



# Alaa Bou Ghanem

Assoc. AIA, LEED GA

---

## Licensure

Successfully completed all Architectural Registration Exams (ARE's) for initial registration in the state of North Carolina  
Projected Licensure Date: May 2020

## Experience

Architectural Designer  
LITTLE DIVERSIFIED ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTING [May 2016 - Present]

Part-time emerging professional on the path to licensure with three years of experience. Contributed to the design and implementation of various Civic, Higher-Ed, and Schools projects. Experienced multiple phases of the design process from Pre-design through Construction Administration. Responsible for specific technical design aspects and detailing of an assigned project, including investigation, evaluation, and recommendation of design solutions. Performs assignments under direction with minor responsibility for design. Provides professional architectural support in the planning, design, and coordination of large, complex projects.

### Skill Set:

Strong team ethic and ability to work in a Team environment.  
Ability to interact professionally with office leadership, clients, consultants, and construction professionals.  
Excellent verbal and written communication skills.  
Design, graphic, and presentation skills.  
Ability to self-manage project assignments from start to finish without oversight.  
Ability to direct and motivate work efforts of others and handle stressful situations.  
Strong organizational, multi-tasking, and time management skills.  
Ability to manage / work on multiple projects concurrently.  
Understanding of the design, procurement, and construction processes.  
Technical production skills and ability to effectively produce design and construction documents.  
Understanding of relevant codes such as local zoning ordinances, state building codes, ANSI 117.1, IBC, etc.  
Experience with on-site construction phase services.  
Understanding of sustainable material selection for LEED compliance.

## Education

University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
Masters of Architecture (MII) [Aug. 2017 - May. 2020]

## Awards

- Living Building Challenge-Los Angeles (LBC-LA)  
First Place Winner - Student Architectural Competition
  - NAVAE VITAE (LITTLE)  
First Place Winner - Architectural Competition
- AIA Charlotte - Project of the Week [Feb 27, 2019]



(e) alaa\_bg\_95@hotmail.com  
(t) 704.491.4500  
(i) @alaabg\_

# un.bending

## Al Umma Park

### RELEVANCE:

*Al Umma Park* serves as the ever-beating heart of the city of Baghdad. A place that has endured all torture and survived all traumas. In the midst of destruction and ruin, there remains a glimpse of hope that one day our beloved city of Baghdad shall return to its former glory just as the unbending: *Al Umma Park* is reborn after years of neglect.

The design concept revolves around ideas of **layering** and **weaving**.

Throughout its uncanny existence, Baghdad has witnessed the juxtaposition of several empires that have **layered** their cultures upon the city, resulting in a culture-rush that has developed and evolved into what is now the cultural goldmine of the 21st century. From here stems the idea of **layering** which is represented in the spatial **layering** of architectural and landscape components such as: circulation, functions, negative spaces, and wetlands.

**Weaving** on the other hand is defined clearly in the way the city is interlocked between the two rivers: Tigris and Euphrates. Learning closer to river Tigris, the city **weaves** together the two rivers in a remarkably elegant manner; while also being **woven** into life through a stunning network of roads that stitch the city's vital components into one cohesive sum. Building on such grounds, the design of *Al Umma Park* not only **weaves** the spatial existence of the human figure into its surrounding built environment within the park; but also **weaves** the park itself into the larger context of the city of Baghdad.

### RESPONSE:

The design of *Al Umma Park* aspires to increase interconnectedness between the park and its contexts through a series of walkway branches that extend from the core of the park and interlock with the road network of the city. Such move triggers activation of the park in unprecedented ways since all foot traffic in the neighborhood is directed towards Baghdad's central park where a multitude of activities can take place. This activation is itself the best response to safety concerns since the lack of safety is a result of abandonment and neglect; as the park gets activated, it becomes a hub for the community and thus increasing human surveillance and therefore safety.

### RESOLUTION:

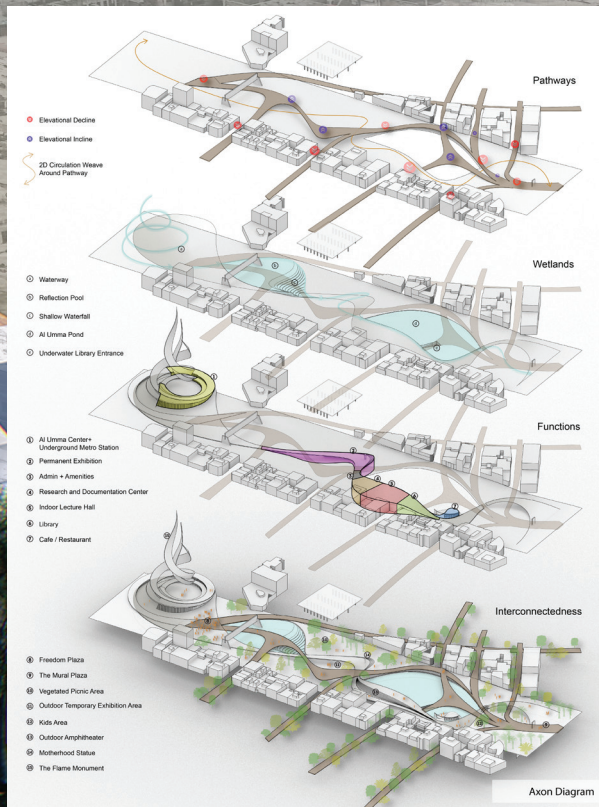
The lay of the concept is determined by a series of **woven networks** whose job is to extend the pedestrian pathways outside the formal boundary of the park and into the surrounding context, bleeding the park into the city and stitching the neighborhood into a unified fabric. Pedestrian **networks** begin at different instances on roads that was previously vehicular, superseding the vehicular **networks** and in return exponentially actuating the retail activities along the street edge.

On the other hand, specific **nodes** interlock the networks creating local areas of amplified interest. **Nodes** such as the Freedom monument morphs into a display of culture from the newly defined Al Umma Plaza. The motherhood statue becomes a node explicitly directing traffic towards the permanent exhibition underground; as if an icon had emerged from the exhibition below to tell its story to the world.

The combination of **networks and nodes**, along with **weaving and layering**, results in a sequence of subspaces that themselves are flooded with architectural complexities and that can also exist in tandem emerging as a unified landscape.

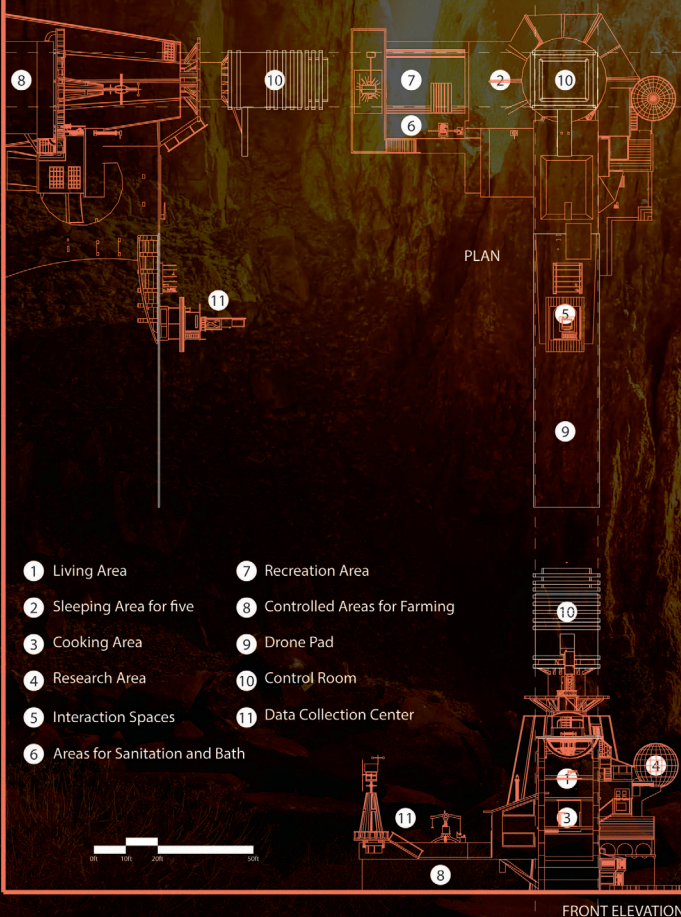
### IMPACT:

*Al Umma Park* will serve as the breathing lung of Baghdad. Its proximity to the metro along with the iconic metro station will become a symbol of interconnectedness and activity within the city and will set an example for the rest of the country and the world to live up to.



# Parcel ID# 0001

SIDE ELEVATION



- 1 Living Area
- 2 Sleeping Area for five
- 3 Cooking Area
- 4 Research Area
- 5 Interaction Spaces
- 6 Areas for Sanitation and Bath
- 7 Recreation Area
- 8 Controlled Areas for Farming
- 9 Drone Pad
- 10 Control Room
- 11 Data Collection Center



Mother Earth had seen through it all. Her perseverance in the face of torture. Her undertaking of life in the face of ignorance. Her forgiveness in the face of mishaps. But mind you not; she shall forgive no more. Her wrath is her beauty and her beauty is intimidating.

Sailing through untamed space, he thinks about her. He romanticizes about her dusks and dawns. But deep down, he knows he was merely a parasite drowning her as he grew. He reaches MARS with an aching heart, and an oath to never enact what he had regretted. In an ecosystem that is as harsh as they come, the intervention happens in the form of a sustainable microsystem that lands itself on the Red Planet and gives birth to additional spaces around the mothership using architectural vocabulary that ties the technicality behind the engineering with the delight of pure aesthetics.

He experiences the space through the familiarity of his own spaceship where he had spent the past year traveling to a new planet. After it deploys, his new home now has data collection centers and drone pads in order to discover more and allow her the time to recover for when he returns to EARTH; only then will he -the Human- learn to



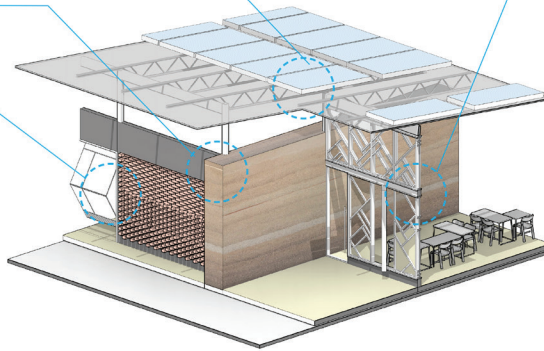
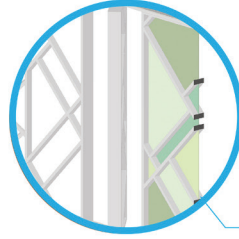
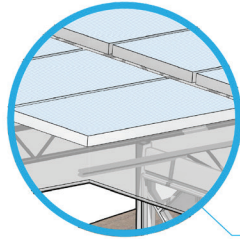
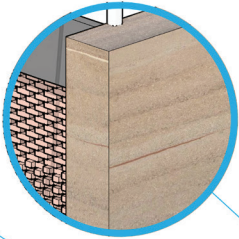
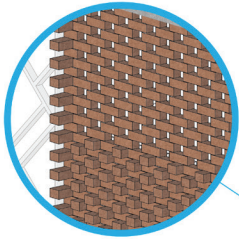
# CONSTRUCTION DIAGRAMS

**Brick Ventilated Walls:**  
Made from local bricks, gaps between bricks allow natural ventilation to cool down the school

**Rammed Earth Walls:**  
Built by the students and made from a compressed mixture of Local Earth, Cement, Water, Sand, Lime, small Gravel, and Recycled Glass, these walls are the main load bearing walls for the school

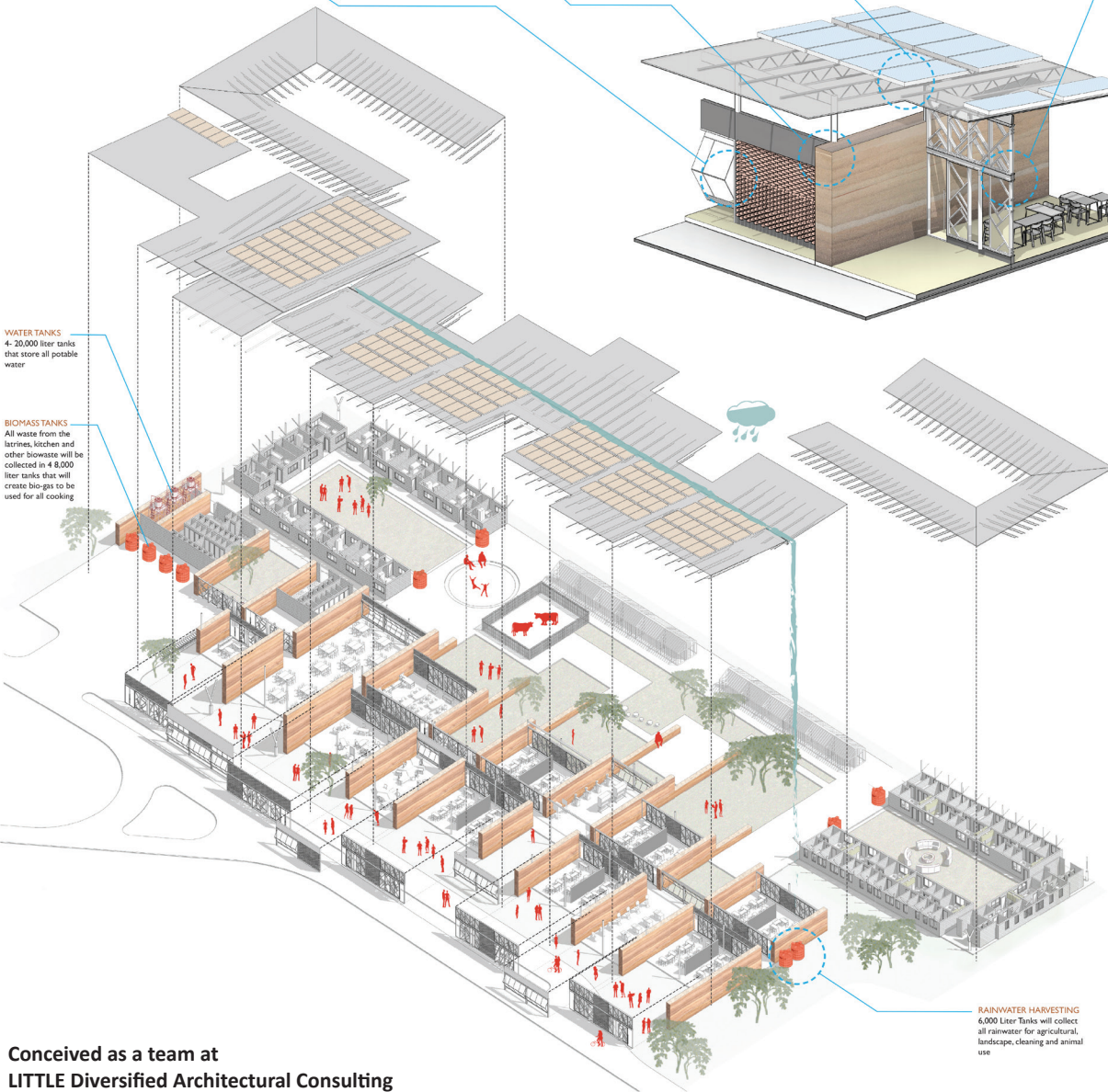
**Roof / Solar Photovoltaics:**  
Made out of corrugated metal over standard metal web joists, roofs overhang to provide shade and minimize heat in the learning and living areas  
We are allocating enough area to accommodate a 150 kWh PV Array to be installed overtime as needs arise

**Metal Screens / Glass Panels:**  
Manufactured by the students in the Circular Economy Labs, recycled metals will be welded into panels with local motifs. Recycled glass will be molten and cast into colorful panels to infill the metal panels



**WATER TANKS**  
4- 20,000 liter tanks that store all potable water

**BIOMASS TANKS**  
All waste from the latrines, kitchen and other bio-waste will be collected in 4 8,000 liter tanks that will create bio-gas to be used for all cooking

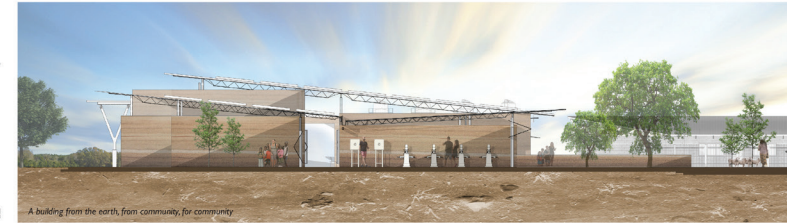


**RAINWATER HARVESTING**  
6,000 Liter Tanks will collect all rainwater for agricultural, landscape, cleaning and animal use

## STORYT



Keeping with the concept of the Circular Economy, High School Students will teach younger students about innovative learning processes



A building from the earth, from community, for community

## COURTYARD AND



Students, teachers, animals, community and landscape interact in a continuous Circular learning process

## CIRCULAR



Work by thinking by teaching the community. The school becomes a transparent institution, both physically and culturally.



# *TerraMod*

submission no. 6107



Conceived as a team at  
LITTLE Diversified Architectural Consulting

