Research at the Cluster for Research in Architecture & Urbanism of Cities in the Global South

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
This handbook has been designed by

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on behalf of the Department of Architecture,
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Cluster for Research in Architecture & Urbanism of Cities in the Global South (CRAUCGS)

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Cluster for Research in Architecture & Urbanism in the Global South (CRAUCGS)
Our mission is to research architectural and urban transformations, investigate societal and environmental challenges and opportunities, and interrogate the multitude of influences that characterise the global south.

The Cluster for Research in Architecture and Urbanism of Cities in the Global South (CRAUCGS) at the University of Strathclyde includes research expertise in areas that encompass knowledge economy and sustainable urban qualities, socio-spatial practice of migrant and minority communities, lifestyle trends and housing transformations, cultural identity and image making, urban traditions and user-centred assessment, and architectural design pedagogy. Our goal is to develop quality research and to maximise impact through dissemination, research-led teaching, while influencing policy and decision-making.

We strive to respond to critical questions, central to the global south, on urban growth, continuity and fragmentation; sustainable urban qualities; regenerating historic cities; the quality of urban life, health and liveability; architectural identity and multiple modernities; and multiculturalism.

To do research at CRAUCGS contact:

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RESEARCH AT CRAUCGS

About us
The Cluster was established in 2014 by Prof Ashraf Salama to address architecture and urban transformations in the global south including Africa, Central and Latin America, most of Asia and the Middle East, and North Africa (MENA). In a short time, CRAUCGS has attracted researchers from various countries around the globe. Our research demonstrates the critical role of architects in urbanisation, city development, and shaping future environments. We have a trans-disciplinary ethos and engages in global partnerships.

Our research interests
CRAUCGS places emphasis on generating research that is captured and disseminated in high quality outputs and KE activities. Our expertise is expanding, involving partnerships in Europe and the MENA region. We examine the sharp dichotomies within the global south where architectural and urban spectacles are developed in tandem with environmental degradation, ethnic and regional conflicts and displacements, political and economic instability, among other undecorated realities. Our research addresses the severe dualities of urban transformations and place production towards enhancing decision making and improving peoples’ lives.

We encourage PhD applications on a variety of topics
Addressing various scales of the built environment in the global south, CRAUCGS is interested in the following topics:

- Knowledge economies and sustainable urban qualities.
- Socio-spatial practice of migrant and minority communities.
- Lifestyle trends and housing transformations.
- Cultural identity, spectacles, and global city image.
- Urban traditions and user-centred assessment of designed environments.
- Architectural education and design pedagogy.
KEY RESEARCH AREAS

Knowledge Economies & Sustainable Urbanism
CRAUCGS develops and validates frameworks for investigating sustainable urban qualities in emerging knowledge economies focusing on major cities in the Gulf region.

Socio-Spatial Practices of Migrants & Minorities
CRAUCGS investigates urban dynamics and socio-spatial experiences in relation to migrant and minority communities.

Lifestyle Trends & Housing Transformations
CRAUCGS explores the relationship between lifestyles and housing choices, cultures and typologies, and the role of mega projects and affordability in rapidly urbanising contexts.

Cultural Identity, Spectacles & Global City Image
CRAUCGS studies architectural identities in the MENA region, attempting to understand the impact of flows and geo-cultural politics place typologies.

Urban Traditions & Designed Environments
CRAUCGS examines urban traditions in the context of nationalist particularism and the modern state. Learning from traditions we assess urban open spaces from users’ perspective.

Architectural Education & Design Pedagogy
CRAUCGS develops dynamics for knowledge integration in design architecture pedagogy while testing transformative approaches into various learning settings.
Past PhD theses

Housing formation and transformation in North African cities: The case of Tripoli, Libya
Huyam Abudib

Urban space in port cities of the eastern Mediterranean: The case of Alexandria, Egypt
Amira Elsemellawy

Socio-spatial practices of youth population in urban spaces in Accra, Ghana
Kristijn van Riel

Current PhD topics

• Quality of urban life in the Africa city: the cases of Lilongwe, Malawi and Lusaka, Zambia
• Place attachment in postcolonial neighbourhoods in Greater Cairo
• Social sustainability in residential environments in Al-Basra.
• Urban fragmentation and continuity of Saudi cities: the case Riyadh, KSA
• Collaborative urban governance for sustainable development in Dhaka
• Compact development for informal settlements in Cairo
• Spatial design parameters for Buddhist meditation in Thailand
• Rapid urban development in post-conflict contexts in Benghazi
CRAUCGS Researchers

Our researchers study societal and environmental challenges and explore urban opportunities those challenges create in various contexts, including Accra, Ghana; Alexandria, Egypt; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Lilongwe, Malawi; Lusaka, Zambia; and Tripoli, Libya.
INTERNATIONAL EVENTS & FORUMS

2018
Communities for a Changing Population, Planning Aid Scotland, Glasgow, UK.
Embracing Social Innovation for Future Built Environment Professionals
Ashraf M. Salama, Invited Speaker

The City (Re) Shaped: Exploring the nexus between politics, memory, and urbanism in the built environment, Leeds, UK.
A Comprehensive Framework for Understanding Cities Shaping and (Re)Shaping Processes
Ashraf M. Salama, Keynote Speaker

The Quest for Socio-Cultural Sustainability: Implications for Research and Education
Ashraf M. Salama, Keynote Speaker

Kuala Lumpur Architectural Festival, Malaysia
The Future of Architectural Education and Design Pedagogy in a Global Society
Ashraf M. Salama, Keynote Speaker

2017
Invited Lecture for KLABS at the University of Belgrade, Serbia
Sustainable Urbanism & Globalisation: Architectural & Urban Transformations in Emerging Cities
Ashraf M. Salama, Invited Lecture

Invited Lecture at Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey
Contemporary Housing Transformations and Urban Dynamics on the Arabian Peninsula
Ashraf M. Salama, Invited Lecture

PLEA 2017 International Conference, Edinburgh, UK
Built Environment Education and Practice in a Changing World
Ashraf M. Salama, Forum Chair

2016
Invited Lecture at the American University in Cairo, Egypt
Emerging Issues on Socio-Spatial Practice and the Everyday Environment
Ashraf M. Salama, Invited Lecture

Invited Lecture at the North-western Polytechnic University, Xi’an, China
Modernity – Identity in a World of Global Flows: The Case of the Arabian Peninsula
Ashraf M. Salama, Invited Lecture

International Conference on Contemporary Mosque Architecture, Dammam, Saudi Arabia
Persisting Inquiries: Interrogating Mosques Architecture in Western Cultures
Ashraf M. Salama, Keynote Speaker
International Events

CRAUCGS engages effectively in the international discourse about designing and planning in the global south through workshops, seminars, and public lectures. An example of a recent activity includes a series of invited seminars on architectural and urban transformations in the Global South, at the University Putra Malaysia, one of our strategic partners in South East Asia.
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Consultancy
CRAUCGS has experience to offer consultancy work and planning guidance to government agencies. Our research work is developed in collaboration with the Master planning teams, local authorities, and key real estate development enterprises in the cities of Abu-Dhabi, Cairo, Doha, Dubai, and is presented and debated with diverse types of stakeholders in the wider MENA region. We aspire to expand our reach in offering design guidance to various beneficiaries in other parts of the global south.

Teaching
We firmly believe in research-led teaching and in incorporating knowledge generated from research findings in course materials. CARUCGS teaches cultural and behavioural factors in architecture and urbanism as they relate to the global south at the postgraduate level, contributes to urban design and cultural studies modules, and promotes and supervises UG dissertations, Master and PhD theses topics that address architectural and urban realities of the global south. Our researchers have collaborated in the development of a CPD on sustainable global cities for planning and architectural firms that seek consulting opportunities in the Gulf region.

Knowledge Dissemination and Exchange Events
We are regularly invited to deliver lectures around the world as part of honorary visiting professorial appointments in Egypt, Qatar, and Malaysia. Since 2014, CRAUCGS has collaborated with colleagues of other units in the series of annual seminars, organised by the Department, on social innovation and resilience. The cluster has developed a network of international scholars through a series of special issues of refereed journals addressing the unique particularities of education and practice in the global south.
Sustainable urbanism in emerging cities

CRAUCGS has developed and validated the triadic framework for examining urban qualities in emerging cities which identified a wide spectrum of factors related to three pillars: efficiency, diversity, and identity and the way in which they are interwoven to establish insights into the development of sustainable cities.
RESEARCH GRANTS & PROJECTS

Re-Enterprising the ‘Forgotten Villages of Greater Cairo’
GCRF pump priming, Hunter Centre For Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Strathclyde Business School

Sustainable and Resilient Built Environment Knowledge Labs (KLABS)
Erasmus+, European Commission, with 10 EU and Western Balkans HEI Partners

Investigating Housing Typologies in Multicultural Societies of the Gulf Region
Qatar National Research Fund, Qatar Foundation, with Qatar University

Architecture and Urban Planning
Erasmus+ KA107, with University of Belgrade

BC-SDBE: Building Capacity for Sustainable Development of the Built Environment
Newton Fund, British Council Institutional Links Project, with University of East London

Characterisation of Architecture and Urbanism of Cities in the Global South and The Quality of Urban Life in Sub-Sharan African Cities
Leadership Fund, University of Strathclyde

Fundamentalists and Other Modernisms: the Catalogue of the Pavilion of the Kingdom of Bahrain
Venice Architecture Biennale-2014 and the Ministry of Culture, Manama, Bahrain
Fundamentalists and Other Modernisms
The pavilion of the Kingdom of Bahrain at the 2014 Architecture Biennale offered a selection of a hundred Arab modernist buildings to articulate the impact of modernity on the Arab world. Our contribution included an elucidation of plurality of architectural trends, identities, and meanings.
PUBLICATIONS BY RESEARCH AREA

Knowledge Economies & Sustainable Urbanism


Socio-Spatial Practice of Migrant & Minority Communities


Lifestyle Trends & Housing Transformations


Cultural Identity, Spectacles & Global City Image


Urban Traditions & Designed Environments


Architectural Education and Design Pedagogy


