



OPEN CALL FOR ARCHITECTS

“ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION AND REFUGEE CAMPS ”

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 11, 2016 (8pm GMT)

Position open for UK candidate

(From March 17 to May 17, 2016)

Theme of DAAR residency 2016

In the last years architectural conservation has become a field of knowledge and a practice able to re-frame our understanding of esthetics, cultural heritage, and history. Historically, architectural conservation was understood mainly as a discipline that froze time, space, and culture, reducing buildings to lifeless objects to contemplate. Today, instead, it is an operative field that includes material and immaterial cultures, preservation of social and identity structures, a contested space where national identities are constructed and demolished.

We started to preserve and protect structures built centuries ago. Later on we discovered that even modernism that claimed to be ahistorical needed to be preserved as part of an historical narration of the city, and we ended up considering rough industrial zones as national heritage. Refugee camps became sites of heated discussions on what needs to be remembered and what needs to be forgotten. If we look at refugee camps with the lens of architectural preservation, how might our understanding of camps change?

Refugee camps are considered temporary spaces to be quickly dismantled. But how then do we understand Palestinian refugee camps that are now almost 70 years old? Can we consider them cultural sites to be preserved? For many it might even be disturbing to be forced to look at refugee camps from this perspective, but this is the reality in front of our eyes that we cannot negate. So one of the urgent questions becomes, do Palestinian refugee camps have history? And how could this history be mobilized for the right of refugees to return instead of perceived as a threat? At the same time, how does the concept of architectural heritage change when applied to refugee camps?

DAAR

Al Madares Street 4, Beit Sahour
Palestinian Territories

Tel. +972 22749798
www.decolonizing.ps
info@decolonizing.ps



The selected architect will tackle these questions together with the architects and staff at the Riwaq Center for Architectural Conservation based in Ramallah and Campus in Camps participants. The Architect is asked to work on the production of detailed documentation (drawings, maps, texts, images) for the reclamation of refugee camps as historical sites to be submitted to international organizations working in heritage and preservation and to be presented in international exhibitions.

Main tasks

- Drawing refugee camp's plans and houses and working on other projects decided by DAAR. They will range from research to architectural drawings, from very practical intervention to theoretical public lecture.
- Assist DAAR directors in everyday practical and logistics tasks decided by DAAR and accept to work under the supervision DAAR directors.
- Due the unstable political situation the resident should be able to adapt quickly new to tasks and new projects brief.
- Facilitate the engagement in the group.
- Assist local and international guests on logistics when needed.
- Prepare relevant publication and ensure a coherent public interface of the project.
- All the materials produced for the project and in the frame of the DAAR are collective property of DAAR. The contribution of the architect is acknowledged in the colophon accompanying the work.

By joining the DAAR team the resident should be able to work in challenging situations and with limited resources, handle frustration linked to a military occupation, have a team spirit while being able to work alone with a high degree of self-initiative, high motivation and personal identification with DAAR's projects and approach.

The resident will be offered a studio and residency at DAAR in Beit Sahour (Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories) for a period of 3 months, from March to May.

Working days: from Monday to Thursday and Saturday (10am to 6pm).

The resident will receive a per diem during the residency.

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APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 12, 2016 (8pm GMT)

Please submit:

1. CV
2. Examples of architectural projects
3. Cover letter (one page)

Sent to info@decolonizing.ps

This project is in partnership with the British Council Palestine

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