

Project Brief

Duhok City Center Regeneration

Architectural Design Studio VII (Urban Design)

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Introduction

A city center is the area of a city where significant commerce, political, cultural and power is concentrated. It is often also the geographic center of a city. Typically, the city centre will be the first part of a city that was settled, making it the most historic area.

A city centre plays an important role in the economy of a city, since businesses benefit from the proximity that the centre offers. It is typically well-connected to other districts and suburbs, i.e. with good infrastructure and public transport links, and attractive in terms of employment, education and leisure time.

Efforts to improve city centres can be focused on ‘urban renewal’ or ‘regeneration’ to encourage and direct private finance into a particular area as a supportive measure where market forces have failed.

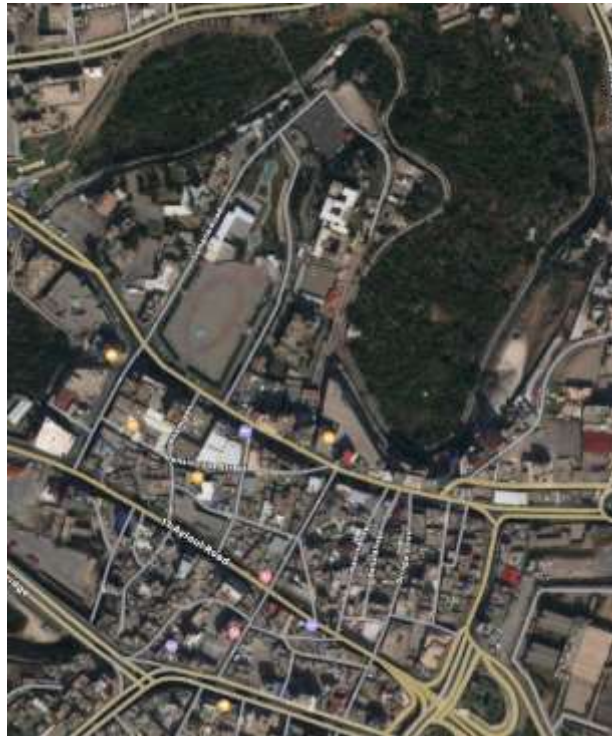
Densification is a term used by planners, designers, developers and theorists to describe the increasing density of people living in urban areas, particularly city centres which can often be the most expensive places to live in the city.

The concept of Urban Regeneration is “a comprehensive and integrated vision and action which leads to resolution of urban problems and which seeks to bring about a lasting improvement in the economic, physical, social and environmental condition of an area”

Objectives and Goals of Urban Regeneration process deals with actions leading to improving the physical structures of the cities (modernization, revalorization) combined with the improvement of economic and social situation of the community. Researchers identifies different goals and objectives of urban regeneration process can be defined: Architectural, associated with physical renovation of the distressed structures, both buildings and public infrastructure. Technical, associated with upgrading the technical state of the urban infrastructure, includes roads and sewerage. Social and Economic ones, associated with economic revival of the declined areas and restructuring of the society along with providing better chances for social groups that are for this or that reason excluded from the regular life; Environmental, as bad environmental situation is in many cases the major problem in distressed urban areas. Urban regeneration programs help in providing modern technical solutions to the problems of environmental pollution of different sort.

Problem Statement

Duhok city center like most other city centers is the oldest urban area. It is a location of many numerous historic buildings in the town such as the oldest mosques, church, schools and cultural centers in the city. Yet, these historic buildings have not been well preserved and presented for public and tourists. I has many problem with traffic which lately the government developed a plan to control it. However, traffic problem have not developed well. The city center does not have vibrant open and pedestrian areas apart from opening on town center square. In addition to that, due to the random development the city has problem with visual pollution, such as facades design, which need to be well studied in future. These problems and other need to be well addressed in future.



Hence, students are required to design a proposal for the Duhok city center regeneration. The project will go through different stages.

Design Requirements

- Determination of the current main problems of the urban area (strength and weakness). This should reflect a fully underusing of how the urban area is functioning currently in terms of routes, green area percentage, car parking area, existing buildings' function and articulations, sidewalks, and visual esthetic of the site.
- Determination of main facilities required for the site.
- Suggest demolition of some buildings on the area that will help develop the new design.
- Design of the new building masses for the demolished function and new suggested.
- Design of the open spaces, gathering point, green spaces, and pedestrian routes required. (The design should reflect the relation between masses and open spaces as well as with surrounding buildings.
- Develop a master plan for the historic buildings on the site to promote future tourism in the site.
- The proposal should suggest the design of building facades, with a unique and unified architectural style (this should include suggested materials of window styles, façade details, visual appeal...etc.
- Sustainability inclusion in terms, of renewable energy opportunities, water harvesting, maximum greenery, safe routes, building orientation and articulation, social improvement).

Design Phases:

Stage one (Data Collection): at this stage, students will work as a group on collecting the required data for the urban design. Data like (the existing site plan, topography configuration, main buildings' drawings, and their function, area of different types of functions, number of floors, pictures of the site and buildings, and 3d Model of the site, etc.). As well as students have to collect data on similar examples from regional countries, also other countries (international).

Stage Two (data analysis): the work in this stage is more intensive and essential for the design, as the main solutions of the design have to be formulated based on the analysis. At this level, students will work on analyzing the collected data to understand what are the weaknesses and strengths of the site. What are the required functions and what should be done on the next phase? Students should determine the Percentage of Green to Plot Area, Floor Area Ratio (FAR), and Maximum Ground Covering (MGC), the Parking area, routes to the site, and entrances, traffic problems, building façade and materials which are necessary to for analyzing the site.

Stage three (design suggestion): this is the design stage in which students should work individually, per the analyze student should suggest a new proposal of the site. At this stage, students should decide about buildings that need to be demolished and replaced with new buildings or converted to any other function, the buildings that would extend or kept. Additionally, they should suggest solution for the problems they found in the site and mentioned in the project brief.

Stage four: at this stage, students should work on detailing the masses with suggested architectural style. Façade should have more details to picture the proposed building on the site. Students should work on the details of the landscape, open spaces, greenery, and sustainable strategies..etc.

Deliverables

- Base case analysis: it should include analytic maps showing (existing routes to the site with parking and building entrances, green area, existing building area and functions, suggested building that should be demolished).
- Drawing of the suggested site plan showing existing building with proposed one, design of the open spaces and green area with pedestrians walk ways, car parking..etc.)
- 3D of the proposed site with the physical existing surroundings (2-3 aerial views, 1-2 for details of the buildings, 2-3 for green and open spaces and land marks on the site)
- Sustainable strategies inclusion (details drawing and figures showing the sustainable strategies used for the project with their description).
- Analytic maps for the improved design.
- Initial sketches and drawings showing how the design progressed.

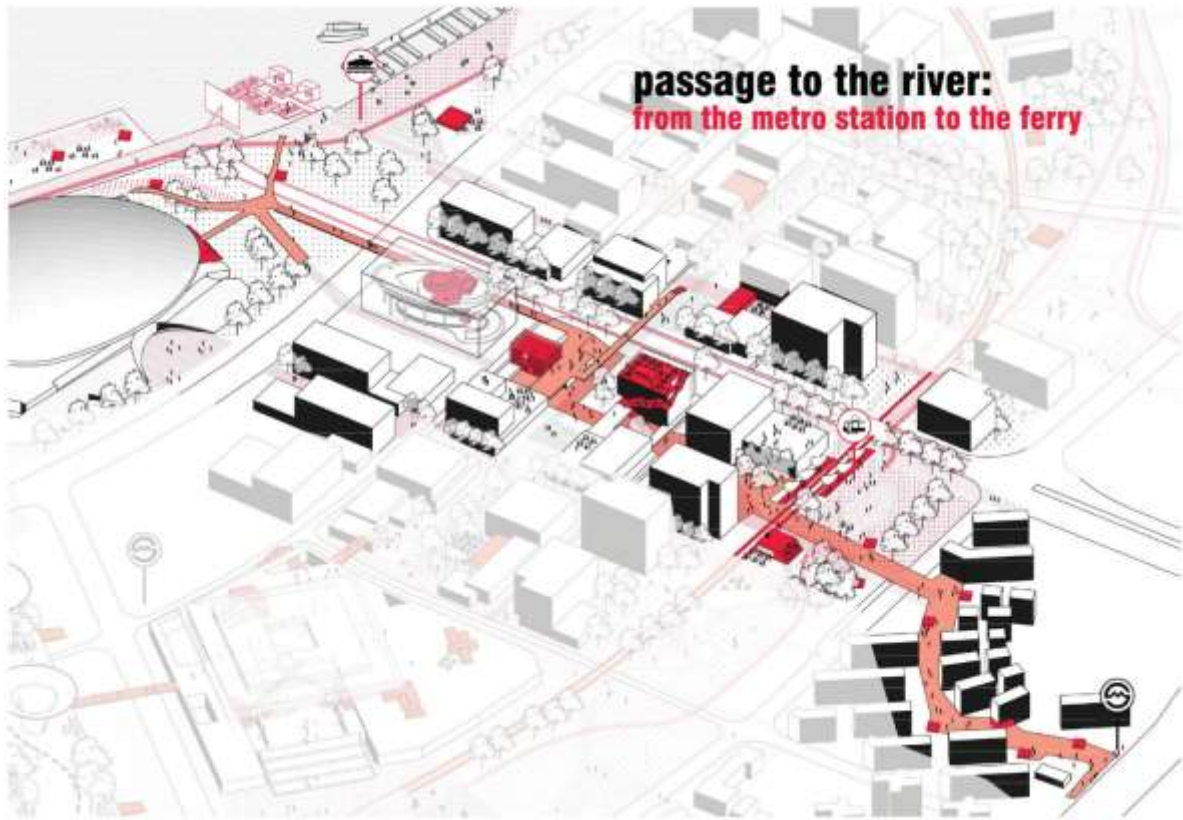
Useful links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hy4QjmKzF1c&feature=emb_logo

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xov7Ao_fPwQ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eF70E9osgrc>

https://issuu.com/jessieteh/docs/urban_design_strategy_-_northern_ea



This illustration board shows different sections of the same block to represent the passage of the 21st century which is not absolutely the first or the second or the third type, but the union and coexistence of all three. The passages are open to everyone and there are common ground between the three types that enable the 21st century man to choose and search for an authentic contact with his fellow man.