

Muhammad Amin Camp in Jabal Al-Natheef, Amman

Located east of the centre of Amman, Jabal Al-Natheef stands as one of the city's oldest neighbourhoods. Despite its central location, Jabal Al-Natheef faces impoverished conditions and is labelled as a "refugee settlement," an "unofficial camp," or simply "the Palestinian camp."

Muhammad Amin Camp was first developed in 1948 with tent communities from the Palestinian diaspora. Over 70 years, the camp has expanded to define the entire Jabal Al Natheef neighbourhood, and hosts over 45,000

displaced peoples from Palestine, Iraq, Jordan and Syria.

The site is marked by overpopulation, a lack of infrastructure, and narrow or sometimes non-existent streets, as there are a series of stairs rather than roads to parts of the area in the outside world. Remarkably, despite these challenges, there has been no disintegration of community ties or the cohesive community structure, which is a living embodiment of the power of resilience and solidarity in the face of the negative impacts of these challenges.



Figure 1) Site Area | Greater Amman Municipality

Approx. site area:

The study focuses on the Muhammad Amin camp in Jabal Al-Natheef, covering an area of 82,254 m² within the 1,269,880 m² neighbourhood.

Key Information:

In 2020, Department of Statistics estimated Jabal Al-Natheef's population at 45,263, and the camp at 5,884, with a density of 71,534.52 people/km²

Priority areas & main expectations:

As is the case with urban slums, the most pressing priority is to develop solutions

that improve the area's physical, environmental, and social characteristics.

The primary objective of this competition is to transform the area into a sustainable, inclusive, and thriving urban space. Solutions should be proposed to address the area's challenges, whilst preserving the site's unique identity, improving amenities, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility.

Presentation of the site and development expectations

Mohammad Amin Camp first developed in 1948 as a result of the 'Al-Nakba', in which the displaced Palestinian diaspora created an informal tent settlement in the area. After 1967, known as 'Al-Naksa', more Palestinian refugees settled in the area. As the years went by, gradually these tent settlements evolved into more permanent independently sustained structures. In the wake of the Gulf War in 1992, a fresh wave of refugees sought solace in Jabal al-Natheef; this included displaced Jordanian citizens from the Gulf Region driven by rising housing prices.

The Jabal Al-Natheef neighbourhood continues to be characterised as a refugee settlement with the onset of significant global events. The 2003 Iraq war triggered a surge of Iraqi refugees seeking sanctuary from the upheaval in their homeland. Subsequently, the Syrian civil war, beginning in March 2011, further reshaped the demographic landscape, with several Syrian refugees finding a new home in Jabal al-Natheef.

Nowadays, the area is characterised by overpopulation, a lack of infrastructure, and narrow or even non-existent streets. Continuous waves of refugees has affected the neighbourhood's ability to adequately address these challenges and provide for its residents. The area also faces high unemployment rates among youth, above-average levels of illiteracy, and high rates of student dropout from school. Additionally, existing public spaces are located between homes; this results in them becoming neglected, dark spots in the urban fabric. Remarkably, despite these challenges, there is a strong sense of community and structure, which is a living embodiment of the power of resilience and solidarity in the face of the negative impacts of these challenges.

Greater Amman Municipality is seeking your ideas to regenerate this area into a green and thriving neighbourhood that ensures a good quality of life for all. Projects should consider the following objectives:

- Improve or install basic infrastructure services such as water, electricity, storm water drainage, access roads, and street lighting. Ensure these measures also help integrate the area into its surroundings, and into the city itself.
- Construct or rehabilitate existing community facilities, including quality public space, to enhance opportunities for social interaction and empower social networks.
- Foster community identity, unity, and shared responsibility of community and public spaces.
- Enhance income-earning opportunities through training, workshops, and enrichment classes.
- Develop a participatory planning approach to ensure community engagement throughout the design process.
- Integrate climate-responsive measures to mitigate climate-associated risks, such as urban heat island, flooding, air and soil pollution.

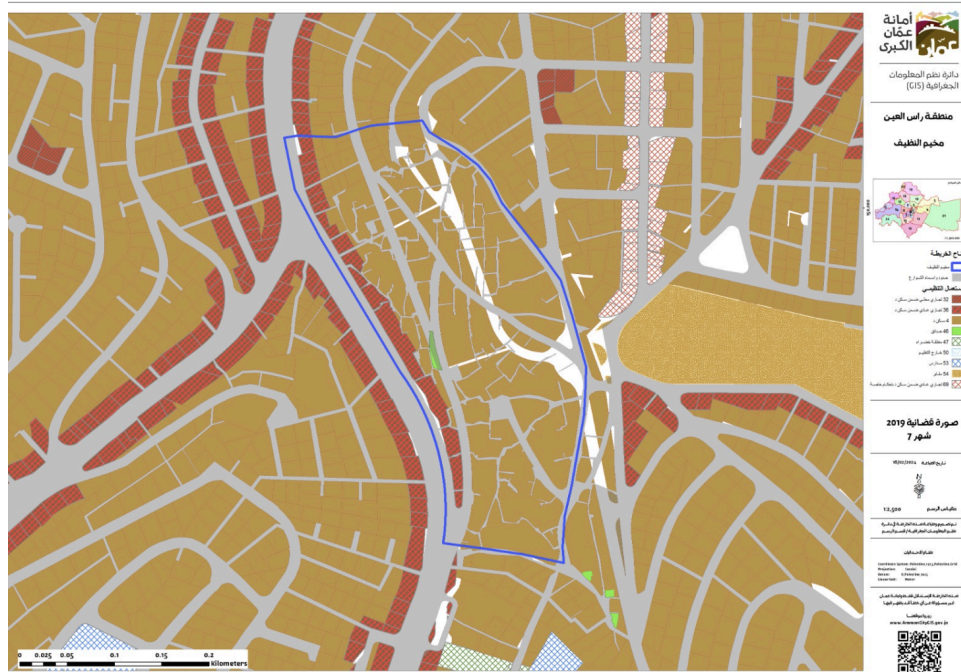


Figure 2) Land Use Map | Greater Amman Municipality

City climate priorities and specific environmental challenges

Amman City, as outlined in its comprehensive [Climate Action Plan](#), places paramount importance on fostering environmental sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change. Priorities encompass reducing carbon emissions, promoting energy efficiency, enhancing urban mobility, creating green spaces, and fortifying the city's overall adaptive capacity through specific environmental objectives and solutions such as:

- Renewable energy integration is needed to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and promote a sustainable energy ecosystem.
- Implement energy-efficient buildings to minimise the carbon footprint of structures.
- Innovative and sustainable mobility solutions, such as public transportation enhancements and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.
- Integrate green infrastructure and sustainable landscaping into the project to enhance biodiversity, improve air quality, and contribute to the city's overall environmental well-being.

You should align your design theme with climate-responsive urban planning objectives. The proposed redevelopment should significantly contribute to improving the resilience of the city, improve livelihoods, and empower communities to advance residents' well-being. This can be achieved by incorporating a range of strategic directions, including but not limited to:

- Measures to mitigate flood risks, such as sustainable drainage systems and Nature-based Solutions (NbS).
- Urban heat island mitigation through green roofs, reflective surfaces, and the creation of shaded areas for public spaces.
- Implement water-efficient technologies and rainwater harvesting.
- Integrate measures to combat air and soil pollution by focusing on sustainable waste management.

Specific planning rules and regulations

Students must adhere to the following planning rules, regulations, and constraints while developing their project for the site redevelopment:

- Ensure that the proposed project aligns with the city's zoning and building regulations, such as land use, building heights, and green building codes.
- Evaluate and mitigate potential environmental impacts to ensure sustainability and compliance with environmental regulations, considering Amman's [Climate Action Plan](#).
- Considering that the permissible percentage of demolition or removal within the site must not surpass 30%, it is imperative to adhere to this limit during any renovation endeavours.

Language requirements

Proposals must be submitted in English.

City-specific awards

Under the esteemed patronage of His Excellency, the Mayor of Amman, a vibrant closing celebration will take place to unveil the victors of the top three positions in the competition. Media outlets will be present to capture the essence of this momentous event. [Experience the electrifying atmosphere of the 2023 competition's closing ceremony.](#)