

BROWN BAG LECTURE

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The relevance of Egypt's urban challenges

Through the last few years he has been exploring mainly three different ecologies in Egypt. The first is Cairo and more specifically the edges of historical area and the Cairo University Campus. The second ecology is the Mediterranean coast, more specifically the city of Rasheed or Rosetta. The third ecology is the red sea coast and in particular the city of Qusier.

The exploration which is still an ongoing process focusses on four main challenges; Water, Energy, Food and mobility. Through the proposals elaborated through this explorations the main question is whether we can look at the enormous challenges those different ecologies as opportunities for rethinking what the design intelligence can contribute in the given complex political and economical context. The results that they are having up till now are indicating that what we can learn from this process can not be only limited to urban context of these ecologies.

Nabeel Elhady is an architect and professor of architecture at Cairo University. One of the main issues he is working on lately is the issue of 'sustainable' density in the Egyptian context. He initiated and organized for five years the annual architectural students' competition and is currently launching an urban innovations initiative. Beside the academic responsibilities he is a practicing architect through his private practice 'noon' since 1998, where he continuously attempts to blend theories with realities to bring about architecture that respects humanity and nature.

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