

# NiLab. Nile as Laboratory Egypt Pavilion Biennale Architettura 2023



La Biennale di Venezia

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Partecipazioni Nazionali

CULTIVAR



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# Press release

11 | May  
2023

The Nile River is like a mirror reflecting the life of Egypt and its people. Every change in it affects the countries it flows through, Africa, and the whole planet. This is the theme of the NiLab research project - Nile as Laboratory - presented to the public at the Egypt Pavilion as part of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia open to the public from May 20 to November 26, 2023. The result of a program coordinated by Ain-Shams University in Cairo and the Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria, developed in collaboration with architects and architecture professors from 24 universities in 10 different countries, NiLab offers a space for design, participation, knowledge, research, and international debate on issues such as climate change, water resources, and sustainable development.

**NiLab. Nile as Laboratory** is the title of the exhibition proposed by the **Egypt Pavilion** at the **18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia** curated by **Lesley Lokko** and titled **The Laboratory of the Future**. Commissioned by the **Egyptian Ministry of Culture - Accademia di Belle Arti d'Egitto in Rome - National Organization for Urban Harmony** and curated by **Ain-Shams University in Cairo, Faculty of Engineering (Egypt)** and **Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria, dArTe Department of Architecture and Territory (Italy)**, the program of the Egyptian Pavilion creates an immersive space in which visitors can come into contact with the nature of the river, its history and use, and the challenges that arise along its long course.

Along the Nile River, **various landscapes and natures have been neutralized over time through interventions that have not listened to the environment or given voice to local cultures**. In response to this, NiLab proposes to look back at these places

and consider the value of architectural design in order to indicate a path towards more aware forms of settlement along the river's course. Due to its extraordinary geographical dimension, history, natural and anthropic landscapes, the Nile outlines a suitable context for reflection on contemporary issues. The exhibition is conceived as a **laboratory for knowledge and the development of ideas and projects on the Nile**, generating a platform for reflection on water in the broader context of climate change.

No other river has been as significant in the history of civilization as the Nile has been in Egypt and in Africa. **From the time of the pharaohs to today, the Nile has been and still is the source, center of life, hope, and work of Egypt and the populations settled along its banks**. Its geographical dimension shapes natural and anthropic landscapes, feeds cities and productive systems, reserves and agricultural landscapes throughout its basin. **Any alteration of its characteristics can cause the destruction of the**

**enduring balance between living species and historical and natural landscapes and negatively impact the entire world.**

NiLab is a space for participation, knowledge, research, and international discussion between Egypt and the world on issues such as climate change, water scarcity, and sustainable development. The program is structured into 6 themes corresponding to different landscape sections: **Nature, Agro, Urbe, Infrastructure, Industry, Archaeology**. These themes have been developed on 18 project intervention sites by teams of architects involving the participation of **24 universities** from **10 countries**.

The collection of projects represents a sort of contemporary 'grand tour': **agricultural and urban scenarios in dialogue, new centers of innovation, 144 islands as an archipelago of biodiversity, archaeological landscapes, residual voids of industrial reconversions as opportunities to rediscover environmental balances, reconsideration of**

**infrastructure, search for a symbiosis between city and nature.** A paradigmatic picture of territorial and landscape conditions emerges, subject to the architectural design. An articulated framework of studies and proposals that, as emphasized by curators **Ahmed Sami Abd Elrahman, Marina Tornatora, Ottavio Amaro, Moataz Samir, Ghada Farouk**, "in addition to representing a critical-cognitive system of the transformations of recent decades in extraordinary sites subject to phenomena of entropy and often degradation, have confronted future scenarios capable of re-establishing balances between nature, artifice and history, together with visions that, without renouncing the language of places and architecture, represent new conditions of living."

**Upon entering the Egypt Pavilion** the visitor is immersed in a space-time dimension that leads to assume the point of view of the river. A system of projections breaks down the perimeter of the room, leading the public **to follow the long course of the water,**

**from Lake Nasser to the Mediterranean Sea**, in an indissoluble and changing reality made up of nature, civilization and history. In the center of the pavilion is a large, surreal presence. It is a reconstruction of a **Sun Boat**, a ritual boat of the ancient Egyptians that traveled through the two skies carrying the regenerated star every day at dawn, thus becoming a religious symbol of rebirth. On a table on the left side of the Pavilion is the heart of the research project. Here, visitors have the opportunity to delve deeper into books that summarize the richness of projects and visions and learn about the collective architectural work carried out on the Nile.

On the one hand, **NiLab. Nile as Laboratory** suggests the need for **a reconsideration of the tools and methodologies for the development of architectural design**. On the other hand, the program develops **a platform for reflection** on the relationship between water, nature and territory. "The river must remain the center of life and development in Egypt," affirm the curators of the Egyptian

Pavilion, "through research and cooperation between countries." The exhibition presented at this Biennale does not define a conclusive moment of research but opens up to further reflections to which students, teachers, and researchers are invited to participate in discussing possible future scenarios for the river.

In addition to the official catalog available to visitors of the exhibition, an additional book will be produced with a collection of the projects and thoughts generated by this unprecedented laboratory.



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# An Open Design Lab on the Nile

Ottavio Amaro, Marina Tornatora

“Nature has never been concerned with creating beauty. We are the ones who feel psychologically touched by what we think is beautiful. We feel the creative force behind the form, and this affects us both emotionally and physiologically. The ancient Egyptians did not strive to make their temples beautiful as an end in itself. Their level of understanding of the whole universe, higher than ours, and their attempt to make the temple a small mirror of it made this happen automatically.”

Hassan Fathy

Located in the Mediterranean area, which is continuously facing increasingly epochal ecological-environmental crises, Egypt, with its Nile region, has once again become emblematic of the possible consequences of the ongoing phenomena of drought, sea rise, energy crisis, and the potential weakening of its settlement and territorial system. Bearing the burden of 11 African countries with ever-increasing populations, including Egypt, with more than 80 million people exploiting 98% of their water needs from their river, the Nile represents both a resource and a problem.

Egypt has continuously performed territorial actions to prioritize economic and productive interventions involving the

delta since the post Second World War period, with a keen eye on globalization processes, often far from the sustainable use of local resources. This risks impoverishing entire geographic areas with significant imbalances between city and countryside, widespread settlement systems in agricultural villages, and further marginalization by extending suburbs in urban areas.

In light of such planetary changes, NiLab. Nile as Laboratory invited eighteen research groups, drawn from twenty-four Egyptian, European, and non-European universities, to reflect on design and architectural strategies along the Nile River. This context is a unitary and paradigmatic geographic sphere with a strong identity in the history of civilization, concerning cultural, scientific, and humanistic aspects, despite the current territorial imbalances. NiLab. Nile as Laboratory intends to prioritize the academic sphere in the belief that the projects constitute the necessary field of research, a moment of knowledge, and the meeting point between theory and practice. The central theme is water, in its human and design-related significances and concerning how it interacts in historical and contemporary landscape contexts.

The river is proposed as a body in the natural and urban landscape with a changing form, where design can configure contemporary spatiality with different relationships between the built, natural and man-made elements. The relationship between soil and water, between constructions and water, becomes the binder of places' interpretation through design experimentation as a product of knowledge.

Three sites are proposed for each of the six themes -*Nature, Agro, Urbe, Infrastructure, Industry, Archaeology*- making up a possible synchronous synthesis of current scenarios along the Nile.

Concerning *Nature*, despite the major changes that have modified and often compromised the identity of the river's flora and fauna, there are still important nature reserves, nurturing that mythological and religious imagery at the root

of ancient Egyptian civilizations, identified with the presence of certain animal species. Today more than ever, this heritage of biodiversity and naturalistic identities must be protected on a scientific, environmental, and landscape level, considering climate change and drought phenomena.

*Agro* is the theme identifying the area's character along the river, organically linked to the spatial-temporal transitions of nature, obscured by a system of infrastructures (dams, morphological changes, etc.) that have transformed some identity features. The agricultural activity is nonetheless primary for subsistence and the production of the majority of Egypt's alimentation and creates challenges regarding production, landscape and innovation related to new environmental challenges and the sustainable use of the water resource.

*Urbe*, the territorial imbalance implemented primarily in the postwar period, through the depopulation of the countryside and the creation of large urban concentrations towards the Nile Delta, has led to the construction of endless hybrid city suburbs in a condition of non-city and decay. The combination with the trend that had already begun with the importation of European urban models in the late 19th century and continued in contemporary times with building and architectural globalization leads to urban degradation and eradication. Moreover, uncontrolled expansion into the countryside and desert, abandonment of historical centers, and polluting transportation threaten to destroy the identity of an Islamic city with public space, collective places, buildings, and technological systems in close relationship with the place and its environmental specificity alongside its distinctive elements.

Concerning *Infrastructure*, although the Nile still holds its historical role as a line of transportation and exchange between the entire settlement system developing along its course, the relationship between land and water needs to be reconsidered. Port systems, crossings, as well as embankments, and fishing-related activities, can allow the original recovery of the meaning

of living along the river, together with the landscape balance, which is too often compromised by polluting and invasive interventions.

*Industry* has grown in the logic of globalization, often at odds with territorial and landscape sustainability. It is now experiencing a condition of reconversion on both the technological and environmental levels. The proposed theme addresses the need to redesign old, polluting, and invasive industrial areas to privilege, both in terms of research and production, the innovative systems of green industry linked to local resources, and advanced technological development in harmony with urban and natural settlement systems.

*Archaeology* along the Nile, both on a monumental and general level, narrates a cultural heritage of humanity strongly linked to the place in its essence of water, soil, and desert. Therefore, actions on this design theme can re-establish meaningful relationships with the settlement systems, which have developed in a spreading and often indifferent manner over time. This is coupled with the cultural need for tourism enhancement concerning services, accessibility, and an overall more innovative supply.

In this context, the eighteen sites identified along the river's course, from the Aswan Dam to the Delta, represent a paradigmatic system of territorial and landscape conditions to perform design reflection on the variables contemporaneity poses. This journey is taken by adopting inverse perspectives, from the river and the land, in search of relationships and interactions between memory and innovation.

In addition to representing a critical analysis system for the transformations of the last decades in extraordinary sites, the projects address future scenarios to re-establish balances between nature and the environment, along with visions that, without sacrificing the aesthetic and expressive language of places and architecture, represent new living conditions. Water, energy, biodiversity, pollution, reconversion processes,

and soil enhancement are all variables of infrastructural and architectural scenarios to look at innovative and scientific processes without losing sight of the intertwining of memory and the project's ability to engage with existing resources to design the new forms of landscape and territory. In other words, a new awareness emerges, concerning the relationship with nature, history, and the environment, within the complexity of the post-industrial reality and a society increasingly oriented toward communication and immateriality scenarios.

Within this context, the projects appear as possible narratives of stages of a new contemporary *Grand Tour*: agricultural scenarios that recognize the iconographic power of the geometrizations of rural plots, relating to the urban ones within a design idea that seeks reciprocal boundaries. This is compounded by innovation 'sanctuaries', such as research centers and ecological infrastructures at the service of nature. The impressive Nile's 144-island archipelago emerges as a habitat for biodiversity and a new green map of the river's course, complementing archaeological landscapes' powerful and evocative character. They make up a true 'second nature' whose history must be enhanced beyond its monumental aspects. Moreover, the large residual voids from industrial reconversion processes are turned into opportunities to rediscover environmental balances and new proportions within the city, evoking resilience that re-proposes new interactive edges with the river and new forms of infrastructure. Finally, the urban system pursues a symbiosis with nature on the topic of sustainability, regenerating large building densities through the injection of green areas, the creation of voids and public spaces together with typical settlement systems of the Islamic city, often succumbing to globalization-driven models.

The elaboration of projects is a necessary step of the research work, as a synthesis of knowledge, investigations, and experiences through drawing, leading to project ideation. The attempt is to operate the anamnesis mentioned by Sébastien Marot, "... looking at the territory and public space as a land of

ancient culture or a palimpsest bearing the more or less evident sign of all the gestures that, in memory, have contributed to shaping that specific landscape, and nothing else. In these contrasting or universal traces layered over time, anamnesis deciphers intentions and potentials to be safeguarded and transmitted."

Punctual responses, along with the *utopia of reality* (Ernesto Nathan Rogers), are the outcomes of workshop and design experiments distributed differing by schools and research areas, re-weaving plots and threads with the history of places in the awareness of current global and local radical transformations. In this sense, the Nile tends to a new unitary dimension, with the sites of the Laboratory as the starting points to take concrete action for the regeneration and re-signification of its presence in a possible future.





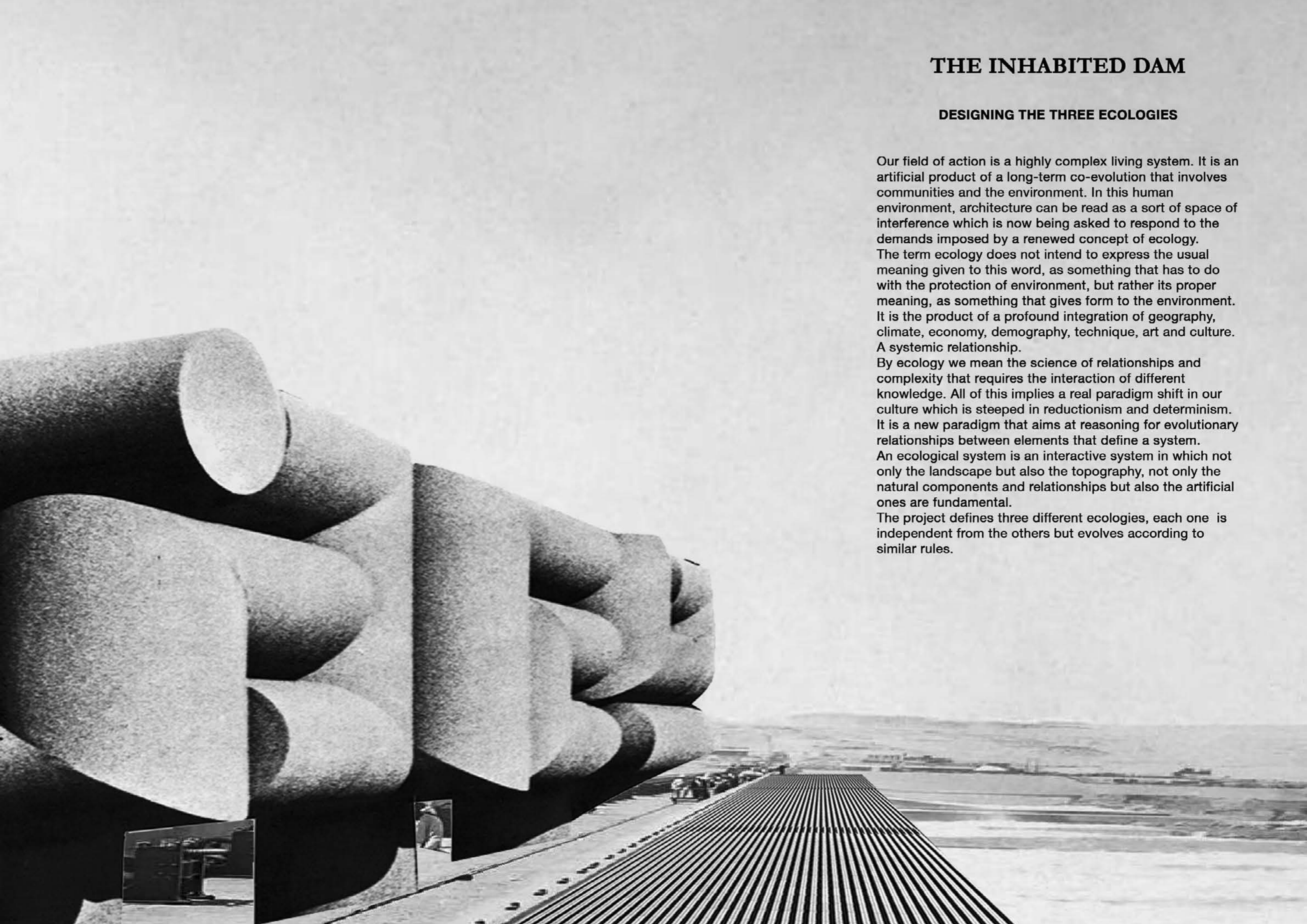
# THE INHABITED DAM

## DESIGNING THE THREE ECOLOGIES

Our field of action is a highly complex living system. It is an artificial product of a long-term co-evolution that involves communities and the environment. In this human environment, architecture can be read as a sort of space of interference which is now being asked to respond to the demands imposed by a renewed concept of ecology. The term ecology does not intend to express the usual meaning given to this word, as something that has to do with the protection of environment, but rather its proper meaning, as something that gives form to the environment. It is the product of a profound integration of geography, climate, economy, demography, technique, art and culture. A systemic relationship.

By ecology we mean the science of relationships and complexity that requires the interaction of different knowledge. All of this implies a real paradigm shift in our culture which is steeped in reductionism and determinism. It is a new paradigm that aims at reasoning for evolutionary relationships between elements that define a system. An ecological system is an interactive system in which not only the landscape but also the topography, not only the natural components and relationships but also the artificial ones are fundamental.

The project defines three different ecologies, each one is independent from the others but evolves according to similar rules.



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# List of projects

## Theme: AGRO

Location: **Edfu – Aswan**  
 Project title: **Reweaving Edfu**  
 Institutions: **IUAV, Venezia, Italy + Future University in Khartoum, Sudan**  
 Designers: **Mauro Marzo, Sandro Grispan with Gabriele Catanzano, Mattia Cocozza, Robert Vicentini**

Location: **El Fawal Island – Behira**  
 Project title: **City into Nature**  
 Institutions: **Ain Shams University, Faculty of Agriculture + Faculty of Engineering, Urban Design Department, Egypt**  
 Designers: **Mohamed Hweidy, Mohamed El-Fayoumi with Tuqa Galal, Omar El Henedy, Malak Hazem, Mennatallah Saleh, Mohamed Selim, Rana Shams, Yara Soliman**

Location: **Sa El Hajar – Gharbia**  
 Project title: **Egyptian Topography**  
 Institutions: **Università di Camerino + Università di Udine, Italy**  
 Designers: **Luigi Coccia, Claudia Pirina with Sara Cipolletti, Giovanni Comi, Pietro Ferrara, Alessia Guaiani, Simone Porfiri, Ettore Vadini**

## Theme: ARCHAEOLOGY

Location: **Abydos Temple – Sohag**  
 Project title: **Abydos, Act of Palimpsest**  
 Institutions: **Grenoble School of Architecture, France + Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt**  
 Designers: **Philippe Liveneau, Noha Gamal with Aly Gabaly, Ahmed Ramadan, Dalia Magdy, Mohamed Mubarak, Nada ELBeik, Nada Mokhtar, Nourhan Mohamed, Zena Zahran**

Location: **Elroda Nilometer – Cairo**  
 Project title: **Gardens of Nile and Archeological/Ecological Park**  
 Institutions: **Valladolid University + Sevilla University, Spain**  
 Designers: **Darío Álvarez Álvarez, Antonio Tejedor Cabrera with Miguel Ángel de la Iglesia Santamaría, Mercedes Linares Gómez del Pulgar, Sagrario Fernández Raga, Nieves Fernández Villalobos, Laura Lázaro San José, Ana Muñoz, López, Lara Redondo González, Carlos Rodríguez Fernández, Flavia Zelli, Emma González Biro, Cristina González Ordóñez, Florence Lalande**

Location: **Qaitbay Citadel – Rosetta**  
 Project title: **Floating Institution**  
 Institutions: **Università degli Studi di Palermo, Italy**  
 Designers: **Zeila Tesoriere, Renzo Lecardane with Marco Cannata, Pietro Torregrossa, Martina Scozzari**

## Theme: INDUSTRY

Location: **Ezbet El Borg – Damietta**  
 Project title: **City of Boats**  
 Institutions: **Università degli Studi di Enna “Kore”, Italy**  
 Designers: **Gianluca Peluffo with Domenico Faraco, Gabriele Filippi, Antonio Lagorio, Paola De Lucia**

Location: **Naga Hamady – Qena**  
 Project title: **Retrofitting [Industrial] Ecologies**  
 Institutions: **Faculty of Architecture, Ss. Cyril and Methodius**

University, Skopje, Macedonia

Designers: Blagoja Bajkovski with Marija Mano Velevska, Slobodan Velevski, Goran Mickovski, Ana Rafailovska, Tamara Djerkov, Mila Gavrilovska, Dimitar Milev, Frosina Stankovska

Location: Helwan – Cairo

Project title: From Concrete to Nature. Green Industries Headquarters for a Renewed Development of the City

Institutions: Università di Parma, Italy

Designers: Enrico Prandi with Giuseppe Verterame, Riccardo Rapparini, Alessia Simbari, Luca Bosco

### Theme: INFRASTRUCTURE

Location: High Dam – Aswan

Project title: INCLUSIONS in ANOTHER WORLD

Institutions: Università di Camerino + Università dell'Aquila, Italy

Designers: Luca Galofaro, Stefania Manna with Rok Kuzman, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Location: Magra El Oyoun – Cairo

Project title: Between the Infrastructures: Light, Water and Public Spaces

Institutions: Évora University Architecture, Portugal + IUAV, Venezia, Italy

Designers: João Magalhães Rocha, Marco Ferrari with Jorge Duarte de Sa, Antonio Luis Alves, Claudia Sofia Batista

Location: El Qanater El Khayreya – Shubra El Khema

Project title: O.A.S.I. KE-MET – Infrastructure of living world

Institutions: Università Federico II, Napoli, Italy + ENSA Paris Malaquais + ENSA Strasbourg, France

Designers: Orfina Fatigato, Angela D'Agostino, Christelle Lecoeur, Mathieu Mercuriali, Giuseppe D'Ascoli, Giovangiuseppe Vannelli with Simona Capaldo, Francesco De Falco

### Theme: NATURE

Location: Dahab Island - Cairo

Project title: Geziret-El-Dahab for Cairo

Institutions: Umeå University School of Architecture, Svezia + German University in Cairo, Architecture and Urban Design Program, Egypt

Designers: Cornelia Redeker, Yosra Malek with Manar Karam, Hassan Hussein, Sara Abu Henedy, Ibrahim Samy, Bassant Adel, Ethar Amr, Youssef Ayman

Location: Karaman Island – Sohag

Project title: A friendly giant for rebalancing nature

Institutions: Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy

Designers: Fabrizio Toppetti, Viola Bertini with Elisa Donini, Giuseppe Geraci, Marco Rosati, Cristian Sammarco, Maria Virginia Theilig, Francesco Tosetto

Location: Philae Island – Aswan

Project title: Axis Naturae

Institutions: Manchester School of Architecture + Architecture Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom

Designers: Loris Rossi with Laura Pedata, José Ángel Hidalgo Arellano, Nicolas Turchi

### Theme: URBE

Location: Naqada – Qena

Project title: Archi-culture

Institutions: Ain Shams University, Faculty of Engineering, Smart and future cities laboratory for sustainable urban solutions (SFCL), Egypt

Designers: Samah Elkhateeb with Donia el Boghdady, Nadine Khalil, Nadine Mohamed, Donia Mostafa

Location: Tell El Amarna – Menia

Project title: The Two Cities

Institutions: Politecnico di Milano, Italy + Czech Technical

## University Prague, Czech Republic

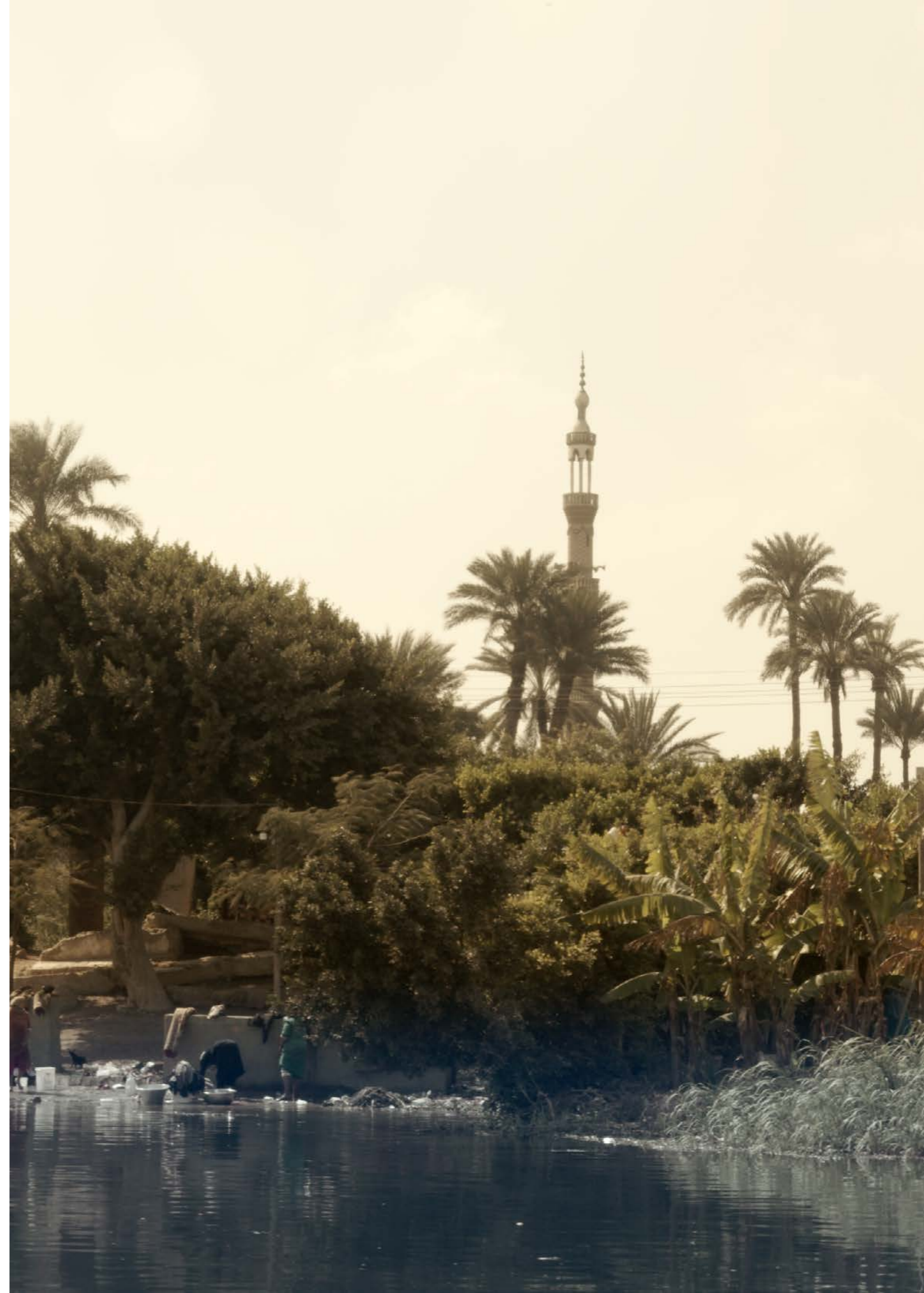
Designers: **Domenico Chizzoniti, Ondrej Cisler with Tommaso Lolli, Elisa Maruelli, Luca Preis, Dai Yichang, Liu Yudi, Qin Ya, Song, Zirong, Zakir Hussain, Ummi Fathima, Xie Wanyi**

Location: **Downtown – Cairo**

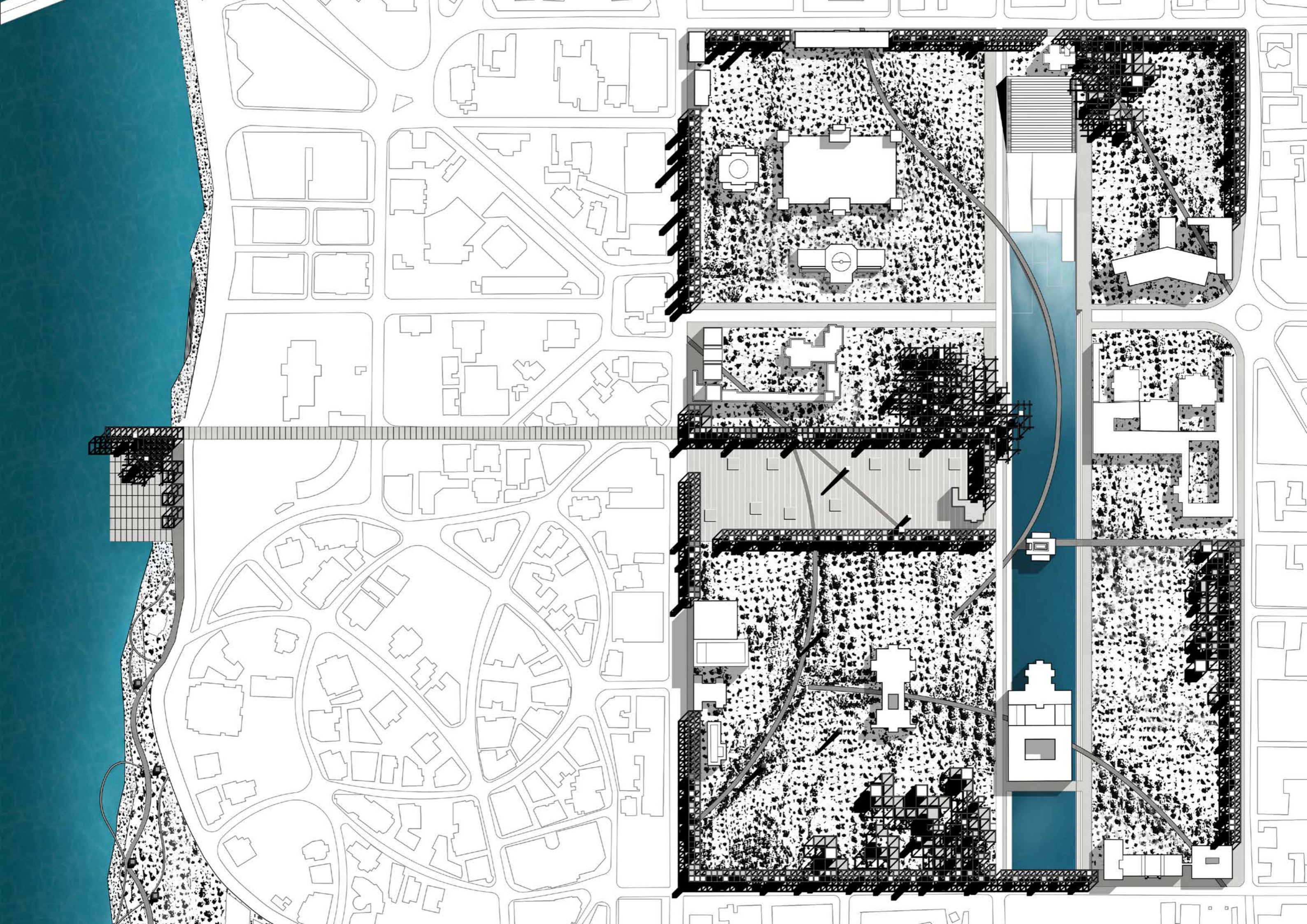
Project title: **Operative Void**

Institutions: **Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria, Laboratorio Landscape\_inProgress, Italy + Parsons School of Design, New York, USA**

Designers: **Ottavio Amaro, Marina Tornatora with Moataz Samir, Cristiana Penna, Eric Franklin Romeo, Maria Lorenza Crupi**







## 4

# Data and credits

of the Egypt Pavilion

<b>Project name</b>	Egypt Pavilion NiLab. Nile as Laboratory  Giardini della Biennale, Venice, Italy  18th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia The Laboratory of the Future curated by Lesley Lokko (May 20 – November 26, 2023)  Instagram: <a href="#">@nilab_eg</a>
<b>Curators</b>	Ahmed Sami Abd Elrahman, Marina Tornatora, Ottavio Amaro, Moataz Samir, Ghada Farouk
<b>Participants</b>	Ain-Shams University, Faculty of Engineering (Egypt) Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria (Italy)
<b>Commissioners</b>	Egyptian Ministry of Culture Accademia di Belle Arti d'Egitto in Rome National Organization for Urban Harmony
<b>Scientific committee</b>	Nicola Di Battista Michael Jakob Mario Lupano Gianfranco Neri Ettore Rocca Heba Youssef (director Accademia di Belle Arti d'Egitto in Rome)

## Data and credits

<b>Collaborators</b>	Cristiana Penna, Ali Elgabaly, Mohamed Hany, Menna Othman, Yasmina Safwat, Salma Mohamed Ali, Malak Tarek, Yara Soliman, Tasneem El Naggat, Nour El Khayat, Donia Elboghdady, Nour Zikry
<b>Students</b>	Arwa Ehab Abbas, Malak Haytham Weshahy, Wegdan Hossam Faydullah, Yomna Walid Ali, Menna Medhat Qubtan, Omar Mohamed Elnamer, George Rafik Azer, Esraa Ahmad Farrag, Abdelaziz Abdelfattah, Lina Reda Elbaz, Salvatore Iuliano, Giuseppe Oliva, Evelin Rullo
<b>Social media and Web communication</b>	Ludovica Amaro (production/artistic direction) Ali Elgabaly (production) Donia Elboghdady (production)
<b>Film</b>	Title: Grand Tour on Nile Ahmed Yasser (film director) Mohamed Selim (production/art direction) Aly ElGabaly (production/art direction) Fady Iskandar (director of photography) Mark Baher (color grading) Yasmina Safwat (drone footage) Osama Elhagan (production)
<b>Special thanks</b>	Prof. Omar Elhousseiny (Ain-Shams University, Dean of the School of Engineering) for funding the film. Laboratory Landscape_inProgress (Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria, Department dArTe_Architecture and Territory) for funding and coordinating the communication and the graphic design for the catalog and the exhibition. iFly Egypt - Media Company for supporting the film with some drone materials.
<b>Press office</b>	Cultivar <a href="http://www.cultivar.agency">www.cultivar.agency</a> Instagram: <a href="#">@gocultivar</a>





## 5

# Images for the press

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**File name: FILM 1\_1.1.1**

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. Film "Grand Tour on Nile", directed by Ahmed Yasser.



File name: FILM 1\_1.3.1

File name: FILM 1\_1.4.1

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. Film "Grand Tour on Nile", directed by Ahmed Yasser.



File name: FILM 1\_1.6.1

File name: FILM 1\_1.7.1

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. Film "Grand Tour on Nile", directed by Ahmed Yasser.



**File name: FILM 1\_1.10.1**

**File name: FILM 1\_1.11.1**

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. Film "Grand Tour on Nile", directed by Ahmed Yasser.



**File name: FILM 1\_1.8.1**

**File name: FILM 1\_1.9.1**

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. Film "Grand Tour on Nile", directed by Ahmed Yasser.



**File name: FILM 1\_1.14.1**

**File name: FILM 1\_1.13.1**

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. Film "Grand Tour on Nile", directed by Ahmed Yasser.



## THE INHABITED DAM

### DESIGNING THE THREE ECOLOGIES

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**File name: IMG IS\_10**

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Location: High Dam – Aswan

Project title: INCLUSIONS in ANOTHER WORLD.

The Inhabited Dam. Designing the Three Ecologies.

Università di Camerino + Università dell'Aquila, Italy. Project by Luca Galofaro, Stefania Manna with Rok Kuzman, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.



**File name: IMG IN\_13.1**  
Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Location: Ezbet El Borg – Damietta  
Project title: City of Boats. Waterfront.

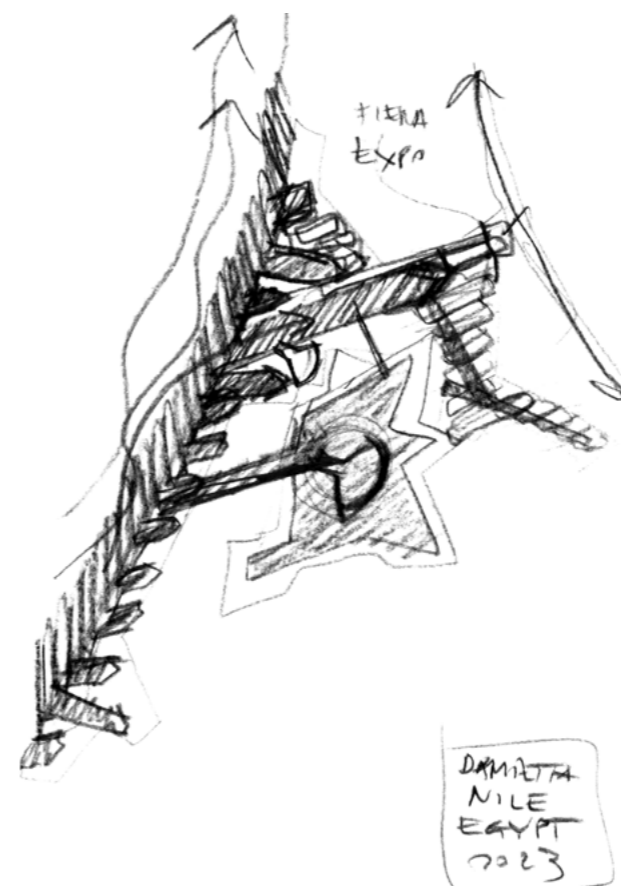
Università degli Studi di Enna “Kore”, Italy. Project by Gianluca Peluffo with Domenico Faraco, Gabriele Filippi, Antonio Lagorio, Paola De Lucia.



**File name: IMG IN\_13.2**  
Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Location: Ezbet El Borg – Damietta  
Project title: City of Boats. Project concept.

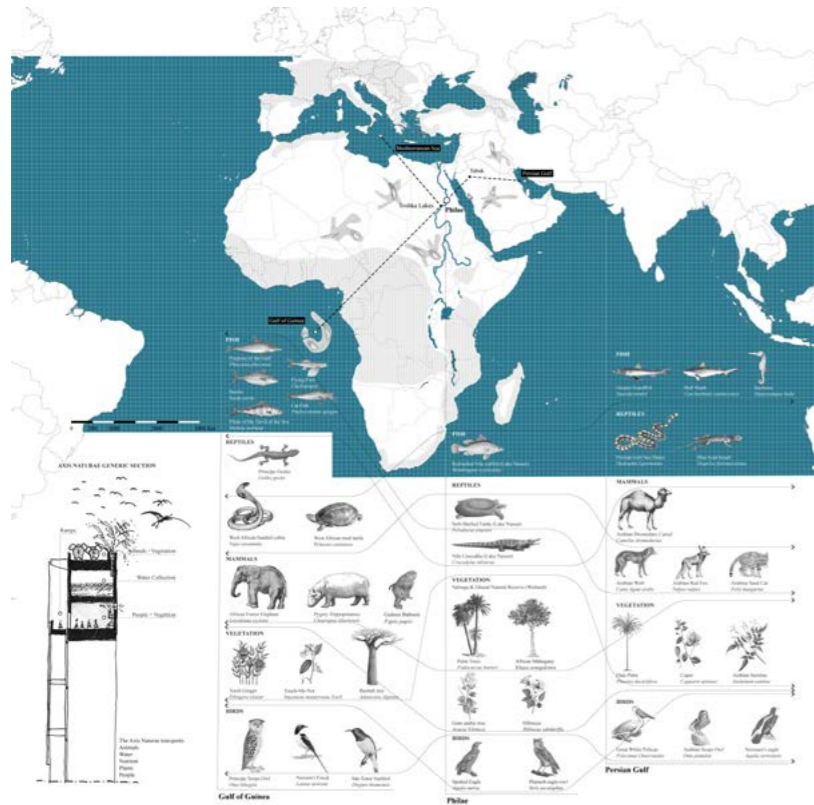
Università degli Studi di Enna “Kore”, Italy. Project by Gianluca Peluffo with Domenico Faraco, Gabriele Filippi, Antonio Lagorio, Paola De Lucia.



**File name: IMG IN\_13.4**  
Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Location: Ezbet El Borg – Damietta  
Project title: City of Boats. Port entrance between the sails.

Università degli Studi di Enna “Kore”, Italy. Project by Gianluca Peluffo with Domenico Faraco, Gabriele Filippi, Antonio Lagorio, Paola De Lucia.



**File name: NA\_03.2**

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Location: Philae Island – Aswan  
Project title: Axis Naturae.  
Project area interpretation. Axis Nature connects several regions, creating new dynamics that restore the ecosystem, favoring migrations of different species and contributing to a better-balanced water and nutrients distribution.

Manchester School of Architecture + Architecture Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom. Project by Loris Rossi with Laura Pedata, José Ángel Hidalgo Arellano, Nicolas Turchi.

**AXIS NATURAE**

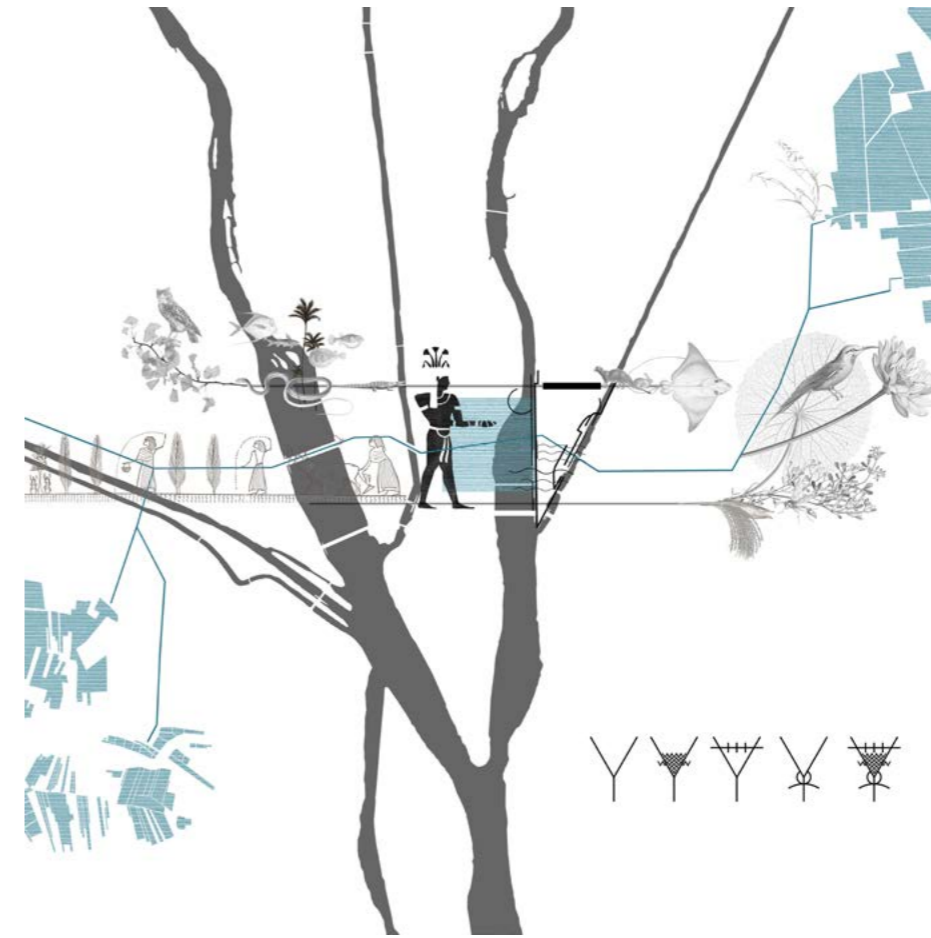


**File name: NA\_03.3**

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Location: Philae Island – Aswan  
Project title: Axis Naturae.  
Project plan. Axis Nature engages with the Philae Islands area by drawing a line that creates a new territorial dimension and enriches the existing archipelago with a unique relationship between nature and culture. Hand drawing on satellite imagery.

Manchester School of Architecture + Architecture Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom. Project by Loris Rossi with Laura Pedata, José Ángel Hidalgo Arellano, Nicolas Turchi.

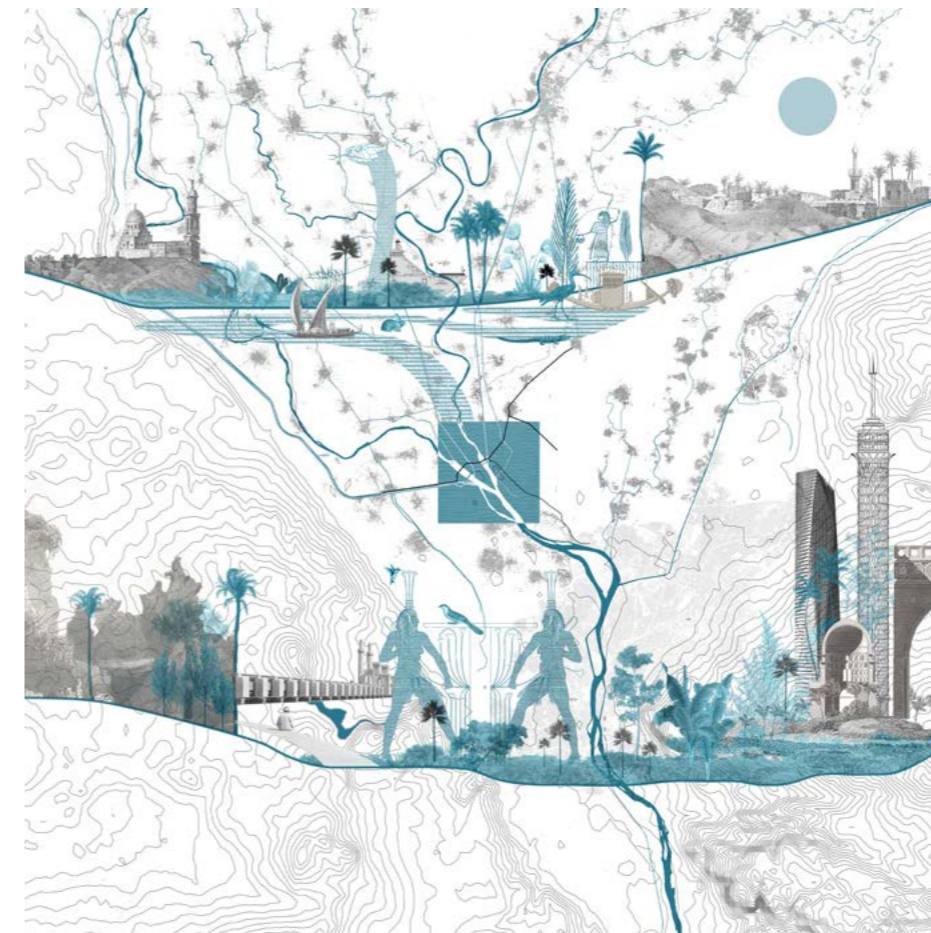


**File name: IS\_12.1**

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Location: El Qanater El Khayreya – Shubra El Khema  
Project title: O.A.S.I. KE-MET – Infrastructure of living world. Ke' Met, a widespread project.

Università Federico II, Napoli, Italy + ENSA Paris Malaquais + ENSA Strasbourg, France. Project by Orfina Fatigato, Angela D'Agostino, Christelle Lecoœur, Mathieu Mercuriali, Giuseppe D'Ascoli, Giovangiuseppe Vannelli with Simona Capaldo, Francesco De Falco.

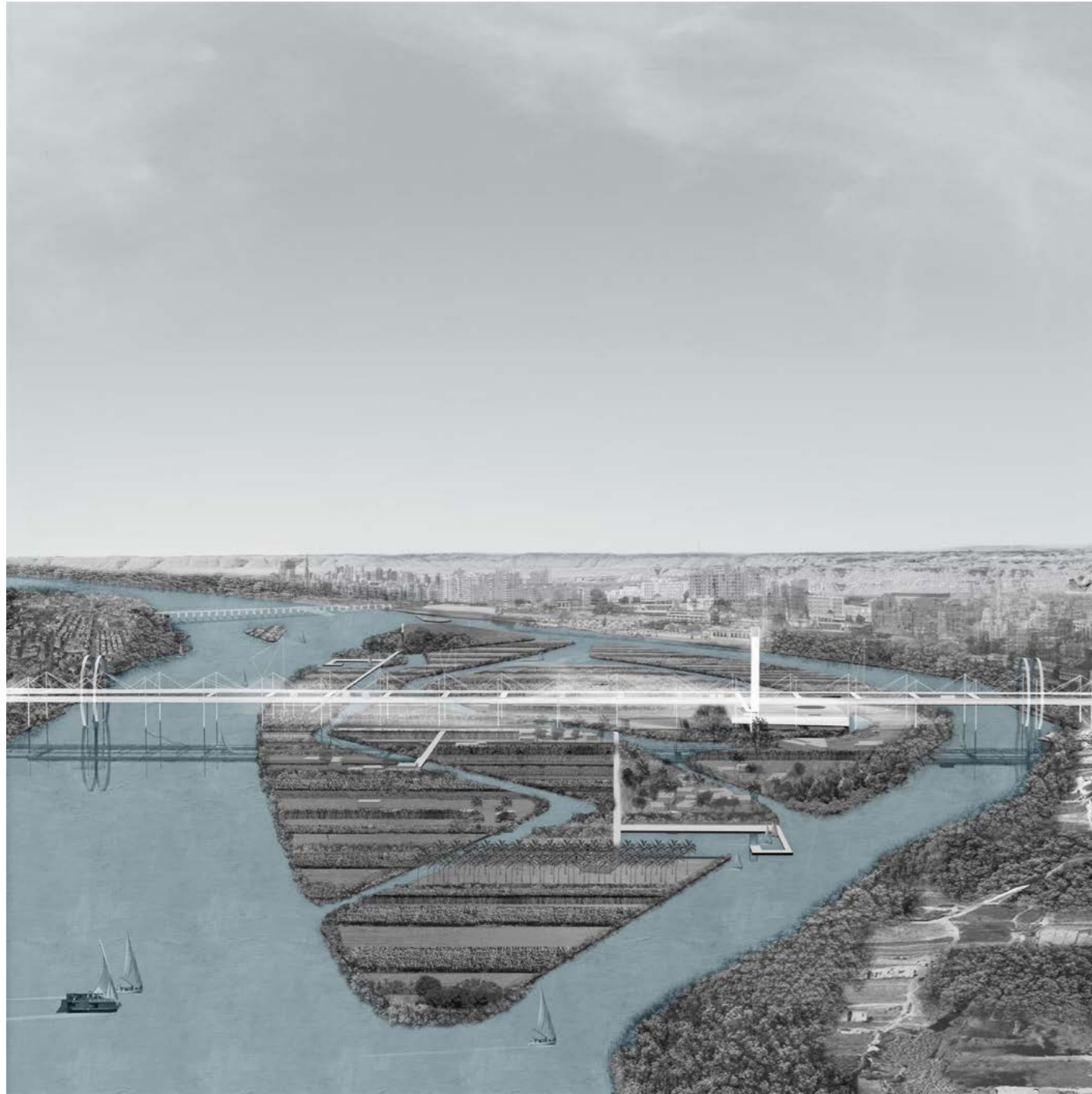


**File name: IS\_12.2**

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Location: El Qanater El Khayreya – Shubra El Khema  
Project title: O.A.S.I. KE-MET – Infrastructure of living world. Ecological corridors as a common space.

Università Federico II, Napoli, Italy + ENSA Paris Malaquais + ENSA Strasbourg, France. Project by Orfina Fatigato, Angela D'Agostino, Christelle Lecoœur, Mathieu Mercuriali, Giuseppe D'Ascoli, Giovangiuseppe Vannelli with Simona Capaldo, Francesco De Falco.

**File name: NA\_o2**

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Location: Karaman Island – Sohag

Project title: A friendly giant for rebalancing nature.

General view of the “friendly giant” in relation to Karaman Island and its surrounding.

Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy. Project by Fabrizio Toppetti, Viola Bertini with Elisa Donini, Giuseppe Geraci, Marco Rosati, Cristian Sammarco, Maria Virginia Theilig, Francesco Tosetto.

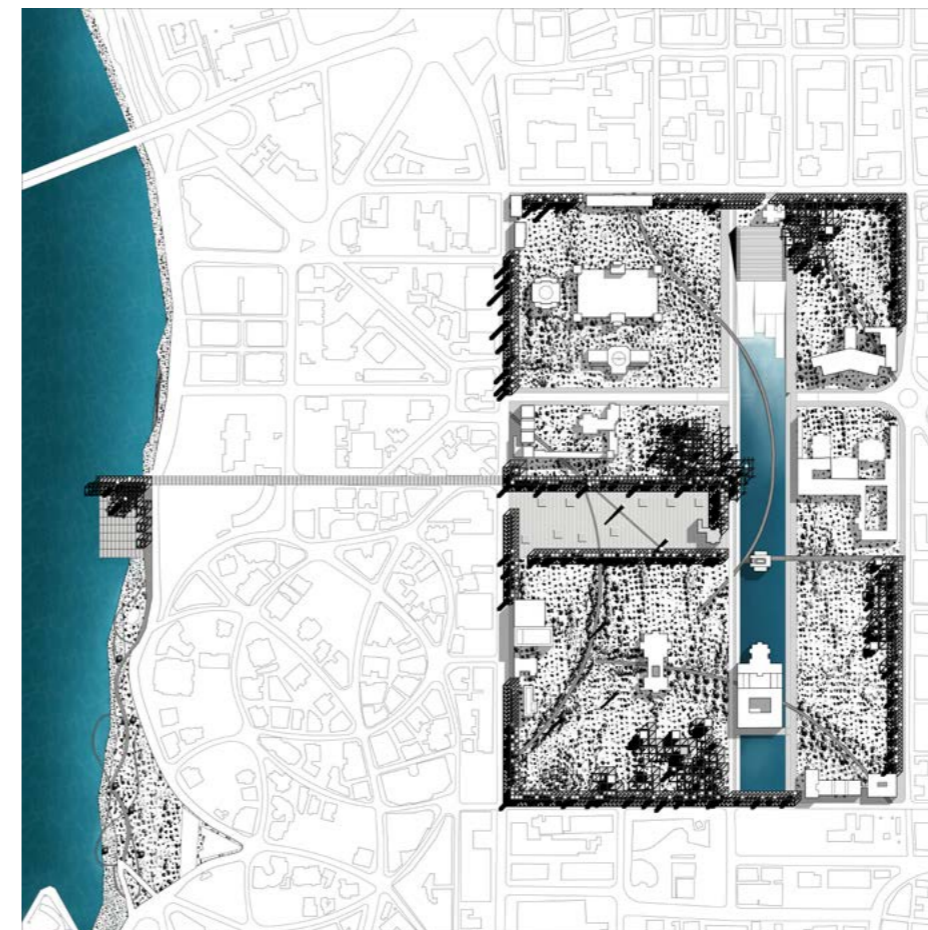
**File name: UR\_09.1**

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Location: Downtown – Cairo

Project title: Operative Void. Manifesto.

Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria, Laboratorio Landscape\_inProgress, Italy + Parsons School of Design, New York, USA. Project by Ottavio Amaro, Marina Tornatora with Moataz Samir, Cristiana Penna, Eric Franklin Romeo, Maria Lorenza Crupi.

**File name: UR\_09.2**

Caption: NiLab. Nile as Laboratory. Egypt Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Location: Downtown – Cairo

Project title: Operative Void.

Planivolumetrical plan showing the new edge/ enclosure, the market square, the water mirror with the new theatre and the walkway to the Nile.

Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria, Laboratorio Landscape\_inProgress, Italy + Parsons School of Design, New York, USA. Project by Ottavio Amaro, Marina Tornatora with Moataz Samir, Cristiana Penna, Eric Franklin Romeo, Maria Lorenza Crupi.



**Press office**

For additional information, to receive high resolution images and to set up an interview with the curators you may contact:

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