it's crucial to note that this lining can't be restricted to the sect but expand to class. This is exemplified by members of these groups surviving due to them belonging to a higher economic class, granting them access to spaces and resources unavailable to poorer members of these communities. A combination of sectarian accommodation, class interest and neoliberal policies of redistribution from the poor to the rich classes have created the reality of marginalization for many groups in this country.

The human rights assaults systemically performed in public spaces by the Lebanese government on marginalized communities can only be described as systematic oppression that has rendered those communities unable to exist and express themselves except within confined spaces outside the government's reach. On October 17, 2019, the people including these marginalized groups all took to the streets to demand their voices be heard and their demands yet. Their wall of fear has been broken, they came out of the closet and they went to express themselves, to voice out and to send in solidarity with the rest of the people that are similar to them in one way or another.

on the streets we were all equal and the same.

But to what extent were they willing to stand with each other?

AUB a space of solidarity? At the beginning of Fall 2019, the American University of Beirut started pricing its tuition fees in dollars, keeping in mind that all of their expenses are still paid in Lebanese Liras including faculty and staff salaries. It has come to my attention that the most common spaces of solidarity are usually created once a bunch of people share the same fear, problem or are demanding the same thing. Historically, people got together during protests because they had the same demand. Thus, they put away all other differences for a while in order to fight for this common thing that affects them both.

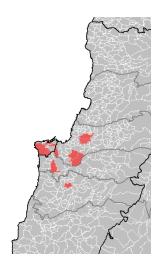
Upon this line of logic, at the beginning of the semester, I have created a survey that includes 30 questions. I carried on this survey on AUB campus where I targeted different social circles spread all over campus in different faculties, study areas, dorms and hang out areas.

The results shown on the left indicate that people, students specifically in this case, are willing to stand in solidarity with their peers even though the dollarizartion of the tuition does not affect them since their parents' salaries are in dollars, they are on scholarships, etc. But to what extent are they willing to stand in solidarity? Some are willing just to say they support those who fall victim of this decision, spread it on social media and what not, but when it comes to actual mobilization on the ground within AUB a lot of them backed off because it doesn't really affect them, and they even became less when they were asked to mobilize against the Ministry of Education and Higher Education because it has consequences outside of the walls of univeristy. And finally, they became less and less when it came to fighting against the dollarization of the tuition knowing that they had personal conequences.

This indicates that people are not willing to go to all extents to stand in solidarity with someone else, then what is a space of solidarity?



32.9 % of AUB students that tool the survey are Lebanese Map showing where AUB students live



65.7 % of AUB students that took the survey live on campus or within central Beirut Map showing where AUB students are from



17.1 % of AUB students that took the survey are international students

on the dollarization of the tuition

63.3 % are against

3.3 % are with

33.3 % do not care

of these

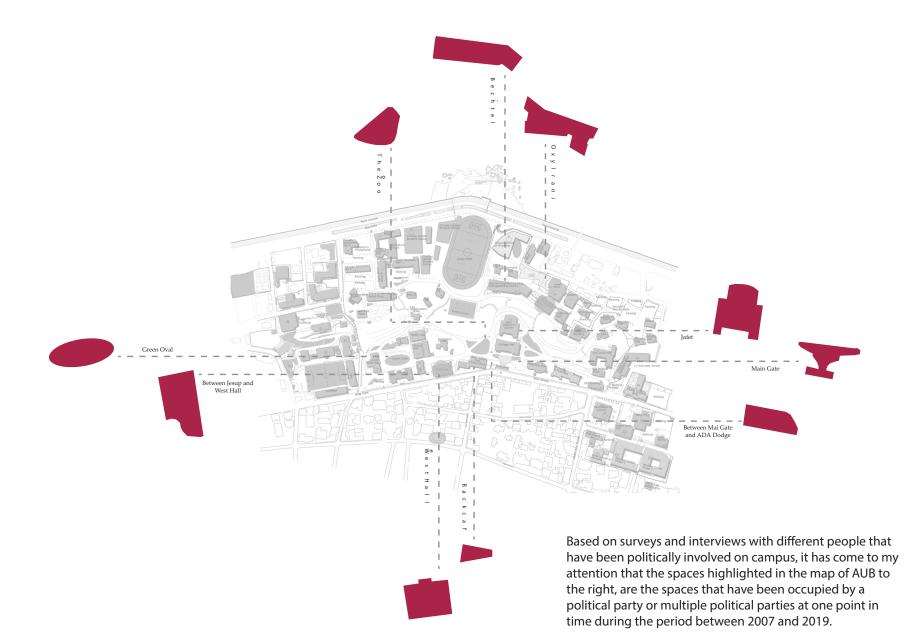
70.83 % are willing to stand in solidarity
50 % are willing to protest within AUB
45.8 % are willing to protest at MEHE
33.3 % are willing to fight it even though they know there are consequences to it

100 % are willing to stand in solidarity
0 % are willing to protest within AUB
0 % are willing to protest at MEHE

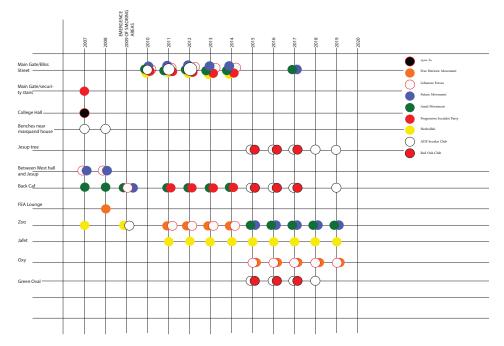
0 % are willing to fight it even though they know there are consequences to it 90 % are willing to stand in solidarity
50 % are willing to protest within AUB
40 % are willing to protest at MEHE

40 % are willing to fight it even though they know there are consequences to it Territorialization of spaces Campus edition

-



A Secular Map to AUB pathways to avoid



The table maps the occupation of each political part of a specific space. The evolution of the territorialization of these spaces show the spatial implications

that a group of people(in this case a political party) can have on an area. In the following pages, there will be a secular map to AUB which shows how students over the years, those who were politically neutral, avoided passing next to these spaces so that they avoided contact with these parties, and in other cases these spaces were occupied again after the parties abandoned them or migrated somewhere else.

We can also notice that the dominance over a specific space with a specific area

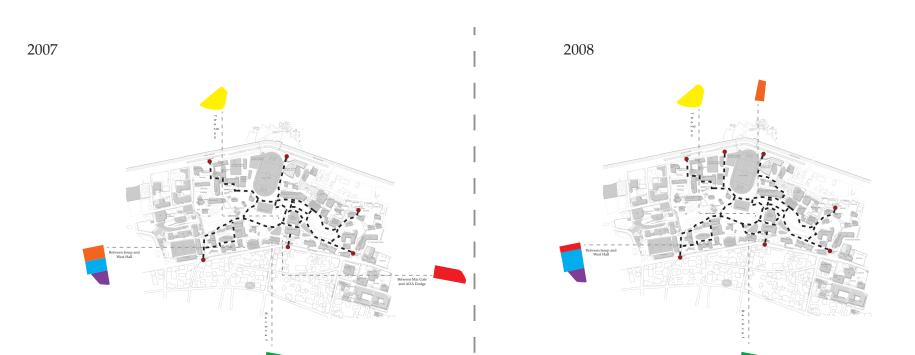
for a long time shows the dominance of the party in the university. The sharing of a space in some of the cases depends on the alliances at that time or else there will be a physical barrier or a virtual line that the opposite parties draw.

It is only when you are completely indifferent about these political poles is when you start being uncomfortable passing next to them as if someone is always staring at you.

This space becomes theirs. They own it.

In 2007, depending on the dominant collaborations between the different political parties, were dispersed all over campus, specifically in upper campus, with each one occupying a specific space with specific boundaries. We notice that in the area between jesup and westhall, three different political parties occupy the same open space. They have created out of the objects present in that space a physical boundary. The tree present there created a physical boundary between the aounists and the future movement and the lebanese forces which were collaboarting at that time. In 2008, some spaces ceased to be occupied by political parties making it more appealing to neutral students to pass by, and other spaces started being occupied more specifically in lower campus. While the Aounists left the shared space with the other 2 parties, the future movement and the lebanese forces were joined by the progres-

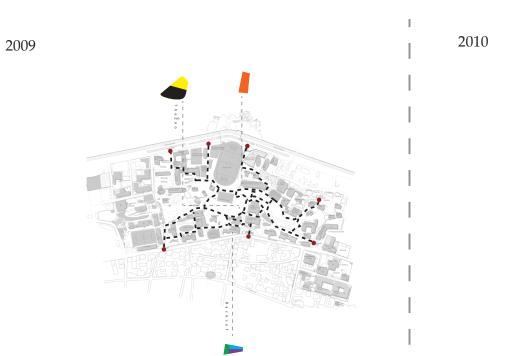
sive socialist party. Other parties stayed where they are.

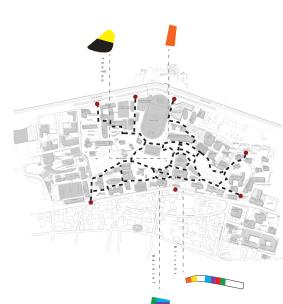


In 2009, less spaces started being occupied around campus due to the emergence of smoking areas whereas prior to that date the whole campus was a smoking area, and more spaces stared being shared by different parties. None of the spaces remained isolationary other than that of the Aounists in lower campus.

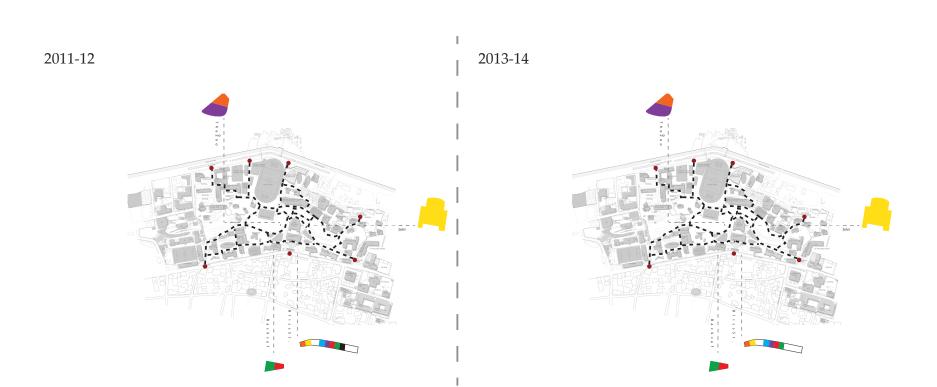
The secular club started occupying spaces on campus just like any other political group.

In 2010, with the continuity of the smoking area, students started occupying bliss street infront of main gate as a place to hang out, smoke and talk politics. All political parties started hanging out at Main Gate while keeping their occupation of spaces on campus intact.



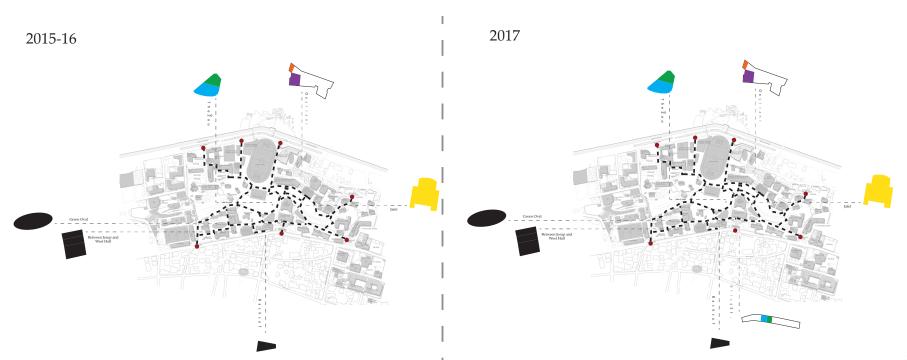


In 2011-12, the on campus territolization of space shifted and other parties and occupations started taking charge. Main Gate remained a point of interaction for all the parties, Aounists disappeared from lower campus, leaving the lower campus free of any territolization and a new kind of occupation emerged. The latter is the dominance of Hezbollah over Jafet, the outskirts and the upper floor. In 2013-14, the occupation of spaces on campus remaind the same;however on Main Gate, the secular club migarted from AUB completely, where they stopped hanging on campus due to the constant annoyance and opposition they used to get from other parties.



In 2015-16, the lebanese forces and the aounsits appeared in lower campus dominating the area between the faculty of engineering and that of business. In upper campus, the secular club started occupying more spaces, whether on the green oval, backckaf and the area between westhall and Jesup. The Zoo's alliances occupation changed while Jafet remained for Hezbollah.

In 2017, the lebanese forces and the aounsits remained in lower campus dominating the area between the faculty of engineering and that of business. In upper campus, the secular club still occupied the green oval, backckaf and the area between westhall and Jesup. The Zoo's alliances and Jafet remained. Main Gate started being used again



In 2018, the lebanese forces and the aounsits remained in lower campus dominating the area between the faculty of engineering and that of business. In upper campus, the secular club occupied the green oval and the area between westhall and Jesup minus backcaf. The Zoo's alliances and Jafet remained, Main Gate stopped being used

In 2019, the lebanese forces and the aounsits remained in lower campus dominating the area between the faculty of engineering and that of business. In upper campus, the secular club now only occupies backcaf. The Zoo's alliances and Jafet remained,



After October 17th 2019, the presence of sectarian political parties has drastically decreased on campus.

Student Revolutions AUB strikes and student led revolutions around the world

1971-1974 AUB STRIKE



Speaker's corner



Meeting Room



Occupation/territoritalization



Students in solidarity



Military intervention





After closing down the univeristy for almost 28 days, the adminstration has requested the intervention of the government in which it was the first time in the history of AUB that military troops entered campus.

The students occupied the whole university and there was a complete shutdown.

The political party in control at that time was fatch, the 10 percent tuition fees increase was not the only incentive of the strike; for it was connected to the palestinian revolution at that time.

the adminstration has never reversed one of its decision except when in 1971, the 22 students responsible for the strike were expelled. A violent riot was held in order to reverse this decision and they did.

Tiananmen Square

The Tiananmen Square protests were student-led demonstrations calling for democracy, free speech and a free press in China. They were halted in a bloody crackdown, known as the Tiananmen Square Massacre, by the Chinese government on June 4 and 5, 1989.

Hong Kong's 2014 Umbrella Protests

Hong Kong's "Umbrella Revolution" began on September 22, 2014, as thousands of students—most wearing a yellow ribbon—boycotted classes in support of full democratic elections and descended on the campus of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



May 1968 France

Universities across the country shut down as students, often joined by their professors, occupied the classrooms and courtyards. Workers, students, intellectuals and anyone else who was interested thronged into the street for mass rallies.As early as May 3, police charged into the Sorbonne and ousted the students; in the ensuing melee, some 600 were arrested

Vietnam War Protests

Across the United States, students marched, conducted sit-ins, and agitated against the war. The protests electrified and divided the American public, who debated whether students should be allowed to protest or stopped. At demonstrations like the one at Kent State University on May 4, 1970, unarmed students were killed; others were tear gassed and hassled by police.



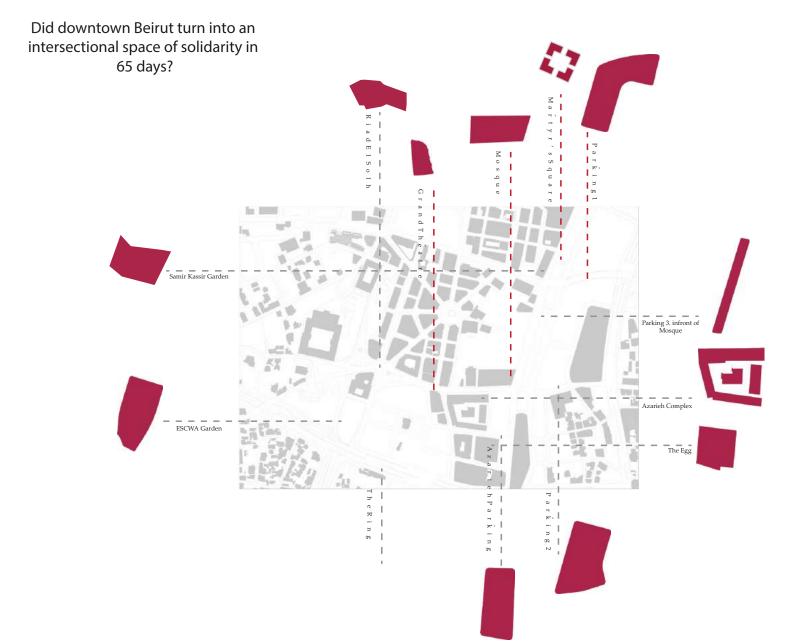




Downtown Beirut an intersectional space? October 2019

-

25



the night of October 17, 2019 was the start of the uprising that broke the wall of fear that the citizens in Lebanon had already stood in front for the past 30 years. With the uprising, over 1 and a half million people headed to the squares, the squares that united them all, the squares that sooner or later will become their homes. In Beirut, the people headed to Martyrs' Square and Riad ElSolh which lie within the territories of Solidere.

For so long, Solidere has been empty where no one can be seen walking, shopping, sitting or just passing by, but this situation changed within days of the uprising. People took to the streets, they put up tents, they opned businesses as street vendors and they reclaimed what was once theirs.

Each of the spaces highlighted in the previous map indicate the development of this space based on what the people turned them in. For exaple, the ESCWA garden and the Samir Kassir garden became a space for discussions and private meetings. The Parkings infront of the Mosque became a stage for the people to express themselves, a more festive space than others. The Azarieh complex in itself has become for a while a place for private meetings since it is calmer than other places always filled with chants and speakers with revolutionary songs, until the security forces took control of the space. The Azarieh parking however witnessed as we will see later a distinguished evolution and has become a space for different groups to express their thoughts and hold discussions. The egg has been claimed as a public space, used for lectures, discussions, movie screenings and at some point for raves. Martyrs Square in itself has become a home for many: they set up their tents and have been living there ever since, with even solar panels installed. Finally, Riad El Solh resembled a space for people who took it as their home, for differnt group tents and a place for revolutionary chants, the people look at it as a space to show resistance.

All of these spaces show intersections of different groups in different spaces at different times and in different forms. So, has an interctional space really been born? If yes, then how do we sustain it?

Evolution of Azarieh Parking

During the first couple of days of the uprising, every inch of the Azarieh parking ,which is next to the Azarieh complex, was completely crowded with people.

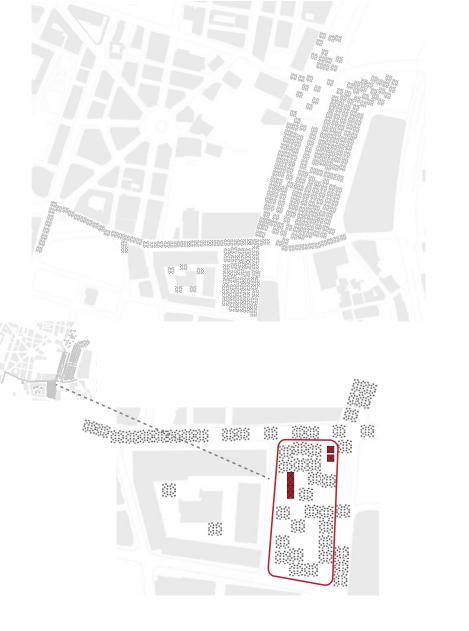
Soon, the people there started adding chairs and their arguilehs on the side of the parking, and then random people with no belonging to a specific group set up the first tent in order to shade themselves from the sun.During that time, the occupation of people to the Azarieh parking started decreasing slightly, as people from the crowd added another tent next to the first one.

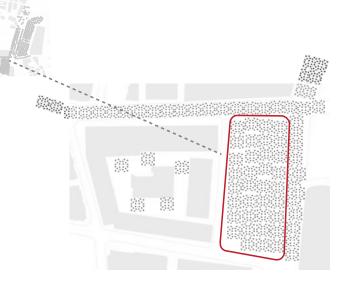
The tents being added now belong to specific organizations like student networks, group of professors, civil society groups and so on.

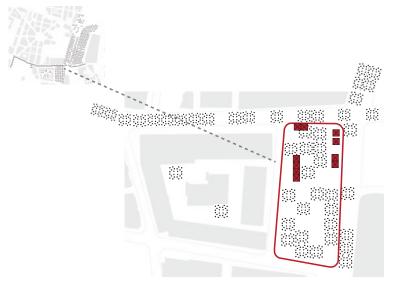
The area between the tents in the Azarieh parking started becoming a space for discussion where different discussions have been organized with topics that relate to the revolution.

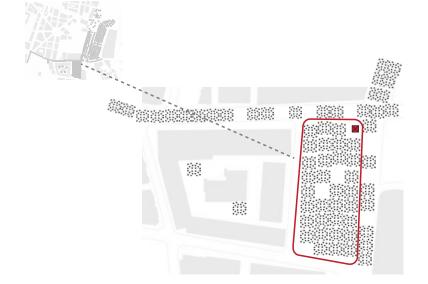
Half way through the revolution, people opposing the revolution came in the square, and destroyed the tents there. Later that night, the people stayed in the parking and rebuilt the tents that were destroyed to continue their discussions. The tents were up again and increased in number and different civil society groups started joining because the parking has become a renown place of educational discussions.

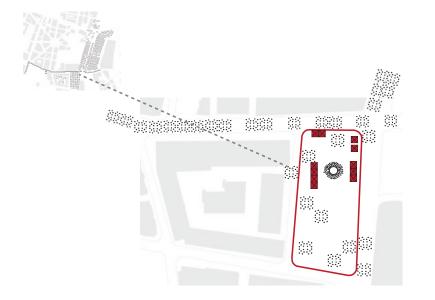
Since the Azarieh parking has a lot of different groups within it, the groups started negotiating the space, when to make discussions, etc. Some of the groups felt unwelcomed by the other coalition of groups, but they did not leave , they stood untouched where the coalition of other groups kept on moving away from them.

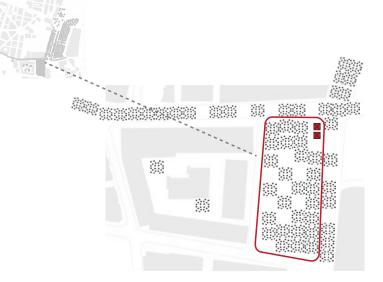


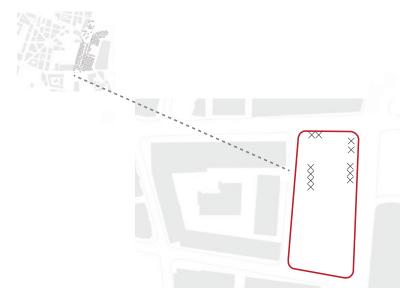


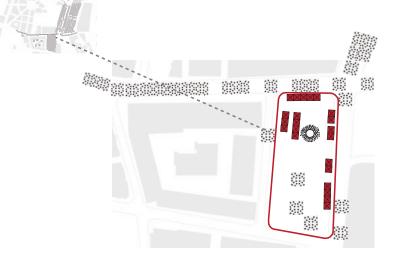


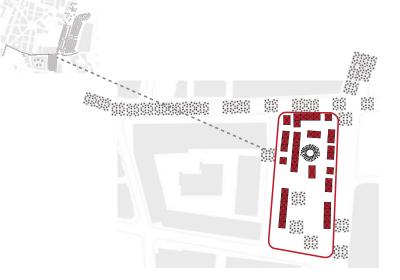












How to **sustain** the occupation of the Azarieh Parking?

Graffiti Mapping

The grafitti present on the walls of the buildings in soldiere, on the streets, on the ground and on every object present there show how the people took control of these spaces. As we look closer into the type of grafitti applied, they actually create an intersectional space where the people express themselves freely. Grafitti has become a tool for then to put all their thoughts into practice by expression, an expression of solidarity. Whether they are expressing the fall of capitalism, LGBTQ rights, women's rights, their right to live freely in Lebanon, their fight again the political system and its leaders, their right against sectarianism, curse words and just any kind of expression that shows the intersectionaity of the different causes being placed on the table.



Reclaiming of Public Spaces

For years now, downtown Beirut has turned into a ghost city where almost no one enters it except those who have businesses there. After October 17, downtown Beirut has been reclaimed, the spaces have been reclaimed, the stores have been reclaimed, the streets have been reclaimed.

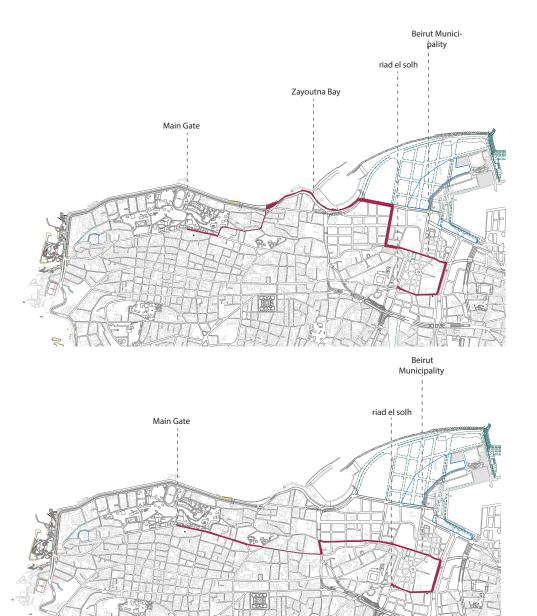
One of the most prominent thing observed on the streets is the fact that instead of having capitalist franchises all over, the people have spread all over between Riad Elsolh and Martyrs Square, the vendors selling food and drinks, the book stores, the arguileh selling, souvenirs stores on the side of the road. The people have claimed ownership of the space, they removed Solidere and gave the land back to the people. Now, on weekends, once can see people there taking walks down the streets with their children on their scooters.

The egg, on the other side, has always been there, but always ben off limits where no one is allowed to enter. The people broke the chains of the egg and entered it, reclaimed it and marked it as a public space. It has taken a unique character, where it was used as a space for Raves and techno parties at first and then was turned into a space for discussions, giving lectures and screening movies.



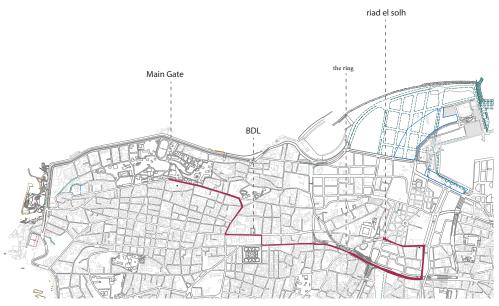


Mapping through Marches



First student marches started during the first couple of days with a specific track set starting from AUB Main Gate and taking the sea side up until we reach Martyrs Square.

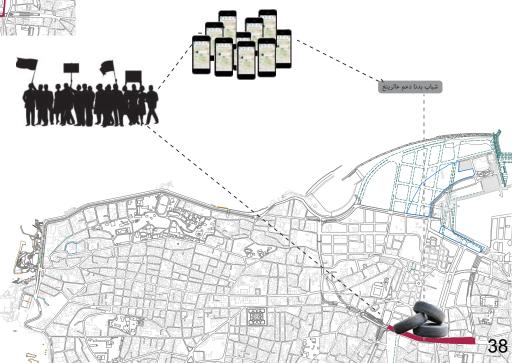
The track taken had to change then, because of being in contact with people that were opposing to the revolution, therefore we did not take the same track to march later on.



Solidarity through Social Media

The power of social media during the revolution was huge. People became dependent on social media platforms whether it was Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Whatsapp. Groups started being formed for closing roads and surprisngly people did not only stand in solidairty with others on their phones. Whenever they got messages on their phones that they need backup to close the ring, everyone would be heading there in no time.

Then, specific marches started being organized with a clear title and purpose, one of which was the collaboration between the workers, the professors and students which included AUB and LAU students and proffesors passing through BDL before continuin on to the ring and then to Riad ElSolh.

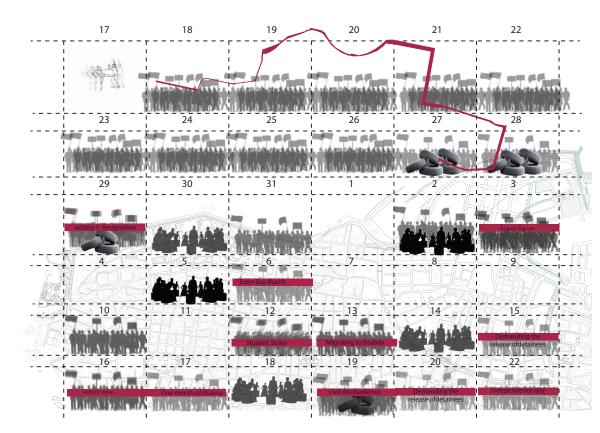


Revolution as lived by Dima

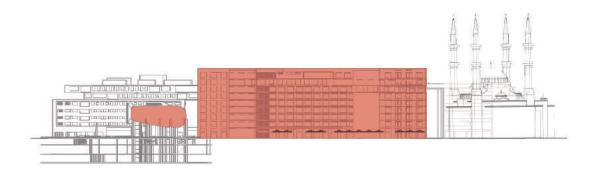
Since the night the Intifada started, I was ready to go on the streets the very next morning. It started off by organizing student marches starting from AUB Main Gate starting October the 18th. We had clear tracks that we used to take and that we took for weeks other times we would be closing roads. For weeks, it was marching in the morning to the square, closing the road at night, or closing the road in the morning and marching to the square in the afternoon. Soon, discussions started happening whether they were in the gardens, squares, parkings and so on.

We organzied targeted protests, some of which included marches and others included a sit in at a specific location. Some were just stands in solidairty with those who got arrested.

This chart shows 38 days of revolution as i have lived it to a certain extent by showing how people have been occupying spaces.

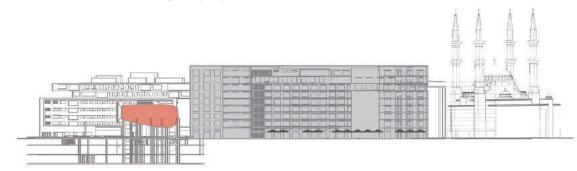


Azarieh Parking

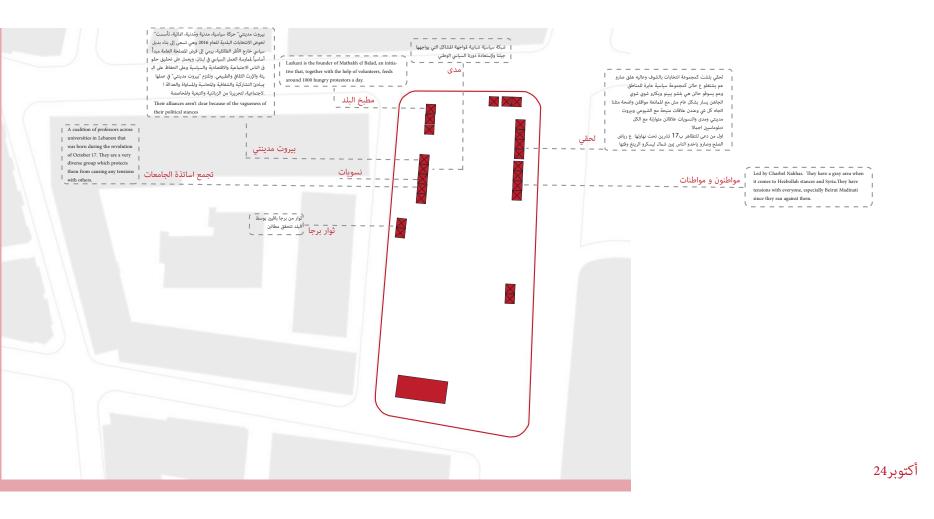


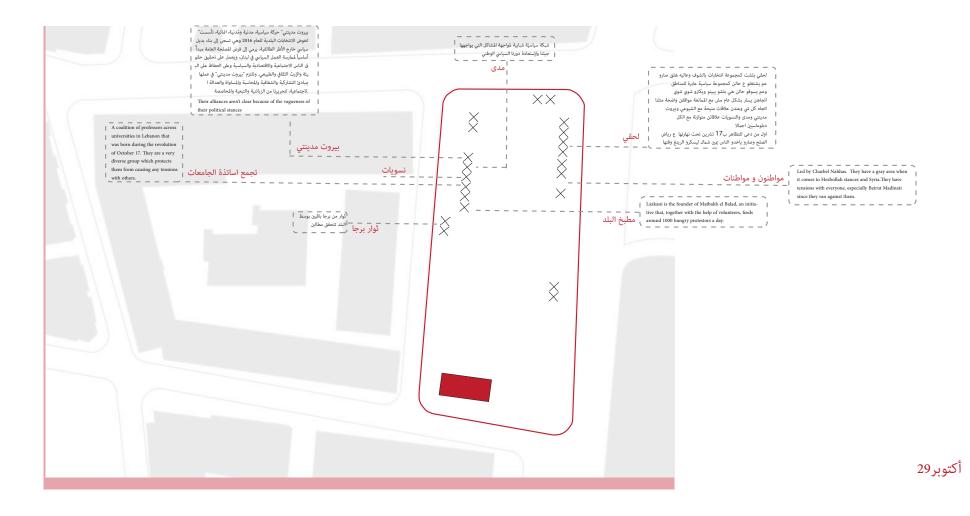
مجمعالعزارية والبيضةلكل الناس

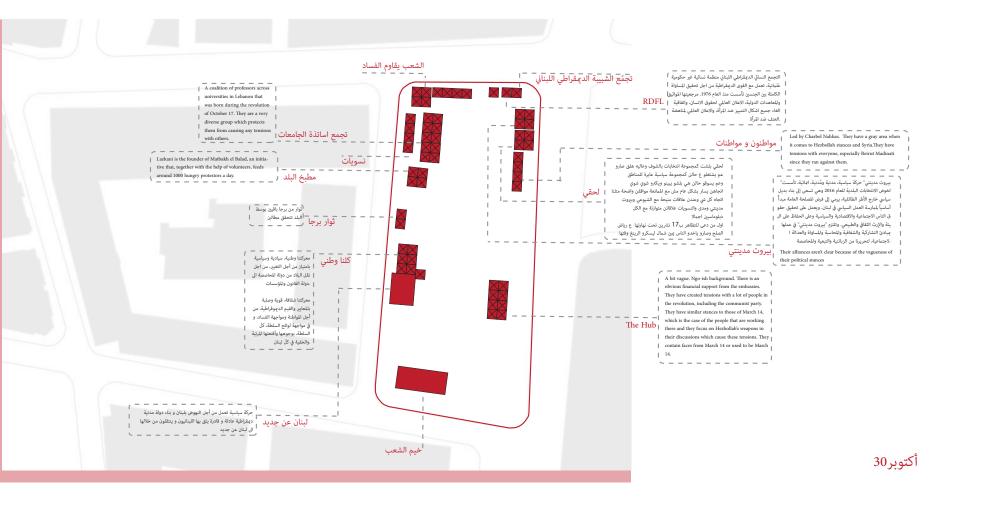
I have chosen my site to be in Azarieh. I will be studying the Azarieh parking in details and how it evolved throughout and the major changes it went through. The first two diagrams show how the Azarieh complex used to be for the people when the revolution broke down and then the police took over and has thus been abandoned by the people.

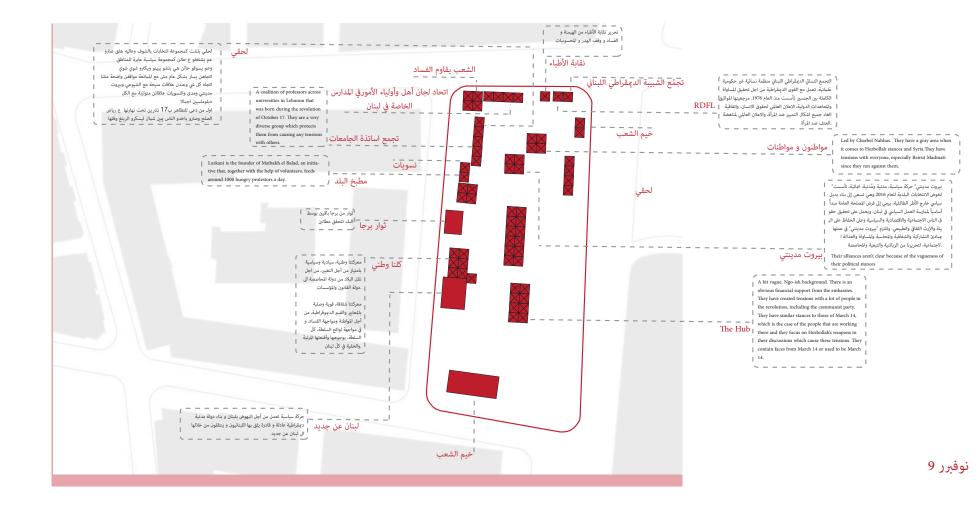


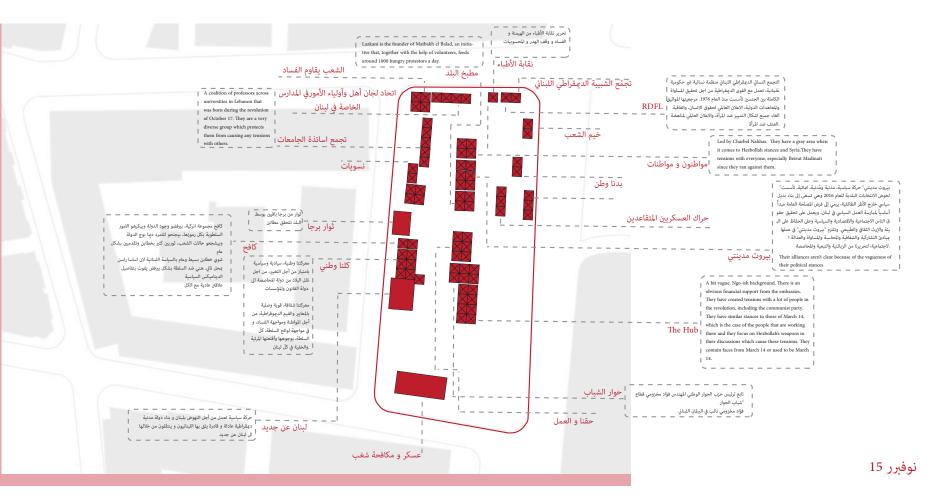
مجمعالعزاريةللعسكر والبيضةللناس

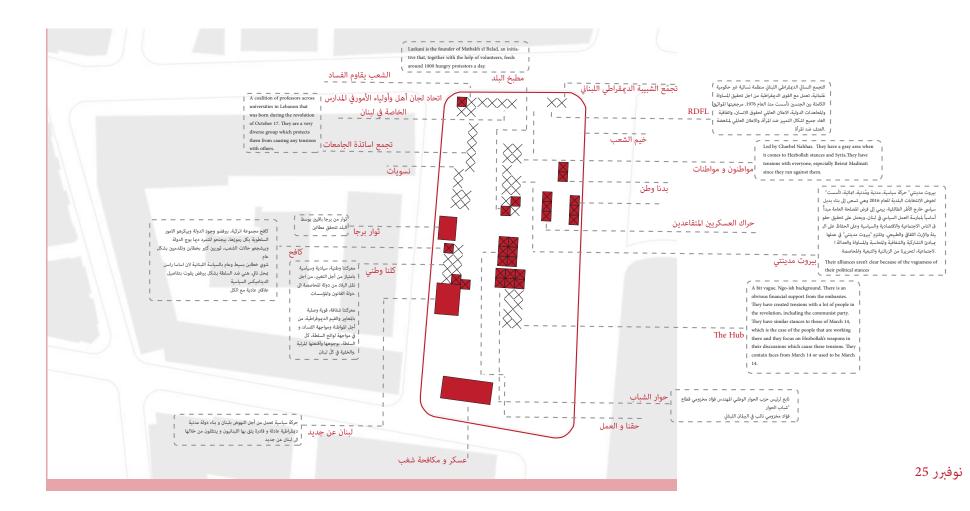


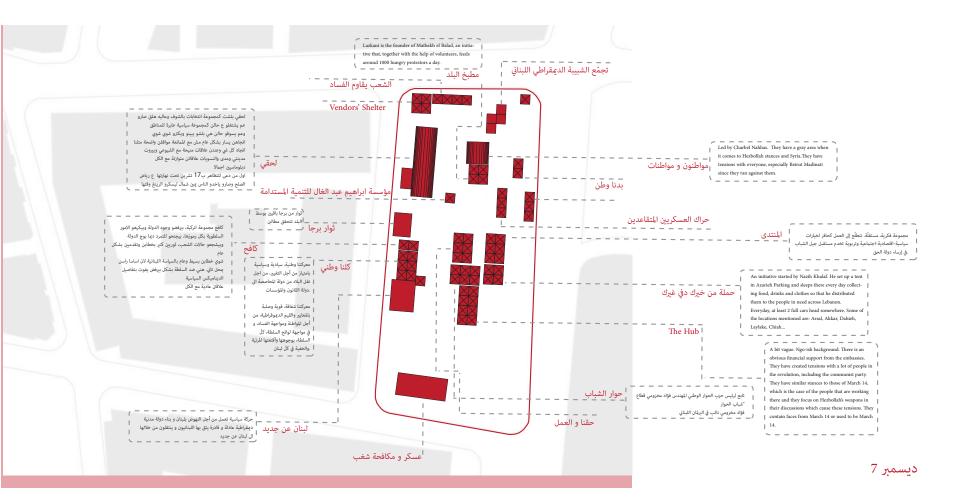


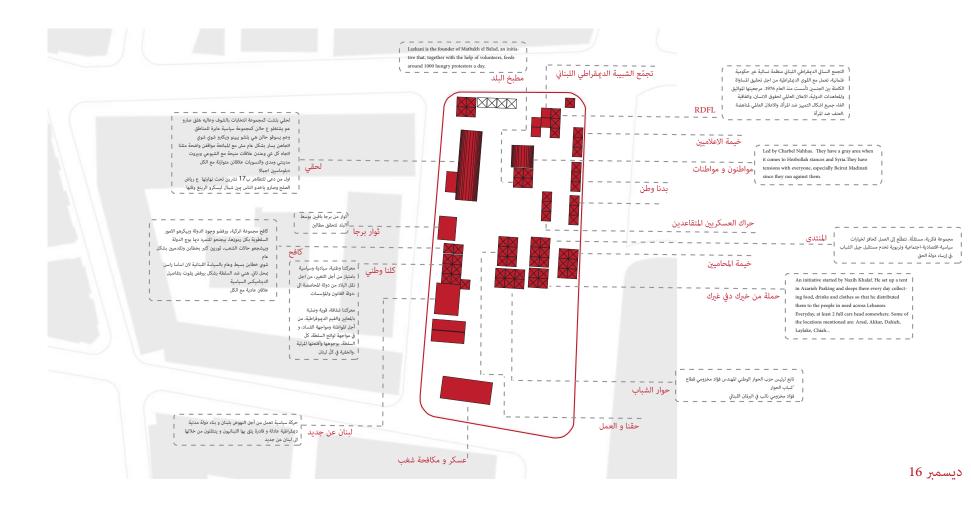


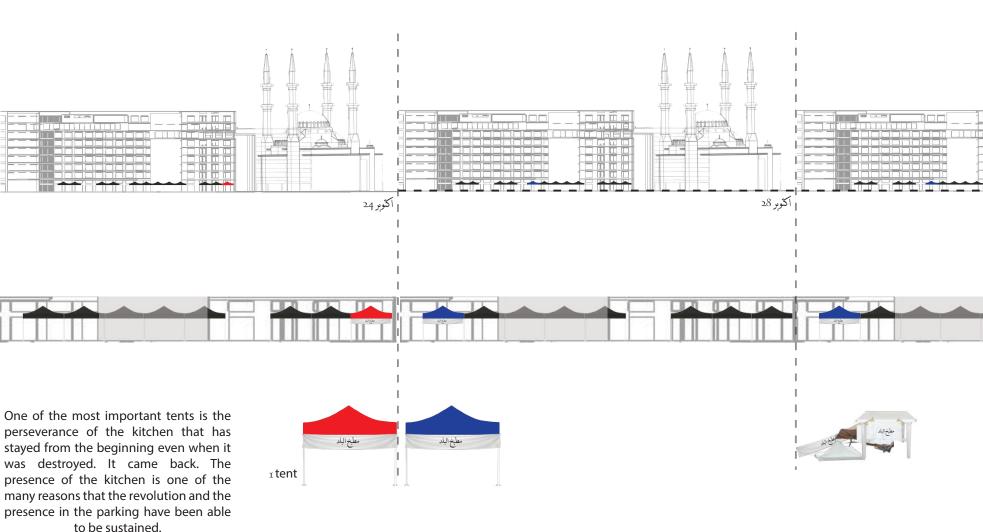


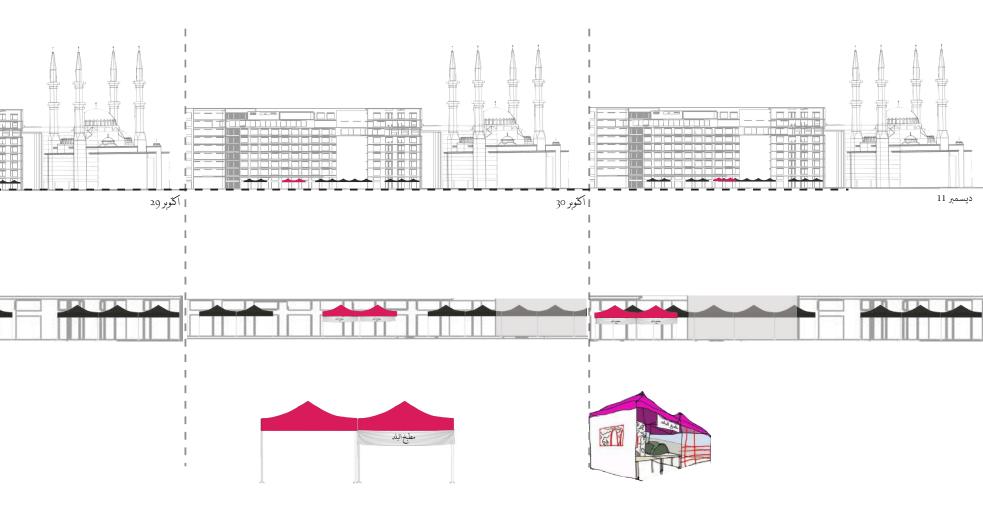


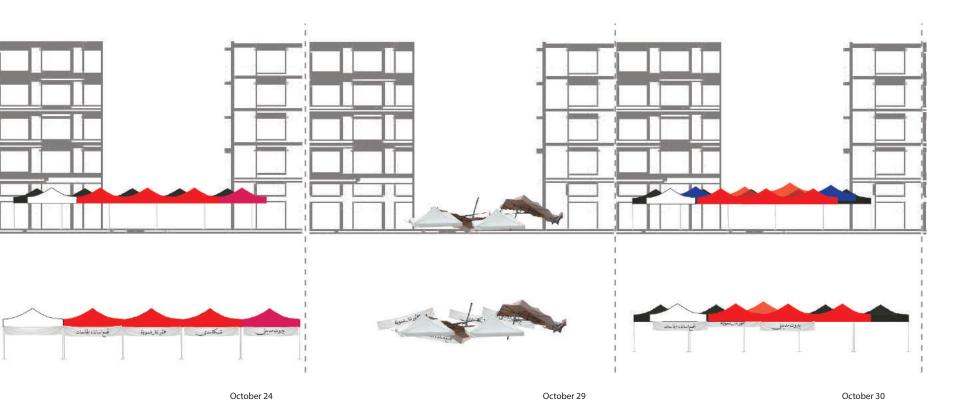


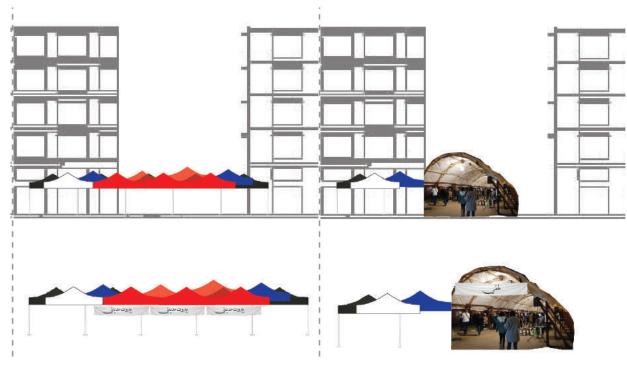








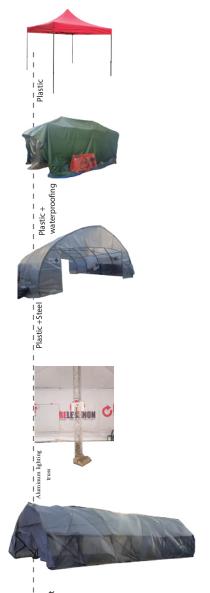




November 10

December 10

One of the most important tents is the perseverance of the kitchen that has stayed from the beginning even when it was destroyed. It came back. The presence of the kitchen is one of the many reasons that the revolution and the presence in the parking have been able to be sustained. From Temporality to Permanency



The diagram on the left shows the material evolution of the tents that have been set up down there, which indicates that the people there are staying for now, and for a long time until their demands are met.

The material reflects perseverance and resistance. It shows that the people down there are adapting their spaces to the conditiond and the evolution of the situation.

The people had to adapt to the weather conditions, which means that above their plastic and cloth tents they started adding waterproof covers. As the revolution continued, the evolution of the plastic tents and their water proofing strategy started changing. They began to use wooden structures and aluminum lighting trusses in order to build their spaces.

The wooden structured tent also has replaces many smaller plastic tents in terms of area and has thus created an open space that belongs to different groups that had previously set their tents there.

Negotiation of Space

scenario 1

discussions





two different tents having discussions at the same time, one being very loud





two representatives argue for a compromise



scenario 2

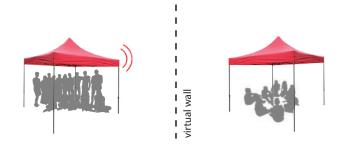
discussions vs chants



a discussion happening as a group of people are chanting nearby



the group of people chanting are approached by a represenative in order to lower their voices cause there are discussions going on



one of them compromises the sound of the discussion, thus creating a virtual wall between the two groups



the group of chanters leave since it is easier for them to mobilize, as a form of compromise and space negotiation.

Negotiation of Space

scenario 3

conflicts of interest



conflict of interest between a group having a discussion and another group opposing the discussion



the opposing group protest the discussion held by the other group



scenario 4

negotiation of private space



different groups cooperate in building a steady wooden structure



negotiation between them and the lawyer of the private land

how can a private space turn into a public space?

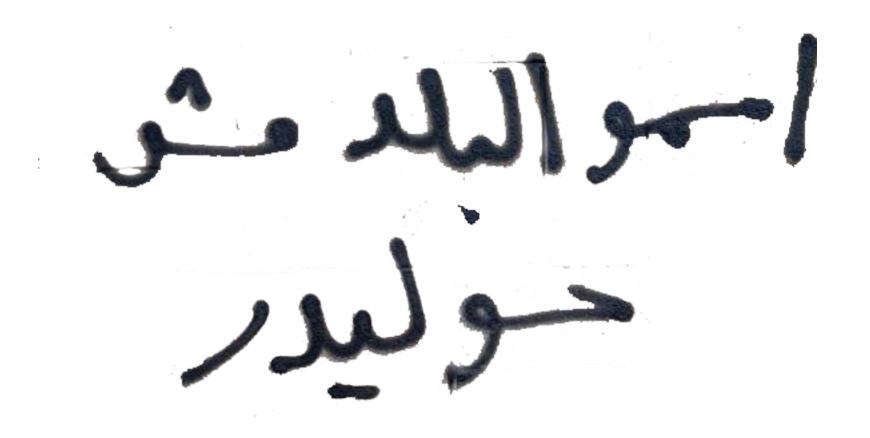


a compromise was reached. the lawyer leaves the tent.



the group holding the discussion stop the discussion due to constant disturbance

البلد Reclaiming



How can a private space turn into a public space? How can temporality turn into permanency? How can we sustain all of this?

"Thesis I Final Jury"

This performance is based on a battle, a battle with oneself, a battle against a system with all its characteristics.

"THESIS I FINAL JURY"

Written by Dima El-Ayache

This performance is based on a battle, a battle with oneself, a battle against a system with all its characteristics.

Act one

Scene 1

FYP STUDIO, American University of Beirut. Final Jury Day.

Guest Jurors alongside FYP instructors and advisor Rana Haddad sit on chairs, facing the projector, awaiting Dima's arrival.

SANDRA RICHANI

What is this?

RANA HADDAD

Let's wait and see.

Guest jurors stare at one another and Rana, the FYP advisor, as the lights on them dim down. Words appear on the screen.

Video plays

(on the screen appears the following words

Hello, I'm Dima El-Ayache, a full-time political activist and currently an architecture student

What you are about to see is NOT a performance but an act of reality, if you choose it to be.

Scene 2

Riad ElSolh, 8 p.m

Dima sits in front of Grand Theatre in front of the police in Riad El Solh.

[English translation of the ongoing video]

DIMA

My name is Dima El-Ayache. I'm ŝudying Architecture and this is my laŝt year in university. Before I ŝtart, I want to apologize from anyone watching that does not understand Arabic, but also, I do not want to apologize because this is my language.

Anyways, since I am in the American University of Beirut, the script in your hands will be written in English.

DIMA

My project started off in AUB showing how much the students of the most prestigious university in the middle east are willing to stand in solidarity with each other, but this was before October 17.

Scene 3

Play video of chants and interview that day.

DIMA

October 17 was a changing point for everyone, it broke a wall of fear for more than a million people. It was heartwarming for me to see this happening since it's everything I've been working for for years as part of a student activist group with many others.

I took to the \$reets on the morning of October 18 and I have barely been out of there. From marches to discussions to chants to fights to attempting to \$or m the parliament to closing roads to getting beaten

up to getting tear gassed and most importantly to $% \left({{{\mathbf{x}}_{i}}} \right)$ breaking the system with all its characteristics .

[Playing videos of different footage throughout the revolution]

As a student, and as a citizen first, this was my battle, and I think it is everyone else's. I believe we should be on the streets. I understand that some had to return to normalcy because they couldn't afford it, but Id like to believe that everyone watching this in the room right now, can afford it.

I want to graduate this year; I want to finish this semester today because my parents paid for this and I can't afford not to. I want to finish this semester because I want to stay in the streets without having any burdens, but most import antly I want to tell you that I have a vision for my country and this I can only perform on the streets...not in class, not in the studio and definitely not within gated AUB walls.

[Play more videos in between]

You will see what I have done until now as part of my research in the slides after this video, my fyp came to life when the revolution broke out,but my fyp today is more than a research, it is making a datement, it is building a country and I hope when you are done with this performance, you'll join me on the dreets because this is where my battle lies.

[Playing videos]

I'm not going to be present today because I believe that the university space isn't only about applying old programs and schools but also to create new ones, and my school today is the \$reet .

Scene 4

(written on the screen)

My aim is to reclaim our rights, our lands and our properties on the long run and to sustain them. This can only happen from where I'm standing now.

Scene 5

Dima sitting in the Azarieh parking in the tent waiting for the jurors if they want to have a chat about the thesis project.

End scene.

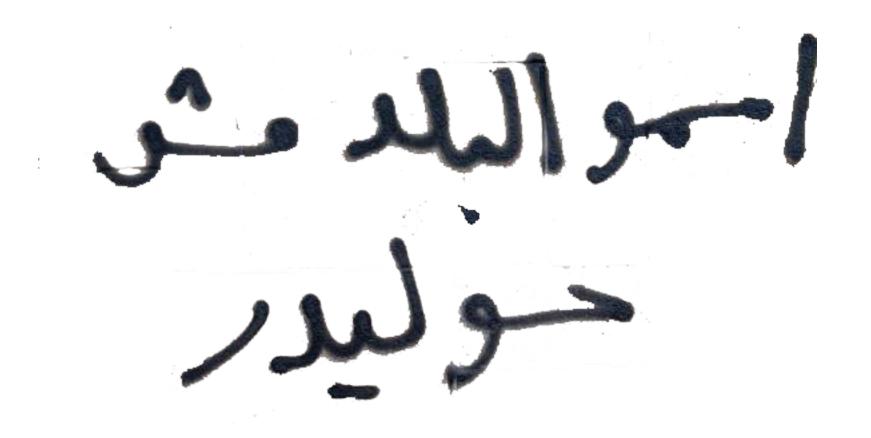
Note from performer

Please refer to the pinned-up research for more details. If you have any questions, I will be available in the Azarieh tents or by call.

More information about the research is provided in the next pages.

Thank you for being part of this performance.

البلد Reclaiming



My aim is to reclaim our rights, our lands and our properties on the long run and to sustain them.

How can a private space turn into a public space? How can temporality turn into permanency? How can we sustain all of this?

from design school to design community

A thesis by Dima El-Ayache

INDEX

Introduction

PART I AUB: Visions & Approaches

1. Vision one 2. Vision two 3. Vision three 4. Construction/Deconstruction/Reconstruction

PART II Deconstructing ArD

1.Design Concept and Program 2. Preliminary Spaces

PART III Design Community

Context
 Showcasing of Original Structure
 Connections
 Plans/Sections/Details/Elevations
 Between Azarieh and appropriated ArD
 Spatial and Structural Isometrics
 Moments

Conclusion

American Univeristy of Beirut, 2019

Thesis Advisor: Robert Saliba

Introduction

This fyp was motivated by my immersion in politics and the questioning of the system that we are deeply delved into. The first part of my thesis was directed at handling the dollarization of the tuition fees at AUB, in order to study the concept of solidarity. Soon, this study turned into a study of spaces of solidarity on campus which allowed

the emergence of a miniature Lebanon within the walls of AUB. When the revolution started on October 17, I took to the streets. This, then, turned into a mapping of the revolution during my involvement and a study of the appropriation of public spaces in Beirut, downtown specifically, and private spaces. Azarieh was experienced by me and a lot of people, for the first time, through appropriation. This introduced the idea of appropriation of space through revolution. My final performance was a performance against the educational system in the ArD department. Therefore, I have decided to transfer the idea of the appropriation of space through revolution that was experienced at Azarieh, which represents the public space that reflects the political system of the country, to the educational system within AUB that I'm part of.

This appropriation that is presented is that of an inductive, bottom-up approach

so, how do we design a post-revolutionary community?

I started off with constructing three visions for my thesis that build on each other

vision one

tecture outside of the framework of a

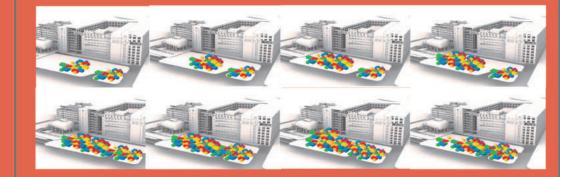
낭

ē ppro

m

a ē ē

Ē 5 ÷



vision two

> the system refuses to recognize architecture outside of the framework of a plan, a section and an elevation, but to be against the system is to break the frame-

that go against with different definitions of my thesis I presentation.

뭉

0

10 roje (whether physical structures, nal in order to give ā

vision three

section and an elevation, but to be against the system is to break the framework in

125 different d) 5

Ē

					-		
Ballander Res				_		and the Party of the	A State Party



1 ē

0

dd

identify myself as Dima soon to be an architect this is me. I identify myself as ---, an architect, a researcher, a writer,

crossing the border

a monologue



Step 1: Construction

We are a product of constructs conducted around us in all forms and in different ways. Whether you are at home, at school, at work or in any space, you are conforming with the context around you; sometimes the way you want to and at other times, the way they want you to.

In the past 5 years, the most vital ones(supposedly) for my futures, the department has presented a framework for my construction represented through the object below.

The hybridity of oneself that results in two different personalities merged into one. They are molten together, the twist around each other and move against one another.

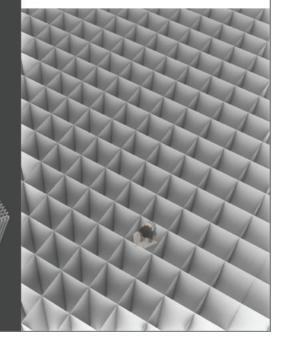
Now, they are static in the way they are. They are portrayed with a construction of a piece of art. It has been there in the corner for years. It is there, very well structured, it is not very complex, very easy to understand and a basic knit of a painting. It all starts with a Nail.

Construction



Construction Grid-like structure

Construction

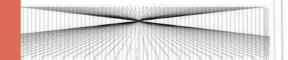


Step 1: Deconstruction

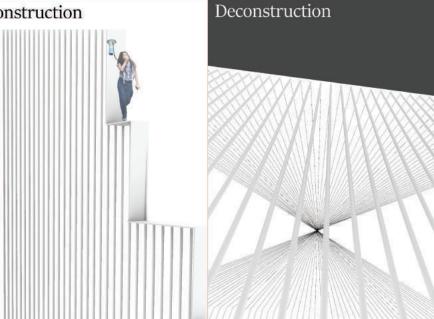
around. You create the painting, the vision. It can be

In the deconstuction, we realize that the bars can

Deconstruction



Deconstruction



Step 3: Reconstruction

For the reconstuction, I'm going to be liberating myself from the nail on the board, or the structural nail and I will be intervening on the department (FS1) to reflect the different frameworks that the system has imposed on the students by spatializing the reactions, the frustration and the limitations through a nail and a thread.

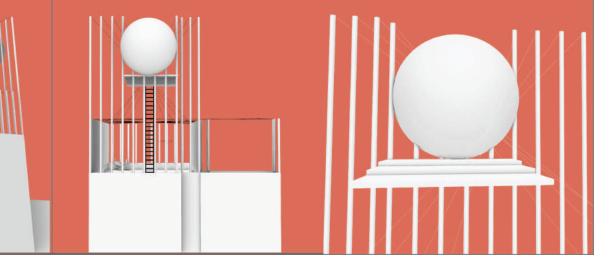
Through this, the nail becomes an object of constructionin itself. And this intervention reflects the emancipation of one self from the system and either aids in crossing the border of the two personalities or in joining them.



Deconstructing ArD

To be liberated is to unleash oneself from the conformity that is imposed on you. To transgress from the way they want you to be to the way you want to be, you need to design a reality of your own and transform the institutions that impose on you into spaces of your own.

o, I chose the Architecture and Design department at UB that has been shaping me and my pathway into the he real world for 5 years now. I chose the current building hat I've spent the last 1.5 years in in order to intervene on nd turn it into what conforms with my standards and not heir standards. From the anxiety, the depression and the frustration, a reimagined ArD is born. One of the most important spaces is the rooftop. The rooftop is used by us(although we should not go up there) in order to watch sunrises after constant overnights, to relax, to smoke, etc. A go to place that is appropriated by us, that is banned from the dictionary of the system. Therefore, the rooftop was the first to be intervened on. Not to mention, the attention we seek for others to pinpoint our location whenever we order.



Deconstructing ArD

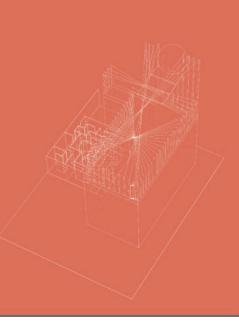
The second place of intervention is the empty space infront of the department. I took this opportunity to use that space to reflect on the 5 years of experience in the department; It includes the dead ends, the frustration, the chaos, the effort, etc. that each student goes through because of the system they are in. The Maze reflects that perfectly because it represents the system and how it works against you.

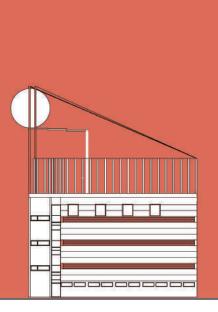
Italso, works as a diversion for whoever wants to access the building. Being the only department that opens 24/7, other students tend to take advantage of that and take over, which caues annoyance to architecture students

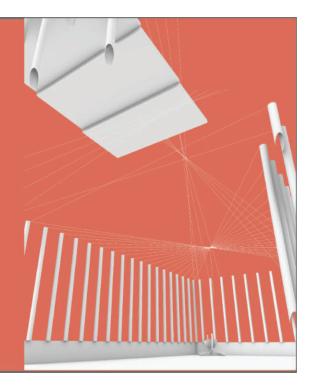
Deconstructing ArD

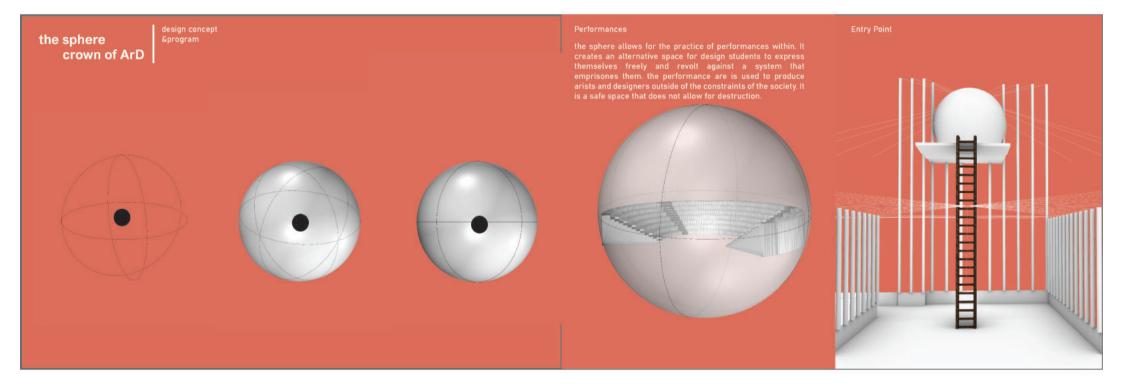
The choice of design derives from the experience that I have gone through leading up to now. It reflects permeability, imprisonment, suffocation, liberation, triggering connections and stimulating emotions.



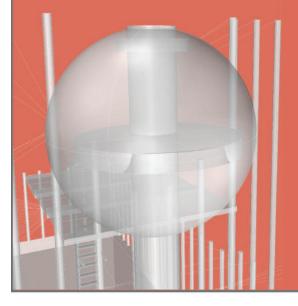








the sphere crown of ArD



the isolation layer in times of self-guarantine

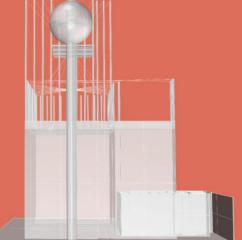
his layer provides and isolation space that is accessible by ne person at a time. It provides the designer with a space solated from the chaotic world in order to imagine a world f their own.

the helix

he helix introduces both the structure that is made but of ramps and the different layers of the sphers hat range from public to private.

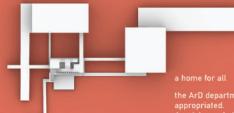
the backdoor

this provides a hidden transportation from the isolation space out. You cannot access this space unless you've passed through the maze.



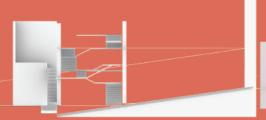
where Azarieh went wrong

the separation that was present between the different modules did not aid in the progress of transformation of Azarieh. There was a common interactive space in the middle of unlinked modules all over the area.

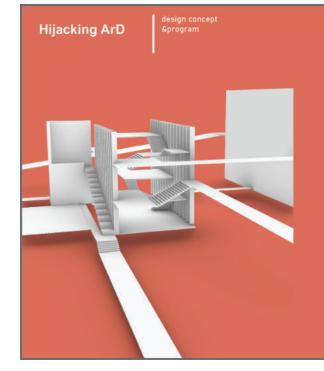


the ArD department has been hijacked and not appropriated.

Azarieh was being appropriated gradually, but the people were not able to hijack it. Today, ArD is done being appropriated and instead has been hijacked by the students for the students. Just like Azarieh was a comfort zone for a lot, between the ring, riad el solh and martyr's square, ArD has become open to all. It is now urbanly connected within campus and off campus. You choose where to access it from and how to access it. It is open.





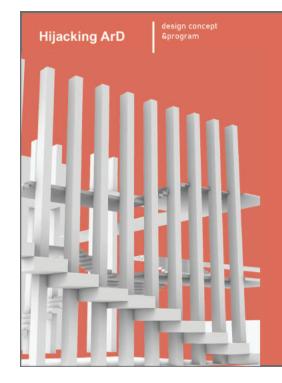


emystification

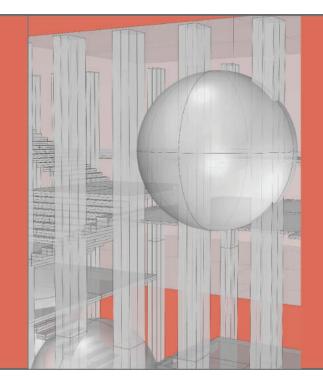
What is that we really want to change that we could not change on the streets

an open space

to break the system is not only to break down the building of ArD, but also change the educational system in which knowledge is acquired. This is done through a collective revolutionary way of exploring. ArD is not a classroom with desks and stools. It is more than that. ArD is rather an interactive space and not a competitive one.



showcasing our revolution



living quarter

the sphere is a test of a possible individualistic living quarter suspended on the periphery of the building.

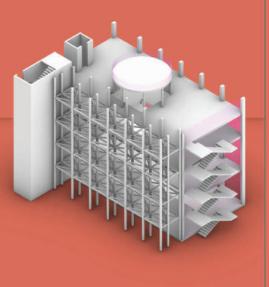
this view gives an idea of how the spaces function within in. It shows the connectivity between the spaces and their usages' flexibility. This also shows the amphitheater-type it adopts by turning these spaces into spaces of performances to showcase the creativity of students. The spaces are enclosed with glass. The colorful glass inspires students and gives them hope when at their lowest.



living units

minary spaces

the scaffolding not only holds living units, but also outdoor spaces that house vertical gardens. In addition to the community garden constructed on the building's outside area, these private green vertical gardens serve each individual.



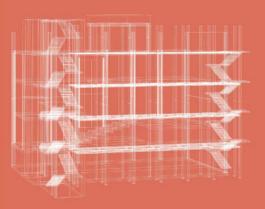
permeability

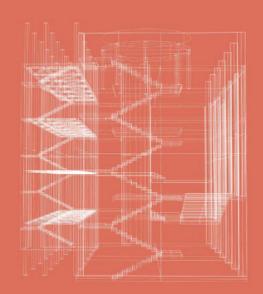
the building is permeable, which means it is open for everyone to penetrate and engage with this creative experience. The architecture experience evolves into welcoming alien ideas to boost creativity.

reliminary spaces

access

instead of alienating the building on the university's borders, the department is now visible. It grabs the attention of passerbys and welcomes them in, whether they are university students, staff, faculty or none of the above.





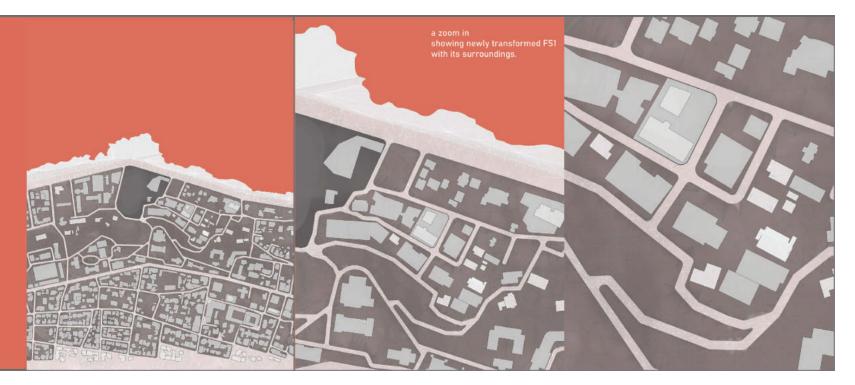
complexity & challenge

turning the department into a more challenging complex space that allows for an ever-changing structure. Therefore, the design of the space allows the students to act freely with it. The space then challenges the students to make changes, adapt and appropriate the space as they go.

Design Community

Beirut, Lebanon

AUB's architecture department is located on campus in Ras Beirut. It is located in one of the greenest lands within the city. Although it is blocked now by high rise buildings, the view from FS1 would have usually been on to the sea.

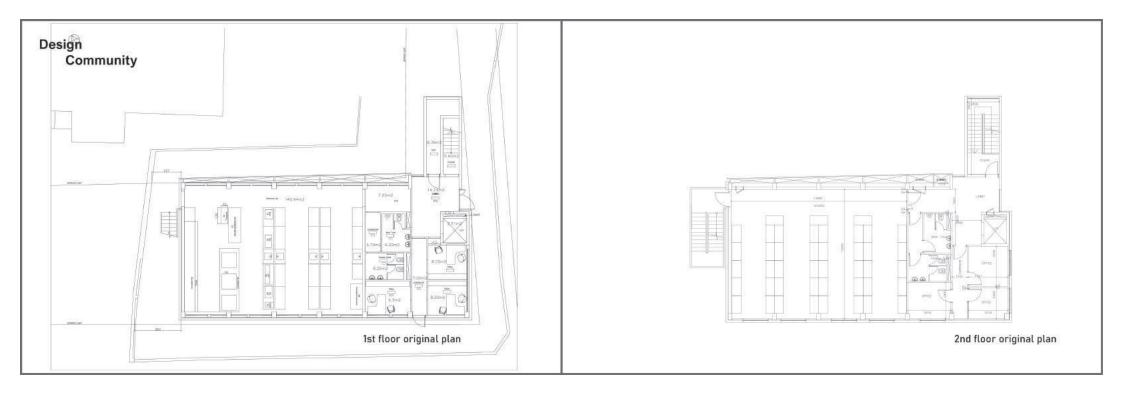


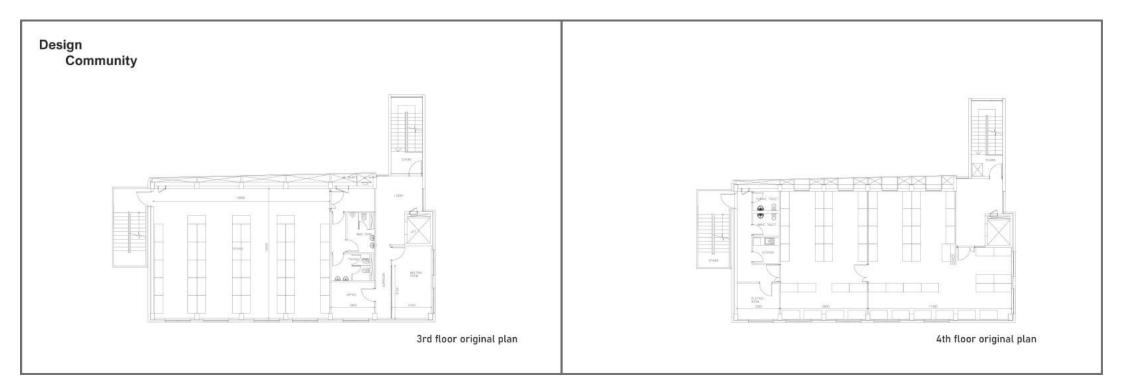
Design Community

view of

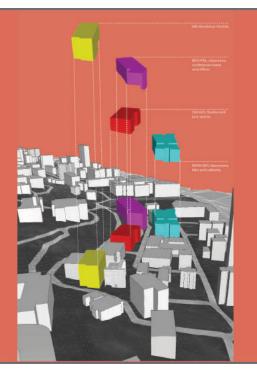
newly appropriated architecture department in context. Also showing in the perspective, SRB and women's dorms



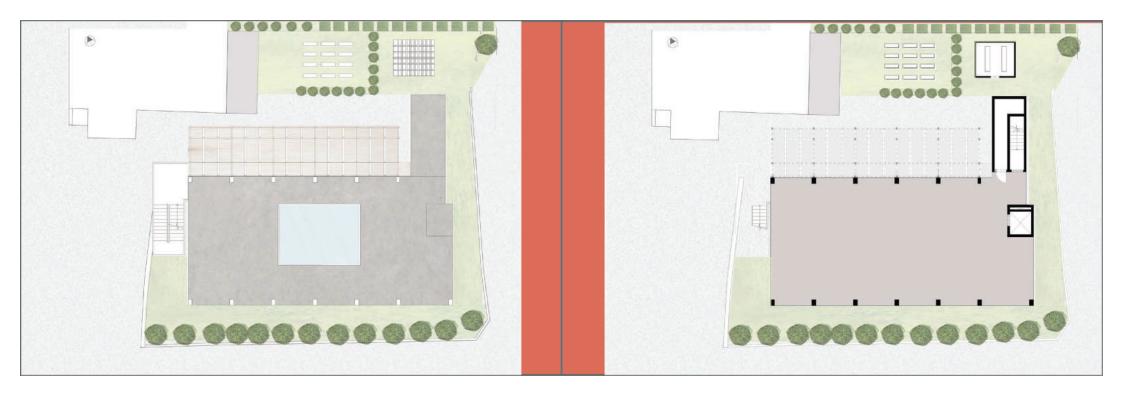


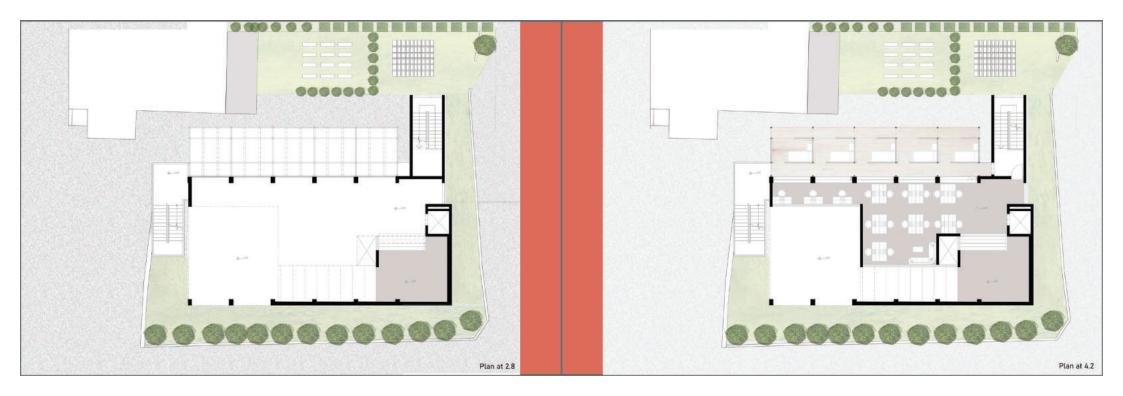




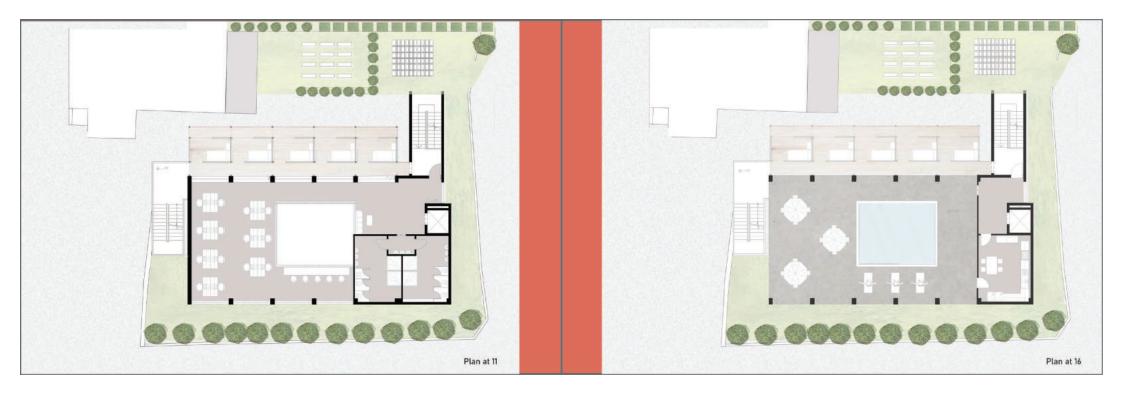


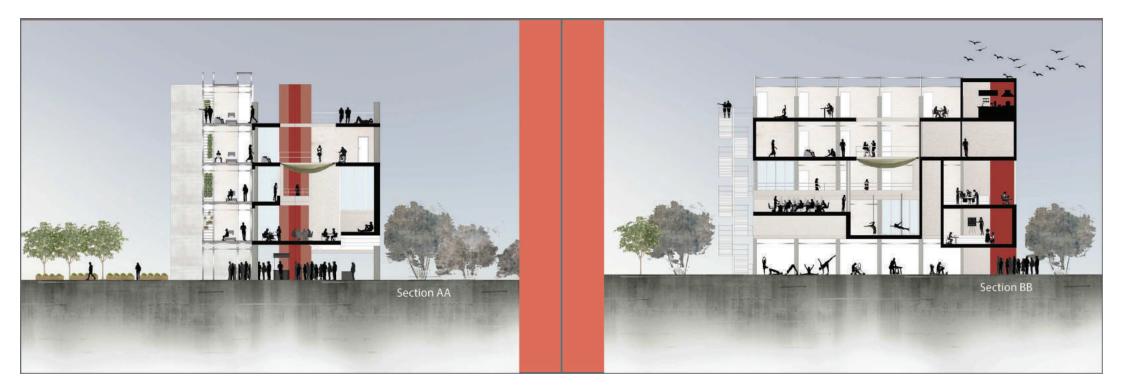


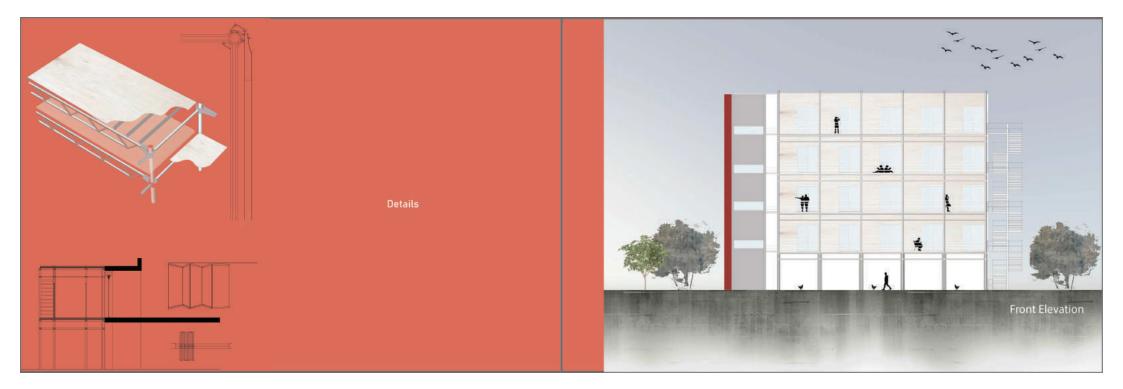








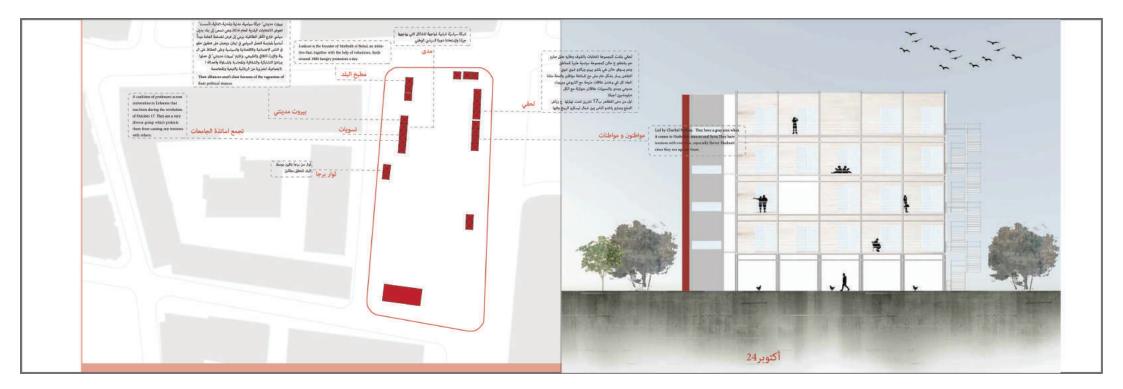


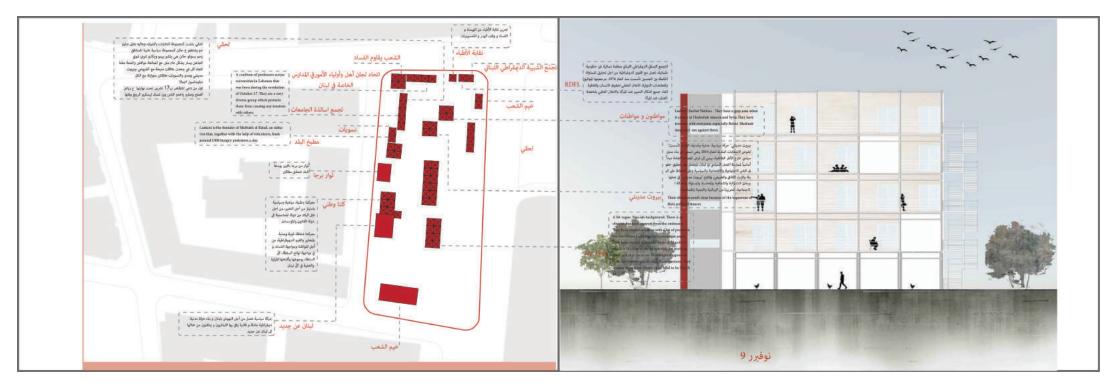


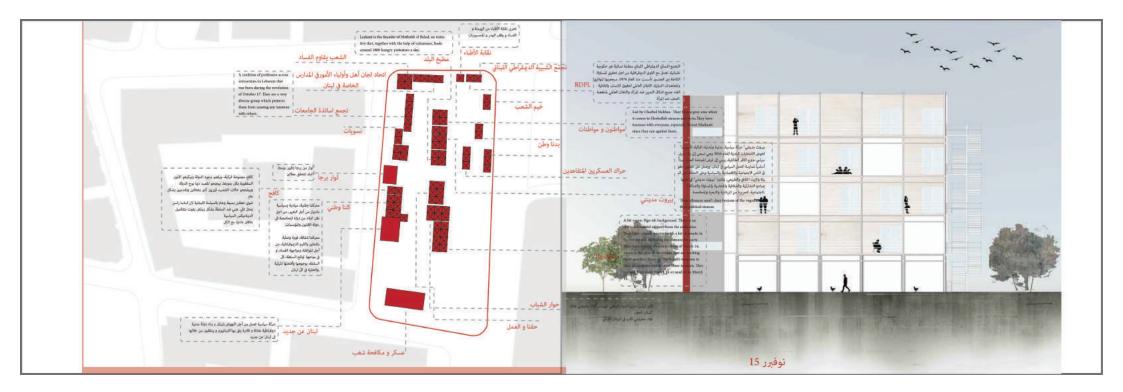
Between Azarieh and ArD

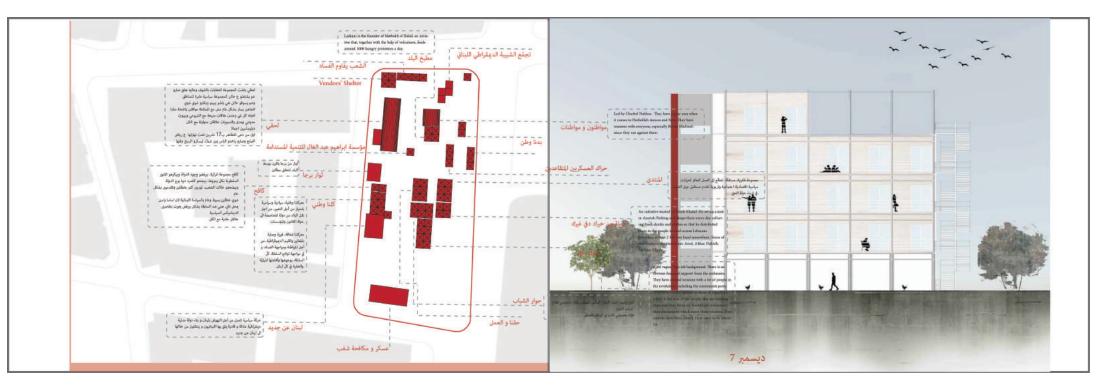
This elevation features the living units, which resembles the students' inhabitation of the department. The flexibility of space allows them to feel free, liberated, and independent.

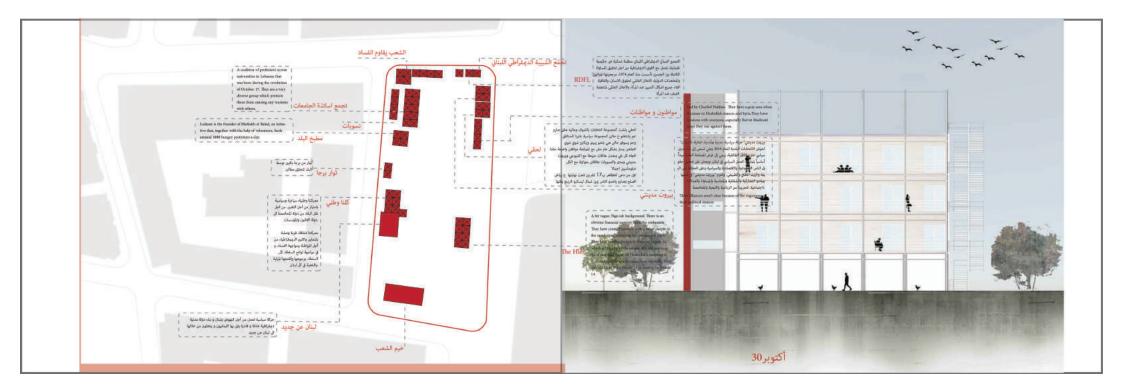
This renders instructors, jurors, faculty members and staff guests in their building, paying them visits where they own the space and its content. The structure of these units resembles the Azarieh tents during the October 17 revolution. The revolutionaries appropriated the Azarieh parking adding tents to satisfy their needs and thus taking over the space. The scaffolding allows the students to add/remove/alter as many units as they wish, which further become their appropriated homes.

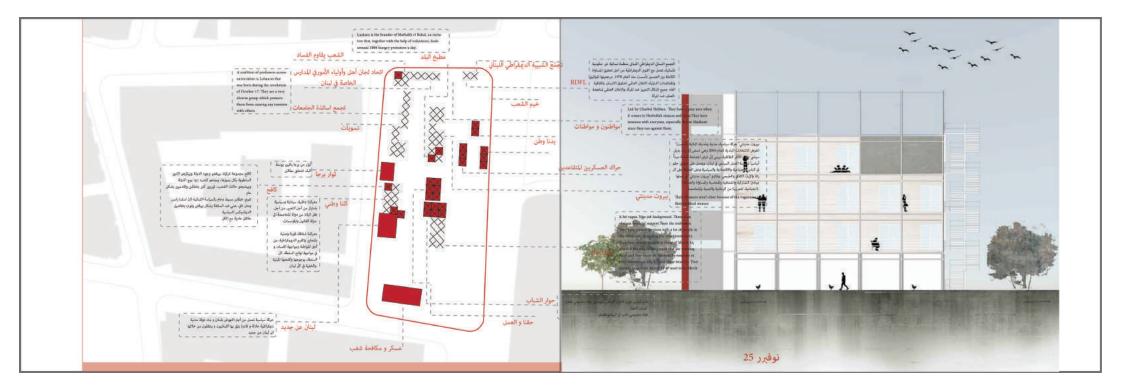


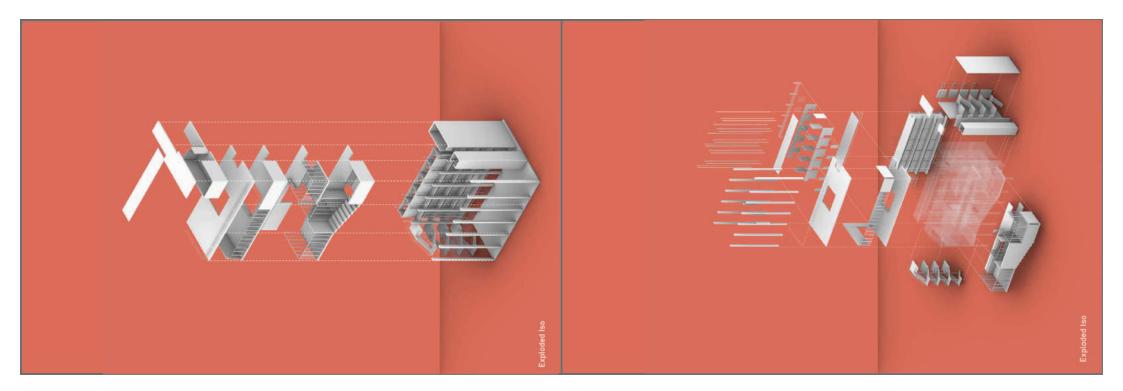














a look into the amphitheater

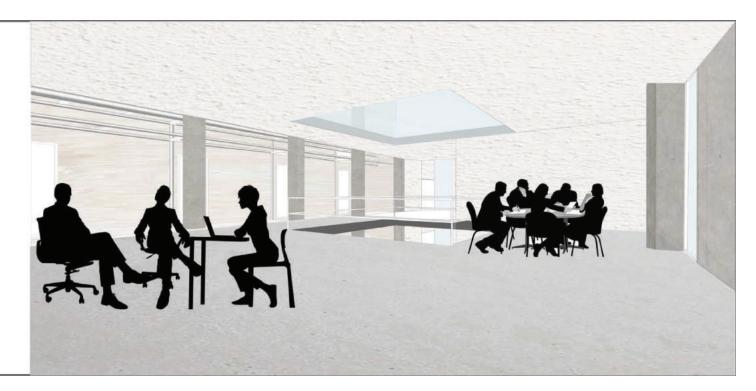
the connection between the scaffolding and the old building





the open ground floor plan with a multipurpose function

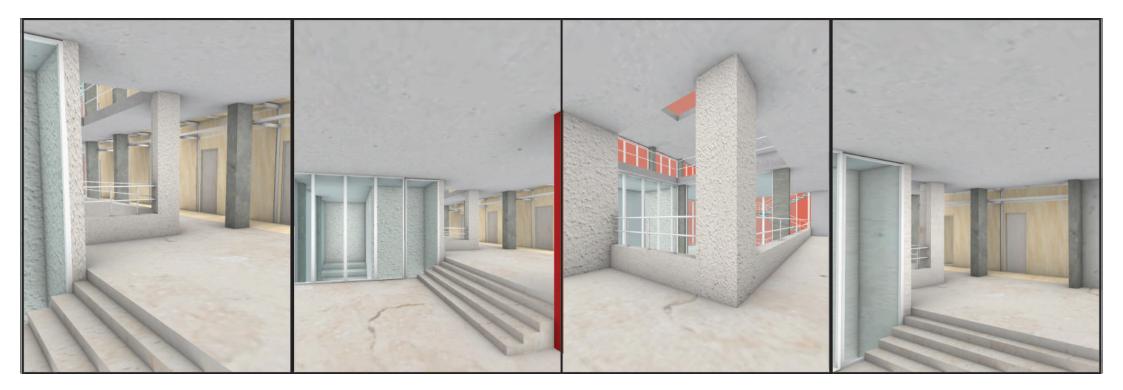


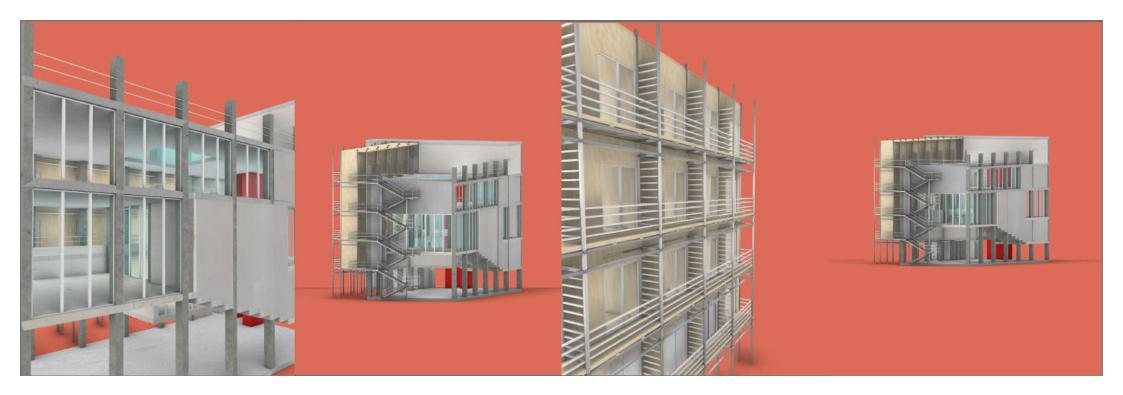




community garden showcasing how the users sutain themselves







The re-appropriation of this bldg. was done in a way to reconceptualize it by transforming it from a conventional design school to a post revolution design community, through an inductive, bottom -up process that envisions what a design educational system should entail.

a community not a school