AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

NEW CITY LIFE ARCHITECTURAL TRANSLATION FROM MAN & THE CITY

by LAURE ALI JABER

An Undergraduate Architecture Design Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree of Bachelor of Architecture
to the Department of Architecture and Design
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at the American University of Beirut

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Thesis Advisor

Date of project presentation: May 12, 2021

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my advisor Joy Kanaan who supported me and inspired me to complete my Thesis. She has been a constant source of motivation and guidance without whom this project would have been a distant reality.

NEW CITY LIFE

Architectural translation from Man and the city
-Unborder

American University of Beirut Advanced Thesis I & II/ 2020-2021

Advisor: Joy Kanaan

Laure Jaber

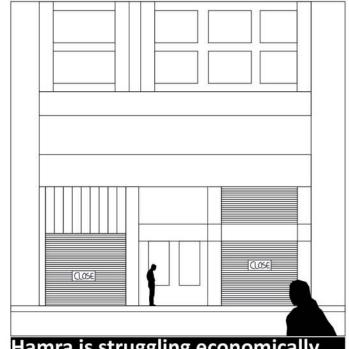
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ABSTRACT

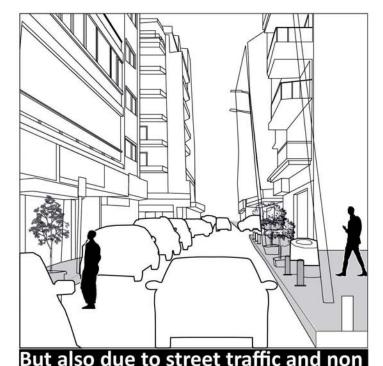
New City Life, Architectural Translation from Man & the City

After rising geo-political issues, an acute economic crisis, a blast that destroyed half of the city and the to date coronavirus pandemic, Lebanon has been victim of its worst crisis of all time. Shops are closing, people are migrating and others are cutting off their expenses. Never has anyone seen such a disaster in the capital of Lebanon, Beirut. The aim of this Thesis is to revive the culturally rich area of Hamra by proposing an experience rather than products through a new business, social and physical formula for living and consuming in the city. My thesis explores the different social, cultural, historic, economic and physical layers of Hamra while also investigating the modern popular spaces of consumption, the malls and the souks. Thus, it proposes networks synthesized from the existing layers of Hamra and the "trendy" modern spaces of consumption that people are attracted to nowadays. "Unborder", an architectural intervention that is part of the New City Life's network aiming at boosting Hamra's experience and entertainment activities to increase its economy, is the structure that this Thesis will be focusing on as an attempt to set the guidelines for the design of the rest of the network. The design of this structure was informed by the research conducted throughout the Thesis, leading to a fully porous structure that is blurred with the outdoor and its circulation systems. Finally, this Thesis proved that synthetizing the existing layers of a city with trendy spaces that people are attracted to, can lead to a fully integrated, decentralized and dynamic structure at the urban scale while catering to people's needs at the architecture, social and object scales in order to revive the different fabrics of a city.

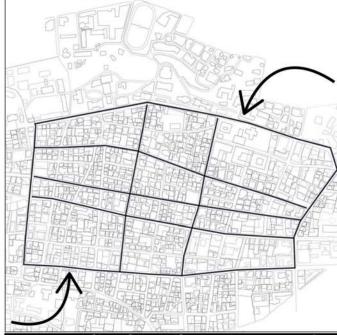
HAMRA'S REALITY



Hamra is struggling economically due to online shopping and Covid19.



suitable pedestrian experience.
Therefore, people prefer to consume
fom the comfort of the home.



Hamra relies heavily on importation and does not have a production power. Making Hamra vulnerable and dependant.



Hamra is an expensive area with area prices of 4,216\$/sqm. Leaving workshops struggling and overlooked on the outskirts of the area.

OLD RENT

Owner: Mustafa Bekdash

Workshop: Jammoul bags

Tenant name: Ammin

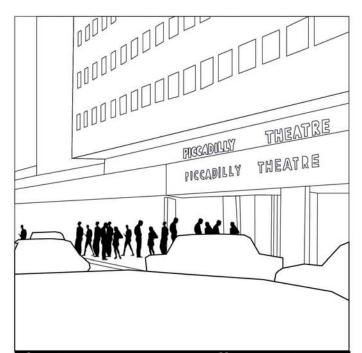
Jammoul

Price/Month: 700,000 L.L

But thanks to the old rent, workshops are able to stay there which diversifies the scope of interests in Hamra.



Hamra was always a beacon in Lebanon, known for its cafe, art and theatre cultures.



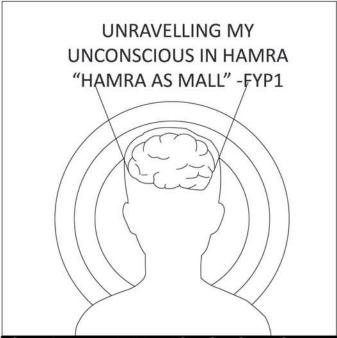
Theatres were open all over Hamra, activating the streetlife day and night.

Today, all of them are closed.

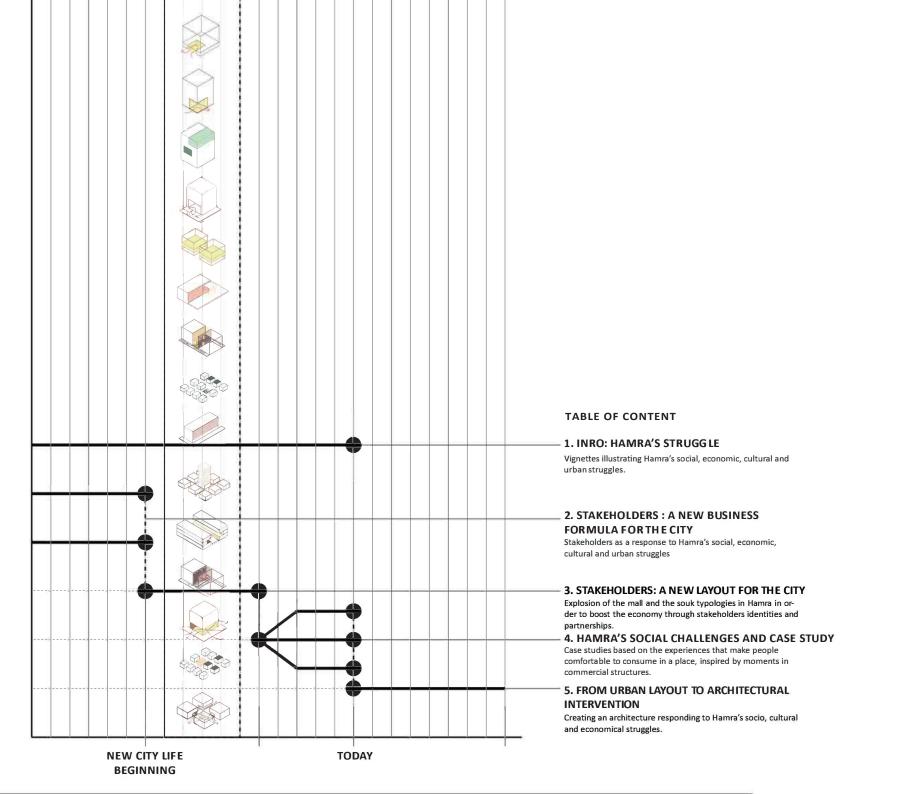
POSITION

REVIVING HAMRA BY PROPOSING AN EXPERIENCE RATHER THAN PRODUCTS.

Nowadays with Covid 19 and online shopping, physical products shopping declined tremendously. Leaving commercial structures struggling.

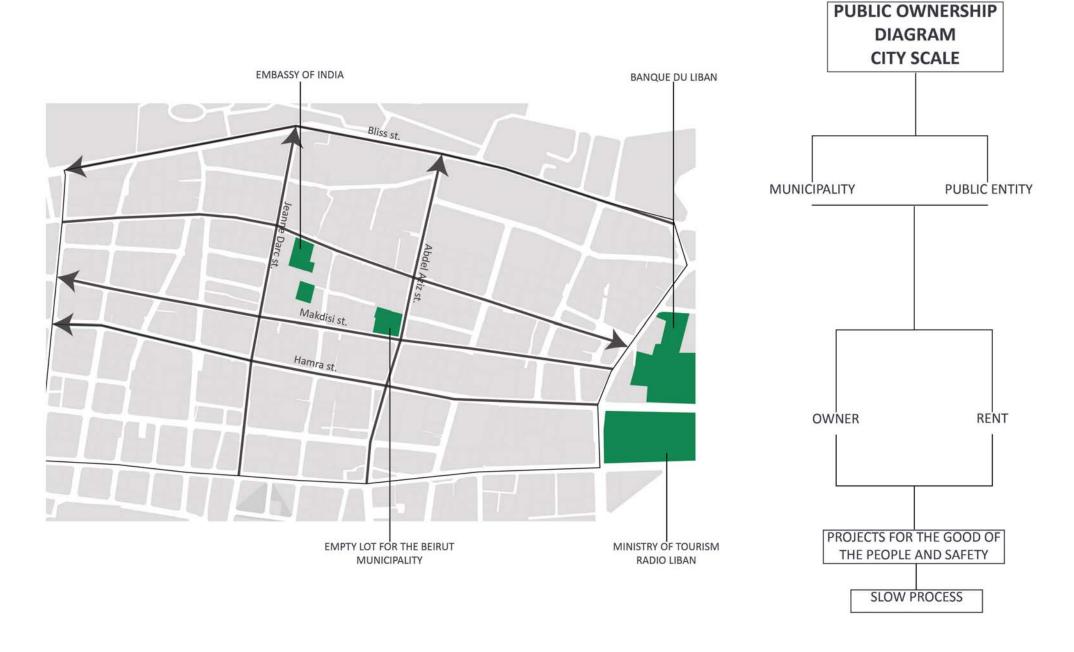


Thus in my FYP 1, I looked at the way developpers have been using strategies of consumption to make dwellers feel comfortable to consume and used them in Hamra!



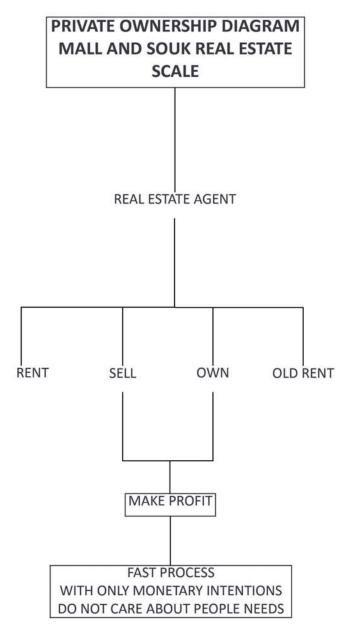
WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE?

MUNICIPALITY AS STAKEHOLDER

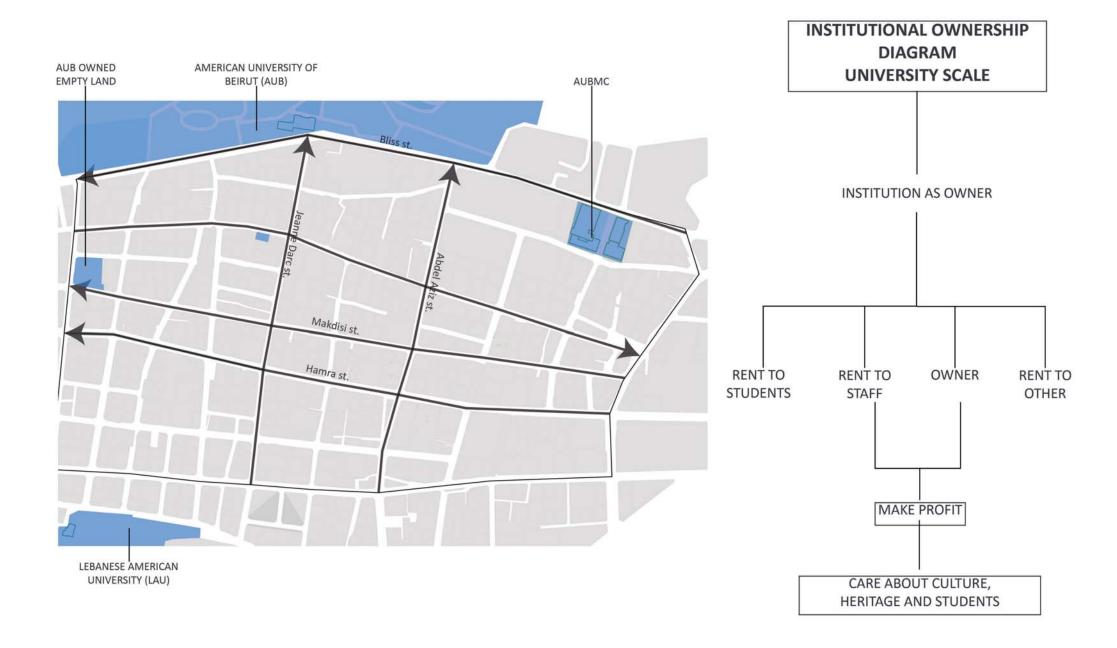


PRIVATE AS STAKEHOLDER

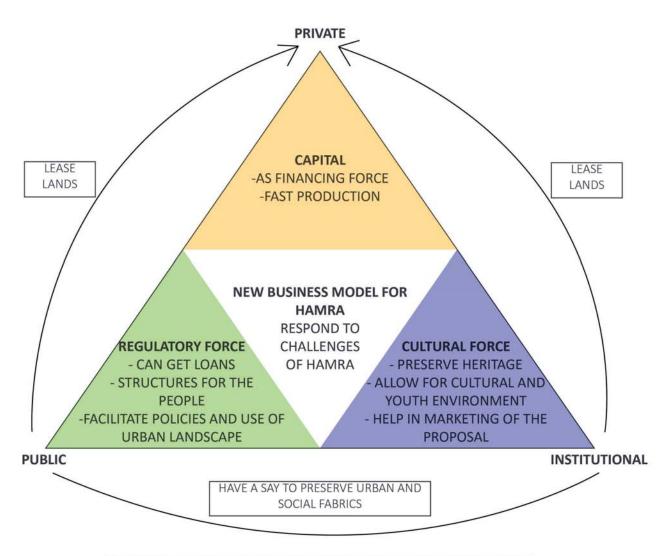




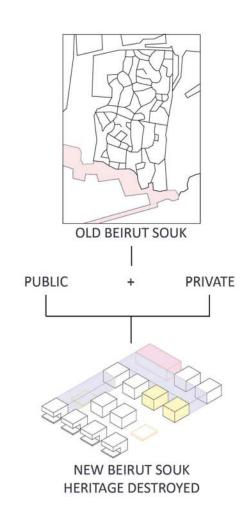
INSTITUTION AS STAKEHOLDER



NEW BUSINESS FORMULA FOR THE CITY THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE-INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS A RESPONSE TO HAMRA'S STRUGGLES



Public and Institutional forces make profit by leasing lands to the Private sector. Stakeholders own the project and use the space or rent to students, staff and business owners to make profit.



WHAT IS THE MODERN WAY TO ATTRACT PEOPLE?

HOW TO CHOOSE THE NEW CITY LIFE LAYOUT AND NETWORK?

2. STAKEHOLDERS : A NEW BUSINESS FORMULA FOR THE CITY

Stakeholders as a response to Hamra's social, economic cultural and urban struggles

3. STAKEHOLDERS: A NEW LAYOUT FOR THE CITY

Explosion of the mall and the souk typologies in Hamra in order to boost the economy through stakeholders identities and partnerships.

4. HAMRA'S SOCIAL CHALLENGES AND CASE STUDY

Case studies based on the experiences that make people comfortable to consume in a place, inspired by moments in commercial structures.

5. FROM URBAN LAYOUT TO ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION

Creating an architecture responding to Hamra's socio, cultural and economical struggles.

MY CASE STUDY TO CHOOSE THE NEW CITY LIFE'S LAYOUT IS **THE MALL AND THE SOUK** BECAUSE THESE ARE THE SPACES THAT THE MODERN MAN IS **ATTRACTED** TO. REAL ESTATE OWNERS USE **TOOLS** SUCH AS THE DIGITAL AND THE USE OF ATTRACTIVE SPACES SUCH AS CINEMAS, PLAY SPACES, FUN AND SAFE EXPERIENCES TO MAKE US GO TO THESE COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES AND TO **CONSUME**.

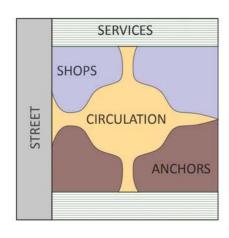
THIS IS WHY I WILL BE LOOKING AT COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES TO UNDERSTAND **HOW** I CAN **RE-ACTIVATE** THE CITY AT AN **URBAN** LEVEL.

ESTABLISHING NETWORKS IN HAMRA BASED ON THE MALL LAYOUT TO PROVIDE A COMFORTABLE CONSUMER EXPERIENCE

THE PERMANENT NETWORK

THE MALL TYPICAL **TYPOLOGY**

-> CONNECTING ZONES

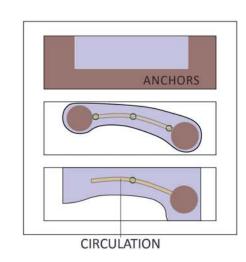


MALL PLAN DIAGRAM

Connection of main zones through a common circulation system.

HAMRA'S RESULTING **NETWORK** FROM THE MALL **EXPLOSION**

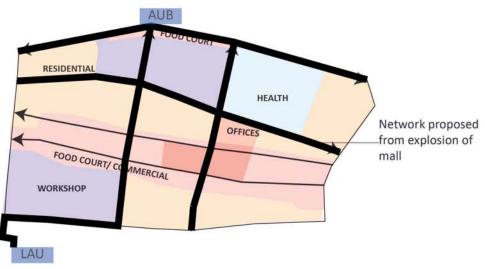
-> THE INDEPENDANT **PATH**



BEVERLY CENTER PLAN DIAGRAM CASE

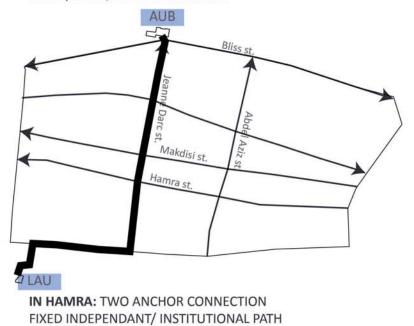
Anchors at the extreme ends that create an activated in-between space.

The structure is not related to the context therefore, is independent to the surrounding fabric.



IN HAMRA: ZONING CONNECTION

Connection of main zones in Hamra to create an independant, self-sufficient structure.



LEGEND

Parking Anchor

Historical

theatre

Private

15ublic

Ownerships

Institutional

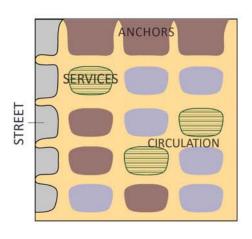
Result of the explosion of the mall in Hamra is to connect AUB and LAU which are permanent and independant powers in Hamra.

ESTABLISHING NETWORKS IN HAMRA BASED ON THE MALL LAYOUT TO PROVIDE A COMFORTABLE CONSUMER EXPERIENCE

THE ORGANIC NETWORK

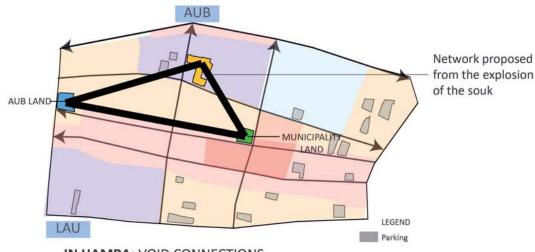
THE SOUK TYPOLOGY

-> CONNECTING VOIDS



SOUK PLAN DIAGRAM

Services and entrances located at different places and are always connected by the circulation system. The structure is contextual.

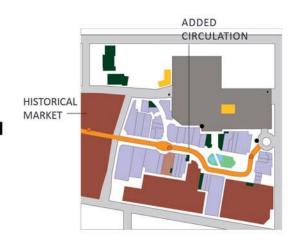


IN HAMRA: VOID CONNECTIONS

Connection of the largest voids connecting Hamra's different zones together along the main streets and belonging to the selected stakeholders.

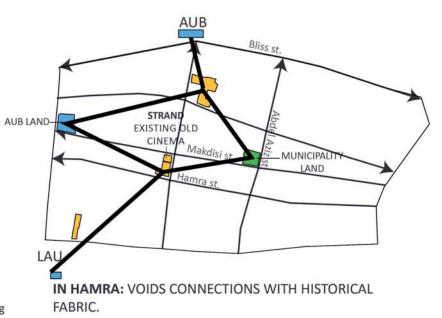
HAMRA'S RESULTING NETWORK FROM THE SOUK

->THE ORGANIC PATH



THE GROVE PLAN DIAGRAM CASE

The souk typology is integrated with the existing urban and historical fabrics.



Connecting AUB and LAU with new type of infrastructures and historic elements such as the Strand building.

The resulting structure becomes complementary to the existing fabric.



SOCIAL STRUGGLES

1. INRO: HAMRA'S STRUGGLE

Vignettes Illustrating Hamra's social, economic, cultural and

2. STAKEHOLDERS: A NEW BUSINESS FORMULA FOR THE CITY

Stakeholders as a response to Hamra's social, economic,

3. STAKEHOLDERS: A NEW LAYOUT FOR THE CITY

Explosion of the mall and the souk typologies in Hamra in order to boost the economy through stakeholders identities and

4. HAMRA'S SOCIAL CHALLENGES AND CASE STUDY

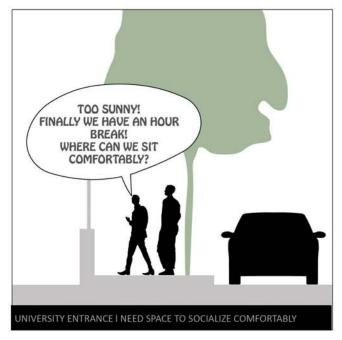
Case studies based on the experiences that make people comfortable to consume in a place, inspired by moments in commercial structures.

5. FROM URBAN LAYOUT TO ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION

and economical struggles.

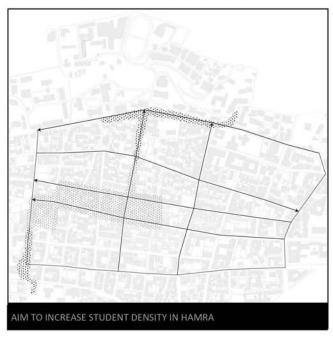
TODAY

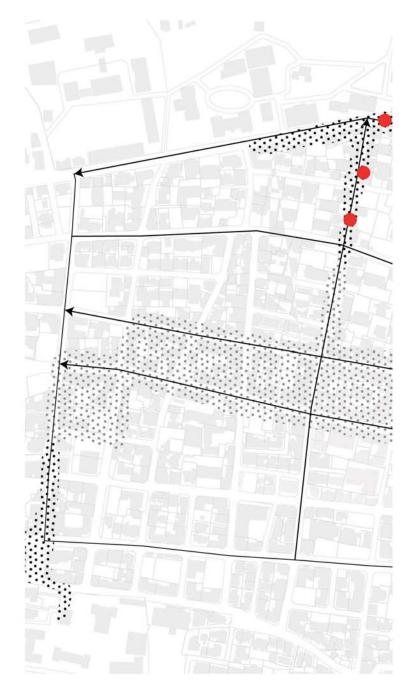
STUDENT EXISTING EXPERIENCES IN HAMRA I IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEMS



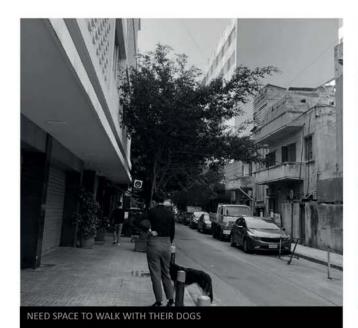




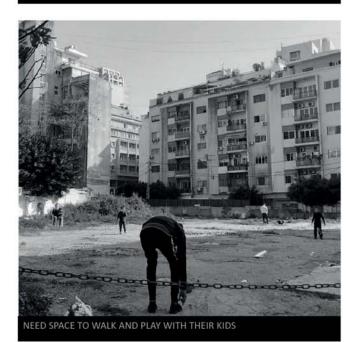




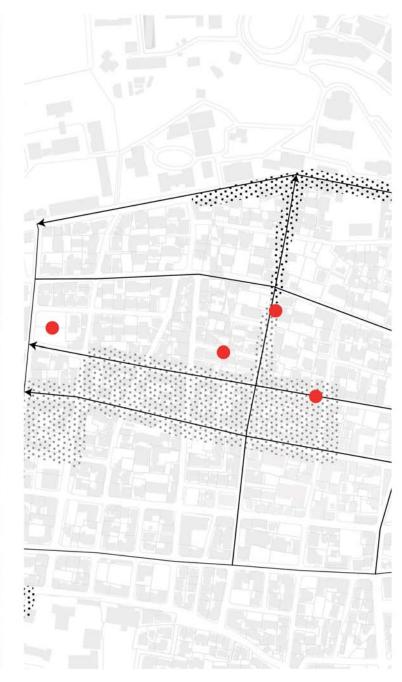
RESIDENTS EXISTING EXPERIENCES IN HAMRA I IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEMS



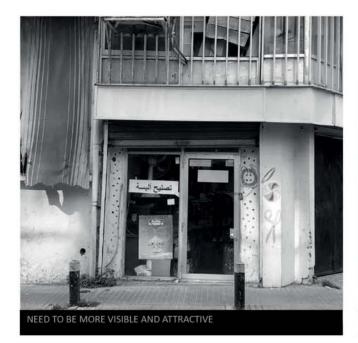




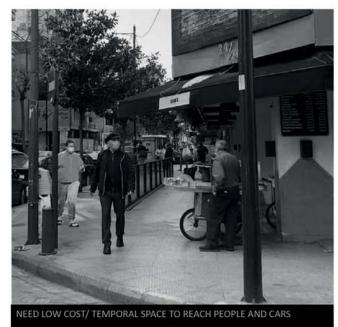




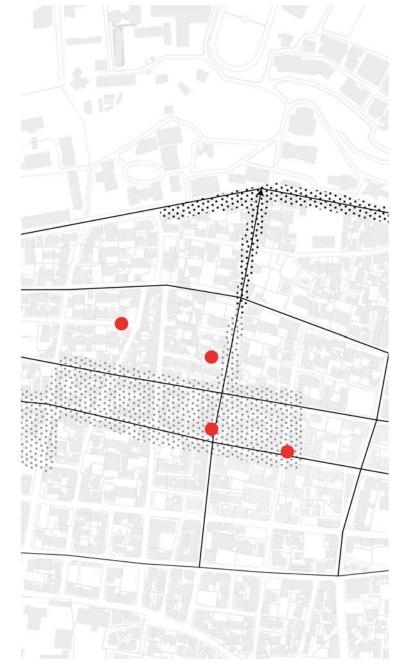
EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE EXISTING EXPERIENCES IN HAMRA I IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEMS





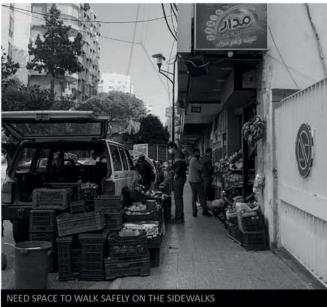






VISITORS EXISTING EXPERIENCES IN HAMRA I IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEMS











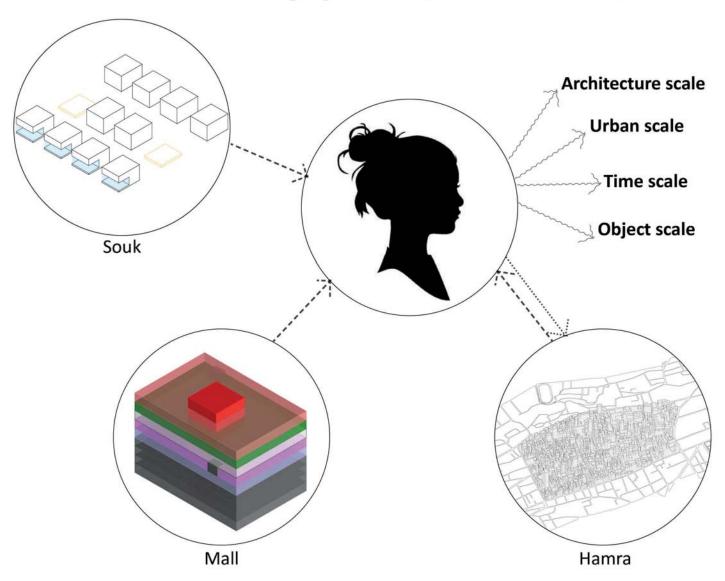
CASE STUDY

Based on the experiences that make people comfortable to consume in a place, inspired by moments in commercial structures.

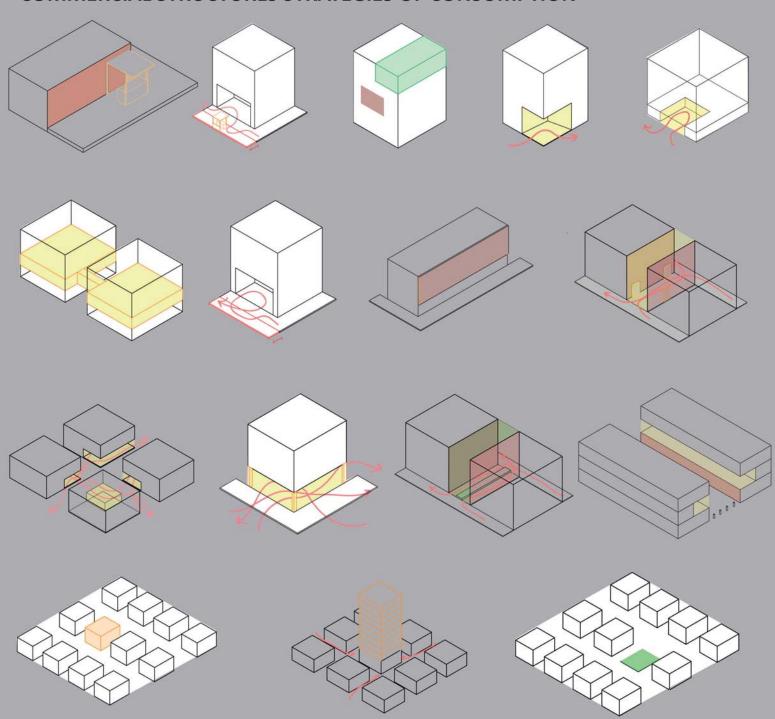
Aim is to extract typologies that boost consumer behavior in a space.

Developpers have been using strategies to make people feel comfortable to consume in a space. LET'S USE THEM IN HAMRA!

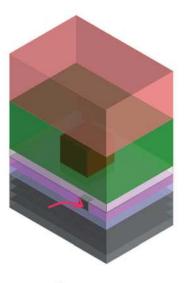
Unravelling my unconscious in Hamra's streets



COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES STRATEGIES OF CONSUMPTION



ARCHITECTURE SCALE



ABC VERDUN / Main attractors on last floors

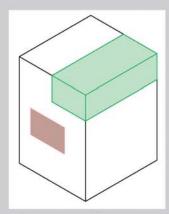
Vertical strategy to expose dwellers to all types of shops before getting to their destination through the escalators.



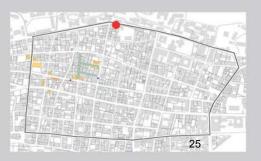




Vertical-Horizontal dialogue, visual attraction at Hamra's boundaries Activation of abandonned buildings



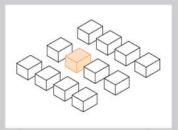
Vetical-Horizontal interaction Upper floors activation







Abandonned area
The area needed an attractive activity
I added a cinema in an abandonned building that interacts with the street level



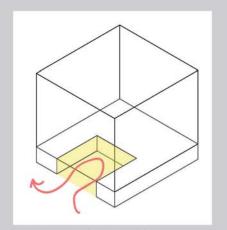
Anchor of attraction in abandonned area
Vetical-Horizontal interaction
Attractive anchor, generating flow



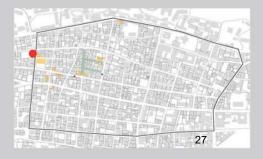




Inside interacting with the outside
Inviting people to go in
Complementary activity to the cinema

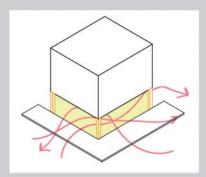


Indoor-Outdoor fluid flow

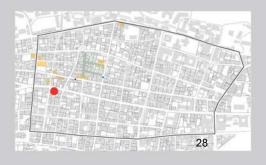


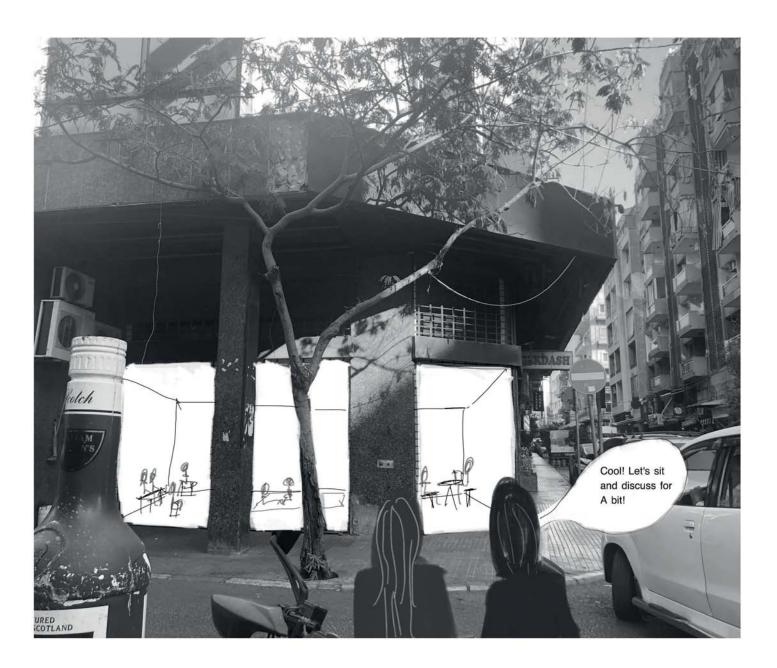






Fluid flow indoor-outdoor
Openning and activating corner ground floors to create a fluid flow of people inside-out.

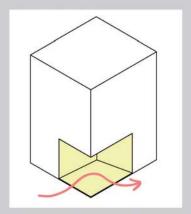




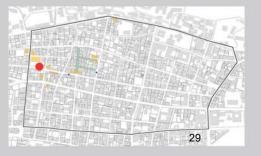


While walking I felt the need to have a shaded sitting, socialising area. Like in the malls.

Adapting closed stores to be open socializing areas would be a great step to attract passers to sit and spend time in Hamra without feeling pressured to order something.



Indoor-Outdoor fluid flow Sheltered socialisation spaces

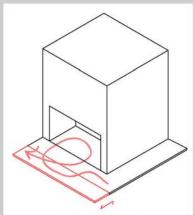




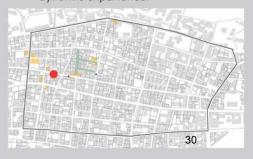


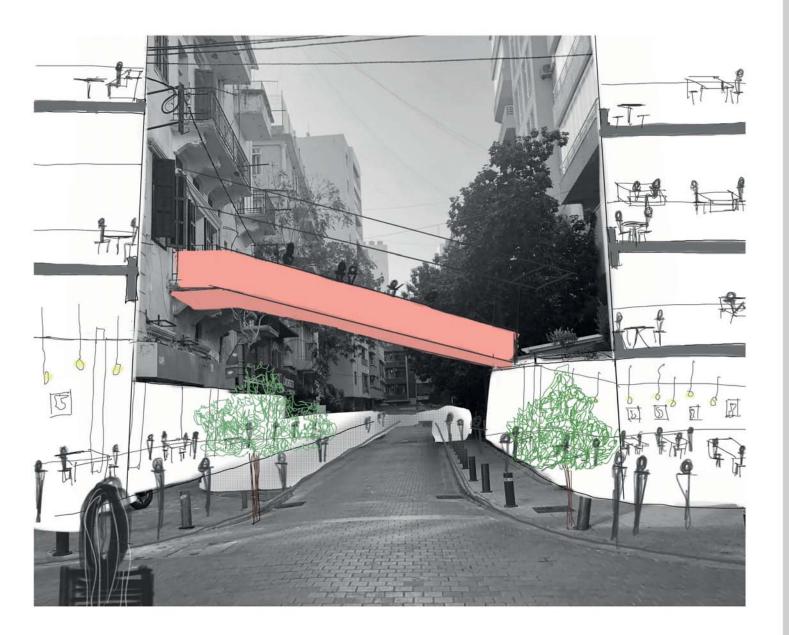
Clostrophobic experience. I found myself walking so fast in this area of Hamra on Makdisi street due to the visual and physical chaos that was happening all over the street.

I decided to remove all the cars parked in Makdissi street and to extend the sidewalk. I added to this extension sitting areas for people to feel more comfortable to stop in front of shops and to sit while enjoying the music from the bars.

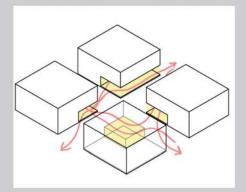


Car parked removal, extension of sidewalk and bars for a more comfortable experience and dynamic experience.

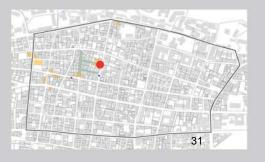








Indoor-Outdoor fluid flow by taking the street to the Ground floor of the buildings. Leading one from one street to another in intersections.

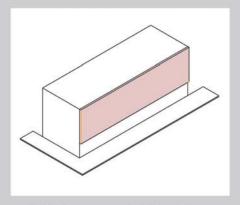




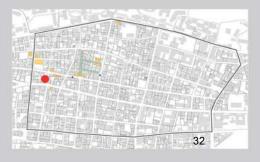


In Hamra main street, all the Ground floors should be activated and specially those leading to the other streets of Hamra.

Activating the corners and using interactive facades as a way to drive people in.



Activating corners by interactive facades as a visual attraction.
Vertical-Horizontal interaction.



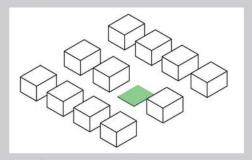




This area needed an open park to sit and walk in a safe and green environment.

To forget the traffic of the city, walk a dog or interact with friends.

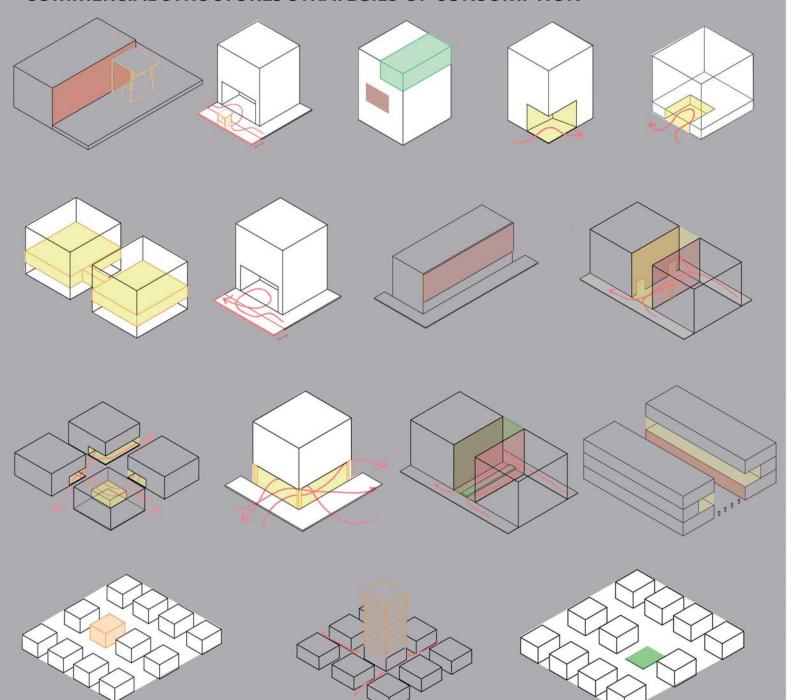
Here, we can bring back the parking on the underground and have a park on the street level.



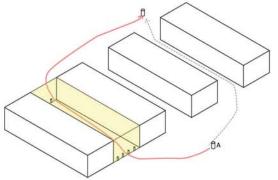
Green space addition as new feature in Hamra.



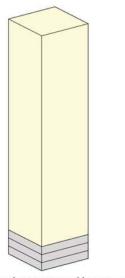
COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES STRATEGIES OF CONSUMPTION



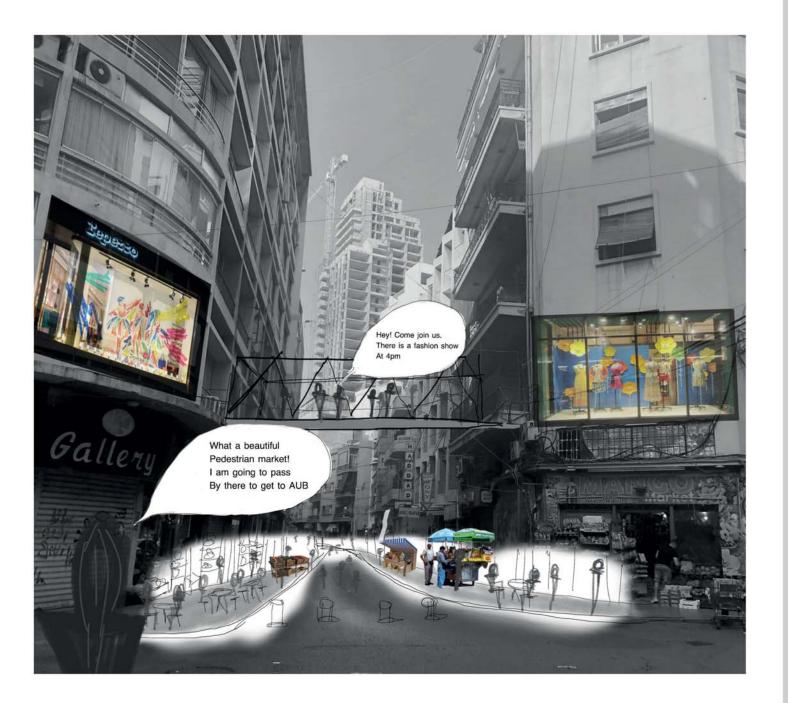
URBAN SCALE



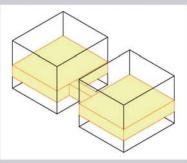
Paris Arcades, activated shortcuts Horizontal infrastructure



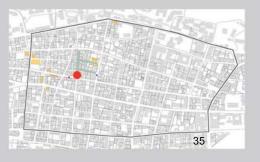
Beacon, visual attractor and low cost structure Vertical infrastructure



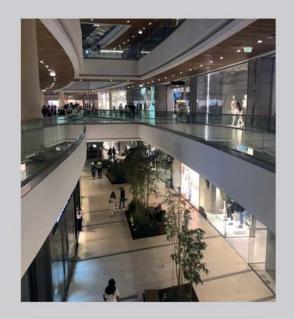


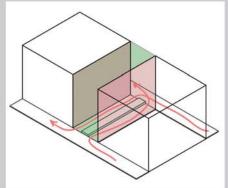


Choice of mood, activated path
Closing off street, creation of open
market on street level and adaptive
reuse and connectivity of first floors to
activate the vertical plane and visual
attraction.







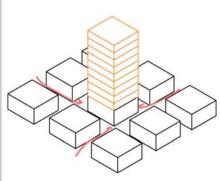


Choice of mood, calm paths
Closing street, generating flow
by adding green elements and
socializing areas in the middle of
the shopping street.





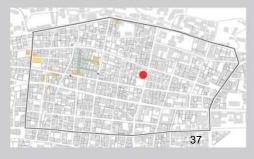




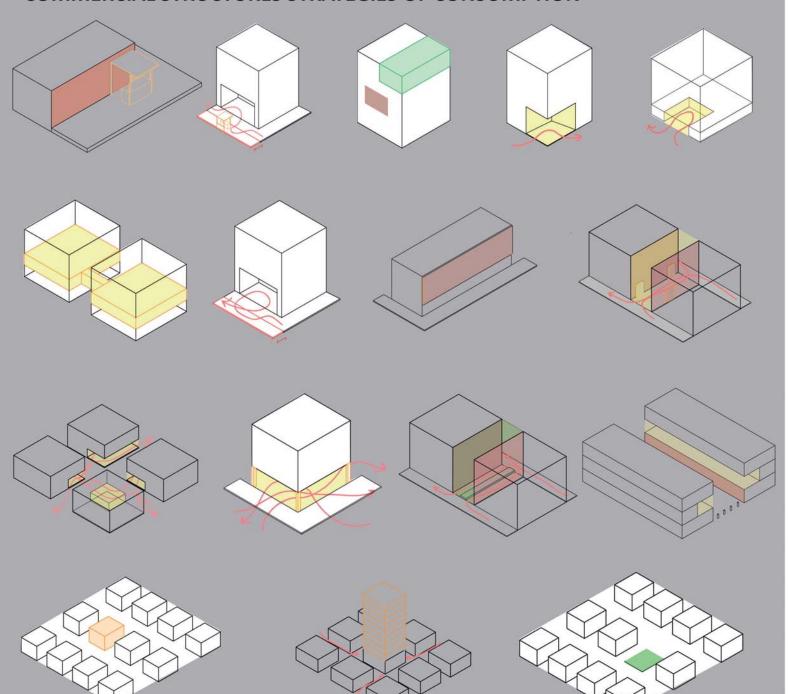
Centralisation, all activities meet in one low cost mixed used tower.

Creating a beacon and a visual attraction in Hamra.

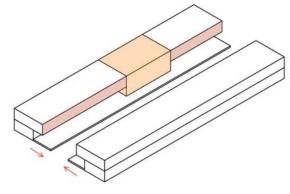
And most importantly, a potential to low cost housing in order to attract people from all background and bring a new clientele to the streets.



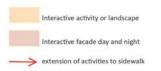
COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES STRATEGIES OF CONSUMPTION

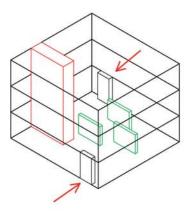


TIME SCALE

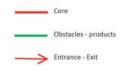


Las Vegas strip, interactive facades and activities, time is limitless





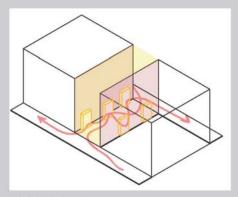
Closed commercial structure Strategy to stay in the box.





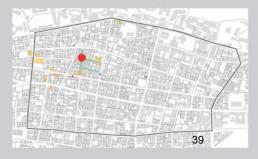


This street had bit of shops, no pedestrian flow and no car flow. I decided to close it and activate it by making it fully pedestrian, adding interactive facades and attractive activities for the young generation. I wanted to activate the space in between the shops to create a flow of people by adding sitting areas to interact with friends or read a book.



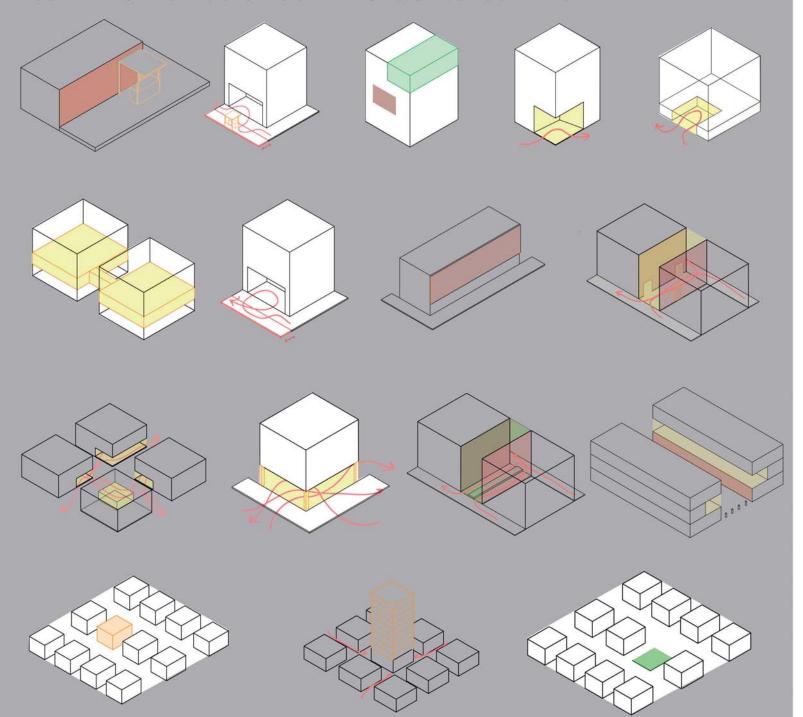
Obstacles to stay

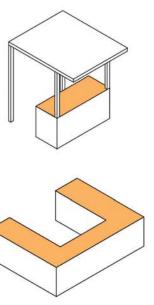
Closing street, generating flow by adding green elements and socializing areas in the middle of the shopping street.



COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES STRATEGIES OF CONSUMPTION

OBJECT SCALE



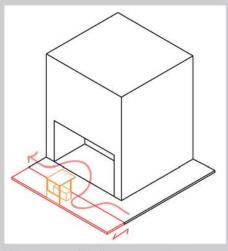


Stands extending to the pathways, interaction with dwellers.



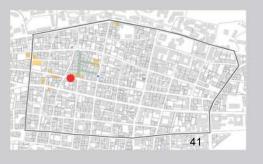






Drive-thru and take-away options through open stands for Covid19 precaution

Car parked removal and extension of sidewalk for a more comfortable



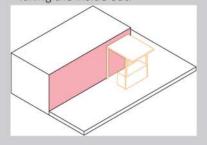




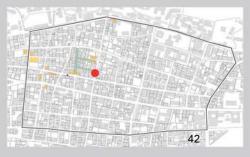
In this area, I felt that the shopping experience was too limited to the inside of the shops and there was not a lot of interaction with the street level other than visually.

I decided to get inspired by the stands scattered all over the mall. These creates a dynamic and more interaction in the street level.

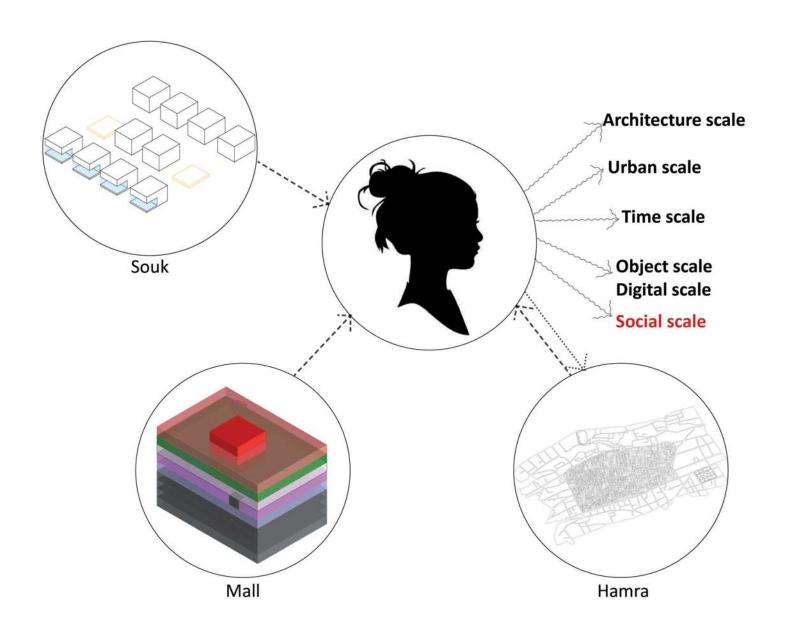
Taking the inside out.



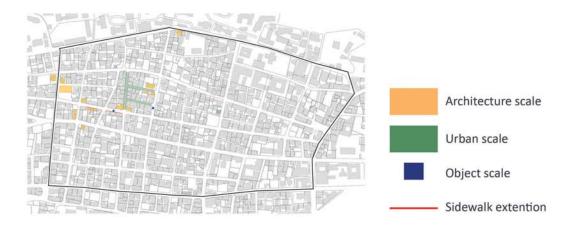
Addition of stands on the street level for more interaction with dwellers.



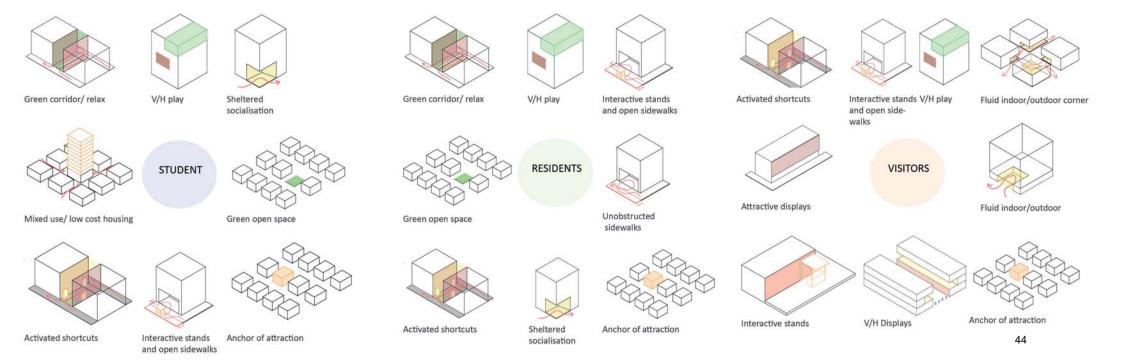
How to create a dialogue between the mall, the souk and Hamra?



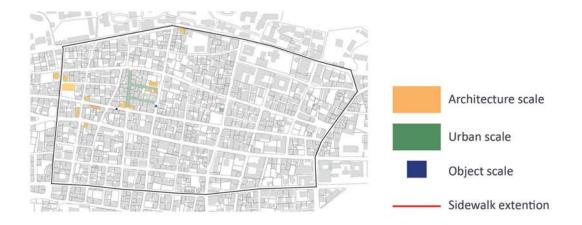
EXTRACTION OF CONSUMER IDENTITY IN HAMRA AND TYPOLOGIES THAT MAKE THEM FEEL COMFORTABLE TO CONSUME.



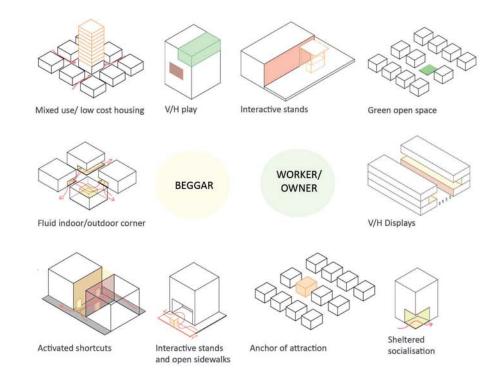
DEDUCTION OF 3 TYPES OF USERS THAT HAVE DIFFERENT AND SIMILAR SPATIAL PREFERENCES



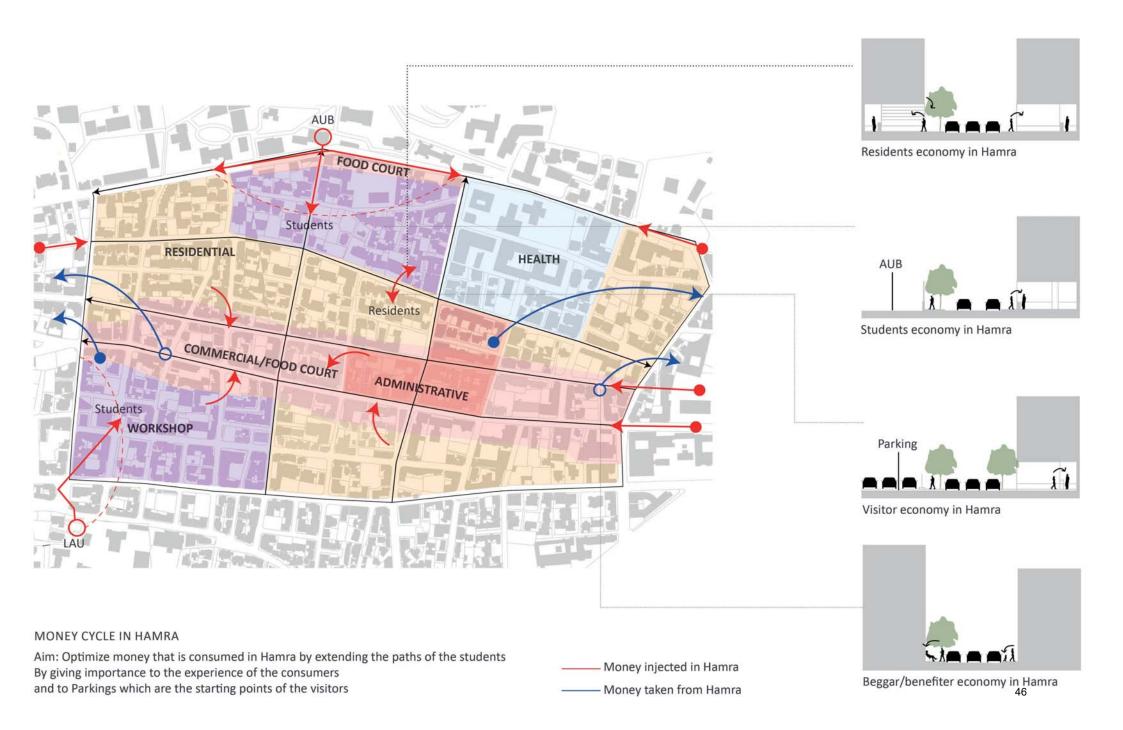
EXTRACTION OF BENEFITER IDENTITY IN HAMRA AND TYPOLOGIES THAT INCREASE THEIR PROFIT



BENNEFITER SPACIAL TYPOLOGIES THAT INCREASE THEIR PROFITABILITY DUE TO PEOPLE ATTRACTION



HAMRA'S EXISTING MONEY CYCLE - CONSUMER/BENEFITER INTERACTION



WHAT IS THE MAIN FEATURE TO HIGHLIGHT IN THE NEW CITY?

1. INRO: HAMRA'S STRUGGLE

Vignettes Illustrating Hamra's social, economic, cultural and urban struggles.

2. STAKEHOLDERS : A NEW BUSINESS FORMULA FOR THE CITY

Stakeholders as a response to Hamra's social, economic, cultural and urban struggles

3. STAKEHOLDERS: A NEW LAYOUT FOR THE CITY

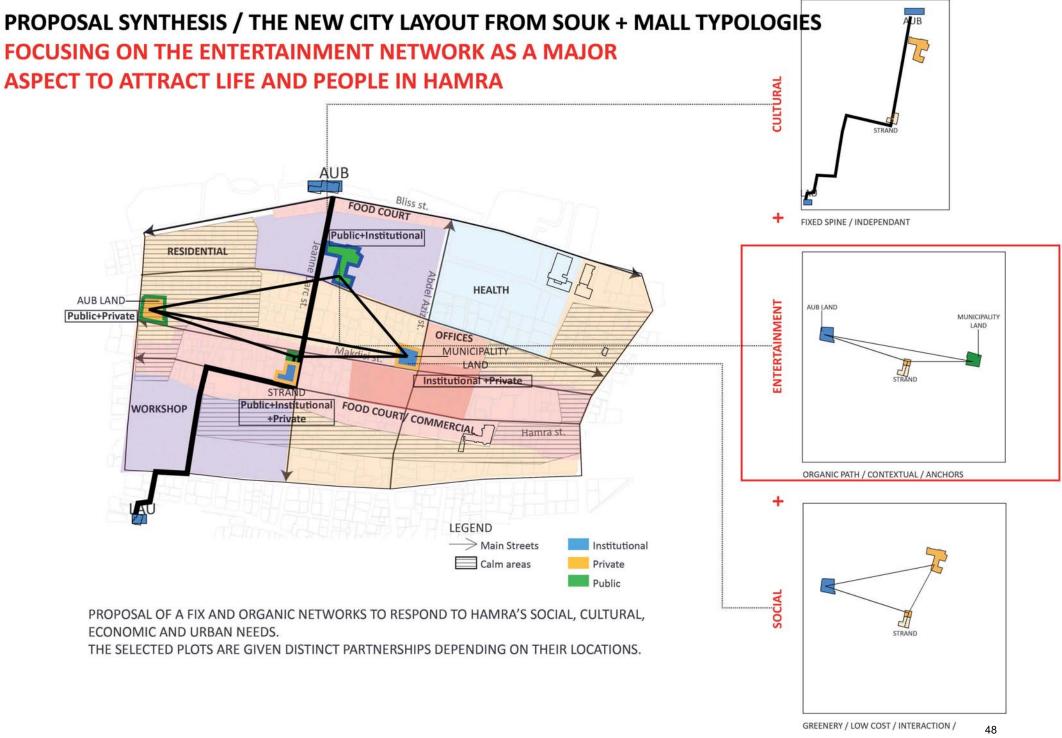
Explosion of the mall and the souk typologies in Hamra in order to boost the economy through stakeholders identities and partnerships.

4. HAMRA'S SOCIAL CHALLENGES AND CASE STUDY

Case studies based on the experiences that make people comfortable to consume in a place, inspired by moments in commercial structures.

5. FROM URBAN LAYOUT TO ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION

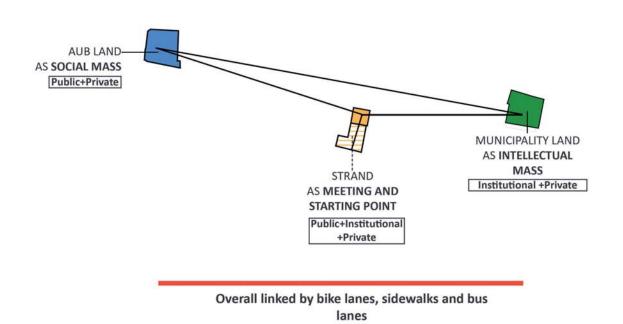
Creating an architecture responding to Hamra's socio, cultural and economical struggles.



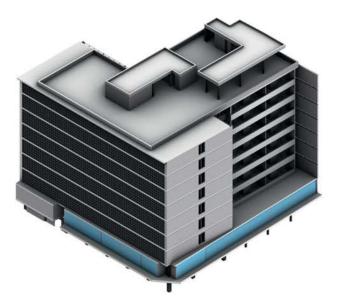
PARTNERSHIPS IDENTITY OF PATH

THE ARTERY PROPOSAL CREATING AN EXPERIENCE OF ENTERTAINMENT AS MAIN ATTRACTION IN HAMRA

THE CHOSEN ARTERY: AUB LAND-STRAND-MUNICIPALITY LAND



THE STRAND / POTENTIAL ADAPTIVE REUSE



- Built in the 1960s
- Privately owned building

History and Programs

The Strand is a building situated in the intersection between Jeanne D'Arc Street and Hamra Street. Its significance comes from its initial function as an entertainment center that had a cinema on the underground, cafes and an open courtyard linking the two Hamra streets on the Ground floor, commercial activities on the first Level, an office block and a residential block topping that.

Architecture

The Strand has also an architectural significance since its courtyard opens to the streets of Jeanne Darc and Hamra, allowing the building to be fully integrated in the urban fabric of the city.

Moreover, the Strand building is also famous for its Aluminum facade that allows to filter the southern direct sun rays into the building without overheating and disturbing vision.

THE STRAND / 21_04_01



Open courtyard linking Hamra with Jeanne Darc streets

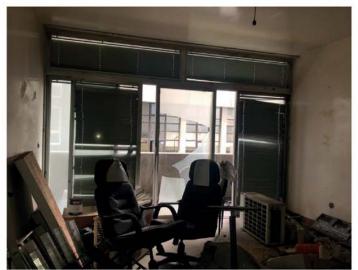


Office and residential blocks





First floor as glazed commercial street



Abandonned residential block



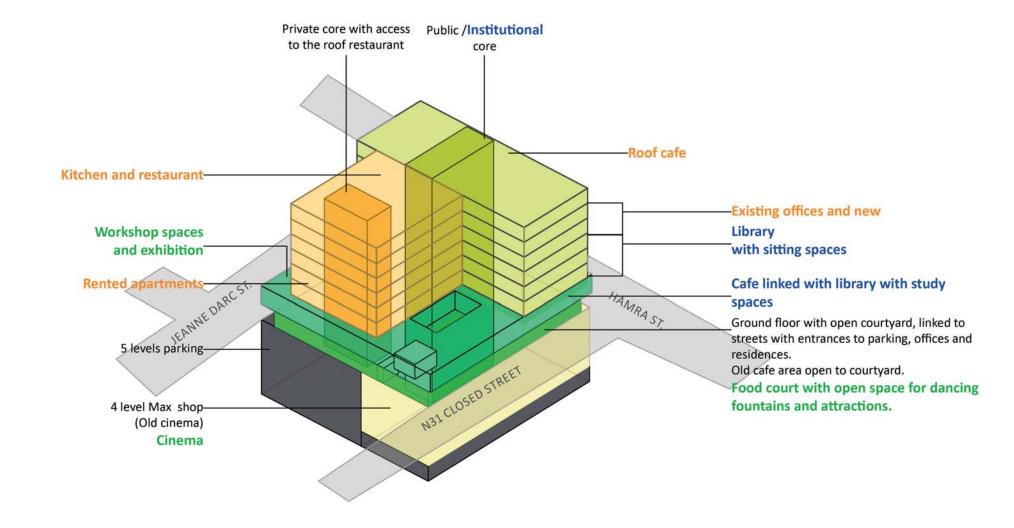
Closed street on the West side of the Strand

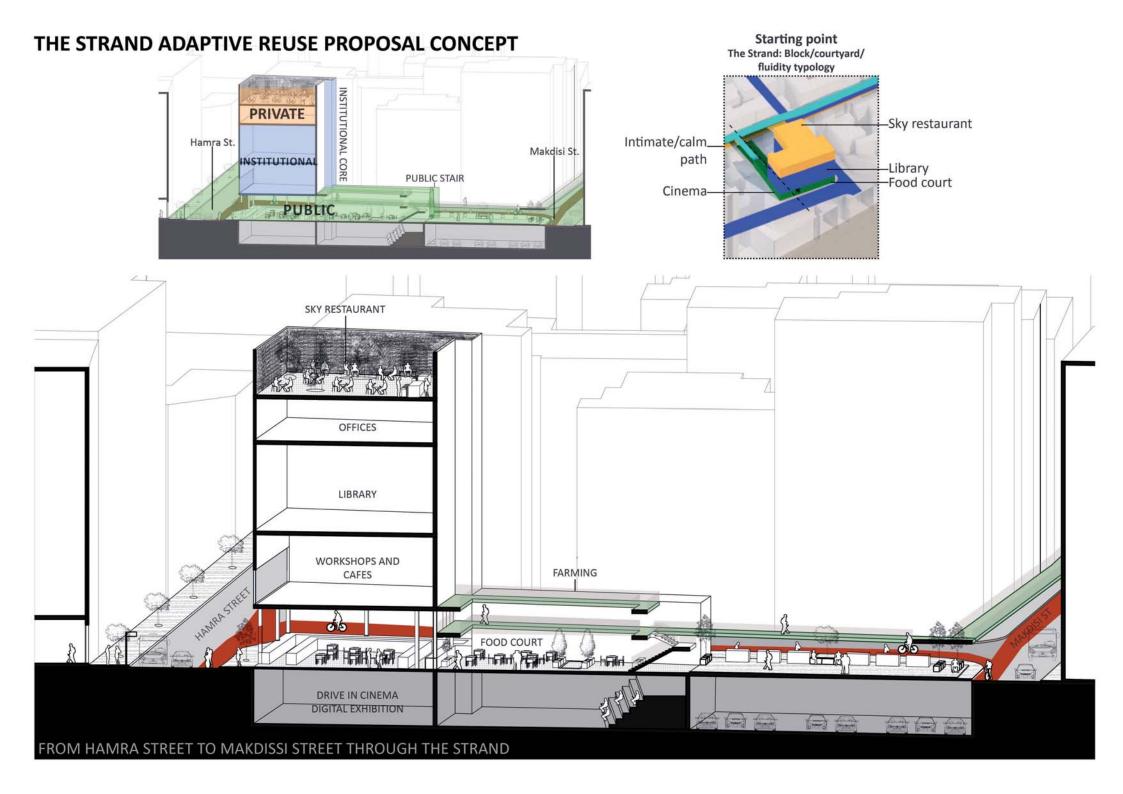
THE STRAND / 21_04_01 PROGRAMS



PROGRAMS PROPOSAL PROGRAMS EXISTING 52

THE STRAND / ADAPTIVE REUSE / 21_04_01 A PUBLIC-PRIVATE-INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY





THE ARTERY PROPOSAL CREATING AN EXPERIENCE OF ENTERTAINMENT AS MAIN ATTRACTION IN HAMRA

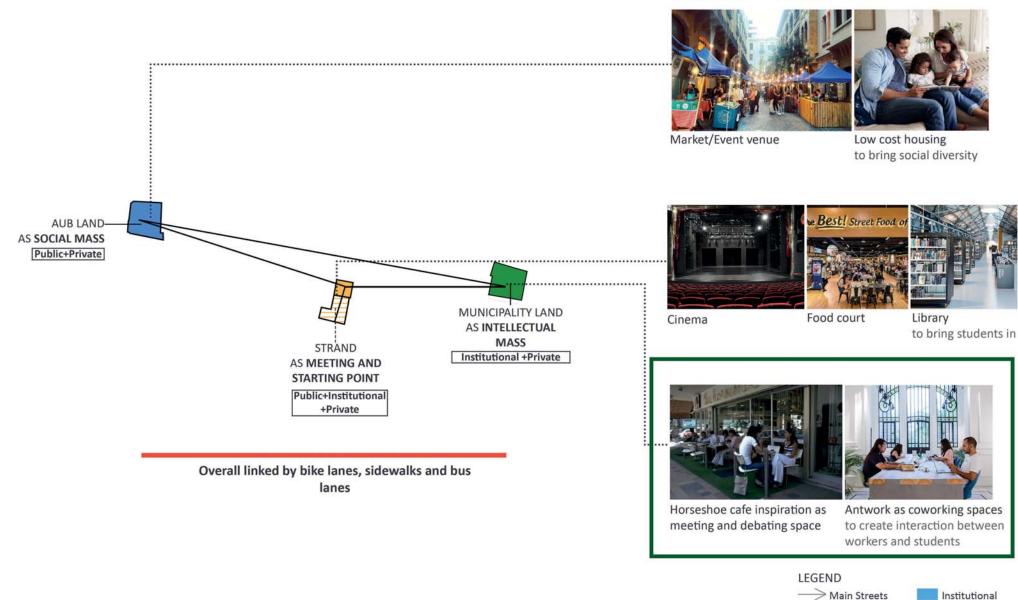
THE ARTERY PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION

PROPOSED ANCHORS

Calm areas

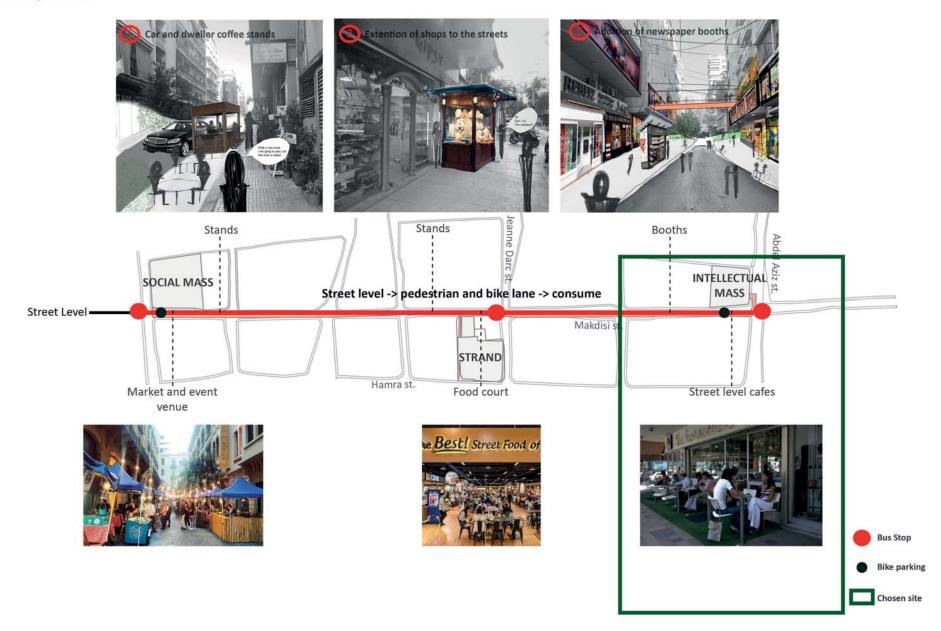
Chosen site

Private



PROPOSED ANCHORS OF ATTRACTION IN THE ARTERY ON THE STREET LEVEL, BLURRING THE LINE BETWEEN THE STREET AND THE BUILDING

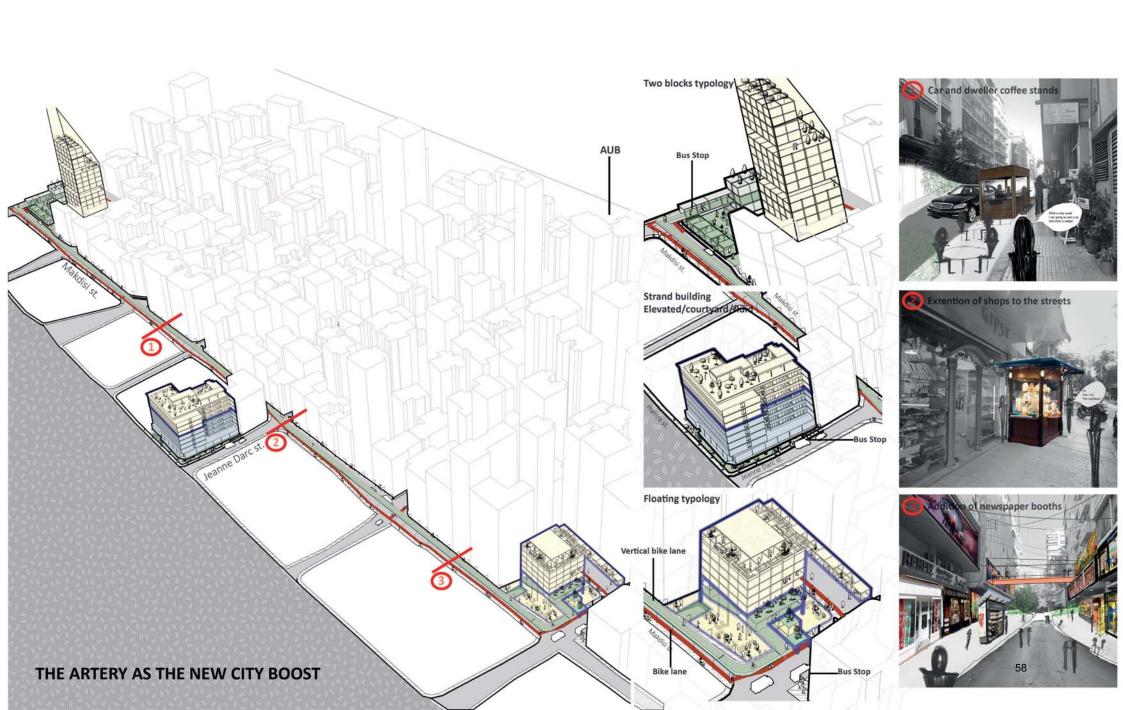
Horizontal plane



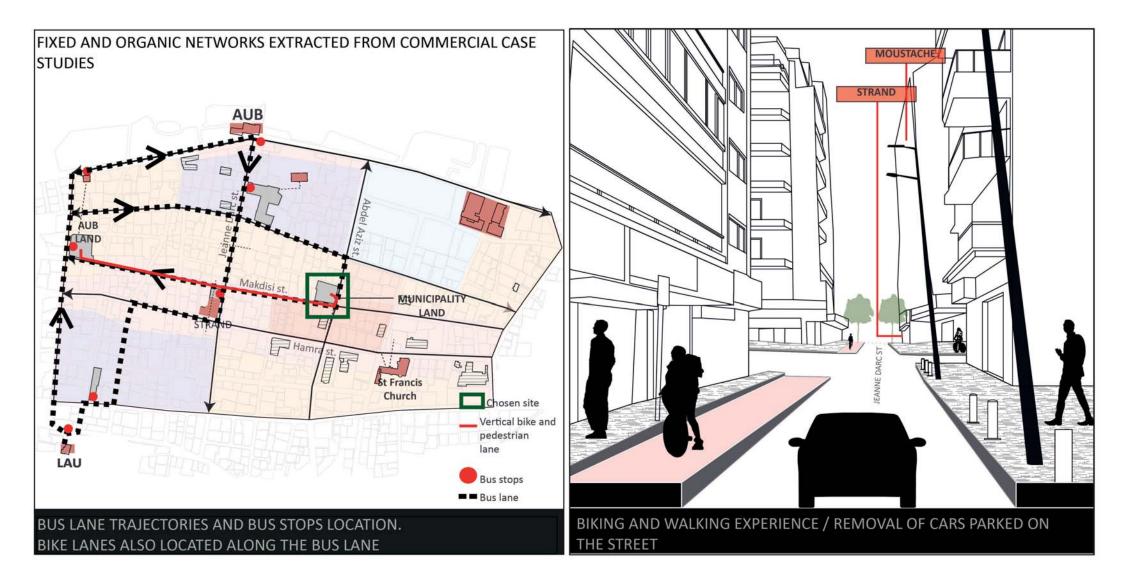
PROPOSED LEVELS IN THE ARTERY, TAKING THE PUBLIC AND ENTERTAINMENTS IN THE STRUCTURES

Vertical plane Workshop & Social space & bike Green social Cafe parking space Upper Level examples Jeanne Darc st Abdel Aziz si SOCIAL MASS Street level -> pedestrian and bike lane -> consume MASS Street Level Makdisi : STRAND Hamra st. Underground pedestrian access -> privacy/seclusion **Underground Level** Market extention Piazza & Cinema Cafes

Chosen site

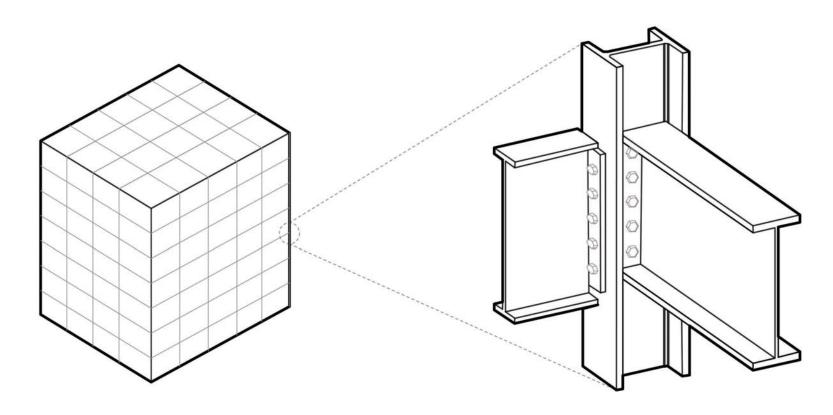


SYNTHESIS OF NEW WAYS OF COMMUTING IN HAMRA BY ADDING BIKES AND BUSES TO LESSEN THE USE OF CARS AND ALLOW FOR A SAFER PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE



HOW DOES THE NEW CITY LIFE TRANSLATES ARCHITECTURALLY ON THE CHOSEN SITE

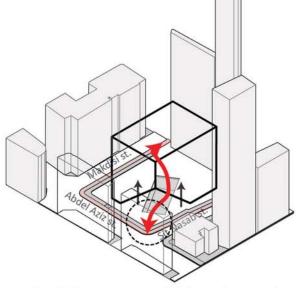
MASSING - STRUCTURE



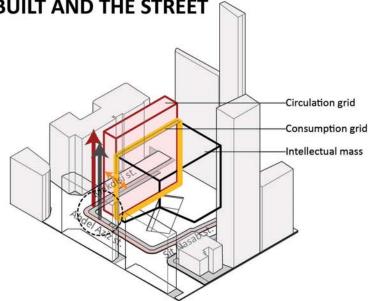
Grid structure in case of a change in partnerships
Flexible architecture

Steel columns and beams Columns: 320 HEA (300X320mm) Beams: IPE 360 (360X170mm)

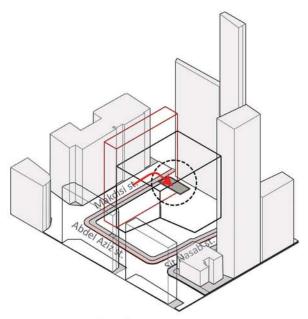
MASSING - VOLUMES - BLURRING THE LINE BETWEEN THE BUILT AND THE STREET



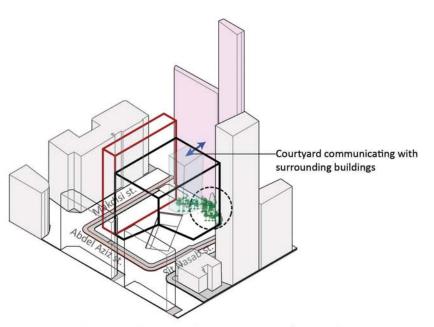
Corner site: Linking two streets with the underground Elevating corner 1 to emphasize the link and take the street in the building



Corner 2: extending the bike and pedestrian lanes vertically to communicate with the building through elements of consumption -> the stand grid



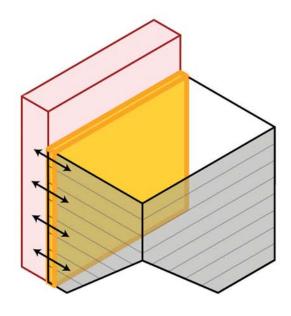
Corner 3: Parking entrance



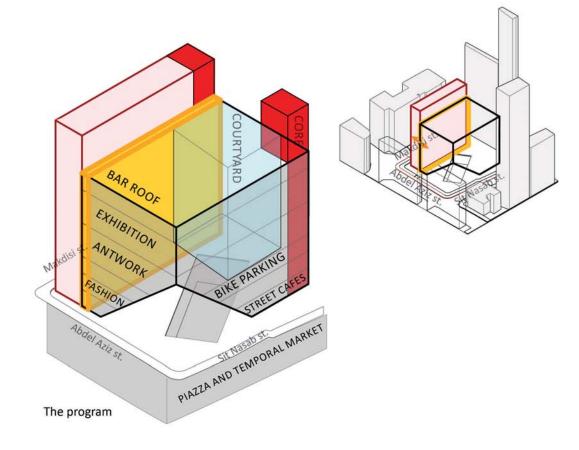
Corner 4: Green socializing area as a cafe extention

Bike lane Pedestrian lane

MASSING - PROGRAM



Consumption grid as interface between circulation and anchors that the building proposes in order to optimize consumption



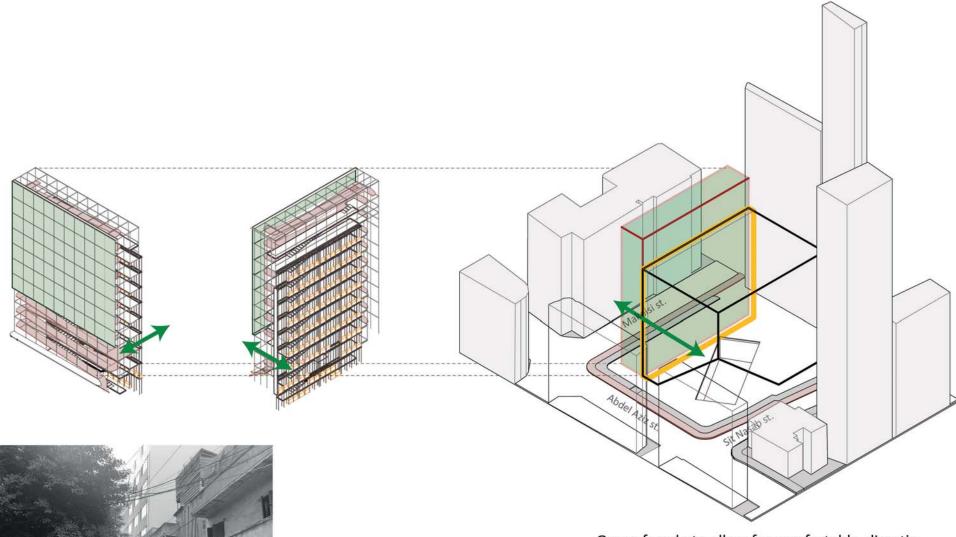


Bridges activating the interaction between street and building



Attractive displays to activate street experience and expose the dweller to consum 63

MASSING - THE BREATHING/CIRCULATION FACADE

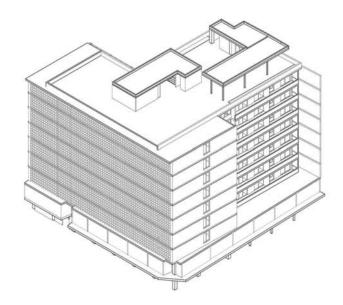




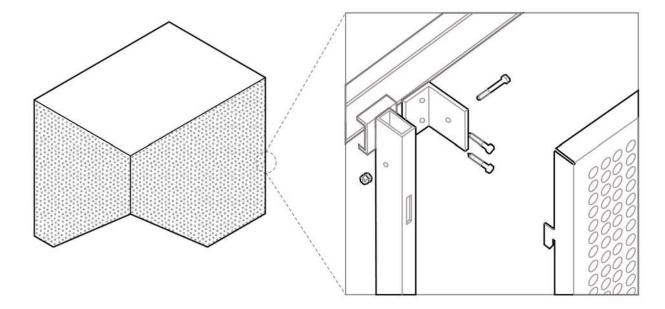
Green facade to allow for comfortable climatic conditions, a smell and sound buffer and a generator of fresh air to the mass

Adding green elements to the city in order to create breathing and walking areas

MASSING - POROUS FACADE

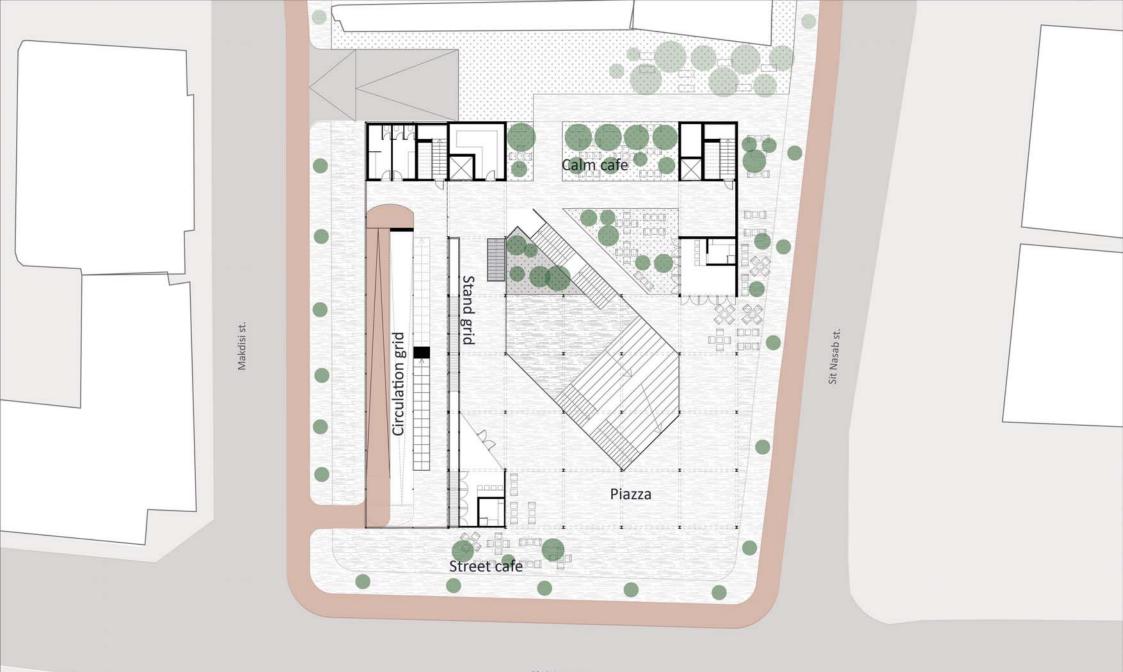


The Strand Cinema
Porous facade inspiration that allows views and comfortable climatic conditions

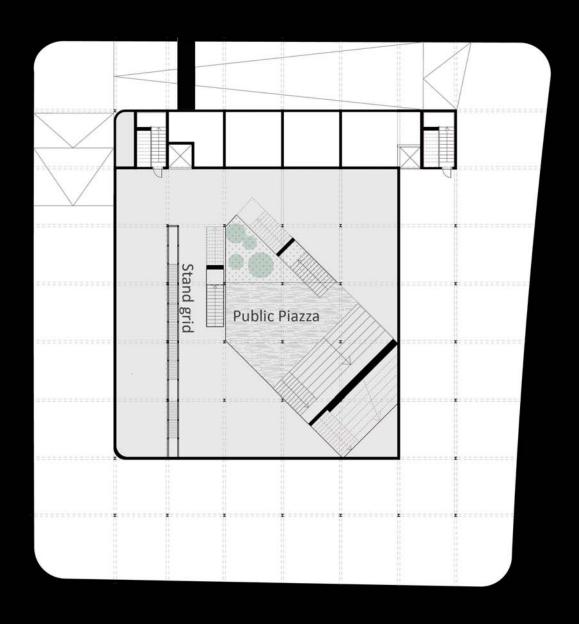


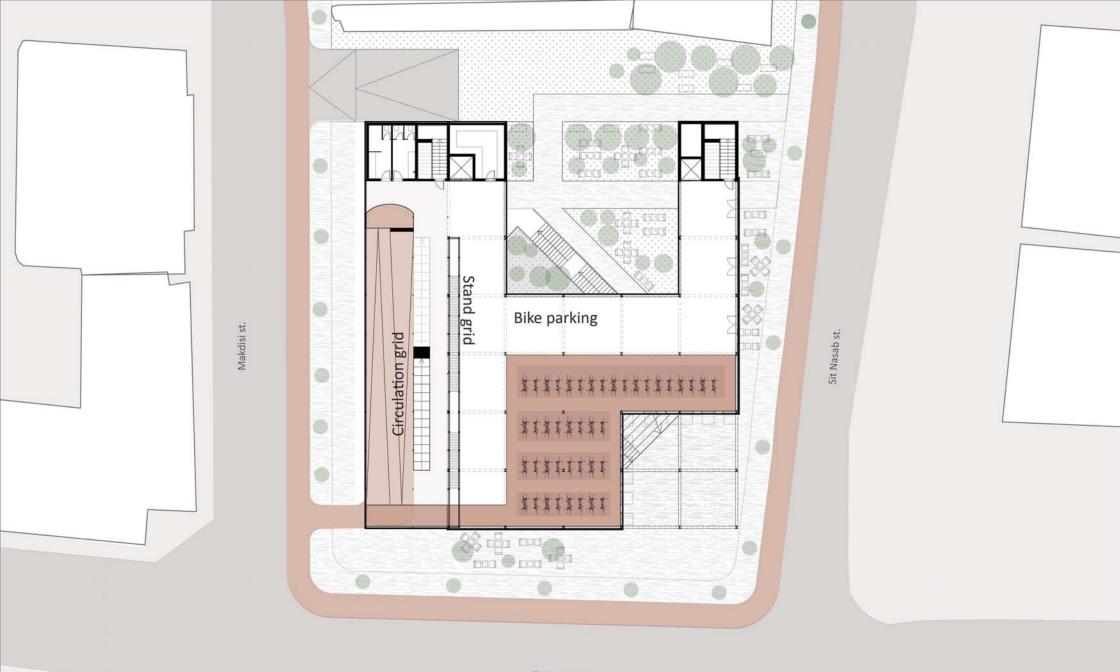
The intellectual mass facade
Porous metal facade that emphasizes the
merge between indoor and outdoor

Detail of the metal sheet facade hook onto the steel beams of the building



Abdel Aziz st.

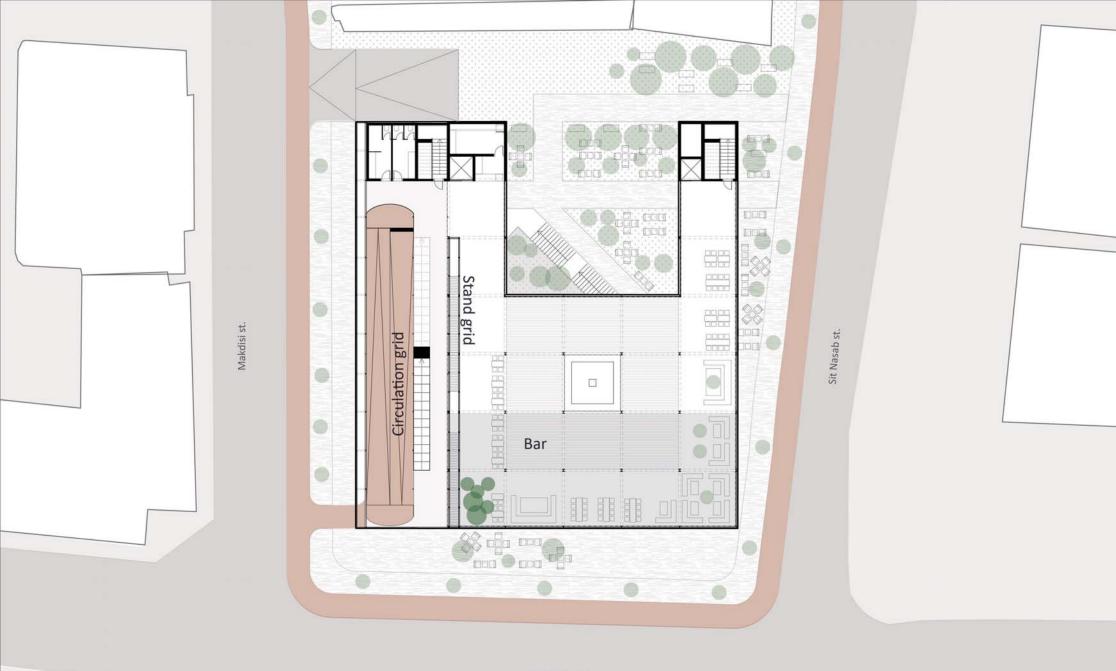




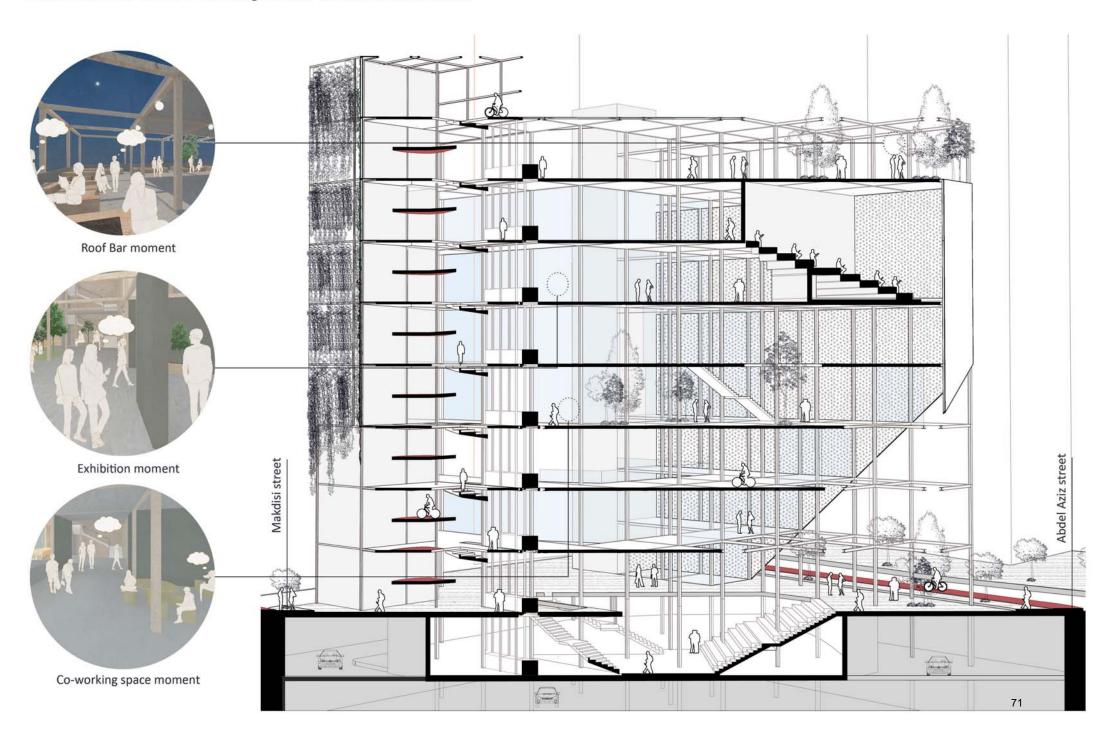
Abdel Aziz st.

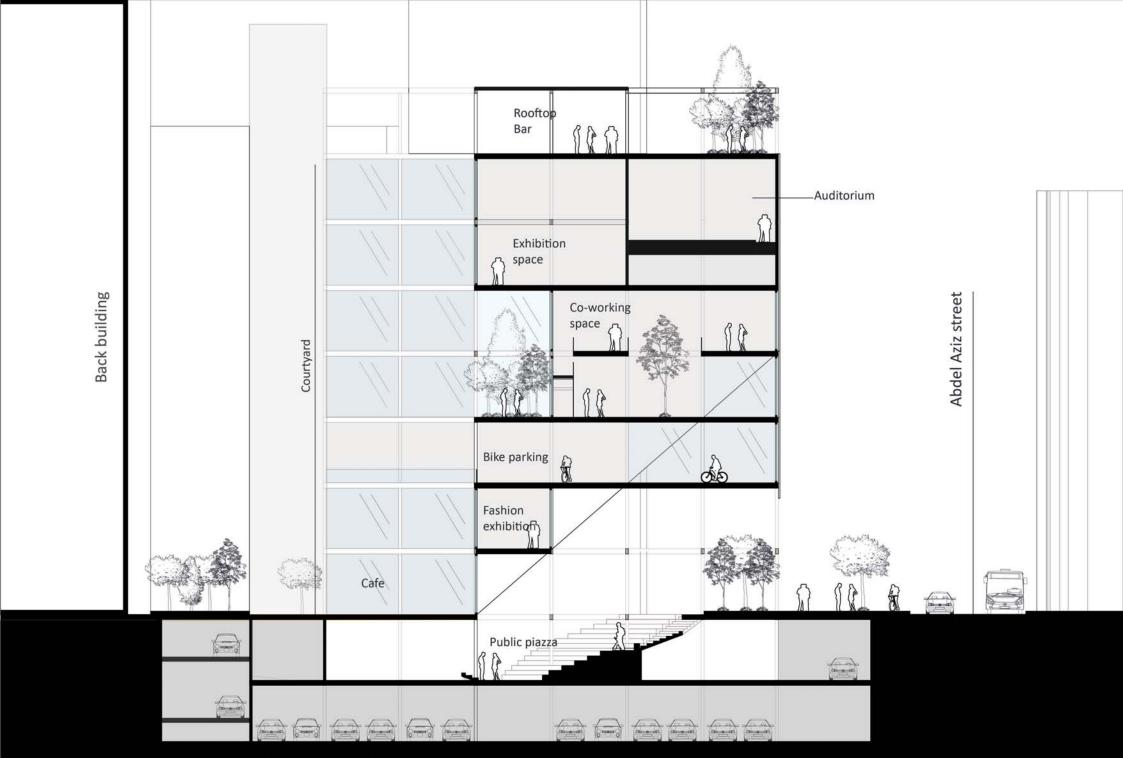


Abdel Aziz st.

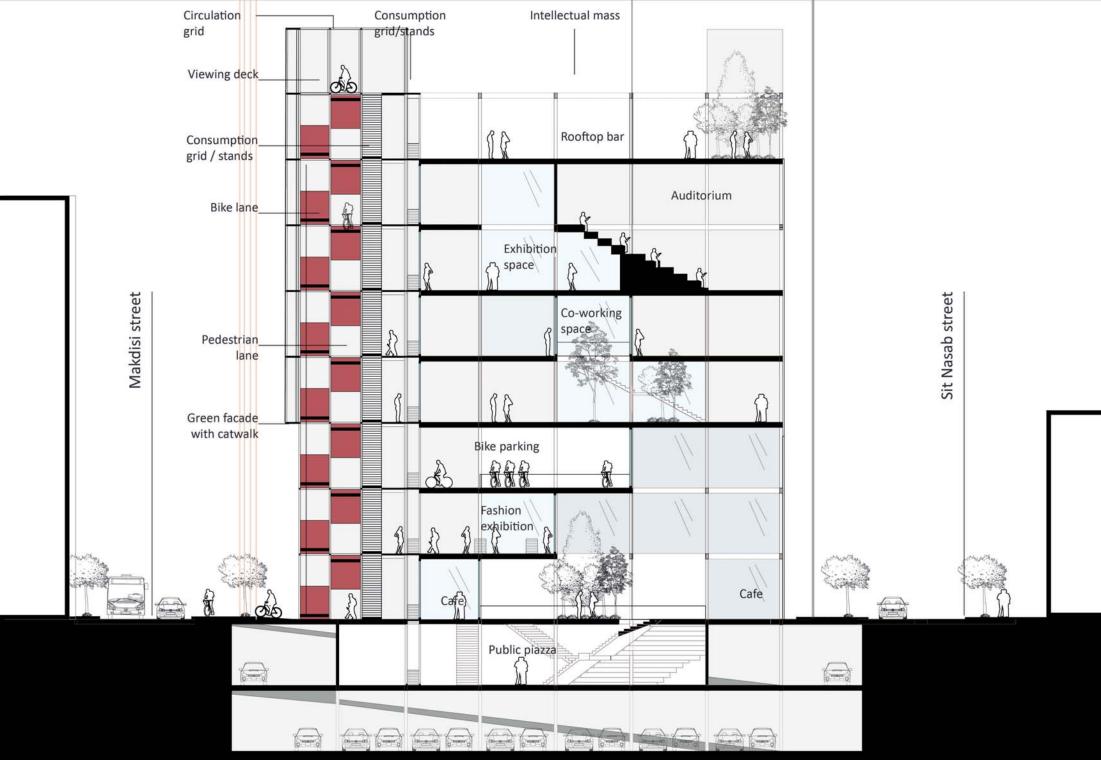


Abdel Aziz st.





SECTION AA - Perpendicular to Abdel Aziz street



SECTION BB - Perpendicular to Maksidi street

