Architecture of Peace

Case Study: Bagh-e Babur Gardens. Men at Evening Prayer. Kabul, Afghanistan

Introduction

Architecture of Peace explores how architects and urban planners can and should play an active role in the process of rebuilding and stabilizing post-conflict spaces. By accepting the notion that war and conflict are both conditions that won't disappear, it becomes necessary to address their complexity through an understanding of the different stages that occur during the establishment of peace.

How do we materialize peace? Architecture of Peace (AoP) calls upon those working in the field of politics, aid, architecture, community work and development cooperation to share their knowledge and experience and rethink the post-conflict community. AoP is an international long- term research and action project initiated in 2010 involving a large number of stakeholders.

The project consists of local case studies, interventions, university research studios, debates, publications and exhibitions.

Agenda

The AoP project sets the following agenda:

- **To create a web platform for interdisciplinary knowledge exchange and a collection of case studies.**

- **To create a study module on working in a conflict situation as an architect/planner to improve conflict consciousness and provide basic do's and don'ts.**

- **To create an e-learning program which is accessible worldwide.**

- **To create and publish a handbook with basic rules of engagement for anyone working in the field.**

- **To establish an exchange program for students from different zones of conflict to learn from each other's situation.**

- **To establish an ongoing program with conferences, debates and exhibitions to raise awareness and instigate debate on the subject.**

- **To gather and spread knowledge on conflict resolution and prevention in conflictious [urban] areas.**
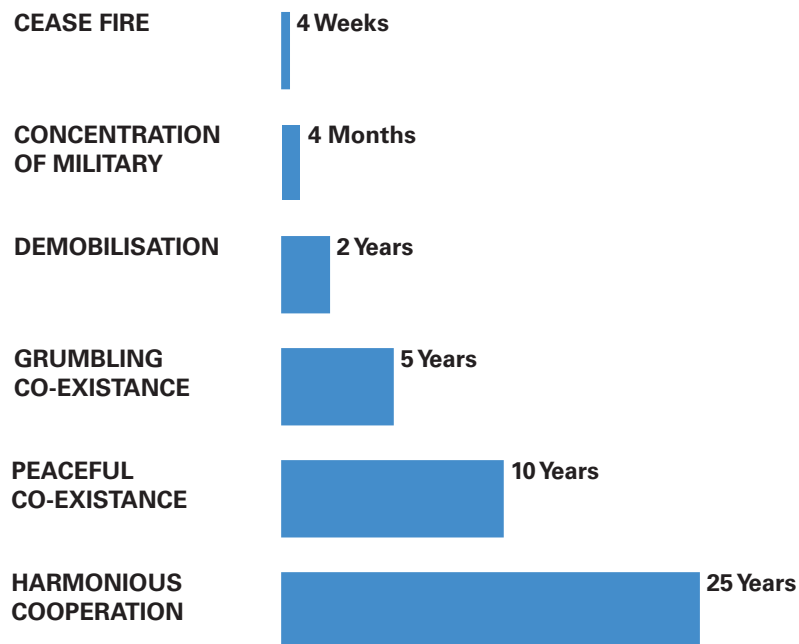

Case Study: Bagh-e Babur Gardens. Kabul, Afghanistan

Negative & Positive Peace

After conflict, the UN peace-keepers may move in to ensure that fighting does not resume, that combating parties are separated, and that civilians are protected. This condition is called 'negative peace' because the conflict is likely to re-spark once the military is gone. Positive peace is only ensured when civic life has resumed and a stable co-existence is possible.

The Duration of Establishing Positive Peace:

CEASE FIRE	4 Weeks
CONCENTRATION OF MILITARY	4 Months
DEMOBILISATION	2 Years
GRUMBLING CO-EXISTANCE	5 Years
PEACEFUL CO-EXISTANCE	10 Years
HARMONIOUS COOPERATION	25 Years

Phases of reconstruction
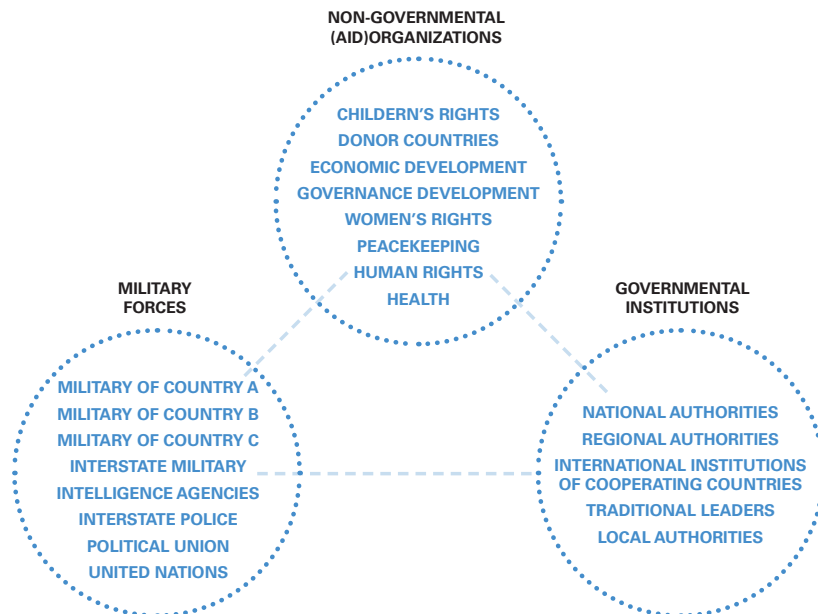
• First phase: Starting after the fighting has stopped, provisional shelter and other forms of temporary construction dominate, from make shift refugee camps to large-scale relief infrastructure where the military still plays a large role.

• Second phase (focus of Architecture of Peace): People try to resume everyday life. There is no real coordination yet, and the lack of control and process often lead to ethnic enclaves, gated communities, illegal settlements, and urban sprawl. It is in this phase that structures begin to constrain interventions and give rise to new conflicts when regulatory institutions start to function. But this phase could also offer a window of opportunity to advocate positive interaction and reduce the chance of a resumption of conflict.

•Third phase: Institutions have been created that start a more coordinated process, in which space is allocated, property titles are acknowledged, and long term infrastructure development is planned. This phase resembles more closely the normal processes of city planning, in which outcomes are negotiated between different groups and authorities, and are less the result of spontaneous actions of inhabitants.

Negative Peace: Dilemmas involved

After the fighting has been contained and civilians are protected, the road to a sustainable peace is still a long journey.

In a post-conflict situation, military forces, NGOs and local governments form an interrelated network to confront reconstruction. They have to work closely together and create a plan for how to move from negative to positive peace. But these institutions have different working methods and speak different languages (sometimes literally). On top of that, each corner of this triangular network consists of more than one party, with their own agendas and interests.
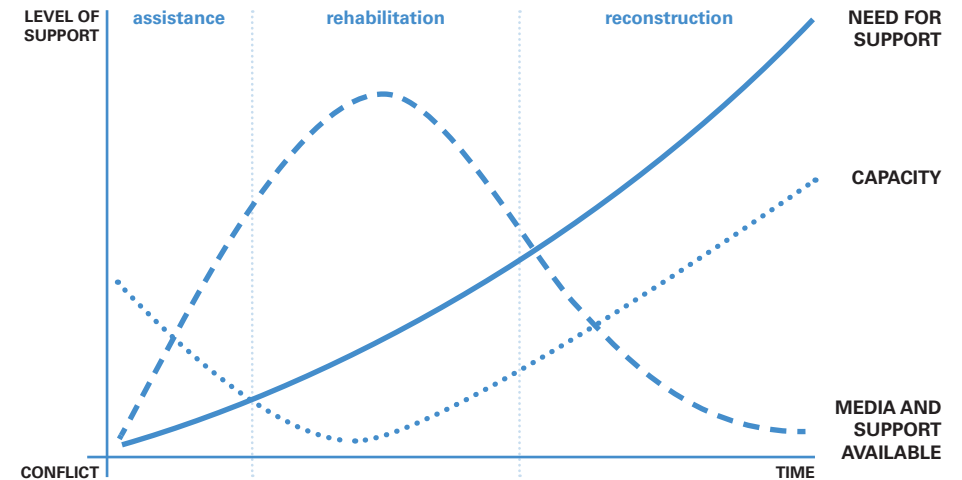
Triangle of Support:

NON-GOVERNMENTAL (AID)ORGANIZATIONS

CHILDERN'S RIGHTS
DONOR COUNTRIES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENT
WOMEN'S RIGHTS
PEACEKEEPING
HUMAN RIGHTS
HEALTH

MILITARY FORCES

MILITARY OF COUNTRY A
MILITARY OF COUNTRY B
MILITARY OF COUNTRY C
INTERSTATE MILITARY
INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES
INTERSTATE POLICE
POLITICAL UNION
UNITED NATIONS

GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES
REGIONAL AUTHORITIES
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF COOPERATING COUNTRIES
TRADITIONAL LEADERS
LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DISCREPANCY

What is done versus what is needed immediately after an emergency. International media attention is high and financial support starts flooding in. But by the time the educated refugees return and some sort of local governing capacity and rebuilding can emerge, the media, money and NGOs are off to the next hot spot. Longer-term involvement (for true change) is something many donors cannot afford or are not prepared to engage in.

Level of Support:

LEVEL OF SUPPORT

assistance   rehabilitation   reconstruction

NEED FOR SUPPORT

CAPACITY

MEDIA AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE

CONFLICT

TIME

Factors for Success

Despite all the difficulties and differences in post-conflict situations, certain factors can be determined that should be included in the strategy for intervention or building (both material and immaterial).

TRUST
Mutual trust is essential for the viability of a project.

PUBLICNESS
Architects should stimulate civic life by providing gathering spaces.

OWNERSHIP
Architects should collaborate with local partners in order to develop a sense of responsibility and commitment.

EMPLOYMENT
By training and hiring locals, expertise and employment will be strengthened.

CONTINUITY
The project should be able to continue following after the withdrawal of its initiators.

MODESTY
Architects must take into account and work with local concepts of city, public space, and civil society.

SAFETY
Provision of individual and collective security needs to be sustained.

TIME
Patience and perseverance are vital.

Case Studies

The case studies present the emerging architecture of peace across time and space through photos, videos, documents, maps, brochures, and other publications.

They are chosen to represent a variety of localities and scales, situated in diverse regions such as South Africa, Palestine, Kosovo and Rwanda. These cases provide viable strategies towards positive peace. For each project the factors for success that are most applicable are highlighted.

Case Studies:

- **Master Plan for New Brighton. Port Elizabeth, South Africa**

- **Kimisagara Football for Hope Centre. Kigali, Rwanda**

- **Prishtina Building Regulations. Prishtina, Kosovo**

- **Rehabilitation of Birzeit. Birzeit, Palestine**

- **Master Plan for Ein Hawd. Ein Hawd, Israel**

- **Bagh-e Babur Gardens. Kabul, Afghanistan**

- **Visitor's Centre in a Wildlife Reserve. Pamir-I-Buzurg, Afghanistan**

- **Skateistan. Kabul, Afghanistan**

Bagh-e Babur Gardens
Kabul, Afghanistan

TRUST / PUBLICNESS / OWNERSHIP EMPLOYMENT / CONTINUITY MODESTY / SAFETY / TIME

The Bagh-e Babur Gardens, which once served as a temporary refuge for displaced civilians, were restored to provide a space for recreation and cultural events. Much attention was put into re-establishing the historical significance of the gardens as a commemorative burial site of Muhammad Babur, the founder of the Mughal empire in the 16th Century. The reconstruction efforts in Kabul have been used as catalysts for social development and the overall improvement of the quality of life. From 2002, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture has been working in collaboration with the German Archaeological Institute in the rehabilitation of the site of 11 hectares on the slope of the Hindu Kush Mountains. By 2007, the complex system of water canals that previously channeled rainfall from the surrounding hills had been rebuilt along with planted terraces and pavilions.

STRATEGY

• Provide employment, establish trust through guaranteed safety.
• Rehabilitate a historical space to restore public inclusion and identity.

Architects: Ratish Nanda, project architect
Affiliated organization: Aga Khan Trust
Time frame: started 2002, finished 2008

Case Study
Visitor's Centre in a Wildlife Reserve
Pamir-i-Buzurg, Afghanistan

OWNERSHIP / EMPLOYMENT
CONTINUITY / MODESTY / TIME

Afghanistan offers an unconventional intervention within the war-torn landscapes of north-eastern Wakhan Corridor. Built with the participation of the local community, it now serves as a gatehouse for the wildlife reserve and functions as a public space and a sleeping room for the park rangers.

The project architect, Anne Feenstra paid particular attention to the contextualisation of every aspect of the buildings from material to construction methods. The vernacular design made of rocks, timber and clay from the mountains and riverbanks involved neighbouring unskilled builders.

STRATEGY

• Develop local skills and generate employment; create a sense of ownership.

Architect: AFIR Architects
(Anne Feenstra)
Client: Afghanistan
Department of Forestry
and Range
Time frame: Construction
started in 2008; Solar
energy panels installed
in 2009

Case Study
Prishtina Building Regulations
Prishtina, Kosovo

TRUST / OWNERSHIP / CONTINUITY

When NATO peace-keepers (KFOR) intervened in Kosovo in 1999, the majoritarian ethnic Albanians started a frantic construction boom. Villagers moving to the city and returning refugees contributed to an enormous population growth and a subsequent housing shortage. The lack of regulatory institutions combined with the lure of quick returns on property investments led to a chaotic and socially undesirable urban fabric. Archis Interventions Prishtina was founded in 2005 to mediate between private interests and public institutions in the process of urban planning. The intervention practice produced a manual to define local housing typologies and to provide sound architectural guidance for the existing illegal construction. A campaign in newspapers and on national television also raised public awareness of the problems. The local authority of Prishtina appropriated the manual in its efforts to regulate housing and planning principles.

STRATEGY

• Formalize the informal and create official ownership.
• Use local popular media to legitimise an existing urban condition.
• Establish a community of actors and stakeholders.

Initiative: Archis Interventions Prishtina (Florina Jerliu, Visar Geci, Vlora Navakazi) and Archis SEE Network (Kai Vöckler, Thilo Fuchs, Cristina Antonelli)
Affiliated organizations: Hackenbroich Architekten (Berlin), Co-PLAN (Tirana), ERSTE Foundation (Vienna)
Time frame: Archis Interventions Prishtina founded in 2005, ongoing

Timeline

November 2018 — June 2019
 University Research Studio: Architecture of Peace Master dissertation Studio. Faculty of Architecture KULeuven, Campus Ghent, BE. Tutor Lilet Breddels.

September — December 2018
 University Research Studio: Mix to the Max or Community of Equals. Amsterdam Academy of Architecture (department of Amsterdam University of the Arts), NL. Third year Master of Architecture/ Urbanism/Landscape Architecture. Tutors: Peter Defesche, Hein van Lieshout, Arjen Oosterman.

November 2017 — June 2018
 University Research Studio: Architecture of Peace Master dissertation Studio. Faculty of Architecture KULeuven, Campus Ghent. Tutor Lilet Breddels

April 2015:
 Symposium on War and Architecture: Destruction & Reconstruction - The Case of Syrian Refugees at Danish Architecture Centre (DAC). Copenhagen, DE.

April — June 2015:
 The Good Cause exhibition in Danish Architecture Centre (DAC). Copenhagen, DE.

February — March 2015:
 The Good Cause exhibition in StudioX Istanbul - focus on urban refugees. Istanbul, TU.

October 2014:
 Debate evening in Pakhuis de Zwijger Archis speaks Volumes #1: Architecture of Peace. Amsterdam, NL.

September 2014:
 Publication of Volume 40: Architecture of Peace Reloaded.

July-October 2014:
 The Good Cause: Architecture of Peace – Divided Cities exhibition and lectures in Architekturmuseum der TU München - focus on divided cities in Europe. Munich, GE.

March — June 2014:
 The Good Cause exhibition and conference at Stroom The Hague - focus on Peace and Justice in the framework of the project See You in The Hague by Stroom. Den Haag, NL.

November — December 2011:
 The Good Cause exhibition at the Kimisagara Football for Hope Centre in Kigali, RW.

June — September 2011:
 The Good Cause exhibition at the Canadian Centre of Architecture (CCA), Montreal, CA.

December 2010:
 Publication of Volume 26: Architecture of Peace.

October 2010:
 Publication of the conference proceedings and associated research.

May 2010:
 Opening event for the Architecture of Peace project, a two-day conference at the Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI) in Rotterdam, NL.

Architecture of Peace Conference
NAI Rotterdam
3 & 4 May 2010

The public kick-off of the project was a two-day conference in Rotterdam, The Netherlands on the 3rd and 4th of May, 2010. Participants included architects, urbanists and professionals from the fields of development studies, sociology and conflict studies. Keynote speakers were Jolyon Leslie, Hilton Judin, Kai Vöckler and Sultan Barakat.

The main goal of the conference was to bring together the fields of design and social (conflict) studies and create an agenda for action that would both help to develop the knowledge and knowledge exchange in the field and at the same time create good practice.

The first day was focused on lectures by specialists in the field to highlight the main issues at stake on both a practical and academic level. The second day the participants worked in groups to construct the necessary ingredients for the Architecture of Peace discourse.

Architecture of Peace Exhibition: The Good Cause

The Good Cause exhibition explores how architects and urban planners can and should play a significant role in facilitating the process of rebuilding and stabilizing post-conflict spaces. By accepting the notion that war and conflict are both ongoing conditions that won't disappear, it becomes necessary to address the complexity of these conditions through an understanding of the different stages that occur during the establishment of peace.

The notions of 'negative peace' and 'positive peace' are crucial to understanding the complexity of this task; and an analysis of the conditions in each of these stages can provide insight, in order to ensure a productive role in the transformation process from the start.

Thus, the exhibition explores the creation of lasting peace through architecture and planning projects designed to stabilize, humanize, and rebuild cities and territories that have been affected by conflict. It questions whether reconstruction can be an instrument of peace and conflict prevention, and it highlights the complexities alongside factors of success and failure involved in this process. The exhibition looks at the production of space in wartime and peacetime and presents case studies of projects undertaken with the participation of architects, planners, and architecture schools in several regions scarred by long-term geopolitical tensions: Afghanistan, Kosovo, South Africa, Rwanda, Israel, and Palestine. Each iteration of the project has a specific focus.

The exhibition 'The Good Cause' builts a narrative through the following issues:

- **Wars of The World: Map and Time-Line**

- **Peacekeeping Missions: Map and Time-Line**

- **Negative Peace: Dilemmas Involved**

- **Images of Negative Peace**

- **Factors of Success: Creating Positive Peace**

- **Examples of Projects and Their Strategies**

Exhibition 'The Good Cause', CCA Montreal, 2011

Exhibition 'The Good Cause', München: Architekturmuseum , 2014
Exhibition 'The Good Cause', Istanbul: Studio X , 2015
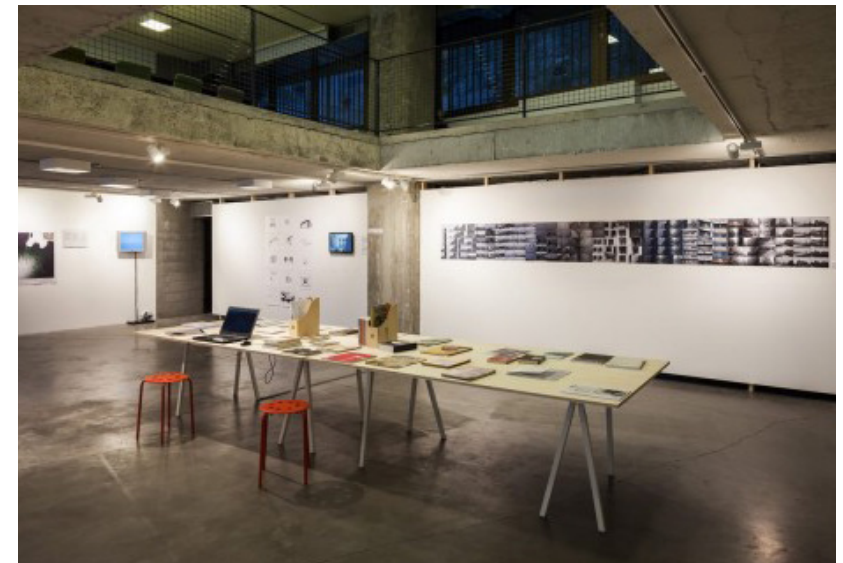
Volume #26 Architecture of Peace

Winter 2010

How do we materialize peace? On the level of fundamental and basic needs, global society more or less knows what is wrong, and what to do about it. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience in relief and first-aid organizations, as there is with architects. We're ready to intervene in conflict areas, to fight for peace, but what are we to do next? Experts seem agreed on strategies, but are the architects and politicians ready for the long-haul?
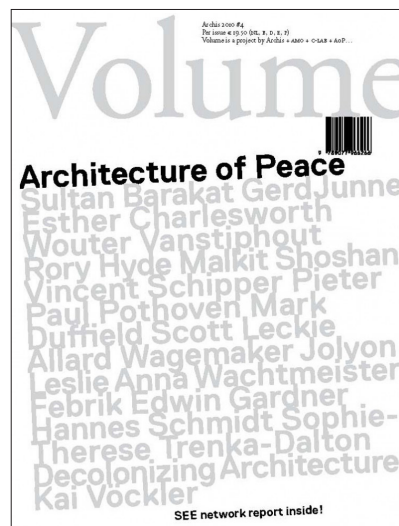
With contributions from Sultan Barakat, Esther Charlesworth, Decolonizing Architecture, Mark Duffield, Nik Dimopoulos, Febrik, Edwin Gardner, Rory Hyde, Gerd Junne, Scott Leckie, Jolyon Leslie, Pieter Paul Pothoven, Hannes Schmidt, Hans-Michael Schulze, Malkit Shoshan, Sophie Therese Trenka-Dalton, Wouter Vanstiphout, Anna Wachtmeister, Allard Wagemaker, and Susanne Weiss.

Volume #40 Architecture of Peace Reloaded

Summer 2014

With Volume #40 Architecture of Peace Reloaded we tightened our focus and zoomed in on the period directly after peacekeeping forces have arrived. Our goal: to see what a 'reconstruction mission' actually is, how peacekeeping can anticipate its legacy, and how different cultures come with quite different solutions to build or maintain peace. Re-building after war, it would seem, is another battle altogether.
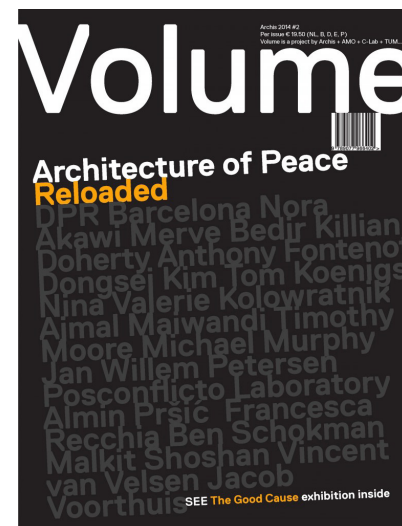
With contributions from dpr-barcelona, Nora Akawi, Merve Bedir, Killian Doherty, Anthony Fontenot, Dongsei Kim, Tom Koenigs, Nina Valerie Kolowratnik, Ajmal Maiwandi, Timothy Moore, Michael Murphy, Jan Willem Petersen, Posconflicto Laboratory, Almin Prsic, Francesca Recchia, Ben Schokman, Malkit Shoshan, Vincent van Velsen, and Jacob Voorthuis.

Above: Members of the Détachement Intégré de Sécurité (DIS) leave the compound of the MINURCAT peacekeeping mission, Abeche, Chad. 13 February 2009 . Photo: Olivia Grey Pritchard, Nations Unies
Below : United Nations U.S. soldiers entering a government building fallen under Taliban control in the Khost province, Afghanistan. 22 May 2011. Photo: Reuters

University Research Studio: Architecture of Peace Master Dissertation Studio
Faculty of Architecture KU Leuven, Campus Ghent
November 2018 — June 2019
November 2017 — June 2018

The programme explores the creation of lasting peace through architecture and planning projects designed to stabilize, humanize, and rebuild cities and territories devastated by armed conflict. It questions whether reconstruction can be an instrument of peace and conflict prevention, and it highlights the complexities alongside factors of success and failure involved in this process.

The master dissertation studio looks at the tools and tricks the architect has available and points at the dangers of instigating new strife through physical intervention. The field trip goes to Beirut as a start of the investigation but the site of intervention is free for the students to choose from. The 'learning from' is focusing on postwar circumstances but the interventions can be applicable to any conflictual situation in any city today.

Tutor: Lilet Breddels.
Students (2017-2018): Andrés David Martínez Pérez, George Alnassar, Emily Westlake, Kaushik Ramanuja, Giulia Azaria, Randa El Hallak, Britt Warnez, Christophe VandenEynde.
Students (2018-2019): Franck-Stéphane Adandé, Rayan Adra, Rafael Bajonero Padilla, Elif Becerik, Kuang-Liang Lo, Olivia Nasser Ximenes, Gedaile Nausedaite, Abderrahmane Remli.

University Research Studio: Mix to the Max or Community of Equals

Academy of Architecture Amsterdam.
September — December 2018

Assignment: With the excursion to Beirut as kick-off, the studio takes a medium-sized location in Amsterdam as laboratory. The questions to test are:

- *Can and should we – as designers – accommodate the segregation of citizens in groups, in communities of equals, or should architects and urbanists try to prevent this and provide an environment in which the exchange of cultures finds its way?*

- *Can Urban Design and Architecture make a significant difference here? If so, which tools of spatial arrangement – on any scale – are effective?*

University Research Studio run with the third year Master of Architecture/Urbanism/Landscape Architecture; design studio, including a research paper.

Tutors: Peter Defesche, Hein van Lieshout, Arjen Oosterman. Students: Joske van Breughel, Angelina Hopf, Danijela Kirin, Despo Panayidou, Mickael van Es, Philip Mtengu Lyaruu, Piero Vidoni.

Images (next page):
Above: The Syrian refugee camp we visited. Photo: Philip Mtenga Lyaruu
Below (left): The Green Line former war zone today. Photo: Joske van Breugel
Below (right): Herzog & de Meuron next to the crime scene of the former Holiday Inn hotel. Photo: Despo Panayidou

About Archis/Volume

Archis is an experimental in-between space on the design of the city and beyond. It's research concentrates on the urgencies and challenges facing societies worldwide. Archis is amongst other publications the publisher of the international biannual Volume magazine.

Contact

Architecture of Peace has been kindly supported by:

AoP Network

Archis/
Volume