

BRPI [The Beirut River: Portrait & Injection]

The organization / network / individual applying:	Studio Madane
Title of intervention:	The Beirut River: Portrait & Injection
Time of intervention (start-end):	July 2022 – November 2022
Geographical area of the intervention:	Beirut, Lebanon
Organization Contact	studiomadane@gmail.com , 81004834
Contact person:	Nader Akoum, Initiator of Studio Madane
E-mail, telephone:	naderakoum@hotmail.com , 76792161

Project Research Question

Does reform, the promise of Lebanon's 'leaders,' affect people's political decision-making when it arrives from a political alternative?

Narrative

The current political class has not changed in Lebanon for the past 30 years [Dr Lina Khatib, Lebanon's Politics and Politicians] and, with that, the living conditions continue to deteriorate. Despite that, affiliations to the same leaders persist because of the many promises they continue to make. Can providing these people an effective and useful alternative alter their affiliations? Can direct reform, perhaps civic reform in their neighborhoods, affect their political decision-making?

The Karantina - Nahr Beirut - Bourj Hammoud radius is a socially, demographically, ethnically, economically, environmentally, and politically controversial area. It is a radius that picks up a fraction of the capital Beirut, and a fraction of its northern suburbs [local christians, local muslims, and non-locals [Harake, Nabaa Neighborhood Profile, Bourj Hammoud, Beirut]. This ground provides multidisciplinary research the richness that it requires.

The approach towards this study is a prototype that can be implemented in different contexts in Lebanon to retrieve answers to the same question. This project is conducted by Studio Madane's multidisciplinary approach towards socio-political reform, meaning the job will happen transversely across some different schools of thought, fields of work, and diverse outcomes.

Bibliography

- Dr Lina Khatib Director. "Lebanon's Politics and Politicians." *Chatham House – International Affairs Think Tank*, 25 Jan. 2022, <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/08/lebanons-politics>.
- Author(s) Harake. "Nabaa Neighbourhood Profile, Bourj Hammoud, Beirut." *Nabaa Neighbourhood Profile, Bourj Hammoud, Beirut | Urban Response Portal*, 1 Mar. 2017,

<https://www.urban-response.org/help-library/nabaa-Neighbourhood-profile-bourj-hammoud-beirut>.

BRPI's Goals

- Increase interest and findings for underserved Karantina-NahrBeirut-Bourj Hammoud radius
- Rely on action models and methodological workflows to achieve research, field work, and design
- Generate mappings that convey the dire predominant socio political reality
- Compile quantitative and qualitative information, at the scale of the project, that attests to the observations made
- Extract needs of residents by field work and documented conversations
- Suggest a civic reform proposal that is based on residents' urgent needs
- Define how the suggested civic reform can be scaled and constructed using technical tools
- Create a tool that, if implemented, could reconnect citizen to municipality
- Develop action models and diagrams of workflow to represent methodology
- Propose projects and tools to focus groups that are communicated with to retrieve personal answers to research question

Studio Madane's Goals

- Involving the Lebanese youth in tangible reform and the hands-on assessment of sectors/ causes/ sites/ issues that are under-maintained and/ or neglected by the corrupt ruling class
- Coining a new practice-based and result-oriented working methodology in sociopolitics that achieves long-term contextual needs
- Addressing taboos in socio-political behaviors with analytical intentions: documenting the givens and outlining realizations
- Emphasizing, to the Lebanese population, the qualifications, merit, and vision of the progressive alternative that the youth has to offer in substitution to the corrupt ruling class
- Allowing public accessibility to recent and reliable quantitative and qualitative studies of areas, systems, and sectors.
- Creating relevant job opportunities for the youth that achieve both personal earnings and development of the surrounding.

Project Phases

- General Outcome:

The civic interventions are intended to be small and effective ones that are deployed in different corners along the stretch of Nahr Beirut [either on the side of Karantina, inside Beirut, or on the side of Bourj Hammoud, outside of Beirut]. They can be as simple as pocket parks, public libraries, miniature playground zones for minors, meeting points for adults, shading, green zones, interactive spaces...

Phase	Activity & Question	Specific Outcomes
A	01 Architectural Documentation - What is the physical condition	01 - Plan & Sectional technical drawings of

	<p>of the sites of interventions?</p> <p>02 Political Behaviors Theory I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How does the way residents use walls, barriers, separators, and other props to separate each other, or join each other? How does graffiti and elements in the city express their political views and suppressions? <p>03 Sites Documentation I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After quantifying the religious and political diversity in the radius, what is the quality of the relationship between these people, and between themselves and the land? [a comparative of cultural and emotional relationship based on affiliations] <p>04 Operations & Logistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the operated working models? 	<p>sites of intervention + diagrams of sites of intervention [active/inactive, light/dark, public/private, open/closed]...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 02 Compilation of previous relevant studies + literature - 02 Photographic archive [image, maps link, titles, short descriptions] that investigate political theory - 03 Collage of images - 03 A statistical explainer animated infographic - 03 Theoretical findings of political behavior in relation to land and neighborhood [either as a paper or infographic or incorporated in animation.] - 03 Recordings of residents asked what civic reform is and what they see come out of a civic reform project in the selected sites. - 04 A large governance-action model diagram + planning - 04 Document limitations of on-the-ground work in the politically contested site - 04 Social media content
B	<p>01 Design Development I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the relationship between the conditions of the physical environment of the sites and the socio-political and ethnic status of the residents? <p>02 Site Documentation II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aside from the residents, who are the surrounding laborers that are stakeholders to a civic reform project? What is freedom, reform, and governance to these people? <p>03 Political Behaviors Theory II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are the locals benefiting from the sad reality of political and civic instability, which they suffer from? <p>04 Operations & Logistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the kinds of people and environments that we're working with [limitations]? What are the survey results? 	<p>01 Survey building + survey distribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 02 Design development based on findings - 02 Recordings of residents asked "what is your freedom?," and "what is good governance for you?" - 02 Recordings of conversations with residents about Political Behaviors Theory I. - 02 Digital search engine of laborers [business name, full name, portfolio/website, location, contact info, types of services...] - 03 A short documentary that tests 'theory II' by ethnography. - 03 Process video of our team working in all different environments. - 04 Survey dissemination + survey analysis and visualization - 04 Document limitations of surveying in the politically contested site - 04 Social media content
C	<p>01 Design Development II</p> <p>02 Same as phase B</p> <p>03 Political Theory III</p>	<p>01</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Execution drawings - 3D Renders

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How does different media represent and/or frame the different demographics/ environments in the radius? How much does media agenda-setting affect our perception and the residents perception, and what are their consequences on political behavior? <p>04 Operations & Logistics</p>	<p>02 Same as phase B</p> <p>03</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explanar+advocacy documentary and audios that introduce media representation and framing by different channels over the same zone for the sake of selfish political power. <p>04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving governance-action model - Document limitations of surveying in the politically contested site - Social media content
--	--	---

Budget Table Excel Sheet:  SM x FNF Budgeting.xlsx

Project Physical Execution [no donor yet]

General Outcome:

The interventions should be executed and assessed to validate the previously made theories about the relationship between civic reform and political behaviors of stakeholders.

Phase	Activity & Question	Specific Outcomes	Months
D	<p>01 Architectural Documentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the Bill of Quantities & which external bodies are collaborating to execute the project? <p>02 Thesis</p> <p>03 Thesis</p> <p>04 Compilation</p>	<p>01</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BOQ - Collaboration with GIZ/ UNhabitat, UNESCO... <p>02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portfolio of photographic archive - Album of recordings and conversations about political theory - Digital search engine of laborers <p>03</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explanar animation about statistics of demographics - Theoretical findings of political behavior theory - Short documentary testing theory II [methodology of ethnography] - Process video - Documentary and research on media framing and agenda setting on different channels and its effect on political behaviors and 	1.5

		<p>voting.</p> <p>04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Print out of model of project 'metabolism' - All surveys and their results visualized in infographics - An archive of all produced media [written, video, static visual...] 	
E	Construct Project Assessment Thesis	Build with residents Document process Receive accurate answer for thesis	—