

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Sustainable Architecture
Honors theses

Borderline Education

Architectural evaluation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

by Giovanni Quattrocolo

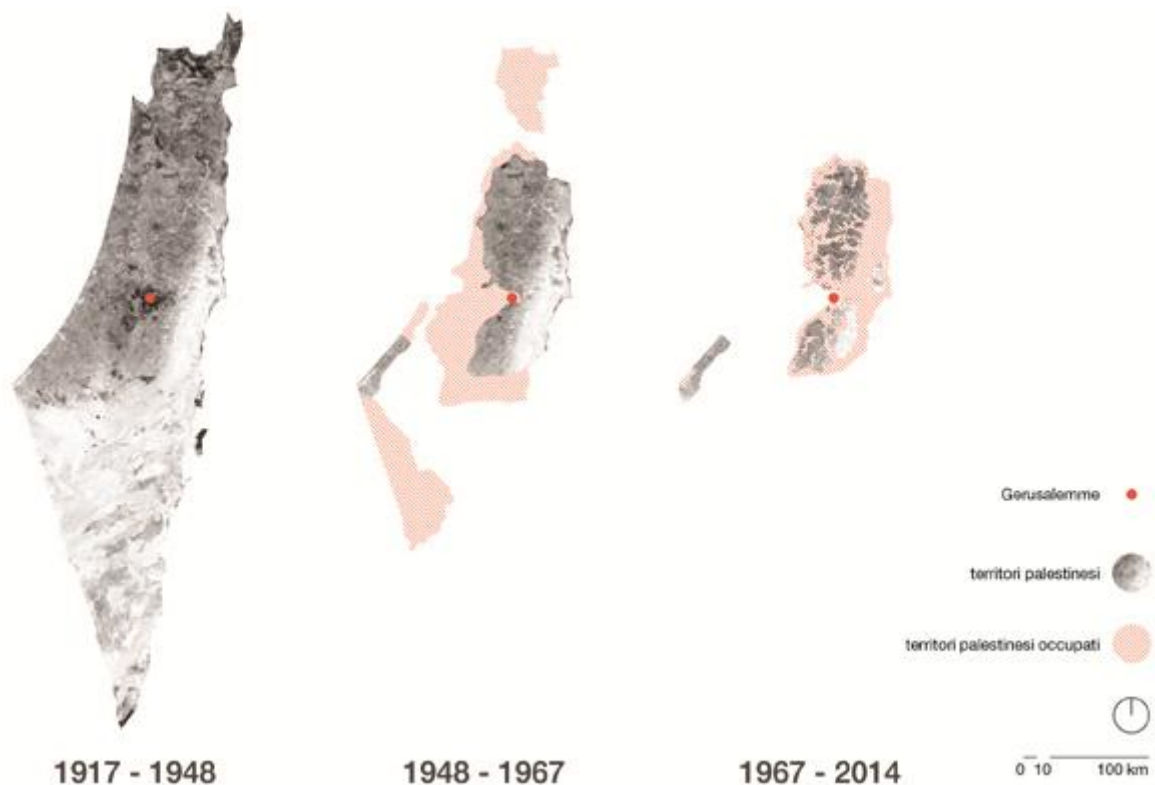
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Like most rural population in West Bank, the Bedouin Jahalin tribe resides in a well defined area where political, economic and bureaucratic trials influence, with the imposition of limits and boundaries, the quality of life of the Palestinian population. The research portrays the social, intellectual and technical requests of the architectural project which context focuses on removing any canonical meaning of the manufactured space. The architectural researched has been used in two different ways: foremost as an aid to understand the Palestinian area and furthermore as a possibility tool. The intervention inquiry of the primary school in the Al Jabal community was an opportunity to undertake a research of the context, through an analysis of the spacial and architectural stances of the Palestinian occupied Territories, with the objective of elaborating a project proposition for a school in the Jahalin community.



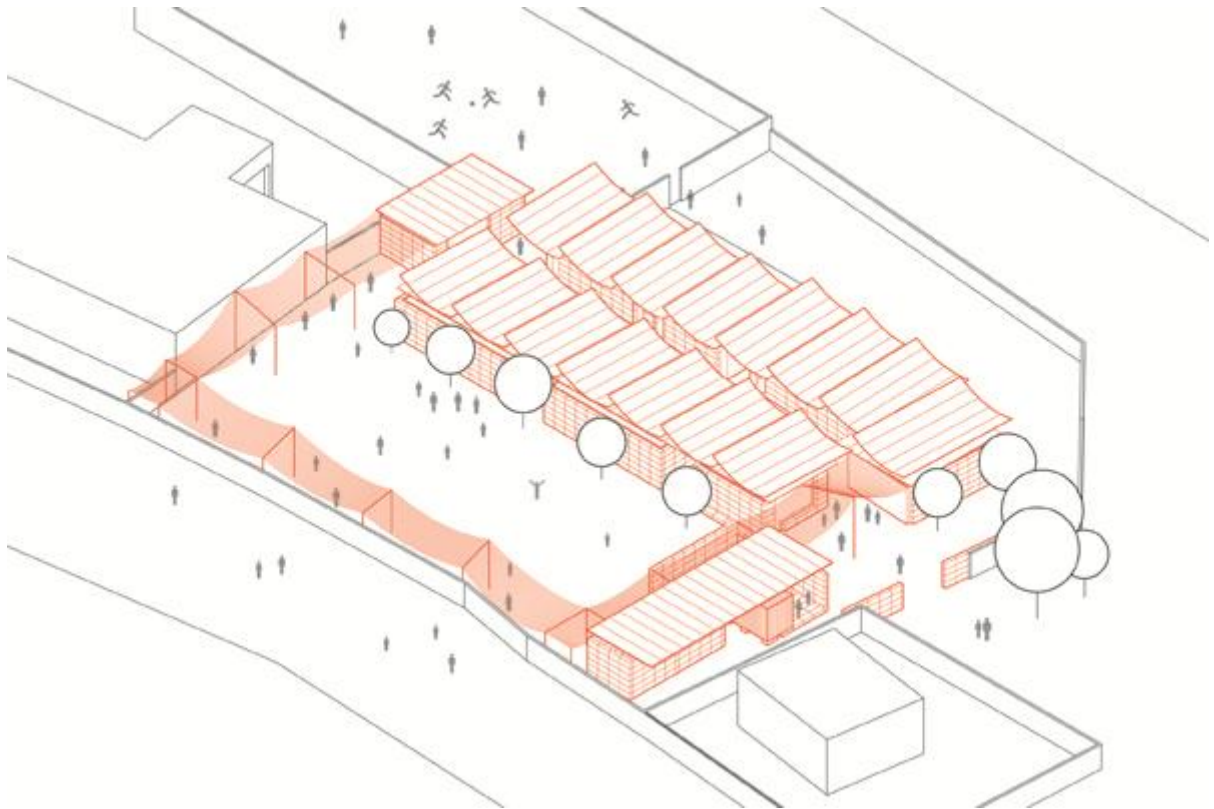
Outskirts of Jerusalem. Separation barrier and Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories

The Israeli state, proclaimed in 1948 following the fall of the British mandate, has implemented policies in order to control and dominate the Palestinian people, with the intent of preventing any construction on the disputed territories of Palestine. The wars are violent and endless, there's constant agreements, riots and truces. Over the last twenty years, through the transformation of the region, the conflict has undertaken new forms of domination: the occupation, destruction, denial, separation, have become the main instrument of war. The occurrences are lengthy and consequential, the traces are constant and destructive. The spazicidio has introduced a principle according to which a territory, in order to be governed, need to constantly be renovated.



Evolution mapping of conflict

Uncertainties, energies, resources and designing are the four parts to this thesis. In the first chapter, *Incertezze*, the architectonic structures have been analyzed with the support of the Israeli in the Palestinian territory, which have emphasized a certainly negative definition of boundary through the structural language. In the second chapter, *Energie*, the natural and human habitat that characterize the eastern suburb of Jerusalem appear, seeking the resources for ecological and sustainable development, implied as the beginning of the environment's value. The third chapter, *Risorse*, searches materials, aimed to facilitate the construction through the local economical and technical disposal which could be a potential implementation of the *Project*.



Isometric drawing

The ambiguous condition of the Palestinian reality has created precarious circumstances. The constant presence of initiatives on the diplomatic table has helped to create an ever-changing environment, which defines any action or achievement throughout time. The need for an intervention on the primary school in the Bedouin community of Jahalin has allowed us to identify some technical solutions and a universal approach which will finally determine a scope limited to the Bedouin community, within which to manifest a critical and conceivable proposal according to the principles of the self-construction and enhancement of local materials. The title, *Borderline Education*, recognizes the concept of an educational value as powerful and artificial: the premeditated nature of a boundary associated with its definition to a physical representation, enforcing, in the Arab-Israeli case, a misinterpretation of architectural expression.

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