Benno Albrecht, Jacopo Galli

**RECONSTRUCT – SENSITIVE EMPLOYMENT CREATION
THROUGH BOTTOM-UP CELLULAR STRATEGY**

URBICIDE
RURAL SYRIA
RECONSTRUCTION
OF VILLAGES

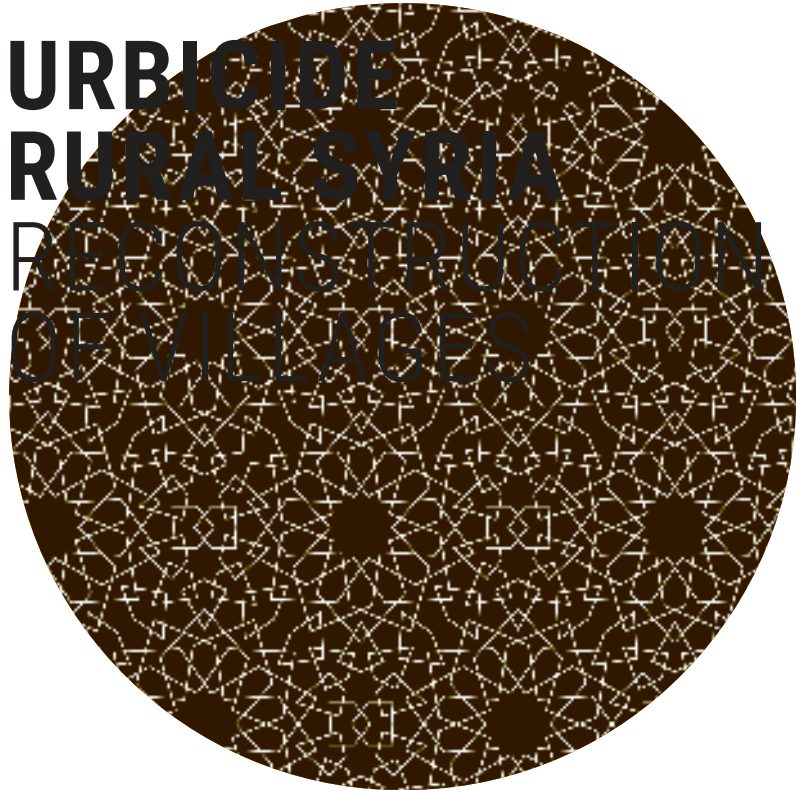**URBICIDE TASK FORCE**

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RURAL SYRIA
RECONSTRUCTION
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Università Iuav
di Venezia

Urbicide
Task Force

URBICIDE RURAL SYRIA

RECONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGES

Urbicide Task Force, Università Iuav di Venezia

edited by
Benno Albrecht, Jacopo Galli

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Benno Albrecht, Emilio Antoniol, Andrea Fantin, Jacopo Galli, Marco Marino, Giulia Piacenti, Tania Sarria, Chiara Semenzin, Elisa Vendemini, Rossella Villani

architectural design by
Lorenzo Abate, Stefano Bortolato, Leonardo Brancaloni, Michele Brusutti, Stefano Busetto, Susanna De Vido, Pietropaolo Cristini, Martina Fadanelli, Martina Germanà, Maria Guerra, Irene Guizzo, Michele Maniero, Maddalena Meneghello, Silvia Pellizzon, Camilla Pettinelli, Mariagiulia Pistonese, Giacomo Raffaelli, Elena Salvador, Antonio Signori, Sonia Zucchelli

academic consultancy
MariaAntonia Barucco, Massimiliano Scarpa

technical consultancy
Enrico Guastaroba, Luca Panzeri

photos by
Umberto Ferro, Luca Pilot

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Benno Albrecht, Francesco Musco, Stefano Pareglio

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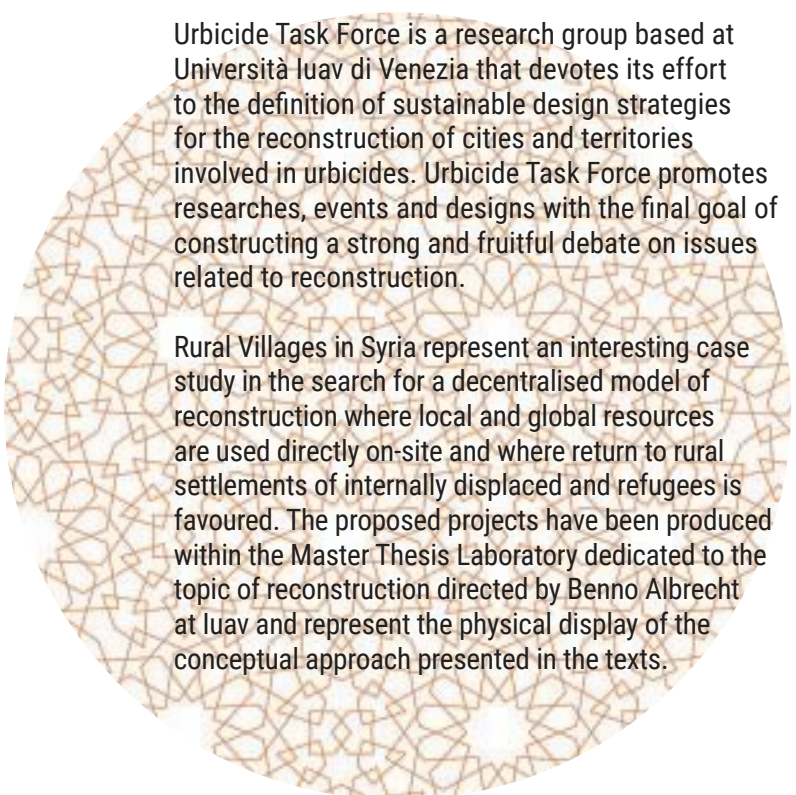
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Urbicide Task Force is a research group based at Università Iuav di Venezia that devotes its effort to the definition of sustainable design strategies for the reconstruction of cities and territories involved in urbicides. Urbicide Task Force promotes researches, events and designs with the final goal of constructing a strong and fruitful debate on issues related to reconstruction.

Rural Villages in Syria represent an interesting case study in the search for a decentralised model of reconstruction where local and global resources are used directly on-site and where return to rural settlements of internally displaced and refugees is favoured. The proposed projects have been produced within the Master Thesis Laboratory dedicated to the topic of reconstruction directed by Benno Albrecht at Iuav and represent the physical display of the conceptual approach presented in the texts.
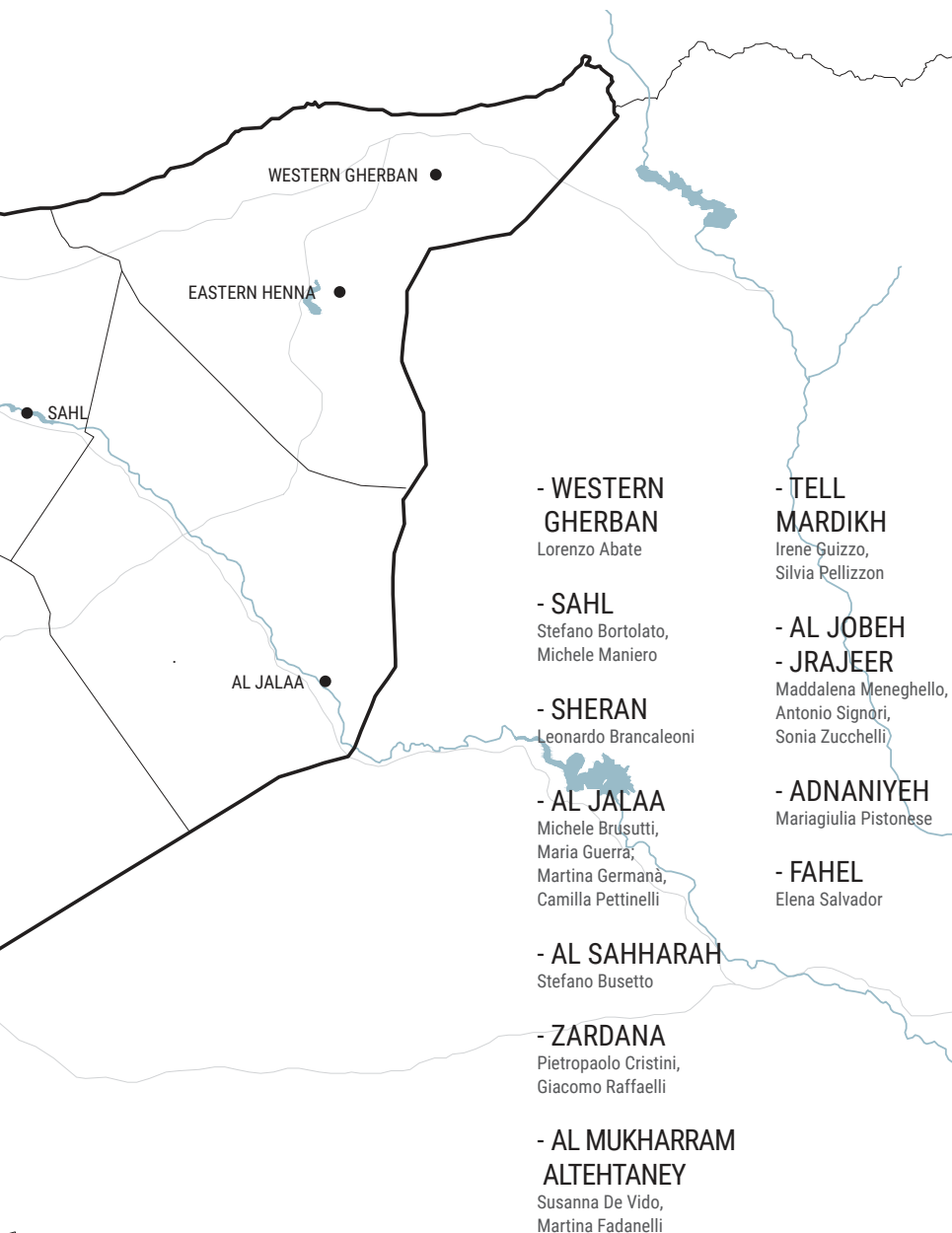
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Case studies villages

The politics of the Little Homelands
—

Benno Albrecht

Establishing what to rebuild in the first instance is crucial for the development of reconstruction. Rebuilding starting from small villages is simpler and more agile, and will allow many people, who can be directly involved in a process of bottom-up reconstruction, to return quickly. Reconstructing, as probably will happen, from the big cities, will lead to channeling to the big centers even those who lived in small towns before the war. It is the contrast between centralized urban development, which will be a process of rapid urbanization, with all easily imaginable negative effects, and a possible new type of decentralization.

It is certain that another scenario is possible, and a useful trace to follow can be contained in a book by Ernest Callenbach, which has become a symbol of contemporary environmentalism, Ecotopia. In the book a rare and unusual thing is expressed: the prediction of a positive, eco-utopian future, and not

— On the previous page:
Al Jalaa, M. Germanà,
C. Pettinelli.

— Sahl, S. Bortolato,
M. Maniero.

1 — Callenbach Ernest, "Ecotopia: The Notebooks and Reports of William Weston", Bantam Books, New York, 1975, p. 33.

2 — Ibidem, p. 34.

3 — Ibidem, pp. 77-78.

4 — Ibidem, p. 156.

5 — Ibidem, p. 158.

6 — Yeats William Butler, "The Second Coming", in W. B. Yeats, "The Collected Poems", Mam-Millan, London, 1965.

as we are accustomed nowadays only visions of a compromised future, gray and destroyed in a dystopic forecast. The book is a positive social vision and ecological utopian of the future, published in 1975 and has become the early and often forgotten symbol of Green Politics. The book tells of an ecological future, pacified and green, in a hypothetical new nation in the north-west of the United States, where a new sustainable society is imagined, which fulfils all the classic mandates of sustainability, such as thrift, energy saving, reuse and recycling of resources.

The new nation is based on a new spatial localisation of cities. In Ecotopia the new cities are mini-cities, set apart from each other and the large existing cities have been dismembered into neighbourhoods or communities[1]. "The streets of Alviso carry names and not numbers, and they are narrow and winding almost like those of medieval cities: for a foreigner it is not easy to navigate. They are wide enough for you to pass two machines with difficulty, but obviously there are no cars and the problem does not exist"[2].
The idea is urban delocalization: "They place their trust in the development of living conditions, in the further reorganization of their cities in constellations of mini-cities and in a continuous dispersion of rural areas"[3].
In Ecotopia there are no architects, and public buildings are designed by community planning offices and architecture is not the reserve of experts[4].
Similarly art is widespread in life, as in the idea of Mondrian: "We are like the Balinese, we have no art, we simply do everything in the best possible way"[5].
Citing a poem by William Butler Yeats, Callenbach attempts to explain the synthesis of decentralization choices: "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world"[6] The choice is to represent a micro-urbanized territory as a symbol of

7 — Callenbach Ernest, op. cit., p.175.

8 — Mumford Lewis, "The City in History", Harcourt, Brace & World, New York, 1961, p. 573.

sustainability, and this is the reason for the separation of Ecotopia into small groups, "a small regional company can exploit its "niche" in the global bio-system in an intelligent, broad and effective (and naturally less destructive) way"[7].

The coexistence of two scales, the small and the local, the scale of proximity and the possibility of direct democracy, and the large and planetary scale, of global interconnection and the possibility of controlling climatic transformations, is the fundamental theme of every contemporary sustainability policy. The dual nature, the coexistence in every action of large and small, forms and defines contemporary design thought. Lewis Mumford had guessed this long ago, "[...] The old separation of man and nature, of townsman and countryman, of Greek and a barbarian, of citizen and foreigner, can no longer be maintained: for communication the entire planet is becoming village, and as a result the smallest neighbourhood or precinct must be planned as a working model of the larger world"[8].

Leopold Kohr in 1957 wrote a book which posed attention on the value of the small dimension, played then by supporters of intermediate technologies and balanced economy, like Fritz Schumacher or Ivan Illich. For Kohr "[...] The fascinating secret of a well functioning social organism seems thus to lie not in its overall unity but in its structure, maintained in health by the life-preserving mechanism of division operating through myriads of cell-splittings and rejuvenations taking place under the smooth skin of an apparently unchanging body. Wherever, because of age or bad design, this rejuvenating process of subdivision gives way to the calcifying process of cell unification, the cells, now growing behind the protection of their hardened frames beyond their divinely allotted limits, begin, as in cancer, to develop

— On the next page: Fahel, E. Salvador.

— Adnaniyeh, M.
Pistonese.

those hostile, arrogant great-power complexes which cannot be brought to an end until the infested organism is either devoured, or a forceful operation succeeds in restoring the small-cell pattern"[9].

Obviously it is not a nostalgic horizon of past and idealized community relations, "[...] We do not refer to the golden age of the lost paradise of community relations; it is a political project, to reorganize the natural space, to better redistribute power, to give birth to a common spirit of brotherhood in the everyday life [...] community ideas can reinvigorate the resistance of civil society against the intrusiveness of the great organisation"[10].

The opportunity offered by the reconstruction processes is to affirm the defense of the values of municipalism and the municipality, the administration of communities through assemblies and bottom-up trials, such as the gatherings of American citizens described by Torqueville. A new meaning can be given to the value of the life of identity exemplified in the districts of Italian historic cities, in communities where social solidarity takes on unexpected aspects despite the material difficulties of daily life, such as in marginal neighborhoods around the world. Call them also with different names, *kampong* in the Far East, *pueblos jóvenes* and *barriadas* in Perù, *favelas* in Brazil, *ranchos* in Venezuela, *barrios marginales* in Mexico, *bidonvilles* in the former French colonies or *shanty towns* in the English ones, but the complex substance of solidarity relations between men is expressed in these places in a surprising way.

Communality, libertarian and municipalist, opens the political perspectives of local, democratic and bottom-up control. The municipality can give rise to regional and even state federative forms. Social ecology shapes the expectations of human communities

9 – Kohr Leopold, "The breakdown of Nations", UIT Cambridge, 2017, p.186.

10 – Busino Giovanni, "Comunità", in Enciclopedia Einaudi, vol. 3, 1978, p. 696-709.

The politics of the Little Homelands

— On the previous page: Al Jalaa, M. Brusutti, M. Guerra.

11 — Bookchin Murray, "Remaking Society", Black Rose Books, Montreal, 1989, p. 209.

12 — Krippendorff Ekkehart, "L'arte di non essere governati: Politica etica da Socrate a Mozart", trad.it. di Vinicio Parma, Fazi, Roma, 2005, p. 176.

13 — Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Joseph C. Cabell (2nd Feb. 1816), post in Thomas Jefferson Memorial Association "The Writings of Thomas Jefferson", Andrew A. Lipscomb and Albert Ellery Bergh, Washington, 1905, vol. 1, ch. 4, doc. 34, writings 14, pp. 421-23.

to natural resources in search of a balance between city and countryside, a typical theme of anarchist and utopian thought of the Nineteenth century, today projected to complete urbanization of the planet. The solution for creating an ecologically stable society, for Murray Bookchin, is the decentralization of large cities in poorly defined communities on a human scale. The municipalization would also concern land and physical resources, and the possibility of matching human needs to non-human needs "[...] An ecological society structured as a confederation of municipalities, each shaped in such a way as to adapt to the ecosystem in which it is located, would implement this range of technologies in an artistic way, resorting to local resources"[11].

Nothing subversive given that it is Thomas Jefferson who sees the possibility of a decentralized state that from the particular leads to the general and vice versa in a tran-scalar sequence of values based on the care and maintenance of the territory. With the term *Ward Republics*, Thomas Jefferson meant the local republics, the mini republics of the circumscriptions, which should have been the depositories of the local self-government, of the local self-government. *Ward* is a "word that we could roughly translate with 'communities' or 'school districts': the basic units of political participation"[12].
Ward Republics are the low grade of a scale of responsibility and tasks that goes from the bottom up, from the local to the national; in fact "[...] The elementary republics of the wards, the county republics, the State republics, and the republic of the Union, would form a gradation of authorities, standing each on the basis of law, holding every one its delegated share of powers, and constituting truly a system of fundamental balances and checks for the government"[13].

14 — Ibidem.

15 — Arendt Hanna, "On Revolution", Penguin Books, London, 1963.

16 — A. Dahl Robert and R. Tufte Edward, "Size and democracy, Stanford", Stanford University Press, Palo Alto, 1973.

Jefferson's insistence to "divide the counties into wards" means that "[...] It is by dividing and subdividing these republics from the great national one down through all its subordinations, until it ends in the administration of every man's farm by himself; by placing under every one what his own eye may superintend, that all will be done for the best"[14].

Hannah Arendt in her paper on the Revolution, states that "[...] If the ultimate end of revolution was freedom and the constitution of a public space where freedom could appear, the constitutio libertatis, then the elementary republics of the wards, the only tangible place where everyone could be free, actually were the end of the great republic whose chief purpose in domestic affairs should have been to provide the people with such places of freedom and to protect them. The basic assumption of the ward system, whether Jefferson knew it or not, was that no one could be called happy without his share in public happiness, that no one could be called free without his experience in public freedom, and that no one could be called either happy or free without participating, and having a share, in public power"[15].

The idea of politics as self-determination and art of the community, directed by reason, also has to do with the physical design of the conditions suitable for carrying out all the possible forms of democracy, and where we can broadly understand the purpose of reconstruction. The relationship between dimension and democracy is on the one hand controversial and on the other necessary[16]. The micro-territorialities added together to form groups of greater scale, are a horizon for the success and control of a sustainable world that today is more necessary than ever.

— On the next page: Tell Mardikh, I. Guizzo, S. Pellizzon.

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htaney, S. De Vido, M.
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ana, P. Cristini, G. Raf-
faelli; Western Gherban,
Lorenzo Abate.

URBICIDE RURAL SYRIA — RECONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGES

Decentralisation

—

Jacopo Galli

We live in an urban world. The phenomenon of displacement from the countryside to the cities, combined with continuous population growth, has made global metropolises the worst Malthusian nightmares[1] where demographic pressure makes any long lasting vision of social and urban progress impossible. We live in a depopulated world. The average age of the population in many industrialised countries is over 45, the migration and fertility balance in rural areas in Europe, the Middle East, Russia and Japan is negative. The immense challenges to the care of the territory posed by climate change and the necessary increase in agricultural production risk being battles fought by increasingly scarce armies. Desert and anthill[2] have become two contemporary and opposite poles of attraction: aging, depopulation and extinction on the one hand, crowds of hungry invaders on the other. The two poles paradoxically coexist at a small distance but increasingly they find physical concretisation in

1 — Malthus Thomas Robert, "An Essay on the Principle of Population", J. Johnson, Londra, 1798.

2 — Guarracino Scipione, "Allarme demografico. Sovrappopolazione e spopolamento dal XVII al XXI secolo", Il Saggiatore, Milano, 2016.

— On the previous page: Sahl, S. Bortolato, M. Maniero.
On the next pages: Al Jalaa, M. Brusutti, M. Guerra; Al Sahharah, S. Busetto.

Decentralisation

URBICIDE RURAL SYRIA – RECONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGES

3 — Davis Mike, "Beyond Blade runner: Urban control the Ecology of Fear", Open Magazine Pamphlet Series, Westfield NJ, 1992.

4 — UN Habitat, Cities and Climate Change Initiative, "Planning for Climate Change, A strategic values-based approach for Urban Planners", UN Habitat, Nairobi, 2014.

5 — Benevolo Leonardo, "Appropriate Habitat in Laleh Bakhtiar, Towards a quality of life: the role of industrialization in the architecture and urban planning of developing countries", Second International Congress of Architects, Persepolis, 1974.

— On the next pages: Jrajeer, M. Meneghello, A. Signori, S. Zucchelli; Al Jalaa, M. Germanà, C. Pettinelli; S. Bortolato, M. Maniero.

the urban/rural duality that has always characterised the settlement of the territory with different housing densities. The towered metropolis with exponential density and the abandoned agricultural field invaded by weeds or eroded by the advance of the desert; are today the best representations of the global condition.

The city and the countryside are both in a crisis of definition and meaning: the urban centres, always dedicated to innovation and singularity, are becoming uniformed and strictly controlled global spaces[3], the rural spaces, guarding the millenary traditions of slow modification of the territory are forced to epochal changes from the changed climatic conditions and new economic models[4]. The virtuous social and economic balance represented by historical fabrics has now disappeared. Leonardo Benevolo, in a conference held in Persepolis in 1974, anticipated themes that have become central today, stating: "When the reserve of ancient dwellings in town and villages will be finished - and this will be finished very soon, because in the meantime people are moving from villages to towns, and from smaller to large towns - you will suddenly meet the problem in the whole enormity [...] you should be much more clever then others in order to master this process. Perhaps you should make use of these years for preparing the means, both in quality and in quantity, fit for the new wants. You could think of recuperating a part of the historic homes and quarters [...] and you could imagine a spectre of modern types of homes and quarters, not reproducing the standard of the international types, but trying to follow the peculiar needs of climate, of tradition and of wishes"[5].

The theme of urban centralisation in the MENA region is linked not so much to the percentage of the population residing in urban centres, although some
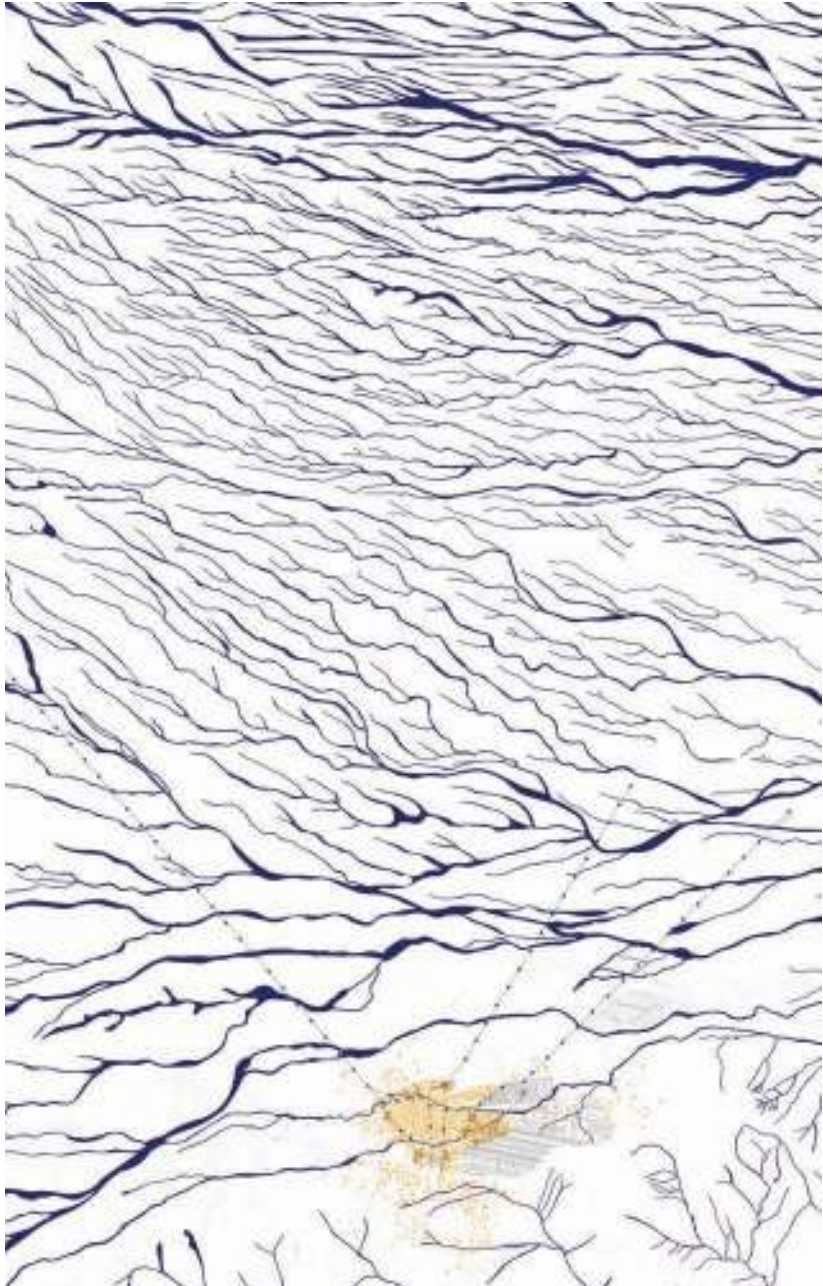
6 — World Bank, "The Toll of War: the economic and social consequences of the conflict in Syria", World Bank Group, Washington DC, 2017.

7 — Syrian Arab Republic State Planning Commission UNDP, "Second national report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Syrian Arab Republic", Damasco, UNDP, 2005.

8 — Yazigi Ihad, "No going back: Why decentralisation is the future for Syria", European Council on Foreign Relations, September 6th 2016.

URBICIDE RURAL SYRIA — RECONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGES

countries in the area such as Jordan, Lebanon and the Gulf states are among the places with the highest global urbanisation rates, as to the difference in economic resources employed in the management of urban and rural areas. Syria is a case of absolute interest as economic development and the considerable increase in GDP in the decade preceding the conflict have been heavily unequal within the different governorates and urban and rural areas. The percentage of people living in extreme poverty has fallen considerably in the decade 1997-2007 in urban areas while it has remained virtually unchanged in rural areas[6]. The rural areas of the governorate of Aleppo and the north-east of the country were the places with the lowest economic development[7] while the urban centres of Aleppo and Damascus and the port cities of Latakia and Tartous made the most of an economy nexus made up of wild liberalisations and strongly based on clientelistic dynamics. The almost perfect overlap between the areas controlled for long periods by the opposition and the areas with the highest level of poverty[8] calls for a need for decentralisation policies capable of levelling inequality and maximising the development of rural territories.

It becomes necessary to imagine a totally different scenario, a scenario that puts communities and territory at the center of the processes of construction and reconstruction. A scenario in which bottom-up processes, starting from small centres, with limited but highly technological means and with a high level of integration of local knowledge, can constitute an alternative to the desert and the anthill. A process that can be defined as decentralisation, understood as the use of economic, natural and knowledge resources in a scattered manner throughout the territory without necessarily privileging cities and favouring

— On the next page: Western Gherban, Lorenzo Abate.
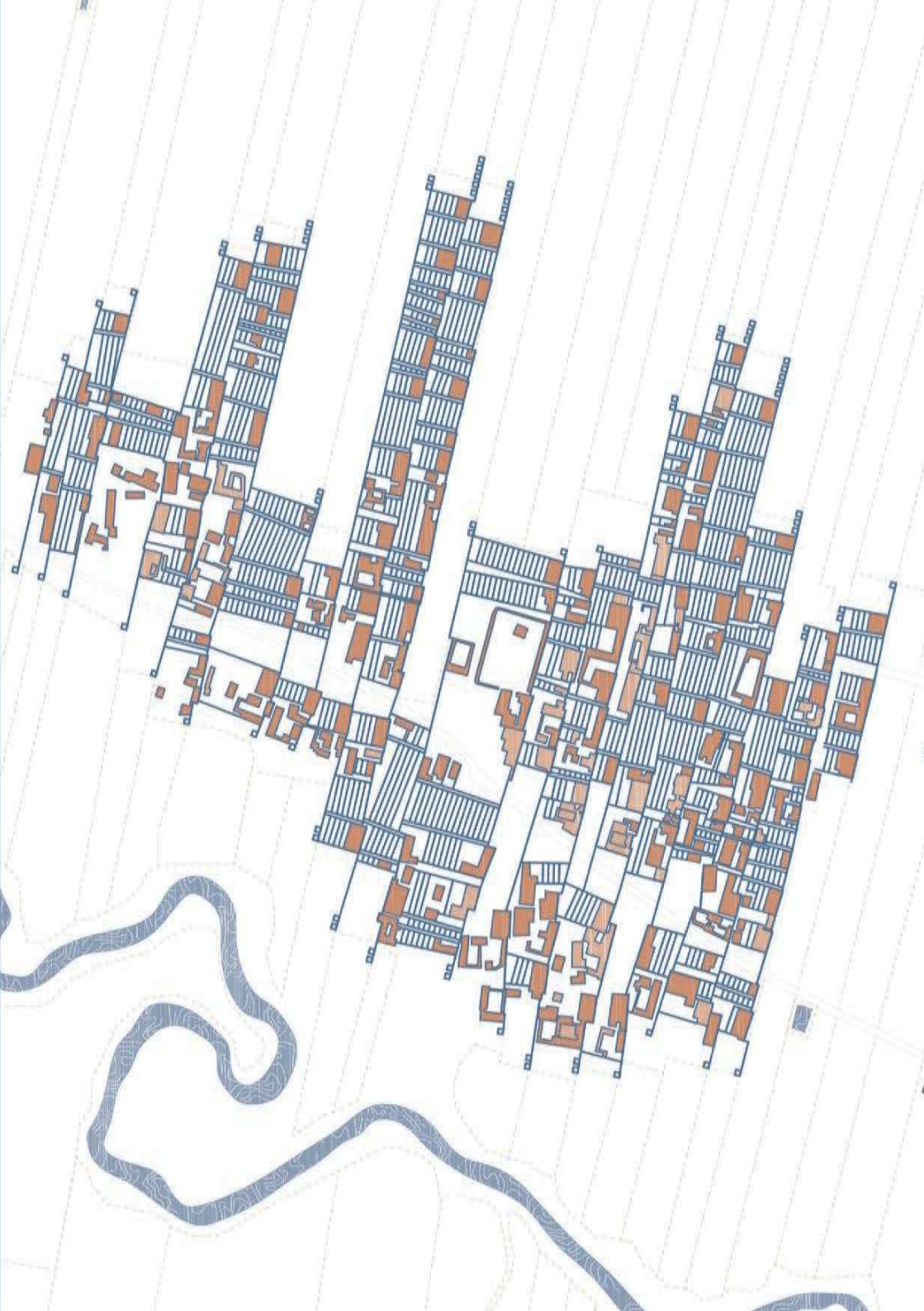
urban concentration. At the administrative level by decentralisation is meant the transfer of responsibilities from central governments to smaller institutions that allows the passage from a single policy applied on the whole territory to a differentiation at the level of local territorial entities[9].

The spatial consequences of the process of administrative decentralisation and the application to the theme of reconstruction requires a conceptual, design and planning effort that allows to imagine and implement the tools necessary for the reconstruction not only of urban areas with high population density but also of rural areas and at the same time to design innovative low-density settlement processes. Thinking about decentralisation today is a conceptual effort against the contemporary conventional mentality[10] that unifies the concept of development with that of high-density urban development; it is instead necessary to separate the two concepts to favour settlement models with variable densities on the territory. Only a policy of decentralisation that restores resources, both regarding financial schemes and decision-making processes, to rural areas can in fact guarantee the laborious work of modification and continuous care of the territory traditionally carried out by local populations. However, decentralisation must be guided by clear design and planning concepts in order to not become a mere form of parasitic assistance; a particularly important condition in the case of reconstruction, where the waste of resources can be exacerbated by administrative chaos.

9 — Brosio Giorgio, Maggi Maurizio, Piperno Stefano, "Governare fuori dal centro", Quaderni della Fondazione Adriano Olivetti, Ivrea, 2001.

10 — Kenneth Galibrath John, "The Affluent Society", Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston MA, 1958.

Decentralisation

— On the previous page: Jrajeer, M. Meneghello, A. Signori, S. Zucchelli. On the next pages: Jrajeer, M. Meneghello, A. Signori, S. Zucchelli.

ROCCA

LIVELLO DELL'ACQUA SOTTERRANEA

CANALE

ACQUIFERO

The reconstruction of the environment. The Palermo Method

—

Marco Marino

In 1940, faced with the impossibility of attacking England by land or sea, the Luftwaffe began a series of targeted air strikes that led to the destruction of the small village of Coventry between 14 and 15 November of the same year. The word "Coventrize" becomes part of the common lexicon, refers to the operations responsible for the death of hundreds of thousands of innocent people and the destruction of entire urban centers[1]. Only in the Second World War there were more than eighty-two cases in which the destructive action of the air forces determined the devastation of entire urban realities. Italy was invested by the destructive rain that comes from the sky, and thirty-three are the cities hit by the RAF fury.

1 — Treccani Gian Paolo, "Monumenti e centri storici nella stagione della Grande Guerra", Franco Angeli Editore, Milano, 2015, p. 16

— On the previous page: Al Sahharah, S. Busetto.
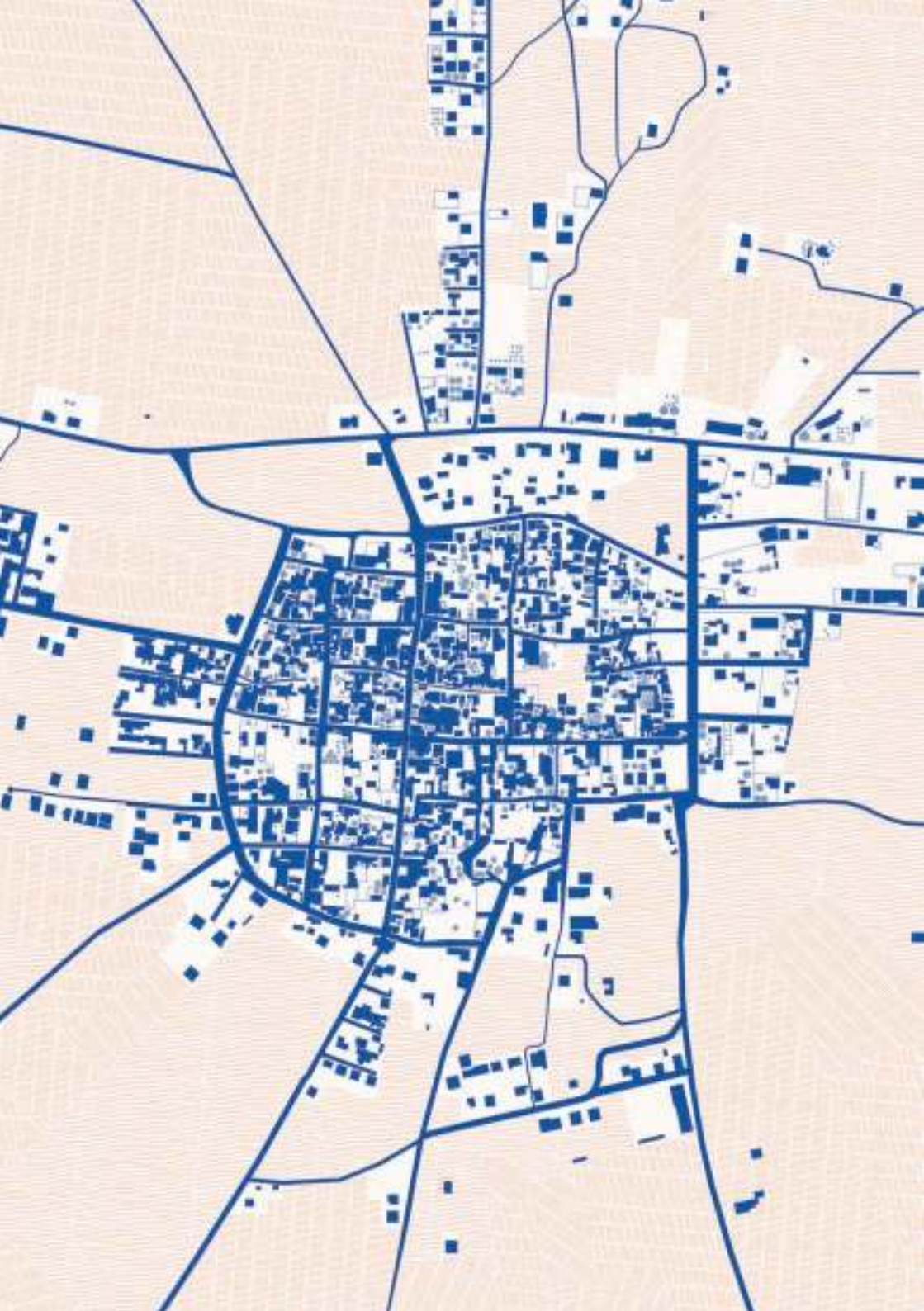
The years following the end of the war represented the stage for a wide debate on reconstruction and, above all, how it should have taken place. It began to structure a series of methods and processes aimed at the restoration of the lost monuments and the substantial conservation of the buildings[2], starting to develop the method that according to Leonardo Benevolo is "the only important contribution made in Italy for the modern architectural and urban culture"[3], the Urban Restoration.

If the Urban Restoration was initially born as a consequence of the destruction of the War and aimed at the reconstruction of lost parts of the city, it developed in the following years as a real need to preserve those parts of the historical built environment that we are afraid to definitely lose.

After the end of the war, up to the Sixties "the transfiguration of the historical anthropized landscape begins, maintained for centuries by the economic and social balance of hundreds of minute settlements"[4] determining a change of mentality and of approach towards the environment. The medium-large cities began to be surrounded by a crown of inhabited areas, as result of building speculation and illegal construction, without any planned or regulated action, and determined the destruction of the natural environment. The city that existed before the Second World War completely loses its connotations, its relationship with the natural environment is definitively compromised and therefore the great need for conservation arises. Those instances that previously seemed suitable only for maintaining some artifacts, now become real planning practices, which look at the historical city no longer as a set of buildings, but as a single body with exceptional qualities.

2 — Brandi Cesare, "Teoria del restauro", Collana Piccola Biblioteca n. 318, Einaudi, Torino, 1977.

3 — Benevolo Leonardo, "Centri Storici: l'attività delle amministrazioni locali italiane nei centri storici", Parametro n. 45, April 1976, p. 45.

4 — Magrin Anna, "Durabilità e Patrimonio Eredità e Futuro. Precisazioni di Restauro Urbano", Università Iuav di Venezia - Dipartimento di Culture del Progetto, Quaderni della Ricerca, Mimesis Edizioni, Milano-Udine, 2016, p. 37.

The reconstruction of the environment

— On the previous page: Sheran, L. Brancaleoni. On the next pages: Zardana, P. Cristini, G. Raffaelli; Al Mukharram Altehtaney, S. De Vido, M. Fadanelli; Al Jalaa, M. Germanà, C. Pettinelli.

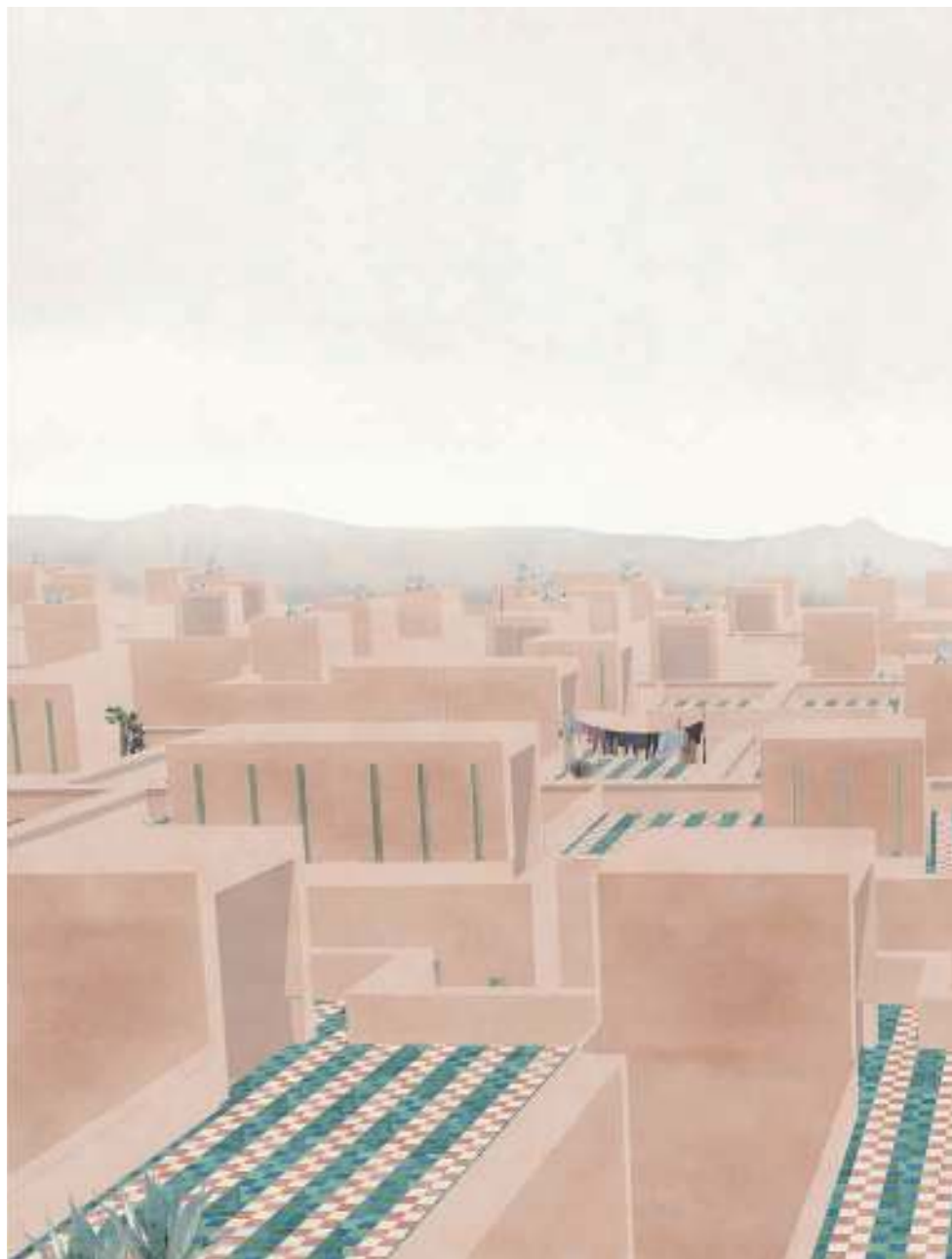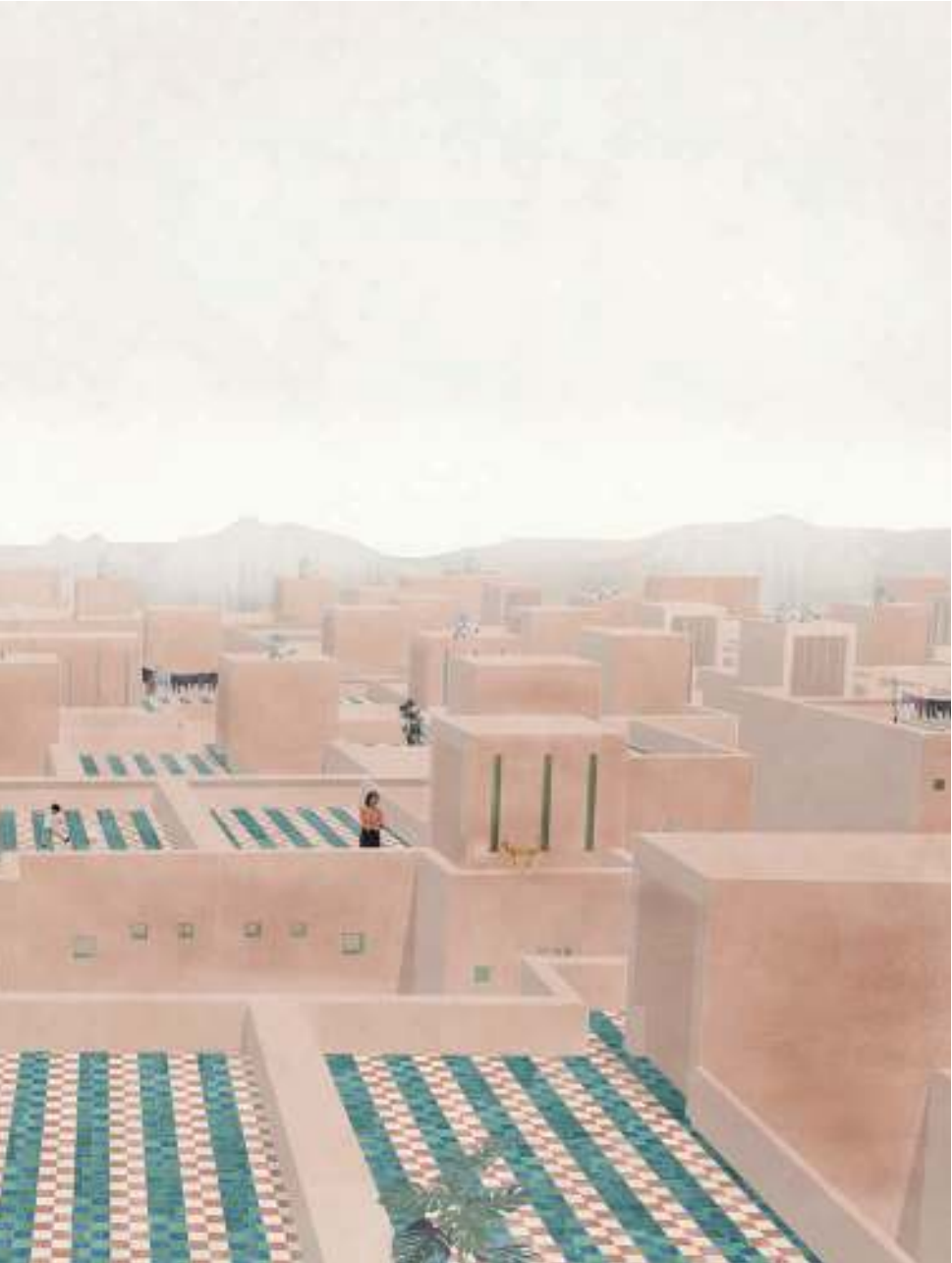URBICIDE RURAL SYRIA – RECONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGES

The reconstruction of the environment

The reconstruction of the environment

5 — Benevolo Leonardo, "L'architettura nell'Italia contemporanea: ovvero il tramonto del paesaggio", Laterza, Roma-Bari, 2006, pp. 188-189.

6 — Benevolo Leonardo, Cervellati Pierluigi, Insolera Italo, Comune di Palermo, Assessorato all'Urbanistica e Centro Storico, "PPE Centro Storico, Piano Particolareggiato esecutivo", Relazione Generale, July 1989, p. 11.

7 — Benevolo Leonardo, "Come ristrutturare un Centro Storico", Corriere della Sera, March 31st 1978, p. 11.

8 — Benevolo Leonardo, "La fine della città", Laterza, Roma-Bari, 2011, p. 89.

The city has been treated as if it were a building, whose added parts disfigure it and compromise its original nature. Urban Restoration is therefore a "historically founded methodology for the study and modification of ancient and modern settlements"[5], a rigorous discipline which "applies not only to buildings and works of art, but also to cities and territories, and preserves at the various scales a substantial homogeneity of meaning"[6].

Urban Restoration is therefore not a nostalgic practice meant for the maintenance of the past, but is actually a model for territorial management. It is not limited to mere conservation, but is a true laboratory of administration and control over the changes that man imposes on the environment. If this discipline initially dealt with compensating the damages due to the War or the neglect of time, it evolved into a reference for the design practice "there is nothing to invent: the ancient buildings must be studied, restored, or strictly reconstructed"[7].

It is a method, a set of strict, shared rules that challenge our way of living and managing not only cities but everything that has been modified or defaced "The object to be preserved is not a collection of physical artifacts [...], but an inhabited organism, that remains of the pre-industrial city"[8].

The drawings on tracing paper by Leonardo Benevolo, in preparation for the Plan of the historic center of Palermo, are examples of this form of thought.

The drawings depict a place in three different stages. These representations constitute a fundamental moment of relief and environmental analysis. These are three tables that correspond to three important de-
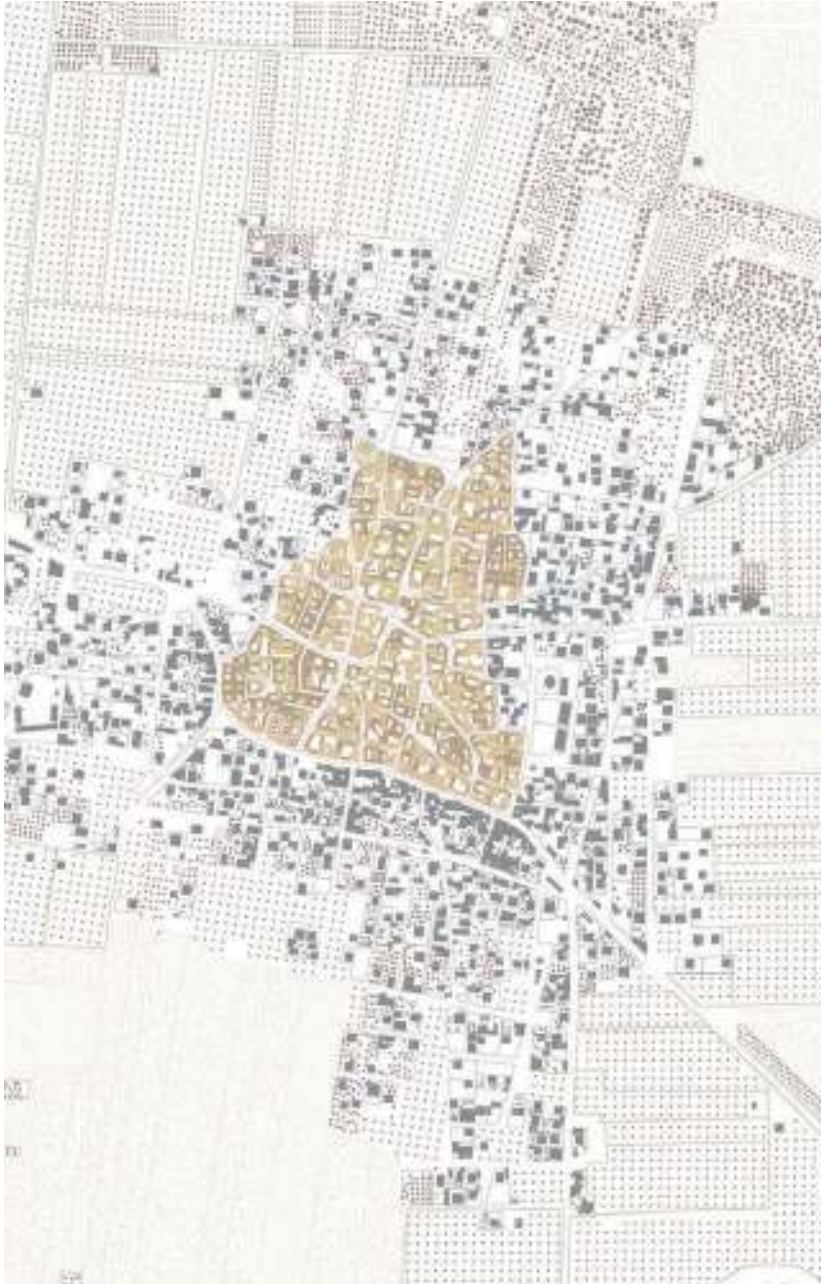
The reconstruction of the environment

sign operations. They are necessary for the understanding of the territory, but above all they are useful to verify the transformations that have taken place during time, and that constitute the fundamental basis for the planning of the future.

The place represented in the drawings is the so-called "Conca d'Oro", the plain on which Palermo is set, once luxuriant of orange trees as far as the eye can see.
The radiographic reading of ancient and modern maps allows us to reflect on what are the signs to let emerge for a faithful portrayal of the environmental context, and the representation used is the same for all the maps created, so that they can be easily compared.

The first drawing depicts the chosen area in a defined historical moment, 1912. The choice of the date constitutes a significant moment because it takes up a "pre-industrial" context. This representation is a snapshot of a piece of consolidated territory, and represents the significant moment before the great post-war environmental upheavals. Some specific structural elements that identify the historical environment have been detected: the inhabited areas; the roads which are the fundamental and fixed skeleton on which the city was formed in its relationship "countryside-city" when "the city (and consequently the countryside) were dimensionally fixed entities"[9]; the water courses; the wheat fields and the orange groves.

The second drawing is the selection of the characteristic elements of the previous representation and their relief in the current papers. The area is represented in 1988, the year in which the Plan for Palermo began.

9 – Cervellati Pierluigi, "I centri storici", in Ciardini Francesco, Falini Paola (edited by) "I centri storici. Politica urbanistica e programmi di intervento pubblico: Bergamo, Brescia, Como, Gubbio, Pesaro, Vicenza", Mazzotta Editore, Torino, 1978, p. 120.

The reconstruction of the environment

— On the previous page: Fahel, E. Salvador.

10 — Ibidem.

11 — Benevolo Leonardo, Cervellati Pierluigi, Insolera Italo, Comune di Palermo, Assessorato all'Urbanistica e Centro Storico, op. cit., p. 7.

The mapping of the current condition of the territory is fundamental, because it constitutes the main element of comparison with the ancient maps and serves to understand the environmental transformations that took place over the last 60 years. It can be seen how the contemporary part of the city damages the ancient environment with new roads which are the character of the "advent of industry and mechanical means of transport"[10], and how the "antique" fabric is lost. The cards show the metamorphosis of the territory and the pattern that represent new buildings substitutes the one for the orange trees.

The third drawing represents the "perimetration" of the Survivor City complex. The drawing resulting from the overlapping of the ancient papers with those of today, represents the remaining elements of the historic city, and highlights the individual structural elements that constituted the ancient environment. This operation is a sort of subtraction of elements between the present and the ancient papers, which is defined as "Netto Storico", that means the "cleaning" of a current map from everything that does not belong to an ancient map. This indicates the network of roads, the water system and the surviving orange groves.

The first two maps are characterized by uniform backgrounds and represent an environment in all its parts, but the map of the Netto Storico is significant, because it leaves large areas without indications or traces. "The historical system [...] speaks for itself, and contains virtually all the indications necessary for the project of the future, which must be unearthed and deciphered, not invented"[11].

These drawings should necessarily be implemented by another one. The fourth drawing, which is the

real design drawing. A sort of card of the future. A new drawing representing the territory in the future must be imposed on "Netto Storico" map. It is the representation of the environment that will be. It is an attempt to understand what is the shape of the city of the future and of the Bel Paese, so that it can once again become the country of art and the "Garden of Europe"[12].

12 – Benevolo Leonardo, "L'architettura nell'Italia contemporanea: ovvero il tramonto del Paesaggio", Laterza, Roma-Bari, 2006, p. 213.

The reconstruction of the environment

— On the next pages:
Adnaniyeh, M. Pistonese;
Jrajeer, M. Meneghello,
A. Signori, S. Zucchelli.

URBICIDE RURAL SYRIA – RECONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGES

MODELS

03

01, 02, 03, 04 —
Western Gherban,
L. Abate.

04

MODELS

07

05, 06, 07, 08 —
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08

MODELS

— 75 —

09, 10, 11, 12 —
Al Jalaa, M. Brusutti,
M. Guerra.

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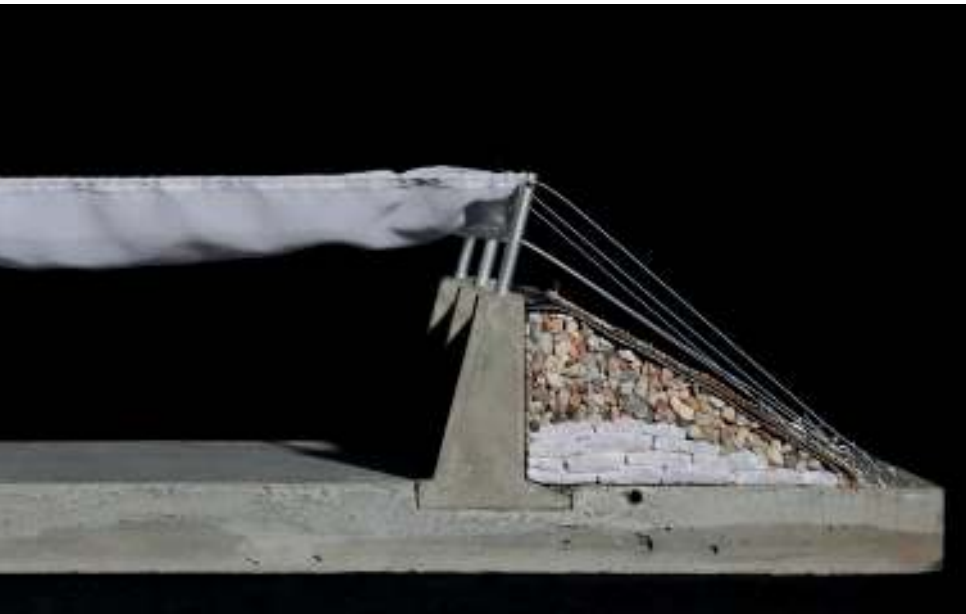
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13, 14, 15, 16 –
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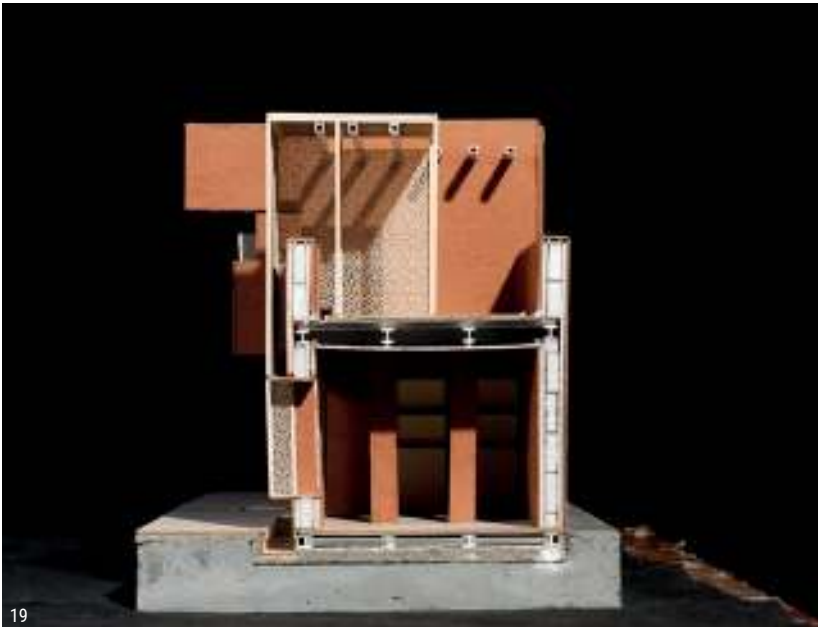
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MODELS

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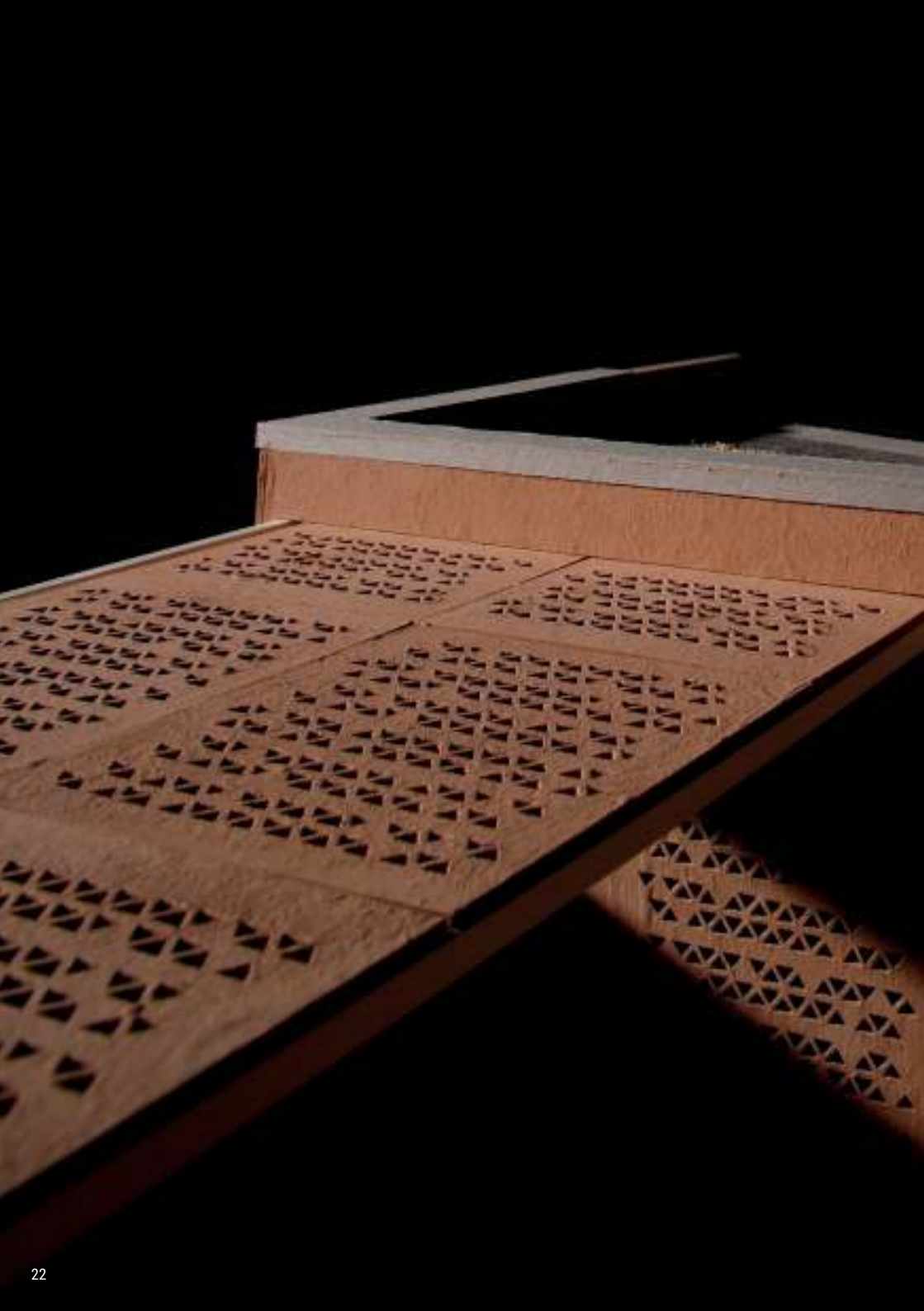
21, 22, 23, 24 —
Al Mukharram Alteh-
taney, S. De Vido,
M. Fadanelli.

MODELS

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25, 26, 27, 28 –
Al Jalaa, M. Germanà,
C. Pettinelli.

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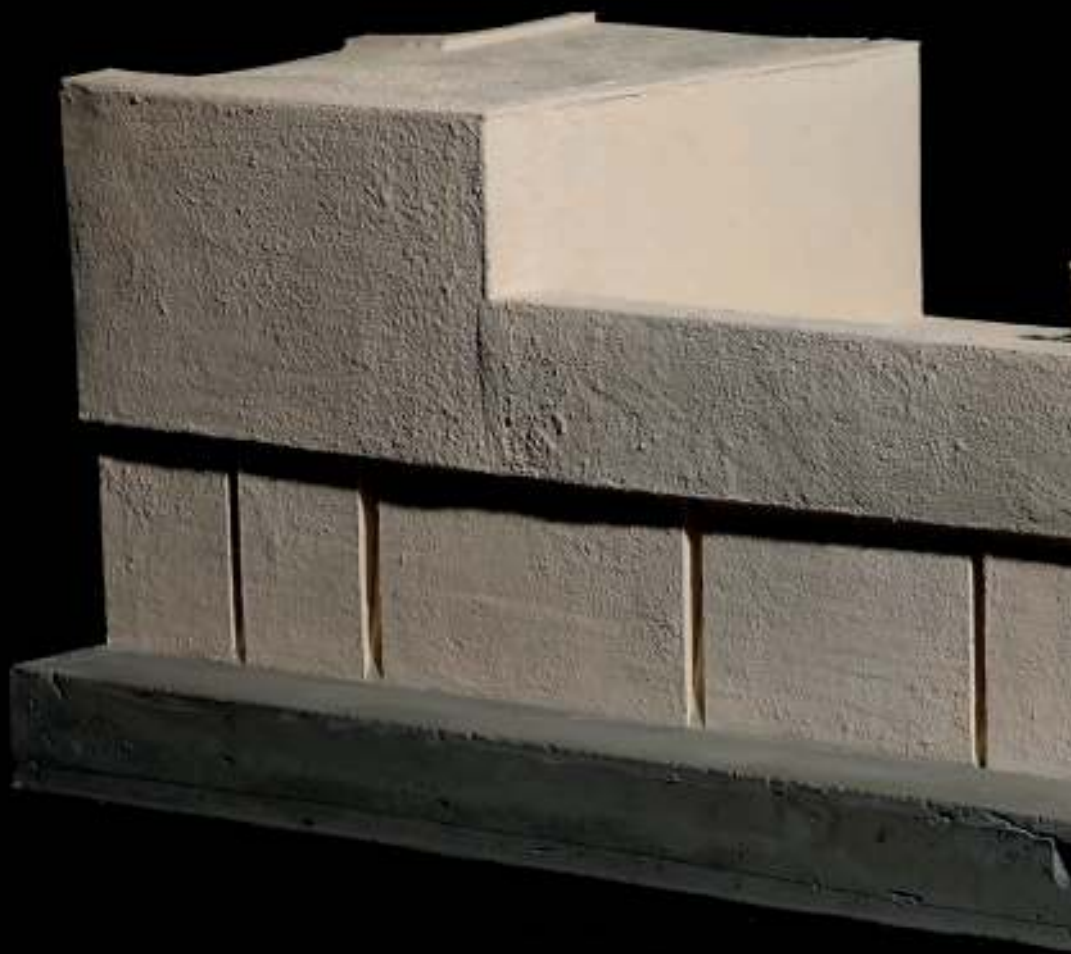
29, 30, 31, 32 —
Tell Mardikh, I. Guizzo,
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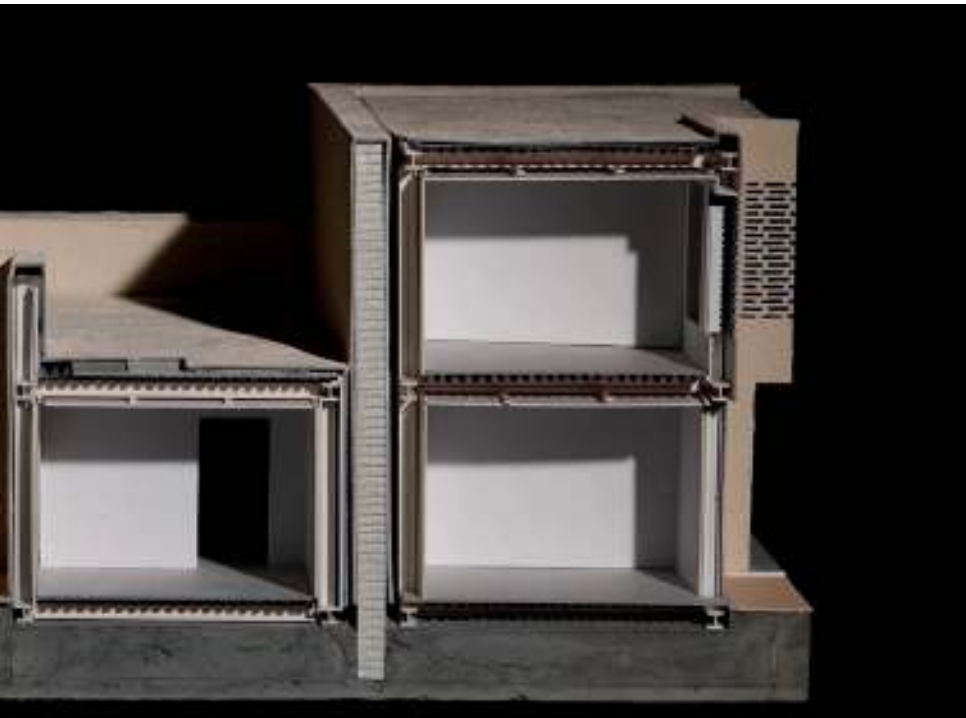
MODELS

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MODELS
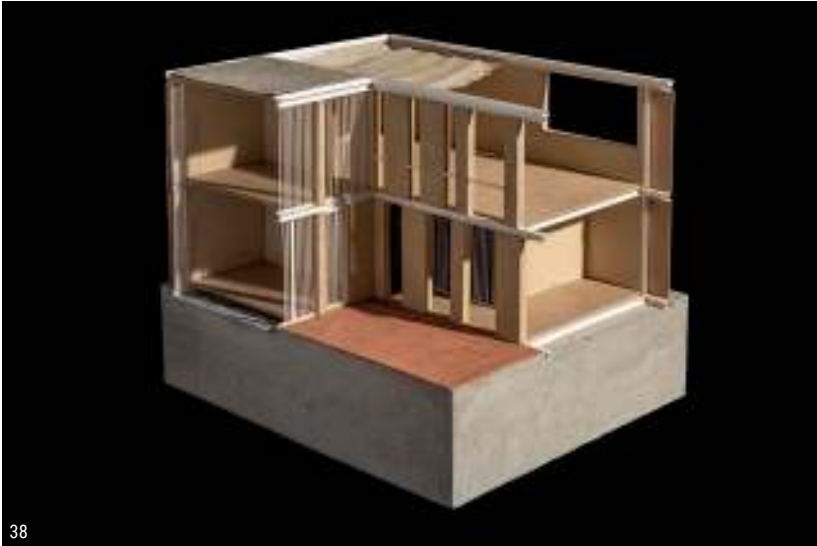
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A. Signori, S. Zucchelli.
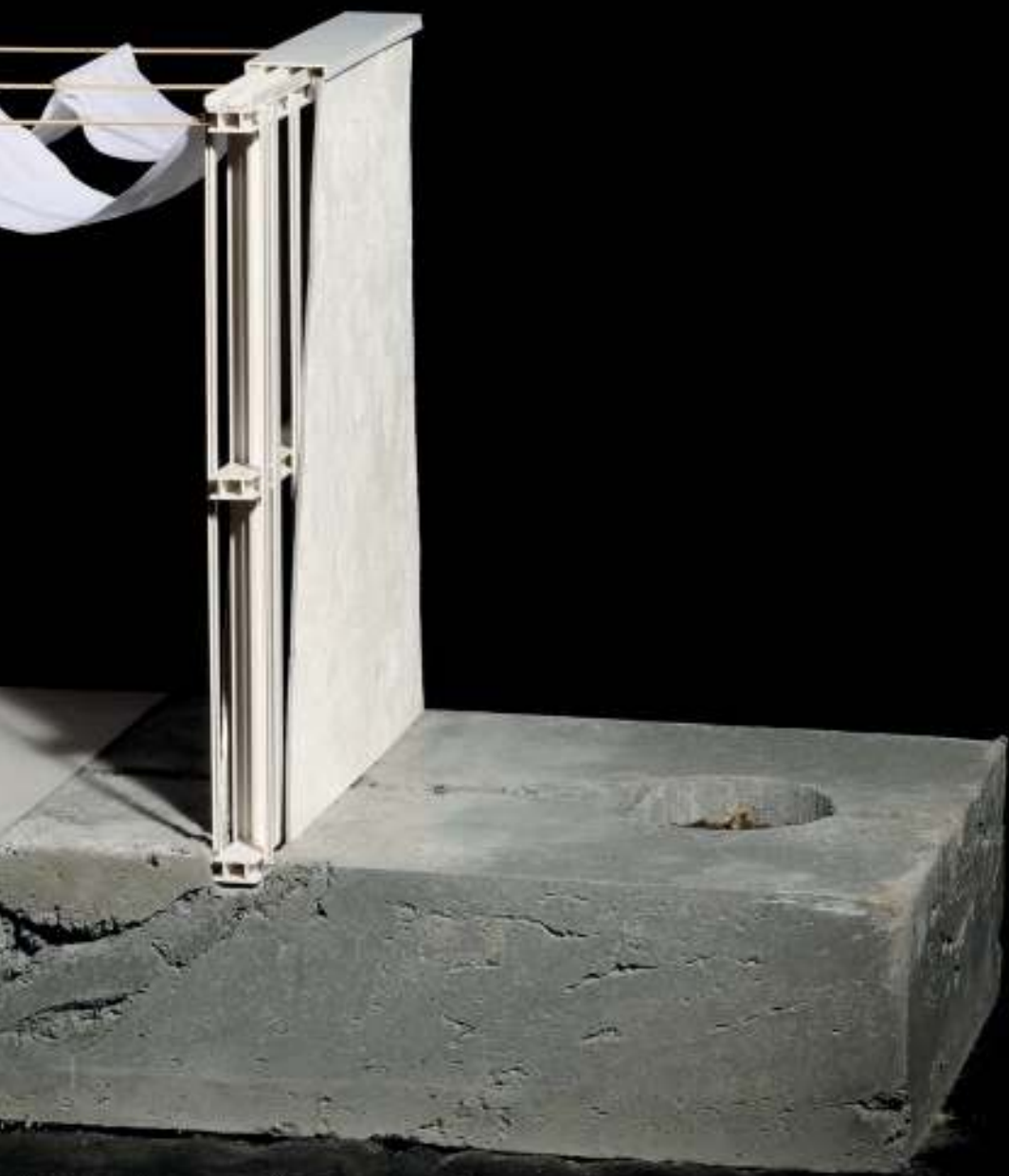
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41, 42, 43, 44 –
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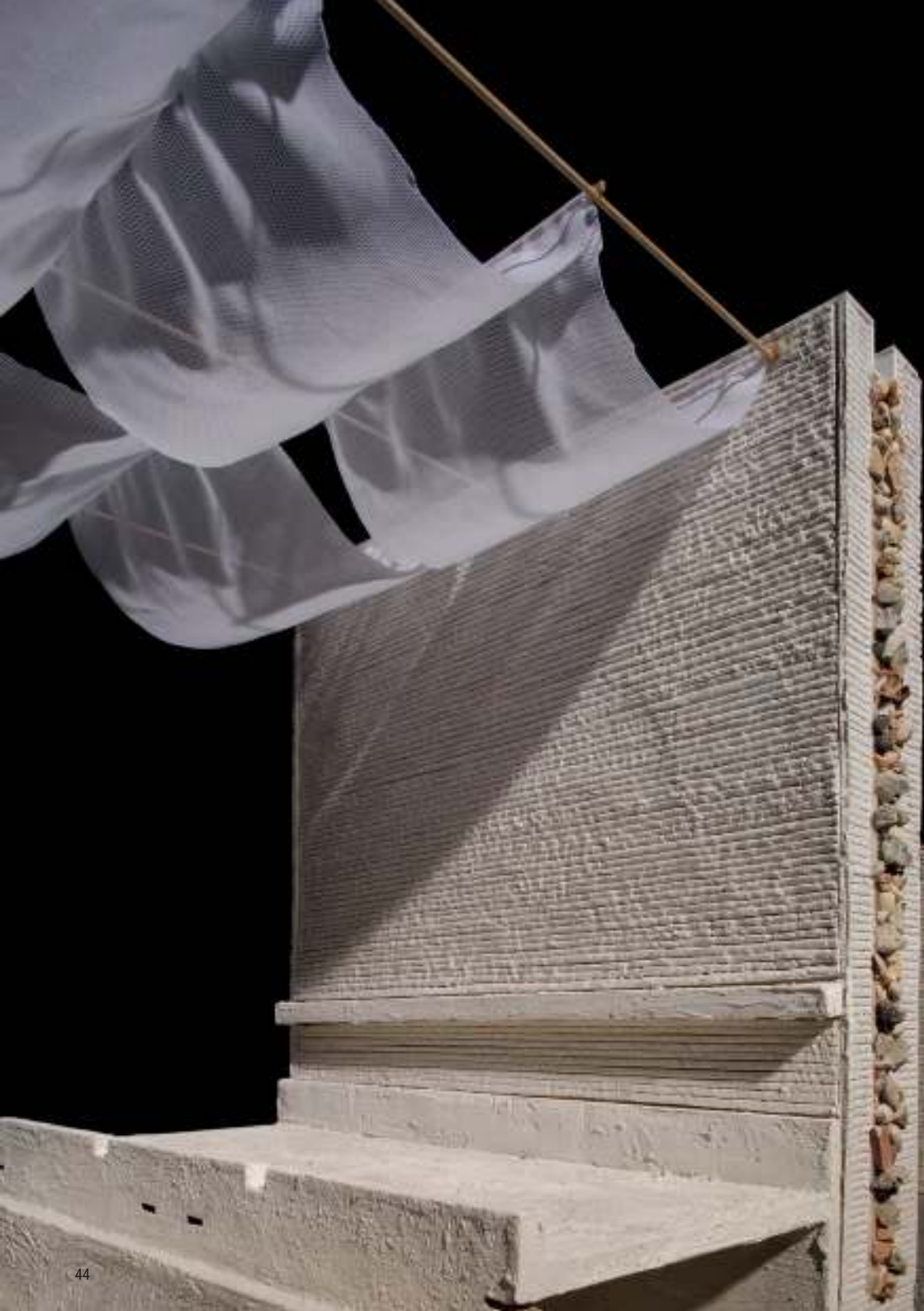
45, 46, 47, 48 —
Fahel, E. Salvador.
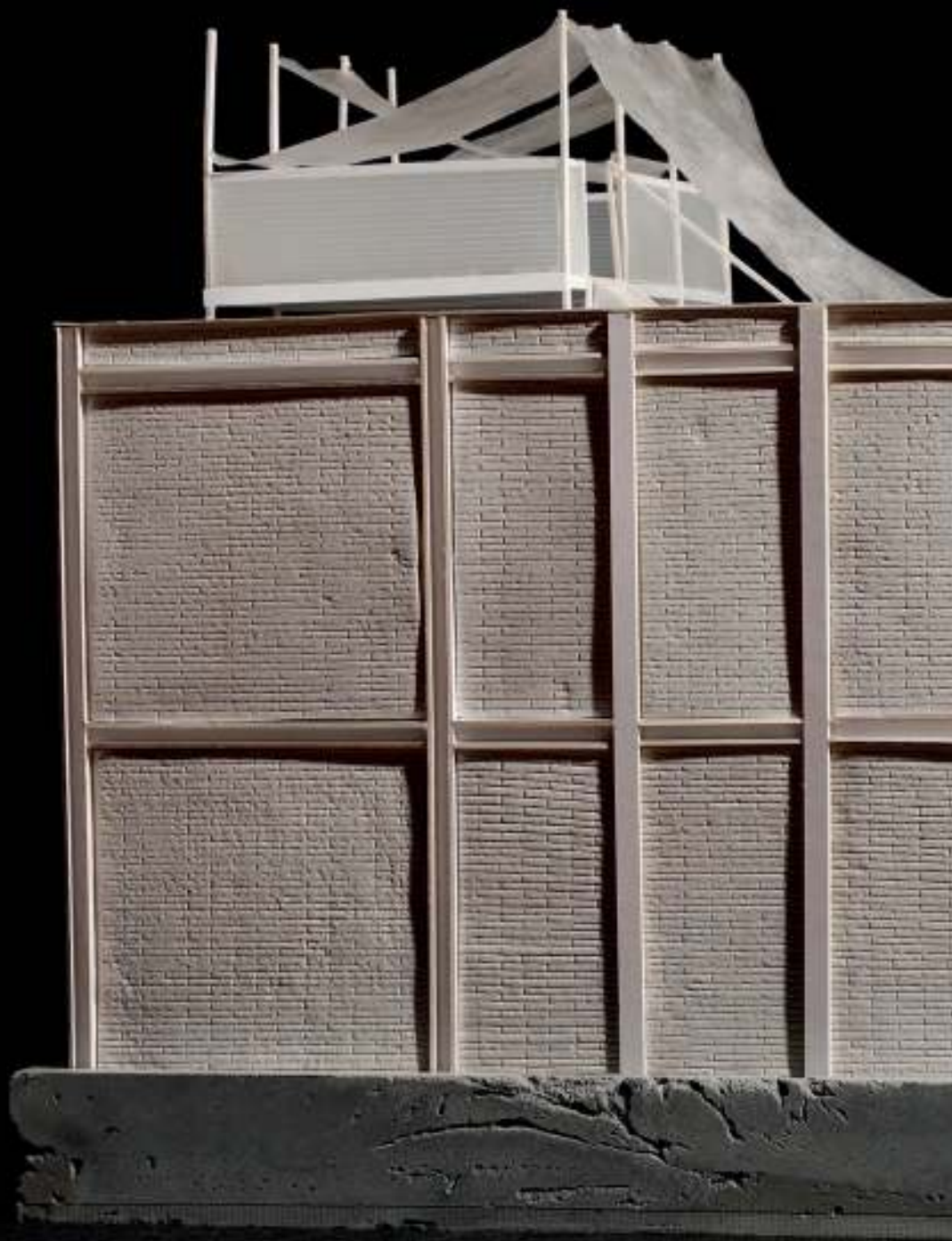
A circular reconstruction
—

Emilio Antoniol

The last twenty years have seen a progressive transition of the European construction sector towards "sustainable" processes, characterized by a greater attention to the environment and by a reduction in the resources consumption. The linear logics of production based on the production-use-disposal principle are slowly[1] changed into circular economies based on the product life cycle's management, on the reuse and recycling of end life products, up to more complex concepts of production, based on biomimesis and imitation of natural processes according to the Blue Economy[2] theories proposed by Gunter Pauli.

The transition towards a circular economy has been possible first thanks to the progressive awareness of the main actors in the building process - companies and producers but also designers and end users - encouraged by the constant political debate[3] and the regulatory updating[4] in terms of efficiency, sustainability and eco-compatibility of buildings.

— On the previous page: Sahl, S. Bortolato, M. Maniero.
On the next page: Sahl, S. Bortolato, M. Maniero.

1 — For a picture of the evolution of the concept of circular economy, see the text by Emanuela Bompan and Ilaria Nicoletta Brambilla (edited by), "Che cosa è l'economia circolare", Edizioni Ambiente, Milano, 2017.

2 — Gunter Pauli, "Blue Economy. 10 anni. 100 innovazioni. 100 milioni di posti di lavoro", Edizioni Ambiente, Milano, 2010.

3 — At European level, the debate on these issues has been active since the 1970s and finds in the circular economy package presented on December 2nd 2015 by the Juncker Commission with the title "The missing link: a European action plan for the economy circular "a turning point towards the sustainability of produc-

tion processes. It is also significant that this date coincides with COP-21 in which the Paris Climate Agreement was signed to contain global warming, linking the issue of circular and sustainable production to climate change.

4 – As an example we can mention the European Directives 2005/32 / EC EuP-Energy-using Products and 2009/125 / CE ErP-Energy-related Products aimed at reducing the energy impact of the products they consume or whose use is related to an energy consumption.

5 – Longo Danila, "Decostruzione e riuso. Procedure e tecniche di valorizzazione dei residui edilizi in Italia", Alinea, Firenze, 2007.

6 – Baker-Brown Duncan, "The Re-use Atlas. A designer's guide towards a circular economy", Riba Publishing, London, 2017.

7 – We are referring for example to WASP, a company from Massa Lombarda that produces 3D printers or to Rice-House, a start-up in Biella that has activated a chain of recovery of rice waste to make building products.

8 – Devarajan Shanta, Mottaghi Lili, "The Economics of Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Middle East and North Africa." Middle East and North Africa Economic Monitor (April), World Bank, Washington, DC, 2017.

– On the next page: Sheran, L. Brancaleoni.

At the same time, the strong innovative drive that has characterized the last decades, with the launch of new materials, new products and construction technologies and above all new systems for the use in production processes[5] of resources that were previously considered as "waste", has strengthened the concrete possibilities of this transformation.

In the European context, characterized by a base of small and medium-sized enterprises, this economy transition has been realized through the creation of new realities, start-ups and innovative companies that work in sectors such as design, fashion, chemistry and biology. They have experimentation as their primary objective, investing in sustainability, automation and technology[6]. Also the building construction sector has grown in this new business model with companies active in sectors such as architectural additive printing or capable of combining traditional building systems (wooden houses, traditional plasters, etc.) with new "waste" materials like processing residues deriving from agricultural or industrial production[7].

In the MENA region the socio-political instability, the continuous episodes of violence and the low oil prices have instead caused a substantial stagnation of the Region economy which, despite the prospect of growth due to reconstruction, in the years between 2013 and 2017 saw an average growth of the economic system of only 2,4%[8].

Indeed, local production systems in MENA region are not very efficient: "The domestic building materials industry is under-producing [...] public and private sector manufacturers suffer from aging infrastructures, lack of spare parts, inadequate sup-

5 MONTH
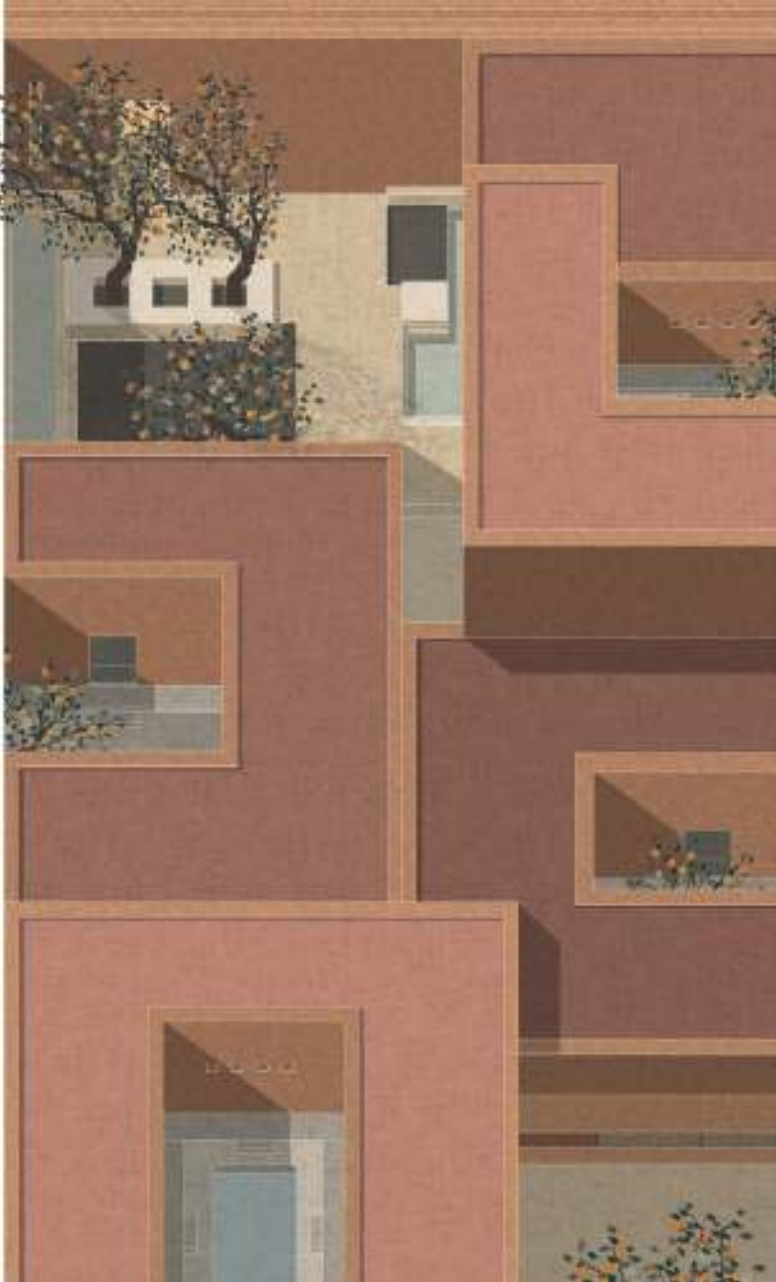
ply of electricity and post-war looting"[9]. The lack of a consolidated production system has slowed down not only the normal production processes but also the innovative drive that sees, especially in the "green" sector, a strong gap compared to what is happening in Europe.

To this must be added the need of reactivation of the labor market, in order to give an income to thousands of people who have lost their work due to war and migration, relying on "cascade" processes described by Pauli in which the reactivation of a supply chain brings material and occupational repercussions even in related sectors[10].

In such a complex scenario, the activation of circular, efficient and sustainable processes appears difficult but is, instead, more useful and necessary in order to maximize the effectiveness of the use of the few available resources, starting from the scarcer one: the water.

Water scarcity characterises all the States of the MENA region and influences their economic development[11], threatening the potential growth linked to the building sector. The MENA region recorded two important building expansion phases, respectively in the 1960s and 1980s. Both phases have seen an increase in construction in urban areas, where the most widely technology used was the reinforced concrete system, which has a strong impact on water consumption. At the same time "with this urbanization, the urban-rural gap is widening, so the gap between capital cities and secondary cities [...] Rural areas in most Arab countries are lagging behind the urban areas. They are characterized by high levels of poverty, high fertility rates and population growth [...] they lack basic infrastructure (roads, irrigation, etc.) often due to the high cost of its provision and maintenance"[12].

9 — Iraq National Housing Policy, Ministry of Construction and Housing (MOCH), 2010.

10 — Gunter Pauli, Blue Economy, op. cit.

11 — Over 60% of the MENA region's population lives in areas with high or very high surface water stress. World Bank, Beyond Scarcity: Water Security in the Middle East and North Africa. MENA Development Report, Washington, DC, World Bank, 2018.

12 — Malkawi Fuad K. , "The New Arab Metropolis: A New Research Agenda", in Elsheshtawy Yasser (editor), "The Evolving Arab City. Tradition, Modernity & Urban Development", Routledge, London and New York, 2008, pp. 29-30.

A circular reconstruction

— On the previous pages: Al Jalaa, M. Brusutti, M. Guerra. On the next pages: Al Sahharah, S. Busetto.

URBICIDE RURAL SYRIA – RECONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGES

A circular reconstruction

This led to a strong development of "mass" construction solutions based on concrete and other imported materials, limiting the spread of traditional construction solutions based on local materials.

Nowadays, rethinking post-war reconstruction also means reducing the use of reinforced concrete. For these reasons the reconstruction process can find in the technological innovation, and above all in the activation of circular processes, an effective method to reduce the consumption of water and resources, reactivating at the same time the local economy. On the one hand, if water can be used more effectively in agricultural production, a primary sector for the MENA area recovery, on the other hand, from the agricultural sector can emerge resources that are usable in building production processes based on the recycle of agricultural residues, or on local resources such as raw earth and rubble resulting from the disposal of cities destroyed by conflicts. In this scenario, the reconstruction of cities and villages in the MENA region is based on a reduction in imports of materials from extra-territorial contexts to exploit resources already available and traditional techniques that, using local labor, can also lead to a socio-economic reactivation of the area.

However, this process requires a considerable effort. The reconstruction of entire cities cannot simply be answered in the revival of traditional technologies and in the use of poor and locally sourced materials, but it will necessarily have to face the need for mass production in a short time. For this reason the contribution that the research can offer concerns precisely the transfer of technology and knowledge from contexts such as the European one, where innovation has become an

— On the next page:
Western Gherban,
Lorenzo Abate.

engine of development, to areas such as the MENA one in which it can be the answer for a conscious and sustainable reconstruction.

Building with waste, using waste products of other productions, as well as the use of natural and recyclable materials, is a practice that must therefore be combined with the activation of local production centers, such as laboratories and small craft hubs, settable where needed. At the same time, the availability of manpower and the lack of water resources lead us to consider dry construction technologies as preferable, using small components, such as blocks, bricks and panels, easy to assemble and light to handle, specifying functional layers and materials to the needs of each project. This makes it possible to imagine the construction site as a flexible and light structure, without heavy machines, where traditional construction works alongside the most advanced technologies[13]: a real "building production laboratory" located directly on site where working tools such as numerical control machines, robotic arms and drones work alongside local labor, to transform local resources, but also rubble from existing buildings, into new construction products.

13 — On these themes, see what is described by Zambelli Ettore, Vanoncini Pier Antonio and Imperadori Marco in "Costruzione stratificata a secco. Tecnologie edilizie innovative e metodi per la gestione del progetto", Maggioli, Rimini, 1998.

A circular reconstruction

— On the previous page: Zardana, P. Cristini, G. Raffaelli.

— On these pages: Al
Jalaa, M. Germanà, C.
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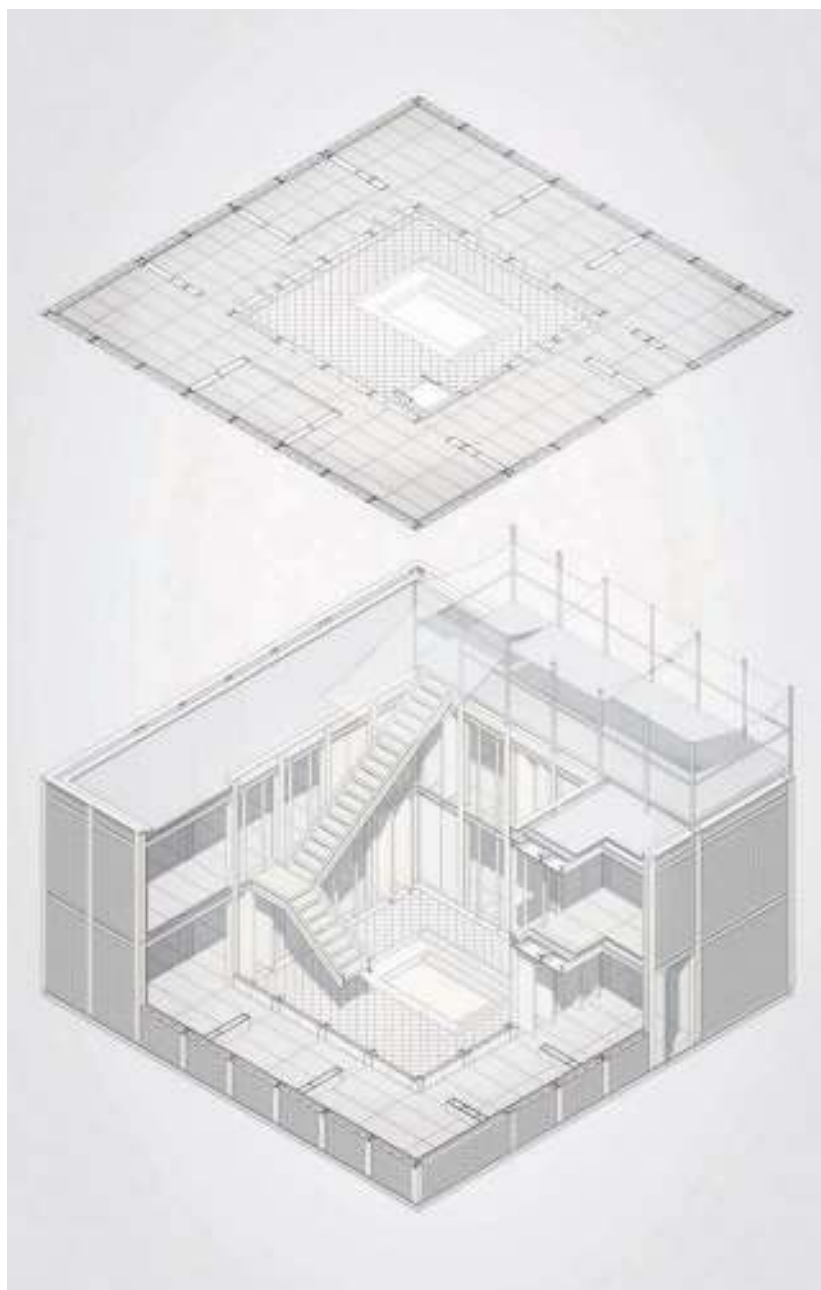
Other Modernities
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Elisa Vendemini

Latest in a long series of cities devastated by war events, Aleppo, Damascus, Homs and Mosul are at the same time tragic scenarios of a war that damages and is fought in urban areas: a new horizon towards which to strive, where experimenting new forms of local intervention based on global strategies.
Contemporary reflections must confront the military and political significance of the deliberate destruction of built memory and the conscious annihilation of all forms of urbanity.
"War is the most terrible of destructive forces. It destroys the patient work of many generations, often in just a few minutes"[1].
Since the Twentieth century the technological progress has allowed devastation and huge catastrophes that had mainly affected, until that moment, the historical core and the oldest consolidated parts of the cities. If, as Walter Benjamin wrote in the book Das Passagenwerk, "with the great cities have

1 — "La guerra è la più terribile delle forze distruttive. Essa distrugge, spesso in pochi minuti, il lavoro paziente di numerose generazioni" in Wiktor Ostrowsky, "La valorizzazione dei monumenti e dei centri storici urbani", in "Urbanistica" n. 35, 1962, p. 58.

— On the previous page: Fahel, E. Salvador. On the next pages: Adnaniyeh, M. Pistonese.
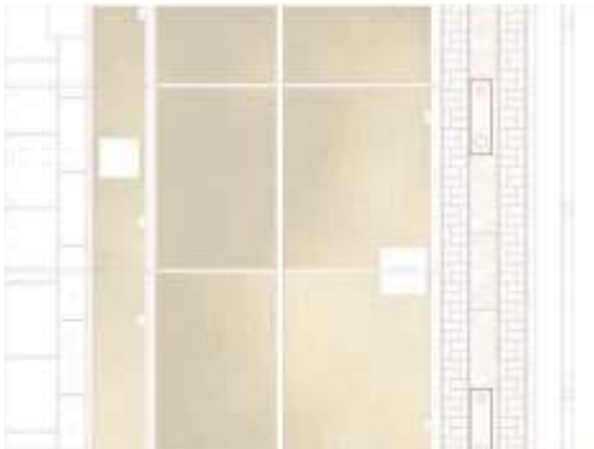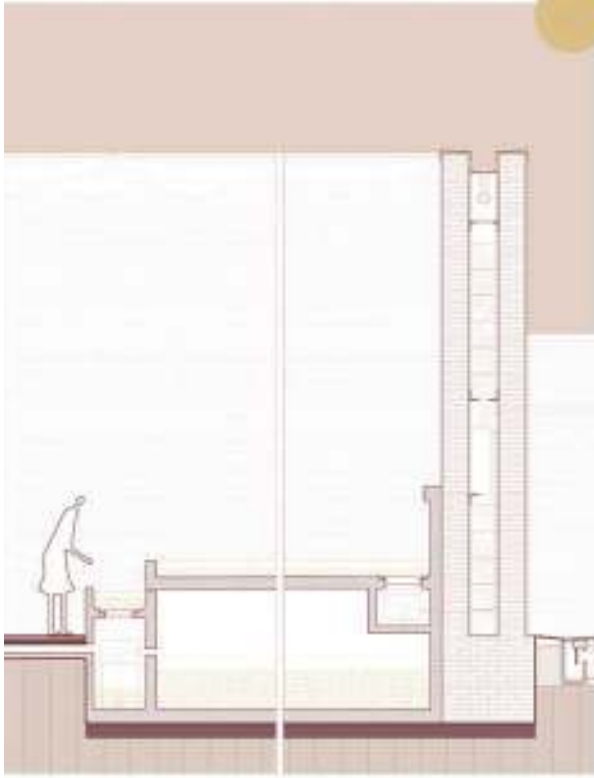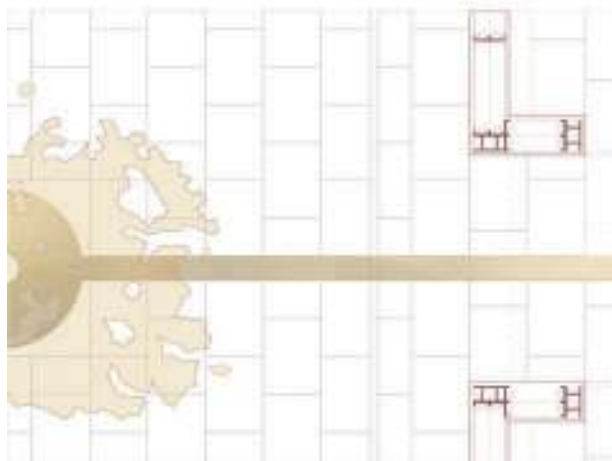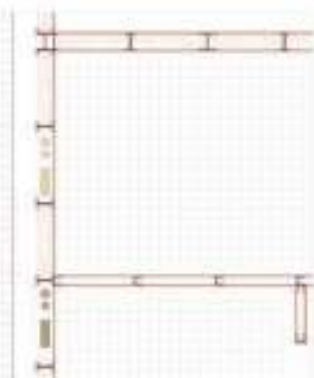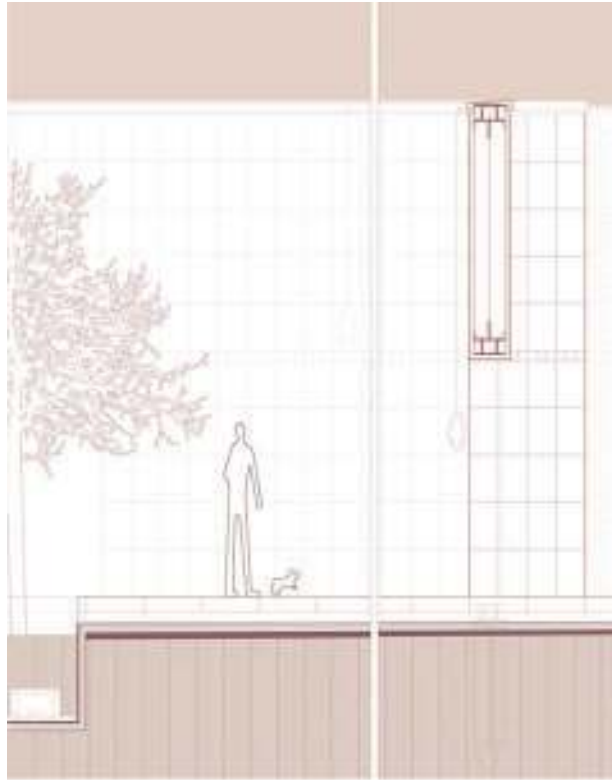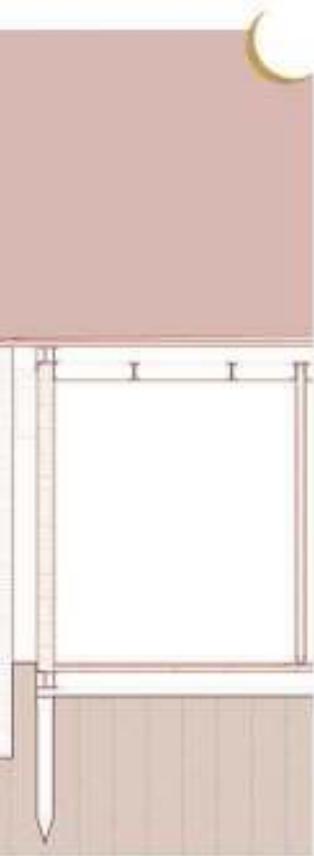
2 — "Die Phantasien vom Untergang von Paris sind ein Symptom davon, daß die Technik nicht rezipiert wurde. Aus ihnen spricht das dumpfe Bewußtsein, daß mit den großen Städten die Mittel heran- wuchsen, sie dem Erdboden gleichzumachen (C7a, 4)" Benjamin Walter, "Das Passagenwerk", 1982, Suhrkamp Verlag, Frankfurt am Main, p. 152.

evolved the means to raze them to the ground"[2], from the Second World War onwards, strategies and methods for their reconstruction began to be developed on a world scale.

In reference to Italian and European cities, the destructions occurred during the Second World War were a rare opportunity to rethink and reconfigure the city, questioning the existing plant.

The debate on reconstruction strategies intercepts, between the beginning of the Sixties and the end of the Seventies, in the midst of the European economic boom and Italian speculative processes, the phenomenon of abandonment and physical degradation of many urban centres that had been pillars of premodern urbanization but by now these had lost their function, inhabitants and role.

In those years, Italy becomes the cultural and propulsive epicentre of a new way of thinking and intervening in urban centres: a story that marks a collective change of mentality towards the commons inherited from the past.

Conservation policy of ancient cities and historical cores, of the material and immaterial heritage of the inherited city, derives from a unitary and organic cultural attitude. Urban planners and architects as Giovanni Astengo and Saverio Muratori, lay the foundations for a new approach to the conservation of the historic city. Nevertheless, the most interesting contribution is expressed in the conservation projects developed under the guidance of Leonardo Benevolo as the plan for the historical centre of Bologna in 1969.

"Fundamental objective of the plan for the historic centre of Bologna is to respect the historical past as a universal heritage: respect that in the possibility of (rapid) cancellation assumes the meaning of a real

— On the next page: Al Mukharram Altehtaney, S. De Vido, M. Fadanelli.

Other Modernities
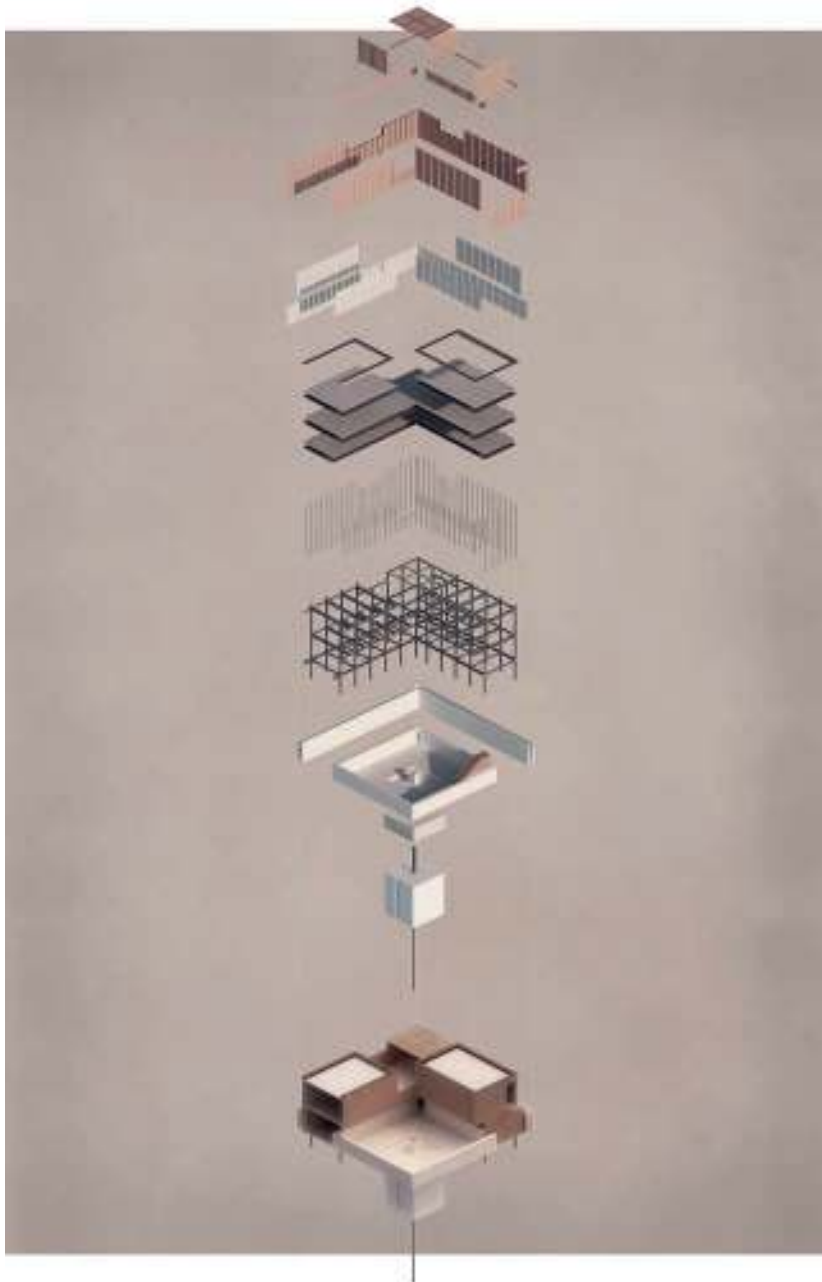
3 — "Obiettivo fondamentale del piano per il centro storico di Bologna è rispettare il passato storico come patrimonio universale: rispetto che nella possibilità di (rapida) cancellazione assume il significato di un vero salvataggio di questo. Il centro antico deve escludere tutto ciò che compromette la sua leggibilità morfologica e figurativa unificata e tutto ciò condiziona le sue funzioni primarie con funzioni incompatibili". Comune di Bologna, Assessorato ai problemi urbanistici dell'assetto territoriale del comune del comprensorio, Variante al Piano Regolatore. Piano per il centro storico. Norme tecniche di attuazione adottate con deliberazione consiliare del 21 luglio 1969, n. 74 dell'O.d.G, 1969.

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rescue of this. The ancient centre must exclude everything that compromises its unified morphological and figurative readability and all that conditions its primary functions with incompatible functions"[3].

According to Benevolo, a monument cannot be isolated from the urban structure from which it was generated. The historical town has to be considered as a monument in its entirely: to be preserved in its complex set of public and private buildings, churches and palaces, houses and streets, canals and squares. Not only the single building damaged or destroyed must be restored, but it is the entire historical city as a whole that must be restored. Benevolo introduces the "restoration" of the urban structure destroyed by disembowelment and/or bombings and the Italian culture has played a leading role in the definition of the principles and practices of conservation of urban heritage during the last century.

The prosperity of the Italian contribution to urban conservation, the studies and tools produced in Italy as well as abroad, joined with the prestige that still surrounds this experience, are the indicators of the fertility of a season where the Italian culture was able to produce a theoretical and practical result, transmissible and exportable to institutional settings on a global scale: the urban restoration and the preservation of historic city facilities had soon spread throughout the world. The historical core and the value attributed to its heritage have given urbanized societies an inalienable right: in Tunis, Istanbul, Bursa, Jerusalem, Baghdad, Sana'a, Cartagena and Quito the community legacy is today transmitted by fragments of an ancient cities that architects as Ludovico Quaroni, Giancarlo De Carlo and Luigi Piccinato have contributed to remodel. Intervention strate-

4 — "Dovrà essere una nuova forma di ricostruzione che bisognerà collocare all'interno del dibattito più ampio e globale sulla sostenibilità e sulle possibilità di azione da lasciare alle generazioni future, sul valore del place attachment" Albrecht Benno, "Urbicidi e strategie di ricostruzione", in Ferlenga Alberto et al (editeb by) "Ricostruzioni: architettura, città, paesaggio nell'epoca delle distruzioni", Silvana Editoriale, 2018, pp. 206-207.

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gies then adopted and implemented by international institutions such as the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the United Nations.

The ideas resulting from the urban restoration can be updated for the reconstruction of the historical areas of the cities destroyed nowadays in the entire MENA region. If the practice of reconstructing "As it was, where it was" is now universally recognized for the passages of historical cities, the reconstruction of vast areas of contemporary cities, without quality and very little documentary value, is much more complex and difficult to solve, as are the suburbs destroyed in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Libya. For the first time in the history of mankind, there are major devastations of the huge parts of a post-industrial city.

What to do in front of informal neighbourhoods, suburbs and industrial areas that have been destroyed? The challenge now is to identify innovative intervention strategies capable of responding to cultural, social, and urban differences in contexts resulting from millennial sedimentations and at the same time acting according to a clear image of the city of the future. "It will have to be a new form of reconstruction that will need to be placed within the broader and more global debate on sustainability and the possibilities of action to be left to future generations, on the value of the place attachment"[4].

The historical core, as a unified body composed of buildings, open spaces, and inhabitants, can be conceived as an operating and repeatable model for the reconstruction of the city of the future, as a maximum expression of sustainability: density, climatic system, use of local materials, percentage of land occupation and public space, circulation systems
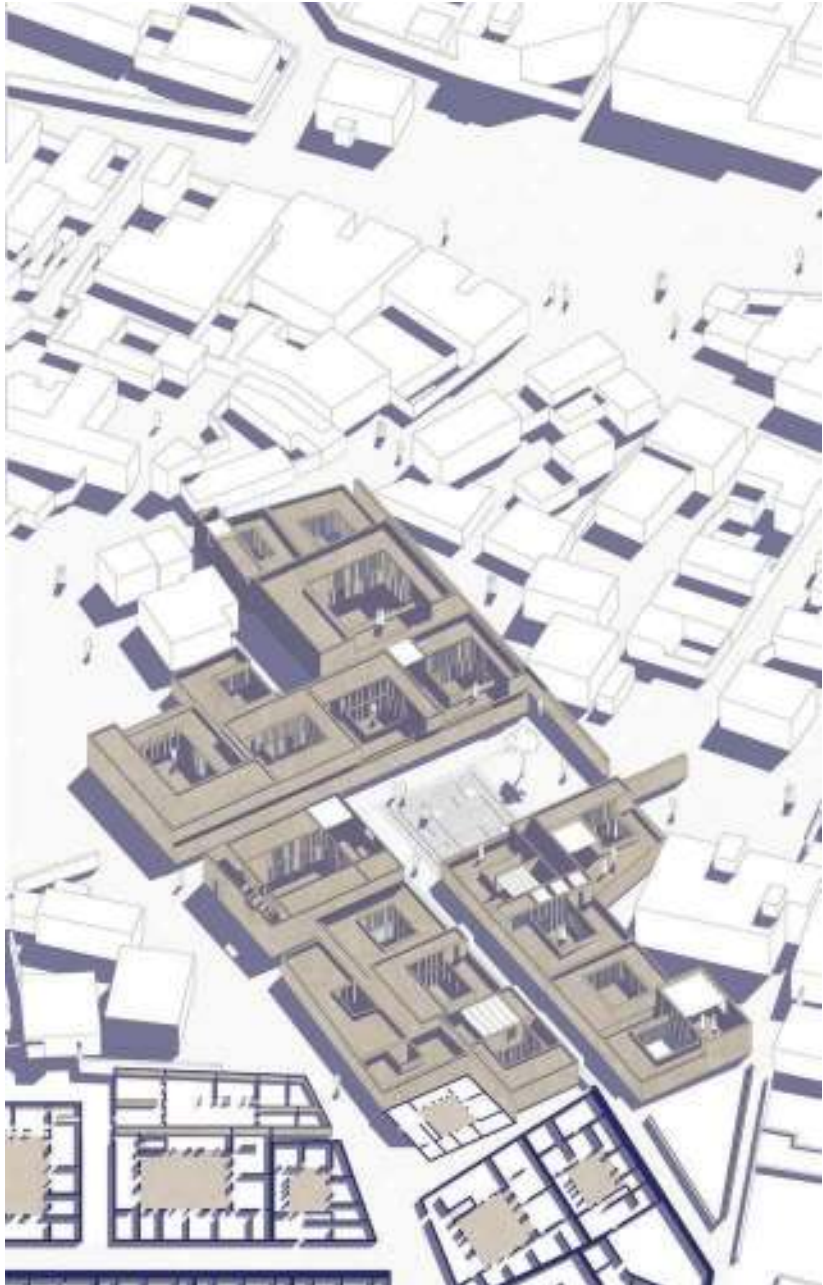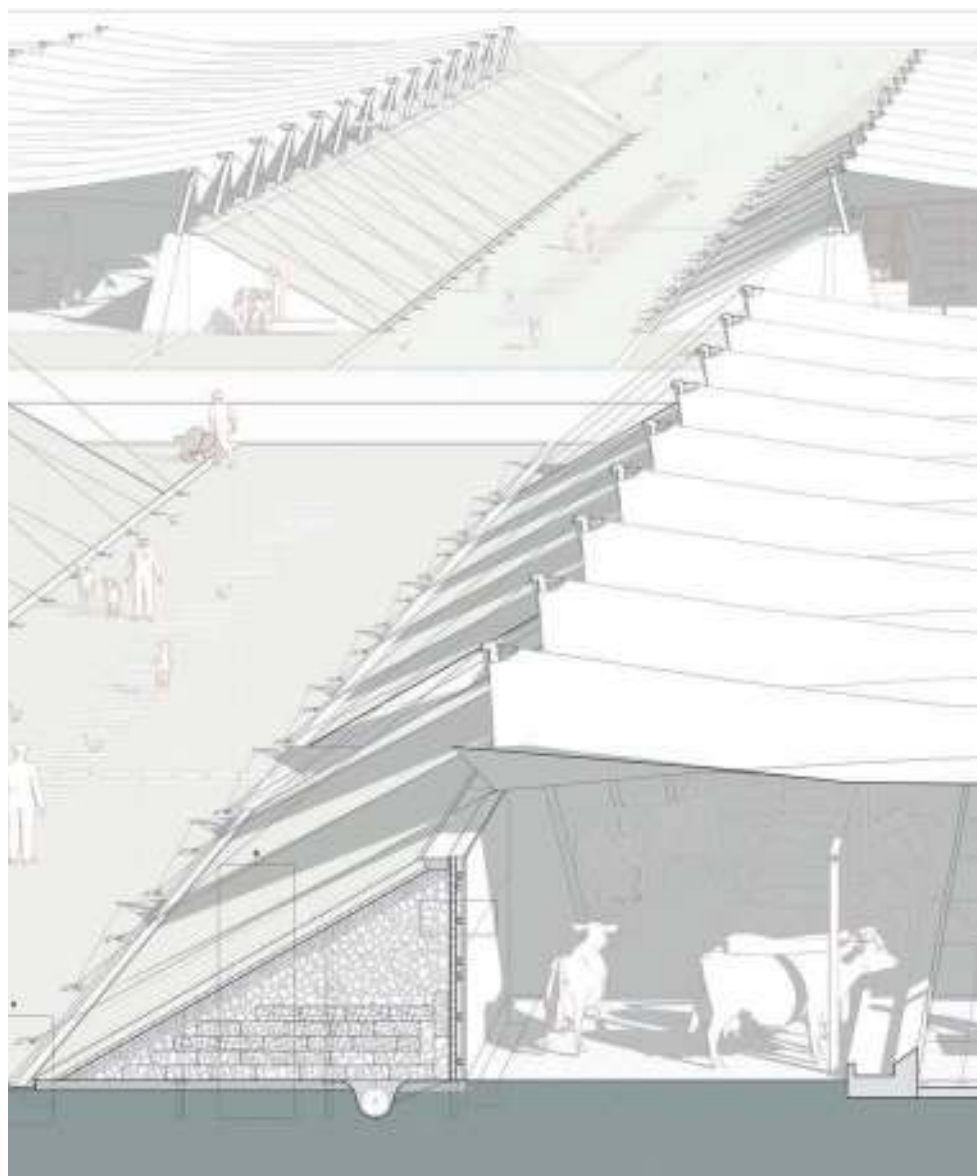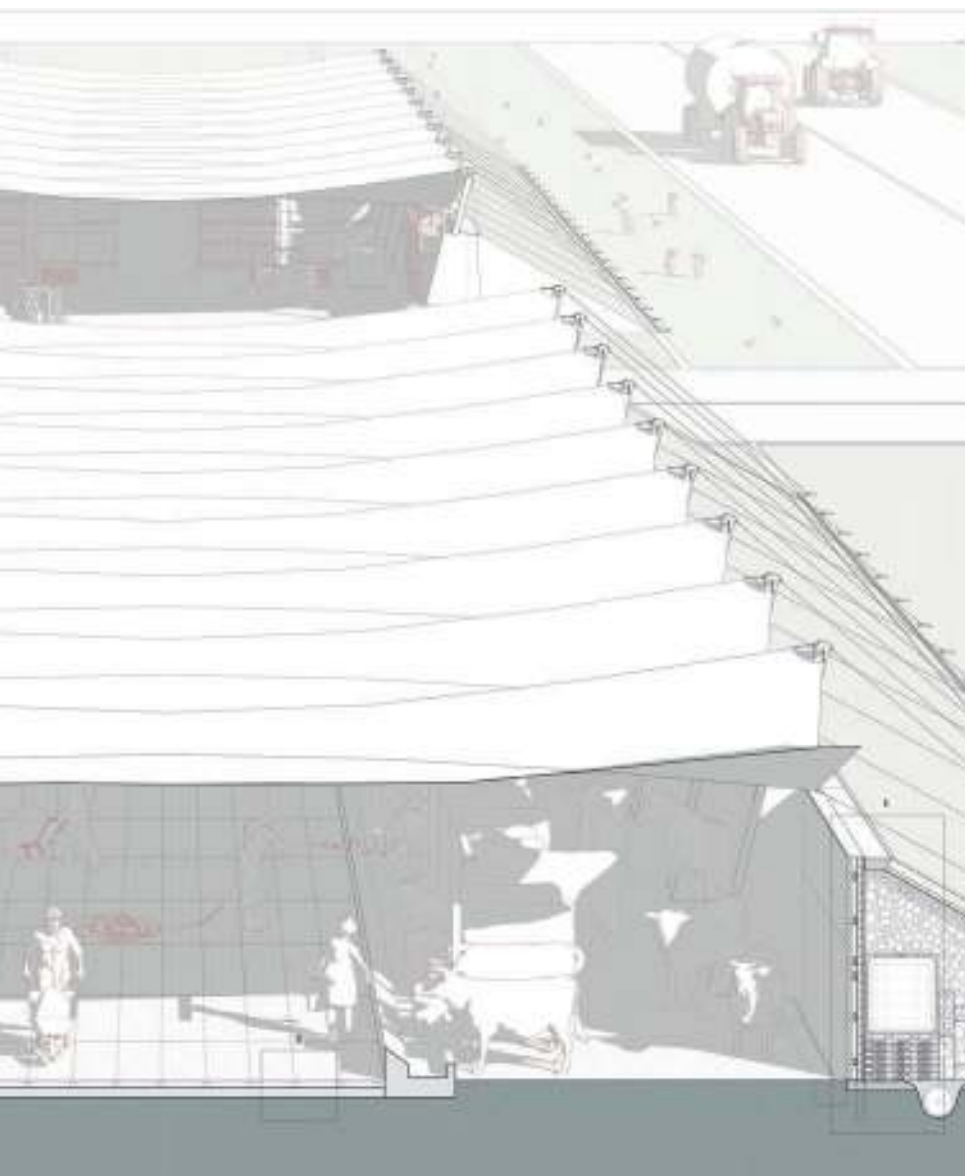
and other spatial features are a valuable starting point for reconstruction strategies. The reconstruction project will have to hybridize the historical spatial features with technological tools able to guarantee the performances in a simultaneously qualitative and quantitative effort; aesthetic and ethical.

The most difficult characteristic of historical city to reproduce for the city of the future is the right size. The global increase population and the exponential growth of inhabitants in urban areas to the detriment of rural areas leads to the irrepressible development of huge settlements: the megalopolises.

The cities before the advent of the mechanised era, though different from each other, had a common characteristic, that of being more or less static: "The great majority of the cities that were created during the first 5000 years of the history of the urban kind of settlement were on a small enough scale for pedestrians to be able to live and work in them conveniently […] Capital cities were exceptional in being both relatively rare and relatively large, but this class, too, remained static, on its own peculiar scale […] The rise of the mechanized cities has brought with it the greatest change […] Mechanized cities are not stationary; they are dynamically on the move, and it is already evident that they are changing into a new type. They are coagulating into the megalopolises [...] The megalopolises on all the continents are merging to from Ecumenopolis, a new type of city that can be represented by only specimen, since Ecumenopolis is going, as its name proclaims, to encompass the land-surface of the globe with a single conurbation. The open question is not whether Ecumenopolis is going to come into existence; it is whether its maker, mankind, is going to be its master or to be its victim.

— On the next page: Sheran, L. Brancaleoni.
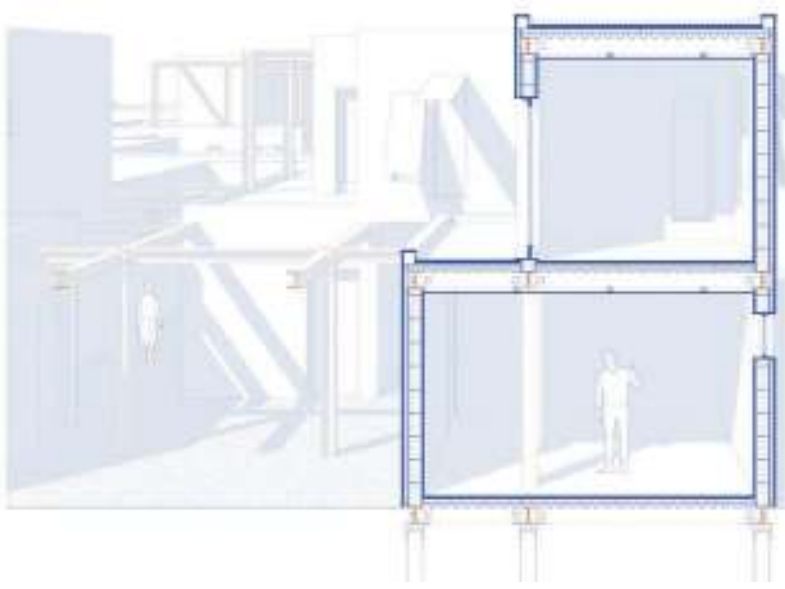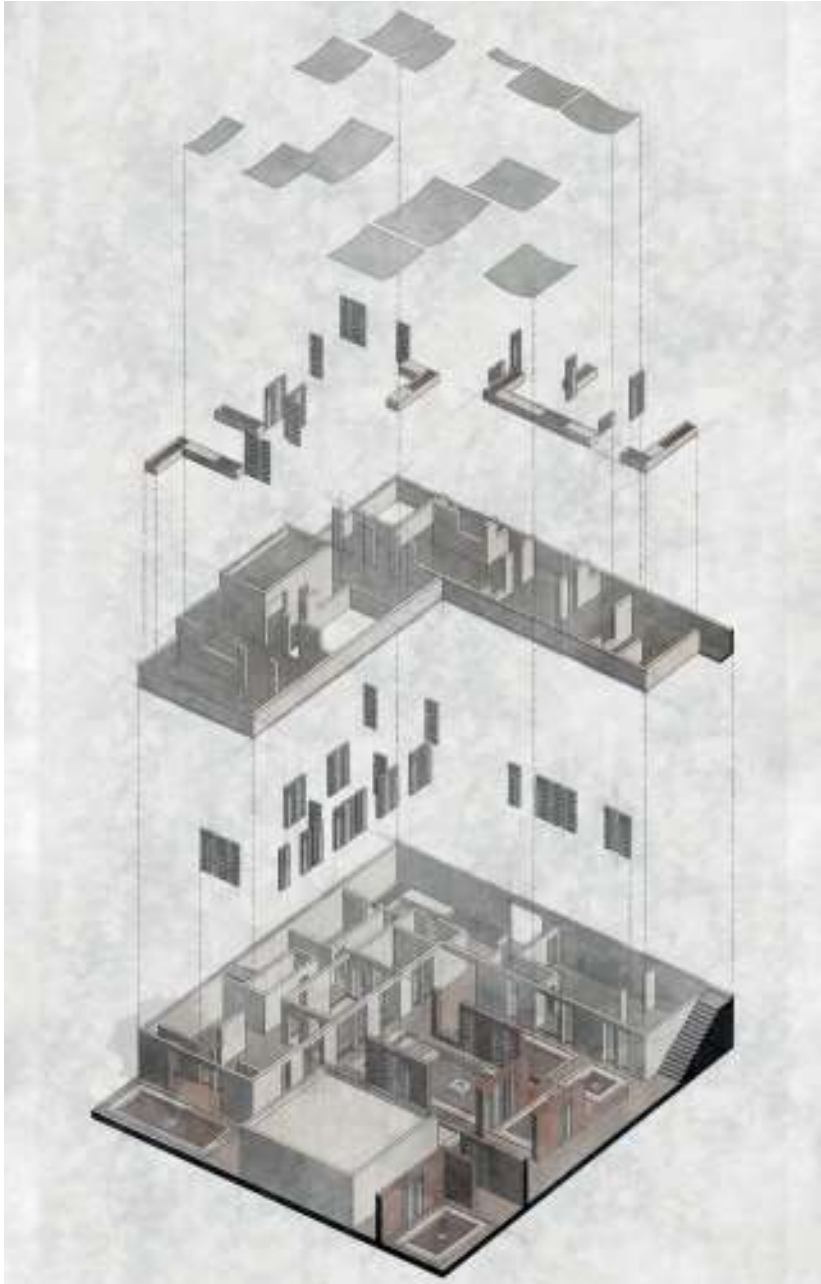
Are we going to succeed in making the inevitable Ecumenopolis a tolerable habitat for human being?"[5].

Is it now possible to imagine an alternative development that allows a renewed balance condition? We will have to contain, and as far as possible, to reduce, the quantum of area and urban population that presses on each centre; this will only be possible with the creation of new centres and as Constantine Doxiadis indicates, "the closed city has now to be replaced by one that is open-ended. Long before the pressure on a particular city-centre has increased to a degree at which it would be intolerable, the increase must be halted by diverting the further quanta of the mounting pressure to another centre-and then to another and another, in a continually lengthening echelon, as population and construction and production and traffic continue to increase"[6].

It is described a development by decentralization of populations and functions in order to allow the experimentation of the reconstruction on site and from below, situating the communities at the centre of the processes of construction and reconstruction of the territory. The cells constituting the future "world-city" must be settlements on the scale of the traditional city, calibrated to the right dimension of sustenance for the community. "In the World-City there will be hundreds of thousands of there units, and they will be juxtaposed in a continuous mosaic, instead of being scattered thinly over a predominantly rural Oikoumenê"[7].
Only a decentralized development for cellular units can allow a cosmopolitanism able to manage and enhance the local dimension and at the same time the global one.

5 — Toynbee Arnold Joseph, "Cities in the Move", Oxford University Press, 1970, pp. 195-196.

6 — Ibidem, p. 244.

7 — Ibidem, p. 246.

Other Modernities

— On the previous page: Sahl, S. Bortolato, M. Maniero.

(R)urban Syria.
Rural-urban dichotomy as strategy
—

Rossella Villani

What happens when suddenly the urban perspective that characterizes our living is obscured or destroyed? The dualism and the dichotomy between the city and the country loses its simplistic meaning and it is obliged to reformulate all the spaces starting from the first crisis state. In a post-war scenario, that characterize the Syrian territory, it is possible to reconfigure the hybrid relations between city and countryside, combining natural elements and urban contexts.

The interruption, due to the war, of the period of rapid urbanization that characterized the growth of Aleppo and Damascus, is now an opportunity to analyze, redesign and reconsider the whole process of reconstruction and future development of the city, the villages and the countryside.

Before 2011 the expansion and acceleration of the sphere of influence of the cities was in fact following the worldwide trend of the demographic boom in the big centers.

— On the previous page:
Jrajeer, M. Meneghello,
A. Signori, S. Zucchelli.

1 — Mumford Lewis, "The urban prospect", Il Saggiatore, Milano, 1970.

2 — Carlow Vanessa Miriam, "ISU, Ruralism. The future od the villages and small towns in a urbanizing world", Jovis, 2016.

3 — Lynch Kevin, "The image of the city", The MIT Press, Massachusetts, 1960.

This concentration of population had assumed a dichotomous form of anti-city that oscillated between the rage on the center and urban dispersion. Precisely this strange reciprocity expresses the need to work in the reconstruction of cities by opening the gaze also to the landscape context. A serious awareness on a large scale, which is also clarified by Mumford's words "if architects or city planners will want to do better in the future, they will have to understand the historical forces originally produced the city's failure and contemporary pressures"[1]. Rural reconstructions, following the example of the historical fabric of cities based on pre-colonial models, must implement transformations based on pre-oil and pre-urban agriculture models.

It is a form of construction that necessarily returns to the origins, to a foundational phase that is not limited to the urban space of the city but is also structured in the territory. A territory that according to recent mobilizations for sustainable development is no longer just an aestheticizing landscape that surrounds the peripheries of cities but that is increasingly understood as lands of production of renewable materials, energy, food products and social capital.

The water-agriculture-space paradigm[2] then appears in these territories where the break between the parts is clear. Geography makes cities, deserts, and river areas from which the fields radiate perfectly distinguishable. It is therefore not possible to think only on stone reconstruction, without first understanding and encouraging sustainable development. This paradigm implies that, under the rural precedent, a productive agricultural component could be extended to production in a more general sense under urban extension; to the production of renewable materials in conjunction with the development of space.

An imaginable vision[3] must extend to the border, intercept the suburbs and tell the territories.

— On the next pages: Al Sahharah, S. Busetto; Adnaniyeh, M. Pistonese; Al Jalaa, M. Germanà, C. Pettinelli.
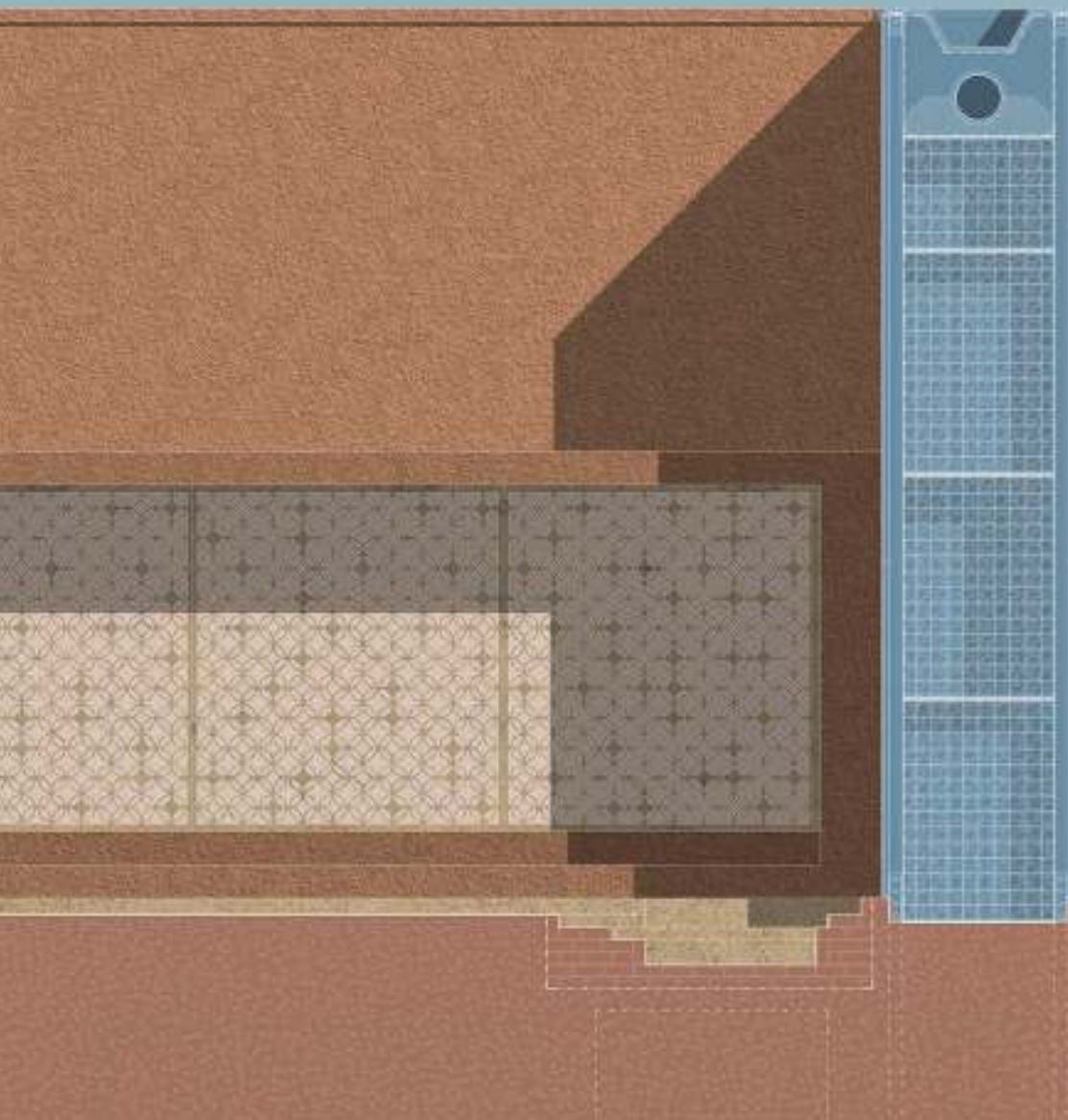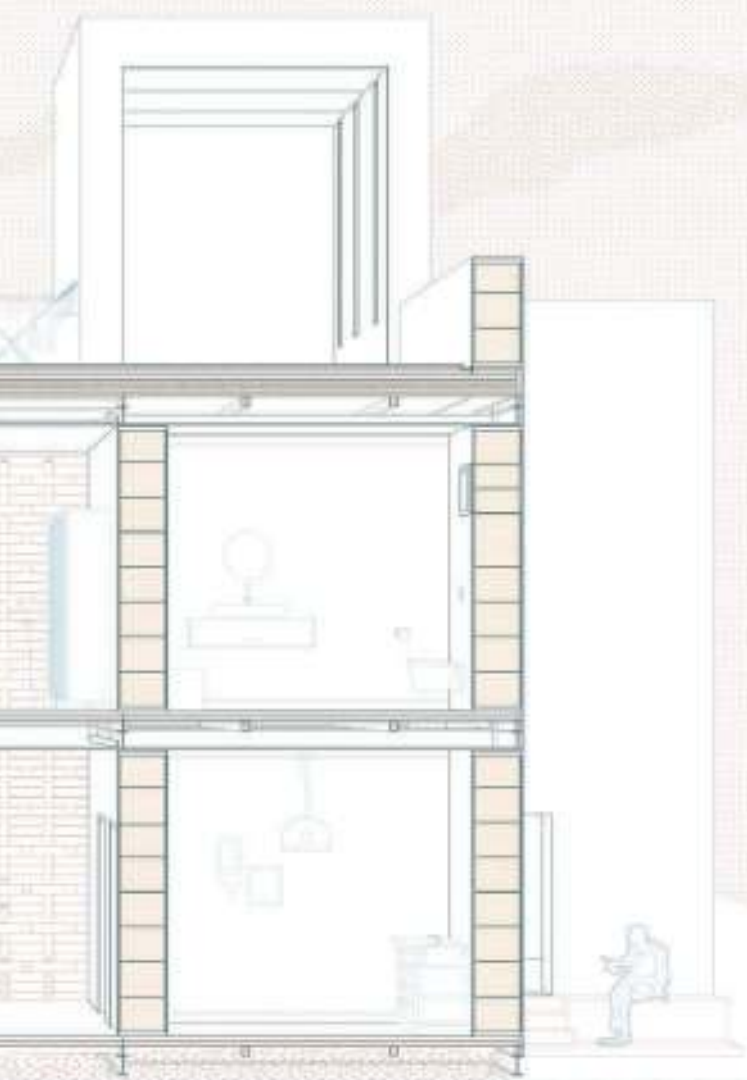
4 — Mumford Lewis, op. cit.

5 — Benevolo Leonardo, "La fine della città", Edizione Laterza, Bari, 2011, p. 6.

6 — World Bank, "Agricolture in Syria: towards the social market", Washington, 2018.

In this imagery it is also important to control the development of suburban areas by incorporating them in an intelligent system that limits damage to the natural landscape to a minimum and their incidence on the depopulation of historical centers. It must be a change that understands the social function of open spaces and prevents contact between one urban unit and another. A permanent green matrix[4] must be able to manage a regional system in which cities can be redistributed in the territory in a more balanced way avoiding the congestion of the metropolis and the disintegration of the suburb.

In the Middle Eastern context the clear perception between the inside and the outside of the city resists. The fragmented system mainly characterized by resources must implement a large-scale strategy aware of its limitations, restrictions and interruptions. The resources and therefore the natural environment will dictate and limit the size and distribution of the city, the same that Leonardo Benevolo considers as a self-sufficient element perfectly capable of distinguishing itself from the surroundings "The city is instead a space in itself, which tends to be complete within the measurements it has given. It has all the characteristics that the territory does not have"[5]. This autonomy in Syria is dictated above all by an important resource, water. Despite the arid climate the economy is still dominated by the agricultural sector where it is important to consider the sustainability of groundwater resources in relation to the rapid expansion of the exploitation of groundwater and the expansion of irrigated areas. The World Bank report[6] on the Syrian agricultural situation explains how before the conflict, agricultural policies have boosted farm incomes and helped improve food security, with subsidies on diesel and strategic cultures but posing great risks for well

— On the next page: Jrajeer, M. Meneghello, A. Signori, S. Zucchelli.

7 – Lefebvre Henri, "The Urban Revolution", University of Minnesota Press, 2003.

productivity and groundwater levels. It is essential that farmers act on their territories with long-term economic behavior. Irrigated crops produce almost 100% of summer agricultural production and about 40-70% of winter crops depending on the availability of rainfall, without considering agricultural clearances as a resource for the production of bio materials. Moreover, the agriculture is characterized by some crops considered strategic, such as cotton which occupies about 20% of the irrigated area, and wheat produced politically sensitive as the main source of food cultivated throughout the country. Cotton is the second largest supplier of foreign currency, after oil, needed to finance imports and improve the balance of payments position, and when coupled with sugar beet and wheat together they are the main suppliers of raw materials for a large part of the industrial sector population.

The countryside can also be a place of production.

This reasoning illustrates the differential spaces[7], which do not always depend on space as such but on the dominant activities that normally characterize rural space, industrial space and urban space. The city centralizes creation by combining the simultaneous interaction between nature and artificial technology, and their expansion of the ecological footprint forces the extraction of natural resources that often draws from around, to which we must necessarily work. Because even the rural environment requires people willing to create, innovate, connect. This is why the countryside can also be a place of production. Creative ruralism could lead to the creation of eco-techno-natural environments, which would provide some of the features of the country combined with specific services. The organic waste of the countryside will become a resource for the creation of materials and components for the reconstruction of de-

stroyed buildings, allowing urban districts to become self-sufficient in terms of natural raw materials. Then the rural world must be understood within the work of reconstruction as a lifestyle complementary to the city, to reconnect or re-locate. Within this scenario there is the need to explore and expand the possibilities of technology, pushing its actual limits and foreseeing potential new services that could improve rural life and making it more diversified in its natural simplicity.

(R)Urban Syria

SYRIA THEMATIC ATLAS

HIDROGRAPHY
SETTLEMENTS
—
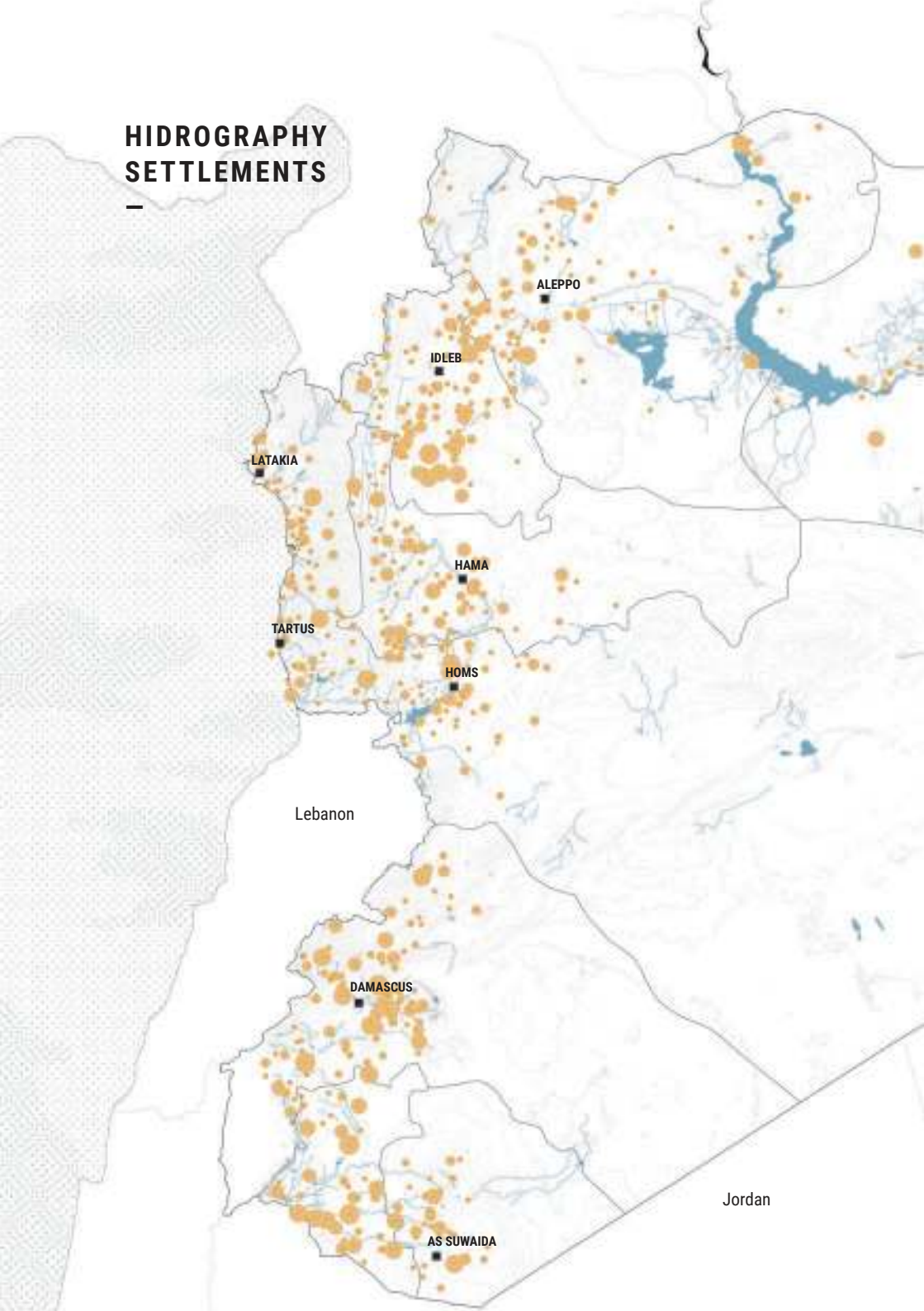
ALEPPO

IDLEB

LATAKIA

HAMA

TARTUS

HOMS

Lebanon

DAMASCUS

AS SUWAIDA

Jordan

Turkey

RAQQA

DEIR EZZOR

Iraq

■ Main Cities

▬ Rivers

● Villages

Source: Syrian Geographic Information Atlas, 2011

ALEPPO

IDLEB

LATAKIA

HAMA

TARTUS

HOMS

Lebanon

DAMASCUS
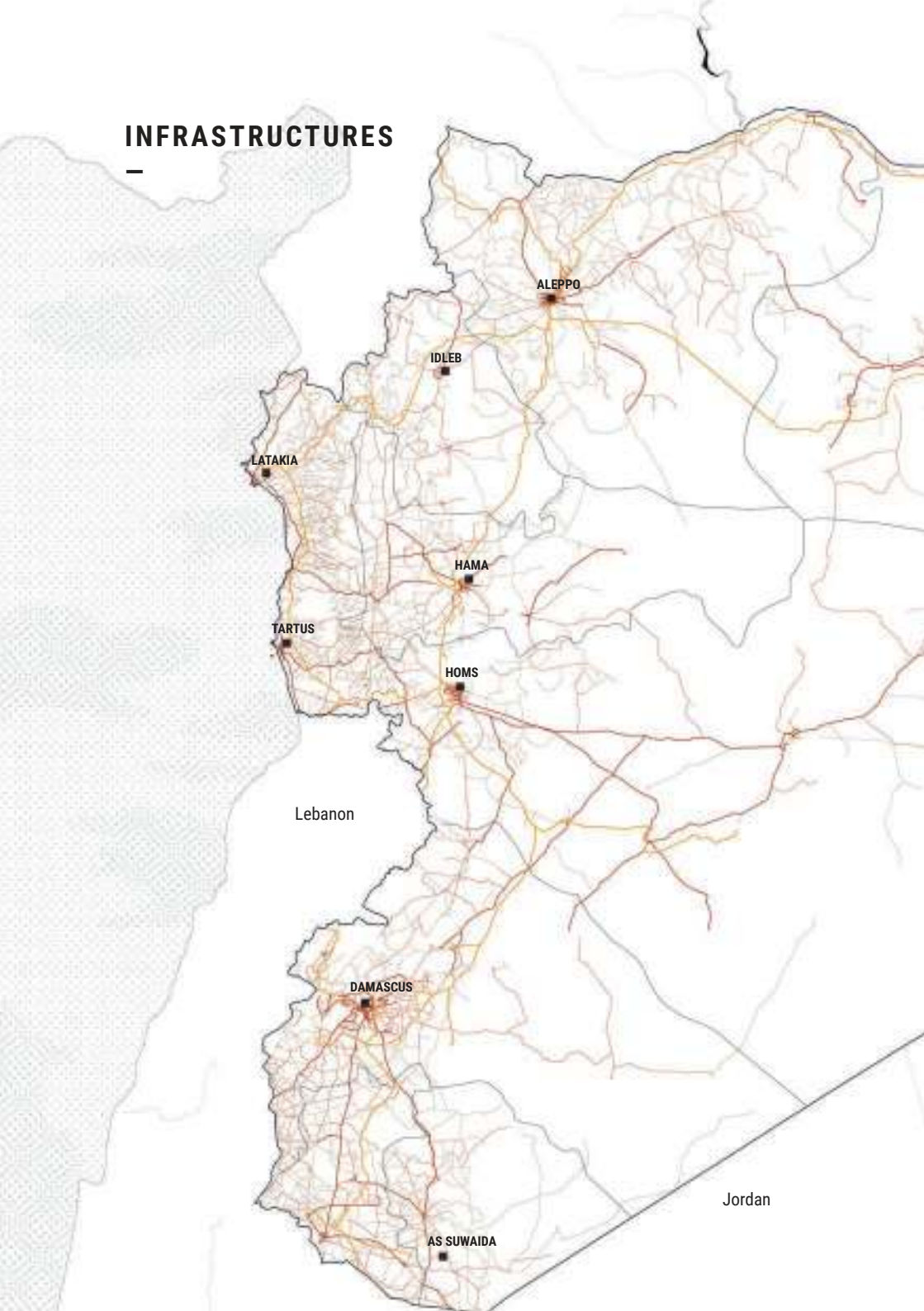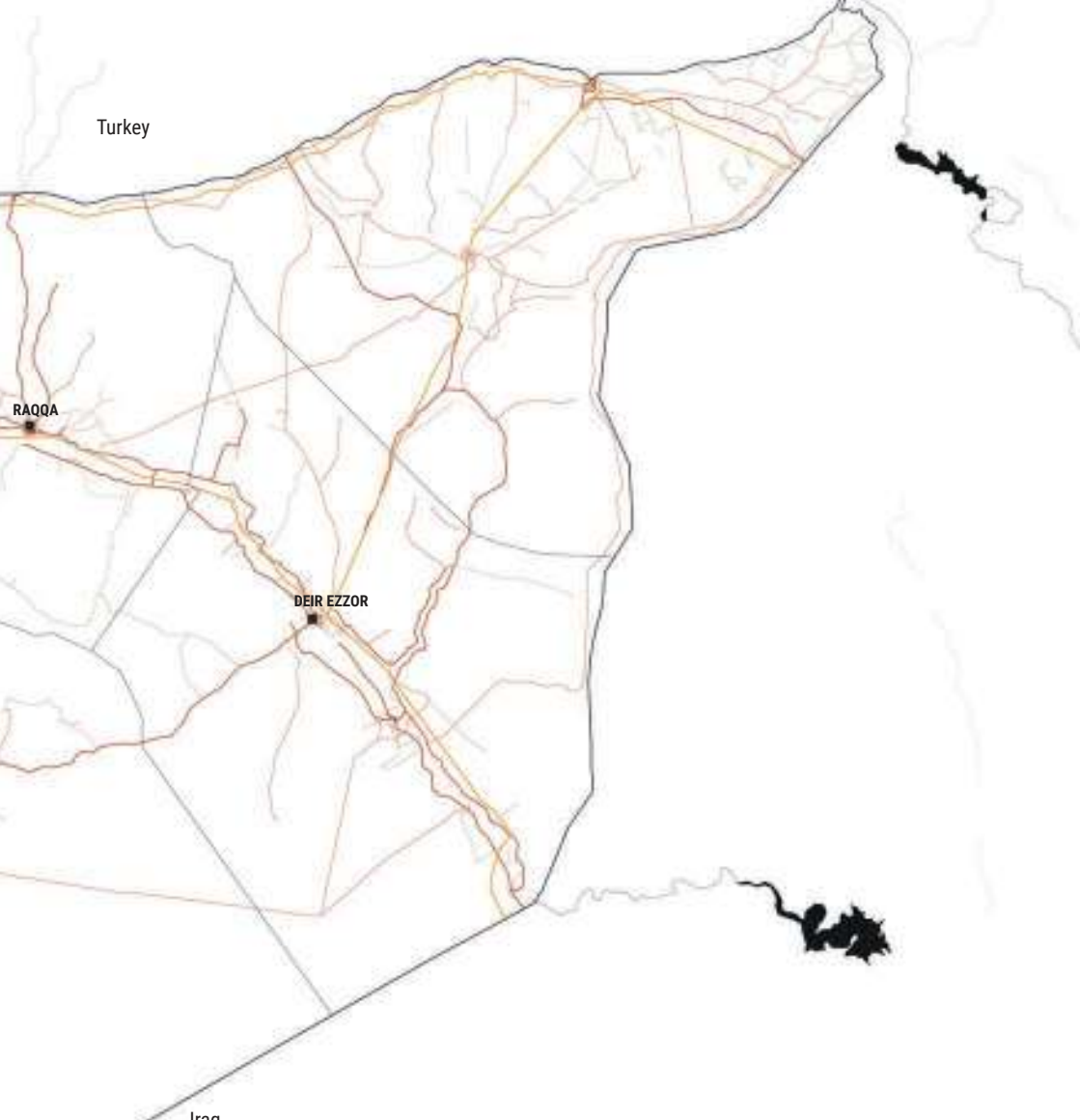
AS SUWAIDA

Jordan

Turkey

RAQQA

DEIR EZZOR

Iraq

Highways

Roads

Secondary roads

Railroads

Source: Syrian Geographic Information Atlas, 2011

LAND USE
—
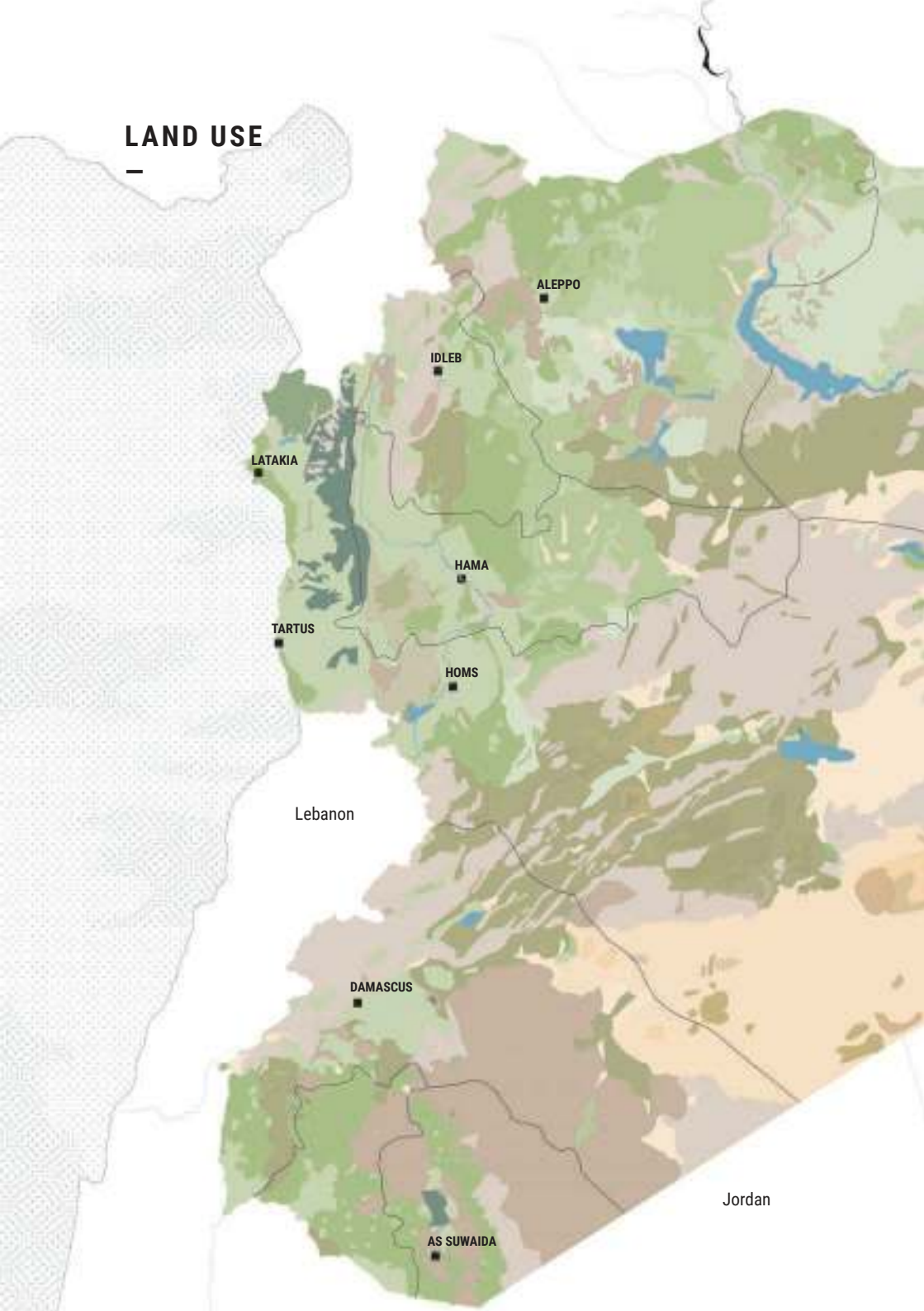
ALEPPO

IDLEB

LATAKIA

HAMA

TARTUS

HOMS

Lebanon

DAMASCUS

AS SUWAIDA

Jordan
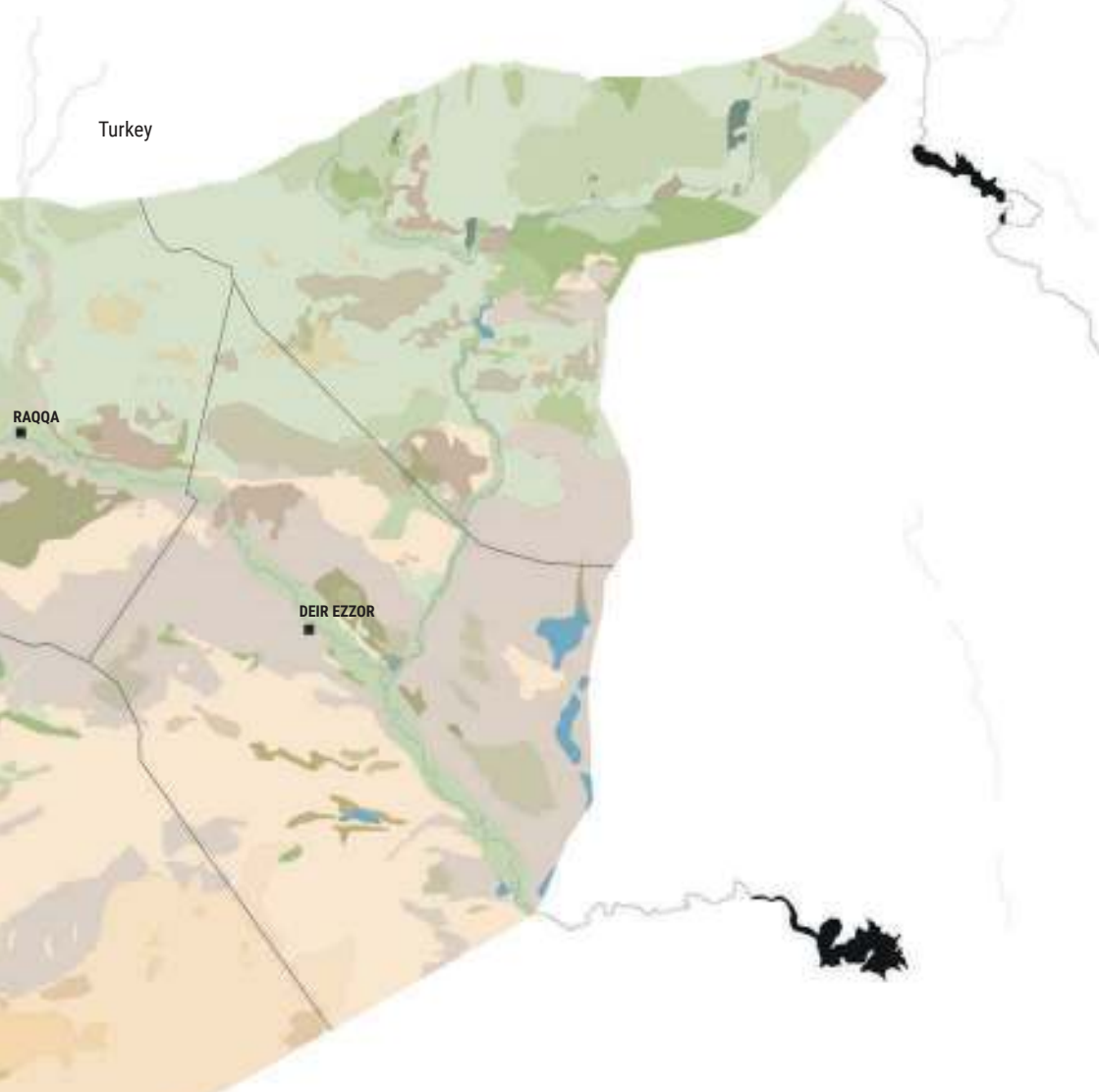
Turkey

RAQQA
■

DEIR EZZOR
■

Iraq

	Arid
	Grazing
	Rocky
	Cropping
	Forest

Source: French mandate land use maps, AUB archive

SOLAR RADIATION
WIND SPEED
—

ALEPPO

IDLEB

LATAKIA

HAMA

TARTUS

HOMS

PALMYRA

Lebanon

DAMASCUS

Jordan

AS SUWAIDA

Turkey

RAQQA

DEIR EZZOR

Iraq

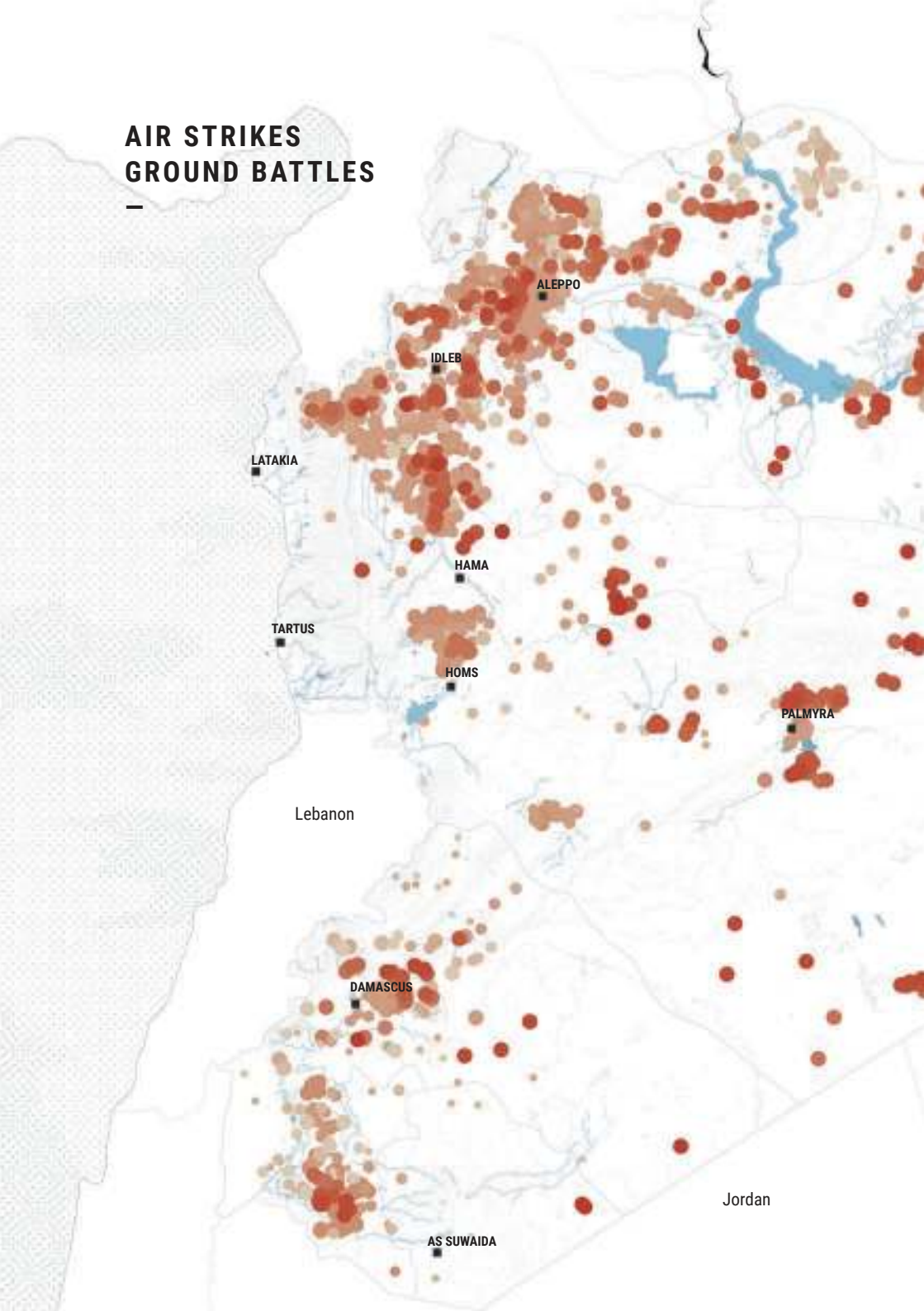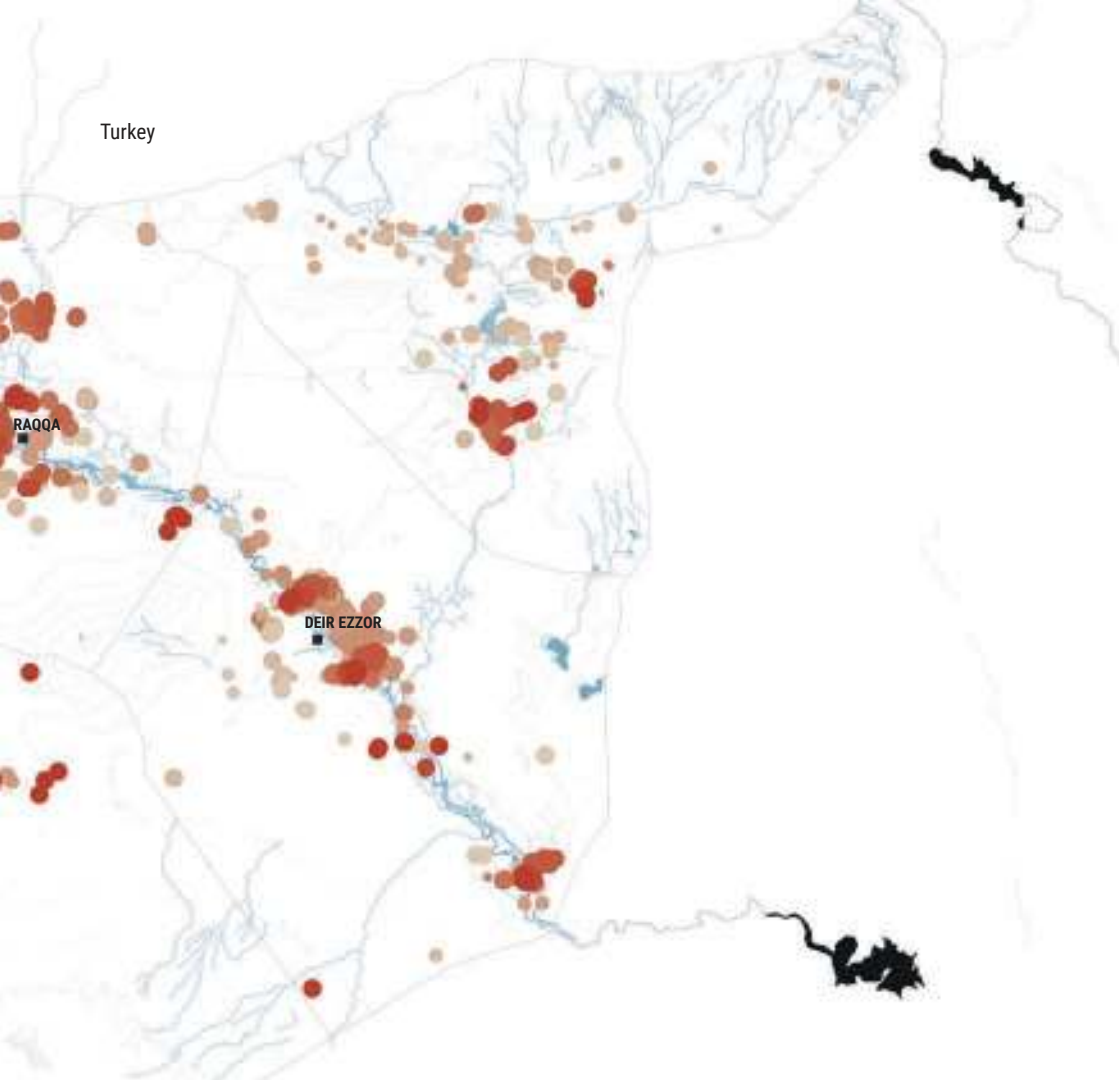|			
2500 kwh/mq		> 7,5 m/s	
2300 kwh/mq		6,5 - 7,5 m/s	
2200 kwh/mq		5,5 - 6,5 m/s	
2100 kwh/mq		4,5 - 5,5 m/s	
2000 kwh/mq			
1900 kwh/mq			
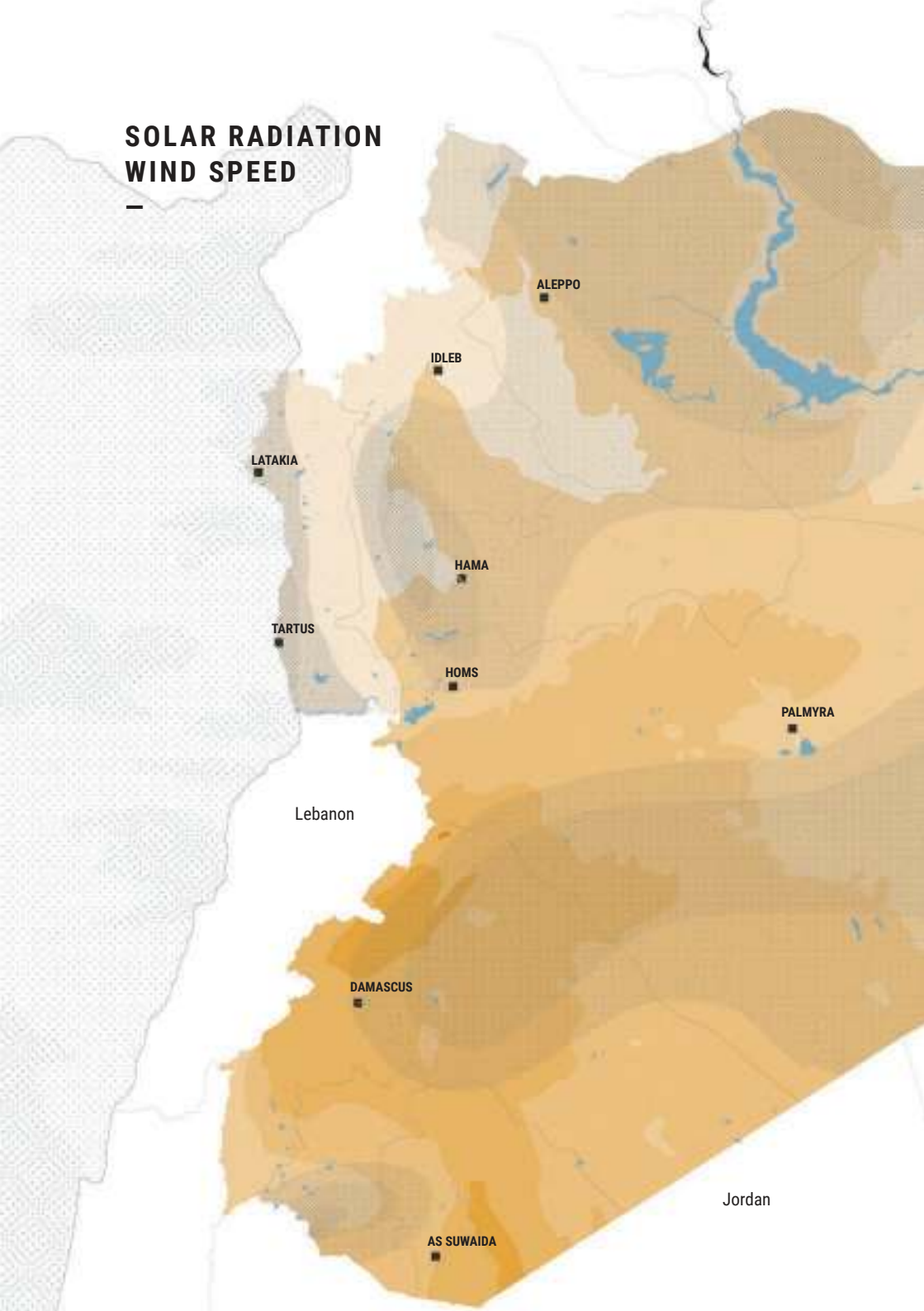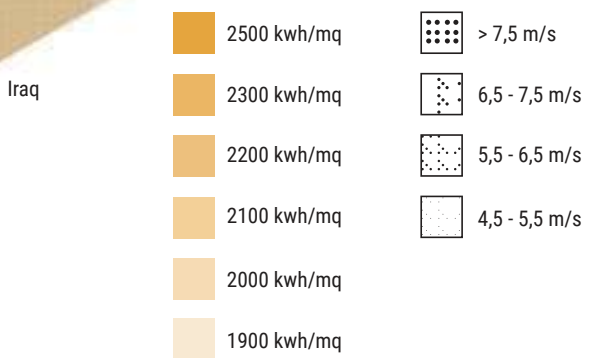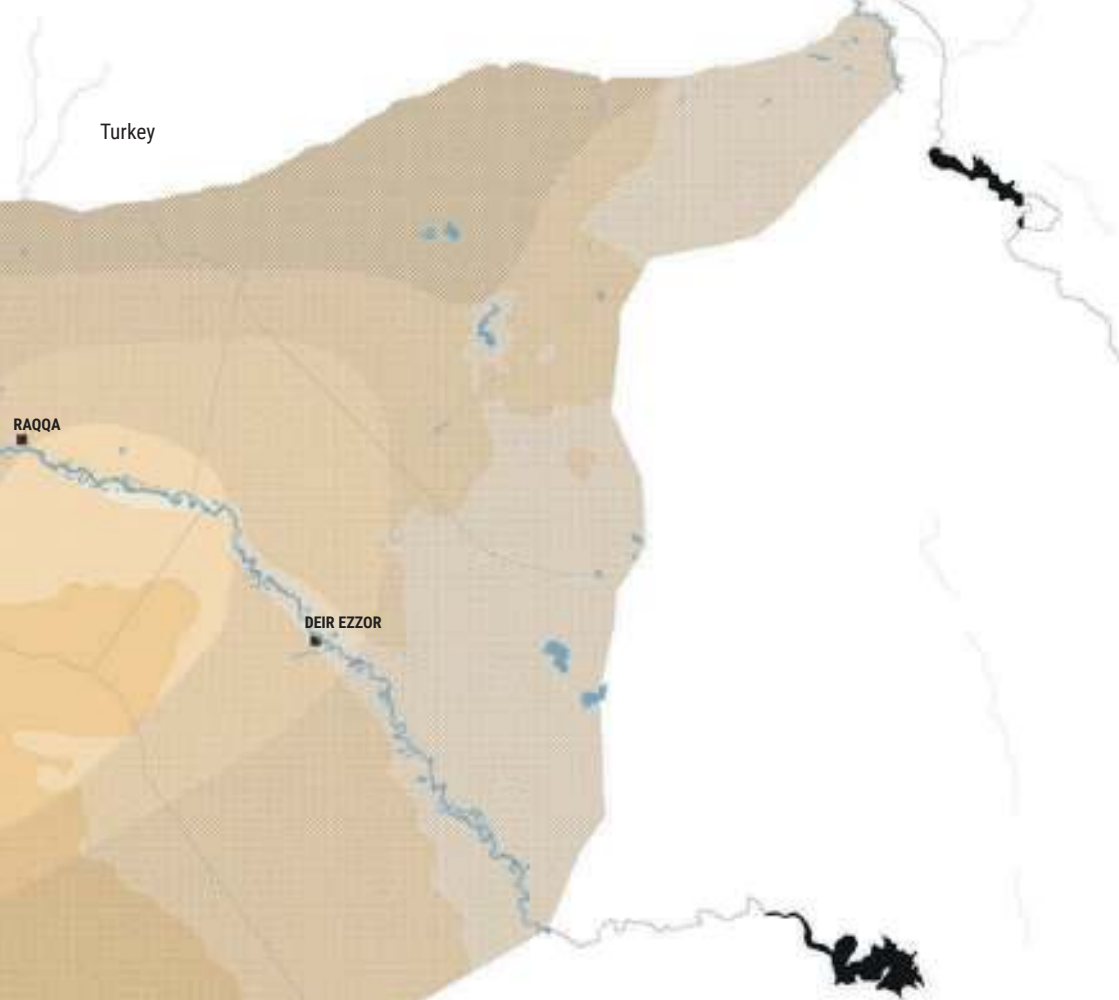
Source: Syrian Geographic Information Atlas, 2011

AIR STRIKES
GROUND BATTLES
—

ALEPPO

IDLEB

LATAKIA

HAMA

TARTUS

HOMS

PALMYRA

Lebanon

DAMASCUS

Jordan

AS SUWAIDA

Turkey

RAQQA

DEIR EZZOR

Iraq

	11.2014 / 01.2015		07.2016 / 10.2016
	02.2015 / 03.2015		11.2016 / 01.2017
	04.2015 / 06.2015		02.2017 / 03.2017
	06.2015 / 01.2016		04.2017 / 06.2017
	02.2016 / 04.2016		07.2017 / 09.2017
	05.2016 / 06.2016		
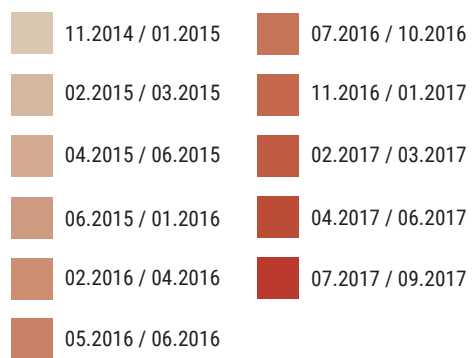
Source: Institute for the Study of War, 2018

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES
—

ALEPPO

IDLEB

LATAKIA

HAMA

TARTUS

HOMS

PALMYRA

Lebanon

DAMASCUS

Jordan

AS SUWAIDA

Turkey

RAQQA

DEIR EZZOR

Iraq

	100-5000 IDP		100-5000 IDP
	5001-10000 IDP		5001-10000 IDP
	10001-25000 IDP		10001-25000 IDP
	25001-50000 IDP		25001-50000 IDP
	50001-80000 IDP		50001-80000 IDP
	> 80000 IDP		> 80000 IDP
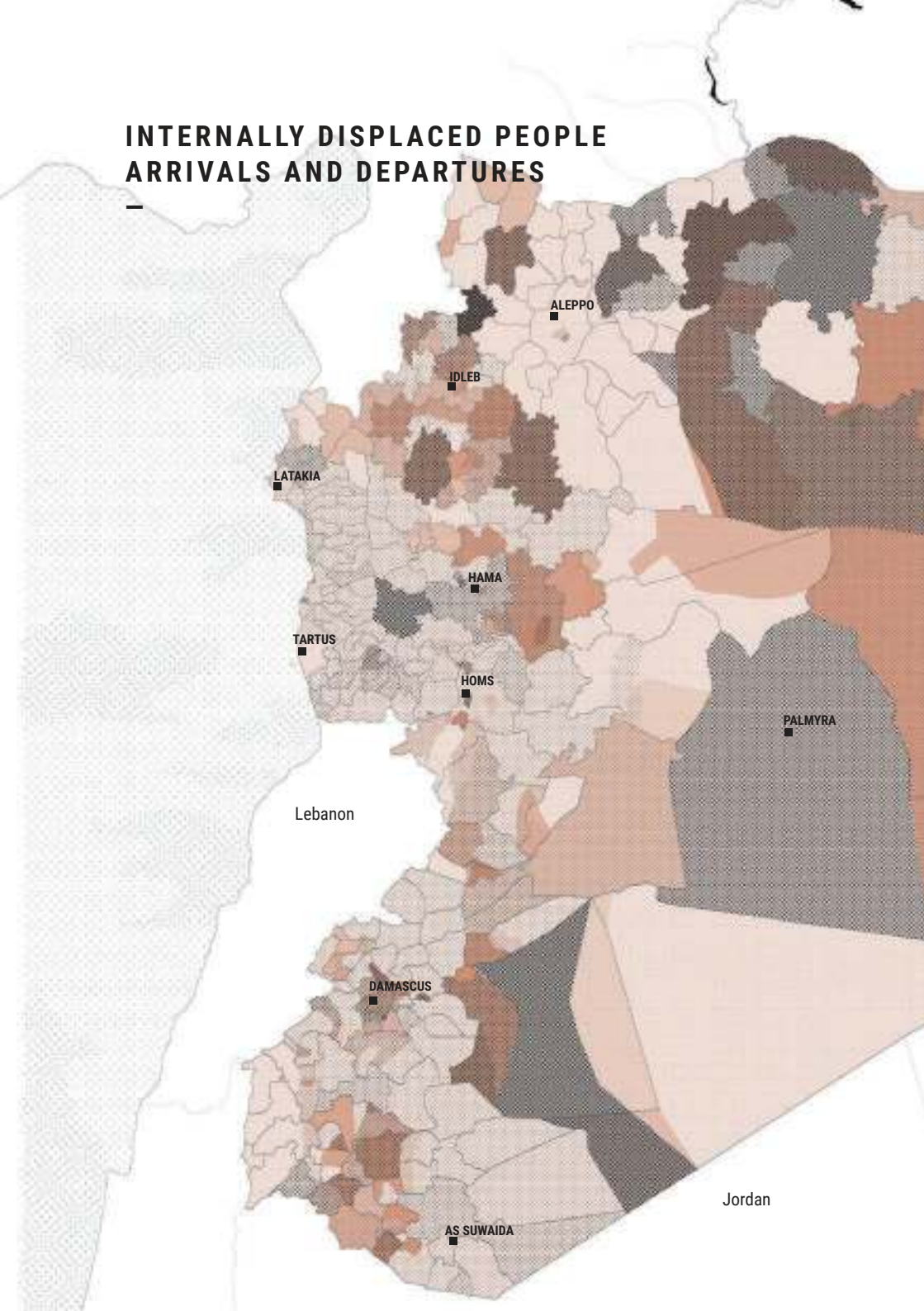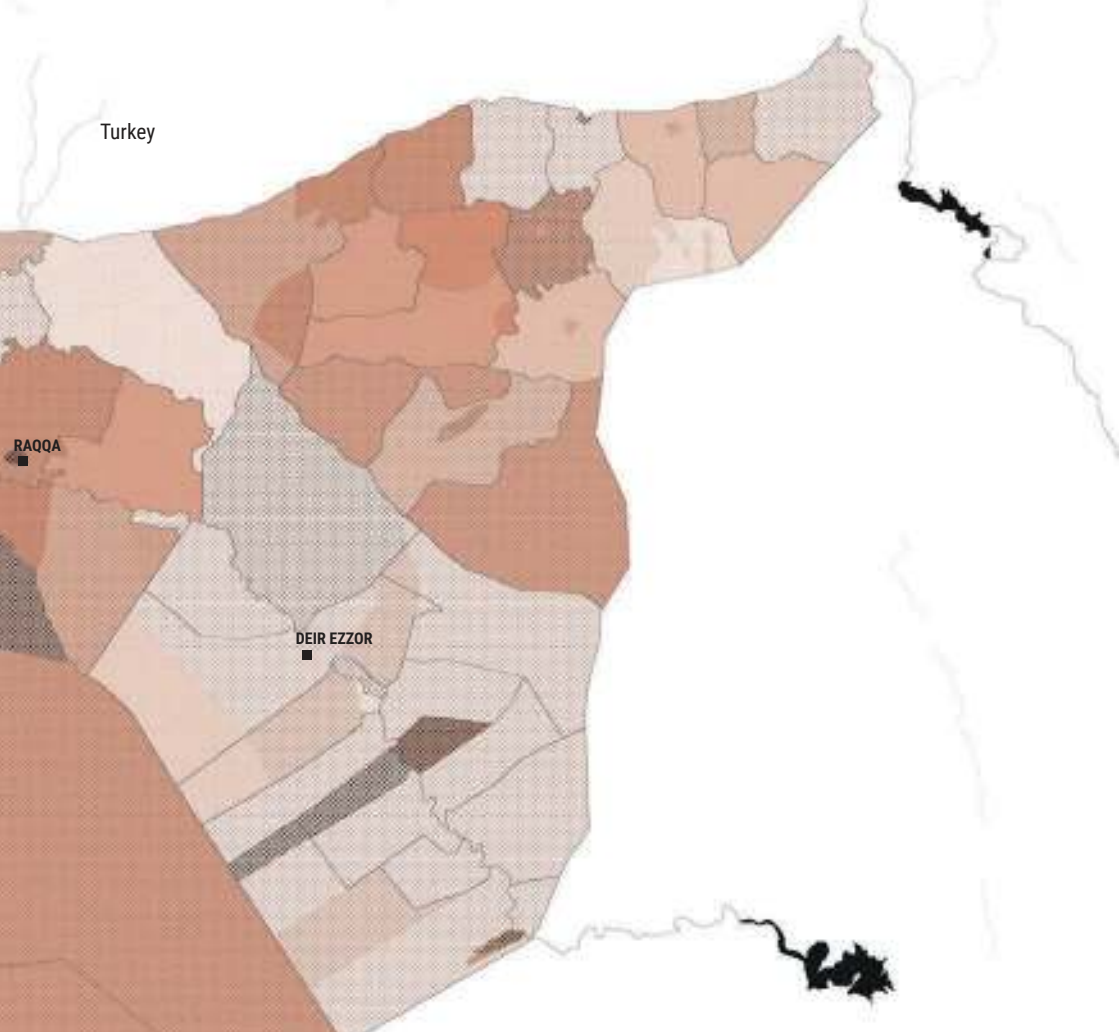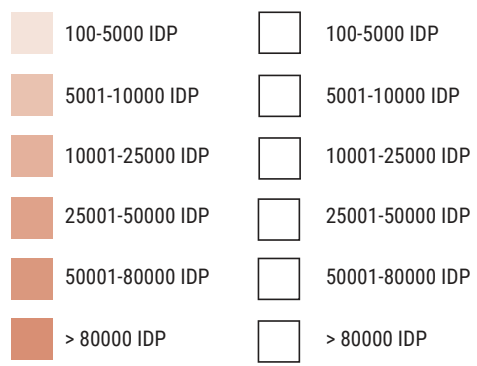
Source: Syrian center for policy research, 2016

URBICIDE RURAL SYRIA
RECONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGES

Rural Villages in Syria represent an interesting case
study in the search for a decentralised model of
reconstruction where local and global resources
are used directly on-site and where return to rural
settlements of internally displaced and refugees is
favoured. The proposed projects have been produced
within the Master Thesis Laboratory dedicated to the
topic of reconstruction directed by Benno Albrecht
at Iuav and represent the physical display of the
conceptual approach presented in the texts.

15,00 €