

Bridging between the Contemporary and the Vernacular architecture

By :Omeima Khidir

Abstract

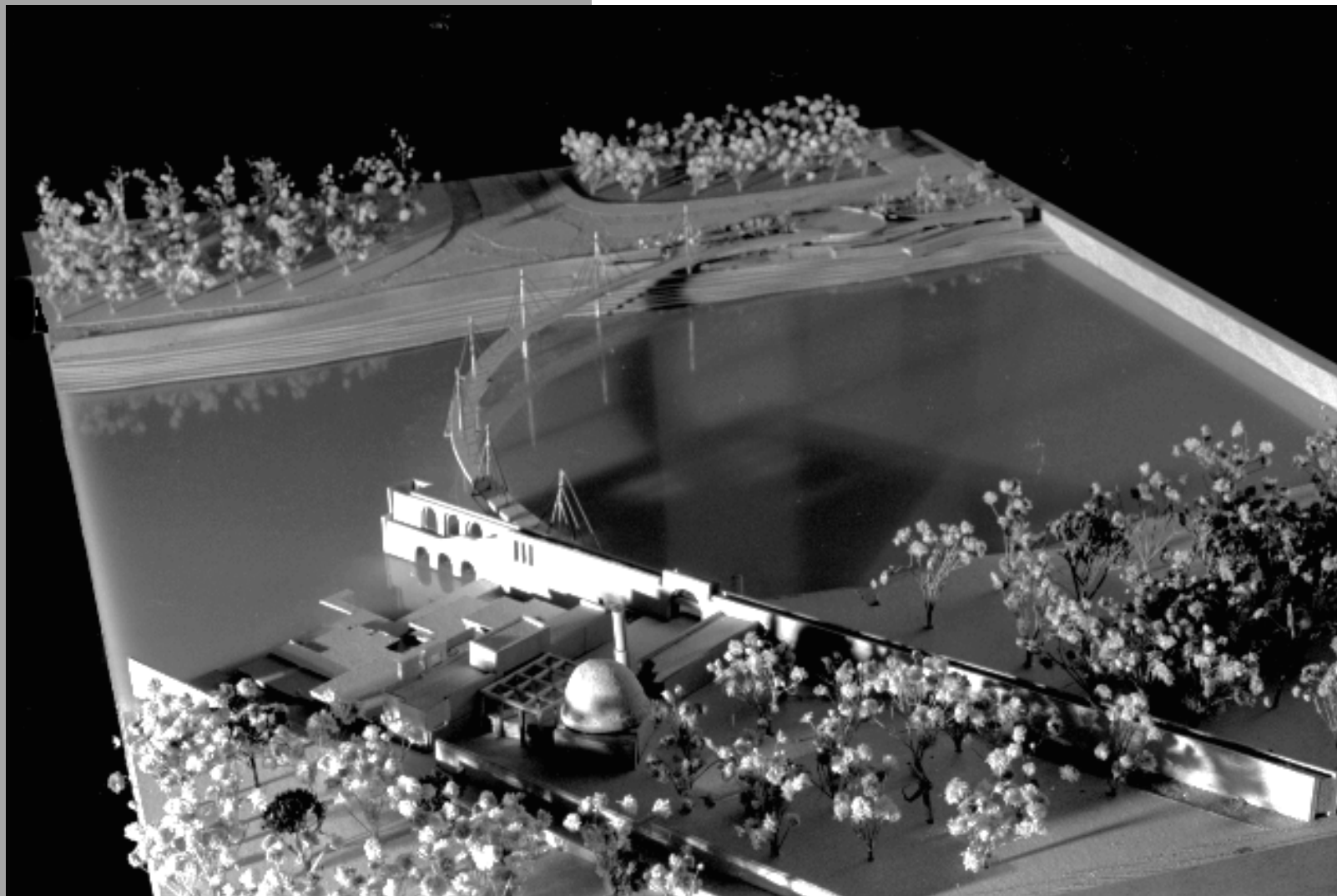
Tuti is an island at the confluence of the Blue and White Nile rivers in Khartoum city, the capital of Sudan.

The intention of this thesis is to design a bridge on the Blue Nile which links the contemporary world of Khartoum, the urban conurbation, to the Vernacular world of Tuti Island, the rural settlement. In addition, the project aims to provide a space that welcomes the bridge and where the two worlds meet.

It is also intended to provide the island with landmarks to be used as point of reference. These landmarks form an integral part of the main theme running through the design from the edge of the Island to the center. This theme incorporates the essential design elements of the Islamic traditional house, which are the courtyard (representing the core of the house), scattered rooms which form the courtyard, and the wall that encloses the house.

These landmarks are: the edge site, which represents the first land mark housing a threshold, a wall enclosing a courtyard, a market and the mosque which is the predominant building; the library, the public plaza, the center plaza that includes renovated buildings.

The end result would be the linking of Khartoum city to the center of Tuti Island, thus merging the fast life of the contemporary world of the city with the quite and settled world (the Vernacular) of Tuti Island.



Acknowledgements

It is always the hope of everyone of us to find great personal satisfaction in one's chosen career or vocation. This is especially true when it involves creating or designing a project which will inevitably express part of one's self, of one's culture and spiritual heritage. The journey from the banks of the Nile to Virginia Tech has been a long and interesting process, and it is especially gratifying to see the fruition of one's hopes and dreams. I would like therefore to thank all those who have contributed in this very personal process, first and foremost to Almighty God for his blessing and guidance, and the people of Tuti, whose lives I hope will only be made better by my ideas should they ever see the light of day.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude all the people who have helped me complete this thesis, not only for their help but also for their believe in me which made all the difference.

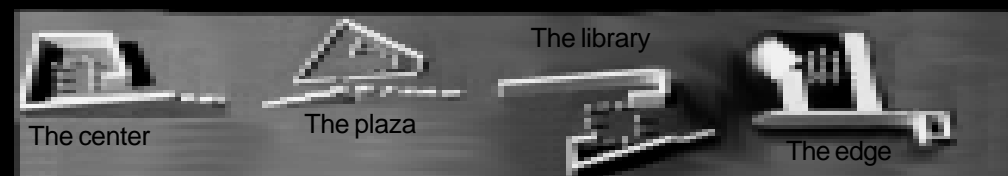
Grateful thanks are due to my committee, Susan Piedmont-Palladino, Marco Frascari, Jaan Holt and Ron Kagawa, for their encouragement, guidance and friendly council. My thanks and gratitude to those who provided me with valuable literature from Sudan, Dr. E.A. Adam of the National research center, Khartoum, Sudan, Professor A. A. Agib, director of the Agib Group Consultant Engineering, Khartoum, Sudan, Dr. M.A.Osman, director building and road research institute, University of Khartoum, and Dr. Richard A. Lobbon, Department of Anthropology, program of African and Afro-American studies.

I will always be deeply in debited to my wonderful parents, especially my father for his valiant efforts to obtain information from obscure and different sources, and for their encouragement and belief in me. Especial thanks for my sister Amel and her Husband Mamoon for lending a hand whenever needed and being my home away from home. To my brothers, Amin for his endurance and photographic and diplomatic skills, and Osama for his support and encouragements. My best friends, Muna and Wafaa, I would data they provided from Sudan, and their continuous encouragement and stimulating discussions I had with them and my colleague and friends Annette, Maryse, Christie, Carrie, and Gayll, which always helped me to remain focused.

Special thanks for Mohammed Ali for his support all along and help putting the book together and lending me his computer to finish the book.

Last but not least, my best friend whose with his great help and encouragement I was able to complete the thesis and the book, my friend Sadig Muhallab.

The Passage



To my Father, Mother, Sister, Brothers and Prof. and Mrs. C.V. Kanan for their support throughout the time of my education and who spend no effort to enable me to be what I could be...