Inclusive Urbanism II: Tangier-Marseille

They must remember that they are constantly on the run, and that the world's reality is actually expressed by their escape.
Hannah Arendt, 'On Humanity in Dark Times: Thoughts about Lessing'

This town is made of many things/Just look at what the current brings
So high, it's only promising/This place was made on you
Tell me, baby, what's your story/Where you come from
And where you wanna go this time?
Red Hot Chili Peppers, 'Tell me Baby'. (2006). [CD] MoeBeToBlame.

Migration is not a new phenomenon. While our era is based on a mythology of geographical mobility and global migratory circulations, history reveals that migration is not a modern condition. In the quest for a better, safer life, people have always moved. But in the wake of Europe's refugee crisis, it has never been such a pressing topic. These movements are unlikely to slow down in the near future, with enduring armed conflicts, economic hardships, and predicted climate change-induced mass migration. Crises have shed a dramatic light on movement of people as a rapid, ubiquitous, complex, and eminently spatial phenomenon. Circulations of people, goods, and capital, as much as their resettlement, have a visible, transformative impact upon space, at various scales.

The territorial scale is contained in the physical act of going from one place to another: crossing legal borders and national frontiers, oceans and water bodies, mountain ranges and manmade obstacles. From a countryside to another, flows of people transiting through productive landscapes imprint the intermediary scale of

hinterlands and peripheries. But as migrants overwhelmingly aim for urban areas as entry point into new destinies, it is at the urban scale that the most impact of flux is felt. The economic, political, and social influence of migration shaped cities in many ways and continues to do so, with visible effects on architecture and urban forms. Within the framework of 'Inclusive Urbanism,' and after exploring the 'Arrival City' theme, the MAS program is tackling questions of migration and urban space. Arguing that urban design is an innovative, resilient, and politically powerful tool for architects and planners to address such complex matters, and moving away from emergency solutions (e.g. refugee camps, transit centers), we explore the notion of 'staying' somewhere.

Connecting the shores of Asia, Africa, and Europe, the Mediterranean Sea is the epicenter of constant, ongoing population movements, and was historically crucial to the development of global civilization. *Mare Nostrum*, with its geography connecting a constellation of harbor-cities attached to their hinterlands, is a critical space of migration and trade. It is also a contested, brutally controlled region overburdened with past and present exploitation, colonization, and violence. Geographers, historians, and sociologists such as Fernand Braudel, Nicolas Purcell, Peregrine Horden, Henri Lefebvre, Ian Chambers, and Michael Herzfeld have analyzed it as such. In such a context, it appears logical to handle with equal importance points of departure and destinations, possibly to reverse established paradigms. Two harbor-

cities of the Mediterranean Sea are our operative sites, from a shore to another: Tangier-Marseille. With a foot on each side of the Mediterranean Sea, equal importance is given to points of departure and destinations, to reverse established paradigms of movements.

Inspecting the political, economic, and social reasons behind migration and the spatial conditions attached to both departure and arrival sites; the question of the relevance of design will be addressed. How can urban designers tackle such as situation? What does moving for a longer period of time and settling down socially, economically and culturally entails spatially at urban, rural and peri-urban scales? What can be the response of design to the notion of 'staying', in the framework of an inclusive urbanism practice?

These questions are crucial and should not leave architects indifferent, at a time when the capacity of design to respond adequately to such political and social challenges is not evident.

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