#### AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

#### MASAR ARAB RAILWAYS

#### by MIRA JIHAD DARAZI

An Undergraduate Graphic Design Research Project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts to the Department of Architecture and Design of the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at the American University of Beirut

Beirut, Lebanon May 2021

#### AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

#### MASAR ARAB RAILWAYS

### by MIRA JIHAD DARAZI

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Date of project presentation: May 12, 2021

#### AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

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#### **ABSTRACT**

#### Title: MASAR Arab Railways

I grew up in a society that told me how connected we are as Arabs; we spoke the same language and we share the same history and culture. However, I realized, as time passed, that we're very far from being connected.

One of the many PanArab related questions I wondered was the reason we couldn't cross country borders without visas.

Therefore, with Arab Unity and the Pan-Arab ideology being the drive of this project, the 22 Arab countries connect physically by a hypothetical railway system. The brand created has a distinct Arab identity, away from the clichés of arabesques and motifs.

This project is a utopia in its grand aspect, yet it is a political statement in its core.

**10011 - DESIGN STATEMENT** 

CO2FCO3 - ARAB LEAGUE

EUROPEAN UNION

**COSI- UNITED NATIONS** 

COZECCE - PAN-ARABISM

**©** - ARAB MASHREQ

INTERNATIONAL RAILWAYS

OTHORA - 22 ARAB COUNTRIES

PROJECT DIRECTION

ORIENTALISM

**OIDEO201 - PRAGMATIC PROJECTS** 

Tatiana Bohsali's Project Nareg Krikorian's Project

1024 - ARABIC SCRIPT

1026 BRANDING NATIONS

The Netherlands Know Canada. Cities in Motion

STATIONS

Non-Arab:

New York City Subway NS - Nederlandse Spoorwegen London Underground

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Entur

SZDC

Arab:

Egyptian National Railways

ONCF Moroccan Railway

Dubal Metro

Beirut Metro Map

1020F028 - MODULE OUTPUTS

**DESIGN PROPOSAL** 

DEG - NAME

10511- HOUSESTYLE

1053E061 - BRAND IDENTITY

Logo

Token

Icons

Signage

063-100 - MAPS

Font Modification

Establishing cities and connections

Geographic Maps

Graphic Map

Legend

Graphic Map: Close-Ups

Arab Railways Map

Full Map Brochure

Maps per Country

Maps per Line

1015111 - BRANDED STATIONS

MEDIEZ - CAMPAIGNS

Campaign 1: The Arab World, Connected

Campaign 2: Discover

Campaign 3: Hidden Gems

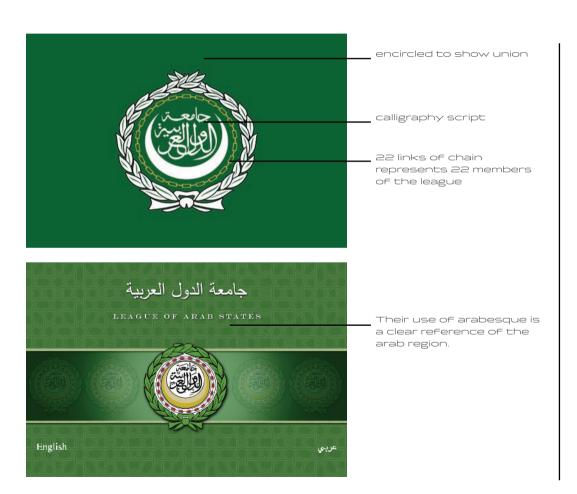
#### **DESIGN STATEMENT**

Growing up, I participated in the Model Arab League (a diplomatic simulation and leadership development program, designed to give students insight into the Middle East and Arab world as well as build critical leadership skills from public speaking and writing to negotiation and compromise). Therefore, my interest started off with the Arab League and its function in today's world. My initial Final Year Project was rebranding the Arab League.

However, the more I delved into the project, the more I imagined a utopian Arab world with a union between these countries beyond an institution that has caused nothing but disappointment to its people. I realized that my interest wasn't the Arab League in itself, it was the Arab Unity and the Pan-Arab ideology. After enough research, I decided on connecting these 22 Arab countries physically by a hypothetical railway system with a distinct Arab identity.

#### **ARAB LEAGUE**

I looked into the league's logo, identity and their website. Also, I read through the history of the institution and the disappointments it has caused with its many failures. I collected a number of images that were taken in the Arab League's meeting in Cairo during the time of Lebanese prime minister Riad El Solh.



I believe that the Arab League's visuals are outdated, hence why I wanted to rebrand this institution.

Module 1: Lettering





Collected old images of the Arab League's meetings in Cairo

Croppings of ministers showing Arab characteristics

#### **EUROPEAN UNION**

I researched instituations similar to how I, and every Arab, hope the Arab League would function. I looked into the European Union's logo, banknotes and their brand architecture.



The 3 main bodies of the European Union

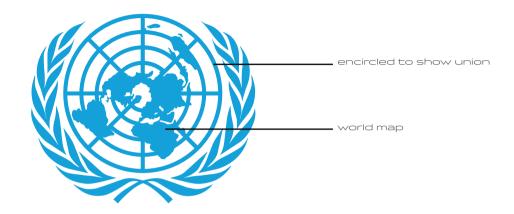






#### UNITED NATIONS

I looked into the United Nations's emblem, and a created identity system.



#### 75 year UN Identity System:







After looking at these institutions, I noticed that my design interest didn't lie with such professional institutions, but rather more conceptually driven projects. I thought of what actually interested me in the topic, and it was the Arab Unity and the Pan-Arab ideology.

#### PAN-ARABISM

I read through the history of the Arab region, relations between the countries and the projects of the Arab region.

#### "CAN ARABS HAVE AN AUTHENTIC EXISTENCE, AND IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO BECOME 'MODERN' ON THEIR OWN TERMS?"

in "Arab Existentialism: An Invisible Chapter in the Intellectual History of Decolonization" by Yoav Di-Capua

#### PAN-ARABISM

Pan-Arab Colors: The Pan-Arab colors are black, white, green and red. Lots of Arab flags include these 4 colors.



Within my initial project proposal, a utopia was imagined where trains connect the whole region. I delved into this point specifically because I was intrigued by the idea of physically connecting the region. Also, I have always questioned the reason of borders and the requirement of a visa to enter neighboring countries, where the same language is spoken and culture and heritage are shared.

#### ARAB MASHREQ INTERNATIONAL RAILWAYS

I came across the project "Arab Mashreq International Railways". This was a project ratified by the countries of the Arab mashreq, yet never implemented. I found the project's details online. It included the Arabic technical terms used in train railways, and the agreed railway links between the cities of the Arab Mashreq region.

routes for the Arab Railways

train-related technical words in Arabic

#### TABLE 1. LINKS MISSING FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RAIL NETWORK

From	To	Country	No.	Length in kilometres
Umm Quir (Kuwait)	Kowait	Kuwait	R05	138
Kuwait	Nuwayseeb border point (Kuwait/Saudi Arabia)	Kuwait	R05	105
Nuwayseeb border point (Kuwait/Saudi Arabia)	Khafji border point (Saudi Arabia/Kuwait)	Kuwait	R05	20
Khafji border point (Saudi Arabia/Kuwait)	Alsa Hadriyah	Saudi Arabia	ROS	145
Abu Hadriyah	Dammam	Saudi Arabia	:R05	155
Dammam	Salwa	Saudi Arabia	R05	375
Salwa	Batha'a border point (Saudi Arabia/United Arab Emirates)	Saudi Arabia	R05	120
Batha'a border point (Saudi Arabia/United Arab Emirates)	Al Ghweifat border point (United Arah Emirates/Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	R05	32
Al Ghweifat border point (United Arab Emirates/Suudi Arabia)	Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates	R05	315
Abu Dhubi	Dubai	United Arab Emirates	805	93
Dubai	Sharia	United Arab Emirates	ROS	80
Sharja	Fujarah	United Arab Emirates	R05	100
Fujairsh	Kalba border point (United Arab Emirates/Oman)	United Arab Emirates	ROS	10
Kalba border point (United Arab Emirates Oman)	Khatmat Malahaw border point (Oman /United Arab Emirates)	United Arab Emirates	R05	10
Khatmat Malahaw border point (Oman /United Arab Emirates)	Sohar	Oman	R05	65
Solar	Muscat	Orrun	- R05	236
Muscat	Thumrayt	Oman	R05	930
Thamrayt	Salalah	Oman	R05	72
Total				3 001
From	To	Country	No.	Length in

From	To	Country	No.	Length
Al Azrag	Omari border point (Jordan/Saudi Arabia)	Jordan	R15	42
Omari border point (Jordan/Saudi Arabia)	Hadithah border point (Saudi Arabia/ Jordan)	Jordan	R15	18
Hadithah border point (Saudi Arabia/ Jordan)	Quervat	Saudi Arabia	R15	100
Quornat	Dawmat al-Jundal	Saudi Arabia	R15	300
Dawmat al-Jandal	Ha'd	Saudi Arabia	R15	315
Ha'il	Burnrdah	Saudi Arabia	R15	330
Buraydah	Riyadh	Saudi Arabia	R15	413
Total	- A			1 518

From	Te	Country	No.	Length in kilometres
Al Mudawara border point (Jordan/Saudi Arabia)	Halat Artenar border point (Saudi Arabia /Jordan)	Jordan	R25	15
Halat Ammar border point (Saudi Arabia /Jordan)	Tabukk	Saudi Arabia	R25	100
Tubuk	Medina	Saudi Arabia	R25	710
Rabigh	Jeddah	Saudi Arabia	R25	460
Jeddah	Darb	Saudi Arabia	R25	500
Durb	Al Tuwal border point (Saudi Arabia/Yemen)	Saudi Arabia	R25	220
Al Tuwal border point (Saudi Arabia/Yemen)	Harad border point (Yernen/ Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	R25	17
Harad border point (Yemen' Saudi Arabia)	Hodeidah	Yemen	R25	265
Hodeidah	Al Mukha	Yemen	R25	225
Total				2 512

odn.	Te	Country	No.	Length in kilometres
ir-Ez-Zor	Tadmur	Syrian Arah Republic	R20	126
tal	778 (81)	W. 400 (199)	120.17	126

lordan/Iraq)	Safawy	Jordan	R40	239
lafawy	Zarqa*	Jordan	R40	90
'arqa'	Amman	Jordan	R40	40
fotal	1000000	10. 10.00000		699
7.70% C	2.2			
From	Ye	Country	No.	Length in kilometres
iaza	Rafah border point (Palestinian Occupied Territories/Egypt)	Palestine	R50	

From	Te	Country	No.	kilometres
Ma'an	Aqaba	Jordan	R60	16
Aqaba	Nuwciba	Jordan	R60	73
Newciba	Nakhi	Egypt	R60	150
NakM	Verdun Bridge	Egypt	R60	250
Total	We militaria:	10 (33070)	10,5 (5)	489
From	Te	Country	No.	Length in kilometres
Mecca	Jeddah	Saudi Arabia	R80	918

Total	7000000	1	13000	918
From	Te	Country	No.	Length in kilometres
From Doha	Salwah	Outar	R82	110
Total	1000000	Mr. 300000	10,000	110

From	Te	Country	No.	Length is kilometre
Thurrayt	Mazyounah border point (Oman/Yemen)	Oman	R90	160
Mazyounah border point (Oman/Yemen)	Shahan border point (Yemen/Oman)	Oman	R90	20
Shahan border point (Yemen' Oman)	Gheizah	Yemen	R90	125
Gheirah	Mukalla	Yemen	R90	451
Mukalla	Aden	Yemen	R90	617
Aden	Bab al-Mandah	Yemen	R90	862
Total			100	2 235
Total length of rail approved for	Arab Mashrog			19 528
Total length of track missing from	n the international rail network approved for	Arab Mashreq		11 616
Percentage of missing track		0.010.00		50.53

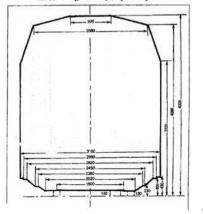
#### Arabic, French and English technical terms Listed in the alphabetical order of the Arabic term

English	French	Arabic
Loading Gauge	Gabarit de chargement	ليمد تحميل
Exit Signal	Signal de sortie	بشارة عروج
Tail Signal	Signal de queue	بشارة موغرة فقطار
Distance between Centers of Tracks	Entraxe des voies	ثياحد السكاف
Level Crossing	Passage à niveau	تقاطع سطمي
Authorized Mass per Linear Metre	Masse authorisée par mêtre linéaire	ل المعوري المسموح لكل مثر طولي
Authorized Mass per Axle	Masse authorisée par essieu	المل السموح لكل جزع معوري
Mountain Railway	Ligne de montagne	غط جبلي
Level Line	Ligne de plaine	خطسيلي
Platform	Quai	رميد
Nominal Minimum Speed	Vitesse minimale de définition	السرعة النظرية الأنتى
Approach Track	Voie d'accès	شكة الاواب
Passing Siding	Voie de dépassement	سكة ثماوز
Allocation Track	Voie d'affection	سكة تغميمن
Secondary Track	Voie secondaire	سكة ثائرية
Narrow Gauge Line	Voie étroite	مكة طيقة
Curved Track	Voie en courbe	سكة في مشحلي
Standard Gauge Line	Voie normale	مكة فيضية
Double Track	Voic double	سكة مزدوجة
Downgrade Track	Voie décline	سكة ملحترة
Inbound Track	Voie d'arrivée	سكة وصول
Reversible Track	Voie banalisée	سكة ستعلة في الإتجاهين
Minimal Platform Length in Principal Stations	Longueur minimale des quais des gares principales	، الأدنى الرسيف في المطلك الرئيسية
Track Mileans	Longueur de voie dévelonde	10.0.00.00.0

English	French	Arabic
Intermediate Sleeper	Traverse intermédiaire	عارضة وسطية
Wagon .	Wagon	عرية بنسائع
Silo Wagon	Wagon-Silo	عربة يضائع صومعية
Standard Wagon	Wagon Standard	عرية بضائع قيضية
Gantry Wagon	Wagon portique	عرية بطبائع رافعة
Tank Wagon	Wagon reservoir	مزبة سيريج
Carriage/Coach	Voiture à Voyageurs	عربة مسافرين
Locomotive	Locomotive	3 bide 4
Test Train for Bridge Testing	Train-type pour le calcul des ponts	طار ضوئجي لاعتباق الجسور
Speed Restriction Board	Tableau de délimitation de vitesse	لوحة تعنيد السرحة
Station	Gare	above.

عارضة غرسانية

#### الشكل - أيداد المحميل حسب مواصفات الاقاد الدول للسكك اخديدية 2008



#### 22 ARAB COUNTRIES

I created an audit showing all the Arab countries. Some images are presented below.

Algeria

Bahrain

Comoros

Djibouti

Egypt

Iraq

Jordan

Kuwait

Lebanon

Libya

Morocco

Mauritania

Oman

Palestine

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

Somalia

Sudan

Syria

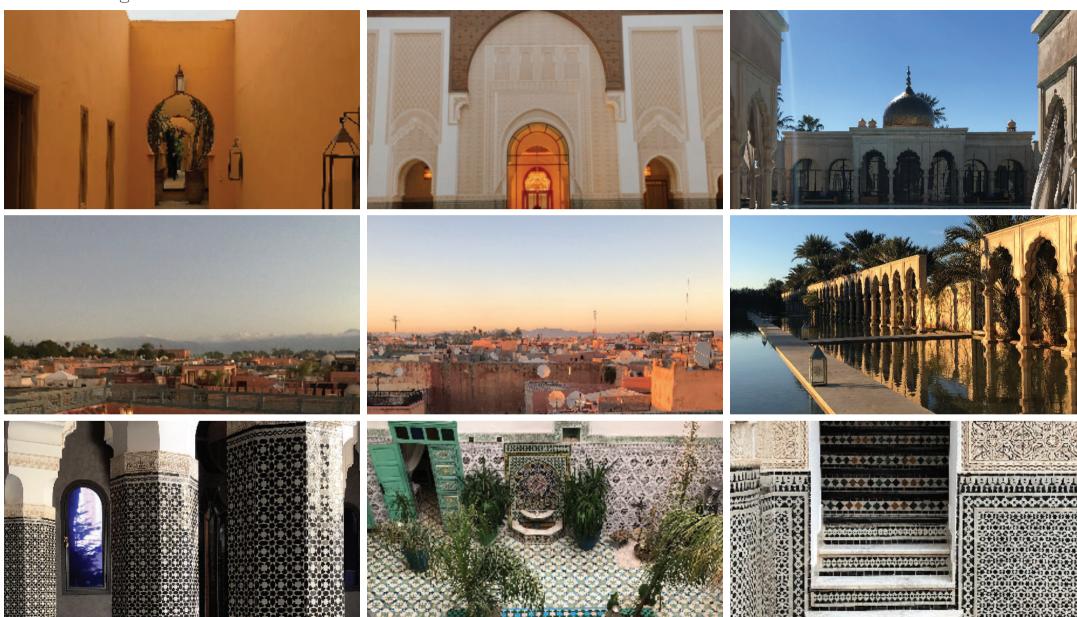
Tunisia

United Arab Emirates

Yemen

Collected images from Arab Countries: EGYPT























#### PROJECT DIRECTION

I faced a dilemma whenever I thought about the context in which my Final Year topic is included in.

I had trouble deciding whether these trains would be a part of today's reality and functions as a political statement to criticize the unfortunate realities we face every day.

If it would be part of a utopia in which I disregard the reality we live in today and create the railways' branding making the project in and of itself a commentary on the region.

If the Arab Railways would be present in today's Arab region, the trains, stations and connections would mimic or portray the Arab region we live in today. These include but aren't limited to: the Israell occupation of the Palestinian state, the peace treaties between Israel and several arab countries like United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan, the ongoing wars like that of Syria and Yemen, and the hunger crisis of Yemen. If a utopia is taken into consideration, the issues we face today are overlooked and even resolved in this hypothetical world. This direction would show the potential we have in our region, and emphasize the unfortunes of our livelihoods.

#### Module 4: Manifesto

The utopian Arab region was assumed in the Manifesto of Module 4.

#### ARAB RAILWAYS السـكك الحديديّــة العربيّــة

WE ARE FINALLY
CONNECTED, NOW
MORE THAN EVER,
AND WE SHALL
CONTINUE TO BE.

نحـن العـرب نؤمـن بقـ وة الوحــنة ويهــذه Us. Arabs. have believed in the power of unity

القـوة سـنزدهر إلى الأمـام. لقــد اتحدنــا،

and with this power we shall prosper onwards.

لقـد طبقـت المنطقـة أيديولوجيـة القوميـة

We have united. The region has implemented

العربيـة وأصبحـت تعتمـد عـلى نفسـها

the Pan-Arab ideology and become self

وتفوقت في العديد من المجالات. لقد

dependent and excelled in numerous areas.

تحدنا ووضعنا حبدا لكيفية تصوير

We defied and put an end to how we've been

العالم لناء لقد أنشأنا نحن العرب أساشا

portrayed by the world. Us, Arabs, have created

قويًّا لمستقبلنا. لذلك، كانت خطوتنا

a strong foundation for our future. Therefore,

التالية هي اتصالنا المادي ؛ شركة السكك

our next step was our physical connection;

الحديدية العربية الدولية. نحس الأن

the Arab International Railways. We are now

قادرون على عبور الحدود بدون تأشيرات

able to cross borders with no visas with the

مع السكك الحديدية العربية المطبقة.

implemented Arab Railways, Connecting beyond

ربط خارجة عبن إرادتنا اللغة والثقافة

our language, culture and heritage, we now have

والتراث، لدينا الآن السكك الحديدية

railways extending beyond cities, countries and

تتجاوز المدن والبلدان والقارات، تم

continents. A clear and direct communication

إنشاء وبناء واستخدام نظام اتصال

system has been created, built and used by the

واضح ومباشر من قبل السكان العرب

Arab population and the world. The aim of the

والعالـم، الهـدف مـن السـكك الحديديـة

railways and stations is connecting not only

ومحطبات يتبم الانصال ليس فقيط البدول

ومحطات يتم الانصال ليس the Arab countries physically, but also the Arab

العربية جسدياء ولكين أنضا للشعب

people. These railways and stations are the

العربي، هـنه السكك الحديدية والمحطات

paved path of the Pan-Arab utopia formation.

هي المسار الممهد لتشكيل البوتوبيا

We are finally connected, now more than ever.

العربية، لقد أصبحنا متصلين أخيرًا، الآن

and we shall continue to be.

Within the manifesto, there is significance in stating "change how the world views us". How do they view us.. ?

#### **ORIENTALISM**

Orientalism is a biased visual towards Arabs by Europeans. It was the last and most well-known visual to represent the Arab region as an exotic, backward, uncivilized and dangerous region. Orientalism was the last and most well known visual reference the world has seen that is related to this area.







#### What is Orientalism?

"What Is Orientalism?" What is Orientalism? | Reclaiming Identity: Dismantling Arab Stereotypes, n.d. http://arabstereotypes.org/why-stereotypes/what- orientalism.

This article specifically talks about how Europeans staged these absurd eroticized scenes for the pleasure of European men, instead of being actual depictions of scenes that were present in the Arab region. The reason I chose this article is because the mental image people get when thinking of the Arab region needs to be changed, which may be achieved by creating a new impartial identity to the Arab region through the Arab Railways.

Yes, I want to change how we are perceived. However, can I bypass the reality and not reflect critically on this conglomerate of nations?

#### PRAGMATIC PROJECTS

Projects that possess an acceptance to how things are are, and embrace them:

#### Tatiana Bohsali's Project

Tatiana Bohsali's project is, in a way, similar to mine. Analogous to my project aim, the banknotes she created and designed were to unify the Arab region somehow. She was able to retain the individuality of each country while still designing a uniform scheme. The individuality was enough as a statement and prevalent throughout, and at the same time, the banknotes were coherent as a series. In relation to my project, I can see the importance of retaining diversity within a very strict and professional output.



#### Nareg Krikorian's Project

Nareg Krikorian designed a wayfinding system for Beirut buses. He conceived a very strict and formal language, yet it was all based on the informalities and flaws of the system. Therefore, he did not try to conceal the reality, but rather adopted the reality of the situation and gave a structure to the unstructured. The project is very successful because of how site-specific it is. The created icons are very particular to the Lebanese vernacular in relation to public transport. Also, the mapping technique goes harmonously with the attained identity. And the flexibity of the signage gives leeway to the mounting of the signs. This project gives me a better idea on how professional a wayfinding system can look, even if it encompasses less formal characteristics.





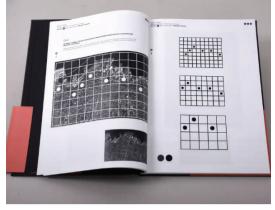


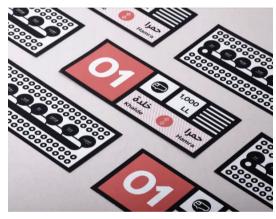


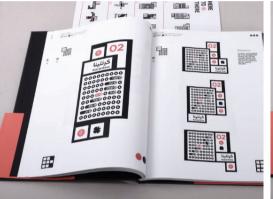


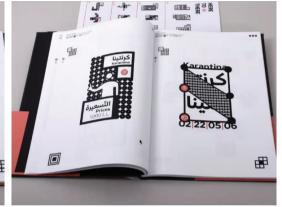


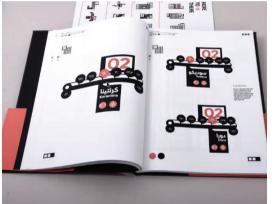




















After analyzing these projects, I believe the particularity of the region is substantial to represent and incorporate when creating this Railway system that connects the Arab cities and countries.

#### QUESTIONS I'M ASKING MYSELF

How can I create an arab identity, removing the cliches of arabesques and motifs?

What is the Arab identity? What connects us as Arabs? And how can I stay true to our cultural history?

How can I represent the individuality of the region? Would I be able to do that in very subtle ways?

How can I make it modern and fresh on our own terms?

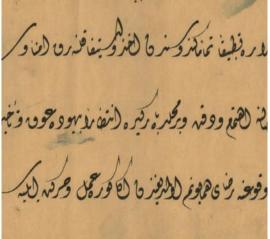
#### ARABIC SCRIPT

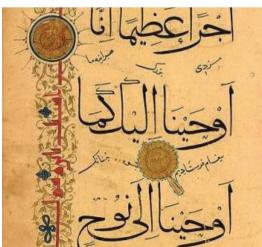
One major factor in common between all the Arab countries is the Arabic language and therefore, the inclusion of Arabic text is essential in the identity. Therefore, a research was conducted to know the history of the script and I collected my notes on Arabic type. The research is to know its history, the different types and their usages, the legibility levels and what their reference is. They gave me a better idea on what fonts I can use depending on their usages.

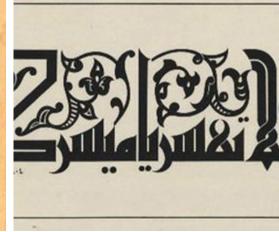
















#### **VISUAL RESEARCH**

In order to create the branding of the Arab Railways, two essential elements are taken into consideration:

Therefore, the two main sections of my visual research are:

#### BRANDING NATIONS & TRAIN RAILWAYS AND STATIONS

The Netherlands Know Canada. Cities in Motion King's Cross Non-Arab:

New York City Subway

NS – Nederlandse Spoorwegen

London Underground

Entur

SZDC

 $\vee \vee$ 

Arab:

Egyptian National Railways

ONCF Moroccan Railway

Dubal Metro

Beirut Metro Map

#### THE NETHERLANDS

Netherland's nation branding was created by Studio Dumbar. This branding is serious. The emblem is an abbreviation of the Netherlands "NL" and is referential to two specific Dutch characteristics: the color orange, and tulips, which is implemented on different solid colors and placed on a series of objects, such as posters, billboards and publications...

I appreciate the simplicity of this series. The referential tulip within the letters is enough to remind us of the country. Also, I personally have a hard time choosing ang using saturated bright colors, especially with overlapping.















BRANDING NATIONS

# KNOW CANADA: A CAMPAIGN TO REINTRODUCE CANADA TO THE WORLD

The means of creating this series was simple, smart and efficient.
The two red vertical lines reminding of the Canadian flag is enough to remind us of Canada. Its inclusion in my visual research is to see how simply I can inject the individuality of each country when trying to unify the region.













BRANDING NATIONS

#### CITIES IN MOTION

Another project I looked into is Studio Dumbar's "Cities in Motion". What intrigued me most is the animations used in the posters, which show the cities' names. The font was specifically designed for the poster series, so that when animated the letters won't be distorted.

Also, the use of different colors within a series was on-point because the common factor of animated letters is enough to have a coherent series which stand strong together, as well as apart.



#### NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY







## WASHINGTON





FOR WASHINGTON H'TS., THE BRONX AND QUEENS TRAINS USE UNDERPASS—

#### LONDON UNDERGROUND

The London Underground is a project successful in achieving an easy and understandable railway and mapping system. The map has vertical, horizontal and 45 degree lines that show the stops. They're not based on distances, rather chronological order. They're also color-coded. Color coding is a system used in a few other train mappings. It is an efficient way for easy understanding and accessibility.





#### NS - NEDERLANDSE SPOORWEGEN, OR DUTCH RAILWAYS

I looked into NS, the railway station identity in the Netherlands. The design of the iconic NS symbol is deceptively simple: the arrows represent the outgoing and return journeys, while the two central lines represent the track. With its striking blue and yellow colours and classic modernist typography, the identity is flexible and instantly recognisable. Over the years it's been applied to everything from trains, stations and wayfinding signage, to uniforms, timetables, tickets and more. Being in the Netherlands, I was able to go to the train station and take pictures of their wayfinding, the material used to carry the signage, and took note of the sign sizes.









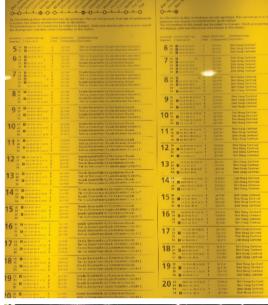


I saw the interactive screens and products used to give people cards and tickets.

Also, I saw the product used for checking-in and out of the train. Therefore, for my project I got the idea include the interactive screens and the products needed to checkOin and out of the trains of the Arab Railways.







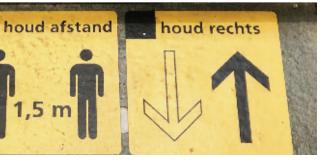












#### **ENTUR**

Entur is a collective of public transport in Norway.

The naming Entur here has a great role within the identity of this project. There is a proposed pun in the identity (the usage of EN/one and Tu/Trip) and a play on words. Using "En Bus Tur" and "En Morning Tur" is to perhaps attract different audiences and touch different personalities...

Also, each word used between "En" and "Tur" has a certain icon to go with it. The boats have wavy lines, cancelled is struck out, morning has a sun rising, etc...

As a project, I believe it is successful in terms of design, identity, uniqueness and delivery. This project made me consider a language of communication that draws upon the critical take in my starting point while still focusing on the connectivity and union of the region.

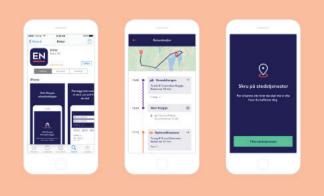














#### SZDC

Sprava Seleznic - SZDC is the czech railway. Its identity was designed by Marvil. The emblem is symbolic of the railways. An animated logo with lines falling into place. This graphic element is also used in the billboards for the railway campaigns. This logo and identity are distinct and succesful. The colors used are professional, fresh and modern.



















Vy is the new name for the Norwegian State Railways, and it means "a view." This naming made me realize the importance of the name I'll be giving the stations and railways. The name would be a key concept. Within Vy's identity, movement is the core. That is seen throughout the logo and the applications. The colors are bright and optimistic and the design system is firm, yet flexible. Personally, I see the successes of this project; however, I'm not a fan of the application of the identity. The lines reprenting movement are almost haphazard and there to "fill up space".





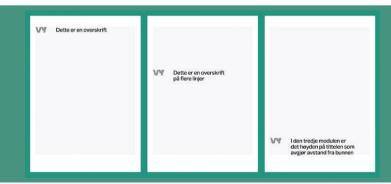
# /y Sans Vy Display











Verden endrer seg. Vi endrer oss. **NSB** og Nettbuss skifter navn til Vy.



Akkurat nå finner du tusenvis av billetter fra bare 199,-





#### EGYPTIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS





# **Egyptian** National Railways







# ONCF - MOROCCAN RAILWAYS











### **DUBAI METRO**











#### BEIRUT METRO MAP

Similar to my FYP, Hassan ChoubassI created this hypothetical Metro Map for Beirut with an underlying political message. "I created a fictional Metro map for an underground network lines in Beirut to add another virtual layer to the psychological and physical labyrinth of the city, focusing on the ever-present demarcation lines that were splitting Beirut during the long period of the civil war, and its relation to the social environment in post-war Beirut." - Hassan Choubassi











I visited the old train tracks located close to Jbeil. I had the idea of creating an intervention there (for Module 4); however, it was too particular to Lebanon.















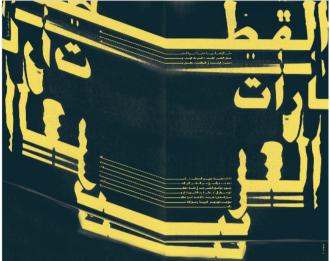


MODULE OUTPUTS

#### Module 1: Spreads

Within Module 1, eight spreads were to be created. I tried to create an ongoing identity throughout the book, where the spreads form a cohesive flow, yet at the same time, I tried different methods in tackling arabic typography because I knew it's an important aspect in my project.





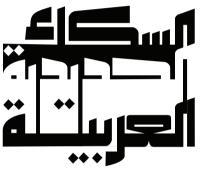
















working titles

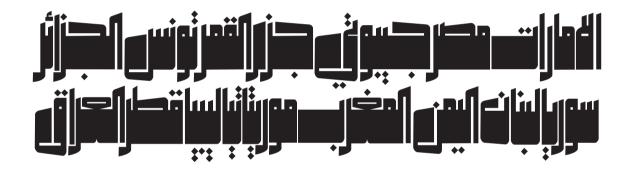
دَمْج الشركة العربية للقطارات إتحاد القطارات العربية سكك حديد الدول العربية الخطوط الحديدية العربية قطارات الأبجدية محطات العرب السكك الحديدية العربية

#### Module 2: Branding

I also vectorized the names of the Arab countries and created a visual by expanding the baseline.

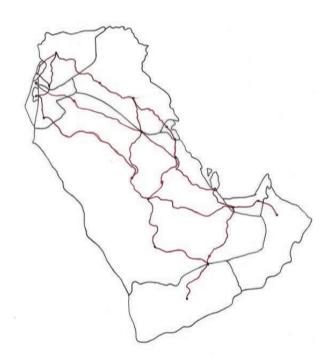


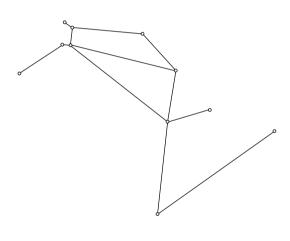


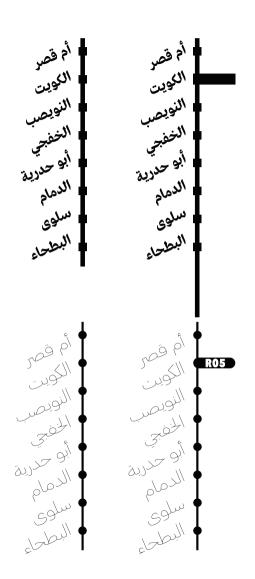


#### Module 2: Information System

These are preliminary sketches for the mapping system to be used in the branding of the Arab Railways. I traced the Arab map and started creating a system with the Arab cities of different countries.







#### Module 3: Graphic Narratives

During this module, we learned the necessities of animation and comics, such as character design and story arc. For the module submission, I created a poster series with the created visual of module 1, and a short animated clip that goes from one country name to the other and highlights the diacretic dots.





#### Animation

This animation gave me the idea of creating an interactive wayfinding system that animates from the specified country to the next.



These visuals were used in the output of module 4.

#### Module 4: Interventions

For my intervention of module 4, I decided to create the official Instagram page of the Arab International Railways. Within this intervention, the assumption of the existence of the railways and stations was taken. I wanted this instagram page to decieve Arabs for a split second to believe it and think "Did I miss this?" and the Non-Arabs to believe its presence. After researching what train accounts added onto their Instagram pages, I created visuals and simulated them onto pictures.



#### London Underground

London Underground's instagram page shows the stations' and trains' users, in addition to the railway's identity system. The red circle used throughout its wayfinding identification signage is a recurring element in their images. Their instagram page allowed me to realize the importance of a specific visual representation that is referential to a specific identity system.

#### Thalys

Thalys focuses on the stories of people in their page. The connection between people going to different cities are highlighted. I really appreciated the sense of personal expercience added into their posts. They're also know for the red "Seat 52" which they utilize in their identity and posts.

#### Created Visuals And Their Simulations











عیسی طارق جوزیف





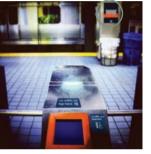
السكة ۲ track 2











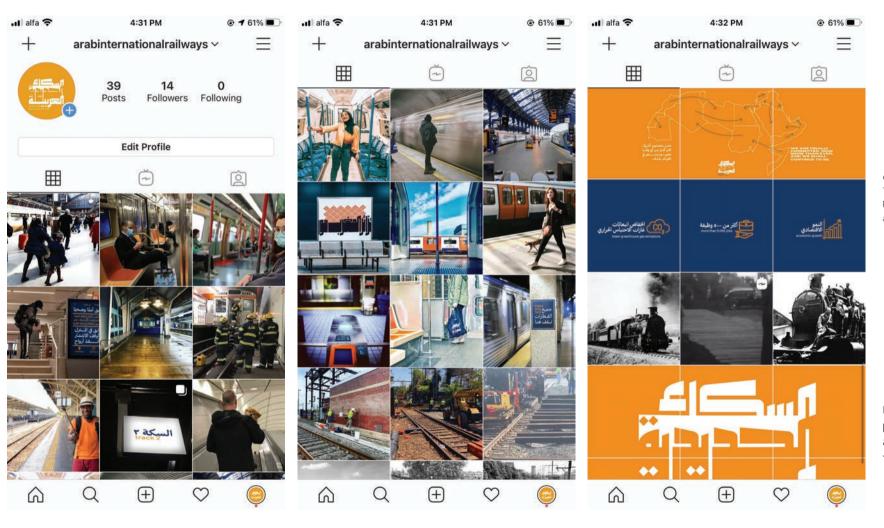












Created Graphics
These show the railway's
positive impacts on the world
and Arab region.

Please check out the page, captions and comments. I'm sure you'll have a good laugh

#### **DESIGN PROPOSAL**

The unity of the Arab region is a very dense political claim that not everyone agrees with. However, I truly believe in this aim. My project aims to open people's eyes, not necessarily to change their political views or the way they think, but rather to make them assess the degrading truth of our region. This project sheds light on the potential we have, with no disregard to what we're going through. It is a political statement through which I hope the reality of the situation dawns on the Arabs.

During FYP II, I will be designing the branding and signage system for the Arab International Railways with focus on Arabic script. I hope to include Branding the Arab Railways, Wayfinding and Signage of the stations, and different campains...

It is important to point that I know and acknowledge my project will not be implemented any day soon; nevertheless, it is a political statement that will be handled as a professional project proposal with the assumption that these railways are to be built. This project is a reminder that we can reach what we aim for, if we take steps towards it.

END OF FYP 1

BEGINNING OF FYP 2

#### NAME

MASAR or path is representative of the journey the passengers will take. It had a nice ring when used, like "I'm taing the Masar to Cairo."



#### HOUSESTYLE

My identity very simply started with the topmost typography and by simply putting the names of the countries locked up together and stacked gave a visual reminder of the carts of a train because of their thick baseline.

I had to expand my housestyle and came across the font Honalika by Heyporter and a secondary typeface Zarid was chosen. The Latin font choice is Briller, a typeface that also has a visual reminder of trains due to its expanded quality.

المرات قطرجرن الكربت العرق المعردة الردة الورة الوران المعرب الربان المعرب الربان المعرب الربان المعرب الربان المعرب الم

Arabic

الإمارات قطر بحرين الكويت العراق السعودية الأردن لبنان سوريا فلسطين اليمن عمان جزر القمر الصومال جيبوتي السودان مصر ليبيا تونس الجزائر المغرب موريتانيا

Latin

ALGERIA, BAHRAIN, COMOROS, DJIBOUTI, EGYPT, IRAQ, JORDAN, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LIBYA, MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, OMAN, PALESTINE, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, SOMALIA, SUDAN, SYRIA, TUNISIA, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND YEMEN

**BRAND IDENTITY** 

#### BRAND IDENTITY

#### LOGO

The name Masar means path in Arabic and the logo is created by also having simple elements with reminiscent qualities for trains and maps, so it was created by a line and some shapes that represent stops; they spell out the word Masar in Arabic. With the logo comes the descriptor "Arab Railways".



# TOKEN

From this logo came a simplified token with the initial letter of the railway stations meem and M.This token can be implemented on uniforms and on pins.

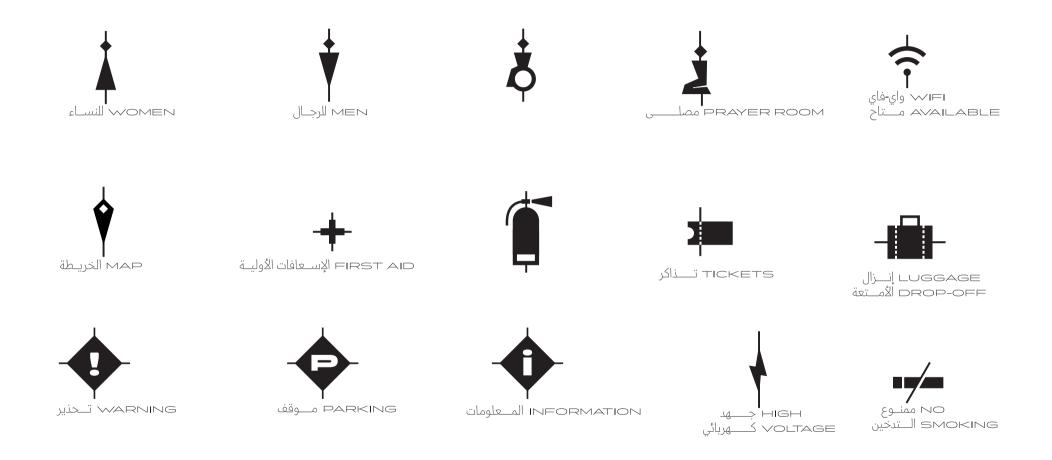








# ICONS



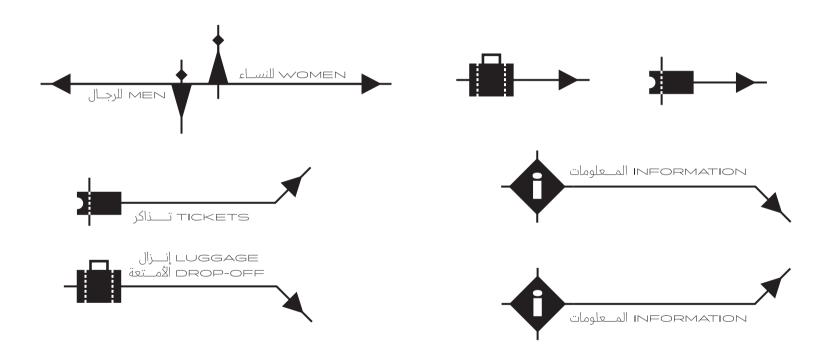
# COVID-19 ICONS



MAINTAIN حافظ على SOCIAL DISTANCING التباعد الاجتماعي



# DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE



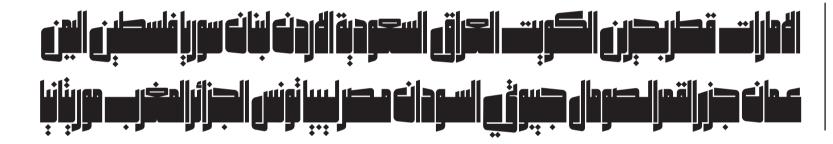
# PLATFORM IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE

مـنصة —PLATFORM— مــنصة —PLATFORM—

-PLATFORM-

مــنصة

From the type palette, I had a system where the thicker font represented countries and the thinner one was for cities. However, it was pointed out that this font is illegible because of its display nature I was even advised to not use it and change it. But I truly believed in the conceptual drive the identity contains and I didnt want to give that up. So, having taken Arabic type design, I was able to pinpoint the problematic areas of this font and create letters that are more proportionally correct to the Arabic Script.

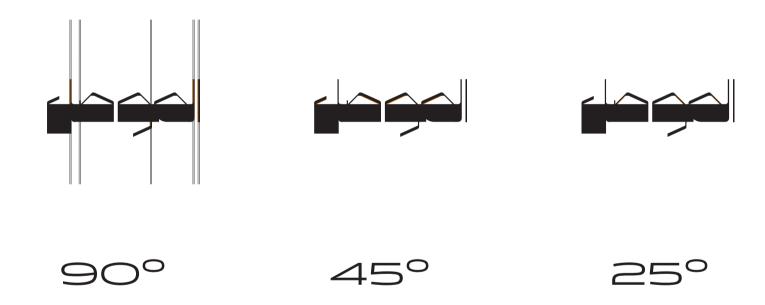


COUNTRIES

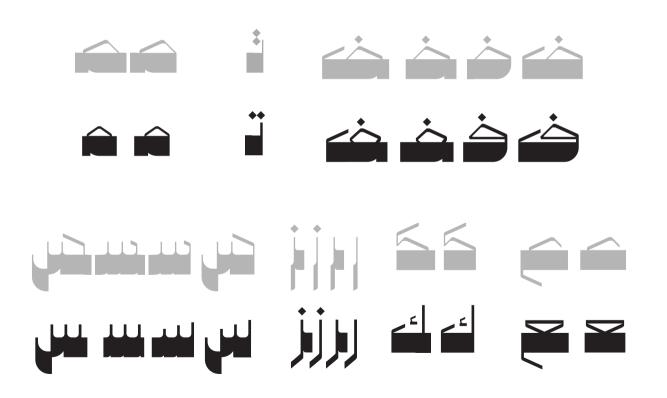
أبِ ظبيه الأبض الأحمدي إداب إبد إبيا أبط اسخي الاسكندابة أسوال الأحمر احبيل جدة الجزائر جزّبن الجوخ جبيوني حائل الحسكة على الطة حماة حمص

CITIES

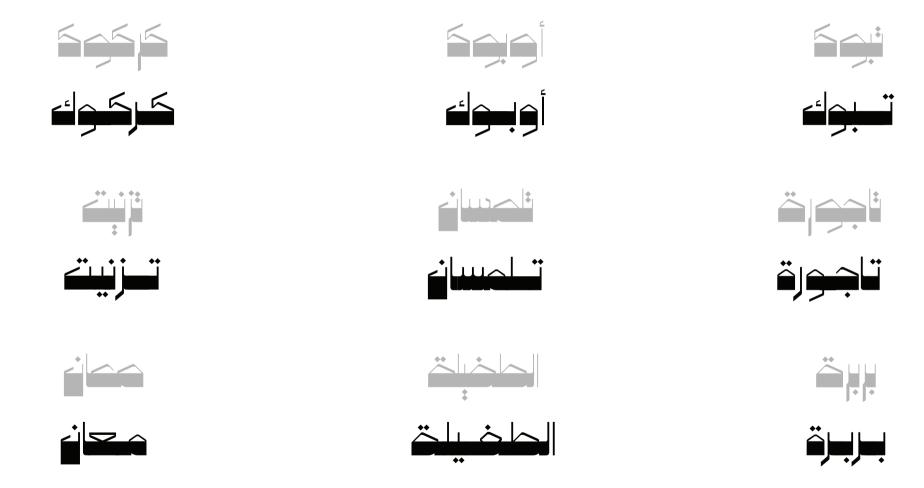
I deciphered the font and I realized the designer had three different thicknesses for three different angles. As a first step, I thickened the 90 degree lines and proportionally made the other 2 lines thicker.



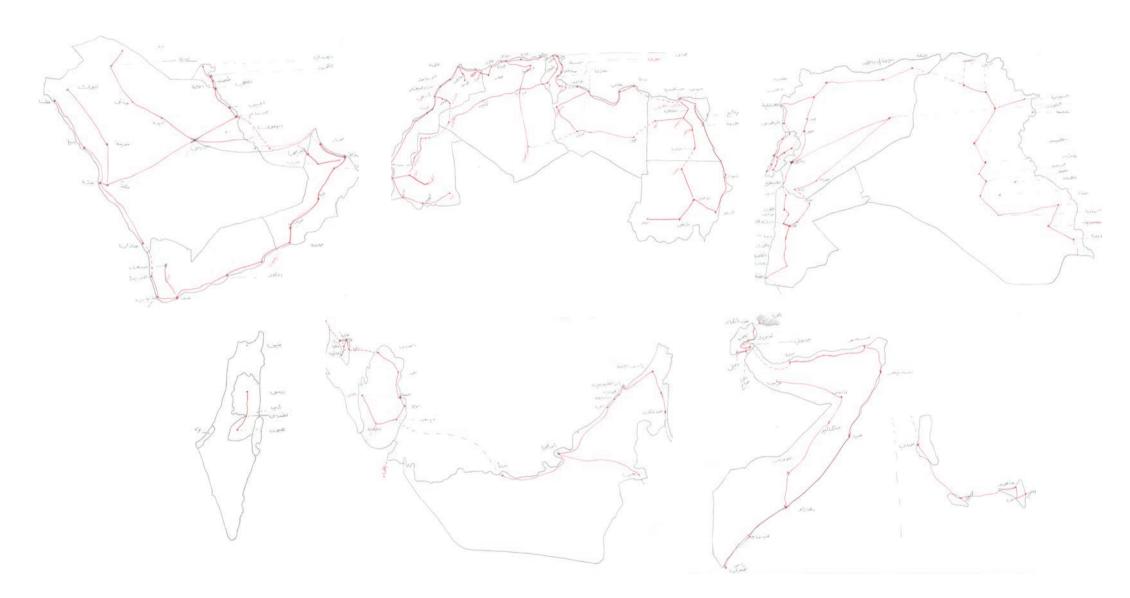
Some letters weren't being recognized such as the Meem - it was being mistaken for a Sad, and by staying true to the designers rules I created this meem. All diagcritic dots which were vertical, I made them horizontal. The Feh was being mistaken for a Da so I gave the isolated and initial Fehs a neck and more round shape for the medial and final ones. I removed the 45 degree line in the Seen. The Reh was lost in the words so I gave it its tail. The final and isolated Kaf have the more common shape now. And the medial and final 3ain are replaced with reverse triangles.



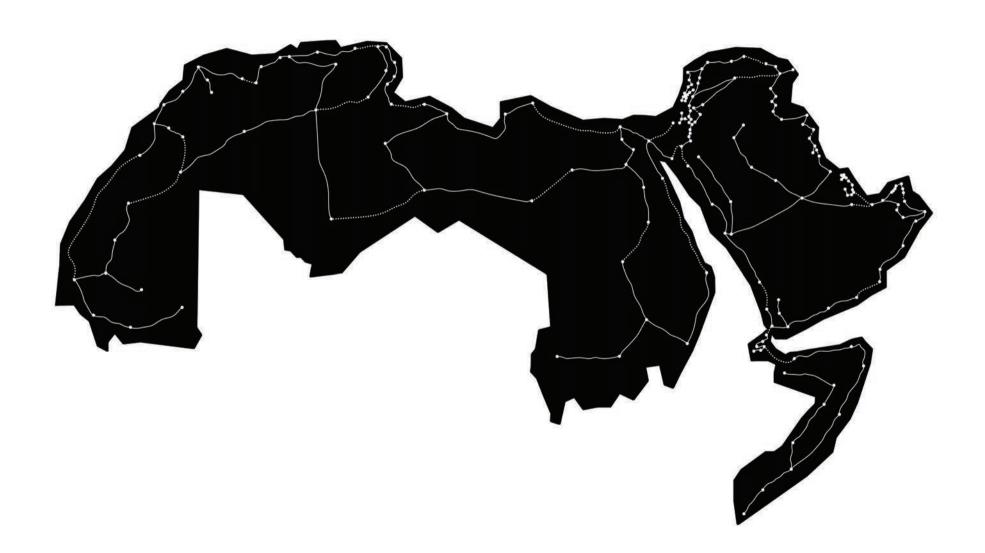
Some before and after words.



# ESTABLISHING CITIES AND CONNECTIONS

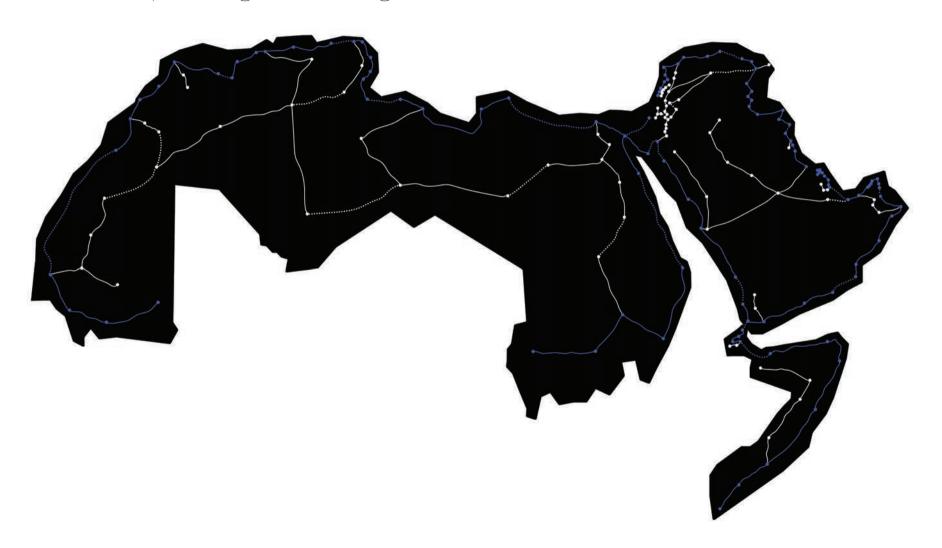


# **GEOGRAPHIC MAPS**

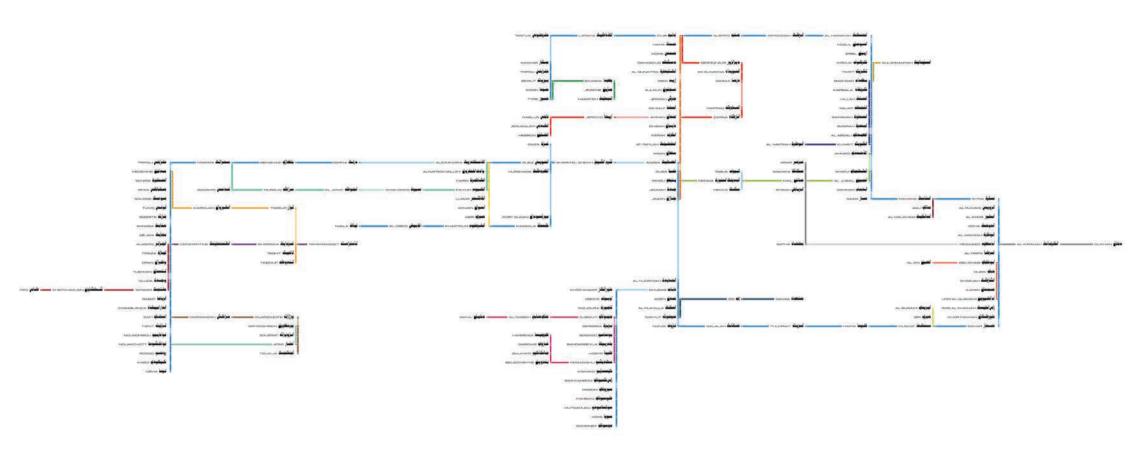


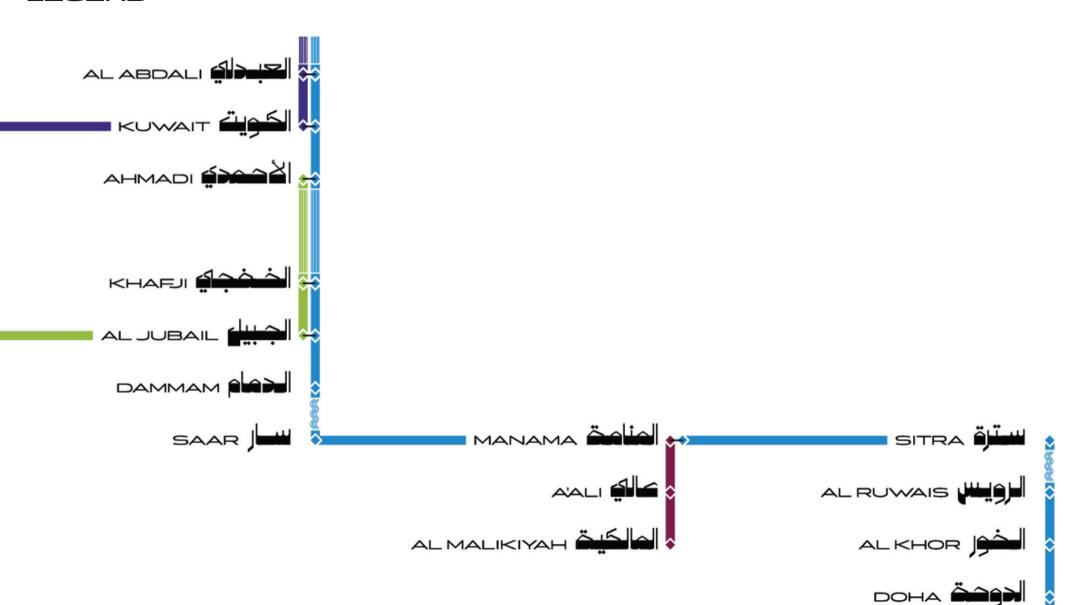
### **GEOGRAPHIC MAPS**

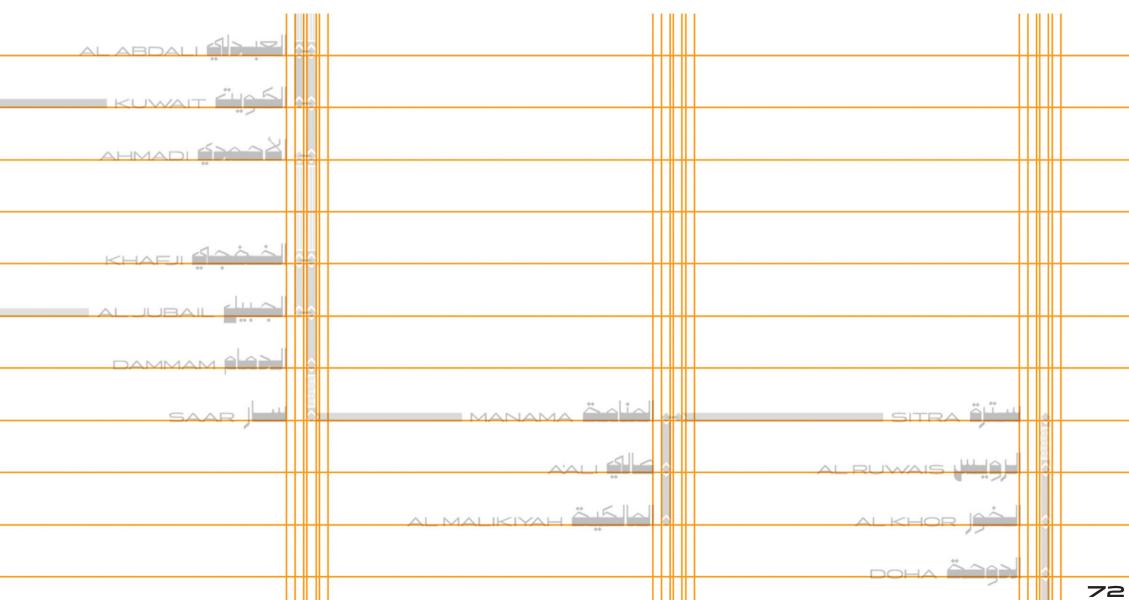
Major cities are located on the coast because of the geographic nature of the region. Therefore, a coastal line that envelopes the region was the longest line created.



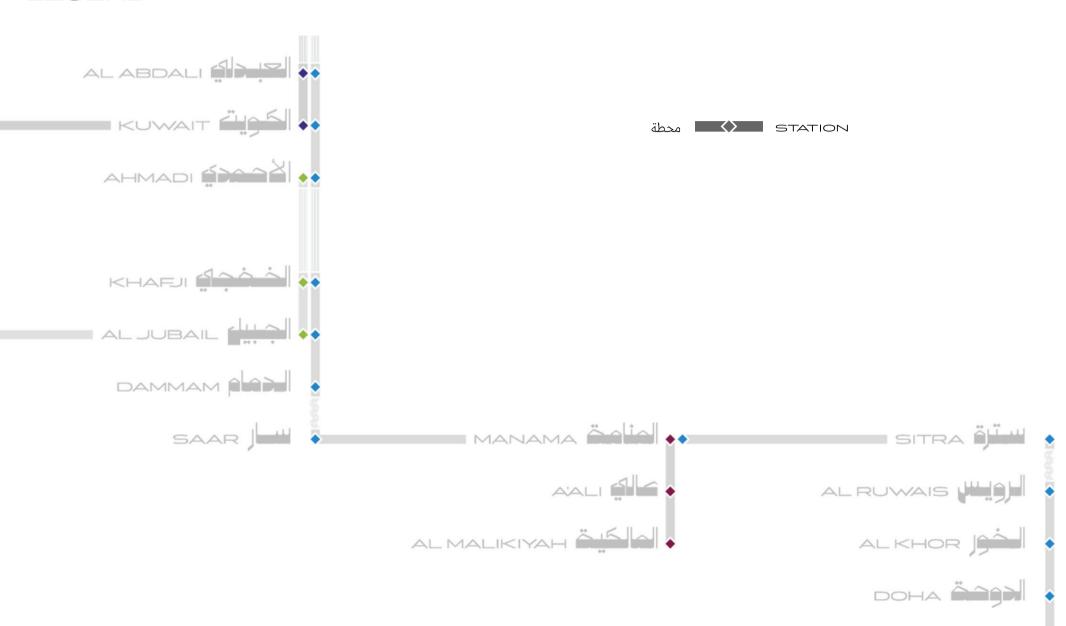
### **GRAPHIC MAP**

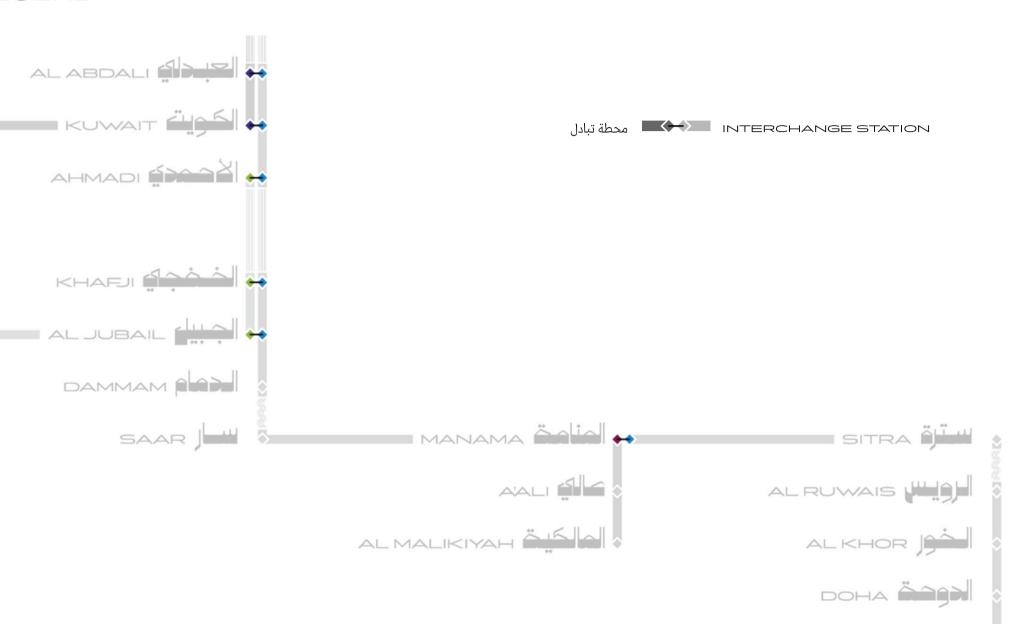


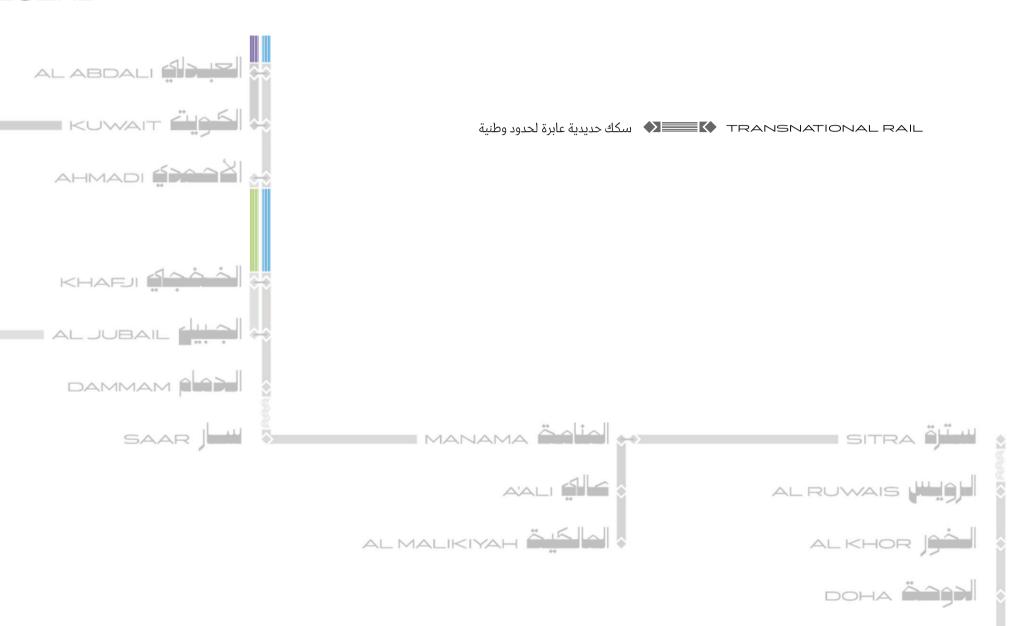


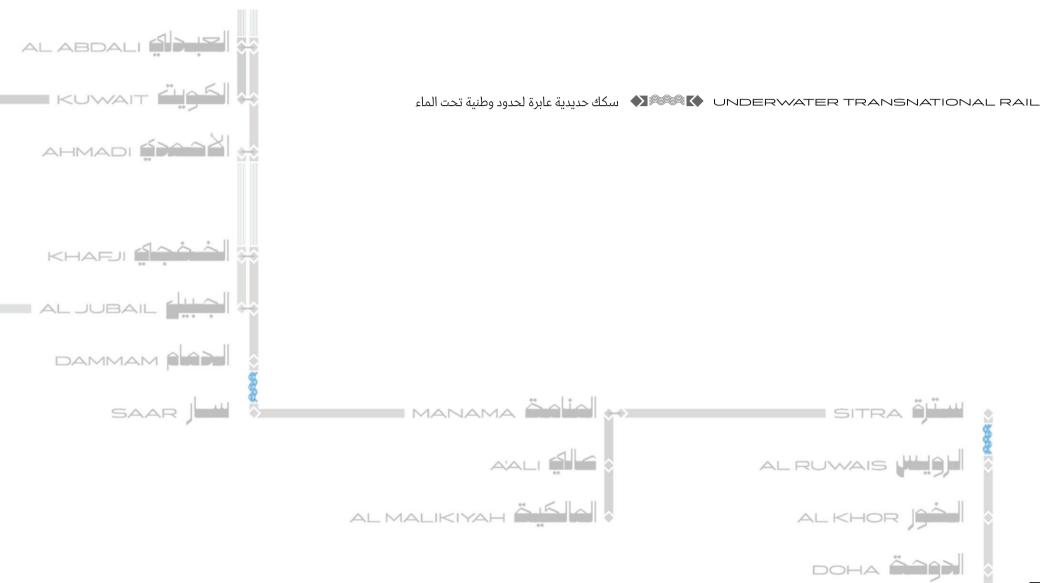












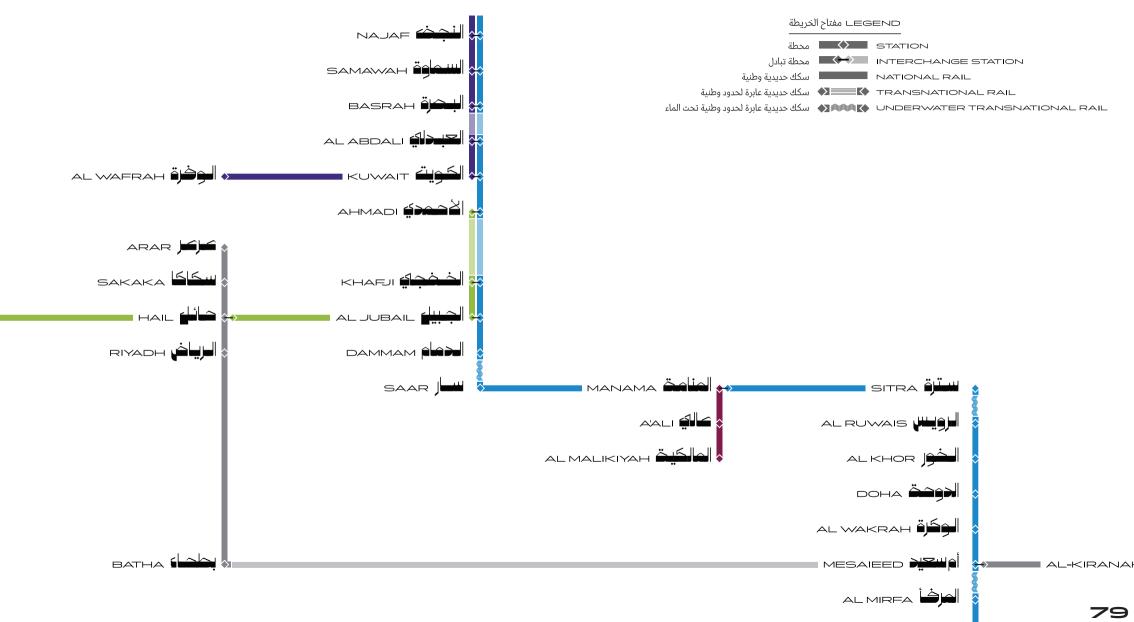
OASIS Â

# MAPS **GRAPHIC MAP: CLOSE-UPS**



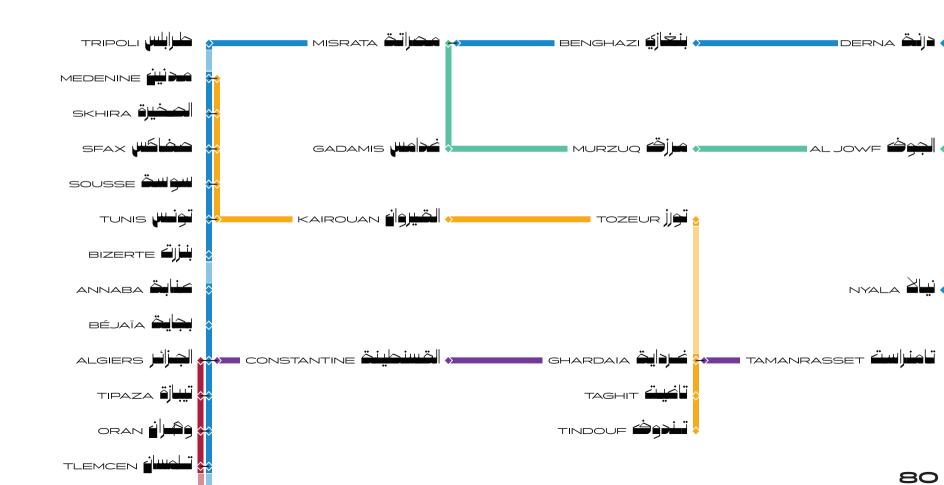
JEDDAH Ä

### **GRAPHIC MAP: CLOSE-UPS**

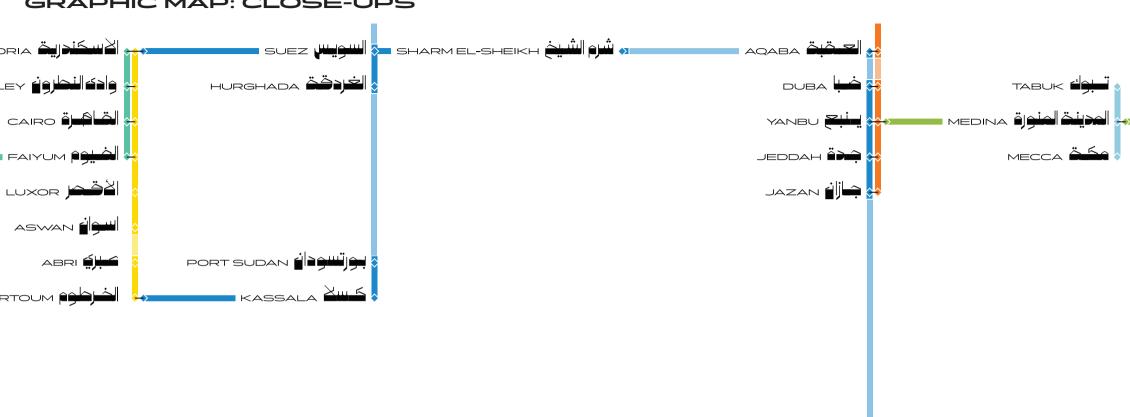


### **GRAPHIC MAP: CLOSE-UPS**

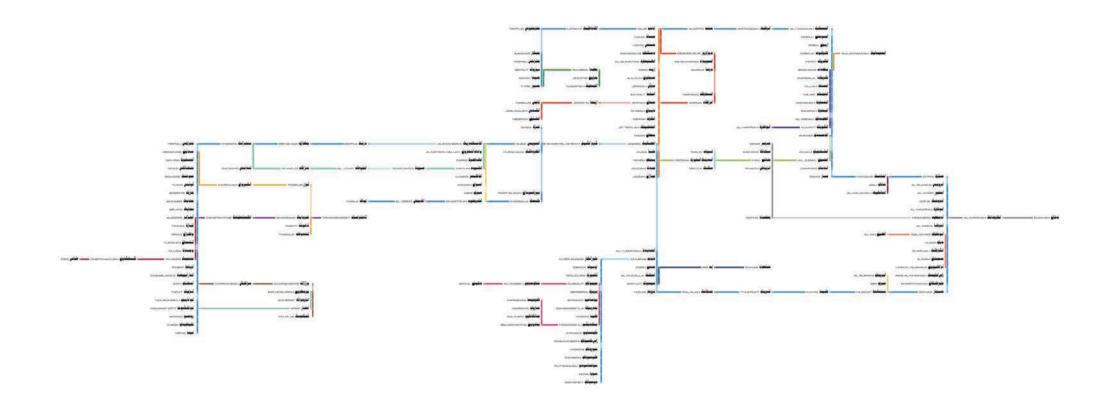
# STATION STATION INTERCHANGE STATION WAS CAULE Gedus INTERCHANGE STATION WAS CAULE GEDUS INTERCHANGE STATIONAL RAIL WAS CAULE GEDUS WAS CAULE GEDUS UNDERWATER TRANSNATIONAL RAIL

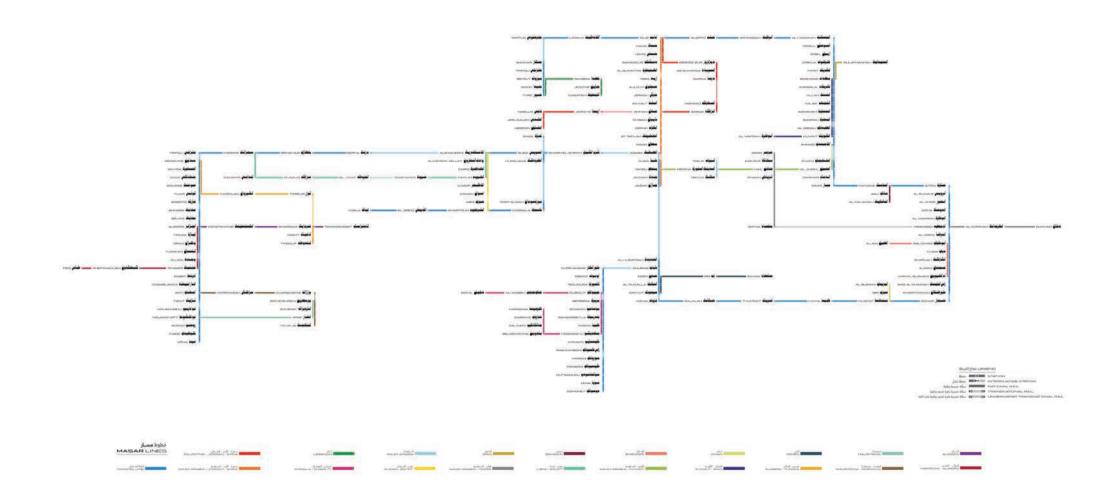


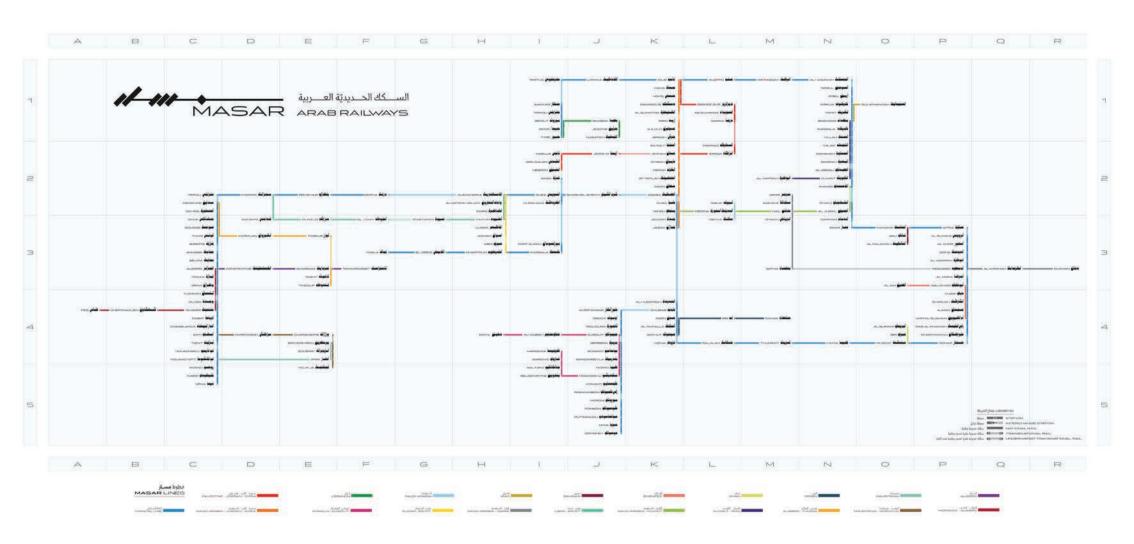
### **GRAPHIC MAP: CLOSE-UPS**

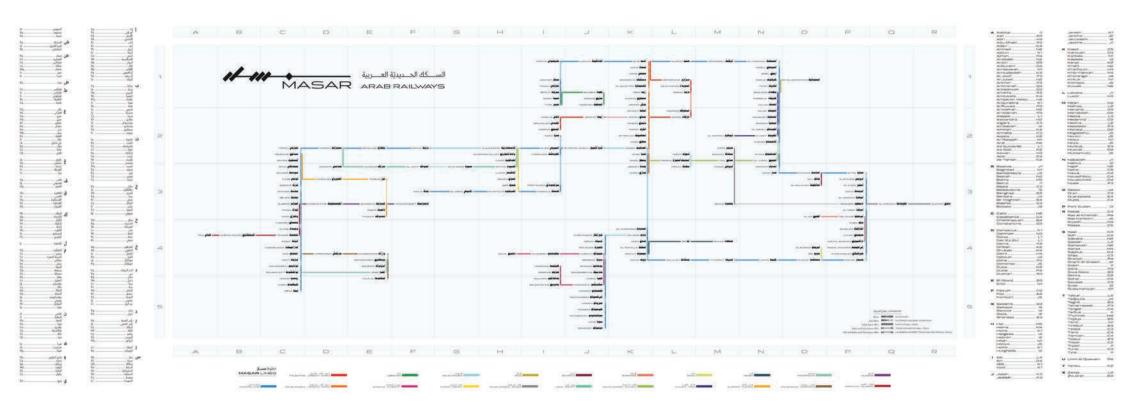




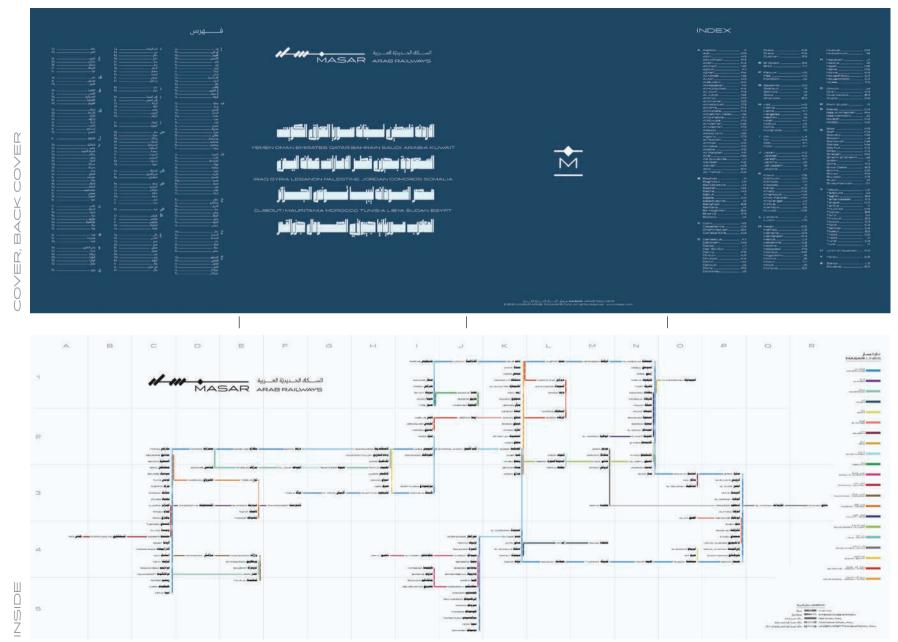




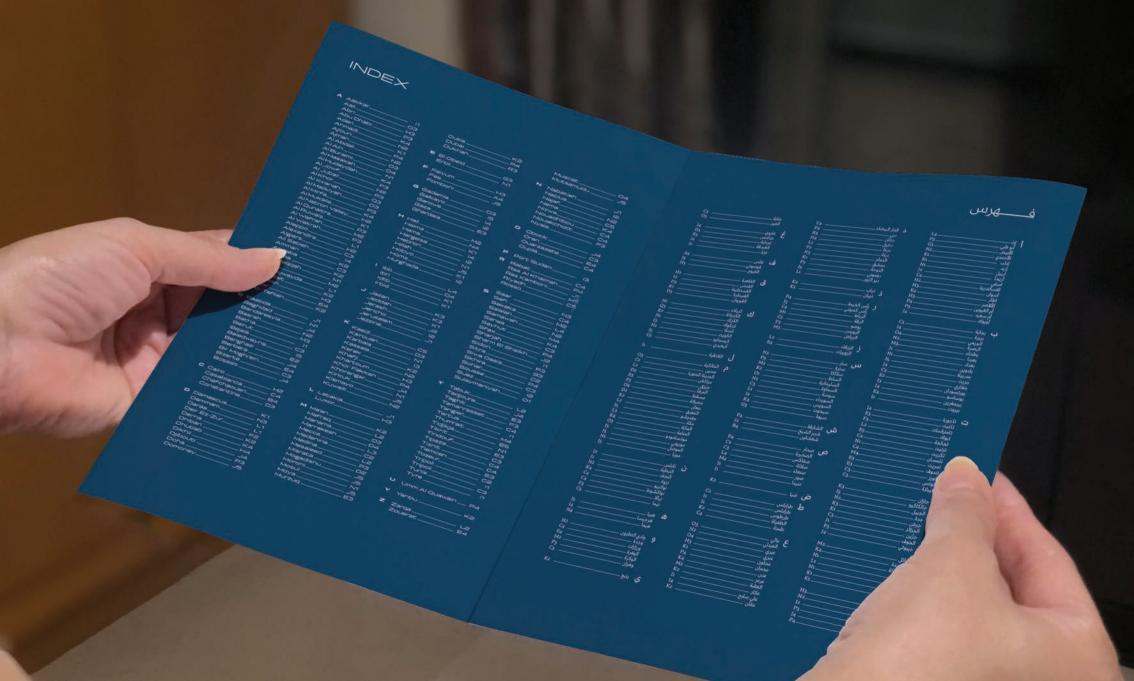




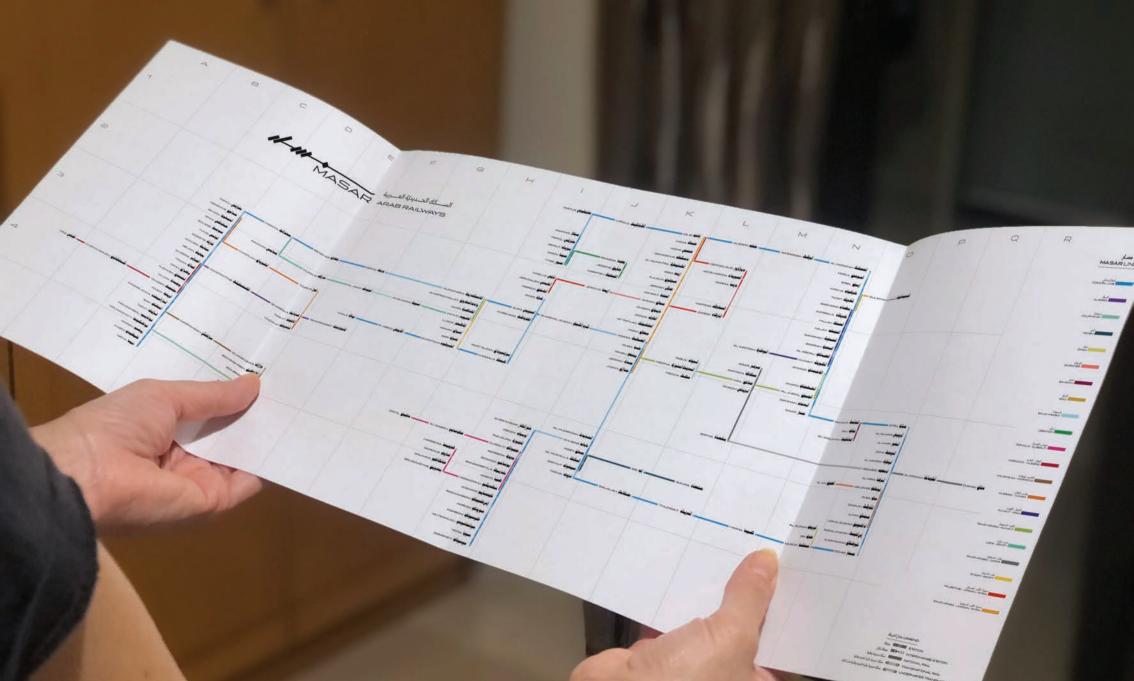






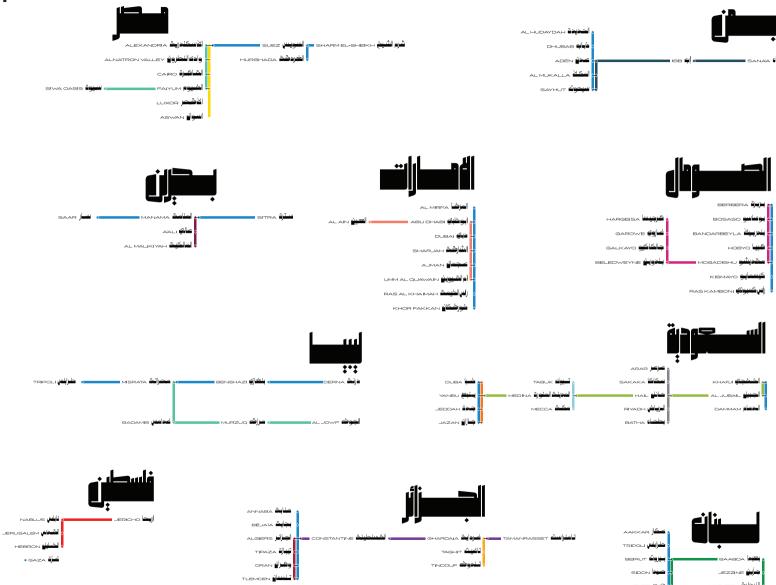






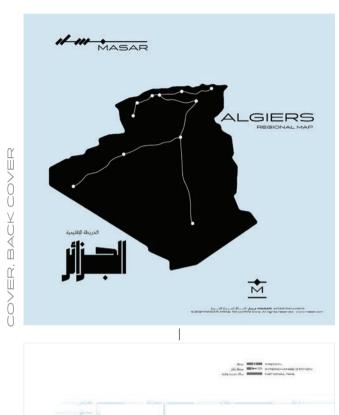


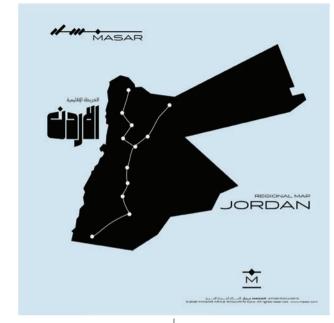
### MAPS PER COUNTRY



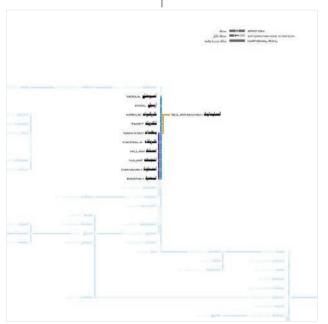
#### MAPS

# MAPS PER COUNTRY BROCHURES

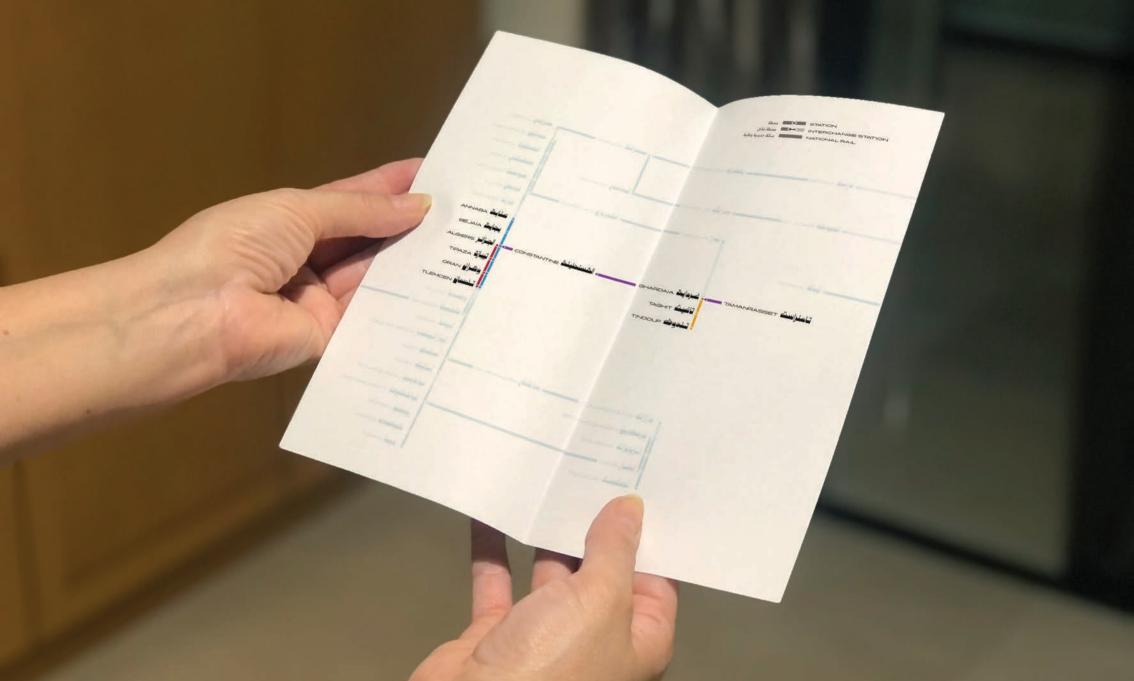






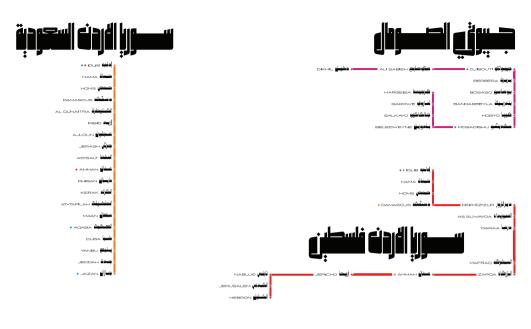








### MAPS PER LINE









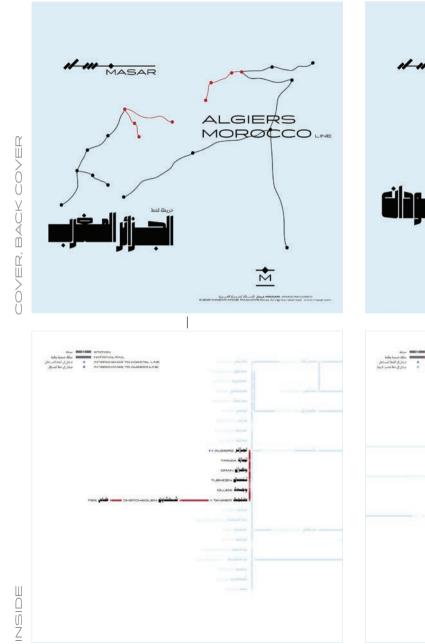


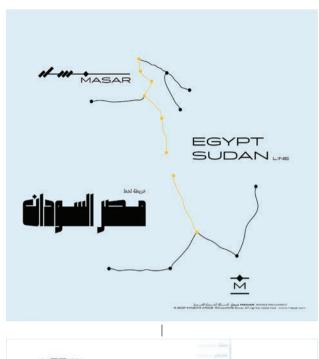




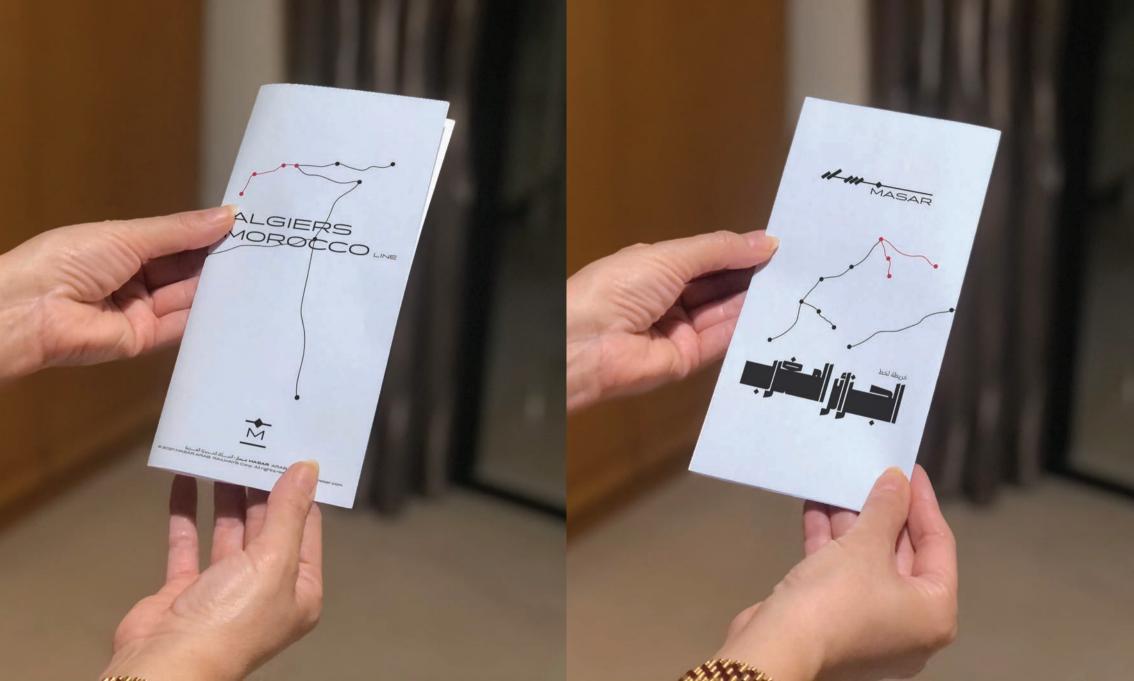


# MAPS PER LINE BROCHURES

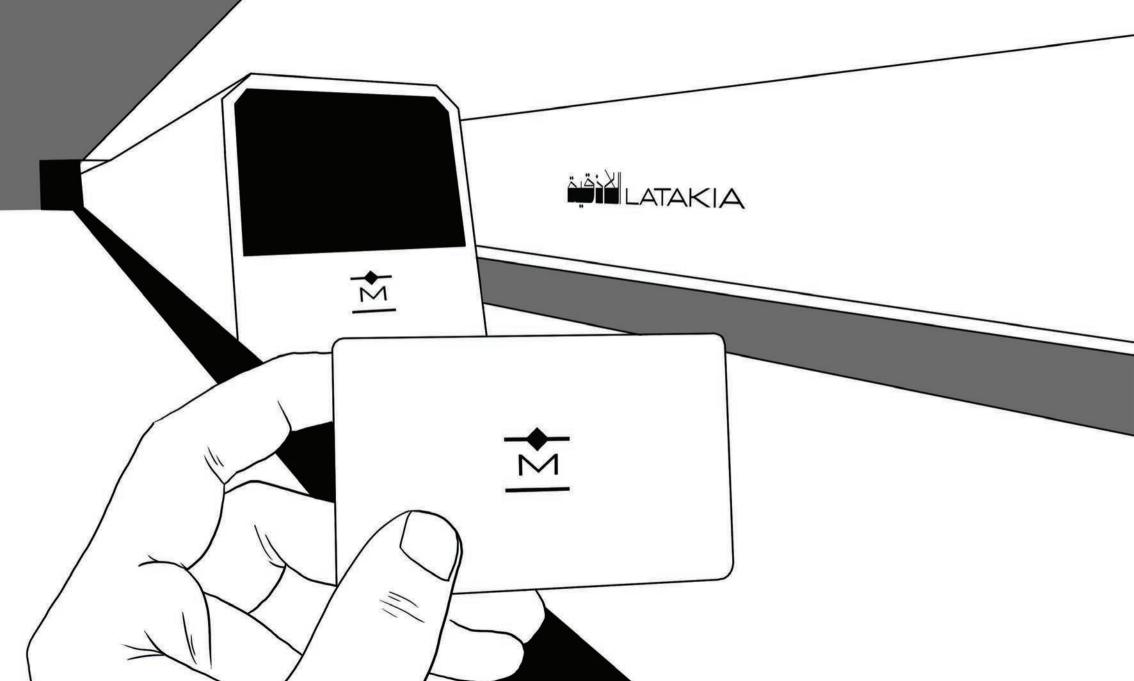


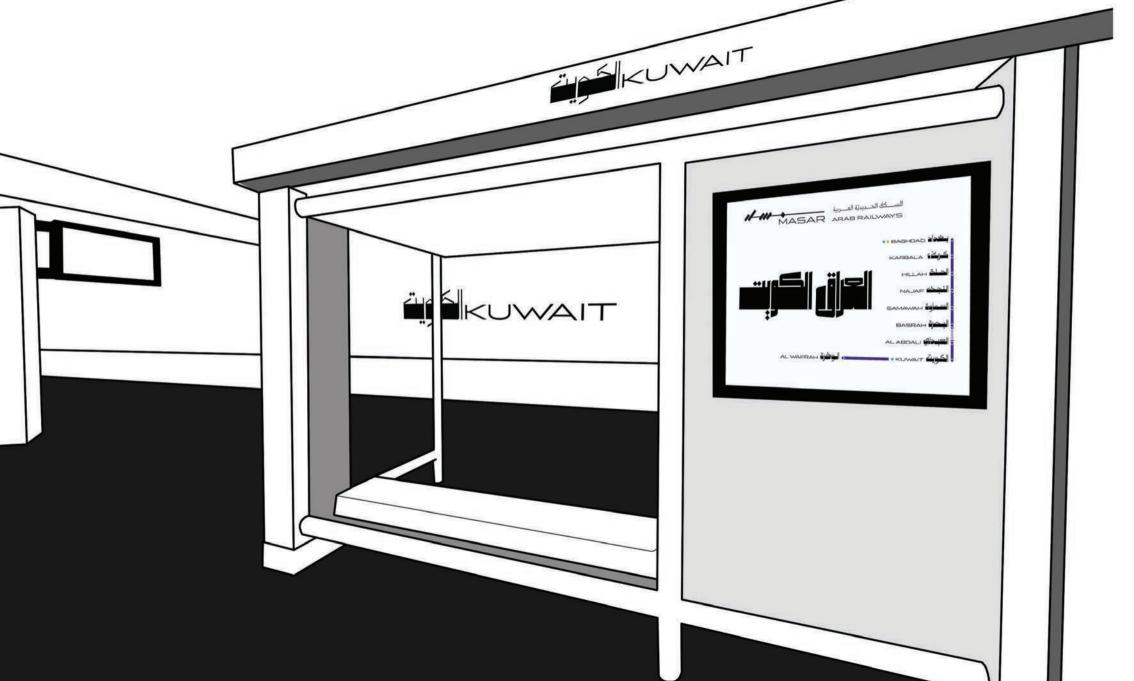


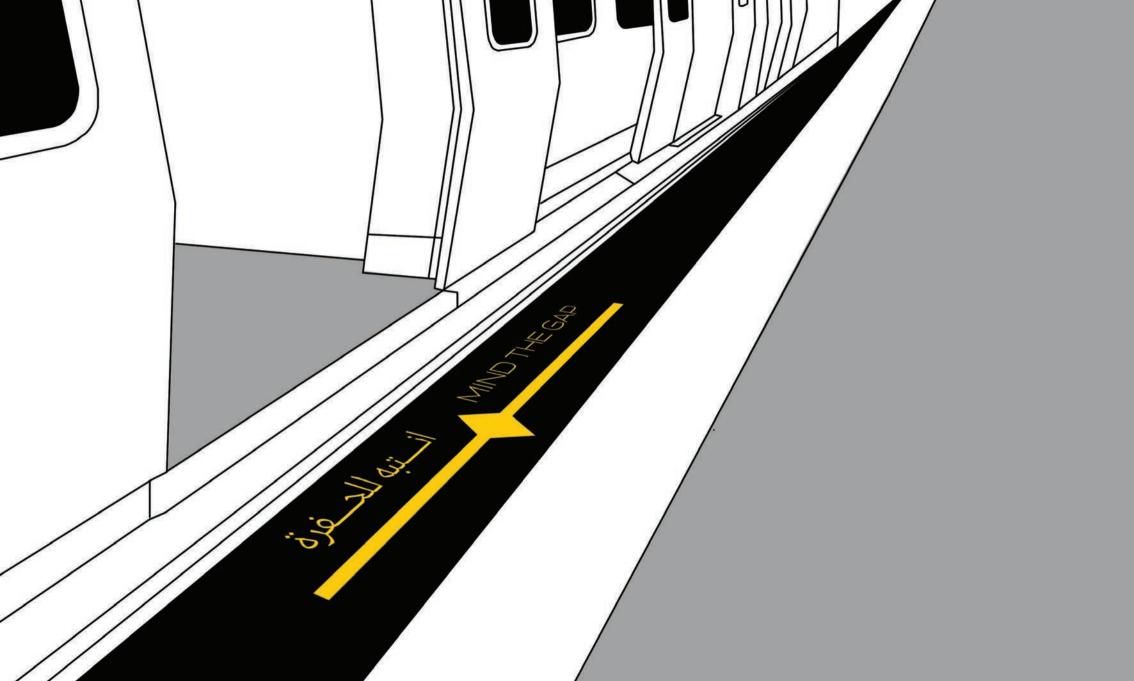


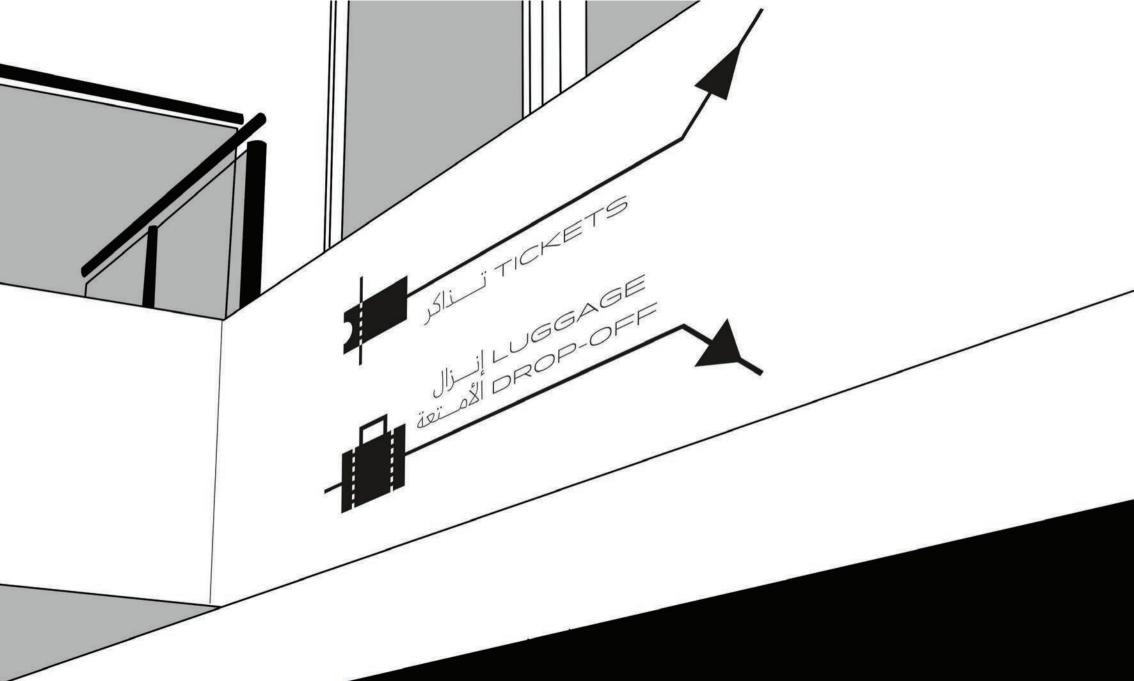


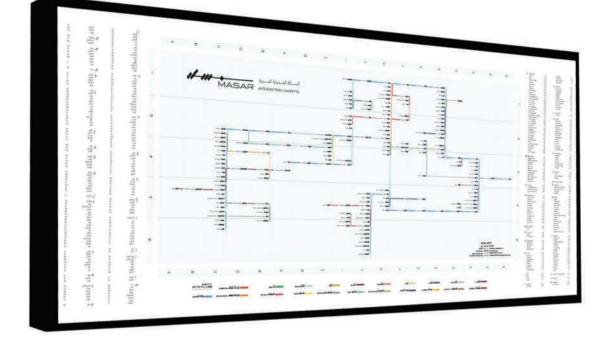
**BRANDED STATIONS** 

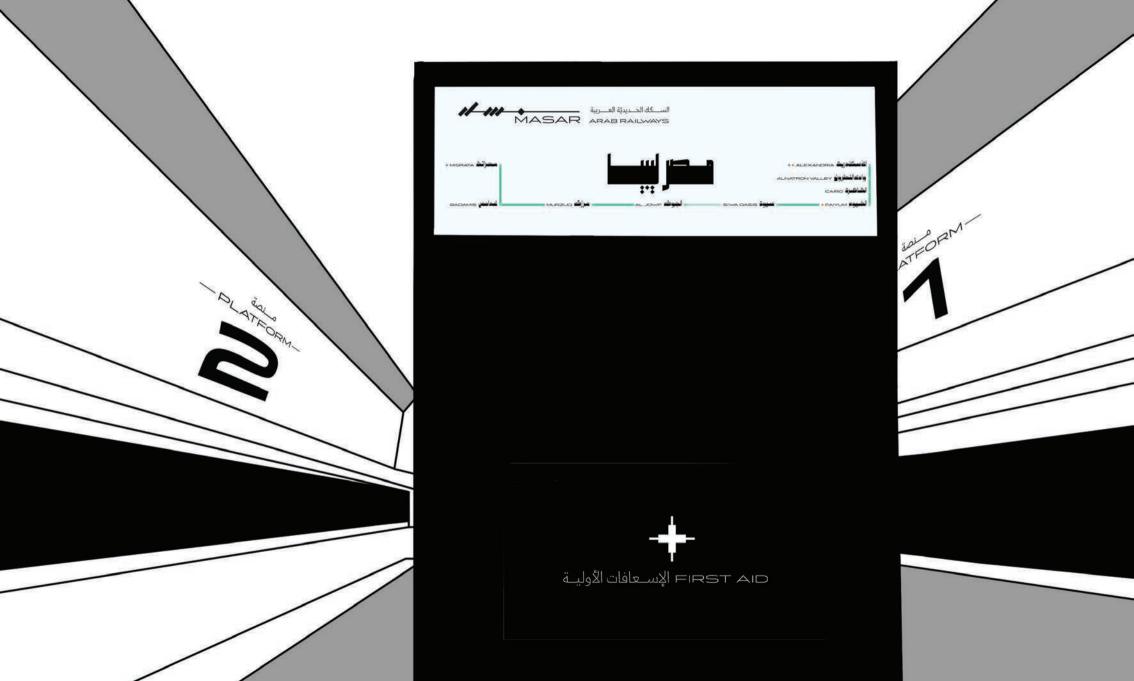






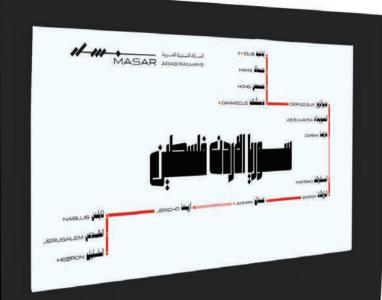






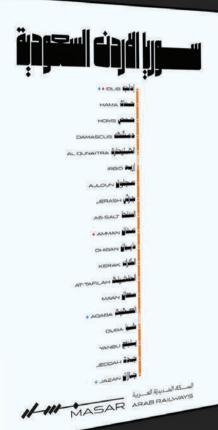






مــنصة —PLATFORM —

3



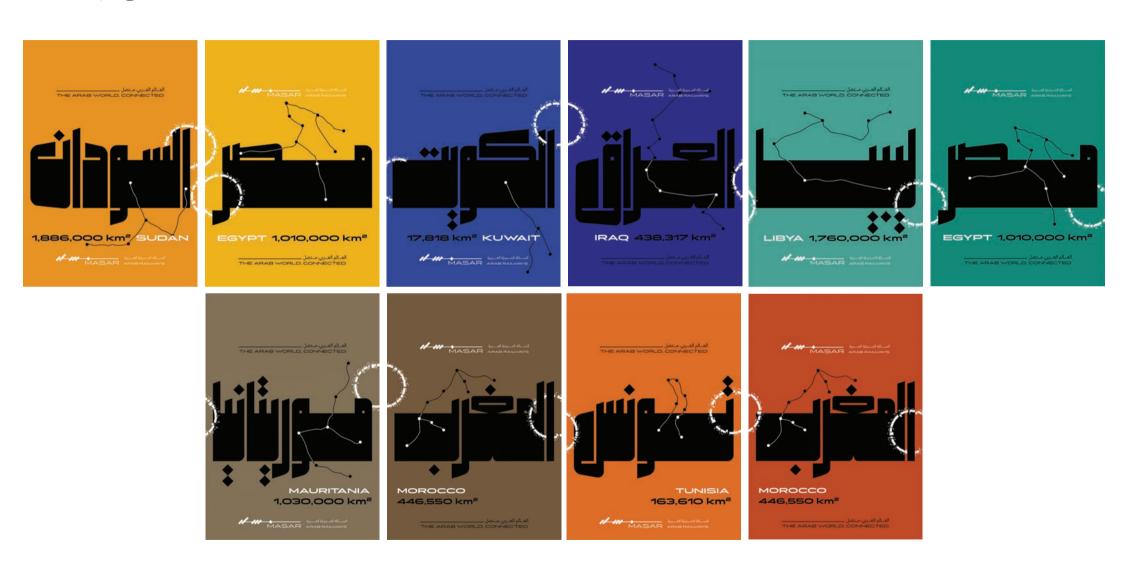
مــنصة —PLATFORM —

3

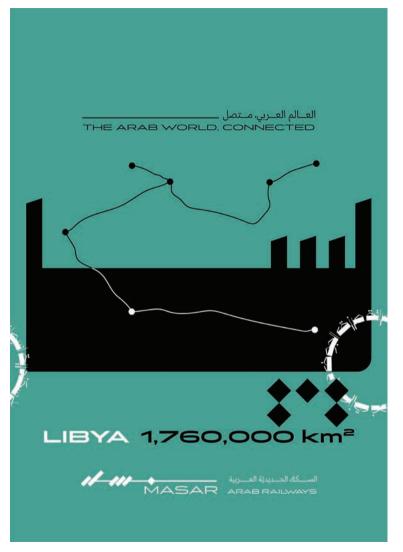
CAMPAIGNS

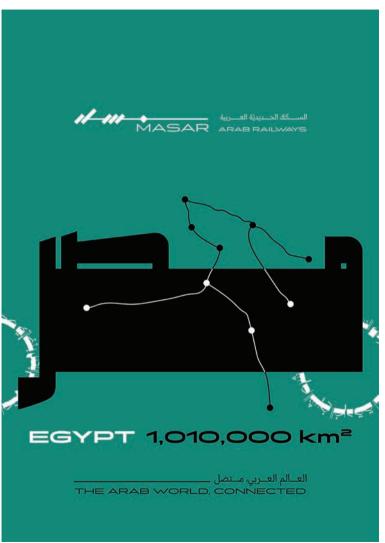
### CAMPAIGN 1: THE ARAB WORLD, CONNECTED

This campaign is based on the lines.



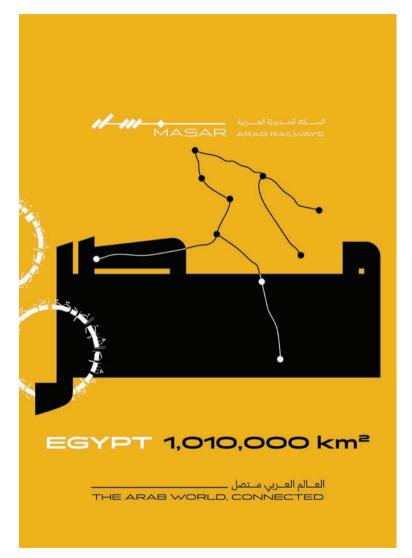


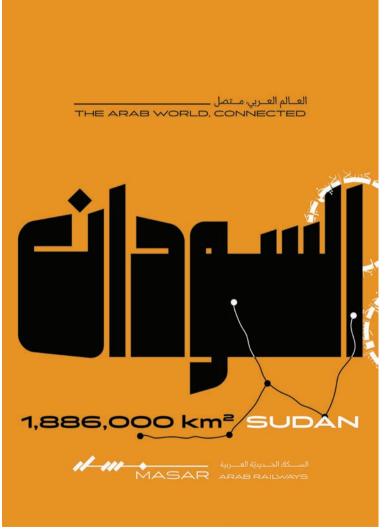














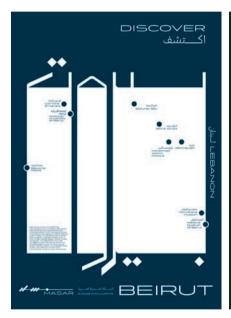




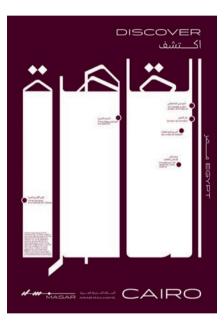


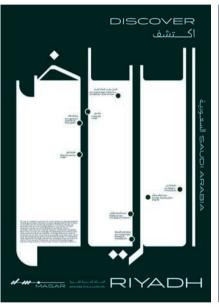
### CAMPAIGN 2: DISCOVER

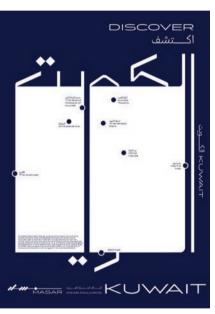
This campaign is based on the touristic locations of Arab country capitals. The dots are geographically correct with respect to each other.















### **CAMPAIGN 3: HIDDEN GEMS**

This campaign is based on the lesser known locations of the Arab world. The phtography has a mass of black that merges with the black masking frame. The posters seem as if the passennger is looking out the window of a train.





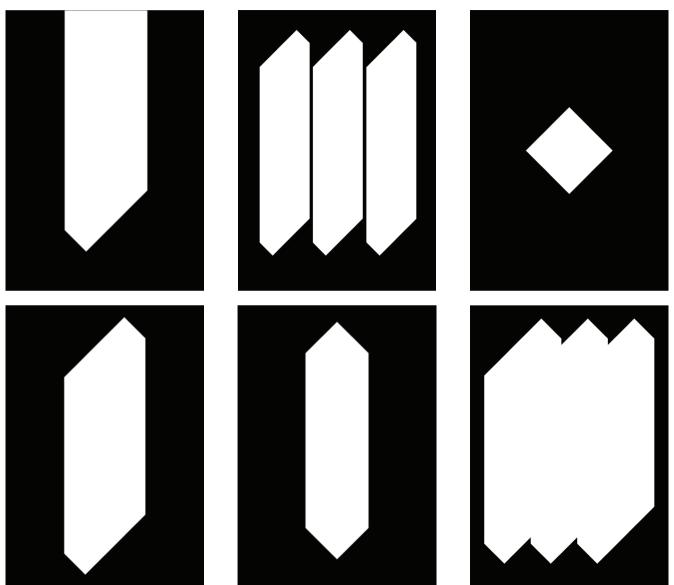






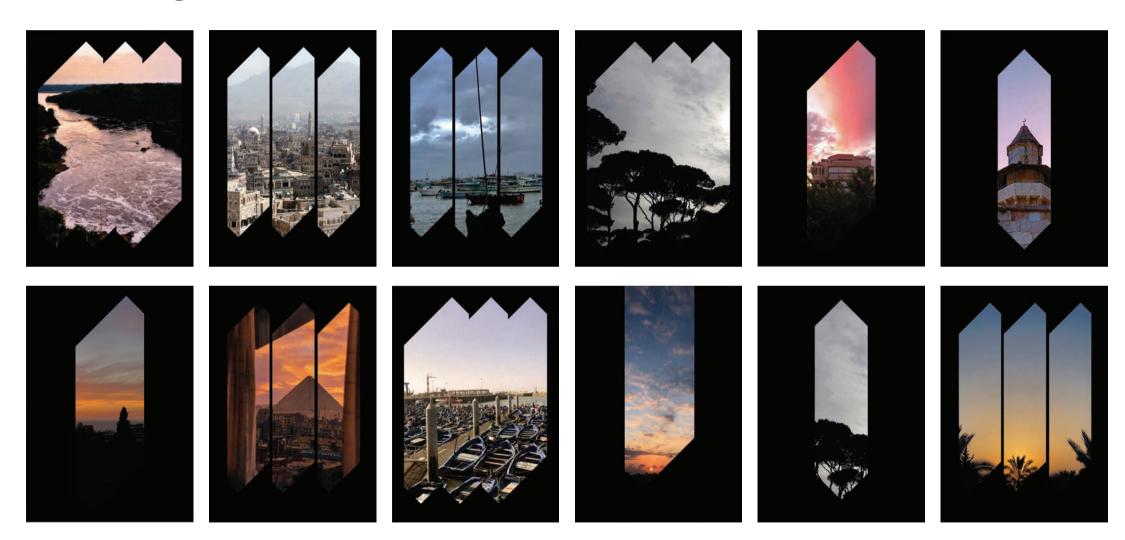
# CAMPAIGN 3: HIDDEN GEMS

Different maskings can be used.



## CAMPAIGN 3: HIDDEN GEMS

Different maskings can be used.







#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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