

# THEMATIC STUDIO

SECTION: C

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14 CFU

Urban Design (6 CFU)

Urban Planning (4 CFU)

Architecture and Urban Design (4 CFU)



THEMATIC STUDIO

In-Between Urban Design for Borderlands: the Algeciras / Gibraltar Bay



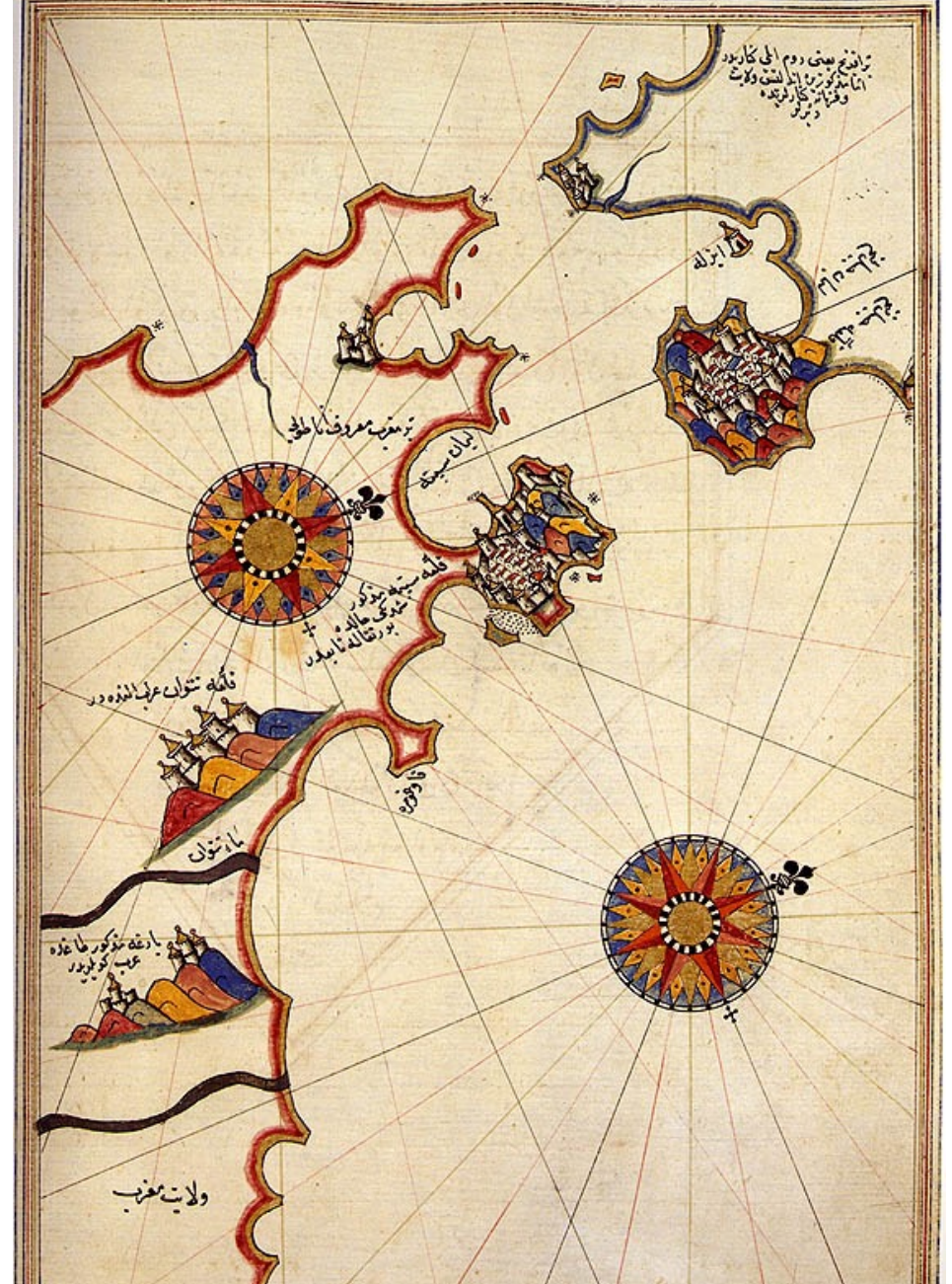
POLITECNICO  
MILANO 1863

SCUOLA DI ARCHITETTURA URBANISTICA  
INGEGNERIA DELLE COSTRUZIONI

## WHAT THE THEMATIC STUDIO IS ABOUT?

Since 2020, our Thematic Studio has been based on the concept of the **in-between** applied to **Urban Design**, first on the case of **Marrakech**, intended as a manifold and complex urban agglomeration in the Maghreb Region, in-between Europe and Africa, the so-called “Global North” and the “Global South”.

This year we will work on a different context moving the focus on the **Mediterranean** region, and adopting **borderlands** as main terrain of exploration, through the case study of the **Bay of Gibraltar / Algeciras**, another in-between urban system, crossed by an international political boundary (UK-Spain) and a continental, geographical and cultural border (the Strait of Gibraltar).

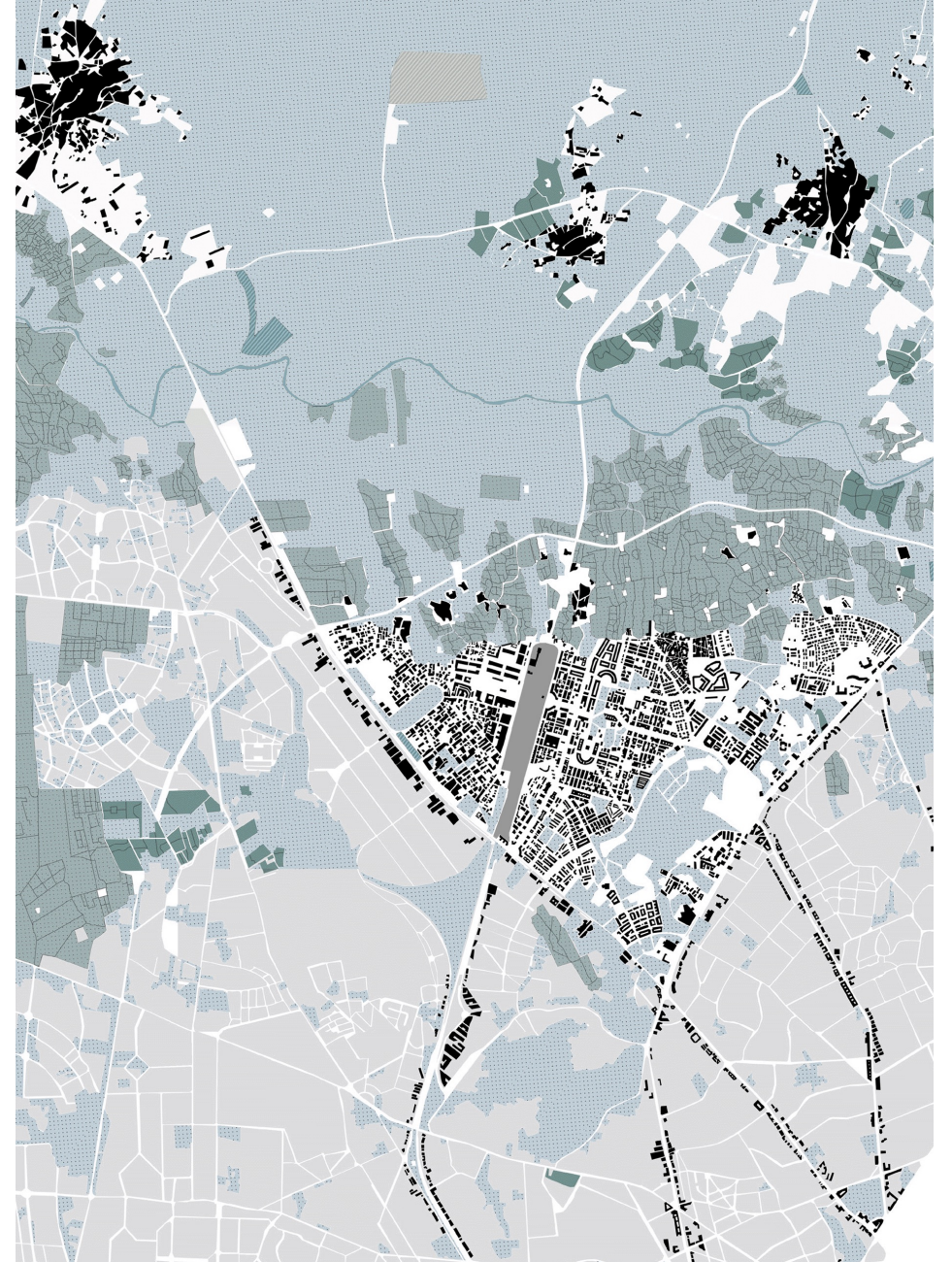




## IN-BETWEEN URBAN DESIGN...

We intend urban design as a discipline that comprehends very different **variations** according to specific place-based conditions and opportunities.

If, on the one hand, in the **European context**, the main challenge for cities is today to rethink and rebuild their own identities with a view to sustainable **urban regeneration**, in other contexts such as **North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa or the Middle-east** the challenges appear to be diverse: from the upgrade of informal settlements and open spaces, to the construction of low-cost and affordable housing, from the significant urban transformations as operations of the international capital, to the care of the historical heritage.





## ...FOR BORDERLANDS

Territories and cities located in the proximity of or across **international borders** (and **in-between** different political, cultural and urban planning systems) have been acting as catalysts of the most challenging phenomena related to contemporary urbanism, including the local spatialisation of globalisation, environmental and socio-economic crises.

Thus, borderlands appear to be relevant sites to experiment with **urban design tools and solutions for a more equal and sustainable spatial development** at different scales and set appropriate, inventive, context-specific, and **contemporary urban imaginaries**.



**EQUATOR**

Sergio Fajardo  
Suzanne Lacy  
Rick Lowe  
M7Red  
Anudhartha Mathur  
Helge Mooshammer  
William Morrish  
Peter Mörtenböck  
Sergio Palleroni  
Alessandro Petti  
Damon Rich  
Lorenzo Romito  
Francisco Sanin  
Diana Taylor  
Ignacio Valero  
Jeanne Van Heeswijk  
Eyal Weizman  
Ines Weizman

June 3–4, 2011  
**CONVERSATIONS ON CO-EXISTENCE:**

**BORDER NEIGHBORHOODS AS SITES OF PRODUCTION**

A 2-DAY CROSS-BORDER EVENT  
SAN DIEGO/ TIJUANA

Political Equator 3 is a 2-day cross-border mobile conference held on the 3rd and 4th of June 2011. This event is co-organized by the Center for Urban Ecologies in the Visual Arts Department at UCSB, and two community-based, non-profit organizations on both sides of the border, Casa Familiar in San Ysidro, California and Aha Terra in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico.

The third program in a series of bi-national conferences, PE3 continues to engage pressing regional socio-economic, urban and environmental conditions across the San Diego-Tijuana border. These meetings have been focusing on a critical analysis of local conflicts in order to re-evaluate the meaning of shifting global dynamics, across geo-political boundaries, natural resources and marginal communities.

Following the format of previous Political Equator meetings, PE3 is a nomadic event, an itinerant conversation traversing the border landscape itself bringing participants to the actual sites of conflict. This time, the audience will oscillate between two marginal neighborhoods on both sides of the border known as creative urban laboratories for re-invention: the border region. PE3 will unfold through a series of performances and public walks that will traverse these conflicting territories enabling debates and conversations at different scales, including an unprecedented border-crossing-performance through a large pipe under Home Land Security that will allow the participants to cross the border from a protected Embassy on the US side into a Tijuana Street that collides with the border wall on the Mexican side.

Attracting an international roster of artists, architects, environmentalists, scholars, community activists and politicians, PE3 will focus on The Border Neighborhood as a Site of Production, investigating practices in the arts, architecture, science and the humanities that work with peripheral neighborhoods worldwide where conditions of social and economic emergency are inspiring new ways of thinking and doing across institutions of urban development and public culture.

This event is receiving major support from the FORD Foundation in addition, this project has been supported in part by The Visual Arts Department and Cal2 at University of California, San Diego.

for more information go to:  
[www.PoliticalEquator.org](http://www.PoliticalEquator.org)

**POLITICAL**

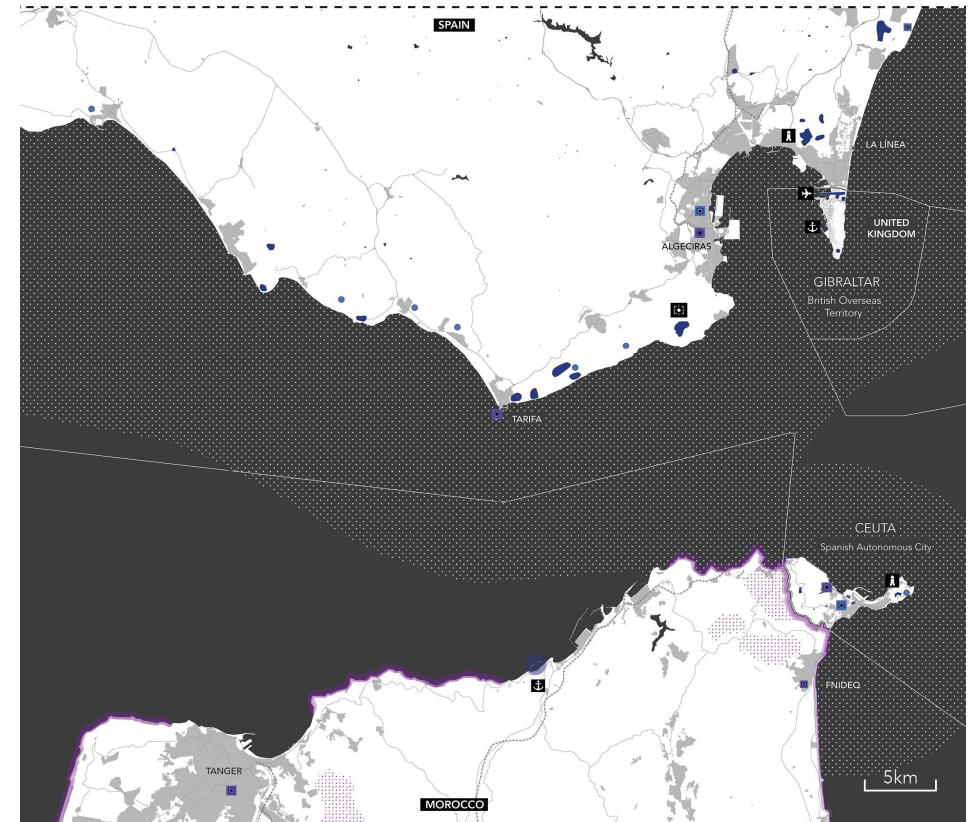


## CASE STUDY THE BAY OF ALGECIRAS / GIBRALTAR

The Thematic Studio will engage with a **cross-border polycentric urban system**, the **Bay of Algeciras/Gibraltar** and its main challenges: from the ongoing effects of the **Brexit** on the local economic and social sphere, to the impacts of extensive productive and **extractive activities** on already **vulnerable natural and ecological heritage** and communities, to the lack of shared basic services and facilities among the municipalities along the Bay, till the absence of an integrated public transport system at the local as well as regional level.

All these issues are exacerbated by the **lack of a shared planning vision** and an effective cross-border governance structure at **the metropolitan scale**.

### BORDERS SECURITIZATION & MILITARIZATION



#### MAJOR MIGRATION ROUTE

- migratory flows
- main departure zones
- informal migrant camps
- remote border control - SIVE
  - Sistema Integrado de Vigilancia Exterior
  - SIVE control centre
  - SIVE sensor station

#### detention centres

#### A MILITRIZED TERRITORY

- military area
- artillery operation centre
  - El Bujeo (ES)
- antiaircraft operation centre
  - Cortijo de Buenavosita, Monte Hacho (ES)
- naval base
  - HM Naval Base Gibraltar (UK); Ksar es Seghir (MA)
- airforce base
  - Royal Air Force Gibraltar (UK)





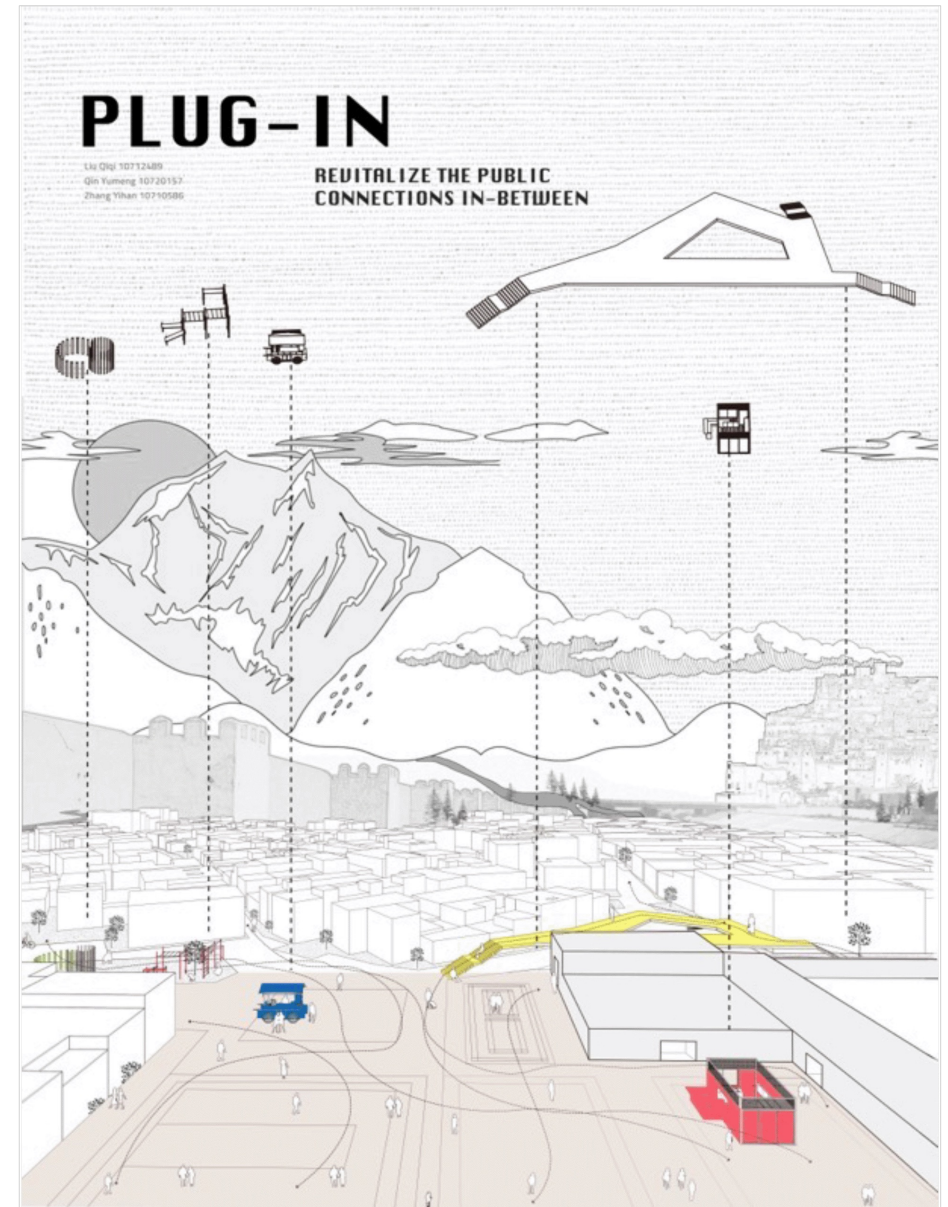


## APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

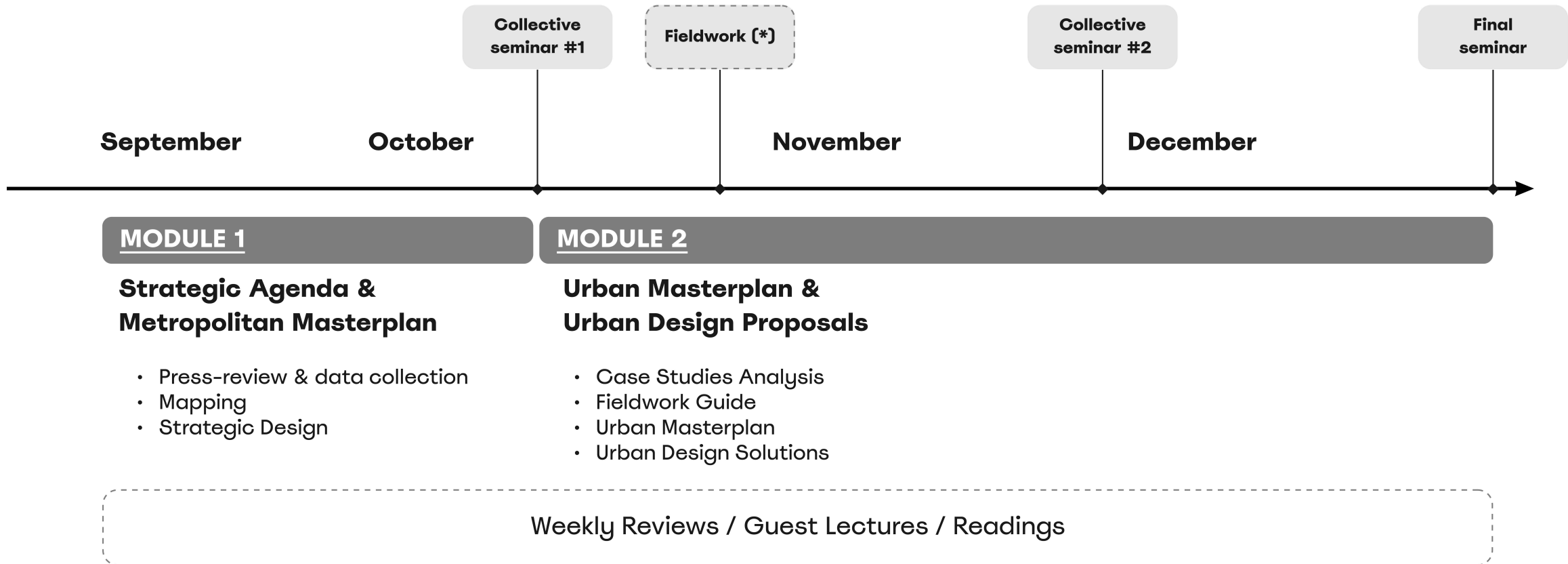
The pedagogical approach proposed by the Thematic Studio is:

- Based on a **research-by-design** methodology and on the idea that “**space always matters**”;
- Oriented by **trans-scalar** and an integrated and long-term vision of **sustainable urban development**;
- Informed by manifold understandings of Urban Design in different geographical and cultural contexts;
- Driven by a “**duty of care**” towards cities and citizens, and the role of urban designers in creating spatial platforms for more equal and sustainable urban life.

During the semester students will work on a **strategic metropolitan masterplan for the Bay of Gibraltar / Algeciras** and a series of **urban design explorations** for some specific areas.



# SCHEDULE & ACTIVITIES



*(\*) To be possibly organised at the end of October / Early November*



## PRODUCTS, FORMATS & DELIVERIES

### MODULE 1

#### Strategic Metropolitan Agenda & Masterplan for the Gibraltar/Algeciras Bay

*The module aims to build a comprehensive and operative understanding of the Bay of Gibraltar/Algeciras: students will collect and interpret data and information about the context and develop a strategic vision for the Bay.*

#### **Activity #1 | Press and Data Review**

- > Key Facts & Challenges

#### **Activity #2 | Mapping**

- > The Bay in 3 thematic maps

#### **Activity #3 | Strategic Design**

- > Strategic Metropolitan Agenda & Masterplan

### Products

- *One A0 board landscape format including the contents of the 3 activities [the format will be provided by the teaching team]*
- *Collective model of the Bay (protocols for the production of the model will be communicated next week)*

### Delivery / collective seminar:

- *13<sup>th</sup> of October*

## MODULE 1

### Urban Design Explorations

*The module is devoted to the development of the proposals at the urban scale on some selected sites to locally test the strategic metropolitan vision and guidelines developed in Module 1.*

*Along with the work on the Urban Design Explorations (running throughout the module), three more activities are foreseen in the second module:*

**Activity #4** | Fieldwork Guide

**Activity #5** | Fieldwork Report

**Activity #6** | Case Studies

### Products

- *A1 boards portrait format*
- *(free format) booklet*
- *1:2000 scale model of the project*

### Deliveries / collective seminars:

- *24<sup>th</sup> of November (intermediate)*
- *22<sup>nd</sup> of December (final + exhibition)*

*Typical products to be included in the boards and booklet will be drawings at different scales (diagrams, plans, urban sections and 3D visualisations).*

*Study models will be used as design tools through out the module.*



## INTENDED LEARNING GOALS

Throughout the Thematic Studio, the students are expected to accomplish the following Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO), improving their capacity to:

- critically understand elements and methodologies of urban design as a discipline and as a practice-based activity, through the study and discussion of works of authors, designers and thinkers in the field;  
→ *evaluated through participation in the lectures and discussions in class and throughout the reviews on the design proposals*
- observe, analyse and describe complex territorial systems through research-by-design operations to build multi-dimensional interpretative frameworks;  
→ *evaluated through the results of the analytical and strategic approach to the context*
- deploy and develop urban design tools, methodologies and solutions at different scales, mastering the entire design procedure and the multidisciplinary knowledge they have acquired.  
→ *evaluated through the results of the design process implementation*

## EVALUATION CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES

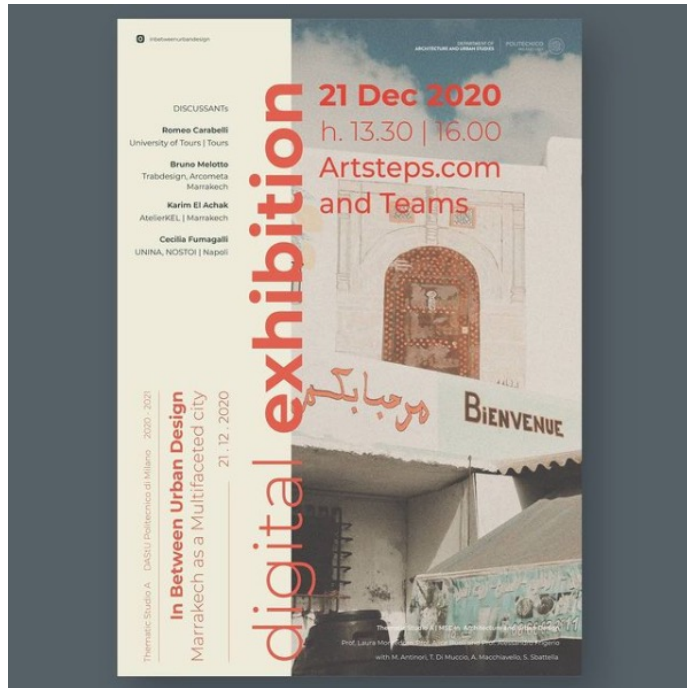
**Intermediate deadlines** and **collective seminars** are meant to be crucial moments for the evaluation of the learning process, building students' self-awareness of the progress and quality of the work, and organising the phased development of the overall work.

**Modules 1 and 2** will be carried out in **groups of a maximum of 3 members**.

The final evaluation will be based on the **achievement of the ILO**, the participation in the studio activities both in a group format and as individual contributions by all students to the collective work.

- *The studio is meant to be a “laboratory” in which knowledge is exchanged and built among students, professors and tutors.*
- *The activities are carried out by the groups independently in terms of objectives, themes and methods of representation and communication, but are always developed following tutorials and suggestions provided by the teaching staff.*
- *Attendance to the studio is mandatory. Late arrivals, disappearances or early departures will be considered absences.*





Digital Exhibition on Artsteps.com  
Students presentation on Teams

**Semester Final Presentation**

21 December 2020  
h. 13.30 | 16.00

Thematic Studio A - DASU Politecnico di Milano - 2020 - 2021

**In Between Urban Design**  
Marrakech as a Multifaceted city

21.12.2020

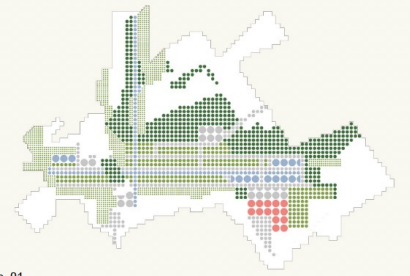
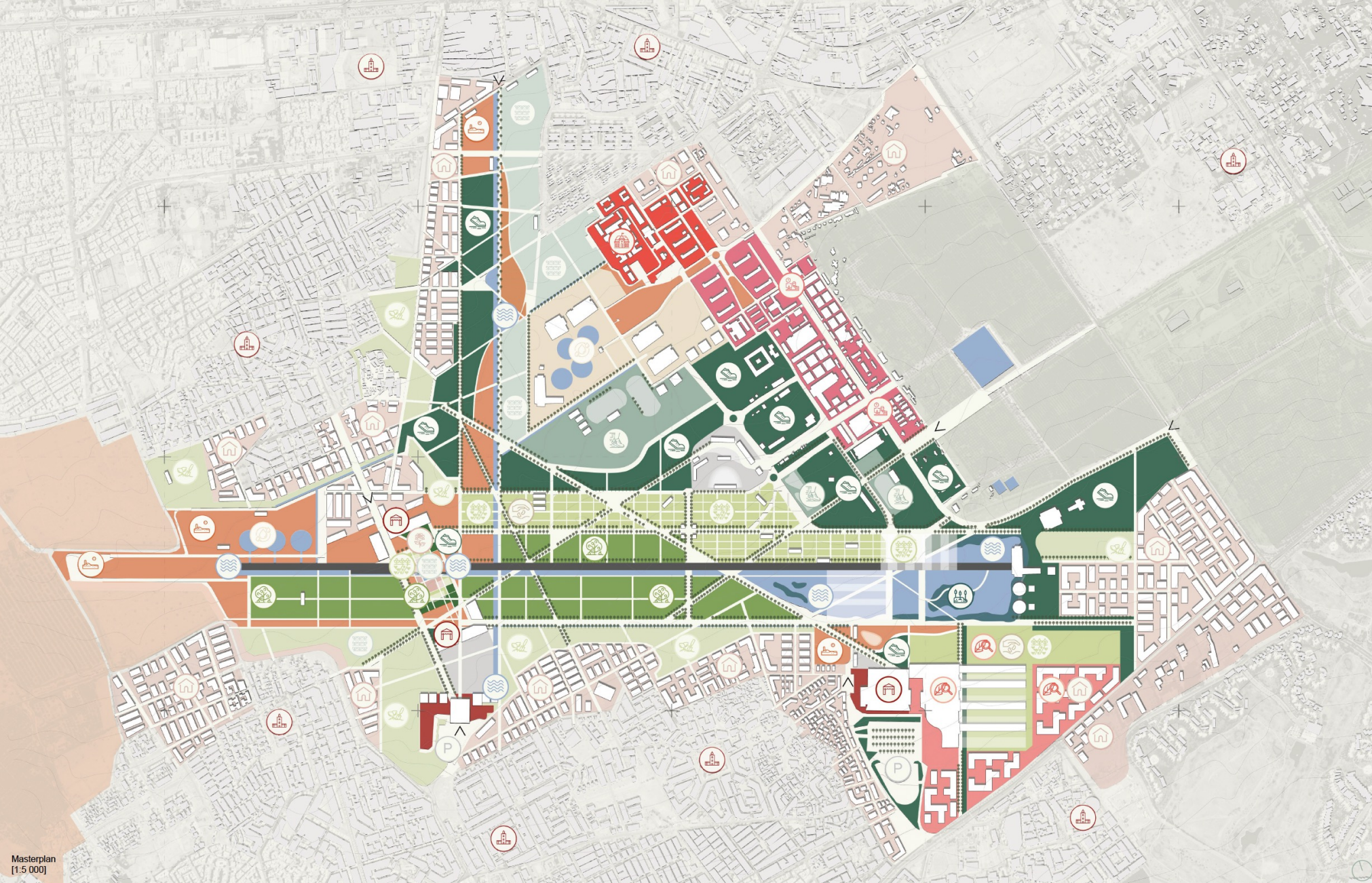
While the world is closed,  
we open up!

Final results of the  
In Between Urban Design  
Studio are displayed in a  
digital exhibition presenting  
our students projects.

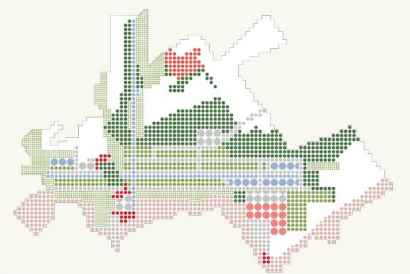
To see more, visit our  
**website (link in bio)**  
or visit our exhibition  
on **Artsteps.com**

**In Between Urban Design Digital Exhibition on Art Steps**  
> [LINK](#)

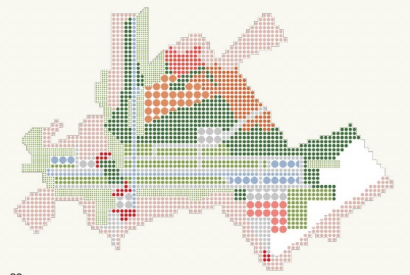




Phase\_01  
[nts]



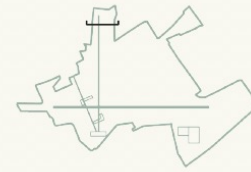
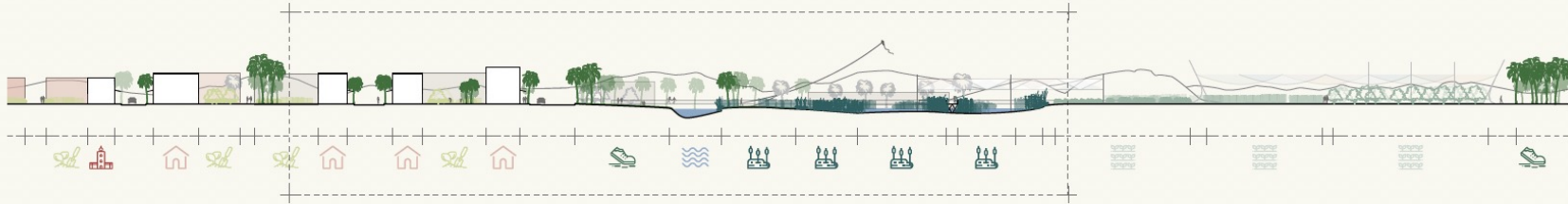
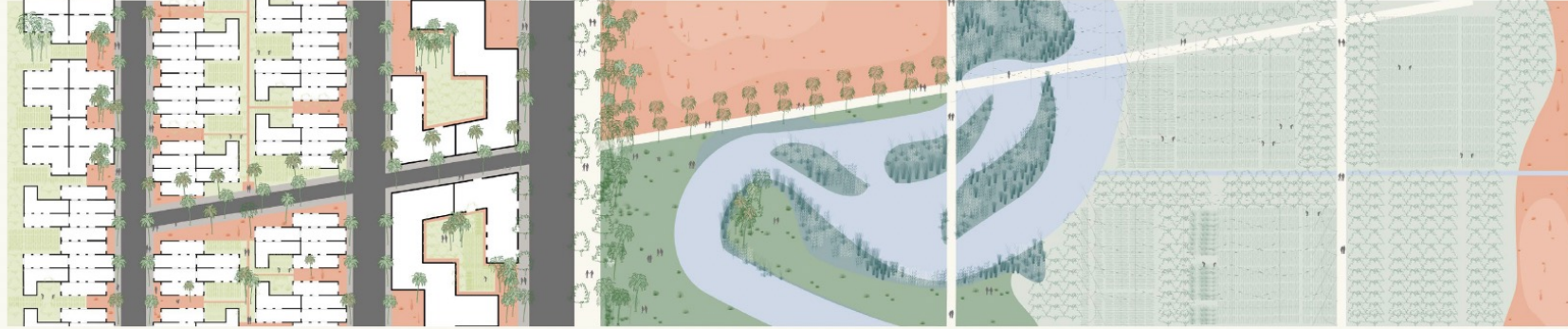
Phase\_02  
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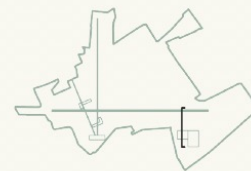
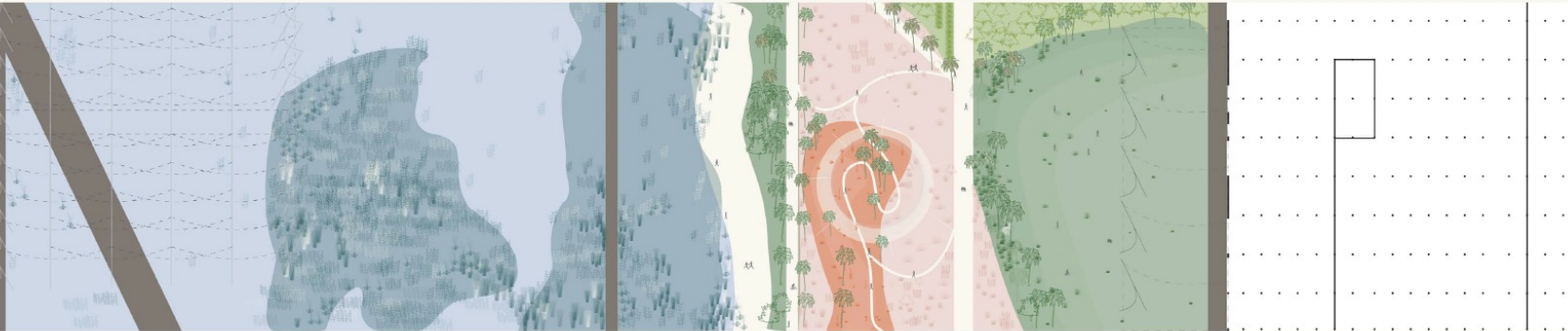
Phase\_03  
[nts]

Masterplan  
[1:5 000]

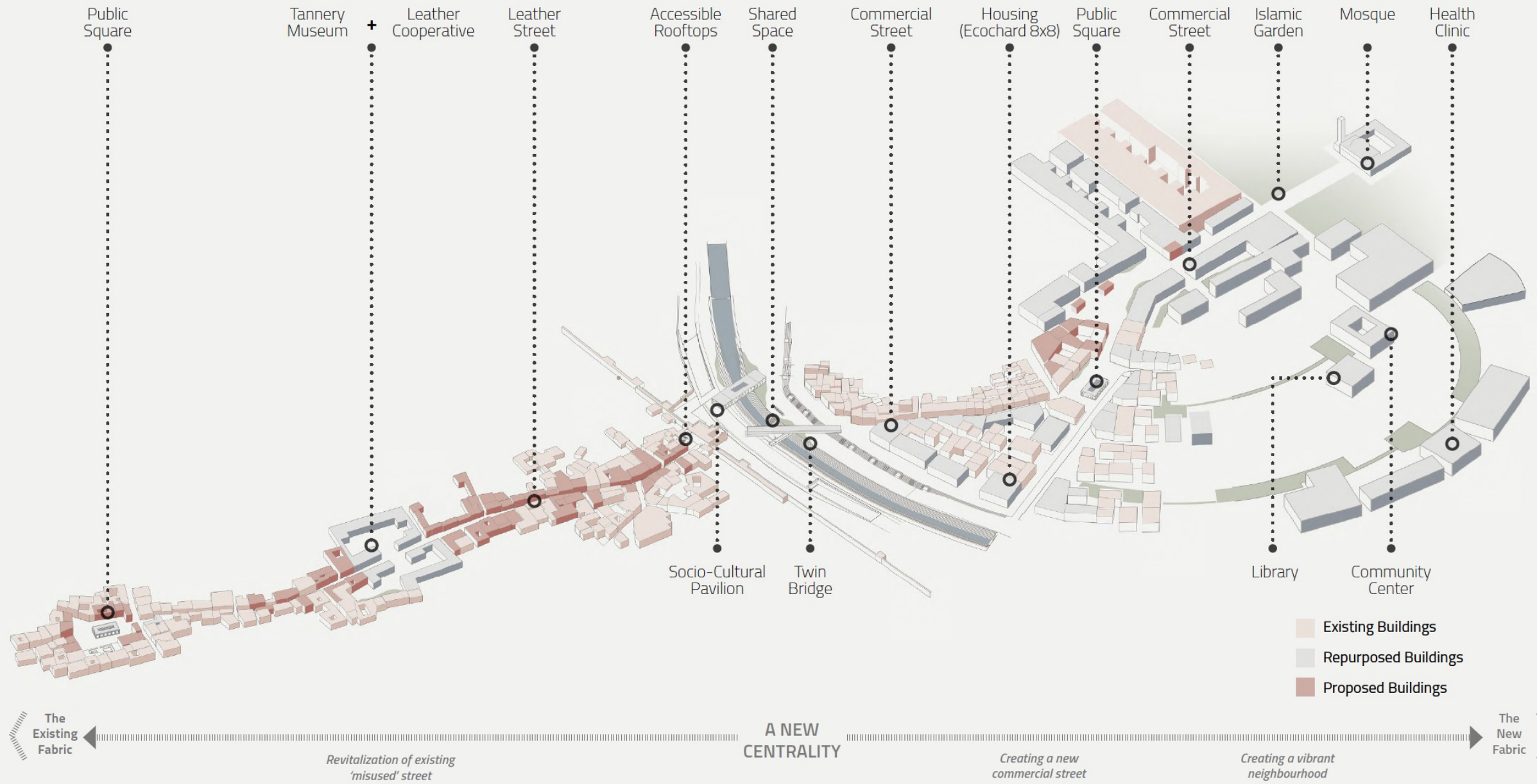




Plan  
Section  
[1:3750]  
Urban North



Plan  
Section  
[1:3750]  
Terminal





**SHARED SPACE - RIVERFRONT**



**PUBLIC SQUARE LEADING TO LEATHER STREET  
LEATHER COOPERATIVE**



**PUBLIC SQUARE  
PROPOSED COMMERCIAL SQUARE**



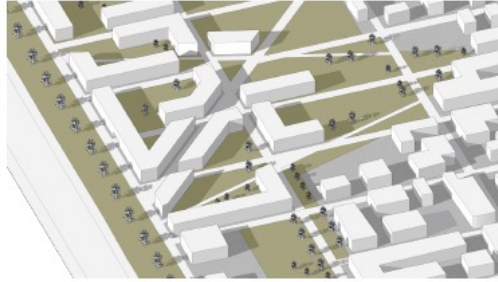


# MASTERPLAN

*The project and its functions*



1. Olive trees cultivation



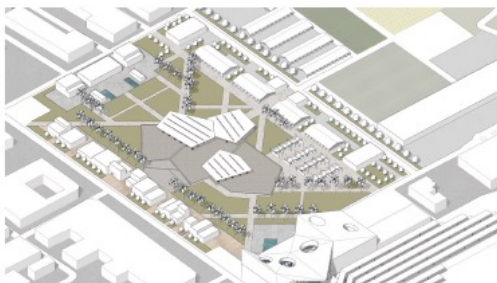
5. Social housing



2. Research and agricultural institute



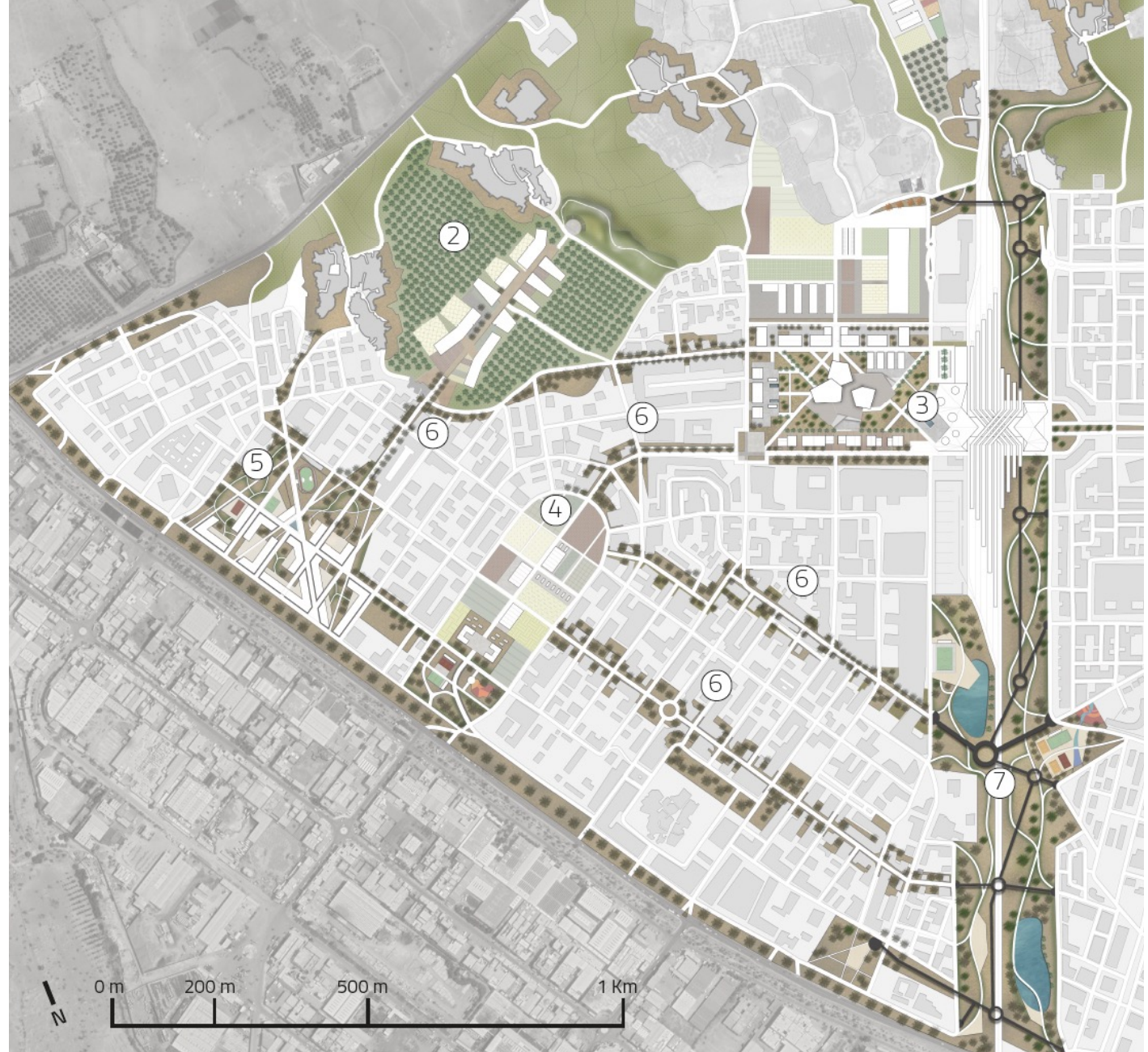
6. Inner connections



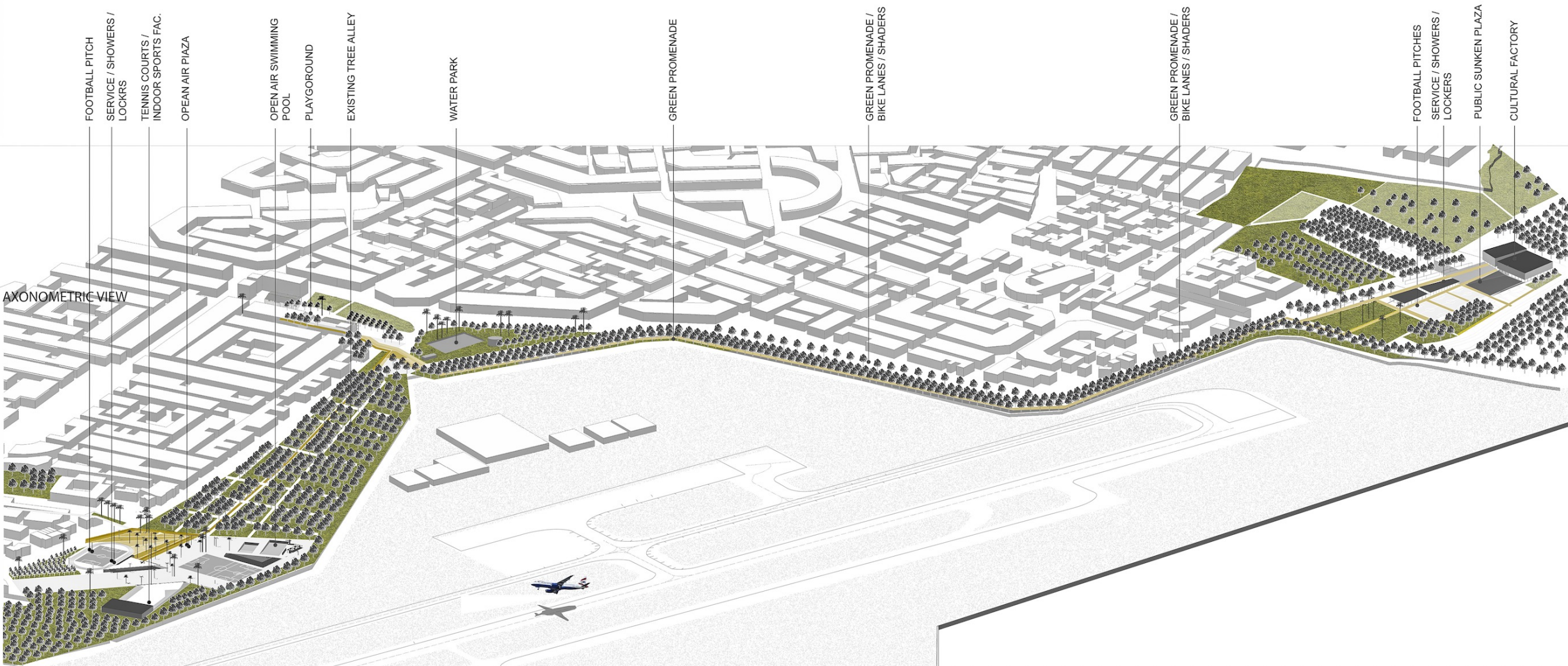
3. Market and Station



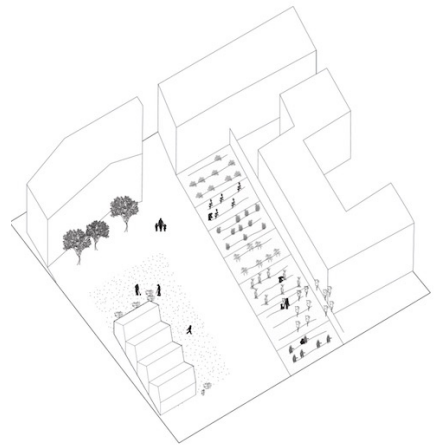
7. Linear public park





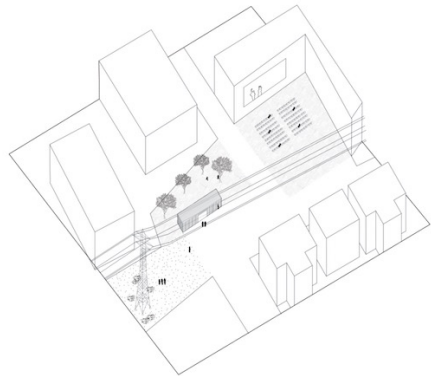


VOIDS INFILL PROPOSAL



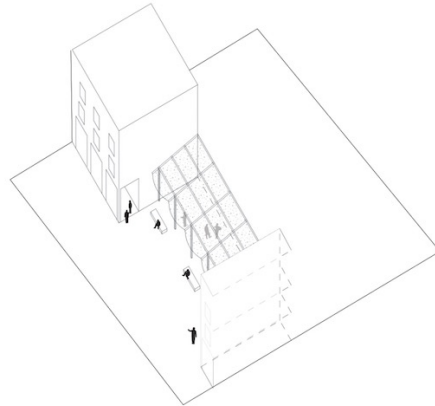
D

0m 20m



G

0m 20m



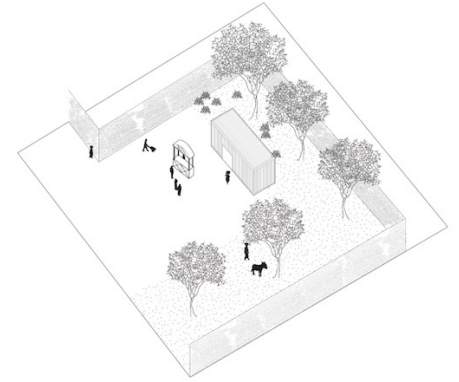
C

0m 20m



M

0m 20m



B

0m 10m





# Our contacts:

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Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/inbetweenurbandesign/home>

Instagram feed: <https://www.instagram.com/inbetweenurbandesign/>

## IMAGES CREDITS:

Extracts from Isabella Traeger's MA thesis "Re-threading The Edges Of The Maps" (slides 1, 2, 5, 6)

Thematic Studio 2020-21 / 2021-22:

Giulia Gigantino, Frederico Parreira, Aldo Rossi (slides 2 and 16)

Camilla Allan, Nicolò Chierichetti, Alexander Van Rensburg (slides 2, 7, 12 and 13)

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Dapeng Ye, Weiqing Pan, Ruihan Wang (slide 2)

Anjali Sasidharan Panicker, Jose Sibi, Wiktor Sylwester Waniek (slide 14 and 15)

