Public space : The Possibility Of Social Movement

Professors:Mauro Berta ,Valeria Federighi,Ghazal Abassy and Taraneh Mashkani

Student : Kamyab Ghanfili

Thanks to Alireza Bakhshi

نحن نحرر لبنان

Martyr's square

El-Tahrir square

In the name of God

Table of content

Introduction

- Point of view
- Process

Analysis

- What people do now in these spaces ?
- How the people are being controled?
  - Crowd Control Diagrams
  - Unwanted Behaviour
  - Total Demolition Diagram
- History talks for us!
- How big they are ?

What if ...?

- Make it like a jungle !
- Octupus enters !

Project (Martyr's Square)

- Physical program
- Architectural drawings

Conclusion

- Last words!

Reference List

Introduction

Public spaces have always been considered as a place of exchange since the Greek Agoras and the Roman Forums ,where men came together and discussed matters of the state. In fact, the concept of public space comes from our need to be connected to others. It's a place of encounters, translating how we practice space in relation to others. It ignites the idea that we are part of a collective effort, that we belong to this world… that we exist. A public space is a form of democracy. It is a space of freedom of movement, expression, and most importantly, it is our first contact with a city. In general, in order to discover the behavior of a neighborhood, a district, or a city, we often turn to these spaces.W

A physical illustration of the individual and the collective vision, these areas have symbolic values. Scale, location, borders, angles, views, proportions, and artifacts play a role in determining the final outcome of these areas.

Along with all these variables, one constant remains unchallenged. Public spaces are places of expression. Some more than others -due to a series of proper factors put together- but all public spaces inspire exchange. Even repressing, over-planned and monitored squares encourage people to revolt against them, or against what they actually represent, from governments, political regimes, to economic systems.Infact the public square should not be represented as the city's gated property or as a walled garden. It should be a space that provides citizens with opportunities to engage in political and social debates. As governments around the world understand the threat that the public space itself generates, they often exercise pressure, barricade, and control these areas, in order to silence these movements.

For designing and analyzing the public squares for a social movement needs to take into account some factors such as how people use this space, what is the role of this space in the collective memory, and how politically important is the public square in comparison to the government s attempt to control the public space. This control can be applied in different ways, for example, the presence of military services or putting some obstacles like barbed wire or sometimes demolishing buildings near to that space to take the identity changing the center of power by moving important building near but architect or urban designer have the power stand against some of those aspects. Therefore, it could be said that the architecture of public space has played an influential role on the success of the revolutions or social movements, which occur in that space. Thus, the following question to consider is how architectures of public squares can redesign in the way to invite more people and protect them?

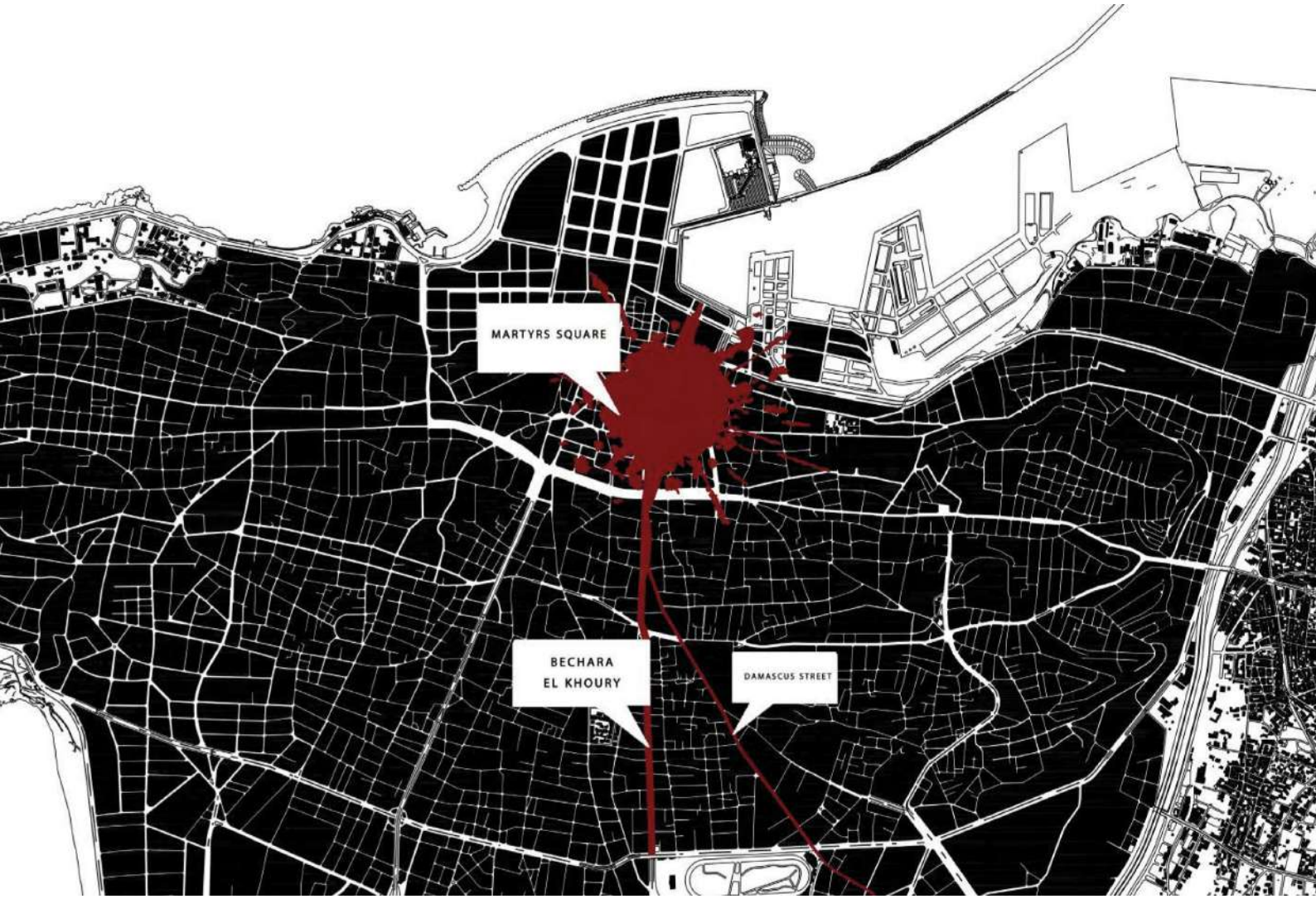
In observing this idea, we choose two cities: Beirut (capital of Lebanon) and Cairo (capital of Egypt), two cities with many social and political challenges in its recent history. The former has experienced a civil war which has the experience of the Civil war in 1975 and recent protest in 2019, whilst the latter has played an important role in the famous social movement in recent 10 years, or otherwise known as the Arabic Spring.

Martyr's square in Beirut and El-Tahrir in Cairo are two public spaces selected as case studies.Those public squares are the most important political and social publics for their cities. Both are located near political buildings and people have many collective memories there. The governments of Lebanon and Egypt use different tyranny strategies to control people especially in the moment of protest.

As an example, in Beirut one joint stock company in change of planning and developing Beirut (Solidere), destroy all the remaining which is left after civil war and changing Martyr's square to a parking lot.

While in Cairo after the Arab spring, government has decided to put many barriers in the public square to control the crowd for protest situation. In fact one of the programs of government is to move political building to another place to lose the identical power of El-Tahrir. We should take consider that although both countries are Arab but there are some differences between them in the culture of protest. For example, the social movements in Lebanon are more pacific with the presence of military while in Egypt are aggressive and sometimes violent.

This thesis attempts to cover some debates relating to public square, social movements, power and discipline. Although the thesis discuss about two main public spaces in Beirut and Cairo(which are used by citizens in times of protesting the regime), the experience is like to watch the situation from a helicopter view. We define the codes of cruelty. The cruelty in public space which need first to understand and sedcond to react to it.

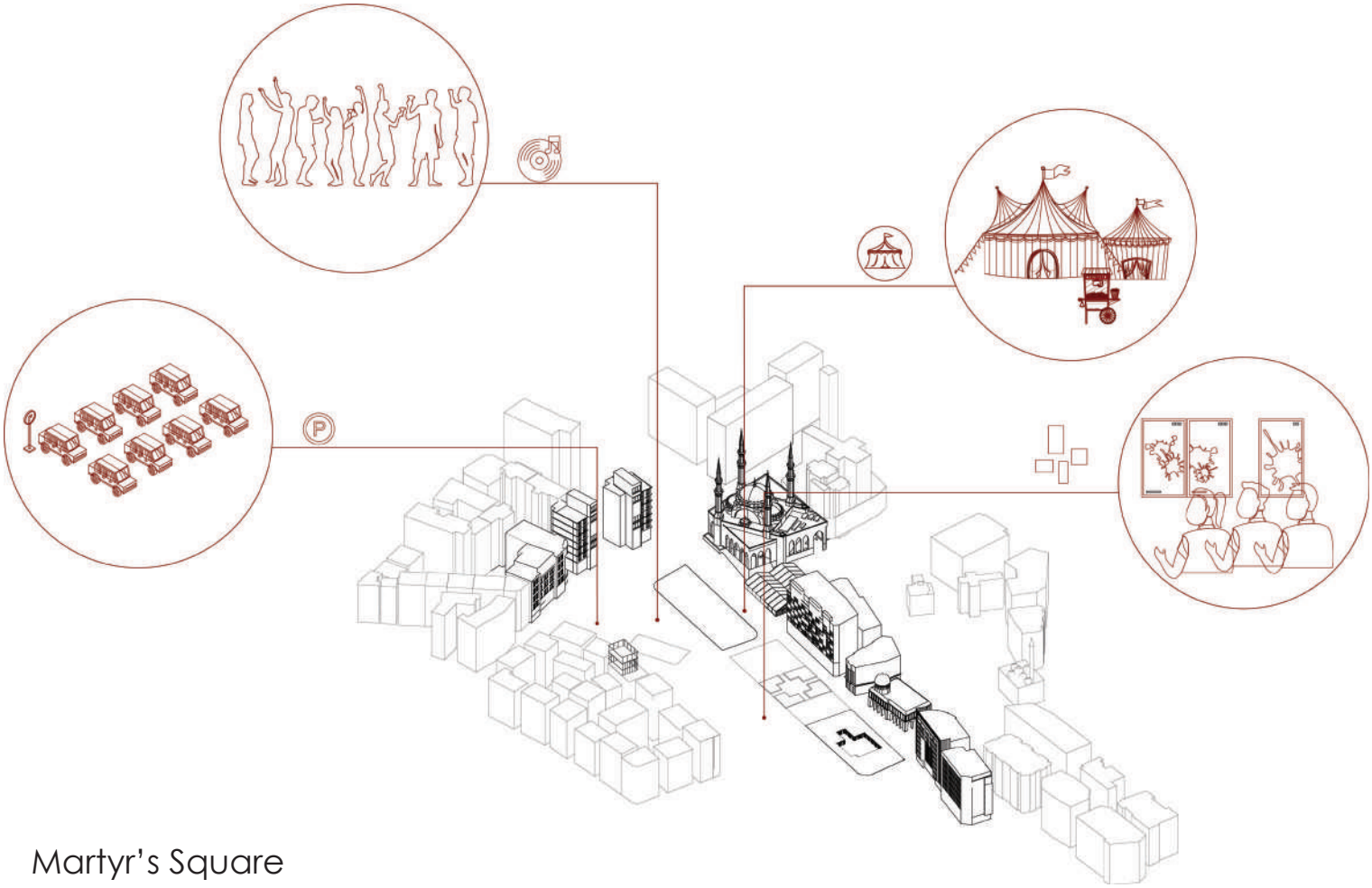


Roads of the protest to **Martyr's** Square in Beirut

Roads of the protest to El-Tahrir Square in Cairo

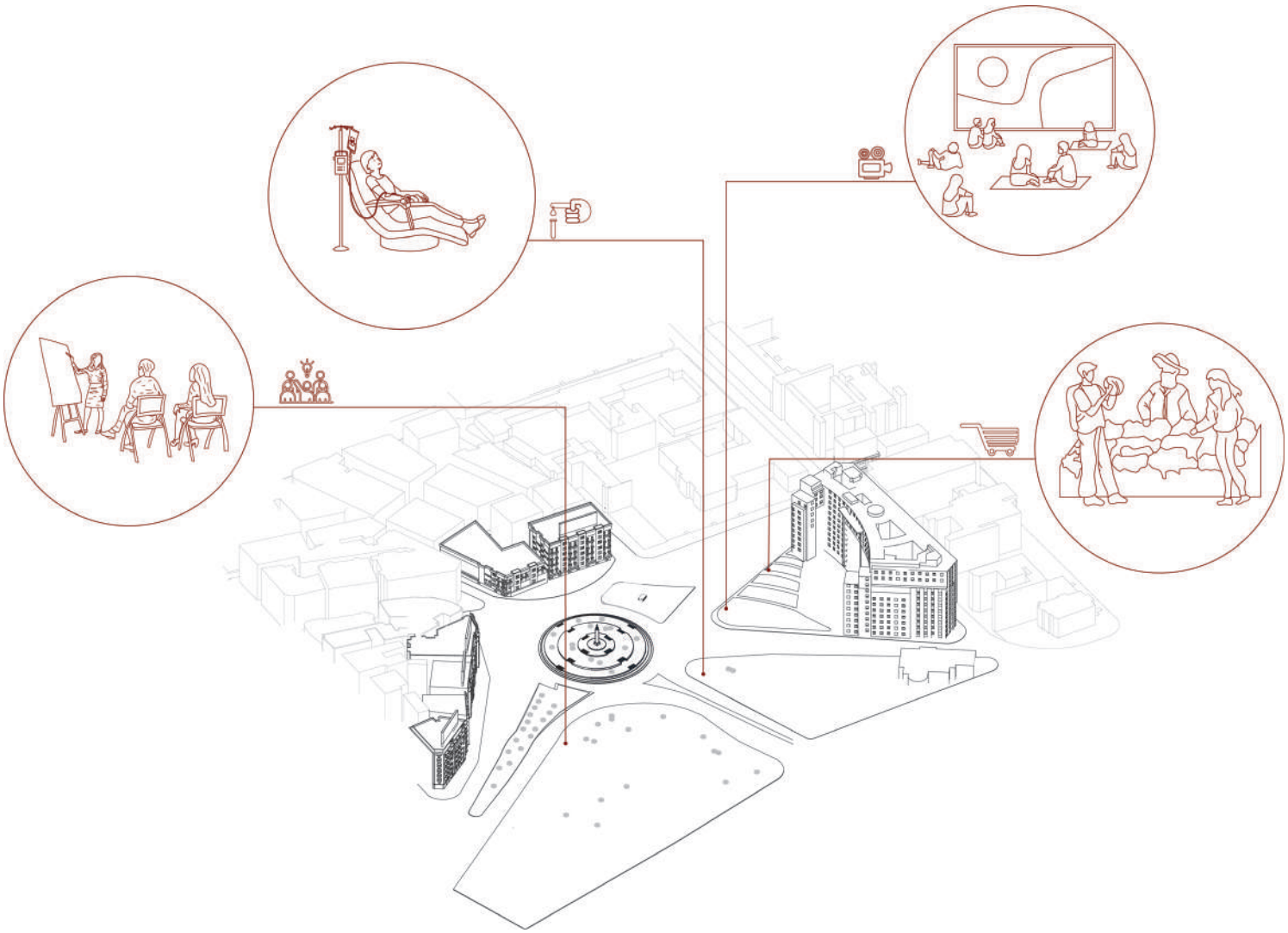
Analysis

What people do now in these spaces ?



Martyr's Square

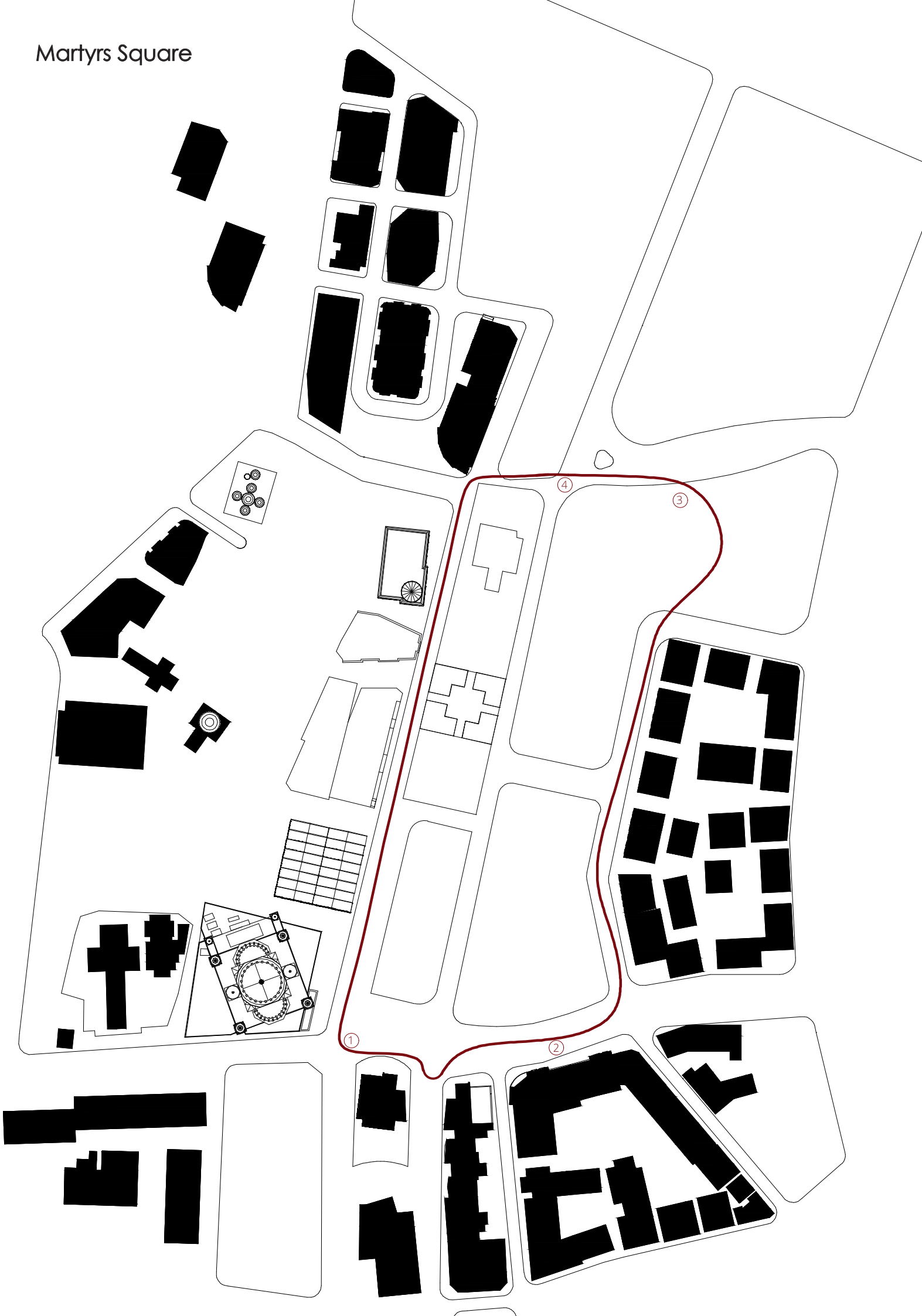
Martyr's Square is the central and largest square in the city center of Beirut which was built by the Ottomans in the 19th century. Its initial name Place des Canons referred to the Russian artillery placed there in the 18th century; the name was taken up again by the French in 1860. The square was renamed in memory of the Lebanese nationalists who were executed by the Turks during WW1. Martyrs' Square was destroyed during the Lebanese civil war.
There are two important roads which people used at the moments of social movement which are Bechara el Khoury and Damascus street
This public space usually being used a place for entertainment (like dance festival game and art exhibition) and mostly as a parking lot.
The images are trying to show different views and functions.



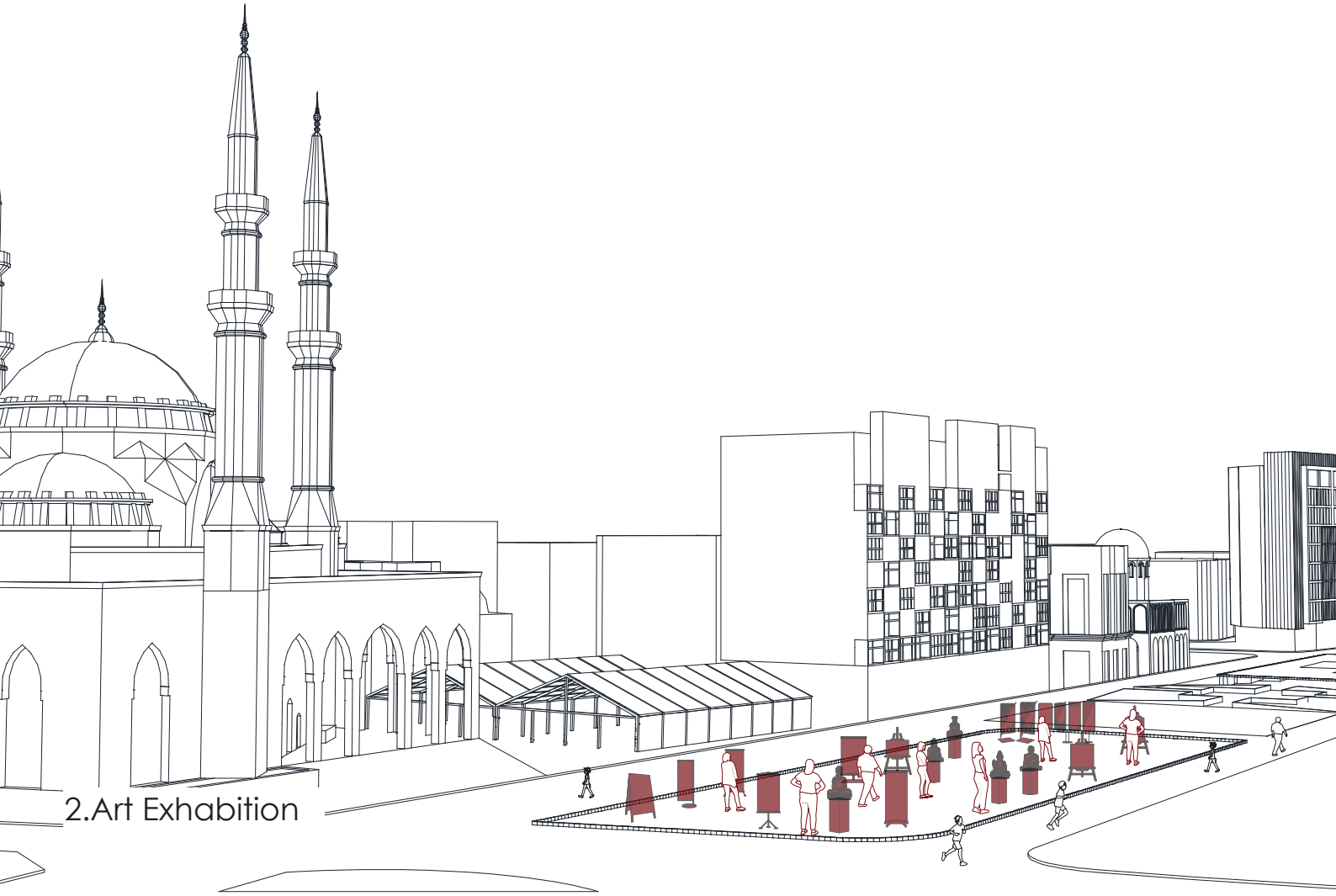
El-Tahrir Square

El-Tahrir Square also known as «Martyr Square», is a major public town square in downtown Cairo, Egypt. The square has been the location and focus for political demonstrations in Cairo since the early 20th century. Notable events at Tahrir square include the demonstrations that led to the 2011 Egyptian revolution and the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak. Also, there are four important roads which people used at the moments of social movement which are Talat Haarb, Nile Corniche,6th of October bridge and Merat Basha.
This public space usually being used a place for entertainment (like watch football game and art exhibition), for medical emergency (like vaccination tents) and mostly as an open market.
The images are trying to show different views and functions.

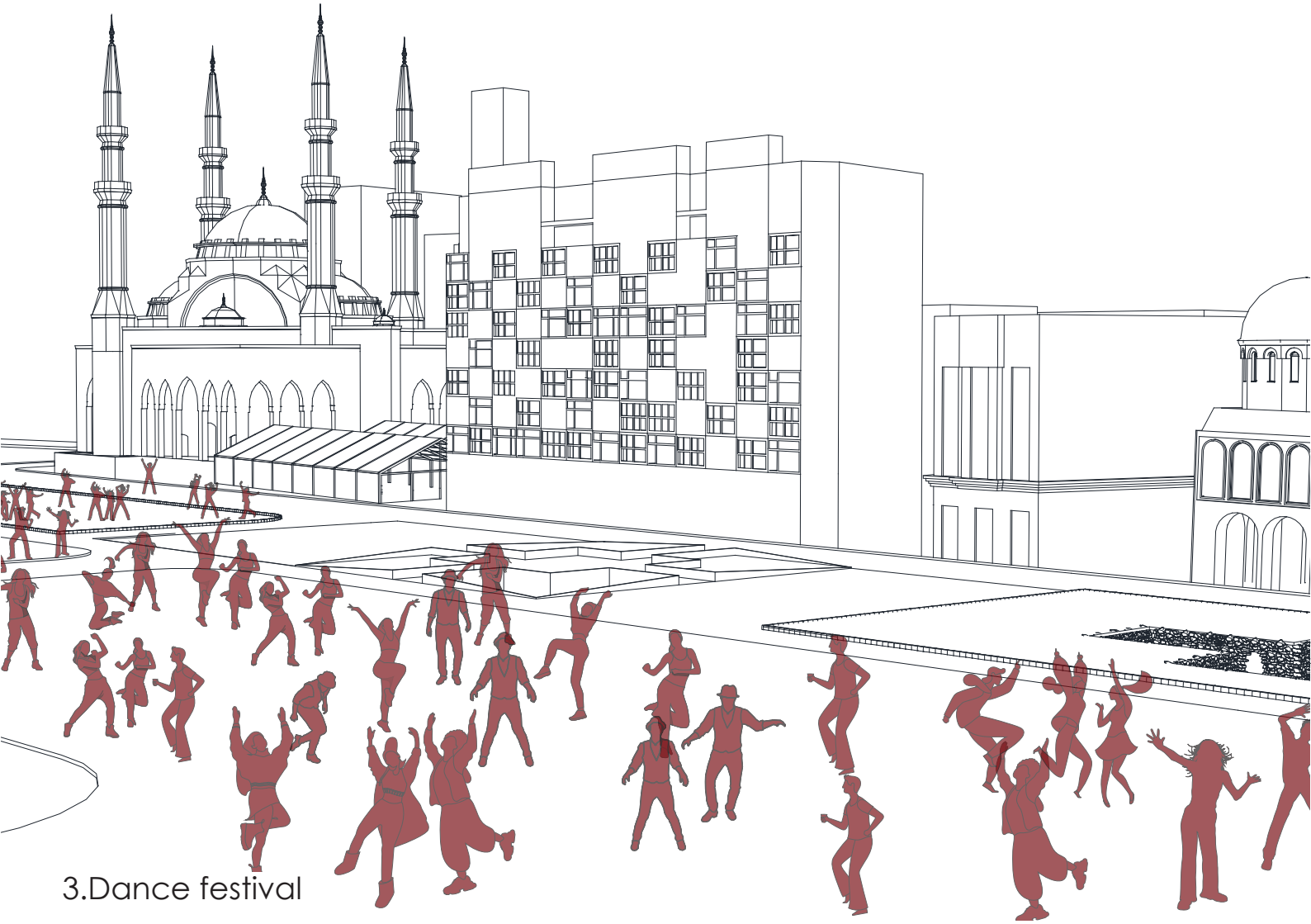
Martyrs Square



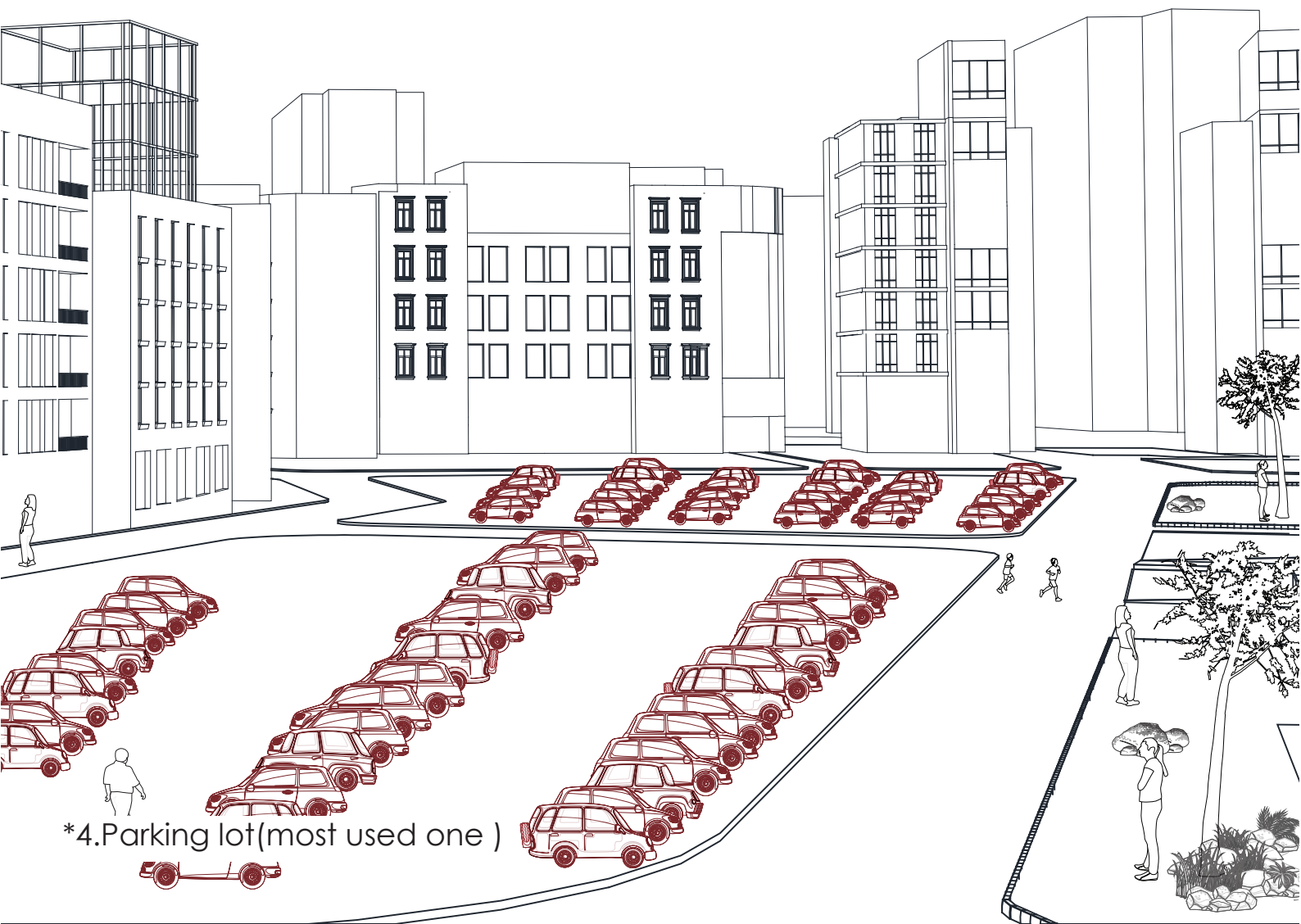
1.Entertainment



2.Art Exhabition



3.Dance festival



*4.Parking lot(most used one)

El-Tahrir Square
1
2
3
4

1.Entertainment
2.Emergency Medical tent

*3.Open Marketplace(most used one)

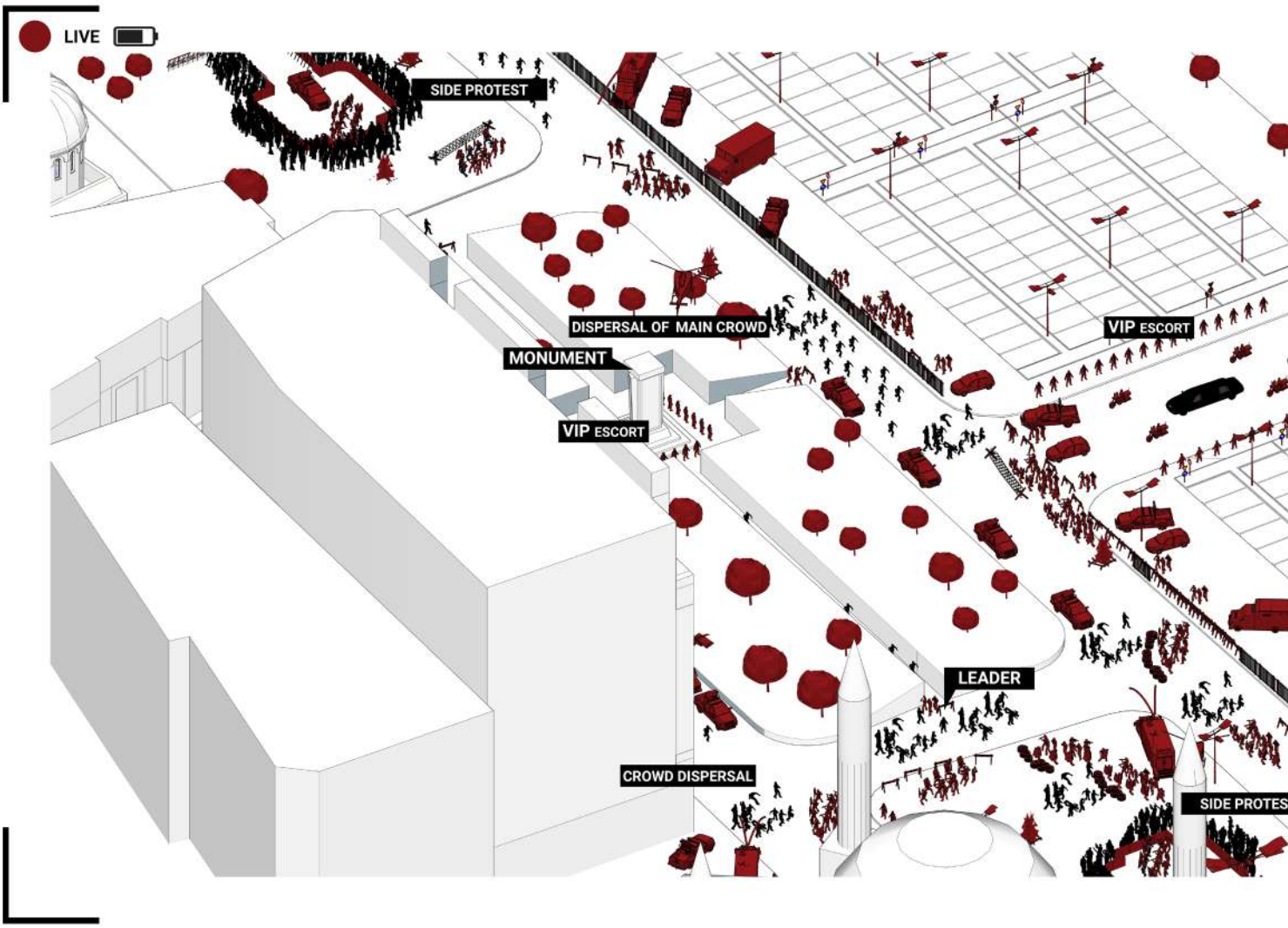
4.Art Exhibition

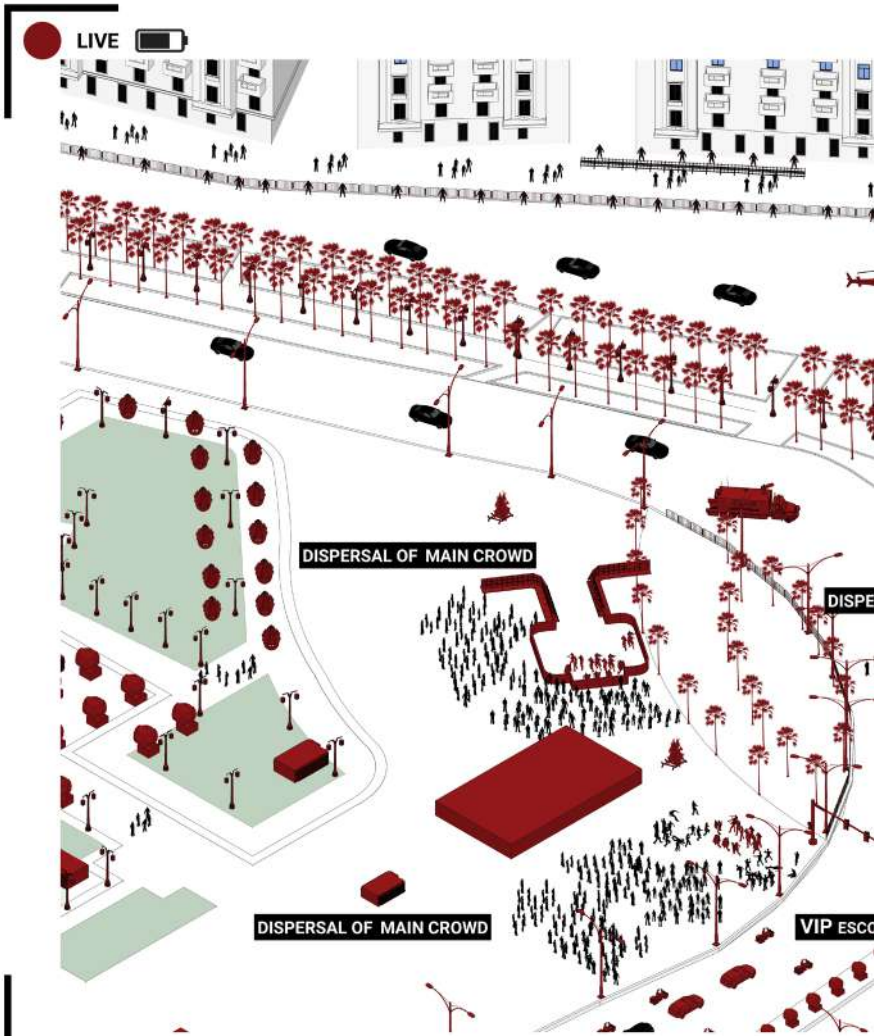
How the people are being controlled?

Last step : Crowd Control

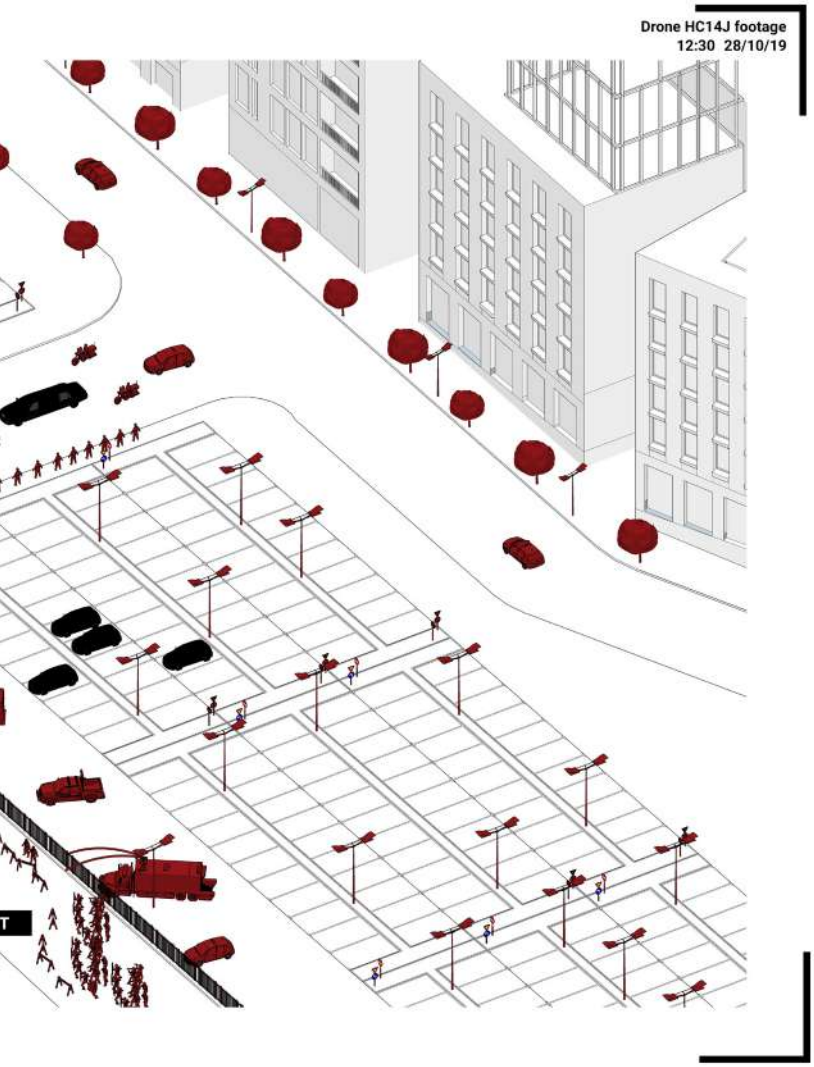
To restore confidence in safety, the public needs to be assured that everything is at any moment “under control “, with one downside that it naturally involves each one of us. Feeling safe is the top agenda of people who choose to visit or to live in a specific place. Thus, crowd control is essential, not only to the all people involved, but much more to the crowds not involved but potentially bothered by them. This is all a result of crowd control strategies by event organizers, tourist boards and especially forces. We try to demonstrate how these strategies work in these two cities.

Unfortunately, governments employ methods of «crowd control» as a final step to prevent protests from occurring.Becusae there are many steps before try not to happen that protest in one specific public space.

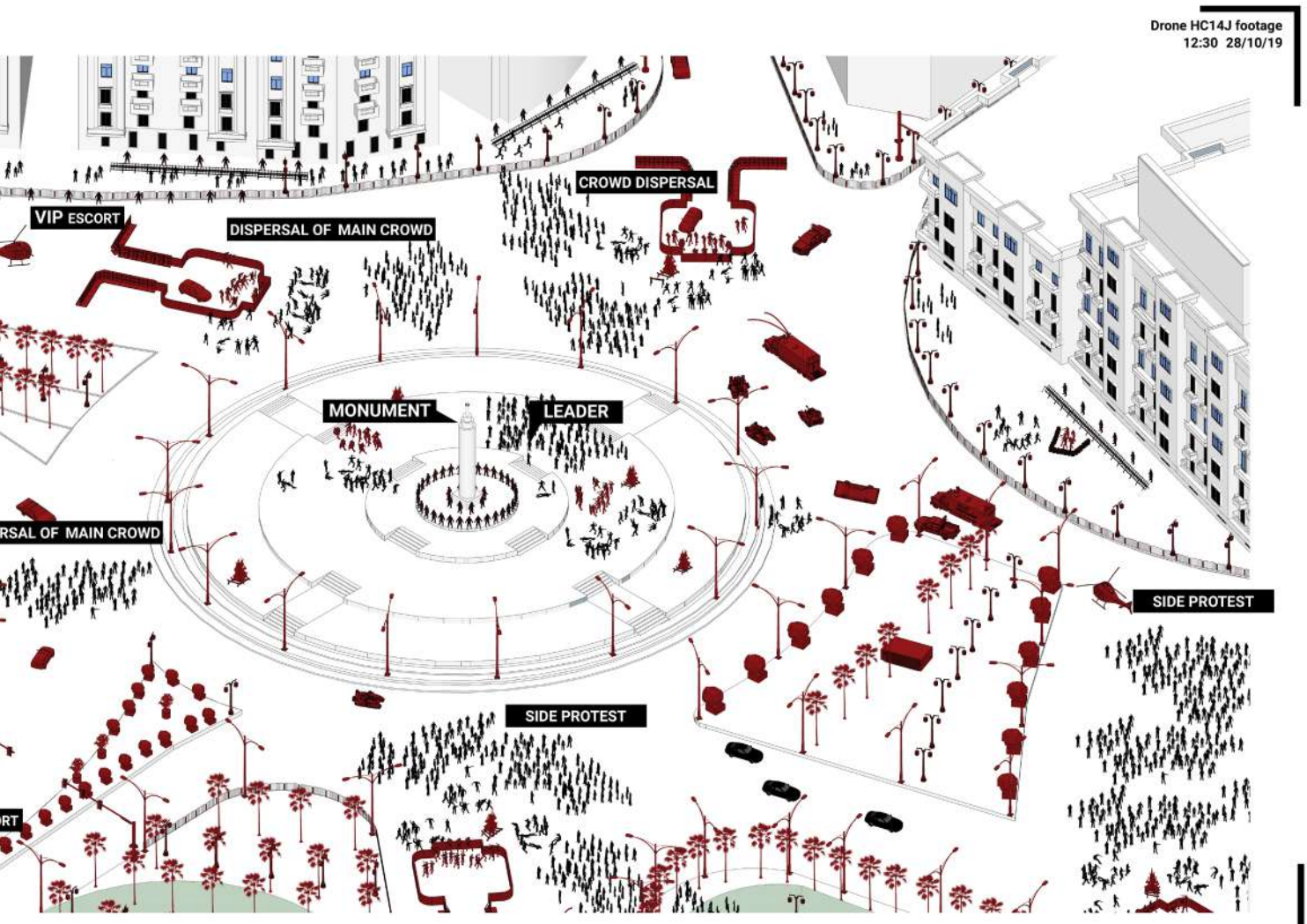


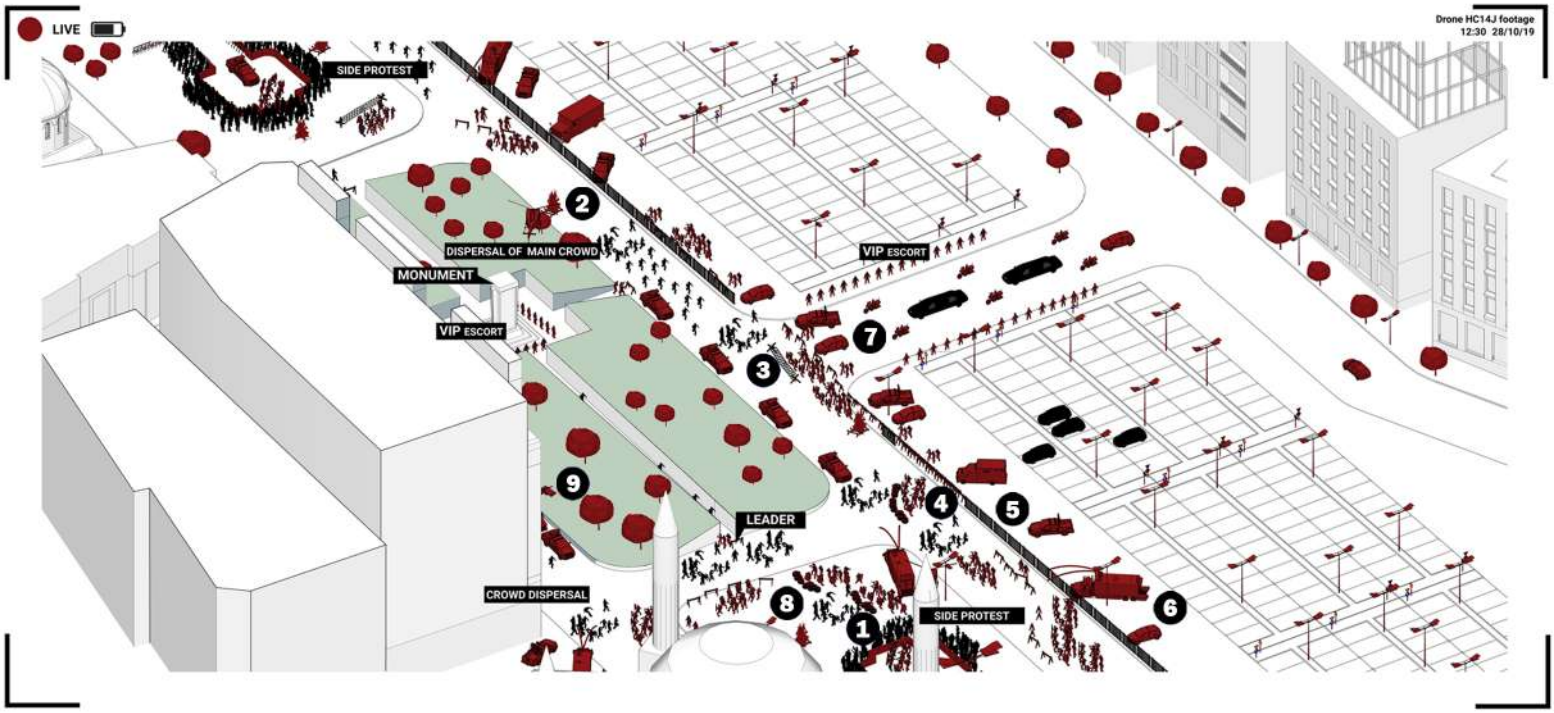


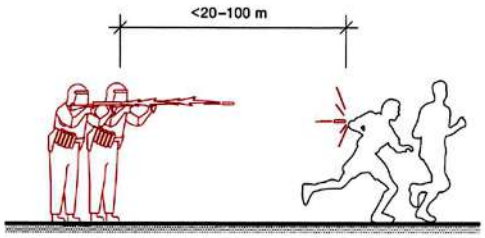
El-Tahrir square



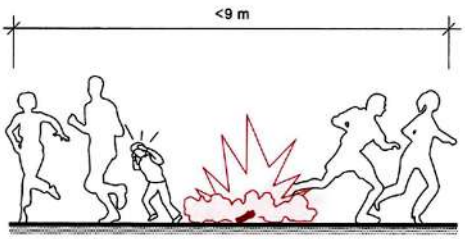
Martyr's square



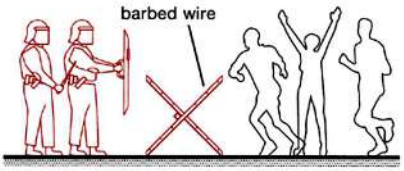




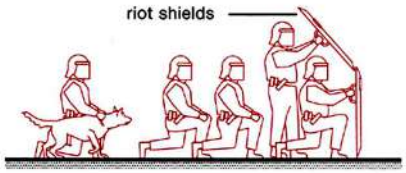
1 Baton rounds. Projectiles intended to strike their target with sufficient force to cause compliance by inducing pain.



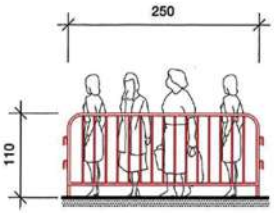
2 Stun grenades. Used as a diversionary tactic, their explosion emits a bright light and a noise of around 175 dB. Causes temporary loss of sight and hearing, as well as confusion.



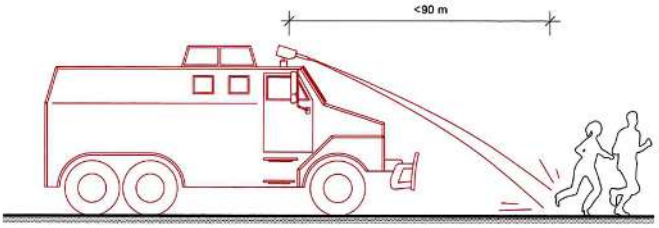
3 Barbed-wire barriers. Metal barriers used to create physical denial of a crowd's access to a suspected target of protest.



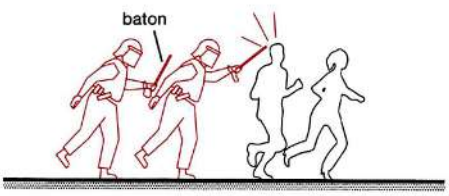
4 Shield wall formation. Based on ancient Roman techniques, a tight formation allows a compact unit of officers to find protection behind shields.



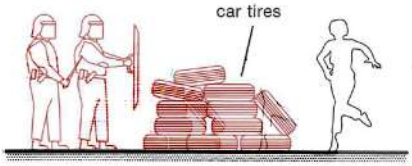
5 Temporary barriers. Used to provide a physical and psychological way to limit movement outside dedicated areas. They interlock to prevent being moved or tipped.



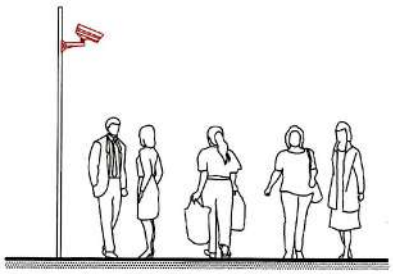
6 Water cannon. A high-pressure pump jets out thousands of liters per minute. The vehicle is armored to resist attack from projectiles and generally has a 9000-liter water reservoir.



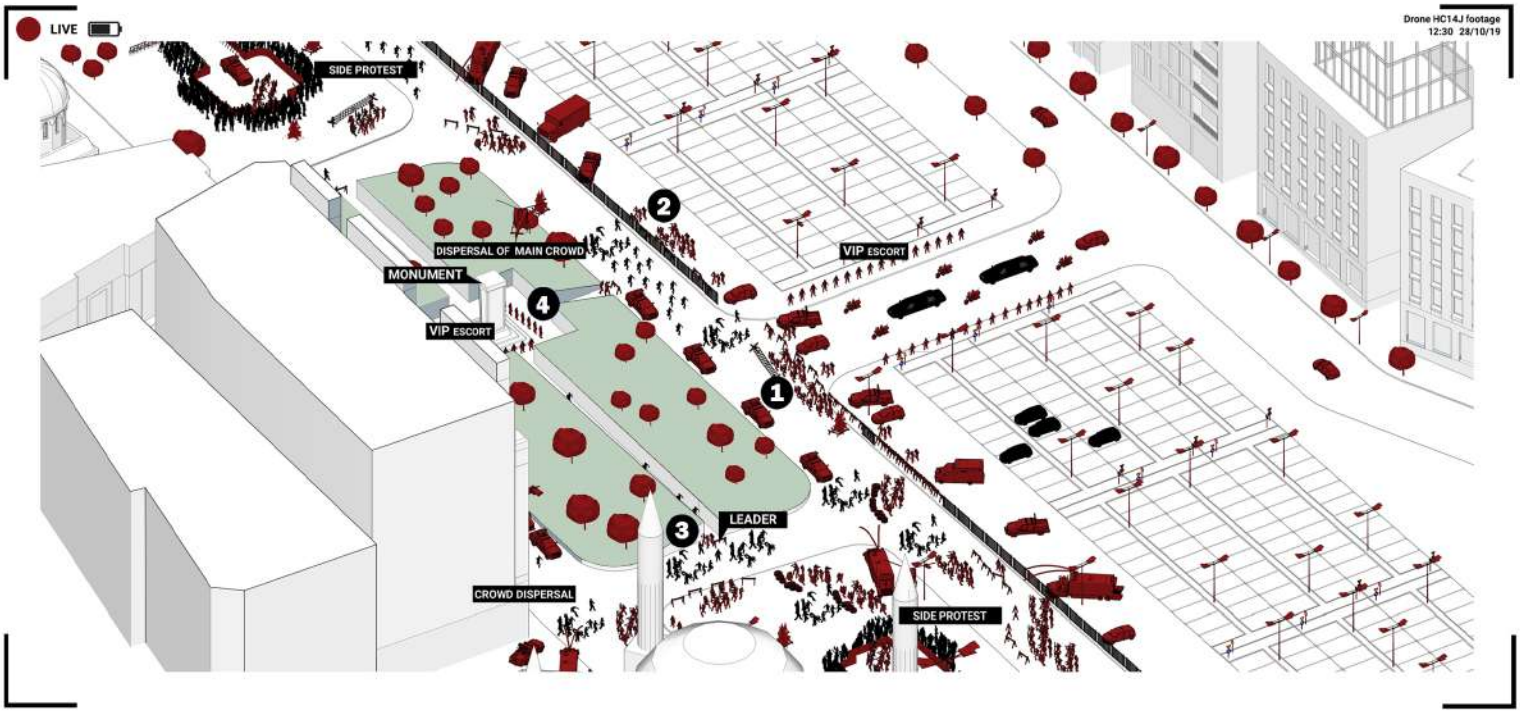
7 Baton charge. A coordinated tactic involving police officers charging with batons and often riot shields, intended to cause pain and disperse the crowd.



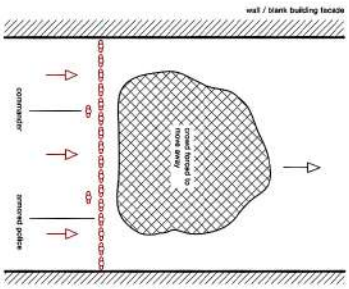
8 Improvised barriers. Vehicles, traffic jams, and items such as car tires are used to create barricades to block or channel crowd movement.



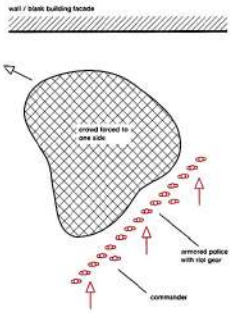
9 CCTV video analysis. These systems monitor crowds, counting objects, and detecting humans in order to quickly spot threats.



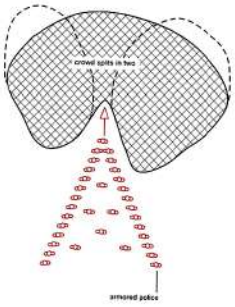
1 Line. The line is a basic formation that has come into frequent use because of its offensive and defensive applications. Used as an offensive formation, the line is deployed in order to drive a crowd straight back, across an open area, or down a city street. As a defensive formation, the line is used to block or contain a crowd and/or to deny access to the crowd.



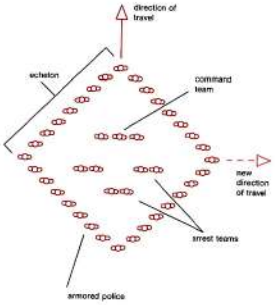
2 Echelon. An offensive formation consisting of a diagonal line used to turn or divert groups in open or built-up areas and to move crowds away from buildings, fences, and walls.

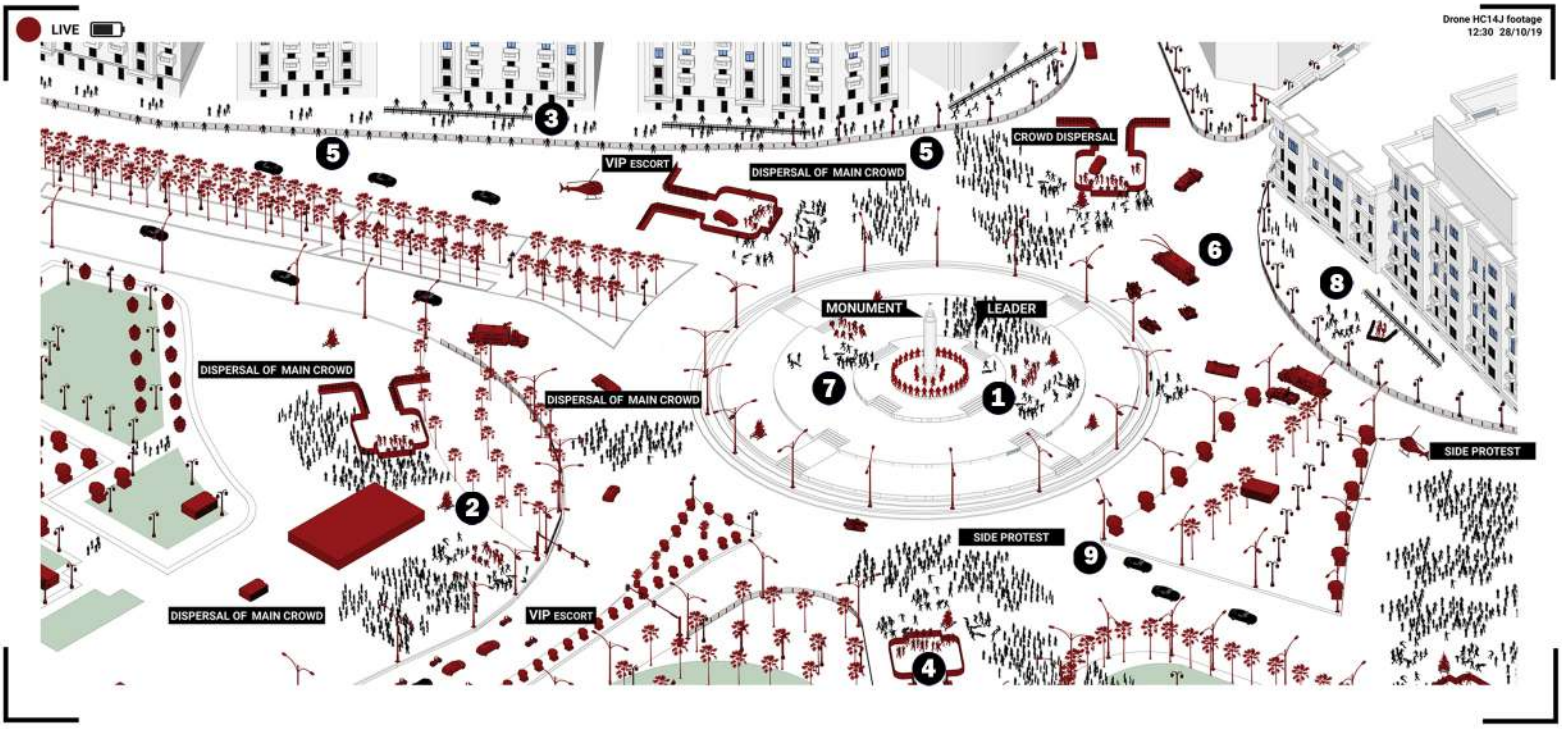


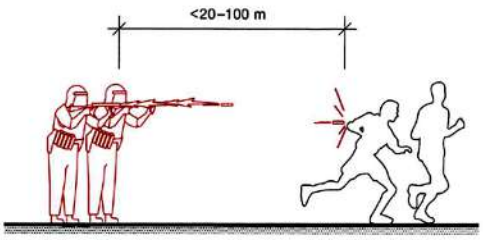
3 Wedge. An offensive formation that is used to penetrate and split crowds into smaller groups.



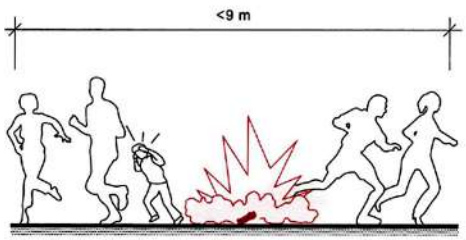
4 Diamond. As a defensive formation, this is used when all-around security is required in open areas. As an offensive formation, it is used for entering a crowd, especially by extraction teams. The symmetrical shape means the direction of travel can easily be changed.



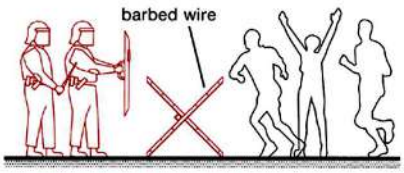




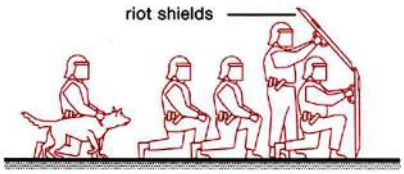
1 Baton rounds. Projectiles intended to strike their target with sufficient force to cause compliance by inducing pain.



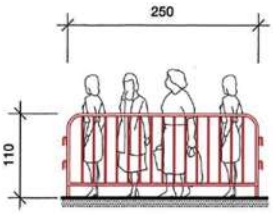
2 Stun grenades. Used as a diversionary tactic, their explosion emits a bright light and a noise of around 175 dB. Causes temporary loss of sight and hearing, as well as confusion.



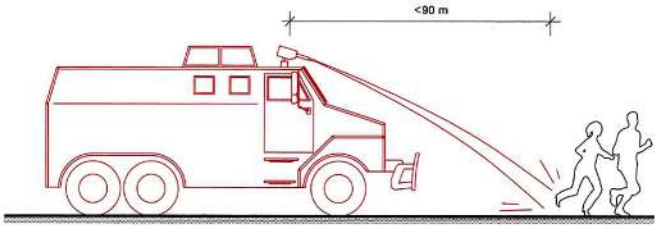
3 Barbed-wire barriers. Metal barriers used to create physical denial of a crowd's access to a suspected target of protest.



4 Shield wall formation. Based on ancient Roman techniques, a tight formation allows a compact unit of officers to find protection behind shields.

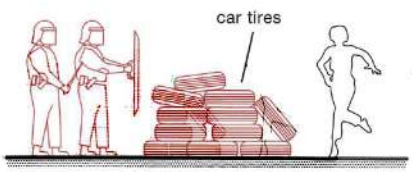


5 Temporary barriers. Used to provide a physical and psychological way to limit movement outside dedicated areas. They interlock to prevent being moved or tipped.

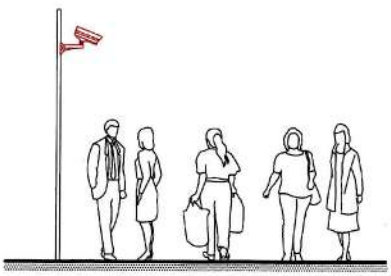


6 Water cannon. A high-pressure pump jets out thousands of liters per minute. The vehicle is armored to resist attack from projectiles and generally has a 9000-liter water reservoir.

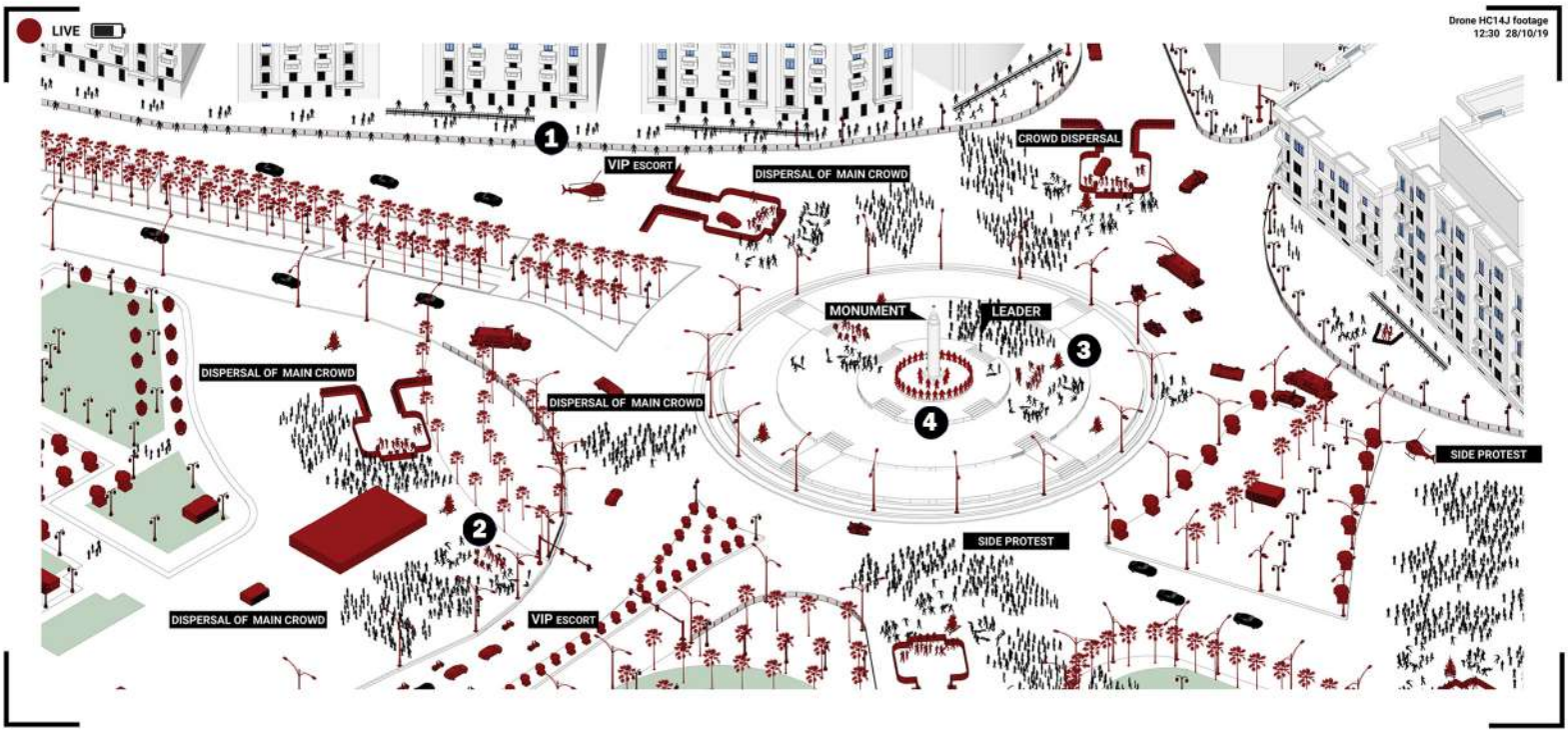
7 Baton charge. A coordinated tactic involving police officers charging with batons and often riot shields, intended to cause pain and disperse the crowd.



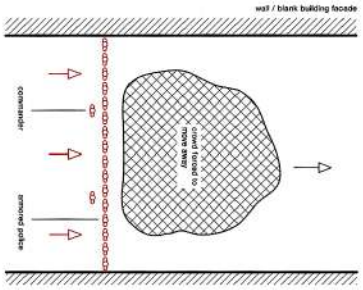
8 Improvised barriers. Vehicles, traffic jams, and items such as car tires are used to create barricades to block or channel crowd movement.



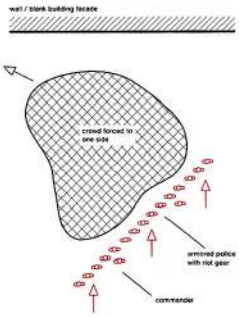
9 CCTV video analysis. These systems monitor crowds, counting objects, and detecting humans in order to quickly spot threats.



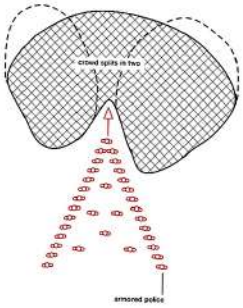
1 Line. The line is a basic formation that has come into frequent use because of its offensive and defensive applications. Used as an offensive formation, the line is deployed in order to drive a crowd straight back, across an open area, or down a city street. As a defensive formation, the line is used to block or contain a crowd and/or to deny access to the crowd.



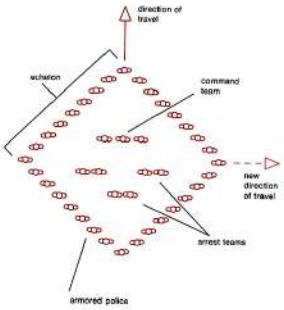
2 Echelon. An offensive formation consisting of a diagonal line used to turn or divert groups in open or built-up areas and to move crowds away from buildings, fences, and walls.



3 Wedge. An offensive formation that is used to penetrate and split crowds into smaller groups.



4 Diamond. As a defensive formation, this is used when all-around security is required in open areas. As an offensive formation, it is used for entering a crowd, especially by extraction teams. The symmetrical shape means the direction of travel can easily be changed.

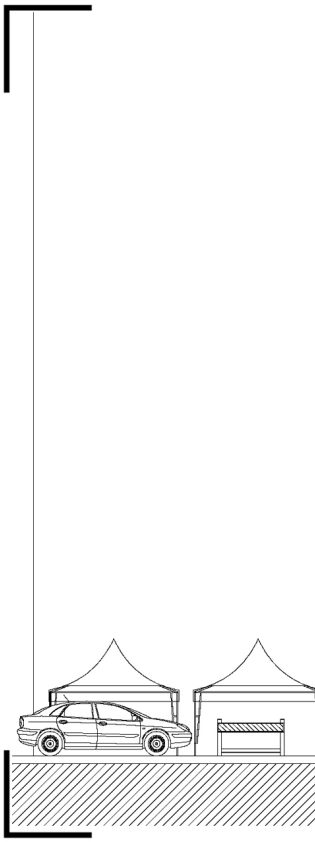


How the people are being controlled?

Middle step : Unwanted Behaviour

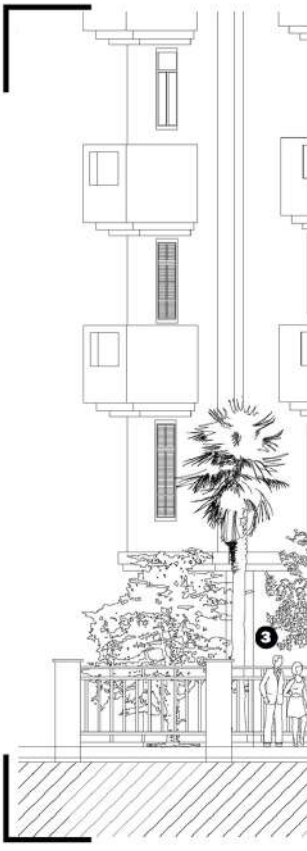
“Unwanted behavior” is not a crime by government, but preventive measures are the only way to avert it. Unwanted behaviors are including lying down, sitting, standing in a group, and walking. These are activities that take place in public spaces, the same spaces advertised in real state brochures as vivid, dynamic, and bustling with life.

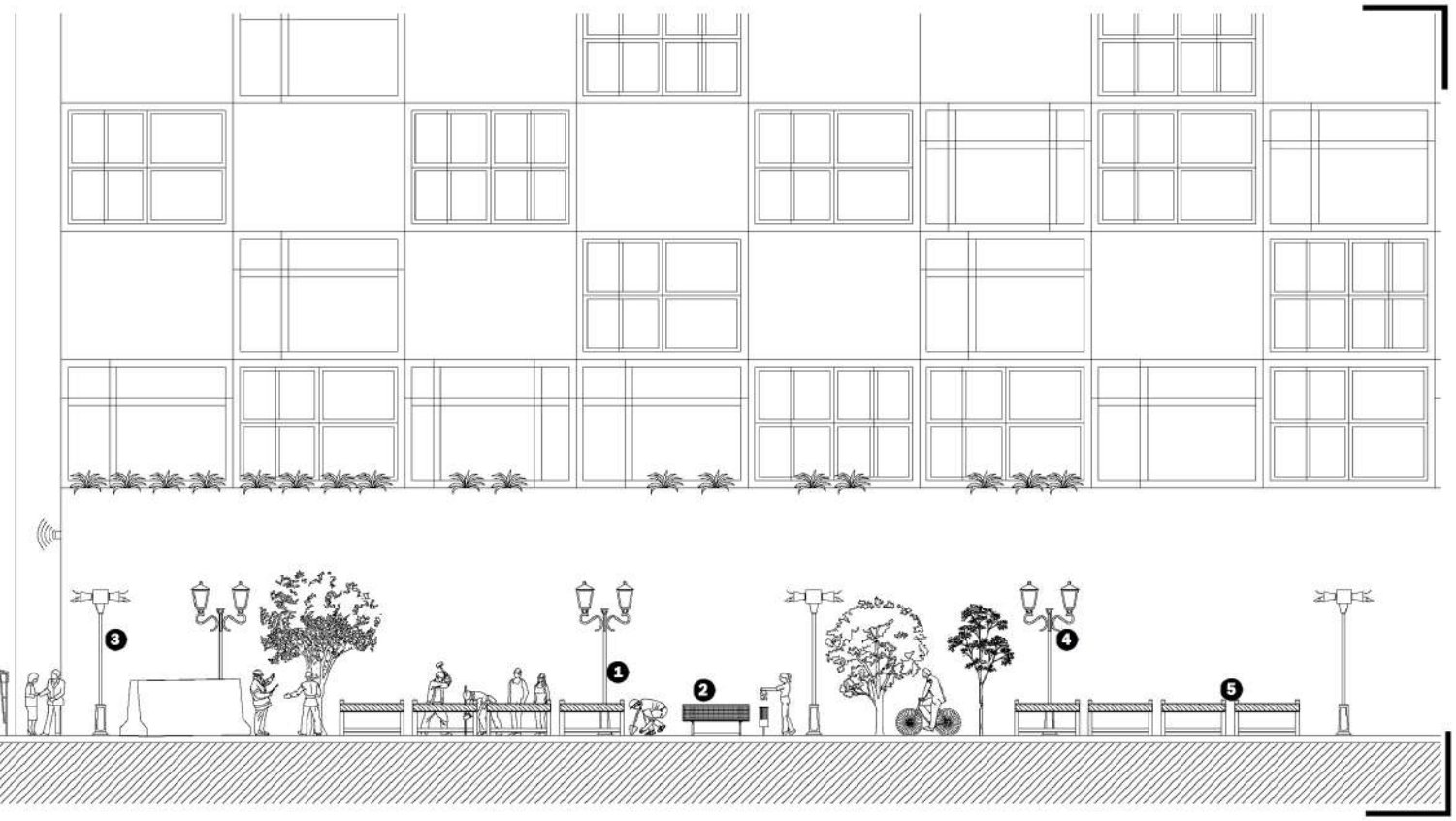
In this part we try to analyze urban furniture which have been used in these two publics square and understand what unwanted behavior in Beirut and Cairo in other word we see how designers have been treat to the much less violent “enemy” to the city: The ordinary citizens



Unwanted behaviour is a kind of middle step of controlling people.

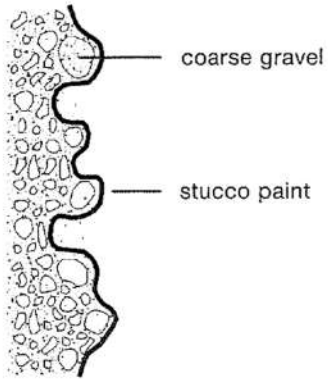
Unwanted behavior is kind of a middle step of controlling people. Governments already have the public space and because of various economic reasons , they prefer to edit or change urban furniture. In this way governments try to deal with people s choices of that public space .As a result, governments need to accommodate to people›s choices of their use of public space. This can also be referred to as unwanted behavior i.e. «over design» whereby architects or urban planners try overusing urban furniture in a way to control all the action which happens in the public space. In other words, designing urban furniture or planting trees is done in an exaggerated way.





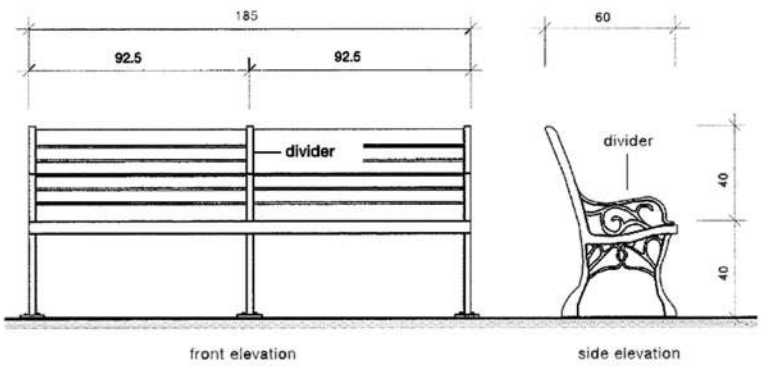
Martyr's square

El-Tahrir square

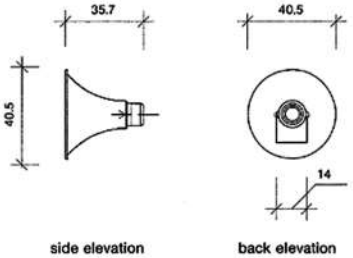


detail

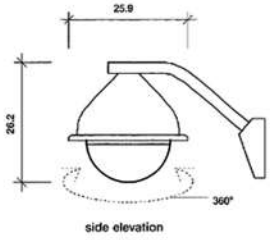
1 Anti-sticker coating ,Eindhoven , Netherlands.The AS 2010 and poster deterrent.



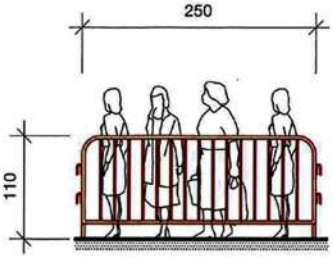
2 Georgetown Bench.100% recycled iron and plastic.As the company states , the bench is "designed to face contemporary urban realities with a center arm that discourages overnight stays ."



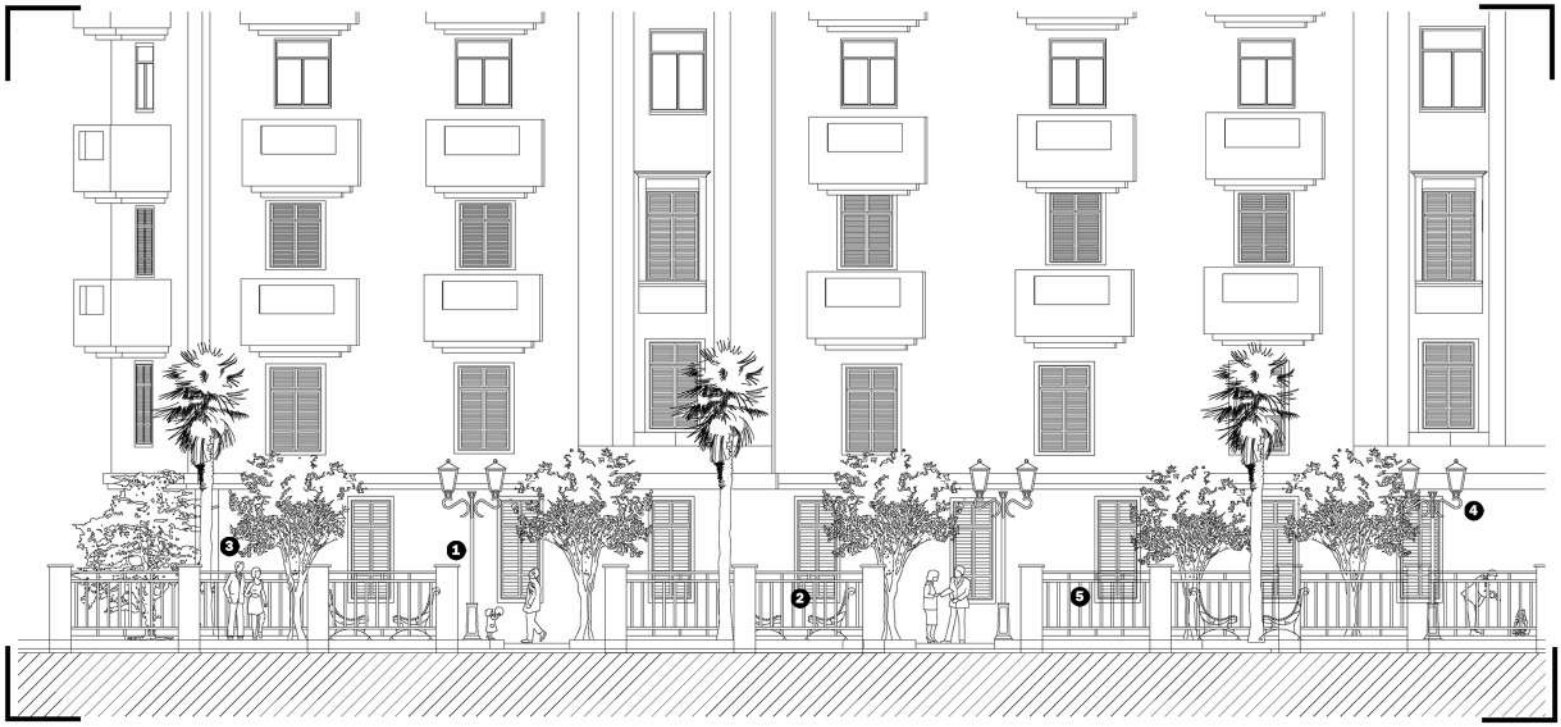
3 Noise projection, San Francisco , USA.Loud construction noises from speakers outside buildings to keep homeless people from sleeping between 11 p.m and 7 a.m.

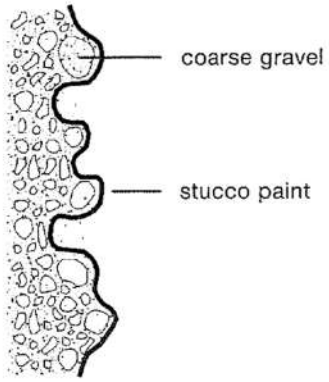


4 VisionDome HD CCTV camera , Broadway ,UK. 360 ° high-resolution camera disguised as a street lamp.



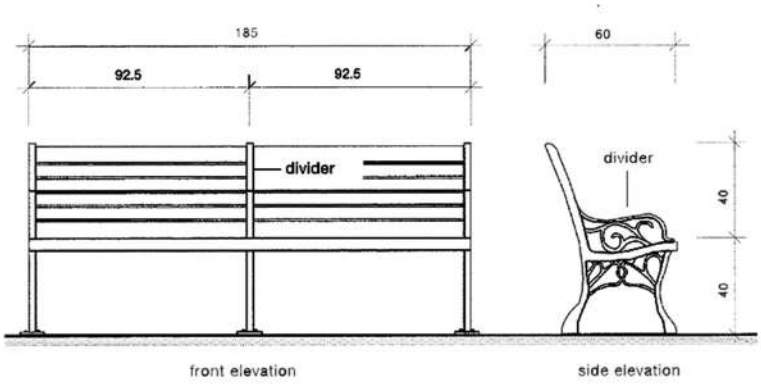
5 Temporary barriers. Used to provide a physical and psychological way to limit movement outside dedicated areas.They interlock to prevent being moved or tipped.



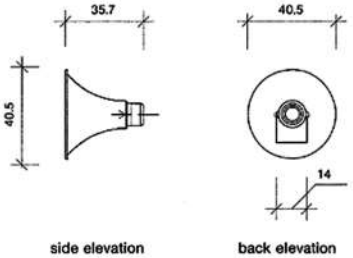


detail

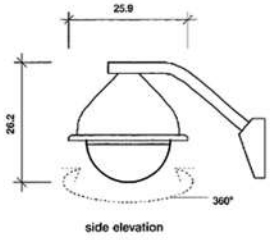
1 Anti-sticker coating ,Eindhoven , Netherlands.The AS 2010 and poster deterrent.



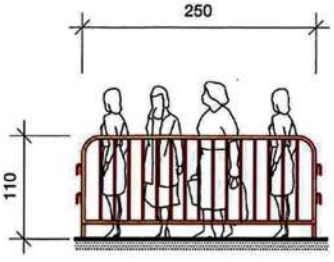
2 Georgetown Bench.100% recycled iron and plastic.As the company states , the bench is "designed to face contemporary urban realities with a center arm that discourages overnight stays ."



3 Noise projection, San Francisco , USA.Loud construction noises from speakers outside buildings to keep homeless people from sleeping between 11 p.m and 7 a.m.



4 VisionDome HD CCTV camera , Broadway ,UK. 360 ° high-resolution camera disguised as a street lamp.



5 Temporary barriers. Used to provide a physical and psychological way to limit movement outside dedicated areas.They interlock to prevent being moved or tipped.

How the people are being controlled?

First step : Total Demolition

A building is not just brick and mortar, but is also a medium, charged with economic, cultural and political value as well. The (governmental) decision to destroy these buildings specifically targets one of these values. The promise of higher profits, changes in people's lifestyles, and new political regimes turn out to be the most powerful opponents of built objects. Yet the economic bubble can burst, lifestyles take sudden nostalgic turns (as with loft apartments in old factories), and political regimes can change all too soon.

This action is mostly the first step of controlling people in order to take the identity from that specific public space , **often used** to move the center of power of that space.There are two general ways: one can be resolved by making a new position for political space, and the other one could be destroying and demolishing the important buildings neighboring the public space. We analyze Martyrs Square in Beirut on the second one.

History talks for us!

Timeline of the protests

November 1943

Lebanese Independence Day, 22 November 1943

June 1967

Demanding Nasser stay in power, June 1967: Spontaneous

December 2006

Anti-government/pro-Syrian rally in Beirut-Lebanon,10 December 2006

August 2015

Lebanon rubbish crisis, 30- August 2015

November 2019

The 17 October Revolution ,17 November 2019

August 2020

Beirut protest demand regime change after explosion,Aug 2020 ,8

June 1967

Demanding Nasser stay in power, June 1967: Spontaneous

January 2011

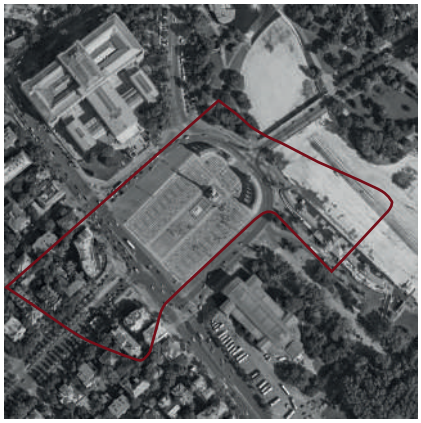
Arab spring - January 28
Protesters pray during a demonstration against Egypt s Islamist

December 2013

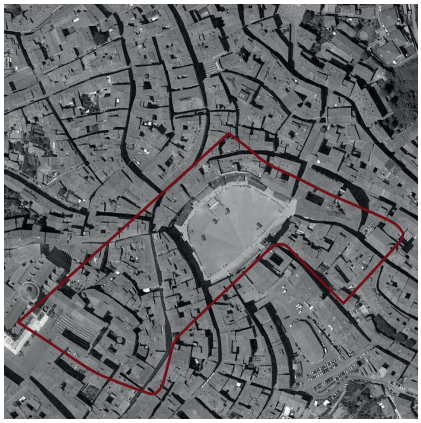
Pro-Morsi protest- december 2013

How big they are ?

NAQSH-E JAHAN SQUARE, ESFAHAN, IRAN



HŐSÖK TERE SQUARE, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



CAMPO SQUARE, SIENA, ITALY

ANFITEATRO SQUARE, LUCCA, ITALY

NAVONA SQUARE, ROME, ITALY

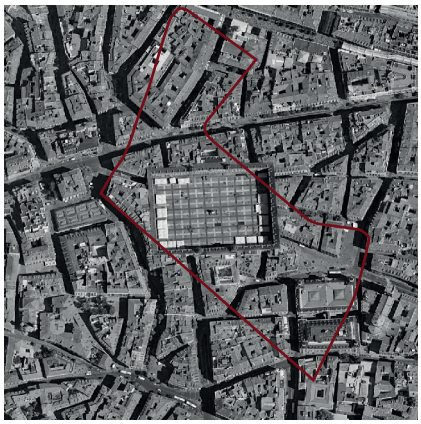
SAN CARLO SQUARE , TURIN, ITALY

MARTYRS' SQUARE, BEIRUT,LEBANON

VITTORIO VENETO SQUARE, TURIN, ITALY

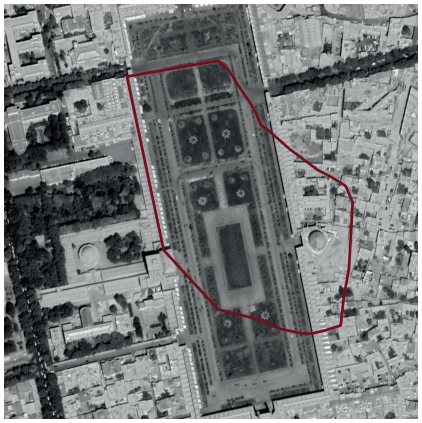
VENDÔME SQUARE, PARIS, FRANCE

LA RÉPUBLIQUE SQUARE, PARIS, FRANCE

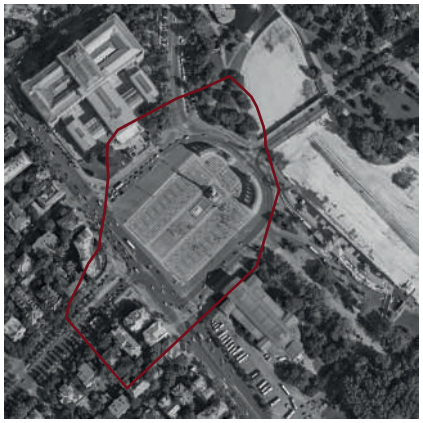


MAYOR SQUARE, MADIRD, SPAIN

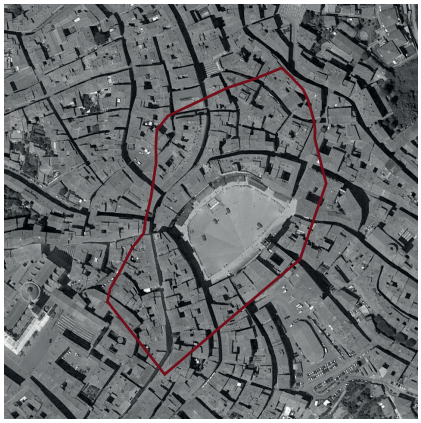
TRAFALGAR SQUARE, LONDON, UK



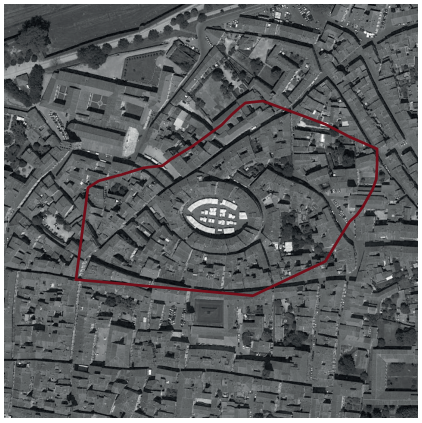
NAQSH-E JAHAN SQUARE, ESFAHAN, IRAN



HŐSÖK TERE SQUARE, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



CAMPO SQUARE, SIENA, ITALY



ANFITEATRO SQUARE, LUCCA, ITALY

NAVONA SQUARE, ROME, ITALY

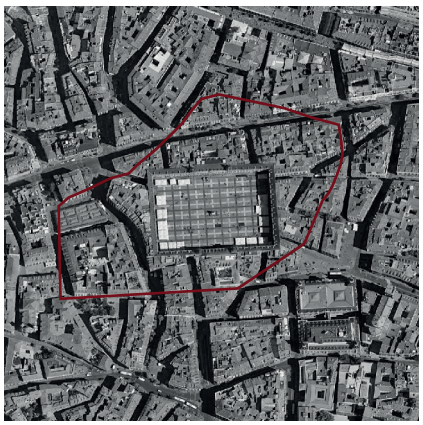
SAN CARLO SQUARE , TURIN, ITALY

TAHRIR SQUARE, CAIRO, EGYPT

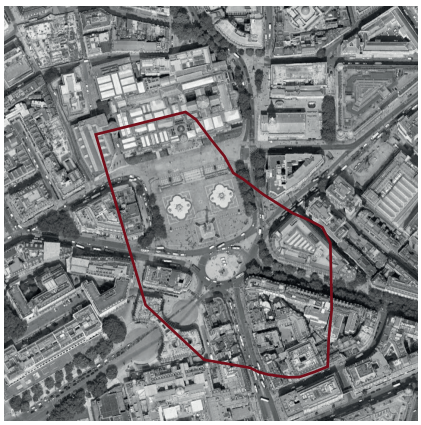
VITTORIO VENETO SQUARE, TURIN, ITALY

VENDÔME SQUARE, PARIS, FRANCE

LA RÉPUBLIQUE SQUARE, PARIS, FRANCE



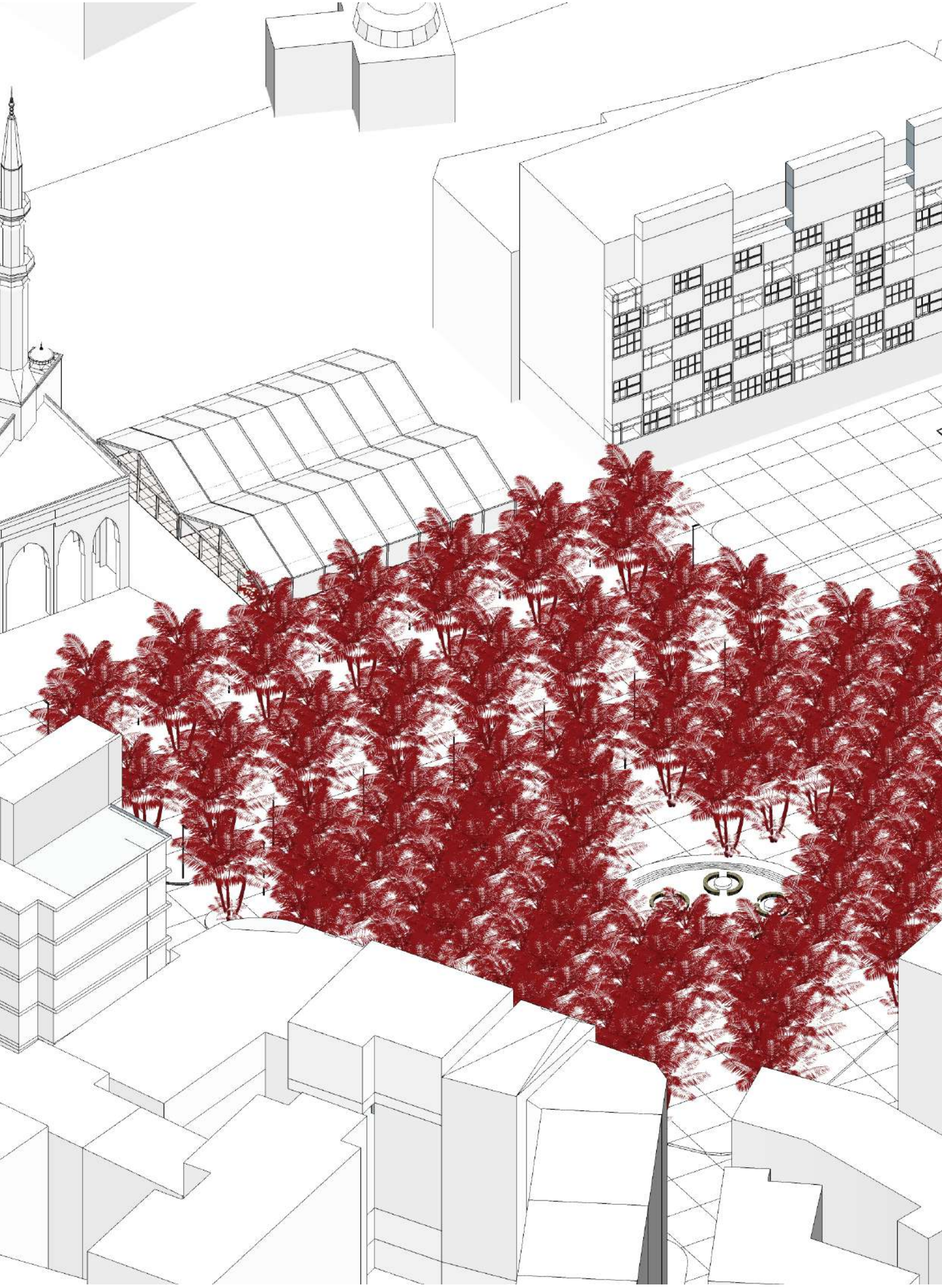
MAYOR SQUARE, MADIRD, SPAIN

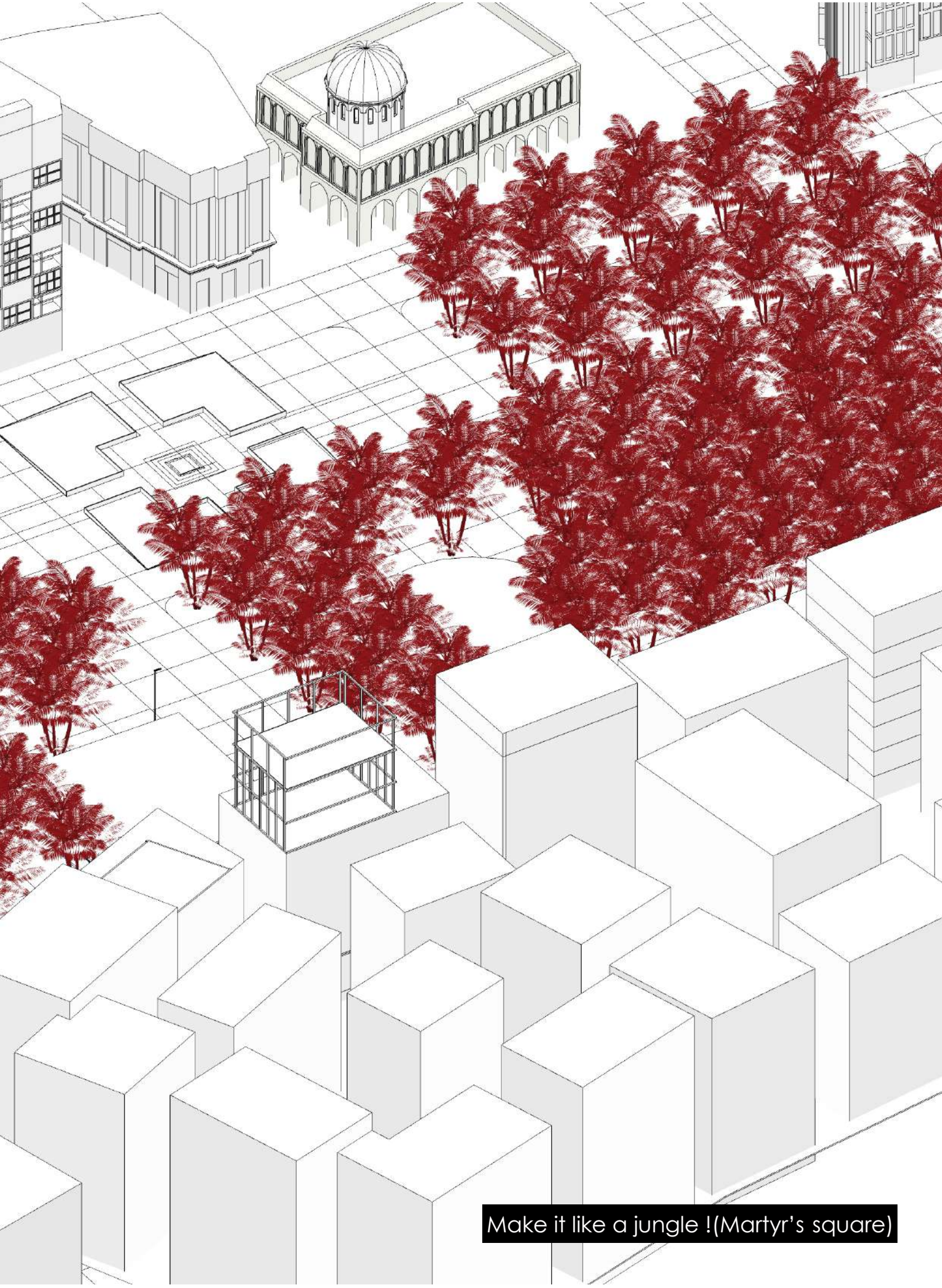


TRAFALGAR SQUARE, LONDON, UK

What if...?

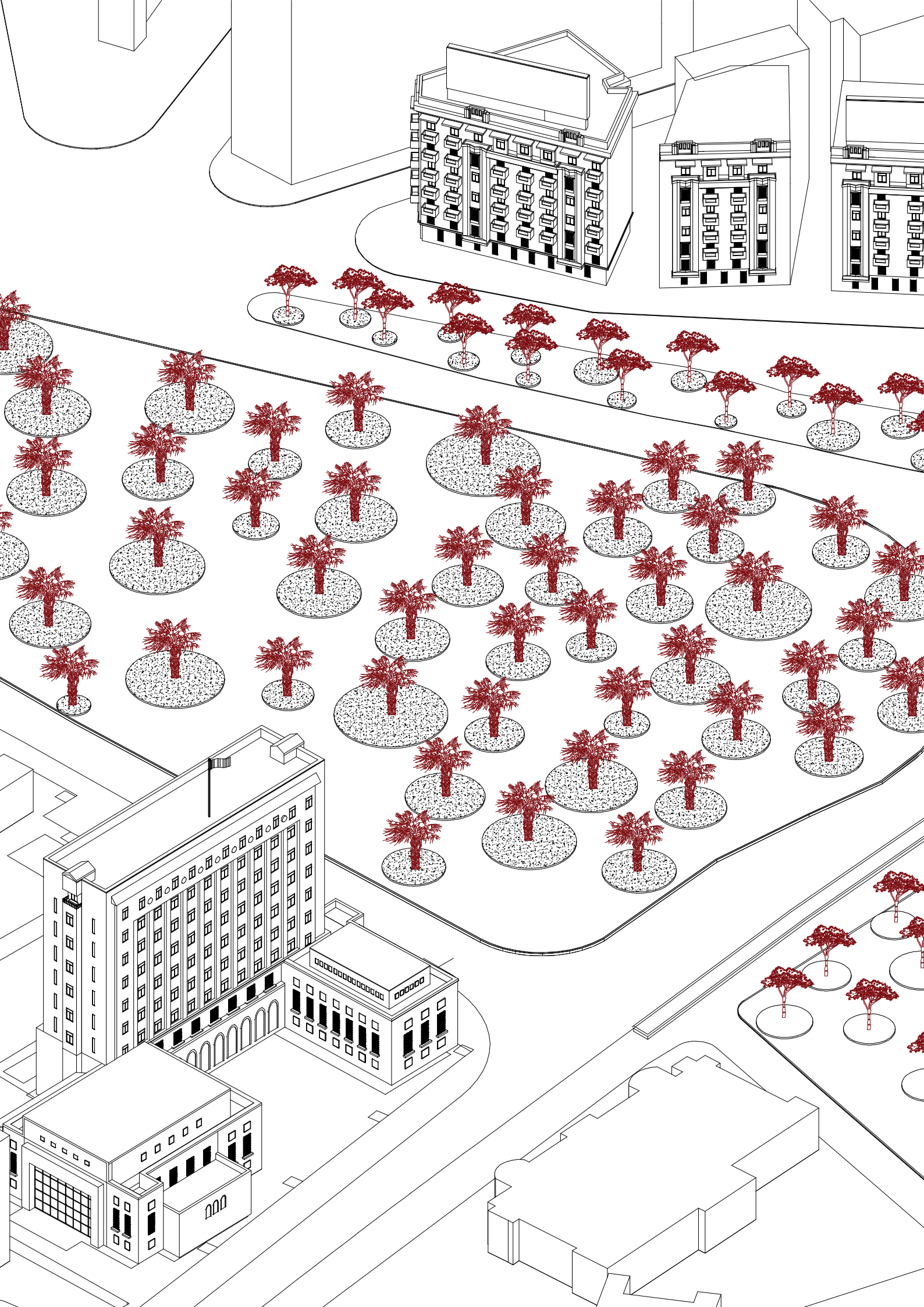
In these design scenarios we have tried to respond to control diagrams, as an example , in the idea of “Make it like a jungle! “ was an attempt and response based on crowd control diagrams , in the way that it could make the difficulties for policies for targeting in one social movement .we have to consider also ideas have some other benefits like population suction and help to urban breathing. In the case of jungle , the reason could be the amount of trees.
In the other side , the idea of “Octopus enters !“ is a general respond to all the diagrams .in order to take all the crowd from different street in order to have a new access to the public space , particularly when is the moment of social movement which many person are there .

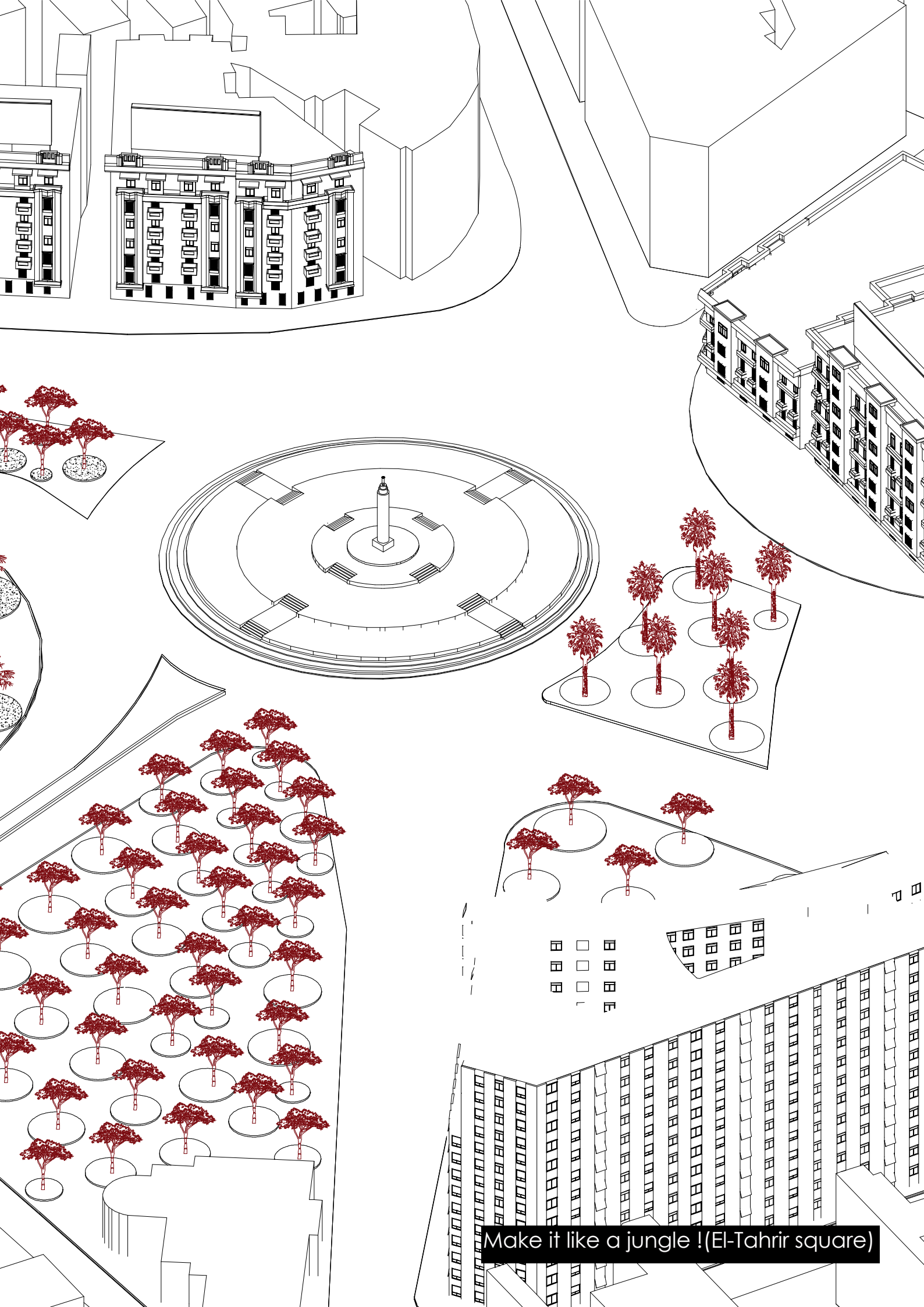




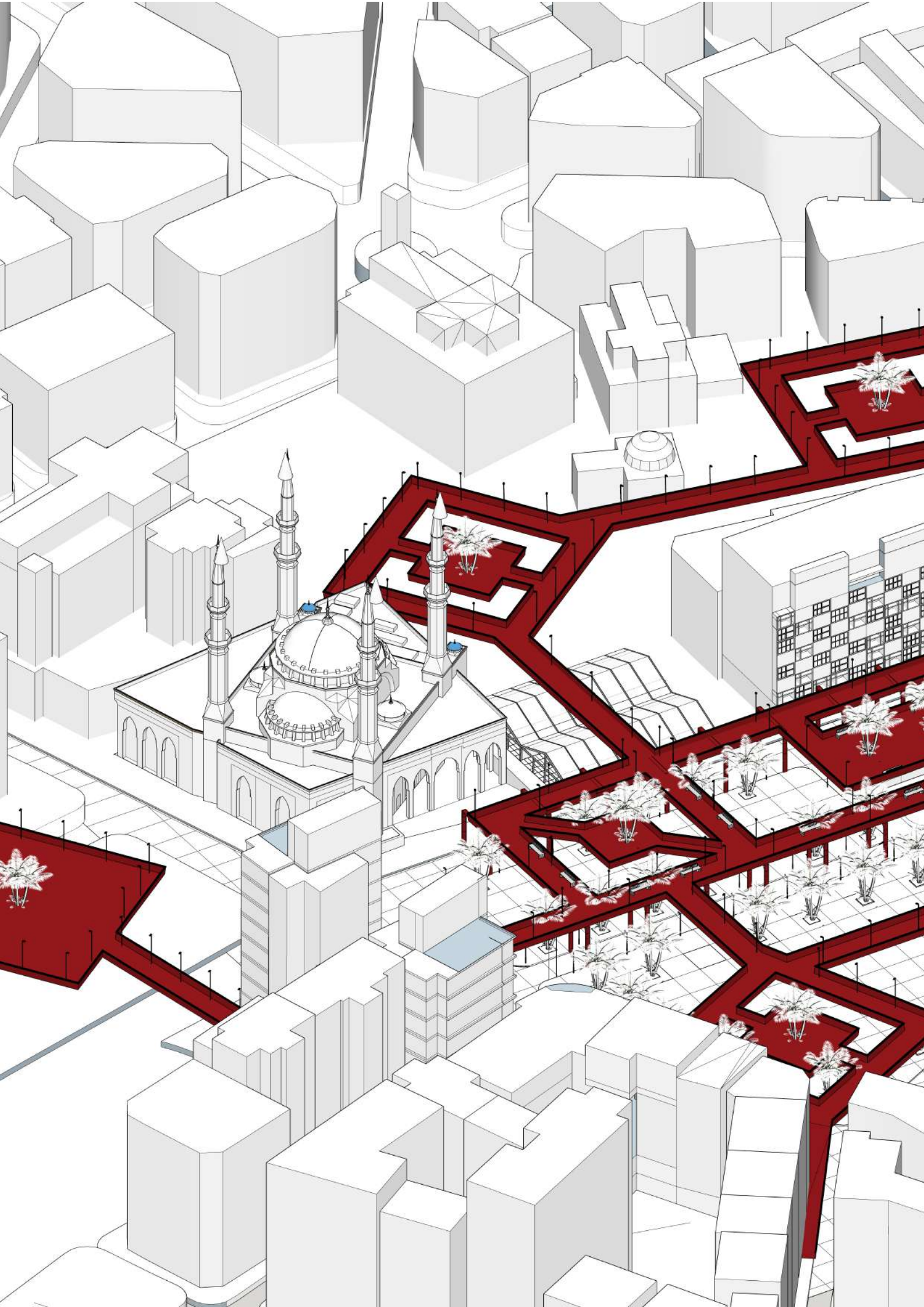
Make it like a jungle !(Martyr's square)

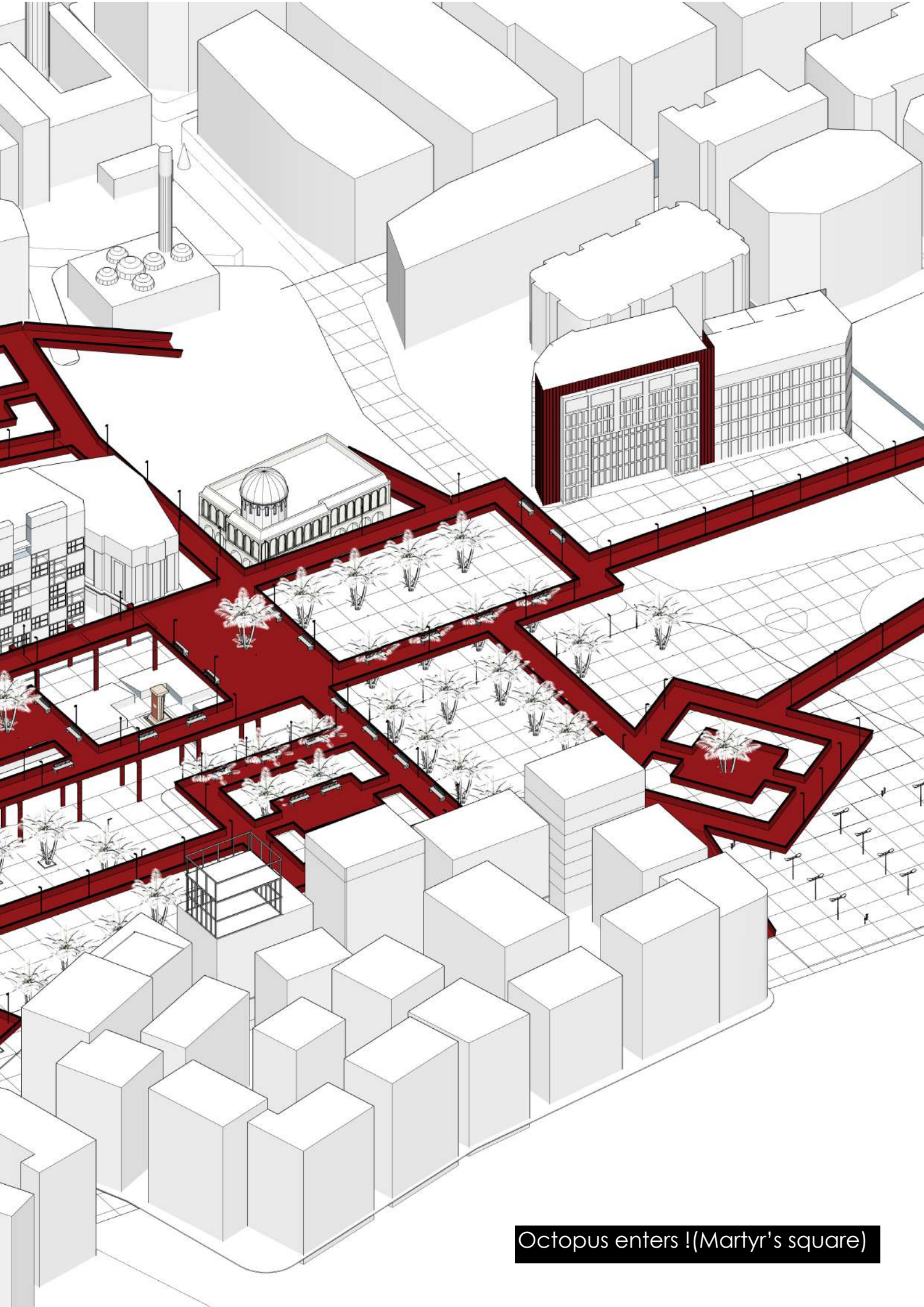
Make it like a jungle !(Martyr’s square)



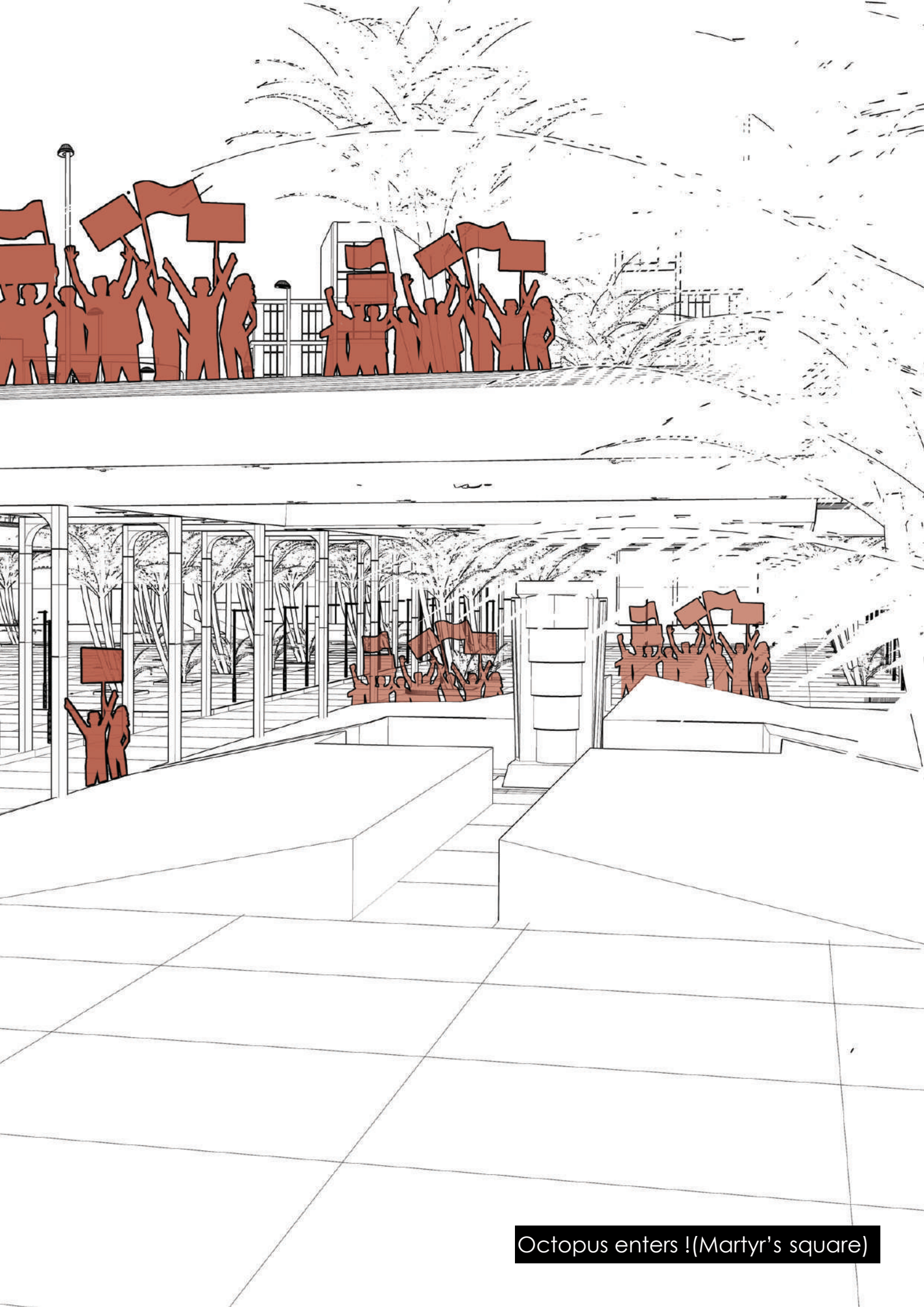

Make it like a jungle !(El-Tahrir square)

Make it like a jungle !(El-Tahrir square)

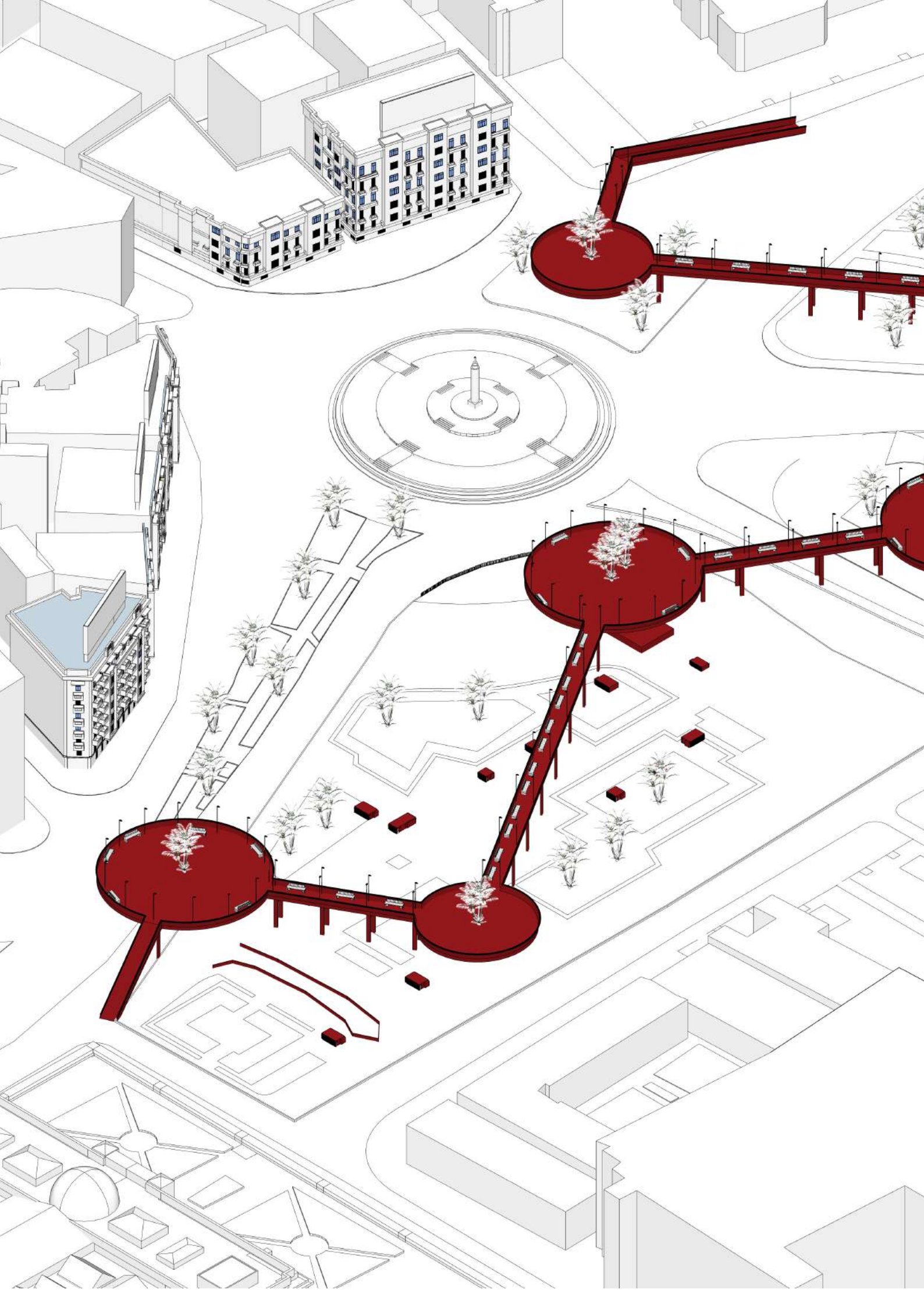


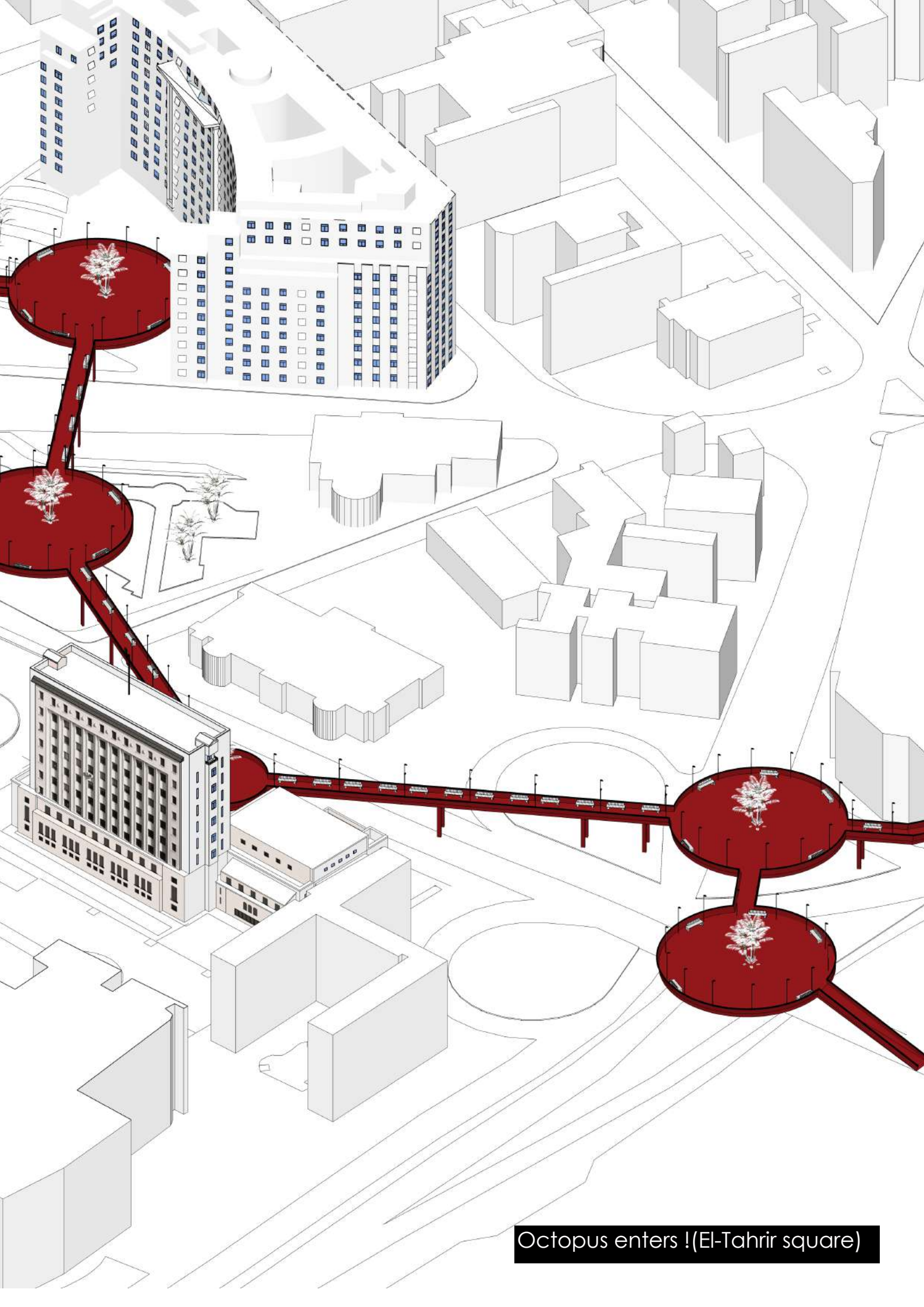


Octopus enters !(Martyr's square)

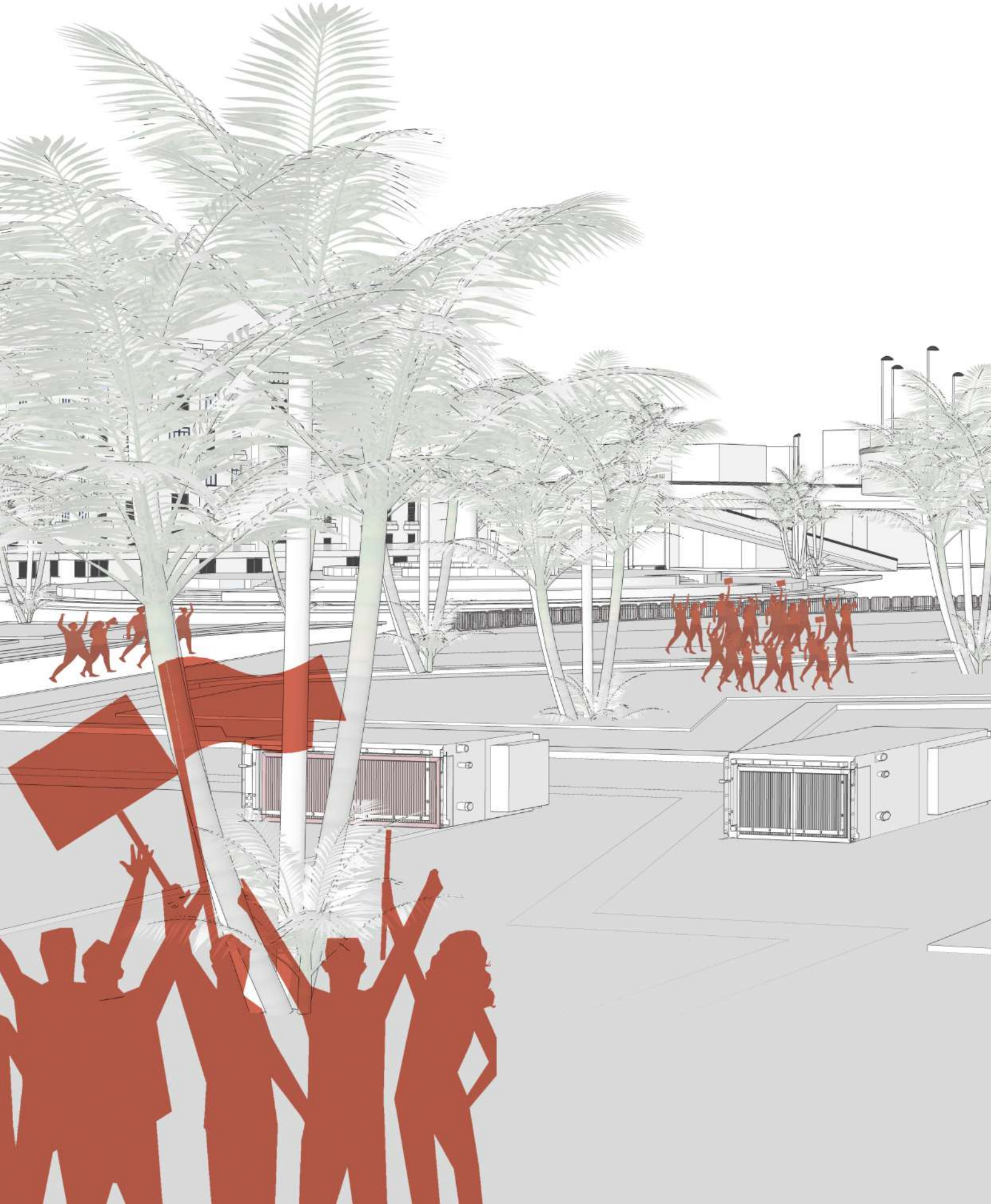


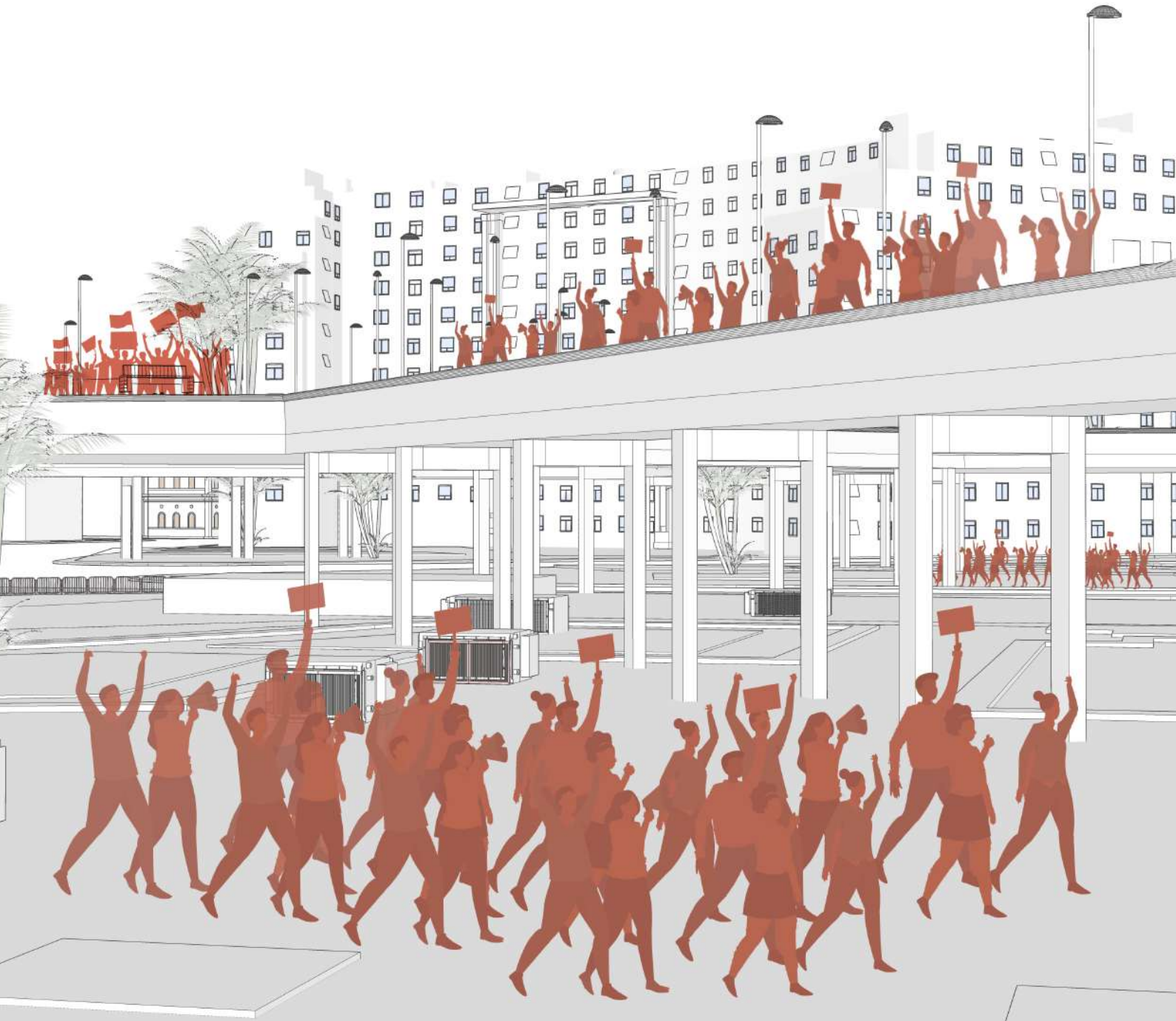
Octopus enters !(Martyr's square)





Octopus enters !(El-Tahrir square)





Octopus enters !(El-Tahrir square)

Project (Ma

rtyr's Square)

Physical Program

Debt to beirut?
Solidere will help!

In planning the physical program with proposing different parallel program, the actual situation of Martyrs square of Beirut.

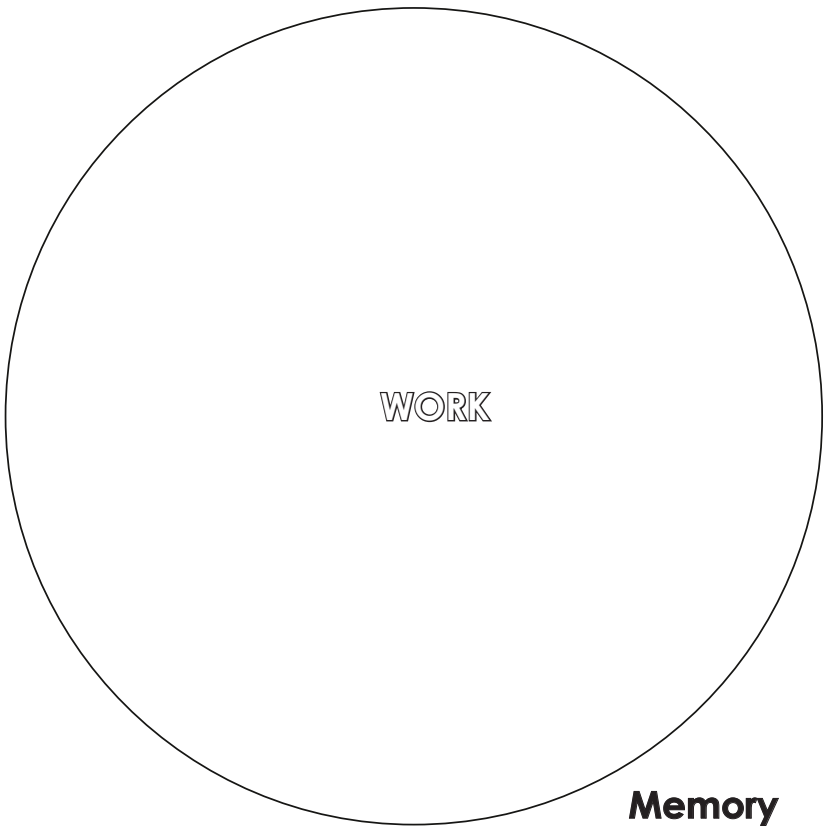
All these program's standards can start from simple projects (low budgets) to complex one.

As far as Solidere try to reach complex projects solider try to reach complex projects more investors will come to invests like NGOS to other communities.

in the designing phase of project, we decide to assign the pieces for different functions (based on the uses of people and analysis).Designing programs,was also an attempt to give the liberty which Solidere can decide how they want to apply the program (base on budget) and in the case of need , how they can change the program in order to have the maximum benifits.

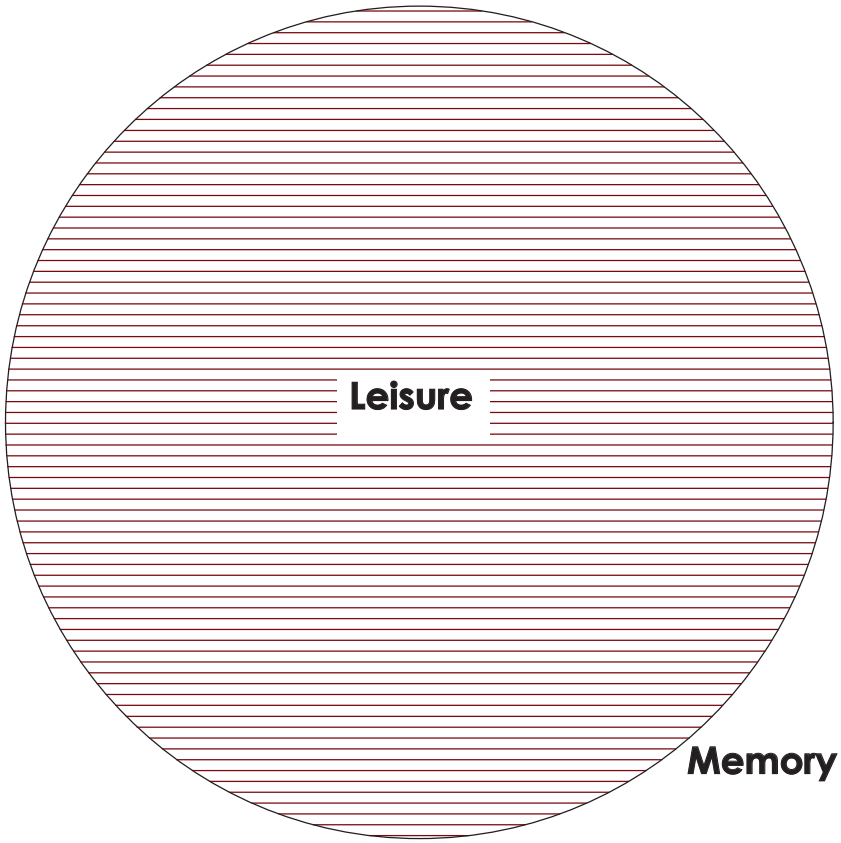
In this program Solidere has the freedom to lead the programs and in the case of need modify the assign land for each function. As an example, in continue we put the diagrams about the (EAT) function .

WORK /**LEISURE**



Memory

WORK /LEISURE



LEISURE

5 STRANDS

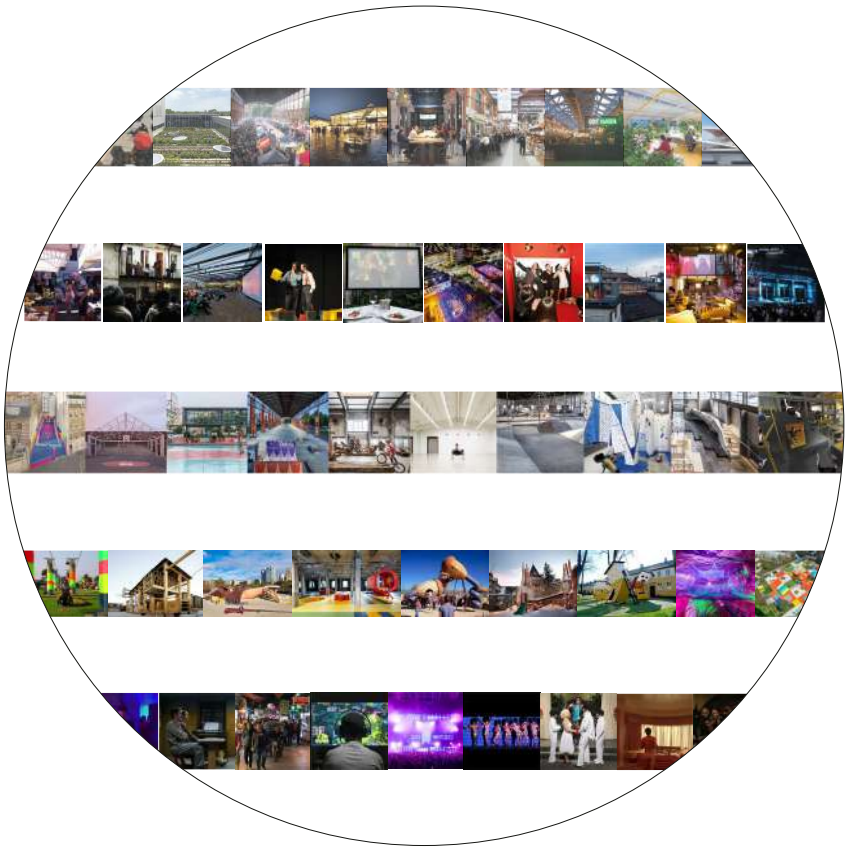
FOOD

PERFORMANCE

SPORTS

PALY-GROUND

PALY-GROUND



EAT

WATCH

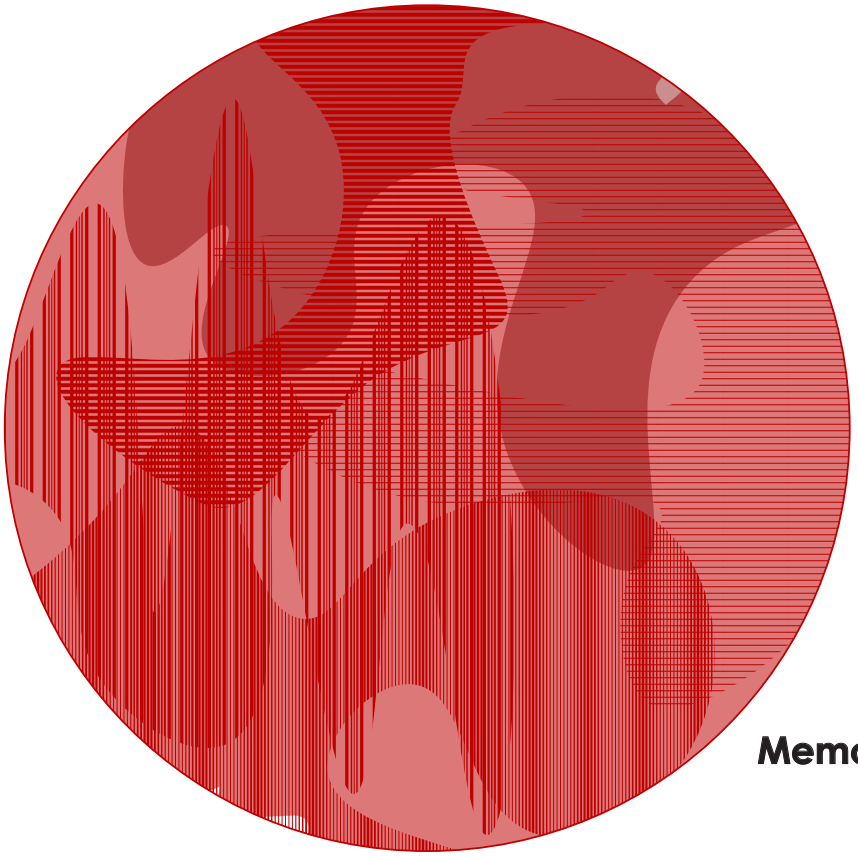
MOVE

PLAY

PARTY

Memory

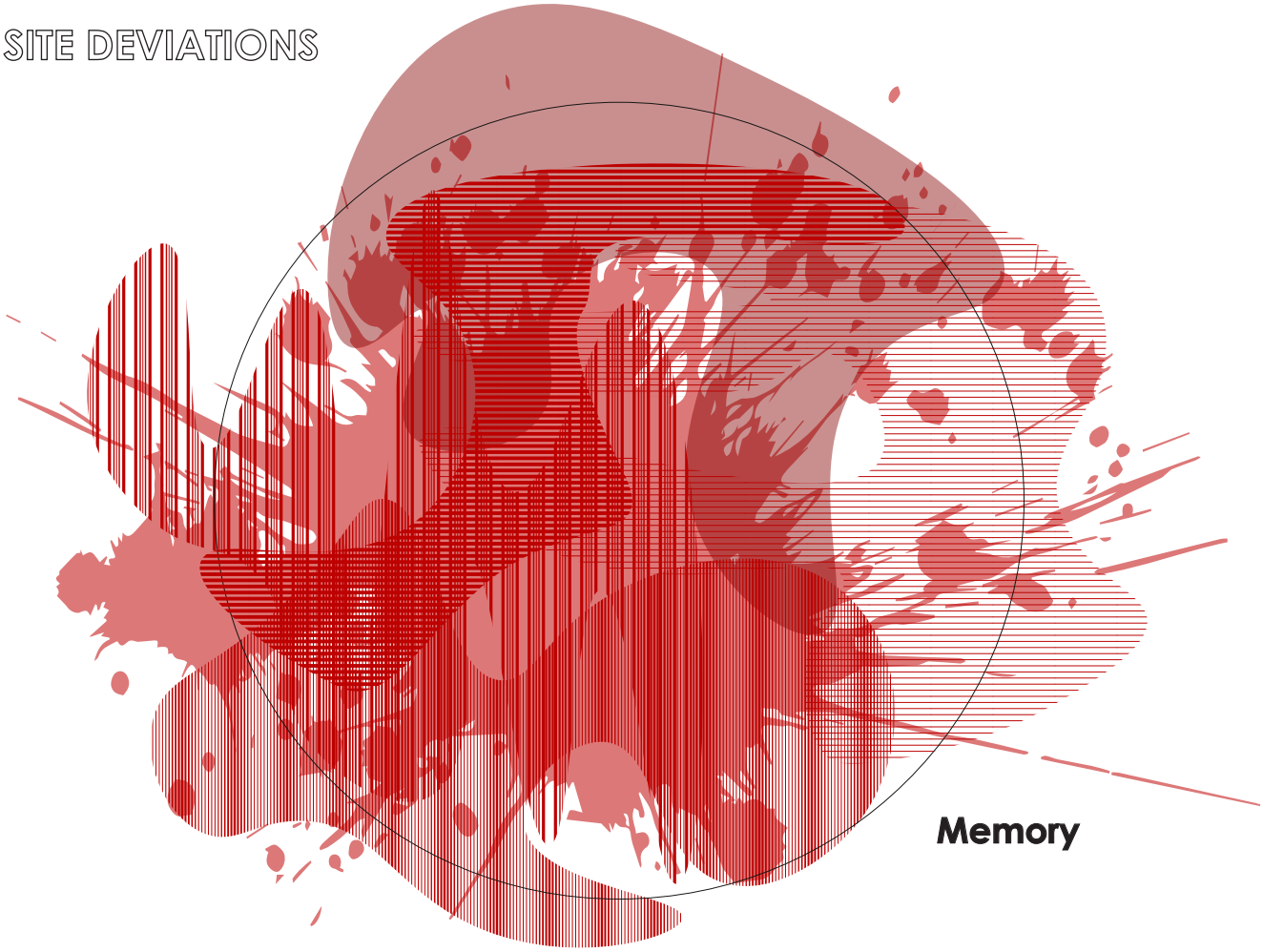
LIQUID/ PARALLEL PROGRAM



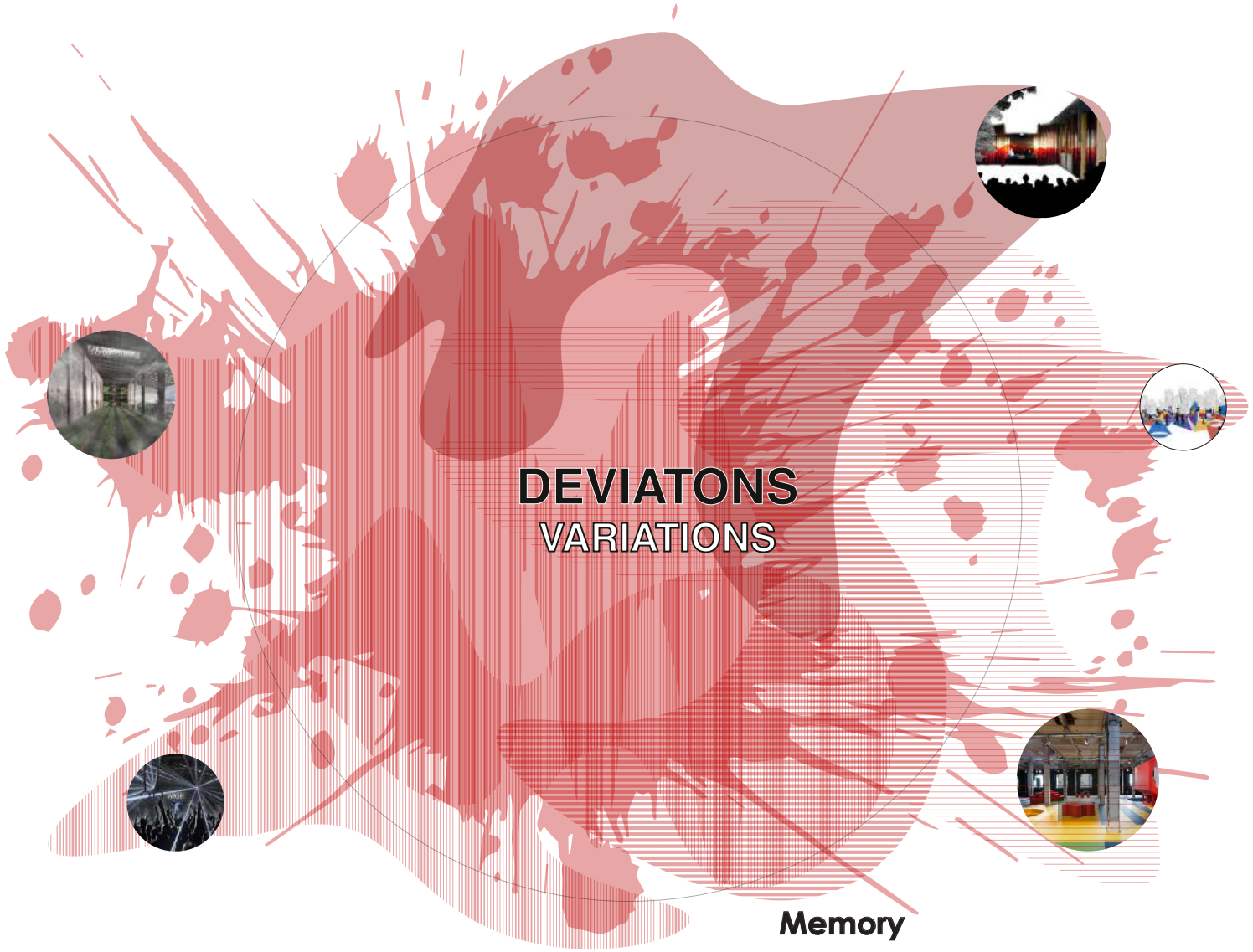
Memory

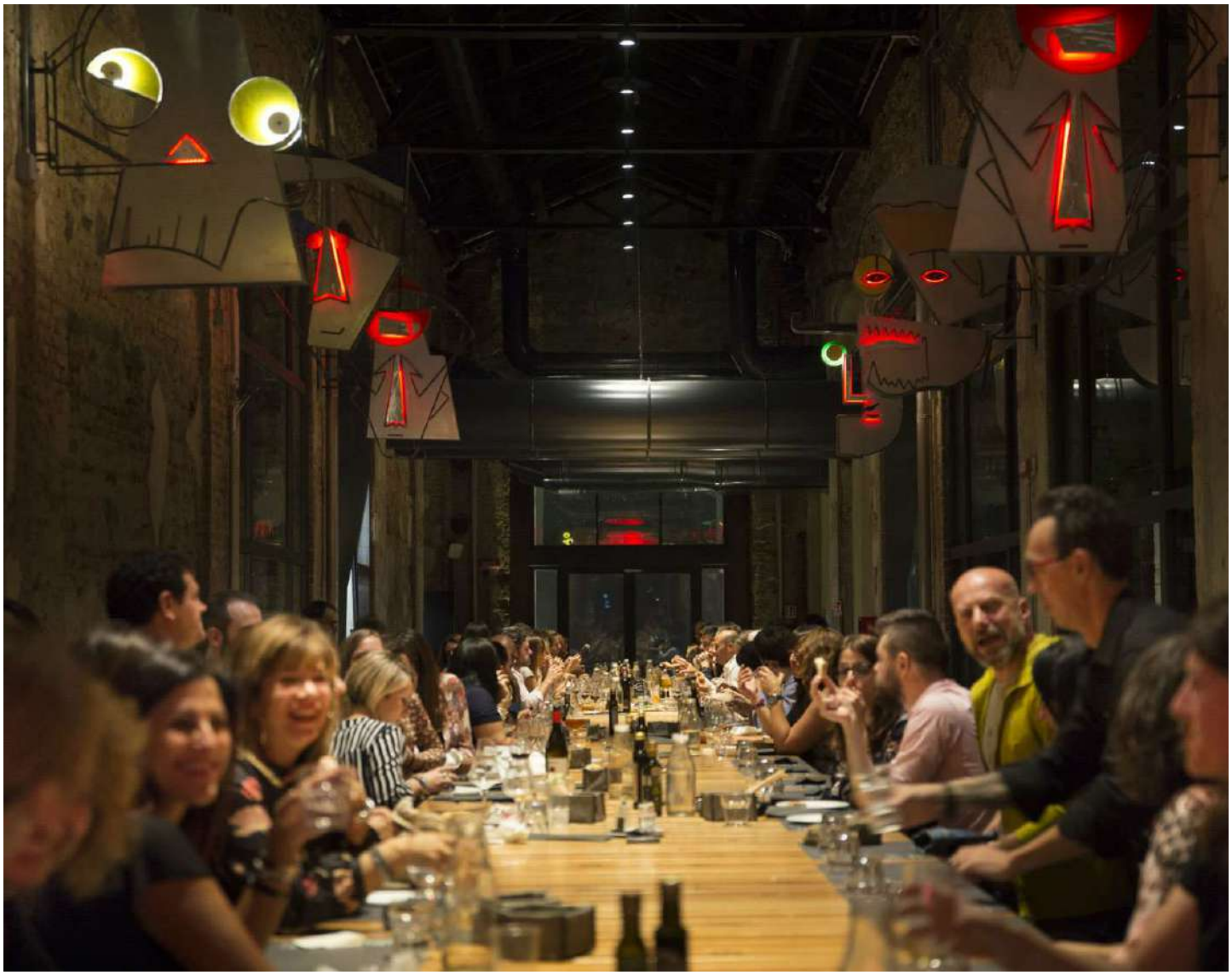
UN-LOCK

ACTIVE SITE DEVIATIONS



Memory


DEVIATONS
VARIATIONS
Memory



EAT

Temporary Vegetable Garden

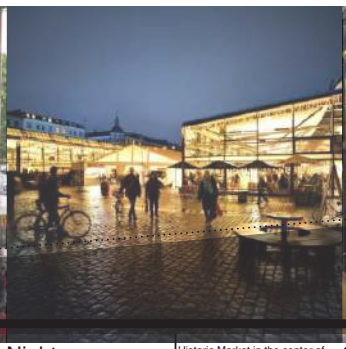
Zighizaghi is a multi-sensorial urban garden which creates a welcoming place for the citizens.

Permanent Vegetable Garden

The Gary Comer Youth Center Roof Garden is an after-school learning space for the neighborhood

Street Food Market

Temporary event dedicated to the best of craft breweries and Italian and foreign urban food. Parco Dora is a flexible space for sport, concert, events and expositions

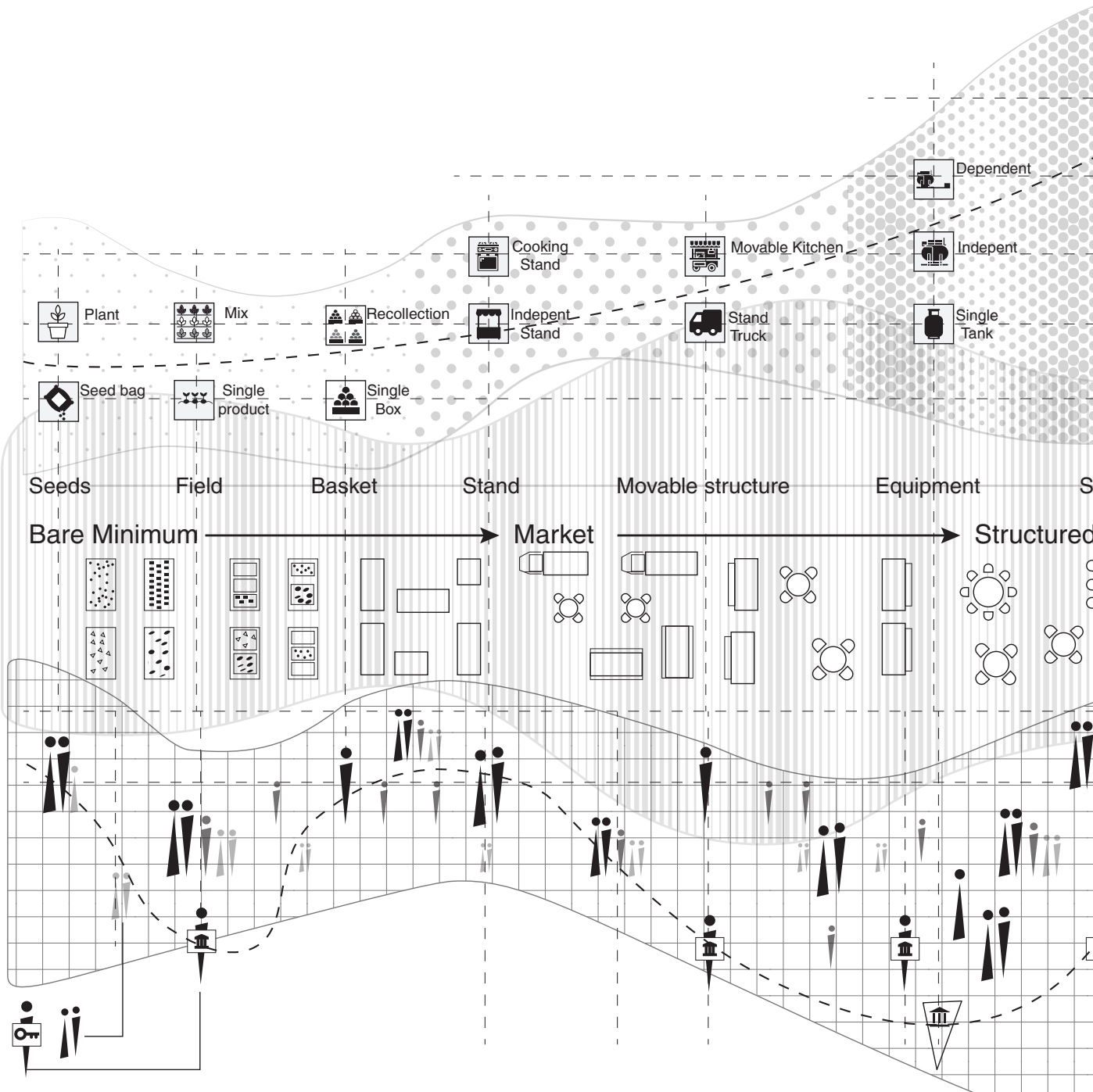


Night Permanent Market

Historic Market in the center of Copenaghen where is possible buy food and eat. The market is open until late night

Social Table

Snodo's sc down to ea to meet, sh day long, i co-working



cial table is an open space to sit
t, work,
are and create connections all
n a perspective of co-fooding and

Selling and Consumption

consumption

Eataly Works with the strategy "From the counter to the table "You can eat everything you see

Hybrid Space Uses

consump-

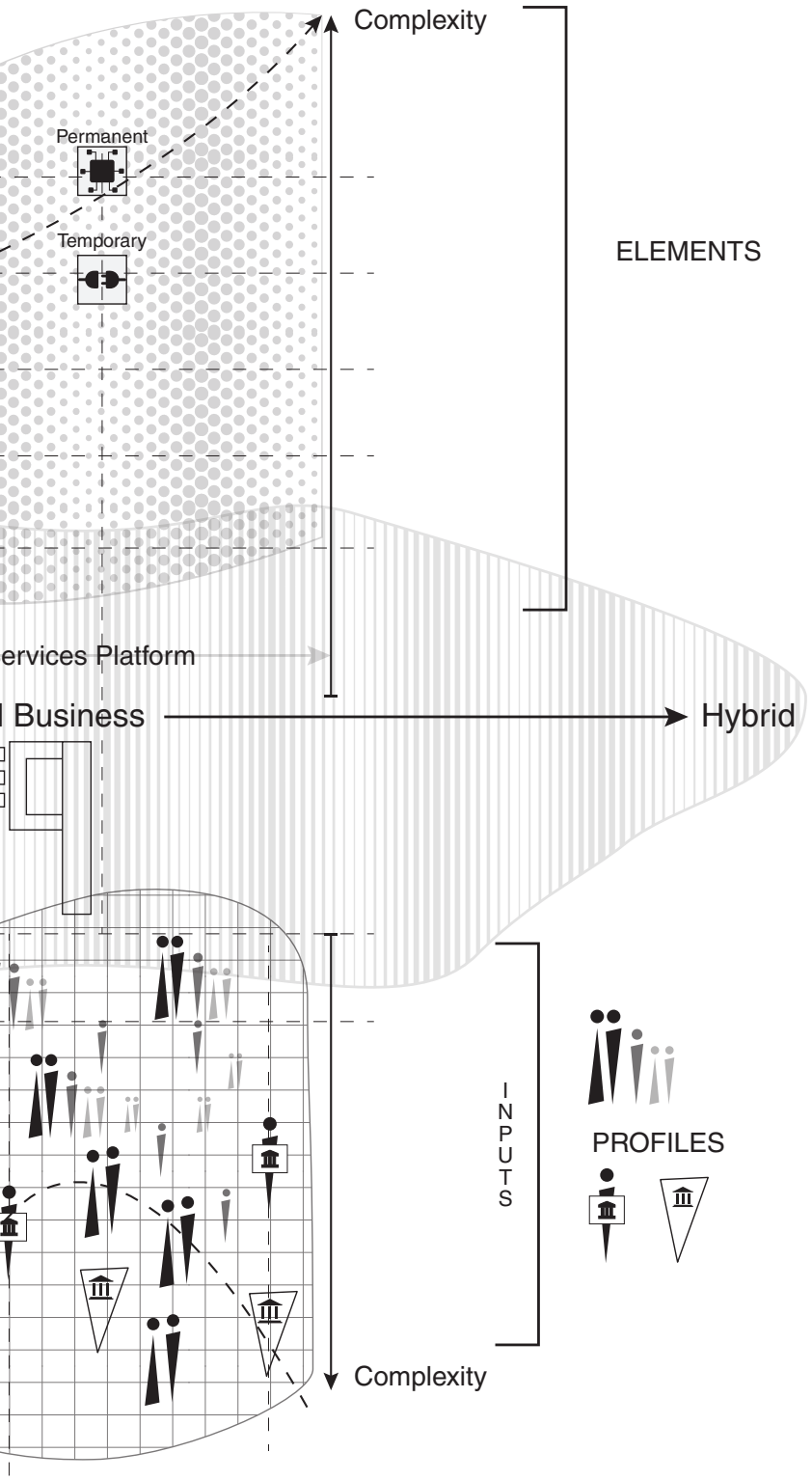
The green area dedicated to food & beverage, music and much more, to pass moments of taste and sharing.

Hybrid Different Functions

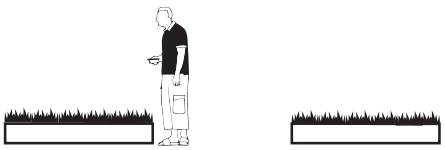
Second Home is a new spaces added to the old market in Lisbon for workspace and wellbeing. They create workspaces that help members grow, be more creative, and happier – every day.

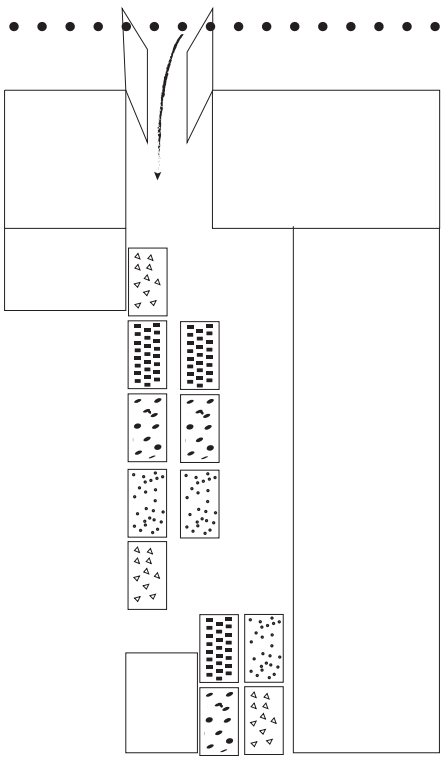
GIving Landscape to the city

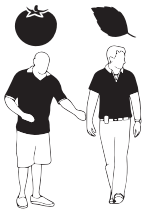
The Sydney Fish Market will establ
world-class "foodie" destination. Th
ject seeks to set in place an exemp
example of integrating the public re
and contemporary market space



Stage 1







solidere

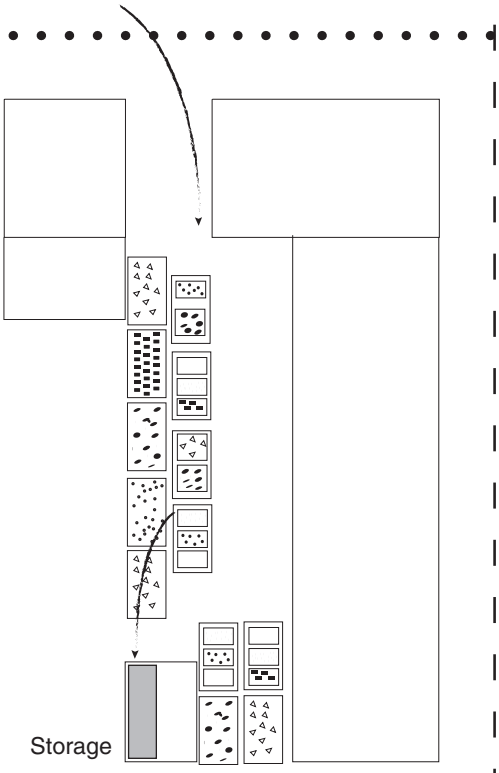
Lebanese Food Bank

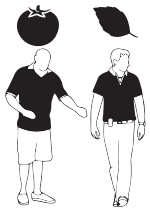
Beirut Communities

AUB

بسمة فرح

Stage 2

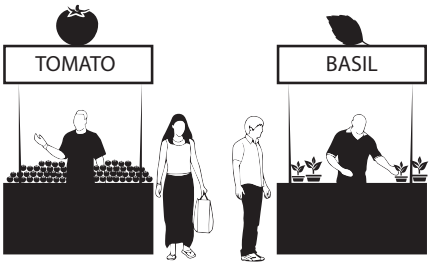


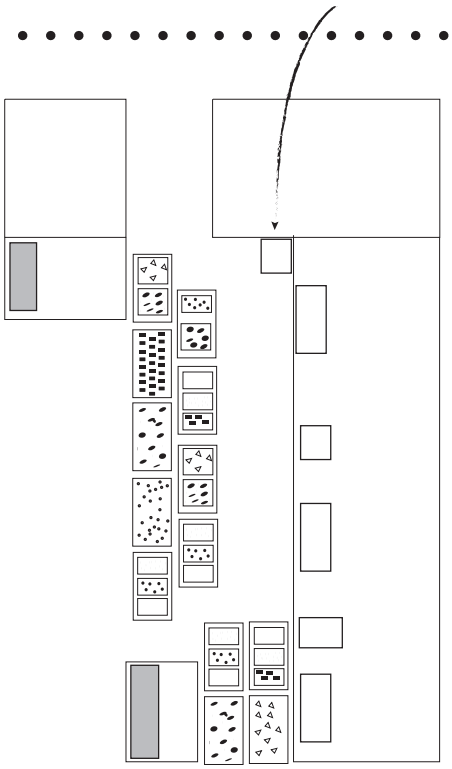


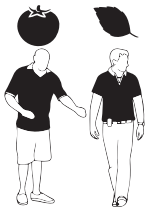
Beirut Communities

Strategy : Invitation local market

Stage 3





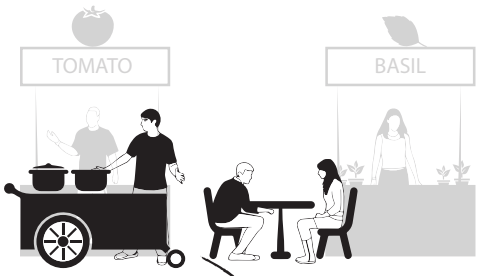


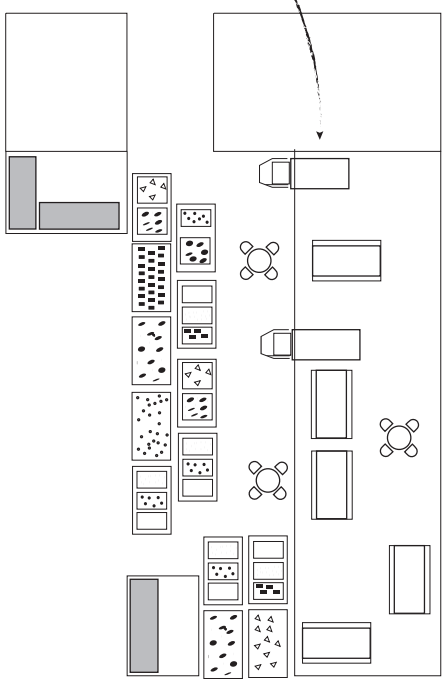
Beirut Communities

Strategy : re-design market

Strategy : Beirut inhabitants attraction

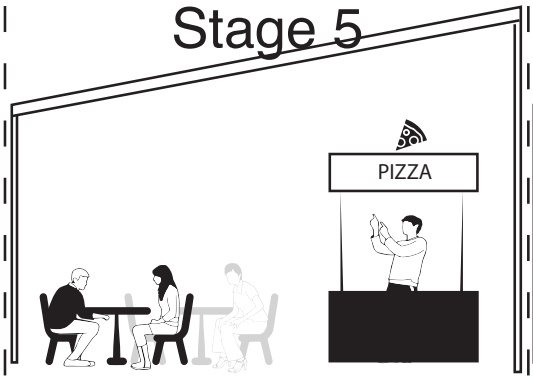
Stage 4

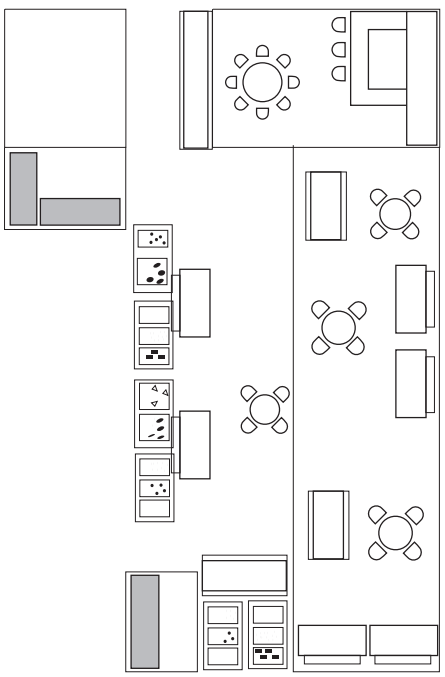


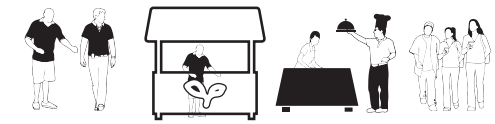


Beirut Communities | Market | Strategy : Gastronomic culture addition | users

Stage 5

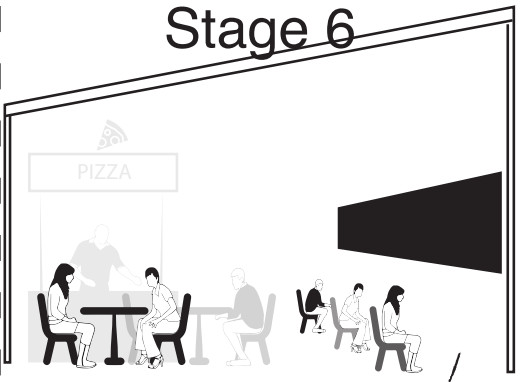




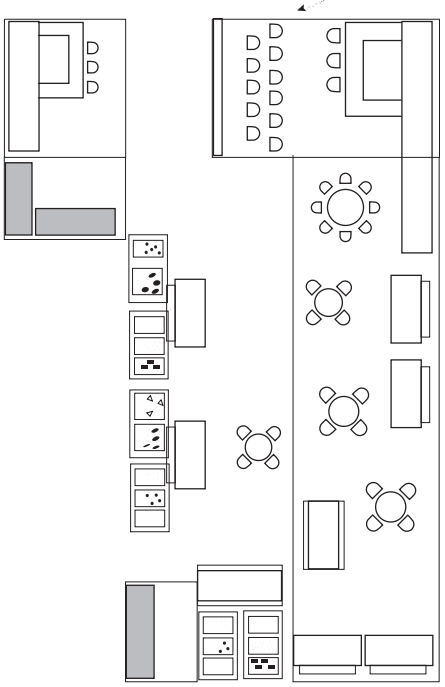


Beirut Communities | Market | Strategy : Restaurant Implementation | users

Stage 6



% COMPLEXITY



users | Restaurant | Market | Strategy : Multyfunctional building hybridation

Relocation in another unused land

To conclude:

In this program solidere has freedom to modify running functional programs after a certain period. The attempt of designing parallel / liquid programs is to provide a frame for the clients and investors to give them a liberty in assigning and running different function according to their objectives in order to unlock the actual situation of Martyr's Square.

Architectural drawings

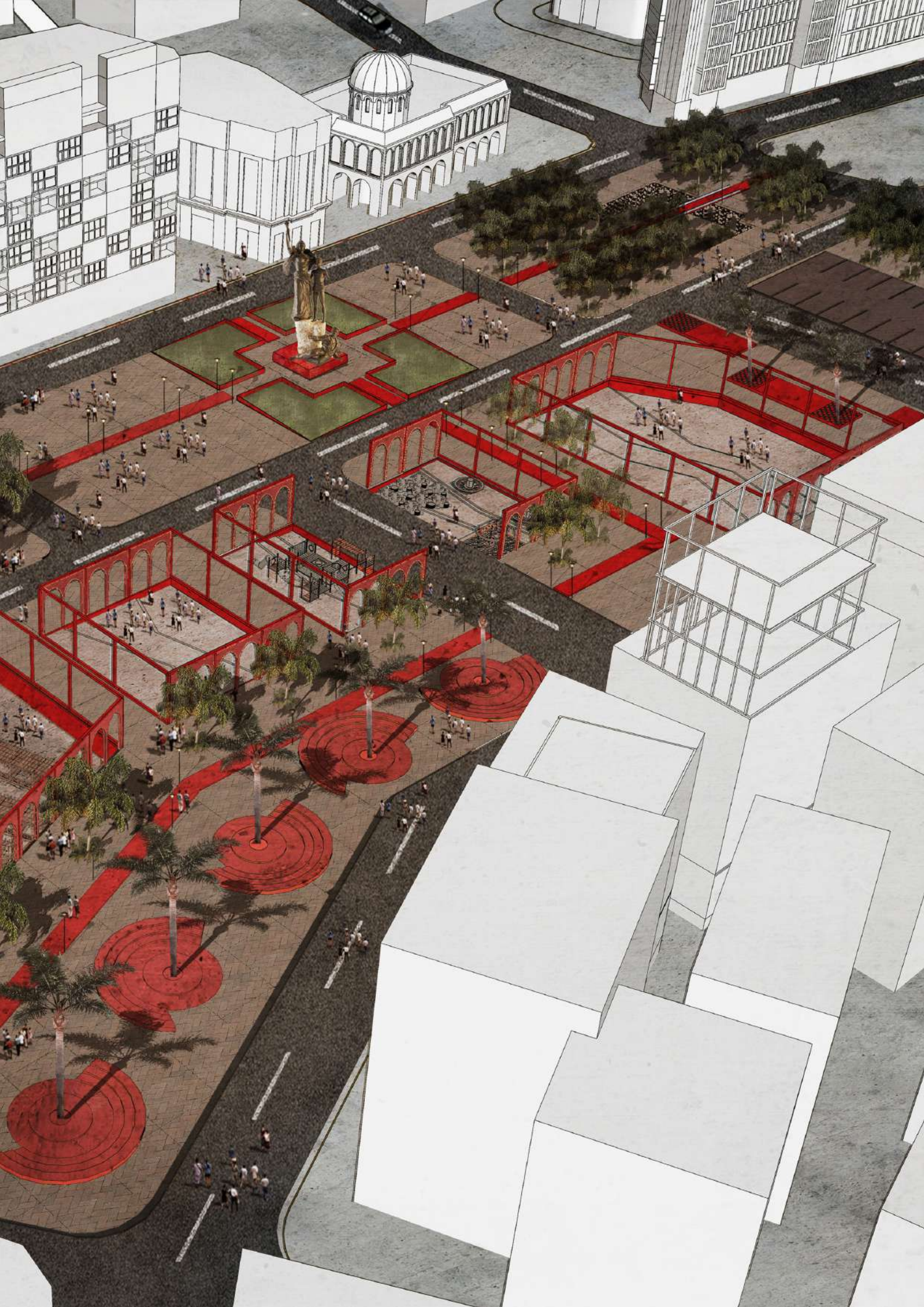
The death of the building: In the appreciation of the memory of the city

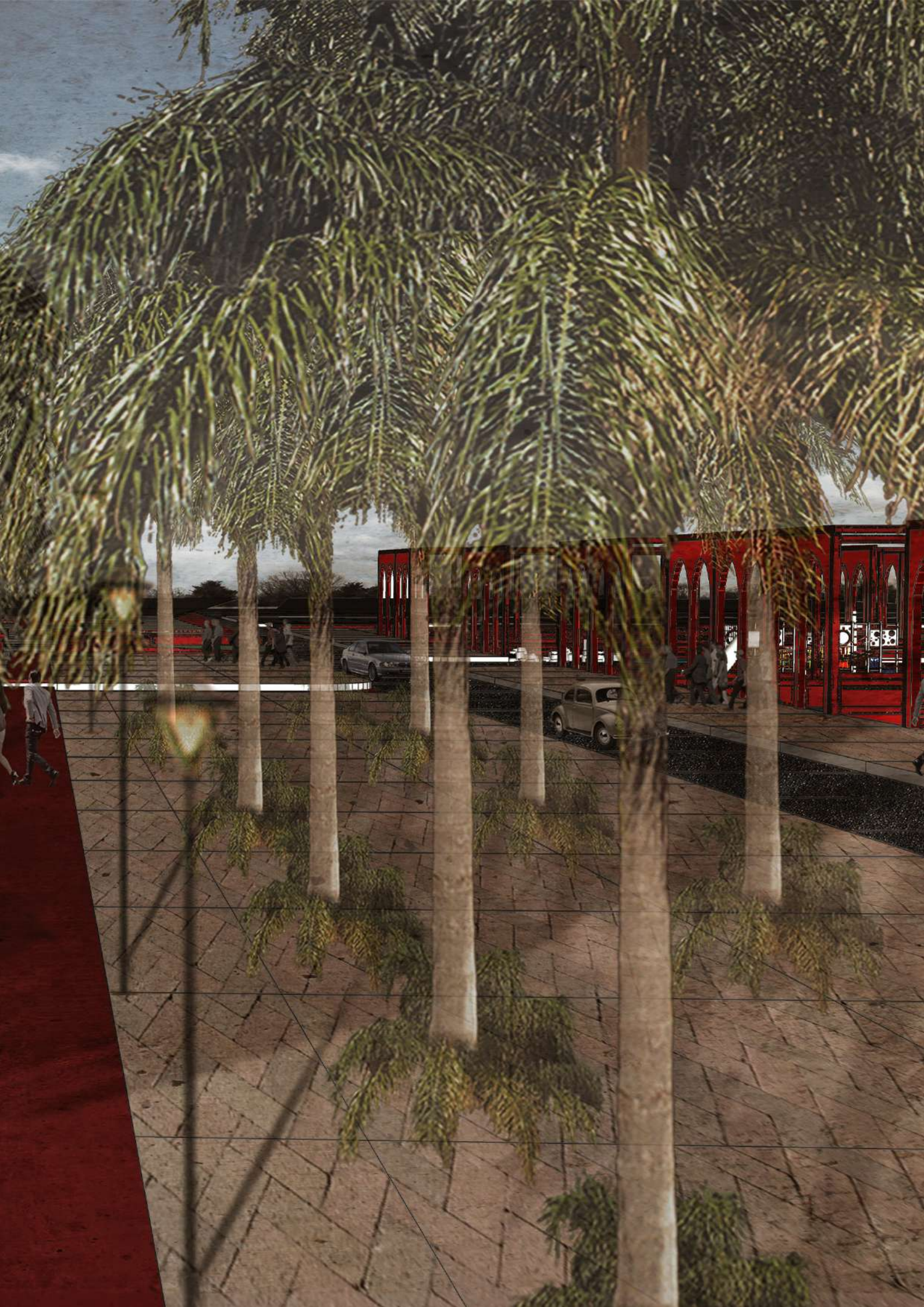
After the Beirut civil war, the remaining half-demolished buildings were completely ruined, which resulted in the conversion of Martyr's Square into a parking lot to bring people into the city center again.

The building which was once the primary place where people's everyday life took place, with cinemas, commercial centers etc.Before the civil war these buildings were necessary contributions to the economy of Lebanon.

The idea of designing this public space is coming from the footprints of these removed buildings, in order to keep them alive in the urban memory of Beirut. Therefore, we decided to rise the frames of structures of the building and create the same function of the former buildings. These frames represent the memorial of pains and pleasures which this city and its citizens have been suffered in the recent decades, this is the way by which we might achieve peace.

Perhaps in the calm atmosphere and discussible space, we can reach a place of democracy; the democracy which the Lebanon have been waiting for a long time: the democracy between government and people, the democracy between different religions, and finally the democracy between the people themselves.





Conclusion

Last words!

In all the design process of this thesis, we have attempted to make a dialogue with our readers with the help of architecture (visual) language, instead of using writing languages.It is because architecture language does communicate with people without borders, also can address them with different social classes. So, the addressers of this article could be from different social classes, which is meant they don't need necessarily any special knowledge.

Also, we tried to define our critical way of thinking about these public squares, especially in the moment of protest and even in every day's people life, regardless of these spaces being passed from which bureaucratic process and considering special design factors.

It might be seemed this way of criticizing could be unfair, but for resolving the problem of architecture space, we must deactivate some layers to make the problems and issues clearer, and then we can reactivate them again. So, the attempt was to find the right questions and issues. Then with the help of architecture language, we could be able to re-write the question. The answer to those questions could be responded by people using that space with the help of architects and urban planners. In this way of thinking the responsibility of architect is not necessarily to give a right answer but ask a right question.

In the design process, with the help of the American university methods, we have insisted more on the designing the programs which will be run in the Martyrs square. so, we spend much effort to give the maximum possible amount of autonomy to the clients and investors.

The final output made an infrastructure for the investors and communities to use different strategies to plan their lands in their desirable way, therefore at the final point, they will be able to unlock the situation of Martyrs square by themselves.

As the final word, this thesis is a critical attempt to arise the right question, capable of touching the revision of public squares of the cities from different perspectives.

Reference List

- Theo Deutinger, A 2018, *Handbook of Tyranny*, Lars Müller publishers, Zürich.
- Michel Foucault/ Alan Sheridan ,A 1975 ,*Discipline and punish : The birth of the prison,* Penguin Books publishers,London
- Kim Dovey,A 2014, *Framing Places : Mediating Power in Built Form.*, Hoboken : Taylor and Francis publishers , London
- Nadir Lahiji,A 2014,Architecture Against the Post-Political : Essays in Reclaiming the Critical Project.,Hoboken:Taylor and Francis publishers, London
- Valeria Federighi ,A 2018 ,*The informal stance : representations of architectural design and informal settlements,* Novato publishers , California.
- Rem Koolhaas,*CCTV headquarters* , 2012, China Media Group, Beijing.
- Alejandro Aravena, *Renca housing*, 2008, Chile Barrio ,Santiago de Chile
- Ronald Rael, Pink seesaws, 2019, US-Mexico border

I give special thanks to Alireza Bakhshi for assisting me throughout this project ;) .