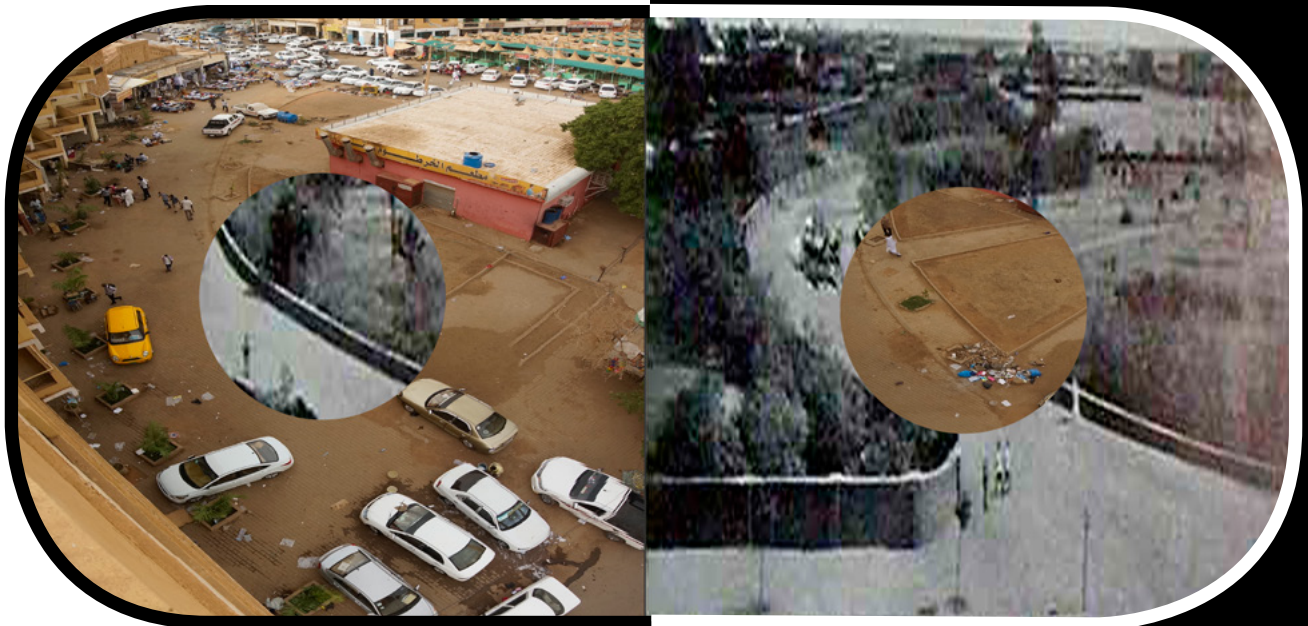


DOWNTOWN SQUARE PROJECT

URBAN RENEWAL FOR KHARTOUM CITY IN SUDAN



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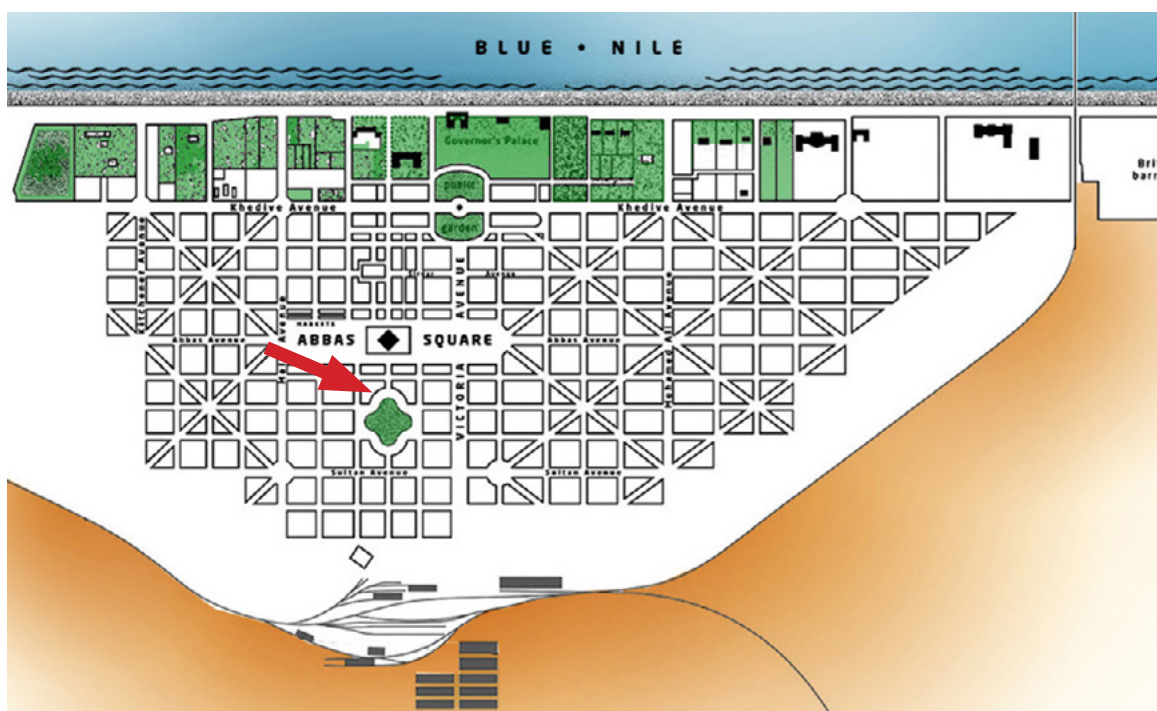
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22 June 2017
KHARTOUM, SUDAN

Back in the days, at the beginning of the 20th century, when the Khartoum urban system was developed, the 'downtown square', located in the heart of city, use to be a green and vibrant spot, popular among multi-cultural citizens. Khartoum was planned as a green city and the 'downtown square' was part of it, as the north-west quarter of a ring road, surrounding the central inner downtown with a green zone.

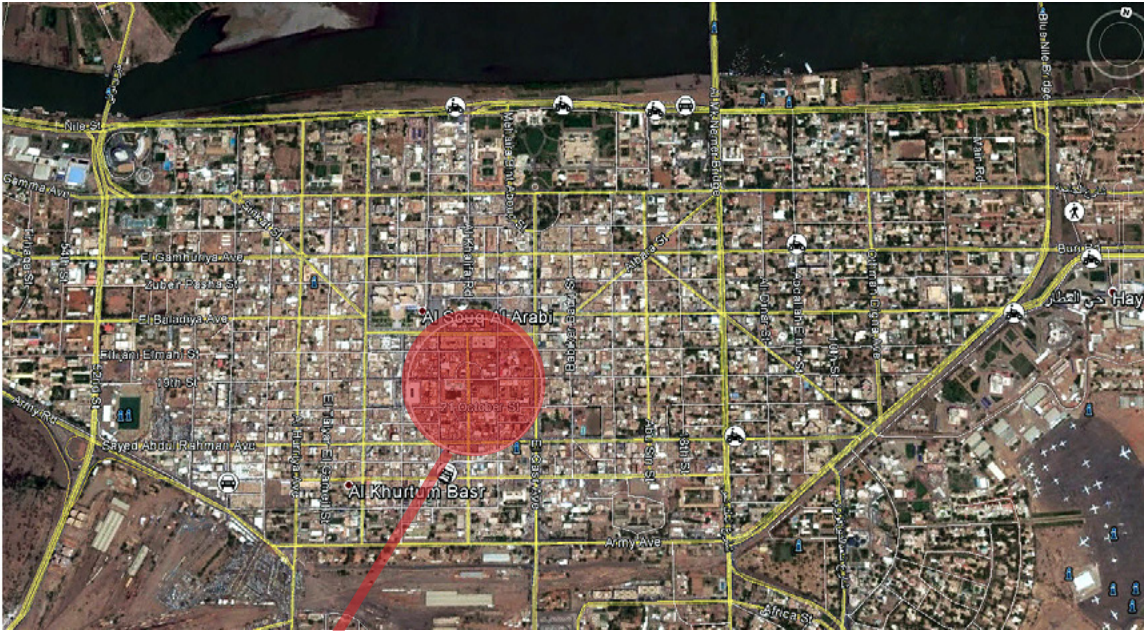
Throughout the years, due to inconsistent urban development, the original morphology of the city gradually lost its quality. Spontaneous formation of chaotic structures created without reference to proper context and to the pre-existing socio-urban environment became a common practice.

Up to now, the formerly green and organized 'downtown square' passed through a series of informal modifications resulting in the creation of a temporary and disorganized neighborhood without identity or clear directions for future development.

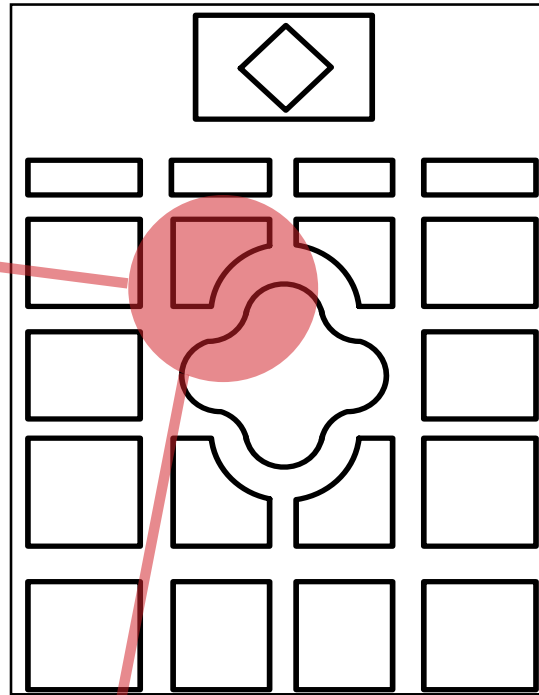
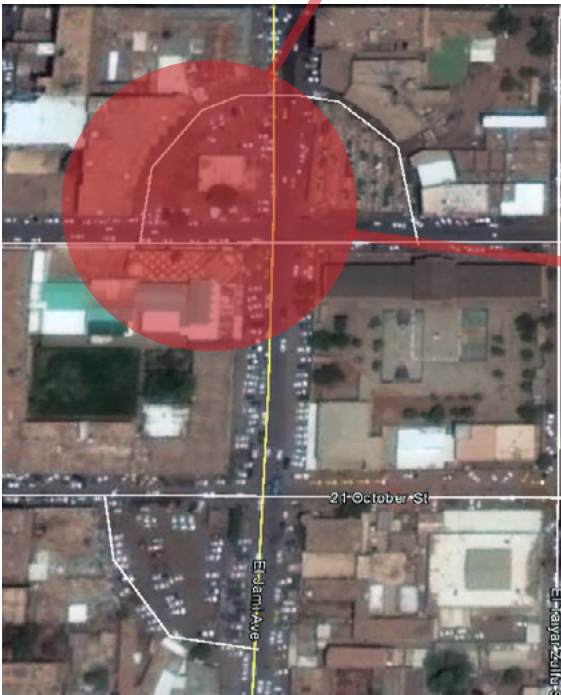


McLean plan of Khartoum from beginning of XX c. with Downtown Square area marked in red.

BRIEF HISTORY OF DOWNTOWN SQUARE



Satellite picture of the current situation



Satelite picture showing what remains from original plan Original plan of Downtown neighborhood

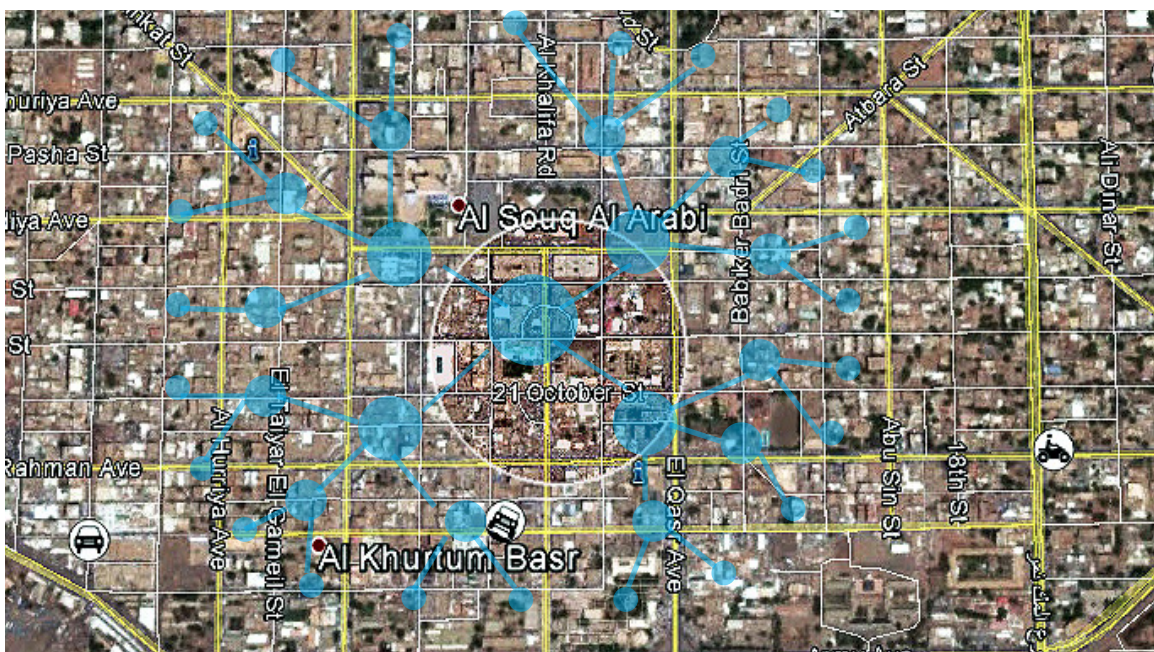


Existing situation of the square.

The Downtown Square Project case does not differ significantly from similar examples present across the city; the goal of the new project is about the installment of a well-designed urban renewal with the seed being a reasoning approach with the inclusion of the abilities and needs of local communities, and which initiates self-motivated coordinated actions towards improvement of the urban character of the city.

The most important aspect of the project is to sustain the local urban ecosystem and to promote collective creative thinking among the group of individuals linked with that space. Among them there are building owner's, office and service business shareholders including Downtown Hotel and Business Center, shops and stationary sellers renting space for small selling business and mobile street sellers including tea ladies, cobblers and other informal users operating within the square.

It's likely that the successful improvement of this target plot will be taken as a rough model for lessons learned and possible application to neighboring areas and thereby help to improve urban quality of Khartoum from a grass roots perspective.



Spill effect across the city is likely to occur if the project will turn to be successful.

DOWNTOWN SQUARE PROJECT OBJECTIVES



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There are 2 types of entities interfering with Downtown Square:



DOWNTOWN SQUARE FACES 4 MAJOR PROBLEMS:

1. Lack of organization of space, lack of clearly defined zones and rules for users resulting in multiple problems and conflicts with car parking, traffic and pedestrian flow.
2. Chaotic and undefined modifications and random implementations in pre-existing architectural composition and style of the buildings which reduces attractiveness and the business value of the Square.
3. Lack of green space, proper lighting, and shading systems or acoustic isolation generates environmental disturbance for users.
4. Poor, or no maintenance of buildings and the Square resulting in structural deterioration, accumulation of garbage residues and life-threatening hazard spots.





1. TRAFFIC FLOW THROUGH THE PARKING BLOCKED BY CARS.
2. GARBAGE PAILS DUE TU POUR SQUARE MAINTANANCE.
3. GREEN AREAS TURNED INTO DRY SOIL
4. ARCHITECTURAL IMPLEMENTATION WITHOUT CONTEXT.
5. RANDOM LOCATIONS OF TEAL LAYDIES
6. STREET SELLERS OCCUPY LARGE AREA AND BLOCKING TRAFFIC FLOW

PROBLEMS

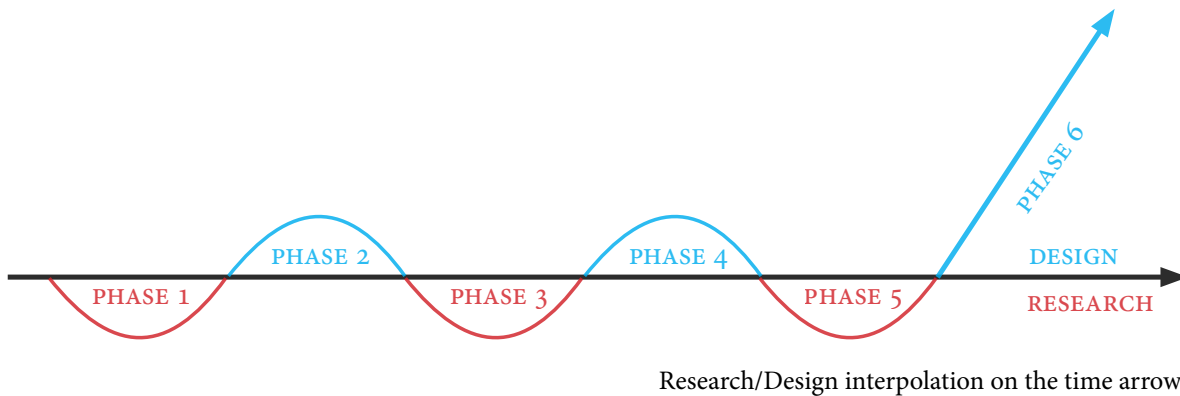


PROBLEMS



Entrance to parking lot is always blocked by random drivers.

The organic character and approach to the project is part of urban renovation agenda of DtD and it is based on conceptual premises of Urban Acupuncture theory. In practice, the project of Downtown Square is interpolating in-depth on the ground studies of the local socio-urban environment with consequent creative design construct.



Phase 1

Phase 1 situates a team of unbiased researchers in the social dimension where survey and observation are used as measuring tools for data to be analyzed. This initial part of the project enables designers to establish certain criteria and draw a map enabling them to orientate themselves within the quantitative and qualitative coordinates of the Downtown society and social ecology.

Phase 2

In the next step the results of Phase 1 are used to produce the first series of raw ideas and sketches originating from the on-the-ground society and is rationalized with the professional expertise of the DtD team.

Phase 3

Products of Phase 2 are displayed in a form of open exhibition, targeting Downtown Square users, experts and guests invited to join critical discussion over exhibited set of proposals. During the event, the research

team will relaunch interviewing process and collect the next portion of data enabling them to narrow down a spectrum of proposals and identify one, single compromise direction for development design to be mastered and detailed by DtD specialists.

Phase 4

The final package with detailed visual and textual description of the project and costs is presented to financing entities including donors, local administration and users of the square willing to contribute.

Phase 5

The Project is then revised and adjusted based on the available budget.

Phase 6

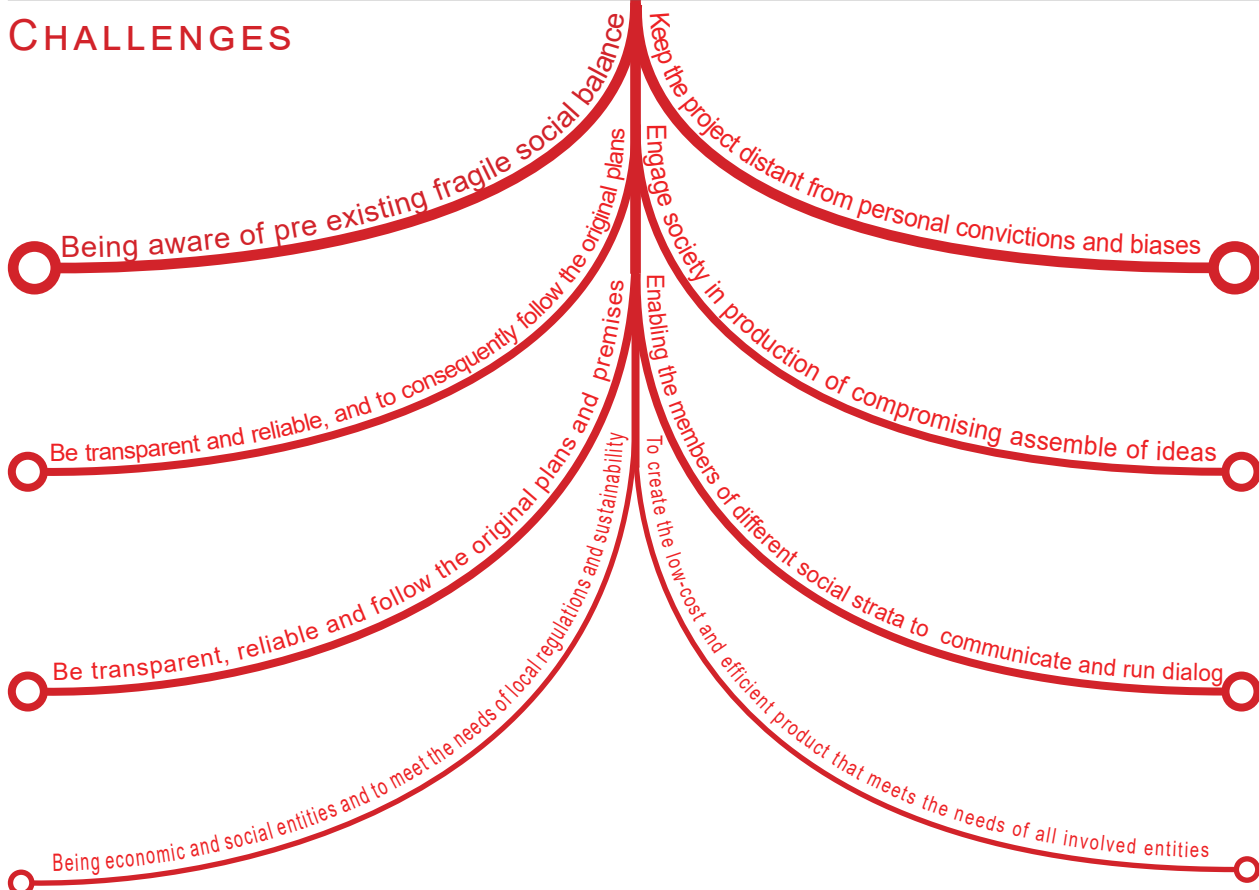
Construction is launched and carried on by contracting firms and partially with help of the Downtown Square users willing to contribute with enthusiasm and sweat.



BENEFITS

THE LINE OF BALANCE - ETHICS

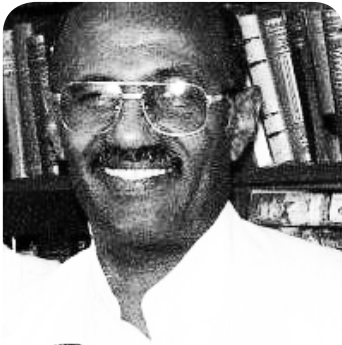
CHALLENGES



Among various custom benefits, being possible to determined only after research-design wave process is launched, there are immediate thoughts and conclusions about positive outcomes of the Downtown Square project. All the involved entities should understand how it contributes to individuals and to overall city population.

Every single piece of urban fabric came to existence as result of complex processes and as much as physical strength can guarantees its sustainability, there is a whole complicated and extremely fragile network of socio-economic interrelations that enables buildings to be or not to be. In order to avoid breaking the natural equilibrium there are challenges to face before, during and after the project is realised.

Thank You



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