

CONSERVATION OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Fall 2019

PROJECT: Conservation for um qais site

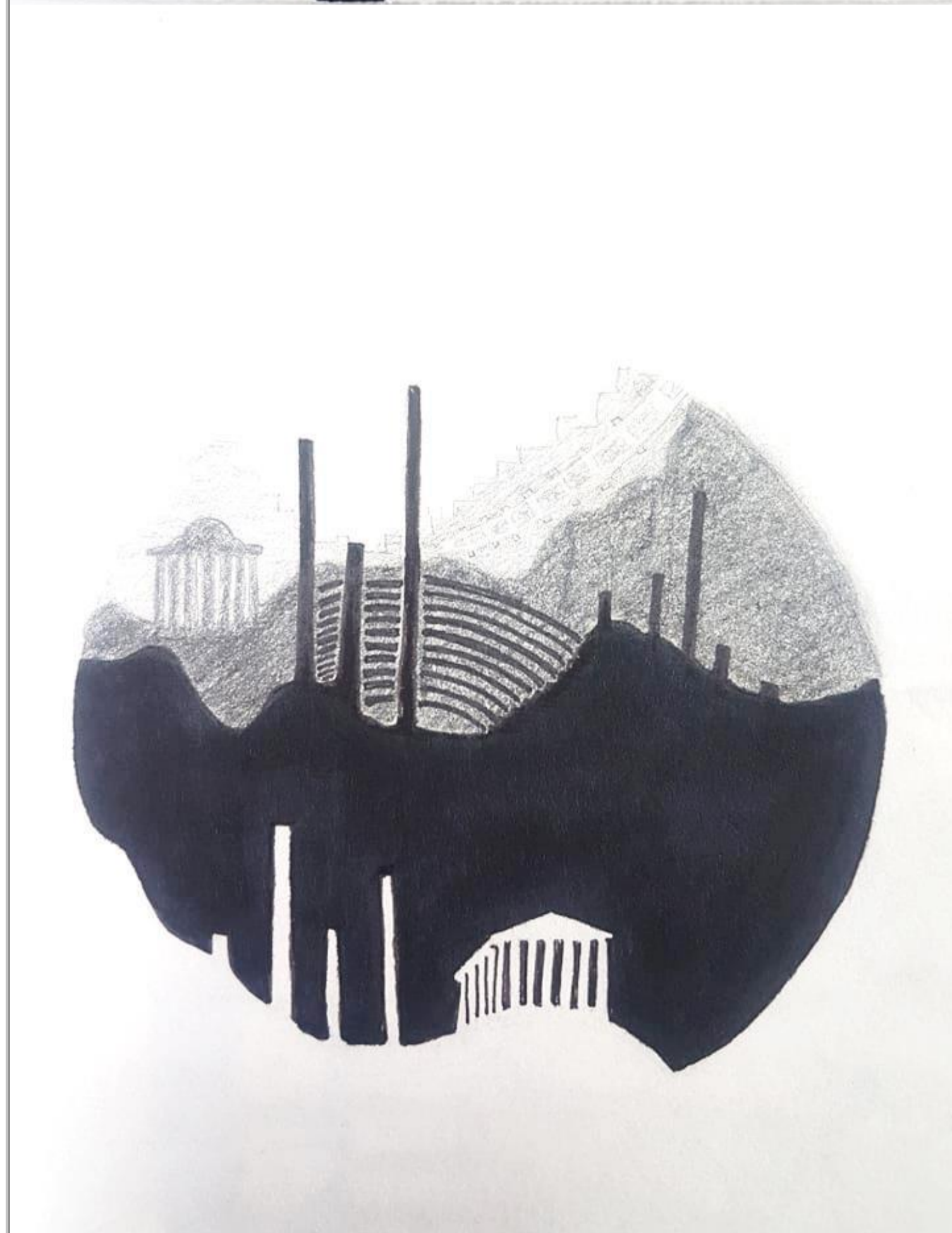
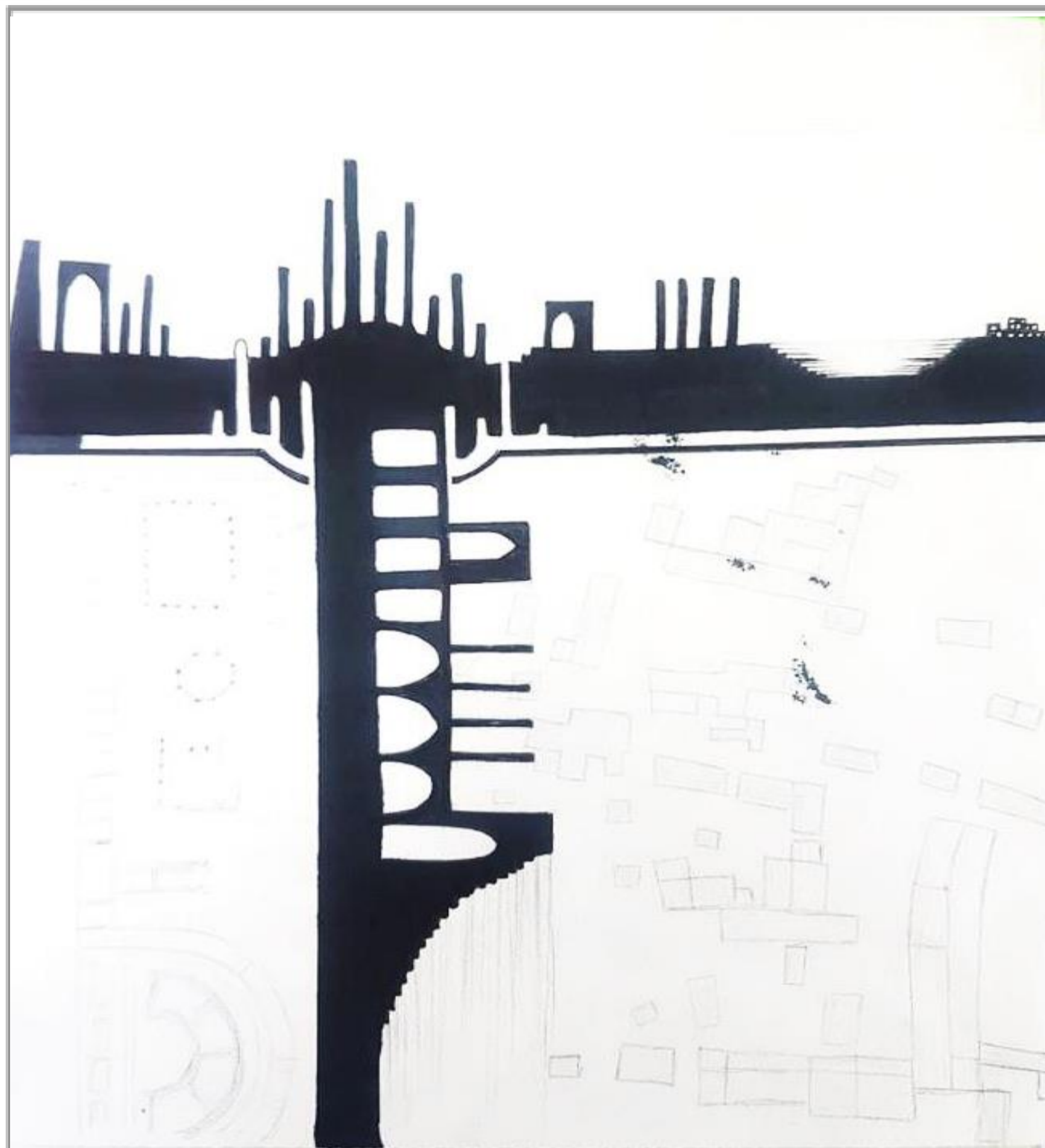
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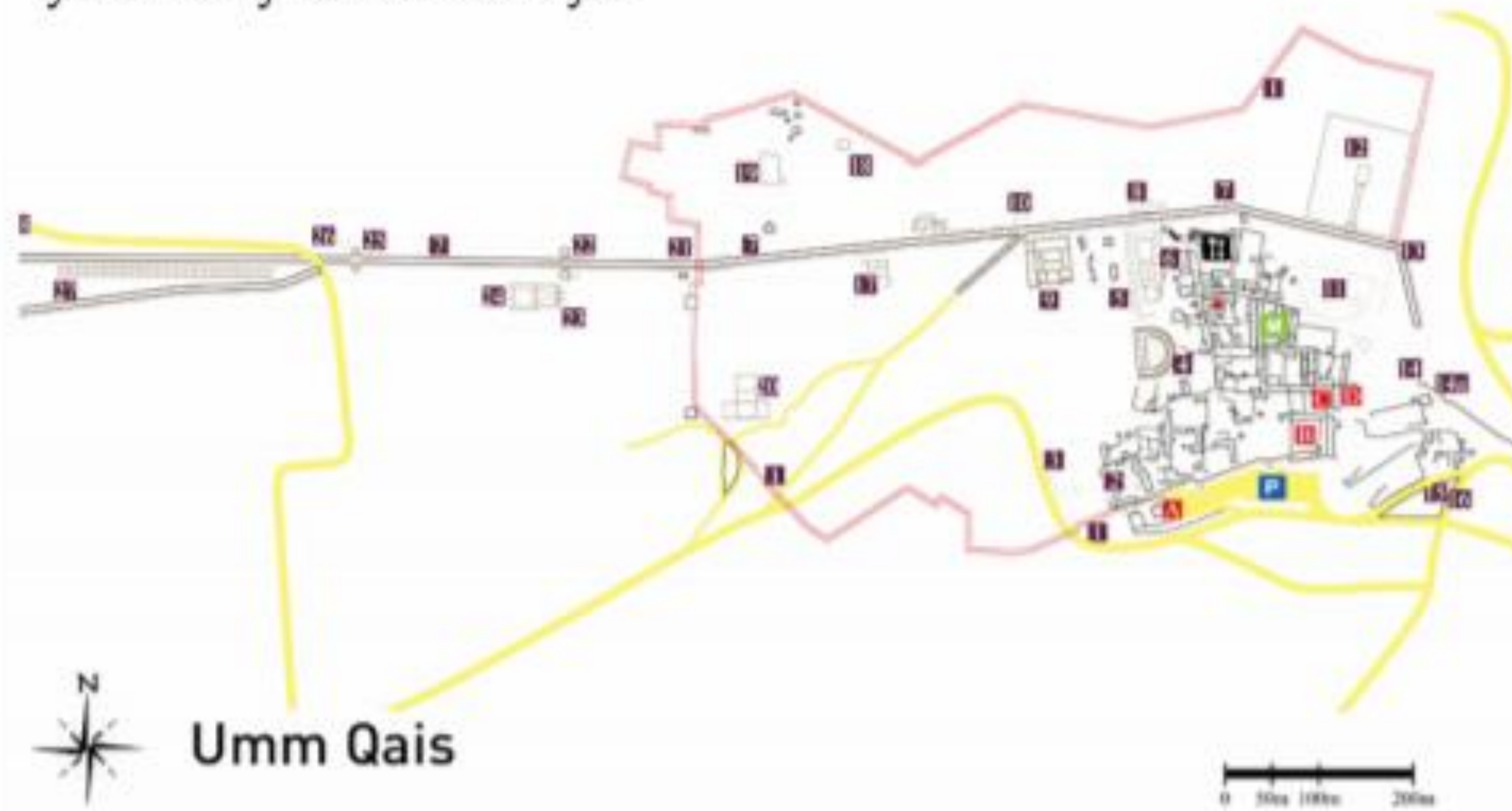
GROUP 1

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A Walk through the city

Umm Qais was one of the most formidable ancient Greco-Roman cities of the Decapolis and a great cultural center that nurtured the greatest of orators, poets, and philosophers of the time. And it is no wonder they were here, as the site offers views over the Yarmouk River, the Golan Heights, and Lake Tiberias, all from the same spot. After the death of Alexander the Great, it became a military post - the northern frontier. Gadara, as it was then called, was situated at the junction of various key trade routes that connected Syria and Palestine. Ancient writers have called it a strong fortress. The narrow ridge on which the ruins lie extends east towards the River Jordan with a deep gorge of the Yarmouk Valley (Wadi Yarmouk). The ridge gradually drops to the east, but falls steeply on the other three sides, placing Gadara in a position of great strategic value and strength.



Map legend

1 City Wall	11 Water Tunnel	21 Late Roman City Gate	Ottoman Era Houses
2 Triconchos and Basilica	12 Tomb of Chairaea	22 Western Cemetery	Roman & Hellenistic Ruins
3 Domestic Quarters	13 Tomb of Modestus	23 Hippodrome	Road / Street
4 West Theatre	14 Tomb of the Germani	24 Monumental Gate	Trail / Track
5 Street with Shops	15 Sanctuary		Police / Tourist Police
6 Church Terrace	16 Northern Mausoleum		Parking
7 Nymphaeum	17 Baths of Herakleides		Museum
8 Byzantine Baths	18 Baths		Restaurant
9 Podium Monument	19 Early Roman City Gate (West)		
10 Hellenistic Temple	20 Tiberias Gate		
	25 Underground Mausoleum		
	26 Five-aisled Basilica		

A Walk through the city

1. North Theater

Remains of the North Theater, the largest one, are still visible on the hillside next to the Museum of Umm Qais. Many of its stones were used for building other structures.



2. West Theater

The West Theater was built between the 1st century BC and the early 2nd century AD. This is a great place to sit and enjoy the sunset. The West Theater has survived history's upheavals and many of the seats are in good condition. The middle seats have higher backrests and were probably reserved for honored guests.



Tyche Statue

In the center of the theater a large headless white marble statue of Tyche, Goddess of Fortune and of the city, was found and this is now on display at the Museum of Umm Qais.



3. Octagonal Church

As you leave the West Theater, step into the Terrace. It hosts a courtyard, a colonnaded octagonal church pertaining to the Centralized Church, and an apse. The remnants of a three aisled Eastern Basilica, sitting between the centralized church and the West Theater, are still visible. The Terrace is supported by vaulted structures, which were used as shops during Roman times. Back then, the vaulted shops were slightly lower than the terrace, the road was paved and a Roman sidewalk existed in this area.



A Walk through the city

4. The Courtyard Of Church

To the east of the West Theater sits a classical acropolis, which is covered today by Bait Al Malkawi (House of Al- Malkawi) and the remains of an Ottoman village, built from stones that were taken mainly from ancient buildings. One of the more substantial buildings was restored and converted into a museum, while another was rebuilt as a rest house.



5. The Decumanus

This street runs west to east through the city. It was a main street that saw strings of chariots going back and forth. You can still see the deep tracks on the pavement, made by the repeated passage of chariots. To the north, near the West Theater, is the colonnaded, paved street, the *Cardo*.



6. The Cardo

The *Cardo* is one of main streets in Umm qais that runs from north to south. Along the Colonnaded street, you can see the ruins of shops, church and the West Theater.



A Walk through the city

The Nymphaeum

Located on the *Decumanus* intersection of the two main colonnaded streets [*cardo* and *decumanus*] and across from the Terrace is the Nymphaeum. This is a fountain with basins and niches, usually decorated with marble statuettes. This sacred monument is believed to have been dedicated to the ancient water goddesses.



7. Hippodrome

Along the *Decumanus*, a well-preserved Roman Mausoleum can be seen. After a few hundred meters one can barely make out the remains of what was once a Hippodrome.

8. Byzantine Bath Complex

Swing left into a small dirt road, some 100 meters from the intersection of the *Cardo*, where there are ruins of a Roman Bath Complex that dates from the 4th century. These are the remnants of Roman times of leisure. You can step into its lower parts from a dirt road across from the West Theatre. These baths had hot, warm, and cold rooms, and one for disrobing. It went out of use in the early 7th century. A 400-meter-long tunnel runs under the acropolis hill, which was dug with the purpose of attracting water.

9. West City Gate

What used to be the West City Gate can be seen 800 meters from the point where the two main colonnaded streets intersect, or 200 meters from the Mausoleum. You can only see its foundations today. The gate was flanked by circular towers, which straddled the *Decumanus*. From there, walk another 400 meters from the West City Gate to see the remains of a Triple Arched Gateway, which marked the extension of the city's boundary in the latter half of the 2nd century.

10. Underground Mausoleum

About 500 meters from the Byzantine Baths is a well preserved underground Roman Mausoleum [West Mausoleum] from the 1st century A.D. It was re-used in the Byzantine period, to collect the water. Steps lead to the entrance hall, which is the porch of the mausoleum itself. A five-aisled basilica church was excavated above the mausoleum. You can also find rock-carved tombs scattered around the outskirts of Gadara: the tombs of Germani, Modestus and Chaireas.

The event

The event was held at the museum of jabal amman also a beautiful heratige site where the kids came as also influencers to our work as well as inspiration .



These children made such a big difference through their interaction and feed back on our model .

We made the last layer as a free layer to draw their own layer onto the city from their point of view and it was quite astonishing to see their drawings .



Then we designed the model according to these specific layers and this was the result of our understanding of the urban surrounding



The kids character in this model added more emphasizes to it with the vibrant colors and trees with topography.

And as you can see the layers of the city were clear to have a simple story to tell.



-the layers were each very unique in their own ways so we started to think how can we incorporate these beautiful layers together and present them as a whole model but with a story to tell?

Especially since the challenge of this project or so to say the targets were mere children aged 12 so we had to come up with a variety of ideas.

So we began with designing "logos" to figure out how we can put these layers together.



the final result was to put each layer into it's own color and background
 the black and white contrast was a very strong connection and also added more emphasis to the meaning behind the logo.

Conclusion

Strength & oportunities:

- This event was a great experience and gave us a wider imagination on how to deal with different mind sets
- we made great connections and made new relations.
- we became more aware about the urban context on how to transfer these layers to architecture.

Weaknesses:

- The place was a bit narrow.
- Not a very comfortable place to present the project.
- Only two members got to negotiate and present.

But the overall outcome was a very fun experience.

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We made the last layer as a free layer to draw their own layer onto the city from their point of view and it was quite astonishing to see their drawings .



Some drew the logos some drew horses that were on racing the cadio street! .. that got us thinking a lot on how to make our design even more interactive !!

the instructors were extra nice and did such an amazing job on the lecture part preparing the kids by providing them the info they need to understand certain things as you know kids that age like the concept of learning new experiences .

the strongest aspect was also having the managers of the museum with us they are beyond words amazing how they dealt with those students and how well informed they are with historical sites .



it was such a great experience to work in this project and see our work recognized by important paties such as tourist and the people who work there as well.



Ground Plan of the West Theatre

- auditorium (cavea)
- orchestra
- vaulted corridor (crypta)
- entrances (vomitoria)
- stage front (scaenae frons)

In the 2nd century A.D. the theatre was built against the western slope of the Acropolis. Its auditorium offered space for approximately 3000 visitors and - like the semicircular orchestra - is built entirely of basalt.

The auditorium (cavea) is built in three storeys, which are subdivided into wedge-shaped sections of seats. Underneath the second storey runs a vaulted corridor (crypta). Four entrances (vomitoria) gave access from the corridor to the upper part of the auditorium. Most of the entrances to the theatre collapsed during the earthquakes. Likewise very little remains of the former stage building (scaenae frons), which once blocked the view of the surrounding landscape.

Theatres in antiquity served various purposes: not only were tragic and comedies staged here, religious and political festivities

