

URBAN REGENERATION:

Bankable Architectural Projects

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The Greater Cairo Region has become flooded with daily trips and has reached a state of stagnation during daily peak hours. To reach work, hospitals, and residence has become time consuming for cars, ambulances and taxis. Public transportation has not satisfied social demand. Although a transportation strategy has been prepared by international development agency, and although the state is constructing underground public transportation, they are losing ground to population increase and demand. Furthermore, public railway lines and carriages are deteriorating and regional and national service is suffering. The lack of public funds seems to be at the core of the need for new projects, upgrading and maintenance. On a more general level, it is important to note that the problems in Greater Cairo Regional are being compounded by unplanned areas that have over-run agricultural lands. These expanding unplanned areas are progressively lacking infrastructure, social services and are compounding transportation problems.

In an effort to respond to urban management and transportation needs, the course will investigate land regeneration opportunities as related to railway authorities' lands in an effort to extract development finance. The finance leveraged will eventually contribute to the implementation of transportation strategy towards efficient mobility, undertaking effective urban planning, provision of services, and kick start development in general. The studio shall focus on designing investment facilities within the framework of integrated regional development transportation-based projects. From an investment point of view and in response to the high urban densities, the students shall peruse bankable construction projects related to commercial, retail, and/or hospitality functions supported by necessary parking facilities on high-value lands.

The aim of the course is to exhibit professional abilities. As a future professional, the student is required to focus on realities of architecture and exhibit planning, programming, composition and detailing abilities learned over the years. As an architect, the student is also expected to integrate different architectural elements satisfying their functional, systems, relational, contextual requirements as well as project visionary abilities. As a designer, the student is expected exhibit skills and the use of different tools and techniques to formulate and present design solutions. The graduation

studio is the culmination of architectural design academic experience and where the rites of passage are earned.

The graduation studio will recall learning experiences from previous design courses as well as normative knowledge gained in courses about history, theory, tools, execution, systems, planning, housing, environment, etc. The students will be expected to enhance the accelerated delivery of a variety of design proposals. The studio shall provide the opportunity for students to exhibit their professional abilities as they graduate into professional life. The course expects to celebrate architecture abilities that are ready to deliver professionally results.

Practically, the student is required to investigate the accommodation of at least 50,000 m² office space and 10,000 m² retail spaces in addition to suitable parking spaces on a FAR 15 Egyptian National Rail Road Authority sites in Cairo. Investment projects should seek maximum site utilization and maximum investment returns.

COURSE EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY

The course aims at focusing on basic skills needed to become a professional architect. The ability to master architectural language where ideas are manifested in building organization is dependent in relentless research and action. Consolidating knowledge and investigating possibilities is a learning process that will enable interpretation and resolution. In the studio, the learning strategy collapses research and design into single action. Searching for form possibilities enables the architect to adequately interpret buildings and uncover bias as a necessary precondition of architectural interpretation. On the other hand, design as action accumulates experience and enables the refinement of object and context as well as self and other. Getting acquainted with the other will manifest local knowledge, will enable the freedom of choices, and will realize a professional architect that is not displaced from his or her humanity.