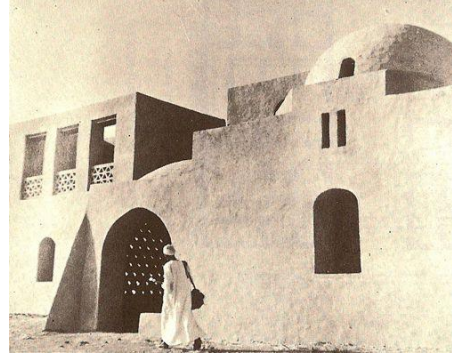


Call for applications for an international Workshop in Luxor/Egypt:

Vernacular Architecture in Egypt: learning from heritage and communities



Architects tend to focus on avant-garde innovative designs, inventive built forms, and new cutting edge ideas that go one or more steps ahead in the future. However, the past is strongly linked with the future; heritage provides lessons that are essentially informative for architects in their futuristic journey in achieving sustainability and culture continuity. Therefore, vernacular architecture is seen as sources of inspirations that is strongly linked with skilled workforces; climatic creative solutions; local cultures and technologies; environmental sensibilities, comprehensive sustainability, community development among others. The joint workshop between the Bauhaus-University Weimar and the Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University aims at investigating lessons that could be learnt from architectural heritage and traditional communities in the context of Egypt. **From the 4th to 15th of December 2020**, 12 students from the Bauhaus University Weimar are invited to take part in the international and interdisciplinary workshop held in Cairo and Luxor, Egypt.

The cultural landscape of Egypt provides a variation of prevailed patterns of vernacular architecture. Examples include: Nubian architecture, the architecture of the Western Desert Oases, Sinai, among others. This workshop focuses on New Gurna village, originally designed by the Egyptian renowned architect, Hassan Fathi, which he used many vernacular sources as inspirations. However, it was later modified by many alterations by its inhabitants. This experiment is considered as an important pioneering inspiring project that investigated the capabilities of vernacular architecture and community participation. Studying the original design, its modifications by the inhabitants, its future sustainability and expected transformations, governance, among many complicated issues gives a big window for learning and multiple levels of interactions.

The workshop will be held together with students and professors from the Cairo University and is designed in two main parts. The first introduction part will take place in Cairo and includes lectures from scholars from Germany and Egypt and several fieldtrips within the Cairo region. The second practical part will be proceeded in New Gurna at the west of Luxor City. This phase of the workshop students in mixed groups, will be able to investigate, document and analyze the built product of the village and the different approaches used for safeguarding it. Each group will focus on one specific major problem that was dealt with in the safeguarding project and they will provide a deep analysis of it. In addition, the organizing team, in coordination with the two chief architects responsible for the safeguarding project, will also provide traditional building materials for the students to experiment building techniques themselves.

Requirements for the application

Please note that the application will be accepted conditionally. On account of the multidimensional uncertainties globally produced by the Covid 19 Virus we can't guarantee whether it will be manageable to proceed the workshop.

The workshop calls for applications by students from all kind disciplines on the Bauhaus University Weimar. The applicants should at least be in the 5th semester of their Bachelor degree or studying in a Master program.

Travel and accommodation costs will be covered by the DAAD for the accepted applicants.

For the application a letter of motivation is required. It is to be sent until 20th of August to frank.eckardt@uni-weimar.de.