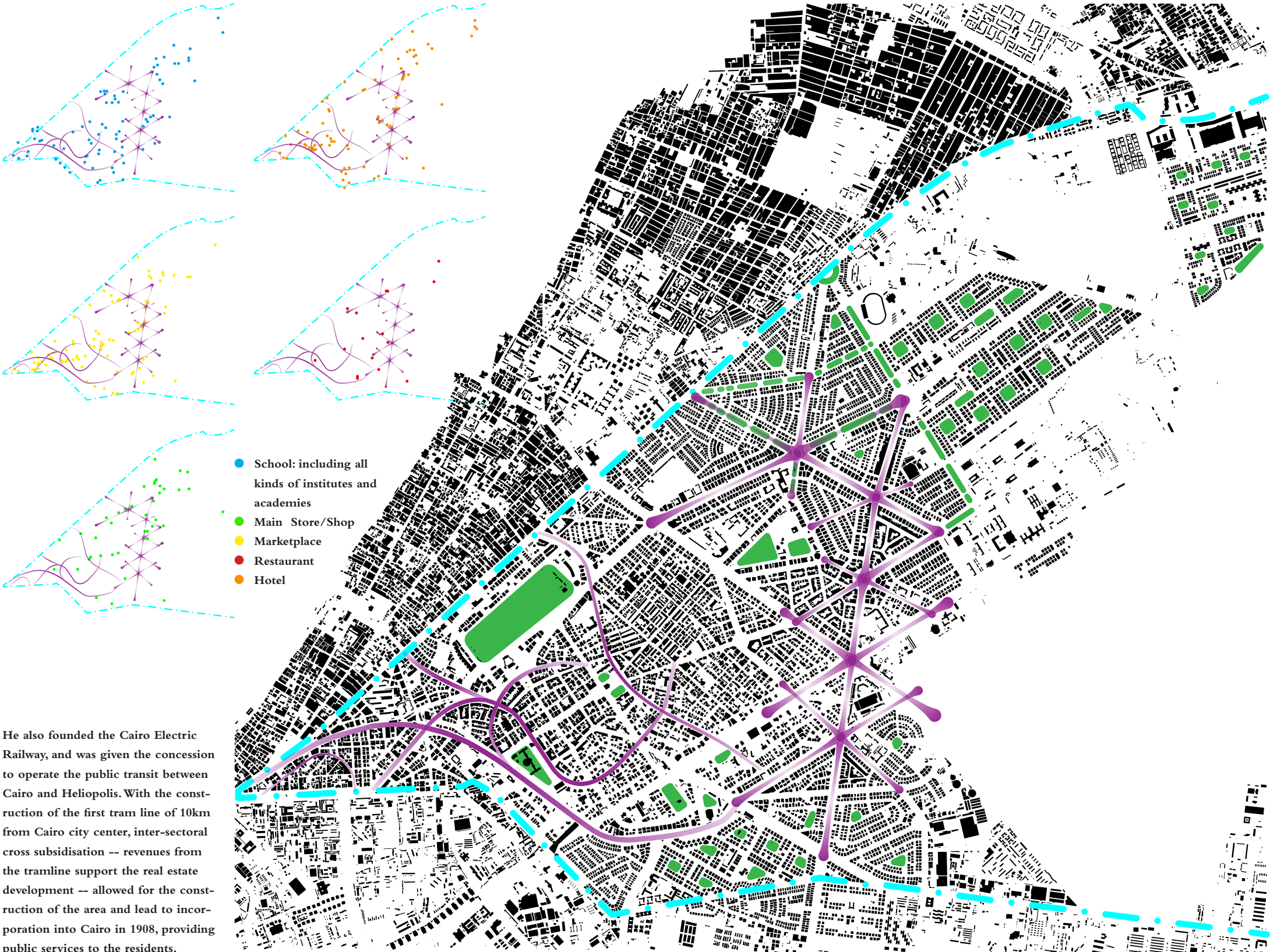
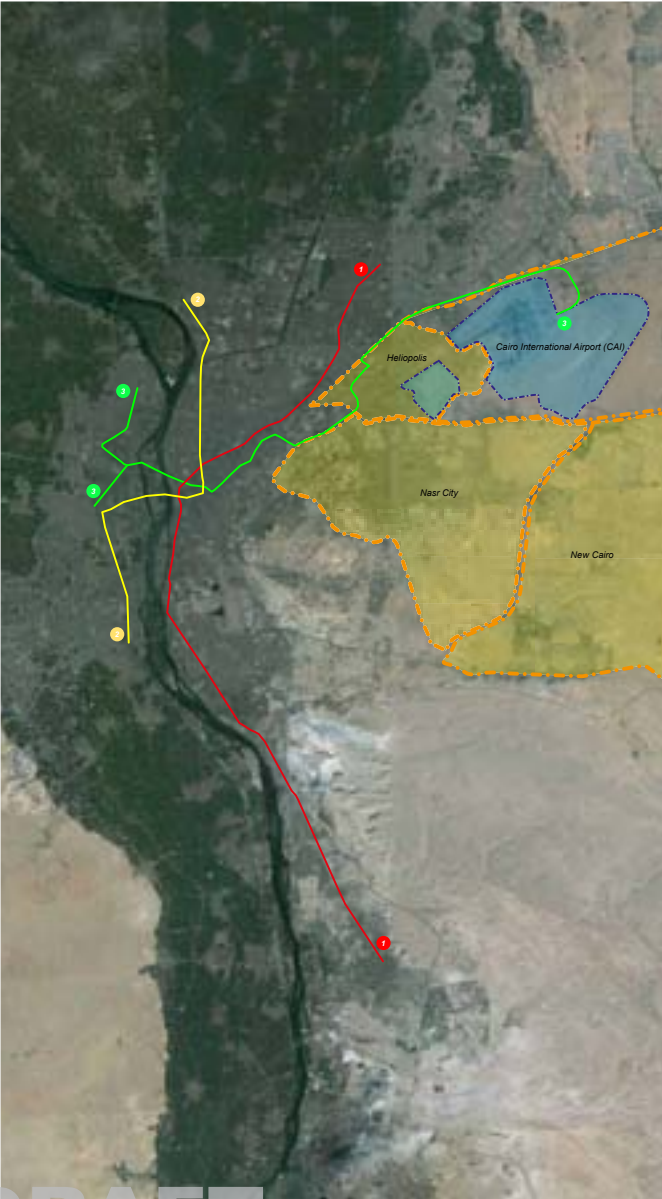


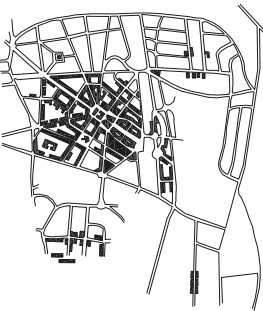
HELIOPOLIS

The vision of Belgian financier Edouard Empain, a railroad magnate with mortgage banking operations and several major transportation and civil engineering projects in Egypt, Heliopolis, with the land concession granted in 1905 to the Heliopolis Oasis Company, is built by Belgian, French and British architects. Its construction as a private enterprise by a foreign capitalist without state support and its location in the desert took from the models of the garden cities at the time of its inception -- such as Letchworth, by Unwin and Parker in 1903 implementing the theories of Ebenezer Howard.

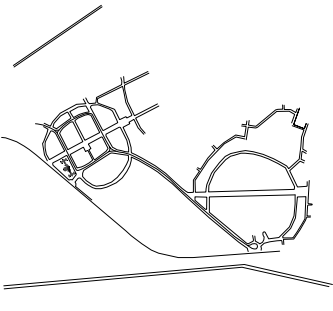


He also founded the Cairo Electric Railway, and was given the concession to operate the public transit between Cairo and Heliopolis. With the construction of the first tram line of 10km from Cairo city center, inter-sectoral cross subsidisation -- revenues from the tramline support the real estate development -- allowed for the construction of the area and lead to incorporation into Cairo in 1908, providing public services to the residents.

Heliopolis historical development



Garden City Inspiration by Unwin



Concept of two oases



1908



1912



1923



2010



Baron Édouard Empain
1852 – 1929, Belgian engineer and financier. In 1906 he established Heliopolis Oasis Company. Earlier he bought for 5 952 egyptian pound 25 km² of desert 10 km away from Cairo city center. On the new purchased ground, which he earlier connected to Cairo through a railway line, Empain started to build a completely new „city of luxury and leisure“.

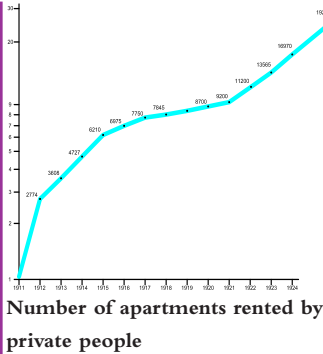
1909, 168 buildings,
29 km of rues,
50 km of canalisation
constructed
the city begins to function



Lunapark 1911 – 1912,
first entertainment park in Egypt, race-track, cinema and golf were also opened

1906, first materials
brought by camels

20 650 inhabitants



After the second world war, middle class housing was introduced. Empain's intention to create two spare enclosures, one for luxury and one for economic housing, has been denied.

1956 Suez Canal war with Israel

23.07.1952, revolution, Heliopolis gains importance within Cairo

1947, population reaches 50 000

1960, population reaches 168 000, Heliopolis is divided in smaller quarters: Almaza, al-Bustan, Tall al-Hisn, Arab al-Tauila, Ezbat al-Gabal, Mansiat al-Bakri



Skyscrapers in Roxy area

1972, The Heliopolis Hotel became the headquarters of the Federation of Arab Republics



1994, Headquarters of Oriental Weavers

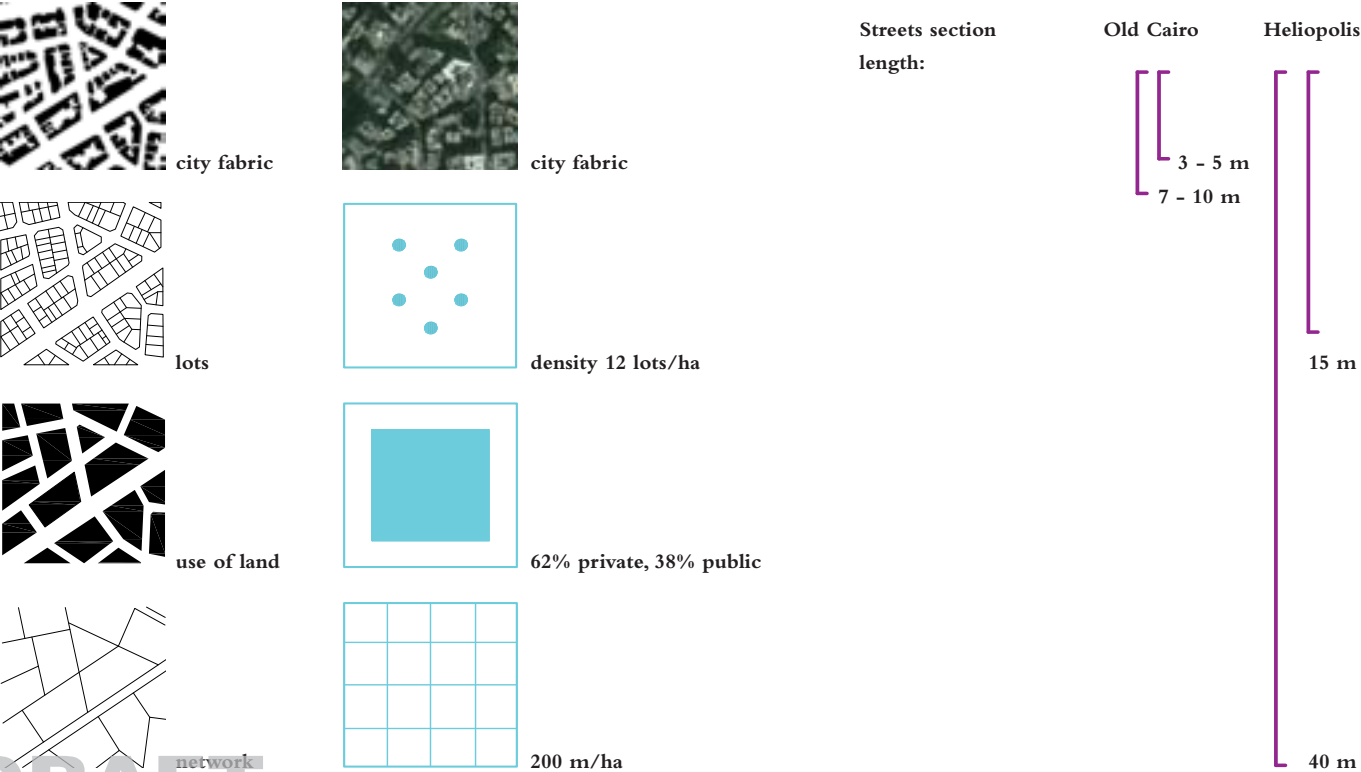
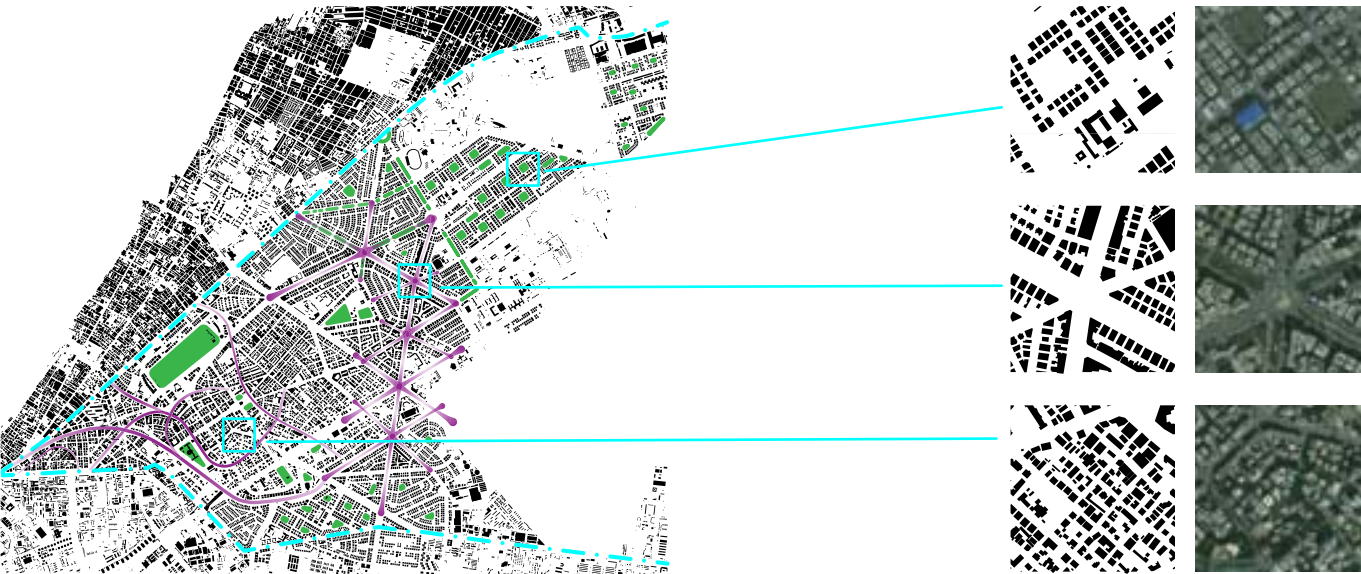
2005, Heliopolis celebrates its hundredth birthday. 5th of May is proclaimed Heliopolis day, celebrated every year. Debates on the future of Heliopolis.

1998, law prohibiting demolition of ancient villas in old Heliopolis

Heliopolis, now part of Cairo, is inhabited by around 1 million people. It borders with Al Zaytun and Ain Shams from north-west and with airport and Nasr City from south-east. It is one of the central parts of Cairo with many extensions like El-Rehab, El-Shorouq, El-Obour still growing. Armenians, Syrians, Lebanese, Palestinians, Turks, Copts, Muslims and Jews are among nationalities living in Heliopolis and practicing their religion there.

Heliopolis City Fabric

Heliopolis upon its construction distinguished itself from other satellite developments by its future orientated form. Wide streets, greenzones, functional mix, controlled buildings heights made it to one of the most sought for location in Cairo.

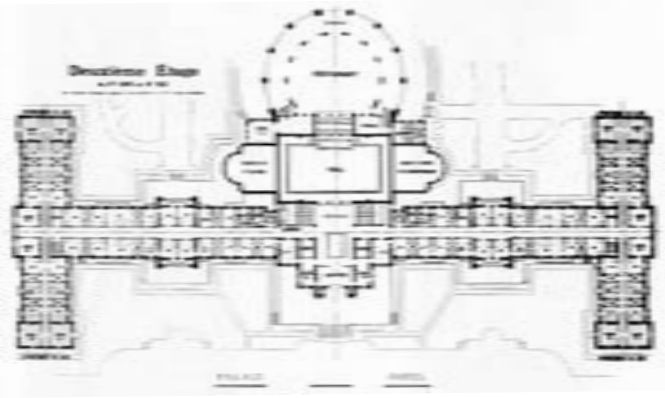


Unfortunately the uncontrolled city growth in the second half of the 20th century left its mark on Heliopolis. Many villas were removed in order to make room for skyscrapers not in line with city fabric. Greenzones fell victim to the same process. This prompted contraction from Heliopolis inhabitants who managed to introduce law prohibiting deconstruction any of the city original buildings.

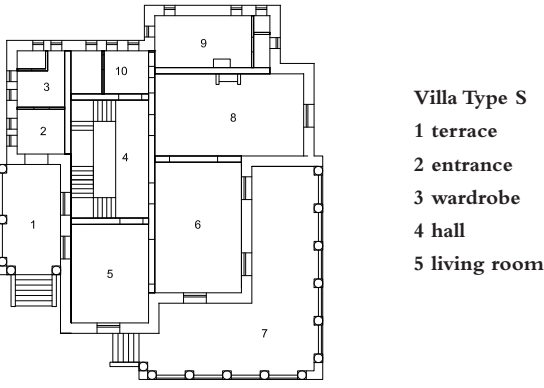
Heliopolis Architecture



Heliopolis Palace Hotel
Completed in 1910 by belgian architect Ernest Jaspart, the Heliopolis Hotel had 400 rooms including 55 apartments and hosted many prominent guests in its days. Since 80s' it became the presidential palace.



Villas
Heliopolis offered a huge variety of Villas: different types U, UF, P, S, R, differen surfaces from 130 to 300 m². The popular types like S or P were constructed in series. Outside of the building there always has been a toilette for Arabs.
The gound floor was usually occupied by entrance hall, salon, office, dining room. On the 1st level there were bedrooms, often relatively small (12m²). The villas had covered terraces.



- Villa Type S
- 1 terrace
 - 2 entrance
 - 3 wardrobe
 - 4 hall
 - 5 living room



Garden City
Garden Cities contained cheaper apartments. Each dwelling on the ground floor had acces to the garden, the ones on the upper floors (2 floors above GF) always had terrace or loggia. The surface of the apartment vary between 33 and 69 m².

- Garden City
- 1 living room
 - 2 terrace
 - 3 kitchen
 - 4 room
 - 5 room



Baron Palace
Hosni Mubarak lives here and the Parliamentary palace is also here, but it is hard to see it due to the high security walls. It was originally the Palace Hotel, and even served as a military hospital in the first World War.