

Fuksas research laboratory- REDEFINE THE  
COMMUNITY IN DENSE EXISTS  
ENVIRONMENTS

Author: Omer Ittah

Our lives in central cities become less and less accessible in several terms as we humans have the need to concentrate in main cities as a result of work, family and common activities.

That need effect cities and expressed as -high density, high cost, bad walkability, high anonymity, and the lack of opportunity to choose.

In this research, I tried to understand these parameters that affect mostly on high-density cities by testing a dense matrix, and how we can create a new community of working-living and public spaces that engage with the old one by using the existing infrastructures.

the test subject that was chosen is Jerusalem, the capital city of Israel, and focuses on the area of the old city. In this area, there are different kinds of communities, Jewish Muslims and christens. The different community is divided into a different quarter that surrounds two holly places- the western wall and Temple Mount. At the same time as the communal complexity, the residents of the old city live in a very high-density area, which makes the public spaces very limited. When these public spaces are being used they are used mostly by tourists during the day. The majority of the movement of the tourist is between the houses towards the holy places. As a result of that, the different religions and cultures communities remain closed within themselves and there is no communication, except for looking at the same view.

Because of the very overcrowding and the number of tourist visits, those communities are blurred and disappearing in time. to emphasize the complexity and contradiction that occur in this area. I mapped the flow and the collective of clusters of the different quarters by casting the void of private open area (atriums, private gardens), semi-private (entries, communal building atriums) open area, and public area (passage, corridors, stairs, common spaces, roads). There are two conclusions from this mapping, the first one, that are two main paths that lead to the holy places

and aggressively divided the different communities and caused the community to be very close in itself, second of all, the main paths branch into mini paths that leads to a close end. This mapping has been done to the macro (voids of Jewish and Armenian quarters) and micro (typical Jerusalem townhouse voids). Moving forward with this

knowledge I started to work on the scales of macro and micro.

In the scale of the macro, I layered new layers of very different scale and dense point clouds. The main purpose of the different layers is to connect and create a different way of connection between the different function voids.

The first layer of voids was created for a connection between the old voids and the new, to merge and create more fluid voids between the Armenian quarter's voids and the Jewish quarters. Above the connection voids, a new layer of voids (dense point cloud) was created much denser to give the opportunity of a much large-scale public spaces, that will give the new community they could reconnect, a space that will function as ex-territory. Parallel to the ex-territory void- there is a direct movement void that will redefine and blur the way of division being done today between the quarters.

In the scale of the micro, I cast the voids of typical indoor and outdoor of typical Jerusalem house for the purpose of two reasons, the first one is to understand the ratio and scale between the different function's spaces, second of all, what is the course you pass when you live in a typical old Jerusalem townhouse? I recognized two types of typologies (vertical and horizontal). The first floor of the vertical is public shops, at the second floor the living rooms, at the last floor the bedrooms. The horizontal one, it's on one level story, you enter through an atrium or semi-public entrance, then you move to the living room kitchen and at the end of the house, there are the bedrooms. The understanding from those two typologies is the importance of mix between public and private spaces, the gradation between the different spaces, and these scale of functions in a dense urban area. After mapping the typologies, I created 3 different new typologies, based on the research, full blur- semi blur-no blur by using different types of point cloud emphasize 3 types of voids spaces, the first void is working, second-living, third-common space, and each typology characterizes in these 3- the differences are the boundaries between the different point clouds, are

they seamless? are noticeable? or there is no difference between the common-living-working?

The typology and architecture that must be done is an architecture that gives the new community the opportunity to choose, architecture that can create fluid and flow between the different functions, architecture that will allow the worker to work more productively, and the option to let him work how it comfortable to him in the space. to the homeowner, the ability to earn an income from renting part from his house as an economic solution for higher prices in the mains cities. Or the ability to the house to grow with him inside the city. And the ability of the common space to be integrated into our day-to-day life. If we will develop environments of working-public living together the communities will be more open and excepting of other communities and the boundaries we will blur. The architecture that will be used is a prefabricated part that can connect or disconnect by usage or need. The components will allow different kinds of usage that allow people more possibilities in-work-living and public space. The change between the prefabricated part is in scale, function, complexity. all the parts can connect and create fields of opportunities. if we are focusing on prefabricated work components, we can see that the components are quite small (5-30sqm) for one or two persons, but can connect for a bigger scale for a large meeting. The future of working won't be in an office building, it will be on a small scale across the common and public space for a better connection between the user to his surround and a more intimate connection between the workers. The living prefabricated part scale are medium, (10-60sqm) the form of the components is less complex than the working components for more opens and create an illusion of scale even do there is no a lot of space. The usage of prefabricated parts advantage for staying relevant, in the subject of family growth or reduction, Socioeconomic Status, and the opportunity to earn another income as living in main cities cost more. the public prefabricated part is in large scale (70-250sqm) for much larger functions such as community meetings, shows, sports, and more. The prefabricated parts allow redefining the new public space as needed (example: growth of the community). if we are looking at the macro scale again after the design has been done. the prefabricated parts are a tool for a redefine the communities as a collective and not as individual parts that happens now. The usage of excising infostructure allows us to

use existing's mechanical (electricity, water, sewage) and also use the existing fifth facades as new land for public -working-living. the usage of existing space in the urban dense area is Higley Underused today. most of the prefabricated parts (working-dwelling-public) are integrated as one, to create a landscape of blur between the different functions, the flow and the blur of voids allow us to create a much organic community that, is almost no difference between the common -public-dwelling. in conclusion, as a result of reshaping existing dens area as the landscape of flow will achieve a better connection between the different communities. and the existing communities will benefit from it, more open public spaces, younger community, opportunity to choose, low-cost housing, better walkability, low anonymity, and the opportunity to choose.