CONNECTING CAIRO TO THE NILE: 
Renewing Life and Heritage on the River

Sunday afternoon 16 January 2011
Alfi Hall, American University in Cairo
Presentation of Results of a Cooperative Workshop among
UC Berkeley, American University in Cairo, Cairo University
http://ced.berkeley.edu/research/cairo

Program
1200 - Registration, refreshments, informal review of student work on boards
1300 - Welcome to AUC & the workshop, introductions: Prof. Ahmed Sherif and Sami Shaker (AUC), Dr. Moustafa Madbouly (CEO of GOPP), Samir Gharib (CEO of NOUH), Prof Maged Al-Sherbiny (Academy of Science Research & Technology), Dean Wafa Amer and Prof Khalid El Adli (Cairo University), Prof. G. Mathias Kondolf (Univ. California Berkeley)
1330 – Student presentations:
  Research methods and analysis
  Strategic plan
  Old Cairo-Nile integration
  Athar El Nabi-Nile integration
1500 – Comments from invited guests, and general discussion
1600 - Opportunity to discuss individual student team boards and provide feedback on concepts
1700 - Adjourn

The Opportunity
“Egypt is the gift of the Nile”  Herodotus

As Cairo looks forward to the mid-21st century, the city struggles with many challenges, including heavy traffic, air pollution, and lack of recreational and open space for many residents. As many of the world’s major cities redevelop their riverfronts, Cairo has remarkable opportunities to reconnect its people with the river that was historically its heart. The heavy public use of existing short reaches of bank now accessible to the public demonstrates the tremendous potential for a riverside trail. Experience in North America and Europe demonstrates that such trails and riverside parks, once completed, are used and greatly appreciated by urban residents. While there are many barriers in Cairo to such a continuous trail at present, if this goal were adopted as policy now, it could be achievable by 2050.

As explored in this workshop, reconnecting Cairo with the Nile could provide much-needed open-space and parkland for urban residents and visitors, and provide healthful bicycle and pedestrian transportation alternatives connecting the city centre with outlying neighborhoods such as Maadi. In this workshop, 23 graduate students from Berkeley, Cairo University, and AUC worked collaboratively to complete a systematic field inventory of conditions along the Nile banks in Cairo, measured levels of atmospheric particulate matter along the existing heavily-traveled corniche and along alternative riverbank trail routes, and developed a strategic plan for a longitudinally continuous trail network, along with detailed plans for two key zones. Drawing on the synergy of their diverse academic disciplines and diverse backgrounds, the interdisciplinary/cross-cultural student teams developed a strategic plan and designs to create livable spaces along the river, thinking long-term into the future, and considering visual access, transportation (on land and water), and landscape values. Workshop results will be compiled into a report, with key insights summarized in a jointly-authored paper for publication in an international journal.
Workshop Leaders
G. Mathias Kondolf, Louise Mozingo, Linda Jewell, Amir Gohar, UC Berkeley
Sami Shaker, AUC; Khalid El Adli, Abbas el-Zafarany, Aboulfetouh Shalaby, Cairo University

Participating Students
- Noha Abbassy (AUC)
- Krishnachandran Balakrishnan (UC Berkeley)
- Tami Church (UC Berkeley)
- Richard Crockett (UC Berkeley)
- Nada Abd El-Aziz (CU)
- Fekria El- Bialy (CU)
- Ali Abd El Gawad (CU)
- Momen El-Husseiny (AUC/Berkeley)
- Mohamed El Kharbotly (AUC)
- Heba Ezzat (CU)
- Salsabil Fahmy (AUC)
- Ahmed Farouk (CU)
- Erene Kamal (CU)
- Michal Kapitulnik (UC Berkeley)
- Mirette Khorsheid (AUC)
- Madona Maher (CU)
- Malak Maher (AUC)
- Rachael Marzion (UC Berkeley)
- Nada Nafeh (AUC)
- Adrienne Smith (UC Berkeley)
- Bahaa Stephanos (AUC)
- Mohamed Tarek (CU)
- Rob Tidmore (UC Berkeley)

Thanks
to Prof. Mohamed Nagib Abou-Zeid and Prof. Ahmed Sherif, AUC, for their commitment to the workshop; AUC for use of facilities/campus; Cairo University for hosting the workshop inauguration; UC Berkeley Mideast Studies Center Sultan Program and Department of Landscape Architecture for financial support.

Conference Registration
If you would like to attend the conference on 16 January, please email Fekria Elbialy fekriaelbialy@yahoo.com so we can put your name on the list for security.

Conference Webpage
http://ced.berkeley.edu/research/cairo