



AA VISITING SCHOOL MITTELMEERLAND 2

DUBROVNIK, **TANGIER** ALEXANDRIA, HAIFA, ISTANBUL, TRIPOLI

05-15.09.2011



Image: Yto Barrada

Programme

'(Social) space is a (social) product.' Henry Lefebvre

'Henry Lefebvre's theory opened up new ways of understanding of today's processes of urbanization and their conditions and consequences at any scale of social reality: from the practices of everyday life, through the urban scale, to the global flows of people, capital, information and ideas.' from the Conference Rethinking theory, space and production: Henry Lefebvre Today

Mittelmeerland is an architectural research project investigating the future of the Mediterranean Sea as a territory of water. Mittelmeerland will investigate the future of the Mediterranean and research six different cities over three years. In the second workshop we will study the dynamic territory of Tangier and the mutual dependencies of land and water. Unified by climate and the history of civilization, the Mediterranean region has the potential to be seen as a geographic unit. In the last century the Mediterranean has been separated through politics, religions, fear of clash of cultures etc. Over the next 15 years major Mediterranean port cities expect rapid changes, because of the growth of global trade and container shipping. The Mediterranean Basin among the four most significantly altered biodiversity hotspots on Earth.

What can each city do to turn the Mediterranean from one of the largest Hotspots of the world into an Ecospot? How can the Mediterranean Sea region position itself as a 'territory'? What does changing and shaping urban space mean for the 1:1 everyday use? Approaching cities from the sea we will discuss the dynamic „territory“ and dependencies of the water on land. A series of sessions will take place in Dubrovnik, Tangier, Tripoli, Istanbul, Alexandria and Haifa.

The history of Tangier is very rich due to the historical presence of many civilisations and cultures. Today the city is undergoing rapid development and modernisation benefiting greatly from the new Tangier Med port. Tangier is turning from an urban wasteland into a great cultural and commercial gateway between Africa and Europe. The project is part of the economic policy orienting Morocco towards exports, with particular emphasis on the free trade agreement with the European Union to be implemented by 2012. Tangier Med is located about 40km from old Tangier. A new highway along the coast links both ports.

Planned on an empty site, it is the largest port on the Mediterranean and went into service in 2007. The concept is to use the port's location – just 14km from Spain – to attract shipping traffic between east and west, passing through the Strait of Gibraltar. Jean Nouvel designed Tangier Med's administrative centre and will open this year. The success of the port has attracted many investors: a new city is starting to develop behind the port. How is the rapid growth of global trade affecting Mediterranean ports? What can Tangier do to turn the Mediterranean from one of the world's largest hotspots into a vibrant ecospot?

We will work on five different areas along the coastline analysing existing conditions and future projections, playfully utilising small-scale phenomena, translating found conditions into large-scale urban interventions and envisioning future changes. We will produce architectural portraits, urban biographies, video narratives and imaginative axonometric collages, which will culminate in a publication of the workshop's research. During the workshop a symposium will be held on 10 September, to examine 'social aspects' of the Mediterranean Sea 'territory'. This 'territory' is subject to specific dynamics and experiences, which have resulted in many artistic reflections. Speakers will include local and international experts, artists and urban researchers.

Programme Directors

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Sites



Methodology and Structure



Urban Potrait

We will select and survey 5 different areas along the coast and capture their specific genius loci. We will look at the Industrial harbour, its programming, different typologies: formal-informal, island-peninsulas-mainland, rural waterfronts, shanty towns, History, climate, culture, patterns of behaviour, migration and trade, routing, infrastructures, communication with locals, observation of social interaction etc. Students will split up into five teams and each team will be assigned a different area, which will be their subject of research during the whole workshop.

The programme will be structured in 4 modules (How to see, play ,act and tell?) Each module will last 2 days and by the Programme directors, AA Tutors and invited international or local experts. Modules:



Narrative Mapping

1. How to see? Urban Portraits / Special Guest: Yto Barrada, Sumita Sinha

2. How to play? Narrative Mapping / Special Guest: John Palmesino, Ann-Sofi Ronnskög

3. How to act? Landscape Ecology / Special Guest: Shany Barath, Takako Tajima, Ruedi Baur

4. How to tell? Imaginative Collages / Special Guest: *Chris Pierce*, Ruedi Baur

Research will be done by means of: 1. Taking measures by hand, 2. Interviewing inhabitants , 3. Taking photographs on site, 4. Writing short scenarios and critical statements, 4. Making axonometric line drawings with Illustrator, 5. Modelling Landscape and Data with Rhino, 6. Making Image Collages with Photoshop.



Landscape Ecology

We will have a general introduction, travel the whole coastline, public and internal lectures related to the topics of the modules, guided city walks and cultural events to explore the local context. We will invite local institutions and architects to participate as visiting critics or guide us through the sites or lectures about specific aspects. A mid -presentation of all 5 student groups will take place as part of the symposium.



Imaginative Collages

Timeschedule

1. Day - Monday 5.9.

Introduction (start at 10h)

- Who is Who
- Travel the Coast with Nawfal Bakhat visting: Tangier Old Port area, Ksar Segir, Tanger Med Port, Benyounech (13-18h)
- Evening Talk: Yto Barrada with Film Screening at the Cinematheque Tanger (20h)

2. Day - Tuesday 6.9.

How to see? Urban Potrait (start at 9.30h)

- Introduction Exercise 1: Urban Portrait with Yto Barrada, Medine Altiok and Stephanie Tunka
- Special Lectures: TMSA, SAPT and Tanger Urban Agency and Sumita Sinha (10-12h)
- Site visits in individual groups and research: Tangier Old Port area, Ksar Segir, Tanger Med Port, Benyounech and Ceuta (13-19h)
- Studio work
- Evening Lecture: Yto Barrada (20h)

3. Day - Wednesday 7.9.

How to see? Urban Potrait (start at 9.30h)

- Studio work and site visits
- Presentation of results Exercise 1 (18h): Urban Potrait+ Discussion with Yto Barrada, John Palemsino, Ann Sofi Ronskög, Nawfal Bakhat and guests.
- Cultural Event (20.00h): Sounds of the city at different locations

4. Day - Thursday 8.9.

How to play? Narrative Mapping (start at 9.30h)

- Introduction Exercise 2: Narrative Mapping with John Palmesino + Ann-Sofi Ronskög
- Lecture Medine Altiok and Stephanie Tunka
- Studio work
- Evening Lecture (20h): John Palmesino + Ann-Sofi Ronskög

5. Day - Friday 9.9.

How to play? Narrative Mapping (start at 9.30h)

- Studio work
- Lecture and City walk with Nawfal and Lunch at Darna
- Studio work
- Presentation of results Exercise 2 (18h): Narrative Mapping + Discussions with John

Palmesino + Ann-Sofi Ronskög, Ruedi Baur, Nawfal Bakhat and guests

6. Day - Saturday 10.9.

Symposium + Mid Presentation (start at 10h)

SALON DE RECHERCHE

- Morning Lectures: Teaching Team and local speakers
- Mid- Presentation of Workshop
- Afternoon Lectures: Ruedi Baur, Jean Nouvel (?)
- optional: dinner with all

7. Day - Sunday 11.9.

How to act? Landscape Ecology (start at 9.30h)

- Introduction to the Exercise 3: Landscape Ecology with Shany Barrath and Takako Tajima
- Lecture Medine Altiok + Stephanie Tunka
- Studio Work
- Evening Lecture (20h): Shany Barrath and Takako Tajima

8. Day - Monday 12.9.

How to act? Landscape Ecology (start at 9.30h)

- Studio work
- Presentation of results Exercise 3: Landscape Ecology + discussions with Shany Barrath, Takako Tajima, Nawfal Bakhat and guests

9. Day - Tuesday 13.9.

How to tell? Imaginative Collages (start at 9.30h)

- Introduction of Exercise 4
- Studio Work
- Evening Talk: Stephanie Gaou at the bookstore Les Insolites

10. Day - Wednesday 14.9.

How to tell? Imaginative Collages (start at 9.30h)

- Studio Work and preperation of the final presentation
- Evening Lecture (20h): Chris Pierce and guests.

11. Day - Thursday 15.9.

Final Presentation (start at 12.00h)

- Final Presentations in groups
- Award ceremony
- *Exhibition/ Projection in collaboration Cinematheque Tangier with snacks and drinks (?)*

Urban Portrait

How to see?

We study the local context: the Genius Loci understanding the sites and their specifics. What makes each location special? The as found situation is a key to describe the urban environment, one can learn about the lifestyle and the cultural identity of a city.

Each team will visit their site, collect and map as found situations, describe phenomenological and physical conditions: informalities, the relationship between house, street and sea, borders, history, vanacular climate solutions and use of material, patterns of behaviour, routing, infrastructure, communication with locals, routines, traditions, observation of social interaction etc. The Statics and Dynamics of the sites, Choice of a Spot, extract what Is happening there

Each Participant will develop a series oh photographs and collages which tell a story of an observation and spatial situations.

Urban Portrait will be taught in collaboration with Yto Barradas Studio.

Tools:
Camera, Photoshop,
Cardboard

Result:
One Serie of Photographs
collage per student and a
critical statement



Narrative Mapping

How to play?

We will introduce narrative mapping techniques and methods of visualizing information, diagrams, photos and collages. We will deal with the question, how water can form spaces. Based on these observations each team will identify and combine necessity for their area and develop a theme then to a narrative story then to an urban intervention that contribute to the cultural, contextual conditions of the site. The urban intervention shall consist of smaller very site specific interventions.

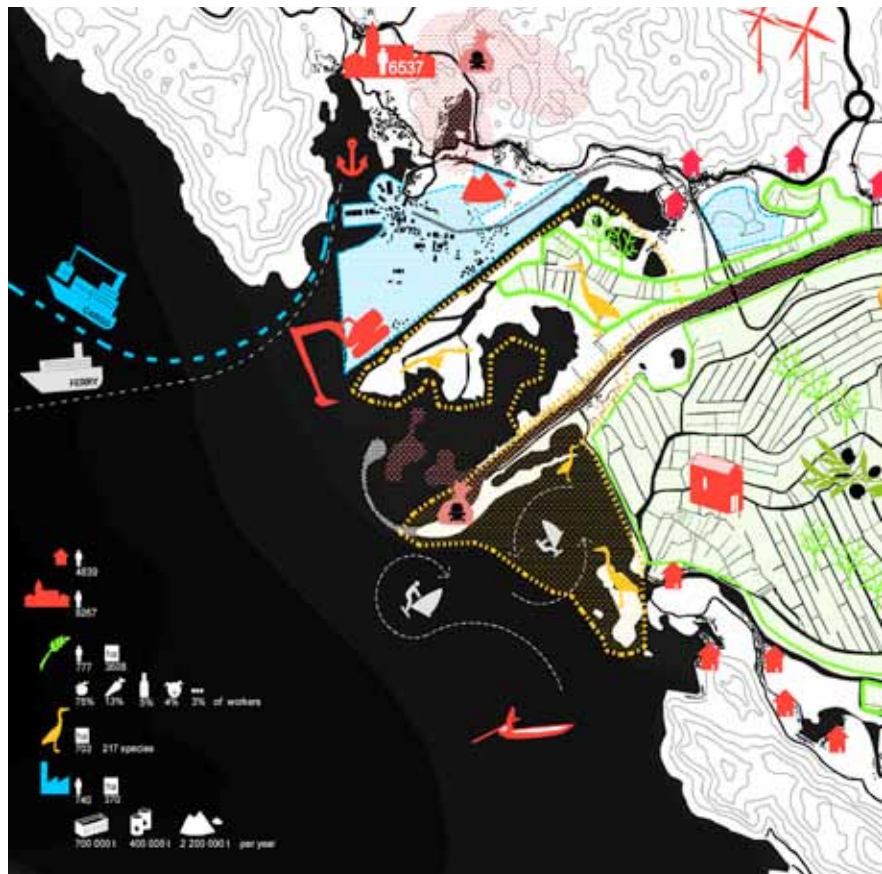
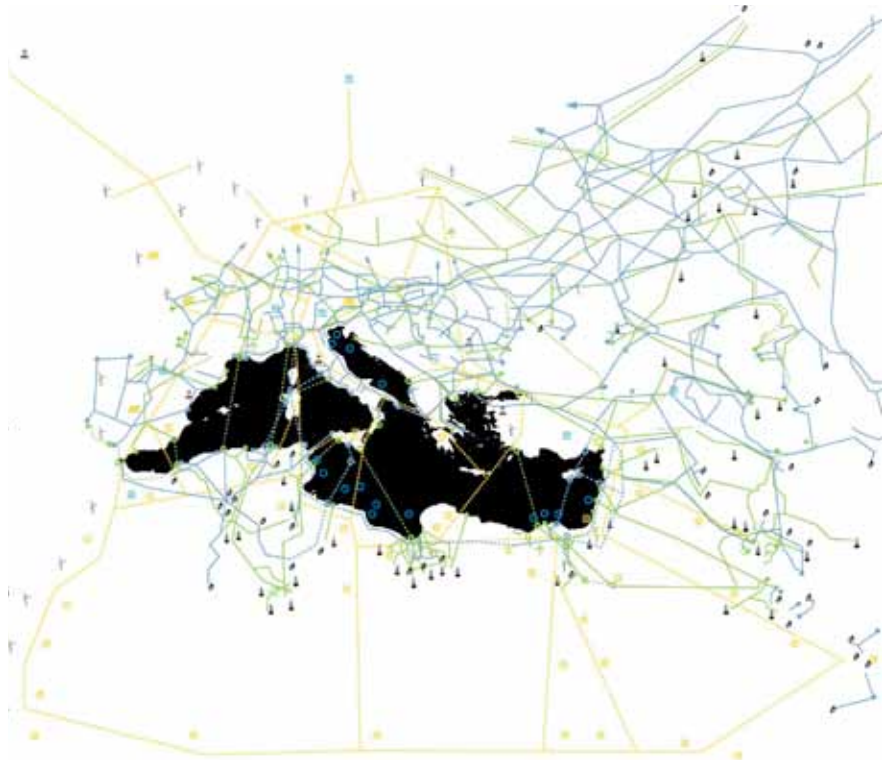
All what I know and all what I want to express goes into one Map. This Map relates different information at different scales and tells the story of the site, its physical, social, historical and environmental context.

A group of five people will develop one narrative drawing containing the story of the whole an area.

Mapping will be taught in collaboration with John Palmesino and Ann Sofi Ronskög

Tools:
Handsketches, Illustrator, Auto-CAD, Photoshop

Result:
one narrative map per area.



Landscape Ecology

How to act?

We will move from the 2D mapping into 3D modelling of the landscape, insert the phenomenological observations and physical conditions in this map and suggest interventions.

We will translate invisible information such as climate, trade and migration into new visible layers and created new representations and interpretations of the area. We will insert spatial fragments and tell the story of the edge between Land of Water by using the technique of the wrong perspective. We will combine different viewpoints and scales.

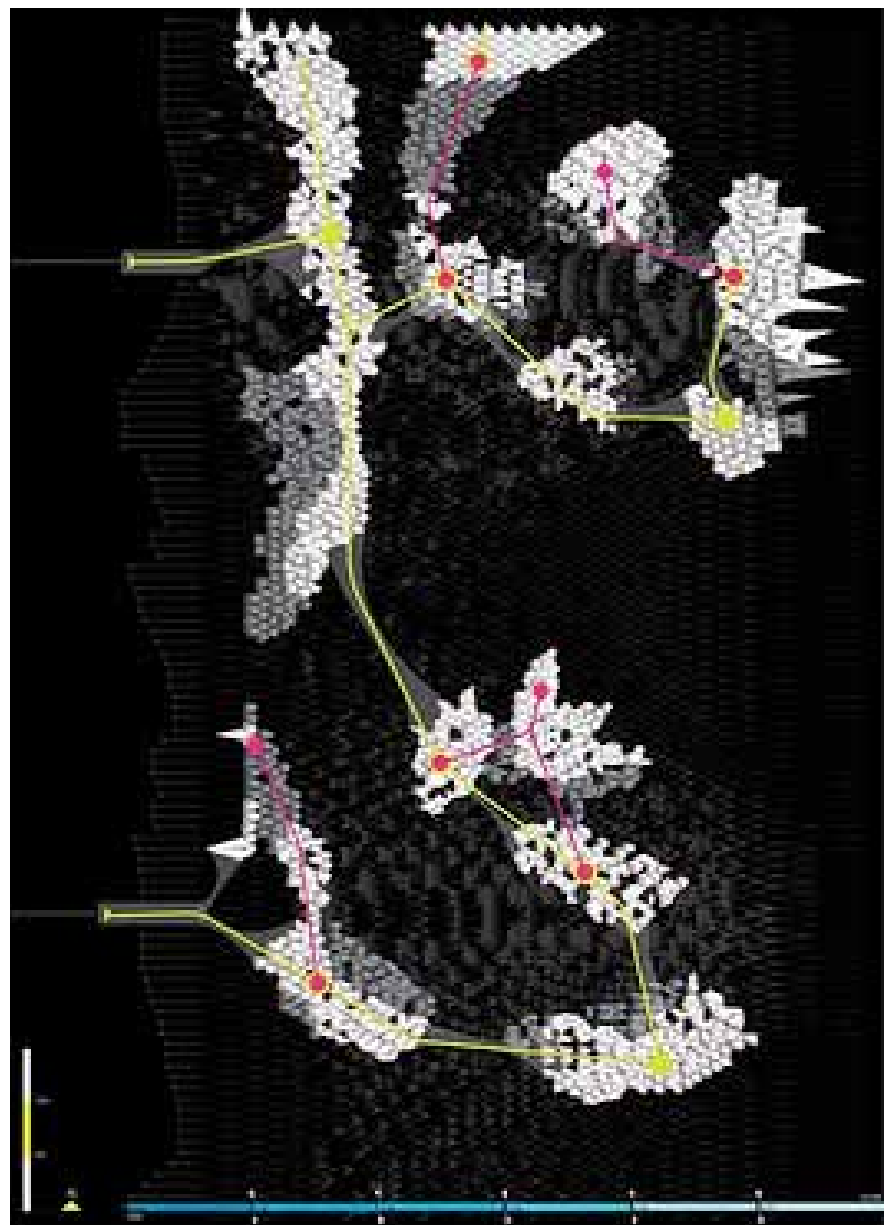
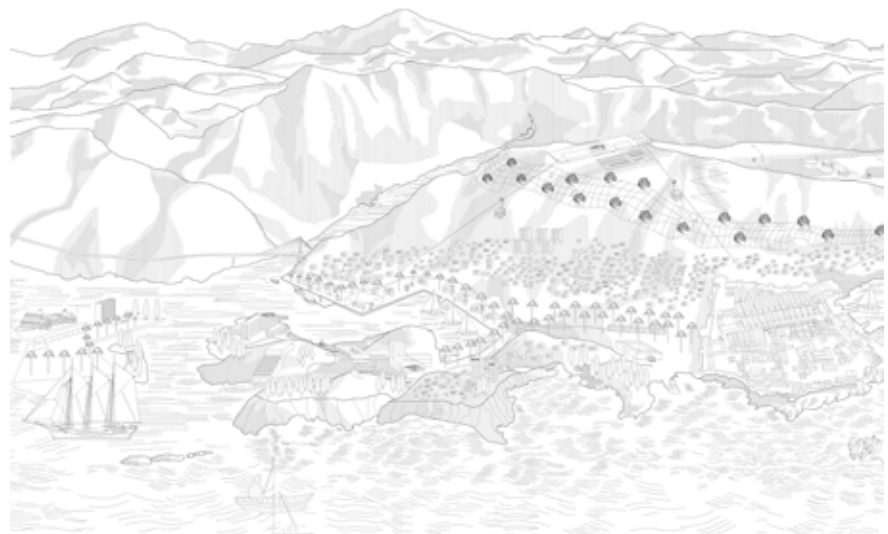
We will learn how to develop sustainable (ecological, social, political and/ or economic) solutions for specific situations. Interventions, Solutions for existing questions, new typologies appropriate functional programme for different qualities of water and coast.

This is team work everyone is drawing his intervention and observations into the 3d landscape

Landscape Ecology will be taught in collaboration with Shany Barrath and Takako Tajjima.

Tools:
Illustrator, Auto-CAD, Rhino, Photoshop

Results:
one 3D drawing of the landscape per area.



Imaginative Collages

How to tell?

We will show the vision for the different interventions with spatial images and focus on the three-dimensionality of the proposals.

This is individual work each person will make one perspective with a critical statement on the currents cultural, political, economic or social situation.

Tools:
Illustrator, Photoshop,
Physical collages: Layers of images on cardboard

Results:
One image collage per student



Exhibition / Public Outdoor Projection

In collaboration with Cinemateque Tangier: maybe a projection on the walls in the Medina?

