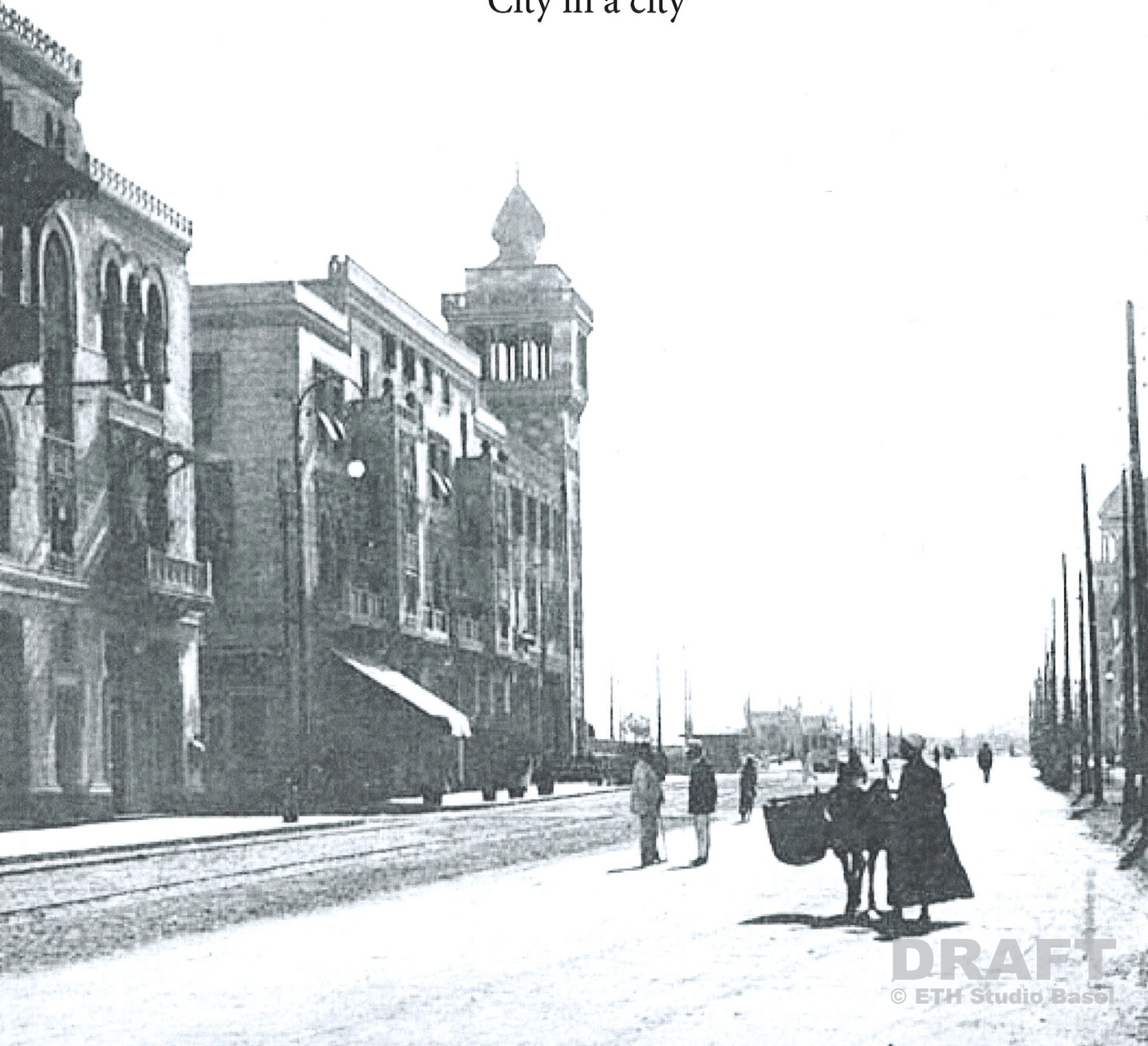


Heliopolis

City in a city



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–
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THE MIDDLE EAST STUDIO
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Heliopolis – City in a city

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“Heliopolis is more than just a district of Cairo. From oasis in the desert to residential region, Heliopolis should be seen by modern architects as model for urban development.”

————— Adel Mokhtar



0 100m 500m 1km

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-Desert city, grounded in 1905 as an investment project (capitalism)

-234 000 inhabitants

-Close to airport

-81,1% muslims, 18,8% Christians

-35,6% higher education - 6% analphabet

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Founding of the city

Baron Eduard Empain



Beginning of a new city

Baron Edouard Joseph Louis Empain was Belgian engineer, industrialist, entrepreneur and financier. He is the true creator of Heliopolis. Born in a modest family in Belgium in 1852, Empain obtained engineer degree and entered the metallurgy business. Particularly he occupied himself with railway and electric tramway lines and after achieving success on domestic ground, his company expanded world wide, awarding him great fortune, friendship with king Leopold II and baron title. His company constructed railway and electric tramway lines in many European countries as wells as in Russia, China, Belgium Kongo and eventually in Egypt. Since 1882 he owned a bank which later became Belgian Industrial Bank.

In 1904 Empain arrived in Cairo in order to control the construction of

railway line there.

He became fascinated by the history of Egypt and started to finance the work of Belgian Egyptologist Jean Capart. His interest in history of Egypt together with the fact that the real estate prizes in Egypt were growing very fast at the time making it a very attractive soil for investment, were reasons why Empain came up with an idea of creating an entire new city located just outside of Cairo.

Thanks to friendship with Boghos Pacha Nubar, the son of prime minister of Cairo, whom he met while studying in Belgium, Empain obtained allowance to start the construction. He hired sir Reginald Oakes, an English engineer to secure good contacts with English government and on 20.05.1905 bought 5 952 feddans of desert located 12 kilometre away from

Cairo city centre in north-east direction. The site chosen, in spite of being desert offered advantages for being safe from Nile floods and well ventilated by winds.

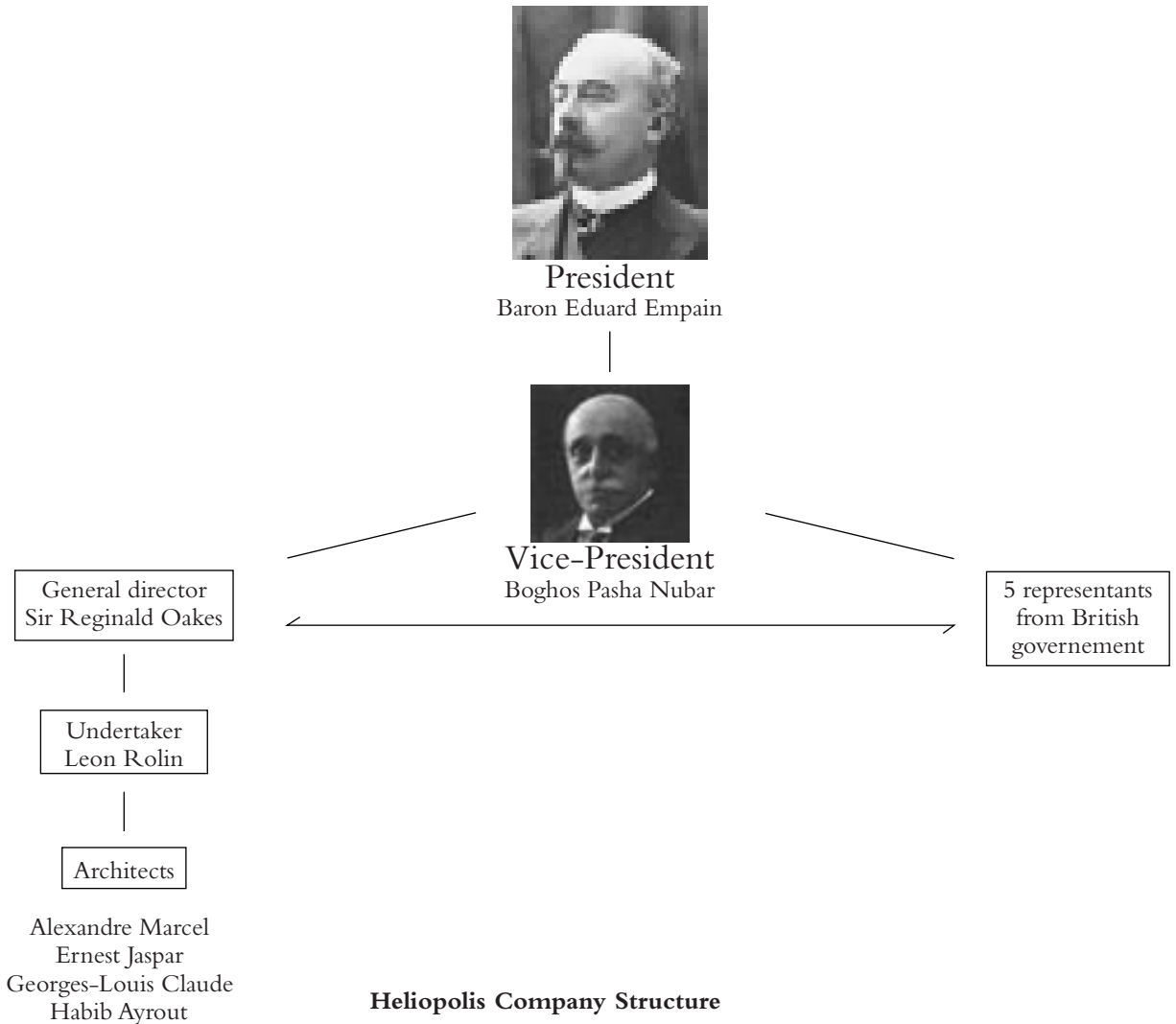
Empain dreamed of reviving ancient Egyptian city Heliopolis, hence the name. The original city is located further away from Cairo, however, before starting with works Empain order Jean Capart to check the ground for eventual remains of the ancient city.

There is also another less spectacular reason for building so far away from Cairo. Empain paid 1 Egyptian pound for 1 feddan which equals to 4200 m². In 1905 the price of 1 m² even in the worst district of Cairo was approximately 1 pound which means that Empain paid 4200 times less then he would have to in Cairo for the same surface.

Original document, which Empain obtained after having purchased the land



Heliopolis Company



Heliopolis Company Structure

After creating the “Cairo electric railways and Heliopolis Oases Company” Empain took over as a president. He named Boghos Pacha Nubar vice – president and sir Reginald Oakes, general director of Heliopolis project. Sir Reginald Oakes with whom Empain worked already in Belgium, was chosen mainly to provide good relation with 5 representatives from British govern-

ment. Louis Rolin was chosen as an undertaker in a way of competition. Alexandre Marcel was the main architects of the project. Empain was able to hire him thanks to his close relation to the king of Belgium. His work was supported by Ernest Jaspert, Georges – Louis Claude and local architect Habib Ayrout.



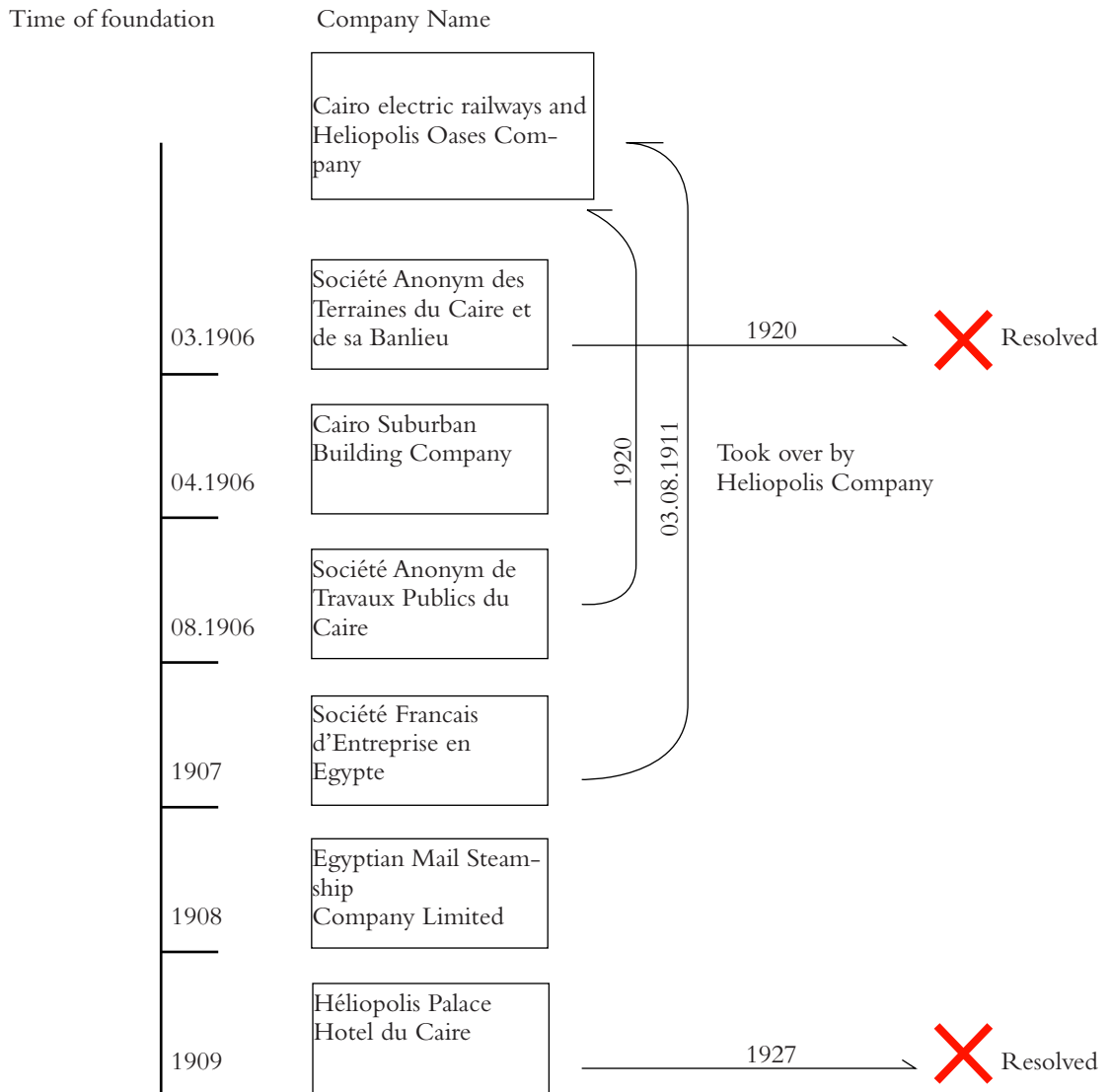
Alexandre Marcel

Heliopolis Company - depending companies

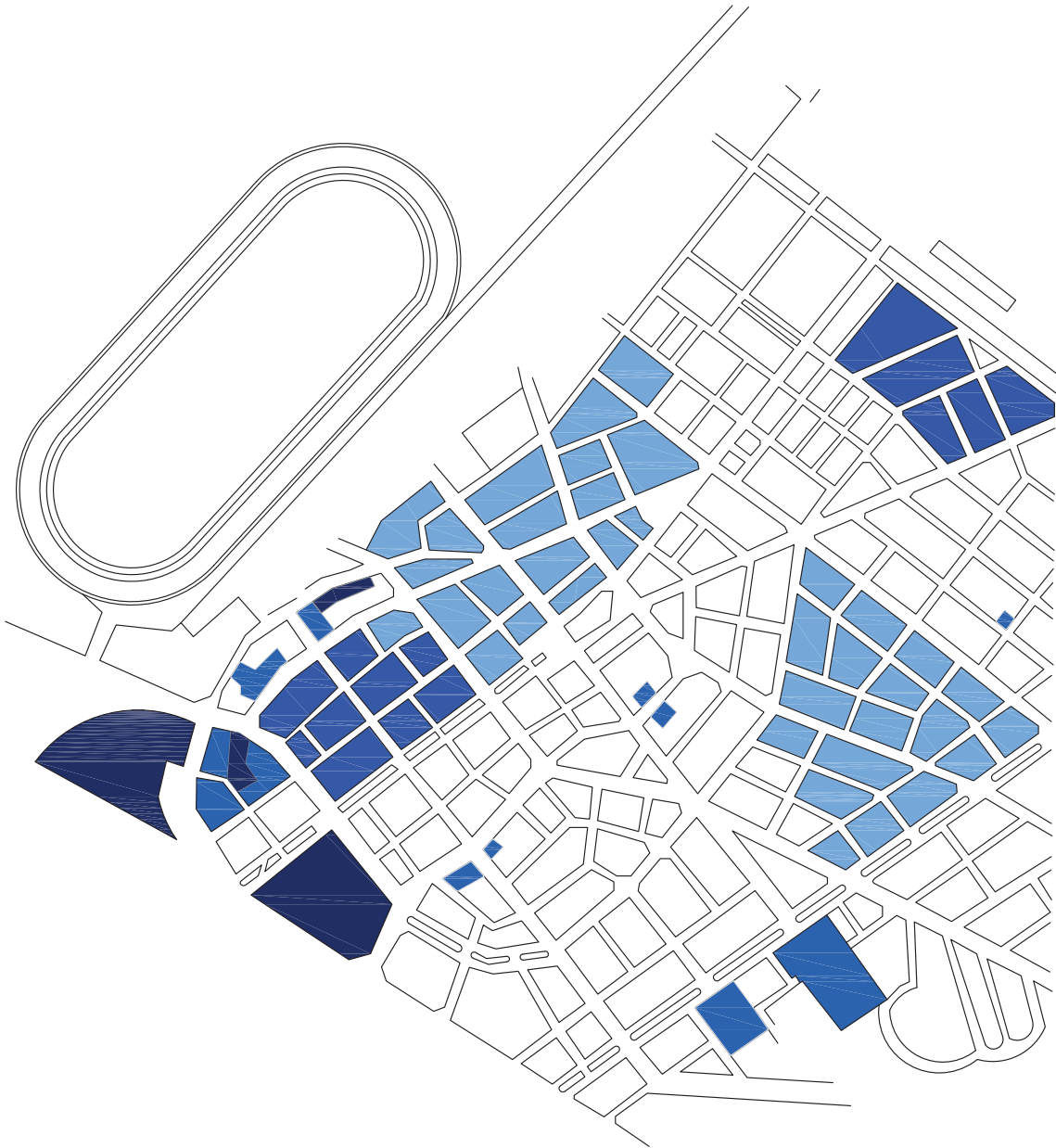
In 1906 Empain established “Cairo electric railways and Heliopolis Oases Company”. In order to minimize the

risk and divide the money as well as to attract more investors he set up 6 other companies, officially independent but

truly connected to “Heliopolis Oases Company”.



Ownership structure



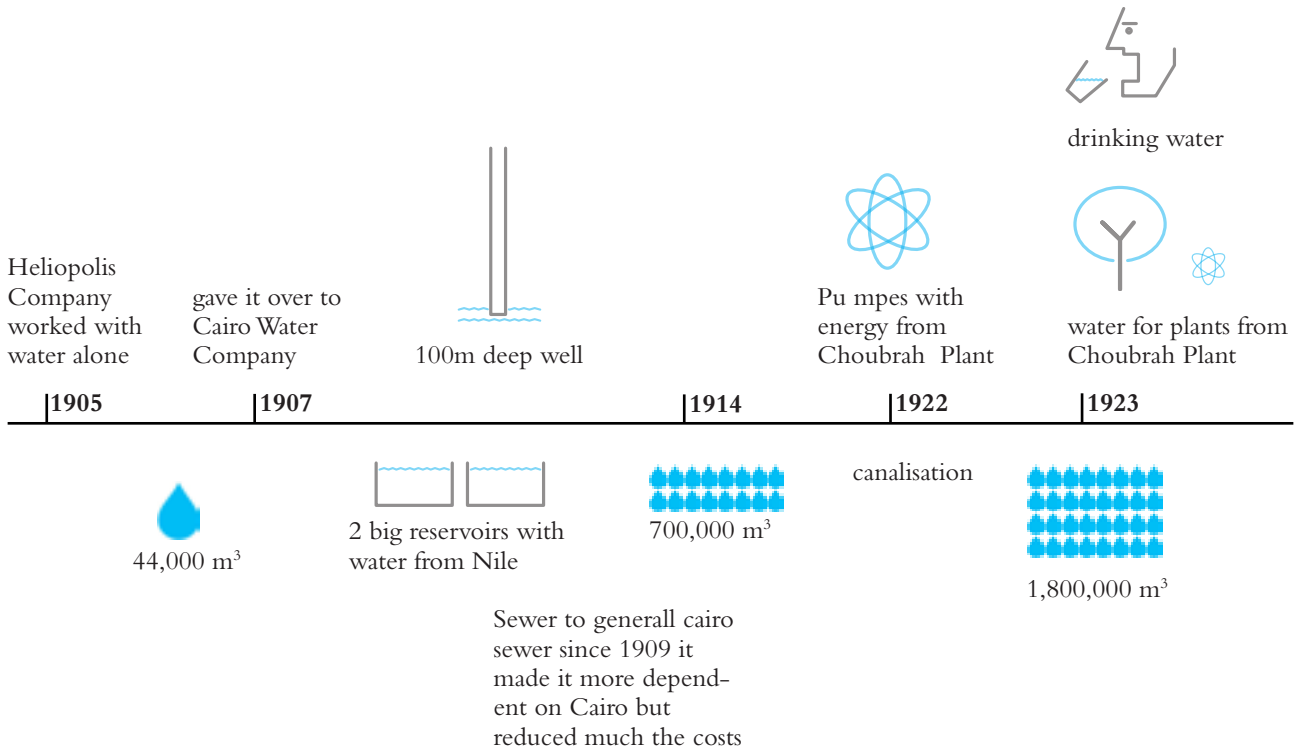
Ownership of lots by particular companies



Water management

Solving the problem of water supply was the most important issue for the new desert city. Heliopolis is situated utterly in the middle of the desert so first of all, mud from Nile has been brought by camels and then with trucks in order to fertilize the ground

for the future plants. At the same two huge basins for water have been built and 100 meter deep artesian well has been drilled. Water management since beginning has been coordinated with Cairo Water Company in order to reduce investment costs.



Ownership structure



Heliopolis Company Stock



Baron Edouard Joseph Louis Empain
33 000 stocks



= 3 000 stock

Heliopolis Company



Boghos Pacha Nubar
2 600 stocks



Private and national companies mainly from France, Germany, Belgium and England
24 400 stocks



Financial structure

Heliopolis Company issued 60 000 stocks. They were owned by different parties and given that the company owned the further companies it was hard to follow who is truly in charge. However, as one could have guessed it was Empain, who remain in sole control of the project. He owned 33 000 actions of Heliopolis Company, what allowed him to be the only decision maker of the project. The vice-president of the company Boghos Pasha Nubar had only 2 600 stocks. It was clear from the very beginning that he was invited as a partner for Empain only in order to provide the good relation two Egyptian government. Empain was also in control of all the depending companies, which were mostly run by his friends and partners like Alexandre Marcel who was the

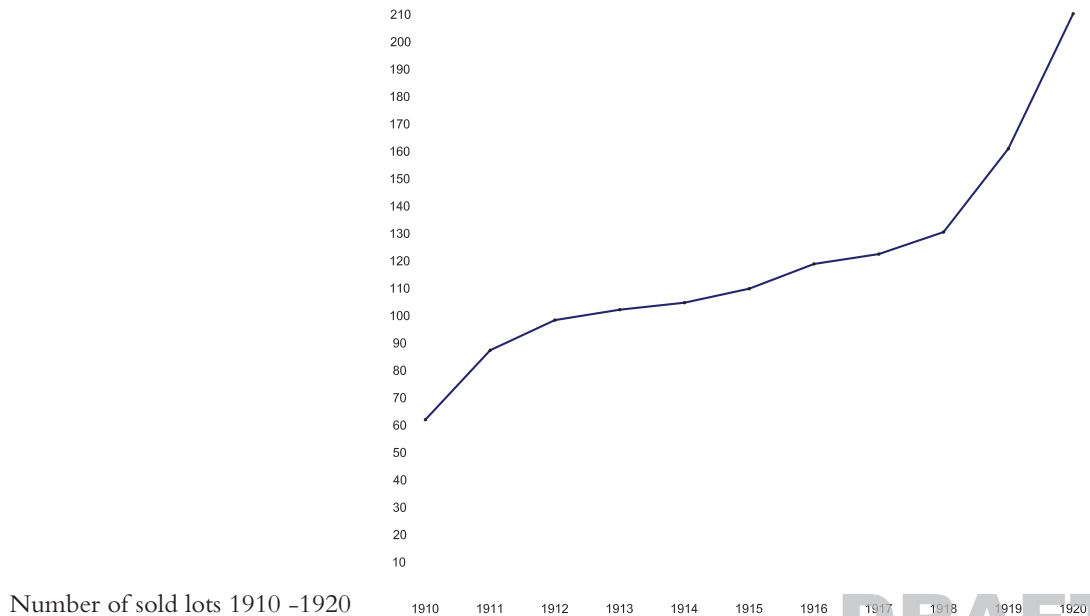
official co- owner of “Societe Anonym Francais d’Entreprise” or Andre Berthelot who was for his part, partner of Empain by construction of Paris subway.

The complicated structure of Heliopolis Company had very clear reasons. Empain approach for the project was mostly materialistic. He was interested in Egyptian history and culture but mainly he realized great opportunity for a profitable real estate investment. In order to diminish the risk of investment he split up Heliopolis Company, and made smaller parts responsible for certain elements of the project. For example “La Societe de Travaux Publics” was assigned for building Palace Hotel and 28 lots.

Empain also wanted to attract as many outside investors as possible and especially from different countries. He knew that if for example some French company would invest in Heliopolis it would be easier for him to attract French people to live in his desert city.

Also from the very beginning he started to sell lots, which could be constructed upon by owner with respect of the laws set up by company.

This was the beginning of the public – private cooperation that proved very successful for the development of the project till the nationalization of the company in 1961.



Ownership structure



Hippodrom, Aviation exhibition 1911

Luna Park

The financial crisis that struck in 1907 was a turning point for the Heliopolis. Original intention of Empain was to start a real estate investment project and sell the grounds relatively fast. However, this tactic in the middle of a crisis wouldn't create much profit for him.

He decided to further develop his project, invest much more money in order to sell it later for a bigger gain.

To quickly improve the current state of his investment, Empain opened Luna Park, the first entertainment facility in such scale in the whole Africa and Middle East combined. It was an attraction for

all social classes and Cairo inhabitants began to flock there quickly. This had another impact on the social structure of Heliopolis. Empain's intention to keep it down right high class, city of leisure and luxury was somewhat tainted by the presence of representatives of lower social classes of Cairo.



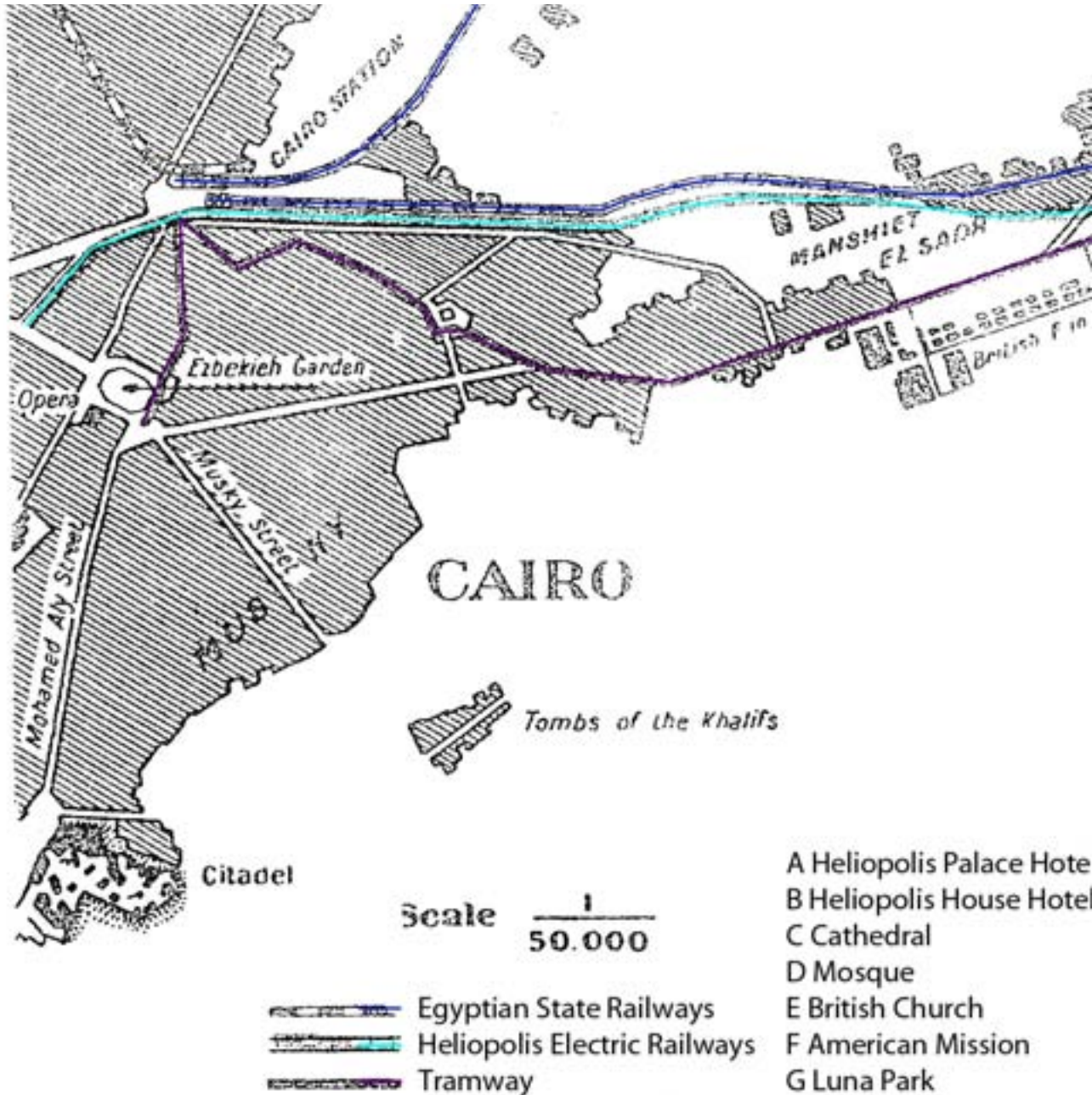
10 years

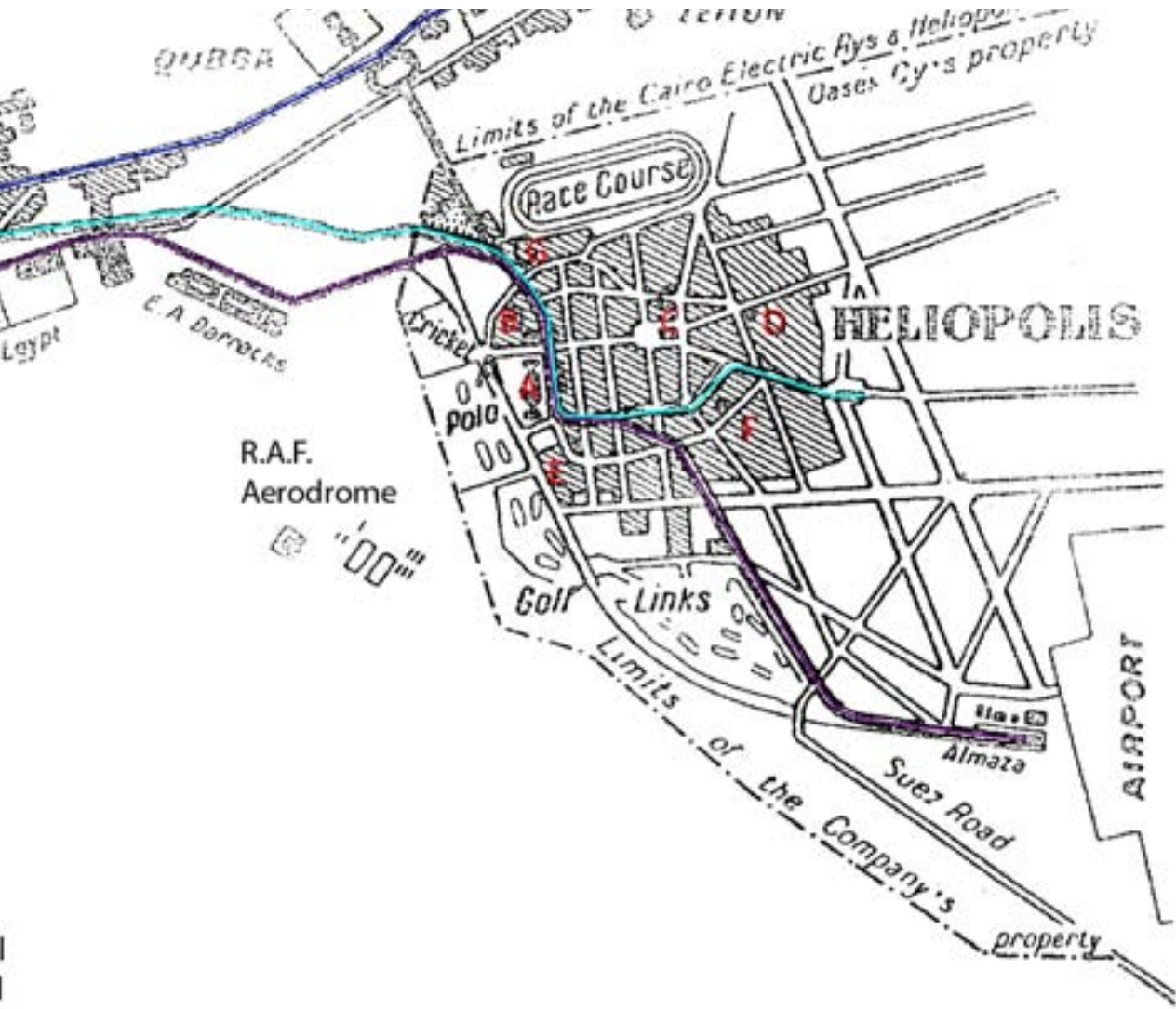


30 years



New city connected with tramline





Inspiration and concept

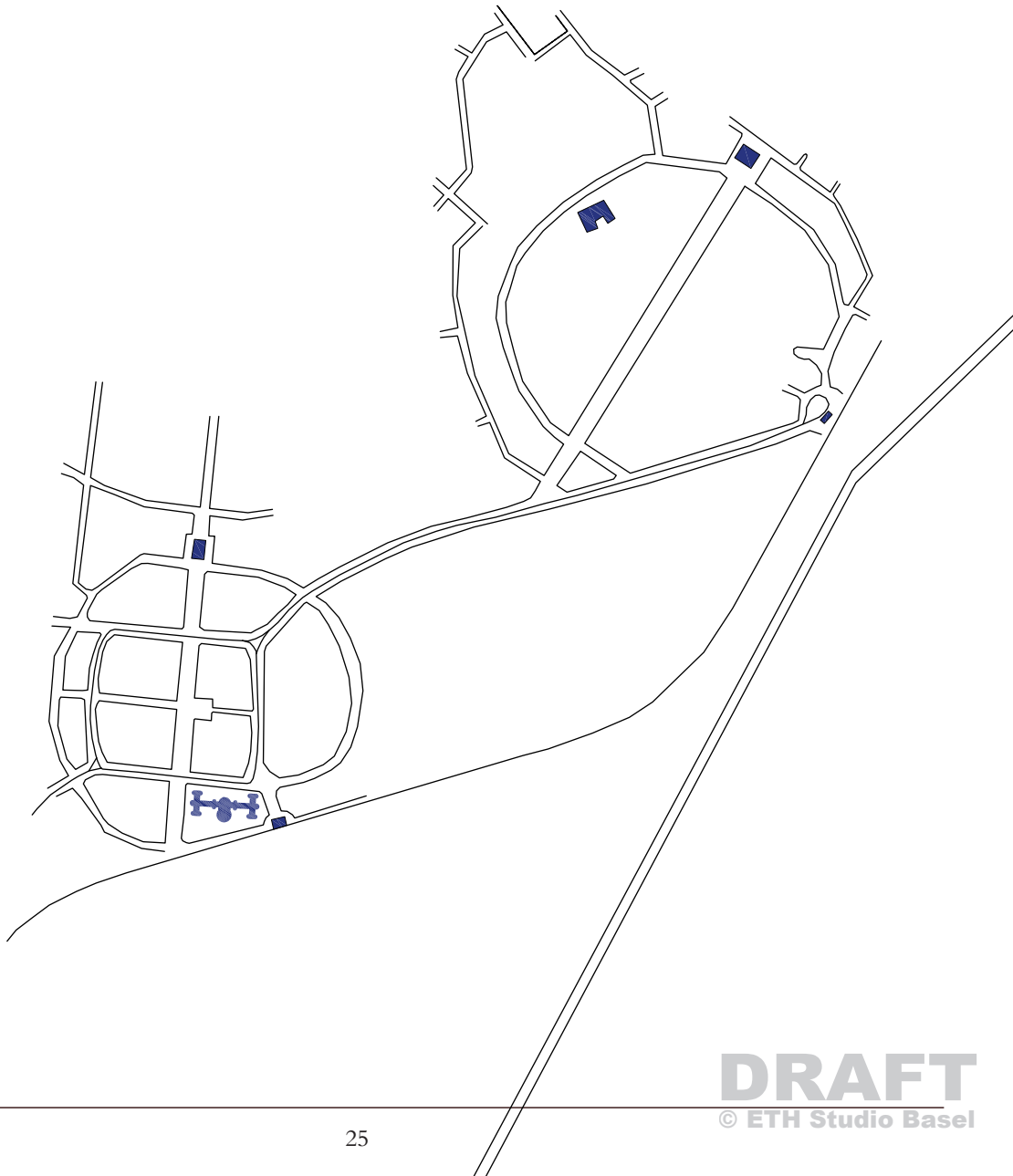
Heliopolis was to be build in the desert, 12 km away from Cairo City center. Empain was inspired by the Garden City projects especially by the project from Unwin and Parker. He and his architects came up with an idea of “two oasis” a city that con-

sists out of two parts, one being the luxurious, residential part and the other the service area for the first one. This subdivision can be distinguished even until now. At the beginning the the first materials was brought to helioplis on camles and donkey, later with lor-

ries and in 1909 first tramway line was opened. It operated from 6 am till 9:30 pm with one train per hour. The fee was only 0,005 LE and it was the most efficient connection between Heliopolis and Cairo that allowed for Heliopolis to develop.



Garden City Project by Unwin and Parker



“Two Oases” concept

Project development

1905	1906	1907	1908
------	------	------	------

Land Purchase

Baron Empain with Boghos Pacha Nubar bought 2500 ha desert with permission to build over 420 ha under conditions of preservation of Suez road, building post and police offices and providing the tramway connection to Cairo.



Begin of Construction

Construction work started, first materials were brought by camels and donkeys. The mud from Nile was brought in order to fertilize the ground. The electric plant in Choubrah is opened. It will provide the energy for the pumps for water in Heliopolis.



Financial Crisis

International financial crisis begins. It also struck Heliopolis. Empain reacted very quickly by changing his approach towards the project. Originally he wanted to swiftly construct and sell the city, it wouldn't be profitable given the stock situation, so he decided to further develop the city and make eventual sales in the future.



Heliopolis is born

The city begins to flourish. There are 250 people in constructions and many more people were working for the Heliopolis Company.



1909

Tramway arrives

First tram line is opened, Heliopolis gets shape of a city, there are 168 buildings constructed, hotels “Heliopolis house” and the biggest hotel in the world “Palace Hotel” are among them. Also there are 29 km of roads and 50 km of canalisation completed.



1910

Further purchase of land

The ownership of Heliopolis Company is increased to 7 500 ha. State takes over the police service. Stock price at 258 LE. There is an aviation exposition in Hippodrome. Approximately 5 000 people are living in Heliopolis.



1911

Palace Hotel opens

Baron Palace is finished, there are 5 schools opened in Heliopolis. Stock price at 285 LE. Belgian Queen and King visited Heliopolis and stayed in Palace Hotel for couple of weeks.



Project development

1912

Heliopolis extending

13 245 m2 ground for construction is sold. There are also 20 types of villas offered at this time.

1913

Opening of Basilica

Basilica is completed, Empain attended the opening. There are 89 lots sold this year. Number of people working in constructions increase to 400.

1914

WW I

Begin of 1st world war. The stock price of Heliopolis Company drops by over 50% to 125 LE. On the other hand Empain is able to use the changing course of different currencies for his profit. Palace Hotel is turned into Hospital.

1915

City becomes green

5 years of stagnation of war begin.



1916

Stagnation

caused by
During the war only 28 lots
has been sold.



1917

The stagnation continues



1918

Finish of the WW I

It brings stability to Heliopolis. Interest in the desert City increases again. There 400 workmen in Heliopolis and stuff of Heliopolis Company stand at 80.

Project development

1919

1920

1921

1922

Vivication after war

Palace Hotel reopens.
Almost all the buildings are occupied, there are 14 schools with 1500 pupils.

Fast growth

Sell of the apartments and lots is faster and faster, city is steadily developing. New 250 buildings are under construction.

First 2 000 apartments are constructed.

1 900 pupils in schools



1923

1924

1925

ools.

Heliopolis popular spot in Cairo area

Heliopolis becomes a sought for location for living. It also attracts many inhabitants of Cairo who come here to spend their free time. Golf and Lund Park belong to the most popular amusements.

Social diversity

Out of 2000 finished apartments 176 are location for workers.

Heliopolis is shaped

The city structure will remain like this till nationalisation of the company in 1960.



Project development

1926

1937

Heliopolis is built

The two original brick factories are closed. Heliopolis is built. In 1928 there are already 4000 apartments constructed and the population of Heliopolis stands at 24 000. In 1929 St. Mark church is opened, also in this year Baron Empain dies in Belgium, two years later his body will

be exhumed and brought to Heliopolis, where he is buried under Basilica as wished. Period between 1926 and 1937 is marked by fast growth of Heliopolis. All the buildings are constructed in the same art deco style. Eventually 280 ha

with 200 blocs and 2000 lots are finished. 786 lots are built upon by company, 982 by private investors, the rest remains unused.



1952/1960

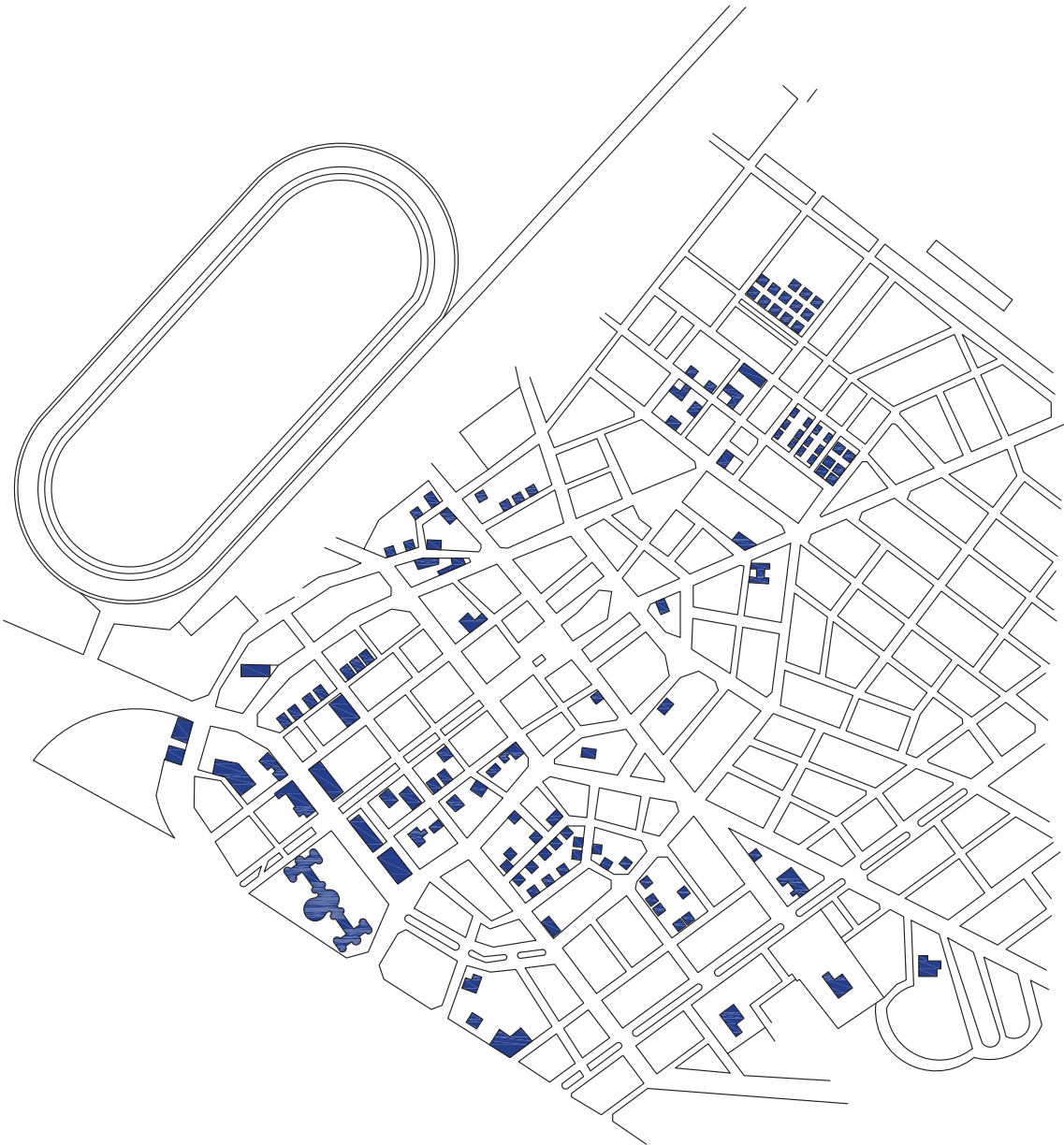
The final period of capitalistic development of the city

The revolution in 1952 led to the nationalisation of the Heliopolis Company in 1960. tional at the time, also religious variety has been characteristic.

The city grew faster and faster reaching 50 000 inhabitants in 1947. Some new architectural styles have been introduced. Heliopolis was very interna-



Heliopolis 1908





buildings constructed in 1908



Heliopolis 1908






-  buildings constructed in 1908
-  buildings constructed in 1912

0 100m 500m

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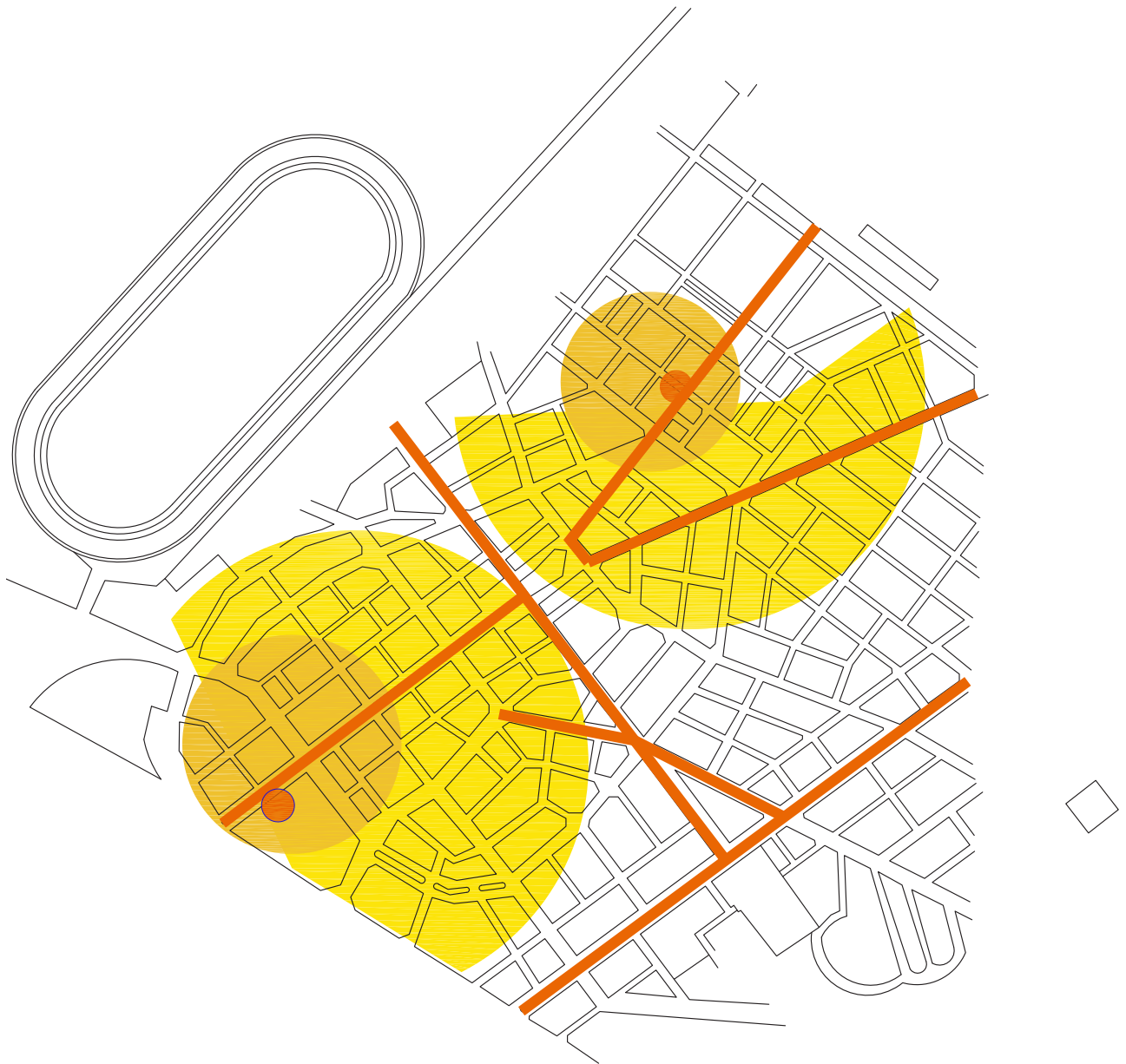
Heliopolis 1923







-  buildings constructed in 1908
-  buildings constructed in 1912
-  buildings constructed in 1923



Structure of early Heliopolis



-  main centres
-  influence area of a centre
-  main communication axes

 city poles

0 100m 500m

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Heliopolis 1931





Infrastructure of Heliopolis






Boulevard Abbas, 1930s

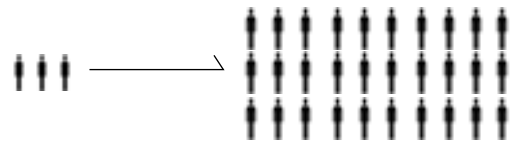
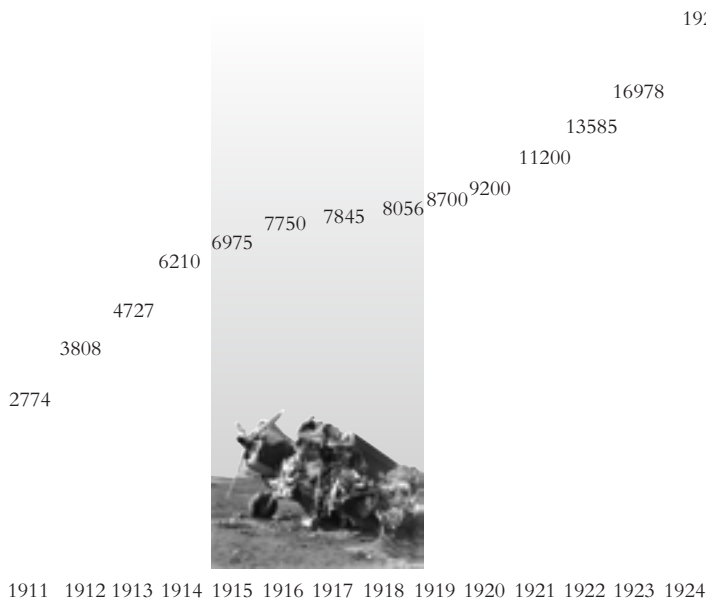
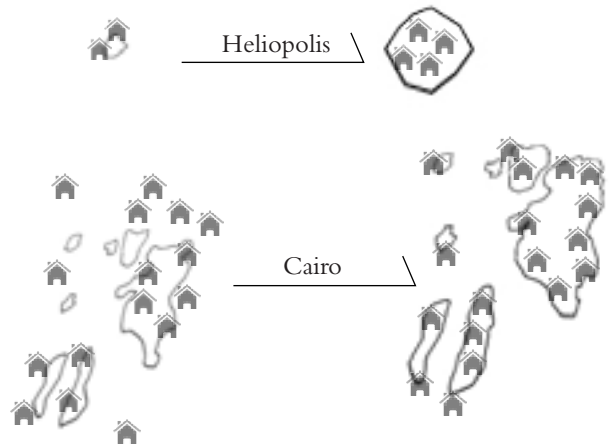
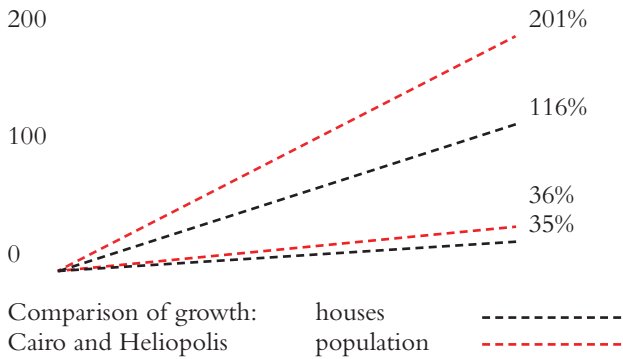
- 1 anglican church
- 2 greek catholic church
- 3 synagoge
- 4 american mission
- 5 african mission
- 6 maronite church
- 7 coptic orthodox church
- 8 armenian church
- 9 boys school
- 10 greek orthodox church

- A cathedral
- B mosque
- C italian school
- D sacre coer church
- E deliverance church
- F governmental school

-  entertainment
-  hotels
-  industry

-  commercial streets
-  religious places
-  schools

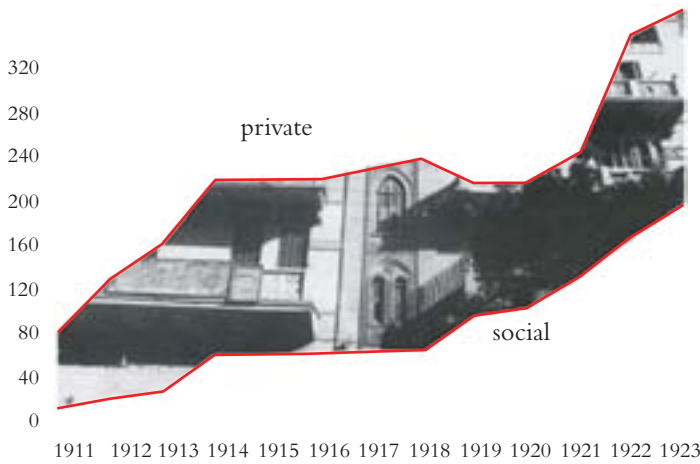
Development of Heliopolis



Population development

The population of Heliopolis grew 10 times in years 1911 to 1928. Only the 1st World War temporarily slowed the development. In context of Cairo, Heliopolis was growing much faster also in terms of the number of constructed houses. This was partly caused by the fact that some people were moving out of Cairo to Heliopolis because it became the most quality location around, with very high prestige.

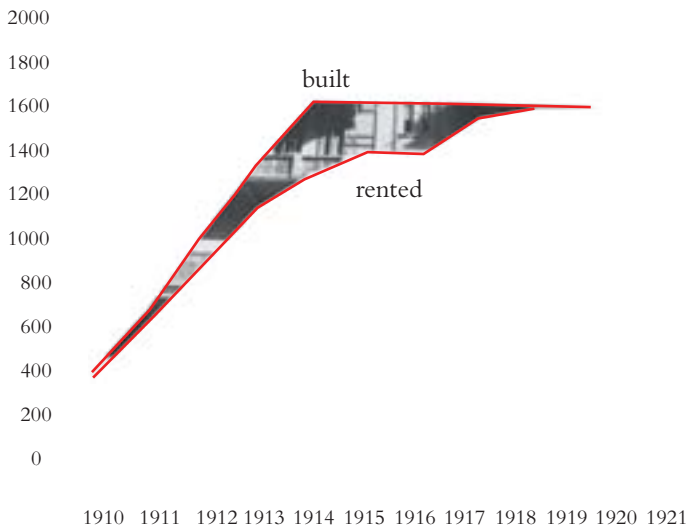
Increase of population in Heliopolis 1911 - 1923



Construction works of social and private housing

Private/Social development

The concept of developing both social and private housing worked well since the beginning. In both cases the general rules, concerning the building height, distance to the street and percentage of the occupied space on the lot were binding. As a result Heliopolis was developing to become a very well organized but still diverse city.

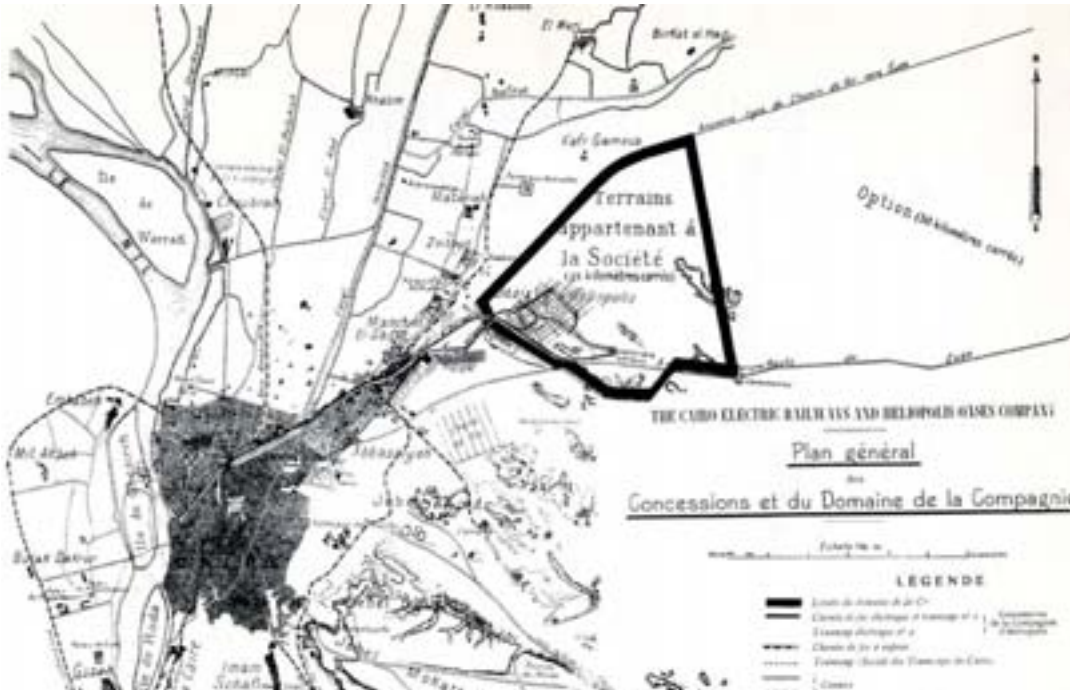


Number of built building compared to number of rented buildings

Housing market

In spite of the big interest in Heliopolis, at the beginning the number of constructed houses exceeded the number of rented ones. Especially the 1st world war disturbed the development process. Situation changed with time and after the revolution became contradictory.

Integration process

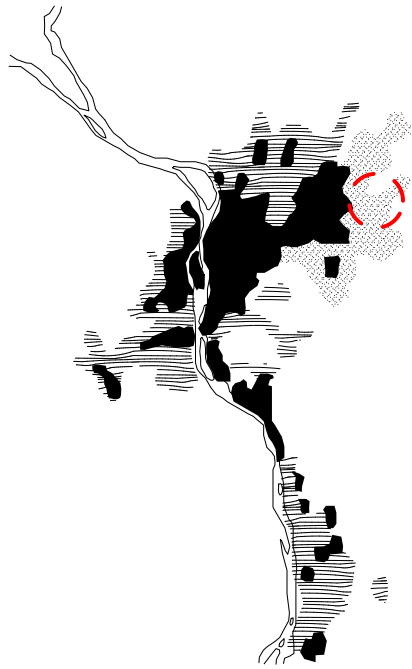
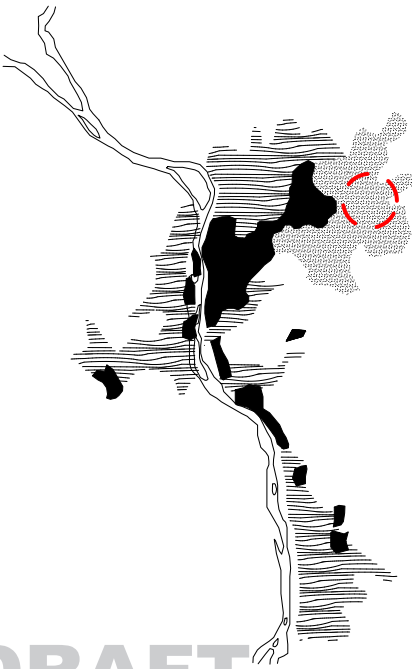


Plan from 1907 showing position of Heliopolis upon its foundation

1945

1968

1977

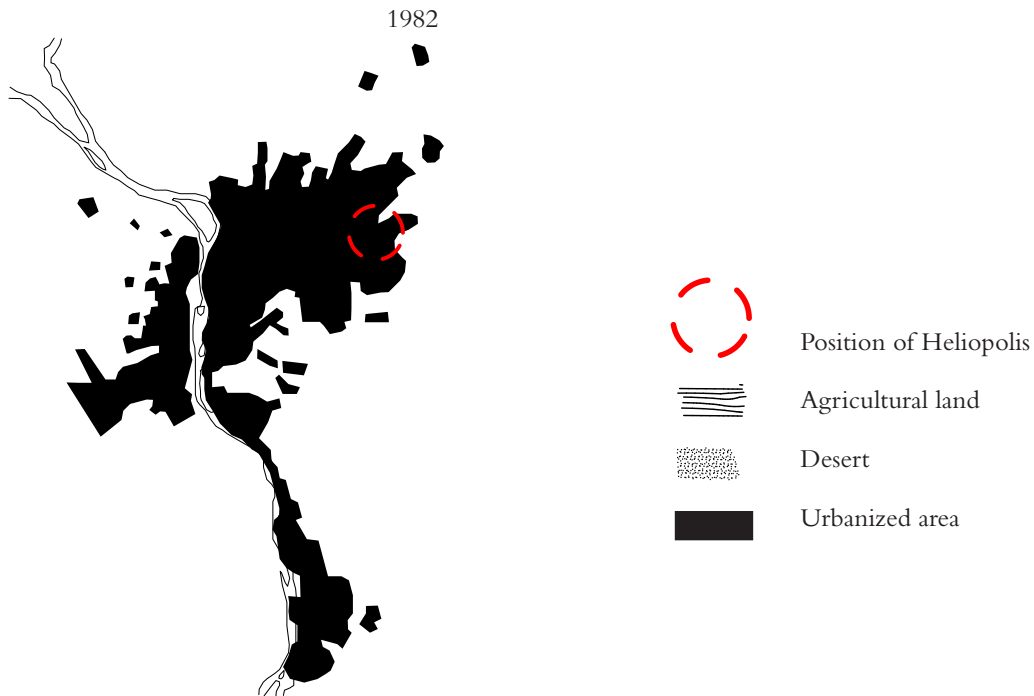


From satellite city to district

Heliopolis started as a satellite city of Cairo, with tramline being the only bound between the two towns. Empain has been following the American principle of founding new cities along train lines. In this case Heliopolis was final station and it profited largely from the

proximity to Cairo. First of all people didn't hesitate to move in because they knew, that they still will be relatively close to all the facilities of capital of Egypt. On the other hand on the organization level Heliopolis was supported by Cairo in subjects like water

distribution or management of sewer. With time both cities grew closer and eventually Heliopolis became part of Cairo in the late 60s and early 70s. Thanks to its past as independent city it remained self sufficient structure with well developed infrastructure.





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Development of the city

Post revolution era

1952

1960

1967

1974

Arab Revolution

Many of the foreigners are moving out of Egypt and out of Heliopolis which is losing its cosmopolitan character.

Heliopolis Company is nationalised

and turned into "Heliopolis Company for Housing and Development. New approach with emphasize on social housing takes over. The number of inhabitants of Heliopolis reaches 80 005.

War against Israel

the Jews still living in Heliopolis are moving out. New people fleeing the war appears, they settle down also in so far rich districts, making informal settlements for example on the rooftops of buildings.

The "Infitah" law is introduced by Nasser

Stabilisation era begins also the process of desamortisation of original buildings comes in Empain time begins on a large scale. Office or residential buildings are being erected in the place



1981

1983

asser

as but
destroying
constructed
as on large
ential tow-
in their

President Husni Mubarak moves into Heliopolis

Palace Hotel after being renovated will serve as his office and meeting palace. The impact of president will be huge on the further development and preservation of Heliopolis. Heliopolis must be strong, independent district of Cairo, there are 46 267 jobs offered for inhabitants of the city of the sun.

Law 117 is introduced

It says that demolition of any building must first be consulted with CSA, the institution responsible for heritage preservation. It should help protect the historical buildings in Heliopolis.



Post revolution era

Social housing in Cairo



New building typologies

The Arab revolution in 1952

brought major changes for Egypt. Also the real estate market and especially the housing department were objects of major shifts. Social housing will become focus as Cairo is lacking great number of apartments at the time. Most of the institution has been nationalized and fixing of rent height

begun. Also new desert cities like Naser City have been founded. Heliopolis grew very fast in the following period.



Law 199, lowering the rent in buildings, before 1944 by 20%

Law 55, lowering the rent in buildings, before 1952 by 20%

Law 68, lowering the rent in buildings, before 1960 by 20%

1952

1958

1961

1973

Initiative to attract the private and foreign investors.

Nationalisation, government is also taking over all the strategic facilities.

Further nationalisation.

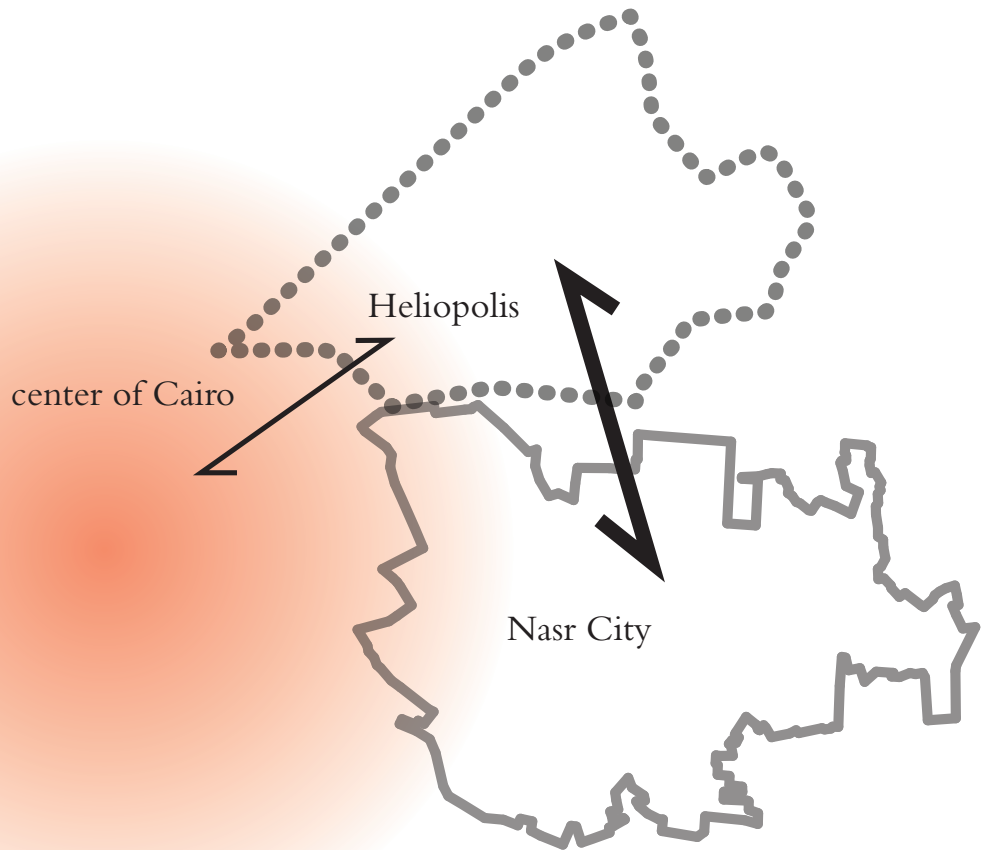
Liberalisation and open politics by Sadat.

New desert city

Socialist approach

Nasr City is a new desert city founded in the 60s as a response to the crisis on the housing market. Started after revolution, it is constructed and develops differently to Heliopolis. Social housing dominates, so also the city fabric is very rigid and highly structured. Although some green areas are planned, it cannot be compared to the situation at the beginning of Heliopolis. Nasr city also lacks the public transportation network, which sparked the development of Heliopolis. However in the future

it is Nasr City that will become one of the most important commercial regions in Cairo, City Stars, the biggest shopping mall in Egypt opens here. At the same time Heliopolis would become mainly residential and more closed area. The socialist plan of Nasr City made it to one of the most popular spots in Cairo, while Heliopolis is the residential area for higher class.



Heliopolis

Nasr City



Post revolution era

Functional structure

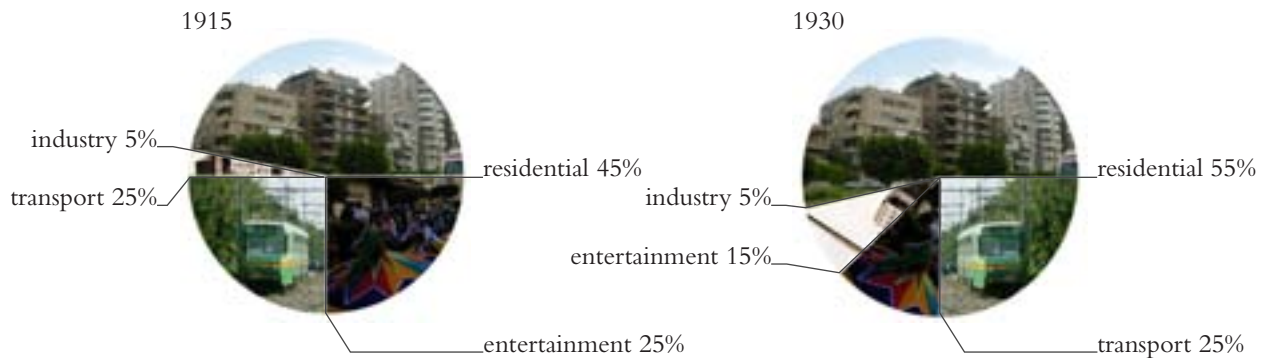


Residential Architecture

The post revolutionary approach in “Heliopolis Company for Housing and Development”, concentrated around the idea of turning Heliopolis into

independent, strong district with well developed infrastructure. Residential should be the main function of the district from now on. The increase of

percentage of housing can be seen if the situation from different years is compared.



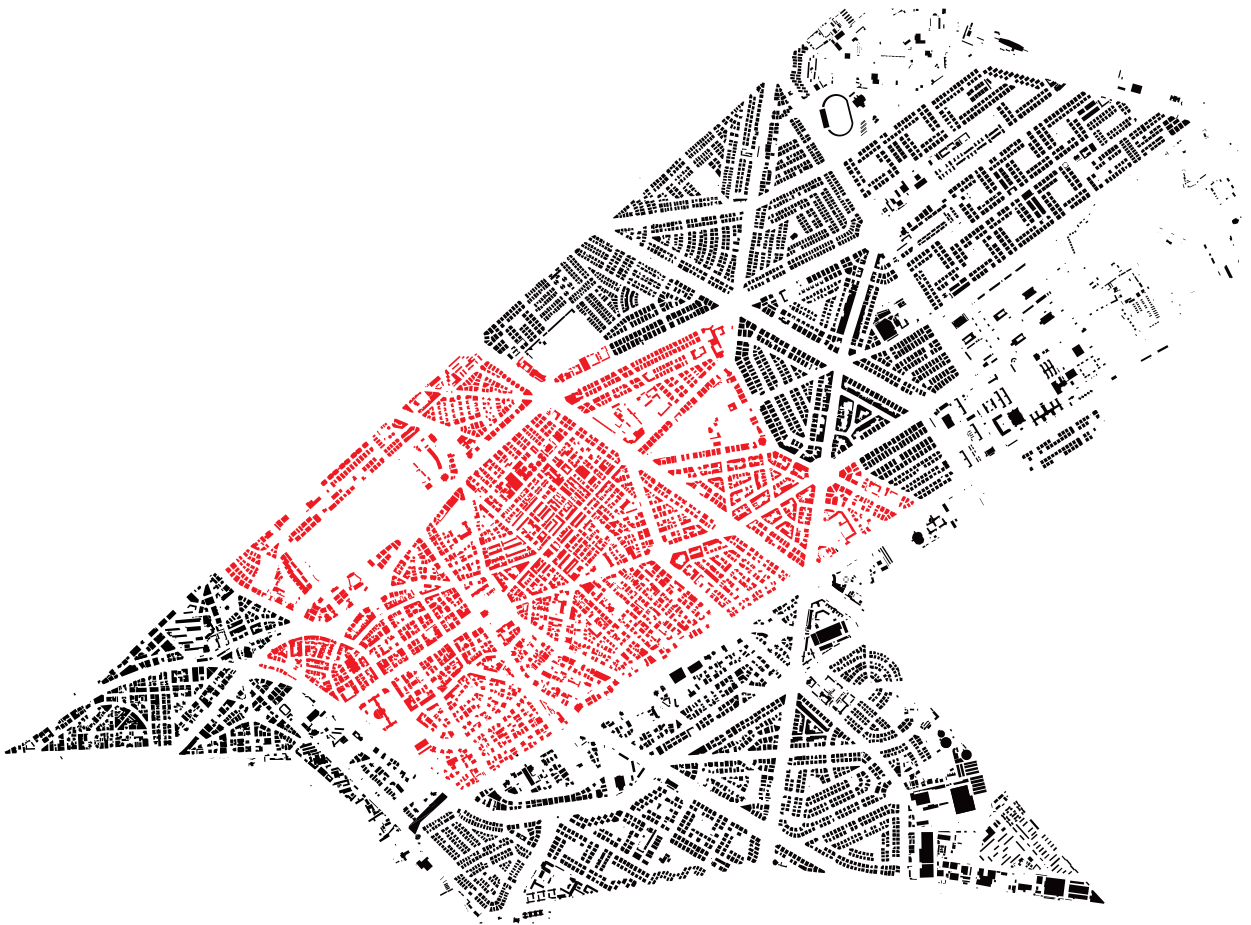


1960

2000



Administrative subdivision

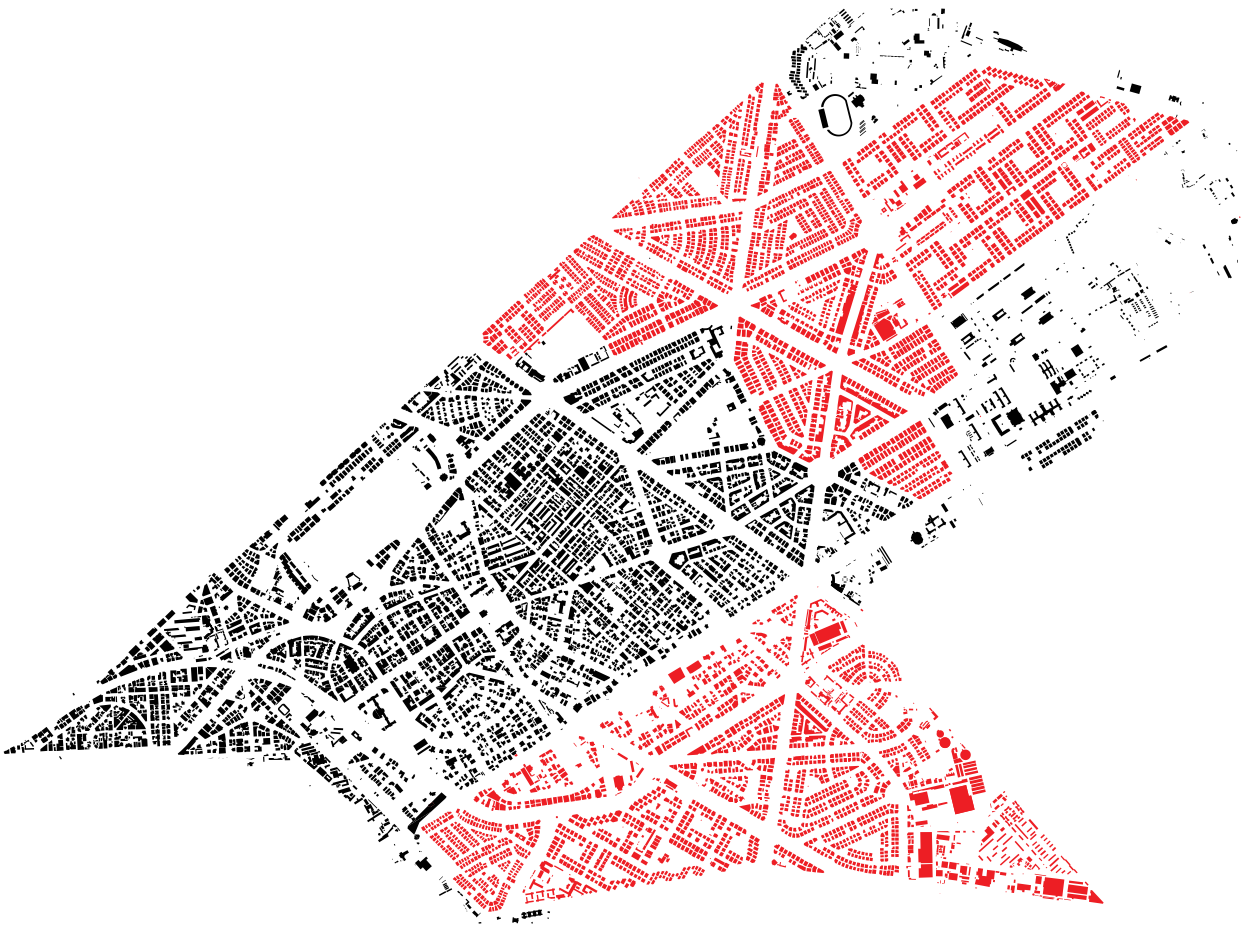


Terrains urbanized before revolution and nationalization of Heliopolis Company

The old part of Heliopolis, which used to be a complete city with all facilities and different regions, now will be a centre of Heliopolis while the newly parts will have mainly residential function.

All the regions, old and new, are now subdivided in different regions. 5 sub - districts of Heliopolis will be further divided into unites, which are then again divided into blocks. The size of a unit is based on the num-

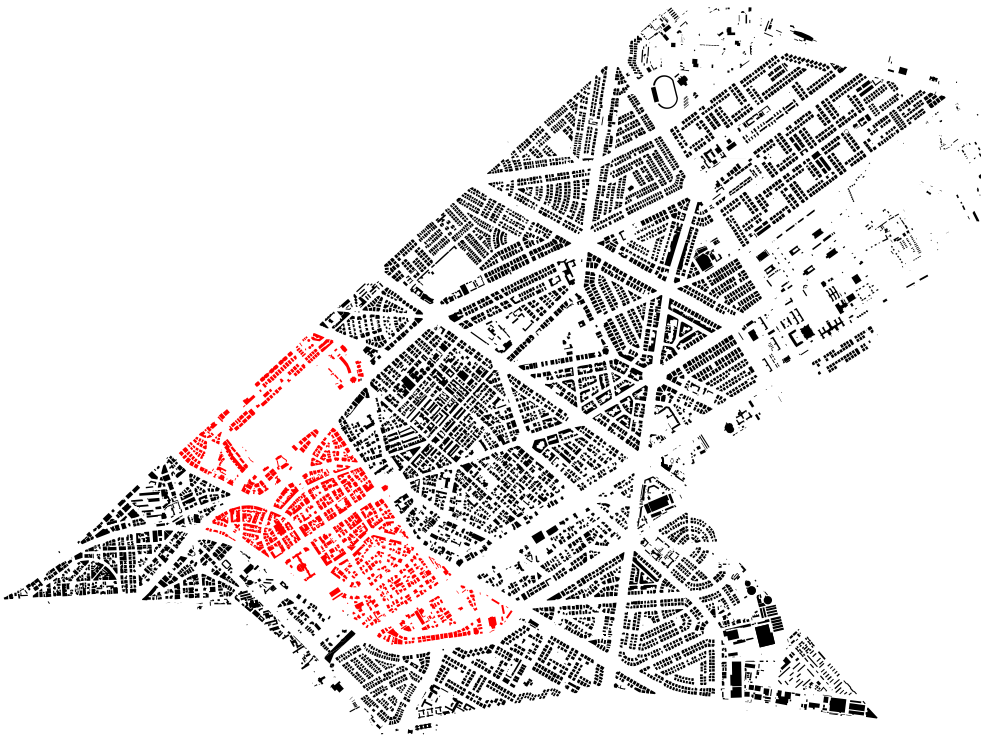
ber of inhabitants not its physical size, although it is limited to the diameter of 1000 meter so that all the facilities within one unite can be reached by feet.



Terrains urbanized after revolution and nationalization of Heliopolis Company

Al Mantazal

Historical center of Heliopolis



Al Mantazal

is the oldest part of Heliopolis. Its construction started in 1905. Apart from luxurious villas, from the very beginning it was designed as a centre of the desert city and until now most of the commercial, administrative, governmental and political functions are located here. It is the most popular part of the city

where the yearly Heliopolis Day fest is held on the Baghdad Street. Here are also located the landmarks of the region like Baron Villa, Palace Hotel and Basilica.

It distinguishes itself from other parts of Heliopolis and Cairo through the unique style of buildings inspired by the traditional Arab architecture com-

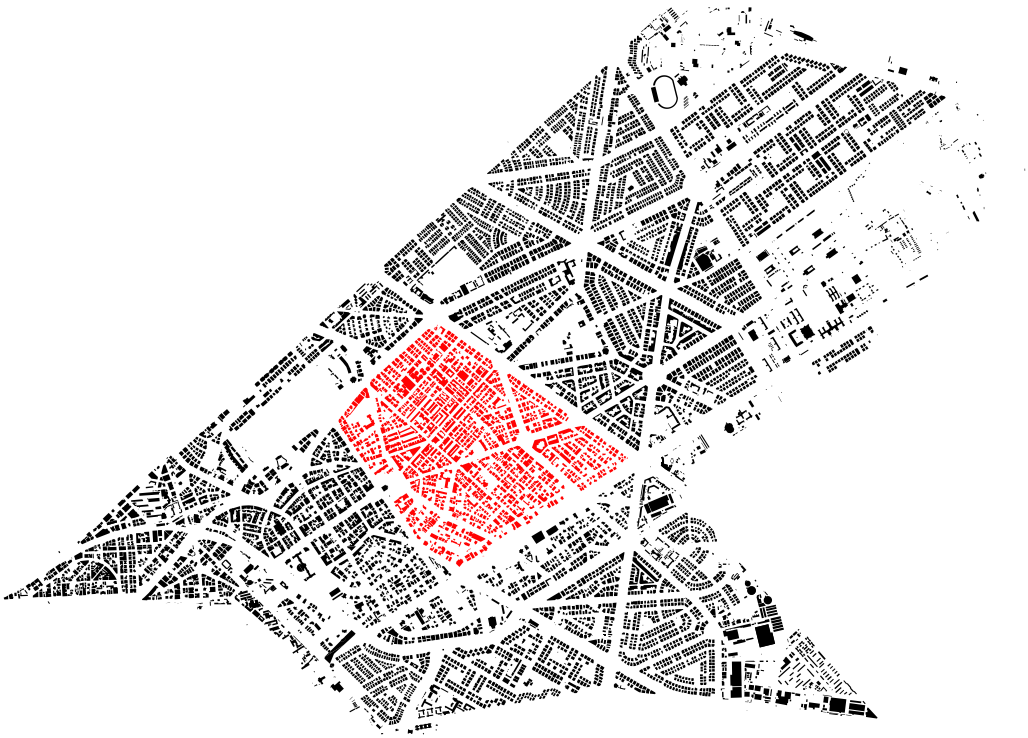
binated with French and Italian accents. Most of the original buildings are under preservation, however many of them have already been demolished in order to give place for bigger, more profitable buildings.

President of Egypt, Muhammad Husni Mubarak chose this district for his home.



Al Bustan

Original service area



Al Bustan

currently inhabited by 34 000 people with density of 280 p/ha., was designed as a service area for the luxurious district now part of al Mantazal. In the beginning also the builders of Heliopolis lived here. It was the second,

poorer commercial centre of Heliopolis, centred around a mosque, contrary to al Mantazal were Basilica occupies the main square.

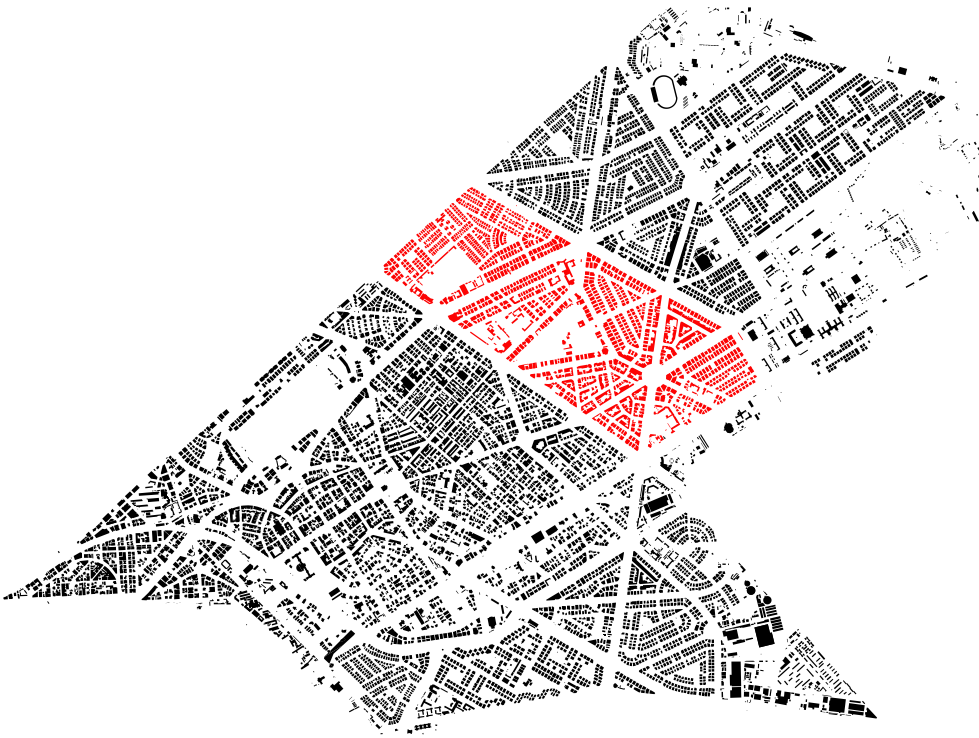
It remains one of the poorest areas of the region, dominated by small shops

and workshops. Its construction was finished only in the 60s. Smaller dwellings and narrow, oblong lots are characteristic.



Al Nuzha

Buffer zone



Al Nuzha

is third part of Heliopolis, which parts where started in 1905. Nowadays its population rose to 40 000 people with density of 400 p/ha.

Its expansion took place mainly in

the 50s after the Arab revolution. It is inhabited now mainly by middle class people and its local centre is the al Nozha Street that gave name to this part of Heliopolis. It is a buffer zone

between the historical part of Cairo and the later developments.



Almazah

Industrial extension zone



Almazah

was designed to be a residential area for people working in the industry zone located east of military airport. However due to its good connection to the airport and the Cairo centre (only 5 minutes) as well as proximity to the at-

tractive centre of Heliopolis, it is partly one of the most expensive regions in the district with private villas, hidden behind walls and trees.

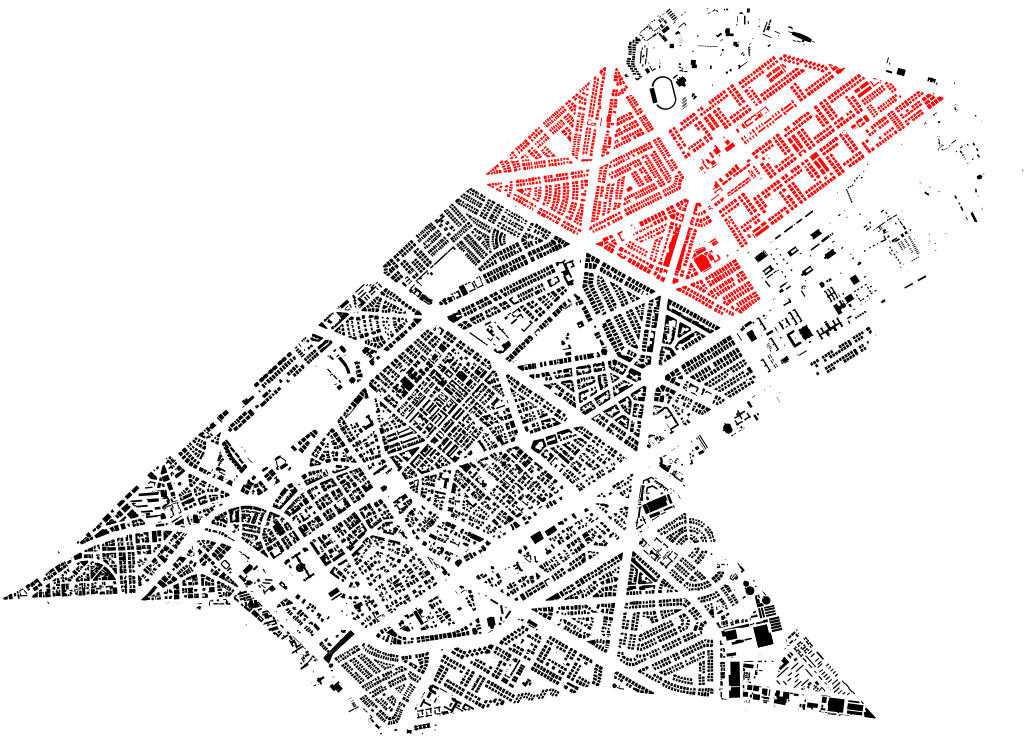
Its construction started in the 60s on the location that used to be golf area. It

remains relatively green space with well developed infrastructure.



Al Matar

Residential area



Al Mantar

which construction started in 1962 is mainly residential area with public functions located on main streets and squares. The squares differ by the function, which usually provide for the common name of the square like “food

square” for Teriump square. Its surface is 120 ha, making it the biggest part of Heliopolis. 44% are residential, 14% is occupied by service, 19% green and 23% is devoted for communication. The city fabric in this

region is dominated by broad streets, splitting Al Mantar into smaller blocks, centred around interior courts. This part of Heliopolis is very similar to other districts of Cairo built in the same time.





Introduction
Founding of the city
Development of the city

Analysis of the city

Architecture
Conclusion

Analysis of the city



Heliopolis skyline

If one takes a look at the skyline of Heliopolis it seems very contradictory to the organized layout of the streets. The street network was planned very early already in the 30s, and remained binding after the nationalization of Heliopolis Company. At the begin-

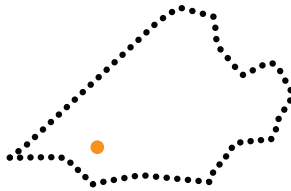
ning also the built structure was highly organized. However, there is no law protecting the buildings. They are mostly privately owned and the owner is allowed to do with them what he wants. So it become very common, that smaller buildings are removed to

give space for bigger ones or just extended both horizontally and vertically. The result is a completely uneven structure. Certain laws protecting the old buildings have recently been made but nobody thinks about the newer houses.

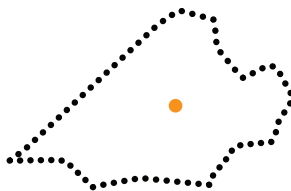


Post revolution era

Urban fabric comparison



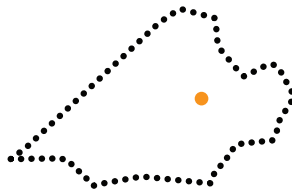
Baghdad Street



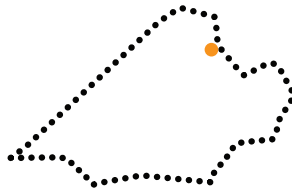
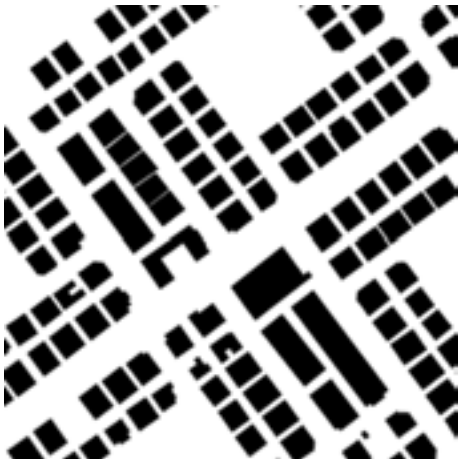
Faraskor and Mohammed
Ramzy Bek Street



Historical part of Heliopolis has been inspired by Garden City and its streets have often curved line. However the lots are always perpendicular orientated towards the street so that the structure remain well organised.



Teriumph Square



City block in Al Matar

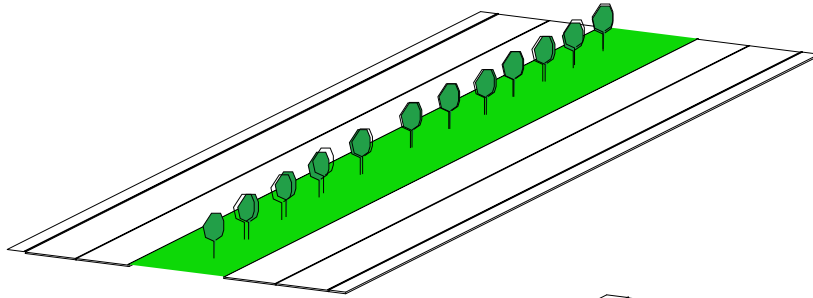


The part of Heliopoli built after revolution distinguished itself from older region as well as from the rest of Cairo by its highly organised structure. There are 4 types of roads, the biggest separate different regions within the district

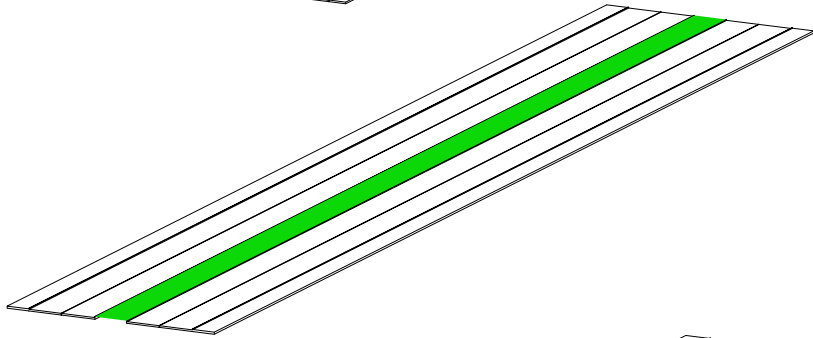
and cross at rondos were public functions are concentrated. Zones are subdivided in units, which size is controlled. City blocks are concentrated around a green cort inspired by traditional Arab architecture.

Post revolution era

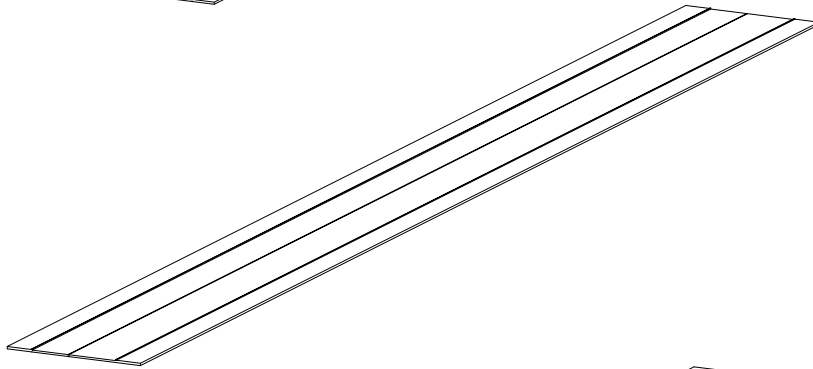
Urban fabric comparison



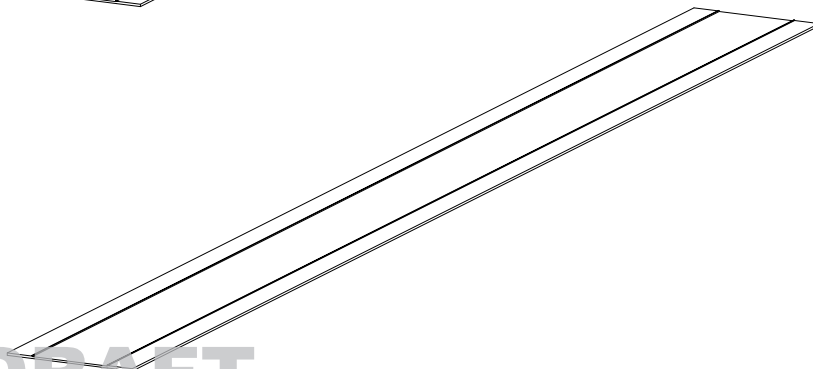
Type 1
Streets on the borders of Heliopolis,
30 - 40 meter wide, always green in the
middle.



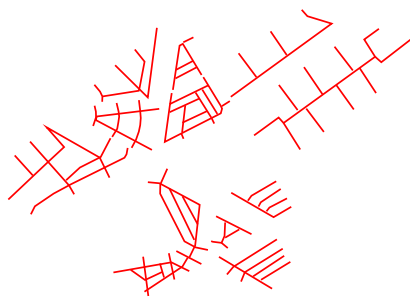
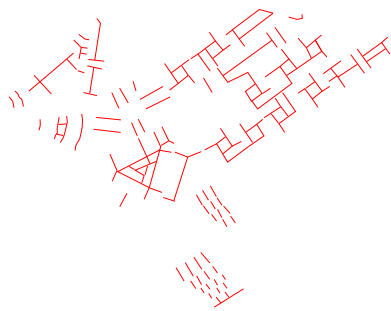
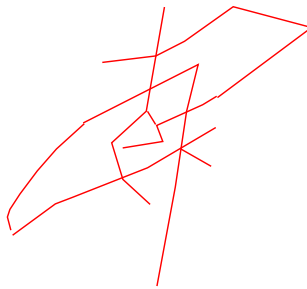
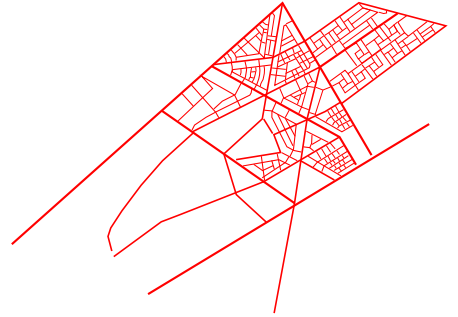
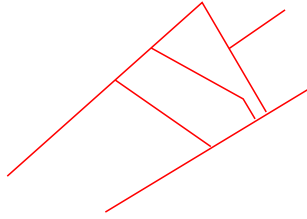
Type 2
Streets separating zones in Heliopolis,
20 - 25 meter wide, also usually green in
the middle.



Type 3
Avenues between city blocks, their size
depends on the length varying between
11.5 and 19 meter.

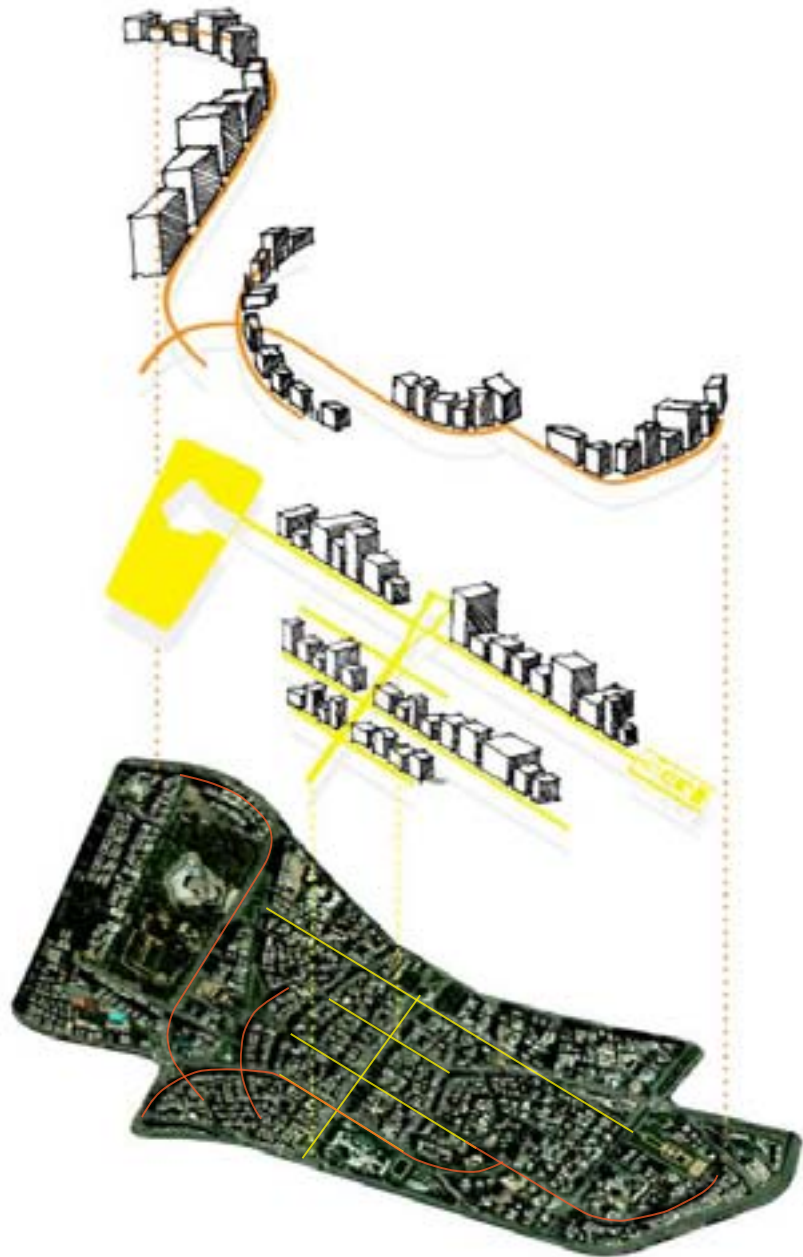


Type 4
Streets inside of the block for local traffic,
10 meter wide.



Urban fabric comparison

- garden city fabric
- axes system fabric



Car perspective

The street network in historical part of Heliopolis is particularly interesting. Two different types of streets can be distinguished. First that serves the communication only, these are the straight streets with perpendicular crossings and

second, where the streets are curved and radial organized. Here the concept was to present the fine elaborated facades of the buildings to the passengers of the bypassing cars. It is interesting that by designing

these streets in 1905, car perspective was taken into consideration. It seems that Empain and his design team, already then, anticipated both the development of Heliopolis and car industry.



Formal extension of old villa

Originally they represent big part of built structure in Heliopolis. Unfortunately very early, because already in the 40s the process of destroying villas begun. They are 5 types damages made on villas:

Building over loggias and balconies,
Horizontal extensions, mainly of the ground floor

Vertical extensions

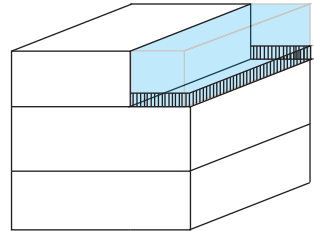
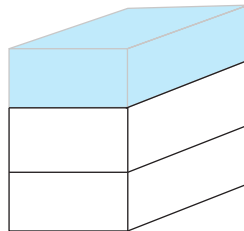
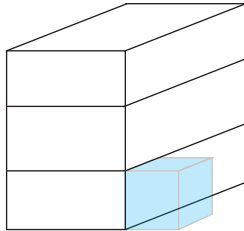
Subdivision of the lot on which villa is standing in order to erect there further houses

Demolition of villa

The above listed issues took place mainly in the 70s and 80s. Since then the social awareness of the value of the heritage of Heliopolis grew. It was

especially the law 117 that curbed the demolition process.

Unfortunately there are still many people trying to buy a villa in order to demolish it and build on its place a residential tower with many apartments.



horizontal extension



vertical extension

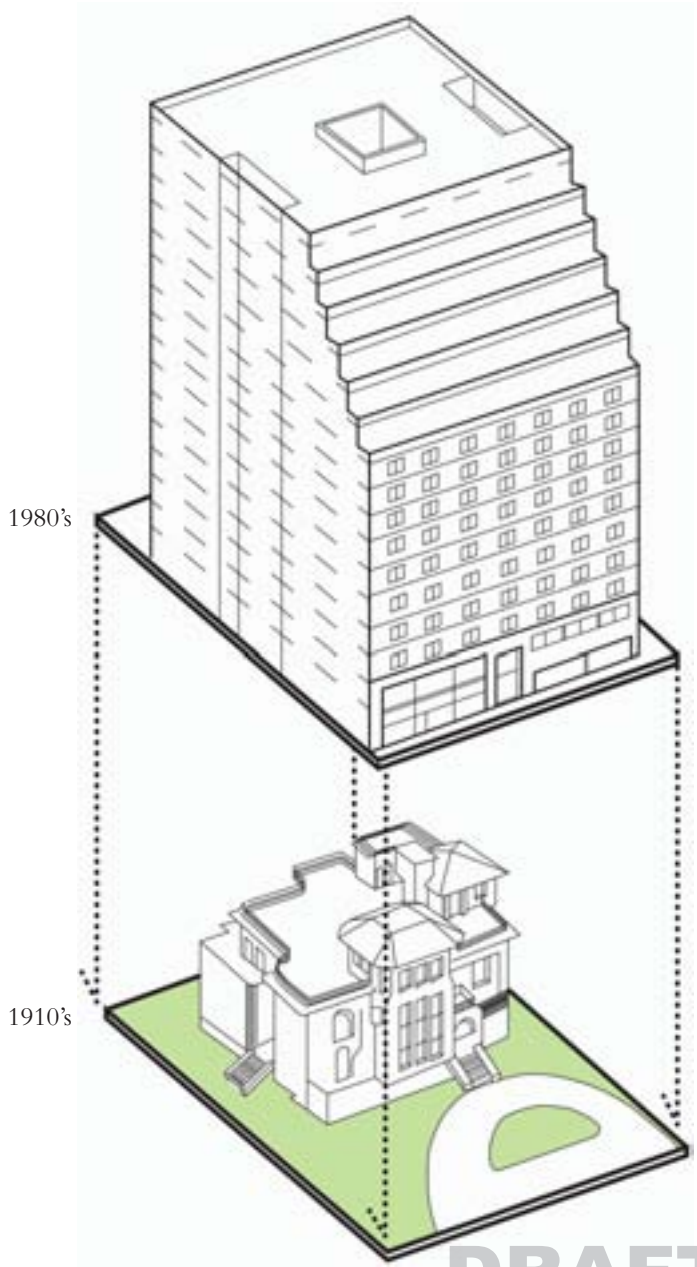


terrace extension

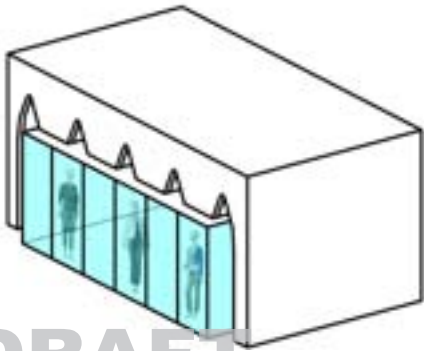
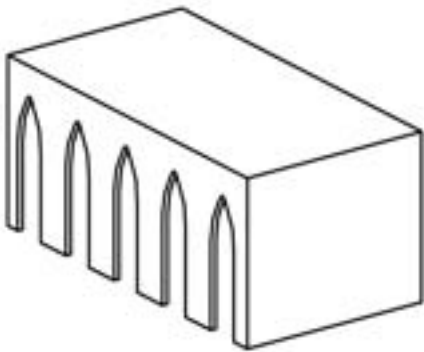


city of the sun under destruction

old villa demolished, new high-rise built



Facade changing



enclosure changing



column changing



first floor renovation
of a restaurant



Facade changing

Façade was crucial subject and the showcase of Heliopolis. They were supposed to attract people to the new desert city, and no savings were made by their construction. Unfortunately, just like villa they felt victim to un-

controlled expansion of new ideas and functions. In many cases they are being tore down and replaced by modern commercial facades. This process happens mainly to ground floor that is mostly occupied by commercial func-

tion.

Here unlike in case of villas are no law protecting the historical elevations.



Vodafone branche at the corner of Baghdad Street



CAPELLO CA



DRAFT
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PELLO

کابیلو



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Air conditioner protection



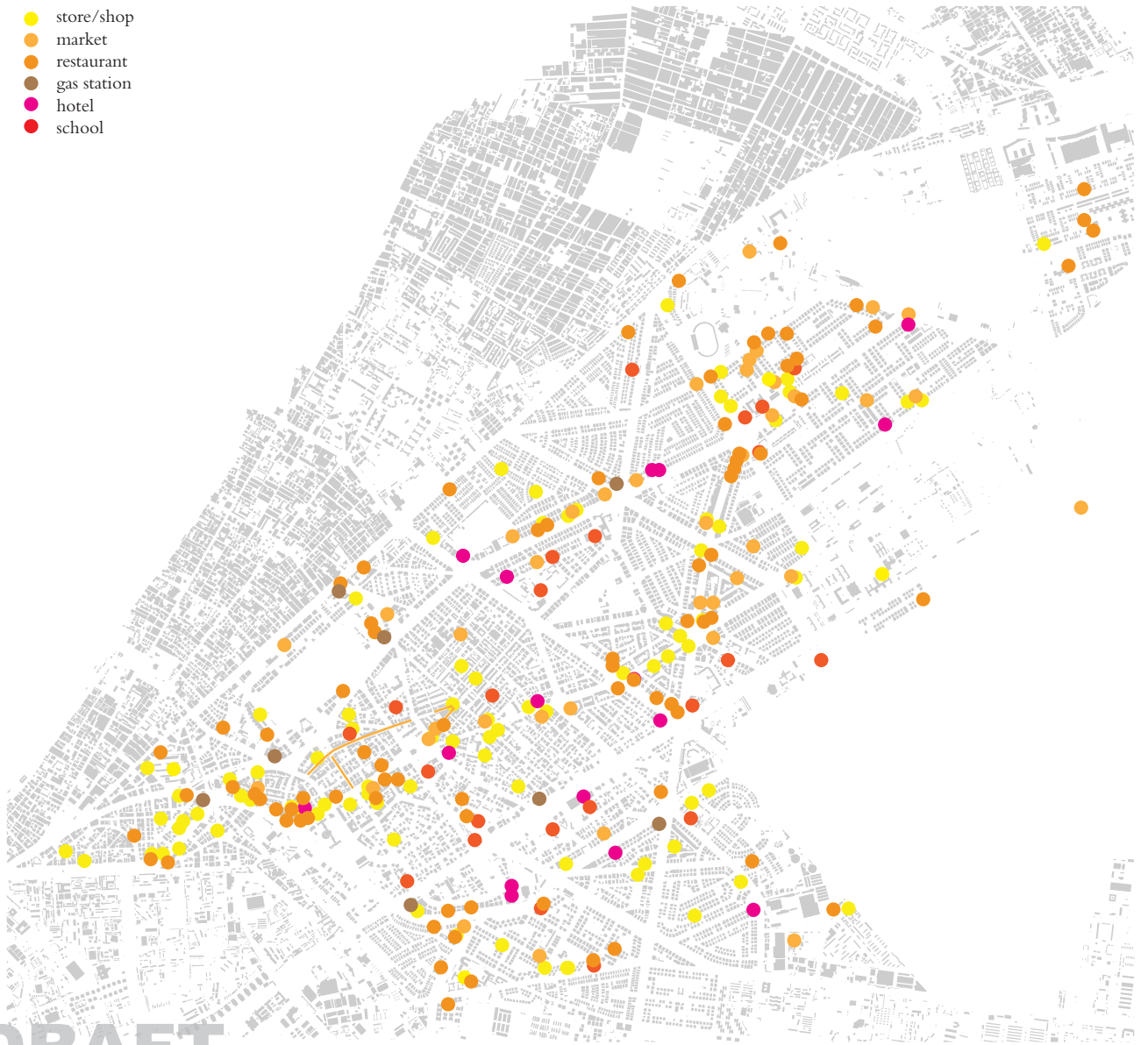
Protecting the heritage

On Baghdad street, commonly known as “Al Korba” characteristic air condition protection calls one attention. Usually air condition is just installed on the façade and nobody bothers about its esthetical aspect. But here they are hidden behind elaborated screen, which is formally inspired by the façade itself. It is a proof of a very positive process slowly emerging in Heliopolis. Heliopolitians and the Heliopolis Company itself begin to realize the worth of the historical architecture in “City of the sun”. The Heliopolis day festival is another example of this trend that hopefully will continue.



Functions

- store/shop
- market
- restaurant
- gas station
- hotel
- school



City in a City

Heliopolis is famous for its well developed infrastructure. It is called “City in a City” and this tradition dates back to the times when Heliopolis was separated structure. It is said that one can be born, live and die in Heliopolis. Its historical part is now the true centre

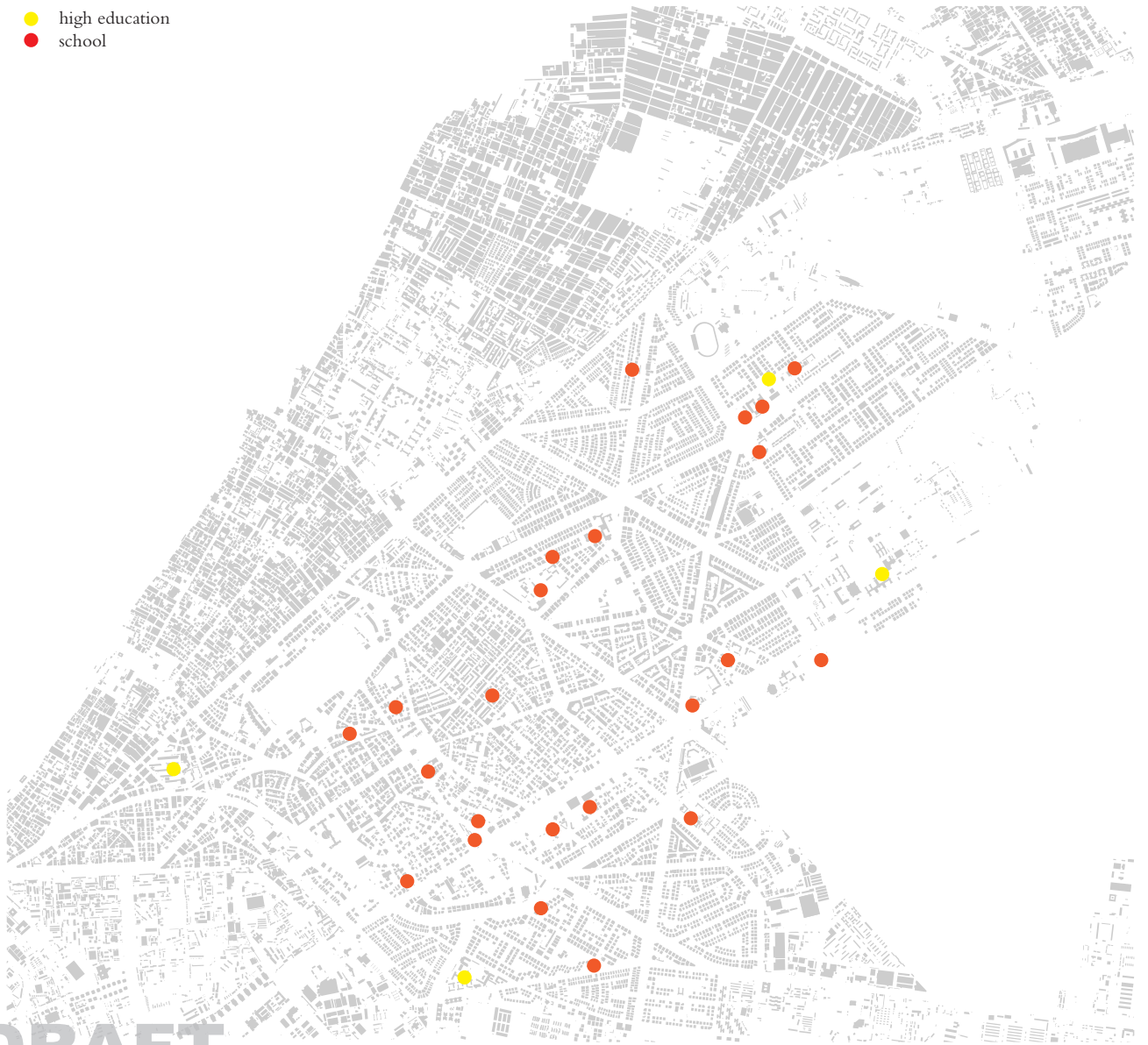
of Heliopolis and popular hang - out zone for the whole Cairo. Customers can choose within big variety of shops, cafes and restaurants. Many of the political or administrative offices also have there they location. The headquarters of “Heliopolis Company” are there too.

a fashion shop an Baghdad Street



School

- high education
- school



Each unit has its own school

Already in 1913 there are 5 opened schools in Heliopolis. Also after the revolution education remained important topic for “Heliopolis Company for Housing and Development” each zone has its schools. The subdivision of zones into smaller units is related to

schools. The size of on unit is limited to 3 000 – 4 000 people, what represents on the average 500 children, which is the number in one school. Like this each unit has a school on its own. The size of the unit is limited by diameter of approximately 1000 meter,

so that all locations can be reached by walking.

a famous boy school in center Heliopols





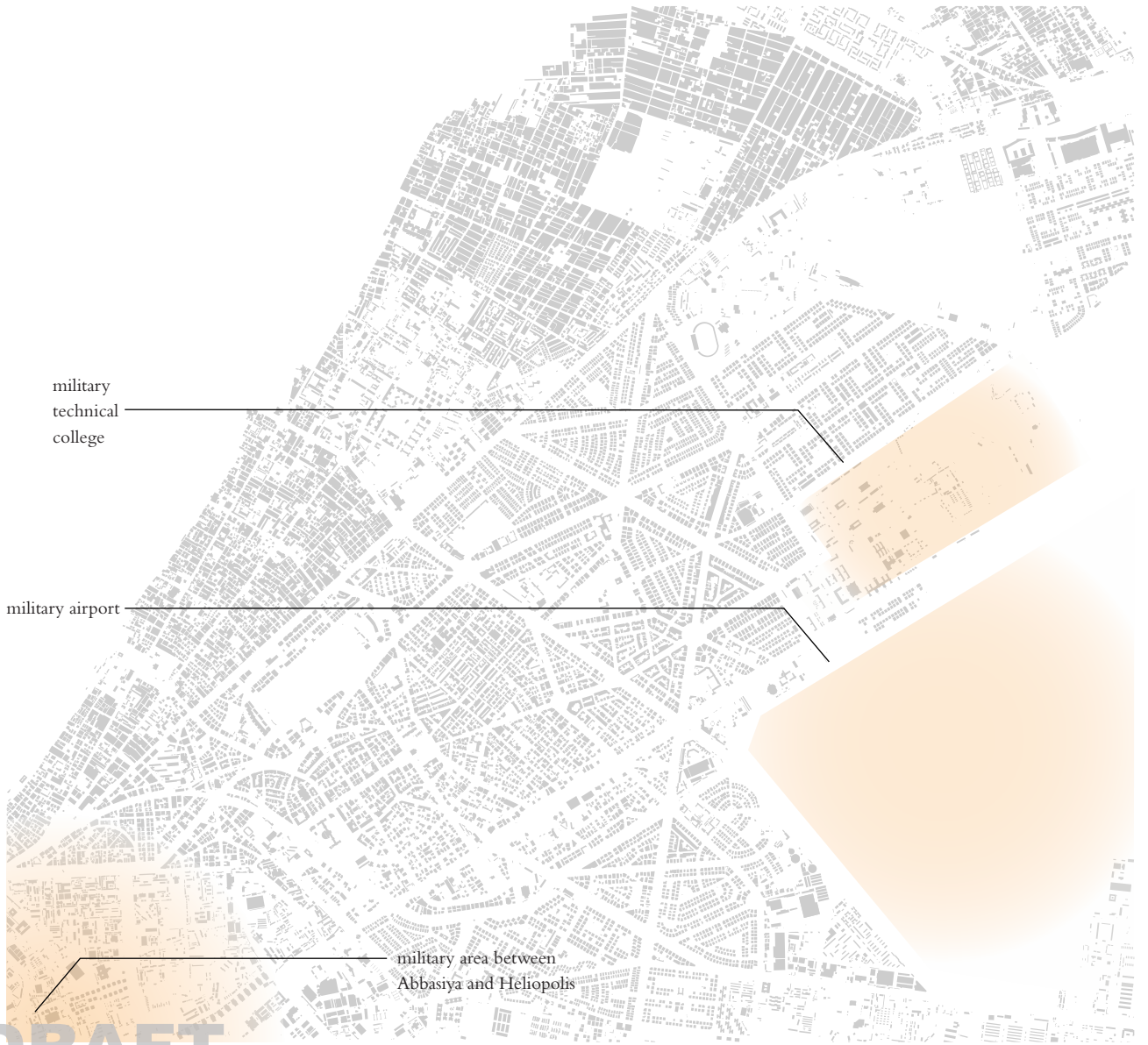
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Military



military
technical
college

military airport

military area between
Abbasiya and Heliopolis

Military impact on the region

On the south, east and north-east sides Heliopolis is limited by military zones respectively: military offices, airport and academy. The impact of the army on Heliopolis played an important role in the history of the district. It helped

keep it organized and safe. Presidents presence in the region makes it even more realizable. The fact that military and later president chose Heliopolis is a proof of the quality of the district.

military technical college



Market

● market



Military impact on the region

In Heliopolis there are many markets spread throughout the whole area. They differ in size and function and make the rigid structure of the city more alive. Characteristic fact about them is that in many place alcohol can be bought. Its connected with the

fact that there are still relatively many Christians still living in Heliopolis.



Shisha market





Restaurant

● restaurant



Heliopolis was the place where both first McDonalds and first Starbucks have been opened. Starbucks is regarded as a relatively high class place. It is a proof of prestige and quality of the region. The historical part of Heliopolis is regarded as one of the most

expensive and noble locations in Egypt capital. Many foreign labels and banks are also choosing this region.

first McDonald's of Egypt
opened in Heliopolis



Starbucks on Al Ahram Street





trianon

CAFÉ & BRASSERIE

CONFECTIÖNERI
trianon
SINCE 1880



Pianon
CAFFÈ & PASTICCERIA

1901

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Store/shop

● store/shop



All kinds of shops can be found in Heliopolis. The old part is the commercial centre, but the big squares in the newer developments have the same function. In many cases one type of shop appears in greater amount in a certain

area. And so: on Demashq Street car shops are concentrated, on Ramsis street magazines with woman cloths, jewellery shops can be find mainly near the crossing between Al Shahid Tayar Nazeih Khalifa street and Demashq

street, etc. In spite of this many inhabitants of Heliopolis go for shopping to Nasr City, mainly to City Stars, the biggest shopping mall in Egypt.

women's dress street



auto street



jewellery stores





Gas station

● gas station



The locations of gas station are one of rare signs of informality in Heliopolis. They are constructed no matter where, in great proximity of residential areas. This problem appears in each part of Heliopolis, even in the historical centre on the Demashq street for instance.



a man standing in his balcony which is just in front of the SHELL



بنزين ٩٢

بنزين ٩٠

مركز خدمة فائقة

غسيل وتشحيم

Coop Shop



التعاون

امتیاز
ایم
شماره تماس: ۰۱۰۰۷۱۱ - ۲۲۷۵۴۱ - ۲۲۲۰۲۸۸

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Infrastructure



Transportation means

There are 5 main transport resources in Heliopolis. Private cars and taxis are supported by bus and minibus network as well as tramway lines. The subway line is under construction.

The original concept of emphasizing public transportation is currently not working. Relatively rich inhabitants of Heliopolis mostly own private cars and prefer to use them to travel within the

city. The true is that private car remains the most reliable transport option. Buses don't work regularly and tram moves with the speed of 28 km/h.



street overview



Street



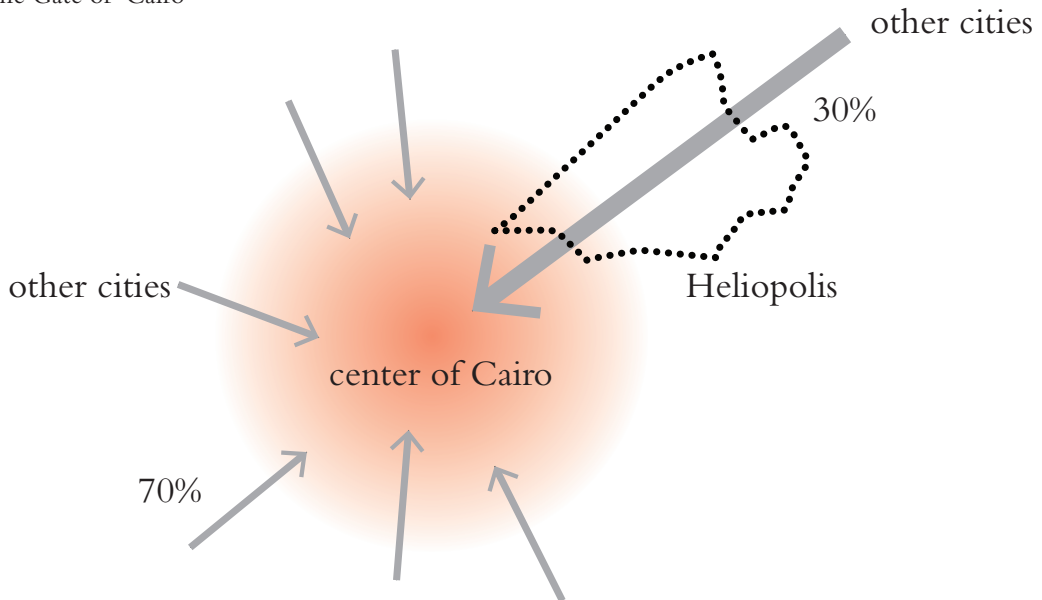
Traffic status

The traffic in Heliopolis is a big issue nowadays. The streets are generally oversaturated and two main roads on the borders of Heliopolis: Aziz El Masry Street and Al Oroba Street are jammed 3 times a day for over 3 hours. Especially problematic and important

at the same time is Al Oroba Street leading to the airport. In order to improve the situation on this street, two tunnels had been constructed: Al Thawra Tunnel and Al Galaa Bridge, to avoid crossings. The solution cost 150 mln LE which is not sufficient.

30% of the traffic coming into Cairo goes through Heliopolis. This is very big amount when compared to other districts. Transit traffic is one of the main problems in “The city of the sun”.

Heliopolis as the Gate of Cairo



Street/road

- avenue
- boulevard
- main street
- square



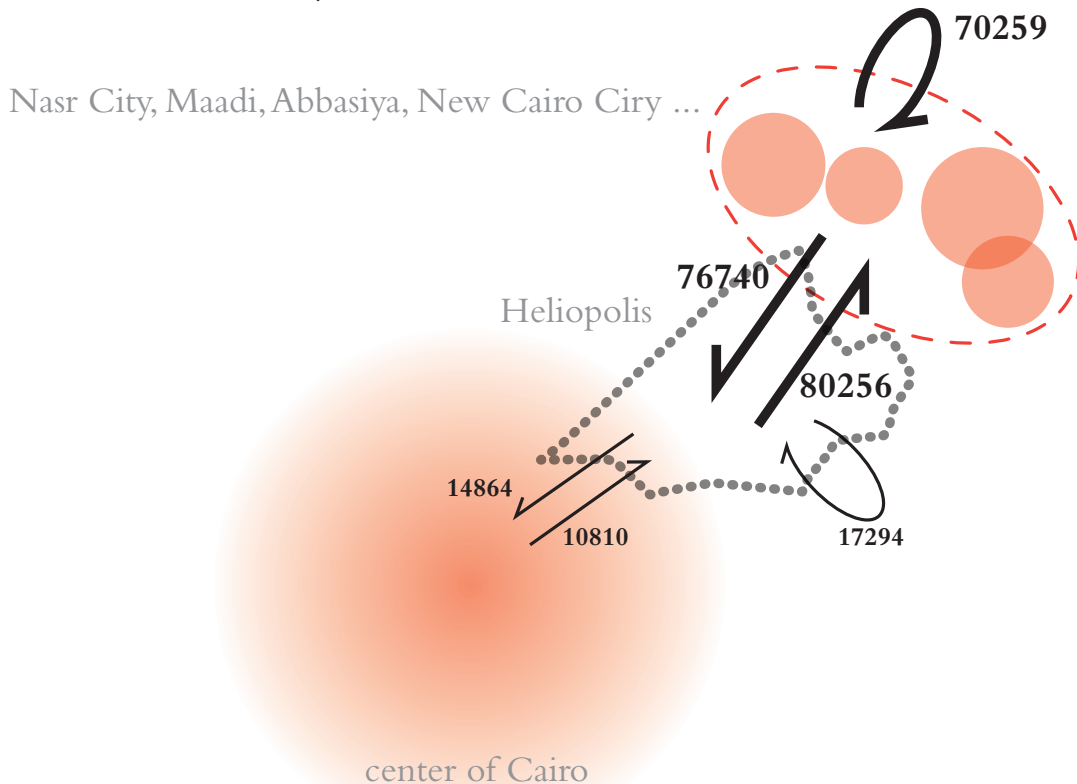
Street network hierarchy

There 4 main types of streets in Heliopolis, differing in size: Avenues, Boulevards, main streets and regulars streets within certain blocks. The avenues, which are even 35 meter wide, are still insufficient and constantly jammed.

The analysis of the traffic in Heliopolis shows that the district is very independent from the city center. Only 5.5% of the traffic goes there and 4% goes from center to Heliopolis. 26% of the traffic is transit movement, caused by people coming from other cities to

Cairo, people coming from the airport, and by people living in Desert Cities who are working in the center of Cairo.

The total routes between Heliopolis, Cairo, and other districts for one day



Tram

- Al Margphany Line
- Abdel Aziz Fahmy Line
- Al Matrya Line
- Al Nozha Line
- Final & Start station
- out of Heliopolis



Story about tram

Tramway line was the core of the creation of new city in the desert. The first line opened in 1909 connecting Heliopolis with Cairo. It operated from 6 am to 9:30 pm daily, with one tram per hour. Very low prize (0,005 LE) made it accessible for everyone. The

network extended, in the 50s new carriage from Toshiba was provided. Since then however it gets only worse. In 2010 still the same wagon from the 50s are moving through Heliopolis streets with the speed of 28 km/h. After a deadly accident in 2002 tramway is

also considered dangerous and is mainly used only by the poorest who cannot afford different solutions. (ticket prize 0,5 LE). There are plans to repair the lines and it should be again carriage from Toshiba. However there are no signs of change in the situation.

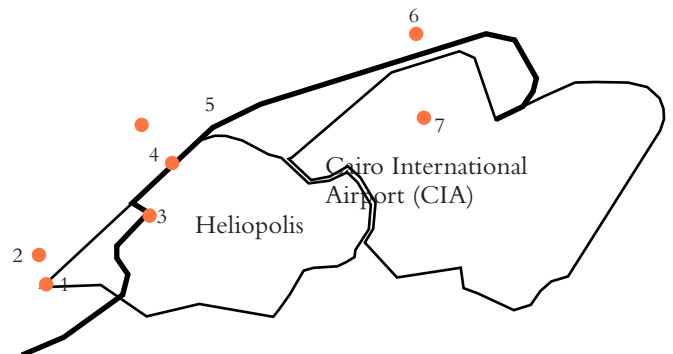
tram interior view



Subway

- Line 1: El Marg - Helwan
- Line 2: Shobra - El Mounib
- Line 3: Mohandeseen - CIA

- 1 Heliopolis Square
- 2 Alf Maskan
- 3 El Arab
- 4 Ain Shams 1
- 5 Ain Shams 2
- 6 Omar Ibn Al Khattaab
- 7 Heliopolis Square



Change of subway station

New subway line connecting city center to the airport is to be opened. It will cross Heliopolis and is expected to considerably improve its traffic situation. Already by choosing the site

for the stations first problems occurred, each station would cause traffic concentration because of taxis waiting for people coming out of subway. This the reason why the station in Bagh-

dad street, already under construction is being now removed. Old Baghdad street cannot provide enough space for increase circulation.

view of metro station



Green

- green A
- green B
- green C



Disappearing green

Heliopolis is regarded as one of the greenest or maybe even the greenest district in Cairo. City green was one of the central aspects of the new desert city as Baron Empain was inspired by the Garden City projects of the late nineteenth century. And his concept was to build an oasis in the desert. Only Palace Hotel had a Garden with surface of 5 hectares.

Heliopolis was green since 1915 so it took 9 years for the plants to grow,

since the mud from Nile was brought to the desert to fertilize the ground. Until the nationalization of Heliopolis Company in 1960, the green in the city was one of the most important elements and green spots could have been found everywhere. Unfortunately after the change the situation got worse.

4 reasons can be named for the change:
- Fast growing population of Cair combined with territorial expansion

- Investor pressure
- Rent fixing and speculations
- No respect for the law

As result, even if still regarded as green, most of the green spaces in Heliopolis are in very bad state and the situation is not getting any better.

Several types of green can be distinguished.



a door of one closed
public green area

Green

green A



Green street as representation

Green spaces in the middle of the main roads. This kind of green comes from the original plans of Heliopolis. By the broadest street (up to 40 meter, originally even 60 meter), in the middle there is a green strip with small trees. Especially in Al Oroba street and Gesr El Suez street are they well

preserved because these are the most representative streets used by people coming to Cairo from other cities and from the airport. For the streets inside of Heliopolis the situation is already much worse. The plants are in very bad state and in many cases like in Al Ahram street, which is the main axis of

historical center of Heliopolis the green belt has been removed in order to give room for the tramway line. The green belt are now often used by people as parks, which shows in how big need for green open spaces they are.

driving and enjoying the green strip on Al Oroba Street



Green

Closed green

The green spaces in Heliopolis can be divided in couple categories. There are:

- 7 sport clubs: Heliopolis Club, Al Shams “the sun” Club and Al Ghaba “Forrest” Club, Heliolido Club, Al Nassr Club, Al Tayaran, Al Gala’a Club,

Alkolya Al Harbia Stadium

- Green courts inside of residential blocks
- Green around landmarks, for example green around Basilica
- Private green gardens
- Green space to which entrance is

green B



prohibited
-Merryland park

The sports clubs are closed and in order to enter one has to have an expensive subscription. Also most of other green spaces are locked and sup-

posed to be only looked at. This is even the case of most of the courts inside of housing blocks. The private gardens, gardens around mosques remain also closed, and other green spaces like the one around Heliopolis can be barely as a public spaces. The plants are deterio-

rating and they surrounded by streets with heavy traffic.

Merryland Park is practically the only truly accessible green space although also here the entrance fee of 5 LE is asked.

■ green C



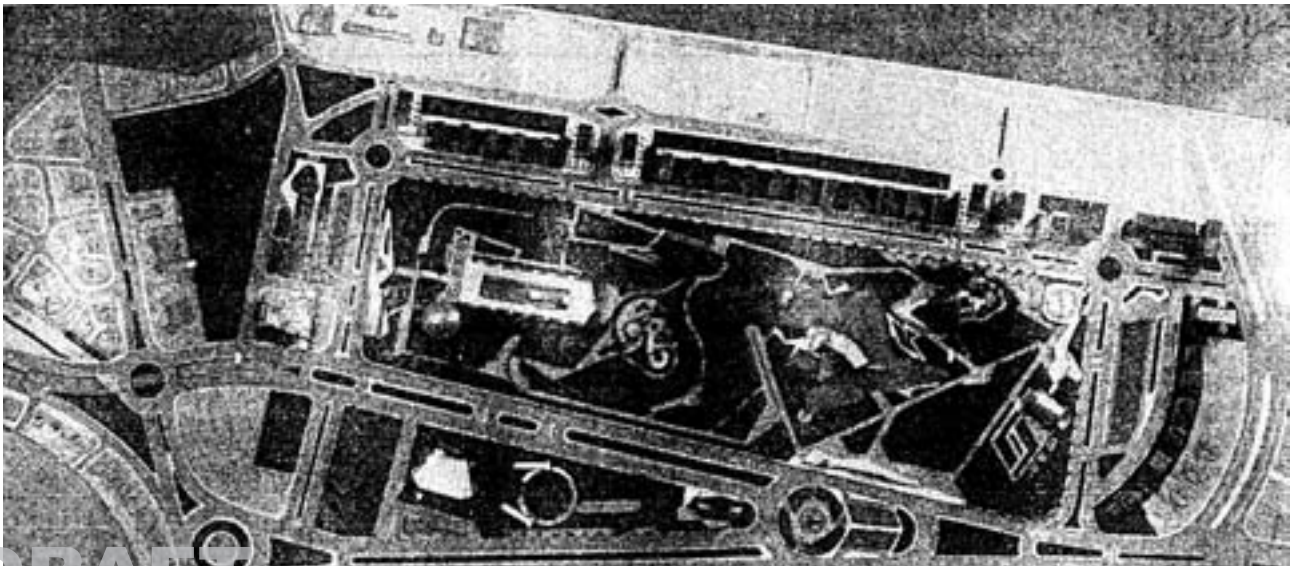
Meeryland area

The Hippodrom grounded in 1907, has been turned into Merryland Park opened in 1960. It is the biggest green space Heliopolis until now. Its architect was Sayid Fedad, famous for many projects for instance in Nasr City or Almazah region in Heliopolis. The park served as a big attraction for all inhabitants of Cairo who used to spend there their free times. Unfortunately in

1980s it begun to deteriorate. In 1998 the park has been privatized and one of the owners is son of the president Mubarak. The privatization brought grounding “Merryland New Generation” project that will turn Merryland Park in an exclusive green spot similar to private sport clubs already existing in Heliopolis. It is a very negative example of changes taking place in

Heliopolis. Another spot that served for the broad cliental will become closed, exclusive facility. The prize of the coffee in the restaurant in Merryland Park is 20 LE, sum for each a whole dinner could be bought.

Original Plan of Merryland Park





Green

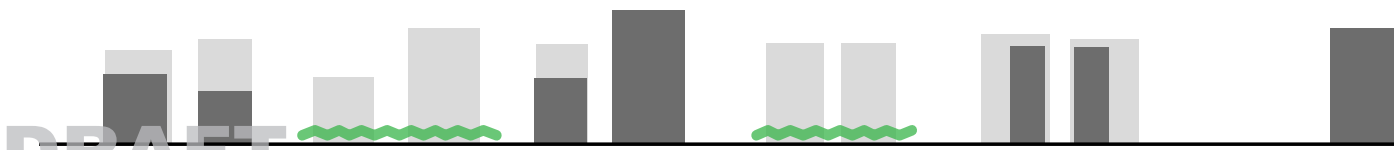
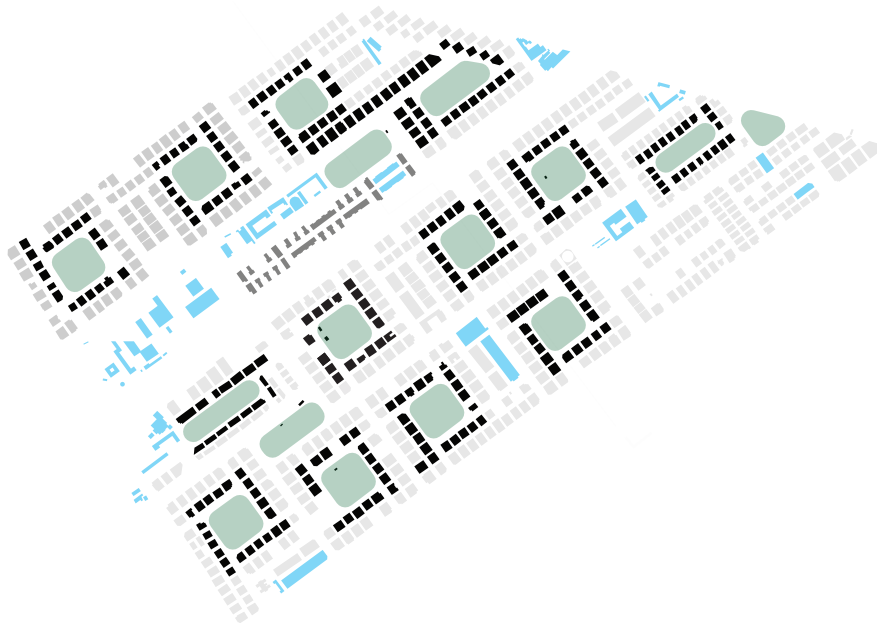
The organization of the green courts in the furthest part of Al Matar zone, around the Al Hegaza street, represent an interesting study case. The square courts are surrounded by two rows of houses. The state of each green court varies from block to block because

here, the inhabitants themselves are taking care of the courts and paying for their maintenance.

The courts were part of the original plan, but then they turned into garbage spots and investors came up with the idea of building them over. As

a reaction it was the private initiative to restore them and make them green again. It has an impact on the prizes of the rents in the houses around. The houses directly on the boarder of the court have higher rent then those in the 2nd row.

- high price
- low price
- public function

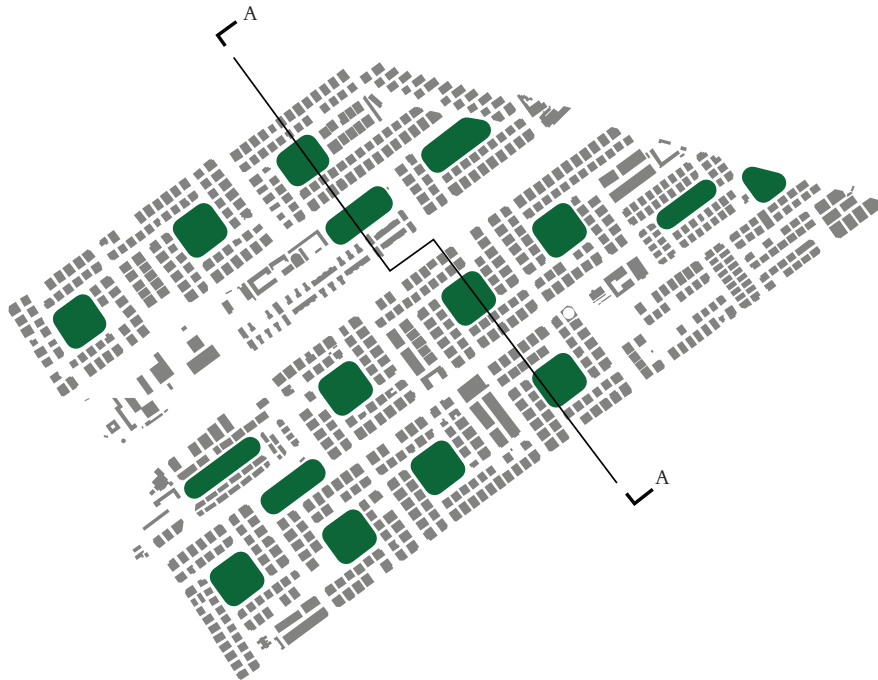


Unfortunately most of the courts are now locked. Again this is the case of green “only for watching”. Also some of them are in really poor shape and only those owned by the private companies flourish.

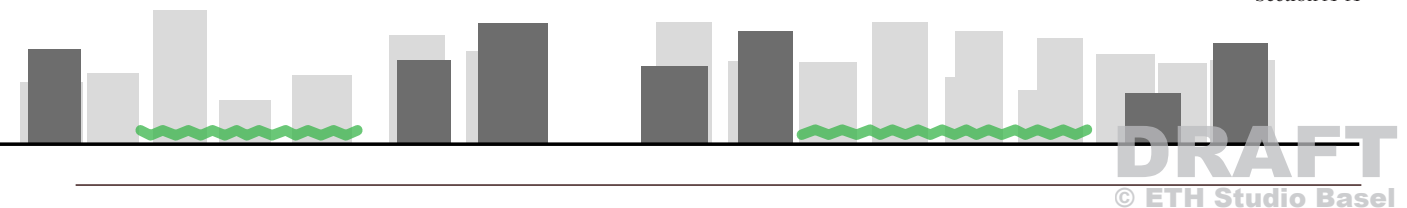
Typical green court seen from the

rooftop. It can be entered only by caretaker. The grass is yellow and also the trees are not in the best shape. The green courts are mostly about the free space and view. Still the houses around are quite expensive. Some very expensive cars can be seen in the region, also some with diplomatic plates.

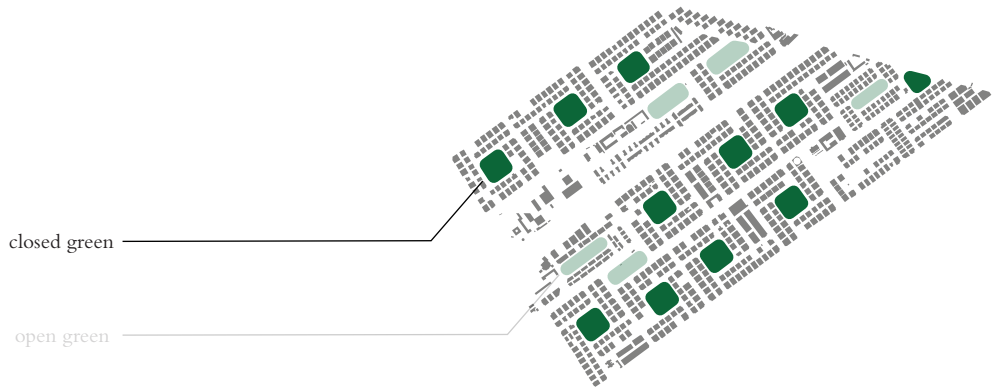
Green court in front of headquarters of private company, that owns the space. Its state is completely different to the other courts. It is also opened although visitors have to stay on the pavement. There is guard minding the grass surface.

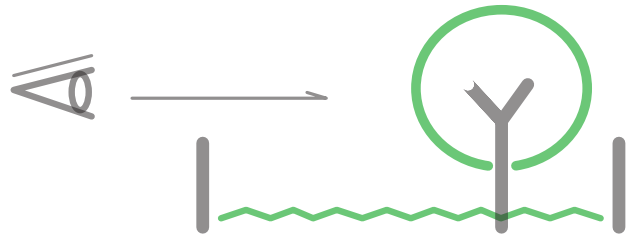


Section A-A

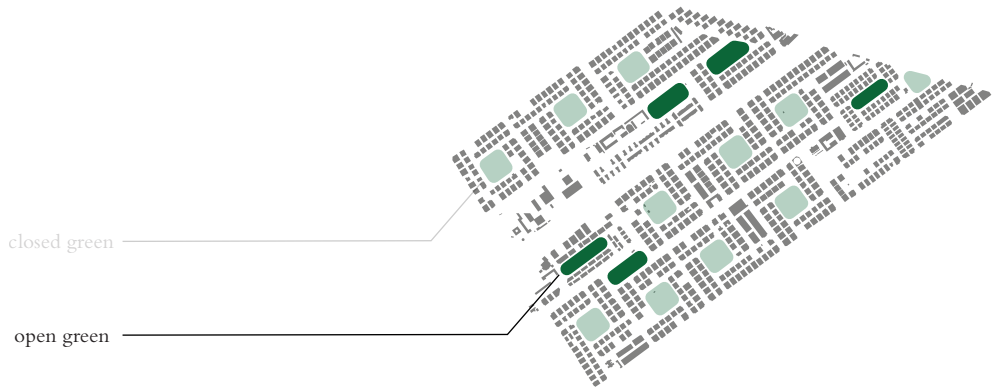


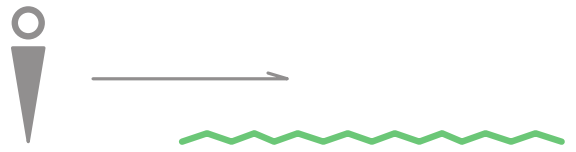
Green





Green





President impact

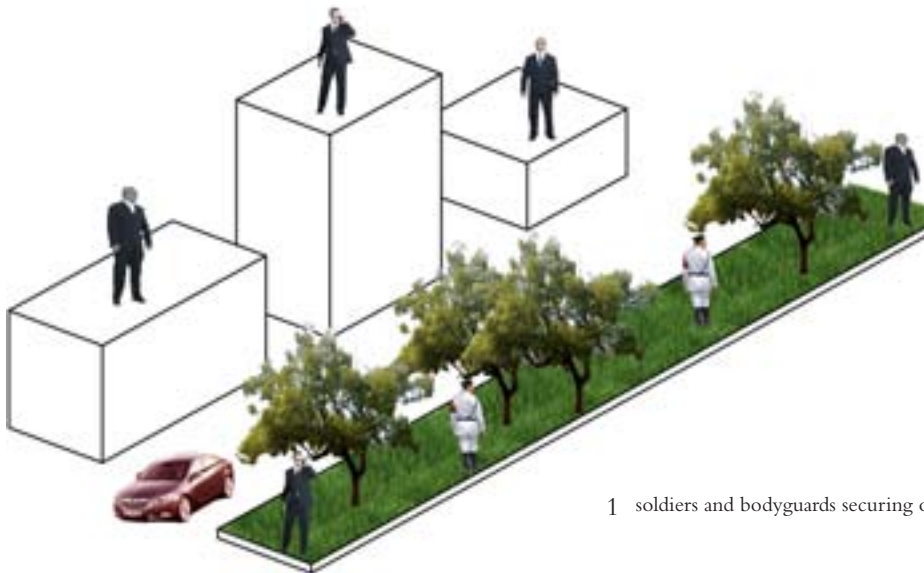


President causes jam

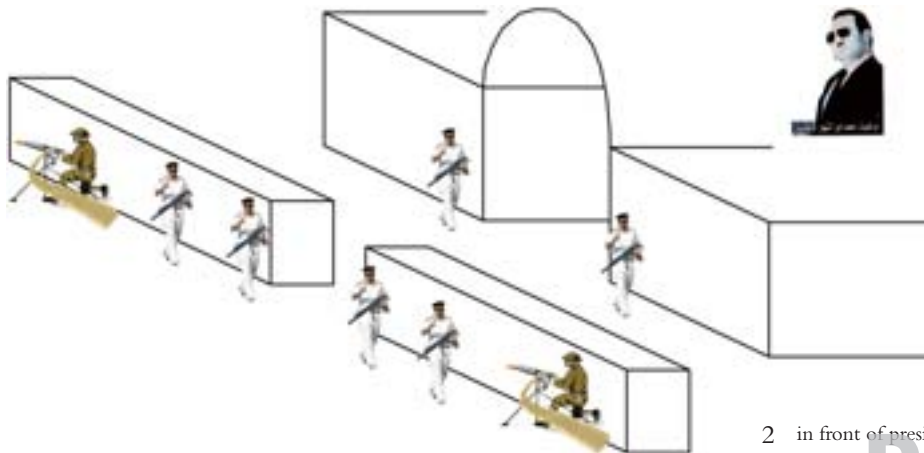
The presence of the President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has a huge impact on the Heliopolis. He moved in, in 1981 and took over the Palace Hotel for his office and meeting palace. The Palace and the area where he lives are practically sealed off and the whole army is protecting the place. The bodyguards can be seen everywhere

and especially if president or somebody important is travelling, the streets are closed which causes further traffic jams. The buildings in the “president area” cannot be higher than 12 floors so that they won’t overlook the presidents dwelling. Also people living in the buildings close to president so that they can his house or the palace, are not

allowed to stay in the window in their own house longer than 4 minutes. After warning they can be even shut. In the whole area there are many cameras, and people who want to visit their friends have to go through careful control.



1 soldiers and bodyguards securing on rooftops and streets



2 in front of president's Meeting Palace



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President impact



Baghdad Street closed
for Festival

President brings festival

President and his presence in Heliopolis has also some positive aspects. The area close to him is very clean and safe. There is practically no criminality. Certain streets are kept in very good state and the green is really green. Suzanne Mubarak, president wife was born in

Heliopolis and has many friends living there. She is one of the initiators of Al Korba festival and Heliopolis day. She is also building the new children museum by the Abu Bakr Al Sediq street. Heliopolis Day was established in 2005 to mark the 100 anniversary of

city grounding. It is combined with Heliopolis festival held on the Baghdad Street that is being closed for the event. This fest is an example of growing awareness of Heliopolitaians about the value and the heritage of Heliopolis.

Hosini Mubarak



Suzanne Mubarak



ation
olis
جمعية



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Heliopolis Festival
HERE !



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J O U M A N A

CLINIQUE



live

BLUE

ready to shower





Introduction
City founding
City development
City analyse

Architecture

Conclusion

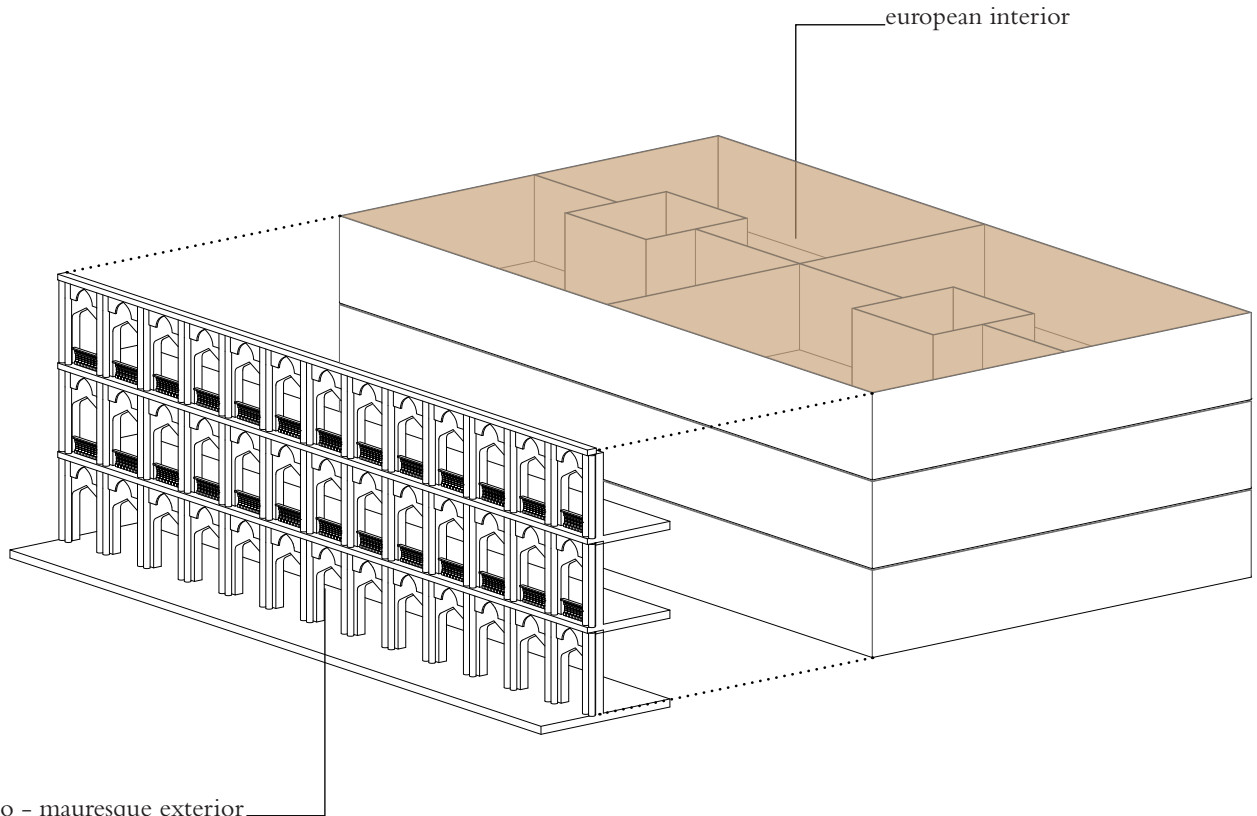
Historical Architecture

Neo - mauresque style

Baron Empain wanted to revive the Islamic culture and art. In order to achieve his goal he commissioned Alexandre Marcel and Ernest Jaspard with creation of a new style called “neo-mauresque”. This style represents a combination of elements coming from Islamic, French and Italian architecture, but in certain cases also details from Indian art can be perceived. “Neo -

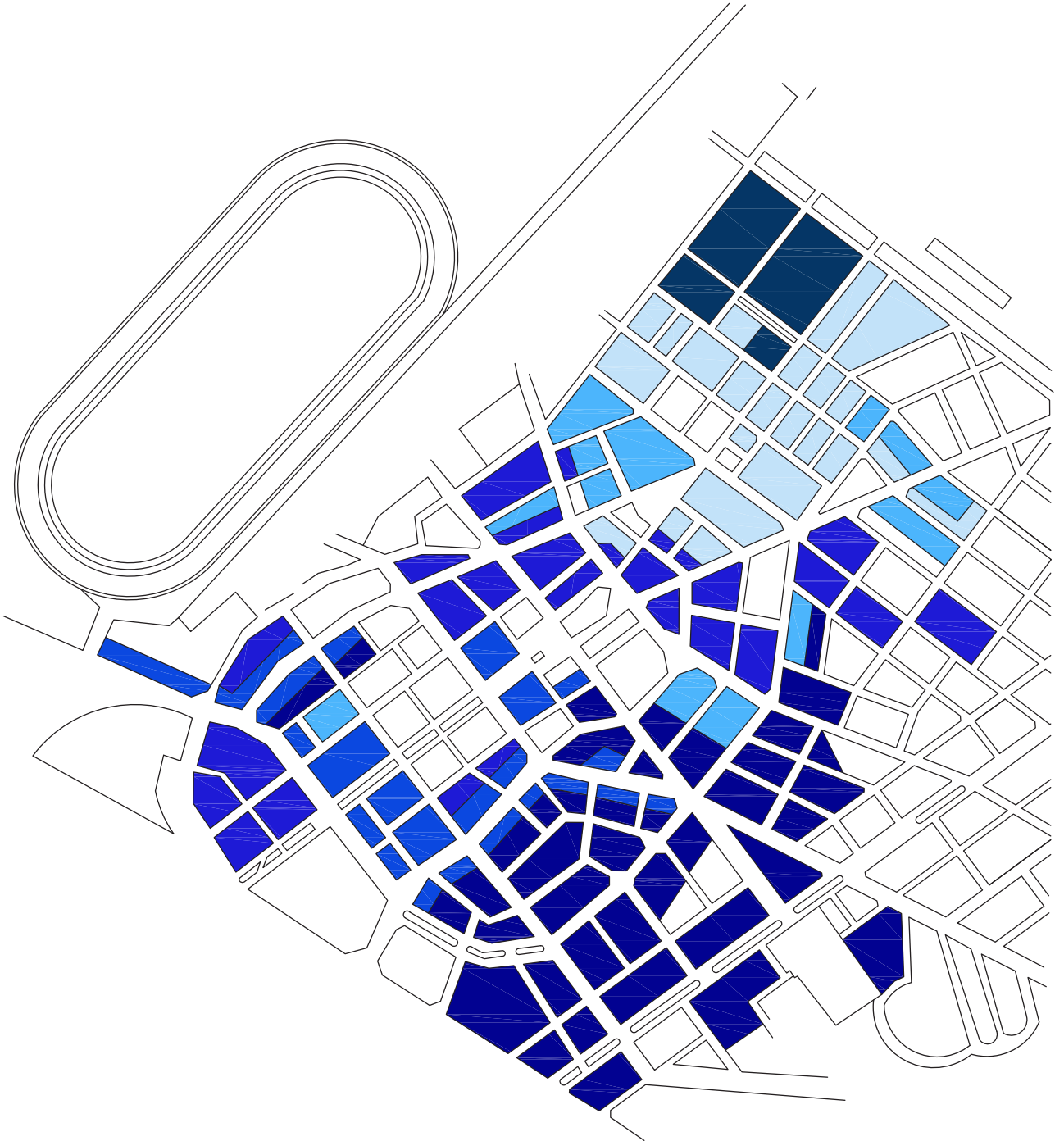
mauresque” style was solely formal and limited to the façade of the building. The interior was organized after European solutions. In cases of rental houses and villas, in most cases their inner layout was perfectly copied from European buildings from nineteenth century. This style can be seen only in Heliopolis. It was Empain tactic to combine the

comfortable European insides to which his mainly European customers are accustomed with oriental looking facades, which will give them the impression of living in an exotic city. Again the style was chosen, only for economic and marketing reasons.





Historical Architecture



Building Typologies

There were 4 general types of buildings introduced in Heliopolis: Villa, rental house, “garden city” building and bungalow.

Further in their respective groups there are further subdivisions providing extensive variety in the urban fabric of Heliopolis.

Each type of dwelling had its purpose clients group.

Bungalows were the smallest and cheapest apartments for the workmen. They were located in the service area of Heliopolis.

“Garden city” offering more comfort-

able space was probably inhabited by employees. These types of buildings were mainly concentrated in service area although they can also be found in richer parts of Heliopolis.

Rent house were already built in central region. Many of them contained luxurious apartments and their facades were much more elaborated.

Villa was the most expensive type, offered for rich Europeans mainly. Villas always had a garden and were located in most expensive regions of the new city.

The characteristic aspect of all types is

the fact that the plans, distribution of function or openings were practically taken over from European buildings.

On the other hand the façade were entirely different and inspired by Arab styles, hence neu-mauresque style.

Besides of the popular types, couple of palaces were also built in Heliopolis.

They were owned by members of aristocratic family or important politicians. They were designed in various architectural styles and served as advertisement of the region, generating interest in Heliopolis.

Location of buildings depending on the rent

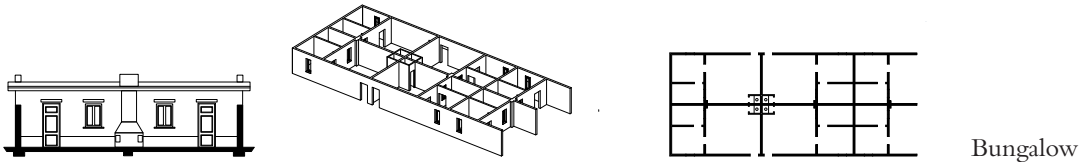


Historical Architecture

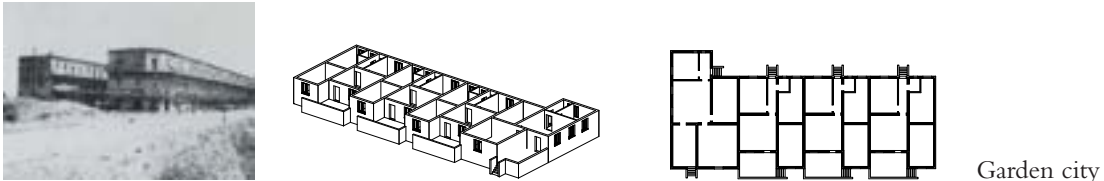


0 100m 500m

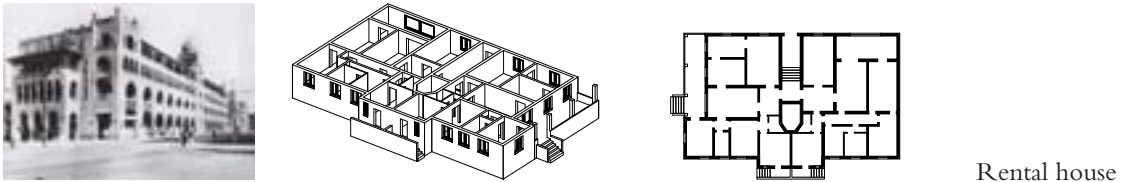
Overview of building Types



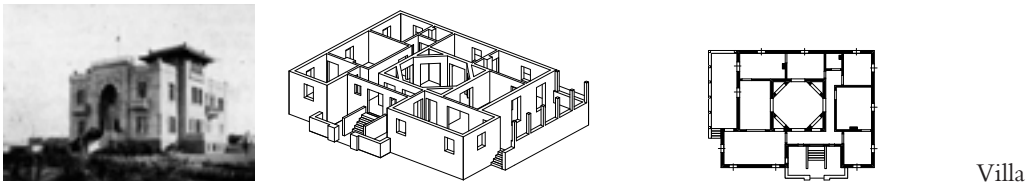
Bungalow



Garden city



Rental house

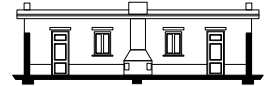


Villa

Position of building in the lot

- buildings aligned to the street with arcades
- villas set back over 6 meter from the street
- villas set back between 3 and 6 meter from the street
- buildings set back 3 meter from the street
- garden city type

Bungalows



Two types of bungalows can be distinguished: original city and small dwelling for workmen.

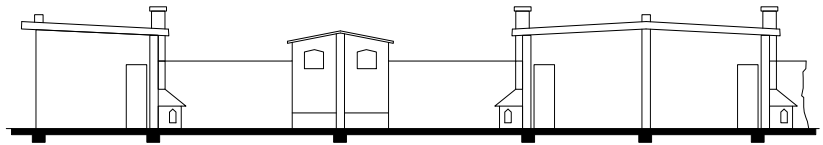
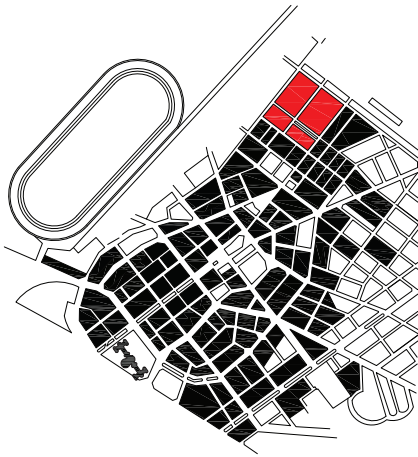
Original city consisted of 26 bungalows, forming a block. Between the buildings there was a 6 meter broad street.

Each apartment consisted out of two small rooms and kitchen, altogether 25 m². Each dwelling also had a private garden 16 m² big but the toilets were outside. In the garden there was an oven and a toilet for the service. The rooms were 3.30 meter height while the wall around the garden stood

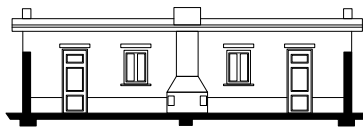
at 2.50 m.

The dwellings for workmen were also very small, consisting out of two rooms 3 x 4 meter each.

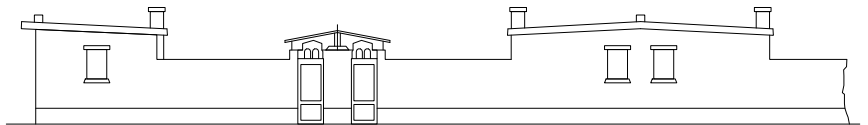
They were offered for free for the builders of Heliopolis with exception of the payment for water.



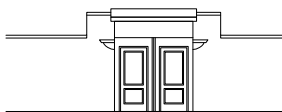
Long Section, 1:200



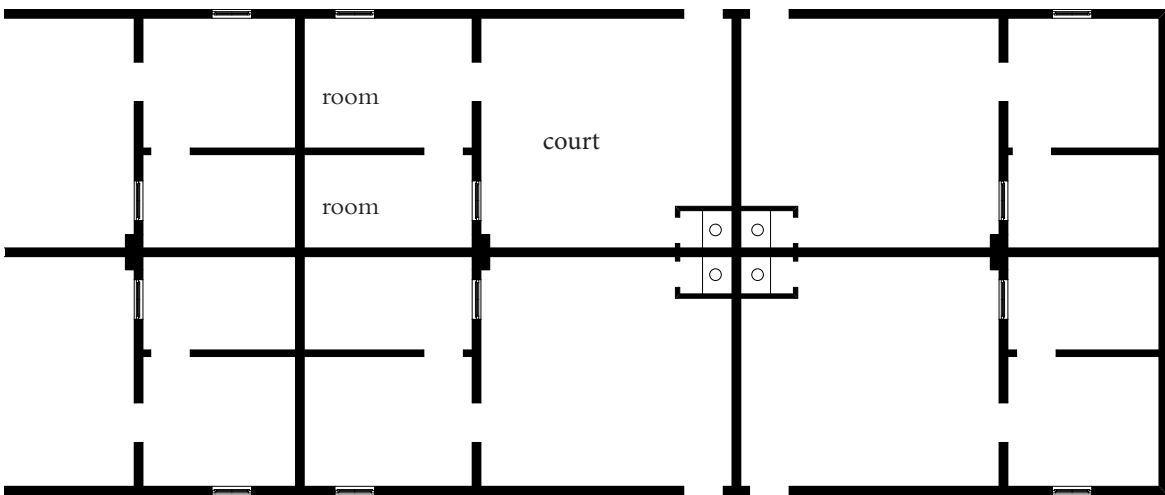
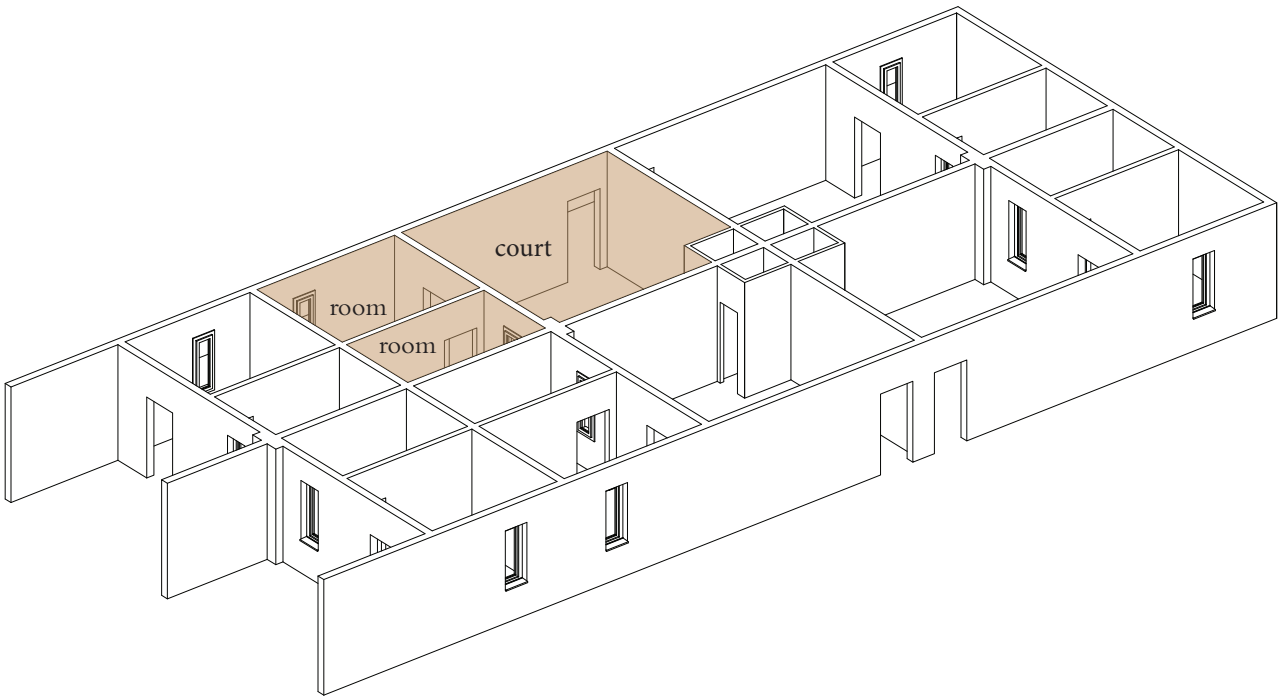
Section through court, 1:200



Street view, 1:200



Entrance view 1:200



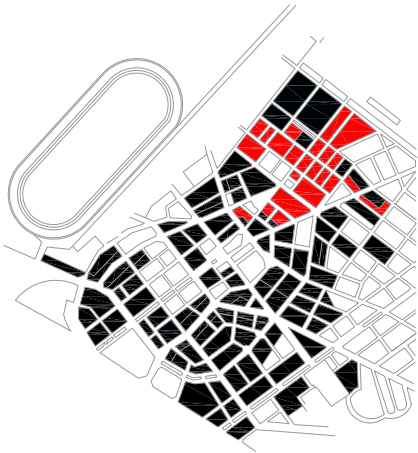
Ground Floor plan, 1:150

Garden City



Buildings mainly for workmen and poorer inhabitants of Heliopolis were known under the name “Garden City”. They were located in the service area, which was still highly organised, clean and green structure.

“Garden City” type building was further divided into two main groups: L- type building and B or C type buildings. They differed in standard and size of the apartments.



L type buildings

Houses of this type were usually grouped into blocks consisting out of 3 separated buildings with the length of 145, 92 and 41 meters.

They were always 3 stories high. The ground floor of the 145 meter long building was often rented for small, private shops and ateliers.

The small apartments contained one living room, bedroom and kitchen. Bathrooms and toilets were grouped together for each floor. All the apartments were connected through a long balcony on the outer facade facing the court. They were inhabited by workmen and the people from the poorest class.

B and C garden city type

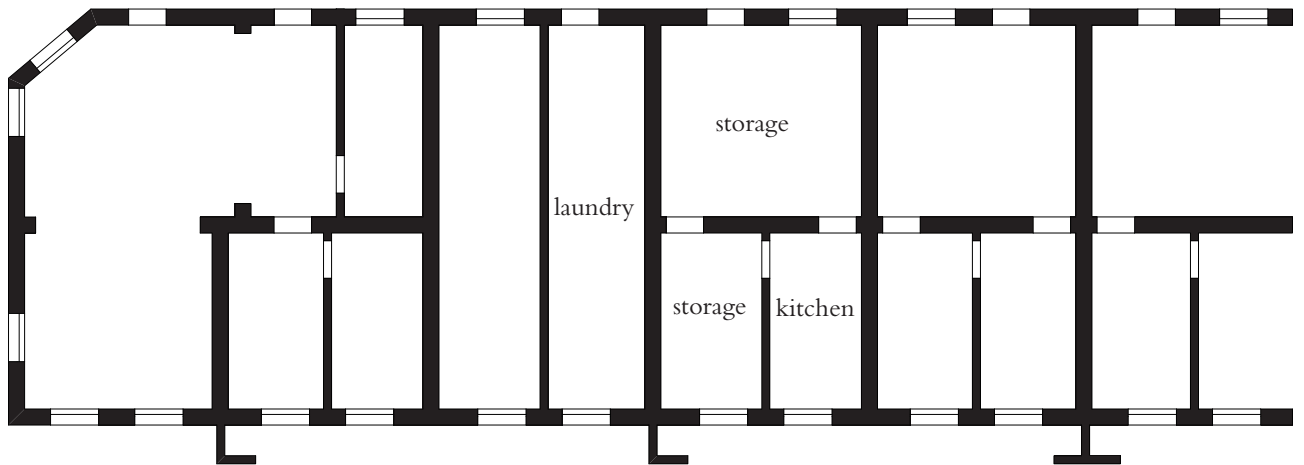
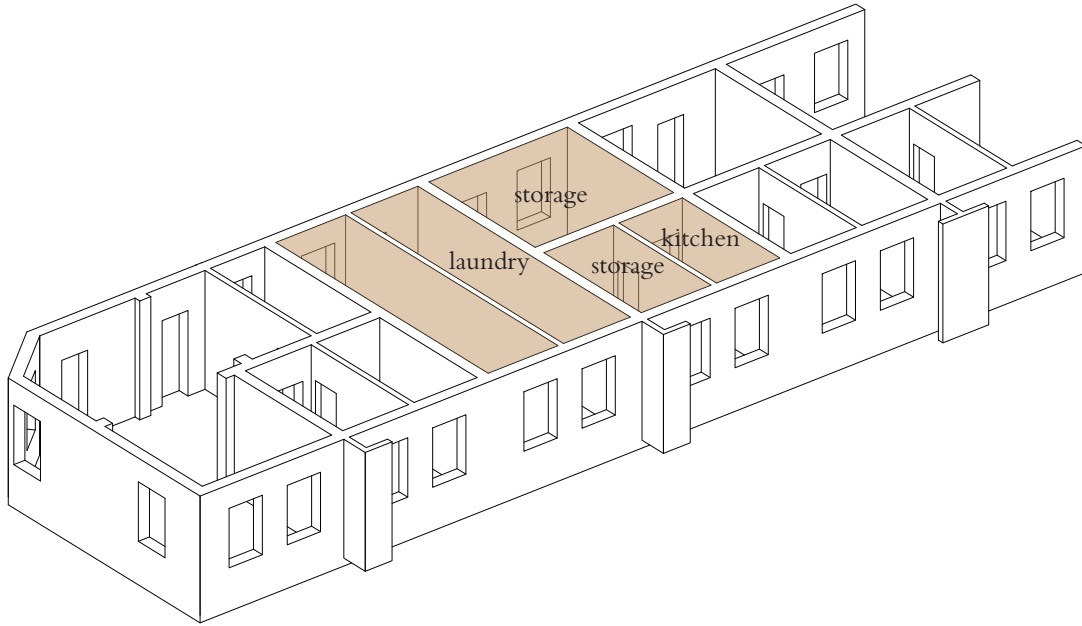
More comfortable apartments can be found in “Garden City” buildings type B and C. They surface vary between 33 and 69 m². The bigger dwellings contain living room, bedrooms, toilet, bathroom, kitchen and always terrace or balcony. Terrace or balcony were standard also in the 33 m² apartments.

The buildings of these types were 50 meter long and also 3 stories high. They were orientated “face to face” with stripes of green between them. The street was always separated through wall of trees.

They were inhabited by workmen and employees. In C type there was “samalik” traditional room in Arab architecture for receiving guests.

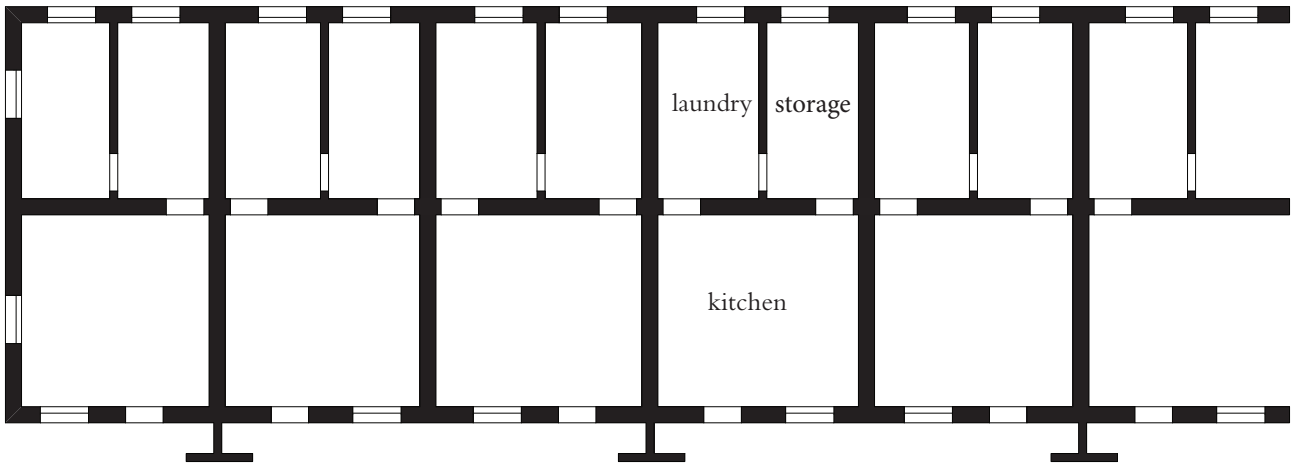
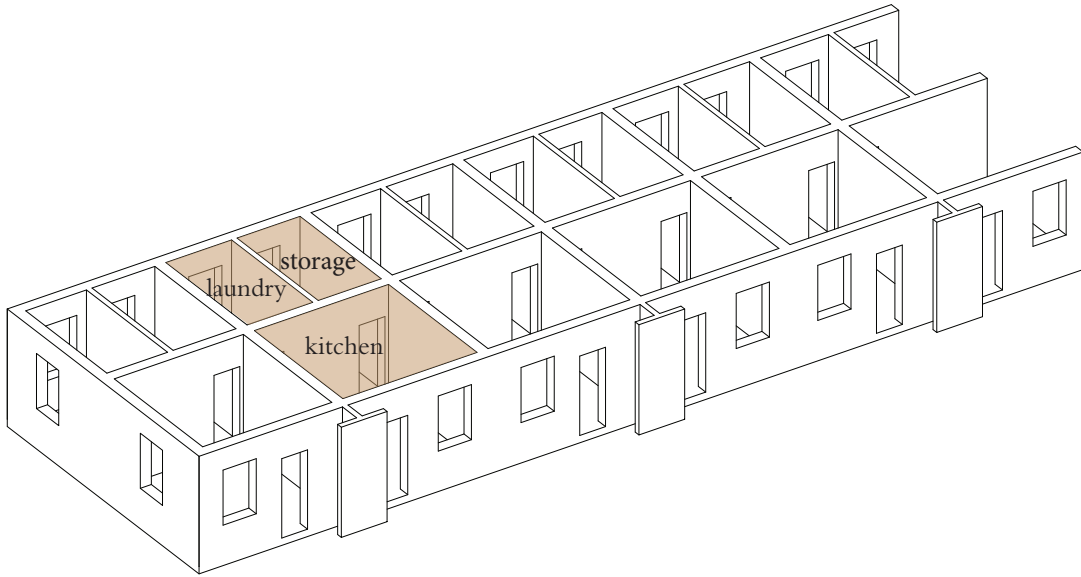


L- shaped building, type 1



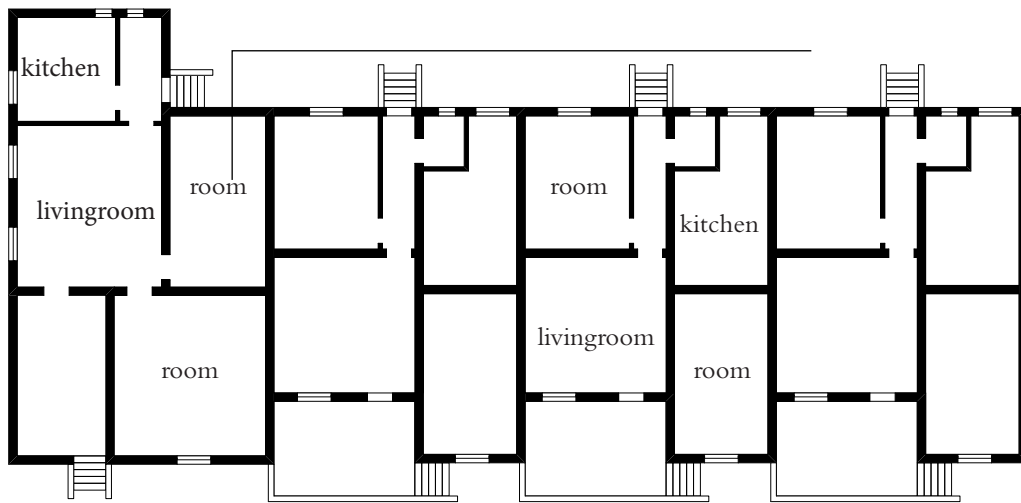
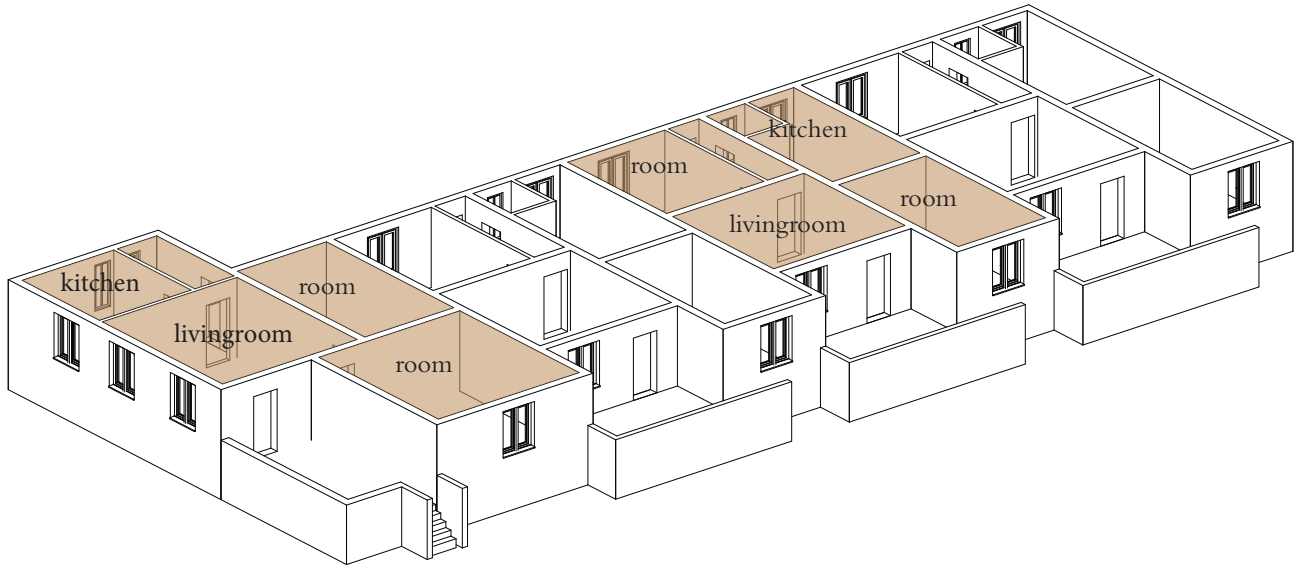
Groundfloor plan, 1:150

L- shaped building, type 2



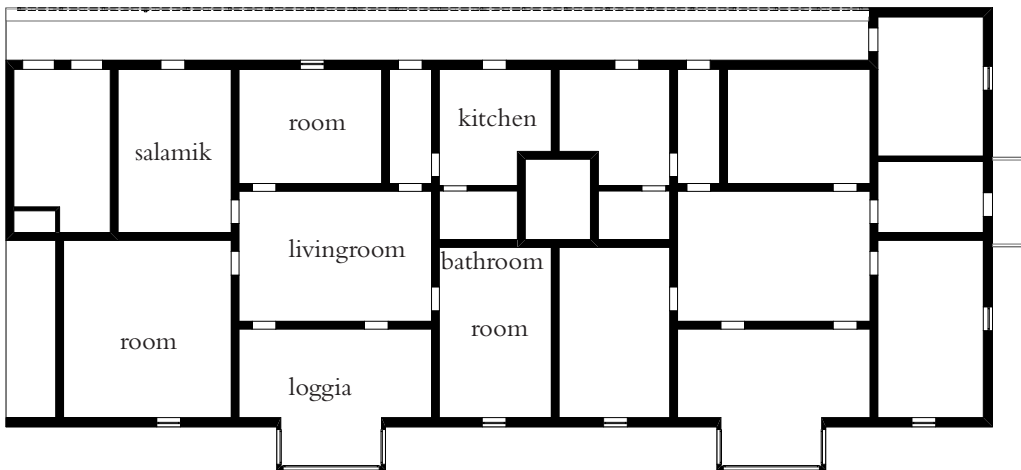
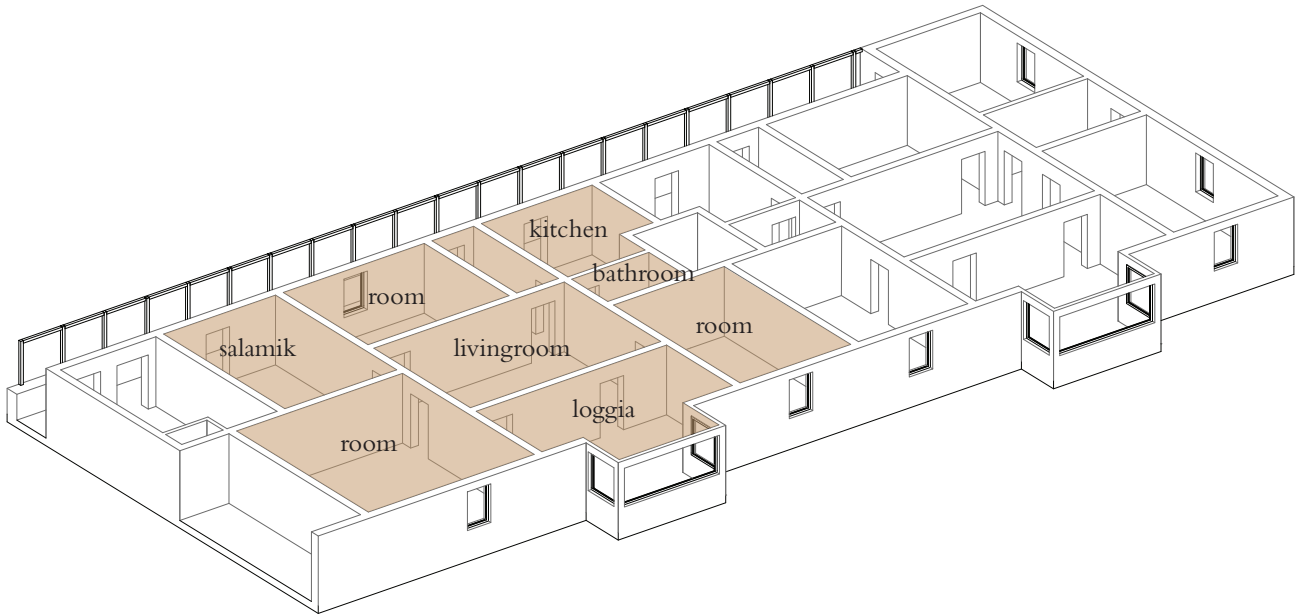
Groundfloor plan, 1:150

B type "Garden City"



Groundfloor plan, 1:150

C type "Garden City" (Samalik)



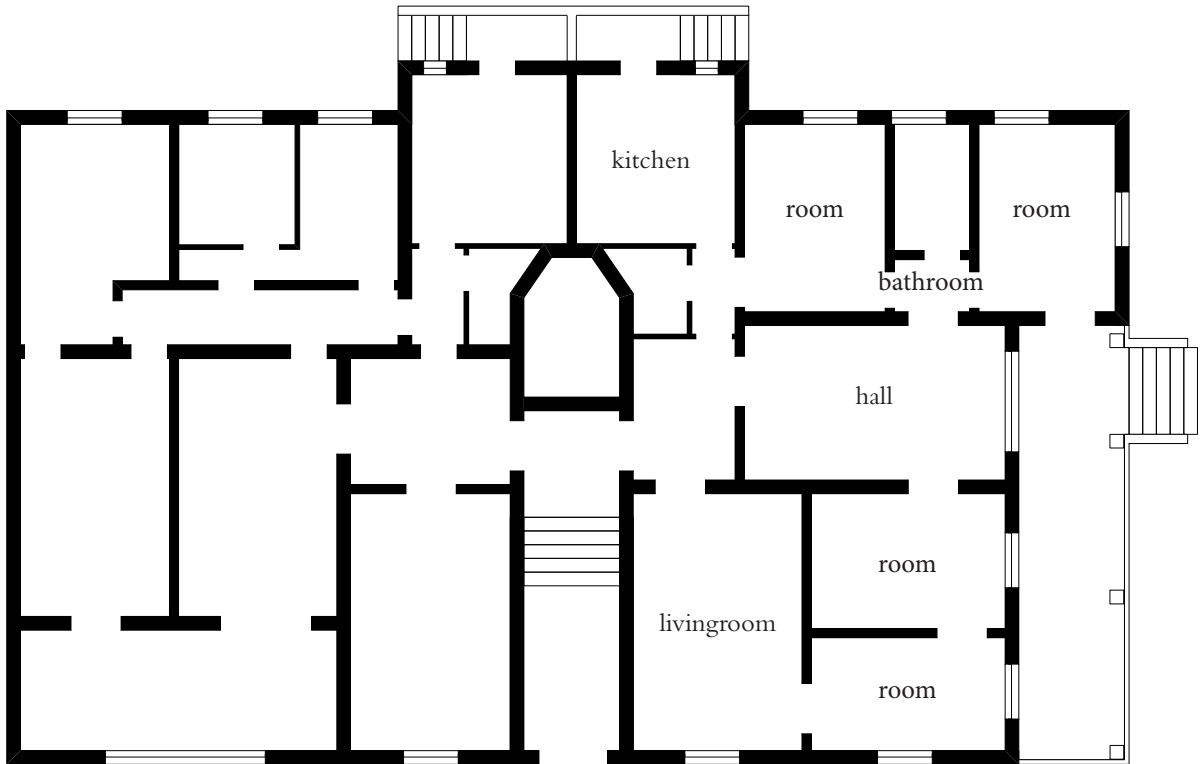
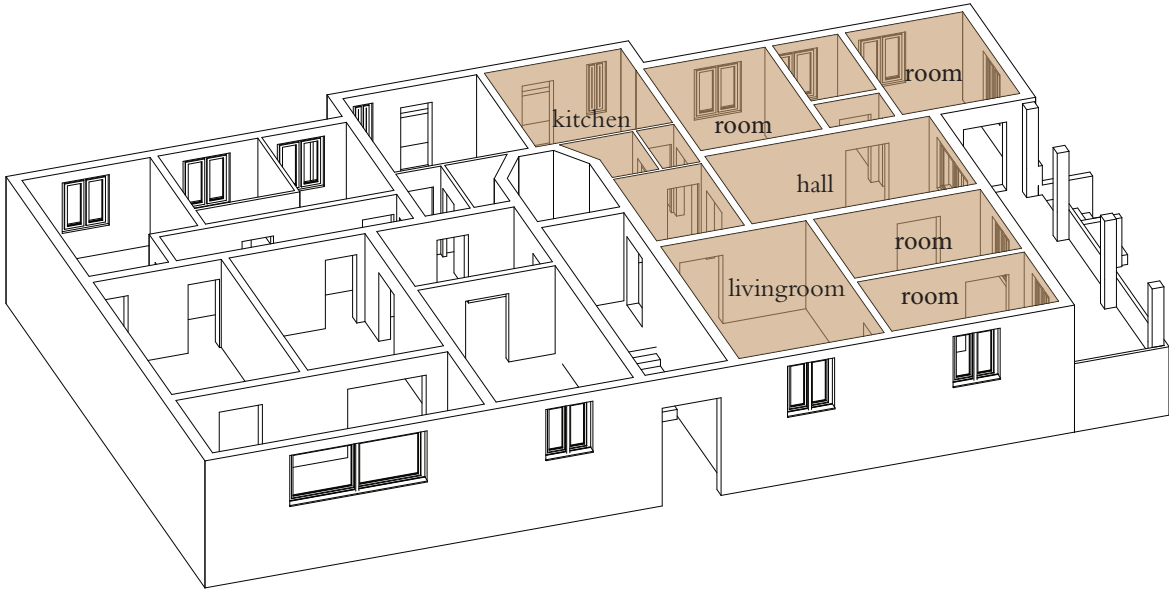
Typical floor plan, 1:150

Rental houses

Rental houses usually had 6 apartments, whose surface between 40 and 70 m². They were very heavy inspired by European models and were generally organized around the central staircase with facade showing Islamic

elements. Each apartment had a separate entrance for the service as well as a balcony or terrace. They were often inhabited by employs and middle class people





Groundfloor plan, 1:150

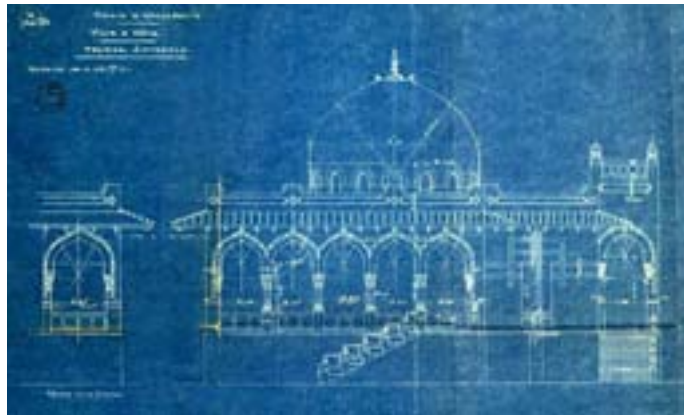
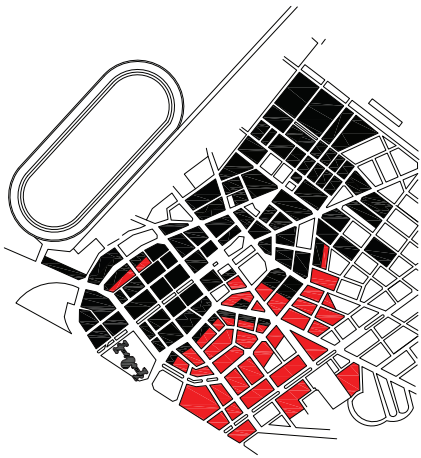
Villas



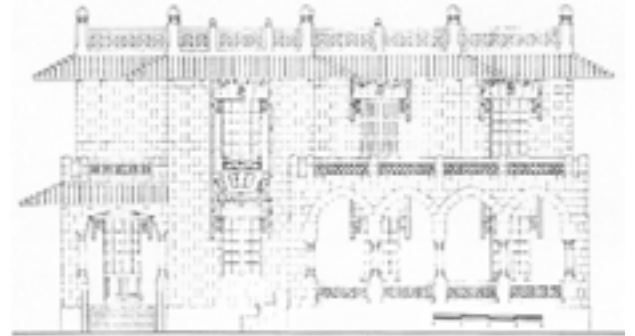
They were the most luxurious, stand alone dwelling. The surface of a villa varied between 130 and 300 m². They were very many types offered: U, UF, P, S, R, G, dome villa, villa octagonal etc., generally 20 different buildings. They usually had similar basis but differed largely in the facades and form of

upper floors. The ground floor usually contained reception rooms, salon, dining room and wardrobe. Upper floors (usually one or two) were reserved for private rooms for the inhabitants. Kitchen was often in the basement were storage and some service rooms were located.

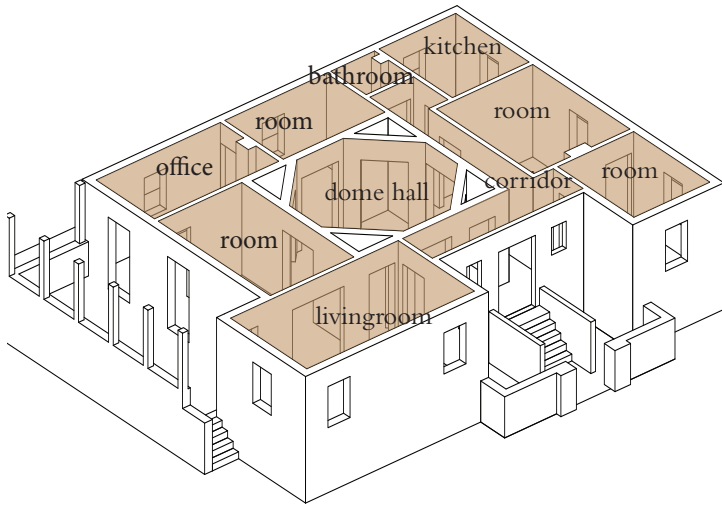
Each will had terrace and balcony or balconies. They were usually covered to protect from the sun. Each Villa had a green private garden.



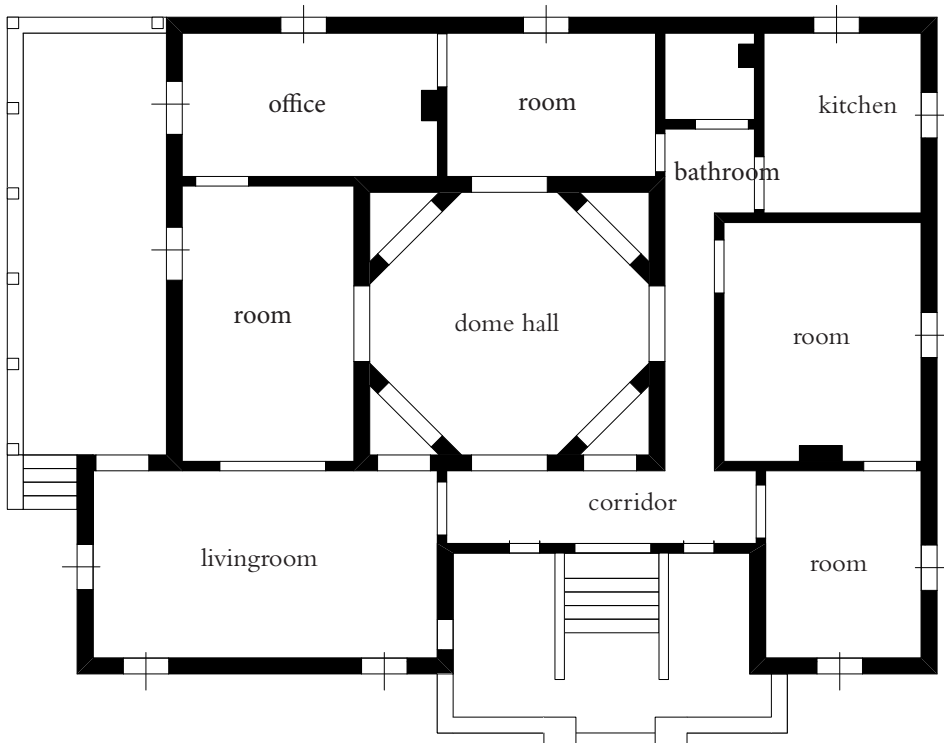
Dome Villa



Dome Villa

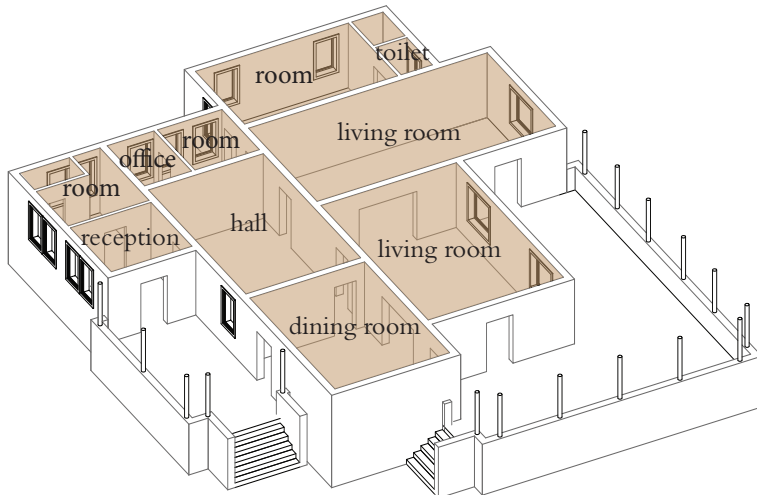


The form of this Villa was inspired by a mosque and also its layout drew strongly on the traditional Arab architecture. The ground floor is concentrated around one central room from where all the others spaces can be accessed. The middle hall is supposed to be always fresh and aired. Otherwise the equipment was based on European standards.



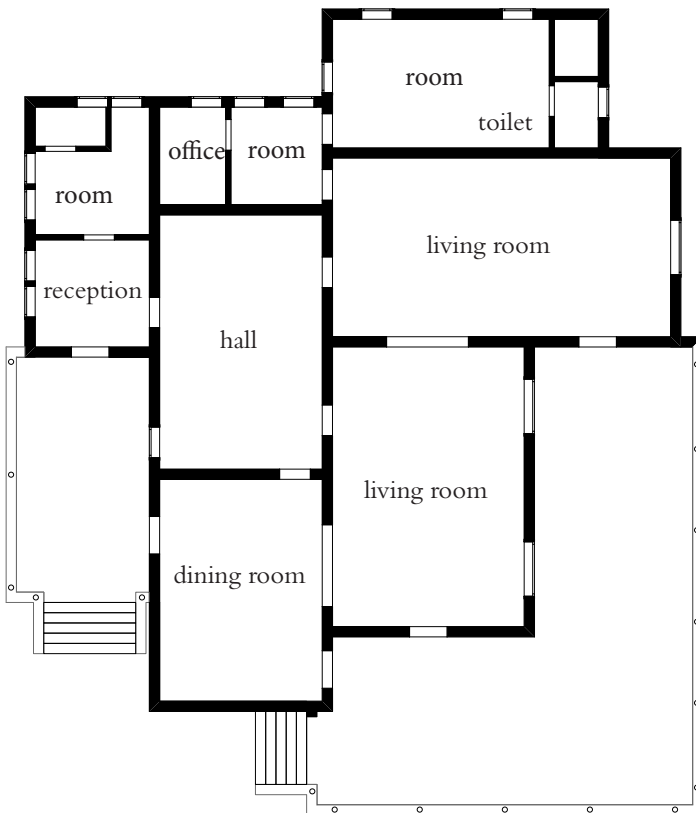
Groundfloor plan, 1:150

Villa type "S"



One of the two most popular types of villa (the other one was villa type P). It was inspired by European villas at the time. The kitchen was located in the basement with other service areas. Outside there was a separated toilet for servants.

Big terrace, being extension of living room is characteristic. This type of villa was produced in series with buildings differing in facade form and ornament.



Groundfloor plan, 1:150

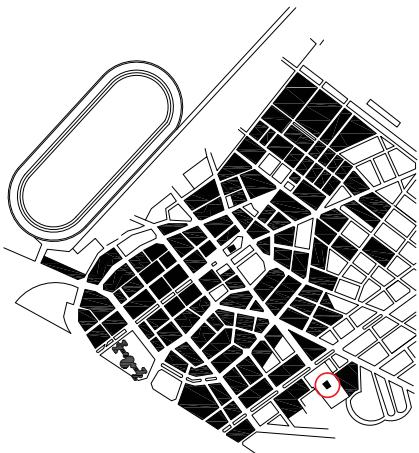
Palaces

The landscape of Heliopolis was considerably affected by palaces. They were privately owned, living villas with the difference from regular types in size, ornament and equipment. Their purpose for their existence was mainly

commercial, as they were supposed to advertise the “City of leisure and luxury”.

Prince Hussein, Boghso Pasha Nubar, sultan Mamalak were among those

who owned a representative palace in Heliopolis. Still the most spectacular one was inhabited by Baron Empain himself.



Location of Baron Palace



Sultan Mamalak Palace



Prince Ibrahim Halim Palace



Boghos Pacha Nubar Palace



Prince Hussein Palace

Baron Empain Palace

Also known as “The palais hindou” or “Quas Al Baron” was built in years 1907 – 1911. Responsible for the project was Alexandre Marcel himself and the interior was made by Georges-Louis Claude.

It was built in reinforced concrete, a very modern technic at the time. The form of the building was inspired by the AngkorVat temple from 12th century in Cambodia. The idea to introduce Indian style in Heliopolis came from Alexandre Marcel who already built a Cambodia pavilion for the 1900 EXPO in Paris.

So in the façade of the Palace statues of Buddha, Shiva and Krishna can be seen as well as symbols of snakes, elephants and lions.

Baron palace beside of dwelling had also commercial function to fulfill. It was supposed to function like landmark generating interest in Heliopolis. It is another example of marketing used by Empain for successful development of his desert city. Even its interior design was extremely elaborated to the tiniest details. Empain liked to impress his visitors and an unnamed inhabitant of early Heliopolis described his perception of Heliopolis with following words:

“It was fantastic, even more luxurious than Palace Hotel. There wasn’t a table or any other object which wouldn’t be elaborated to the tiniest detail and with very good taste.”

The wooden, spiral staircase is a fine example of interior design that is still standing.

The functional organization of palace was otherwise standard. Ground floor contained reception functions, salon and dining room. The 2 upper floors were bedrooms for family members of Empain.

The villa was located in the middle of a large garden, with plants coming from countries from all over the world. The villa was sold by Empain family in 1957. It deteriorated following years, being left without care. It was only in 2005 that the government took it over and opened for public till 2007 when it was written on the list of “national monuments” and closed for renovation for undisclosed period of time.



Roof details



Relief detail



Baron Empain Palace



Main entrance



Side entrance

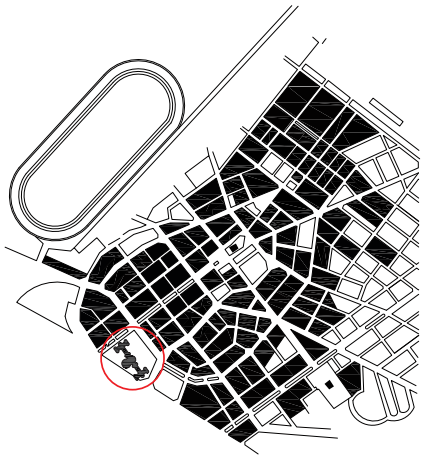


Hotel Palace

Was intended to be and was indeed the biggest palace in the world. Built for an extreme prize in 1909 of 2,5 mln US dollars, the hotel had 300 rooms on the surface of 6 500 m². The garden around it had 5 ha surface. The main hall had a surface of almost 500 m² and was 35 meters high.

Its main architects were again Alexandre Marcel and Ernst Jaspar. They were supported by Georges Louis – Claude, who worked on the interior design. The hotel was built with the use of reinforced concrete in Hennebique system. It functioned as hotel, until the late 60s. Only during both world wars

it has been temporarily turned into hospital. Then the Arab League chose it for its headquarters. In the 80s it was carefully renovated and since 1981 functions as a meeting palace and office for the president Mubarak.



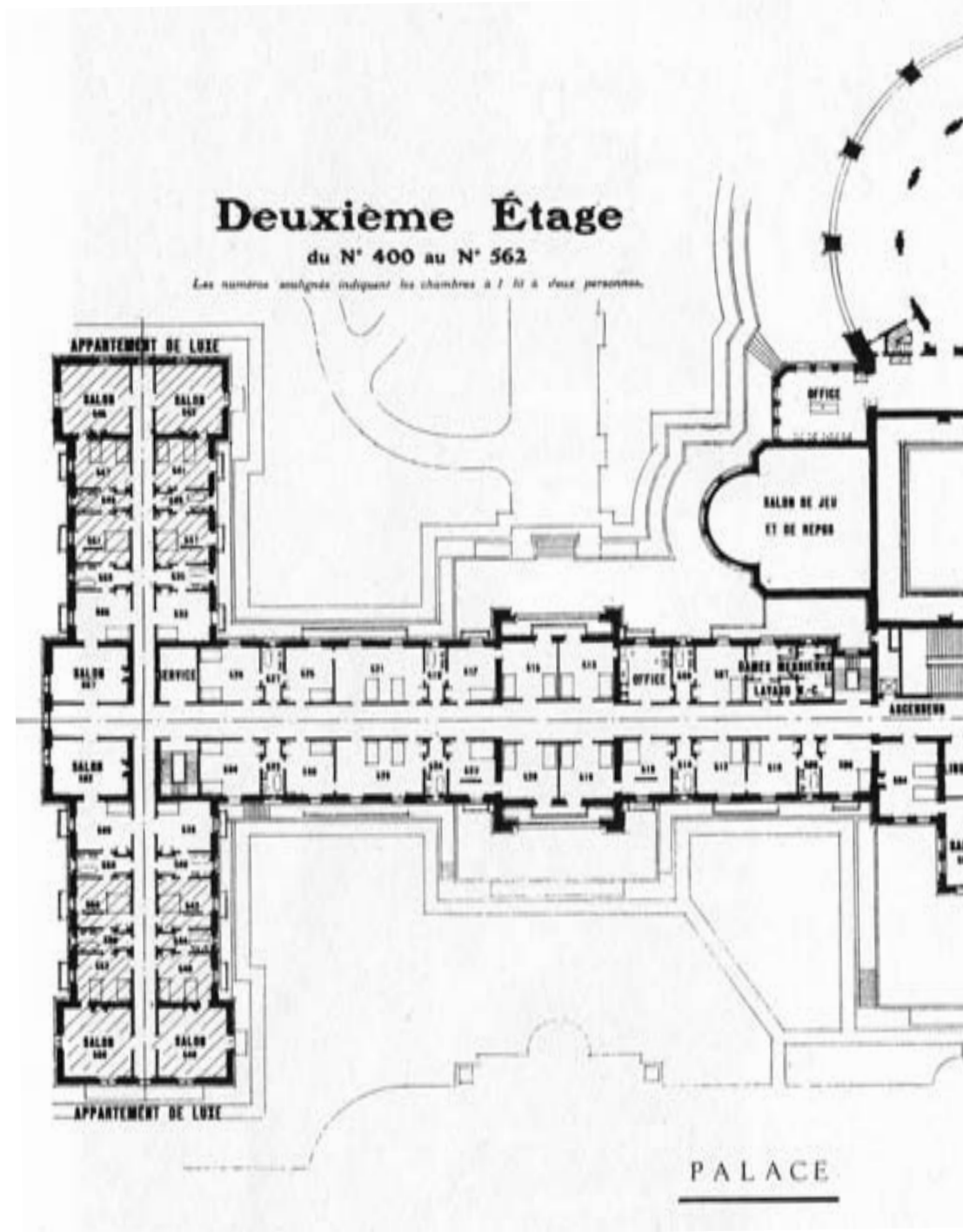
Main hall, view towards garden

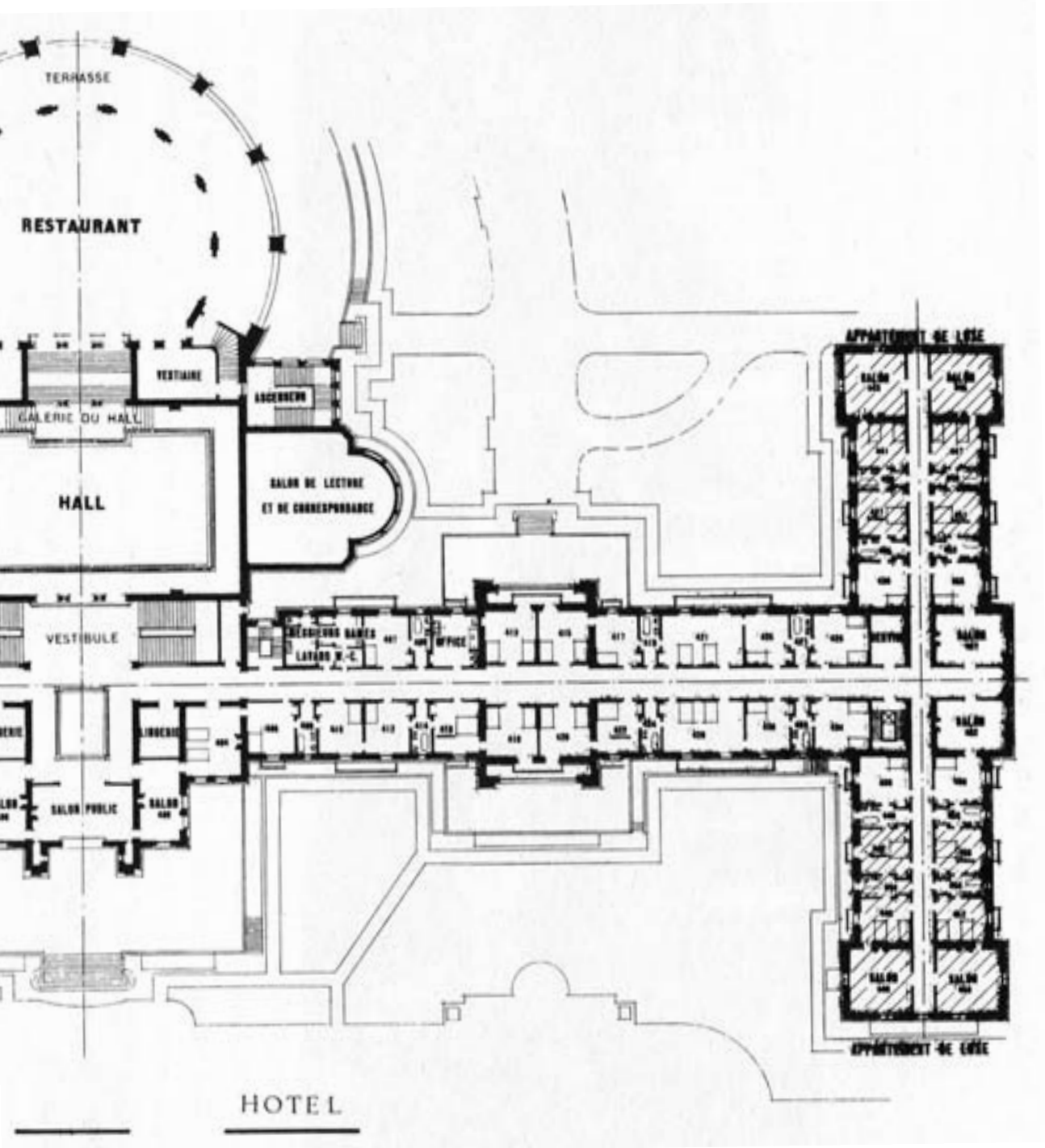


Main hall, view towards the entrance



Hotel Palace





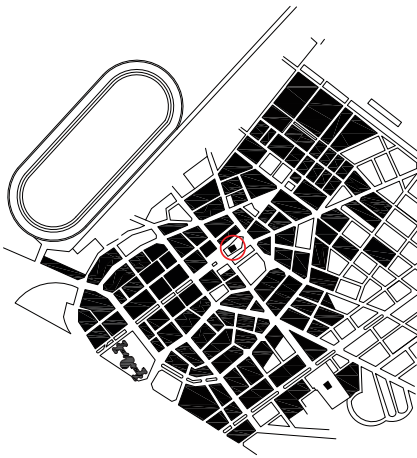
Basilica

Basilica has been built in years 1907 - 1913. Alexandre Marcel was the architect. Empain himself arrived for the opening. In the original city of Heliopolis it took central stage, on the main central axis. Now it is still the

main square in the historic part of the City of the Sun.

It has the largest organs in Egypt, built in Belgium 5 meter tall and 4 meter wide, though nobody can appreci-

ate them, because Basilica as the other landmarks of Heliopolis remains closed for public.





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Modern Architecture

The move towards social housing after the revolution was clearly visible in the form of the architecture. The part of Heliopolis built in 60s and later is very homogeny with social realistic buildings dominating the landscape. Also in the historical parts many old building has been demolished to give room for

residential or office towers built without any concern about urban context. They are no different to other buildings being constructed all over Cairo for example in Nasr City. It was only the main street grid that would distinguish Heliopolis from other districts when the “new” parts are concerned.

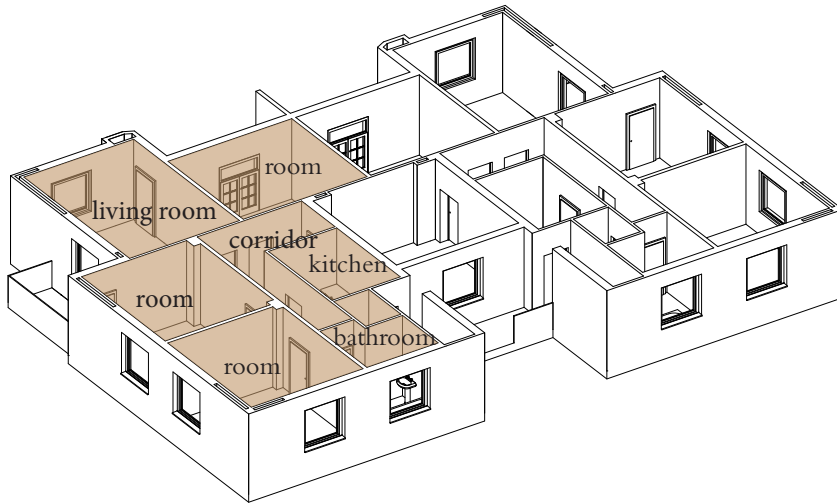


Merryland housing, 1950s

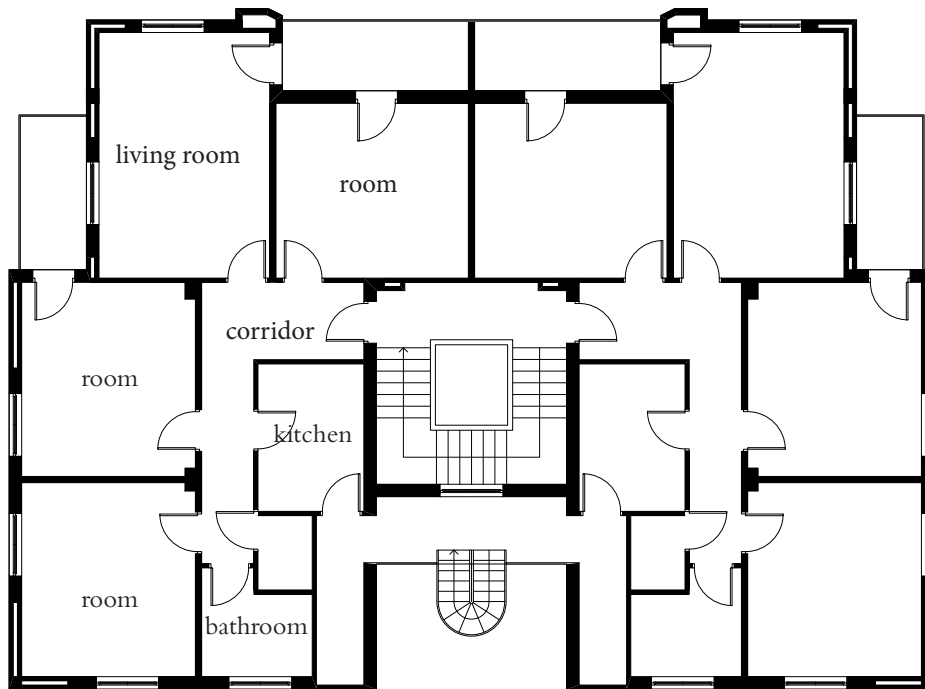


Merryland skyscraper, 1950s

Merryland Housing

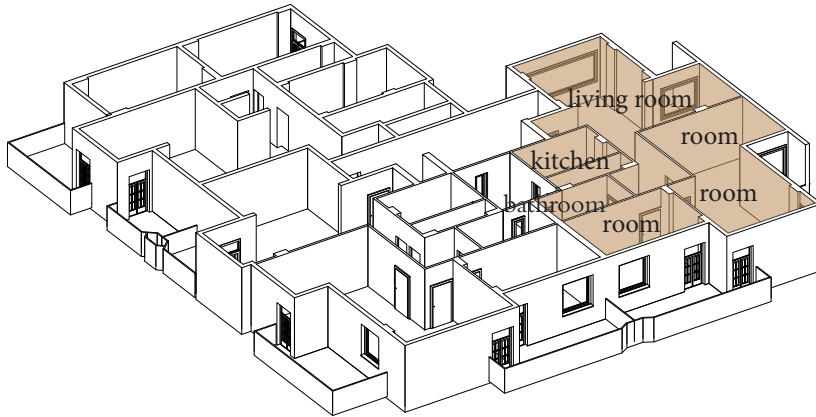


Merryland housing is a residential complex built in the area of merryland park. Its landmark is merryland skyscraper the highest building in the region. Merryland housing was project that marked the change phase between capitalistic and socialistic periods. Started in the late 40s, continued in 50s and completed in the 60s, it witnessed the revolution and the nationalisation of Heliopolis Company. The apartments in merryland buildings are comfortable dwelling, following European standards. It is are inhabited mainly by middle class. The buildings directly facing merryland park are more expensive, and occupied by higher class people.

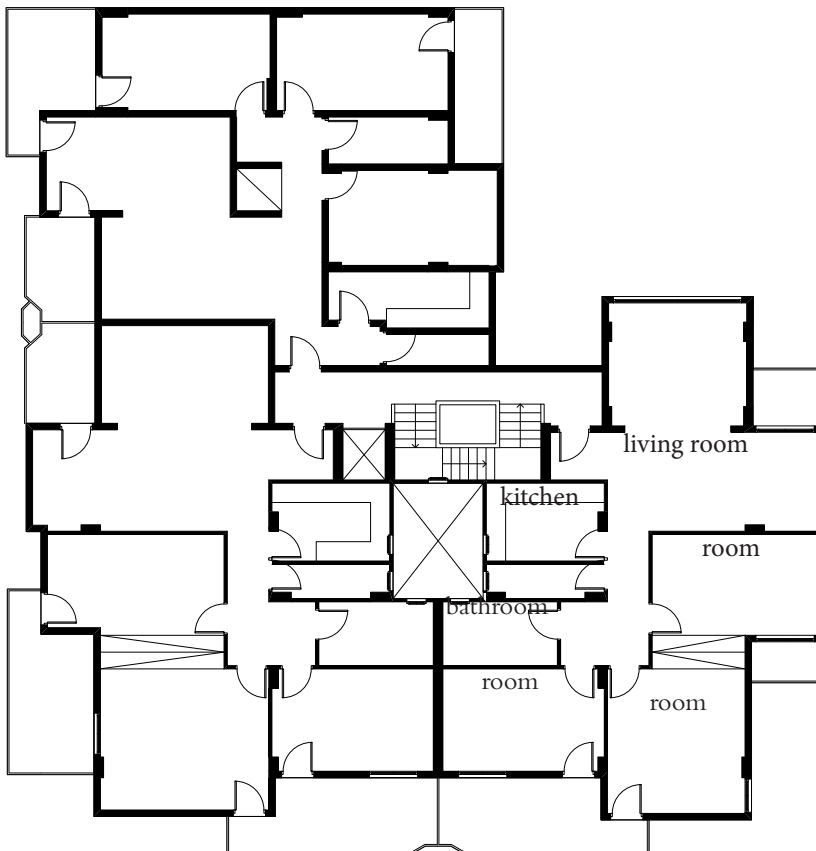


Regular floor plan, 1:200

Sheraton Housing

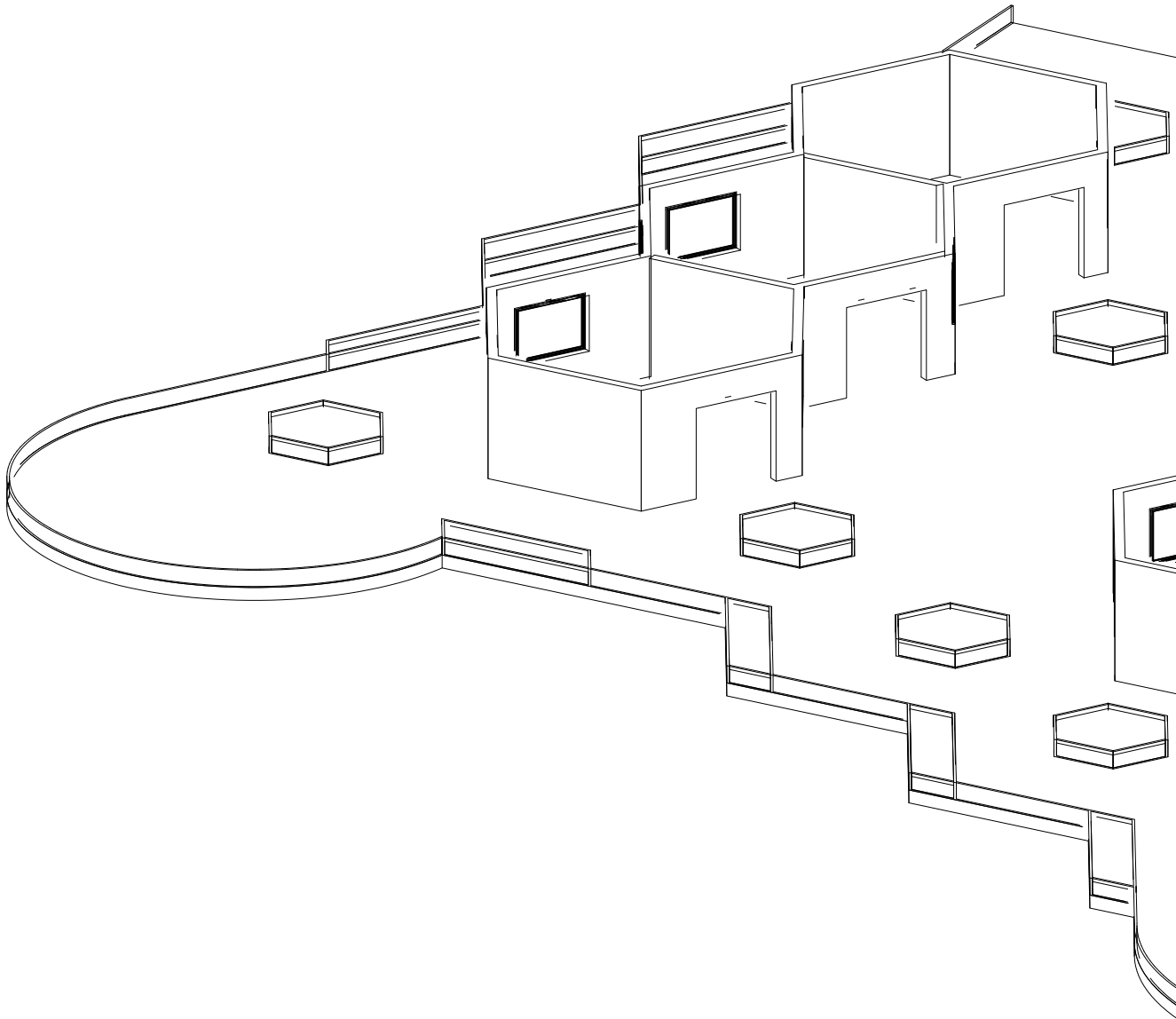


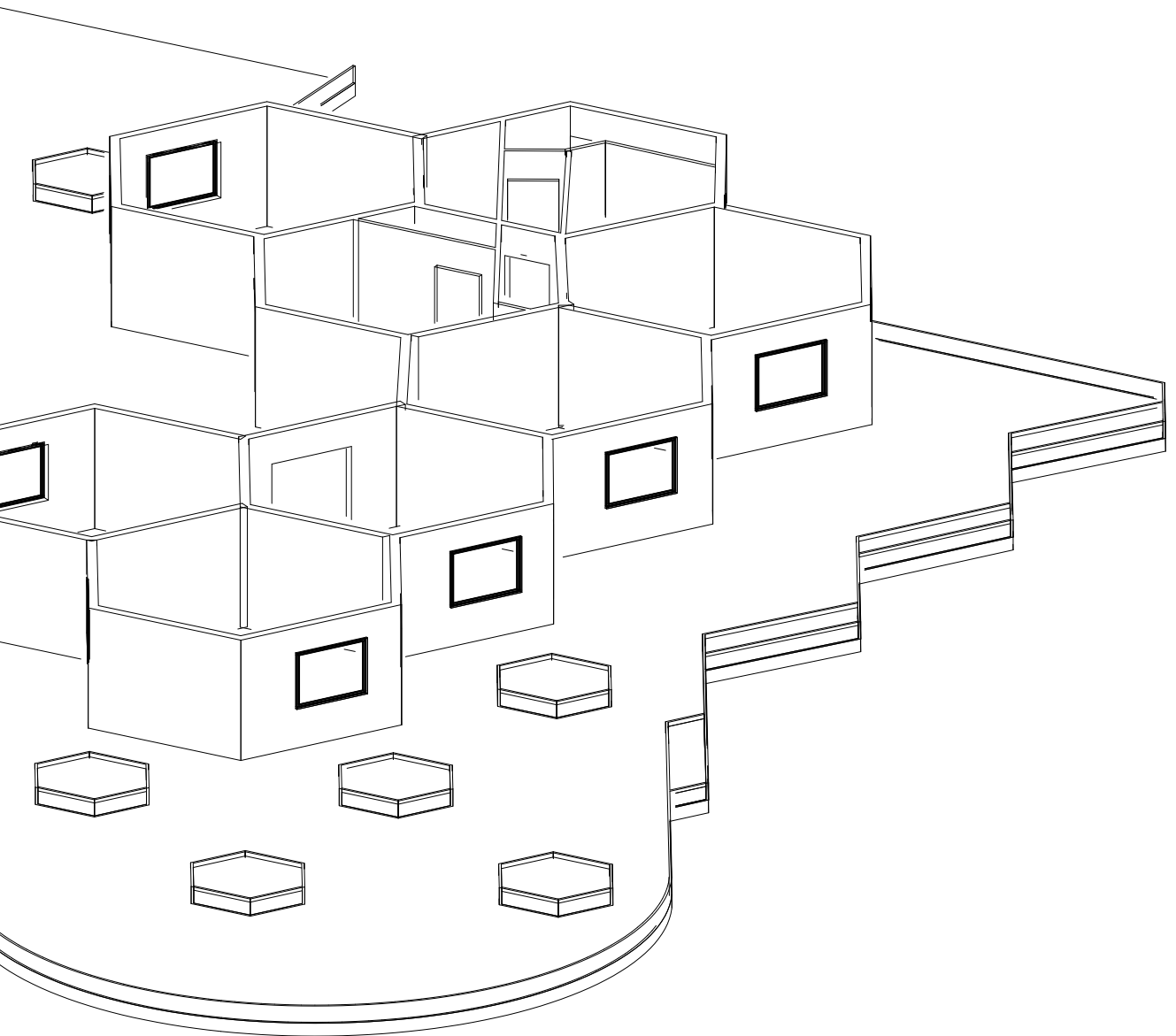
Sheraton housing is very last area of Heliopolis, still under construction. Were buildings were erected in the 80s and the master plan was done in the sixties. This autonom residential area, has its own multifunctional centre. The residential part is divided into 6 different estates, each with different standard. Here example of middle class apartment in Sheraton Housing district.



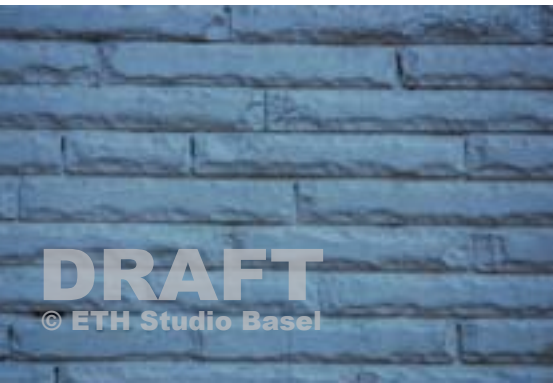
Regular floor plan, 1:200

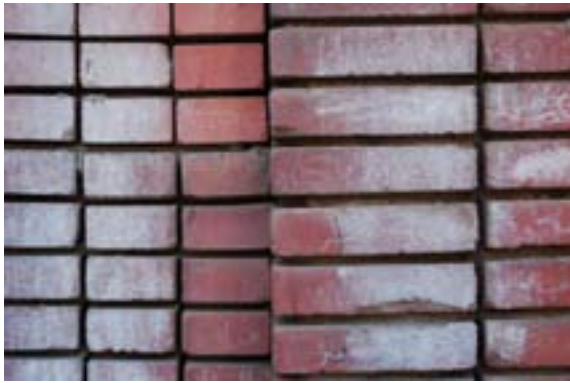
Project for new market in Almazah, 1960s





Texture







Introduction
Founding of the city
Development of the city
Analysis of the city
Architecture

Conclusion

Can Heliopolis be a model for other neighborhood?

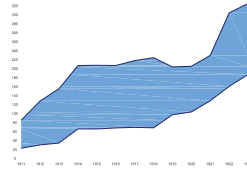
“Heliopolis is more than just a district of Cairo. From oasis in the desert to residential region, Heliopolis should be seen by modern architects as model for urban development.”

———— Adel Mokhtar

Randa Abdelaziz Mahmoud in her Ph.D. work about Heliopolis named 11 main reasons for successful development of Heliopolis:

Heterogeneity

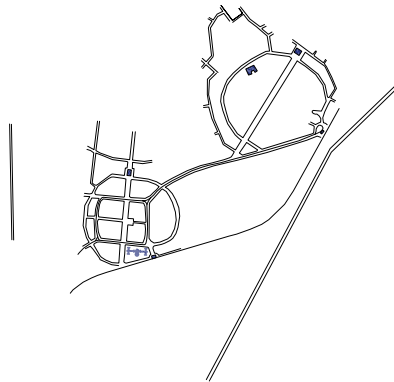
Private initiative included from the beginning, public – private cooperation



Hierarchisation of city, distribution of function



Clear reason for city development, clear concept



Facilities

Different activities to attract people from other places



Public transportation connecting to city center



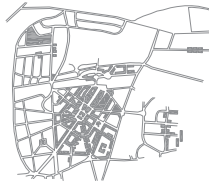
Creation of jobs

Uniqueness and Quality

Complete project on the urban and architectural level, city green



High organization level based on a profound study of the city structure



Broad choice of building types in order to attract different social classes



Time

Rules for further development, regulation and law



Good preservation of the city



Public transportation

Tramline was crucial for the development of Heliopolis. It allowed access to the city of the sun for all the social classes, what provided the diversity in the city and generated further funds by increasing the number of visitors to

organized attractions like luna park or hippodrome.



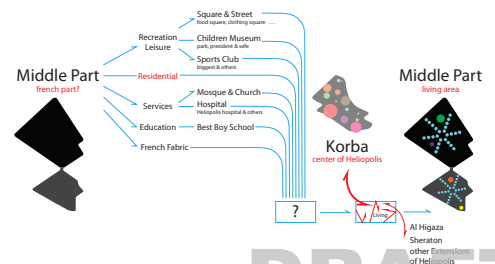
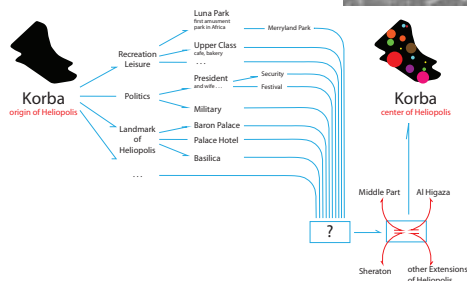
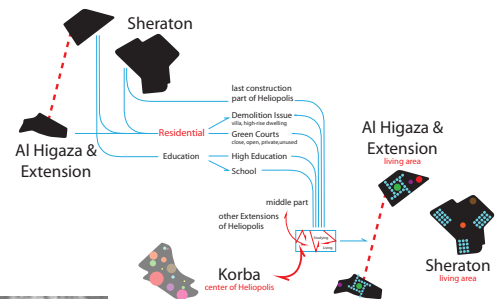
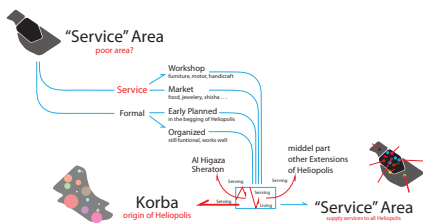
The modern Desert Cities around Cairo contrary to Heliopolis, do not have public transportation line that would connect them to the center of Cairo

Model

Heliopolis is said to be a model example for later desert cities and for future projects. But when one talk about Heliopolis two phases should be distinguished. First period characterized by capitalistic approach, that lasted from the beginning till the revolution in 1952 and later socialistic period. Most of the positive processes and the base for the successful development were laid in the first period. This two

periods gave the city of Heliopolis 2 levels of structure: historical centre, where most of the commercial and administrative functions are located residential extension, where also good functioning infrastructure has been provided. It can be compared two an typical European city. It has an old centre with specific city fabric, monuments

and infrastructure, and around it there functional extensions. Its the same structure observed in Heliopolis, that differentiates it from the other desert cities with their homogeny structure. It is the heterogeneity on each level: architectural, functional, social, that makes the difference and makes Heliopolis so successful and coherent.



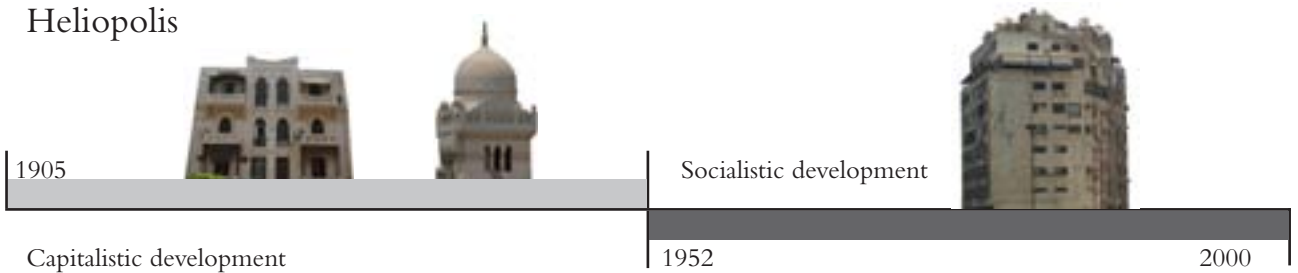
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 © ETH Studio Basel

Time

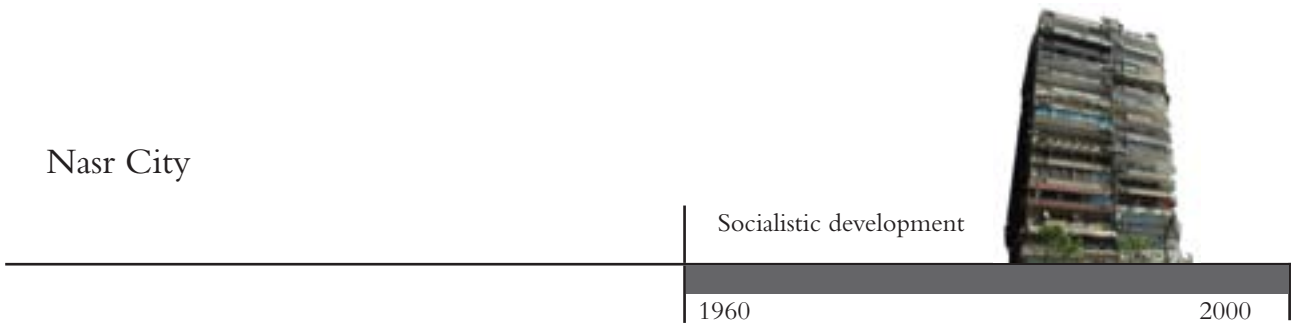
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Heliopolis



Nasr City



15th of May



Uniqueness & Quality



Heliopolis

Nasr City



The comparison of the figure ground plan in both district shows how similar they are.



Building types constructed after 60s are similar in Heliopolis and Nasr City.



Both districts have remarkable landmarks.



The difference maker is the historical part. Old city layout is more interesting than rigid structure of newer estate.



The other difference is the lack of historical architecture in Nasr City that would define hierarchy in the city.



Facilities

The variety of proposed facilities makes Heliopolis to intensive, self sufficient, independent district. All the necessary infrastructure is provided, what in combination with the high quality of life in the district turns it

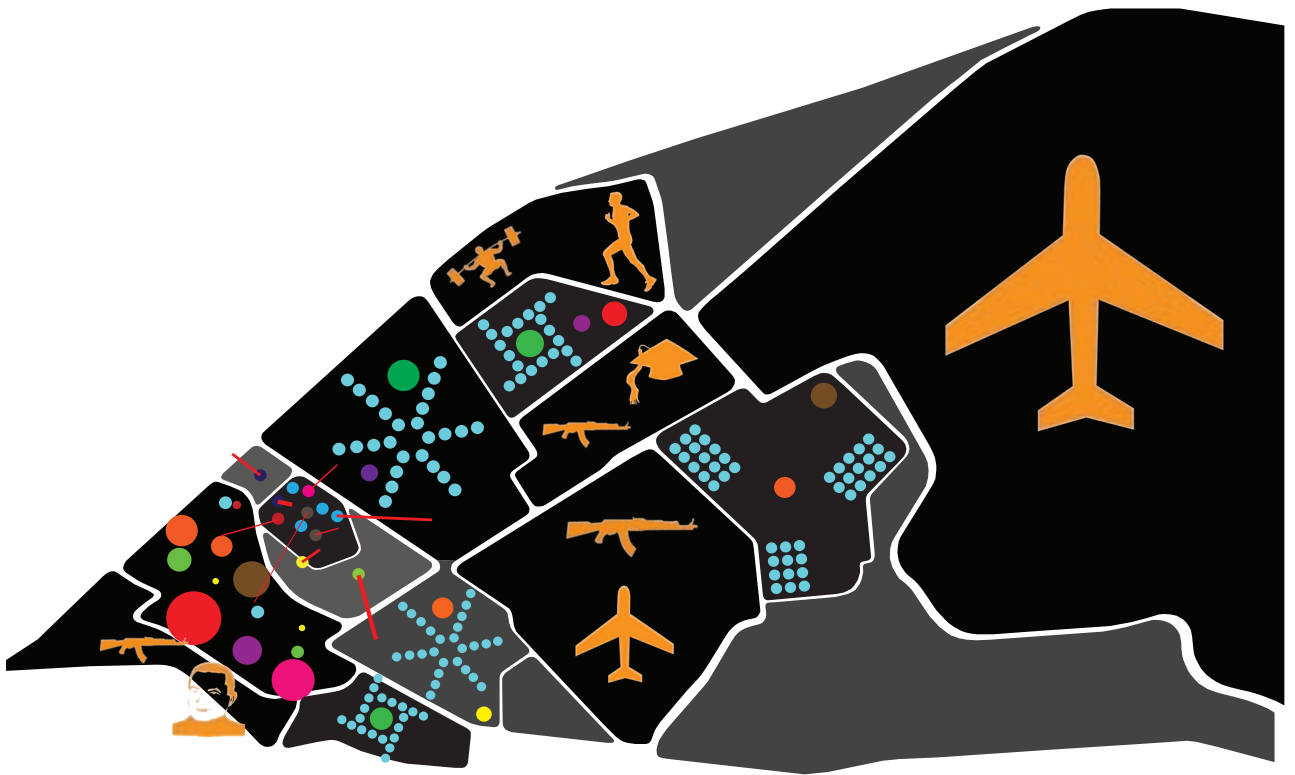
to a very stable and secure living area. There is no reason to abandon it and in most cases people remain Heliopolitanas for life.



Heterogeneity

As much as facilities, heterogeneity is a key factor in the success of Heliopolis. Each region in the “City of the sun” has its own flair and character. The different areas stay in dynamic correlation and supplement each other

making Heliopolis to an efficient urban organism. It is the heritage of the two oasis concept set up by the creator of Heliopolis Baron Edouard Empain who from the beginning provided the diversity in his city.



Conclusion

Our research showed us that Heliopolis can be regarded as a very successful district when compared to other parts of Cairo. Today even in spite of all the negative processes, which occurred during its 100 years long history, it is still a model development for residential area, with well developed and organized street network, self sufficient infrastructure, high quality architecture and many green spaces. It is the only district in Cairo with its own architectural style and own fest day “Heliopolis

day”. Here lives the president of Egypt Hussein Mubarak and many governmental institutions are also settled in Heliopolis as well as important military facilities.

“City of the sun” is regarded as a gate to Cairo and one of its most representative parts.

The historical part of Heliopolis especially the so called Al Korba area, is maybe the most prestigious part of Cairo, and often regarded as the second

centre of the capital of Egypt. Starbucks and Macdonalds opened here their first shops in the whole country. Now many other foreign firms are also present in Heliopolis.

We want to finish our book with short statement by unknown inhabitant of the centre of Cairo, who works in Heliopolis. His very simple post on the internet blog, shows the meaning of Heliopolis for the regular people living in Cairo and its position in the city.



The Basilica Notre Dame, one of the biggest Churches in Cairo.



A pretty looking Church, I have no idea what it is called.



Beware of

Check out my hood – Korba
 I live in the city centre of Cairo, but I work in a place called Korba, which is the old, European style centre of Heliopolis, the big suburban apartment jungle on the edge of Cairo. Heliopolis started out with good intentions, a crazy Belgian aristocrat decided to build a newer, classier city for the rich Cairenes, out on the edges of the dilapidated inner city. The epicentre of Heliopolis is Korba, a very cosmopoli-

tan styled urban centre, much more relaxed, pedestrian-oriented and clean than the rest of Cairo. It has a really laid back feeling about it – and features a bunch of things you don’t see in other areas of Cairo – lots of Churches, thanks to the area’s early Christian character, beer being sold everywhere (hat tip again to the Christians), and lots of big green trees, throwing generous shade over colonial style mansions, villas and promenades.

Korba is home to one of Cairo’s best Fuul and Taamaya (Fefafel) joints – the legendary original Shaabrawy, who make as good a fefafel sandwich as you are likely to get anywhere in this fine city. I have enjoyed many a 2LE (30 cent) lunches thanks to Shabraawy’s high quality sandwiches – the Taamaya (fefafel) and Eggplant sandwiches are my favourites.

———— Tom Gara



Armenian Cult. Clubs!



Baghdad Street in Korba, home of my daily lunch pilgrimage to Shaabrawy.



A fruit seller inspecting his goods on Baghdad Street



This tree had such soft, shiny needles, waving in the breeze - it reminded me of a girl who has just shampooed her hair. I wanted to run my fingers through it. The building behind it is pretty classy as well...

Tom Gara

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