

# MONICA BASBOUS

Architect, Researcher, Designer, Educator

## EDUCATION

### 2022-2023

Universitat Pompeu Fabra  
M.A. in International Studies on Media,  
Power and Difference

### 2015-2016

Ashkal Alwan, Home Workspace Program  
Fellow

### 2010-2012

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne  
MSc. Architecture

### 2006-2009

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne  
BSc. Architecture

## TRAINING

### 2018

Citizen participation in urban sustainable  
development, Tunisia  
Heinrich Boell Stiftung

### 2016

Centering the periphery, Hungary  
Central European University

## SKILLS

Native speaker: Arabic  
Written/spoken fluently: English, French  
Written/spoken: Spanish

CAD: Autocad, Rhinoceros, QGIS  
Adobe: Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop,  
Premiere Pro  
Microsoft Office, Google Suite

Translation, Illustration, Web Design

## AWARDS

Top 5 GPAs in Masters Cycle, 2012  
(École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne)

Best of Architecture Prize, 2010-2011  
for "Sybiogenesis" (Archizoom)

Best overall & best signpost project, 2008  
for "Overflow" (London Festival of  
Architecture) with ALICE Lab

## INTERESTS

Spatial theory, map-making, information  
design, data analysis and visualization,  
methodologies of knowledge production,  
media culture.

## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

### MAPPING & DATA VISUALIZATION CONSULTANT

#### Synaps, Beirut

NOV 2022 - now

Building and maintaining a GIS database for environmental data in the Mediterranean; Generating, designing, branding, and adapting cartographic and visual outputs for dissemination.

### CO-DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

#### Beirut Art Center

FEB 2022 - DEC 2022

Curating, proposing and implementing public programs and exhibitions for the Beirut Art Center Library, Auditorium and Rooftop community garden.

### MAPPING & DATA VISUALIZATION CONSULTANT

#### Beirut Urban Lab, American University of Beirut

SEP 2021 - JUL 2022

Designed and developed the Precarious Lives interface, including editorial design, data visualization, and GIS-based cartography.

### FOUNDING & MANAGING PARTNER

#### Qorras, Beirut

JAN 2017 - NOW

Leading on visual design, co-leading on the design and implementation of collaborative knowledge production methodologies, project manager and advisor. [www.qorras.com](http://www.qorras.com)

### INSTRUCTOR

#### Basic Design - American University of Beirut

SEP 2021 - JAN 2022

Introductory studio course taught to first year students in architecture and graphic design.

JAN 2021 - JUL 2021

JAN 2017 - JUL 2019

#### Architectural Design - Lebanese American University, Byblos

Co-leading final year architectural design studios under thematic of affordability and inclusivity in cities.

### JUNIOR PARTNER, LEAD RESEARCHER & DESIGNER

#### Public Works Studio, Beirut

NOV 2016 - JUL 2020

Contributed to setting & implementing the studio's vision, mission and strategic plan. Planned and executed a range of research and design projects focusing on housing, urban planning and public space. Led on strategizing and producing media campaigns on urban and public issues. Sat on the Steering Committees of two international competitions organized by the Studio. Represented the Studio in public forums and talks. [www.publicworksstudio.com](http://www.publicworksstudio.com)

#### Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut

JUN 2016 - JUL 2017

Produced the data analysis, visualization and cartography for the editors' contributions in the publication: Refugees As City-Makers.

## SELECTED LECTURES, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS

### 2020-2021

- ENQA "Futures beyond crisis" workshop (panelist)
- "Too slow, too quick, too small, too big" mapping workshop, Home Workspace Program (instructor)
- "Circuits of Production, Crisis and Revolt: The environment and capital in the MENA" workshop (panelist)
- "Urban Struggles in the Arab Region" Webinar (co-organizer with Public Works Studio, moderator)

### 2018-2019

- "Ideas for the city" public forum, Architects for Change, Beirut, Lebanon (moderator)
- Global Shapers, Tripoli, Lebanon (speaker)
- "Vulnerability, Infrastructure, and Displacement" Symposium, University College London, (paper co-author)
- MAS Urban Design, ETHZ, Switzerland (guest juror)
- "City-Street 3", NDU, Lebanon (discussant)
- "Urbanism and social justice", Université de Carthage & Legal Agenda, Tunisia (speaker)

- "Master-Planning in Lebanon", Dar el Nimer, Lebanon (co-organizer with Public Works Studio, speaker)
- Landscape Architecture Department, Lebanese University (guest lecturer - with Public Works Studio)
- Faculty of Law, Université Saint-Joseph Lebanon (guest lecturer - with Public Works Studio)

### 2016-2017

- "Towards regional women's archives in the MENA", American University of Beirut (panelist)
- "Where is Law?" Salon arabe, Sursock museum (speaker)
- Urbanism intitute, Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (guest lecturer)
- "Remapping Karantina", Beirut Design Week (instructor)

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### 2024

- "And If I Leave." In *Weird Economies*.

### 2023

- "The Violence of Extractive Urbanization: Dying to Live in Lebanon." In *Middle East Critique*. DOI: 10.1080/19436149.2023.2245295
- "Flotsam" In *Journal Makan*.

### 2021

- "From the Rubble of Beirut" in *Architectural Review*, June issue, 2021

### 2020

- "Because the world will end again – preliminaries for a futural spatial practice" in *Perpetual Postponement* (Ashkal Alwan, Beirut)
- "The Cement Sector in Lebanon: Land and Residents Held Hostage by Capital" (arabic) in *Beyond Cement* (Public Works Studio, Beirut)
- *Beyond Cement* (co-editor with Public Works Studio, Beirut)

### 2019

- "Housing, displacement and the elderly: intersectional spatial narratives from Tareek el Jdeede, Beirut" in Development Planning Unit - UCL Blog (University College London); in *Jadaliyya*
- "Reading the Quarries map in Lebanon" in *Jadaliyya* (online)
- "Reading the Quarries map in Lebanon" in *Legal Agenda* issue 58 (arabic) (Beirut)
- *Think Housing* (co-editor with Public Works Studio, Beirut)

### 2018

- "On the Mappability of Things" – in *Refugees as City-Makers*, ed. M. Fawaz, A. Gharbieh, M. Harb, D. Salamé, Beirut (AUB, Issam Fares Institute) – co-author with Ahmad Gharbieh
- "Master Planning In Lebanon: Manufacturing Landscapes Of Inequality" in *The Place that Remains*, (Lebanese American University, Beirut) – co-author with Abir Saksouk and Nadine Bekdache
- *Ras Beirut: Housing Narratives in the City* (co-author, co-editor with Public Works Studio, Beirut)
- *Camp Radio* (co-editor with Public Works Studio, Beirut)

### 2017

- "Playing Beirut" in *Harvard Design Magazine Seventeen* no.44 (co-author with Public Works Studio)

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

### 2024

- Frames of Rebellion (Sparewheel, Brussels)

### 2023-2024

- Intimate Garden Scene (in Beirut) (Ashkal Alwan in Sursock Museum, Beirut)

### 2023

- On Rooftops and Under the Ground (Temporary Art Platform, Beirut)

### 2022

- L'heure d'hiver Beirut (Cinema Galleries, Brussels)

### 2021

- But These Forms Need to Be Created (Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center, Ramallah)

- Deep City: Climate Crisis, Democracy and the Digital (international LATSIS symposium, EPFL)

### 2019

- Sharjah Architecture Triennale 2019: Rights of Future Generations (with Public Works Studio)

### 2018

- Forum on Cities and Designers (Beirut Design Week)

### 2017

- Exposure 8: Metabolisms (Beirut Art Center)

### 2016

- Zoukak Sidewalks Festival (Beirut)
- HWP Open Studios (Ashkal Alwan, Beirut)
- Creative Physics group exhibition (Station, Beirut)