






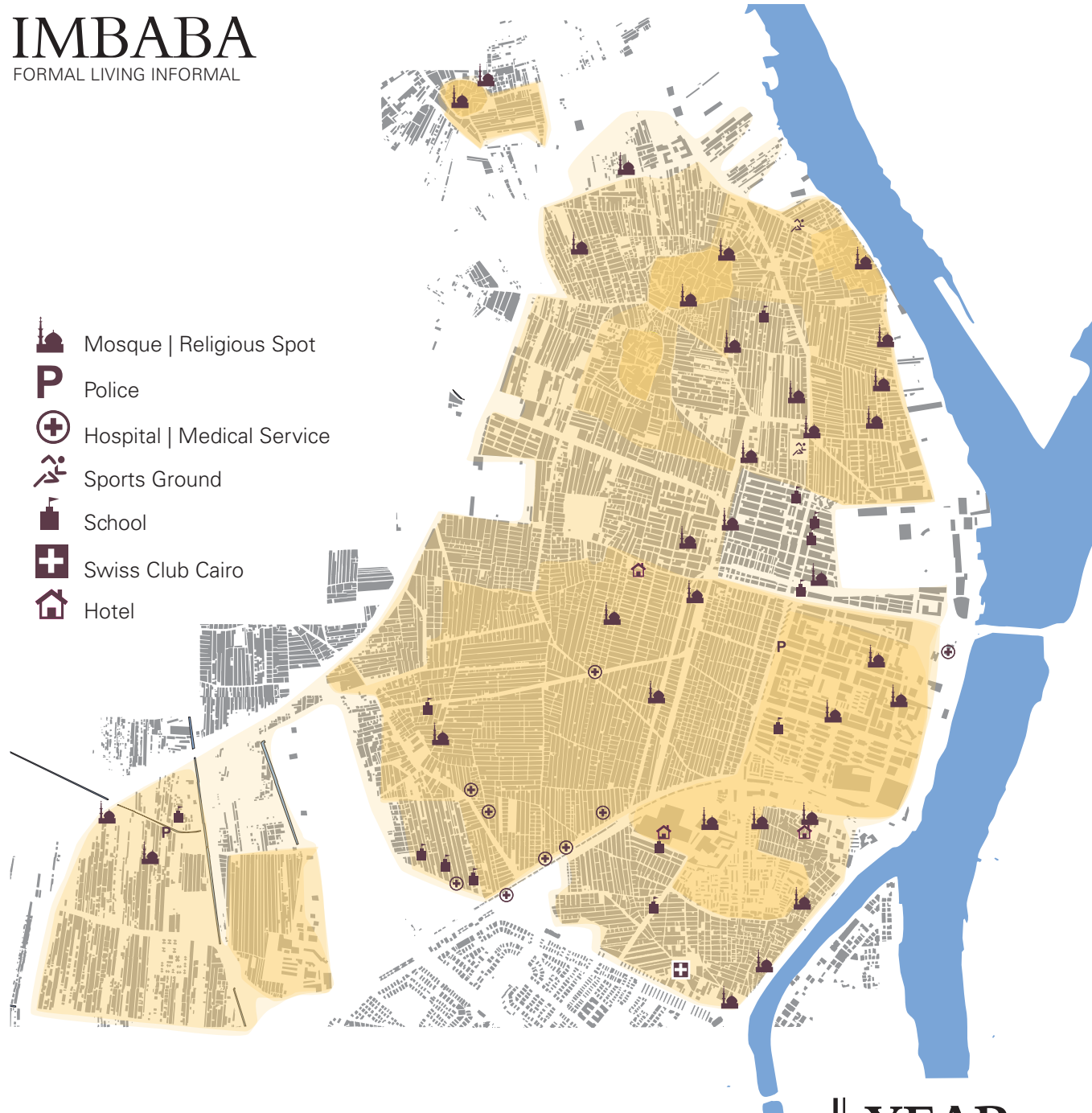








# IMBABA

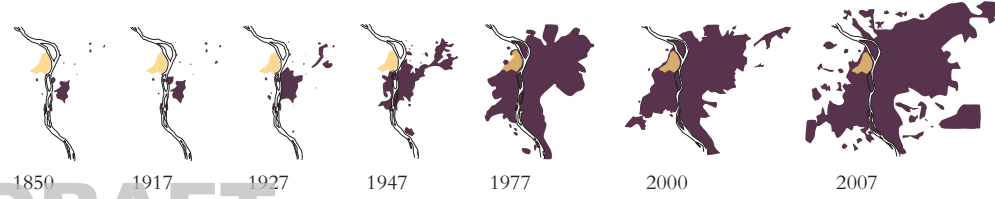
FORMAL LIVING INFORMAL

-  Mosque | Religious Spot
-  Police
-  Hospital | Medical Service
-  Sports Ground
-  School
-  Swiss Club Cairo
-  Hotel



## YEAR

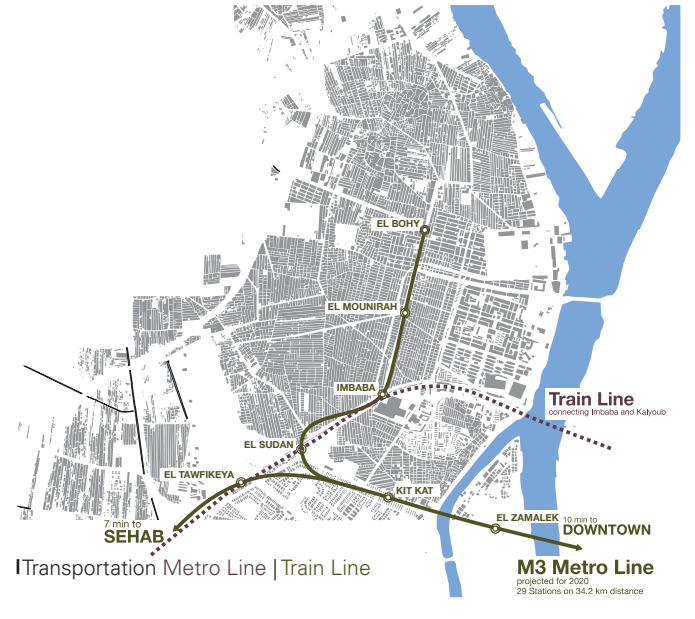
-  2000
-  1993
-  1977
-  1950 - 1960
-  Core Village
-  formal origin



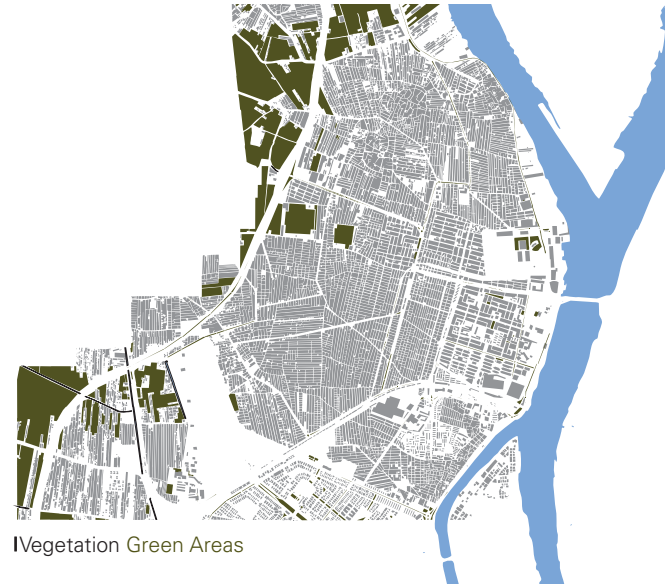
**DRAFT**  
© ETH Studio Basel



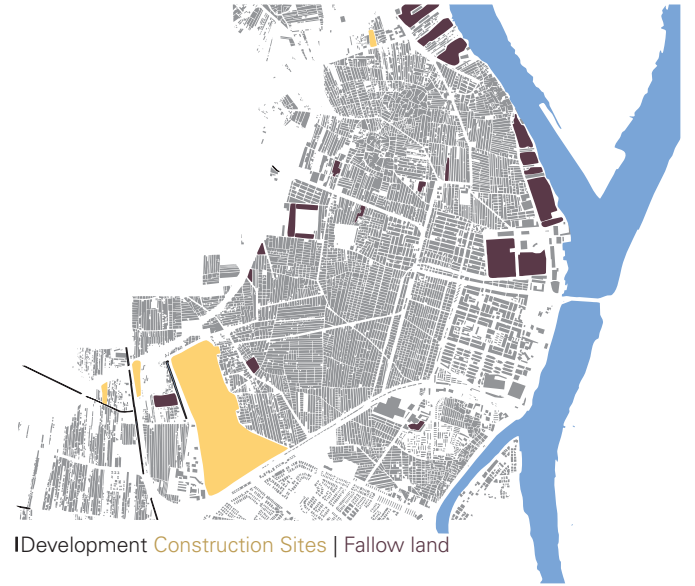
I Streetplan Main Streets | Sub Streets



I Transportation Metro Line | Train Line  
**M3 Metro Line**  
projected for 2020  
 29 Stations on 34.2 km distance



I Vegetation Green Areas



I Development Construction Sites | Fallow land

## Continuity in progress

As a rural area for an intensive cultivation in the osmanic period Imbaba transformed until today into a high densed living area for about 700 thousand people. We considered the different periods of its origin as a living district of cairo. Besides the spreading around the core villages, the district emerged to the east from the initial points of the public housing projects initiated in the Nasser-era in the 1960s. As well as the rural exodus caused by the degradation of the Nile-delta lead to the enormous development in this area. Bounded by the ringroad the growth spread out horizontally first. In El Mounirah (in the south of Imbaba) there can be three periods verified. 1) the beginning settlement, 2) the filling up and finally 3) the saturation from which on the growth goes vertically later. According

to that the case study of El Mounirah can be seen as an example for the development of Imbaba. The irrigation pattern formerly used for the intensive cultivation of rice is still present in the landmodel of today. The canals were transformed during the years into main streets. The actual grid was formed by the procedure of the land use in which each lot after the transaction set back for 1-2m and creates in the end the accessroads with a width of 3-4m which is significantly for the density of Imbaba. The physiognomy of Imbaba appears as a bricolage of different typologies next to each other, where in fact a difference of informal and formal cannot be made any more.

# DENSITY & STRUCTURE

PARALLEL TYPOLOGIES



„The unofficial way of building permits ongoing development.  
 [...] An extension becomes necessary if the family grows or the  
 financial position becomes better.“

Rheinhard Goethert, 1986



**67%**

30° 6'8.94"N | 31°12'43.41"E  
 founded before 1950 A.D.  
 informal origin

1 m Road width



**44%**

30° 5'54.28"N | 31°12'10.51"E  
 founded approx. 2000 A.D.  
 informal origin

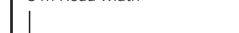
5 m Road width



**59%**

30° 5'24.82"N | 31°12'59.85"E  
 founded approx. 2000 A.D.  
 informal origin

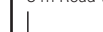
8 m Road width



**74%**

30° 5'17.95"N | 31°12'3.58"E  
 founded approx. 1993 A.D.  
 informal origin

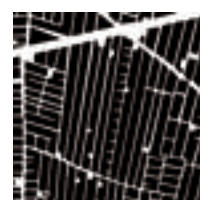
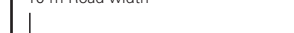
3 m Road width



**47%**

30° 4'57.10"N | 31°13'3.14"E  
 founded 1950 - 1960 A.D.  
 formal origin

10 m Road width



**72%**

30° 4'54.03"N | 31°12'20.99"E  
 founded 1970 A.D.  
 informal origin

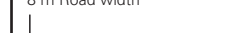
2 m Road width



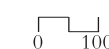
**38%**

30° 4'24.39"N | 31°12'49.86"E  
 founded 1950 - 1960 A.D.  
 formal origin

8 m Road width



Impressions



specific Data

# EL MOUNIRAH

A CHARACTERISTIC EXAMPLE OF URBAN DEVELOPEMENT

1500-1800  
Osmanic  
period

1798  
french invasion -  
monarchy

1805  
Muhammed Ali

1869  
Completion Suez-  
canal

1902  
Completion Assuan-  
dam

1945  
Support of working  
class housing

1952  
Military  
putsch  
Nasser in power  
Socialism

1971  
Completion of the  
new Assuan-  
dam

1973  
Oktoberkrieg „The  
Crossing“

III. 08, El Mounirah 1940



## Beginning Settlement

The rural area with its typical physiognomy of oblong shaped lots was used for an intensive cultivation since the osmanic period. We consider that the informal settlement of this area starts around the 1950s and goes hand in hand with formal housing-projects in this time.



III. 11, Ricefarmer in the Nile-delta

## Irrigation

The long existing canals were built for the irrigation of the fields as well as drainages



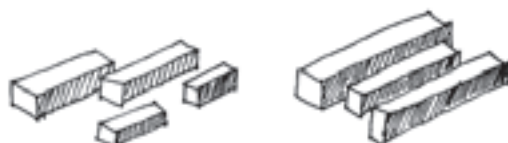
Development of housing without rural references

III. 09, El Mounirah 1977



## Filling Up

The Nationalization in 1961 as well as the progressive Degradation of the Nile-Delta because of the salination intensified rural Exodus and lead to a densification of El Mounirah.



III. 12, Irrigation canal used as garbage depot

## Dewatering

After the canals lost their importance they were used as garbage disposals



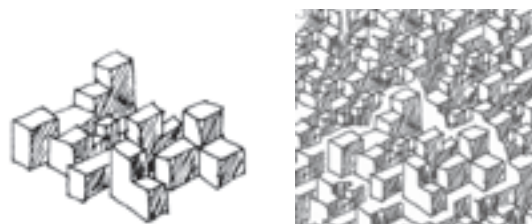
Merging lots or reduce them into smaller pieces

III. 10, El Mounirah 2010



## Saturation

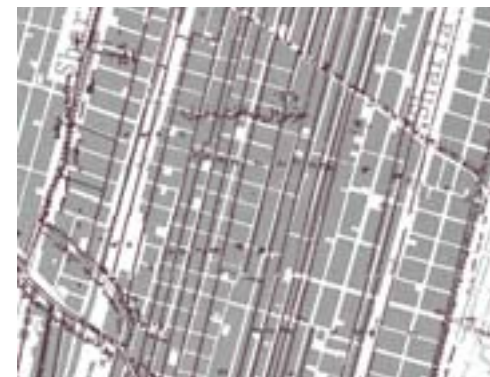
The horizontal urban development in El Mounirah is bounded and ends in a vertical spread. A development which is characteristic for the whole district Imbaba.



III. 13, One of the „main“-streets in Imbaba

## Re-Design

In consequence of the growing health-problem the canals were filled up and re-designed as main streets in a way that makes them still present in the landmodel today



One to One Application of the rural grid into the housing block pattern

## SOURCES

**Goethert, R. (1996). Kairo - Zur Leistungsfähigkeit inoffizieller Stadtrandentwicklungen.**

Köln: Deutscher Gemeindeverlag und Verlag W. Kohlhammer GmbH

## IMAGE CREDITS

**III. 1 - 7**

extracted vom Google Maps. Different Authors.

**III. 08, 09**

**Reinhard Goethert: „Fallstudie El Mourinah“**

Kairo - Zur Leistungsfähigkeit inoffizieller Stadtrandentwicklung“, Köln, 1986, S. 188-189

**III. 10**

**„Actual Siteplan of Imbaba“**

Extracted from Google-Streetmaps

**III. 11**

**„Reisbauer im Nildelta“**

[http://www.wdr.de/wissen/wdr\\_wissen/programm-tipps/radio/10/03/08\\_1605\\_5.php5](http://www.wdr.de/wissen/wdr_wissen/programm-tipps/radio/10/03/08_1605_5.php5)

**III. 12**

**„Irrigation canal in Cairo“**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/hahagab/2309168692/>

**III. 13**

**„Imbaba-Images“**

Photos taken by Manuel Herz

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS