activating public space in Wihdaat

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1 Introduction: duality of open space in Wihdaat
Wihdaat is a Palestinian refugee camp offering shelter to 51,500 registered inhabitants, and is completely enclosed by Jordan's capital Amman. The camp used to be isolated, but urbanised completely together with its context in Wihdaat's 59 years of temporary existance. The camp now host dwelling, commercial and public functions, leading to unplanned stakeholder demands fragmenting the camp open spaces. In addition, next to being involved with the city, the open spaces are also subject to the camp's state of exception from Amman, creating a dual identity. Witnessing the unmitigated spatial development and general neglect of open spaces throughout the camp, the duality is an obstruction for those different stakeholders to reach agreements. This calls for a revision of the camp's planning system, summarised in the problem statement: Wihdaat's open spaces are defined by a dual identity of being part of Amman but as spaces of exception, which obstructs the camp's stakeholders to reach agreements, promoting unbalanced development and spatial conflicts.

2 Problem analysis: formulation of planning criteria
A theoretic review shows that the duality of open space can be linked to the limited activation of public space in the camp, specifically through the top-down governance of Wihdaat which acerbates the duality and the subsequent attraction for bottom-up development the duality actively generates. A review of the city and camp level impact of the duality shows that the spatial conditions support a part of Wihdaat to function as a city centrality, leaving the rest in isolation. The formal planning system's response is neither able to recognize or mitigate this. This leads to the formulation of planning criteria which recognizes the duality within open spaces and thus connects the conflicting sets of demands.

3 Approach: methodology for planning with public space
Planning theory supplies a model for a more inclusive process which recognizes the duality of open space in Wihdaat. Theory on the activation of public space gives a perspective how the stakeholders can use the model to address the obstructions caused by the duality. This leads to a methodology which starts at an analysis of the public space system in Wihdaat. The analytical conclusions are used in a planning framework which allows the stakeholders to rethink their roles in the camp. The framework results in planning guidelines which are tested through design, allowing the formulation of recommendations on the meaning of public space in Wihdaat.

4 Analysis: diagnosis of public space in Wihdaat
A three-fold analysis of the activation of the camp's public space system allows insight into how the stakeholders deal with the duality of open space. First, a review of the different degrees of multi-scalar integration shows that the camp's open spaces support different relations with their context of Amman. Secondly, a review of the spatial structure of the camp shows the existence of different sets of privacy zoning in the camp's open spaces. Thirdly, a review of stakeholder's positions in the camp shows that the different stakeholders of the open space operate on different scales. So the analysis can conclude that the camp stakeholders are able to jointly address the duality of the open spaces in the camp through the activation of public space in Wihdaat.

5 Planning process: transitionary model for stakeholders
The Southern, most isolated part of the camp is chosen to apply the analytical findings through a planning framework. It first identifies the shared vision of the stakeholders through their involvement in the open spaces of the camp. Then, the framework translates the vision into a set of goals to actively involve the stakeholders by linking them to sites of possible public space activation. Lastly, the planning framework specifies the goals into a collection of short and long term actions for the stakeholders, by linking the possibilities for public space activation to the position of their respective stakeholders in the camp. The execution of this planning framework leads to a proposed transitionary model for the stakeholders. The model allows a shared and balanced consolidation of the positions of both governing and dwelling stakeholders in Wihdaat and in Amman.

6 Design and conclusions: meaning of public space in Wihdaat
To evaluate the guidelines of the proposed model, a border street and a main street of the camp are selected as design sites to apply the guidelines. Combining the resulting design proposals with the planning proposal, a reflection on the whole process is made. The reflection leads to conclusions on the catalysing capacity of public space in Wihdaat. Firstly, public space allows all stakeholders to adress the duality of open space which defines the refugee camp. Secondly, public space allows a connection between governing and dwelling stakeholders to work together, showing that efforts to activate public space can lead to shared benefits for different stakeholders.
chapter 1: introduction

Wihdaat is a Palestinian refugee camp offering shelter to 53,500 registered inhabitants, and is completely enclosed by Jordan’s capital Amman. The camp used to be isolated, but urbanised completely together with its context in Wihdaat’s 59 years of temporary existance. The camp now host dwelling, commercial and public functions, leading to unplanned stakeholder demands fragmenting the camp open spaces. In addition, next to being involved with the city, the open spaces are also subject to the camp’s state of exception from Amman, creating a dual identity. Witnessing the unmitigated spatial development and general neglect of open spaces throughout the camp, the duality is an obstruction for those different stakeholders to reach agreements. This calls for a revision of the camp’s planning system, summarised in the problem statement: Wihdaat’s open spaces are defined by a dual identity of being part of Amman but as spaces of exception, which obstructs the camp’s stakeholders to reach agreements, promoting unbalanced development and spatial conflicts.
1.1 WIDHAAT, PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMP IN AMMAN

Amman New Camp or Widhaat is a Palestinian refugee camp in Amman, the capital of the Kingdom of Jordan. Widhaat gives shelter to over 51,500 registered Palestinian refugees in a space of less than half a square kilometer. This camp with a temporary status has existed for the last 59 years.

Widhaat was founded in 1955 with the construction of 1,400 shelters for those Palestine refugees in Amman who could not arrange shelter themselves and required help from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Although planned as a temporary help-instrument by UNRWA, located beyond the outskirts of Amman, the expansion of 1,260 shelters in 1957 foreshadowed the long term existence and eventual urbanization of the camp and its context (UNRWA, 2014).

Although outside the city in 1955, the camp currently is the heart of the Southern part of Amman. With the camp’s context completely urbanized, Widhaat acts as the second (commercial) center of the city; it has over 2,000 official businesses and has housed different non-Palestinian refugee or migrant communities (DPA, 1997; Hamarneh, 2002).

Next to offering shelter to refugees, Widhaat also hosts public and commercial services to camp dwellers and (refugees living in the adjacent districts. Source: naser4mod via http://www.flickr.com/photos/28138829@N06/5490940213/sizes/o/in/photostream/
1.2 PROBLEMATIC OF URBANIZATION

The urbanization of Wihdaat is almost complete in terms of developing open space. The camp has its own urban structure after periods of horizontal and vertical development. This did not only concern new dwelling structures, but also the development of public and commercial functions. Especially the later has been a source of ties between Wihdaat and Amman, as the camp’s structure of commercial streets is connected to Amman’s historic commercial center. However, the integration of Wihdaat in Amman is both selective and limited. Concerning the selectivity, only a minority of Wihdaat’s open spaces has developed itself into commercial streets integrated in Amman. The majority of the camp consists of more secluded streets where the shelters are still used for dwelling. The seclusion of many parts of the camp is accompanied with different degrees of spatial neglect.

Spatial neglect is an indicator too of the limits of integration of Wihdaat in Amman. A closer inspection of the ‘successful’ integrated commercial areas shows still many issues. From highly practical matters like an overstrained garbage collection system to more conceptual issues like the limited social infrastructure of the camp. This indicates that the camp identity of Wihdaat persist even in urbanized conditions, and the development of the camp keeps influencing.

And also in the integrated, commercially successful areas of Wihdaat, are tormented by problems not present outside the refugee camp. Source: picture by Jim Wright via http://olbigjimsplace.blogspot.nl/2010/12/al-wehdat-christmas-day.html

Wihdaat has strong commercial ties with Amman. Source: Fernando Sapeli via https://www.flickr.com/photos/fernandosapeli/4484294205/in/set-72157623367245279

The commercial ties however, only reach out to a limited part of the camp. Source: smsa_rex via http://www.flickr.com/photos/smssa_rex/5171891625/
1.3 PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS

Wihdaat is part of the first wave of Palestinian refugee camps, built to accommodate those of the 700,000 Palestinian refugees from the 1948 Arab-Israeli War who were without shelter (UNRWA, 2007). The 1967 Arab-Israeli War gave rise to a second wave of Palestinian refugees, and together with the new generations growing up outside Palestine, UNRWA now registers 5,030,049 Palestinian refugees, in the Western-Middle-East region (UNRWA, 2014b). Although sheltering the largest single group of refugees, Palestinian refugee camps are dwarfed in numbers by the global context. In 2013, 51.2 million people were estimated to be forcefully displaced, 10.7 million of which 'newly displaced' in the last year (UNHCR, 2014).

Wihdaat is one of the 58 Palestinian refugee camps in the region, which currently offer shelter to 1,565,242 Palestinian refugees (UNRWA, 2014b). The extreme overcrowding of the camp (Misselwitz, 2009; UNRWA, 2014a) fits in a bigger pattern of challenged living conditions in the camps. The camps are perceived as places where the least fortunate Palestinian refugees live (Hanafi, 2008), and they are noted as socio-economic poverty traps (Khawaja, 2003). In addition, the camp inhabitants report on the unhealthy living conditions resulting from overcrowding: the perceived lack of public and open spaces and the subsequent psychological and social problems (Arneberg, 1997; FAFO, 2002).

Palestinian refugee camps exist and keep existing for the same reason, the denied right of return of the Palestinian refugees to the places of their home after the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli war. As Wihdaat has a history over 50 years, several generations grew up in the camp. In addition, a refugee camp identity grew, strongly related to the political and nationalistic symbolism of the refugee camp for Palestinian refugees and their host society.

1.4 CONSEQUENCE FOR STAKEHOLDERS OF WIHDAAT

Refugee camps require an agreement between the international community and a host government to facilitate shelter for refugees in a specifically bordered space. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) represents the international community, the Department of Palestinian Affairs represents the hosting Jordanian government. Lastly, the registered Palestinian refugees have sprung up in Wihdaat, ranging from religious institutions like mosques, to special interest groups like women centres, to social venues like sport clubs. In addition, the urbanization of Wihdaat and context has expanded the range of stakeholders too. In the camp itself a distinction has grown between people living in the shelter and people owning the shelter and (partly) renting them. This has allowed other communities to come to live next to the original (so registered) Palestinian refugee families living in the camp. Wihdaat’s function as a centrality of Amman has created another distinction amongst shelter owners, that between commercial and dwelling shelters-owners. Finally, this role has connected Wihdaat with the neighborhoods and districts around it, and effectively also with Amman. The Greater Amman Municipality has thus, unknowingly, become a stakeholder too.

Map of the current Palestinian refugee camps in the region. Source: author’s elaborations on an UNRWA base map.

Map of the presence of the stakeholders of Wihdaat. Source: author’s own work.
As a Palestinian refugee camp, Wihdaat has existed on a temporary basis for the last 59 years. The urbanization of Wihdaat and its context happened alongside the dual identity of the camp's open spaces: they are a part of Amman by being a territory of exception. As its over 51,500 dwellers and different governing stakeholders are all positioned differently within this duality, it obstructs them to link demands with the development of open space, and thereby constraining the overall development and life in the camp. As an urban planner, this situation can be addressed by communicating an oversight on this situation through proposals for the activation of public space. This holds a double relevance, as the dual identity of open space of Wihdaat stems from the general definition of a refugee camp, so a proposal which reviews the logic of its influence is relevant to both the location and refugee camps in general.

These conclusions are summarised in the problem statement: Wihdaat’s open space is defined by a dual identity of being part of Amman but by being a separate entity, this obstructs its stakeholders to recognize each other demands, promoting unbalanced development and spatial conflicts.

**WIHDAAT: 1 TEMPORARY, BUT OVER 50 YEARS 2 SECLUDED, BUT PART OF AMMAN 3 TOP-DOWN, BUT CHALLENGED THROUGH**

1 USE AS AN EXPRESSION OF REFUGEE IDENTITY

2 USE AS A COMMUNITY SPACE

3 USE AS COMMERCIAL SPACE

Main demands from open space in Wihdaat. Source: author’s own work, based on

Both the bottom-up spatial development of Wihdaat and its bottom-up economy (right) challenge the current top-down governance model. Source: unknown

Both on city and on street scale (right) are there many ties between Wihdaat (location in red stripes) and Amman, challenging the closed-off identity of the camp. Source: wikimedia commons.

Wihdaat in the 1970s, its long history and current functioning (right) challenge the purely temporary identity of the camp. Source: UNRWA photo archive


Wihdaat commercial area. Source: panoramamman via https://ssl.panoramio.com/photo/7905788

Street scale transition from Amman to Wihdaat. Source: Jim Wright via http://olbigjimsplace.blogspot.nl/2010/12/al-wehdat-christmas-day.html

1.6 CONCLUSION: PROBLEM STATEMENT

As a Palestinian refugee camp, Wihdaat has existed on a temporary basis for the last 59 years. The urbanization of Wihdaat and its context happened alongside the dual identity of the camp’s open spaces: they are a part of Amman by being a territory of exception. As its over 51,500 dwellers and different governing stakeholders are all positioned differently within this duality, it obstructs them to link demands with the development of open space, and thereby constraining the overall development and life in the camp. As an urban planner, this situation can be addressed by communicating an oversight on this situation through proposals for the activation of public space. This holds a double relevance, as the dual identity of open space of Wihdaat stems from the general definition of a refugee camp, so a proposal which reviews the logic of its influence is relevant to both the location and refugee camps in general.

These conclusions are summarised in the problem statement: Wihdaat’s open space is defined by a dual identity of being part of Amman but as an isolated entity, this obstructs its stakeholders to recognize each other demands, promoting unbalanced development and spatial conflicts.
chapter 2: problem analysis

A theoretic review shows that the duality of open space can be linked to the limited activation of public space in the camp, specifically through the top-down governance of Wihdaat which acerbates the duality and the subsequent attraction for bottom-up development the duality actively generates. A review of the city and camp level impact of the duality shows that the spatial conditions support a part of Wihdaat to function as a city centrality, leaving the rest in isolation. The formal planning system’s response is neither able to recognize or mitigate this. This leads to the formulation of planning criteria which recognizes the duality within open spaces and thus connects the conflicting sets of demands.
2.1 THEORY
Duality of open space and development of public space
Carmona (2010) distinguishes several theoretical aspects of urban design in itself, and several aspects in its implementation. Urban design is divided in the morphological, perceptual, social, visual, functional and temporal aspects. Its management is divided in a development, control and communication process. Gehl (2010) defines minimum conditions for open space to be able to connect to the human scale and a description of how these conditions activate social use of open space, planning goals to achieve this and concludes with a toolbox of possible interventions. Dorst (2005) suggests that public space is not so much public, but consists of the sum of territories of different groups. As the open space
As noted by Sepulveda (2003) public space can be ordered around three different set of aspects: the physical attributes of its space, the functional meaning of it and the psychological construction. Janches (2010) stresses the connection between the exterior influences (design and economic ideologies and paradigms) and the actual societal functions public space is allowed to have on several scale levels. Specifically, the societal functions entail being a place of meeting and negotiation between different social groups, promoting their integration. Allowing this process to happen, the physical and the psychological aspect of public space need to match in such a way that members of different communities are attracted to use the space.
Reacting on Carmona (2010); Dorst (2005); Gehl (2010); Sepulveda (2003) the definition used in this thesis is ‘Public space is defined as those open spaces, socially reproduced by the community members by means of privacy zoning, allowing an individual to engage with and express itself in the community and in the city of which the space is part of. A higher (scale) level integration then corresponds with an increase in the number of privacy zones and in the number of decision making systems’.
Duality of open space and development
Although derived from the different American context, Marcuse’s (1997) notion of the enclave is interesting. Contrasted to the seclusion of the ghetto which is imposed on its population and that of the citadel which is purposefully created by its powerful residents, the enclave is a purposeful and voluntary spatial concentration of a social group because of possibilities for development. This notion can explain some aspects of the enduring existence of Wihdaat. The camp offers low rents, a host of services and facilities and chances for social and economic development. The dual nature of an enclave, being part of the city through being different from the city, allows development, similarly the duality of open space allows one aspect of the...
Duality of open space and stakeholder relations Palestinian refugee camps
As Palestinian refugee camps are based on the premises of facilitating rather than housing refugees, their governing structure is limited and top-down, partly due to the un-transparent power sharing by UNRWA and the Jordanian government is (al-Husseini, 2011; Hanafi, 2010). This creates a major difference in the actual and perceived responsibility of governing stakeholders (Hanafi, 2010) and subsequently a major lack in meeting the socio-economic demands of the refugee camp inhabitants(Hanafi, 2008). Overall, this prompts informal reactions by inhabitants to meet those demands and their acceptance by the governing stakeholders (al-Husseini, 2011; Rueff & Viaro, 2010).

2.2 CONDITIONS OF OPEN SPACE
Looking at the socio-economic conditions of Wihdaat shows that its part of Amman (‘East Amman’) is younger than the city’s average. The employment rate is meanwhile lower. Although Wihdaat more or less shares its vulnerable socio-economic conditions with its neighbors, certain parts of Wihdaat are quite well connected to the urban road network of Amman.
2.3 FORM AND FUNCTION OF OPEN SPACE

A more detailed look at the urbanization process of Wihdaat shows that the whole camp shares basic forms of open spaces and ways to develop it. So the problematic of the duality of open space in Wihdaat is not so much about the form of space, but about the way open spaces get a meaning.
2.4 GOVERNANCE RESPONSE TO OPEN SPACE

Amman’s spatial planning system is organised from the metropolitan level down. The local implementation capacity of the planners is limited however. This contributes to deviations between formal planning documents and the current situation in and around Wihdaat. For example, Wihdaat’s function as centrality is only recognised as part of a general ‘metropolitan corridor’ (GAM, 2008). Therefore, the exchange of knowledge between planning offices and the stakeholders not directly involved becomes very difficult. This situation has negative consequences for both the camp and city. Wihdaat contributes to Amman, but this is not formally recognized by the city. This limits the camp stakeholders in their options to deal with the consequences of Amman for the camp’s development. In a different way, Amman too gets affected by Wihdaat. Through the camp’s function as centrality Wihdaat influences the conditions and development of the adjacent districts.

In terms of planning, both sides of the duality show a lack of communication, leading to missed opportunities and promoting conflicts. A planning model which takes the current situation of Wihdaat, and is able to connect to higher scale processes can be very helpful to address this aspect of Wihdaat’s duality.
## CRITERIA

### WIHDAAT AS A CAMP

1. Integration of open space in the daily urban system of Wihtaat’s social groups
2. Meaning of public space in the social & economic struggle of camp population
3. Control over open & built space by dwelling & governing stakeholders

### WIHDAAT AS PART OF AMMAN

1. Integration of open space in the daily urban system of camp-outsiders
2. Economic development of camp space
3. Pressure on open & built space for development

## STRATEGIC CRITERIA

1. Maintaining the refugee identity of the camp stakeholders in Wihtaat’s relation to Amman
2. Dual meaning of form & use of open space in Wihtaat
3. Maintaining the refugee identity of the stakeholders in the spatial management & development

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### 2.5 - CONCLUSION: PLANNING CRITERIA

A theoretic review shows that the duality of open space is linked directly and indirectly to the limited activation into public space of the camp. Indirectly through the top-down governance of Wihtaat causing the duality and the subsequent attraction for bottom-up development. A review of the city and camp level impact of the duality shows that the spatial conditions support a part of Wihtaat to function as a city centrality, and the limits of the formal planning system’s response. This shows the need for and potential of a more inclusive planning system, which would allow

This requires criteria which recognizes the different positions by Wihtaat’s stakeholders within the duality of open space. By summarizing this analysis into two sets of criteria for the ‘city-district’ and ‘isolated entity’ roles of open space, a set of strategic criteria can be formulated which encompasses the duality.
chapter 3: theory & approach

Planning theory supplies a model for a more inclusive process which recognizes the duality of open space in Wihdaat. Theory on the activation of public space gives a perspective how the stakeholders can use the model to address the obstructions caused by the duality. This leads to a methodology which starts at an analysis of the public space system in Wihdaat. The analytical conclusions are used in a planning framework which allows the stakeholders to rethink their roles in the camp. The framework results in planning guidelines which are tested through design, allowing the formulation of recommendations on the meaning of public space in Wihdaat.
Actor-Network-Theory (ANT) offers a way to analyze and counter this (institutionalized) fragmentation of space, stakeholders and planning. ANT defines an object or entity as a set of actors combined in a network, and therefore defines the world through an endlessly nested number of actor-networks (Denzin, 2012). As defined by Boelens (2010) in terms of spatial planning, it opens up the opportunity to be highly inclusive as it treats all actors alike, be they governmental and non-governmental or conscious and non-conscious. This equalization is strengthened by a focus on the problem, as relevant actors are ranked based on their inherent influence on it (Boelens, 2010). In this contrast to more traditional forms of planning, where the (views of the) planner is often the center of the process.

In contrast to ARA, Albrechts (2004) argues for a combination of bottom-up and top-down tools through a four track planning system where four types of rationalities are mixed together. From vision building, to vision-translation to action, to plan integration of the actors; while at the background the fourth track watches the position of citizens and the planning consequences of it. Critique offered by Boelens (2010) on Actor-Network-Theory’s appliance in spatial planning: it is very analytic but avoids taking a position, planning differentiates fundamentally between conscious and non-conscious actors and that the latter are in reality always represented by conscious actors, and finally the a-democratic nature of ANT as it does not include any systems which demand popular oversight, agreement or inclusion. Combining ANT, its critique, additional theories and practice, Boelens (2010) formulates a seven-stage planning process which revolves around the defining potentials of a situation and its stakeholders to create a new spatial regime.

- finding the core problem or “unique selling point” of a situation, (thus) its relevant actors and creating an awareness of its connections
- finding other actors relevant to this combination of actors and issues
- developing (graphic) proposals based on the core values which expressively are proactive and seducing in order to convince the stakeholders
- first test of proposals by reviewing the quality/sharpness of the proposals in a set of talks with the actors, resulting in viable “actor-network-associations” (Boelens, 2010, p. 45)
- second test of proposals by translating them into business cases, here the actor-roles are solidified, a success in this case implies more possibilities in this specific connection
- success in the previous stages then can be solidified in a new planning constellation/ regime, thus the succeedfull assembly of actors and the unique core values forms the center for this new system
- evaluate the democratic degree to which the new planning can be is rooted in (non-governmental) organisations

Approach The publicness of open space in Wihdaat is used as a tool of measurement and intervention. To meet the assignment, a Local Strategic Plan is formed which connects UNWRA’s operations to the camp’s inhabitants demand. This is done through an Actor-Relational-Approach which analyses the functioning and assesses the values of the public and open space systems in the camp. The Local Strategic Plan consists of an analysis-based diagnosis, a vision, a strategic action plan and a phasing of long and short term actions. The diagnosis shows the importance and the logic of spatial coalitions in the camp. The vision shows a possibility for an expanded and differentiated public space system in Wihdaat. The strategic action plan indicates how UNWRA can cooperate with other camp stakeholders to find, connect to and strengthen the sleeping activators of public space. The phasing of short and long term actions shows how this concept can be executed in the camp in (informal) cooperation by the different stakeholders.

The Actor Relational Approach supports and details the different parts of the LSP by describing a process which analyses, reimages and operationalizes the (potential) role of public space in the camp. Contributing to the diagnosis is a problematization of the location and, a categorization of stakeholder contributions. The vision is supported by the reimagining of the links revealed in the diagnosis. The strategic actions are based on an analytical simulation of the stakeholder reactions to the vision. The buildup of a spatial regime which unifies individual successes supports the phasing. Both lines are based on the same criteria, and the several stages of them will be evaluated alongside them, especially the influence of the final planning output on a particular location’s local, camp and city scale functioning. From this, recommendations for the camp and for global instances of refugee camps are shown.
3.2 SPATIAL POSSIBILITIES FOR MORE INCLUSIVE PLANNING

III Assessment of public space
(Dorst, 2005) the use of spatial elements by the stakeholders to make different privacy zones,
(Janches, 2011; Janches & Sepulveda, 2009) Public space's place in the
spatial structure is defined by the different degrees of integration
in camp and city offered by public space to its stakeholders.
(Arnstein, 1969) The planning relation between public space's
stakeholders gets defined by the inclusion of stakeholders in the
different levels of decision making.
Public space's potential for multi-scaler integration in the city
As noted by Sepulveda (2003) public space can be ordered around
three different set of aspects: the physical attributes of its space,
the functional meaning of it and the psychological construction.
Janches (2010) stresses the connection between the exterior
influences (design and economic ideologies and paradigms) and
the actual societal functions public space is allowed to have on
several scale levels. Specifically, the societal functions entail being a
place of meeting and negotiation between different social groups,
promoting their integration. Allowing this process to happen, the
physical and the psychological aspect of public space need to match
in such a way that members of different communities are attracted
to use the space.
Public space has the potential to promote cohesiveness of the city
by allowing the integration of the city’s different groups, which
is related to its role of “social interaction junctions” (Janches &
The alienation between a situation of urban marginalization and its
context thus can be counteracted by spatial planning efforts, if they
consider the local identity and community of a place through the
way that can be expressed in the public space. Then the connection
between community and public space defines the measure of its
success (Janches & Sepulveda, 2009).
Carmona (2010) distinguishes several theoretic aspects of urban
design in itself, and several aspects in its implementation. Urban
design is divided in the morphological, perceptual, social, visual,
functional and temporal aspects. Its management is divided in a
development, control and communication process.
The privacy zoning of public space at the individual scale level
Looking into the street-level details of this process, Dorst (2005)
signifies the
the level of control on social interation is related to the level of
control on the open space.
instead of one public zone the public space of an area/system is
differentiated into several privacy zones with a corresponding
territoriality of spaces indicating who is allowed where
the readability of space place a major role in this constellation of
spaces, as it communicates the position of a public space to an
individual.
Assessment of stakeholders inclusion in the decision making process
As Palestinian refugee camps are managed per definition top-down,
power in planning is placed one-sidedly amongst the governing
stakeholders. As ARA does not promote democratic planning per
definition (Boelens, 2010), this aspect requires further scrutiny.

1. MULTI-SCALAR INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC SPACE (JANCHE & SEPULEDA, 2009)

2 PRIVACY ZONING OF PUBLIC SPACE
(DORST, 2005)

3 MULTI-STAKEHOLDER INCLUSION
(ARNSTEIN, 1969)

(1) THE MULTI-SCALAR INTEGRATION OFFERED THROUGH AN OPEN SPACE BY ITS LINK TO THE PUBLIC SPACE SYSTEM
(2) THE MEANING OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE SPATIAL STRUCTURE FOR THE PRIVACY ZONING OF AN OPEN SPACE.
(3) THE INCLUSION OF THE DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS IN THE MULTI-SCALAR DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF THE PUBLIC SPACE SYSTEM.
Theory on Inclusive planning models: actor-relational-approach and a revision of strategic planning. Combining the planning model with problem statement and the strategic criteria for the formulation of goals. Spatialisation of goals with by a theoretic review on the properties of public space. This leads to the formulation of a methodology of three steps. First, an analysis of public space lead to a diagnosis, based on linking the planning criteria with the spatial criteria. Secondly, a planning process for stakeholder reposition them in the duality, based on testing the criteria in a part of the camp and the whole. Thirdly, testing the planning outcomes through a design allows the drawing of conclusions on the role of open space in refugee camps, based on a validation of the findings of the testing of the criteria.
chapter 4: analysis & diagnosis

A three-fold analysis of the activation of the camp’s public space system allows insight into how the stakeholders deal with the duality of open space. First, a review of the different degrees of multi-scalar integration shows that the camp’s open spaces support different relations with their context of Amman. Secondly, a review of the spatial structure of the camp shows the existence of different sets of privacy zoning in the camp’s open spaces. Thirdly, a review of stakeholder’s positions in the camp shows that the different stakeholders of the open space operate on different scales. So the analysis can conclude that the camp stakeholders are able to jointly address the duality of the open spaces in the camp through the activation of public space in Wihdaat.

Source: Fernando sapeli http://www.flickr.com/photos/fernandosapeli/4405031724/
4.1.1 MULTI-SCALAR ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC SPACE SYSTEM

The review of multi-scalar integration shows the current differentiation in the meaning of open space.

Criterium 1: The multi-scalar integration offered through an open space by its link to the public space system.
Since Wihdaat’s creation in 1955 its context changed from rural hillsides outside of Amman to an urban centre for the Southside of the city. This urbanization marks the most influential historic transition of Wihdaat, from isolated camp to quasi-urban-element. Till today, this ambiguity of belonging fuels the spatial conflict. The Jordanian Civil War of 1970-1971 marks the second transition, as it demolished parts of the camp and shattered the Palestinian position in Jordan, setting the stage for the current stakeholder relations. The Iran-Iraq War of 1980-1988 marks the final transition, as it created a large flow of Palestinians working in Iraq returning to Jordan. In this phase the vertical expansion of the shelters starts. The transitions all deal with the relation between Wihdaat and Amman, but the change is never absolute. Rather, some parts of the camp stick with the original balance, while others are able to adapt. This explains the fragmentation of the camp’s open spaces, as its difference results from the capacity of space to adapt itself to the influence of Amman.

Currently, Wihdaat has a commercial function which contributes to Amman on the city level. In addition, its health, education and social services link the camp with the districts around it. Lastly, Wihdaat also supports religious and civic functions on the neighborhood level. In this way, social infrastructure binds Wihdaat on several levels to its context.
The second part of the analysis takes the differentiation of open space and reviews along the second criterium. Based on this, the public space structure of Wihdaat can be classified into three distinct sub-structures, depending on its (potential) relation to the city:

- The border streets, running as main arteries through Amman.
- The camp’s main street.
- The camp’s inner streets and alleys.

These sub-structures are assembled from three different spatial elements:

- The street corners and the street spaces linking them.
- The non-street open space in the camp, made by an exception in the grids, within the camp it has clear build borders, at the border streets it contains the leftover space.
- The walled open spaces, managed by both the governing and dwelling stakeholders of the camp, the former has a semi-public character.

These spatial structures occur both inside and outside the public space system of Wihdaat, showing the potential for an expansion of the public space system if the right conditions are met. In this regard, the central street of Wihdaat is very interesting. Firstly because operates on the city-scale level, combining the meaning of a border street with the structure of a main street. Secondly, it has an impact on the adjacent street, supporting their stakeholders in creating spatial agreements.

Criterium 2: The meaning of the elements of the spatial structure for the privacy zoning of an open space.
4.2.1 Comparing Street Structures

Street structure of central Amman. Source: author's own work


Entrance of Rainbow street. Source: author's own

Street view of Rainbow street. Source: author's own

Street structure (up) and building typologies (down) of Wihdaat's (most integrated) main street. Source: author's own observations

Street structure (up) and building typologies (down) of Rainbow street, one of Amman's central street. Source: author's own observations
The first part of the analysis has shown the spatial conditions and reactions to them of open space in Wihdaat. Now, a review of the public space system along the third criterium shows the underlying influence of the different stakeholders on the open and public space system of Wihdaat.

The governing stakeholders of Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan are the Jordanian government and UNRWA. The government, through the Department of Palestinian Affairs, appoints a camp officer and a Local Committee to manage the camp. In addition, notables too play a role in the camp management, although in agreement with the government. An UNRWA camp officer oversees the daily management of the agency’s facilities. In addition, UNRWA organizes ad hoc camp improvement efforts, generally financially supported by foreign donors. Lastly, a number of NGOs influence the development of the camp, several linked to (Islamic) political parties (Hanafi, 2010).

The inhabitants of Wihdaat can be divided into three main stakeholder groups. Firstly there are the owners of the camp shelters. They can be members of the original family who got the shelter allocated, or persons who (informally) bought the ownership of the shelter (Rueff & Viaro, 2010). As this group does not necessarily lives in Wihdaat, there is the group of inhabitants renting a shelter in the camp (FAFO, 2002). They must be subdivided into two specific stakeholder groups, one of Palestinian refugees and one of non-Palestinian camp inhabitants (Hamarneh, 2002). These three dwelling stakeholders are again subdivided in economic, social and power-related sub-groups. In socio-economic terms the camps are heterogeneous, housing the whole spectrum from low to middle, to upper classes. However, the majority consists of poor households (Khawaja, 2003). As noted, ethnicity also divides the inhabitants. The Palestinian refugee community hosts a group of Palestinian “gypsies”, negatively described by non-members of that group. Aside from the Palestinian refugees, a community of Egyptian economic migrants and other communities of refugees, Iraqi in 2002 (Hamarneh, 2002), live in the camp.

3 The inclusion of the different stakeholders in the multi-scalar decision making process of the public space system.
### 4.3.2 Stakeholder Analysis of the Public Space System

The camp level is defined by the governing stakeholders UNRWA and the DPA. They control the planning of space in the camp, although both have some instruments to contact the community, but within the top-down model. As a result the inhabitants of Wihdaat are reduced to receivers of the planning process, formally giving all refugees the same but very limited rights and non-refugees none. Personal connections with actors within the governing stakeholders however can individually change this situation, excluding those without connections even further from the decision making process. On the street level is defined by the inhabitants of the camp and the outsiders they allow in. The camp level gives the conditions for the spatial form, but its actual structure and its use is realized by the communities of the camp. Their differences turned up on the camp level blow out of proportions on the street levels, because some have de facto considerable power on the shape and use of space by owning or claiming it. Most however are without this power, some are part of a middle-class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp stakeholders</th>
<th>responsibilities over camp space</th>
<th>Influence on space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jordanian Government (Department of Palestinian Affairs)</td>
<td>Sets the spatial structure &amp; conditions of the camp - Camp borders and infrastructure - Spatial and socio-economic integration in Amman</td>
<td>1) passive support of both integration &amp; seclusion in Amman 2) defines the form of open spatial elements on the camp scale 3) national, city and camp level decision making power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNRWA</td>
<td>Sets the spatial structure &amp; conditions of the camp - camp borders/administration of shelter ownership &amp; occupation - main social infrastructure - socio-economic support &amp; spatial interventions</td>
<td>1) active role in the public space system allows fragmentation 2) defines the form of spatial elements on the camp &amp; street scale 3) camp level decision making power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp NGOs</td>
<td>Sets the spatial structure &amp; conditions of the camp-neighborhood - meet social demands of camp communities through spatial presence</td>
<td>1) active role in the neighborhood integration 2) defines the form of spatial elements on the neighborhood scale 3) national, city and camp level decision making power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp shelter owning Palestine refugees</td>
<td>React to spatial conditions of the camp-street - maintenance, expansion and functional reconfiguration of shelter - structural claiming of parts of the open space system</td>
<td>1) active role in street integration &amp; seclusion 2) makes the meaning of spatial elements on the street scale 3) national, city and camp level decision making power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp shelter renting Palestine refugees</td>
<td>React to spatial conditions of the camp-street&amp;shelter</td>
<td>1) passive role in street integration &amp; seclusion 2) makes the meaning of spatial elements on the street corner scale 3) shelter level decision making power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp shelter renting Non-Palestinian inhabitants</td>
<td>React to spatial conditions of the camp-street&amp;shelter</td>
<td>1) active role in street seclusion 2) makes the meaning of spatial elements on the street (corner) scale 3) shelter and street level decision making power</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ordered by level of power in the camp decision making process

Two extremes of Wihdaat, a wide border street is physically directly connected to Amman but this goes without an activation of the public space potential of the street. Source: author’s own image

Two extremes of Wihdaat, the narrow market streets only have an indirectly physical connection to Amman, but this goes without an activation of the public space enables them to integrate in the city. Source: Fernando sapelli via https://www.flickr.com/photos/fernandosapelli/4406254896/in/set-7215763367245279

The differentiation of Wihdaat’s open spaces and their context in terms of multi-scalar integration. Source: author’s own work based on site observations.

The spatial presence of the main camp stakeholders (from the neighborhood level upwards). Source: author’s own work based on observations, UNRWA and DPA documents and aerial pictures.

The three main street typologies of Wihdaat’s spatial structure. Source: author’s own work based on site observations and aerial maps.

4.1.1 Causality of the Public Space Activation

Combining the three analytical reviews shows that the activation of public space in Wihdaat has three minimum requirements:

- Firstly, an open space should allow connections to other scales levels through its meaning or function for stakeholders involved in it.
- Secondly, this requires different camp stakeholders to be engaged with the open space, thereby linking different scale levels to the open space.
- Thirdly, an open space must support those different stakeholders to actually reach an (unspoken) agreement on its use and meaning.

Wihdaat’s main street is the most perfect example of a place where the three conditions are met. All the different stakeholders are present within or next to the open spaces of the main street. Together, the stakeholders provide functions from the street to the neighborhood, camp and city scale level. Lastly, however, as noted in the introduction and problem analysis, this success is constrained. The decision-making process is only accessible to those with formal (i.e. a governance stakeholder) or informal power (i.e. a shelter owner). This keeps a major part of the camp from sharing in the success of Wihdaat’s main street, while it still shares in the negative consequences of urbanization.

With this perspective, comparing the actual public spaces of Wihdaat with the presence of their conditions becomes interesting. Although in different degrees of directness, all camp stakeholders are present in the camp. If you compare the map of multi-scalar integration with the map on the camp’s spatial structure, you see that each street typology supports all the different degrees, excluding it as defining factor. Apparently it is not so much the requirement, but the process for different stakeholders to meet and agree over the use, meaning and subsequent development of open space which blocks the activation of open space.
chapter 5: planning process

The Southern, most isolated part of the camp is chosen to apply the analytical findings through a planning framework. It first identifies the shared vision of the stakeholders through their involvement in the open spaces of the camp. Then, the framework translates the vision into a set of goals to actively involve the stakeholders by linking them to sites of possible public space activation. Lastly, the planning framework specifies the goals into a collection of short and long term actions for the stakeholders, by linking the possibilities for public space activation to the position of their respective stakeholders in the camp. The execution of this planning framework leads to a proposed transitionary model for the stakeholders. The model allows a shared and balanced consolidation of the positions of both governing and dwelling stakeholders in Wihdaat and in Amman.
The goal of the thesis is the creation of a new perspective on the use of Wihdaat’s space, its design and so ultimately the spatial planning in the camp; based on the inclusion of the camp inhabitants and the governing stakeholders of the camp. The current gap between the open space structure of the camp and the public space system of the camp is the topic of the thesis.

As noted, the current spatial planning system of Wihdaat allows the creation of a public space system which fragments the camp into different fragments: those which have the capacity to make a certain level of integration into Amman become part of a bigger city structure, isolating the rest of the camp into fragments, disconnected from both the city and the rest of the camp. So the integrated parts are a minority within the camp, but greatly define the spatial structure of the camp, by influencing development and the daily urban systems of the camp inhabitants.

The output of the thesis is constructed by looking at the most isolated yet most promising fragment: the Southern fragment. To test the planning framework, two design sites are chosen which represent the intersections of two typical spatial elements of the camp: a crossroads of border streets and one of camp streets.

5.0 PROPOSAL

The goal of the thesis is the creation of a new perspective on the use of Wihdaat’s space, its design and so ultimately the spatial planning in the camp; based on the inclusion of the camp inhabitants and the governing stakeholders of the camp. The current gap between the open space structure of the camp and the public space system of the camp is the topic of the thesis.

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The output of the thesis is constructed by looking at the most isolated yet most promising fragment: the Southern fragment. To test the planning framework, two design sites are chosen which represent the intersections of two typical spatial elements of the camp: a crossroads of border streets and one of camp streets.
5.1.1 SHARED VISION FOR A CAMP-NEIGHBORHOOD

The existing use of both design sites of the Southern fragment show that the lack of a shared vision on the space is being challenged bottom-up. The border streets show an increased development of density, and the open space is claimed more intensively by the inhabitants. So there is a response to city influence, but the responses do not correspond to each other, resulting in a chaos which further limits an overall agreement between stakeholders. The camp streets have a more coherent streetscape but this shared vision amongst inhabitants is not accessible to outsiders or to other uses, isolating it and constraining the formation of a reaction to city context (e.g. inhabitants claiming open space for car parking).

In general, parts of the open space are claimed for private use, and the whole of the open space is subjected to a patchwork or an exclusion model, so, a shared agreement on the use of space is not evident and the influence of the city is met actor by actor (e.g. individual claiming of parking spaces) instead of the creation of a joint answer. Interestingly, border and internal street have complementary but disconnected approaches in this. So shared vision for the Southern fragment must connect the capacities within the different approaches of border and internal streets. By connecting them, the border streets can develop as coherent parts of the camp while the camp streets can regulate their integration in the city to the level which is needed. Specifically, the border streets can act as a backbone for the camp streets. They offer them a direct link with Amman and a connection with the rest of the camp by joining the camp’s existing public space system. This allows the many spatial agreements between
5.1.2 SHARED VISION FOR THE CAMP

On the camp scale, the findings in the Southern neighborhood can be reapplied by formulating an approach for each camp neighborhood which links it to the whole of the camp, thereby strengthening the neighborhood in dealing with the city.

First planning step, bringing the stakeholders on equal footing through their vision for the open spaces of Wihdaat. Source: author’s own work
5.2.1 GOALS FOR THE SOUTHERN CAMP STAKEHOLDERS

The second step of the planning process is to connect different stakeholders who have an (unknown) shared interest in public space. This allows them to build connections in order to fulfill this goal.

Second planning step, defining the shared goals for the specific stakeholders by locating potential areas where they can activate public space. Source: author’s own work

Proposed areas and structures of potential for stakeholders to accomplish their goals in the Southern neighborhood. Source: author’s own work
Proposed areas and structures of potential for stakeholders to include in their goals in the camp scale. Source: author’s own work.

5.2.2 GOALS FOR THE CAMP STAKEHOLDERS

In the camp scale the different established goals and their stakeholders are placed in a bigger framework where they can support each other, thereby letting the overall development of the camp be guided by the respective involvement of the stakeholders.

Second planning step, defining the shared goals for the specific stakeholders by locating potential areas where they can activate public space. Source: author’s own work.
5.3.1 Timing of actions in the Southern Camp Neighborhood

Finally, the third planning step orders the different possibilities of found stakeholder goals into a strategic order, to carry them out. A review of the current position of stakeholders involved is used. This review shows which possibilities have the most possible influence on other stakeholders and which don’t.

Third planning step, structuring the proposed locations on their capacity to include other stakeholders by build up connections between stakeholders and scales. Source: author’s own work

Proposed strategic timing of short term actions

- Key neighborhood site to engage all stakeholders
- Sites for street scale actions
- Sites for shelter scale (re)actions

Long term actions
- New public spaces on city scale
- New public spaces on camp scale
5.3.2 TIMING OF ACTIONS FOR THE CAMP

On the camp scale, the different timings for the neighborhoods can be put next to each other (both spatially and time related). With this overview of activities in the camp, new possibilities can be found, so that activities in different neighborhood can start to strengthen each other, effectively starting the planning process again, but in a higher scale level.
1. Supporting an agreement amongst the current stakeholders of an open space by facilitating the process of privacy zoning.

2. Including neighborhood scale stakeholders to join in the privacy zoning, thereby integrating the space in the camp.

3. Empowering dwelling inhabitants to address the city influence, thereby rebalancing the integration of the space in the city.

1. Strongest governing stakeholder and the weakest dwelling stakeholder are engaged by a spatial intervention.

2. This creates opportunities for other governing and dwelling stakeholders to follow.

1. Interventions are made in open spaces to engage sleeping activators.

2. Built up of connections between the stakeholders through the open space is solidified in spatial development.

5.4. Conclusion: Proposed transition model

Approach consists of three steps, each building the detail level, applied to the most isolated Southern part, then expanded to the camp.

First, the identification of a vision shared by all stakeholders, a review process of shared possibilities, leading to the proposal of a shared recognition of public space activation potential stemming from the different scale level.

Secondly, the formulation of goals for the stakeholders, a process of connecting stakeholders and spaces, leading to a proposal for uncovering the possibilities by letting different stakeholders activate together space for different levels.

Thirdly, a timing of actions to engage the stakeholders, a process of interrelating and ordering the found possibilities, leading to a proposal which connects vulnerable open space stakeholders in order to consolidates them into new developments.

This leads to three specific process requirements for professionals:

- Constant review of the degree of inclusion of the stakeholders of an open space
- Building up the connections to the higher scales
- Strategic choice requires facilitation of meeting of strongest and most vulnerable stakeholder
chapter 6: design & evaluation

To evaluate the guidelines of the proposed model, a border street and a main street of the camp are selected as design sites to apply the guidelines. Combining the resulting design proposals with the planning proposal, a reflection on the whole process is made.

The reflection leads to conclusions on the catalysing capacity of public space in Wihdaat. Firstly, public space allows all stakeholders to address the duality of open space which defines the refugee camp. Secondly, public space allows a connection between governing and dwelling stakeholders to work together, showing that efforts to activate public space can lead to shared benefits for different stakeholders.

Fig. 7.1 chart of the structure of the thesis, focus on the reflection & evaluation
6.1.1 DESIGN LOCATIONS

A border streets and a main street of Wihdaat are used as testing sites as those two represent the spatial structure of the camp. As the Southern part of the camp is the most isolated, a border and a main street are selected from there.

The challenge for the border street is to strengthen the street stakeholders (shopkeepers and shelter inhabitants) in their claim so that they can meet higher scale stakeholders more successfully.

The challenge for the main street is to soften the claim of the street stakeholders (youths and the families living in the shelters) so that the current outsiders of the street are allowed to use it to.
6.1.2 TRANSLATING THE SHARED VISION TO GOALS

The first planning phase aims to identify the shared vision of the different stakeholders. In terms of design, the objective is to find possibilities for the inclusion of other stakeholders in the current ways the stakeholders use open spaces of the camp.

Proposed vision for the open spaces of the Southern neighborhood. Source: author’s own work

Proposed areas and structures of potential for stakeholders to accomplish their goals in the Southern neighborhood. Source: author’s own work

Street scale stakeholders and possible design sites in the border street. Source: author’s own work

Street scale stakeholders and possible design sites in the camp main street. Source: author’s own work
6.1.2.3 DESIGN POSSIBILITIES

The implementation of the first planning step gives a large set of possibilities (specifically, three for each designsite were chosen). In order to translate a shared vision into specific goals for the stakeholders, the involvement of the different stakeholders for each possibility is considered.

Border street variant #1: the neighborhood corner

Stakeholders engaged:
- Department of Palestinian Affairs
- UNRWA (facilitating stakeholder)
- Wihdaat NGOs
- Shelter-shopkeepers
- Shelter-dwellers
- Camp social group (neighbors and passersby)

Main street variant #1: empowering through walkways

Stakeholders engaged:
- Department of Palestinian Affairs
- UNRWA (facilitating stakeholder)
- Wihdaat NGOs
- Shelter-shopkeepers
- Shelter-dwellers
- Camp social group (children, women, elderly)

Border street variant #2: walkway expansion

Stakeholders engaged:
- Department of Palestinian Affairs
- UNRWA
- Wihdaat NGOs
- Shelter-shopkeepers
- Shelter-dwellers
- Camp social group (neighbors and passersby)

Border street variant #2: community claiming of left-over space

Stakeholders engaged:
- Department of Palestinian Affairs
- UNRWA
- Wihdaat NGOs (Mosque can be a facilitating stakeholder)
- Shelter-shopkeepers
- Shelter-dwellers
- Camp social group (Women)

Border street variant #2: placemaking for youths

Stakeholders engaged:
- Department of Palestinian Affairs
- UNRWA
- Wihdaat NGOs (Mosque as facilitating stakeholder)
- Shelter-shopkeepers
- Shelter-dwellers
- Camp social group (youths)

Border street variant #2: family claiming of open space

Stakeholders engaged:
- Department of Palestinian Affairs
- UNRWA
- Wihdaat NGOs
- Shelter-shopkeepers
- Shelter-dwellers
- Camp social group

Conceptual design for the expansion of a shop’s space via a roof, making a buffer between the city and the neighborhood scale, allowing passersby a place to stop and chat. Source: author’s own work

Conceptual design for the inclusion of weak social groups (i.e. children) through interventions at borders of the camp’s walkways. Source: author’s own work

Conceptual design for the inclusion of youths in the street scale decision making process by formalizing their current hangouts in a design and assigning a responsibility with it. Source: author’s own work

Conceptual design for the claiming of open space around the shelter by small modifications around entrances, creating semi-public spaces for families and their social circle. Source: author’s own work

Conceptual design for the involvement of shopkeepers in the open space, by expanding their individual walkways-parts they connect the street better to camp and city scale. Source: author’s own work

The implementation of the first planning step gives a large set of possibilities (specifically, three for each designsite were chosen). In order to translate a shared vision into specific goals for the stakeholders, the involvement of the different stakeholders for each possibility is considered.
6.1.3.1 TRANSLATING THE STAKEHOLDER GOALS

Conceptual design for the inclusion of weak social groups (i.e. children) through interventions at borders of the camp’s walkways. Source: author’s own work

Visualisation of the use of walkways for the empowerment of Wihdaat’s weaker groups in a camp main street. By widening the walkways, the control over the walkway’s borders can be redistributed along the different social groups in the camp. This allows a more efficient use of the open spaces by supporting the shared use by different stakeholders like teens playing football while an employee takes a break. This proposal deals with the dual identity of open space in Wihdaat by giving unrecognized stakeholders a place in the process in order to decide for themselves what their vision for the open space is. Source: author’s own work, the montage uses a wide range of cut images from the author and others.

Conceptual design for the expansion of a shop’s space via a roof, making a buffer between the city and the neighborhood scale, allowing passersby a place to stop and chat, effectively creating a corner for the neighborhood. Source: author’s own work

Visualisation of the neighborhood corner for the border street, illustrating the position it takes between Wihdaat and Amman. Through a design intervention commercial (city scale) functions are linked to social (camp & neighborhood) functions. So it addresses the duality of open space by allowing different camp stakeholders to work together for a shared interest. Source: author’s own work, the montage uses a wide range of cut images from the author and others.
6.1.4 TRANSLATING THE TIMING OF ACTIONS

Finally, with knowledge on possibilities and their connection to the stakeholders of the situation, the different possibilities can be ordered on the input required and the aftereffects they will generate with the other stakeholders. Thus a strategic choice can be made for the most influential intervention.

Proposed strategic timing of short term actions

Key neighborhood site to engage all stakeholders
Sites for street scale actions
Sites for shelter scale interventions
Long term actions
New public spaces on city scale
New public spaces on camp scale

Proposed timing of actions on the camp scale. Source: author’s own work

Proposed timing of design actions in the camp main street. Source: author’s own work

Proposed timing of design actions in the border street. Source: author’s own work

1 empoweRiNg through walkways
1 NeighboRhood coRNeR
2 claimiNg opeN space
3 walkway expansion
3 opeN space claimiNg foR families
2 placemakiNg foR youths

Proposed timing of design actions in the camp main street. Source: author’s own work

Proposed timing of design actions in the border street. Source: author’s own work

Finally, with knowledge on possibilities and their connection to the stakeholders of the situation, the different possibilities can be ordered on the input required and the aftereffects they will generate with the other stakeholders. Thus a strategic choice can be made for the most influential intervention.
6.2.1 Reflection on Defining the Methodology

The thesis started with the formulation of a problem statement on the dual identity of open space in Wihdaat. By focussing on the link between the open space and the complexity of an urbanised refugee camp, both strength and major difficulty is the broadness of open space, although easily defined as the unbuilt areas, it requires awareness of their position and power in this role and the mutual benefit. As a result, a shared vision can grow amongst the stakeholders.

Planning criteria

The approach clarifies the multi-scalar influence on and potential of a public space, but allows the degree multi-scalar integration as a choice to the camp stakeholders. This allows the precise street scale adjustments to the desired integration by inhabitants, it does not guarantee it. Additional safe-guards to support inhabitants in reaching the desired level are advisable. The privacy zoning of public space is used as a concept to understand the meaning of public space and then use it in the planning process. Although it is positive to integrate a street scale understanding with their higher order planning systems, it does not guarantee that they are being considered by the governing stakeholders. An elaboration on the link between spatial elements and stakeholders can reveal their importance for the higher scale processes.

The inclusion of different stakeholders forms the backbone of the approach, defining all the parts of the analysis and being the key-point of the proposal. However, as a backbone this happen quite passively, shaping conditions and not enforcing them. Depending on the reactions of the different stakeholders a stronger position is needed.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Wihdaat’s open space is defined by a dual identity of being part of Amman but as an isolated entity, this obstructs its stakeholders to recognize each other demands, promoting unbalanced development and spatial conflicts.

STRATEGIC CRITERIA

1. Maintaining the refugee identity of the stakeholders in the spatial management & development
2. Taking advantage of the duality of use, form & development of space in Wihdaat
3. Taking advantage of the relation between Wihdaat & Amman

DESIGN CRITERIA

1. The multi-scalar integration offered through an open space by its link to the public space system
2. The meaning of the elements of the spatial structure for the privacy zoning of an open space
3. The inclusion of the different stakeholders in the multi-scalar decision making process of the public space system

6.2.1 Reflection on Application of Methodology

Analysis

The analysis traced the creation of the public space system by the camp stakeholders through the spatial structure in response to the camp’s relation with Amman. By showing the spatial conditions it grew in, it has shown the logic and limits of spatial reproduction by the inhabitants of Wihdaat. The diagnosis took the capacities of the open and public space system and placed them against their obstructions, giving recommendations for a planning proposal to allow the stakeholders to overcome them.

Planning & design proposals

The planning proposal’s aim is to start a discussion amongst the stakeholders of Wihdaat by offering a new perspective on their use of open space in the camp.

The proposal recognizes the structurally different roles of the camp stakeholders, and thereby offers a perspective to the stakeholders on an inclusive approach to space. This allows a stakeholder to connect with the different capacities of other stakeholders, to mutual benefit. As a result, a shared vision can grow amongst the stakeholders.

Reflection on effectiveness

The approach clarifies the multi-scalar influence on and potential of a public space, but allows the degree multi-scalar integration as a choice to the camp stakeholders. This allows the precise street scale adjustments to the desired integration by inhabitants, it does not guarantee it. Additional safe-guards to support inhabitants in reaching the desired level are advisable.

The privacy zoning of public space is used as a concept to understand the meaning of public space and then use in it the planning process. Although it is positive to integrate a street scale understanding with their higher order planning systems, it does not guarantee that they are being considered by the governing stakeholders. An elaboration on the link between spatial elements and stakeholders can reveal their importance for the higher scale processes.

The inclusion of different stakeholders forms the backbone of the approach, defining all the parts of the analysis and being the key-point of the proposal. However, as a backbone this happen quite passively, shaping conditions and not enforcing them. Depending on the reactions of the different stakeholders a stronger position is needed.

General recommendations for implementations

An active role in activating stakeholders might be needed if they or the constraining structures around them are reluctant to change the current status quo. To support this, a clear argumentation on the shared link between all the stakeholders with the disputed open space is crucial. To allow the creation of this argumentation, a correct awareness of the actual degree of inclusion and exclusion of stakeholders is required to prevent a false sense of authority of the planning process. Planners and designers have a powerful role, as they guide the process and have the oversight on the change. This requires awareness of their position and power in this role and the need to be accountable to the stakeholders of Wihdaat.

In addition to these conditions there is an underlying task, the communication with the different communities. In order to bring stakeholders together and share their knowledge and capacities, they need to know what will happen, for what reason and with which logic. If done successfully, this allows the process to be very effective, and to be partly self-organizing, as stakeholders learn from fellow stakeholders to implement the ideas of the proposal.
6.3 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the planning proposal, two designs are made, for an inner street and a border street of the camp, together represent Wihdaat. Their main difference turning out to be defined by ... 

The planning of tool for diagnosis, importance of multiscalar connections to decision making, 
The design of open spaces in Wihdaat can benefit greatly by an awareness [borders,

Wihdaat is a testament of the capacities of refugees to build and contribute to their host society. It is also a testament of the defining influence of governing stakeholders in their (lack of) recognition of these capacities.

As is shown, public space offers a bridge over the dichotomy between both parties. It has the capacity to generate mutual benefits.

So it is the binding of the stakeholders through spatial form of open space allowed by their street level presence which makes the multi-scalar integration of the camp; thereby giving them access to the general and scale-specific decision making process.

This location is a case of extreme stretching of the temporary status of a refugee camp, and one which is urbanised and is allowed to form connections to its context. Even in constrained conditions, open space binds all stakeholders defining it.

Open space thus offers refugee camp dwellers a tool to overcome the constraints on the use of their diverse capacities, this process is catalysed by connections to bigger systems, for example cities in the context but also social infrastructure. As the most basic and open kind of connection, public space can have a major significance on the lives of refugees and general life in a camp.
CHAPTER 7: LIST OF LITERATURE


