

THE HEALING PHOENIX

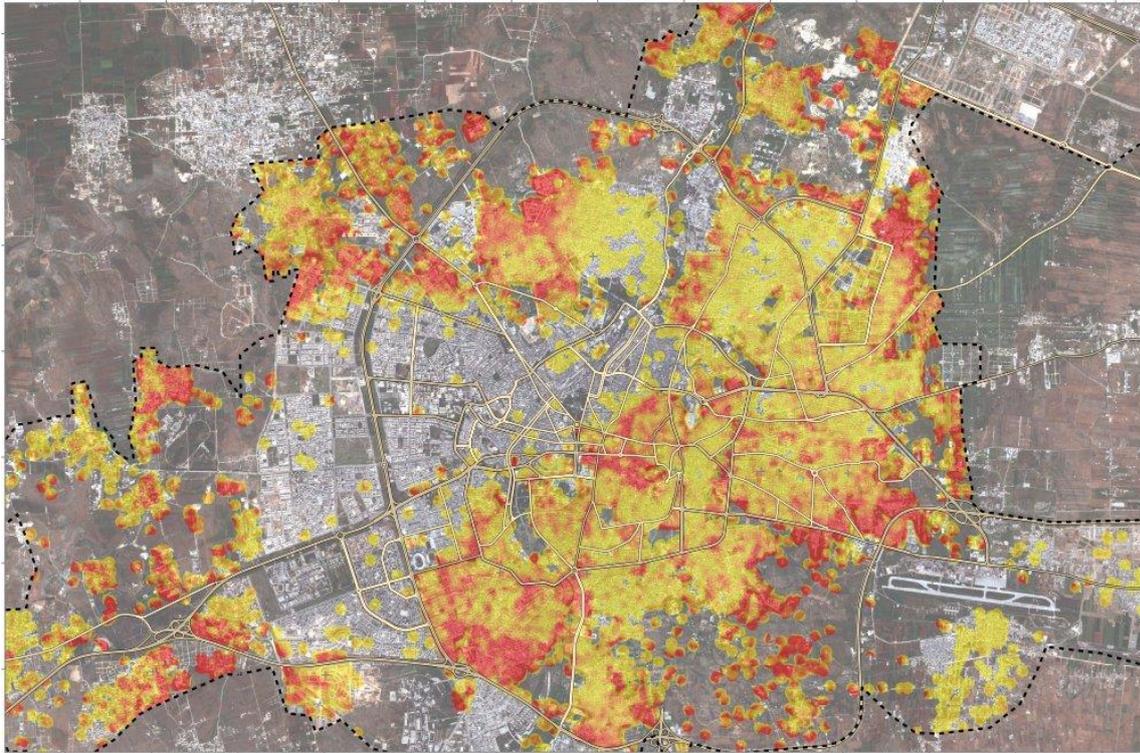
Resilience, Urban healing, Trauma-informed design

ARCH 302(Studio VI)

ARCH 202 (Studio IV)

*In the wake of conflict, a hospital serves as a dual-purpose entity: a high-functioning machine for saving lives and a symbolic "anchor" for urban stability. This project focuses on the reconstruction of healthcare infrastructure in Aleppo, moving beyond the "emergency tent" phase toward a permanent, sustainable architectural intervention. Designing a Health Facility *(hospital, and poly clinic health center) in a post-war context like **Aleppo** requires more than just clinical efficiency; it demands a deep understanding of **resilience, urban healing, and trauma-informed design**.*

The Healing Phoenix is a design Studio seeks to balance the high-tech requirements of a modern medical facility with the socio-cultural sensitivity needed to rebuild a community.

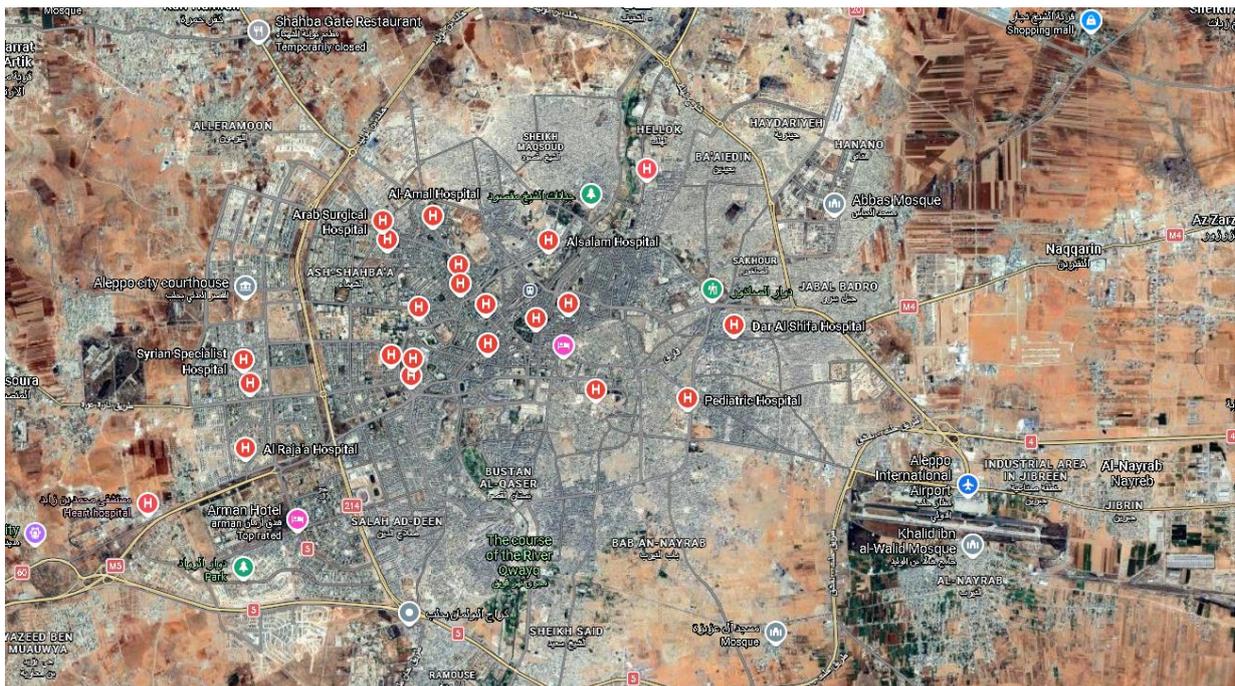


Destruction map of Aleppo city after the conflict -Syria

CONTEXT / Aleppo is one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities, currently facing a massive deficit in specialized medical care.

- **Site Dynamics:** High density, fractured urban fabric, and significant rubble/debris.
- **Climatic Factors:** Hot-arid climate requiring passive cooling and courtyard strategies.
- **Infrastructure:** Intermittent power and water; the design must prioritize **self-sufficiency** (renewable energy, water harvesting).

CONTENT / Health infrastructures In Aleppo even before the conflict was poor, and badly distributed, the eastern and southern parts of the city lacked almost any health facility , and those areas were severely destroyed during the war .



Distribution of Health facilities in Aleppo

Worldwide, there are many design competitions announced yearly for the architectural design of health facilities, looking for the best ideas to design modern, cost efficient, energy efficient, and environmentally sustainable for the polyclinics, hospitals and health cities. In this studio we will participate in the **AFH STUDENT DESIGN AWARDS 2026** (it will be explained in details the participation process)

This studio seeks to **learn How to design such buildings** taking in consideration the general criteria of:

1. **Navigate Complexity:** Manage the intricate circulation of patients, staff, and logistics.
2. **Contextual Integration:** Harmonize a large-scale modern building with a sensitive historic environment.
3. **Technical Proficiency:** Implement advanced structural systems and MEP (Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing) coordination.
4. **Human-Centric Design:** Apply evidence-based design to reduce patient stress and improve recovery times.

While paying extra attention for the special technical consideration of designing stations and terminals, such as:

- **Balance between functionality and aesthetics:** Ensure the station is both efficient and visually appealing.
- **Integration with the Community:** Respect the identity and preserve the local heritage of the Urban centre.
- **Sustainability features:** Environmental, Energy, Cultural, and economic sustainability.

AIMS

Studio IV Designing a Polyclinic health centre attached to the Hospital

Studio VI Designing a General Teaching Hospital (approx. 150-200 beds)

Both should integrate into the destroyed neglected urban fabric of east Aleppo while utilizing innovative construction method

Goals: Learning Trauma informed Design and resilience achieved by architecture of health facilities. Using Local materials and traditional methods and styles by:

- Learning Bimaristan design ideas and how to use it in design.
- Learning how to design resilient structural system for a critical building like health facilities.
- Understanding the traditional systems and how to be inspired by them for contemporary design.

METHOD /

How to Circulate during this studio work:

After the presentation day, and if you choose to work in this studio (IV or VI) we will define the suggested sites after an urban analysis and define each students of studio the project he/she will design (the detailed architectural program of each studio.).

The phases to be followed throughout the process are given below.

Phase 1: Research and Analysis

- Site analysis (Analyze the context of the chosen project, by understanding the site, environment, tradition, culture...)
- Existing infrastructure and damage assessment
- User needs and preferences
- Regulatory requirements **which will lead you to define the required square meters areas of the functions and spaces required in the design program.**

Phase 2: site, accessibility and connectivity Design

Which might be held as a **workshop with CURE centre at ITU**

- Schematic design: start designing the accessibility to the site (ambulance, taxis, public spaces...) and defining site components and elements,
- Layout options: Design the project architecturally by distributing the functions and spaces using the 5 circulation method as the base of the design.
- Material exploration
- Sustainability strategies

Phase 3: Detailed Design

- Architectural drawings
- Structural engineering
- Landscape design

Learning Outcomes:

- 1- Design standards for accessibility and circulation in healthfacilities
- 2- Concept for healing community and Resilience design in architecture,
- 3- How post conflict destruction and recovery can define and affect architectural design,
- 4- How to reflect the dynamic heritage of the area, and preserve the context protecting its Identity
- 5- Different presentation techniques of the design ideas.

DELIVERABLES:

Plans, sections, 1/100, sketches and renders posters of Portraits A2 size.

3D Physical model + VR accessible 3D model of the architectural design.

EVALUATION / The design should respond to the following requirements:

Does it integrate in the complex post war context?
Does it respond to local needs??
Does it reflect the identity of the region??
Are the architectural spaces and functions correctly distributed??
Does it enable future expansion??
Level of innovation???

Grading:

Assignment of context Analysis 10%

Quiz of zoning design 10%

Assignment of site planning 10%

Midterm Jury 20%

Final Jury 40%

Each Jury evaluation criteria are:

- **Context integration (20%):** Originality and response to the "post-war" condition.
- **Functionality (35%):** Efficiency of the "Medical Program" and zoning.
- **Technical Integration (15%):** Structural logic and environmental systems.
- **Representation (15%):** Clarity of plans, sections, and 3D visualizations.
- **Model (15%):** Verbal presentation and process work.

Important Note: (This Studio contents/ facilities/ functions and grading scale are subject to modification through the studio time according to the progress and interaction of the students.)

Bibliography /

- HEALTH FACILITY DESIGN AND PLANNING UIA 2022
- Resilient Structures and Infrastructure (Ehsan Noroozinejad Farsangi)
- VerSus Project: Heritage for Tomorrow, Vernacular Knowledge for Sustainable Architecture.

Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University (Turkiye) /

Salah HAJISMAIL (salah.hajismail@aybu.edu.tr)

Fatma Zehra SÜER (fzsuer@aybu.edu.tr)