

A VISUAL STORY OF OUR METHODOLOGY

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This project is a collaboration in which the partners attempt to find solutions for urban expansion in Casablanca. Due to rapid urbanization, many rural migrants now live in 'informal housing'. Since 2004, the 'Villes sans Bidonvilles' program has been relocating inhabitants of informal housing into new apartments. This has resulted in an impressive amount of new housing districts, often consisting of thousands of apartments. The team has observed a lack of meaningful public spaces, of connections with the city and of social cohesion. The design research aims to offer an innovative perspective and generate more attention to quality and sustainability.

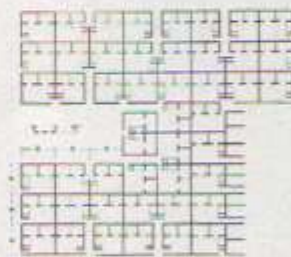
The team began with an initial study consisting of two parts: a quantitative analysis of urban phenomena and data and a qualitative analysis based on interviews, photography and descriptions. The approach of the team was holistic: they combined typological and morphological studies with studies of social practices. A suitable location to test the research results was allocated to the team: a 15-hectare empty site at Tit Mellil, just outside Casablanca. Moroccan architects and developers visited the Netherlands to research Dutch social housing strategies and Dutch architects consulted with local experts in Casablanca on the social housing systems.

Based on extensive research, the team developed a strategy and a detailed prototype for the designated pilot site. The strategy is suitable for use at other sites and provides a long-term strategy for new relocation projects in Casablanca. It gives an innovative view on rapid urban expansion from spatial, social, cultural and economic perspectives. The design focuses on the connection with the economic center, the quality of public space

and safety. The project will serve as inspiration, but also as a tangible recommendation for the current 'Villes Nouvelles'.

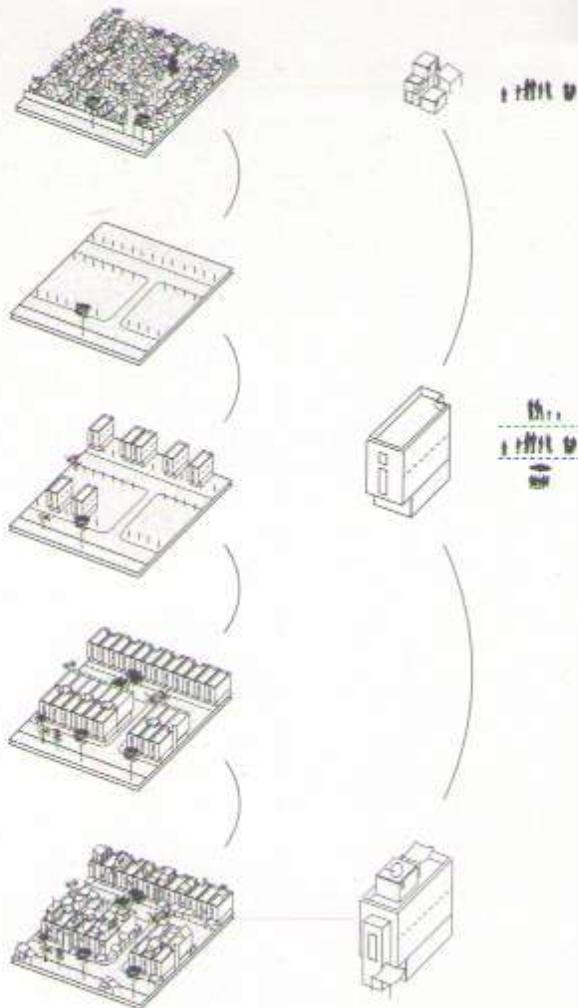
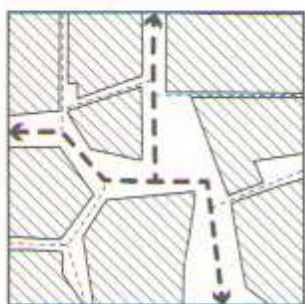
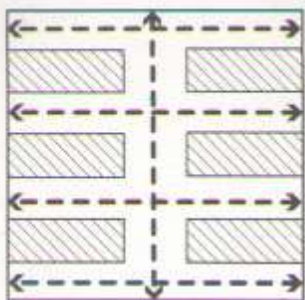
The following step includes the partners sharing the model they developed with academics, urban planners and decision makers in Morocco. The team wants to stimulate a dialogue on the topic of affordable social housing, in order to create a more socially and economically inclusive and sustainable way of life for people previously living in slums. The digital report will be translated into a book, including possible scenarios for the future, supplemented with drawings and maps.

We breathed new life into the survey research method devised by the architect and urban planner Michel Ecochard (1905-1985). In the early 1950s, he developed the 'survey' as an urban planning tool, an elaborate method of examining urban and cultural phenomena.



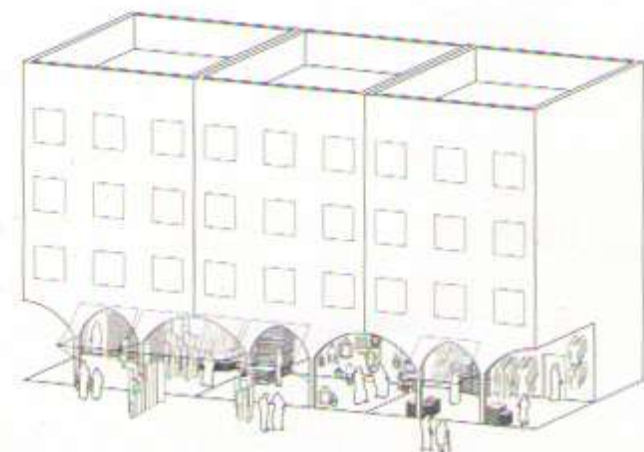
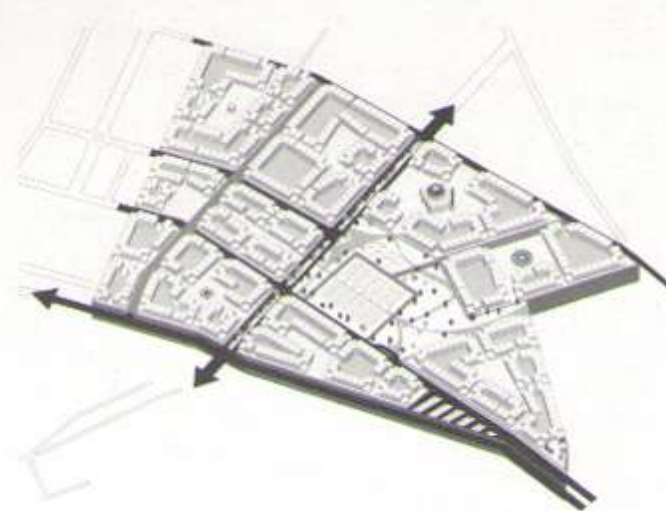
The overall plan of the district displays a mix between traditional and modern urban structures.

8 x 8 GRID



There's a variety in types of roads – rear ways, entryways, car roads. In a conventional urban plan for the relocation program roads are more formally set up, vary in width and serve all modes of transport. In a traditional medina there is a wide variety of transport routes: formal, informal, for cars, for pedestrians, public and semi-public. We intend to use the same building method as is used for the relocation program to design a more layered urban fabric.

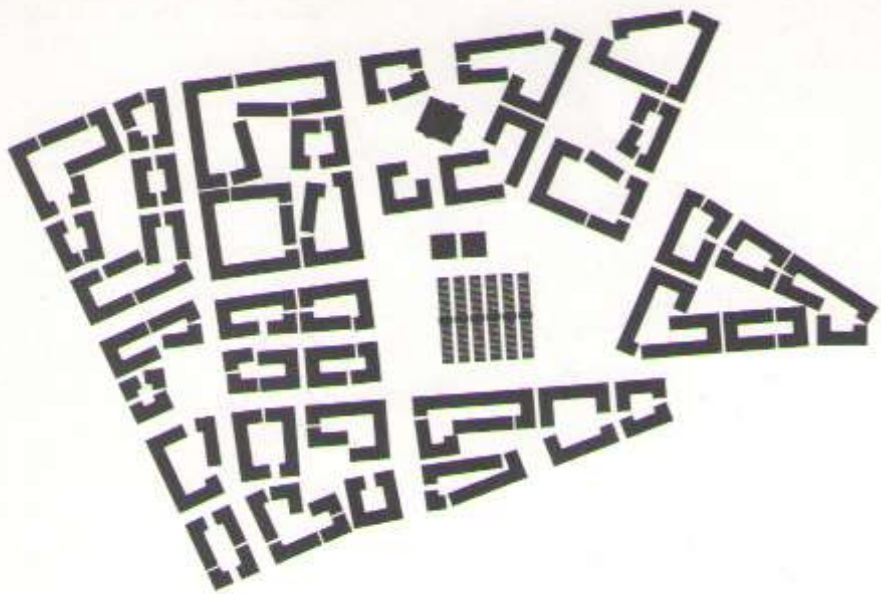
The program *Villes sans Bidonvilles* that started in 2014 has been very successful. It has produced an incredible amount of new neighborhoods for people that previously lived in slums. The diagram shows the typical sequence from slum to new development.



design bureau SLA

The proposal shows layered spatial relationships and facilitates different modes of use. There is a variety in types of roads – rear ways, entryways, commercial areas covered with columns – entrances between several parts of the quarter are marked by different type of gates and roads curve at every turn. This offers the wanderer a continuous shift of perspective and the user a sense of place: identity.

The commercial areas are surrounded by columns allowing street life to flourish. The arcade gives shade and allows shops to display their goods. This arcade area is privately owned with a public function. Each square has its own distinctive type of column.



Top view of the proposal for a new urban plan. Using the same ingredients as in the typical new villages a wider variety of spatial configurations can be obtained. The plan shows different routes for cars, scooters and pedestrians. Formal and informal routes can be distinguished. Every cluster of housing blocks has its own identity, although the housing block itself is almost the same. design bureau SLA

Social housing project El Hank. Realised in the 1990's it is still a popular neighborhood to live in. Collapsing balconies are supported by temporary structures. photo: bureau SLA



The site for the relocation. The concrete structure in the middle is a covered open air market. In the proposal for the urban plan the structure is maintained. photo: bureau SLA





Our project is one in a long tradition of relocation programs. We studied projects like the old medina, Habous, the new Medina 1916-1930 and modernistic projects from the 1950's. This image is taken in the Habous quartier, photo: bureau SLA

informal route in Casablanca, opening up to a small square. It is these configurations that make public life interesting, photo: bureau SLA

