



**URBAN
ACUPUNCTURE**

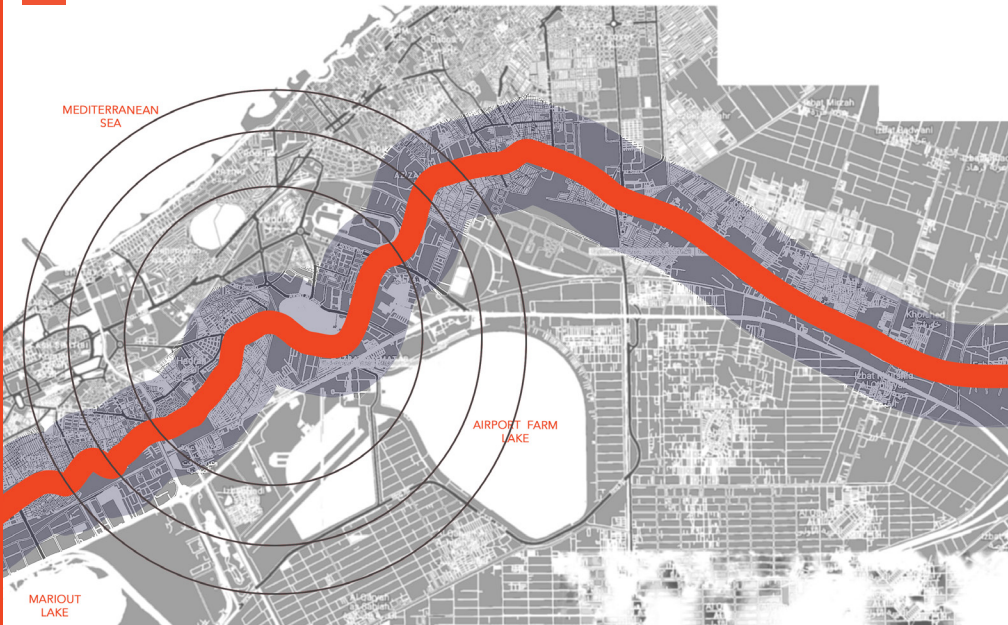
DAAD - TA'ZIZ Science Cooperations

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL: EXPLORING URBAN ACUPUNCTURE IN EGYPT'S URBAN DEVELOPMENT

THE CASE STUDY OF AL MAHMOUDIYA AXIS IN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT



Disclaimer

The Fellowship Program “Unlocking the Potential: Exploring Urban Acupuncture in Egypt’s Urban Development: The Case Study of Al Mahmoudiya Axis in Alexandria, Egypt” taking place in November and December 2023, is part of the Urban Acupuncture project of the T’aziz Partnership for Science Cooperation’s 23/25 . Such project is funded by both the DAAD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs covering a partnership between Kassel University in Germany, Babylon University in Iraq and Beirut Arab University in Lebanon, Alexandria University in Egypt.

Fellowship Program in Alexandria, Nov. and Dec., 2023

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Urban Acupuncture project of the T’aziz Partnership for Science Cooperation’s 23/25 is funded by DAAD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Partners

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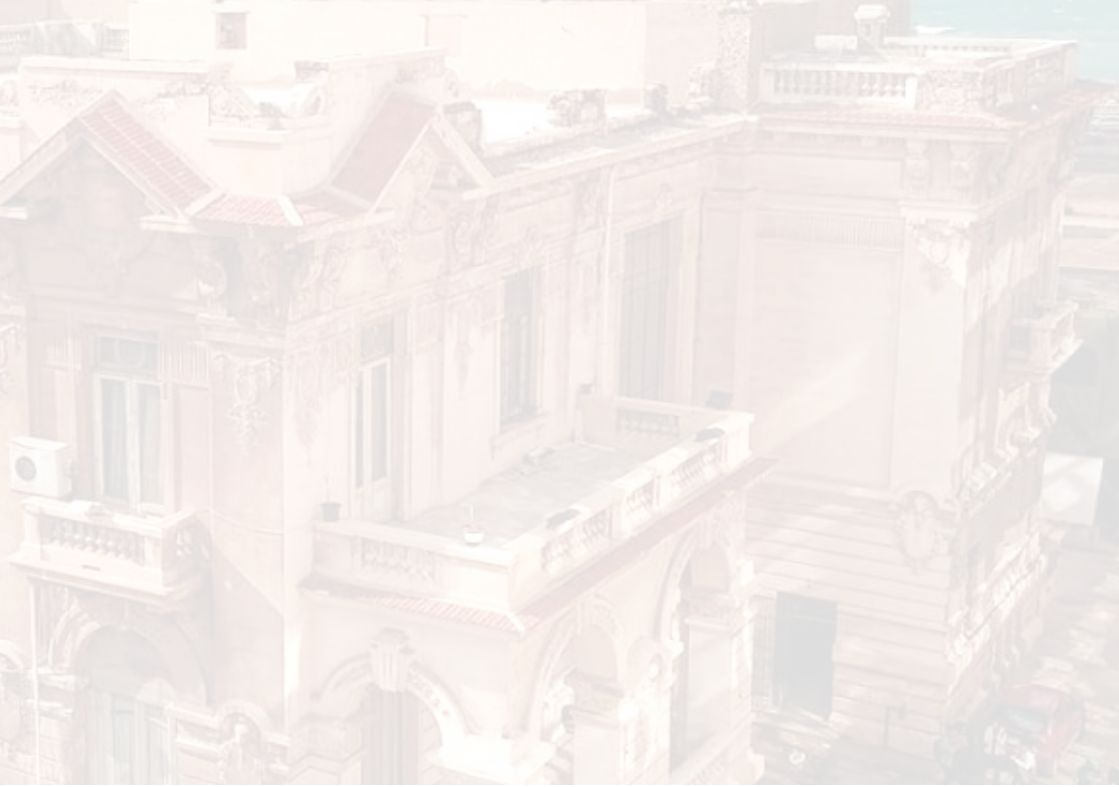
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WHO WE ARE.



**INTRODUCTION TO ALEXANDRIA
UNIVERSITY |
FACULTY OF FINE ARTS |**



INTRODUCTION TO ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

- **Who we are.**

Vision:

The Faculty of Fine Arts is one of the most distinguished university institutions in Egypt in the fields of education, research, and sociology. Building human cadres capable of assimilating and dealing with the requirements of the age and rapid technological developments by activating quality systems for graduates to achieve excellence in the areas of research and artistic and plastic creativity, which effectively contribute to serving the society and developing the environment to obtain accreditation.

History:

The faculty was founded in Alexandria, Egypt in 1957 by Prof. Dr. Ahmed Othman, one of the pioneers in contemporary sculpture and the first Faculty Dean.

Faculty study aims at preparing specialized graduates in arts via the faculty five department's specializations (Architecture – Decoration - Graphic & Printed Designs - Painting – sculpture)

- In 1962, the first students group graduated after obtaining B.Sc. in Arts sections specialization.
- In 1964, the first students group graduated after obtaining B.Sc. in Architecture.



Website: <https://finearts.alexu.edu.eg/index.php/en/>

Faculty of Fine Arts Representatives



Prof. Dina Mandour: Dean
of Faculty of Fine Arts



Prof. Sahar ElArnaoty:
Vice Dean of Graduate
Studies & Research



Prof. Nevin Gharib:
Project Investigator – Vice
Dean of Students and Aca-
demic Affairs



**Prof. Hebatalla Abouel-
fadl:** Head of Architecture
Department.

INTRODUCTION TO ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS | WHO WE ARE.

Project Coordinators:



MSc. Sara Enany
Assistant Lecturer, MSc.
Department of Architecture
Faculty of Fine Arts, AU



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Research Assistants:



MSc. Mohamed Saber Nakd
Assistant Lecturer, MSc.
Department of Architecture
Faculty of Fine Arts, AU



BSc. Omar Ashraf ElSafwani
Teaching Assistant, BSc.
Department of Architecture
Faculty of Fine Arts, AU



BSc. Nada El-Zoghby
Teaching Assistant, BSc.
Department of Architecture
Faculty of Fine Arts, AU



BSc. Eman Darwish
Teaching Assistant, BSc.
Department of Architecture
Faculty of Fine Arts, AU

INTRODUCTION TO ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS | WHO WE ARE.

Student Assistants:



BSc. Mohammed Abd-El Kreem
Teaching Assistant, BSc.
Department of Architecture Faculty of Fine Arts, AU



BSc. Ahmed Fouad
Postgraduate student at Faculty of Fine Arts, AU



Suzan Elsmahy
Undergraduate student at Faculty of Fine Arts, AU



Nour Khaled
Undergraduate student at Faculty of Fine Arts, AU



Omar Farag
Undergraduate student at Faculty of Fine Arts, AU



Yehia Khaled
Undergraduate student at Faculty of Fine Arts, AU

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATIONS

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

1- Revitalization of Historic City Districts (RHCD) - Master Program

Website: <https://www.b-tu.de/en/urbandesign-ms/details/overview>



Established in 2013, the Master Programme of Urban Design - Revitalization of Historic City Districts trains professionals capable of developing creative, design-based and integrated strategies for revitalization of historic cities. This programme is a tripartite cooperation between the Brandenburg University of Technology in Cottbus, Germany, the Cairo University and the Alexandria University in Egypt.

2- City by the water (CBtW) - Workshop

Email: Kassalex.2021.2022@gmail.com



ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND COLLABORATIONS

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Duratoon: 04th to 11th November 2023

The workshop - “Cities by the Water” - focuses on the Urban Regeneration of historical cities overlooking versatile waterbodies. This workshop addresses topics related to urban planning and social issues - such as comprehensive urban renewal strategies, the role of community organisations, place-making concepts - how the city and the water influence each other, as well as topics related to urban and architectural design in historical context. Participants of the international workshop from the three universities will explore these aspects during 4 excursions to Port Said by the Suez Canal, New Mansoura by the Mediterranean Sea, Balteem by Lake Burullus, and finally, Alexandria as the main case study.

3- Urban Acupuncture: Bridging Theory and Practice - An Expert Work-

Website: <https://urbanacupuncture.de/programs-2436/first-online-expert-workshop-on-urban-acupuncture-2786/>

Duration: 31th October | 14:00 to 18:00 CET

Unlock the transformative potential of urban spaces with our first online expert workshop on Urban Acupuncture. Join us as five distinguished experts from Egypt, Cuba, Iraq, and Lebanon converge to present a diverse spectrum of insights, ranging from theoretical frameworks to real-world practical applications.

Urban Acupuncture is a holistic approach to urban design that seeks to revitalize and harmonize communities through strategic interventions in the built environment. In this workshop, we delve into the core principles, methodologies, and success stories that have revolutionized cities worldwide.

Urban Acupuncture:
Bridging Theory and Practice -
An Expert Workshop Online Workshop

31th October
14:00 to 18:00 CET

David Aouad
Assistant Professor

Dhirgham Alotaybi
Assistant Professor II

Hany Mohamed Ayad
Professor of Urban Planning

Jorge Peña Diaz
Prof. Dr. Arch.

Mostafa Alani
Visiting Associate Professor

Meet Our Speakers!

UNIKASSEL UNIVERSITY | Baghdad College of Education | Mansoura University

4. SPATIAL DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS

INTRODUCTION TO ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS | FACILITIES & ACCESSIBILITY

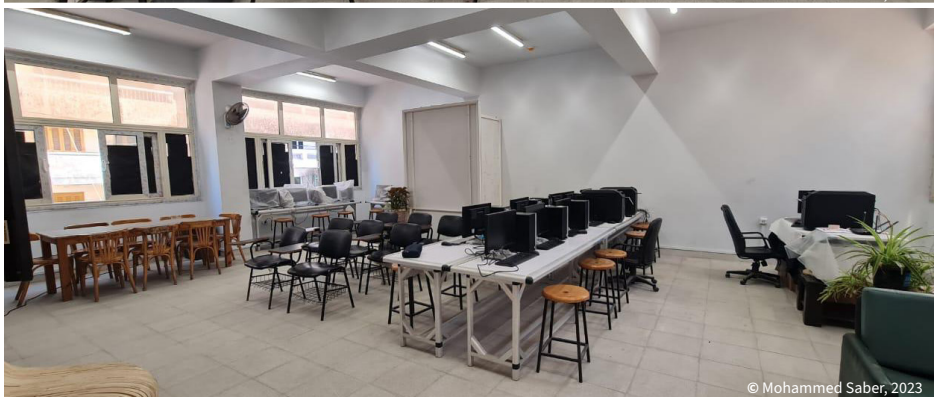
Facilities:

GIS Lab - Vision

The Urban Form Lab (UFL) at our faculty aspires to be a transformative force at the intersection of academia and practical urban development. Our vision is rooted in innovation, sustainability, and community engagement, encompassing short, middle, and long-term goals while expanding from local to global impact. Our vision for the Urban Form Lab is to be a dynamic force for positive change, impacting our community, our faculty, and the world by promoting sustainable, ethical, and innovative approaches to urban design and planning.



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Fig. (1): GIS Lab at Faculty of Fine Arts, AU.

INTRODUCTION TO ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS | FACILITIES & ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility:

Three main axes: El geish road, Abu-Quier Street and the Tram line.

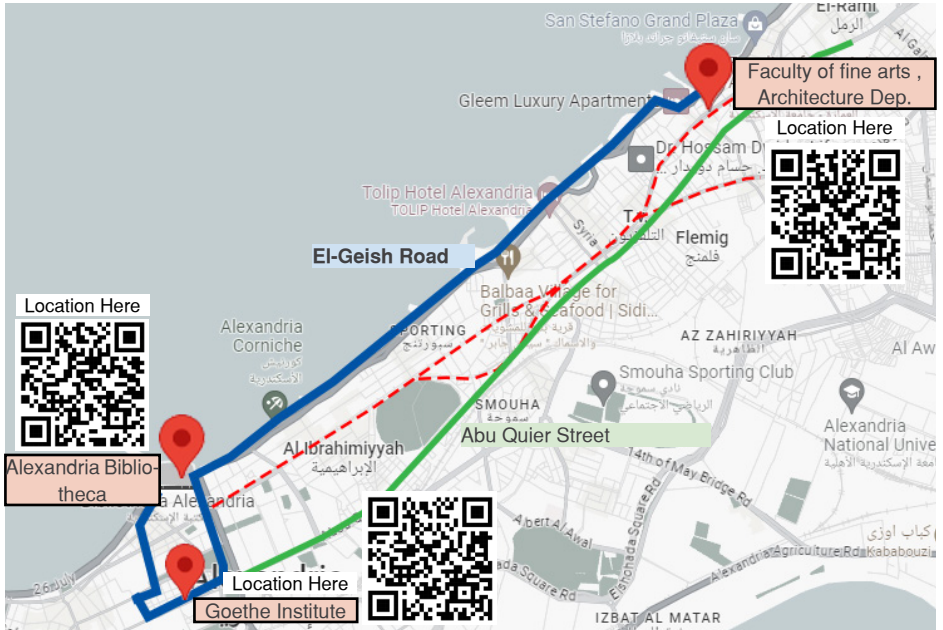
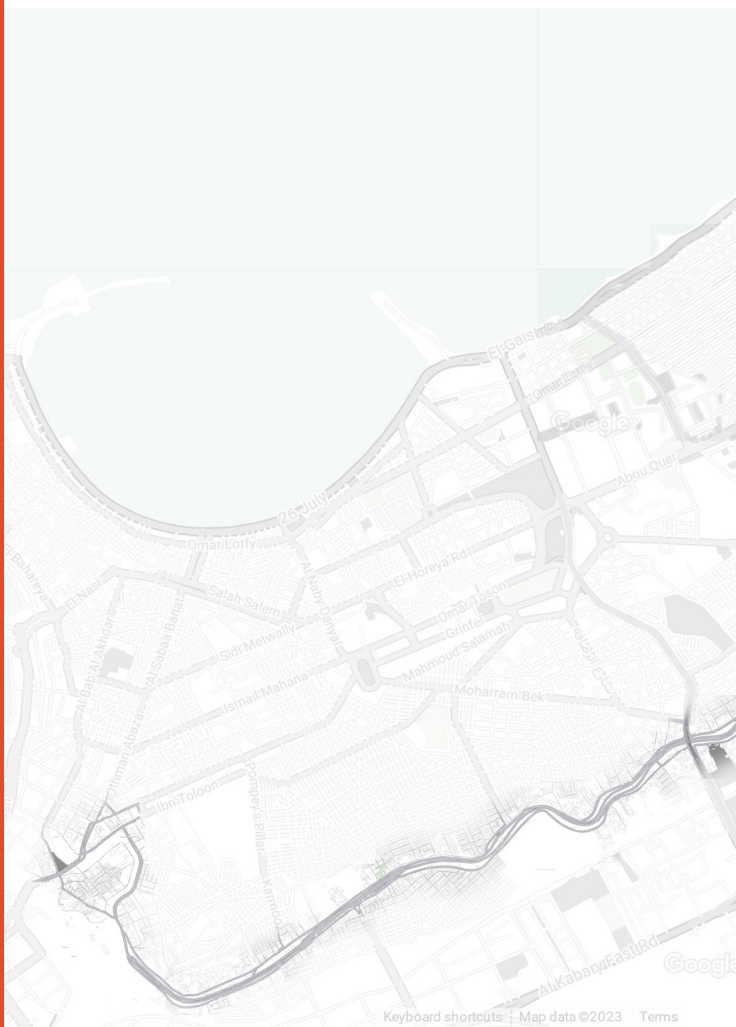


Fig. (2): Accessibility Map, Source: Google Maps, Edited by: Eman M. Darwish 2023



OVERVIEW



FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA |
FACULTY OF FINE ARTS |



FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA - DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW & STRUCTURE

Fellowship Overview

The fellowship's main topic is about Urban Acupuncture Principles in the context of Egypt's urban development. Urban Acupuncture, initially introduced in 1983, is a comprehensive approach that utilizes data collection, analysis, and design to provide swift spatial solutions for everyday urban challenges in small urban spaces.

In Egypt, it is crucial to apply the principles of Urban Acupuncture to reassess the effectiveness of regeneration projects and their integration into urban planning strategies. Unfortunately, the lack of active community participation has often resulted in passive implementation of transient and cost-effective measures, limiting their impact on comprehensive urban strategies. To address these issues, a meaningful and sustainable approach to urban development in Egypt can be facilitated by employing the principles of Urban Acupuncture.

Fellowship Structure

The selected case study for this fellowship program will focus on the Al Mahmoudiya Axis in Alexandria-Egypt, which is one of the most critical mobility axes in Alexandria. The fellows will have the opportunity to investigate different scales and levels of intervention, including the micro level, meso level, and macro level. This comprehensive approach will allow them to analyze the current situation, explore potential solutions using the Urban Acupuncture tool, and ultimately consolidate the findings into a combined report.

The two-month duration of the fellowship will be divided into several stages. Initially, the fellows will conduct a thorough analysis of the current situation, examining the challenges and opportunities within the Al Mahmoudiya Axis. This analysis will serve as a foundation for the subsequent exploration and testing of the Urban Acupuncture tool. The fellows will have the chance to apply this approach to identify strategic interventions and propose innovative solutions that address the specific needs of the axis. Throughout the fellowship, active engagement with the local community and stakeholders are all considered a key component of this fellowship ensuring the integration of their perspectives and aspirations. By involving the community in the decision-making process, the fellows will help create sustainable solutions that align with the community's needs and aspirations through the lens of Urban Acupuncture.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

OBJECTIVES & EXPECTATIONS

Objective

This fellowship offers a unique opportunity for young researchers to delve into the principles of Urban Acupuncture, apply them to a real-life case study, and contribute to the sustainable urban development of Alexandria. By combining theory with practical implementation, the fellows will gain valuable hands-on experience and contribute to the advancement of urban planning strategies in Egypt.

Expectation

The upcoming fellowship at Alexandria University sets high expectations for participants, seeking young researchers who are driven, passionate, and committed to making a meaningful impact in the field of urban development. The fellows should be prepared for the following:

- The fellowship should equate to approximately two months (November and December 2023). - Fellows must participate in regular (1-2 per month) video calls with the fellowship cohort and supervisors from all partner universities. This includes monthly check-ins, a half-day virtual “mini-residency” in the winter, and four follow-up meetings with supervisors from Alexandria University in the campus throughout the fellowship.
- Fellows are expected to work in groups (two members per group).
- Fellows are expected to submit by the end of the fellowship three printed scientific poster one for each group + one Combined Report max. 5000 words from all groups.
- The fellowship closing event in Alexandria requires fellows to submit a final presentation regarding their experiences and findings.
- As part of the fellowship’s experiences and findings (scientific poster and report) are planned to be published.

Eventually, fellows will be expected to apply the principles of UA to the selected case study, Al Mahmoudiya Axis in Alexandria, conducting in-depth analysis and proposing innovative interventions at various scales. Fellows will contribute to a comprehensive report, thereby disseminating the knowledge and insights gained during the fellowship to a wider audience and serving as a valuable resource for planners, decision makers, researchers, academic and professional community, making a lasting contribution to sustainable urban development in Egypt.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

CASE STUDY

Brief about the selected case study

The Mahmoudiya Canal, is mainly a historical waterway in Egypt. It was originally constructed during the reign of Muhammad Ali Pasha in the early 19th century to serve as an irrigation channel and to supply Alexandria with food and fresh water from the Nile.

The Canal itself used to be a 45-mile-long (72 km), it is considered a sub-canal from the Nile River which starts at the Nile-port of Mahmoudiya and goes through Alexandria to the Mediterranean



Fig. (3): El-Mahudia Canal, Source: Kadinsky, S. (2018a, March 16). Mahmoudeya Canal, Alexandria. Hidden Waters blog.

Sea.

Over time, the canal's significance evolved, and it played a vital role in the transportation of goods as well as people, linking Alexandria to the Nile River. It served as a major water route for trade and travel, contributing to the economic development of the region.

However, in recent years, due to urban expansion and increasing population in Alexandria, the decision was made to fill in the Mahmoudiya Canal and convert it into a main axis within the city. The purpose of this transformation was to accommodate the growing transportation needs and alleviate traffic congestion in the area.



Fig. (4): Al Mahmoudiya Canal pre-development, Source: Kadinsky, S. (2018, March 16). Mahmoudeya Canal, Alexandria. Hidden Waters blog.



Fig. (5): Al Mahmoudiya Canal after development, Source: Kadinsky, S. (2018a, March 16). Mahmoudeya Canal, Alexandria. Hidden Waters blog.



FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA | FACULTY OF FINE ARTS |

MEET THE FELLOWS

Selection Phase

Upon our call for fellowship under the title “Unlocking the Potential: Exploring Urban Acupuncture in Egypt’s Urban Development”, in August 2023, we were pleased to receive 21 applications, of which only six have been approved. Our fellows come from a diversity of backgrounds in order to meet and contribute to the theme of the fellowship, including the following fellows:

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

NOMINATED FELLOWS



Hamda Al Hajri

University of Stuttgart, DE

PhD Candidate

MSc Urban Planning

My name is Hamda Al Hajri, and I am an Omani Urban and Regional Planner. I obtained a master's degree in regional and urban planning from RWTH-Aachen University in 2016. I am currently conducting my PhD at the University of Stuttgart, titled "Beyond Boundaries: Modern Land Governance in Former Tribal Territories: A Case Study: The Sultanate of Oman.". Professionally, I have 13 years of experience working on land management, land governance, and policy development in topics related to mobility patterns, urban sustainability, national and regional spatial strategies, and stakeholder management and engagement. My interests include increasing public participation and planning practices in the Arab region and developing contextualized tools and methodologies for sustainable land development to promote resilient cities and communities. I recently published a research paper alongside the Global Land Tool Network titled "The Land Before Lines: Social Unrest and Modern Land Management in Former Tribal Territories."

Contact: al_hajriah@hotmail.com

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

NOMINATED FELLOWS



Alice Abdulghany

Beirut Arab University, LB
PhD Candidate
MSc In Architecture

My name is Alice Abdulghany, and I'm an architect and PhD candidate in architecture at the Beirut Arab University in Lebanon. During obtaining my Master degree in architecture, I studied prehistoric first-built environments around the fertile crescent to understand their evolution within the hosting geography. Through my PhD research, I am focusing on the multidisciplinary study of nature-based solutions for urban problems. With more than half of the world's population residing in urban areas, it's vital to create cities that can operate in harmony within their geographic setting while taking into consideration both ecological and socio-economic factors. I've published two papers in the Creative Sustainable Development Journal in BAU titled 'REVISITING PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES: ENVISIONING FIRST BUILT ENVIRONMENTS TO REPOSSESS GEOGRAPHICALLY SPECIFIC APPROACHES IN ARCHITECTURE' and 'TOWARDS URBAN BIODIVERSITY: SIMULATING DESIGN PARAMETERS FOR WILDLIFE-INCLUSIVE GREEN INFRASTRUCUTURE'.

Contact: Alice.Abdulghany@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

NOMINATED FELLOWS



Rasha Jameel

Baghdad University, IQ
MSc In Architecture

Rasha Jameel has a Msc. in architecture engineering with a focus on urban design, University of Baghdad, Department of Architecture Engineering, October 2023; a B.Sc. in Architecture Engineering, University of Baghdad, Department of Architecture Engineering, July 1999. Since graduation, I have worked in diverse design sectors, both within the private sector and with esteemed non-governmental organizations like Un-Habitat, UNESCO, and the World Bank. The roles have been multifaceted, ranging from a hands-on designer to serving as a team leader and project manager in various projects, encompassing design initiatives as well as the rehabilitation and preservation of several historically significant buildings. I have worked as a lecturer in the Department of Architecture Engineering at the College of Engineering, Al-Mustansiriya University, since 2015. The master's thesis focused on the impact of tangible and intangible heritage on the environment of the historical bazaars in the historic center of Baghdad. I have two published papers and four in the final stages of publication, which focused on analyzing urban structures in historical centers and historical heritage preservation work.

Contact: rasha.khalil2004d@coeng.uobaghdad.edu.iq

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

NOMINATED FELLOWS



Aya Khalil Dikmak

Beirut Arab University, LB
MSc Student
BSc In Architecture

Aya Khalil Dikmak, architect and master’s candidate at Beirut Arab University, Aya is an architect with a passion for enhancing urban living through innovative architecture. Deeply interested in the dynamic field of architecture and urban planning and its impact on the quality of people’s lives, she is captivated by the big impact of small interventions. Aya is currently pursuing a master’s degree in science of architecture at Beirut Arab University, where she also completed her undergraduate studies in the same field. Her current focus is on the exploration of urban acupuncture theory, a progressive approach that emphasizes the power of small-scale, strategic projects to bring significant improvements to city environments. This approach aligns with her commitment to discovering sustainable and impactful solutions to contemporary urban challenges, merging academic insight with practical creativity.

Contact: ayadikmak@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

NOMINATED FELLOWS



Mounira El Halabi

Beirut Arab University, LB
MArch RIBA Part2 - Advanced
Architecture Studio

Mounira El Halabi is passionate about blending urban heritage with storytelling. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Advanced Architecture Studio with RIBA 2 accreditation from Beirut Arab University. Currently, she is completing a heritage documentation grant from Cyark and working towards becoming a certified photogrammetry professional. Mounira's achievements include winning the top 7 for her BA project, which focused on preserving cultural memory in historic urban areas. Both her BA and MA graduation projects were recognized with RIBA Presidential Medals. Beyond theory, Mounira is skilled in using advanced technology to protect endangered heritage. Her dedication lies in preserving what is at risk, combining theoretical insight with cutting-edge tools.

Contact: mounira.elhalabi@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

NOMINATED FELLOWS



Bipin Niraula

Bauhaus University, DE

MSc Student

BSc In Architecture

Bipin Niraula is a fellowship participant from Germany, affiliated with the Bauhaus University Weimar, currently pursuing a Master's degree in European urban studies. In addition to his architectural undergraduate qualifications from Tribhuwan University in Nepal, he also has a graduate degree in disaster risk management from the same university. Owing to his experience as an associate architect with MAP Design in the USA, Bipin brings a keen understanding of real-world architectural practices, enriched with relevant perspectives from his multidisciplinary academic studies. Bipin is currently living in Berlin and is working on his graduate thesis regarding 'kiezblocks' and how they are having grass-roots-level impacts in the communities of Berlin.

Contact: bipin.niraula@uni-weimar.de



TIMELINE & WORKFL



FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA |
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LOW

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

TIMELINE - DESCRIPTION

Overall Timeline

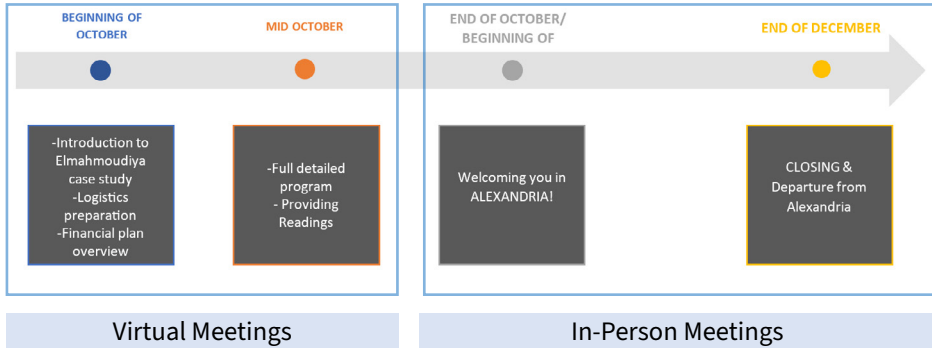


Diagram (1): Overall Timeplan for the Fellowship in Alexandria, Source: Dunia Y. Tayel,2023

Upon our call for Fellowship under the title of “Unlocking the potential: Exploring Urban Acupuncture in Egypt’s Urban Development”, in August 2023 – we were pleased to receive 21 applications among which only six have been approved. Our fellows come from a diversity of backgrounds including Bipin Niraula from Nepal affiliated with Bauhaus University in Weimar, Hamda Al Hajri from Oman affiliated with Stuttgart University, Rasha Jameel from Iraq affiliated with Baghdad University, in addition to Aya Dikmak, Alice Abdulghany and Mounira Elhalabi from Lebanon affiliated with Beirut Arab University.

We have been in contact with our fellows since the beginning of October through on-line meetings to introduce our fellows to the city of Alexandria, the case study they would be working on and provide them with the needed literature to give them a head start before their arrival. Once they arrived in early November, we were able to host them on campus for orientation and an introduction to the upcoming workflow. We also arranged several excursions, and site visits, in addition to a social gathering with our team and visiting the Graeco-Roman Museum as well.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

TIMELINE - BEGINING OF NOVEMBER

Social & Academic Activities

The beginning of the journey of the research fellows was a general orientation of our target throughout the fellowship program duration. This orientation included a tour of the campus of the faculty of fine arts in addition to a site visit through Al Mahmoudiya Axis. Such visits included several stops for observations, notes, and initial personal reflections from the research fellows that were later discussed in private sessions with the whole team.



Fig. (6): Group photo of a site visit through Al-Mhmouseya Axis.

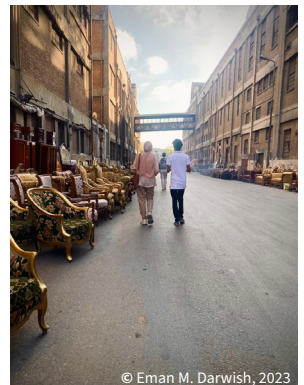


Fig. (7): Random photos from the site visit through Al-Mhmouseya Axis.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

TIMELINE - BEGINING OF NOVEMBER

Social & Academic Activities



Fig. (8): Random photo from the site visit through Al-Mhroudeya Axis.

The site visit was followed by a lunch gathering in Bahary district in a local restaurant, enjoying the sunset with Egyptian food.



Fig. (9): Group photo from the lunch gathering at Bahary after the site visit.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

TIMELINE - BEGINING OF NOVEMBER

Social & Academic Activities

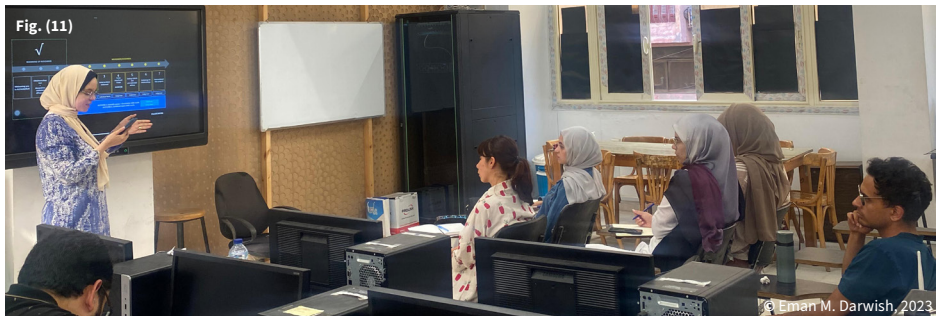


Fig. (10&11): Introduction to the workflow & timeplan by Dunia Y.Tayel and Nada El-Zoghby in the GIS Lab at Faculty of Fine Arts, AU.

It was an amazing opportunity to also be able to visit the Graeco-Roman Museum after its reopening after almost 17 years of renovation work.



Fig. (12): Group photo from the Graeco-Roman Museum visit.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

WORKFLOW - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

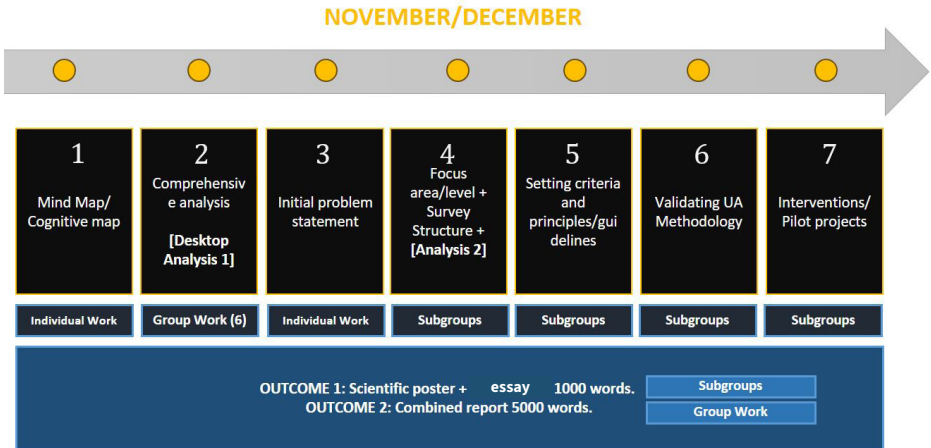


Diagram (2): Workflow for the Fellowship in Alexandria, Source: Dunia Y. Tayel,2023

Our academic workflow with the fellows was divided into seven main phases explained in the next chapter of this booklet from mid-October till their final submission and closing event by the end of December. We provided them with a detailed schedule for their follow-ups over their two-month stay and structured seminars. We also managed to provide them with another less formal schedule covering several social gatherings and events happening in Alexandria during their stay including features taking place in Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Jesuits Cultural Centre and Sayed Darwish Opera House. This helped them balance between academic and non-academic activities, in addition to giving them the chance to know the current cultural features happening in Alexandria.

It is worth mentioning that Donia Youssry played a vital role in structuring the academic process, defining fellowship objectives, and planning the expected outcomes as part of her master's degree research on Urban Acupuncture for Egypt's urban development. Furthermore, it is important to acknowledge the collaborative efforts of the entire team at Alexandria University in providing academic support and follow-up throughout the two-month stay of the fellows.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

WORKFLOW - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Phase 1 | Mind Maps - Individual Work

Phase one marked the beginning of our fellows' work where they shared their individual insights. This discussion was hosted by Goethe Institut Haus II where our fellows managed to work on analyzing their observations and create a holistic mind map describing their personal reflections.



Fig. (13): First meeting discussing the mind map phase at Goethe Institute.



Fig. (14): Combined photo for each fellow discussing their work.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

WORKFLOW - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Phase 2 | Comprehensive Analysis - Group Work

Phase two started by combining their mind maps into an initial comprehensive analysis where they went deeper into details on their study for Al Mahmoudiya Axis. This phase was strongly backed up by the contribution of Arch. Samar Bayoumy (Assistant Lecturer in the BUE) and her valuable lecture in the GIS lab on the Faculty of Fine Arts campus.



Fig. (15): Group presentation about their work in the comprehensive analysis phase



Fig. (16): Lecture by Arch. Samar Bayoumy (Assistant Lecturer in BUE).

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

WORKFLOW - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

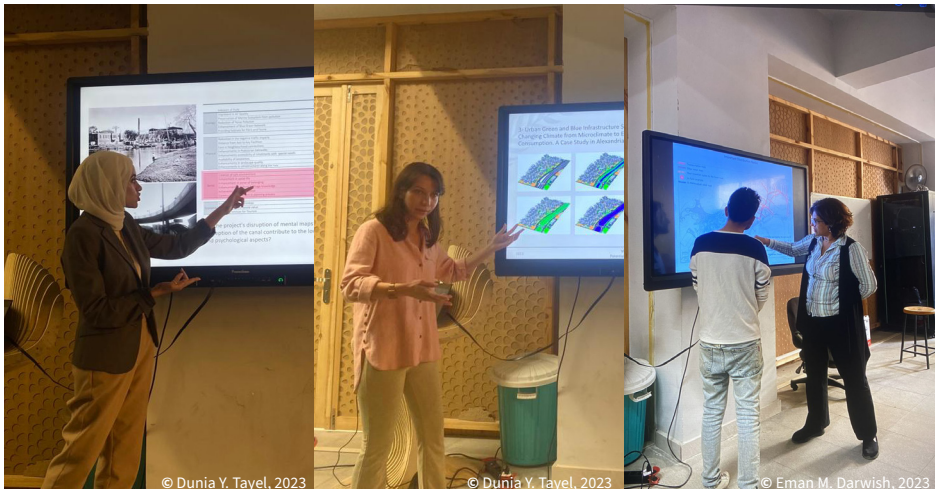
Phase 3 | Initial Problem statement - Individual Work

Phase three was when our fellows started formulating their individual research problem statements, which they could discuss with our project PI's Prof. Nevin Gharib and Prof. Hebatallah Abouelfadl. This discussion was concluded with our fellows being subgrouped according to their frameworks which were either socio-cultural, socio-ecological or socio-spatial frameworks.



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Fig. (17): Individual presentations by fellows in the GIS lab.



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Fig. (18): Research Fellows Presenting their Problem statement.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

WORKFLOW - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Phase 4 | Focus Area, and Survey Structure - Subgroups

Further into details, the subgroups began to work on their chosen frameworks with the assistance of our team and project PI's in the form of round table discussions at our GIS lab. The outcome of this phase was to help our fellows with their studying of each group's focus area, conducted surveys and research structure. This was also strongly backed up with the help of Arch. Esraa Samir (GIS specialist and PhD candidate at the Faculty of Fine Arts - Architecture Department - Alexandria University).



Fig. (19): Round table discussion about the Focus area and the survey's structure.

Phase 5 | Setting Criteria and Principles - Subgroups

Each subgroup, in this phase, has worked on the criteria upon which a set of guidelines have been determined. Afterwards, these criteria and guidelines were tested to find out whether they align with the Urban Acupuncture principles and strategies. Accordingly, this led to the initial formulation of their pilot projects and interventions.



Fig. (20): Round table discussion about Setting Criteria & Principles.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

WORKFLOW - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Phase 6 | Validating UA Methodology - Subgroups

Our fellows' subgroups have had the opportunity to discuss their work so far through two main seminars to help them validate their Urban Acupuncture methodology. The first was an offline physical seminar at the Faculty of Fine Arts and was attended by a group of our faculty members including Dr. Heba Moo'nis, Dr. Taymour Senbel, Dr. Sherif Farag and Dr. Mirhan Damir.



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Fig. (21): Seminar by the subgroups presented to the Alexandria Team and the architecture department staff members.

Phase 7 | Interventions / Pilot Projects - Subgroups

Our fellows' second seminar was online and attended by the research project PI's including Prof. Uwe Altrock from Kassel University-DE, Dr. Hiba Mohsen from Beirut Arab University-LB, Dr. Ula Merie from Babylon University-IQ along with the project Coordinators Mohamed Alfiky from Kassel University, Sara Enany and Dunia Y. Tayel from Alexandria University. These frequent discussions and seminars were an essential part of the fellowship program to assist the fellows in adding more depth and perspective into their studies.

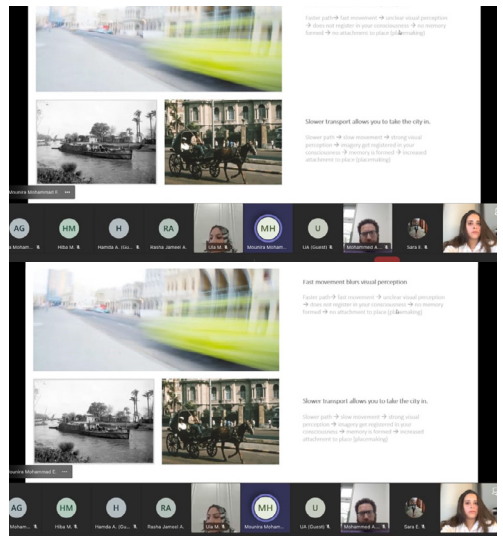


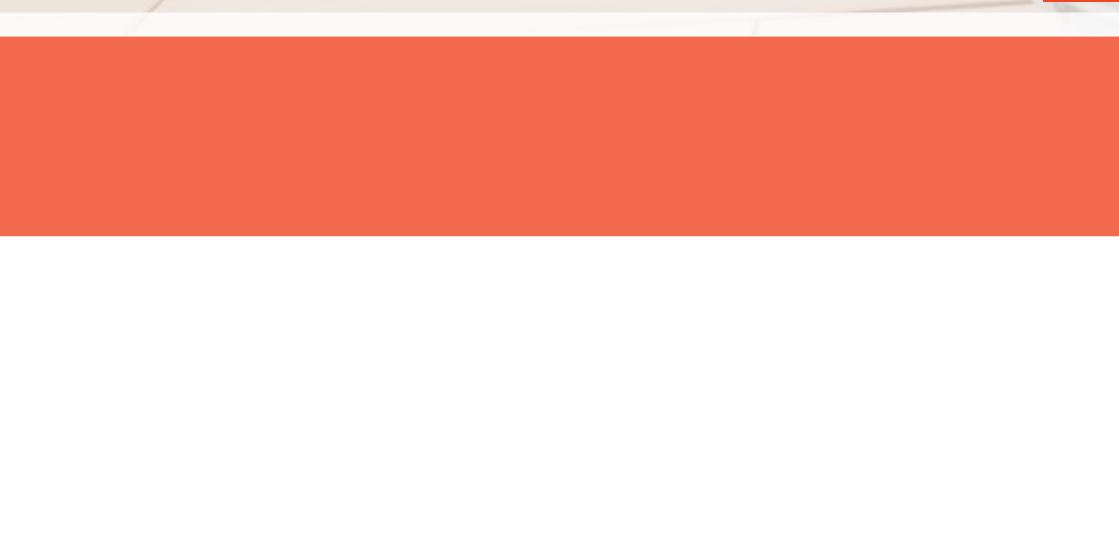
Fig. (22): Online Seminar by the fellows.



FINAL SUBMISSIONS



FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA |
FACULTY OF FINE ARTS |





GROUP 1 | Immersive storytelling in Urban Acupuncture: Case of Al-Mahmoudeya canal

For the scientific poster, scan the QR-code.



Mounira El Halabi

Beirut Arab
University, LB
MArch RIBA
Part2 - Architecture Studio



Rasha Jameel

Baghdad University, IQ
MSc In
Architecture

In the dynamic context of urban development, areas of historical significance often encounter transitions that can alter their character and continuity. This paper examines the transformation of Alexandria's Mahmoudiya Axis, once a flourishing canal, now a modern highway, and its implications on the local historical consciousness and urban fabric. As these shifts risk the erosion of the area's rich heritage, this research engages urban acupuncture—a strategic framework for urban renewal that targets critical, small-scale points for intervention—to halt and reverse the degradation of this once-vibrant urban artery. The research also integrates place attachment theory, which examines the emotional bonds between communities and their environments, highlighting the importance of these connections in shaping urban landscapes. Through this lens, the paper proposes a strategy that leverages immersive storytelling, an interactive method to articulate and preserve the Mahmoudiya Axis's historical and cultural narratives. By invoking the city's tangible and intangible heritage, the approach aims to deepen community engagement and reestablish a sense of identity amongst residents and visitors alike. This study addresses the urgency of revitalizing the Mahmoudiya Axis, advocating for an approach that intertwines targeted urban interventions with the psychosocial fabric of place attachment. The fusion of these concepts aims to create a sustainable model for preserving cultural heritage, fostering community identity, and enhancing the collective memory within the urban setting.

Keywords: Urban acupuncture, place attachment, immersive storytelling, tangible heritage, intangible heritage.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

WORKFLOW - WORK & ACTION

Mounira and Rasha conducted a research workshop to create digital artworks for an unfinished building overlooking the first electric station in Alexandria, Karmous Station. They drew on the city's history and created scenarios that intertwined the canal's narrative with the site's architectural context. Dr. Heba Moo'nis from the faculty of fine arts was a key contributor to the workshop, showcasing the creative process of conducting research in a collaborative setting.



Fig. (23): AI Art Workshop, conducted by Mounira EL-Halabi & Rasha Jameel



Fig. (24): Site visit by Mounira El-Halabi



GROUP 2 | Urban Acupuncture for Enhanced Connectivity in AlMahmoudeya Axis

For the scientific poster, scan the QR-code.



Hamda Al Hajri

University of
Stuttgart, DE
PhD Candidate
MSc Urban
Planning



Aya Khalil Dikmak

Beirut Arab
University, LB
MSc Student
BSc In
Architecture

The landfilling and repurposing of the historic AlMahmoudeya waterway into a high-speed multi-lane highway was announced, approved, and implemented swiftly with optimistic assurances of improved quality of urban and economic life for both the vehicle-user and local residents. The mega urban project dubbed as the “Artery of Hope” (Fouad, 2020) presented the potential transformation of the polluted and degraded waterway into an urban axis or linear vehicular transportation route which would substantially enhance the speed of city connectivity, reduce traffic congestion, and boost city growth. The Axis project also boasted benefits to residents and civilians through the provision of job opportunities, elevation of social housing infrastructure, and creation of public recreational spaces. Although the Axis did succeed in some of its city traffic management and urban renewal goals, it ultimately failed to consider the delicacy of the surrounding urban fabric and the severity of the fissure that would occur between historic neighborhoods and communities that existed for centuries along the canal. Moreover, its unproportionate design and quick construction did not allow for the sufficient scaling of inclusive and accessible pedestrian crossings. As a result, the Axis poses a growing public safety concern as many pedestrians are forced to hazardously cross the 16-lane high speed axis on foot in order to access daily aspects of life as they find themselves unable to afford available public transport and are prevented from climbing the steep and sparsely situated foot bridges due to poor health or disabilities. The pedestrian plight easily observed by the naked eye along the 21km AlMahmoudeya Axis alone provides the justification and urgency for the analysis and implementation of small-scale, cost-efficient, and implementable urban interventions that would aspire to provide effective and fruitful avenues for a safer and more inclusive pedestrian journey.

Keywords: Urban Acupuncture, Sustainability, El Mahmoudia Axis Project, El Mahmoudia Canal, Urban Interventions, Pedestrian Crossings, Urban Planning, Connectivity, Urban Fabric, Urban Inclusivity, Public Participation, Social connectivity, Alexandria, Egypt, Foot bridges, Accessibility.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

WORKFLOW - WORK & ACTION



Fig. (25): Discussions during the group work between Hamda and Aya

One subgroup got to interview Prof. Hisham Seoudi (current head of the Egyptian Engineering Syndicate in Alexandria and former dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts). They discussed the institutional framework of planning, the story of planning Al Mahmoudiya Axis and their limitations as research groups and how to manage them.



Fig. (26): Meeting with Prof. Dr. Hisham Seoudi At his office based in Alexandria

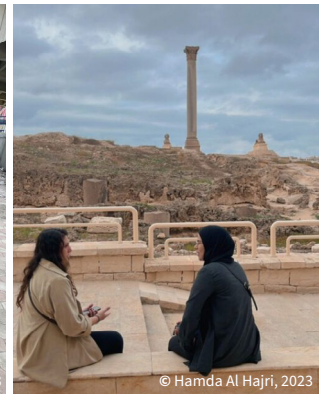
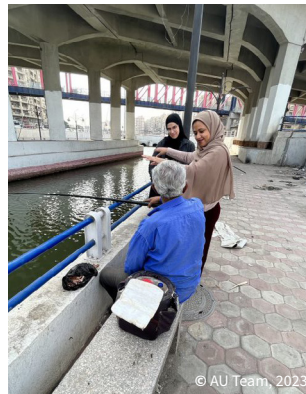


Fig. (27): Site visit and social Interviews, conducted by Hamda Al Hajri and Aya Khalil Dikmak



GROUP 3 | Utilizing Urban Acupuncture as a catalyst to create a Blue Green Infrastructure network in the AlMahmoydeya Axis

For the scientific poster, scan the QR-code.



Alice Abdulghany

Beirut Arab
University, LB
PhD Candidate
MSc In Architec-
ture



Bipin Niraula

Bauhaus
University, DE
MSc Student
BSc In
Architecture

The phenomenon of canals progressively deteriorating and being landfilled to turn into roads in an urban context is as frequent as it is concerning. The Al Mahmoud-eya canal went through a similar transformation in the year 2018, providing this rapidly urbanizing city a highway but making the region devoid of green and blue infrastructure. Utilizing the urban acupuncture framework, this research attempts to introduce urban interventions at strategic locations in and along the highway to reclaim some of the space back in addition to providing a vision for the creation of a Green and Blue Infrastructure network comprising of old and new biodiversity hubs, nodes, and linkages. Using primary and secondary data as well as interviews to understand the site context and opinions of the general public about what the new canal represents, the paper identifies four different locations to introduce the urban acupuncture framework with a total 8 types of interventions. The interventions such as the community garden and rooftop farms are oriented to the communities who can benefit from increased food security whereas eco parks, rain gardens and restored habitat zones cater to the leisure and biodiversity-oriented needs. Functioning as dynamic spaces of human-nature interaction, the use of these spaces also can change depending upon the immediate need of the communities around them. Furthermore, the introduced interventions can be replicated in other zones by relating it to function of the space, ultimately increasing the richness of the GBI network. With modern irrigational practices, awareness and educational campaigns and suitable policies in place, the introduced urban acupuncture interventions can expand and proliferate throughout the city into an organism of its own, providing the city with much needed greenery, water security and ecological sustainability.

Keywords: Green and Blue Infrastructure, Urban acupuncture, Urban farms, Biodiversity, GBI Network.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

WORKFLOW - WORK & ACTION



Fig. (28): Site visit and social interactions, conducted by Alisa Abdul-ghany and Bipin Niraula

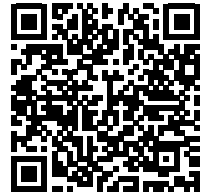
FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

CONCLUSION

So far, this booklet has illustrated the first outcome of our fellowship program, including the scientific posters and the abstracts for our subgroups' report. We are currently looking forward to developing our second outcome which is a combined report about Al Mahmoudiya Axis. This report should collectively combine all of our subgroups' work to document using the Urban Acupuncture tool as a first interpretation in the context of Alexandria city. The combined report is expected to be further developed for publication on our website later on after our fellows return to their hometowns. A public closing event will mark the end of our fellowship program at ElHorreya Center for Creation in Alexandria to engage in a multi-party dialogue which is one of the fundamental principles of Urban Acupuncture.

It is also important to note that this fellowship program's outcomes and proposed interventions will be further translated into pilot projects as part of the workshop taking place in 2025 as part of Ta'ziz science cooperations taking place in Egypt- which aligns with the sustainability objectives and vision of the Ta'ziz project.

It's been quite an interesting journey with the research fellows over the past two months, and the only sad part is that it has come to an end. We are delighted to share a video documentary for the fellowship program's recap that took place in Alexandria, Egypt. It has been fruitful on numerous levels: academic, cultural, social, and emotional.



Fellowship summary video.

A group of approximately 20 people, including men and women in professional attire, are posed for a group photo in a grand, ornate hall. The hall features a series of large, arched doorways and columns, with a chandelier hanging from the ceiling. The lighting is warm and focused on the group. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the people in the foreground.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA |
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CLOSING PUBLIC EVENT

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

CLOSING PUBLIC EVENT

Introduction to the public event

This event marked the culmination of our fellowship activity. Our fellows' final output resulted in a scientific poster, and their entire activity has been documented in an online booklet on our website.

We would also like to express our gratitude to our guest speakers, Prof. Usama Nassar, Professor of Architecture and Urban Design and Vice Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at Suez Canal University, and Dr. Mohamed Adel Dessouki, Assistant Professor of Architecture at the Arab Academy for Science and Technology, for their insightful contributions and cooperation.

We were also honoured to have a diversity of guests, including academics, experts, civil society (e.g., NGOs, associations, foundations), and public invitees, join us and contribute to a shared platform of discussion.



Fig. (29): Public event group photo.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

CLOSING PUBLIC EVENT

Day agenda

Feature	Speaker	Duration	Timing	
Welcoming Notes	Project Pl's Prof. Dr. Nevein Gharib & Prof. Dr. Hebatallah Abouelfadl	10 mins	12:00	12:10
	Coordinators Speech & Wrap up for 2023 MSc. Sara Enany & BSc. Dunia Y. Tayel	10 mins	12:10	12:20
	Colloquium workshop presentation BSc. Nada El-Zoghby	10 mins	12:20	12:30
Academic speakers	Speaker 1 Prof. Dr. Usama A. Nassar. From Needles to Nurturing Cities: Urban Acupuncture Definition, Strategies, and Research Frontiers	15 mins Presentation	12:30	12:45
		5 mins Discussion	12:45	12:50
	Speaker 2 Dr. Mohamed Adel Desouky. Exploration of the History of Al Mahmoudia Canal.	15 mins Presentation	12:50	13:05
		5 mins Discussion	13:05	13:10
Teaser Gallery	Scientific Posters Gallery	15 mins	13:10	13:25
"Coffee Break"		30 mins	13:25	13:55
Fellows Presentation	Presentation 1 Mounira El Halabi & Rasha Jameel. Immersive storytelling in Urban Acupuncture: Case of Al-Mahmoudeya canal	15 mins	13:55	14:10
	Presentation 2 Alisa Abdulghany & Bipin Niraula. Utilizing Urban Acupuncture as a catalyst to create a Blue Green Infrastructure network in the AlMahmoydeya Axis	15 mins	14:10	14:25
	Presentation 3 Hamda Al Hajri & Aya Khalil Dikmak. Urban Acupuncture for Enhanced Connectivity in AlMahmoudeya Axis	15 mins	14:25	14:40
Main Panel discussion	Between Academic & Non-academic Guest members	30 mins	14:40	15:10
Closing	Certificates' Distribution	30 mins	15:10	15:40

Speakers

**Name:**

Usama A. Nassar

Title:

Professor of Architecture and Urban Design

Affiliation:

Suez Canal University

Presentation Title:

From Needles to Nurturing Cities: Urban Acupuncture Definition, Strategies, and Research Frontiers

Bio:

Usama Nassar is a Professor of Architecture and Urban Design in the Faculty of Engineering at Suez Canal University, where he has been a faculty member since 1997. He completed his Ph.D. at Suez Canal University after earning his bachelor's and master's degrees at Cairo University. Additionally, he spent two years in a channel program at Birmingham City University in the UK. His research interests revolve around urban design and encompass urban theories, applications, and the implementation of study projects in Egypt. In recent years, his focus has been on developing improved techniques for expressing, analyzing, and executing urban spaces. He has actively collaborated with researchers from various social science disciplines and has published two books since 2013. Nassar has participated in 11 conferences and workshop program committees, and his work has been featured in over 14 articles in international journals. Furthermore, he currently serves as the Vice Dean of Graduate Studies and Research in the Faculty of Engineering at Suez Canal University. He also holds positions on the editorial boards of several journals, contributing to the advancement of research in his field.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

CLOSING PUBLIC EVENT

Speakers



Name:

Mohamed Adel Dessouki

Title:

Assistant Professor of Architecture

Affiliation:

Arab Academy for Science and Technology

Presentation Title:

Exploration of the History of Al Mahmoudia Canal.

Bio:

Mohamed Adel Dessouki is an educator and a visual artist who lives and works in Alexandria, Egypt. He got his bachelor degree in architecture from Alexandria University in 2000 and earned a master's degree from the Arab Academy for Science and Technology in 2003 and a Ph.D. in Architecture from Cairo University in 2012. He is currently an assistant professor of architecture at the Arab Academy for Science and Technology. Dessouki studied art at l'Atelier d'Alexandrie between 1992 and 1994, parallel to his high school studies. He participated in l'Atelier's Youth Salons in the years 1994, 2000, and 2001. After a long pause, he resumed his artistic practice in 2017 and has since then participated in a number of group exhibitions. His first solo show, Memories of an Asphalt Road, took place in Alexandria's Institut Français d'Egypte in 2019. He was one of the participants of MASS Alexandria's Independent Studio and Study Programme (ISSP) for the year 2018/2019. In his art practice, Dessouki's work basically focuses on memory, architecture, and the everyday.

Dessouki is a founding member of the Save Alex initiative which has been advocating, since 2012, to protect the built heritage of the city of Alexandria. He also blogs about the city of Alexandria, its endangered heritage, and its history in Gudran Medina Mot'aba (Walls of an Exhausted City).

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

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Day Agenda | Welcoming



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Fig. (30): Welcoming of the public event.

Day Agenda | Project PI's Speech



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Fig. (31): Project PI's Speech by Prof. Dr. Nevien Gharib.

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Day Agenda | Coordinators' Speech.



Fig. (32): Coordinators' Speech by BSc.Dunia Y. Tayel.

The first welcoming speech by Prof. Dr. Nevin Gharib was an introduction to TA'ZIZ Science Cooperation, presenting all the partner universities and all the collaborations. The workflow of the fellowship program at Alexandria University was presented by Dunia Y. Tayel in the second speech, which introduces all the work phases of the fellowship and the supposed outcome of the fellows.

She ended her speech by introducing Nada EL Zoghby, who presented the whole experience through the colloquium workshop in Berlin, which took place in December 2023.

Day Agenda | Colloquium WS Presentation.



Fig. (32): Colloquium Workshop Presentation by BSc. Nada El-Zoghby.

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Day Agenda | Academic Speakers' Presentations



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Fig. (33): Academic Presentation by: Dr. Mohammed Adel Desouky.



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Fig. (34): Academic Presentation by: Prof. Dr. Usama A. Nassar

Day Agenda | Teaser Gallery



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Fig. (35): Teaser Gallery & Coffee break.

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

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Day Agenda | Fellows' Presentations

GROUP 1 | Mounira El Halabi & Rasha Jameel.

Title | Immersive storytelling in Urban Acupuncture: Case of Al-Mahmoudeya canal



Fig. (36): Mounira & Rasha presenting their work.

GROUP 2 | Alice Abdulghany & Bipin Niraula.

Title | Urban Acupuncture for Enhanced Connectivity in AlMahmoudeya Axis



Fig. (37): Alice & Bipin presenting their work.



FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

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GROUP 3 | Hamda Al Hajri & Aya Khalil Dikmak.

Title | Utilizing Urban Acupuncture as a catalyst to create a Blue Green Infrastructure network in the AlMahmoydeya Axis



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Fig. (38): Hamda & Aya presenting their work.

Day Agenda | Panel Discussion



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Fig. (39): Panel Discussion moderated by: Prof Dr. Nevien Gharib 7 Prof. Dr.Hebatallah Abouelfadl

FELLOWSHIP IN ALEXANDRIA

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Day Agenda | Fellowship Certificates



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Fig. (40): Rasha Jameel Receiving her Certificate

Day Agenda | Fellowship Certificates



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Fig. (41): Hamda Al Hajri Receiving her Certificate

Day Agenda | Fellowship Certificates



Fig. (42): Aya Khalil Dikmak Receiving her Certificate



Fig. (43): Bipin Niraula Receiving his Certificate

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Day Agenda | Fellowship Certificates



Fig. (44): Mounira El Halaby Receiving her Certificate



Fig. (45): Alice Abdulghany Receiving her Certificate

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