Reviving Jeddah's Heart

Towards a Socio-Spatial Network Restoration



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Learning Objectives

At the end of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1. Understand that any city has a heart. The heart of a city is a defined spatial and temporal boundaries. The heart is both a space of places and a space of flows.
- 2. Understand that a society is a network of relations among individuals and in relation to other networks of cultural expressions, political decisions, economic exchange and environmental sustainability. A Network Society function in places and flows.
- 3. Understand that the Flow of Life is what a Network Society is measured by. The Flow of life is the 'Livability' of the city.
- 4. Realize that to revive Jeddah's Heart, an integrated approach to the Flow of Life is key to realizing its 'Livability'.

The Essence of anything is at its heart.



"But only he (will prosper) who comes to God with a sound heart."] 26:89[

إلَّا مَنْ أَتَى اللَّهَ بِقُلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ.

الشّعراء في ٨٩ الجسد مضغة إذا صلحت
الأوإن في الجسد كله، وإذا فسدت فسد
الجسد كله، ألاوهي القلب رواه
البخاري ومسلم.

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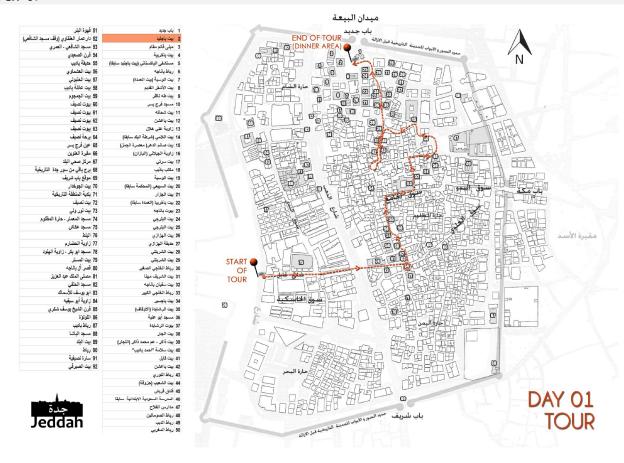
The Logic Behind the Heart.



Jeddah's Heart.



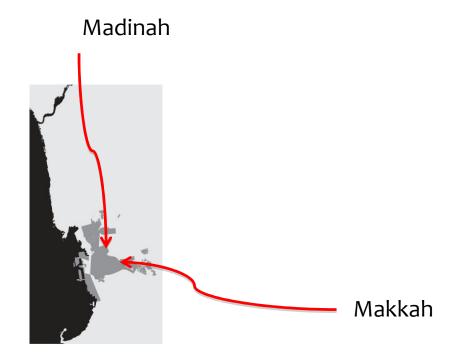
Jeddah's Heart.



The Physical Location.

Jeddah's Heart is a meeting point of Madinah and Makkah Roads, which in itself a departure point to Makkah eastward and Madinah northward.

This spatial point symbolizes the historic and geographic location as a gate to the two Holy Mosques. This is a strategic location within Global Islam and in relation to air and sea geographic accessibility and proximity to the Western World.



Jeddah's Heart.



The Condition.

Al-Balad is a historic city with rich heritage that appreciates the spatial, socio-economic, environmental, historical and cultural dimensions manifested in its old alleys, urban structure and architectural form.

Today, one can walk from Gabil Street to Al-Alawi Souq and interact with voices of sellers, buyers and callers for prayers, smells of scents, spices and dust, sights of colours, clothes, jewelries, lights, house forms, Mashrabiyas and doors, and feels of stones and wood, and value the importance of maintaining the Flow of Life.

The Problem.

Jeddah's Heart has been erased from the memory of its residents, who have reaped its bountiful goodness yet have distanced themselves and their money beyond its reach.

The 'Place' has lost the needed remembrance and appreciation to pass on to the residents' children and grandchildren.

The 'Flow' was broken, blocked and fainted.

Reviving the Heart.

The process of regeneration is not only physical rehabilitation of natural and built environment, but also human and socio-cultural restoration.

Jeddah's Heart has to return to the hearts of its residents and their children. It starts with awareness and can only be accomplished through a reconciliation of the Hearts, the physical and the human, where the physical is the 'Place' and the human is the 'Flow'.

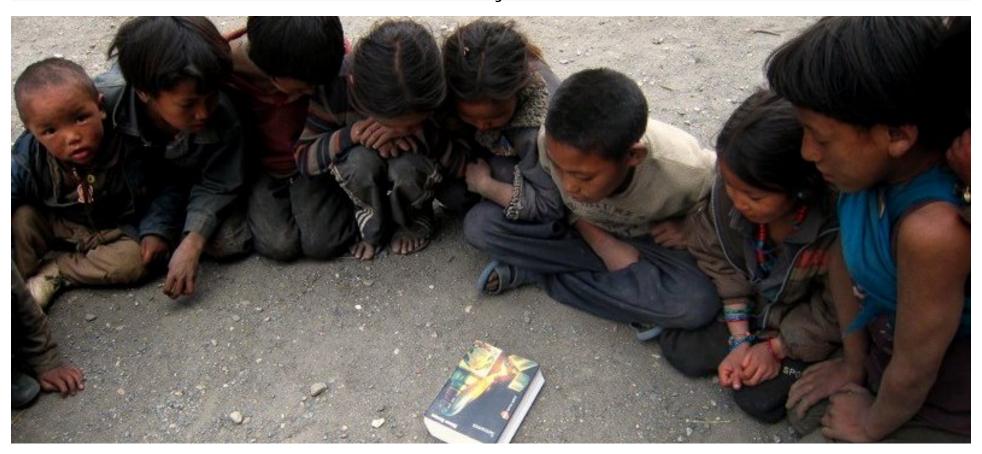
Jeddah's Heart the 'Place'.



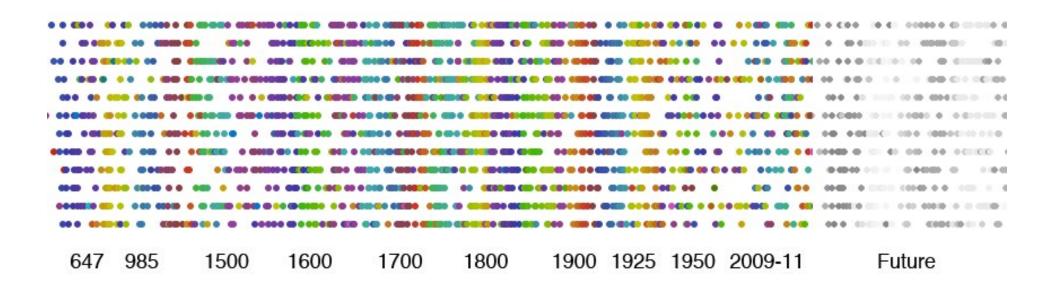
Jeddah's Heart the 'Flow'.



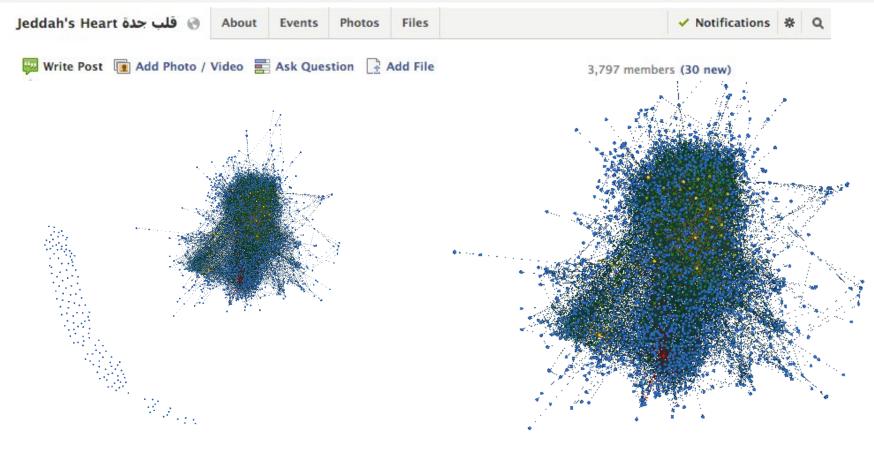
The Network Society and its Social Practice.



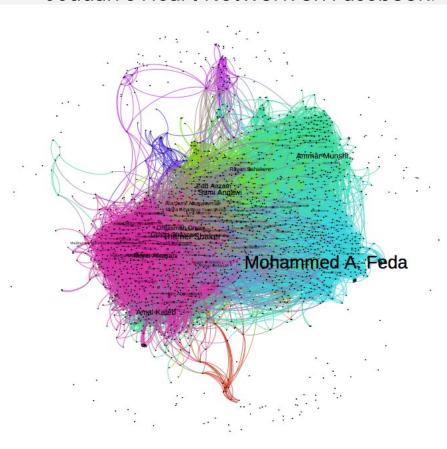
Individuals. Generations. Spaces. Times. Places. Flows.



Jeddah's Heart Network on Facebook.



Jeddah's Heart Network on Facebook.



The Flow of Life.



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Jeddah's Heart Group Flow of Life.

In Jeddah's Heart Group we understand that 'Life is One Whole'. We break it into parts to understand; yet we bring the parts together into One whole to live.

We repeat the process day and night, generation after generation, oscillating between knowing and living to maintain the 'Flow of Life'.

Jeddah's Heart Group Flow of Life.

What Al-Balad needs is a balanced Flow of Life that connects the locals with their places, times (past, present and future) with all other social, cultural, economic, political and environmental flows.

Jeddah's Heart Group Flow of Life.

We adopted a network strategy for executing programs and projects to revive the flows into the places of Al-Balad.

Five Programs: Our Hearts, Our Houses, Our Culture, Our Image and Our Word.











The Flow

The Flow Forward.

In Jeddah's Heart Group we understand that to revive a city of historic and geographic value, an integrated approach to the Flow of Life is a realistic solution. It is key to realize that the 'Livability' of the city is a collective action involves all possible social practices of the network Society.

The Way

The Essence of anything is at its heart.

Top-down approaches only based on executing projects that focus on the physical restoration are not enough to revive Jeddah's Heart.

The Middle

Bottom-up efforts based on social activities in the space of places or the space of flows are not enough on their own to revive Jeddah's Heart.

Any city has a heart. The heart of a city is a defined spatial and temporal boundaries. The heart is both a space of places and a space of flows.

A society is a network of relations among individuals and in relation to other networks. A Network Society function in places and flows.

The Flow of Life is what a Network Society is measured by. The Flow of life is the 'Livability' of the city.

To revive Jeddah's Heart, an integrated approach to the Flow of Life is key to realizing its 'Livability'.

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