

Post Traumatic Urbanism Arrives in Sydney from Beirut



Beirut provides a rich site for testing ideas about Architecture, Urbanism and the City. It has consequently become the focus of infrastructural / urbanism projects taking place in the Post Traumatic Urbanism Studio at University of Technology, Sydney.

Beirut is a city of conflicting spatial characteristics, where new developments and ruins sit in close proximity. These conflicting spatial characteristics are the result of three mechanisms: war, infrastructure and development. This city must be understood as being governed by processes that simultaneously strengthen and erode the cohesion of its parts. The evidence of these processes is in the continual layering and superimposition of the built fabric.

The project is for a new mixed-use development north of the Beirut Central District. It can essentially be understood as series of overlapping infrastructural networks, with the incorporation of a high speed rail line linking countries on the Mediterranean coast. The projects examine questions such as - how can we leverage off the transformations wrought by high speed rail infrastructure to provide alternative models of large scale urban redevelopment that are spatially diversified, heterogeneous and yet still cohesive?

“I find it more interesting to understand the city no longer as tissue, but more as mere coexistence, a series of relationships between objects that are almost never articulated in visual or formal ways, no longer ‘caught’ in architectural connections”

This quote from Kooolhaas is being used as a provocation to think through the relationships between the various parts and systems of the city.

Students will be presenting images and ideas for Beirut this Friday 30th October and again on Friday the 13th November in the UTS Architecture Studios, Building 6, Harris Street, Ultimo.

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