



LIVING IN THE CITY OF THE DEAD

CAIRO CITY

In a central area of Cairo city there is one of the largest and most ancient Islamic necropolis existing in the world and called al Qarafa or al Makabar. A place of cultural interest and final destination of pilgrimages since the Xth century. There, among tombs, monuments, schools, and mosques, refugees, rural immigrants, poor and homeless people found asylum since the end of the XIXth century. Although it is now spread the development of informal residences, the most of the inhabitants live inside the hosh (chapel and funeral borders): in some cases they illegally occupy the tombs, but it often happens that illegal residents and legal owners agree in an informal way recognising to the firestones the role of hosh's guardians. A many part of those living in the cemetery carry out a task concerning the funeral rituals (responsible of the cult, gravediggers, funeral home workers, Corano's prayers, gravers etc.); others find part-time or occasional jobs out of the place, in small factories or shops. The lack of local recognition of the social and architectural value of the City of the Dead gives right to the endemic state of environmental abandoning. Meanwhile a series of Programmes of urban "regeneration" are going to "vision" the future of the area.

OCTOBER 27th - 29th 2009 2nd INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Ain Shams University - Dep. of Architecture and Urban Planning
 Politecnico of Milan - Dep. of Architecture and Planning [DiAP]
 Cooperation for Development Laboratory
 Scientific Office Assistant of the Italian Embassy in Egypt

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION:

Prof. A. Ashour - AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY OF CAIRO
 Dott.ssa P. Bellaviti - POLITECNICO DI MILANO
 Prof. A. Tosi - POLITECNICO DI MILANO

TUESDAY 27th:

10.00 | 13.00 An historical-anthropological tour across the City of the Dead
 Monumental Cemetery of Cairo
 14.00 | 17.00 Welcome and University Research Group cooperation meeting
 FEDA - Ain Shams University, 1, EL-Sarayat Street, Abbassia, Cairo
 20.00
 "Made in Italy"
 Italian Institut for Culture

WEDNESDAY 28th:

10.00 | 13.00 Political Round Table
 FEDA - Ain Shams University, 1, EL-Sarayat Street, Abbassia, Cairo
 14.00 | 16.00 Stakeholders Round Table
 16.30 | 18.30 Researches and Experiences Round Table
 FEDA - Ain Shams University, 1, EL-Sarayat Street, Abbassia, Cairo

THURSDAY 29th:

10.00 | 14.00 University Research Groups cooperation meeting and Conclusions
 FEDA - Ain Shams University, 1, EL-Sarayat Street, Abbassia, Cairo

A Participatory Development Programme in the City of the Dead

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The seminar is part of the international research programme "Living in the City of the Dead", promoted by the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning [DiAP] of the Politecnico of Milan in collaboration with the Department of Architecture and Planning of the Ain Shams University of Cairo, the Scientific Office Assistant of the Italian Embassy in Egypt and www.liveinslums.org.

