

TO PROJECT IN A BORDER ENVIRONMENT  
BEIRUT - LEBANON



Politecnico di Torino  
Architecture for Sustainable Design

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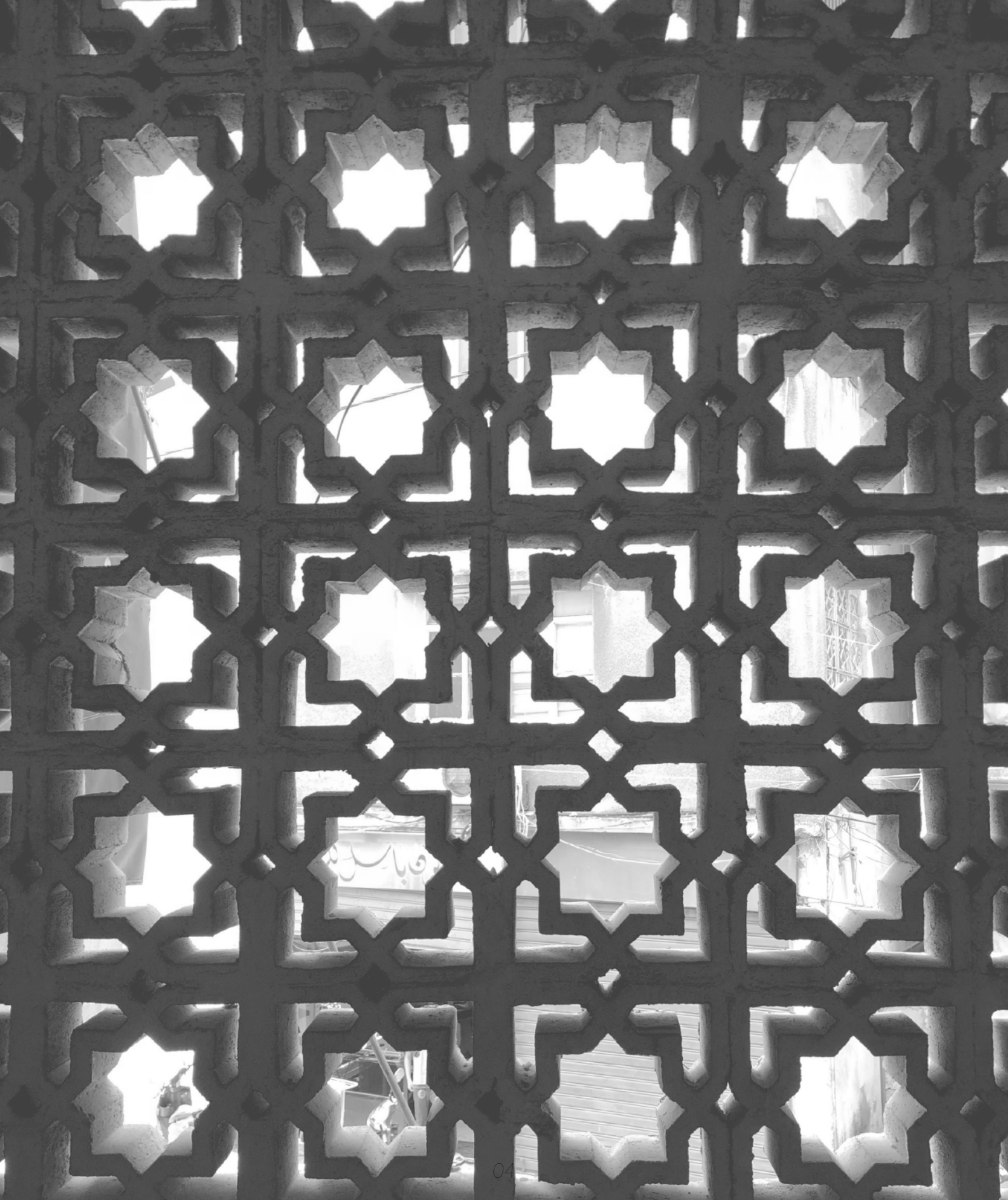
September 2018





## *Abstract*

*This Thesis is willing to show you the devolution of a city that survived fifteen years of civil war and society damage; the unsustainability of destruction and the deep lost of collective memory; to remember the city that we had and to forget how we lost it.*





## CONTENT

1-	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>06</b>
2-	<b>Localization .....</b>	<b>08</b>
2.1-	Lebanon in the world .....	09
2.2-	Beirut in Lebanon .....	11
3-	<b>¿Why war?.....</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1-	Historic timeline.....	12
3.2-	Lebanon's role in civil war.....	17
3.3-	Green Line.....	19
4-	<b>Beirut before and after civil war.....</b>	<b>22</b>
4.1-	"The Paris of the middle east".....	24
4.2-	The nature of destruction and the failure of the post conflict rehabilitation.....	34
5-	<b>THE EGG - Big City Center .....</b>	<b>50</b>
6-	<b>The show isn't over – the intervention .. ..</b>	<b>67</b>
6.1-	Analysis.....	68
6.2-	Urban proposal.....	78
6.3-	Architectural proposal.....	91
6.4-	Project schemes.....	105
6.5-	Project views.....	114
6.6 -	Conclusions.....	123
6.7 -	The Process.....	124
7-	<b>Bibliography.....</b>	<b>130</b>

## 1. Introduction

After the independence of Beirut from the French mandate the city had reached a successful urban design model who was ready to be improved with the new politics; In the early 60s Beirut was on top in terms of tourism, economics, and political liberalism, it was the golden age of architecture and urbanism of the city; the city center was full of souks of all types, fabrics, carpets, manufacturing, apparel, food, shoes, jewelry and more from the local industry; it was also growing with the construction of banks, clinics, hotels, cinemas and nightclubs.

Between 1975 and 1991 civil war happened, and all social, economic, administrative and political structure were destroyed; in the precedent years the city had reached a huge development and between these years it stopped completely.

The armed conflict was a massive human rights violation and people had to migrate from one side to another; the periphery of the city started growing by displaced populations without any plan, violation of building codes, construction codes and property rights regulation; it was a need.

10% of the constructions of Beirut and its suburbs were destroyed, taking with them the physical infrastructure of the country (water, electricity, roads) and the city center heritage; the city infrastructure still a problem after war, and the city heritage was something that can't be brought back, it was gone.

After war in 1991 the reconstruction of the city was the plan, but what was supposed to be rebuild and planned by the public sector was



taken by the private, who took advantage of the bankrupt government making the city center project a business for sell to foreigners; Solidere was the company on charge of the Beirut Central District project managed by Rafik Hariri; in the hurry of building their business they deleted most of the heritage that had survived war and what was left was renovated using them as shops for big international brands, forgetting that the city center was before a complex of souks of local merchants.

Not only the functionality of the city center had changed, but also its scale; the memory of the city was deleted as a tabularasa, and what came later wasn't even made by Lebanese hands, the company contracted big international offices as Herzog & de Meuron, Daniel Libeskind, Jean Nouvel and other prestigious architects that without doubt made beautiful and interesting projects, but they don't belong to the city, they could be placed anywhere else because they don't respond to the context, to the history or even to the citizens needs, they are just big empty boxed owned by some Saudi or emirate that doesn't even care of the piece of city that they have; for them is just an investment.

The big city center was a project made by the Lebanese architect Joseph Philip Karam and is part of the Beirut central district area, the construction started in 1965 as a multi-user complex that was claimed to be the largest shopping mall in the middle east at the time; but the project didn't even had the opportunity to see the light, it was partially destroyed before being finished; the complex consisted in two big towers where only one of them was constructed and destructed during war, and

a cinema with a form of an egg shell that still decaying nowadays.

The leftovers of the city center have become an icon to the city; ruins in between all the luxurious building that surround it; some claim that it should be destroyed, some others claim that is an important picture of the city, a place that remember how was Beirut before war and saw it suffer during it.

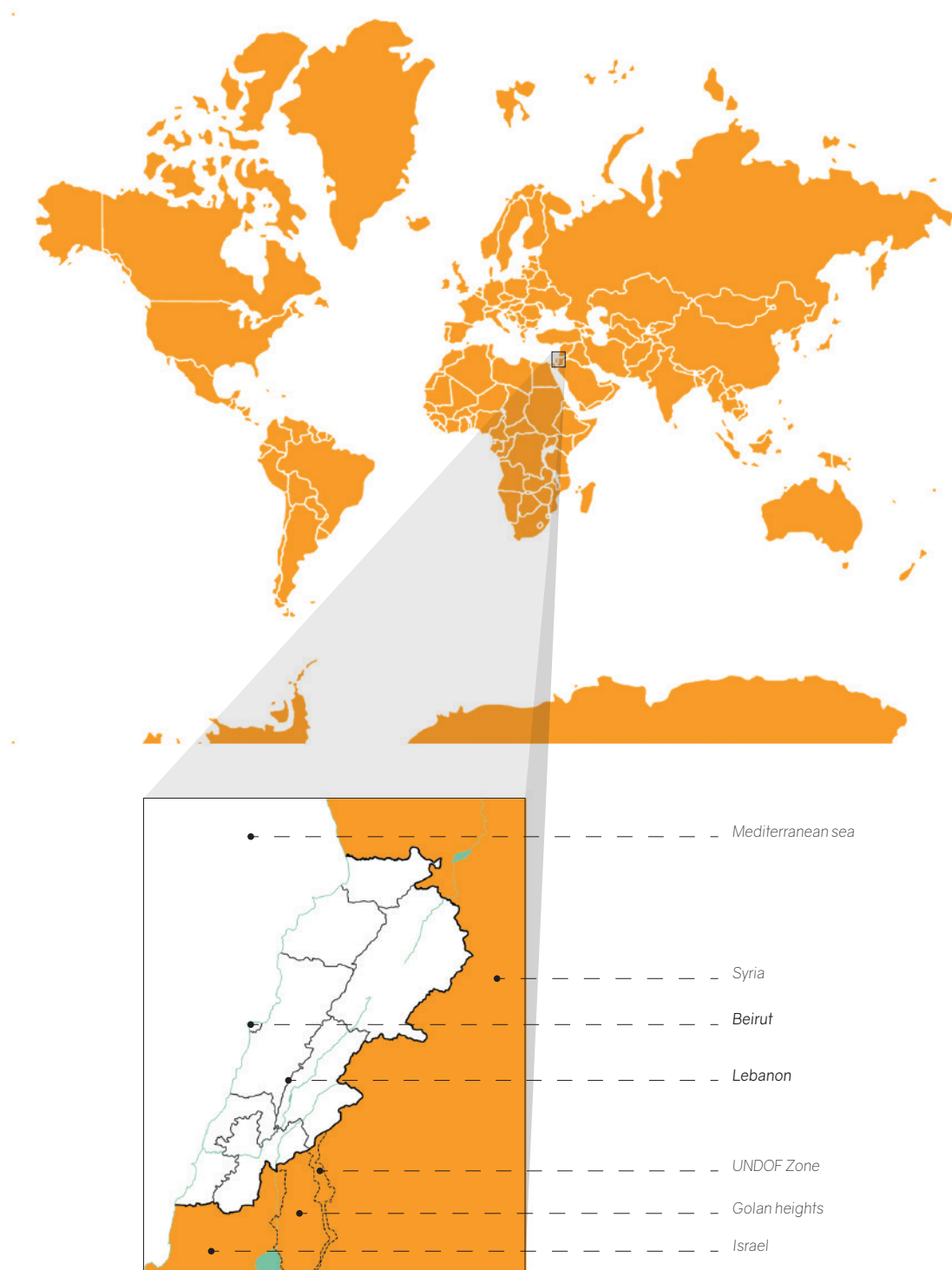


Figure 1: Lebanon map (NordNordWest, 2016)





## 2. Localization

### 2.1- Lebanon in the world

Lebanon is a small country located in the middle east region having a long coastline of the Mediterranean Sea, sharing borders with Syria and Israel; its capital is Beirut, a port city located in the center of Lebanon's coastline.

Lebanon is located in the Mediterranean zone, having a cold winter season from January to march, a hot summer season from July to September and a mild mid season from April to June and from October to December.



Climates in the world (Historicair, 2006)

In figure 1. there's also localized the UNDOF zone, witch means United Nations Disengagement Observer Force that was an implementation of the United nations security to maintain the ceasefire between Israel and Syria in 1974.

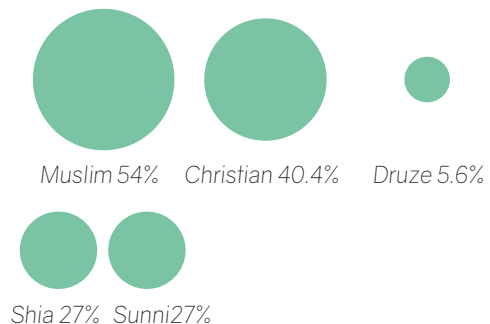
(UNITED NATIONS, 2018)

**Languages:** Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian

**Ethnic Groups:**



**Religion:**



**Government:** Parliamentary republic

**Independence:** 22 November 1943

**Area:** 10,400.00 km<sup>2</sup>

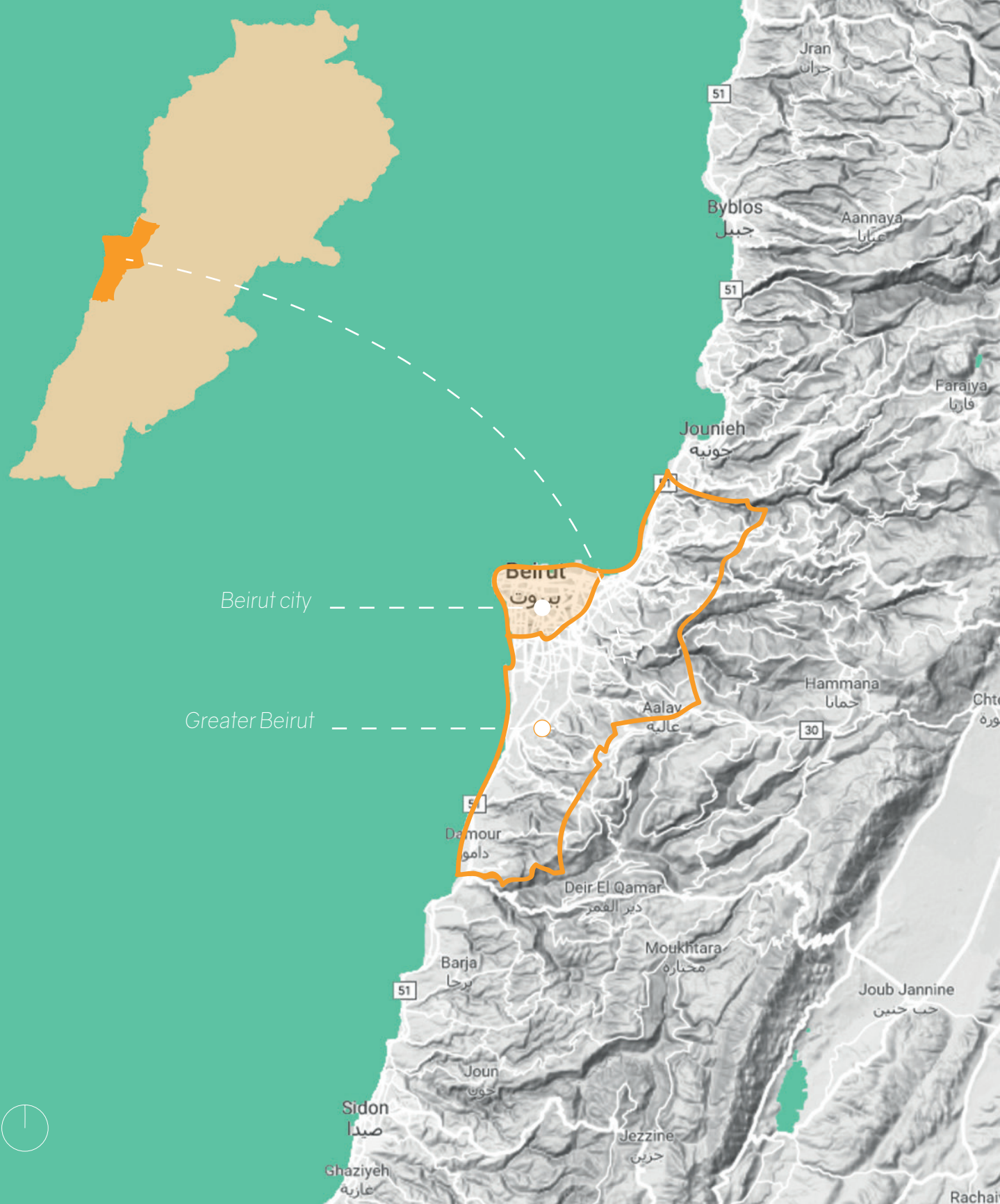
Water Area: 170.00 km<sup>2</sup>

Land Area: 10,230.00 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 6,237,738.00

(GraphicMaps, 2018)

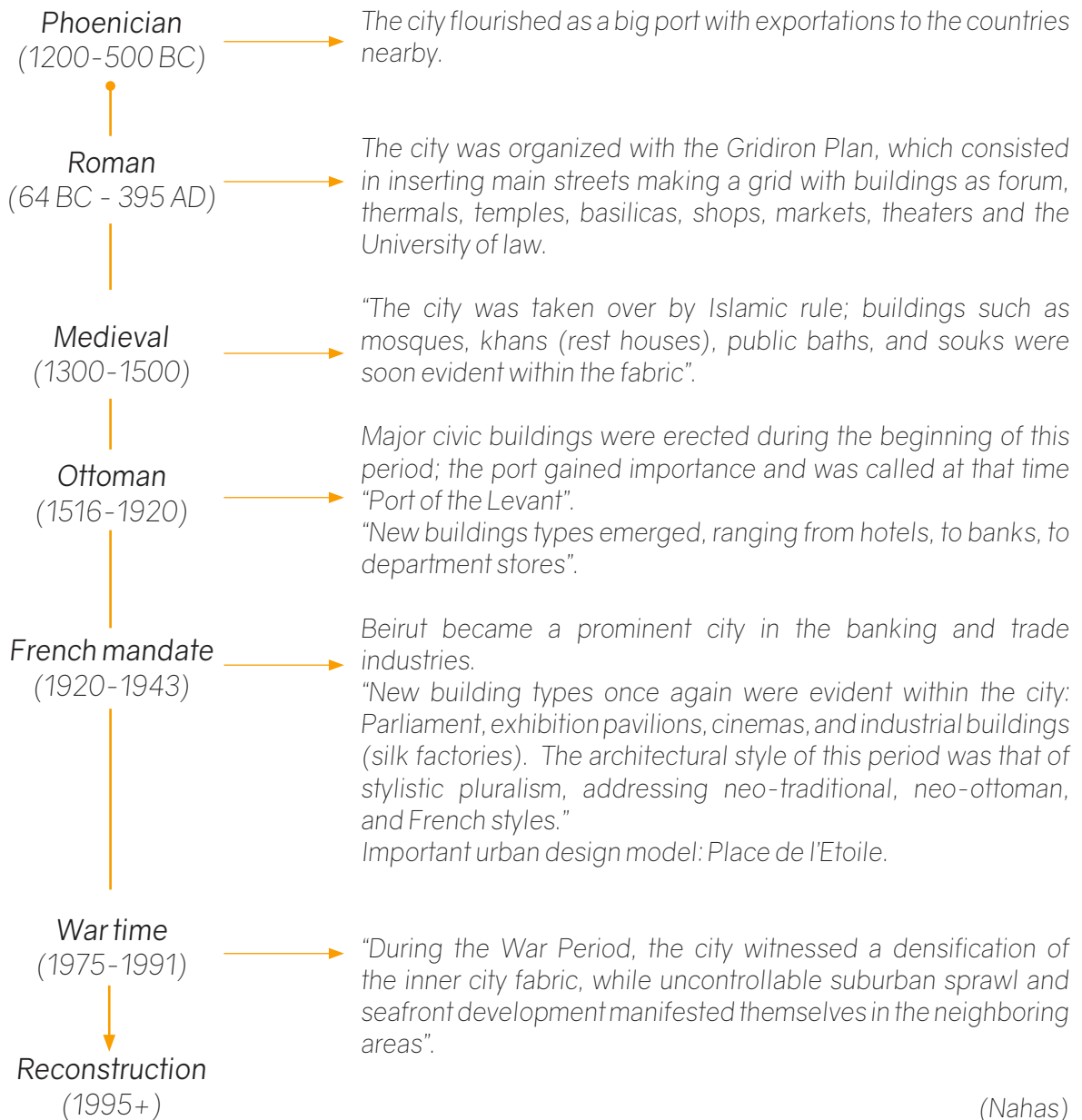
Figure 2.





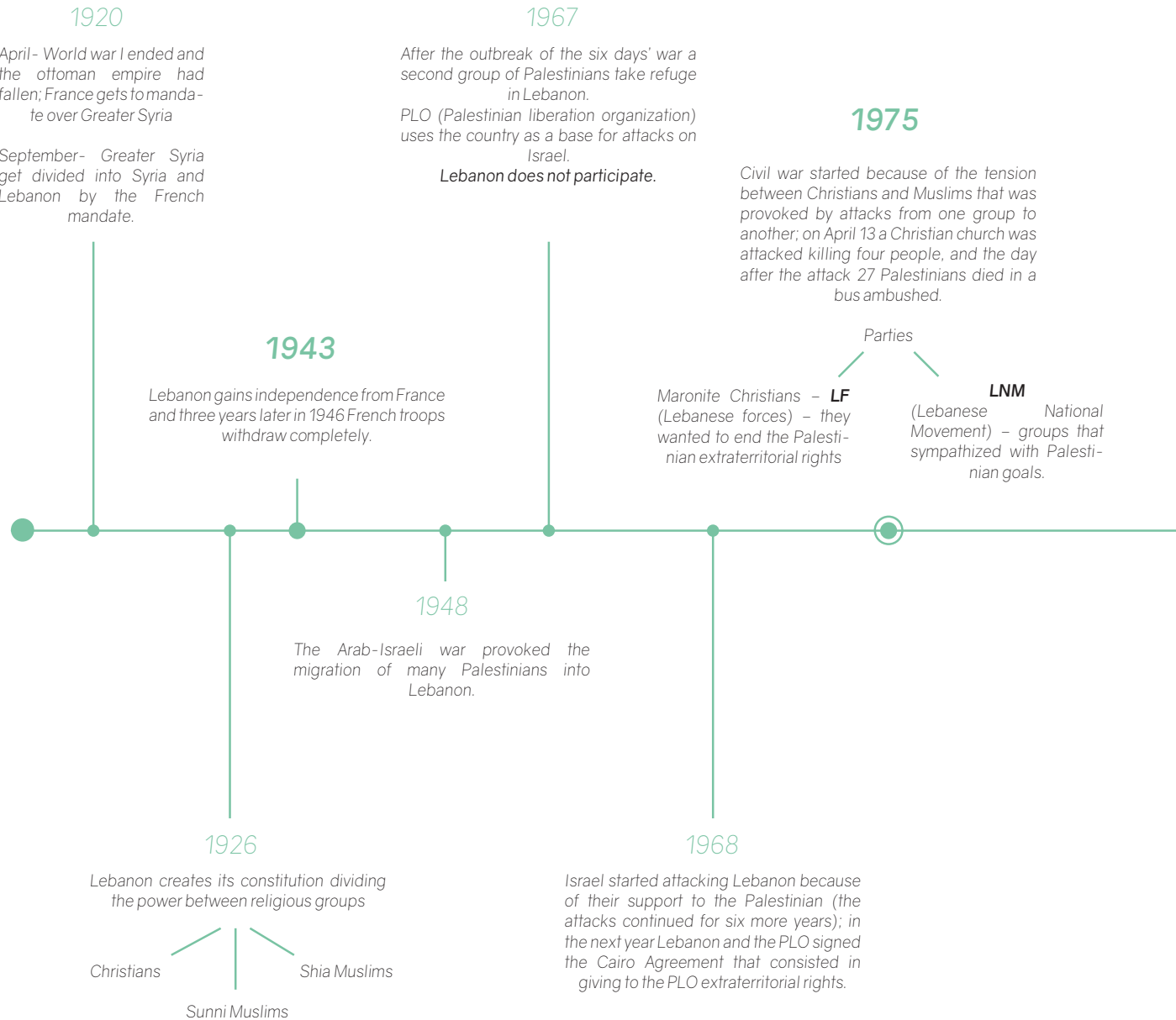
## 2.2- Beirut in Lebanon

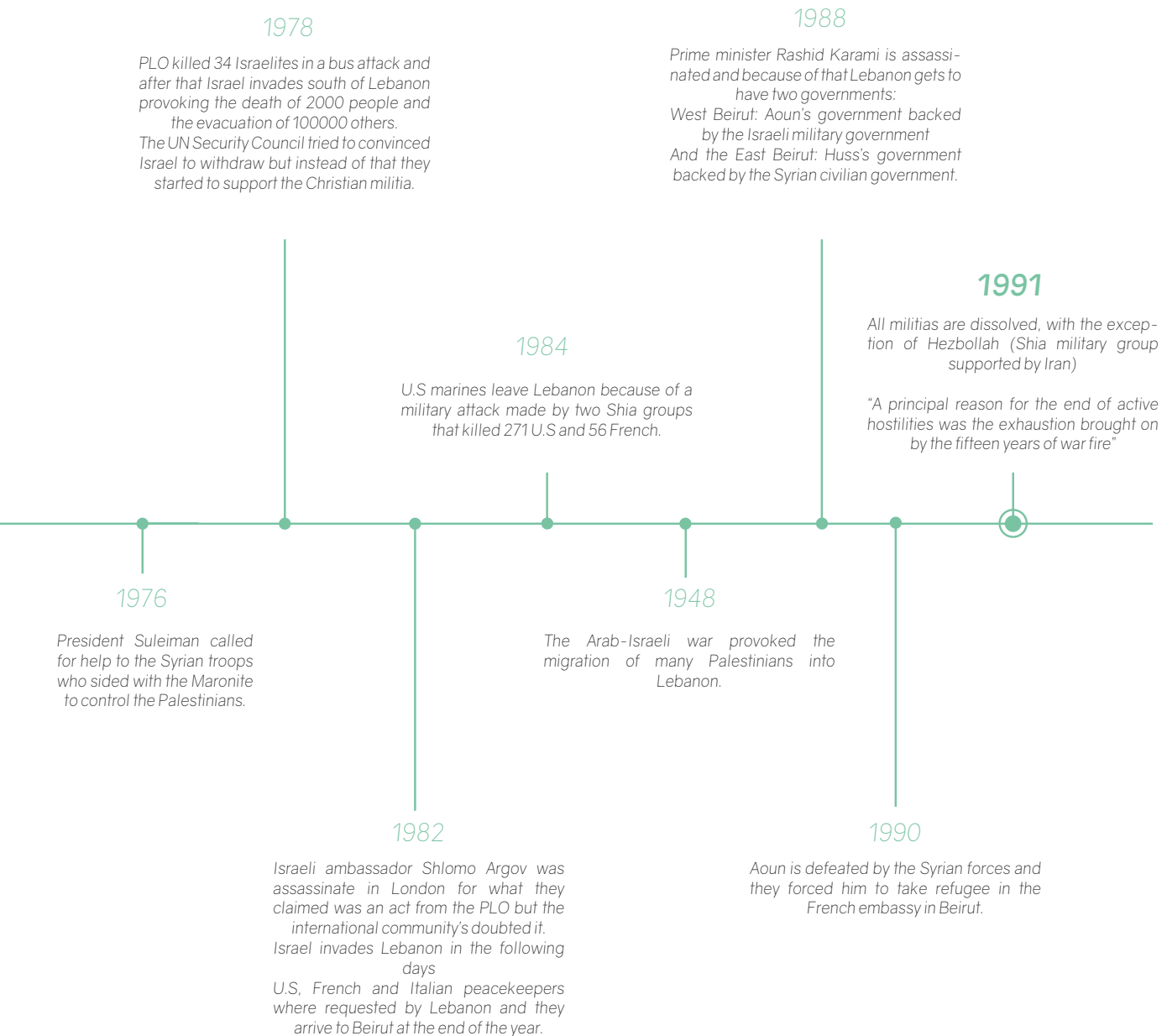
The city of Beirut was conquered by many empires and mandates because of its long coastline which made it easy to enter to the territory; the diversity of the city nowadays is the result of these settlements through time.



### 3. ¿Why war?

#### 3.1- Historic timeline





(Tezcur, 2008) (The Telegraph, 2018) (PBS, 2015)

Civil war ended but that didn't mean that military groups were going to withdraw, it was until 2000 that Israel withdraws troops from southern Lebanon and until 2005 for the Syrian troops; meanwhile in 1993 Israel launched the heaviest attack in the south of Lebanon in attempt to combat Hezbollah and PFLP-GC (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command).



*The old Saida road on a dark 1975 day. (Photo: Michel Brizghal)*



*Um Aziz carries on her chest the pictures of her four sons who were kidnapped at the beginning of the war. (Photo: Ali Seifeddine)*





*A Beirut suburb bombed by Israel in 2006. Photo by Marco Di Lauro.*



### 3.2- Lebanon's role in Civil War

Lebanon's role in civil war was a sad placed territorial conflict; Lebanese people lost their families, friends, lands and heritage because they were in the middle of Israel and Palestinian bloody war.

"What is the big deal about Lebanon?"

The answer to this question goes back to Israel's very beginnings. Its Zionist founding fathers established the bulk of Israel's territory by dispossessing and ethnically cleansing three-quarters of a million Palestinian Arabs in 1948. Hundreds of thousands of these were driven (sometimes literally in trucks, sometimes force marched with gunshots fired over their heads) into Lebanon, where they were gathered in miserable refugee camps" (Sanchez, 2015).

Lebanon's intentions were to help Palestine refugees for the situation that they were living at that time being exiled from their own homes; these good intentions were also the ones that started civil war dividing the country in two parties, the ones who sympathized with Palestinian situation (Muslims and others) and the ones who were against it (Christians).

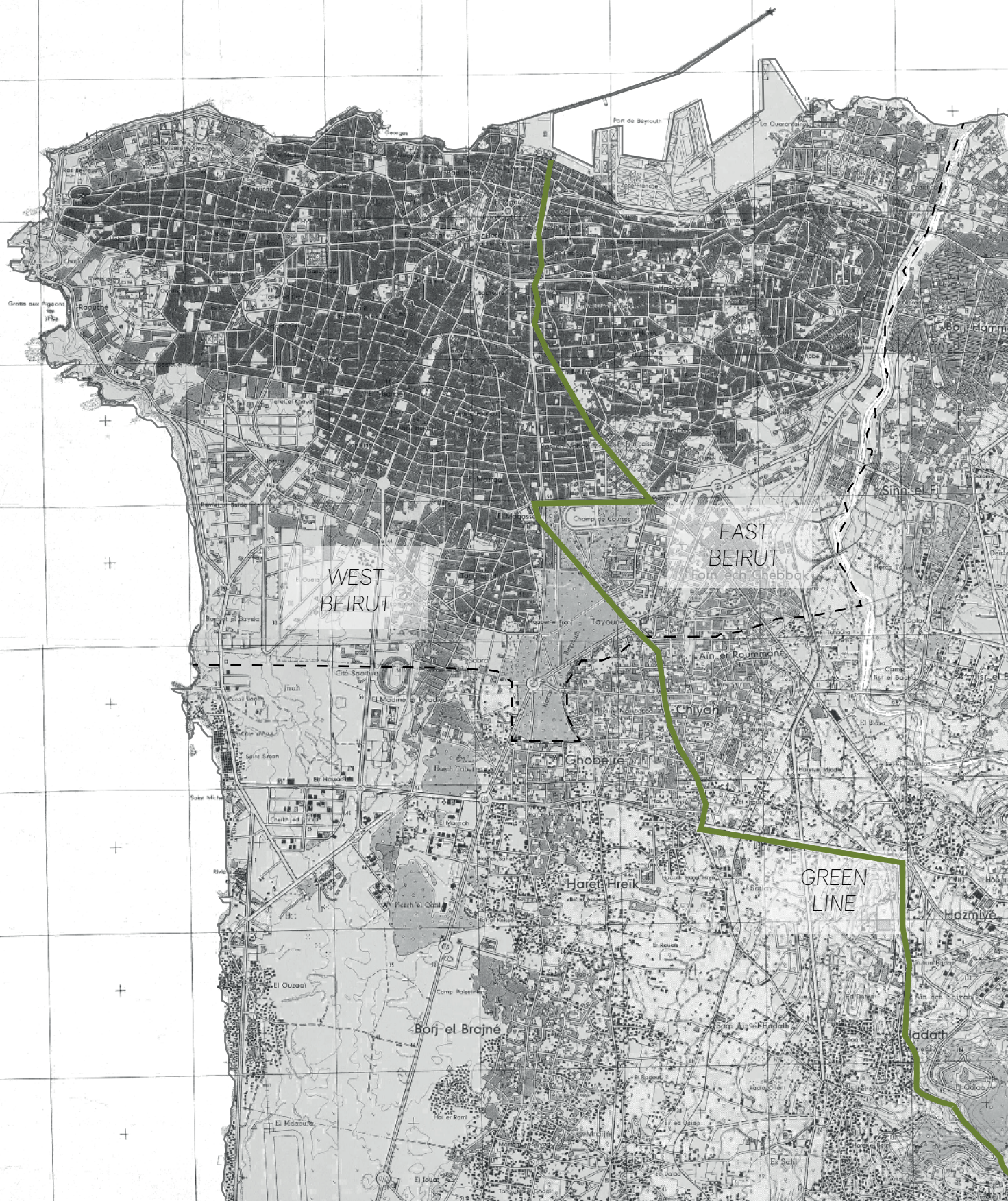
These division was also caused by political power; Muslims claimed that Christian were the minority that had most power after Lebanon's independence from the French mandate and they were searching equality in the political control of the country.

Syria and Israel took parties with Christians and Muslims dividing the country and the middle east territory even more by an imaginary division called the Green Line, causing bigger attacks and a terror bloody war that didn't stop for fifteen years.

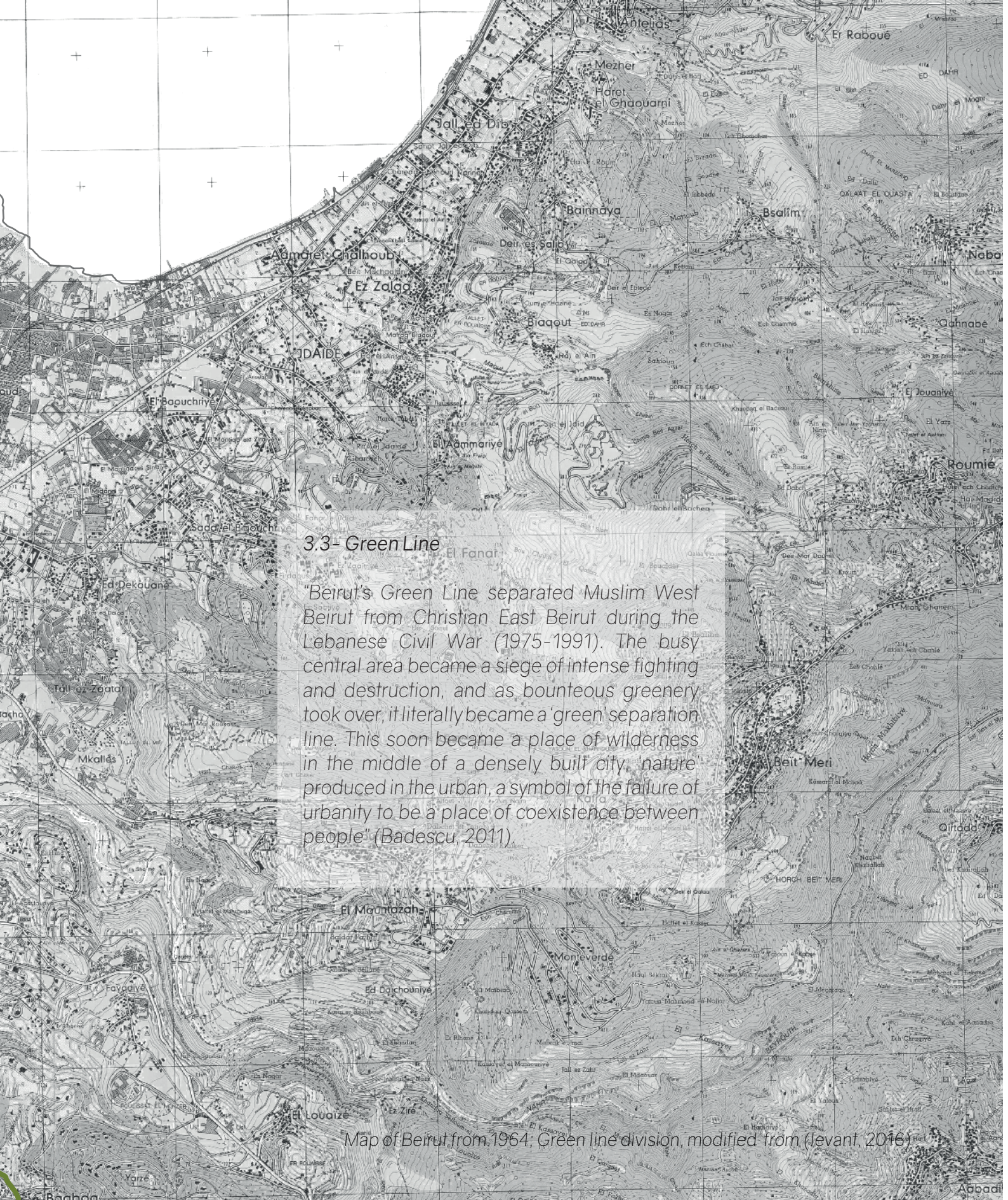
The situation of the Lebanese families was extremely painful; kids weren't able to go to school regularly, parents didn't have a job to attend and no money was moving in the country; the only investment at that time was war.

The end of civil war didn't mean that Lebanon was in peace; Israel launched two bigger attacks, one in 1993 and the other 2006, a war caused by the anger against the Hezbollah, a Shia group that was created by the Lebanese to protect the lives of civilians and their own territories.









### 3.3- Green Line

"Beirut's Green Line separated Muslim West Beirut from Christian East Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1991). The busy central area became a siege of intense fighting and destruction, and as bounteous greenery took over, it literally became a 'green' separation line. This soon became a place of wilderness in the middle of a densely built city, 'nature' produced in the urban, a symbol of the failure of urbanity to be a place of coexistence between people" (Badescu, 2011).

Map of Beirut from 1964, Green line division, modified from (Levant, 2016)





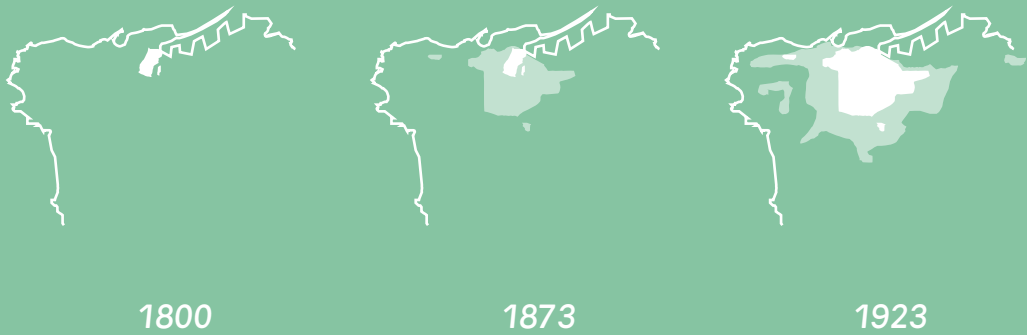
*The Green Line demarcation zone, Beirut, Lebanon 1982.  
Taken from Tumblr.*



*Watering flowers in damaged house at Green Line, ( Beirut, Lebanon Nov. 17, 1990. ) (Prieto)*

4. Beirut before and after civil war

Growth of the city through time





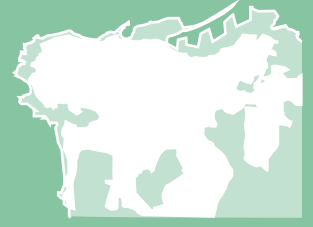
1943



1960



1970



2000



4.1 The Paris of the middle east

Figure 6: Beirut map 1964-1968  
scale 1:30000



Once upon a time, between the 50's and the 70's Beirut was glowing as "the city of light in the Levant", Lebanese golden age made the city turn into a city state more than just a political and economic capital.

Beirut was far from being the most known city in the nearby territory because of the legacy of the ottoman and the French mandate that toked control of the country at the end of world war I; French influence remained as a mix with they own Arab culture, making Beirut a cosmopolitan city that was shining all over because of its architecture, cuisine, fashion couture, entertainment, and liberated culture making it a city worthy of such a comparison with Paris.

In the middle 70's Beirut had reached control and order, being the principal city port that was trading with Europe connecting also the exchange with Syria; the city was being known all over the world and people were building not just a city but a collective memory full of richness in every corner, not talking just about money but about tradition.

The city center was known as the place of internal trading of local merchants, the Souks; the zone was known and popularly visited by the Lebanese, the city was from and for them to enjoy and exchange their own products and services; this trading was based on an

economy of fabrics, apparel, gold, money exchange, leather, groceries such as fruits, vegetables and meats; banks, cinemas, nightclubs, and hotels were able to be found in the city, it had it all; also transport facilities were improving by the insertion of the tramway that was complemented with a shared taxi service and the use of private cars.

Beirut was not just called the Paris of the middle east because of it beauty but also because of its good performance; it's a shame that people lost physically what Beirut was in the golden age and not just places but the memories that they took with them during and after war; people were able to see how everything was being taken from them knowing that those years were never coming back.

(Yassin, 2011), (Sovmiz), (ALRIFAI, 2016)

## Souks map - pre 1975

- Delimitation line of what used to be Beirut before the landfill project after war.
-  Modern wholesale (lumber, marine, iron, sanitary, tools, nightlife)
-  Souk "El Tawila" upmarket shopping (apparel, fabrics, tailors)
-  Wholesale Souk "Sursock" (import-export, fabrics, carpets, food, manufacturing)
-  Weygand (municipality, gold and jewelry, money exchange, retail)
-  Souk "Soursock" (fabrics, fruits and vegetables, meat, shoes, gold)
-  Commercial centers (Lazarieh, Starco, Byblos)
-  Martyr's square (hotels, cinemas, nightclubs, cheap cafes, street food)
-  Etoile (Parliament, mosque, banks, leather, apparel, groceries)
-  Riad El Solh (banks, insurance, travel, post)
-  Former extensions (serail, courts of justice, music shops, food wholesale, retail)
-  New business district (brokers, banks, travel, medics, clinics, car showroom, electronics)

(Chami, 2012)





Beirut souks organization before 1975 on actual city plan (Chami, 2012)



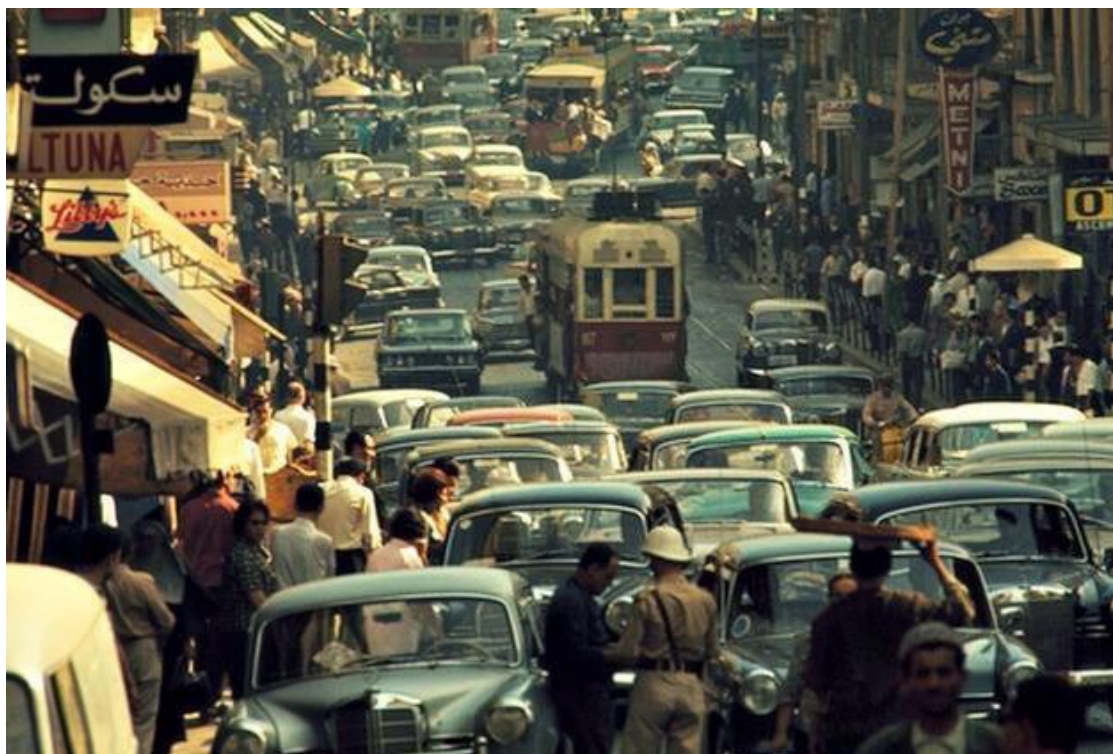
Collection of images -golden age of Beirut-



Jewelry souks (ALRIFAI, 2016).



Beirut souks (ALRIFAI, 2016).



*Beirut street life in the 70's (ALRIFAI, 2016)*





*Riah El Soloh street in 1968 (ALRIFAI, 2016)*



Paris - France



Arc De Triomphe from above, Paris; photography by: AirPano; Taken from: <http://onebigphoto.com/arc-de-triomphe-paris/>

Beirut - Lebanon



Nejmeh Square & Maarad Street; Taken from Solidere webpage



## 4.2 The nature of destruction and the failure of the post conflict rehabilitation

Figure 8: Actual map of Beirut  
scale 1:30000



*"1991 – now: post-war urban reconstruction and neoliberal peace*

*By the late 1980s, Beirut had reached a stage of war fatigue that resulted from years of civil fighting, Israeli invasion in 1982 and Syrian armed control of its western side as of 1986. By that time, the war had left more than 150,000 killed, 300,000 injured, and around 800,000 displaced (Khalaf, 2002; Sawalha, 1998; Yahya, 2004). In 1990, a peace settlement was reached by the warring factions in what was called the National Reconciliation Agreement (Kerr, 2005; Krayem, 1997). A new constitution was ratified in September 1990 under a modified power-sharing mechanism based on equal Muslim-Christian representation (Baydoun, 1999). In spring 1991, militias were disarmed and national armed forces (Lebanese Army and Police) were deployed in Greater Beirut. Subsequently, barriers between West and East Beirut were removed, a sign that the city was being reconnected and that Beirutis were free to move anywhere in their city."*

*(Yassin, 2011)*



## Rehabilitation projects

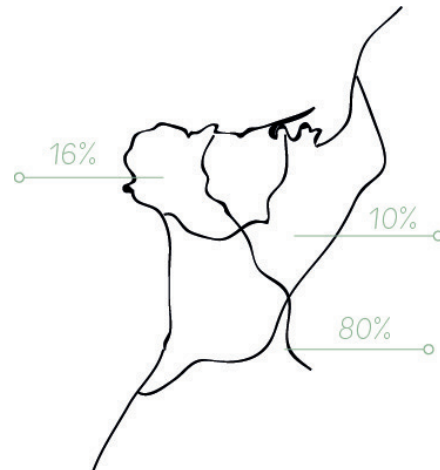
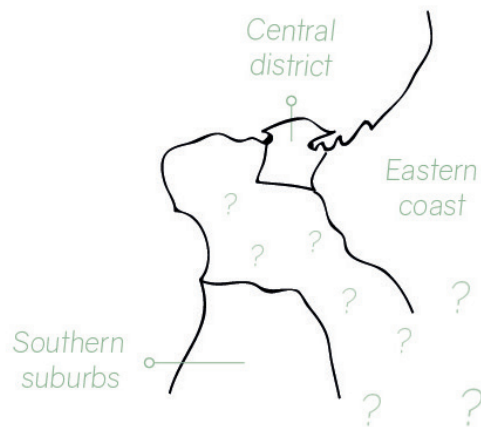
Between 1991 and 1993 the idea of renovating and recuperating Beirut as a business capital was the biggest mistake; the government kept its eyes in the concept of trying to bring back a city that was completely gone forgetting as an instant lost of memory the violence, the death and the suffering that people have had during the civil war period.

During war the city started to be sectorized based on religion and parties that were fighting between them; this was an issue that continued to be a physical division after war, boundaries made by stereotypes that didn't gave the city a chance to evolve but on the contrary most of Beirut seemed to got back on time.

When Beirut became "Safe again" many projects started to round the idea of reconstructing the whole country concentrating efforts in infrastructure and mostly damaged areas; the estate chose three main projects under the pressure of an emergency mode to start helping refugees, and what started to seem the best coordination to help the displacement ended as the least important movement and finished just as a label of "reconstruction zone"

The 3 projects were:

- 1- The SOLIDERE project for the central district of Beirut
- 2- The ELYSSAR project for the rehabilitation of southern suburbs of Beirut
- 3- And the LINORD project for redeveloping Beirut's eastern coast



The closest project to a public redevelopment was the ELYSSAR project that consisted in helping refugees to recuperate their losses and ended just as an idea because it was knocked down with the excuse of a lack of funding and complication in acquisition of lands; the opposite support was given to the SOLIDERE project, where everything seemed to be easy just as a tabula rasa that cost "much more" than the suffering of the affected people left without anything because of war and the instantly removal of identity and memory of what the Ottoman, Roman, French and the Lebanese themselves had conquered among the rising of the port city.

In an unimaginable way, the percentage of destruction of Beirut was the half of the destruction of Berlin, the difference is based in the way that the Germans tried to cover all the city as one to be risen and not just a part of it to be shown to the world as something that doesn't reflect the essence of the Lebanese culture, that was the result of the Solidere's project based just in the city center.

(Nasr & Verdeil, 2008) (Badescu, 2011) (Yassin, 2011)

Talking about percentage of destruction, there's an estimated that buildings were seriously or totally damaged at over 10% in the area of greater Beirut, 16% inside the municipal boundaries of Beirut and 80% along the demarcation line.

## Martyr's Square

*"After the ottoman period ended and due to the events that occurred in this square the name was changed into Martyr Square in the name of the nationalist martyrs."*

1930



1972



1984

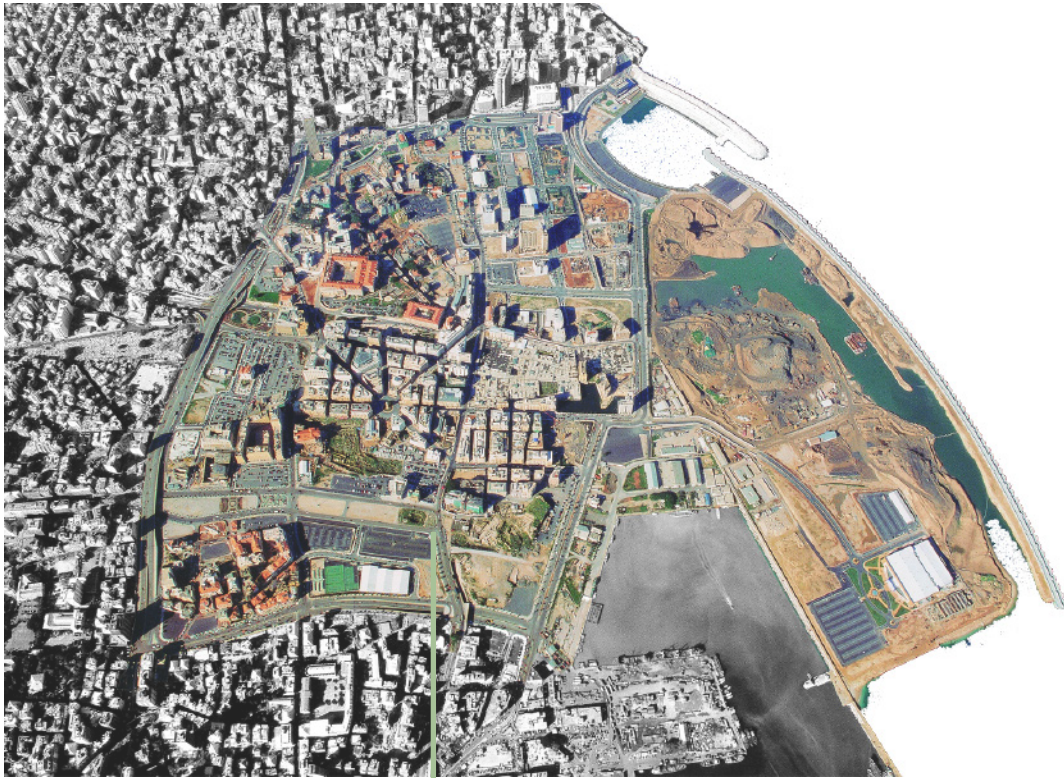


1994



Collection of images taken from the blog *Beirut The Fantastic*





*Beirut central district delimitation  
(Chami, 2012)*



*Martyr's square picture taken from Solidere website*

## SOLIDERE

Acronym: Société Libanaise pour le Développement et la Reconstruction du Centre-ville de Beyrouth.

In English, The Lebanese Company for the Development and Reconstruction of Beirut Central District.

This private corporation was in charge of the zone, power given by the government offering full control over the historic center in aspects like planning, design, marketing and management; the company had the power to expropriate the plots and convert them into shares, in other words stealing and getting benefit of what the war had left behind.

The principal owner of this company was the prime minister Rafic Hariri, who ended assassinated in a car bomb in 2005 and still there's not enough information of who was in charge of the attempt; the aim of Rafic Hariri and his company was to make Beirut back again the business city of the middle east, they're point was to create a high class urban environment.

Solidere established a world class project over the ruins and the "clean" land that was left after the bulldozing where they eliminated most of the heritage of the city to construct new high rising building to sell at a price that non Lebanese could have possibly afford, not then, not now; the project was excluding because the cost per square meter was impossible to afford, not for renting, not for living and not even for occupying the space, a space that before war was a center for exchange, the original souks of the city where Lebanese worked and produced fabric, groceries, shoes, jewelry

and services; the functionality of the zone was forgotten and changed to a place of leisure where all international brands came to sell their expensive products to a society that lived across the bloody frontiers of the country, the arabs of the gulf.

Sustainability was a claim in Solidere's discourse, but they were only words for selling and marketing, the truth is that they erased as a tabula rasa most of the building that were still standing and renovated few streets in the core of the Place de l'Etoile just to make a check mark on the list of renovation; the fact of deconstruction of the city was a justification for them to rise luxury buildings that nowadays belong to non Lebanese and are the home of no one; Beirut central district nights are lonely and empty where no one live, no one sleeps and no one can be.

The major problems of the master plan of Solidere were the lack of concern given to sustainability, public space and mobility; one of the works given to them from the government was the control of the massive trash dump on its seafront because of the deconstruction of the city, they used that as an excuse to create new land expanding the border of the coastline to put the Marina zone that is going to be a place for mega structure development.

In conclusion what for instance should started as a project to recover the memory of the historic heritage of the port city ended as a transformation of a business standardized zone for people that doesn't even live in Lebanon; a perfect place to feel the richness in a sunny evening in some shop that not all can afford

and a ghost city at night with empty buildings, empty streets and empty parking lots.

The identity of the city is lost, what citizens can remember is all that they have and the fear of forgetting what was Beirut before civil war; the places that generated memories different from war were removed and taken far away, just like a statement that before war there was nothing.

(Nasr & Verdeil, 2008) (Badescu, 2011) (Yassin, 2011)



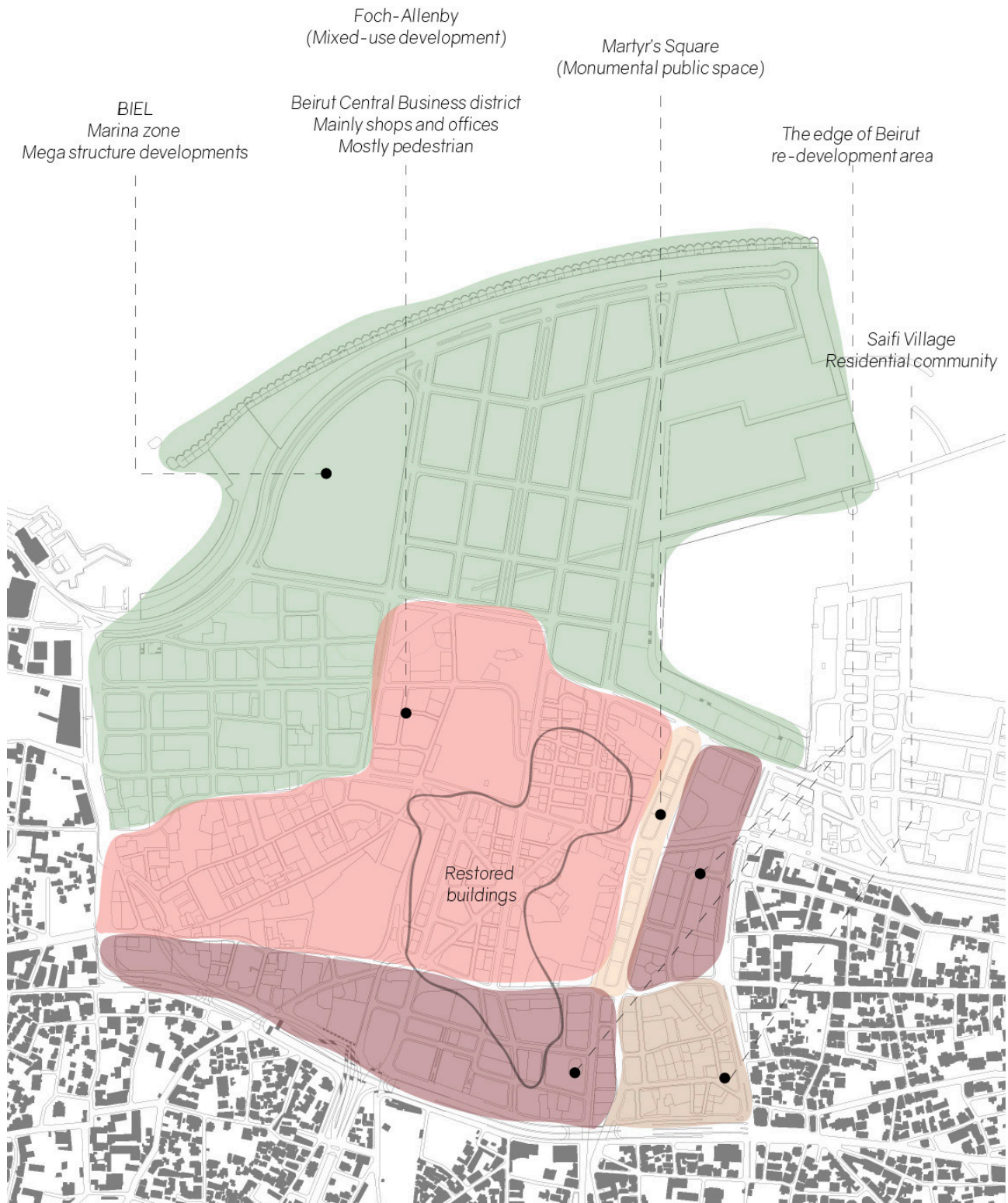




Photo credit: Mira Dandan

*The Saint George hotel was one of the most important building and places to visit during the golden age of Beirut; localized in the downtown was in the eyes of Solidere aiming its acquisition but his owner Fadi El Khoury has made a statement to nor let them touch his building.*





*"A symbol of Lebanon's golden age, but also its brutal civil war, the empty shell of the Holiday Inn hotel could soon be redeveloped. Photograph: Joseph Eid/ AFP" (Nayel, 2015)*



*View from Bernard Khoury architects new building in Saifi Village.*



*One of the few ruins conserved that are not hidden.  
Beside there's the new mosque made in honor of Rafic Hariri the principal  
owner of Solidere.*





*Contrast of buildings in one of the main axes of Solidere's Master Plan.*



5- THE EGG - Big City Center

(Al Mouhandess, 1968)





The Big city center of Beirut aimed to be the largest commercial center of the middle east in the 60's; this project was a creation of the Lebanese architect Joseph Philippe Karam in the golden period of Beirut, a period when anything could happen and building like this were being projected with Lebanese hands to Lebanese people in the downtown right beside the city souks.

The multi-use complex was composed of two high towers and a cinema with the form of an egg shell; it was unfinished when war came, some shops and the cinema got to be seen and used for several years but during war the only tower that was risen fell because all the complex was a battlefield, a scene of horror near by the historic border of the green line, when militias fought to each other generating a scene where actors really died.

The Egg is one of the iconic ruins of Beirut that now belongs to Solidere and have been threatened to be demolished in many occasions, but after all it still standing showing the visible scars of the war aiming to be used again.

Some years after the end of civil war people started to make some activities inside the abandoned cinema, but it didn't last long; what was planned to be an entertainment place became a theater of desolation in the middle of the Beirut Central District plan made by Solidere.

This building is meaningful to people and the city because it represents more than war, it represents the golden age of Beirut, it's the best picture of what was being conquered by the Lebanese and then suddenly was long gone.

(Khoury, 2017)





*Joseph Philippe Karam*

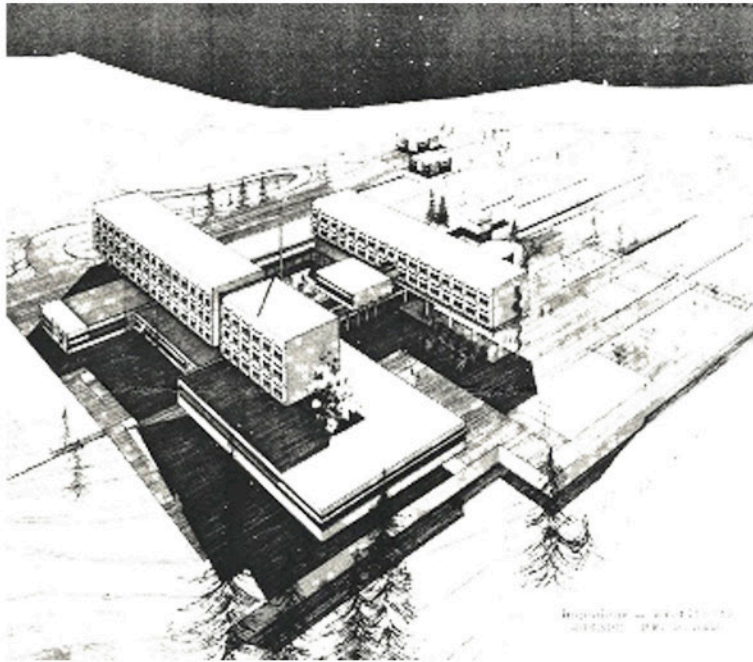
*Karam was born in Beirut in 1923, lived to see and project in the golden age of the city and died in 1976 at the beginning of Lebanon's civil war.*

*Because of the French influence in the country Karam got to study in a French school and university; he graduated in 1946 of Mathematics and engineering – Architecture from the Universite Saint Joseph's Ecole Francaise d'Ingenieurs et d'Architectes.*

*Karam was one of the most known architects during the 50's, 60's and 70's and not just only in Lebanon but in Saudi Arabia because he was the pioneer of modern architecture in Lebanon, proponing ideas of modernism like Le Corbusier.*

*He was also able to project in a period of economic growth and prosperity; he got to build a large number of residences, institutes and commercial projects; his buildings were mostly made from concrete and glass that were influence by the modernism movement that started in Europe and spread all around the middle east.*

*(ArchiLeb)*



*Hotel School, Deir El-Kamar, Lebanon*



*Life Sciences Campus, Tripoli, Lebanon*

## Scars of war

"What you can see now in the city center of Beirut is more or less reminiscent of a bunker in the sense of Paul Virilio's 'Monolith' – a massive structure which survived several attacks, but still stands and has since become a monument. Also it simultaneously recalls the brutalist architecture of Claude Parent, particularly the Church of Sainte Bernadette de Banlay in Nevers (France), but with scars, holes and other penetrations caused by constant instability. Finally the original planning for the 'Beirut City Center' transformed from being a clearly elaborated modernist set of buildings to a seemingly brutalist monument which is now perceived as The Egg due to its remaining iconic shape."







(Springer, 2013)







Pictures after civil war (The Levant)





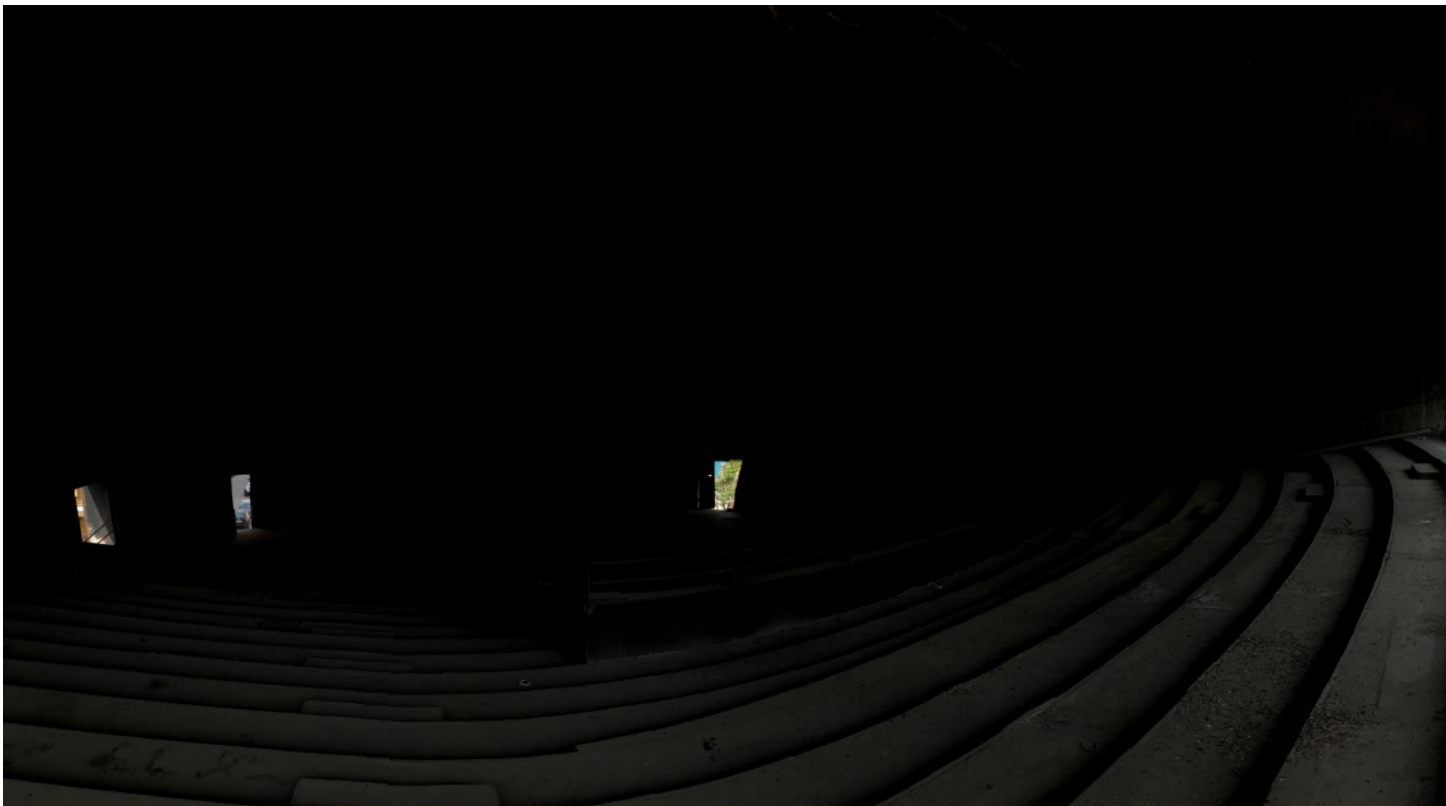
*This building was chosen because of the complicity of its environment, The Egg had the opportunity to watch the transformation of Beirut through time being part of luxury, chaos and desolation.*

*The location of this project is the principal matter in between borders, one historical as the green line and a created one that's the separation of BCC (Beirut Central District) project and the rest of the city; there's a lack of collation between the two sides divided by a big avenue with a high bridge that cuts even visual communication.*

*The lack of habitants, public space, and efficiency of mobility in the zone would be decisive points to the way the renovation of the project is going to respond to a context that only exist physically and doesn't even care about it.*



























6- THE SHOW ISN'T OVER

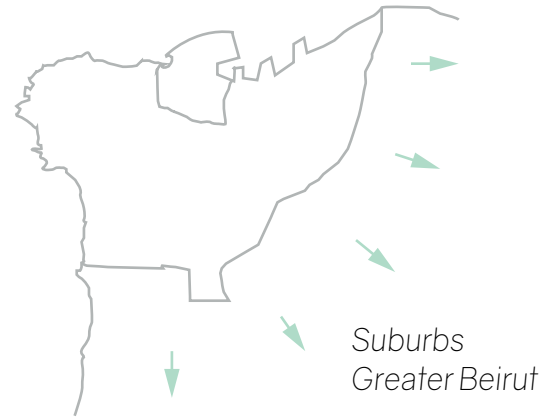
هتني مل ضرر علأ



## 6.1 Analysis

Beirut actual plan scale 1:30000

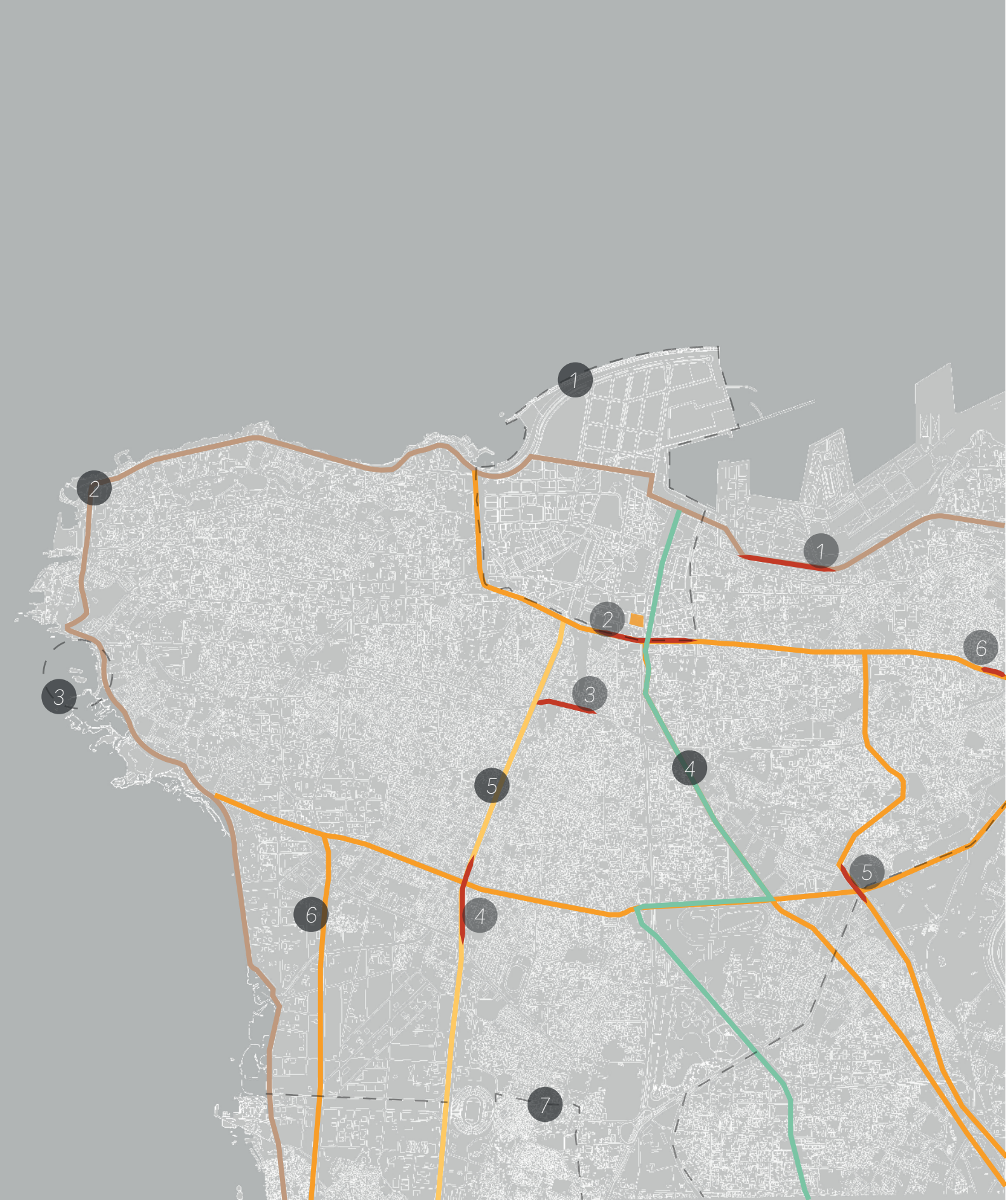
Principal roads, delimitation and bridges as  
visual disturbances- borders



- 1 Delimitation line of Beirut Central District
- 2 Coastline road
- 3 Rouche Rocks - Icon of the city
- 4 Historic Green Line
- 5 Old Airport Road
- 6 Beirut - Saida highway (Communicates the city with the south of the country)
- 7 Delimitation of Beirut Municipality

### Bridges

- 1 Charles Helou
- 2 Ring
- 3 Basta
- 4 Yerevan
- 5 Elias el Hraoui
- 6 Cola

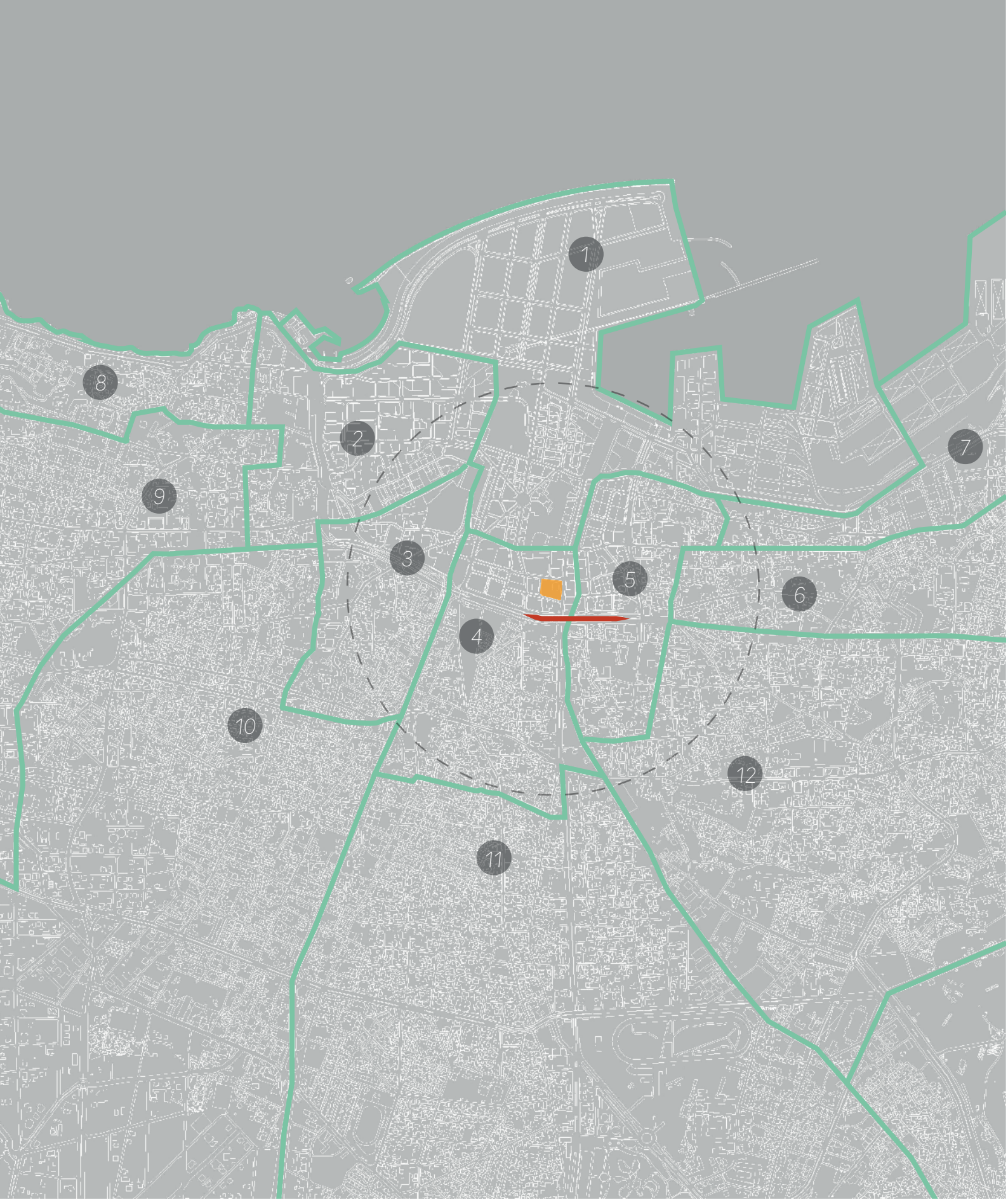




## *Zones delimitation and area of interest*

*Beirut actual plan scale 1:20000*

- 1 Port
- 2 Minet El Hosn
- 3 Zokak El Blat
- 4 Bashoura
- 5 Saifi
- 6 Rmeil
- 7 Medawar
- 8 Dar mreisseh
- 9 Ras Beirut
- 10 Moussaitbe
- 11 Mazraa
- 12 Ashrafieh



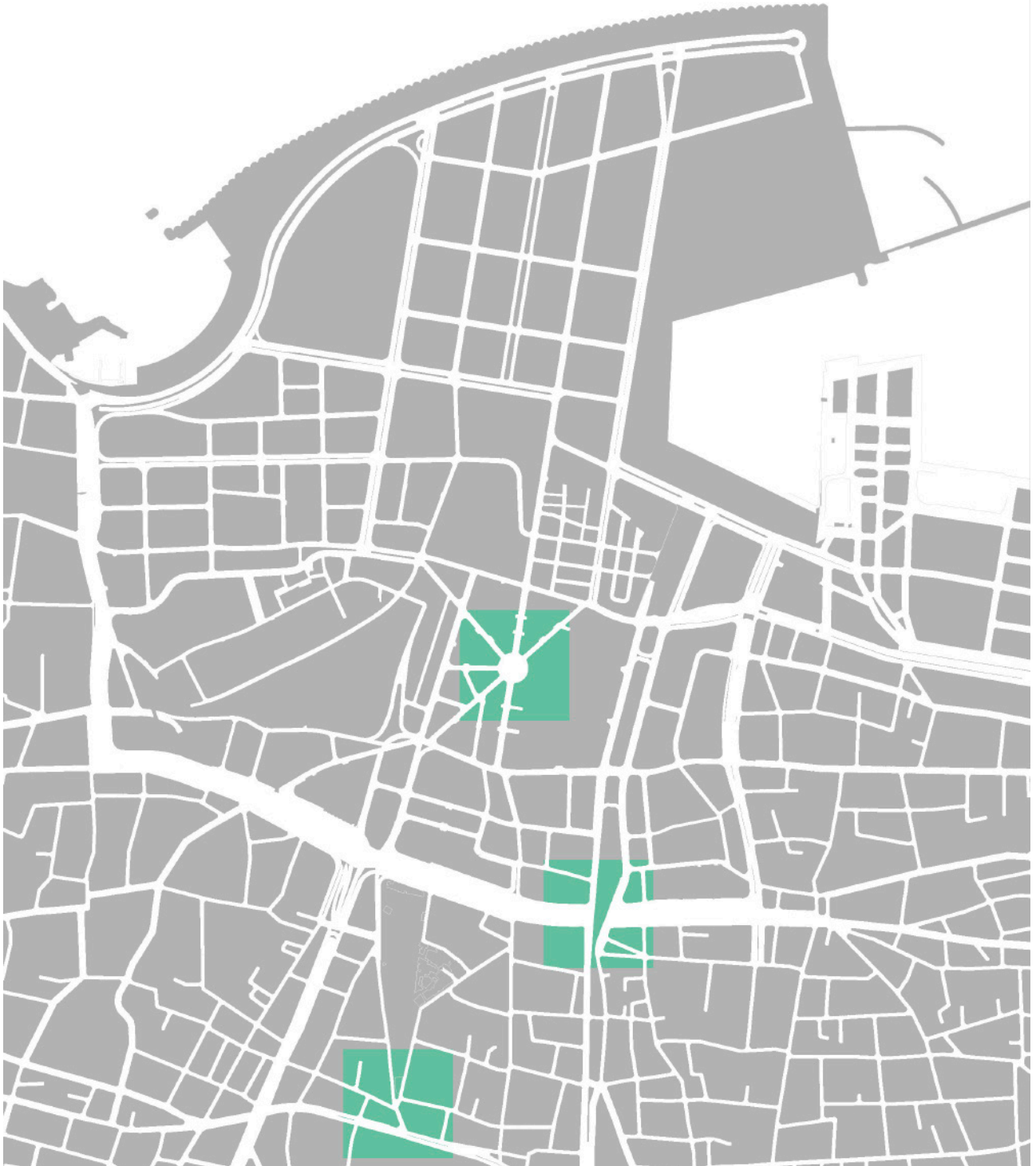
Contrast between the full and the empty  
Beirut actual plan scale 1:10000





This maps can show the amount of what's built, the density of the city and the big highways and streets that are the result of the favoritism of the automobile that's an unsustainable method of transportation in an economic, social and environmental way. It's also shown the lack of green public space because most of the voids in the city are streets or parking lots.

Taken from the blog: Beirut the fantastic



Beirut actual plan scale 1:5000  
squares: 200x200 meters

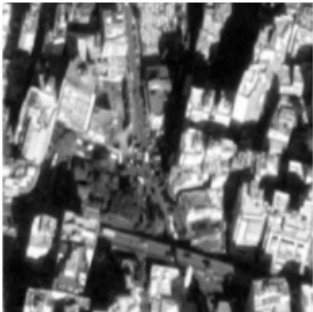
Satellite images  
Place de l'Etoile



Ring bridge



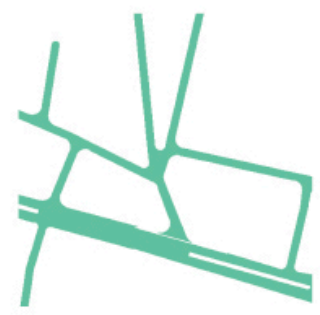
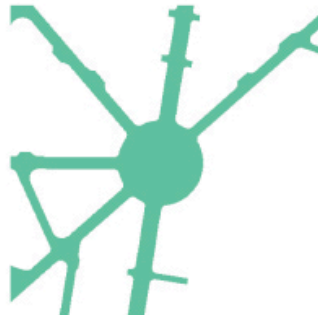
Bashoura



Maps



Circulation tracks



Buildings



## Morphological analysis:

The city of Beirut count with many types of morphology that changed through time because of the civilizations that had control over the city living their legacy in the urban structure; war is another reason of the morphology change because it left big voids that were filled with new types of urban planning.

### Place de l'Etoile

This part of the city was legacy from the French mandate, that organized the center of the city souks in a very Haussmanian typology with long and straight major axes and planned perspective that lead all to the same point forming a big star.

### Ring bridge

This zone is the principal and physical boundary that divides the city center and the rest of the city of Beirut; is part of the redevelopment area of Solideres Masterplan witch explain the big voids that are new buildings under construction. This zone is a hybrid between the occidental pattern and the Arabic one; occidental because of the main thoroughfares and Arabic because of the organic shape of the blocks.

### Bashoura

This zone if one of the typical neighborhood that have tried to survive through time and to war that were planned with the Arabic pattern;

streets were organized hierarchical with principal streets, secondary ones (reserved for trading activities and public buildings) and cul-de-sacs mainly for private use and access to houses.

Blocks are characterized because of its irregularity and the absence of geometrical form.

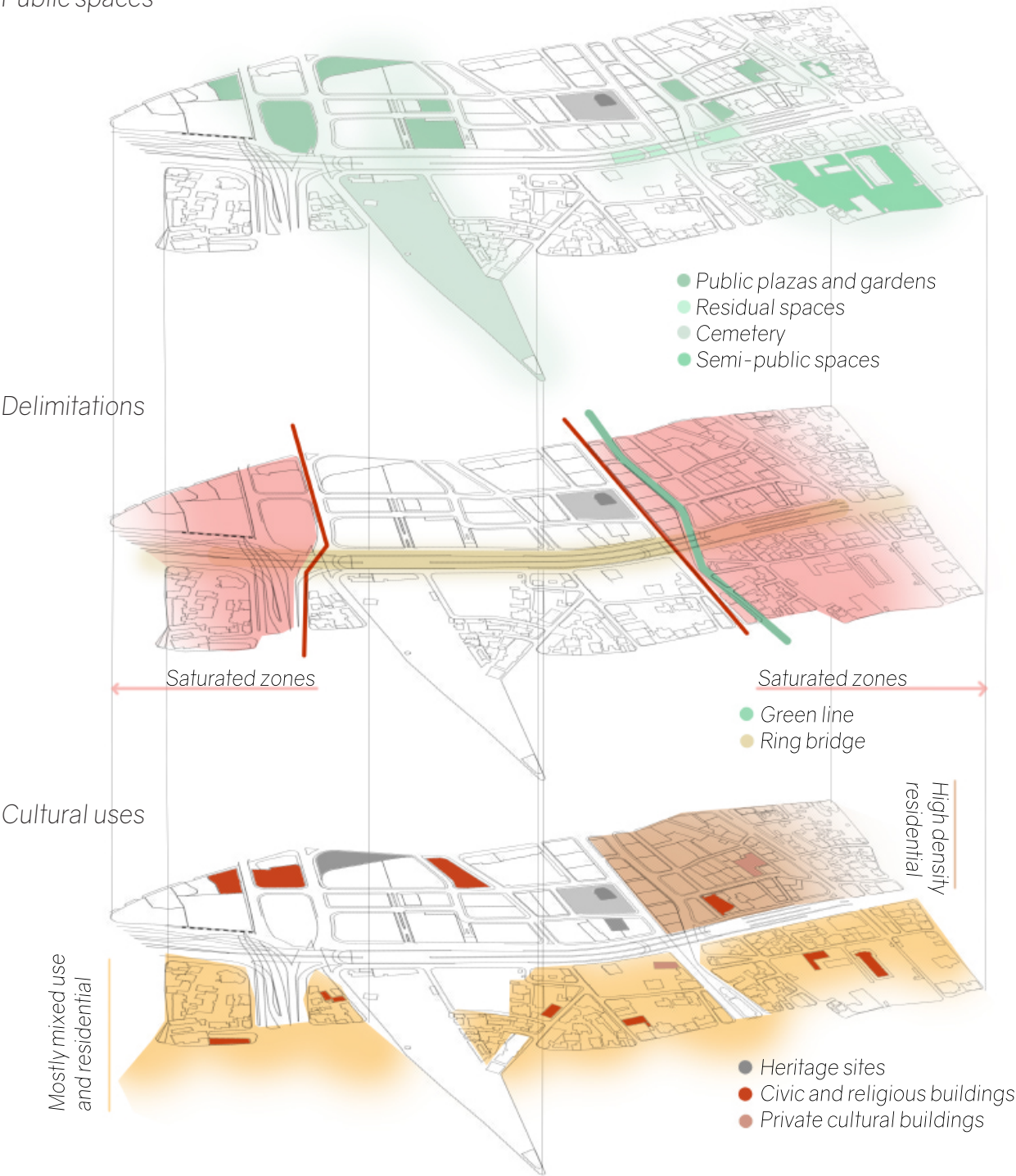
The difference between the occidental pattern and the Arabic one is based in the way of emplacement; in the Arabic pattern the lines of access to a building follows the placing of the building itself, the building is placed first responding moreover to the topology of the zone, on the contrary in the occidental pattern streets are organized with main axed followed by the placing of the buildings.

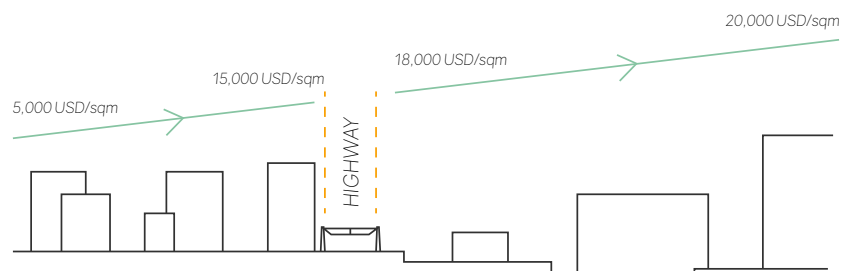
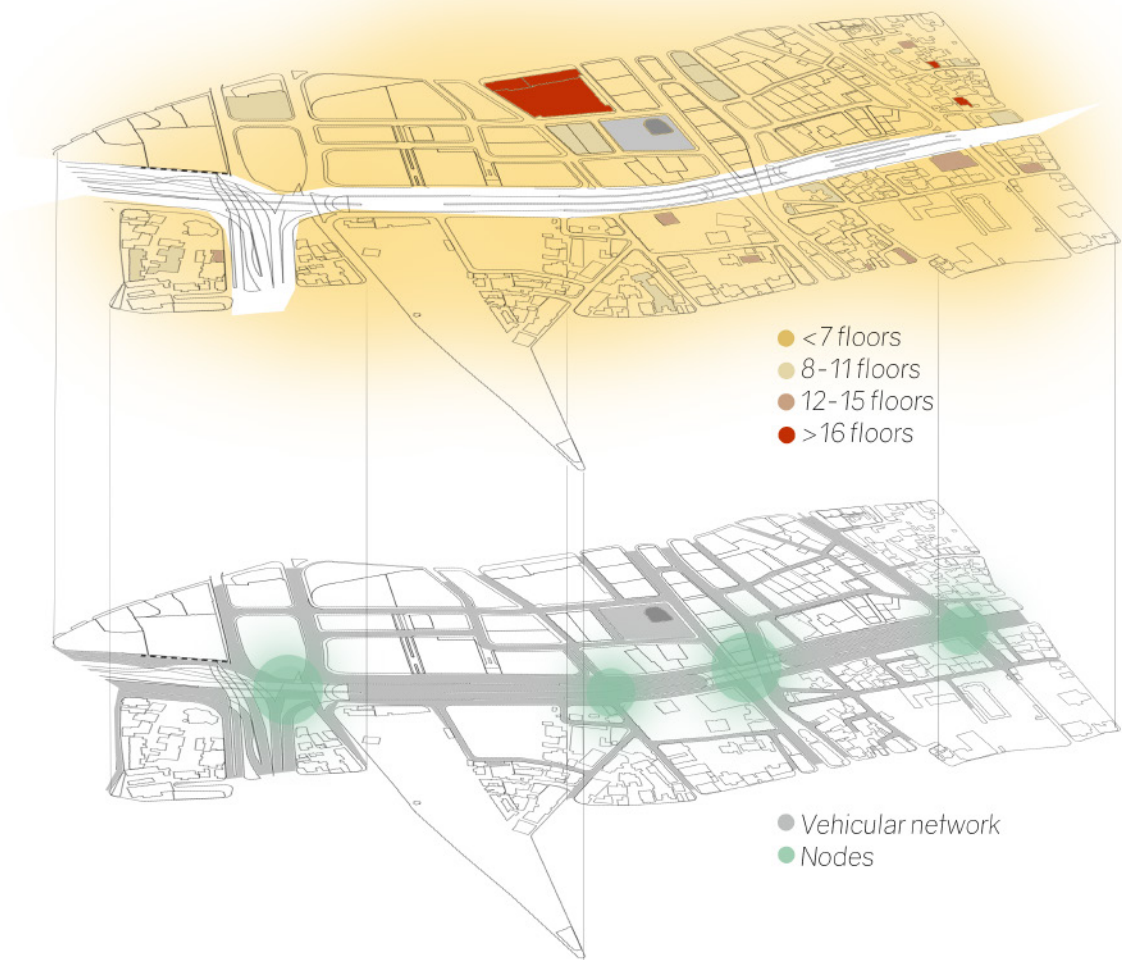
(Toffel) (Leclair-Paquet, 2013)



Site analysis

Public spaces

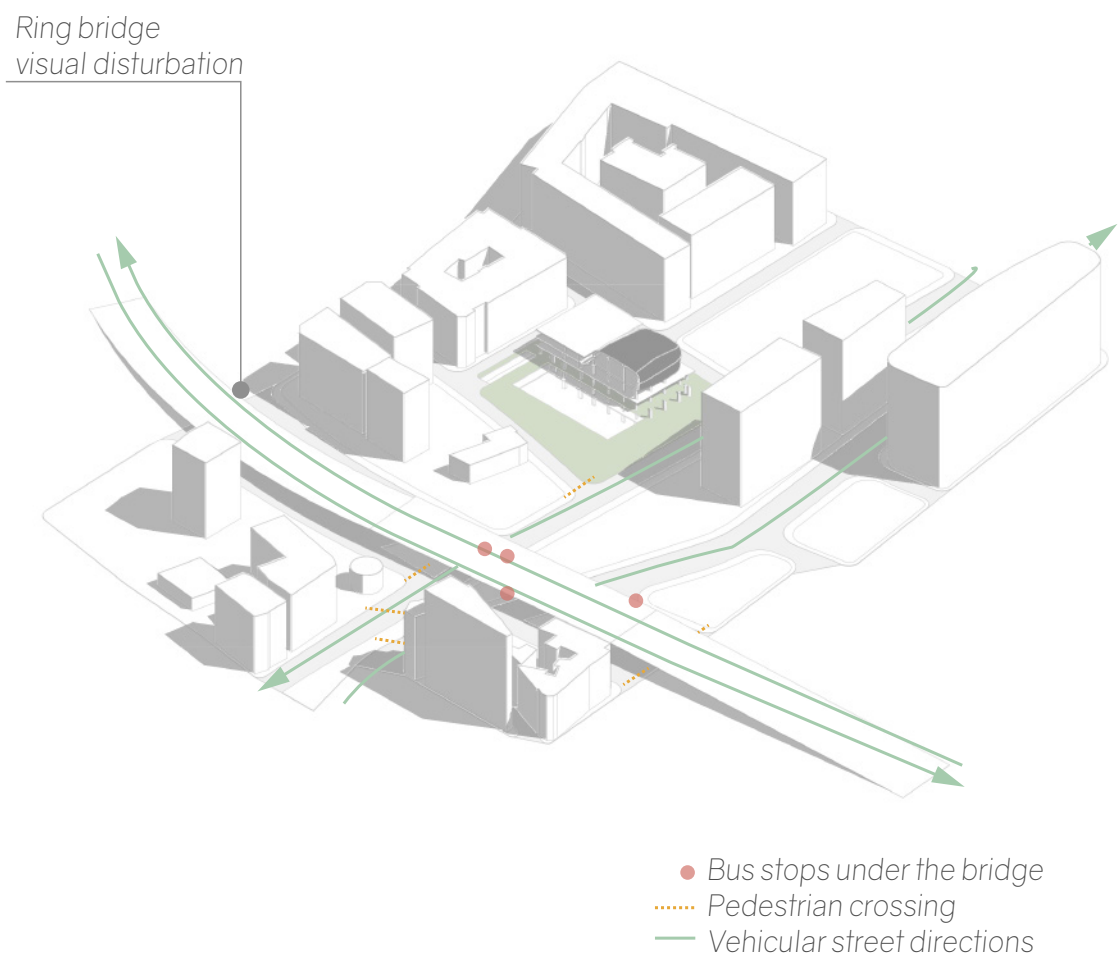




(Haidar, 2016)

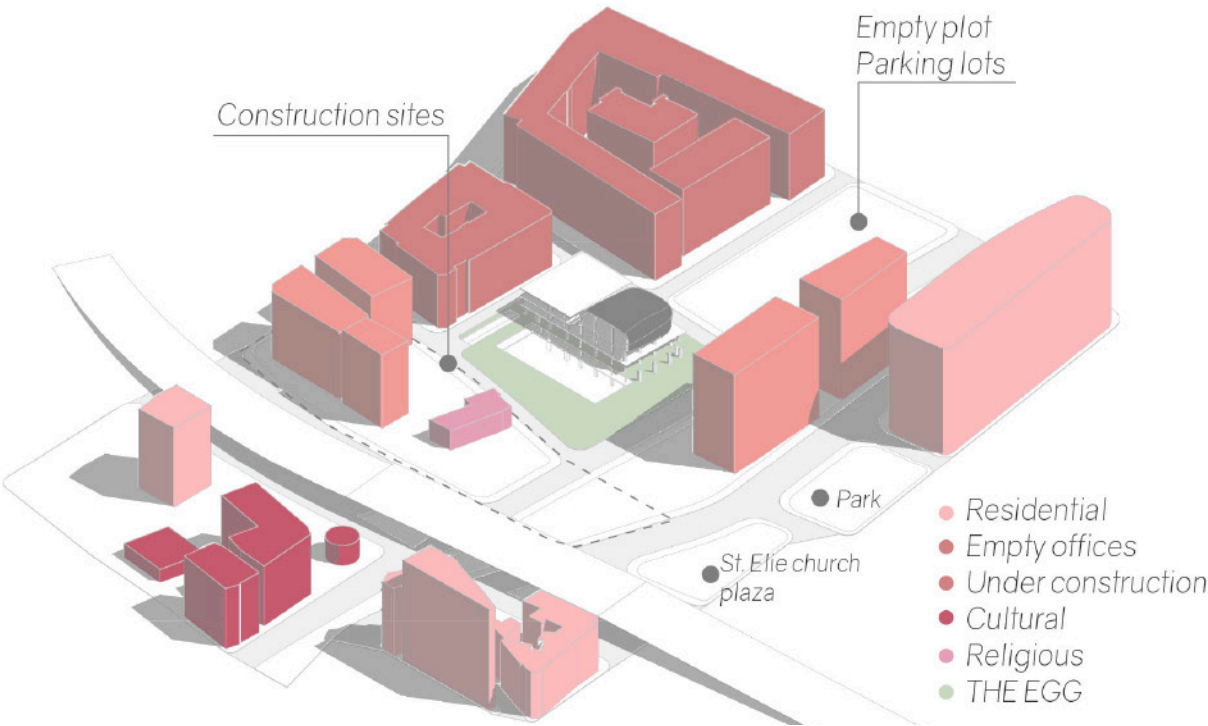
6.2 Urban proposal

Current mobility analysis





Current land uses

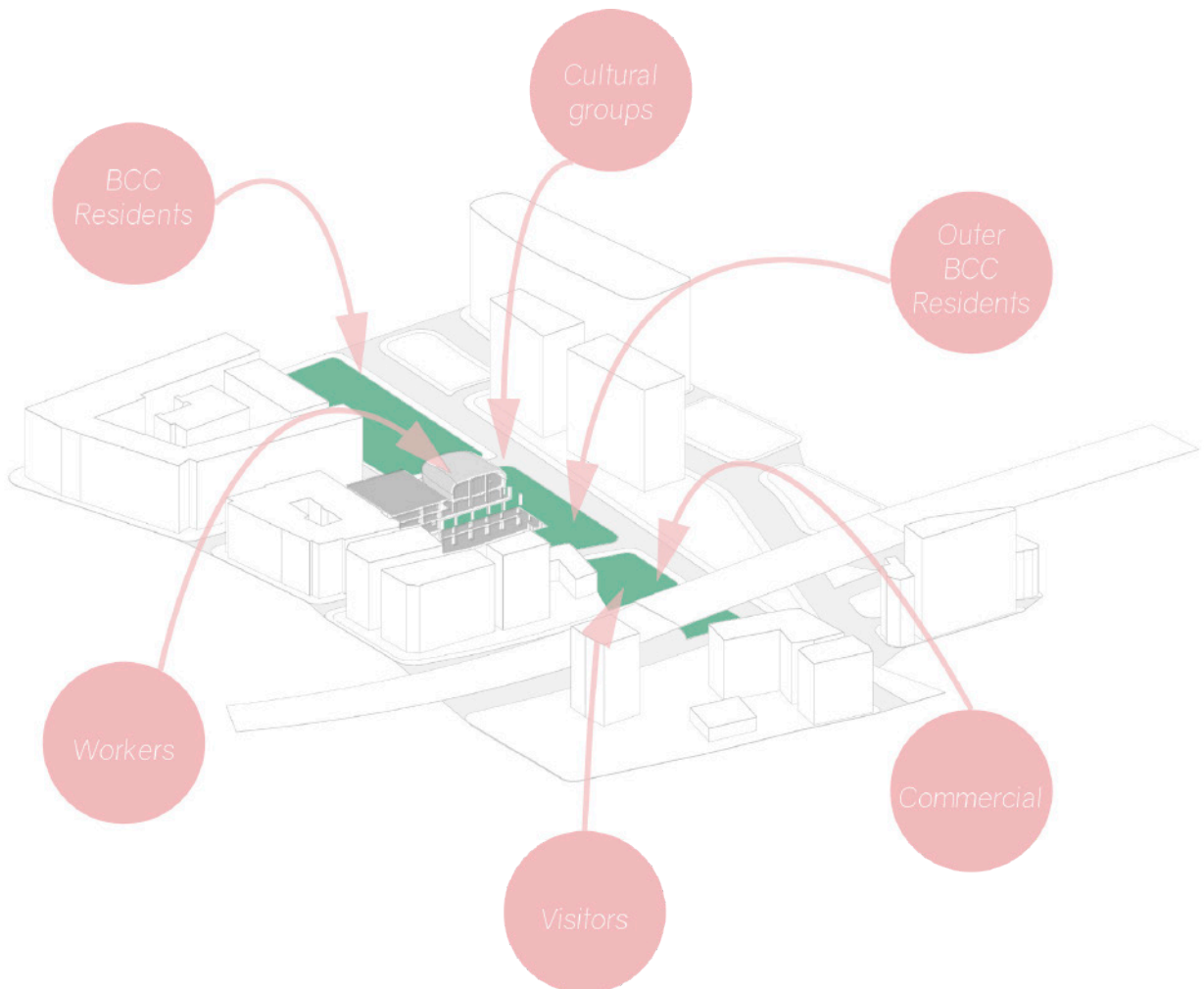


## THE PROPOSAL

Public green space

Modular activities and zones

Playground  
Orchards  
Fitness area  
Entertainment area  
Contemplation area



## CULTURAL CENTER OF BEIRUT

What makes them great and could make them better

Music

Cinema

Gastronomy

Handcraft

Art

+ WORKSHOPS  
(Activities)

Program

Multi-purpose hall

Cinema

Library

Children zone

Narguile and Shai terrace

Cuisine workshops

Handcraft studios

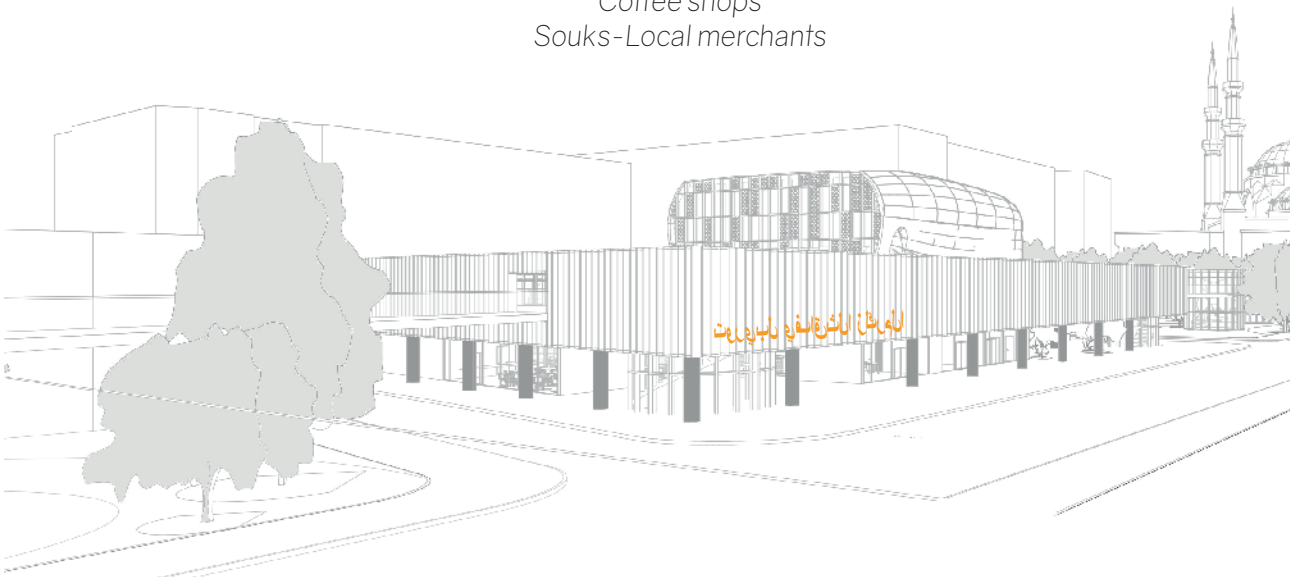
Art gallery

Music studios

Restaurant

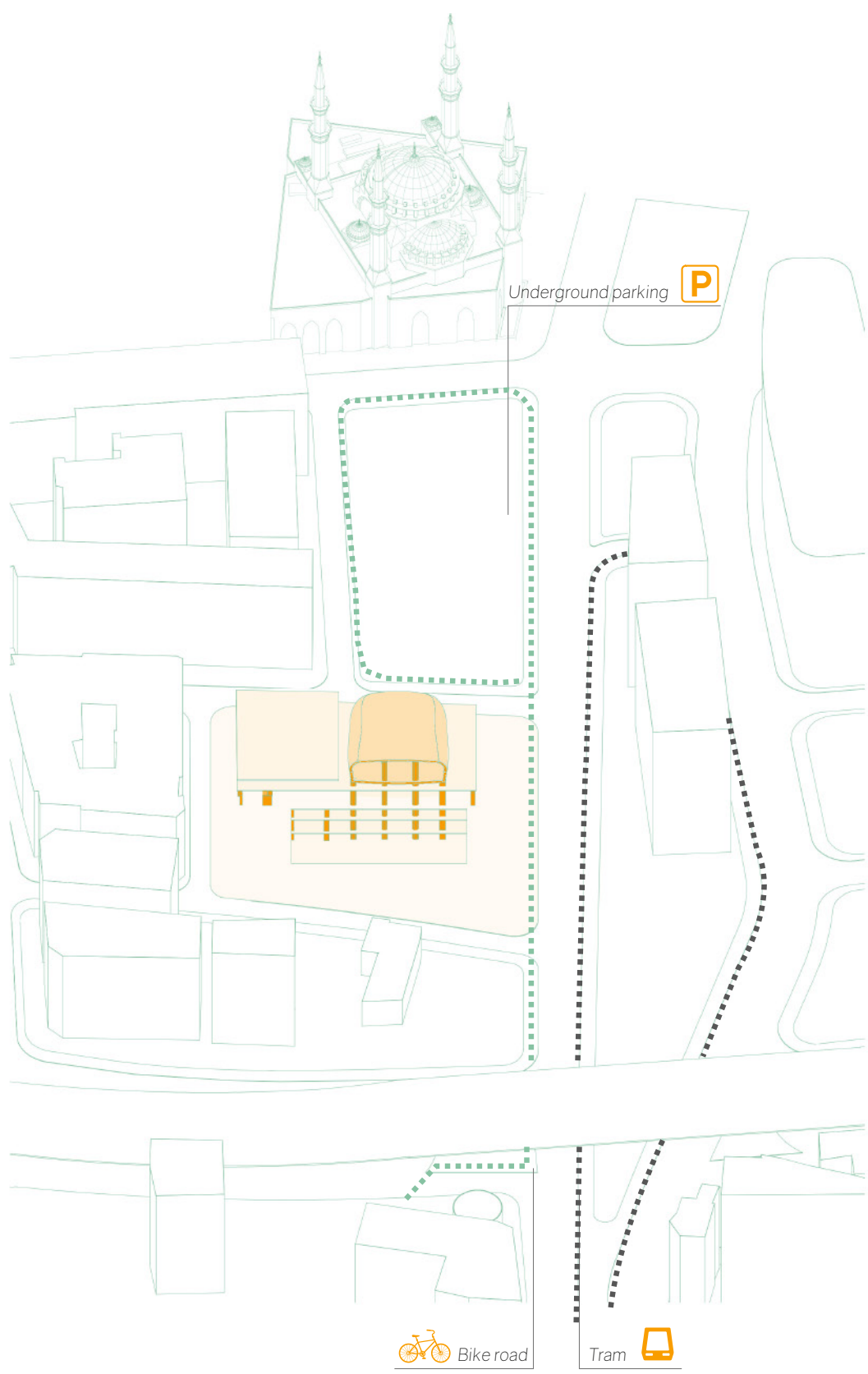
Coffee shops

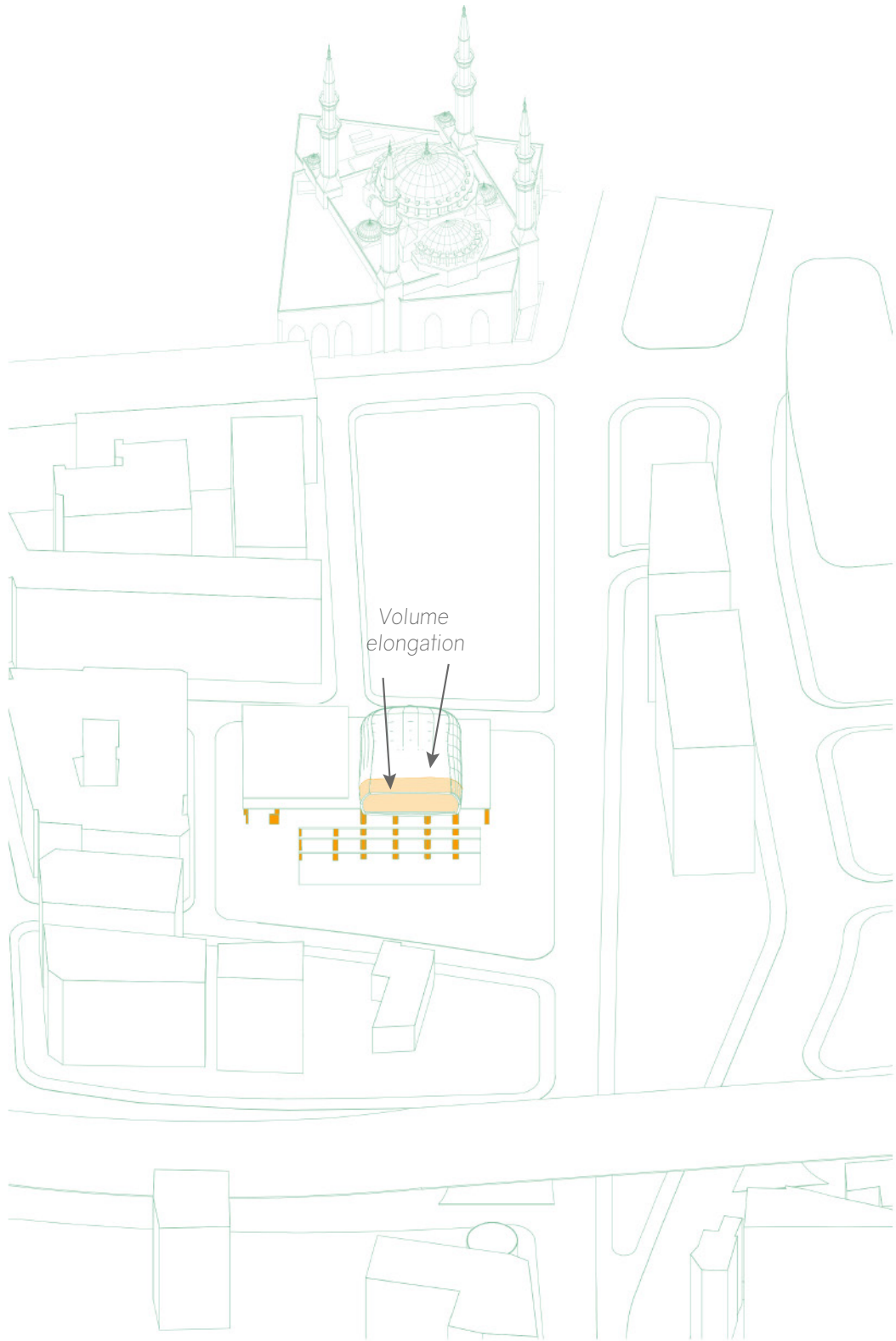
Souks-Local merchants

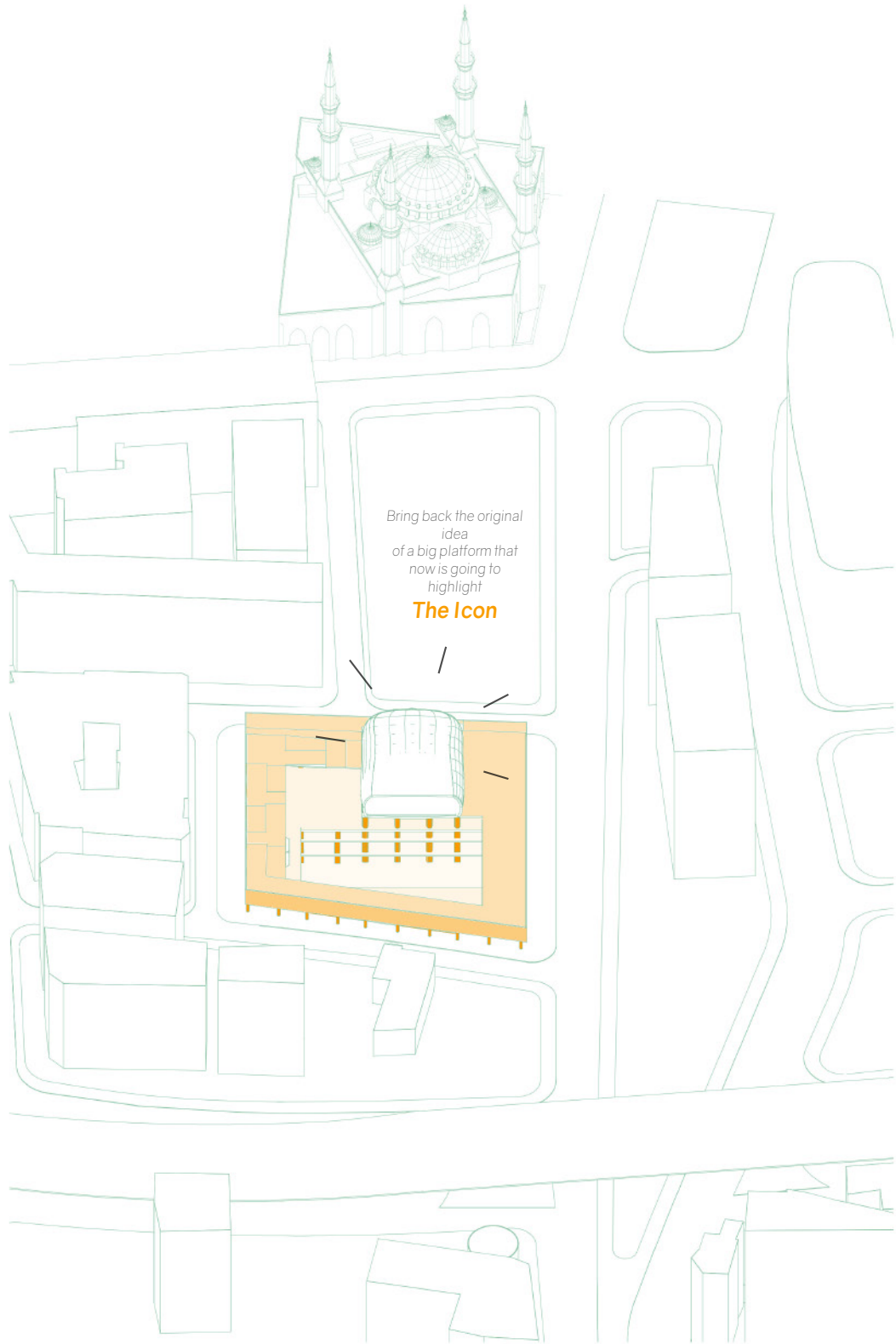




Intentions

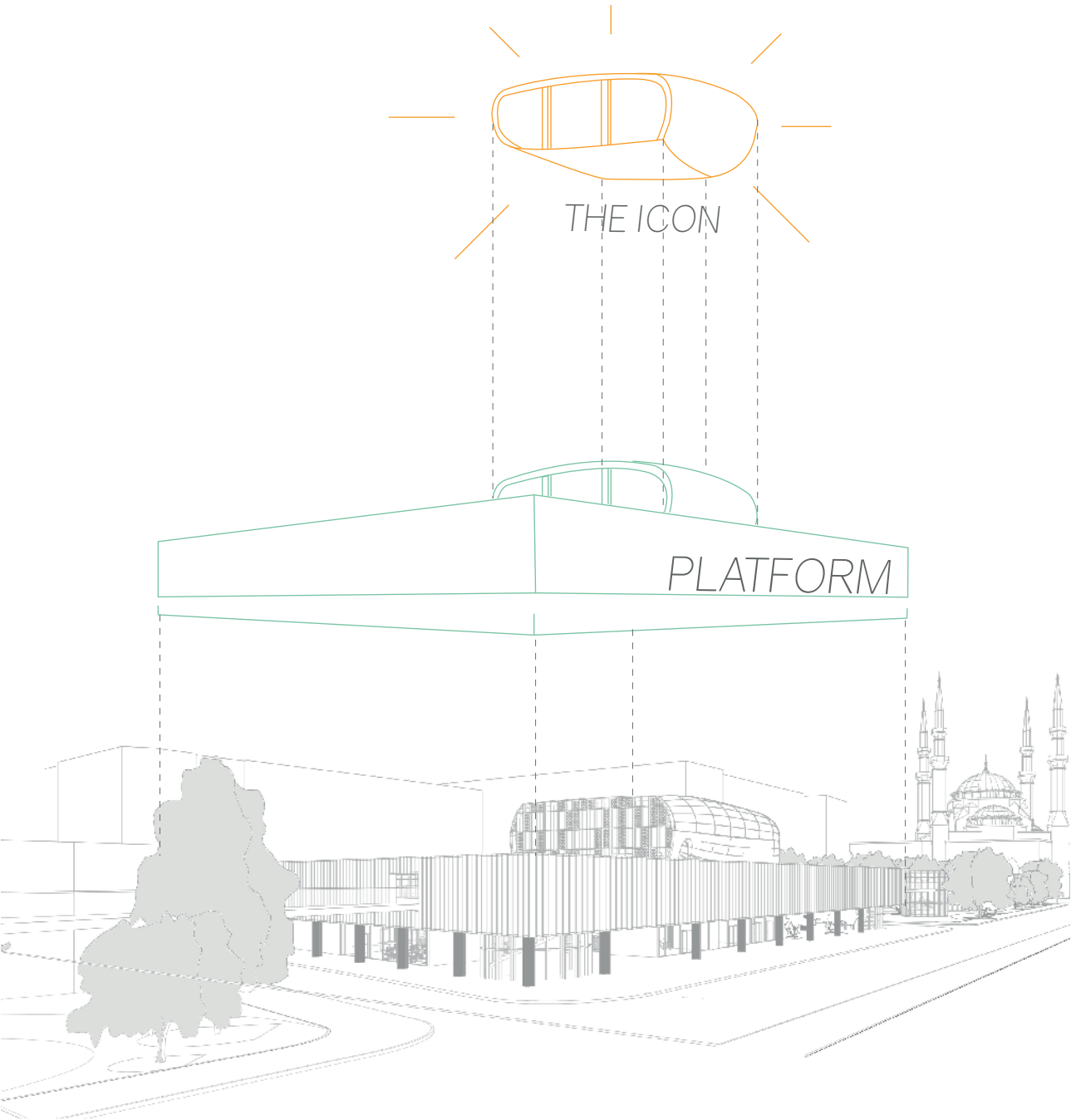


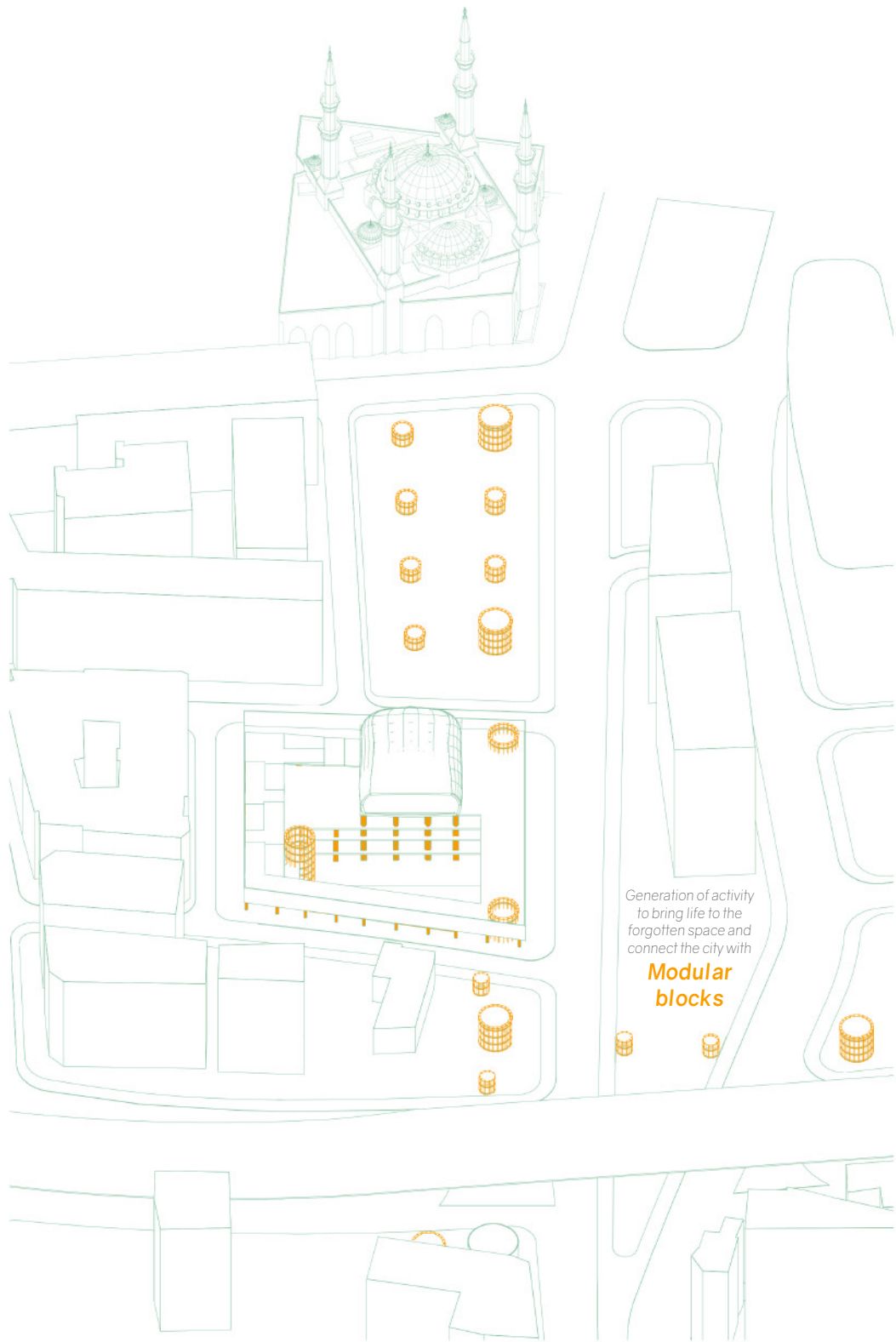






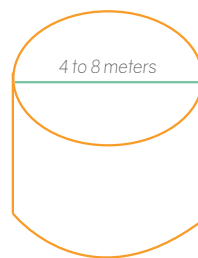
The Egg refuses the idea of what the city center had become and remains standing as an icon of what beirut was in the golden age.



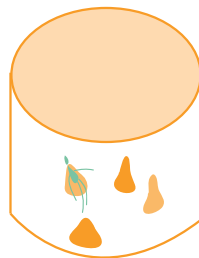


Generation of activity  
to bring life to the  
forgotten space and  
connect the city with

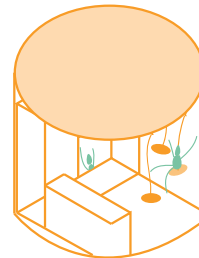
**Modular  
blocks**



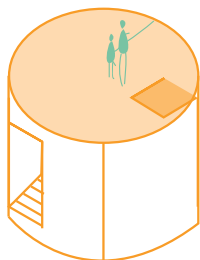
MODULE



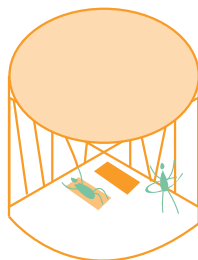
TO BE



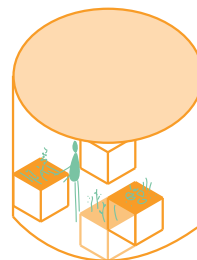
TO PLAY



TO SEE



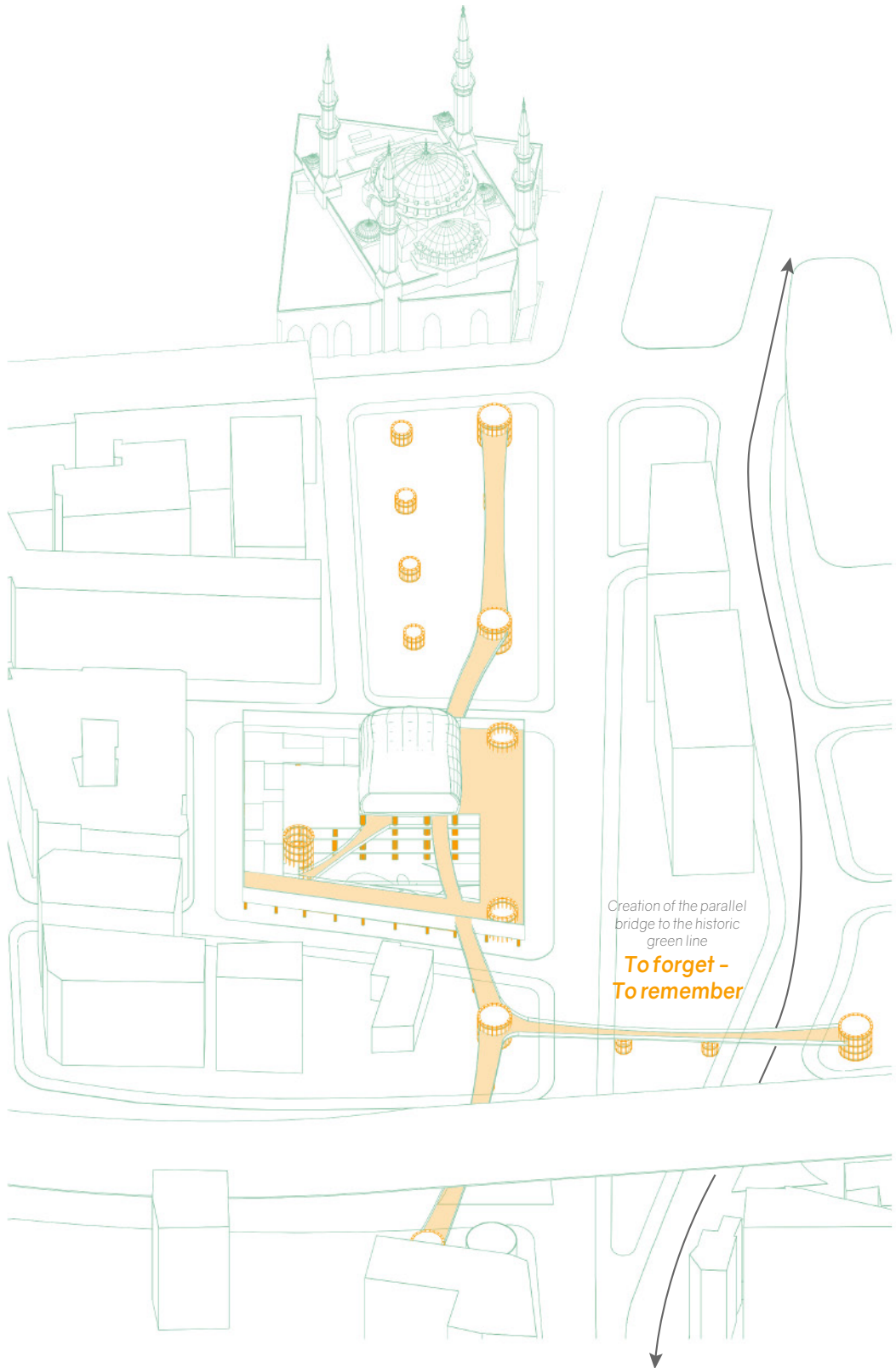
TO EXERCISE



TO MAKE







Beirut Park

توريب ققيدح



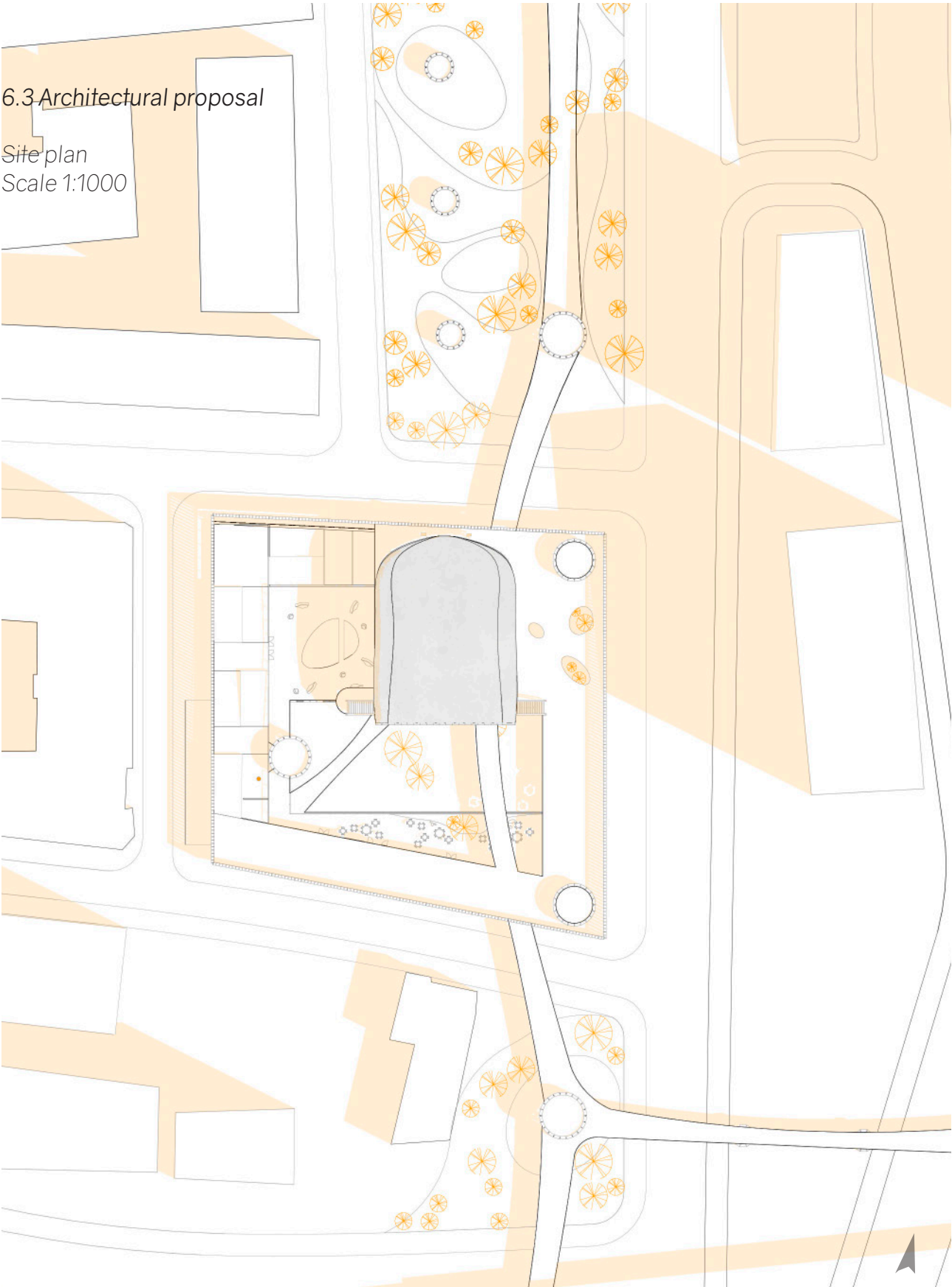
Recovery of lost  
spaces and parkings  
to create the  
**Beirut park**



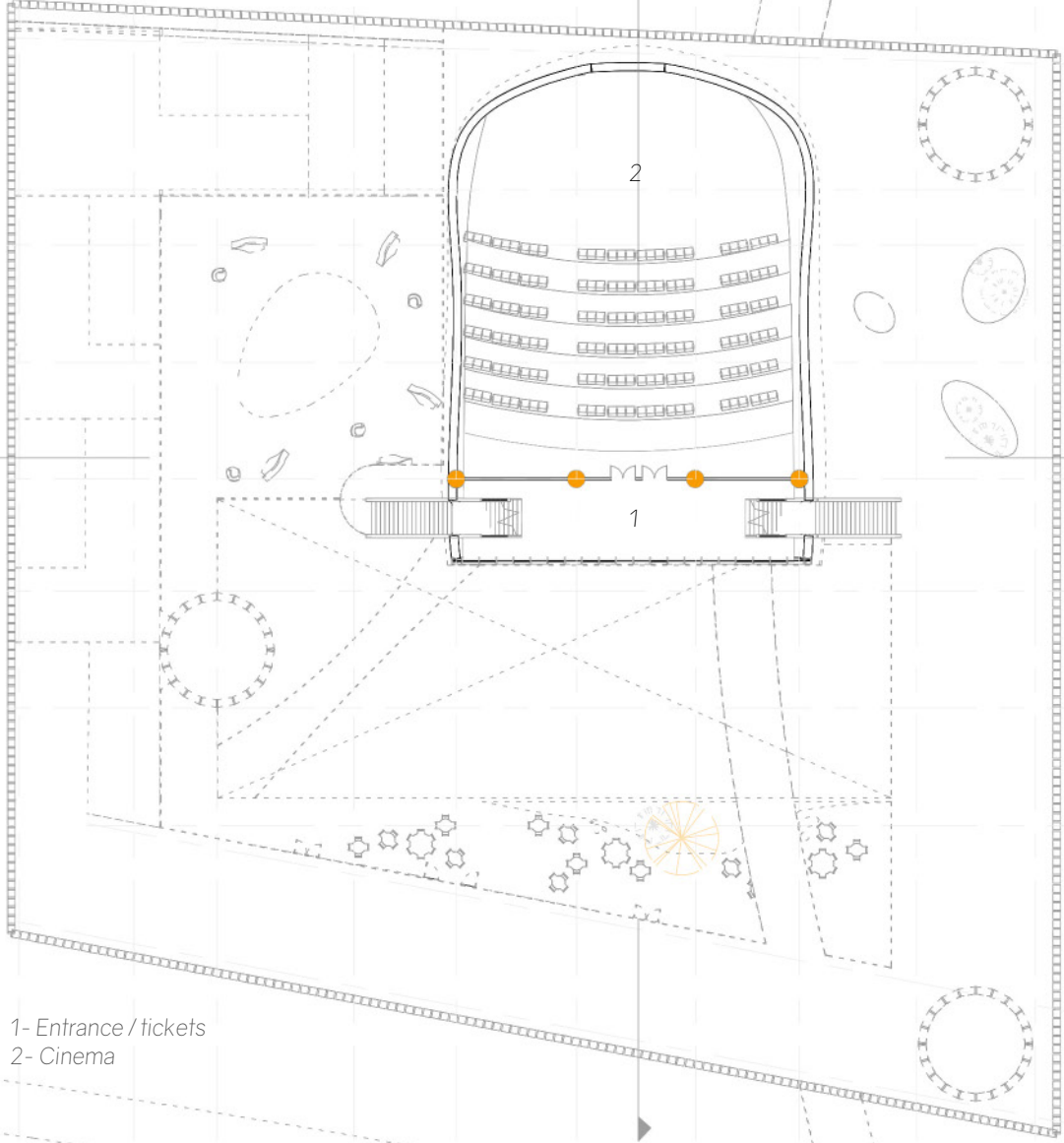


6.3 Architectural proposal

Site plan  
Scale 1:1000

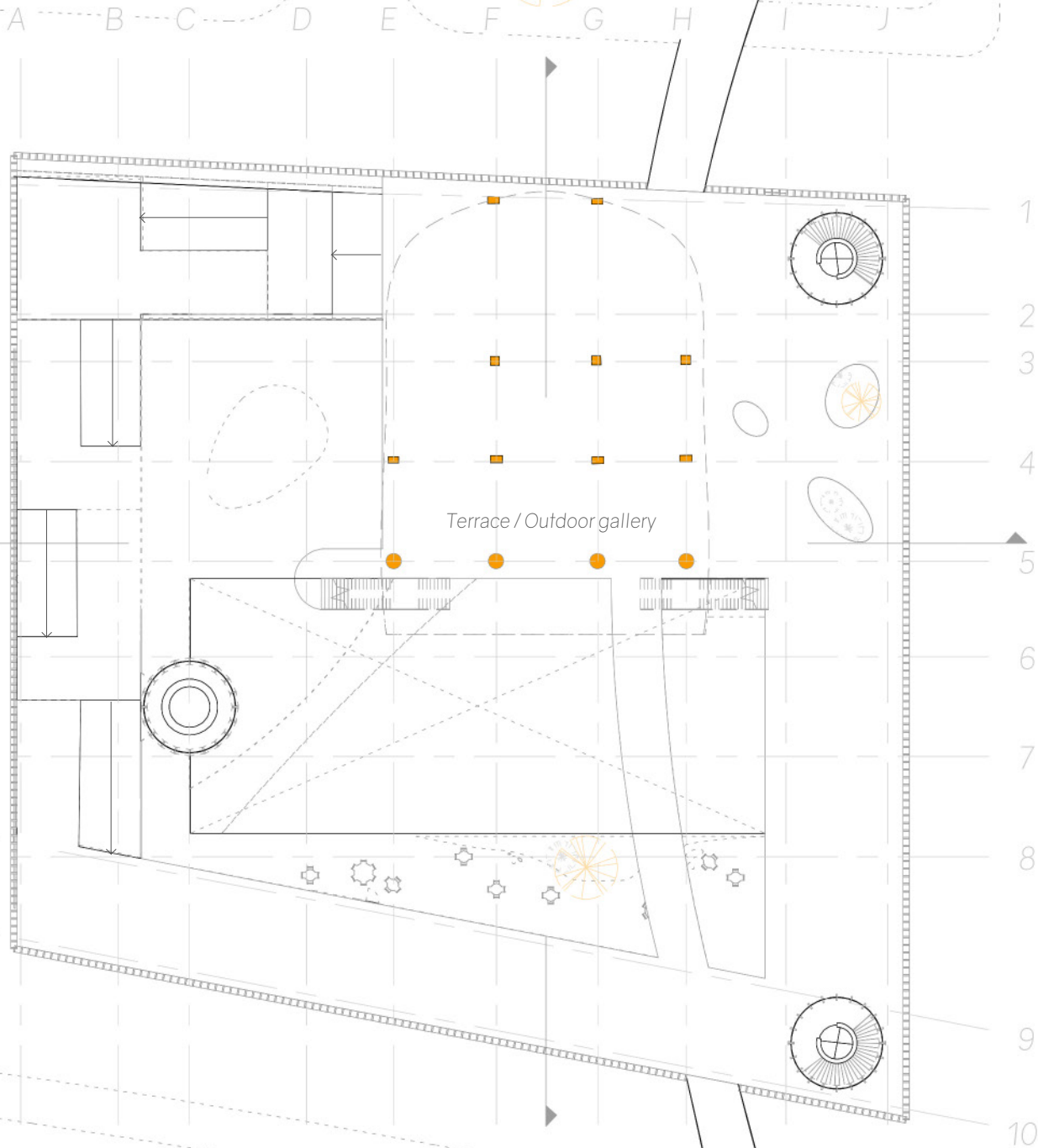


Second floor  
Scale 1:500



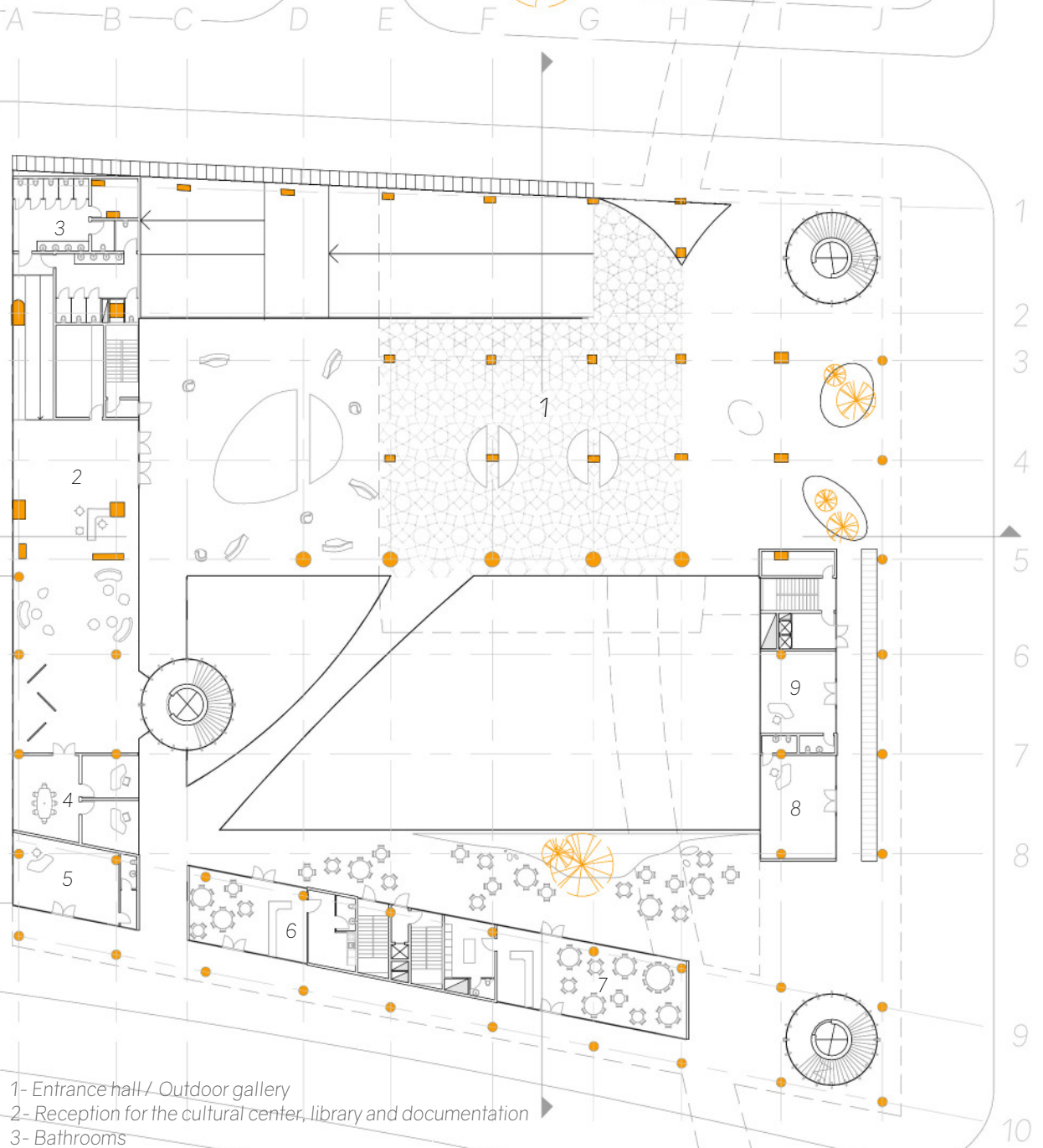
1- Entrance / tickets  
2- Cinema

First floor  
Scale 1:500



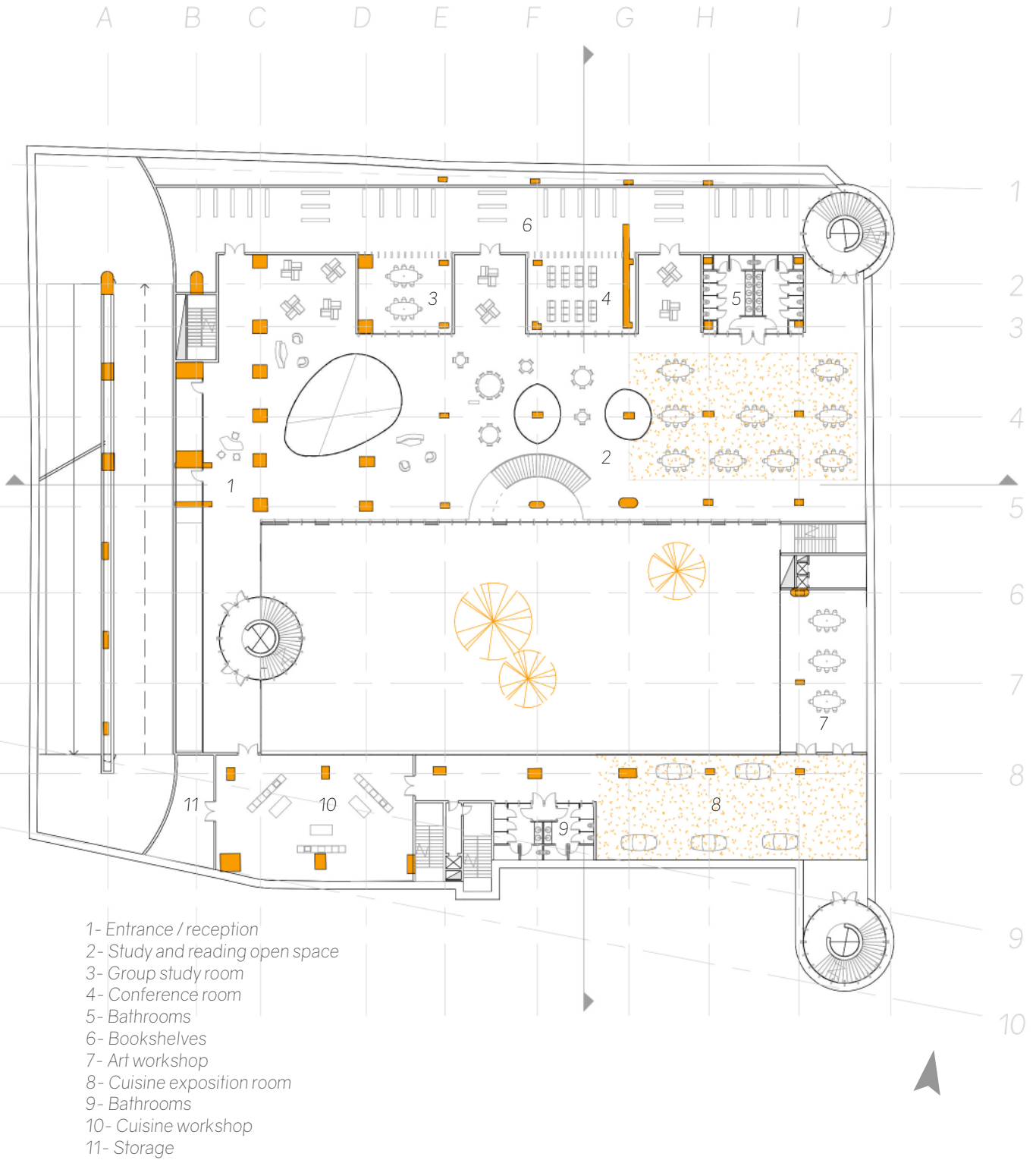


Ground floor  
Scale 1:500

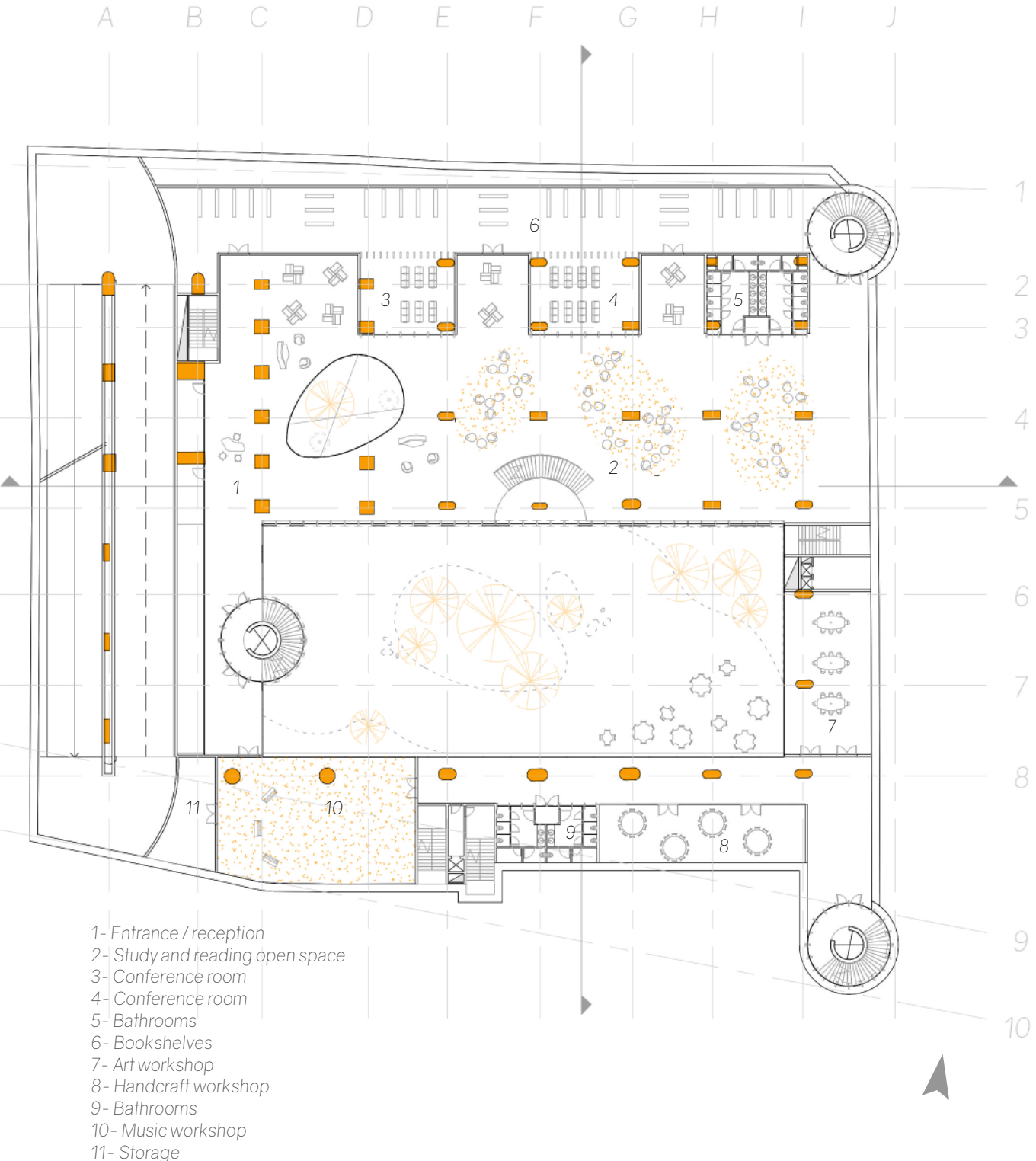


- 1- Entrance hall / Outdoor gallery
- 2- Reception for the cultural center, library and documentation
- 3- Bathrooms
- 4- Administration
- 5- Local merchants store
- 6- Ice cream shop
- 7- Coffee shop
- 8- Local merchants store
- 9- Local merchants store

Basement 1  
Scale 1:500

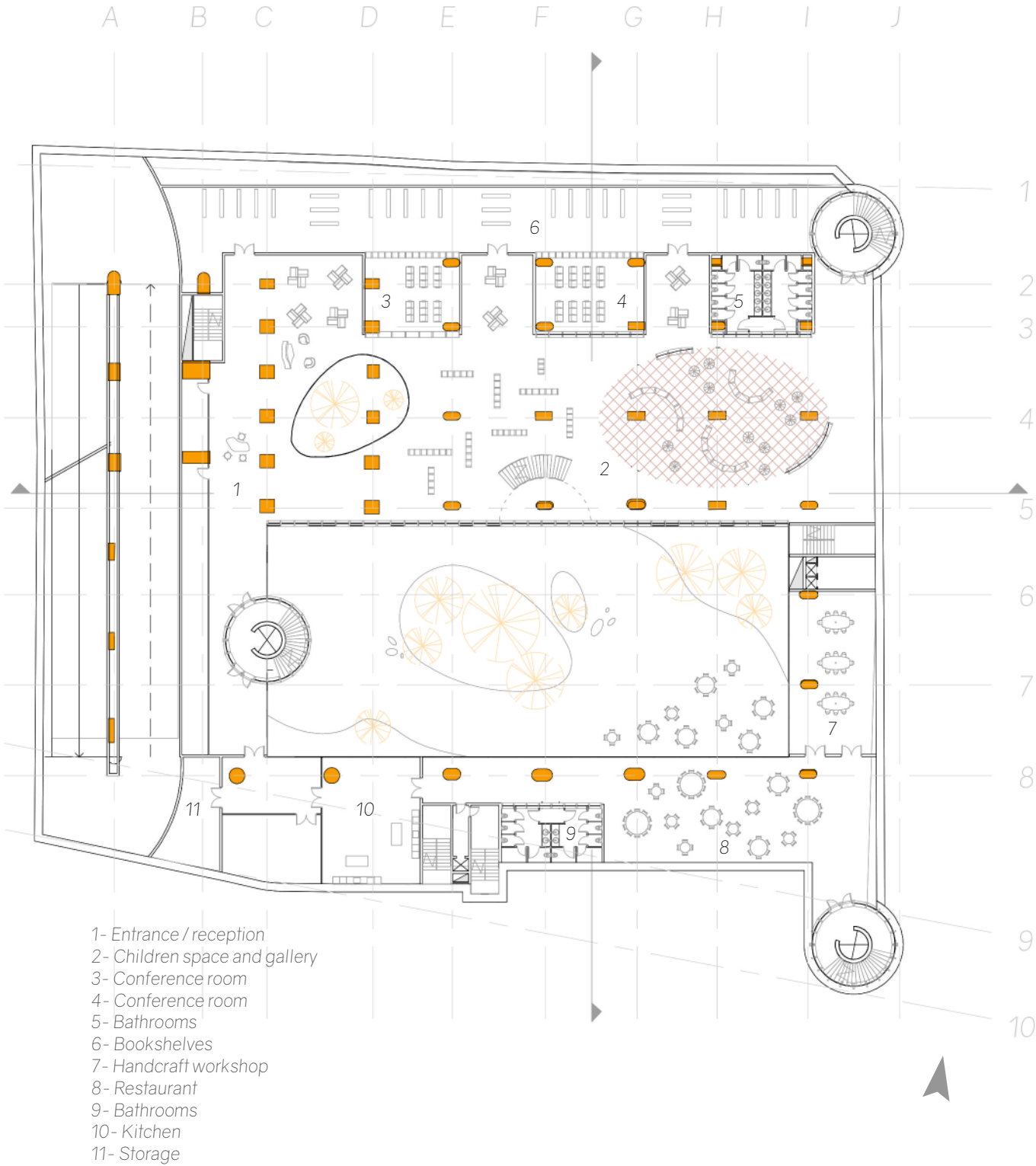


Basement 2  
Scale 1:500





Basement 3  
Scale 1:500

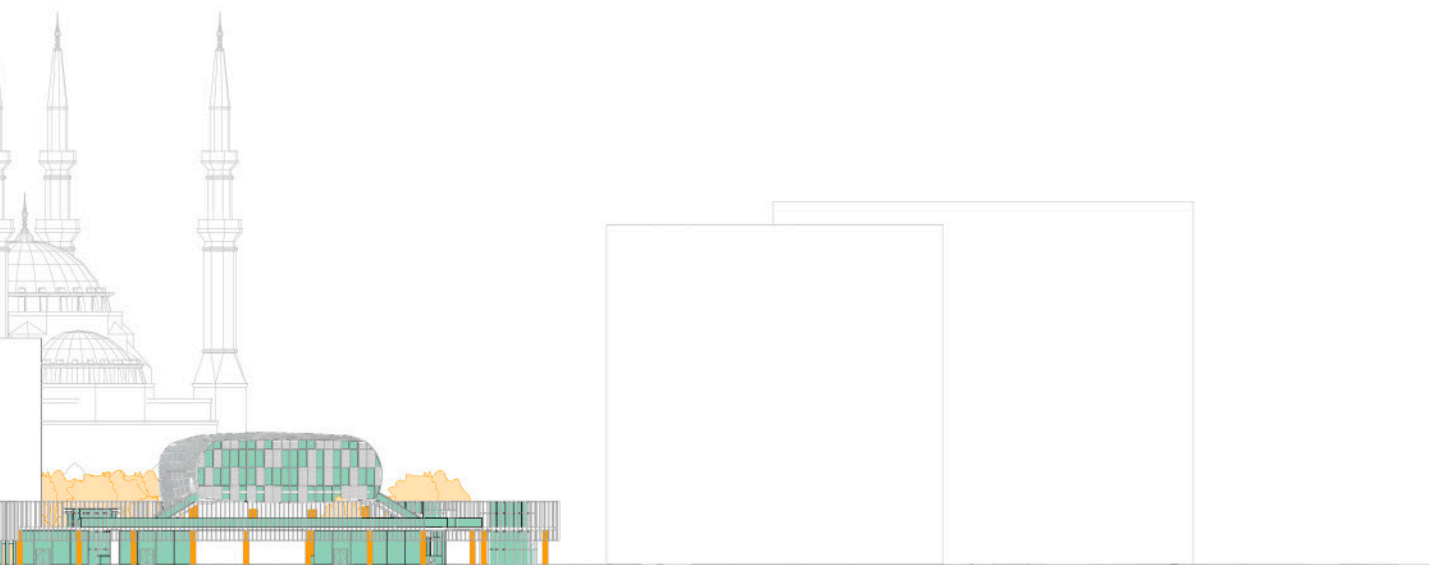
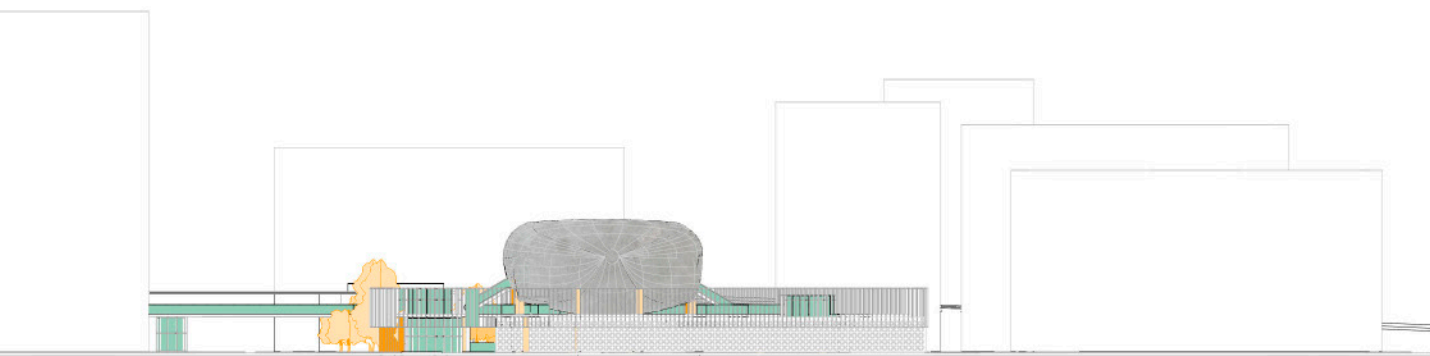


*North facade*  
*Scale 1:1000*



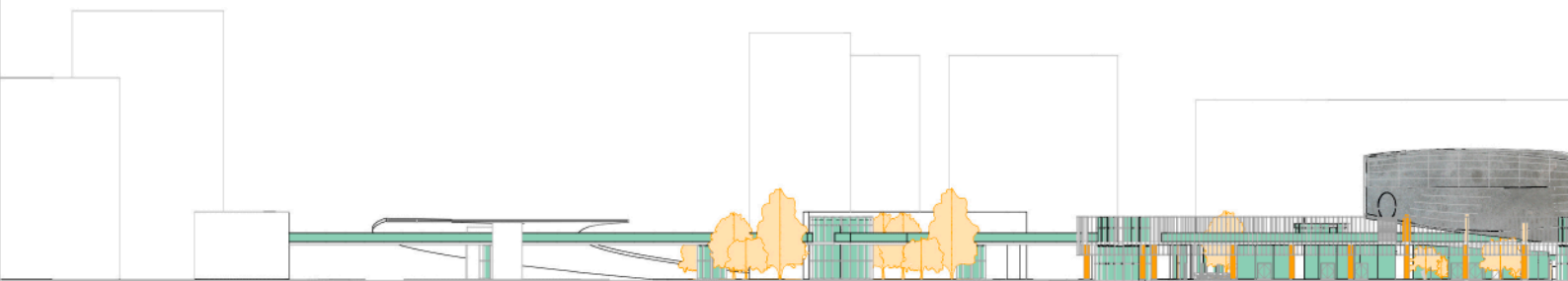
*South facade*  
*Scale 1:1000*





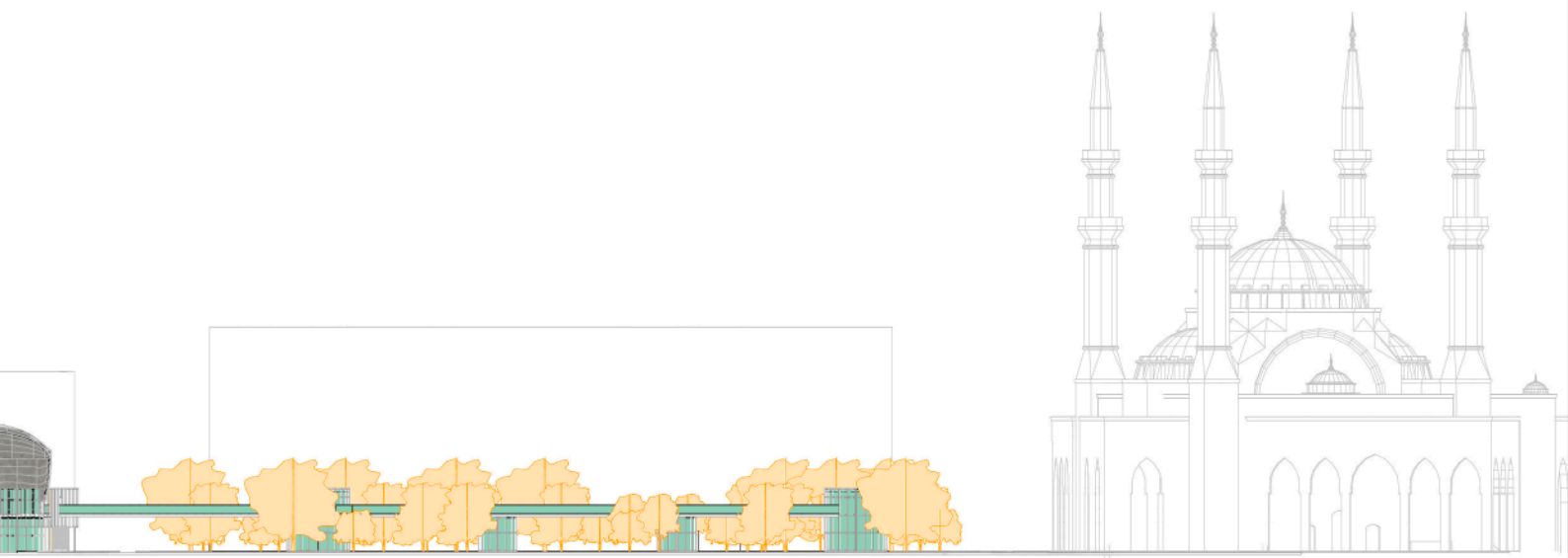


East facade  
Scale 1:1000

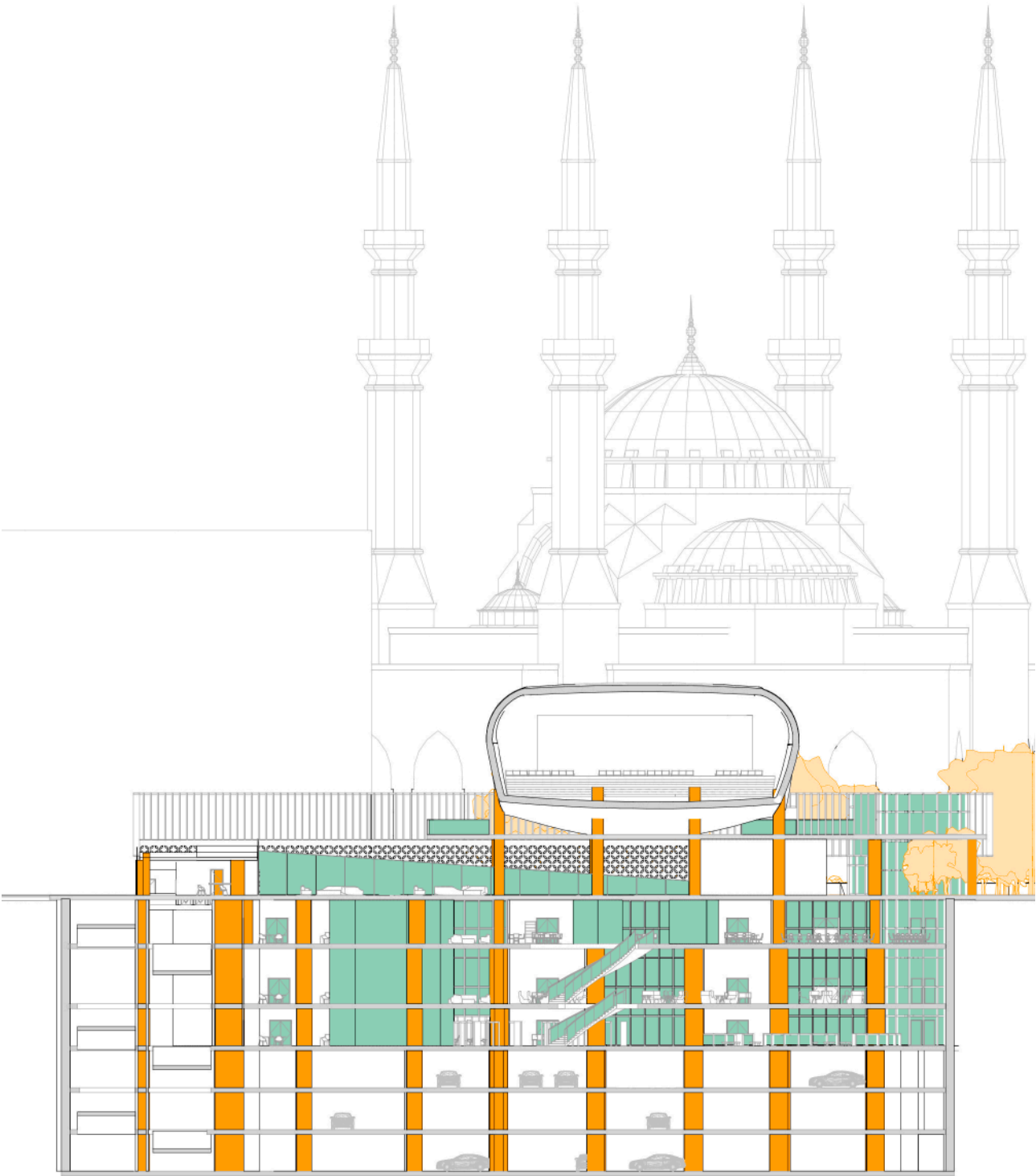


West facade  
Scale 1:1000



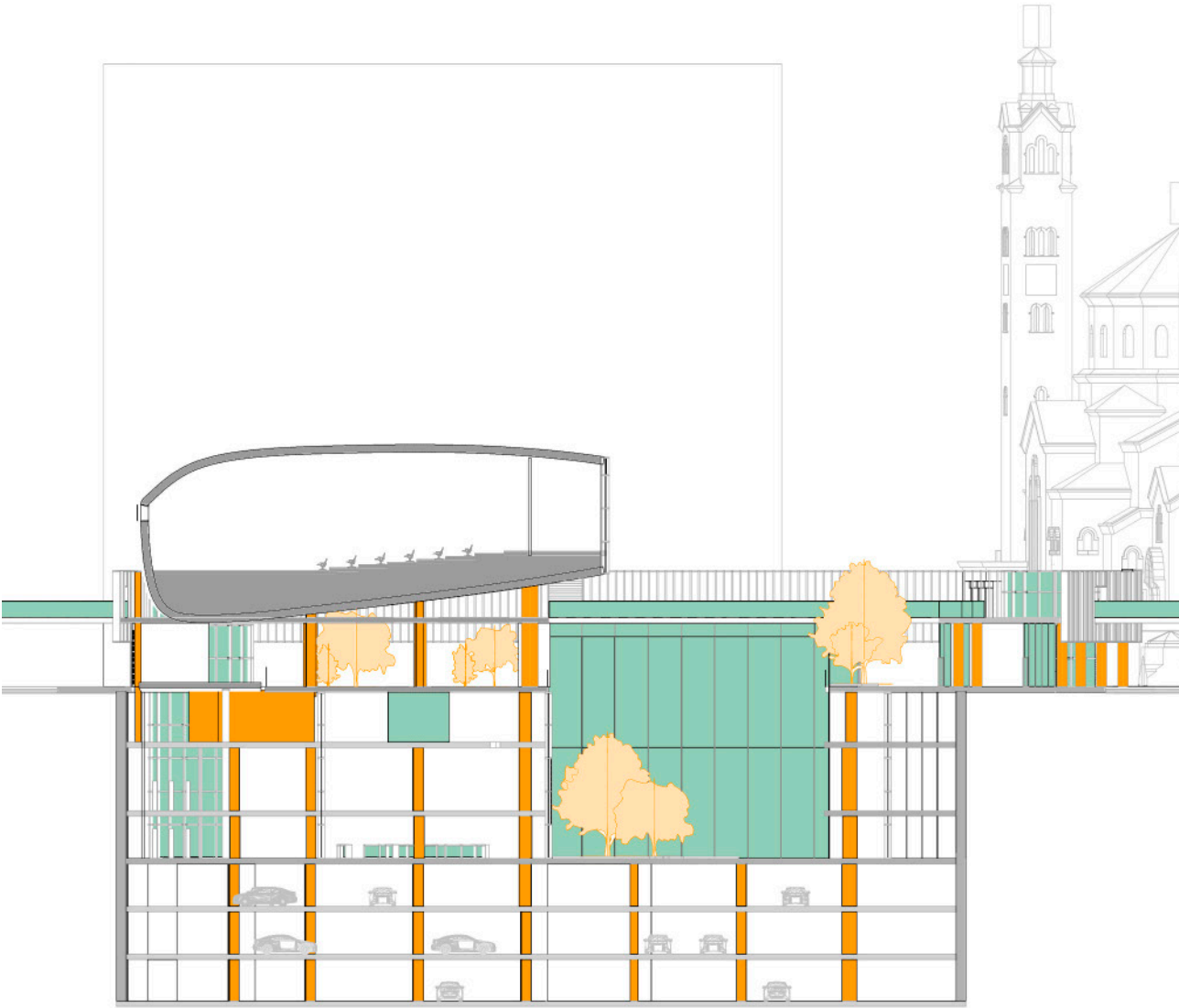


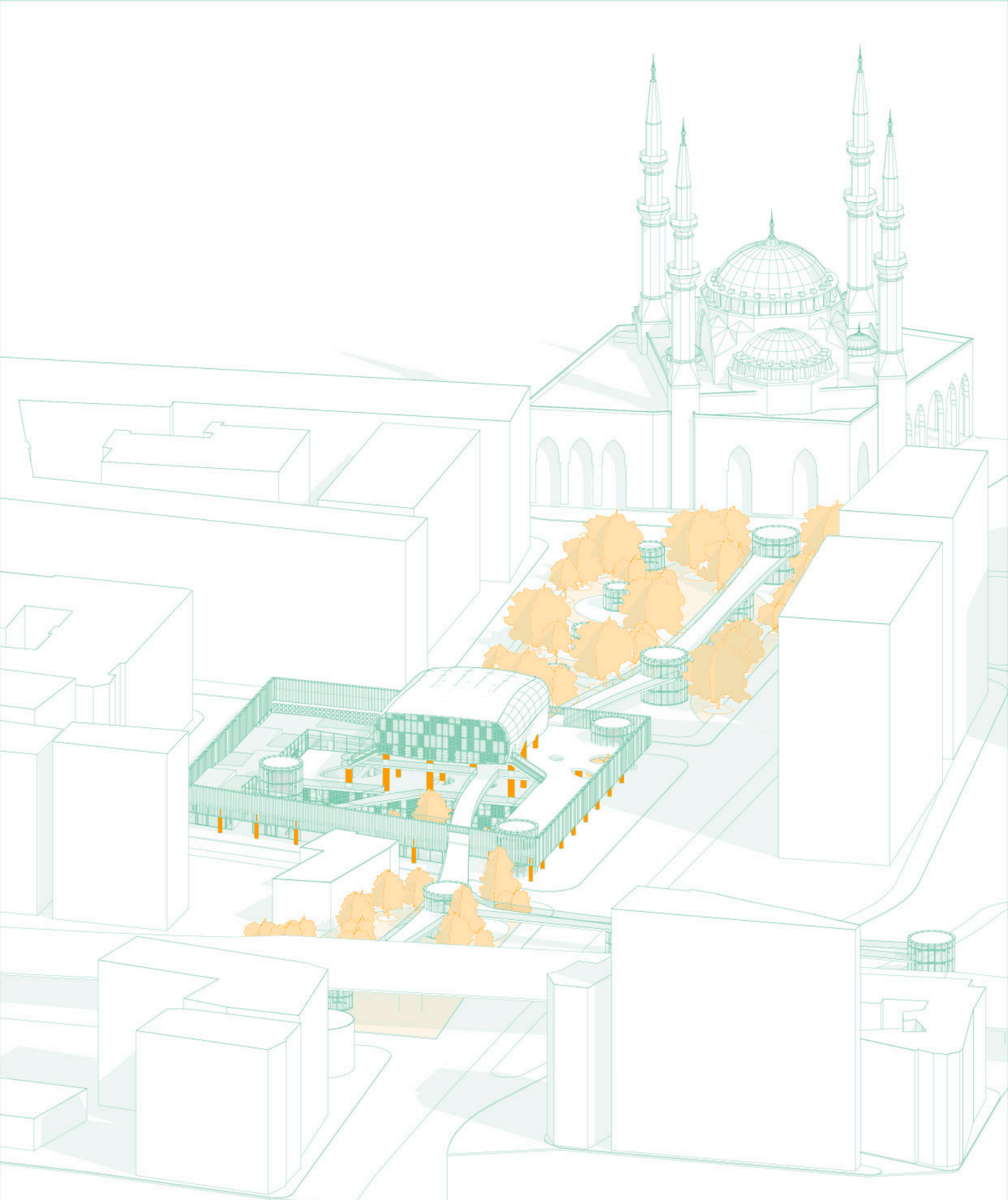
Longitudinal section  
Scale 1:500





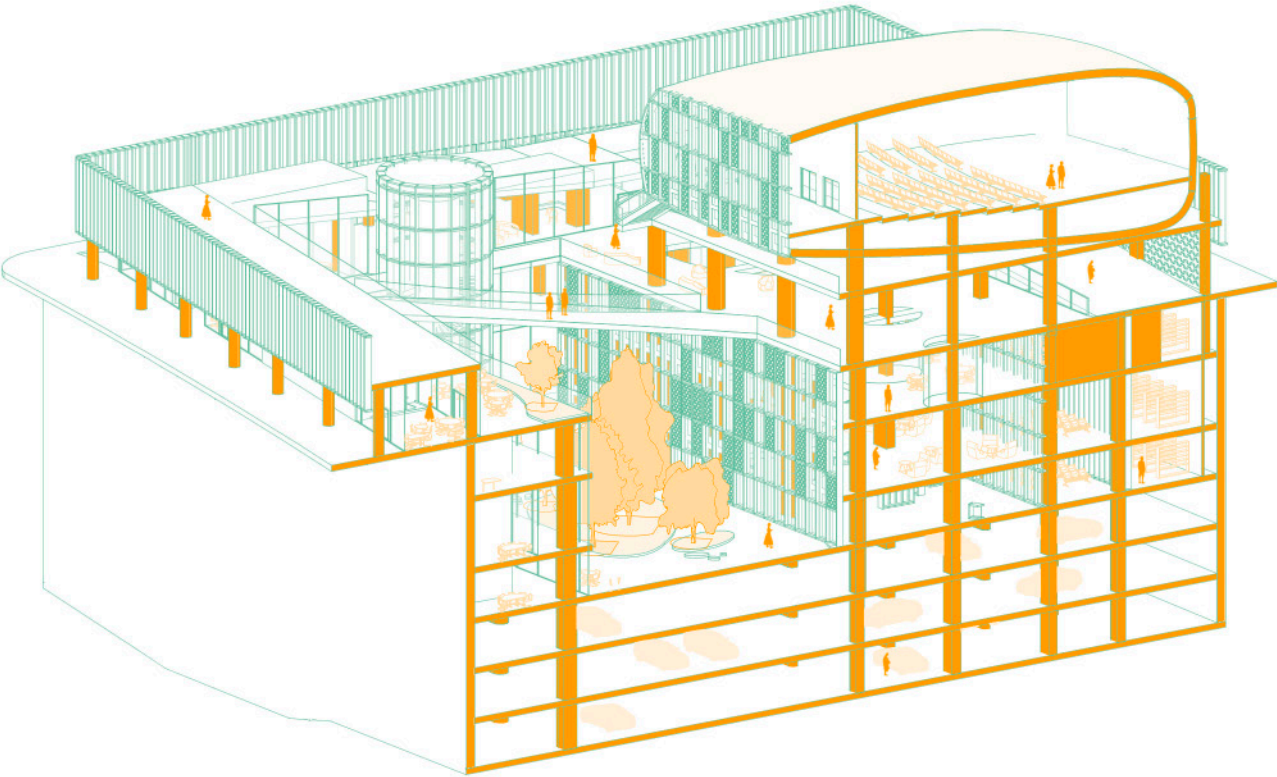
Transversal section  
Scale 1:500



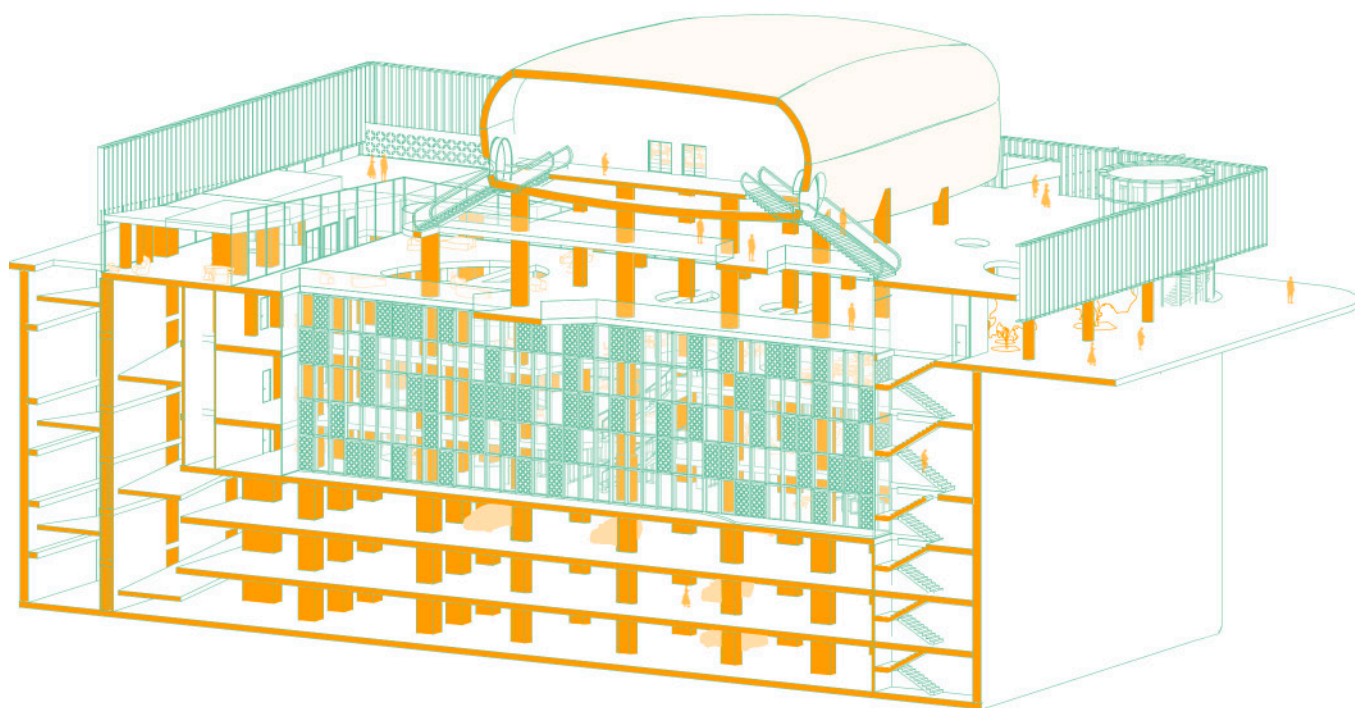


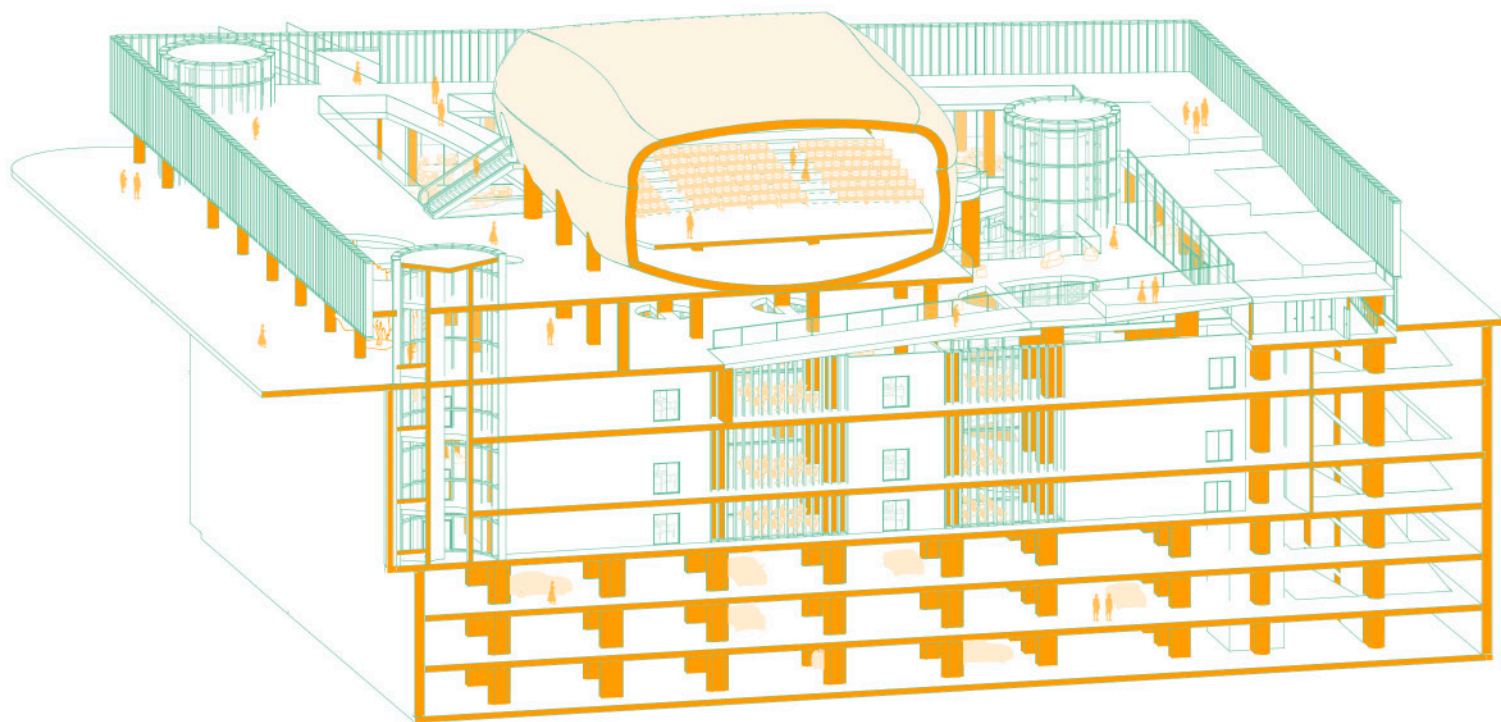
6.4 Project schemes

3D Sections  
Scale 1:500







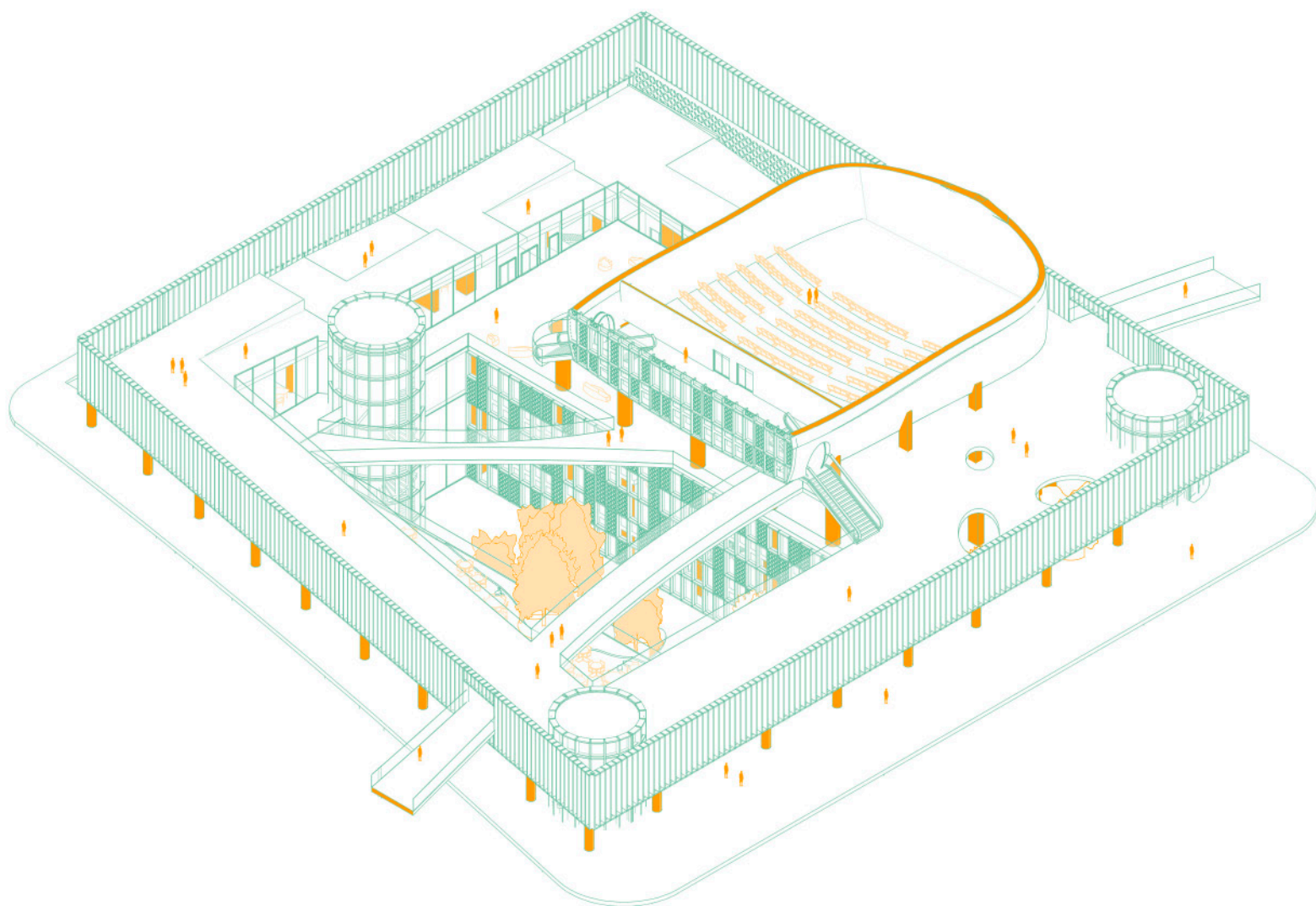




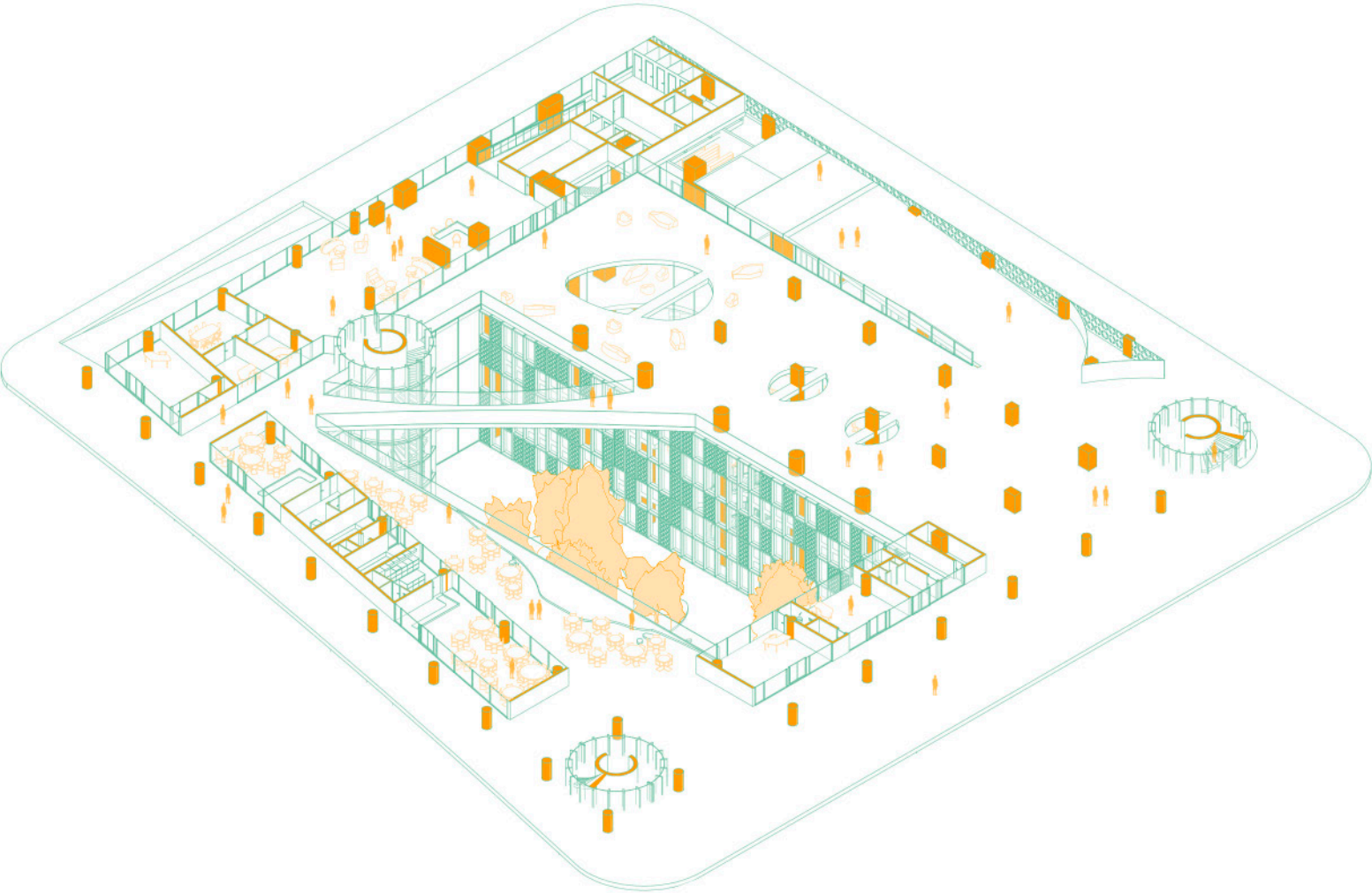


3D Plans

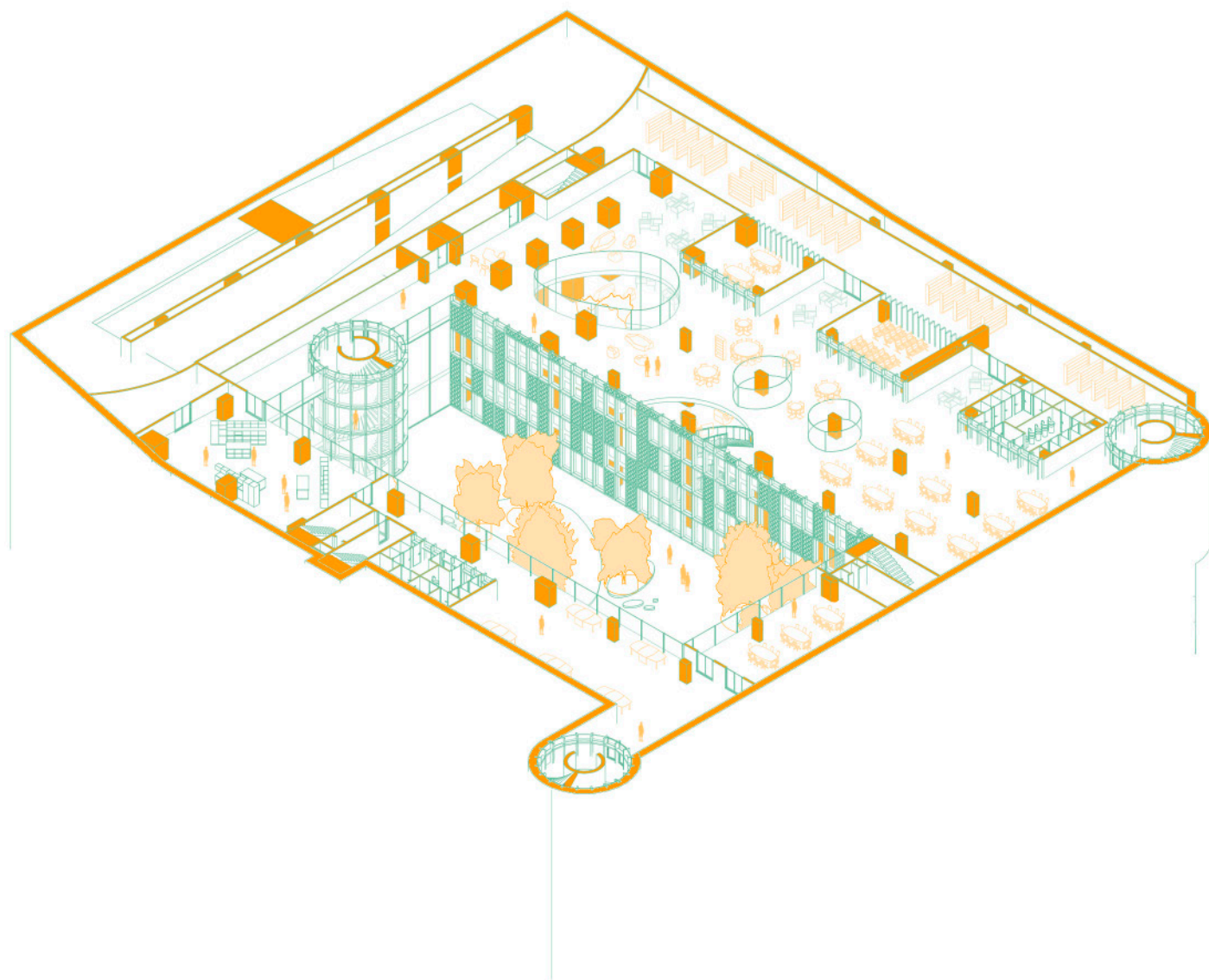
Second Floor  
Scale 1:500



Ground Floor  
Scale 1:500

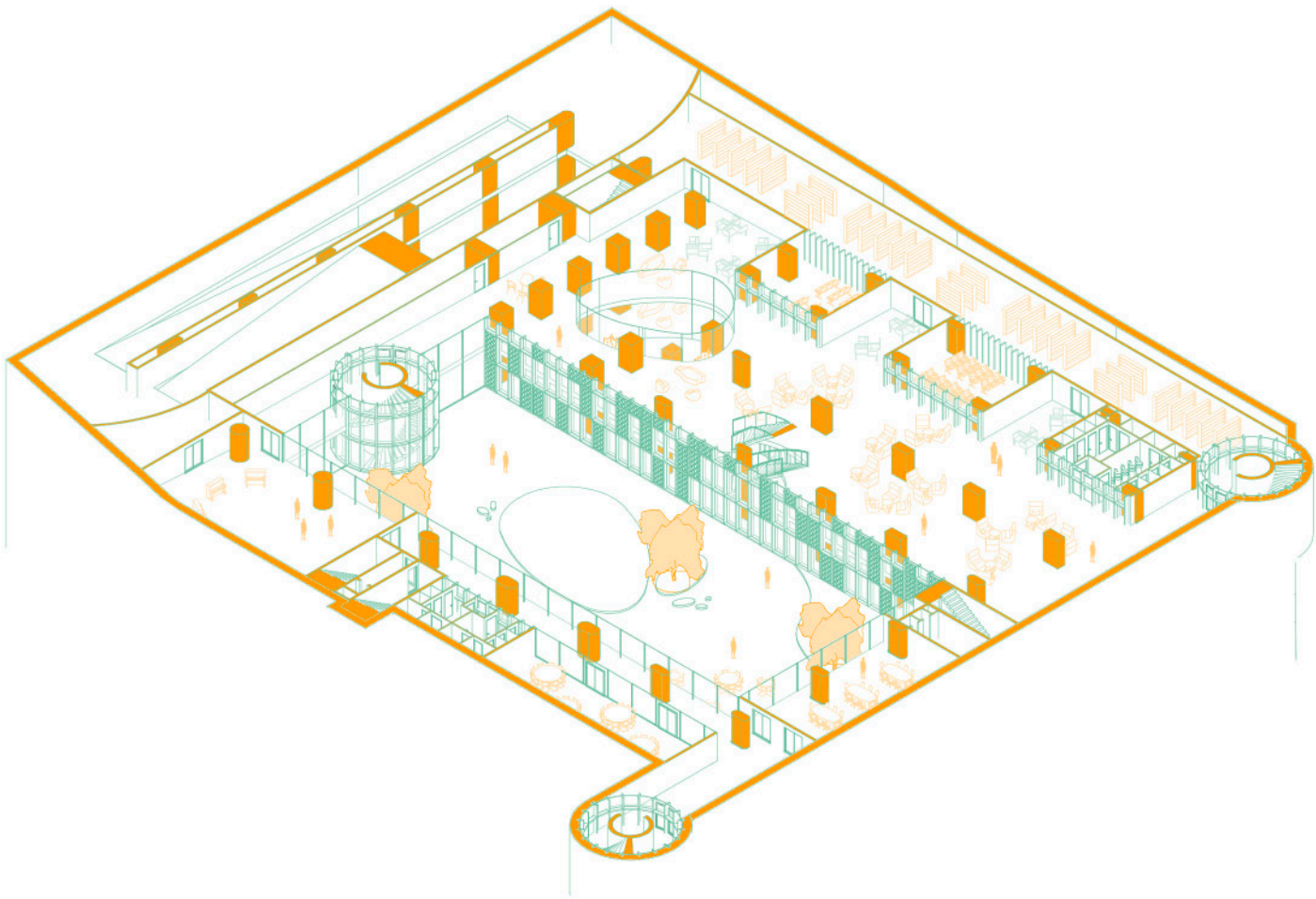


Basement 1  
Scale 1:500

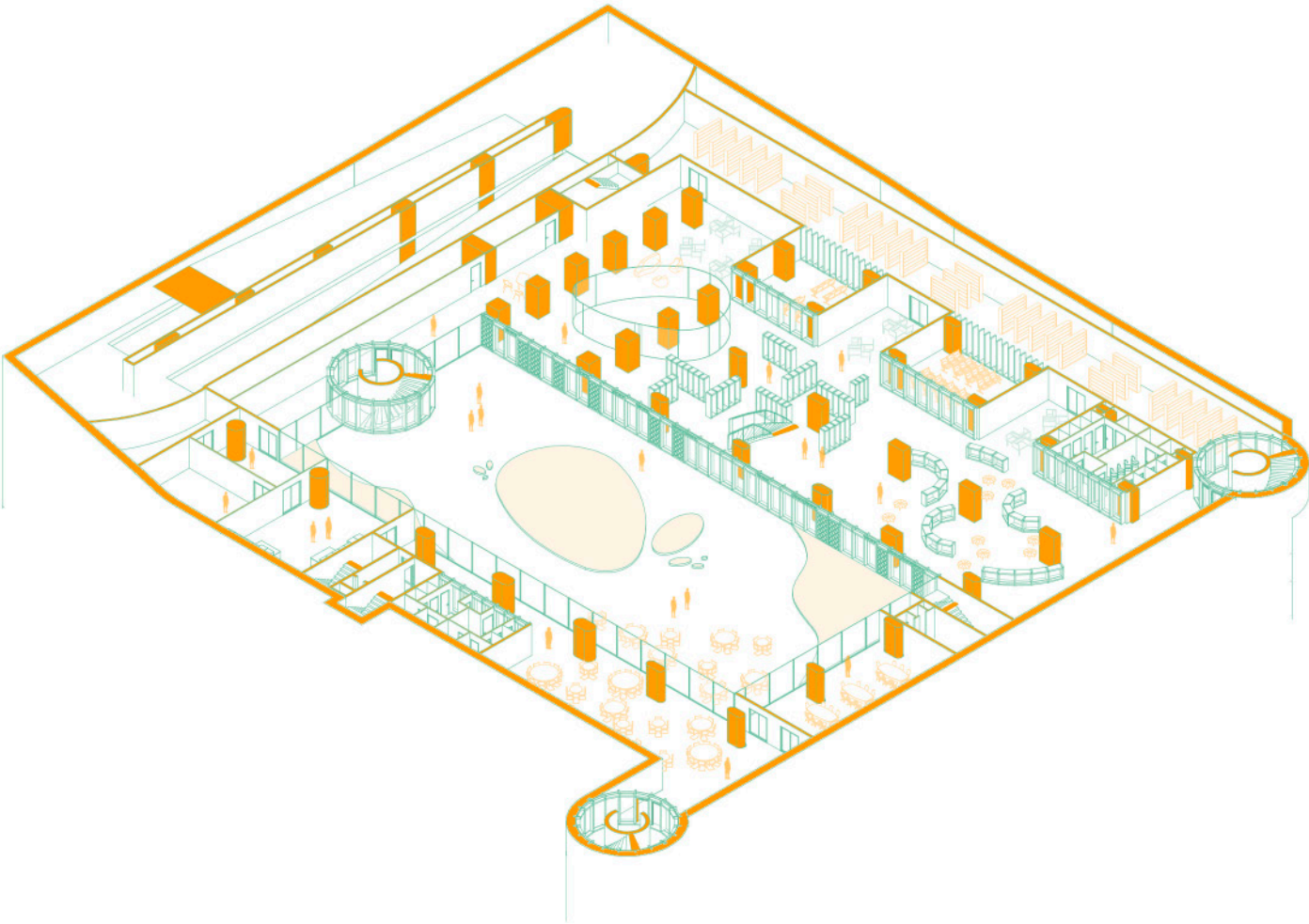




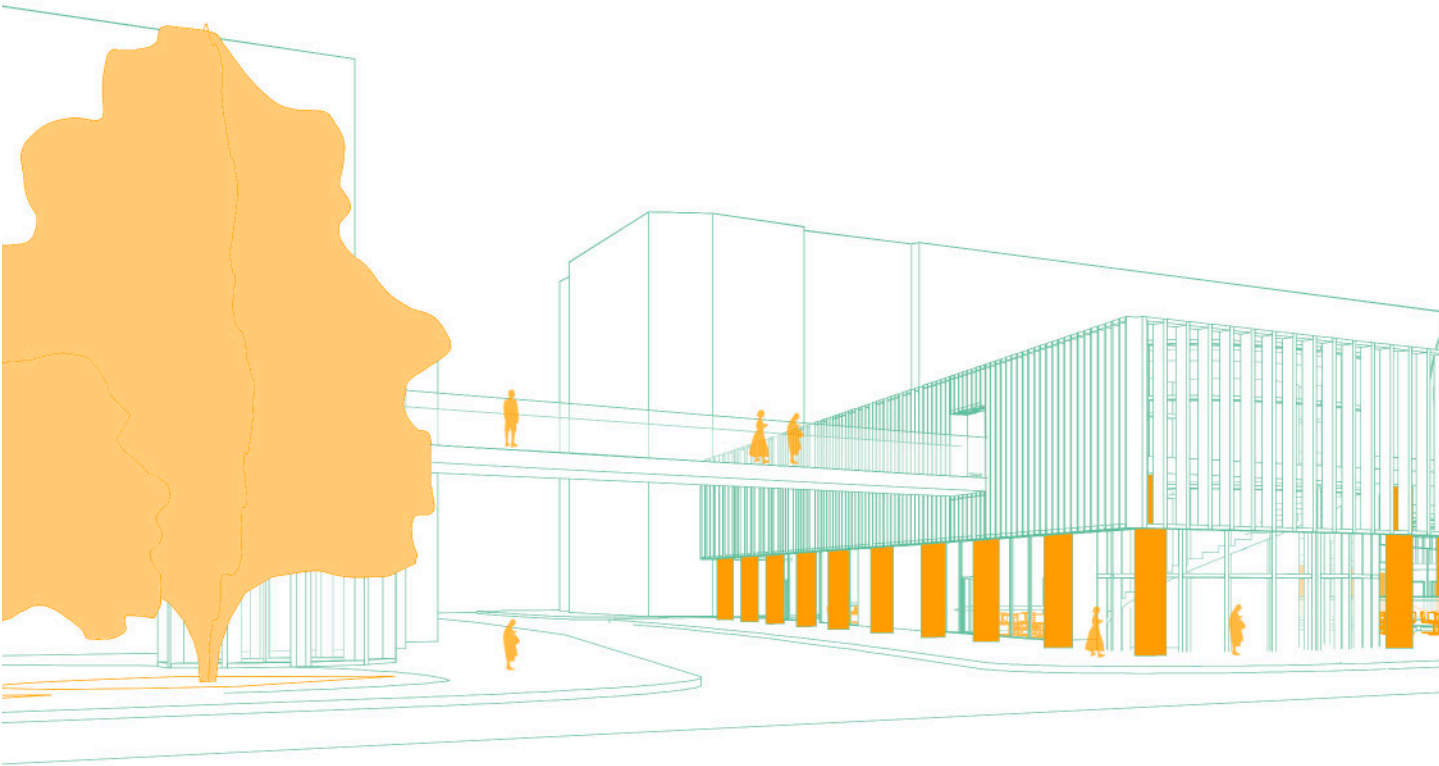
Basement 2  
Scale 1:500



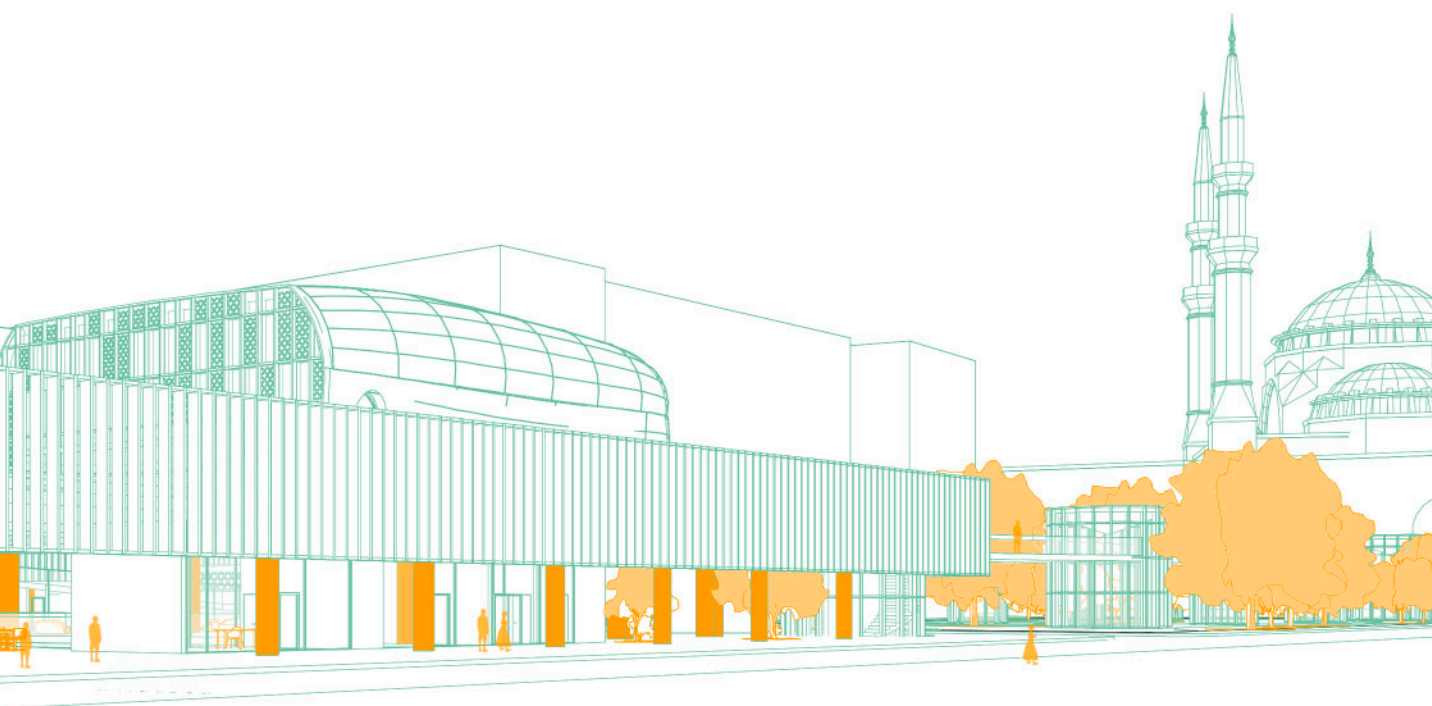
Basement 3  
Scale 1:500

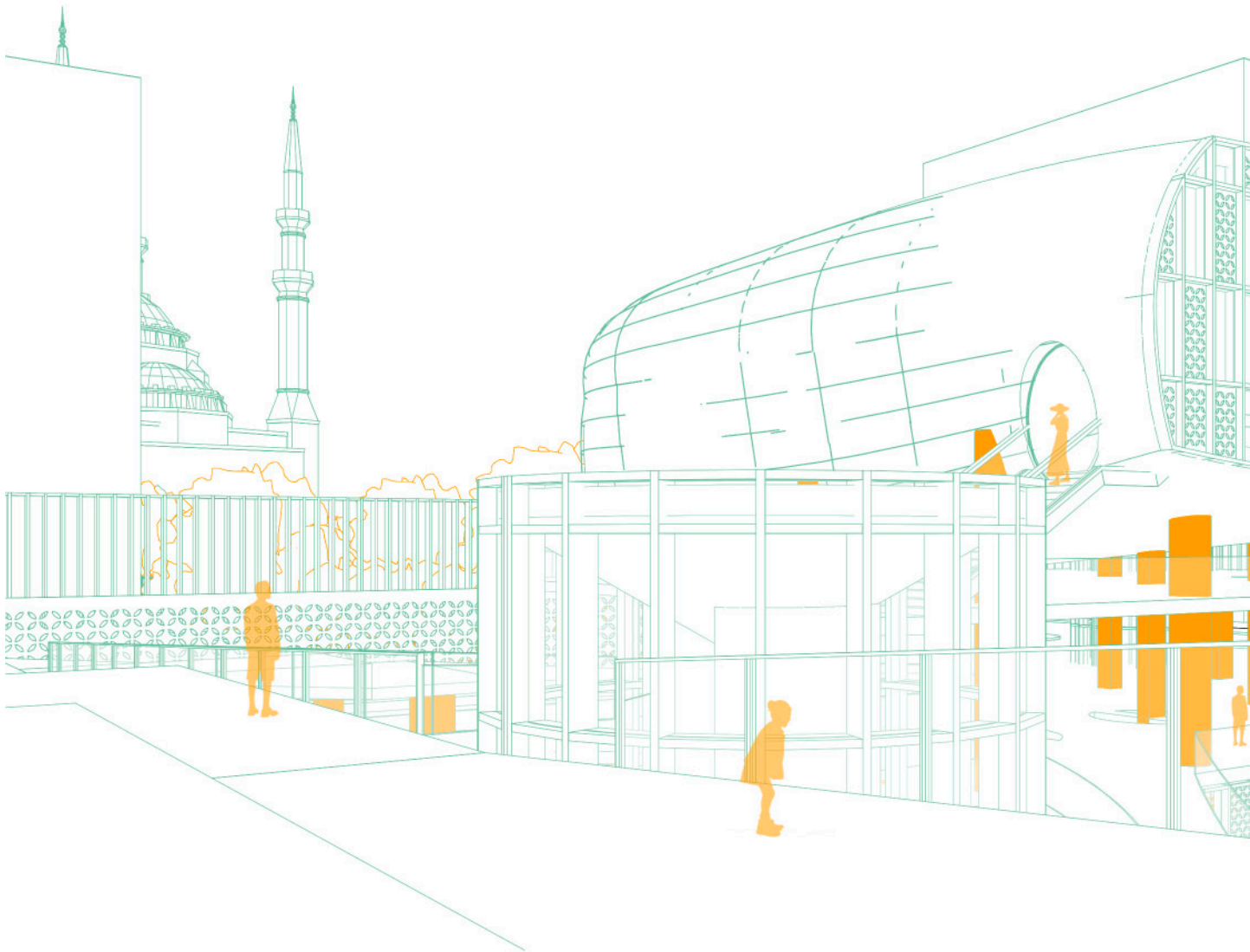


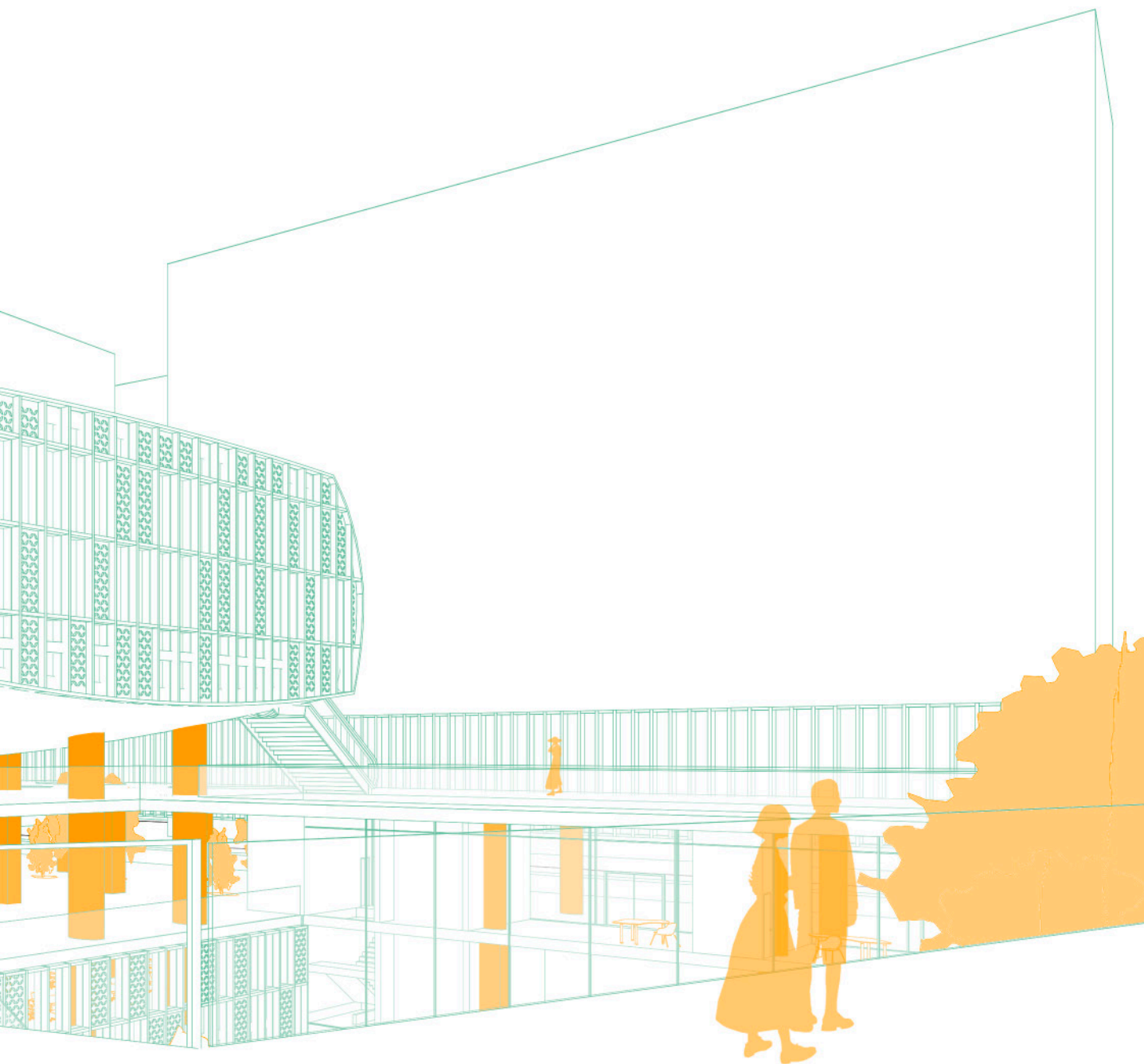
6.5 Project Views





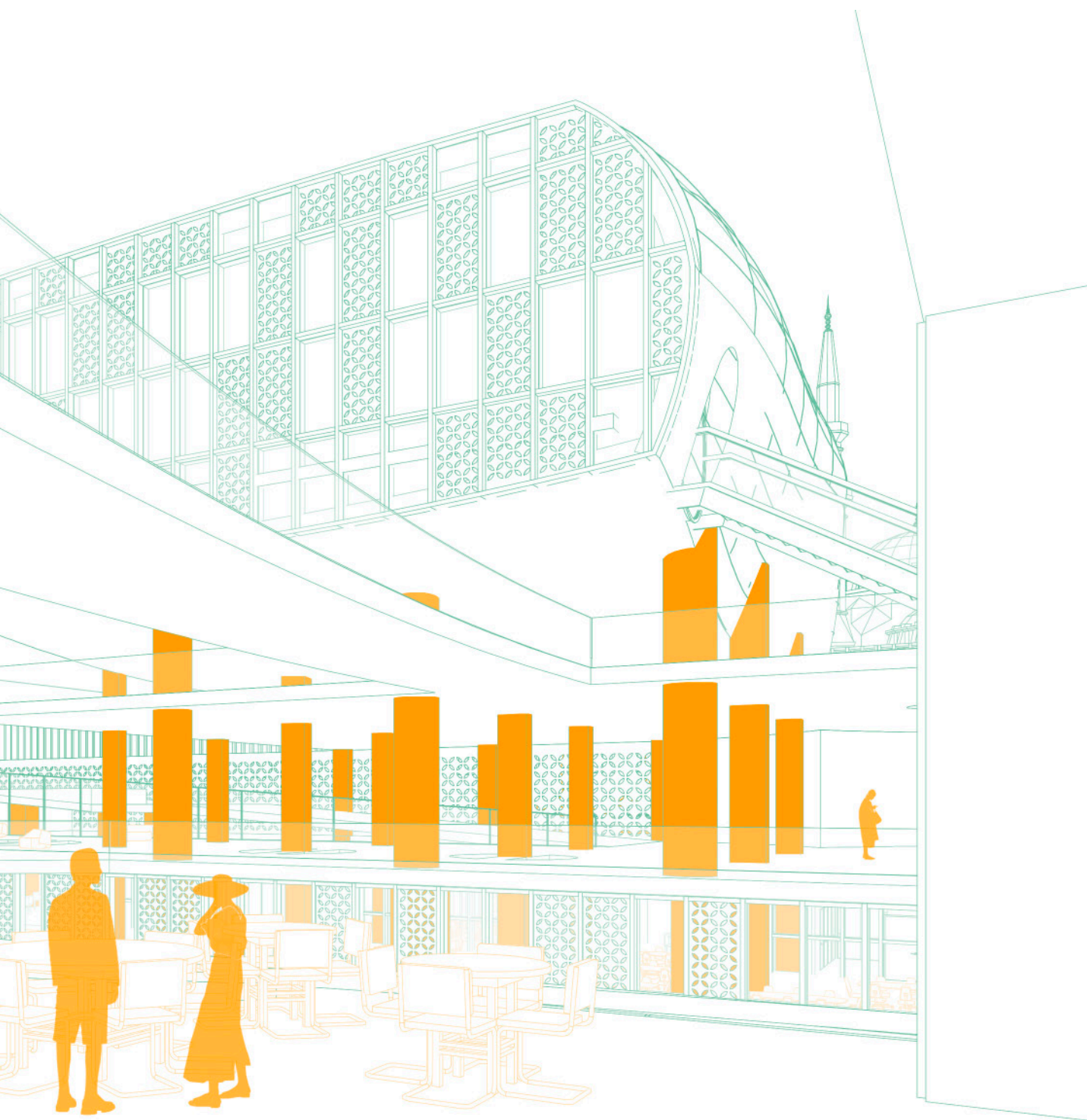










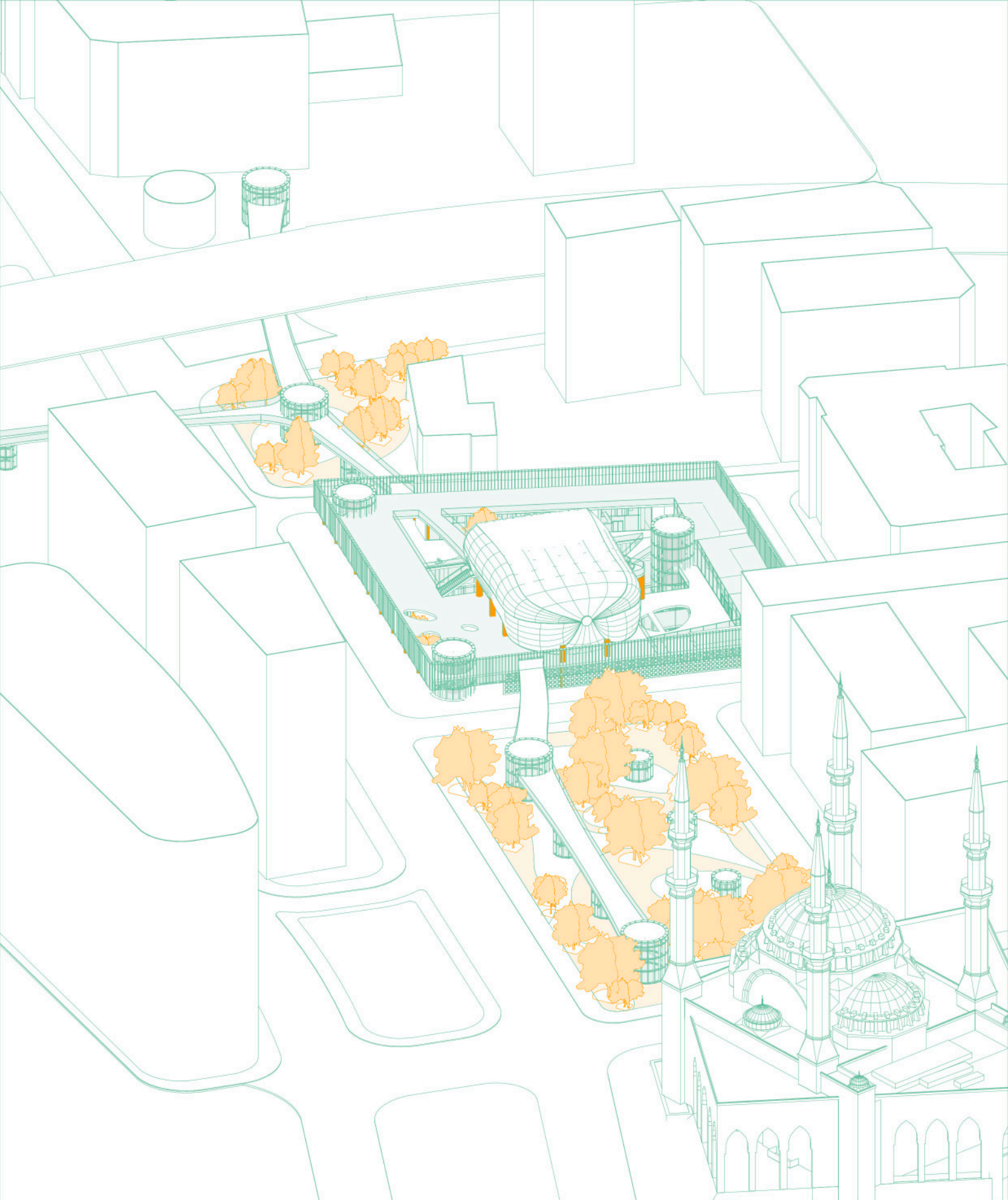








*Internal view of the cultural center, Library and Documentation*



## 6.6 Conclusions

To understand the reasons of our human behavior goes further than what I imagined before starting this thesis; how can we arrive to destruct an entire country and take away lives because of personal interest, power and discrimination between us.

The world is for all of us to joy and to take care of, we cannot still destroy it, climate is changing and future generations are going to pay the consequences of our unlimited consumption; Beirut is a perfect example of regression, we had once a powerful city known all around the middle east and suddenly it was gone; violence, suffering and death were the daily life for many people for fifteen years and what came after wasn't a solution for people but to economy and rich companies that got richer with war while all the civilians had lost it all.

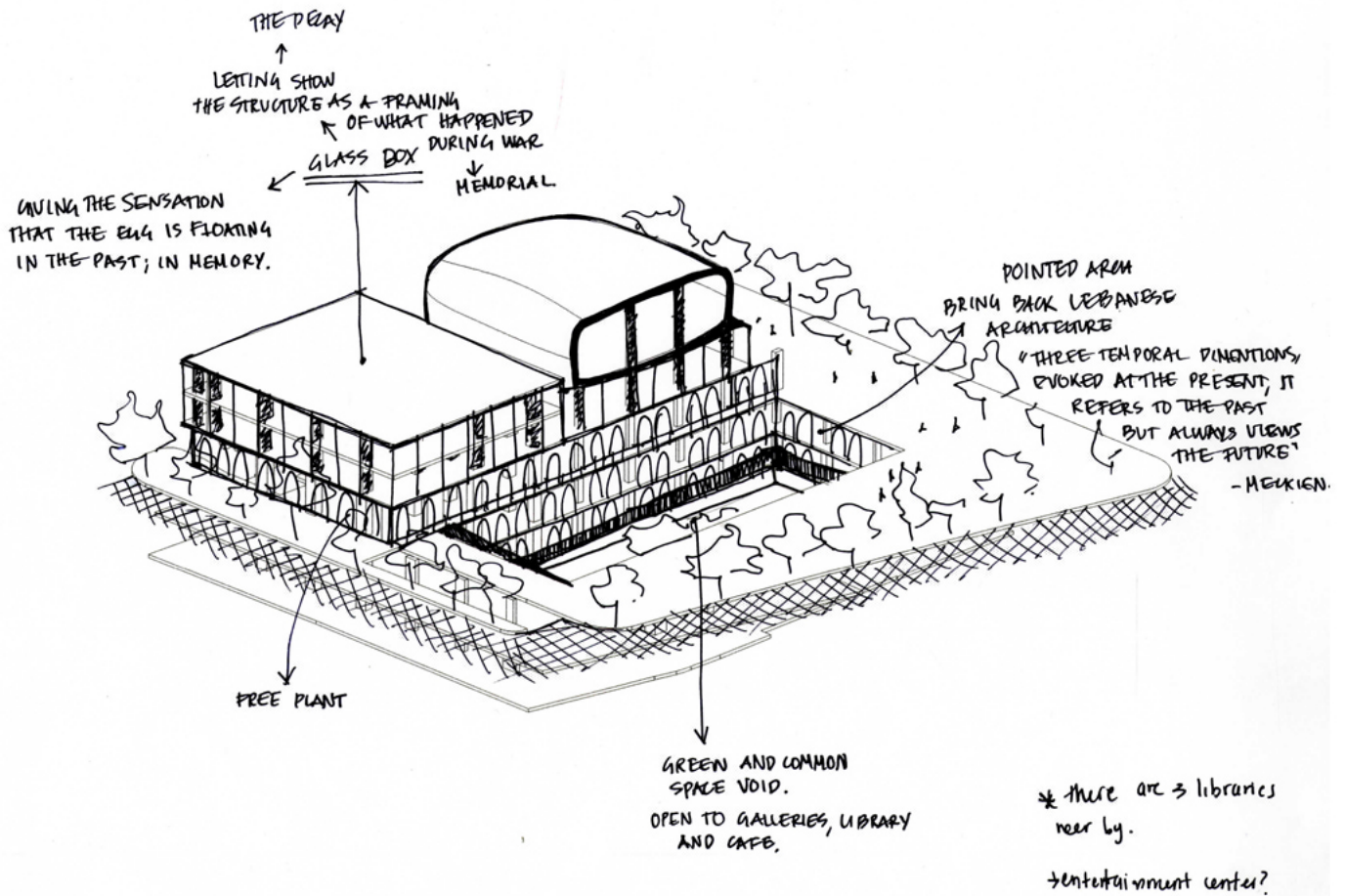
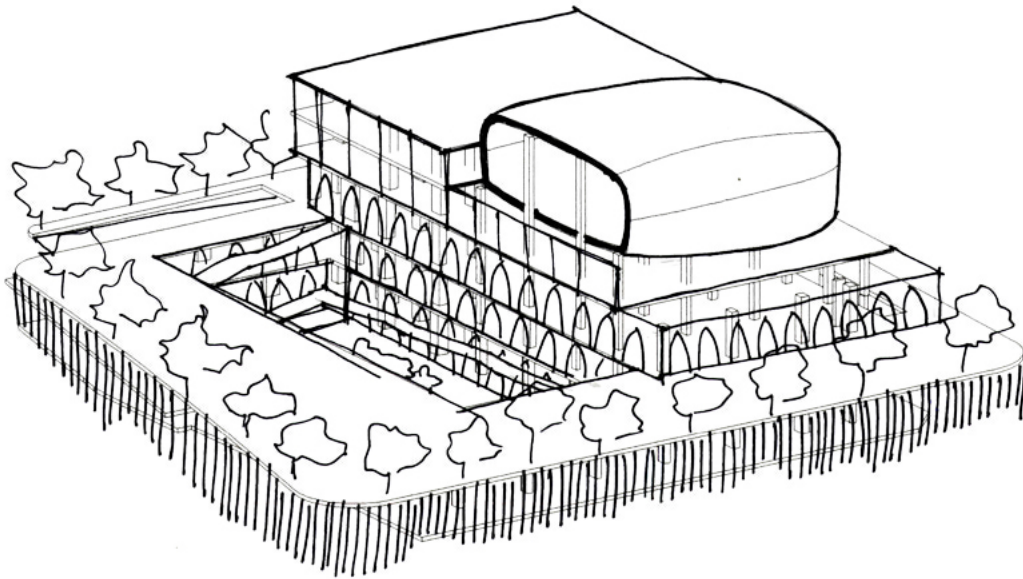
The main goal of this project is to bring back the idea of the golden age of Beirut, recycling and recovering the old Beirut City Center building (The Egg) that had remained in ruins still standing as an icon of the city.

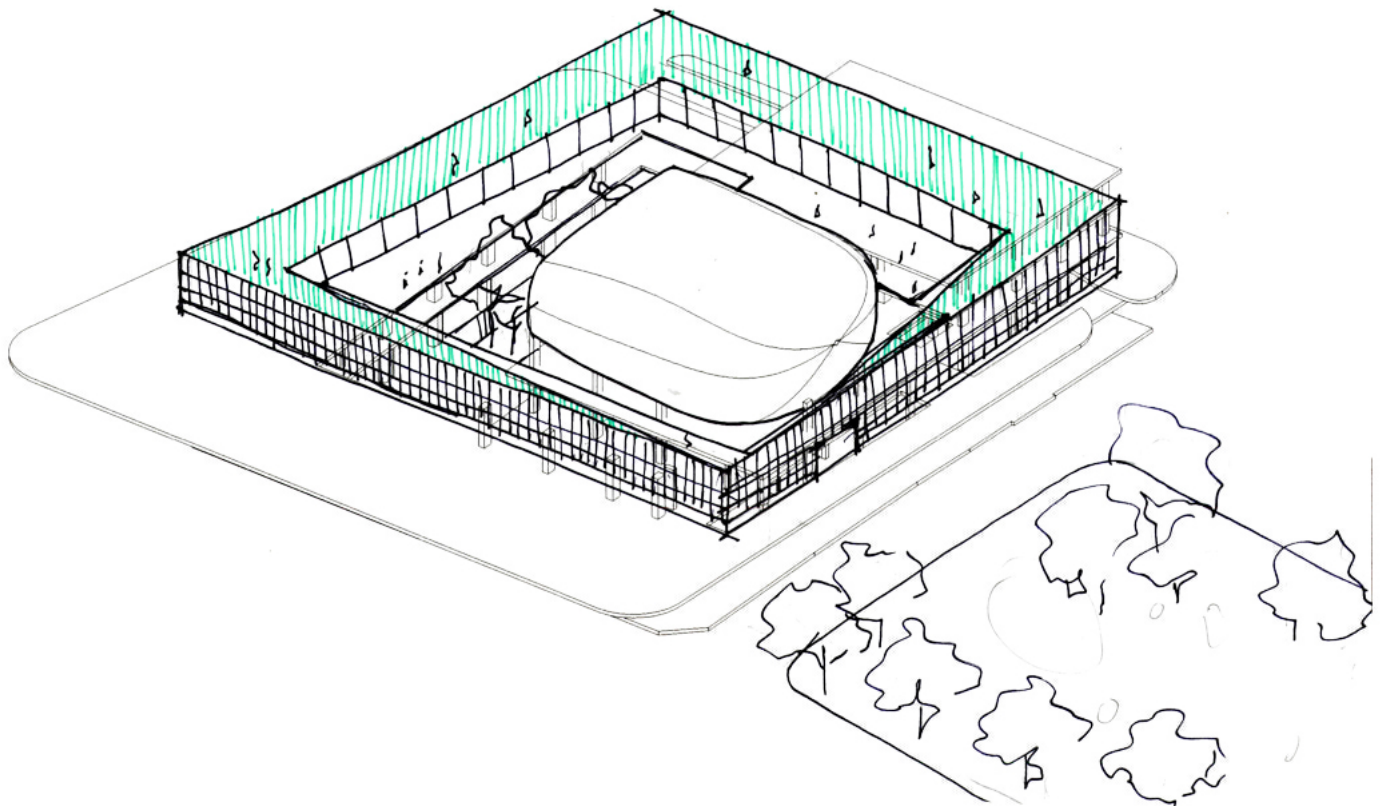
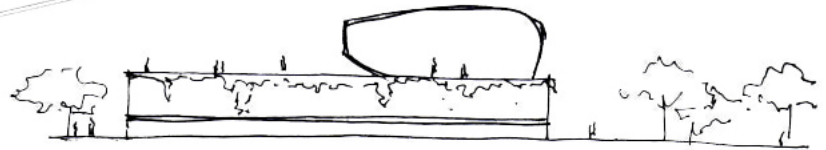
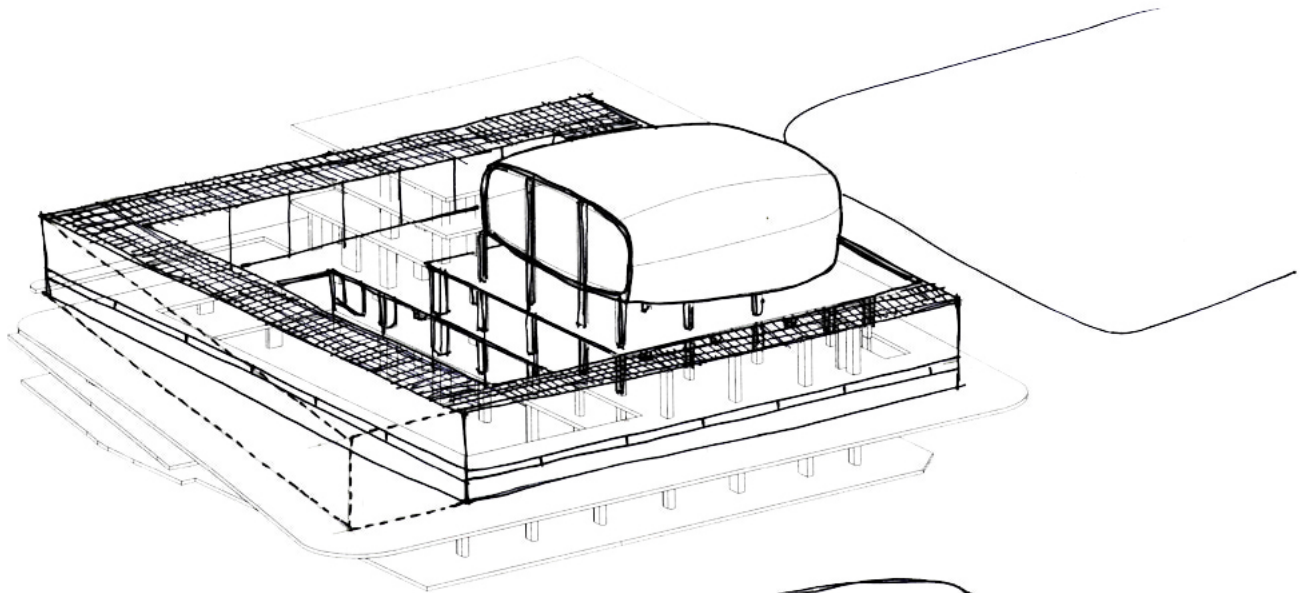
This project is a statement to a foreign context and to claim that the city center belongs to Lebanese and is open for all, not exclusive, not discriminative and not private.

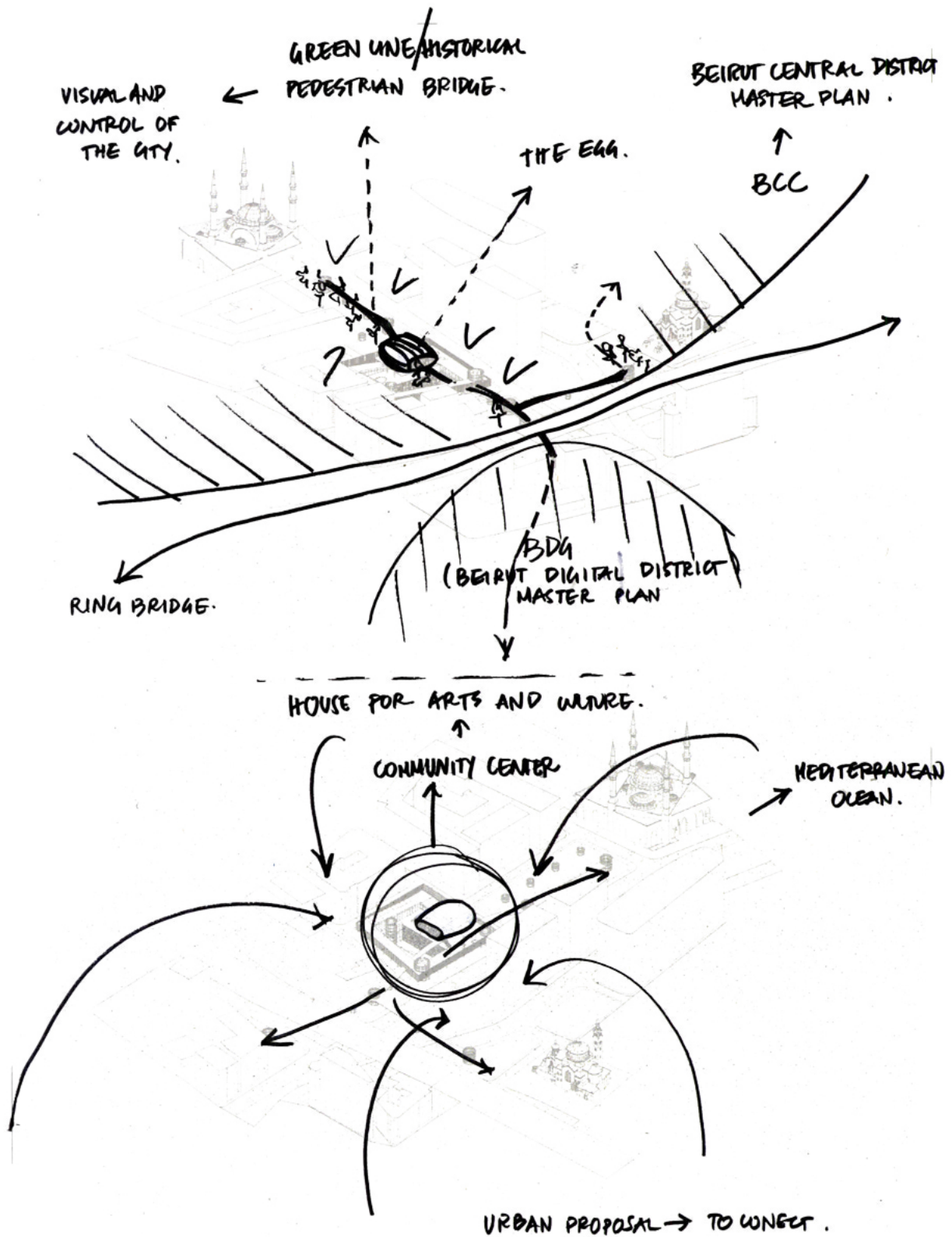
Destruction is unsustainable and our duty is to try to affect as less as possible the environment; the solution of this project was to recover an important building as it is the egg, a complex that was full of pain and historical meaning and to change the way we see it and transform and remember civil war as something that had passed and that we still remain with the chance to progress, to evolve and to develop.



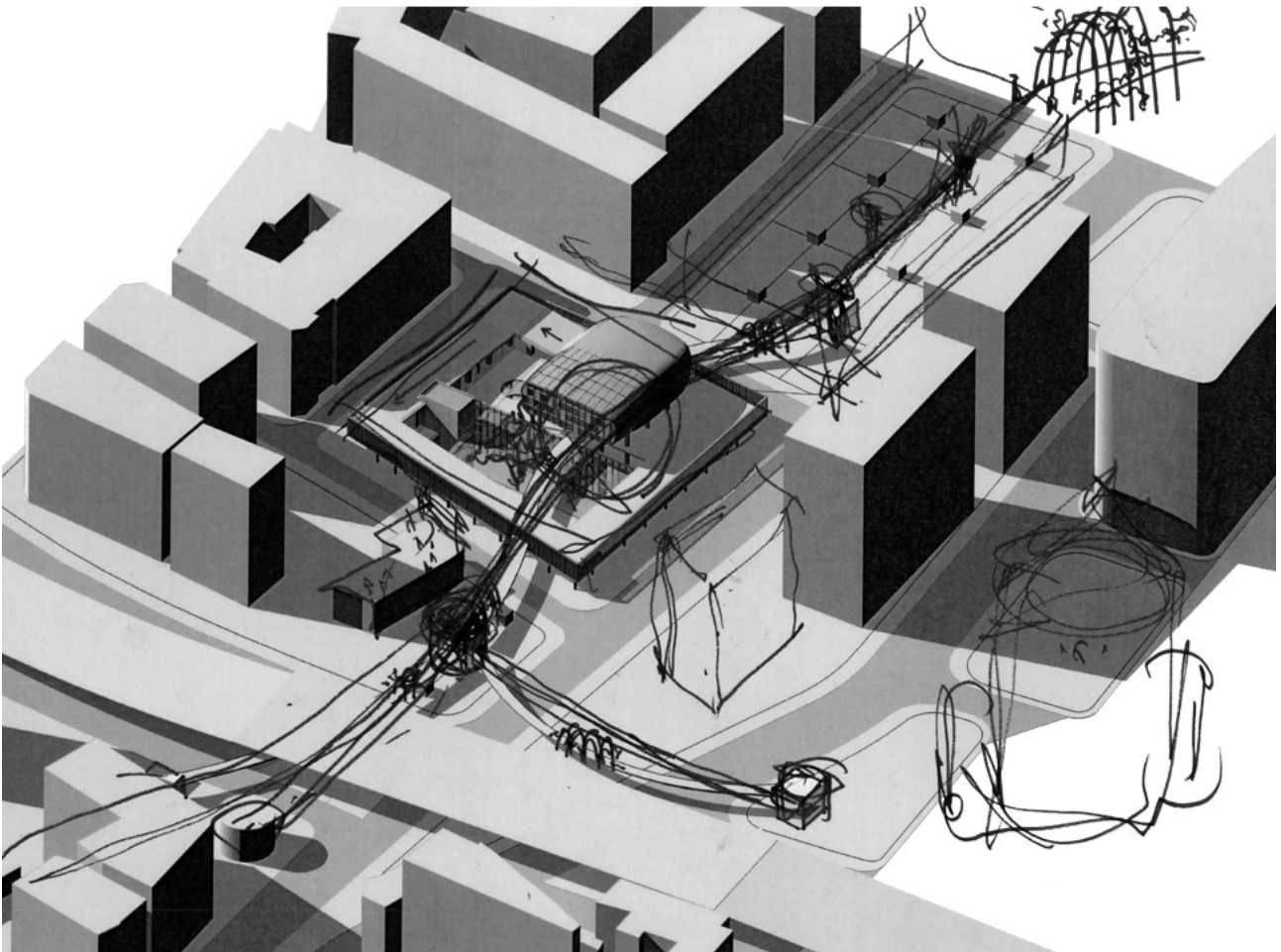
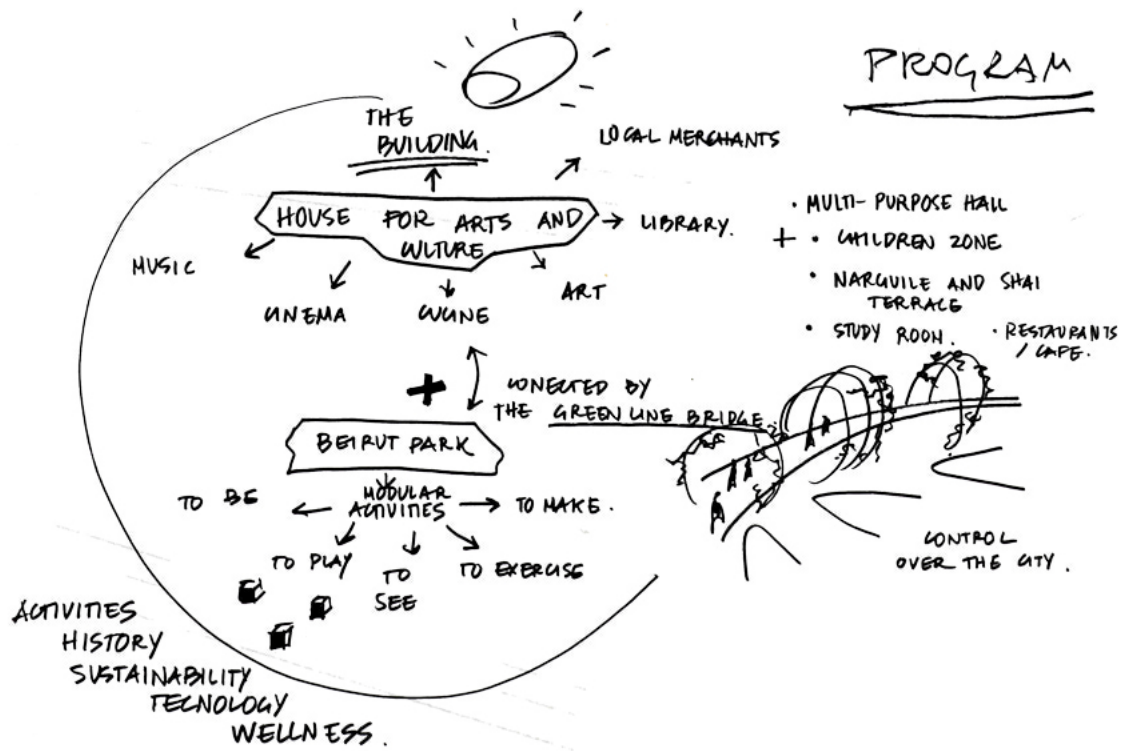
## 6.7 The Process

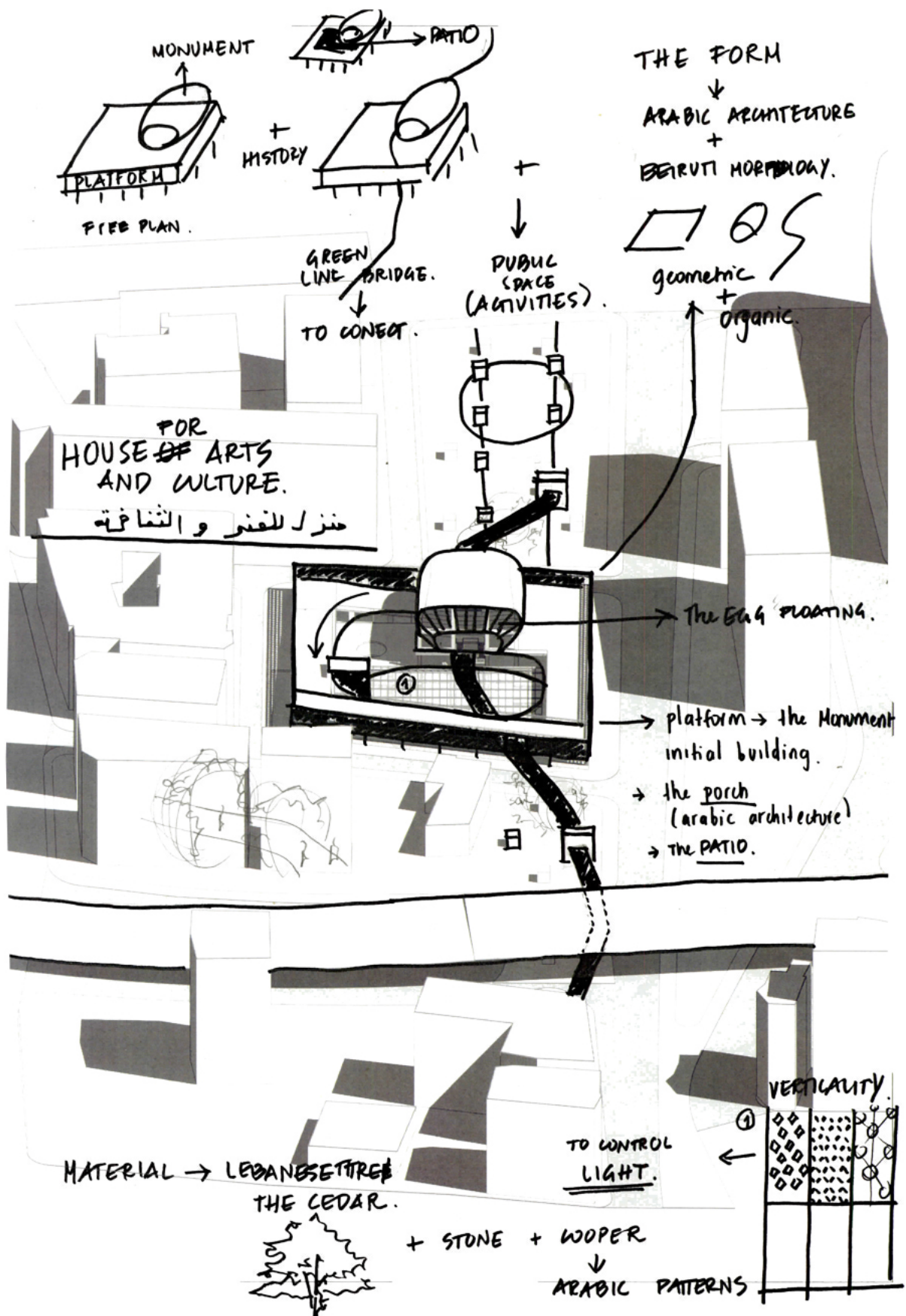


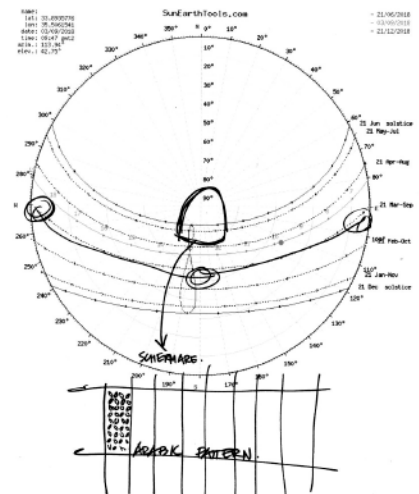
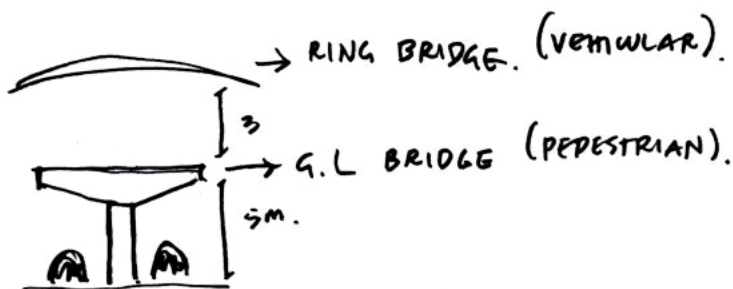
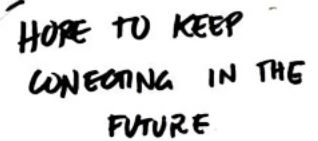
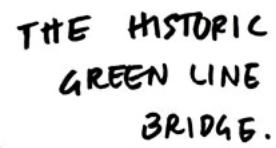














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