

In-Between Reframing Civic Life

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Abstract

Jerusalem today is an area of nearly one million people comprising outside of its historic walled center, with many of the characteristics of any modern urban region, including a periphery of disjointed residential areas, strip malls, highways, job centers and sports facilities. The site Malha basin is one of them, which is now segregated by the highway, and occupied by two occasionally used institutional sports facilities, a stadium, and an arena with their large parking lots. It is an abandoned place in-between nature and urban, in-between topography peaks, in-between Jewish and Arab neighborhoods, in-between institutional facilities with few public services for daily use.

However, there is that amazing cauldron of history and artifice of the ancient Holy City at the center,

across centuries considered a Center of the Western World. The dialectical condition, exaggerated in Jerusalem while common among cities worldwide, of a place with a treasured center surrounded by the commonplace, mundane, ordinary peripheries of everyday urban life.

Then the question is how to develop this periphery area of Jerusalem as part of the canonical Jerusalem and remain to the older 'idea of a city' while attending to its contemporary needs. The project then learns from the spaces from the old city, aims to define the city's leftover space by reframing the existing civic life by introducing a composition of a public civic spine, a landscape corridor, and housing programs.

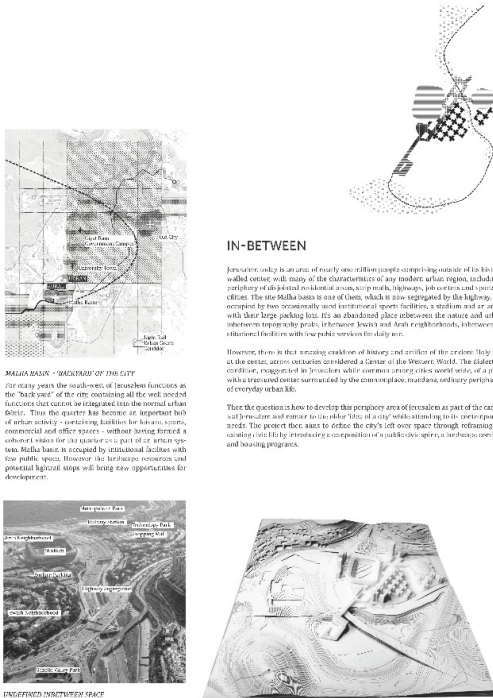
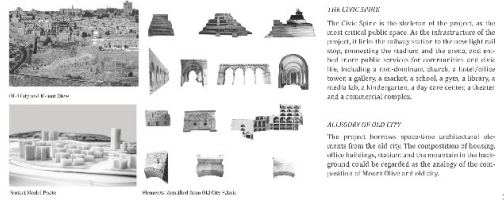


Figure 1. Redefine In-Between Space.



Figure 2. Analogy of the Old City.



THE CIVIC SQUARE
 The Civic Square is the centerpiece of the project, as the most critical public space. As the infrastructure of the project, it links the stadium and the arena, and several other public services for convenience and vitality, including a co-dominant church, a hotel, a library, a retail hub, a kindergarten, a day care center, a theater, and a commercial complex.

ANALOGY OF OLD CITY
 The project borrows spatial and architectural elements from the old city. The composition of housing, office buildings, retail and recreation in the background could be regarded as the analogy of the composition of Mosaic Old or Old city.



Figure 3. Reframe Civic Life.

