

[145] Institut für Städtebau

Peripheral Mosaics of Cairo

Territorial Habitat [145.762]

WS 2023/24

In Zusammenarbeit mit Institut für Architektur & Landschaft und
Ain Shams University Cairo

Eva Schwab
Patricia Ventura
Aglaée Degros

stdb.tugraz.at

“The government should recognize the housing, this is their land and to take care”

**Father Siman,
Garbage City Tours 2023**

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Darcey Bill
Kadia Miller
Edoardo Manfrini

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Table of content

The primary focus of this course was to gain knowledge through initial research, talking with sources, going on site visits to the focus area and finally, coming up with our conclusions and potentials from the research.

Introduction	8
Historic Development	10
Geology	12
Facilities	13
Accessibility	14
Site Visit	18
Observations	18
Characteristics of Manshiyat Nasser	20
Al-Zabaleen	22
Chances & Challenges	24
Social Dynamics	26
Section	27
Ezbet Bekhet	28
Chances & Challenges	30
Social Dynamics	32
Section	33
Al-Herafeyen	34
Chances & Challenges	36
Social Dynamics	38
Section	39
Suzanne Mubarak	40
Chances & Challenges	42
Social Dynamics	44
Section	45
Comparisons - Social Development	46
Comparisons - Urban Diagrams	48
Comparisons - Potentials	50
Framework of Manshiyat Nasser	52

Peripheral Mosaics of Cairo

Darcey Bil, Kadia Miller, Edoardo Manfrini



[01]

[01] Manshiyat Nasser in the Greater Cairo region

Introduction and Context



WS 2023/24

Introduction

In the Greater Cairo Region lies Manshiyat Nasser: an informal settlement with a vibrant community born from rural migration. Our project, The Peripheral Mosaic of Cairo, explores the layers of Manshiyat Nasser by researching its development, the community and the dynamics that shape its urban fabric today.

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The demographics of the urban community show a predominantly youthful population, where most residents are under 50 years old (Tadamun, 2020). Despite the district being commonly referred to as "the garbage collectors," only 14% are engaged in this occupation, revealing a workforce dominated by craft and administration (65%), and private vocations (21%) (Tadamun, 2020). The community has a distinct literacy divide, with a little over half not being able to read (Tadamun, 2020).

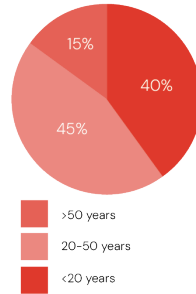
Figures [02] to [04] show a demographic mix skewed towards youth, it challenges the stereotype of "garbage collectors", and shows the literacy divide of the district (Tadamun, 2020).

[02] Age groups

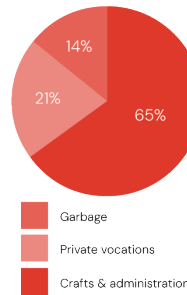
[03] Vocations

[04] Education

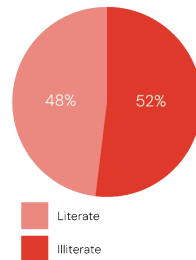
[05] Manshiyet Nasser and the neighbouring areas



[02]



[03]

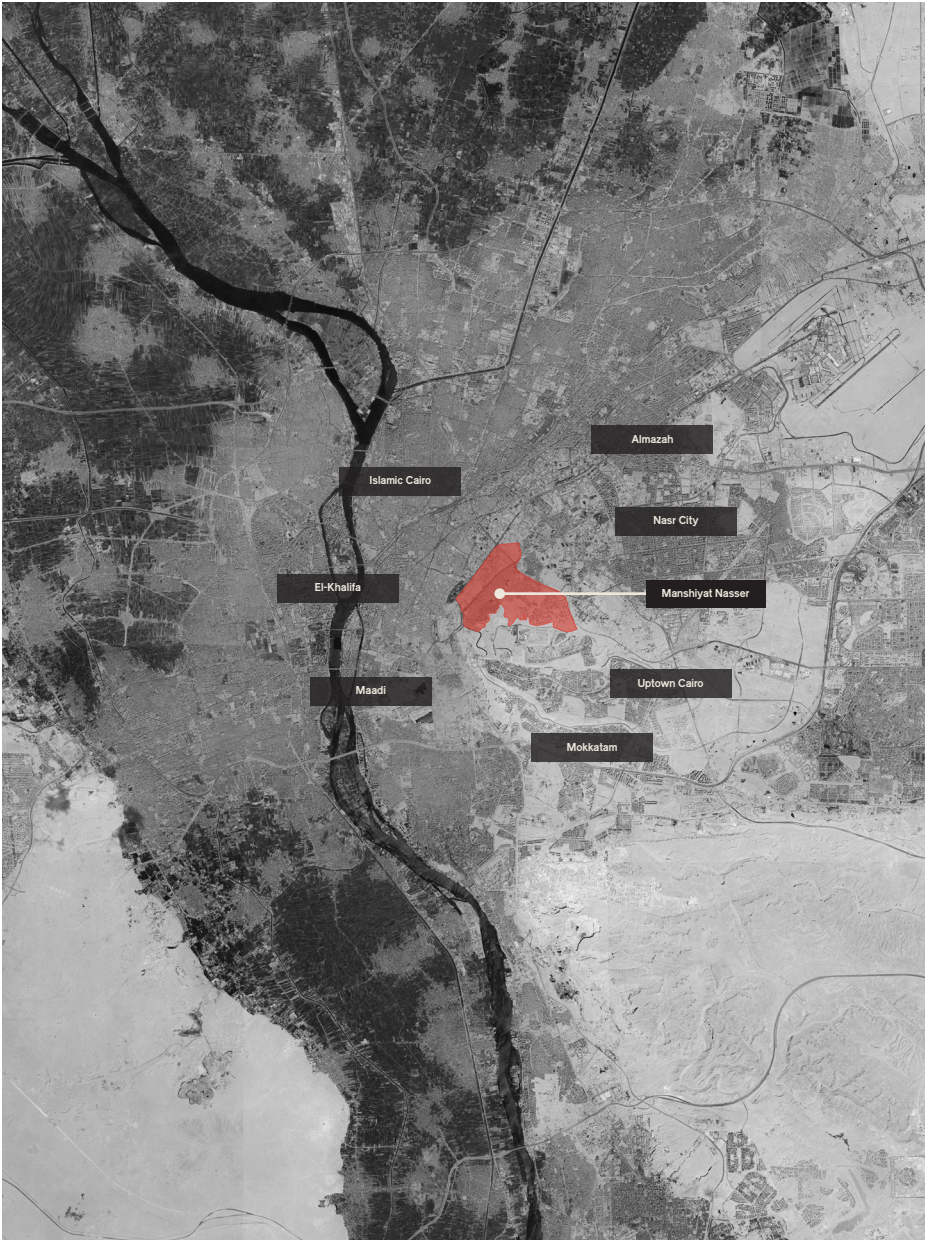


[04]

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[05]

Historic Development

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The narrative of the urban landscape and the emergence of informal settlements traces its roots back to the influx of rural immigrants into urban regions, commonly referred to as peri-urban migration (Tadamun, 2020). In the 1940s, rental control laws discouraged legal private investment and as a result this group of people took a bold step, resorting to squatting on state-owned land as a means to secure shelter (CairoInformalAreas, 2009). By 1960, a turning point arrived, marking the initial expansion phase for informal settlements (Tadamun, 2020). Progressing through time, areas like Manshiyat Nassar expanded due to an inability to acquire agricultural lands, compelling residents to build on the accessible surrounding lands (Tadamun, 2020). The year 1975 witnessed the construction of the Al-Inba Siman Church, a positive shift for the Zabaleen community (Tadamun, 2020).

During this period, the area began benefiting from government and donor-supported planning and development initiatives, leading to notable projects like the 1990's Al-Herafeyen housing (Tadamun, 2020). However, a tragic event occurred in 2008 when a rock slide on the Muqattam Hills in the Al-Duwayqa district claimed the lives of 75 inhabitants and left 58 injured (ReliefWeb, 2008). In response, the government took action, providing housing for the displaced individuals in the Suzanne Mubarak government housing (Tadamun, 2020). Even today, the dynamics between Manshiyat Nassar's residents and governmental authorities play a significant role in shaping the area's history, undoubtedly influencing its future.

[06] Construction Period

[07] 1960 Urban Rural migration

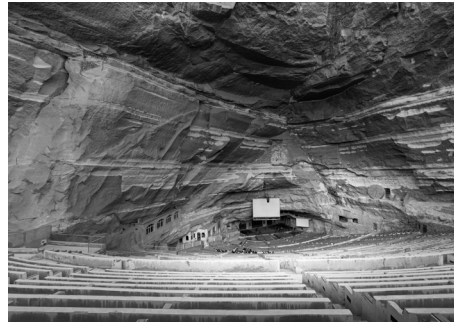
[08] 1975 Al-Inba Siman church

[09] 1999 Al-Herafeyen Housing

[10] 2008 Rockslide

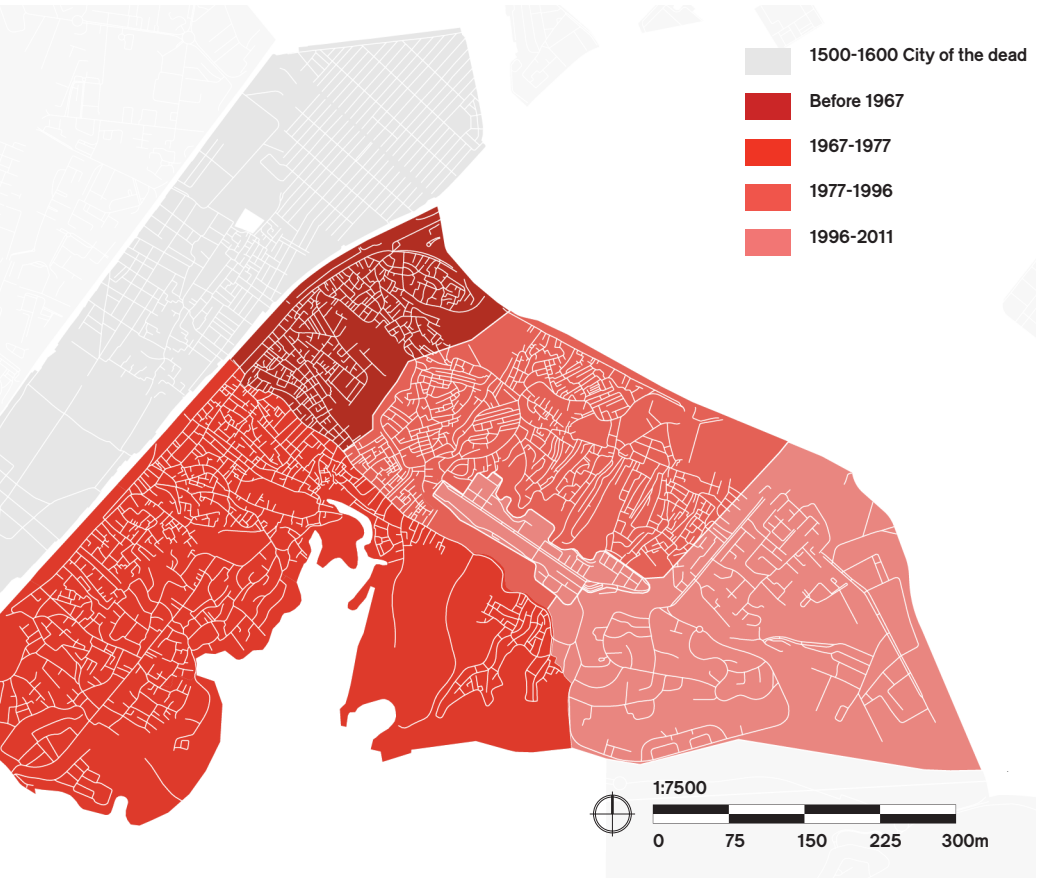


[07]



[08]

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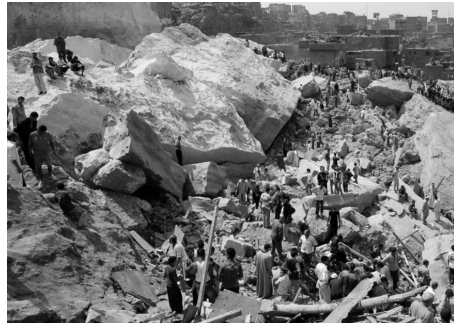


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[06]

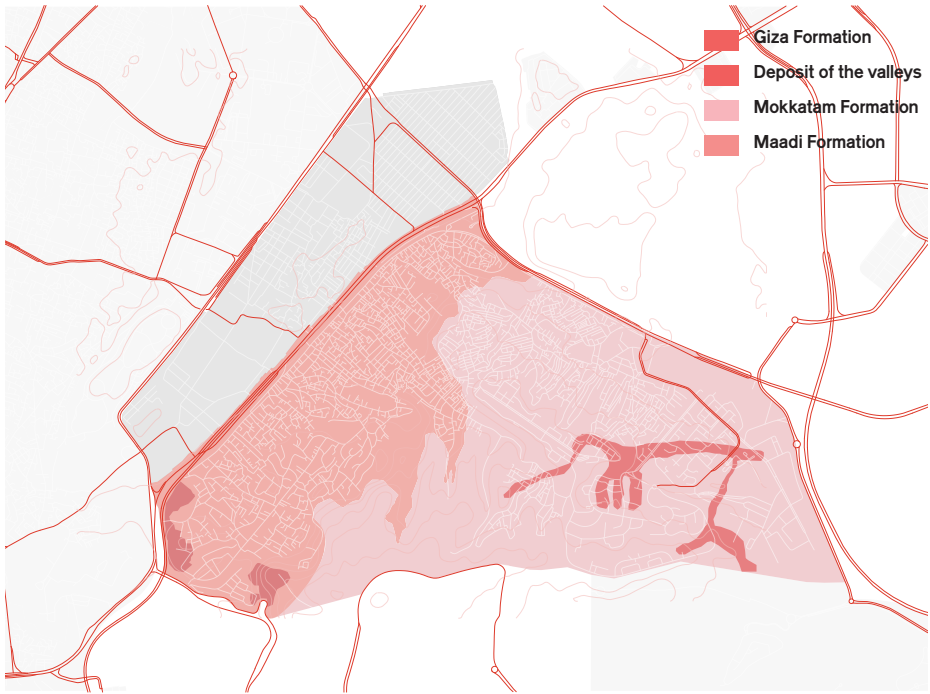


[09]



[10]

Geology



[11]

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The geology of Manshiyat Nasser [11] strongly influenced the way houses were built. With multiple rock slides in the past decades, the people in the different districts have to live with a constant fear of another one (Tadamun, 2020). In total there are four different types of geological formations in the district of Manshiyat Nasser:

Firstly the deposits of the valleys: a holocene deposit, which is a combination of gravel, sand, limestone fragments and alluvial deposits. It is mainly found in between the valleys. Secondly, the Maadi formation, which is an oligocene deposit that occupies

9.1% of the total surface area of the plateau and contains gravel and coarse sand.

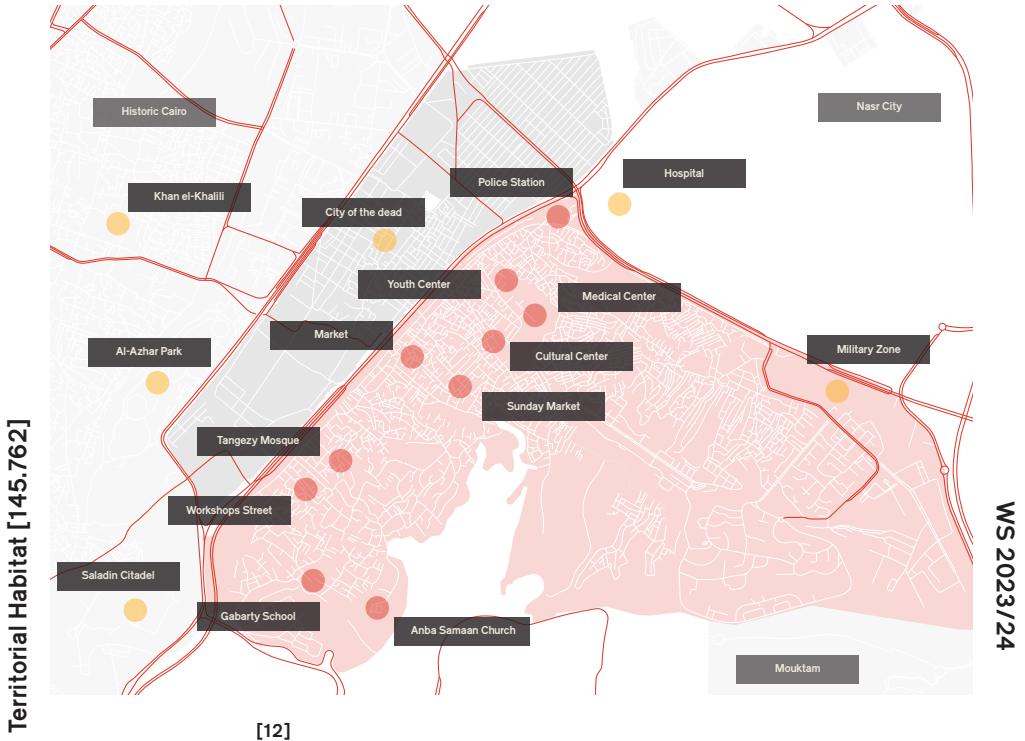
Thirdly the Mokkatam formation: an eocene deposit. It is characterized by the presence of brown clay, which overlaps with limestone that is high in its content of lime and sand.

Lastly, the Giza formation, which is concentrated on the western edges east to the Citadel of Mohamed Ali and is recognizable by its yellowish-white color and divided into sand-, clay-, dolomitic and chalky limestone (Donia & Abdel, 2020).

[11] Geological formations

[12] Facilities map

Facilities



[12]

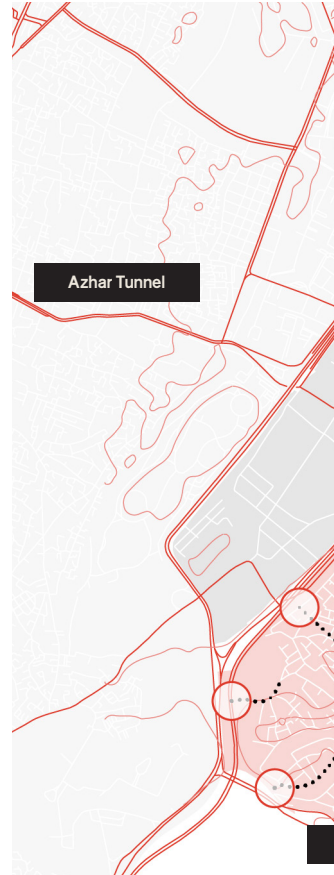
The map in figure [12] illustrates the most significant facilities within Manshiyat Nasser. Upon a closer look, one might think there are abundant markets for essential food, government structures including police stations and medical centers, and religious landmarks like the Tangezy Mosque and Anba Samaan Church spread evenly throughout the area. Yet, given the 2017 census data revealing a population of around 250,000 inhabitants in this 5.54 square kilometer district, the contrast between the number of people and the available facilities is evident (CAPMAS, 2023).

On the outskirts of the facilities map two neighborhoods of Cairo are visible. To the North-East and East is Nasr City. It was part of the modernization plans of Egypt in the 1950s (Cairo Observer, 2015). Consisting of orthogonal lines with housing, facilities and some parks it stands in stark contrast to Manshiyat Nasser. In the North-West and West lies Islamic Cairo. It is the heart of the city with many historic sites, such as the Khan el-Khalili Market. In the South are the Muqattam Heights which acts as a barrier between Manshiyat Nasser and other neighborhoods (GoogleMaps, 10 November 2023).

Accessibility

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The accessibility map in figure [13] not only shows the various entry points to Manshiyat Nassar but also highlights the challenges posed by blockades and boundaries, notably the Autostrad highway on the East side (GoogleMaps, 11 November 2023) acting as a prominent divide between the City of the Dead and the rest of Manshiyat Nassar. While the Autostrad and newer entrance points along the Mehwar Gehan El Sadat offer primary access, most roads only partially traverse the district, with smaller pathways accessible solely by foot (GoogleMaps, 11 November 2023). The region's uneven terrain presents elevation changes, marked by various curbs and staircases, limiting the availability of ramps due to space and material constraints (Topographic-Maps, 2023). Compounded by sandy streets that impede wheeled cart movement and reduce visibility during sandstorms, these factors pose challenges for elderly individuals, caretakers with small children, and those with disabilities, hindering ease of movement within the community.



- [13] Accessibility Map
- [14] AI Autostrad
- [15] Narrow streets
- [16] Stairs
- [17] Sand streets

[13]

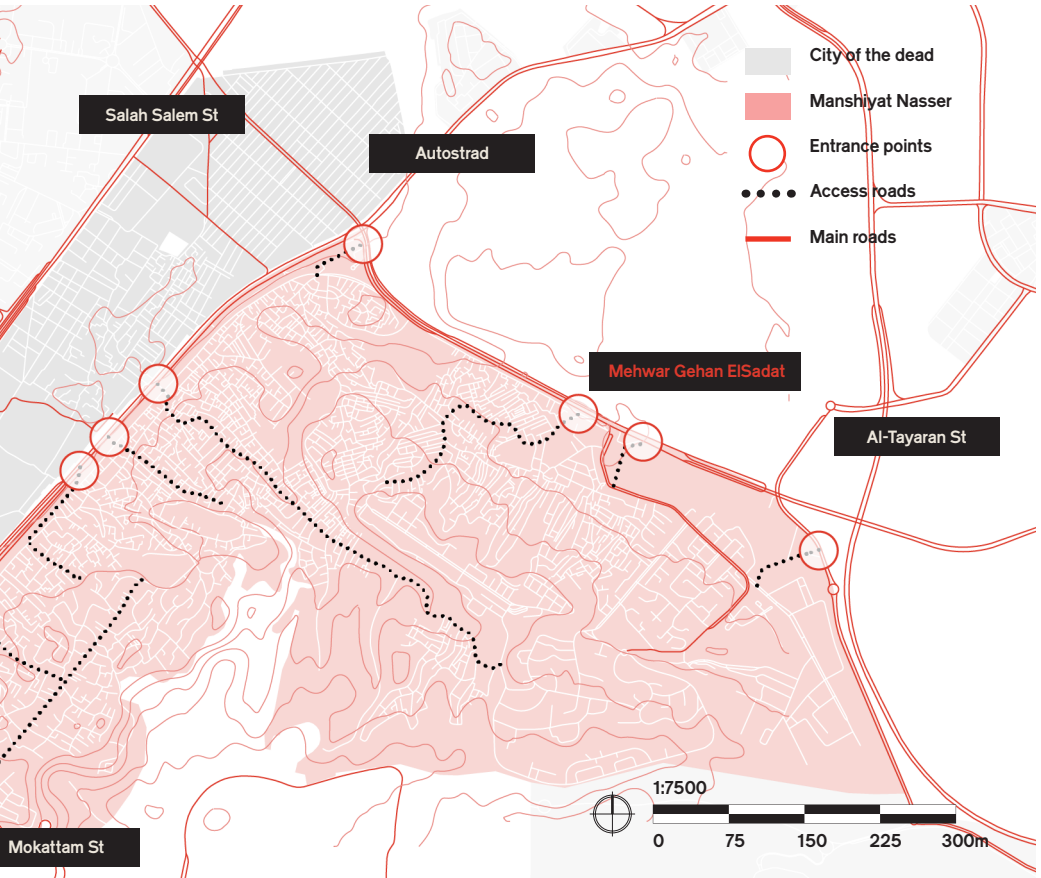


[14]



[15]

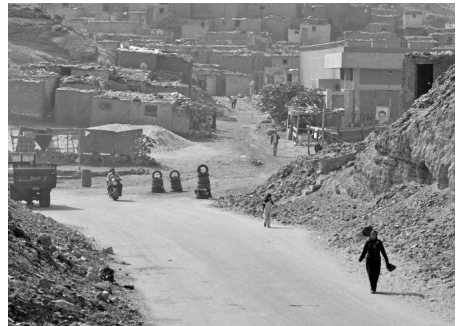
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[16]



[17]

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Al-Zabaleen
Tourist area with a lot of services due to the churches but the area is very crowded



Ezbet Bekhet
Has a lot of civil societies and is kind of developed due it being the first official area to cooperate with GIZ

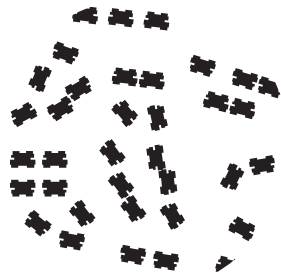
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Al-Herafeyen
Built in the 80's and has as a very good division for streets and blocks with almost all the ground floors being workshops



Suzanne Mubarak
The highclass area in Manshiya built in 1999. 1,2,3,4 are good areas but 5th division is very high so its hard to reach with transportation

Site Visit Observations

AL-ZABALEEN

EZBET-BEKHET

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Co-existing

WORK AND LIVING



Community-oriented



The housing reflects the work

BUILDING



Residential places above the street markets



Busy traffic and working, very lively

STREET



Narrow and active

AL-HERAFEYEN



Separation between work and living

SUZANNE MUBARAK



Living and work split

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WORK AND LIVING



Uniform workshops below the living places

BUILDING



First uniform housing built then adaptation to the needs

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Wider streets with one side used for fast traffic and the other for overspill of markets and workshops

STREET



Wide streets are used mainly for getting to and from work

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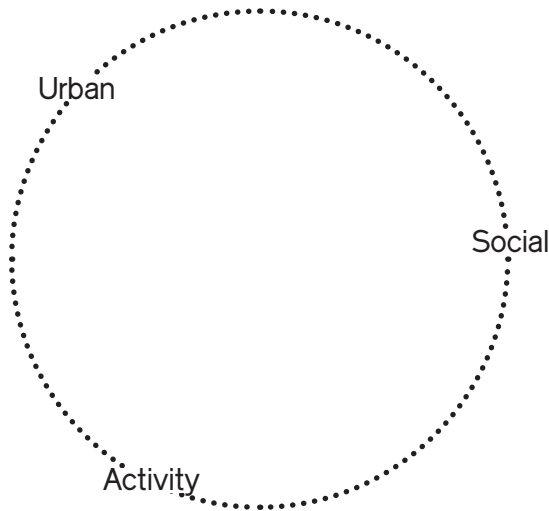
Characteristics of Manshiyat Nasser

In order to understand the potentials of Manshiyat Nasser, it is important to understand the many districts that make up the whole area. The initial research into Manshiyat Nasser brings forth four districts that strongly differ. These are (1) Al-Zabaleen (2) Ezbet Bekhet (3) Al-Herafeyen and (4) Suzanne Mubarak.

the Urban, Activity and Social. These characteristics describe the districts in types of houses, streets, people, work and social life. The Urban, Social and Activity are interrelated and non-hierarchical, therefore they are visible in a circle in the diagram in figure [18].

To describe and finally compare these different districts for its potential we have reduced Manshiyat Nasser to three characteristics. These relate to

[18] Urban-Activity-Social Connection



[18]

Al-Zabaleen

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The Al-Zabaleen district is popularly known for its recycling and trash collecting businesses as well as a newer tourism industry. The district recycles 85% of Cairo's trash (Tadamun, 2020) and therefore plays an important role in the Greater Cairo Region. Working in garbage is usually a family affair as the men collect trash during the night and the women do the sorting during the day (Arte & Delvigne, 2020). Some families specialize in sorting and recycling certain types of materials, which provides wealth and work opportunities for family members (Arte & Delvigne, 2020).

The liveliness of the community is visible in people, animals and vehicles piled with trash that are going in every direction through narrow streets with small dwellings. On these plots many families in Al-Zabaleen have lived for generations as each family constructs a new level for each of their sons (M. Pilot, personal communication, November 19 2023). Most of the inhabitants in the Al-Zabaleen community are coptic christians, which is visible in the display of christian icons and the church in the area.

A point of pride are the pigeon towers, which stand above the buildings along with the Muqattam Heights. According to M. Pilot (personal communication, November 19 2023) the bird's primary purpose is as pets and then only secondly as food, which is an anomaly in this work-driven community.

The district also harbors lesser-known entities, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and pockets of greenery. Most of the initia-

tes in the Manshiyat Nasser area are interested in charity work instead of development (Tadamun, 2020). In Al-Zabbaleen only two work on development and education. One of them is the recycling school, the other is an NGO we visited during our site visit. It produces and sells crafted, handmade and recycled products.



- Help with the built environment and economics
- Provided funding for proper housing and sanitary options
- Provided the area with a weaving factory for women and girls
- Helped drivers obtain licenses to link between Zabaleen and factory



- Help with their jobs
- Created a recycling school and a school for Zabaleen boys who have dropped out
- Donated money to the residents to purchase machinery
- Provided machine training



- Help with their health
- Provided potable water, sewage and sanitation
- Aimed at increasing children's awareness regarding health
- Provided school and income opportunities

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[19] Collage Al-Zabaleen

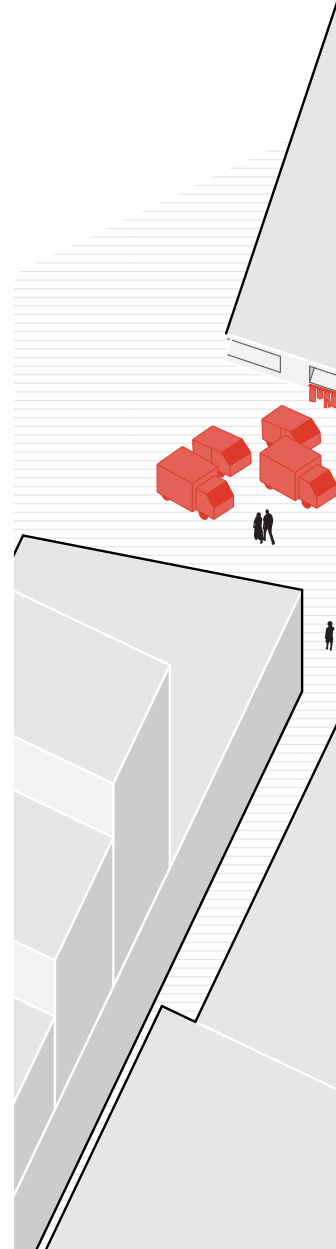
Al-Zabaleen Chances & Challenges

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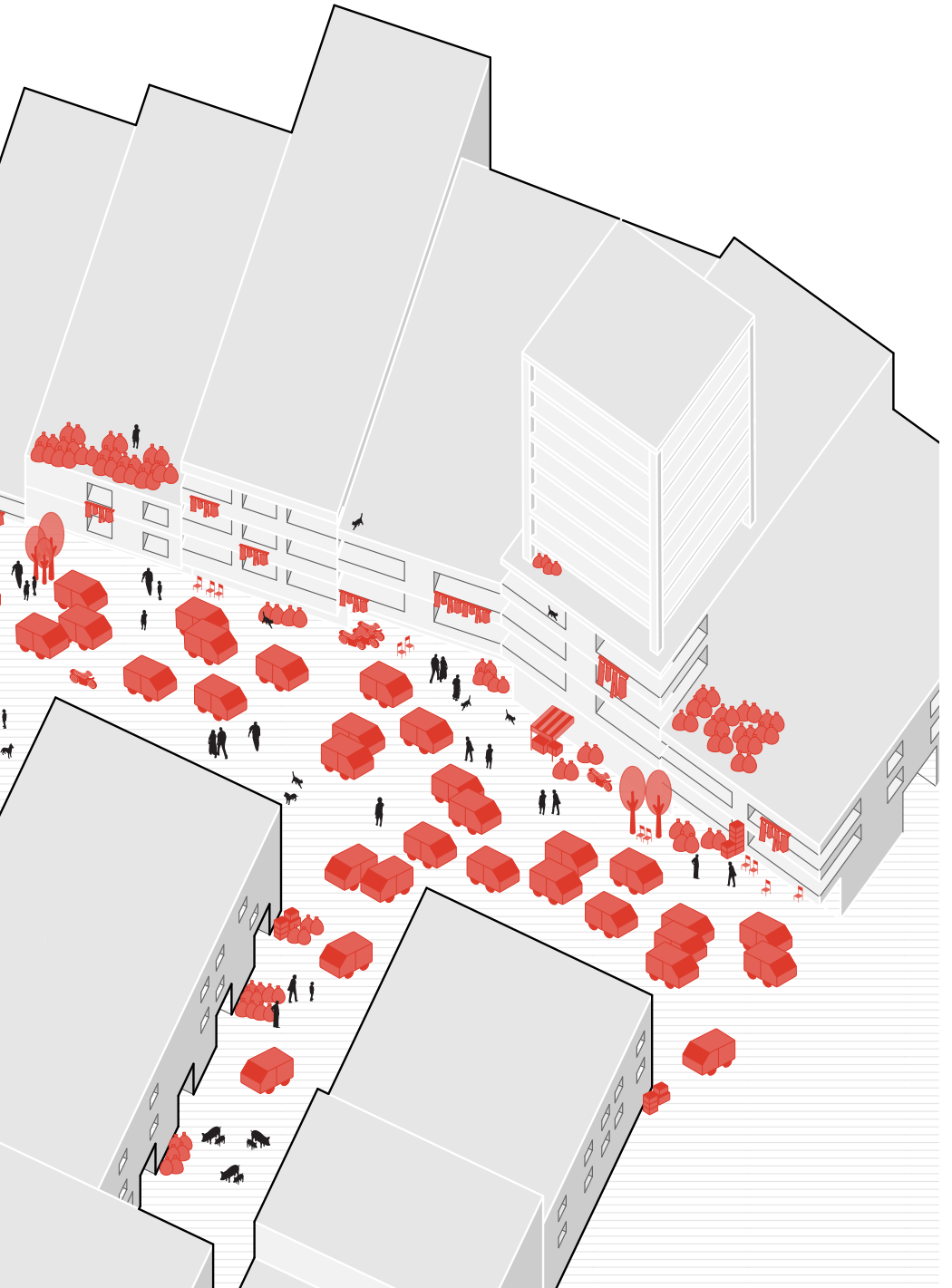
The chances in the Al-Zabaleen district are mainly due to the number of apparent challenges. One example of a potential chance is from all of the leftover trash that cannot be used in the recycling industry. This trash can be trucked into the desert wasteland and free up land where people can sustainably live. This has the potential to create job opportunities for people in the district to drive these trucks and for mechanics to use their skills to maintain these vehicles. With the unusable garbage gone, this will create spatial opportunities to take advantage of. One example could be to designate work areas and cluster different working areas together and also create some regulations such as requiring safety equipment in these zones to provide a more social environment for the inhabitants to live and work in. In creating certain zones it will also help with the health conditions, as seen on the site visit and in the From Rags to Riches Youtube video (Arte & Delvigne, 2020). Another example of using this space is to create bus stops with trees and other vegetation around it so that the inhabitants have a place to easily access public transportation at regular intervals. Lastly, an improvement that could be implemented is ramps and stairs that allow elderly and disabled people to get from place to place and access these necessary areas. This is just one potential example.

[20] Axonometric Al-Zabaleen

[20]



District Overview



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Al-Zabaleen Social Dynamics

The social dynamics in Al-Zabaleen reflect the strong community ties and the distrust of the government. The community feeling originates from their shared background as pig farmers and coptic christians (Tadamun, 2020), and from families living together as well as working together.

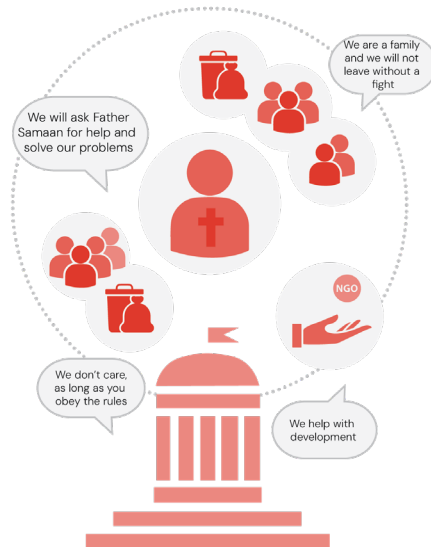
However the community still struggles with recognition of their work by the government as well as the fear of sudden eviction. The garbage collectors have been relocated many times in the past (Tadamun, 2020) and the land tenure is not officially secured (M. Pilot, personal communication, November 19 2023). The community is viewed as unwanted by the government and efforts to gain official recognition have been unsuccessful thus far (Tadamun, 2020).

Most sense of security came from the arrival of coptic leaders such as Sister Emmanuelle and Father Samaan who supported urban development and strengthened the community (Arte & Delvigne, 2020). The Coptic Orthodox Church set up programs that improved the situation of workers, provided services and set up contracts to collect garbage from the other Manshiyat Nasser neighborhoods (Tadamun, 2020)

Conflicts are solved within the community with the guidance of influential families or christian leaders and only rarely are officials involved (M. Pilot, personal communication, November 19 2023).

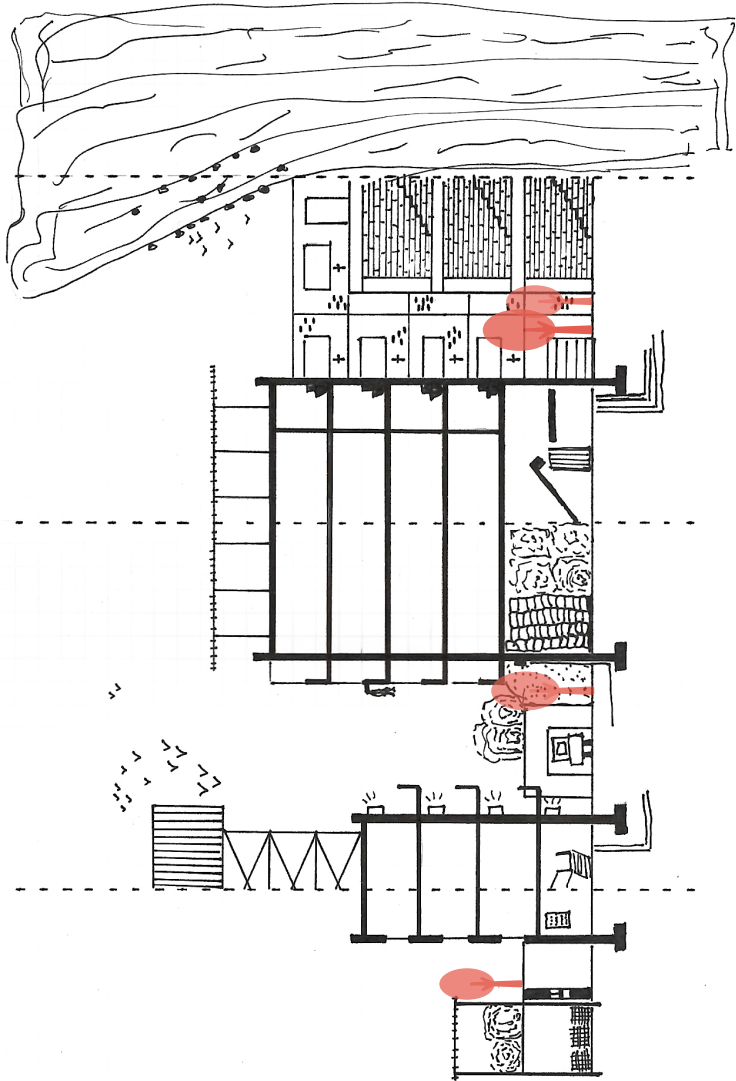
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Al-Zabaleen Section

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Ezbet Bekhet

Ezbet Bekhet is the oldest district of Manshiyat Nasser. The name stems from “tin” as the area was famous for selling cheap building materials in the past (Tadamun, 2020). Nowadays most buildings are made of reinforced concrete in combination with brick (Tadamun, 2020) and consist of housing with shops for daily necessities. In some parts of Ezbet Bekhet trades can be found, such as the production of carpets, shoes and other handicrafts.

The narrow streets often are paved and show government and non-profit development in forms of sewage, water supply and electricity. The district has a youth center as well as several schools that were developed by NGOs as well as local initiatives. These services however still lack in quantity and quality. Access to secondary education, healthcare and accessibility for the disabled and elderly still remains a problem (Tadamun, 2020).



Housing and sanitary options were funded
Trees have been planted by locals



Contracts and land division are managed through relatives
Community organization is related to cultural heritage



Shops for daily necessities
Active NGOs
Teachers rented buildings to provide primary education

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[21] Collage Ezbet Bekhet

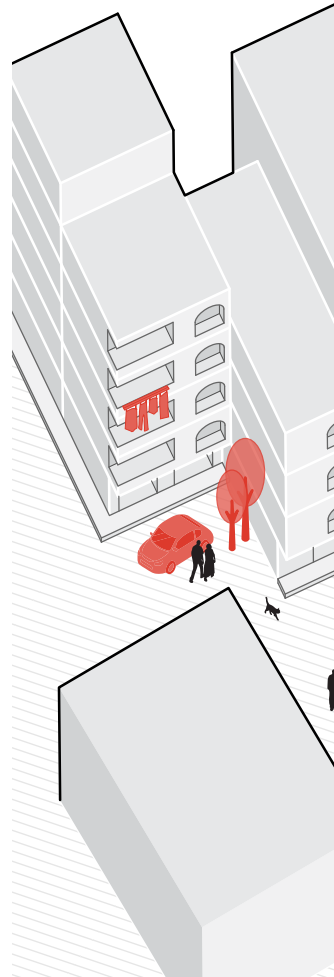
Ezbet Bekhet Chances & Challenges

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The current situation of Ezbet Bekhet poses challenges in which chances are to be found. In the first place the urban infrastructure consists of narrow streets as well as squares. These narrow streets provide thermal comfort during summer by providing shade. However most of the public spaces are not qualitative and there is little green. Therefore these squares could be used to create qualitative public spaces with greenery, spaces for gathering as well as space for children to play. Secondly accessibility remains a challenge because of the narrow streets which prevent access of public services such as fire fighters, police and ambulances. Therefore breakthroughs in strategic places could improve circulation and create wider streets.

Third, there is a need for better social services such as health care and education. If more clinics and schools are available in the district, travel distances would be reduced and societal integration would be promoted. That refers also to the last and most difficult challenge of the Manshiyat Nasser area: stigmatization. Many residents have to deal with prejudice and judgment from Cairenese, whereas they do benefit from social support in their own community.

Integration of the urban structure in the bigger city as well as improvement of the living standard would be important in defying the stigmatization.



[21]

District Overview



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Ezbet Bekhet Social Dynamics

The social dynamics in Ezbet Bekhet reflect the local community, some intervention of the government and NGOs. The first inhabitants of Ezbet Bekhet had migrated during the second world war. The government is mostly absent in Ezbet Bekhet, leaving the community to organize itself. According to their cultural heritage the inhabitants set up a social structure. It consisted of a mayor 'Umda' and a tribal council 'Majlis al-Arab' with different members from the community (Tadamun, 2020). They solved disputes and took charge of land division. That shared origin of many inhabitants leads to strong social ties and a sense of security.

Similar as in Al-Zabaleen, NGOs work project-based. One of the NGOs we visited runs a primary school. In addition people that originate from the same region set up local initiatives to support their own community.

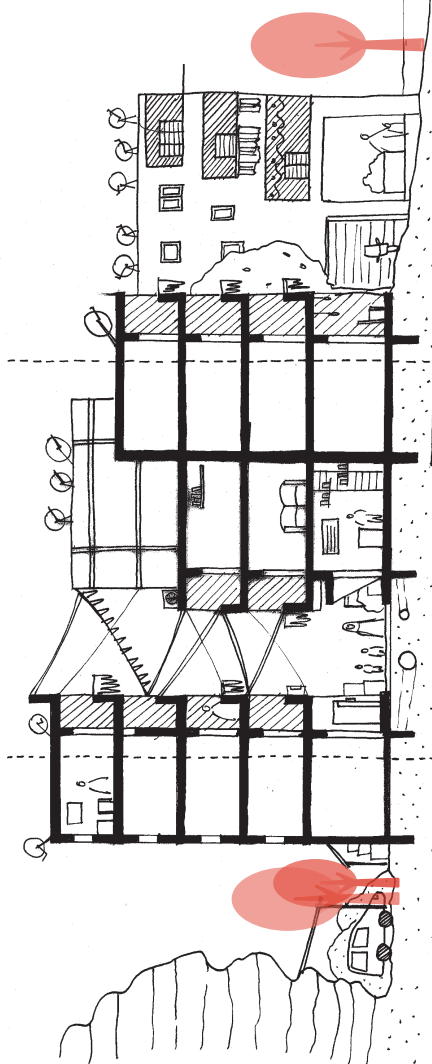
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Al-Hirafeyen

Darcey Bil, Kadia Miller, Edoardo Manfrini

Al-Hirafeyen, which translates to the craftsmen's quarter, has a unique history rooted in a government initiative to organize and regulate the illegal workshops scattered around Cairo. The original vision was to create a unified district where these craftsmen could work in a controlled environment. The innovative plan allocated the first floors of residential buildings for the craftsmen, with residents living on the floors above.

Over the years, the district has transformed, with the workshops evolving into garages and mechanical spaces and is now well known around Cairo for its specialization in car repairs. People working in Al-Hirafeyen are nowadays not only locals, but also workes from outside Manshiyat Nasser. In addition to the workshops, the area has a variety of businesses, including bars and small shops. This not only provides convenient services for vehicle owners but also offers a place for locals to spend their time.

Following the rock-slide incident in 2008, Al-Hirafeyen was used to take in victims who had lost their homes.

One notable challenge arising from the government's housing division strategy is the separation of families. In traditional housing structures, each family typically owned a house, allowing them to live together until the children reached adulthood. In Al-Hirafeyen, however, families were placed in separate apartments, disrupting the

close-knit dynamic they were accustomed to.

Another aspect is the street sizes, with only half of the space being utilized for traffic, while the remaining area has now been taken up by stores and workshops.

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- Help with the built environment and economics
- Government housing
- Wide streets
- Greenery present
- Paved and unpaved roads



- Help with their jobs
- Provided workshops on the plinth of the houses
- Specialization in car workshops



- Help with their health
- Water and electrical grids built legally by the government
- Overall better educational and medicinal facilities

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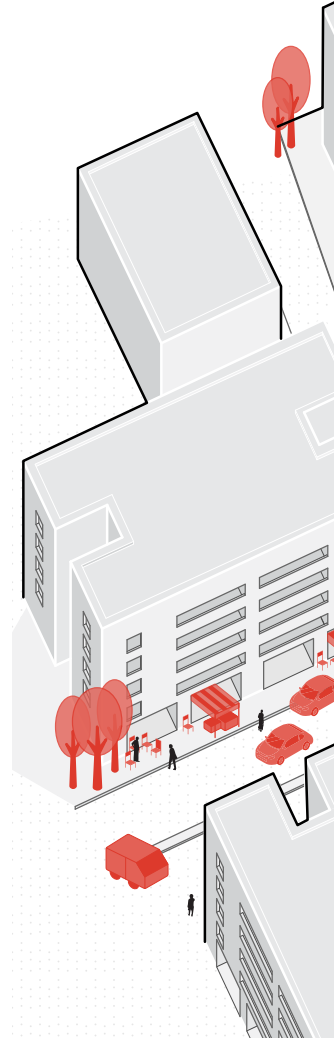
[22] Collage Al-Herafeyen

Al-Herafeyen Chances & Challenges

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The current state of the Al-Herfeyen district presents several challenges, but it also holds promising chances. One of the primary challenges is the vast emptiness, created by the combination of wide streets and scattered buildings. Based on our observations, this lack of protection from the elements, especially wind, can create uncomfortable situations for the residents. Another issue is the lack of shading. Despite having more trees than other districts in Manshiyt Nasser, the absence of proper shading, especially during the summer heat, proves to be a significant factor challenging the area. Lastly, perhaps the most considerable challenge is the geological aspect of Al-Herfeyen. When the government planned the housing development, they did not take into account the geological characteristics of the area. The construction of massive buildings has dramatically increased the pressure on the rocks underneath, endangering the private homes built on Al-Razzā Street, located under the hill (Tadamun, 2020).

However, the area is not without its chances. One notable opportunity lies in the potential for economic expansion, leveraging the already well-established workshops. Additionally, improvement through the implementation of additional facilities can enhance the quality of life for the residents.



District Overview



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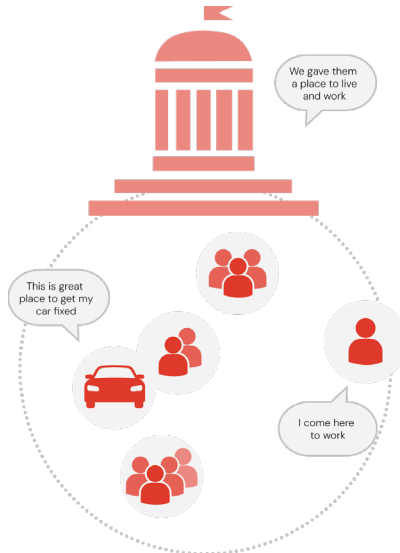
Al-Herafeyen Social Dynamics

The social dynamics in Al-Herafeyen reflect the work-related activities and the governmental influence in the area. The garages and car workshops provide work for the inhabitants, but also attract people from outside the area such as employees and customers of the workshops (Fawzi, personal communication, November 19 2023). The governmental involvement in the area is especially reflected in the actions undertaken after the Al-Duwayqa rockslide. As part of this area Al-Herafeyen underwent forced evictions as some areas were identified as dangerous by the authorities

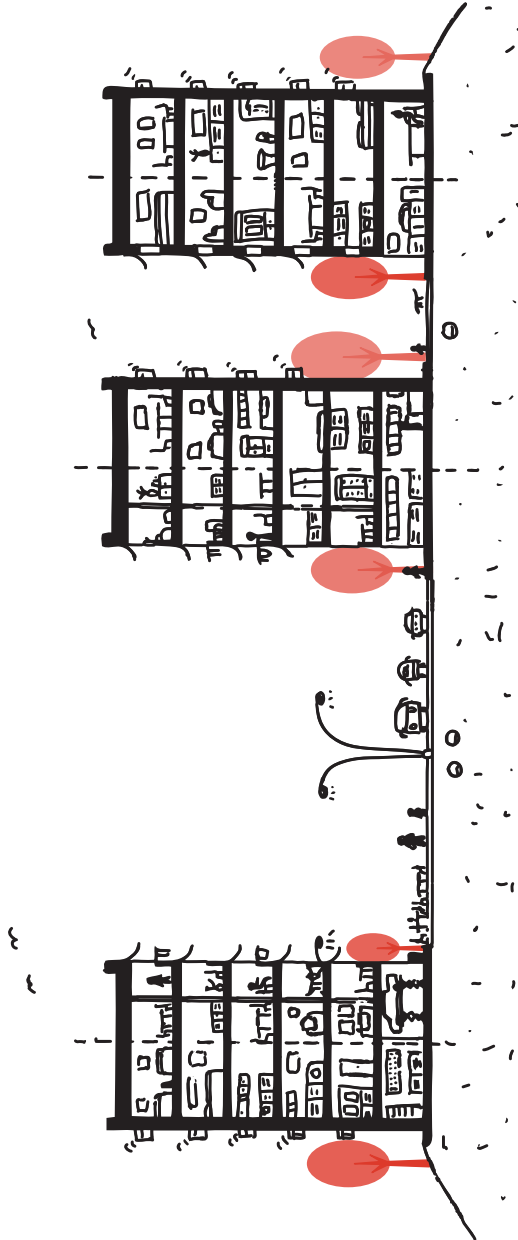
after the rockslide (Amnesty International Publications, 2009). The inhabitants were not provided with enough information about these evacuations (Tadamun, 2020) and the combination with corruption left the inhabitants feeling helpless.

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Al-Herafeyen Section



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Suzanne Mubarak

Darcey Bil, Kadia Miller, Edoardo Manfrini

The Suzanne Mubarek housing construction started in 1999 with the main purpose of the buildings to house the people that were living in the most dangerous part of Al-Duwayqa (Tadamun, 2020). The purpose of the housing shifted a bit in 2008 after the rockslide occurred. After this tragic event the survivors in the Al-Duwayqa district were given priority to move into the Suzanne Mubarek housing (Tadamun, 2020). However, officials lacked to give out official documents to claim ownership and the process was not transparent. As a consequence people falsely claimed to be survivors to get access to the housing units. Actual survivors therefore failed to take advantage of this opportunity (Tadamun, 2020). Other graphics that are highlighted in the collage are the transportation. In this district there are systems of micro-buses and tuk-tuks that easily get residents around the area (Fawzi, personal communication, November 19 2023). This is essential because of the great distances in this district. Not only would elderly and handicapped residents have a hard time getting around this area, it also takes a lot of time and effort for people of good health to get from point A to point B. After the 2011 revolution people also took advantage of the chaos and squatted in empty apartments (Tadamun, 2020)

Urban

Help with the built environment and economics
 Priority housing for the survivors of the rock-slide
 Created as an upgrade for Dawayka
 No legal security of the tenure, only rental contracts

Activity

Help with their jobs
 Didn't provide the needs of the locals for the workshops, which were later added illegally in the plinth

Social

Help with their health
 Water and electrical grid built legally by the government
 Overall better educational and medicinal facilities
 Monitored by the Egyptian Red Crescent

Eva Schwab, Patricia Venturà, Aglaée Degros

District Overview

Territorial Habitat [145.762]

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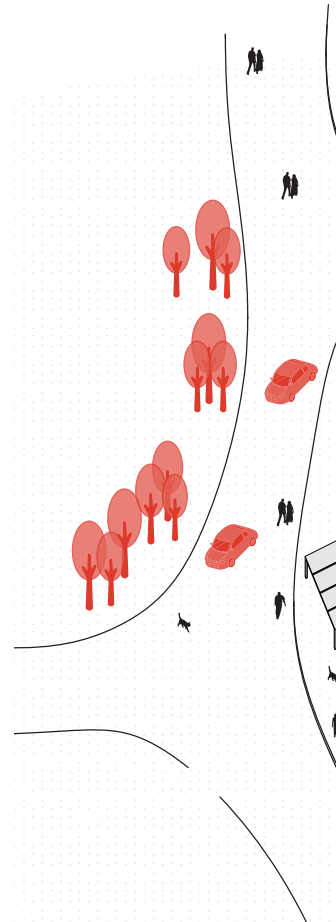
[24] Collage Suzanne Mubarak

Suzanne Mubarak Chances & Challenges

Observing the Suzanne Mubarek housing was very similar to the researched views. In the Tadamun article it states that the project “involved building a medical center, three mosques, a grand mosque, a hall for social events, two health units, three kindergartens, a post office, a civil registry office” and other amenities (Tadamun, 2020). However, while we were on the site and observing exactly what was built, it seemed the government prioritized constructing the housing without building the important social amenities.

However, visiting the Suzanne Mubarek Housing site was an experience similar to the Al-Heraffyin with a different vibe. While both sites had very standard housing styles, Suzanne Mubarek obviously had more trees and more adaptation in the sense of pigeon towers on the roofs of these government houses. The similarities were more apparent than the differences. You could tell the people living there had adapted the plinths to the trades they worked to make a living. The roads were wide with traffic being able to flow freely. It was busy with people walking to and from work and communicating in the streets.

Darcey Bil, Kadia Miller, Edoardo Manfrini



District Overview



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Suzanne Mubarak Social Dynamics

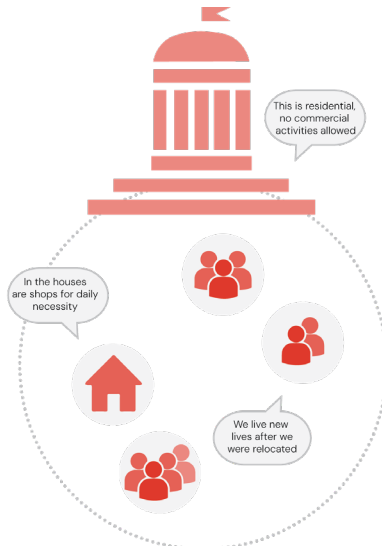
Suzanne Mubarak, compared to other districts in Manshiyt Nasser, exhibits a lack of strong social connections within the community, stemming from how the community was established. The social dynamics prevalent in Suzanne Mubarak mirror the boundaries outlined by governmental development plans. For most of the residents, these boundaries were determined based on the availability of housing.

The district was planned solely for residential purposes, to the extent that there is a sign at the entrance explicitly mentioning the restriction of any form of business development (Fawzi, personal communication, November 19 2023). Nevertheless, many buildings in the area feature shops catering to daily

necessities in the plinth of the buildings. These shops have been added without authorization by the residents themselves. Consequently, there exists a certain fear among the residents towards outsiders, driven by the potential repercussions from these unauthorized alterations (Fawzi, personal communication, November 19 2023).

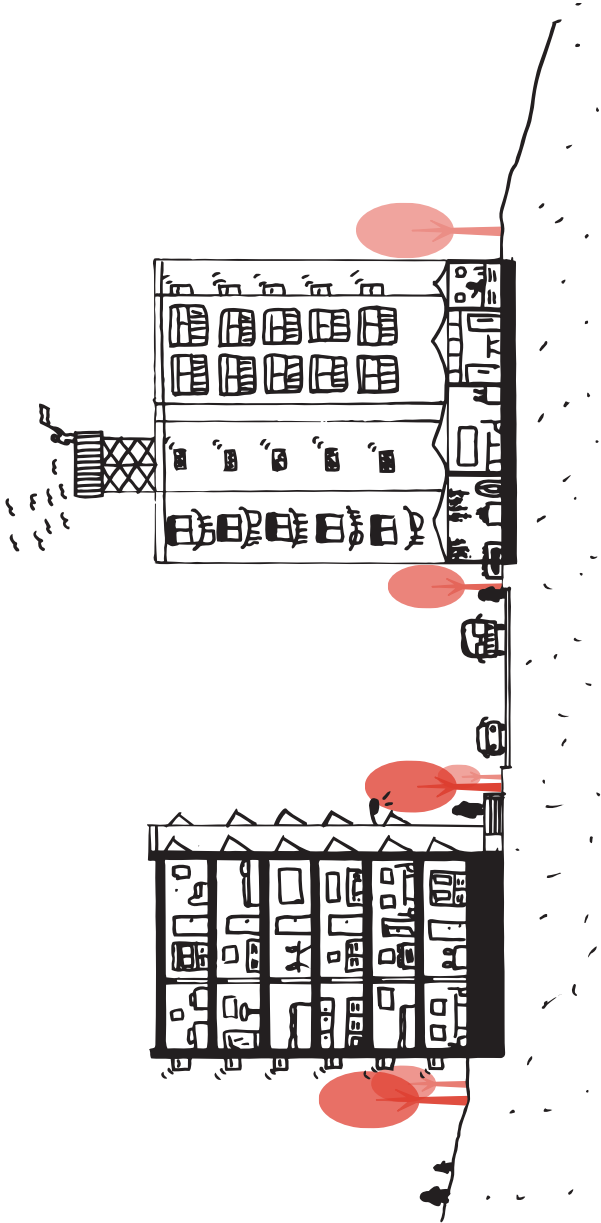
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Suzanne Mubarak Section

Territorial Habitat [145.762]



WS 2023/24

Comparisons Social Development

Darcey Bil, Kadia Miller, Edoardo Manfrini

In order to understand the potentials of Manshiyat Nasser, we researched four districts that make up the whole area. During the site visits it became apparent that each district has its own way of combining working and living, which is informed by the urban and social structures. Al-Zabaleen, Ezbet Bekhet, Al-Herafeyen and Suzanne Mubarak were constructed at different points in time by different actors as seen in figures [26] to [31].

Al-Zabaleen and Ezbet Bekhet were constructed by the people themselves, when migrants settled on barren land. This resulted in strong community ties and independence from the government. However, challenges lie in the quality of (social) services. On the other hand Al-Herafeyen and Suzanne Mubarak were built by the government. This results in a weaker community in which the government sets the rules.



[26]

Risk taker settles on land



[29]

Government plans and builds housing units

Comparisons



[27]

**People built and expand
according to their own needs**



[28]

**An informal community is
established**



[30]

**People adapt buildings
according to their own needs**



[31]

**An informal community is
established**

Comparisons Urban Diagrams

Darcey Bil, Kadia Miller, Edoardo Manfrini



[32]

Al-Zabaleen:

- Small scale
- Small streets
- Activity in the plinth and streets
- Diverse heights
- Residential and work



[33]

Ezbet Bekhet:

- Small scale
- Small streets and plazas
- Activity in the plinth
- Diverse heights
- Residential

Eva Schwab, Patricia Ventuřra, Aglaée Degros

The comparison in urban terms, which can be seen in figures [32] to [35], shows that the first two consist of narrow streets with many buildings that range in footprint. This creates shaded streets in the summers, which improves thermal quality. In addition these buildings suit the needs of the inhabitants with multiple story family housing and stores in the plinths.

Comparisons

Territorial Habitat [145.762]



[34]

Al-Herafeyen:

- Big scale
- Similar heights
- Wide streets
- Activity in the plinth and streets
- Residential and work



[35]

Suzanne Mubarak:

- Big scale
- Wide streets
- Activity in the plinth
- Similar heights
- Residential

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The last two have wide streets with fewer large buildings that have the same footprint, which leads to little shade in the extreme summers. There are (work)shops in the plinths in both areas, but the illegality of these shops in Suzanne Mubarak is apparent in the less lively streets.

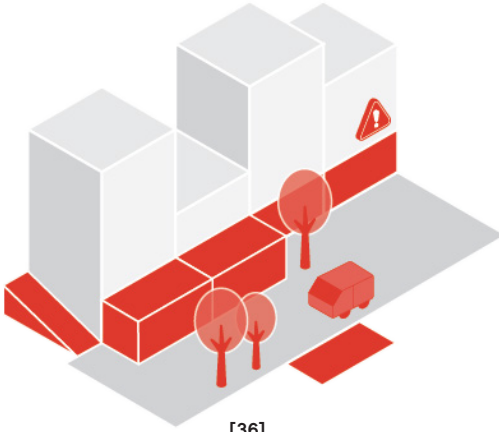
Comparisons Potentials

These different social structures, urban lay-out and activities result in different potentials in each area. In Al-Zabaleen and Ezbet Bekhet most potential lies in the improvement of public services. In Al-Zabaleen health could be improved by moving left-over trash to landfill areas outside the district. In addition zoning could be introduced for the different types of sorting and recycling. By grouping the different types of work, the right working conditions could be met. Especially the more unhealthy workshop could be separated from housing. In addition ramps for the disabled and elderly as well as public transport services could improve accessibility. In Ezbet Bekhet the square could become part of the public domain, by creating playgrounds and green areas. On the other hand Al-Herafeyen and Suzanne Mubarak require another plan. In these areas the urban structure is not on the human scale and the wide streets are not fit for the heat. Therefore strategic densification could be an approach to create smaller streets, introduce more services and legalize the shops for daily necessities. In addition, redesign of the outdoor space to create qualitative squares with greenery or canopies for summer is valuable.

Darcey Bil, Kadia Miller, Edoardo Manfrini

Eva Schwab, Patricia Venturà, Aglaée Degros

Comparisons



[36]

Al-Zabaleen:

- Trash to landfill
- Zoning
- Ramps
- Public transport



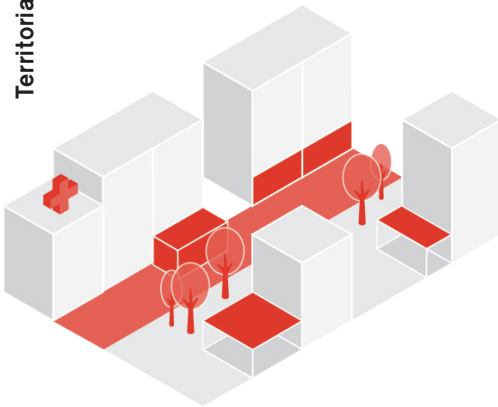
[37]

Ezbet Bekhet:

- Public plazas
- Playgrounds
- Public greenery
- Ramps
- Public transport

Territorial Habitat [145.762]

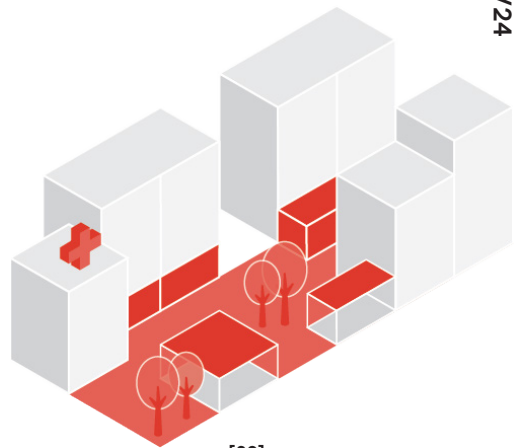
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[38]

Al-Herafeyen:

- Densification
- Public services
- Public greenery
- Canopies for heat



[39]

Suzanne Mubarak:

- Densification
- Public services
- Public greenery
- Canopies heat
- Legalization of shops

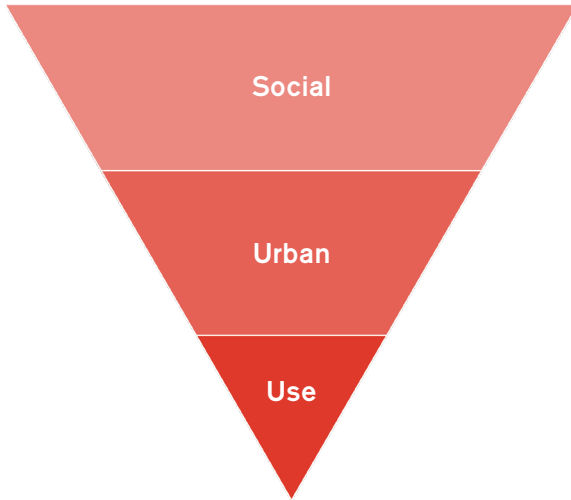
Framework of Manshiyat Nasser

To conclude our research on the districts in Manshiyat Nasser we created a hierarchical distribution system resembling an inverted pyramid. This framework provides insights into the relationship between social structure and urban typology within the community in two different ways.

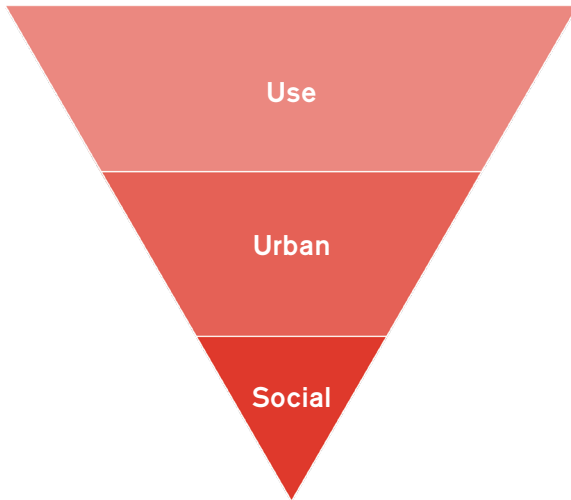
Firstly, examining the Al-Zabaleen and Ezbet Bekhet districts, established before any government intervention, demonstrate a remarkable level of independence from government influence (Tadamun, 2020). The inhabitants, having paid the government for land ownership, independently improve and maintain their properties (Tadamun, 2020). The resulting urban typology reflects this autonomy, with plinths serving as multifunctional spaces for market shops, workshops, and profit-driven enterprises. The strategic arrangement of residential spaces directly above these establishments promotes accessibility and addresses the inhabitants' specific needs. Narrow streets contribute to the thermal comfort of these buildings during hot summers, while setbacks and plinths create shaded spaces for work. Thus, the social structure of the Ezbet Bekhet and Al-Zabaleen districts significantly shapes the local urban typology, both directly and indirectly.

Secondly, a structure emerges when examining the Al-Herafeyen and Suzanne Mubarak housing, products of

government intervention. Initially created to provide housing for those affected by the tragic 2009 rockslide, these neighborhoods exemplify a different paradigm (Tadamun, 2020). As the primary influencer, the Egyptian government introduced standardized building typologies that scorn adaptability (Tadamun, 2020). Replicating features from older districts, such as workshops in the plinth with residential housing above. However, a difference occurs in the widened streets and restricted adaptability of government-built houses. This shift in approach has a direct impact on the buildings' uses, with the residential areas exclusively dedicated to residential purposes and the plinths strictly adhering to their designated functions. Consequently, the government's influence, evident in the standardized buildings and their intended uses, molds the social attitudes and structures within the Al-Herafeyen and Suzanne Mubarak districts.



Ezbit Bekhit and Al-Zabbaleen



Al-Hirafyyin and Suzanne Mubarak



Territorial Habitat [145.762]

Eva Schwab, Patricia Ventuàra, Aglaée Degros

Impressum

VERANSTALTUNG

Master Vertiefen Peripheral Mosaics of
Cairo

Eva Schwab

Patricia Ventura

Aglaée Degros

TU GRAZ

Institut für Städtebau

Rechbauerstraße 12/II,

A-8010 Graz

radulova-stahmer@tugraz.at

www.stdb.tugraz.at

facebook.com/stdb.tugraz.at

LV-LEITUNG UND REDAKTION:

STUDIENASSISTENZ

MEDIENINHABER*IN,

VERLEGER*IN, HERSTELLER*IN

Institut für Städtebau Technische

Universität Graz Rechbauerstraße 12

8010 Graz, Österreich

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