

Exportation of the Parisian's urban knowledge (1976–2005)

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Abstract

From 1976 to nowadays, 'Atelier parisien d'urbanisme' (APUR), which is an urbanism organisation partially financed by the Paris Municipality, was involved in projects out of Paris, especially in Global South countries. This communication will focus on APUR's networks all over the world to highlight the way of the French way-of-thinking urbanism have been diffused abroad. We will analyse especially the APUR's projects for the reconstruction of the city centre of Beirut (1976–1977), the projects for Phnom Penh (1992–1998) and for Jakarta (1996–1998) and Cairo (2001–2004) in which APUR was involved.

Keywords

Urbanism ; History ; City planning ; Global South

From 1977 to nowadays, 'Atelier parisien d'urbanisme' (APUR), which is an urbanism organisation partially financed by the Paris Municipality, led a programme to disseminate its urbanistic knowledge abroad, especially in Global South countries.

APUR was created in 1967. The architects of this organisation designed many new residential areas in Paris since the mid 1970s and worked on public spaces projects or transportations issues. The urban forms they created was called 'postmodern urbanism' by Nan Ellin (1996), referring to the 'traditional city'. Over the years, these architects acquired skills in urban planning and town-planning design, especially in dense cities with an important heritage, like Paris.

Considering these achievements, APUR was involved in projects worldwide since the end of the 1970s. Thereby several architects from the organisation began to travel in order to work on urban studies in big cities. Therefore, in France, APUR is not the only one urbanism city organisation to lead programmes abroad : Clément Orillard (2017) also highlighted many projects (more or less 150) realised by the 'Institut Paris Region' (previously called 'Institut d'aménagement et d'urbanisme de la région parisienne' (IAURP)) in many cities over the world.

This dissemination of APUR's knowledge began in 1977 when the city of Beirut asked APUR to work on the reconstruction of the downtown of the city after the 'two years war' (1975–1976). Then, after 1986, projects abroad were declined in different ways : urban studies or projects (for cities like Jakarta, Santiago de Chile or Phnom Penh), exhibitions about new Parisians districts or involvement in international conferences about urban planning.

We will analyse how the Parisian architects applied some existing practices in other cities, and what was the process to think these projects abroad, knowing that the 'philosophy' of the APUR was to take into account the specificities of each territory. So we will wonder how the expertise of the Parisian urban planning organization has been applied in various territories ? This analyse will help us to understand how the APUR sometimes places itself in the position of an expert, while at the same time enabling it to enrich its know-how by creating new situations. What is the balance between the parisian way-of-thinking urban planning and each specific site ? Essentially, if the APUR's methods, approaches and analyses are different for each project, is the final declension is so different ?

We will analyse the APUR's strategical proposals on urbanism, methods and tools using for projects. But we will not focus on how this suggestions were applied, neither the final realisation of projects. This submission will show APUR's networks all over the world to highlight the way of the Parisian way-of-thinking urbanism have been diffused abroad. Also it demonstrates that some countries were asking for an occidental know-how in urbanism. We will first list the cities and the type of events or projects in which the APUR was involved, especially in the 1980s. Then, we will analyse two different types of interventions : the first ones in which APUR's was involved that apply a map strategy based on a precise analyse of the city landscape (through the case of the reconstruction of Beirut downtown (1976–1977) and Phnom Penh (1992–1998)) ; and in a second part projects developed later with a more *strategical* approach (Jakarta (1996–1998) and Cairo (2001–2004)).

1. APUR and the gradual establishment of an international activity

Created in 1967, APUR organisation was involved first in thinkings of the Parisian new master plan, in the 1970s. Paris approved a masterplan for the city called 'Plan d'occupation des sols' (POS) in 1977. This masterplan is based on a precise analyse of the city landscape, based on

each plot and its relationship with streets (this type of regulatory plan exists in all the French cities but it is particularly precise in Paris). Also, APUR is carrying out projects to enhance some Parisian sites, notably as part of the 'Plan programme de l'est parisien' launched in 1983 : creation of *Coulée verte*, enhancement of the *Halles de la Villette* and *canal de La Villette*, and development of *Bois de Boulogne* and *Bois de Vincennes*.

In 1977, the new mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac, encouraged APUR to be involved in the design of the new Parisian districts (which are called 'Zones d'aménagement concerté' (ZAC)). Six APUR's architects were thus involved in designing new residential areas in Paris, and they realised 42 of them between 1977 and 2000. They mostly studied at the Beaux-Arts School in Paris and most of them in the Louis Arretche's workshop in this school. Over the years, these architects acquired skills in urban planning and town-planning thought, especially in dense cities. The best known ZAC are the *Bercy* one (1992–1994), *Reuilly* (1986–2000) and the *Paris Rive Gauche* (1995–2024). Pierre Micheloni was the architect involved in the design of these three districts and also in several projects abroad. In the book *Postmodern urbanism*, Nan Ellin (1996) highlights the importance of the past trails, the heritage and the history of the city, which the new building's forms refered. In these ZAC projects, the public space is very important, as well as parks. The design of the new streets was created in continuity with the neighbourhood's surrounding roads and the buildings are designed to match the scale of the surrounding buildings. Some blocks, whose size, layout and form have evolved over time, are inspired by 'traditional' Parisian blocks, meaning buildings aligned on the street and inner courtyards.

In 1976, the Lebanese government asked APUR to carry out its first international mission for the reconstruction of Beirut city centre. This mission, which included other urban planners and members of the French Ministry of Public Works, was led by APUR, and in particular by its director, Pierre-Yves Ligen, for the first part of the mission. Other APUR's urban planners, such as Philippe Mathieux, were involved in the city's development proposals after the first step of the city analysis.

In the 1980s, APUR gave a lot of presentations about the projects it had recently implemented in Paris, as conferences in Berlin (called 'Politiques d'aménagement à Paris et Berlin', 11-12 december, 1985) and Istanbul ('Conférence des principales villes mondiales', november, 1987). In the 1980s, the mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac, also suggested to the mayors of several big cities a collaboration or a technical support of APUR's architects. Therefore, it didn't immediately lead to any assignments (for example, the city deputy mayor of Brazzaville, Mr Okabando, asked for a study of the Poto-Poto/Est District, in 1986). This type of project abroad was quite new in the mid-1980s and the APUR's director was wondering about the conditions of this type of mission. Even though no office or urban planner in APUR had ever been assigned to carry out international projects.

At the end of the 1980s, several technicians or civil servants involved in urban planning from cities in the Middle East came to Paris to study the municipality's working methods and achievements. Officials from the city of Amman in Jordan came to Paris in May 1986, as also the president of the Riyadh city development centre. In 1988, a travelling exhibition called 'L'urbanisme parisien' was organised in Middle East (first in Doha and then in eleven cities : Amman, Sanaa, Abu-Dhabi, Aden, Baghdad, Damascus, Doha, Khartoum, Kuwait, Cairo, Manama, Muscat, Riyadh) focusing on Parisian ZAC in the 1980s. It was the *ZAC Reuilly* and *ZAC Bercy* that the APUR's architect Pierre Micheloni presented as references for the project

of the occupation of abandoned railways in Roma during a consultancy assignment he was given in 1966 for the redevelopment of railways in the Appio-Latino-Tuscanola sector.

It was in the 1990s that APUR really began to get involved in several missions out of France, with a first project carried out in Phnom Penh in 1992. In the 1990s and 2000s, APUR has been requested to assist on technical matters. However, no specific office or division was set up in APUR. Therefore, the same APUR's architects worked on the abroad projects : Christiane Blancot in South-East Asia and Pierre Micheloni for a lot of projects in Europe and South America. André-Marie Bourlon, project manager for the transportation team, often accompanied them. More or less 25 projects have been done abroad by APUR since 1976 (first project in Beirut) and 2010. Except two projects in Roma and Budapest, most of the projects have been carried out in countries in the Global South. These missions are miscellaneous, and have either been the subject of a cooperation agreement with the City of Paris or the French State ; or APUR is acting under contract or in response to calls for tender.

While IAURIP was called upon for the creation of new towns, APUR was mainly asked for its expertise in drawing up or suggesting improvements to master plans or development plans in cities with a major heritage. Other French urban planning agencies were also called upon for missions abroad. Sometimes, APUR and IAURIP may collaborate together on different assignments in the same cities. It happened in Budapest (1994), Buenos Aires (1998), Teheran (2004) and Rabat-Salé (2007). APUR had also been called upon for its expertise in heritage conservation (Santiago de Chile, Phnom Penh, Budapest) and enhancement of public spaces (Hanoi), and for its technical support, particularly in transportation field and GIS matter, and for its methodology, regulatory and administrative know-how. Finally, urban projects on specific sites were also designed, especially by Pierre Micheloni, as in Rio de Janeiro for the Porto Maravilha District (2004), the development of the eastern corridor of Amman (2005), or the development plan for a district of the city centre of Tbilisi (2013).

| Dates | City | Country | Mission | APUR's architect(s) |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1976-1997 | Beyrouth | Lebanon | Reconstruction of the city centre after the "two-year war" (1975-1976). | |
| 1992-2009 | Phnom Penh | Cambodia | Study of architectural and urban heritage. Technical assistance to the Municipality of Phnom Penh. Assistance in setting up the sewerage network (with the engineers of the City of Paris). In January 1992, APUR presented the development challenges of Phnom Penh. Technical training for urban planners of the BAU. Proposals for town planning regulations in 1997. | Christiane Blancot |
| 1994 | Budapest | Hungary | Expertise of the master plan of the city of Budapest. Development of heritage. | |
| 1994-2000 | Santiago de Chile | Chile | Heritage and protection study of the Santiago-Poniente district. | |
| 1996-1998 | Jakarta | Indonesia | Expertise in the revitalization of Jakarta's old centre and the renovation of Jakarta's museums. Opinions on projects submitted and recommendations. | Christiane Blancot and Christian Dupavillon |
| 1996-1998 | Roma | Italia | Advisory mission on the development of railway rights-of-way in the Appio-Latino-Tuscolano area. | Pierre Micheloni |
| 1997-1998 | Hanoi | Vietnam | Assist the AIMF in arranging the premises for hosting the International Francophonie Summit in 1998 around the Hanoi Opera. | Christiane Blancot |
| 1998 | Brazzaville | Congo | | |
| 1998-2006 | Tunis | Tunisia | Establishment of a real estate and land observatory and a geographical reference for Greater Tunis. Urban Development Monitoring Mission, Documentation and Communication. | |
| 1998-1999 | Buenos Aires | Argentina | Development of the Retiro-Puerto motorway junction. | André-Marie Bourlon and Pierre Micheloni |
| 2000 | Bamako | Mali | Expertise of city planning services. | |
| 2001 | Guatemala city | Guatemala | Project management assistance for the development of GIS for transports. | |
| 2001-2004 | Cairo | Egypt | Urban renewal of Sayeda Zeinab district. | Christiane Blancot |
| 2002-2005 | Téhéran | Iran | Development of GIS. Technical assistance contract on the preparation of the master plan and detailed plans for Tehran, and on the establishment of an urban planning agency. | |
| 2002-2005 | Alger | Algeria | Exchange of experience, advice and technical assistance on urban planning, upgrading and organisation of cartographic and thematic databases. | |
| 2002-2004 | Vientiane | Laos | Assistance with project management. | |
| 2003-2004 | Istanbul | Turkey | Expertise of the city's master plan. Identification of a pilot district for the implementation of an urban regeneration project. Exchange of experience and good practice in urban management. | André-Marie Bourlon and Pierre Micheloni |
| 2003-2004 | Bangalore | India | Technical assistance for master plan expertise; technical support for GIS. | |
| 2004-2005 | Téhéran | Iran | Revision of the master plan of the city. | André-Marie Bourlon and Pierre Micheloni |
| 2004-2011 | Rio de Janeiro | Brazil | Revitalization of the central area, public spaces (Porto Maravilha urban project). Urban plan of Rio Comprido. | André-Marie Bourlon and Pierre Micheloni |
| 2004 | Ryad | Saudi Arabia | Technical assistance for an expertise on the Greater Riyadh Master Plan; technical support on GIS. | |
| 2005-2009 | Amman | Jordania | Development of Amman East Corridor. | Pierre Micheloni |
| 2007-2012 | Rabat-Salé | Marocco | Implementation of the new Unified Land Use Plan (UPA). | Christiane Blancot |
| 2007 | Mexico | Mexico | Urban insertion of a tramway. | André-Marie Bourlon |
| 2009 | Hanoi | Vietnam | Expert mission on the master plan. | André-Marie Bourlon |
| 2010-2011 | Medellin | Colombia | "Medellin 2030" plan, expert mission. | |
| 2011-2013 | Tbilssi | Georgia | Reconversion of a derelict railway. | André-Marie Bourlon and Pierre Micheloni |

Table 1 : Missions abroad carried out by APUR between 1977 and 2013.

2. First international projects: reconstruction of downtown Beirut (1976–1977) and revitalization of downtown Phnom Penh (1992–1998)

These first two APUR's projects abroad are similar in the urban project method : a precise analysis of the existing city first, and then a city-wide cartographic regulation based on these surveys with the aim of conserving and enhancing city's landscape.

2.1 Reconstruction of downtown Beirut (1976–1977)

APUR was commissioned to carry out its first mission abroad : the reconstruction of Beirut city centre in 1976, accompanied by three french architects (Henry Bernard, Jacques-Henri Labourdette and Charles Delfante). IAURP had already been involved in international projects, starting in 1971 (implementation of Buenos Aires master plan). After the lebanese 'two-year war' (1975–1976), the city centre was partially destroyed and APUR carried out an aerial survey to visualise building heights and the statement of the buildings, in conjunction with a Lebanese team, in order to plan the restoration of the buildings, particularly the remarkable ones. As it was made for Paris urban knowledge, APUR first mapped the city precisely (including for example land-use coefficients) in order to identify areas to be rebuilt or rehabilitated based on these analysis (areas 'to be redeveloped or significantly remodelled', 'likely to be redeveloped in the long term but to be maintained in the immediate future', 'to be improved in their current state'). Far from a *tabula rasa* policy, APUR is thinking in terms of restoring and maintained three quarters of the existing city. A specific attention was paid to public spaces, as in Paris. These analyses led to a 'development plan' and a 'traffic plan'. APUR's expertise in Beirut consisted especially in methodological approach and thinking about urban development as an overall, based on very detailed analysis of what already exists and what can support improvements.

APUR's project, drawn up between 1976 and 1977, proposed the enhancement of the seafront and the creation of a vast public garden in front of it. APUR also suggested the creation of a new thoroughfare from the Grand Serail, the seat of government, to the sea ; the extension and renovation of the existing 'souks' between Place de l'Étoile and Place des Martyrs ; the development of the grand hotel district ; and the creation of a modern port and two new districts in the south and west of the port. There were also regulations, inspired by the Parisian POS, regarding the creation of new roads, public spaces and private spaces (layout, alignment, etc.). Scale models and master plans were drawn up. The report of what they made was published in 1977 and the plan was approved by the municipality on 15th April, 1978 but the resumption of fighting prevented it from being carried out.

The master plan (Fig.1) shows a pre-dimension of blocks to be built in line with each other and a high concentration of pedestrian areas in the north of the town. Wider streets are surrounded by tree lines, and a number of squares have been designed at the crossroads of some streets in several parts of the city. Voluntarily, no major architectural artwork is proposed and the new constructions will have to integrate as well as possible in the city.

Nevertheless, Jad Tabet (1991), a Franco-Lebanese architect highlighted the limits of this APUR's masterplan :

Over and above the architectural and urban qualities of the project, the following are revealed the limits of the "cultural urbanism" that underpins the plan to rebuild the city centre. City

centre: the centre is being reinvested, rehabilitated in delicate pastel tones, and pedestrianised. But these new spaces are not the start of an overall redevelopment of urban space. The most that can be done is to recreate the myth of the bazaar, the primitive souk or that of the Mediterranean cities wrapped around their old port; a certain climate, an atmosphere. Because the fundamental question of town centre development is not asked: what urban organisation should be used? What kind of urban organisation will it be? In the final analysis, this project, which was not carried out in the end because another war interrupted its implementation, was strongly inspired by Parisian principles of enhancing public spaces.

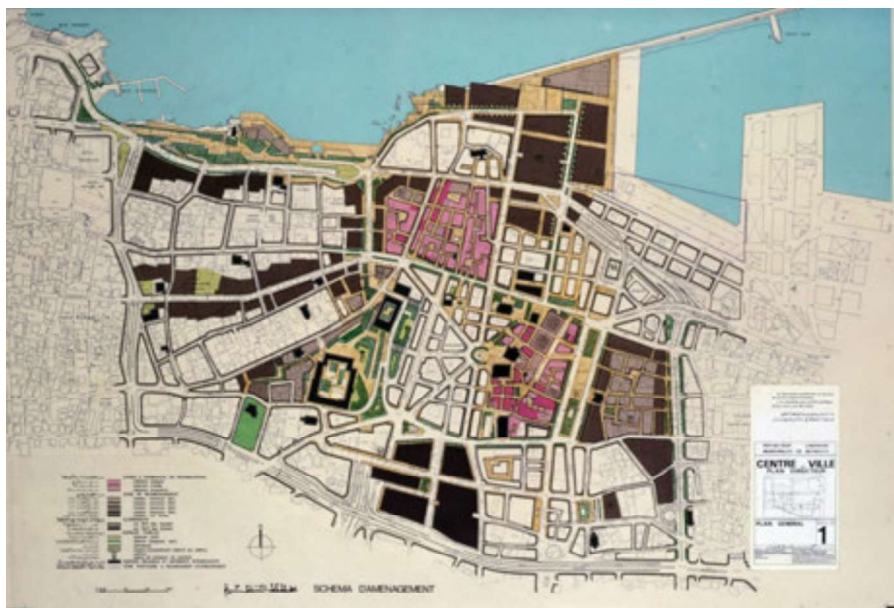


Figure 1 : Masterplan of Beirut, 1977, courtesy : APUR.

2.2 A new masterplan for Phnom Penh (1992–1998)

Phnom Penh is the first abroad project in which APUR has been involved after the project of the downtown Beirut. Since 1990, APUR has been involved in technical cooperation with the cambodian municipal services (that Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, visited in 1994). This

technical cooperation was extended to the field of urban planning in 1991 and 1992 at the initiative of Jacques Chirac. Thus, in January, 1992, APUR presented the challenges of the development of Phnom Penh : to protect and enhance public spaces and their plantations ; to create new planted public esplanades ; to enhance the river and lakes by creating a continuous public promenade on the embankment ; to preserve the airy and sparsely populated nature of the centre ; to enhance the overall landscape of the city along the river ; to enhance the quality of Phnom Penh's public buildings, respecting their architecture and urban integration, and to encourage their rehabilitation.

After the establishment of the Royal Government of Cambodia in May, 1993, the State Minister for Urban Planning suggested the establishment of an Urban Affairs Bureau (BAU), an operational urban planning unit, composed of city's and Cambodian's technicians, assisted by APUR and a 'Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals' (TOKTEN) consultant. During six months, in 1993, the TOKTEN's architect managed a study on squats and formal and informal markets in Phnom Penh. In 1993, technical parisians services were involved in Phnom Penh in setting up the city's sewerage network. In addition, the BAU's urban planners received a technical training. APUR was then associated with this service to ensure the training of city officials and to make a lot of missing documents needed for urban project management (city plans, etc). Christiane Blancot was the main architect of APUR invested in Cambodian projects. As part of the BAU, APUR team in Phnom Penh, led by Ms. Aline Hetreau-Pottier, architect, leaded a study on the city's architectural and urban heritage. These studies are based on surveys of Khmer houses, but also of streets surveys, in section, and also of the templates and location of buildings in relation to the streets, types of islets and their parcel division, with a typo-morphological method (Fig 2). In addition to a survey of typical Khmer houses or complexes, a mapping was carried out to characterize the existing fabric. This first tool, which was primarily geared towards heritage conservation, served as a tool for the development of subsequent regulatory plans.

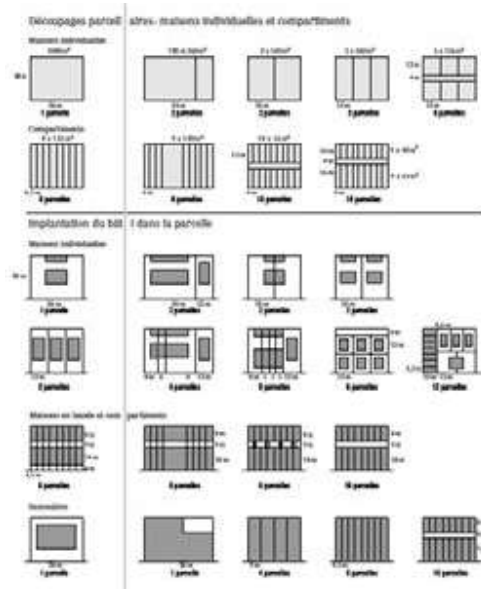


Figure 2 : Subdivision of parcels in Phnom Penh, courtesy : APUR.

In 1995, Phnom Penh issued a law prohibiting the demolition of all old buildings in Phnom Penh, and the preservation of a number of buildings of definite heritage interest was the priority of BAU and APUR. This law was supplemented by an urban regulation by blocks and plots for the Daun Penh area, known as 'servitudes d'urbanisme et de constructions', drawn up in 1996, referring to the Paris POS, but it was simplified. It shew on a plan urban spaces, heights of existing buildings, margins of retreat and the method of siting and the ground clearance of the buildings (Fig. 3). These easements are based on the analytical mapping carried out earlier. These Servitudes were done, discussed and finalized by a Technical Commission which brought together all relevant municipal technical services – cadastre, town planning and construction, environment, culture, public works, industry and the Office of Urban Affairs. These four main areas of development were divided into several sub-sections. In the case of building and non-building land, the first step was to protect the area of public garden streets and to delimit their right of way to prevent private encroachment on them, to protect public facilities and pagodas, and to prohibit construction on plots of less than four metres of façade. With regard to the maximum building heights and the right-of-way of buildings, the aim was to highlight the city's landscape. Around sites of exceptional character, the heights of the facades were erected in order to respect the heights surrounding the site, to take into account the building habits related to the climate, and to preserve the gardens. Considering the architectural aspects of new buildings, they need to maintain the traditional systems of protection against rain and sun and the use of colours and materials in harmony with existing buildings (using of entirely glazed facades, facade tiles, masonry brick or masonry stone coatings was prohibited and the colours white, ochre, yellow and garnet were imposed). Finally, the last priority concerned the importance of regulating the rejuvenisation of public spaces and plantations.



Figure 3 : Map of easements of town planning, 1997, courtesy : APUR.

As with the reconstruction of the city centre of Beirut, an analysis of the city was carried out on a city scale in order to make an overall mapping according to several parameters. In Phnom Penh, however, the heritage and morphological study proved to be even more advanced. While in Beirut these cartographic analyses led to project proposals, in Phnom Penh it led to a proposal for a regulation based on very European principles for the development of public space and respect for the existing landscape, while at the same time establishing architectural easements that value the use of local techniques and materials.

3. The Kota neighbourhood in Jakarta (1996–1998) and the Sayeda Zeinab neighbourhood in Cairo (2001–2004): new strategies

During the 1990s and 2000s, APUR was called upon to work on urban projects in several cities around the world, especially because of its expertise in sites with high heritage value such as in Paris. Most of projects fell within the scope of heritage presentation and multiple, small-scale interventions in cities concerning the development of public spaces. The projects in Jakarta (1996–1997) and Cairo (2001–2004) are interesting to study because APUR and local urban planners needed to think entirely about how intervene in each city/district, and the proposed solutions were sometimes identical and sometimes different. In Jakarta, projects were made especially on the Kota district and the city's museums, and in Cairo, in the area of Sayeda Zeinab, which are two old districts in these two cities.

3.1 Create the 'image of the city' of Jakarta (1996–1998)

In Jakarta, APUR was involved in urban project by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996. Christiane Blancot was in charge (she had already been involved in the Phnom Penh project for a long time) of this mission in APUR with Christian Dupavillon, architect and General inspector of Culture at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The advisory mission, which was planned at the request of the Governor of the City of Jakarta, consisted of advising on the future projects planned for the city, and especially on expertising Jakarta's old centre projects and the renovation, programming and management of Jakarta's museums.

After the visit of the two French architects in 1996, they formulated guidelines and established a programme and schedule of works. The interventions were interesting because they were not based on city-wide mapping or regulations, but on a series of actions to be carried out in a short term, inspired by Parisian actions to embellish the city.

Regarding the development of the city centre, the district of Kota was especially studied, as the most interesting district in terms of history and heritage, on which attention was focused. The french's architects guidelines decreed that 'Kota has lost its *raison d'être*'. This district was a power one until the 19th century. After it was abandoned in favour of newer district located in the south of the city. The canals would have been a memory of the transport of goods have been covered or blocked, the great street of the district, Kali Besar, has also disappeared and was cut off by railway lines and motorways and in Jajah Mada, ancient islets have been destroyed and replaced by towers and shopping malls. The aim was thus to affirm the history and identity of this district, Kota, at the same time as the memory of khmer people, in order to increase tourism and give an 'image' to the city of Jakarta based on this district linked to the history of Indonesia. The Christian Dupavillon's and Christiane Blancot's report also specified that 'Kota has all the aesthetic and historical elements as in Paris'.

With this in mind, Christian Dupavillon and Christiane Blancot suggested actions to be done quickly, in six months, before embarking on deeper reflections on the Kota district. The quick actions to be implemented in the short term were : the rejuvenisation of public spaces, starting with the building of pavements in all streets and the planting of trees ; the animation of Fatahillah Square by reducing car traffic and setting up open-air cafés ; the installation in some abandoned warehouses of artists or architects ; the organisation of events such as flower markets, fish markets, parades, concerts and the creation of a green space on the site of the old Dutch citadel with the highlighting of archaeological traces. In this district of Kota, they also recommended the enhancement of some of the more 'picturesque' districts such as those of Montmartre or the Marais in Paris, as well as the enhancement of the canal system, which was poorly maintained or no longer maintained. The reference examples are once again European : the *Canal Saint-Martin* in Paris or the canals of Bruges, adding that 'in a few years we will visit the canals of Jakarta as well as those of Venice'. These proposals have been complemented by urban traffic proposals in order to link the different parts of this district.

After these proposals, a working programme was proposed for the implementation of these actions in 1998, with the involvement of several Parisian experts, as well as for the development of canals, which required expertise in the drainage of rainwater and wastewater, or the restoration of buildings, which required the expertise of a specialist architect. Gilles Sensini, architect at APUR, lived in Jakarta for one year. An urban design guideline for a longer-term production was also drawn up in 1997 for Kota district : restoring the physical links between the different parts of the neighbourhood, cut off by transport infrastructure ; highlighting the original Kali Besar axis of Kota and valorise the original district composition affirming and highlighting the significant buildings (maritime museum, lighthouse, fish market, railway

station square) from a very Aldo Rossi's perspective. Other matters were proposed in order to strengthen the links between the centre of Kota and the old suburbs ; thinking about improving pedestrian circulation, especially crossings, and highlighting some monumental hotspots. Also, in order to include the inhabitants of Kota in the urbanization of their neighbourhood, it is suggested to create a house of 'information and exchange' with the inhabitants : the 'Kota House', located in a restored building, to be an example of restoration for the owners and to show to the owners the potential of their cambodian's houses. These projects, carried out in accordance with the guidelines (particularly along the main Kali Besar canal (Fig. 4) where pavements and plantations have been built and the canal has been cleaned) have made it possible to regularize and harmonize this part of the city.



Figure 4 : Kali Besar today in Jakarta, 2024, Google street view.

In Jakarta, it's the rehabilitation of the image of the city that prevails. To aim this goal, Christian Dupavillon and Christiane Blancot proposed faster interventions to revitalize some neighbourhoods. The references were European and Parisian projects and the *touch* of Christian Dupavillon was felt in the proposals. In fact, h has worked on the staging of specific events and has been interested in the rehabilitation of industrial sites into creative sites, proposes quick interventions, not necessarily architectural but more programmatic, allowing to obtain an immediate effect on the uses and image of the city. It seems that in Jakarta, the two architects gave free rein to their imaginations, but proposed projects inspired by European models.

Thus, the ways of city development suggested in 1996 were more precise than those in 1992 for Phnom Penh. The method of intervention was also different. While in Phnom Penh it was

through cartography and regulations that an intervention was primarily linked to the preservation of heritage and the protection of landscapes, a regulation based on the existing one ; in Jakarta, the axes led to the secondment of French personalities attached to neighbourhoods and projects on certain specific aspects (rehabilitation of disused buildings, restoration of canals), in a vein of *tactical urban planning*. It was only later that several districts of Kota were planned with specific urban guidelines.

3.2 *Strategic urbanism in Cairo (2001–2004)*

In 2001, the city centre of Cairo was deteriorated. The governor of the city, who had been bound by a friendship pact with the city of Paris since 1985, called on the city in 2001 for its expertise in the rehabilitation of historic areas and the procedures created to involve the population in the development of neighbourhood projects. The district of Sayeda Zeinab, located in the south of the city, was chosen as a testing ground for methods and tools adapted to its transformation. As a partner of the City of Paris in this decentralized cooperation programme, APUR helps define studies and urban projects on this district. Each proposal had to lead to the definition of a concrete operation, which could be carried out by mobilizing local expertise and resources, under the authority of the governorate services. The approach had to be pragmatic and the result of the work could be transferred to other areas of Cairo.

In December 2002, a mission of experts carried out an initial diagnosis of the neighbourhood. It identified the most critical problems and outlined the actions to be taken. During 2003 summer, young academics managed the research needed to continue the study : surveys and field surveys. At the end of the year, plans were drawn up and the Governor validated the general principles of action to be taken. The first concerned 'Abdel Meguid al-Labbân Street (Fig. 5), which was selected as a pilot project for the development of public space. The second concerned the rehousing of the mechanics of 'Abu ad-Dahab Street. The third was focused on the rehabilitation of the built heritage. In 2005, the scope of the study was extended to the neighbourhood of Qal'at al-Kabsh and its connection with the lower city.

As in Jakarta, in Cairo was done strategic interventions, small-scale ad hoc projects, which were supposed to change the image of the city and have a generating action. Two main lines of action were decided : the rehabilitation of existing buildings and the redevelopment of streets. So it is first the streets, squares, dead ends and passages that were renovated. The houses and residential buildings were renovated, the facades first and the structures consolidated, the sanitary and electrical installation network secured. In older districts of Sayeda Zeinab, Qal'at al-Kabsh and Tûlûn, urban development was being proposed through, among other things, the installation of better flooring, quality urban furniture and tree plantations, encouragement of rehabilitation through financial assistance and technical support for the inhabitants, and the reuse of unused plots. More specific projects were planned, such as the rehabilitation of Abu ad-Dahab Street, surrounded by mechanics' workshops that could be optimised in their use, or the creation of a public staircase in the Qal'at al kabsh neighbourhood.

Figure 5 : Plans and sections of the Abdel Meguid Al-Labbân street in Cairo, 2005, courtesy : APUR.

These different projects highlight the way APUR has transposed its tools and methods in the cities in which it has intervened : through a variation of the POS in the oldest cases and through more localized strategies more recently. However, the same conclusions emerge : the enhancement of public spaces, water spaces, and the rehabilitation and enhancement of the existing buildings.



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