

## Workshop training report

Recreating Reviving and Utilising public spaces workshop took place on the 18th of January 2014. in news cafe Amman, in Rainbow street.

This Recreating Reviving and Utilising Public spaces workshop was basically organised to benefit, students, fresh graduates and employees who are interested in the Urban Architecture and planning in addition to those who are interested in design and graphics.

### Activities

A series of activities in this workshop included, an introductory session of participants, followed by an ice breaking session that was relevant to the actual topic of the workshop. We also presented leaders of tomorrow and its position towards reviving public spaces in general, which is playing an important role in our Jordanian Community, in the sense of creating, re-establishing and rediscovering new public spaces, by utilising them and implementing a variety of different initiatives taking place in the shape of public debates such as diwanieh, research methodologies 'white sheets of paper spread around in different areas' resembled in Fadfed, in addition to Role playing techniques such as Mu7aka, in different areas around the kingdom, which also gives people the chance to collaborate and interact with the public space; inducing it with creativity and absorbing what it has to offer.

### Objectives

One of our main objectives for this workshop, was to gather professionals, young initiative takers, students and enthusiasts about urban planning, architectural surveying and creative solutions created by young professionals concerned with arts and designs.

We also aimed to gather these young professionals and give them a chance to interact and discuss social and community problems that faced them during their studies and implementation of actual projects they worked on and developed. In addition to helping them raise solutions on such environmental problems, This gave us insight and helped us transform these ideas and obstacles, into fruitful ideas that we brainstormed about.

### Discussions and Training activities

This local workshop was an essential part for the documentation of ideas for the mapping out public spaces project, which helped participants identify and produce valid arguments and efficient artistic and urban solutions.

The training activities were diverse, they began with an ice breaking session associated with the topic of the workshop. This was followed by an interesting presentation of LOT's interesting initiatives that focus on recreating, reviving and utilising public spaces throughout it's initiatives that are concerned with exposing the public to spaces that allows them to experience cultural and social events, in a public manner such as "Diwanieh"; an open space for freedom of expression and public debates, added to that Fadfed; white

sheets spread around areas, that helps people express their ideas, and create a destination for people towards public spaces. One of the latter activities was to pick one of the questions raised about Public spaces, sit in groups, discuss it and come up with WH questions that offers interesting outcomes on the questions raised. which were; what is a public space?, what are the dominant social norms forced on a public space? What affects social behaviour in a public space? How do you imagine your favorite public space would be like?.

Small discussions were formed which resulted in a larger group discussion afterwards. The most important part of the workshop took part at last where the participants were divided into 5 different groups, each group had to develop their own understanding of a public place and come up with a set of contemporary ideas on how to revive, recreate and utilise public spaces in Jordan as a whole.

## **Conclusion**

The ideas were filtered thoroughly, where we came out with the most interesting and applicable ideas. Concept notes were further developed on these three ideas as follows. Participants were very eager to start working on these illustrated ideas and evaluated the workshop as a great experience, in terms of information, activities and the idea behind the project that they were very eager to work on, they also mentioned that the idea behind reviving public spaces is much needed for our country here in Jordan.

## **Acknowledgements**

We extend our sincere appreciation to our sponsors and invite you to support these community-minded organizations. who collaborated in working on the mapping out of public spaces project which are leaders of Tomorrow, Co plan in Albania and Expeditio in Montenegro, and our Program and project Sponsor Anna Lindh Foundation.

## Concept Notes

### **Manifesto/ Mural**

Leaders of Tomorrow is organising a project called "Mithaq" funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation . The overall concept behind this project is; creation of a 20 metre artwork mural painted directly on a wall, or other large permanent surface that has to be artistic and interactive to be set out for the public, featuring people's input, ideas, words that sheds light on their sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, area and surroundings ,where they have the chance to contribute to such "street art work" being designed to foster creativity and engage members of the community to respect their environment.

### **Who is it for?**

This project is aiming at attracting the public's attention of all ages having an impact on their behavior, and changing the attitude of passers by, applying it in certain neighbourhoods where people live and work.

### **Rationale**

The direct rationale behind this project is to shed light and address social issues, enhance the communication of divided community members, provide an area with the aesthetic improvement, and give them a reason to facilitate their sense of belonging to a space in a

civilized interactive way. This can be used as a method of creating dialogue between these neighbourhood members. in addition to creating a cultural artefact.

### **Project objectives and strategy**

Our first and main objective is to create a resolution landmark for the cultural problems of a specific neighbourhood secondly we want to help beautify the surroundings by designing an artwork where artists can join their efforts and come up with great ideas in an influential artwork. Help participants by giving them a space to collaborate their individual ideas in a group project; in addition to empowering their sense of accomplishment towards their community.

### **Project activities**

To start with, we need to decide on a size for this mural, help building this permanent mural, come up with an idea, of how to collaborate Artists ideas and community members and passers by to help adding their input in a simple way that speaks to their minds, using simple tools; to help avoid future vandalism and help maintain keeping this mural standing as a cultural and a social landmark.

Thank You for Using me

شكرا لأنك استعملتني

Leaders of Tomorrow is organising a project called "Thank you for" funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation . The overall concept behind this project is; utilising crossing bridges and zebra crossing lines, and Garbage bins in an artistic way to help motivate Pedestrians and passers-by to use these public properties. Transform the experience from being very traditional into a fun, artistic learning experience. By giving them more control over their action and help spread awareness about safety precautions.

### **Who are the audience for this project?**

Our target audience in this project are basically pedestrians, passers- by, and citizens of the surrounding areas. To help assist and inspire them in their crossing and garbage disposal experience.

### **Rationale**

There are many reasons and logics for this specific project. However our very first and main objective is to Utilise the unused surfaces of Zebra crossing lines, bridges and garbage bins to inform its users, throughout a visually interesting, and an informative experience about the bridge, and about the personal individual facilitation of bridges, the garbage bin or the zebra crossing lines. The second rationale is to spread awareness

about the importance of facilitation and utilisation of the great public properties offered for our safety, and environmental well-being, that are rarely being used by Jordanian citizens. Thirdly we want to provide for citizens, pedestrians and passers-by a creative experimentation away from the norm, to motivate them to use the crossing lines, walk on bridges and not littering.

### **Project objectives and strategy**

by creating a visual artistic campaign, that can either be Graffiti artwork on bridges, or stencil artwork on garbage bins and zebra crossing lines and stairs

### **Project activities**

The main activities requested from participants is to map out some of the main crossing bridges; spread around vital regions in Amman, target certain Traffic lights; and pick out certain garbage bins, come up with a methodology of how to apply identifiable forms of artistic illustrative artwork, to be applied either on bridge sideways, garbage bins surfaces, and Zebra crossing lines. As a group they need to identify the type of artwork and meet this unrecognized need of citizens and pedestrians.

### **Amman Stairs**

Leaders of Tomorrow is organising a project called "Amman Stairs" funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation . The overall concept behind this project is; to map out vital connecting stairs in Amman City, which play a major role in its historical value, whereas many stairs are situated in areas that help the commuter to navigate from one place to another in the same area block.

### **Who are the audience for this project?**

The main target audience of this particular project are basically, passers-by of all ages and backgrounds. Where they can use the stairs to facilitate them and at the same time, get healthy

### **Rationale**

In Amman City, stairs are widely spread that are built, but do not serve an actual purpose for people, because some of them or actually most of them are not identified by people; concerning their locations and destinations . Many of the stairs are also tucked- away and very unappealing for the users and are not facilitated for the purpose of climbing them..

Above listed are many reasons to conduct this kind of a project.

### **Project objectives and strategy**

the project objective and strategy is basically to rethink the actual approach to stairs by including several elements to it that help vitalising ,reviving and allows citizens to spot these stairs, from a distance and be aware of their purpose and their connection destination.

### **Project activities**

Participants are asked to locate some of the main staircases in Amman , that connect several areas of Amman together, and applying different measures, such as applying carpetry, lights, or even using music and film projections, to help reviving and attracting people's attention to increase stair use.