

**SPRING 2004**

**URBAN DESIGN STUDIO: THE PRODUCTION OF SPACE: WATA**

*Habib Debs & Mona Fawaz*

This design studio proposes an investigation into the *logics of production* of urban spaces and the *regulations/institutions* that govern the processes through which this production occurs. Through the investigation of one neighborhood, “Wata al-Mussaytbeh,” located at the southwestern boundaries of Municipal Beirut, we will seek to unravel the processes that govern the dynamics of urban development in this area and critically investigate the urban regulations that organize it. The analysis will be conducted simultaneously at two levels: looking at the interaction of the neighborhood with its surrounding and investigating its internal dynamics. Based on this research, we will produce a set of guidelines that should inform the urban design intervention that has to be formulated by the end of the semester.

Considering design as part of an iterative research process, intervention proposal will be developed very early on and revisited recurrently throughout the semester, as new readings are developed through the interaction with and analysis of the site. The final intervention proposal needs to develop a scenario for an intervention and account for (at least some of) the parameters identified in the fieldwork and integrate the design intervention in a broader “planning perspective.”



**First due dates:**

1. Tuesday, February 17, 2004  
*Visit Wata al Mussaytbeh, don't talk to anyone, just look around and derive a story of the factors you see/read acting on the place.*
2. Tuesday, February 24, 2004  
*Class Presentations 1: Visual Mapping Analysis (3 pages report, 1 sketch).*
3. Thursday, February 26, 2004  
*The Building Law: Investigate the regulatory mechanisms in the area, begin to analyze their spatial translations.*

This course is offered in conjunction with the Planning Workshop.