

Z A H R A A Z A W A W I

PhD in Urban Studies

Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Centre for Urban Research COSMOPOLIS - City, Culture & Society, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Assistant Professor at An-Najah National University

Urban Planning Engineering Department

Head, Architecture conservation Unit

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

A motivated architect and urban planner with more than 18 years of experience in fields of architecture, urban planning and urban studies, extensive experience in cultural heritage conservation planning and public spaces related researches. Skilled in tracking details, communicating and following-ups especially within team work.

ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL PARTICULARS

- Field of Specialization:

Urban studies, urban design, urban planning, cultural heritage

- Academic Qualifications

PhD in urban studies, 2012, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium, Production of Public Spaces in the Occupied Palestinian Territories- The case of Dawar in Nablus and Manara in Ramallah.

Master in Urban and Regional Planning, An-Najah National University, Palestine, Management of the cultural heritage resources of Sebastia.

Bachelor of Architectural Engineering, Birzeit university, Palestine, Rehabilitation of Toqan Palace in Nablus old city.

- Membership of Professional Bodies

ICOMOS PALESTINE, President for two years and member, 2000.

The Aesop Thematic Group for Public Spaces and Urban Cultures, member, 2010.

Engineering Association-Jerusalem Center, member, 1997.

- Language Proficiency

List of spoken/written languages and level of proficiency

Arabic: mother tongue

English: speaking/writing and reading: excellent

CAREER DETAILS

- **Academic Positions Held**

Assistant Professor-Full time, urban planning engineering, Faculty of Engineering and IT, An Najah National University (ANNU), Palestine, 16th August 2015-now.

Assistant Professor-Part time, architectural engineering, Faculty of Engineering and IT, An Najah National University (ANNU), Palestine, 10th Feb 2013- 16th August 2015.

Assistant Professor-Full time, Urban Studies, Bard Honors college- Al Quds University, Palestine, 10th August 2013- 16th August 2015.

- **Professional/Industrial Positions Held**

Work Experience	
May 2023- Nov 2023	Consultant: cultural heritage expert, Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and UNESCO Office Ramallah Management and Conservation Plan for the Cultural Heritage Property for the world heritage site of Tell es-Sultan- Jericho- Phase I
Nov 2021-March 2022 Hebron, Palestine	Expert in Cultural Heritage, NRC –Norwegian Refugee Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert Opinion on the Effects of the Israeli Military Rule and Settlement Expansion on the Cultural Heritage in the City of Hebron
June 2021-March 2022 Ramallah, Palestine	Consultant: Team leader: expert in urban planning and cultural heritage, UNESCO Office Ramallah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a Detailed Urban Plan and Special Building Bylaws for Specific Identified Areas in Battir Village, Palestine
Nov 2019 -30 Oct 2020 Ramallah, Palestine	Consultant: Team leader and cultural heritage expert, UNESCO Office Ramallah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and Conservation Plan for the Cultural Heritage Property in Sebastia
2018-2020 Palestine	Head of ICOMOS Palestine, ICOMOS international
28Oct 2017–March 2018 Nablus, Palestine	Consultant- senior urban planner: Strategic Development Investment Plan (SDIP), Universal Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North complex SDIP: Howwara, Jamaein, KforThulth, Jayous, Azoun
1 st Jan 2017–March 2018 Ramallah, Jerusalem, Palestine	Consultant- Team Leader- urban planning, ARABESC - Arab Engineering Services & Consultations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ramallah villages master plans: RasKarkar-al Janieh, Beit Ur el Foqa – Al tireh North west Jerusalem villages master plans: Beit Anan- BeitSurik
24 th April -15 August 2017	Consultant- cultural heritage conservation and management, UNESCO Office Ramallah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation and Management of the Roman Hippodrome and Amphitheater (Nablus)
16 th Nov 2015-June 2016 Ramallah, Palestine	Consultant- project manager team: urban planning part, Joint Cooperation Unit- municipalities of Ramallah, Al Bireh and Betuynia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Spatial Development Framework Plan, Traffic and Transportation Plan For Ramallah, Al-Bireh, and Beituniya Municipal Area, and Aerial Photography for Beituniya
16 th August 2015-now Nablus, Palestine	Assistant Professor-Full time, An Najah National University (ANNU) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching Bachelor and Master degree students both in the Departments of Architecture and urban planning the following courses: Supervising graduation projects for the Department of Urban Planning (https://repository.najah.edu/collections/3f153c96-755c-4cc0-936b-314ed3db8792) Head of Urban Planning Department
7 th Feb 2013- 16 th August 2015 Nablus, Palestine	Assistant Professor-Part time, An Najah National University (ANNU) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching Bachelor and Master degree students both in the Departments of Architecture and urban planning the following courses: Urban design, urban morphology, urban geography, urban sociology, urban conservation, architectural conservation, urban regeneration, housing planning, site planning, Planning and sustainable development, planning studios (master plans), urban planning in developing countries. Head of Urban studies Department (August 2014- august 2015)
1 st August 2013- 15 th August 2015 Abu Dies-Palestine	Visiting professor- Assistant professor, Bard Honors college- Al Quds University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching Bachelor students in Urban Studies Department the following courses: World heritage sites: nomination, conservation and management, Spatial practices, Transporting cities, Senior seminar, Urbanism, Urban heritage, Introduction to urban studies, Colonial and Post-colonial cities, Gender and spatial practices, Transforming cities)
1 st May 2013- 31 st January 2014 Ramallah, Palestine	Site rehabilitation and urban planning consultant, USAID Compete Project – DAI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of activities to develop the infrastructure for the tourism sector in Palestine. The activities focused on historic sites and traditional cultural heritage assets to be preserved and promoted as tourists’ attractions. The activities included historic renovation, urban regeneration, and museums, productions of maps and interpretations Signs, and documents as well as constructing new facilities. In addition to management and procurement experiences that were needed to run over the projects
10 th March, 2013- 1 st March 2014 Ramallah, Palestine	Urban planner, ARABTECH Jardaneh Palestine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master plans for Ar Ram-Jerusalem Governorates and BeitJala- Bethlehem Governorate
26 th , Non., 2006-31 th , Jan., 2008 Bethlehem, Palestine	Consultant " National Project Coordinator, UNESCO Office Ramallah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bethlehem Area Conservation and Management Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate the work between UNESCO, CCHP and international team of Experts Coordinating a local team of 8 architects and one sociologist Coordinating all the activities of the project with the international and local team and UNESCO
August, 2004 –Sept, 2006 Ramallah, Palestine	Planner, Palestinian Ministry of Planning (MOP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task Leader for “Gaza and West Bank Disengagement Plan”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-tourism Project: member of the inter-ministerial and institutional committee working on forming a National Committee for Eco-tourism in Palestine • Cultural Trail Project: representative of MOP in the cultural trail project led by Ministry of Tourism and Antiquates, and initiated and funded by UNESCO • Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Project: member of the Ministry's team working on the Jordan valley development (tourism sector and spatial development) • Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP), participated in writing the tourism sector section • Task Leader for "Policies for Integration of Colonies in West Bank 1967 Borders", in updating the Regional Plan for West Bank. • Ministry representative in cultural heritage issues
2003-2004 Beit Wazan, Palestine	Architect, Riwaq, Center for Architecture Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of Al-Qasem Palace in the village of Beit Wazan in Nablus governorate, including: Inventory, tender document, management and supervision
June 1997-July, 2003 Sebastia, Palestine	Architect and planner, Municipality of Sebastia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in the process of making a comprehensive master plan for the city including old city and archaeological remains. • Coordination between the Municipality of Sebastia and Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) regarding planning projects. • Working on the Rehabilitation of the old town of Sebastia (pavement, retaining wall, rehabilitation of historical and tourist sites).
July 1996- June 1997 Nablus, Palestine	Architect, Architectural office" ARABISC" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design residential building, villas, commercial building, and exhibitions besides supervising the implementation of some projects
1997- Now Palestine	Member of the Engineering Association – Architecture branch
1993-1996 Ramallah, Al-Bireh, Nablus, Palestine	Inventory, Riwaq, Center for Architecture Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked on the inventory and survey of the cultural heritage buildings in Ramallah and Nablus governorates

- **Administrative Positions Held**

Director of Architecture conservation unit, **Urban Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction Center**, An-Najah National University (ANNU), Palestine, Nov 2020-now.

Coordinator of Erasmus + student and staff exchange, Lille university and An-Najah National University (ANNU), France and Palestine, August/2017- now

Head of Department, urban planning engineering, Faculty of Engineering and IT, An-Najah National University (ANNU), Palestine, 16th August 2017-16th August 2019.

Head of Department, Urban Studies, Bard Honors college- Al Quds University, Palestine, 10th August 2014-16th August 2015.

- **Master thesis supervision**

Master thesis	Master programme	University	Type of Supervision	Year
Urban Sprawl In The Shades Of Urbanization And Statutory Planning Laws: Consequences On Urban Morphology – Case Study Um Al-Sharayet, Al Bireh.	Master of urban and regional planning	An-Najah National University	Second promoter	2016
Assessment of Master Planning Practices in Palestinian Rural Areas under Israeli Occupation in the West Bank	Master of urban and regional planning	An-Najah National University	Second promoter	2016
توزيع المكاني للمناطق الخضراء والترفيهية ونظم تخطيطها في المدن الفلسطينية/ مدينة نابلس /نموذجاً.	Master of urban and regional planning	An-Najah National University	Internal examiner	2017
Guidelines for increasing social interaction in high residential building by improving physical environment.	Master of Architecture	An-Najah National University	Second promoter	2017
أثر التطور العمراني في المنطقة المحيطة بالبلدة القديمة في نابلس	Master of Architecture	An-Najah National University	Second promoter	2017
Changing Urban Landscape Effects on Social Activities. Case Study of Ras Al Ain District, Nablus	Master of urban and regional planning	An-Najah National University	First promoter	2017
Effects of Neo-Liberal theory on land use planning in Palestine” case study of Nablus city	Master of urban and regional planning	An-Najah National University	First promoter	2017
الاستدامة الحضرية في الفراغات العامة في المدن الفلسطينية حالة دراسية: دوار الشهداء في مدينة نابلس	Master of Architecture	An-Najah National University	Internal examiner	2017
تحليل وتقييم استخدامات الأراضي في محافظة الخليل واستراتيجيات تخطيطها	Master of urban and regional planning	An-Najah National University	Second promoter	2017
المناطق السكنية العشوائية وأثرها على التطور والتخطيط العمراني للمدينة الفلسطينية- حالة دراسية : مدينة طولكرم	Master of urban and regional planning	An-Najah National University	First promoter	2018
التوجهات التخطيطية لمناطق التوسع العمراني في مدينة نابلس	Master of urban and regional planning	An-Najah National University	Second promoter	2018
Land registration as a tool for urban	Master of urban landscape	Birzeit university	external examiner	2020

development and urban planning : a case from Palestine				
Transformation of Urban Morphology: The Case of Qaffin, North of The West Bank	Master of Architecture	An-Najah National University	First promotor	2020
الأنماط المعمارية للمساكن على المنحدرات: نحو حلول مستدامة. حالة دراسية: عين ديرجة- الخليل	Master of Architecture	An-Najah National University	Internal examiner	2021
دور التخطيط العمراني المحلي في تعزيز التنمية المحلية في الضفة الغربية	Master of urban and regional planning	An-Najah National University	Internal examiner	2020
نحو تصميم شوارع حضرية تلبي الحاجات الانسانية للمستخدمين، حالة دراسية: شارع السكة / مدينة طولكرم	Master of Architecture	An-Najah National University	Second promotor	2024
نحو قرية فلسطينية بيئية - تقييم تجربة قرية فرخة	Master of Architecture	An-Najah National University	First promotor	2024
Planning & Designing Public Open Spaces as a strategy for Pandemic Resilient Cities: Ramallah City as a Case Study-	Master of urban and regional planning	An-Najah National University	Internal examiner	2023
دراسة مقارنة لمشاريع الترميم وإعادة الإحياء للساحات الحضرية في البلدة القديمة في نابلس من منظور ثقافي واجتماعي	Master of Architecture	An-Najah National University	First promotor	2022
sustainable urban design model for residential neighborhoods in Nablus: the distribution of urban services and the use of flexible architecture	Master of Architecture	An-Najah National University	First promotor	2024
تمكين المشاركة المجتمعية والإستثمار الاجتماعي كأدوات في الحفاظ المعماري (تم في البلدة القديمة في نابلس الموافقة على المشرفين)	Master of Architecture	An-Najah National University	First promotor	2024

TRAINING

Impact Assessment for World Heritage, Manuel of impact assessments UNESCO office Ramallah, Ramallah, Dec 2020.

workshop on the management of cultural heritage sites in Palestine, UNESCO Ramallah office, Jordan, 21 and 22 March 2017.

World Heritage Nomination and Management Plans, ICCROM, Italy, Sep. 2003.

World Heritage Nomination and Management Plans, ICCROM, Palestine, July 2004.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Zawawi, Z., & Monna, S. (2025). Assessing the Functional and Environmental Effects of Urban Regulation Implementation in Palestinian Cities: Case Study at the City of Nablus. *Journal of Urban Planning and Development*, 151(2), 05025010.

Enab, D., Zawawi, Z., Qanazi, S., & Shahrour, I. (2024). Socio-Spatial Analysis of Schools Based on Neighborhood Planning of the 15-min City. *Urban Science*, 8(3), 143.

Itma, M., & Zawawi, Z. (2024). Towards Decreasing Encroachments on Conserved Historic Buildings, Users Participation as an Approach: The Case of Youth Center-Sebastia. *Journal of Sustainable Architecture and Civil Engineering*, 35(2), 168-181.

Helal, A., Zawawi, Z. (2024). Land cover and land surface temperature in the West Bank-Palestine. *Advances in Civil Engineering*. 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2024/1107242>

Enab, D., Zawawi, Z., & Monna, S. (2024). Sustainable Urban Design Model for Residential Neighborhoods Utilizing Sustainability Assessment-Based Approach. *Urban Science*, 8(2), 33. <https://doi.org/10.3390/urbansci8020033>

Itma, M., Zawawi, Z., & Hidalgo-Giralt, C. (2024). Urban memory and street design: A comparative analysis of traditional and contemporary street patterns in Nablus city. *J. Urban Dev. Manag*, 3(2), 83-94. <https://doi.org/10.56578/judm030201>

Itma, M., & Zawawi, Z. (2024). Towards Decreasing Encroachments on Conserved Historic Buildings, Users Participation as an Approach: The Case of Youth Center-Sebastia. *Journal of Sustainable Architecture and Civil Engineering*, 35(2), 168-181. <https://doi.org/10.5755/j01.sace.35.2.33657>

Enab, D., Zawawi, Z., & Mounajjed, N. (2024). Exploring an Architectural Paradigm for the 15-minute city planning model: Towards reforming gaps of services in Nablus. *An-Najah University Journal for Research - A (Natural Sciences)*, 38(1). <https://doi.org/10.35552/anujr.a.38.1.2164>

Zawawi, Z., & Itma, M. (2023). Reconciling users and public space-relationship in historic squares: The case of En-Naser square in Nablus city. *Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering*, 1-19.

Issa, A., Zawawi, Z., & Ashqar, H. I. (2023). Impact of road grade on fuel consumption: Potential savings in Nablus, Palestine. *Case Studies on Transport Policy*, 12, 100973. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cstp.2023.100973>

Qanazi, S., & Zawawi, Z. (2022). Stone-Industry in Palestine: Bridging the Gap between Environmental Sustainability and Economical Value. *Papers in Applied Geography*, 8(1), 12-34. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23754931.2021.1941206>

- Conference Papers

Qawasmi, A; Zawawi, Z.; Awad, S. "The Impact of Neoliberal Economy on the Urban Morphology of Rafidia Neighborhood in Nablus City-Palestine" in Geddes, i., Charalambous, n., & Camiz, A. (2022). Cities as Assemblages. In *Proceedings of the XXVI International Seminar on Urban Form 2019* (Vol. 3), pp 495-509.

Qawasmi, Alaa; Zawawi, Zahraa; Yousof, Muhammad Ata (2019). Guidelines for Increasing Social Interaction in High Residential Buildings by Modifying Physical Environment: Case Study of Rafidia, Nablus in Proceedings – SPACE International Conference 2019 on City Planning and Urban Design. SPACE Studies Publications. London, United Kingdom. Pp. 117-126.

Zahraa, Z.; AbuHammad, M. (2016). Colonization and displacement in Hebron old city. Conference paper. Madrid, Spain. International Conference from Contested Cities to Global Urban Justice - critical dialogues July 4th - 7th 2016.

- **Books/Book Chapters**

Zawawi, z., Itma, m., & Dehelia, a. (2022). morphological characteristics of the rapid changing housing settlements, the case of Qaffin town in Palestine. *contemporary issues in architecture and urban planning*, 98.

Zawawi, Z.; AbuHammad, M. (2019). The Impact of Neoliberal Agenda on Urban Landscape Real estate speculation. in Ramallah in Ala Al-Hamarneh; Jonas Margraff; Nadine Scharfenort (Hg.) “Neoliberale Urbanisierung Stadtentwicklungsprozesse in der arabischen Welt”. urban studies. pages 75-106.

Zawawi, Z.; Zawawi, Kh. (2019). Public spaces in Nablus and the role of the municipality in planning them - a case study of Martyrs’ Roundabout. in Nalus tells its history. Nablus municipality, pp 163-194. (in Arabic).

RESEARCH TEACHING INTERESTS

My research interests lie at the intersection of architecture, urban design, cultural heritage and sustainable development, with a particular focus on the creation of resilient and inclusive urban environments.

My teaching approach is rooted in fostering critical thinking, creativity and a deep understanding of the social and environmental responsibilities of architects and urban designers. I aim to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become innovative and ethical professionals. My teaching interests include Sustainable Architecture and Urbanism. Urban Design Studio: Practical studio courses that encourage students to engage with real-world urban design challenges.