

SAC2009RS0141

Design Concept + Description of the Project

The site's location was very inspiring in terms of seclusion versus liveliness, present in a neighborhood that can rarely be found anywhere in Lebanon nowadays. It is for this reason that we decided not only to keep this existing village-like atmosphere but enhance it in order to revive the whole neighborhood.

In order for us to blend with the surroundings on all possible levels, we took the initiative of removing the plot limits of the site. Moreover we decided to break up the allowed built up volume (in terms of areas and laws) into 4 buildings that we spread on the site following our mass and void analysis of the neighborhood's plan. This arrangement was also very helpful in consideration of the ventilation scheme we applied in our buildings. Also, we included two of the existing buildings in our design in order for the people to feel more familiar with the space, that, in addition to a projection area that once existed on the old plot. Those buildings that were planned on being destroyed serve now as open communal spaces. (Communal kitchen, cafeteria, market, free leisure space...)

We dealt with sustainability as a way of life more than with the implementation of technical advancements in our project. We accord more breathable spaces for the whole dead-end as well as for the students that will inhabit the dorms. We offer them a green, pedestrian site that encourages them to go out of their rooms and live communally in a dense city like Beirut.