



Promenada Institute of Performing
Arts

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Abstract

Purpose of this research is to design an Art Institution in Al-Fustat and at the same time to choose the right time of art that will help in reviving the art itself and how it will belong to the site. To revive the site, the chosen art, theatre will help in achieving the main point as it was one of the important activities that people back then used to entertain themselves, and fulfill their free time special in Al-Fustat. To show will it be useful for the upcoming generation to get to know more about old theatre rather than the modern theater. How will the study of the context will help in solving the building and where the important spaces will be located. How it will contain sustainable environment.

Due to the type of the art theatre and special promenade theatre as people back then used to walk in the street and immediately starts to act and how audiences used to interact and comment on the act and if there any scene they want to change. But all of this is not there anymore, as modern theatre took over and separated the actors from the audiences by creating stage and curtains. These additions reduced the interconnection that used to be found among people in villages. So, by trying to revive the spirit of the village and adding the type of promenade theatre to the art institution, to recreate the spirit of interconnection between the students and teachers. As it was one of Tawfik al Hakim's innovation is to revive the old spirit of theatre as it used to be found around in any village in Egypt back then and by creating zones called al Halaqa which is known now as "promenade theatre" and to bring back the type of groups like "Al Samir group" that used to go around in villages and start to act as people get to surround them and interact with them. Why this site will help the project to rise as this site is full with art spirits from long ago as they used them for entertaining in their free time like writing stories, acting, singing or playing music. To put in to consideration how to solve the elevation as it will be on the south and this side will contain the best view according to the context.

This Research will build data through gathering it from articles written by Tawfik Al hakim and articles about the theatre and how it was powerful back then to how its people stopped talking about it. As for the context by visiting the site and by searching for the site's History what it used to be famous for how people used to live in it, how they used to entertain themselves and so on.

Historical Background

Background of AL-Fustat

- El- Fustat the **first capital** of Egypt, under the Islamic rule.
- It is a part of **Old Cairo District**. And one of the most deep-rooted places in Greater Cairo.
- The city overlooks a rare natural lake; **Ain El Sira**.
- The city is **visually connected** to most historical urban sites of Greater Cairo.¹
- **National Museum of Egyptian Civilization**, located in the city.
- Also, you can find churches from the **Roman era** and from the **Coptic era**.
- The **Islamic Cairo** in the north and the **Mohammad Ali Citadel** in the north-east.¹



Location: Cairo, Egypt.



Egypt's national project in 2022: Al-Fustat Garden Restoration

¹ <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/100636/Old-Cairo%20%99s-Ain-el-Sira-From-a-slum-area-into#:~:text=Ain%20el%2DSira%20Lake%20is,Abou%20Seifein%2C%20and%20the%20Virgin>

Analysis of surrounding context

1.Fustat Park⁴



- Good space for gatherings

2.The national museum of Egyptian civilization⁵



3.Al-Kashf Cemetery



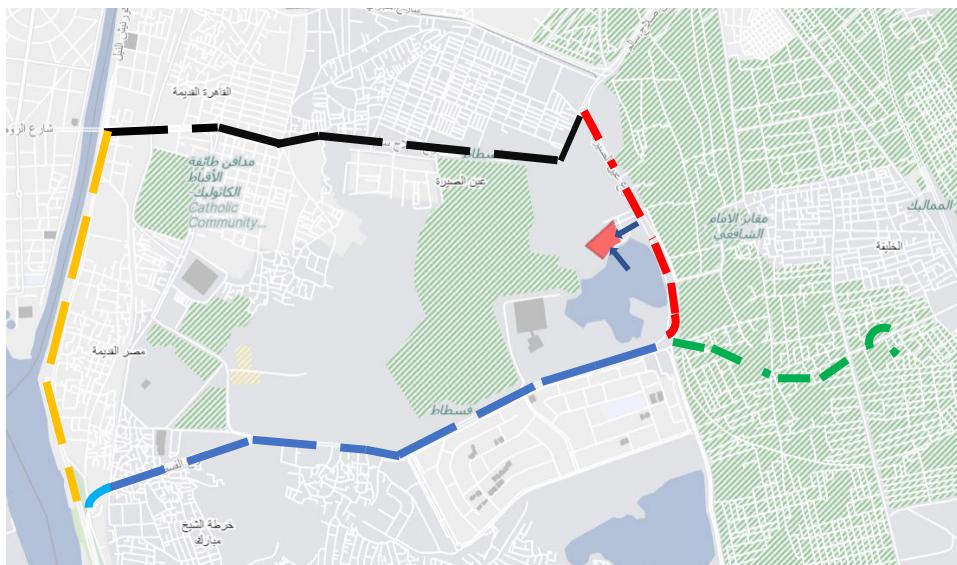
As the museological institution (NMEC) will reflect the various culture aspects of Egypt's rich history through adopting aesthetically and technologically advanced methods used at the renowned museums.(It will benefit the students to go and learn about the multicultural and come back to the art institutions to reflect it in an artistic way)

2. <https://theculturetrip.com/africa/egypt/articles/cairos-most-beautiful-national-parks-and-gardens/>

3. <https://nmecc.gov.eg/museum-history/> 6 <https://googlemaps/> (access 6-2022)

Land use Maps and analysis

Accessibility:



Al Fustat map³



Design Response

— — Salah Salem st

— — Fustat st

— — Old Cairo st

— — Civilization Museum Bridge

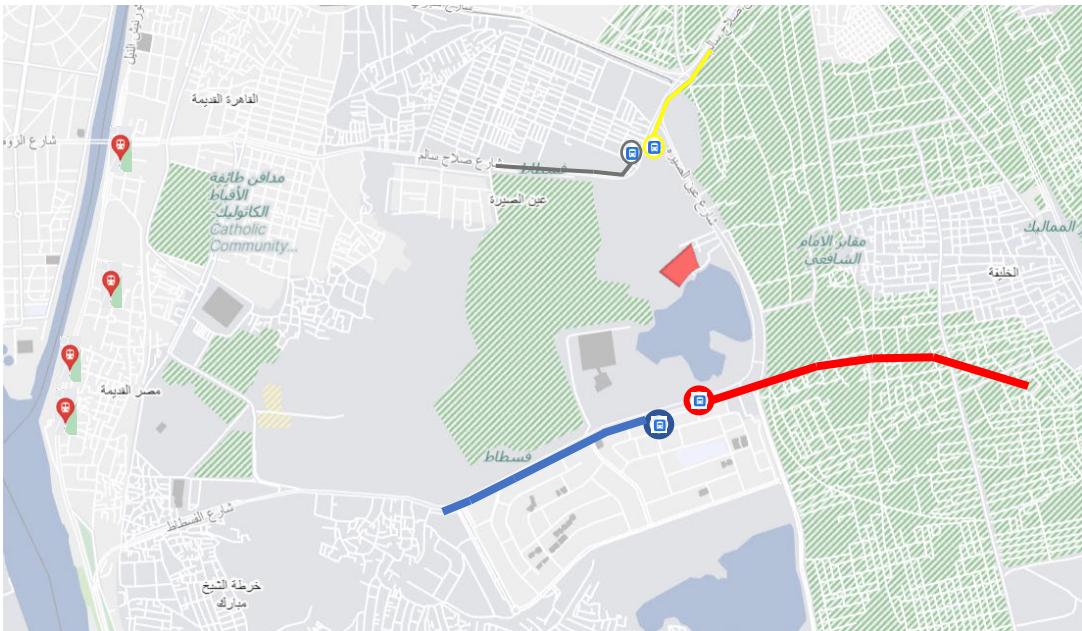
— — Nile Corniche st

■ Site

→ Entrances of the site

SITE ANALYSIS

Public Transportation:



Al Fustat map¹

 From Civilization Museum Bridge
Drop off Misr al qadema Police
Department

 — From salah salem

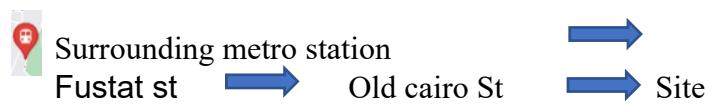
From Fustat st
Drop off Misr al qadema Police
Department

 — From salah salem



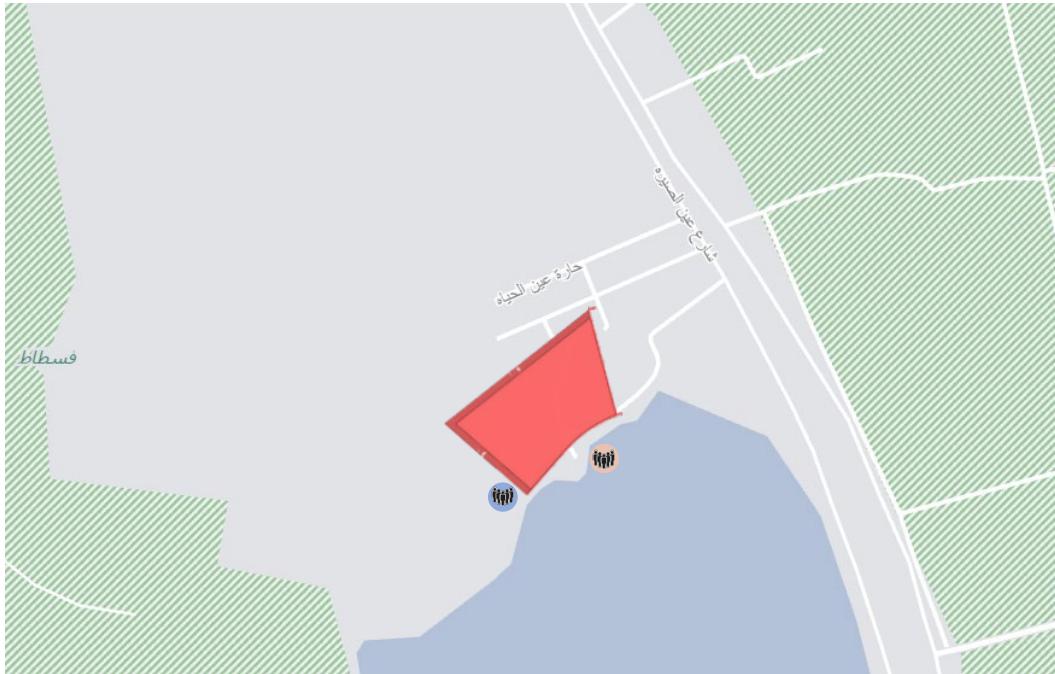
Design Response

The nearest metro station:



Land use Maps and analysis

Social Gathering:



Al Fustat map⁸



Social Gathering near the lake will be high as it contains a pedestrian street where people will mostly meet.



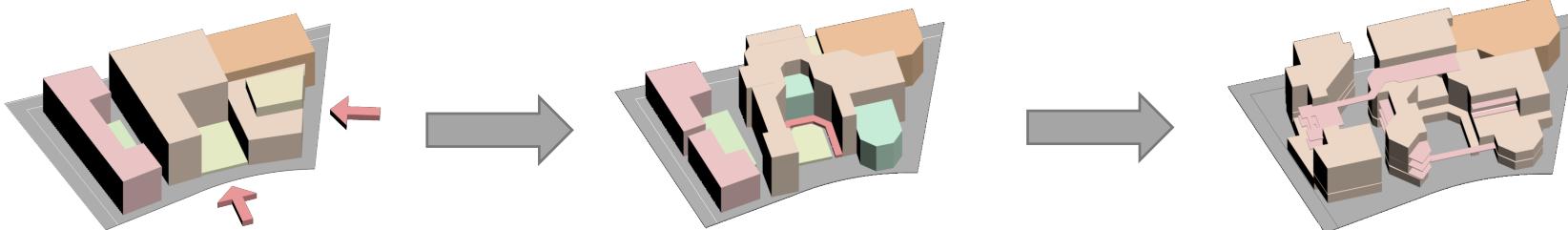
Social Gathering near the NMEC museum where there will be food court that will gather the visitors and that leads to high social gathering.



Design Response

Conclusion

| Strength | Weakness | Opportunities | Threats |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diverse in different age ranges and interests. ○ Cool air resulting from neighboring lake. ○ Site over looking rich historical buildings ○ Salah Eldin citadel “view from the site” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ‘Poor social community’ No spaces for hanging out and socializing, ○ Poor integration between different community levels. ○ Open spaces used as disposal areas instead of green areas. ○ High air pollution due to burning wastes . ○ one of the site views faces the cemetery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Talented craftsmen all around the site, open for social integration and development. ○ NMEC museum will help to recognize the art institution around the area . ○ Site is over looking the lake ○ Historical monuments are inspiring to younger generation. ○ The site location has more void compared to the solid so it will make our building standing out | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High poverty rates. ○ high ways in direct contact to the site. |



PERFORMING ART

The oriental institute at the university of Chicago (February 17 to September 13, 2015) sent archeologist to Fustat city to explore more items where they figured that :

- Fustat is a **Cosmopolitan City started from 642 AD**, where Muslims, Christians and Jews in Old Cairo introduced the urban world of Islamic Egypt.
- Material indicates that there were a variety of languages spoken at early Fustat, including **Greek, Coptic, Arabic, and Hebrew, along with other Middle Eastern languages**.
- Urban communities in this city lived together and melded their traditions to create an **ever-growing, multicultural society** during the seventh to twelfth centuries ad.
- Scholars now consider these documents to be one of the most important sources for understanding how people lived in the Middle East during the medieval period. **including religious and administrative documents along with the earliest surviving fragment of the musical Nights, and they found a paper written on it Alf Leila w Leila play, (which shows how they used to be interested in performing arts).**
- Archaeological finds throughout Fustat suggest that its many neighborhoods were united by a **common urban, cosmopolitan way of life**. For instance, people throughout the city shared traditions of cooking, craftsmanship, games, and stories, no matter in what community its people belonged.¹



Different Religion



paper-and-ink page from the *1001 Nights*, date of 879 CE

7. <https://www.aramcoworld.com/Articles/January-2016/In-Fragments-from-Fustat-Glimpses-of-a-Cosmopolit>

Why Performing Arts (Theatre)?

There no one working in theatre knows how theatre started in Egypt or how it revived the Arabic culture and how other countries get to know more about theatre. Then there are some proofs that this kind of art started long ago in Egypt and how their main aim was to spread the Egyptian culture around Egypt.

People like Al Samir group used to walk around in villages found in Egypt and start to act as audience get to surround them and start to give some comments about the scenes they like and the scenes they don't like. So this type of theatre the main aim to create interconnection between them and the audience, as modern theatre took over the old way and created a gap between the actors and the audience.

So Tawfik Al Hakim in his article "Qalbna al Masrhi" " قالبنا المسرحي" about how modern theatre took over and made people to forget about the origins of theatre and how it used to get connected with the audience instead of excluding them. He want to bring back the old theatre as he wrote a play called "Alzmar" "الزمار" talking about the group of Al Samir. As he wanted to create a place for this type of theatre, so Yussif Idris another writer took Tawfik Al Hakim innovation and came up with the idea of Al Halaqa where actors get to stand in the middle to act and audiences stand around them to see any scene from the perspective they want and get to comment on anything and this type of theatre nowadays is called promenade theatre and is not known as modern theatre.

So why this type of art and In this place ?

Because as this location Al-Fustat used to be full of arts where people used to gather in their courtyard to sing or to act or to tell stories in al Qahwa and people get to interact with each other by bringing back this type of theatre to its origin place will help the students to learn from each other will create the interconnection and sympathy used to between people back then.



Tawfik Al Hakim



Promenade Theatre

Theatre Required Spaces

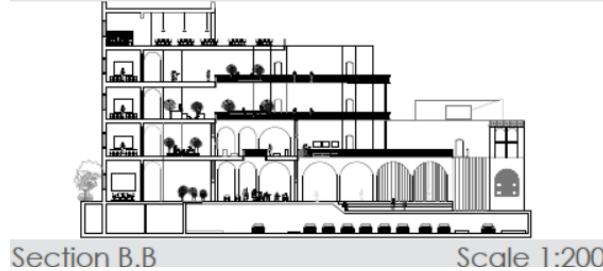
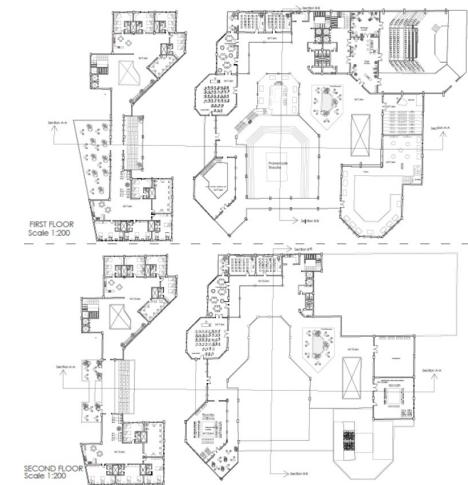
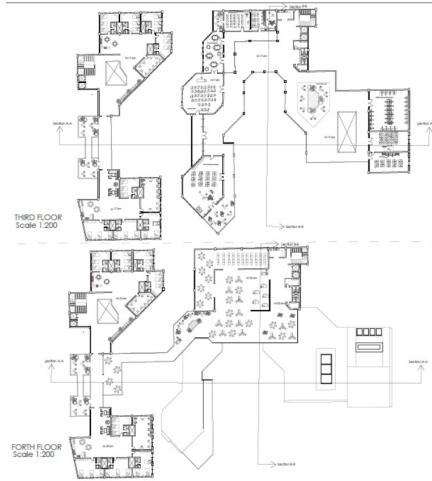
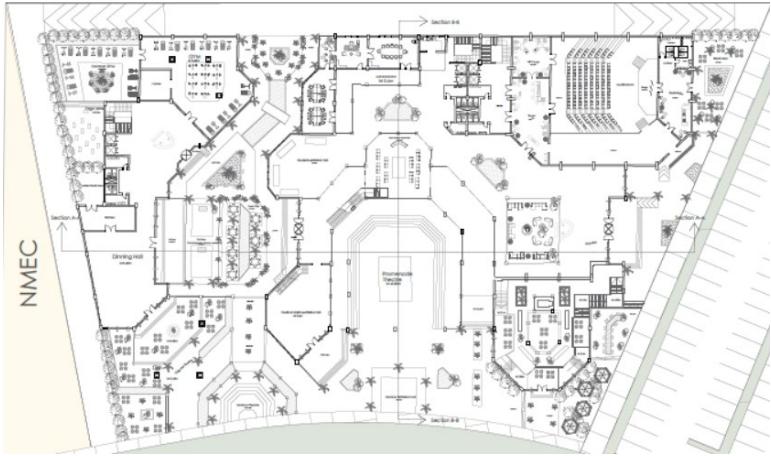
| Course name | Credit hours | Rooms |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Introduction to Technical Theatre | 3 hours | -Lecture rooms -Studios |
| Directing | 3 hours | -Lecture room |
| Acting | 3 hours | -Lecture room -Studios -Workshops |
| Play analysis | 3 hours | -Lecture room |
| Advanced Theater Practicum | 3 hours | -Lecture room |
| Dramatic Theory and criticism | 3 hours | -Lecture room |
| Senior Thesis | 3 hours | -Lecture room |
| Drama in Context 1: Greek to English | 3 hours | -lecture room |
| Renaissance | | |
| Drama in Context 2: Italian Renaissance to Modern | 3 hours | -lecture room |
| Drama in Context 3: Modern and Contemporary | 3 hours | -Lecture room |
| Acting in Arabic | 3 hours | -Lecture room -Studios |
| Arabic Drama | 3 hours | -Studios |
| Make up for the theater | 3 hours | -Workshops |
| Playwriting | 3 hours | -Lecture room -Studios |
| Stage lightening | 3 hours | -workshops |
| Costume design for theater and film | 3 hours | -Lecture room -Studios |
| Vocal methods | 3 hours | -Workshops -Studios |

| Course Name | Credit Hours | Rooms |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Introduction to music technology | 3 hours | -Lecture room -Computer labs |
| Musical Theatre History | 3 hours | -Lecture room -Studios |
| Musical Theatre Performance | 3 hours | -Studios -Theater |
| Musical Theatre Dance Styles: Landmark Choreographers | 2 hours | -Studios -Workshops |
| Digital Mixing techniques | 3 hours | -Computer Labs |
| Music production using protools | 3 hours | -Labs |

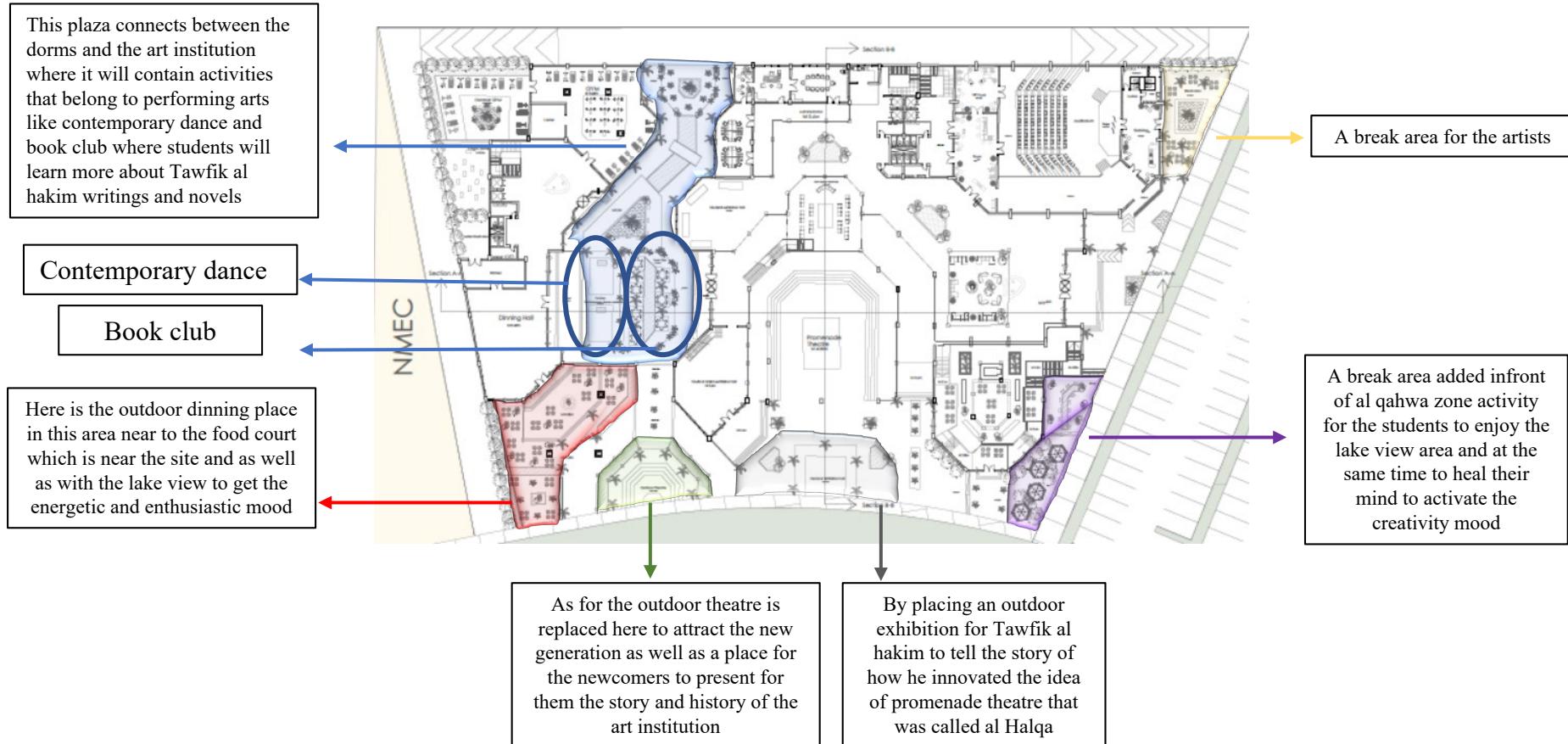
Conclusion of spaces and specs

| No. | ACTIVITY NAME | Capacity / Person | Activity Mood (Indoor Quality) | Dimension (X-Y) m | Height [m] | Outdoor Req. |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Entrance Hall | | Welcoming | 35*20 m | 6m | ---- |
| 2 | Exhibition hall. | | interaction | 25*16 m | 5m | |
| 3 | Gallery hall. | | Dynamic | 12.5*8 m | 4.5m | |
| 4 | An Auditorium Hall. | 0.7m | Focusing | 32*25 m | 8m | ----- |
| 5 | VIP Lounge area. | 1.7 m2 | cozy | | 4m | |
| 6 | Lecture classroom& Studio. | 0.6m2 | Collaborative | 8*6 m | 3.5m | ----- |
| 7 | Workshop space. | | Multimode | 10*7 m | 4m | ---- |
| 8 | Seminar & Audiovisual room. | 2.5m | focusing | 8*6 m | 4m | ----- |
| 9 | Library (Electronic& physical. | 2.7m | Comfort productivity | 25*12 m | 4m | |
| 10 | Co-working space. | | Socializing | 20*15 m | 5m | |
| 11 | Research center. | | Inclusion | 12.5* 8m | 3.5m | ----- |
| 12 | Laboratory space. | | Productive | 3-5 300 | | ----- |
| 13 | Administrative offices. | 6 m | Intimate | 8 (6*4 m) | 3.5m | ----- |
| 14 | Academic offices. | 6 m | Intimate | 8 (6*4m) | 3.5m | ----- |
| 15 | HR, PR, finance offices. | 6 m | Intimate | 6 (6*4m) | 3.5m | ----- |
| 16 | Rest & Design areas. | | Individuality creativity | | | |
| 17 | Meeting hall. | 1.5m2 | Divergent thinking | 6 (6*4 m) | 4m | ----- |
| 18 | Restaurants / Cafes. | 1.5m2 | vitality | 25*16 m | 4m | |
| 19 | Bookstore& Stationary. | | | 12.5*8 m | 3.5m | ----- |
| 20 | Plotter hall. | | | 100 | 3.5m | ----- |
| 21 | Students Dormitory/ Unit. | | Feel at home | 8*7.5 m | 3.5m | |
| 22 | Gymnasium hall. | 1.5 m2 | Energetic | 15*10 m | 4m | |
| 23 | Toilets. | | | | 3m | ----- |
| 24 | Main Stair case. | | | | | ----- |
| 25 | Elevators/ 6 Persons. | | | 1.1 *1 m | | ----- |

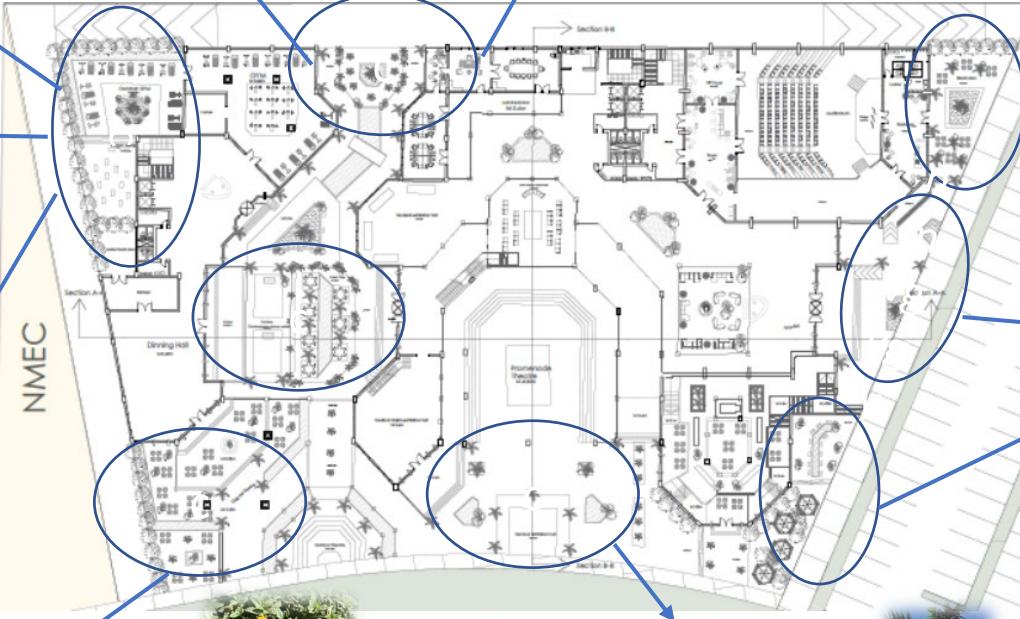
Project drawings



Reflections on landscape and outdoor design



Reflections on landscape and outdoor design



The site plan shows the layout of the NMEC complex, including buildings, walkways, and landscaped areas. Blue circles highlight specific zones for landscaping analysis.



Calliandra Haematocephala



Callistemon Viminalis



Ocimum basilicum



Tecomaria



Roystonea Rigia



Cassia fistula



Lantana camara



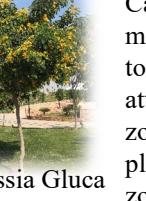
Duranta Erecta



wedelia



Catharanthus roseus



Cassia Gluca



Thevetia peruviana



Osteospermum

Calliandra Haematocephala and *Callistemon Viminalis* will be creating the hyper mood with all of the action that is shown in flower by the red color that will transfer the intense feeling with some help from *Ocimum basilicum* (Decorative shrub) to add the vibrant feeling

Lantana camara The staggering of colors from orange to yellow color to give the optimistic and energetic mood that is needed in the gym zone

Duranta Erecta festivity and alluring mood will be found in this zone with the help of *Cassia Gluca*, *Catharanthus roseus*, and *Wedelia* that will also transfer the cheerful and enjoyable mood

wedelia, *Catharanthus roseus*, *Cassia Gluca*, *Roystonea Rigia*, *Thevetia peruviana*, and *Osteospermum* will be added in the entrance to give a welcoming mood to the place and as well as *osteospermum* will be added to it fill the entrance with friendly mood. According to the palm the *Roystonea Rigia* palm will give and outstanding look

Ocimum basilicum *Tecomaria*

Conclusion and Proposal

Problem Statement:

Theatre went through vigorous changes due to the byproduct of the social and political movements that the Egyptian society underwent in less than century. The Egyptian theatre not only got affected by those political changes but also induced an integral influence on the Egyptian socio-political landscape especially from the 50s until the mid- 70s.

It was during those years that the Egyptian theatre witnessed a golden age transitioning to a rapid phase of deterioration which lead to a big gap between the theatre and the audiences. This changes became problematic when Arab theatre, influenced by western trends, assigned a silent role to its spectators and divided space into stage and auditorium with a curtain in between

Keywords:

Interconnection

Sympathy

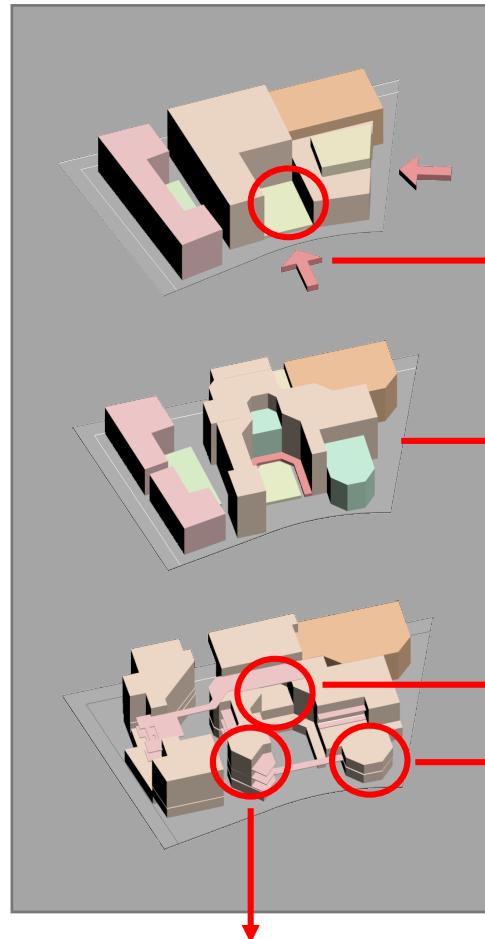
Pride

Vision:

Is to return the interconnection both actors and spectators in a physical exercise. And at the same time to create sympathy between the students.

Mission:

Aim of recreating interconnection by adding up activities that will let them interact together and to get to know each other better this will help in building the relationship between audience, space and the theatrical event.



Here is the promenade theatre where the students will interconnect together as well as opened to the lake view and pedestrian road for people to observe and for the new generation to get inspired so they could look forward in the future to study about the promenade theatre.

The green zones represents the activities that leads to the promenade theatre

Musician students area where they will come and surround each other to create a melody theme together

Al Qahwa area where they will enjoy hearing stories from other students like in old Egypt how people sit around each other to hear stories

Shots



Shots



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