

# The Logbook



STUDIO  
مدني

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## What is Studio Madane?

### Identity

Studio Madane is a Lebanese-based youth-led collective that initiates civic + sociopolitical reform and advocates for its progressivist program while working with & for marginalized communities including minorities, women, LGBTQ+ and other vulnerable groups.

### Vision

Madane aims to yield an economically and socially sustainable Lebanon with operating and inclusive institutions as articulated in its sociopolitical vision for the country. The studio fosters active civil societies and merit-based ecosystems. It utilizes result-oriented and rights-based approaches to advance its hands-on projects and progressivist vision.

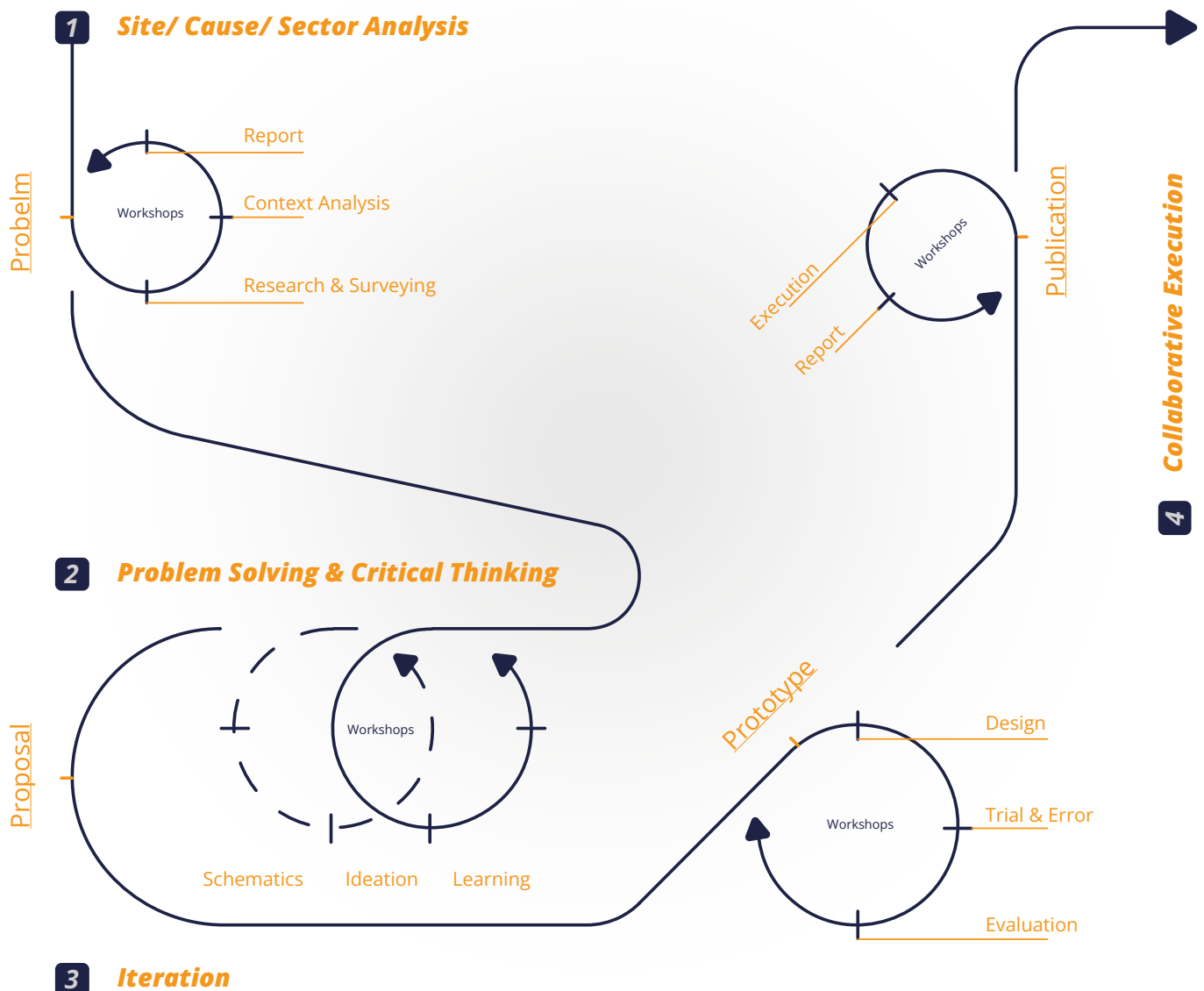
### Mission

Studio Madane validates its sociopolitical plan through designing projects that promote urban regeneration, digitization, decentralization, public development, site analysis, social contracts, and more. Madane uses multidisciplinary practices, reflected by seven working groups, and engages different actors in society.



Contextual needs and site-specific projects are met by using a studio-based approach where every exercise will rely on:

1. Site analysis, starting with the study of contextual elements to understand the particularities of every challenge;
2. Problem-solving and critical thinking, approaching problematics as opportunities to introduce innovative, sustainable solutions;
3. Iteration, assessing prototypes and improving these based-on expert feedback and evaluation;
4. Collaborative participation, drawing on the knowledge and expertise of every participant to arrive at comprehensive outcomes.









# Governance

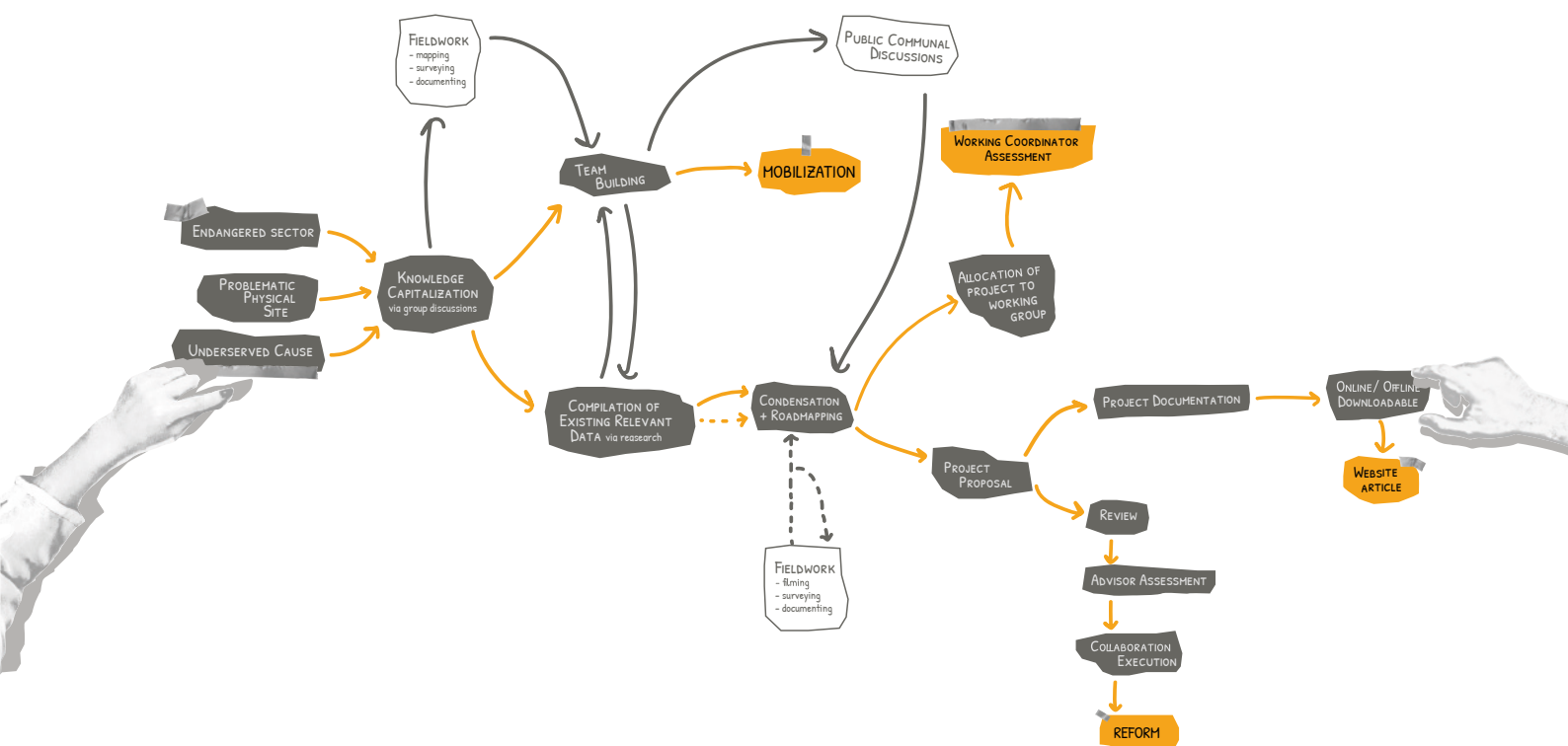


6 Working Groups + Senior Consultant(s) + Group Coordinator

Administrators

- **The members of the working groups** are divided into volunteers, part-timers, and full-timers. There is no limit to the capacity of a working group.
- **The group coordinators** ensure timely and quality execution of the working group roadmaps. They are voted upon by the working group members [51%] every 6 months.

- **Senior Consultants** are brought upon by the members and friends of Studio Madane. Their input is advisory when consulted by working group members.
- **Administrators** revise action models, build institutional partnerships, and supervise the work of the organization. It should include 3 members from the pool of members.



## Working Groups

### Community Activists

The Community Activists working group sets its focus on social justice, sustainability, and security. Ideally, it aims to ensure that every member of society, apart from the members of the group, is an acknowledged and/ or effective actor in the battles of anti-corruption, feminism, cybersecurity, the rights of minorities, anti-sectarianism, rights of children, LGBTQ+, environmentalism, human rights, and pluralism [the list is prone to extension]. Public policy and mappings are essential targets in this group.



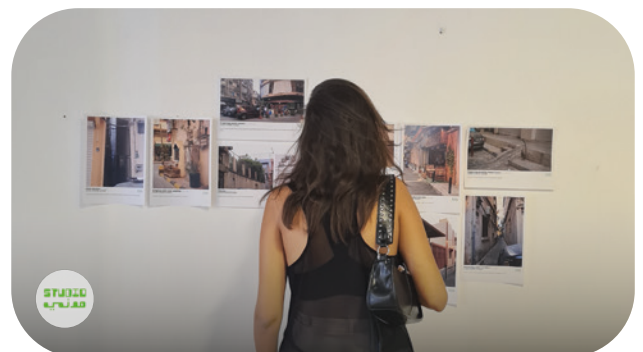
### Urbanists & Environmentalists

The Urbanists & Environmentalists working group wants to promote cohesive agendas for urban regeneration, community engagement, and sustainable inclusion. It gathers architects, urban planners, sociologists, environmentalists, policy makers, landscape architects, surveyors & reporters, geographers, and enthusiasts. The politics, on the scales of a city, neighborhood, and individual, owe a lot to the laws that govern us and the way that our living environments manifest themselves.



### Artists & Laborers

The Artists and Laborers working group sheds the light on the works, information, and community of local craftsmen, laborers, artisans, artists, designers, and makers in addition to addressing their challenges. This very same community has dispersed over time, and our group of artists, historians, analysts, performers, designers, and enthusiasts aim to stitch the wounds that separate them via search engines, archives, and conversations.





**Documenters & Visual Creators**



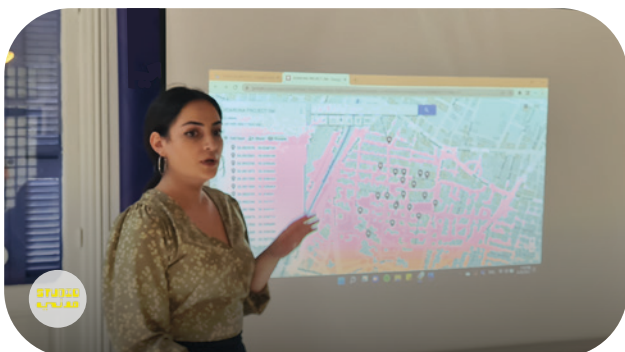
The Documenters and Visual Creators working group benefits from videographers, journalists, translators, editors, writers, recorders, graphic designers, reporters, and enthusiasts to bring to society solution oriented documentation with social impact. It is an anti-sectarian and anti-corrupt type of documentation that Lebanese society is in immense need of in abundance. The focus of the documentation's social impact varies between pressing news, controversial subjects, and imperative discussion on media literacy.

**Group Allies**



The Group Allies working group is a team composed of youth politicians participating in change-making and reform in Lebanon that are in opposition to the corrupt ruling class in Lebanon. The project at hand aims to concentrate on the similarities between opposition groups rather than the differences which could divide them. This collective healing will have a positive impact on the longevity and power of the political opposition which represents the new wave of Lebanese: progressive, just, secular, and reform-oriented.

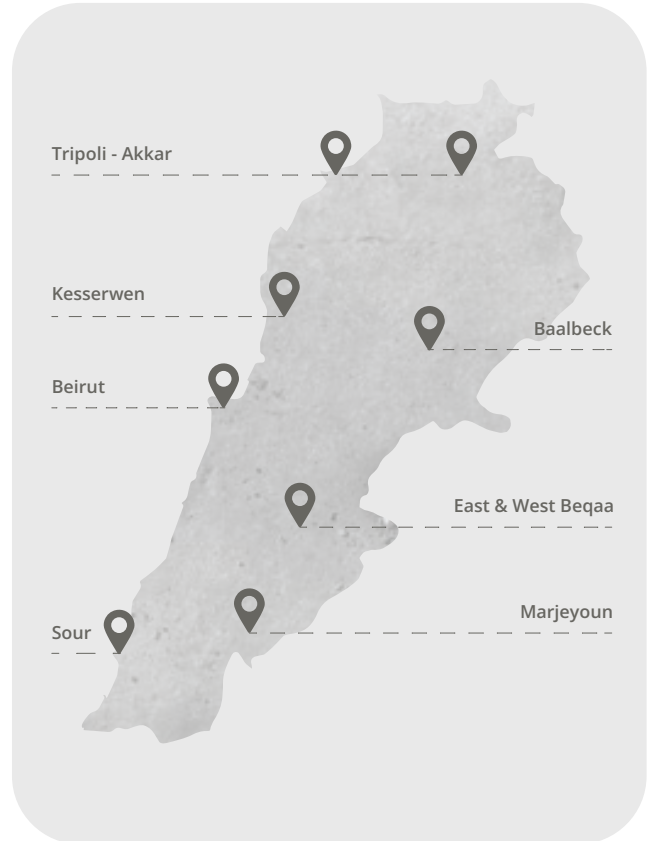
**Citizen Volunteers**



The Citizen Volunteers working group operates as the main engine of Studio Madane because it runs committees that are consulting, strategizing, communicating, visualizing, branding, marketing, financing, and recruiting all the junctions of Studio Madane within its internal dynamics and external cooperation. It is the best space to learn multi-disciplinary skills in management and execute the design-thinking model that Studio Madane employ.

## Members, Alumni, + Network

Studio Madane has an alumni of 200+ architects, artists, activists, teachers, students, analysts, journalists, youth politicians, logisticians, craftsmen, thinkers, etc. The members cooperate in the working groups of Studio Madane which work by practice rather than by slogan. Newer working methodologies and the plurality of approaches will achieve inclusive institutions. The employment of regional profiles that do their research in their respective home towns can yield to very strong social contracts that document undocumented realities and mobilize expansively for the progressive agenda.



Studio Madane Barcelona is a registered NGO in Spain which aims to use the expertise and support of the Lebanese diaspora and European allies of Studio Madane towards the necessary sociopolitical change in the world.



### **Citizen Scientists**

The Citizen Scientists Working Group is one that specializes in investigating different areas in Lebanon by compiling their history, their undocumented realities, mapping potential allies, and pulling knowledge to create social contracts for each. Studio Madane aims to decentralize its efforts and expand its activity geographically. This program consists of ambassadors responsible for the areas they're from or familiar with based on their networks.







Studio Madane  
Barcelona is active with  
like-minded parties.





## Timeline

Studio Madane was birthed during the multiplication of crises in Lebanon; however, its response mechanism was based on adaptation to the circumstances. The youth collective conducted town halls, hybrid workshops, recruitment campaigns, and project document production between 2019 and 2023.

### 2019-2020

### 2021-2023

2017	17.10.19	2020	2021	2022	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth Networking.</li> <li>- Defining Studio Madane Space.</li> <li>- Mobilization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recruitment to Working Groups.</li> <li>- Assigning Senior Advisors, Coordinators, and Partnerships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Road-mapping Events.</li> <li>- Open Day Beirut.</li> <li>- Working Group Workshops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Website Launch.</li> <li>- Studio Madane + FNF Lebanon Action for Beirut River: Portrait &amp; Injection.</li> <li>- BRPI Training 1 and 2.</li> <li>- Open Desk Crits 1 and 2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launch of Studio Madane Barcelona.</li> <li>- Completion of Beirut River: Portrait &amp; Injection.</li> <li>- Networking, Features, and Partnerships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Studio Madane Barcelona Exhibition.</li> <li>- Conversas Barcelona Talk.</li> <li>- Exhibition + Talk for Beirut River: Portrait &amp; Injection.</li> <li>- Karantina Mural Collaboration.</li> </ul>







## Events

### Six Think Tanks

15.05.21

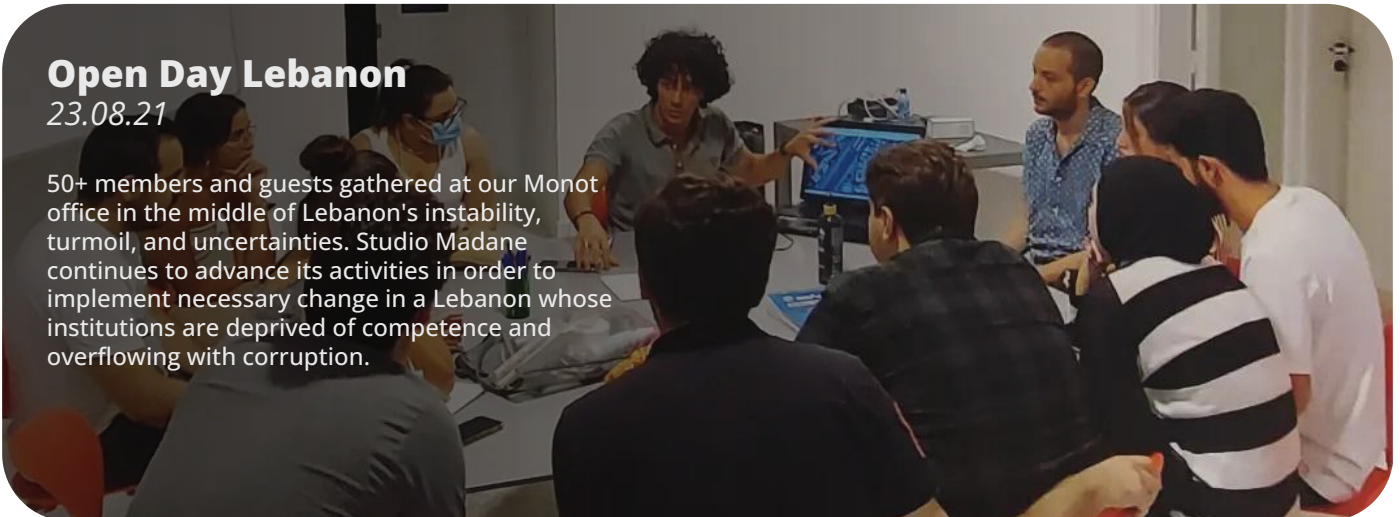
In their first workshops in Beirut, the members of the working groups were invited by their coordinators to list relevant cases & sites to tackle. The purpose was to manufacture the thematic, roadmaps, and sociopolitical vision. The congregation of our working groups generated inclusive thought and paved for today's action.



### Open Day Lebanon

23.08.21

50+ members and guests gathered at our Monot office in the middle of Lebanon's instability, turmoil, and uncertainties. Studio Madane continues to advance its activities in order to implement necessary change in a Lebanon whose institutions are deprived of competence and overflowing with corruption.



### Public Desk Crits: A Series

2022-2023

The reform research and proposal collaboration with FNF Lebanon was titled '*Beirut River: Portrait & Injection*'. The project was responded to transversely via the efforts of four working groups: The Urbanists & Environmentalists, Citizen Volunteers, Artists & Laborers, and Documenters & Visual Creators working groups. The findings were made through mappings, surveys, documented conversations, short films, and experiments with architecture under the guidance of group advisors.







**Conversas Barcelona**  
 14.12.22

Studio Madane's founder Nader Akoum gathers with community members in Barcelona during one of Conversas' public conversations to discuss Lebanon, the Revolution, and Studio Madane. The talk's audio is available online.



**Open Day Barcelona**  
 18.02.23

Studio Madane Barcelona hosted its first Open Day in the city including an exhibition and discussion. Four stations displayed the groups' work for the Beirut River; Portrait & Injection project, followed by a round-table discussion led by eclectic and international participants.



**Karantina Mural**  
 Summer 2023

Studio Madane joins forces with artist Nada Sehnaoui and other local partners to commemorate the martyrs of the August 4th 2023 blast. The mural is titled 'Shattered' and it consists of images of the martyrs dressed in glass and a large panel that includes all of their names so that they remain forgotten.

# Background

## Reform of University Elections

Date 2017-2021

### Description

LAU, similarly to other universities in the country, witnessed student bodies that were blatantly pro-corruption and sectarian. These politicized student groups would combat one another to gain the majority in student councils and club boards for years until 5-8 students began the Ghayir movement in 2017. 'Ghayir,' meaning 'change' in Arabic. is the name of the first civil society electoral campaign that ever ran at LAU's student elections as against the corrupt ruling class. The tables turned permanently after the establishment of this electoral list that had a lot of objectives in order to ensure the necessary change.



### Outcome

**2017-2018**

1 seat in the Beirut Campus Student Council [This seat earned the Presidency due to a tie].

**2018-2019**

3/15 seats in the Beirut Campus Student Council [no candidates ran under our campaign in the Byblos campus in year 2].

**2019-2020**

2/15 seats in the Beirut Campus Student Council & 1/15 in the Byblos Campus Student Council.

**2020-2021**

9 out of 15 seats in the Beirut Campus Student Council & 5 out of 15 in the Byblos Campus Student Council [historically plagued by Lebanese Forces political party].

In addition, a very noticeable and powerful infrastructure for independent and change-making voices was established. By that, several pro-reform and anti-sectarian collectives began to run in elections.

## "Independent" Activism Workshop

Date 18/02//2018

### Description

The student-led workshop was a primary attempt to gather like-minded students from different local universities [LAU, AUB, USJ, BAU, LU, Sagesse, NDU]: the participants were engaged in discussions on human rights, equal representation, and societal constructs in order to debate and outline the meaning of political alternative with more in depth input. The takeaway from the workshop was documented in solutions and action plans created by these students via workshops that gave context to the conversations. As they connected with individuals from other universities, the students were guided through speeches and Q&A sessions by two highly knowledgeable speakers with dedicated experience in independent and youth-led activism: *Dr. Maxton Scotland and Author/Activist Joumana Haddad.*



### Outcome

**Document 1**

Values of the political alternative to the sectarian ruling class.

**Document(s) 2**

7 campus-relevant action plans [available upon request].



## Independent Activism Workshop - The Sequel

Date 05/04//2019

### Description

The student-led session was a second attempt to gather like-minded students from different backgrounds, universities, disciplines, and/or entourages...: seeing that the outcomes in the previous session are of immense value, it is of more value to bring this collaborative knowledge to LAU's undergraduate students with the presence of a group of graduates and MEPI students from the committee of Political Governance. The efforts are in favor of introducing new applicable and change-making policies.



### Outcome

#### Policy 1

Club members may only vote during club elections had they been active club members for at least one academic year at the university.

#### Policy 2

Students are ineligible candidates for student elections with a GPA lower than 3.0.

#### Policy 3

Student Representatives in the council and Board members in clubs are obliged to report their efforts and achievements to the student body on a semester basis.

#### Policy 4

Student Council cabinet seats are to be distributed based on the results of the election process itself rather than elections within the 15 members: by proportionality, from highest votes to lowest, USCP, CCP, CVP, Secretary, Treasurer, and Officer at large.

#### Policy 5

International students to be guaranteed a seat in the council of representatives.

## NDU's Activism Workshop

Date 13/04//2019

### Description

Following the sequel that took place at the Lebanese American University - Beirut, friends from NDU expanded the initiative and developed it into one of their own with the following objectives: efficient networking and experience-sharing, collective activism, strengthening unity and support, and establishing campaign strategies. The workshop focused on developing change-making strategies through the SDGs with guest speakers Youth Against Corruption (YAC), and Gilbert Doumit.



### Outcome

Expanding youth change-making network and impact.

## City Representations - Tyre

Date 13/06/2020 - 14/06/2020

### Description

The youth-led session gathered students and experts from different disciplines and/or entourages in order to look at the city as the place of representations while studying the political, economic and physical dimensions. The participants engaged in practices and discussions



that aim to decode and understand the centers of power/corruption/confusion within Tyre by critically identifying and depicting their different means of representation. This session runs in parallel with the preceding ones that touched on self-governance, human rights, equal representation, sense-making... Jury members [architects and urbanists] participated in the presentations.



### Outcome

#### Intervention 1

Uncovering Al-Jamal's heritage qualities and establishing a roadmap whose objective is to ensure that it becomes a UNESCO Heritage Site and avoid the destruction it's prone to.

#### Intervention 2

Moving the to-be-built parking lot on Al-Jamal to convenient locations and converting it to the historical public space that it ought to be.

#### Intervention 3

Understanding the virtual lines that divide the Muslim market from the Christian neighbourhood followed by interventions that dissolve them.

#### Intervention 4

Generating engaging hardscapes within the muslim-christian neighbourhood.

## Learning Outcomes from a 10-day Tuition Strike [sit-in]

Date 02/01/2021 - 12/01/2021

### Description

The dollarization, and hence increase in university tuition fees, from the equivalence of

1\$ = 1,515 lb to 1\$ = 3,900 lbp, was a decision made by universities to compensate their losses because of the country's collapse and economic crisis. Students have the right to learn without having to experience the burden of the state's failure to be resilient. After some demonstrations made by student groups, we launched and participated in a sit-in to ensure continuity of the demands and begin the tuition strike.



### Outcome

#### Demand 1

Freeze tuition-increase for Spring 2021

#### Demand 2

Ensure access to unsimplified documents that prove the validation of tuition increase, and increase by 2.6

#### Demand 3

Establish a student contract that allows students to graduate with the same rate they were paying as when they enrolled.

#### Demand 4

Ensure the convenient financial aid and scholarships for students in need.

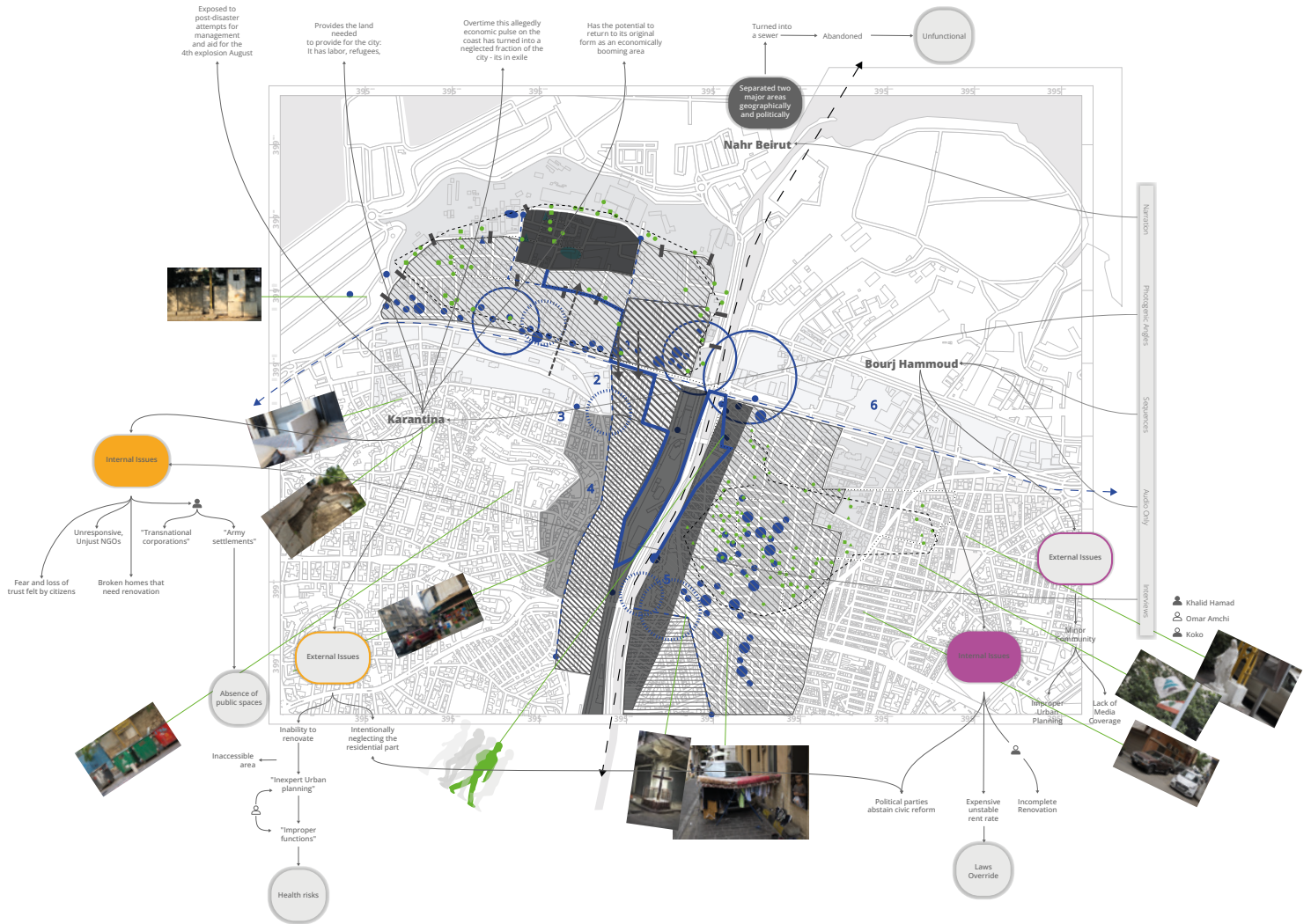
#### Demand 5

Awareness on the enhancement of facilities, resources, academic staff, quality of education... of the Lebanese University.

#### Demand 6

Ensure that all university employees are paid at the rate that students use to pay.

*The case took to court as in currently in the works.*



### Mind Map

The Documenters & Visual Creators, whose goal was to conduct and develop documentation for social impact, began their field work with ethnographic studies and recorded testimonies from residents. The testimonies were juxtaposed over the geography.

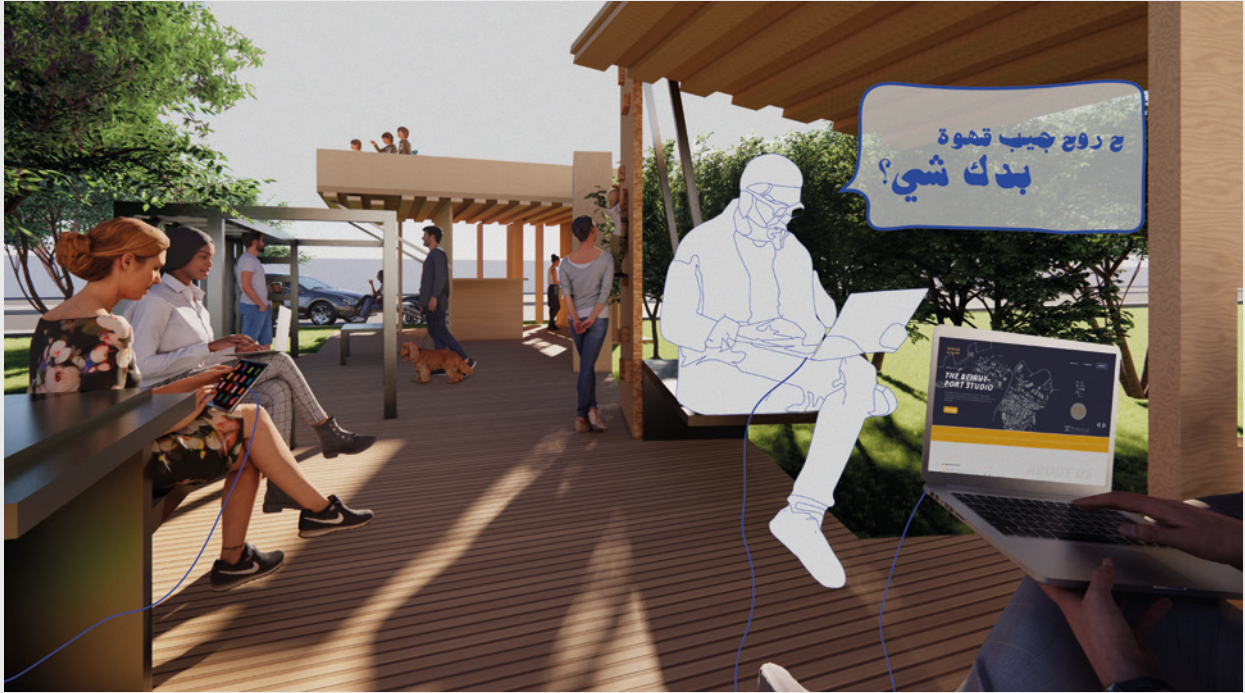
### Regional Maps

The Urbanists and Environmentalists superimposed their architectural and social behavior-related findings onto the geography as well. It allowed them to spot the plot of intervention out of a selection of interesting sites.

### 'Kazdoura' Map

The mappers and surveyors from the Artists & Laborers working group went on several 'kazdoura' [strolls] between the areas and identified a lot of phenomena in the urban landscape. The lines mark the paths taken, and the points mark socio-political, environmental, and physical informalities.





Sociopolitical Scenario A



Sociopolitical Scenario B





## How Can I Participate?

### Participate

There will always be a working group that is open for participation no matter where you are in the world. Keep an eye on our announcements or speak to us via our email [[info@studiomadane.com](mailto:info@studiomadane.com)], mobile number [+34651012054], and/ or our social media platforms.



Pool of Participants in SM

### Senior Consultants

Each working group should have access to a pool of experts with which they resort to upon their discretion. Consultants may choose the working group they'd like to advise based on the thematic they can be an asset to, and the interaction with the members is at a workshop basis.



Senior Consultant(s)

Working Group Combination

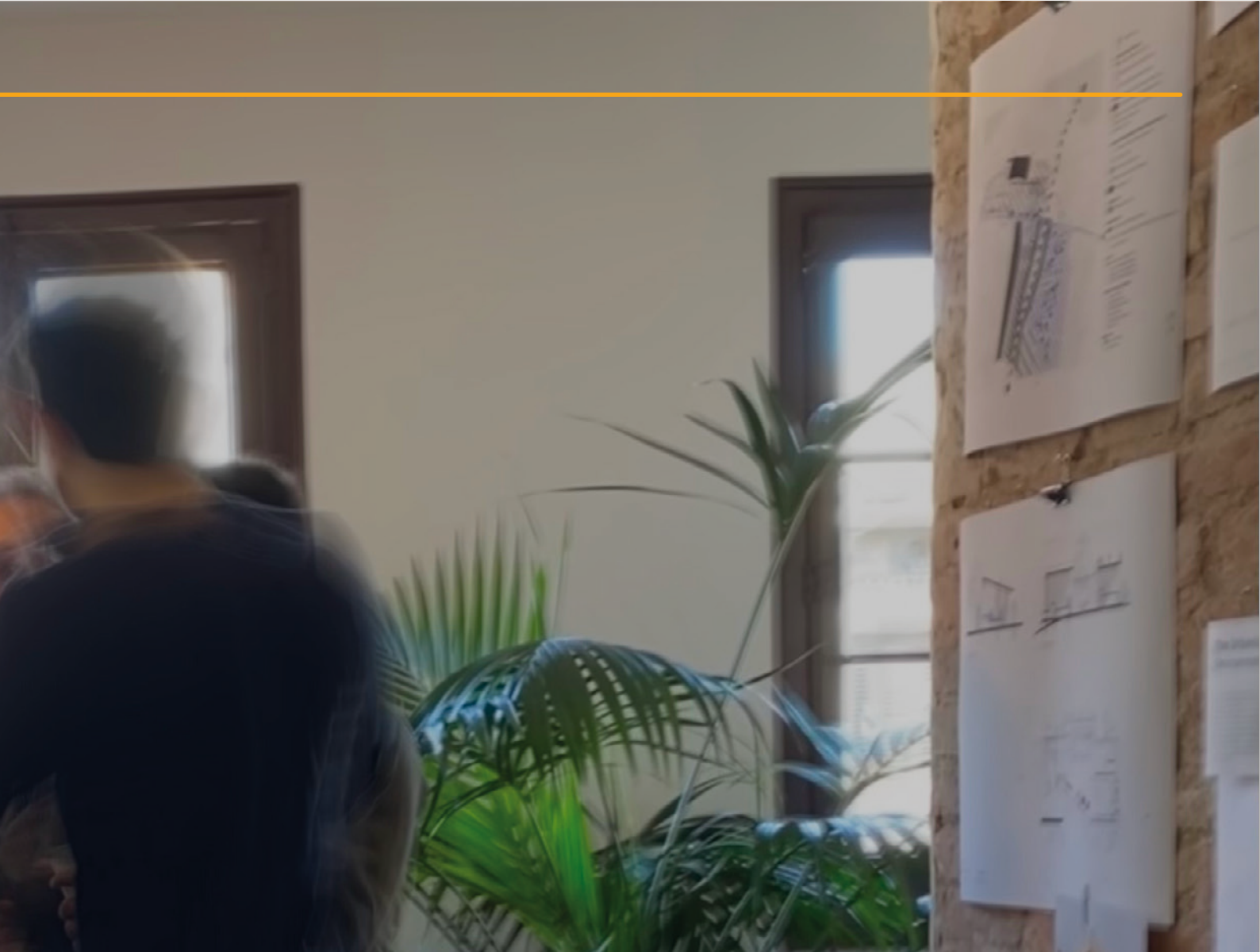
### Friends of Studio Madane

Studio Madane has an alumni of 200+ architects, artists, activists, teachers, students, analysts, journalists, youth politicians, logisticians, craftsmen, thinkers, etc. You can join the Studio Madane network by just reaching out!

### Foreign Policy

- Studio Madane is searching for like-minded companies/ firms/ collectives/ bodies to collaborate with. Studio Madane's diverse body of projects has allowed it to collaborate with collaborators from different fields.

- Studio Madane is also searching for funding on both an organizational level and a project level.



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**2023**

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