

FUSTAT



Nilometer (fig.13), was a means (typically a structure for measuring the water level of the Nile river during annual flood season). On a vertical column submerged in the water the level of the Nile was measured. Depending on the amount of water the harvesting and taxes were calculated.

Tower Ruins (fig.14), are the last remains of the fortress founded under emperor Trajan. It used to be a means of protection for the canal that linked the Nile with the Red Sea. Babylon Fortress contains many of the Coptic oldest churches that were built on its walls.

Hanging Church (fig.15), is the most famous Coptic Christian church in Cairo, as well as possibly the first built in Basilican style. The church was largely rebuilt by the Pope Abraham (975-78) and has seen many other restorations including one very recently.

Ben Ezra Synagogue (fig.16), was originally a Christian church, which the Coptic Christians of Cairo had to sell to the Jews in 882 AD in order to pay the annual taxes imposed by the Muslim rulers of the time. The church was purchased by Abraham Ben Ezra, who came from Jerusalem during the reign of Ahmed Ibn Tulun, for 20,000 dinars.

Coptic Museum (fig.17), was founded in 1910 and recently reopened after extensive renovations. Housing the world's largest collection of Coptic Christian artwork

Pottery center (fig.18), designed for the study of the traditional crafts of pottery and ceramics. The centre has become an important teaching institution as well as a catalyst for the revitalisation of the surrounding area - a long - forgotten district of old Cairo.

St. Georg Church & Nunnery (fig.19) St. George is the only round church in Egypt, this is just for practical reasons - it is built atop the foundations of a Roman round tower. Their nunnery is a home for 40 nuns that take care of two beautiful gardens with shrubberies and flowers that create a perfect atmosphere for relaxing and meditation.

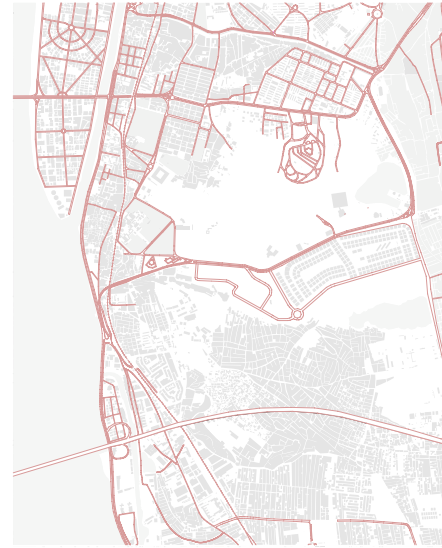
Mosque of Amr ibn al-As (fig.20), also called Mosque of Amr was built in 642 AD. It was the center of the newly founded capital of Egypt, Fustat. Furthermore it was the first mosque on Africa. Unfortunately only few remains of the original structure.

FUSTAT



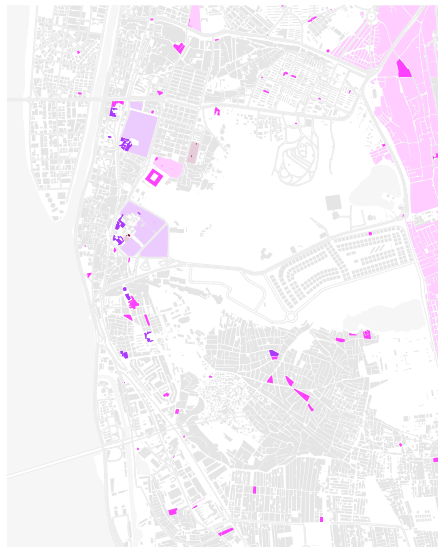
map 1: recreation area

- green space
- water



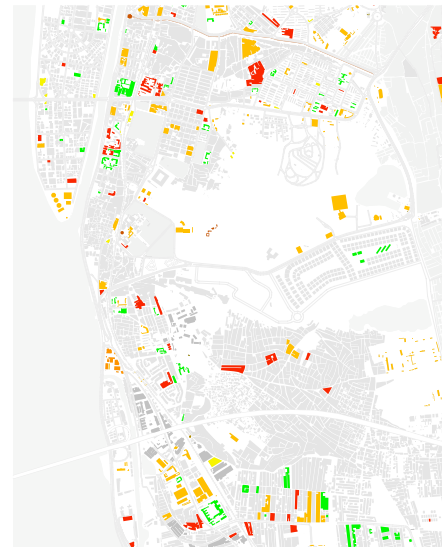
map 2: traffic network

- streets



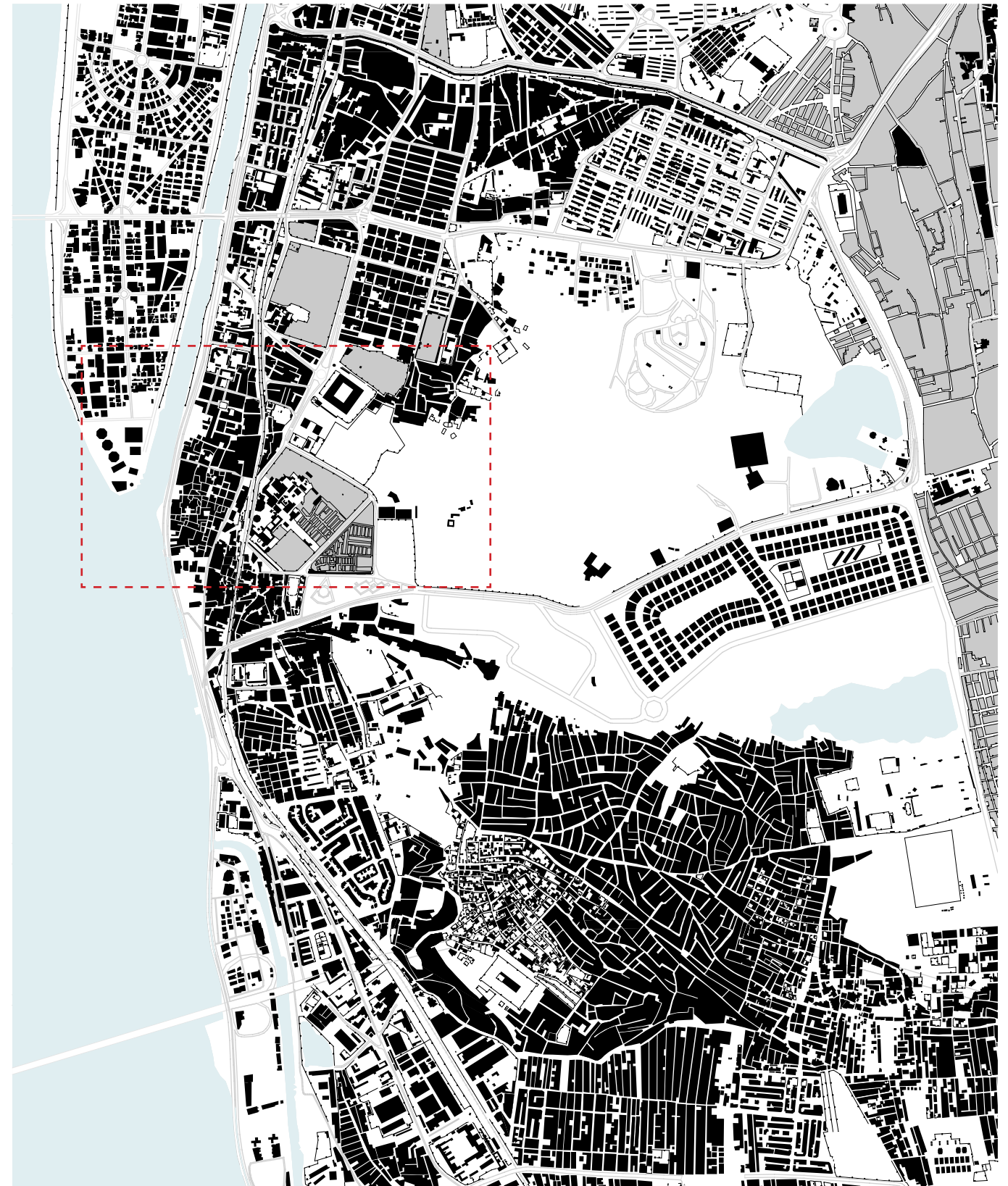
map 3: religious structures

- Muslim buildings
- Christian buildings
- Jewish buildings
- cemeteries



map 4: public buildings

- administration
- schools
- medical buildings
- shopping



TIMELINE FUSTAT

Different stories about the first fort built there:

- According to tradition, the first fort was built by the Persians
- Settlement of prisoners of Babylon
- Babylonian followers of Cambyses

Population:

Under the Romans the Fort was used basically as a strategic point, where their Legions stayed to preserve the situation in Egypt. Therefore the population wasn't as big as it was in the later founded city Fustat. In the 12th century it reached a peak of about 300'000. After the city was burned, a lot of people migrated to Cairo and left Fustat behind. As Fustat became a suburb of Cairo it started to slowly recover and the population grew.

The romans took possession of the fort:

- Augustus founded the original fortress in 30 BC
- under Trajan the fort was relocated to the present location in 100 BC
- the canal of Babastis was renewed
- emperor Arcadius enlarged the fortress

General Amr ibn al-As besieged the fortress and after his victory he founded a new capital. It used to be a base to conquer the rest of north africa. Fustat and its populatio grew bigger and bigger. Fustat remained off and on as the capital of Egypt for approximately 500 years. Depending on the different Caliphate, the capital moved between different places. But Fustat remained the capital. in terms of economic and administrative power. It was one of the biggest and richest cities in this time.

In 1168 the christian King Amalric attacked Egypt and was about to occupy Fustat. Vizir Shawar ordered Fustat city burned, to keep it out of Amalric's hands. After that the syrian forces defeated Almrck and took Egypt under their controll.

According to that Fustat couldn't recover. Also the attempt of Saladin to unite Cairo and Fustat was unsuccessful. It wasted away and was used as a rubbish dump. Nowadays little remains of the grandeur of the old city, although there are many attempts to solve the problems of the past.

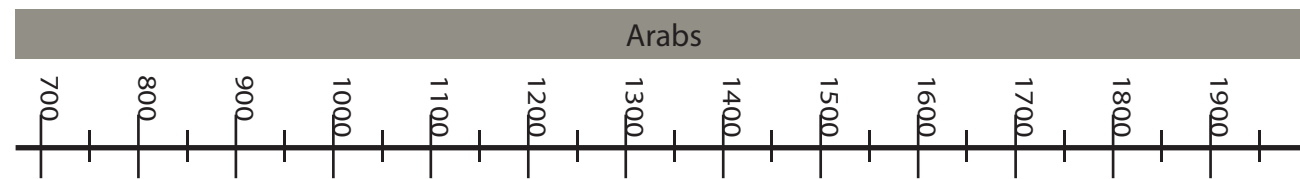
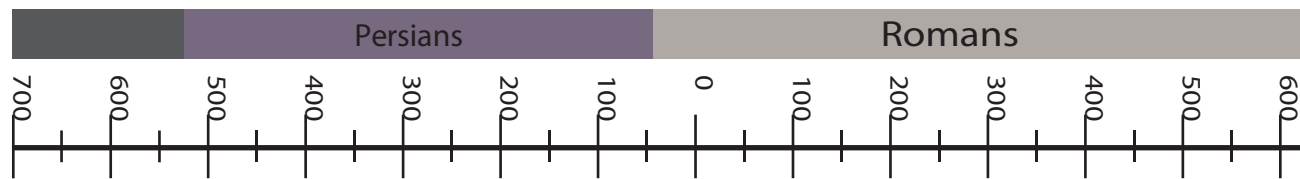
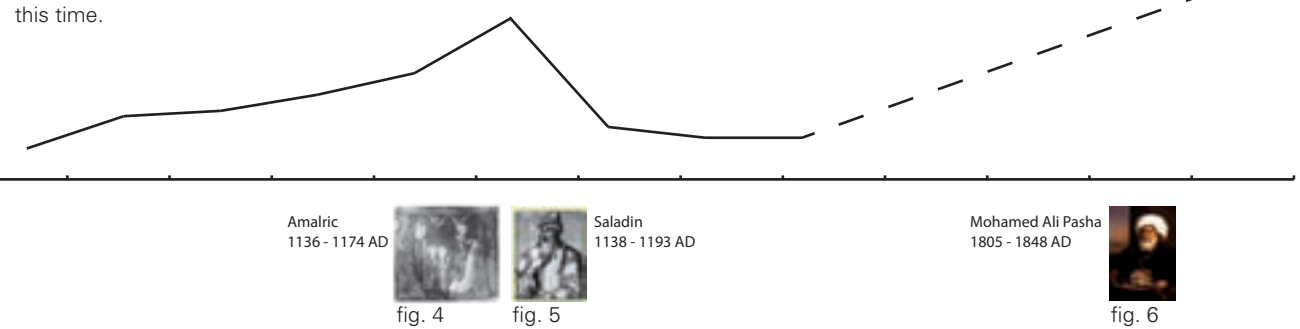
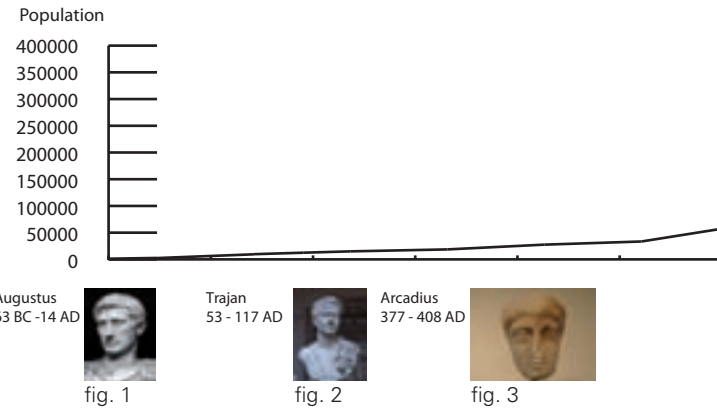


fig.7 Fustat ruins



fig.8 Babylon fortress



fig.9 Mosque of Amr ibn al-As



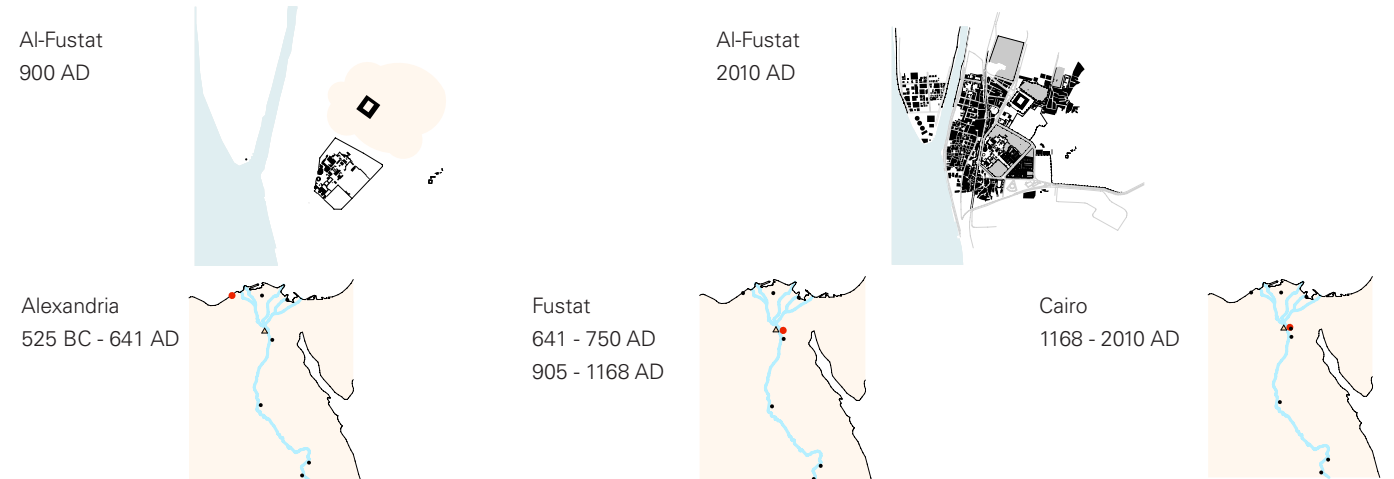
fig.10 Hanging Church



fig.11 Nilometer Roda



fig.12 Mar Girgis



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fig.7

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fig.10 / 15

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fig.12

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fig. 20

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