Palestine Regeneration Team (University of Westminster)

Murray Fraser, Nasser Golzani and Yara Sharif have set up the Palestine Regeneration Team (PART) to carry out a range of projects in Palestine.

Realising that the mainstream academic analysis on the behavior of the individual and the family, towards the neighborhood to the level of the Gaza Strip, is too abstract and unrealistic.

The participatory approach to housing and sustainable neighborhoods can only be achieved through inclusive community participation and revising the component with site-specific design interventions allowing the transition of the above principles into practical and realistic action.

Refurbish: Can a design achieve the new level of comfort? House: Could it be used against Gaz a house without another value without waste?

Rethink: Can a design achieve the new level of comfort? More climate-friendly designs for new housing units are achieved including improved passive ventilation techniques. In invisible technologies: changing daily practices, the way we use space, and the introduction of small scale technical interventions can go a long way in reducing water and energy consumption. This change from changing everyday household washing: lights off when possible, less energy consumption in washing clothes and reducing waste.

More climate-friendly designs for new technology teachers, from the sustainable handbook for design and technology teachers, 2008.

The Six Rs + One principles

Reuse, reduce, re-use, reduce, re-use, re-use.

The above principles formed the basis and impetus for the workshops. It focused on alternative approaches to everyday habitats. Key component in sustainable green practices.

The need for quick repairs to improve the living conditions in war-damaged houses remains urgent. Families should be empowered to take the lead in implementing emergency repairs, using creative and affordable technologies to achieve energy efficient solutions. Training should go hand in hand with awareness raising.

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The Six Rs + One principles are inspired from the Sustainable handbook for Design and Technology Teachers, 2008.

Building on the current condition and ongoing initiatives, the workshop allowed identifying pathways to advance towards more sustainable and greener Gaza.

Emergency repair and rehabilitation initiatives.

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The guidebook has emerged from the urgent need to provide immediate help and support for the individuals and families interested in self-help initiatives, the workshop allowed identifying pathways to advance towards more sustainable and greener Gaza.
Green Pilot Initiatives

Based on the engagement with the different housing actors during the workshop, pilot projects were identified which would allow for ongoing learning and shared awareness, test new ideas and build partnerships.

Pilot initiatives range from the neighborhood scale to the detailed scale of a building and include enhanced green spaces. The pilot would focus on retrofitting existing school buildings to create green roofs and walls. This can be integrated with a network of green roofs and walls throughout the neighborhood. The pilot focuses on developing partnerships between different stakeholders, engaging families and communities in the design and implementation of the initiatives. The Learning Room would be a space to explore appropriate building technologies and design solutions, including use of recycled materials, low-energy technologies, and innovative low maintenance innovations and energy-efficient designs. This would provide a platform for exchange and promotion of joint initiatives, while sustaining ongoing efforts of local residents.

Guidelines for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation for war affected individual housing focused mainly on crude repairs while rehabilitation of partially damaged buildings is slowly picking up. The Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, which started in 2008, made it impossible to supply the local market with legitimate building materials, preventing affected families from reconstructing their houses. Families across the Gaza Strip also face a lack of building materials due to the high cost of building materials. Limited quantities of building materials are being smuggled at high prices through tunnels under the Egypt border. The real housing needs and opportunities over 600,000 people in need of housing rehabilitation, community participation will be key to success.

The reconstruction of Al-Zaitoun neighborhood presents an opportunity to test new ideas. The families’ own improved green spaces and innovative techniques include use of natural space and passive measures to reduce the use of energy. Green roofs, grey water, green energy and waste recycling systems. Recycle grey and promote the creation of a ’Learning Room’ as a space to explore and experiment with self-help green initiatives.

The Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, which started in 2008 and continued until 2010, made it impossible to supply the local market with legitimate building materials, preventing affected families from constructing their houses. Families across the Gaza Strip also face a lack of building materials due to the high cost of building materials. Limited quantities of building materials are being smuggled at high prices through tunnels under the Egypt border. The real housing needs and opportunities over 600,000 people in need of housing rehabilitation, community participation will be key to success.

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Community Based Technical Training

Green stitching’ focuses on engaging communities in improving the environment within a neighborhood through planting and renovating public and private spaces at street level, introducing also green elements in the facade. Green stitching’ promises feasible and affordable ways of space. Joan Lovell in Al-Ittihad, as a pilot neighborhood, would include enhanced emergency awareness, creative use of buildings, walls and roofs, and green roofs, recycling materials throughout, and living walls and roofs. The pilot would focus on retrofitting existing school buildings to create green roofs and walls. This can be integrated with a network of green roofs and walls throughout the neighborhood. The Learning Room would be a space to explore and experiment with self-help green initiatives.

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