



TECHNISCHE  
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WIEN

## DIPLOMARBEIT

### **Transformation of the mined-area in “Nusaybin-Al Qamishli Border” : Master Plan Proposal as an Economic Corridor, “Agri-Industry Zone”**

ausgeführt zum Zwecke der Erlangung des akademischen Grades  
eines Diplom-Ingenieurs  
unter der Leitung

**O.Univ.Prof.Dipl.-Ing. William Alsop**

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253/4 Hochbau und Entwerfen

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Fakultät für Architektur und Raumplanung

von

**Mehmet Fatih Bölük**  
**0727908**

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## Abstract

Country borders not only have potential impacts on climate and sustainability at macro level but also represent a dynamic periphery for a city that can develop and evolve. The parameters such as political, economic, social conditions, social classes, topography, contact with nature and countryside result in different border conditions. These hybrid contact areas, sometimes viewed as endpoints or geographical peripheries in the past, are now considered as new centres and laboratories of social and political change. It is accepted that border zones are exclusive and privileged places to observe the complex clustering of actors, new social, territorial and political configurations as well as different alternatives of negotiations and regulations shaped dynamically from above or below.

Do these days when the issues of immigration and border control are discussed with a provocative language that affirms war around the world bring into question whether these zones, which are produced by the state, can be designed?

In the area between Nusaybin and Kamışlı border in particular, this thesis proposes an urban pattern where cities are united without borders, transportation network and urban services are evenly distributed to the sub-regions as well as economic corridors / regions where both sides enjoy equal employment opportunities.

Die Grenzen eines Landes haben einerseits potentielle Wirkung auf das Klima und die Nachhaltigkeit auf Makroskala, vertreten jedoch andererseits eine flexible Wand, die sich fortentwickeln und umwandeln kann. Parameter wie politische, ökonomische und soziale Konditionen, gesellschaftliche Klassen, Topographie und der Kontakt mit Natur und Land entwickeln verschiedene Grenzenverhältnisse. Diese hybriden Kontaktzonen, die in der Vergangenheit auch zeitweise als Spitzenpunkt und geographische Wände betrachtet wurden, stellen heute die neuen Zentren und Labore der gesellschaftlichen und politischen Umwandlung dar. Grenzenregionen gelten als besondere und privilegierte Bereiche, wo man die komplizierte Aggregation der Akteure, territoriale und politische Konfigurationen, verschiedene Verhandlungs- und Bearbeitungsmöglichkeiten, die durch obere und untere Dynamiken geformt werden, beobachten kann.

Und, kann man denn heutzutage, wo die Thematik Einwanderung und Grenzkontrolle weltweit sehr oft mit einer kriegsaffirmativen und provokativen Sprache diskutiert wird, zur Diskussion bringen, ob die durch den Staat hergestellten Grenzregionen gestaltet werden können oder nicht?

In diese These wird im Grenzbereich zwischen Nusaybin und Kamışlı die Gestaltung von ökonomischen Korridors/Regionen vorgeschlagen, wo die Städte ohne Grenzen miteinander verbunden werden, eine Großstadt, in der das Verkehrsnetz, städtische Dienstleistungen gleichwertig in den unteren Regionen verteilt werden und auch beide Seiten gleichwertige Arbeitsmöglichkeiten erreichen können.

First of all, I thank Allah, the almighty, for giving me the strength to carry  
on this project.

I would like to thank my tutor Prof. William Alsop for his guidance and  
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I am thankful to all the people with whom I have discussed the thesis  
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I am especially grateful to my mother, my father, my mother-in-law, my  
brothers and sisters.

And finally and the biggest thanks to my love, my best friend Tuba and my  
little boy Merdem.

This master thesis consist of 2 parts:

Part 1: It is a masterplan design as an economic corridor for a transformation of the mined-area in "Nusaybin - Al Qamishli Border", developed together with my study collage H.Tuba Bölük. The second part is developed individually.

Part 2: Agri- Industry Zone

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Can the borders be designed?
- 1.2. What is border?
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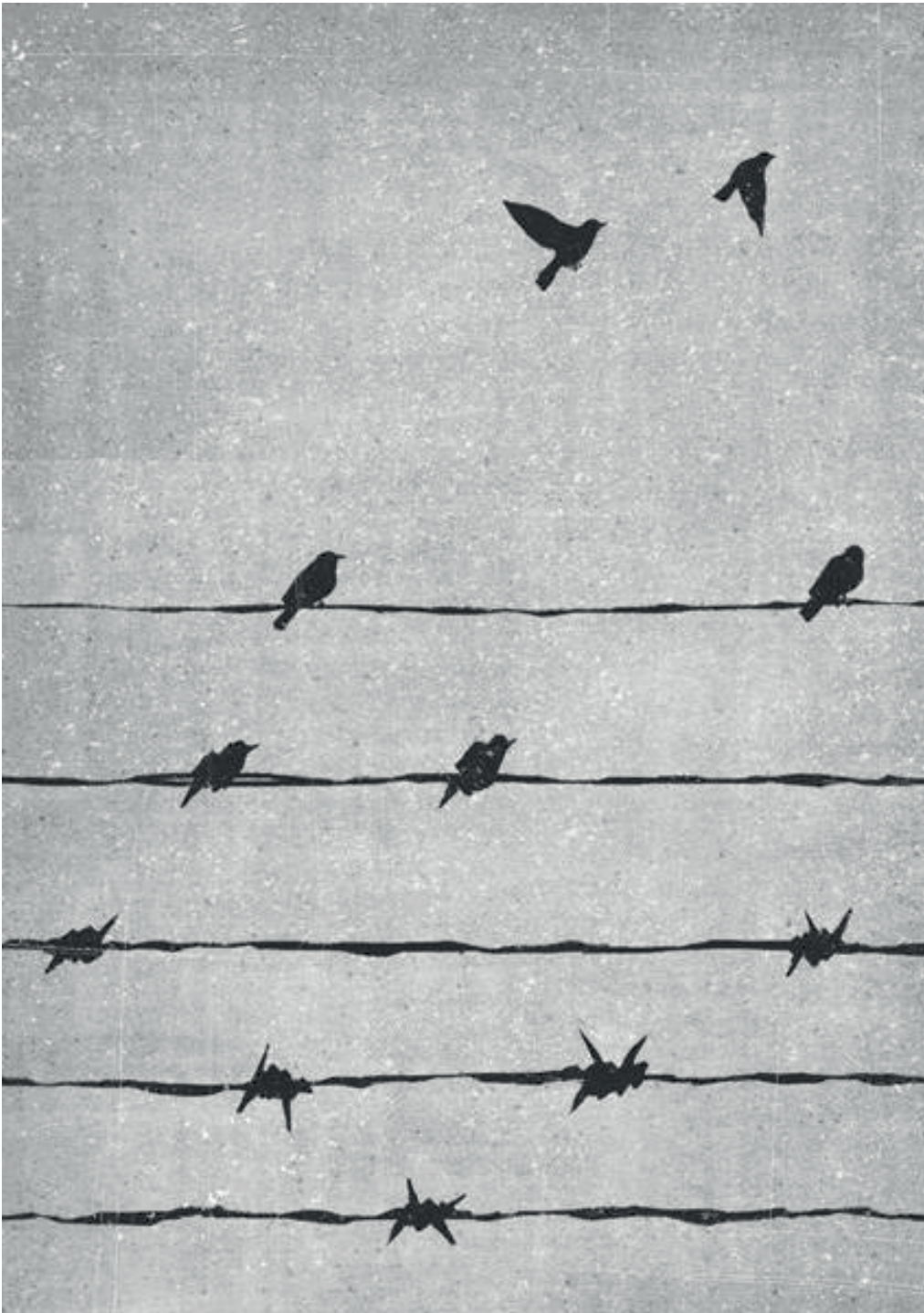
*“There was a wall. It did not look important. It was built of uncut rocks roughly mortared. An adult could look right over it, and even a child could climb it. Where it crossed the roadway, instead of having a gate it degenerated into mere geometry, a line, an idea of boundary. But the idea was real. It was important. For seven generations there had been nothing in the world more important than that wall. Like all walls it was ambiguous, two-faced. What was inside it and what was outside it depended upon which side of it you were on.”*

Ursula Le Guin – The Dispossed

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION



1.1 CAN THE BORDER ZONES BE DESIGNED?





Country borders not only have potential impacts on climate and sustainability at macro level but also represent a dynamic periphery for a city that can develop and evolve. The parameters such as political, economic, social conditions, social classes, topography, contact with nature and countryside result in different border conditions. These hybrid contact areas, sometimes viewed as endpoints or geographical peripheries in the past, are now considered as new centres and laboratories of social and political change. It is accepted that border zones are exclusive and privileged places to observe the complex clustering of actors, new social, territorial and political configurations as well as different alternatives of negotiations and regulations shaped dynamically from above or below. (1)

Do these days when the issues of immigration and border control are discussed with a provocative language that affirms war around the world bring into question whether these zones, which are produced by the state, can be designed? In the particular case of the border between Nusaybin and Kamışlı, it can be foreseen that this area will allow a wide variety of uses after the buffer zone is cleared off mines. It is clear that the urban environment where such practises are employed will be open to the design of borders. However, in today's conjuncture, the gates that are closed down by security threats, the practises such as the walls being erected, are far from the urban planning concept mentioned here. Ironically, however, these practices, which are conceived in everyday life in response to discursive border security and seriousness, are observable.

For instance, in spring when the region defined as the buffer zone turns green, cattle grazes, kids fly their kites and young people play football. In the tea garden adjoining the buffer zone, it is observed that people sit against the border, a few landholders cultivate their gardens on the border zone and some other people walk along the river flowing upwards beyond the border. Ultimately, in daily life the border no longer seems to be a symbol of state sovereignty and part of the threat of 'terror'. For that reason, it may be possible to imagine an urban design in which border zones are removed from transcendental zones and secularized -despite the current state of emergency-

In the area between Nusaybin and Kamışlı border in particular, this thesis proposes an urban pattern where cities are united without borders, transportation network and urban services are evenly distributed to the sub-regions as well as economic corridors / regions where both sides enjoy equal employment opportunities.



## 1.2. WHAT IS BORDER?

border: a line separating two countries, administrative divisions, or other areas

Border is a symptom, a dilemma of territorial, political, juridical, social, cultural, economic, moral, ecological, and urban disequilibrium. (2) We live in a world of borders, barriers and walls. They are everywhere and exist at every level of our lives. The multiple borders that surround us, from clothing to buildings to national borders. They are subtle and ubiquitous protagonists in the poetics of daily life. They are among the most fundamental instrument in modulating the logistics of space, more specifically what is inside and outside, delineating what is included and excluded. They absorb the desires that exist on the margins of the legal and the possible.



### 1.3. Types of Borders:

The literature on borders focuses generally on political and military issues. Cultural groups have always occupied specific space. Sometimes different groups tolerated each other in the same space when they were not competing for the same natural resources. But sooner or later, violent conflicts over the same natural resources, e.g., water sources or grazing lands, resulted in territorial claims. For most of human history, groups did not need nor did they have the means to enforce rigid, permanent borders. In 1648 the Treaty of Westphalia, by recognizing the territorial sovereignty of 300 states in Europe, marked the consolidation of the concept of the state as we know it today. (3)

Borders separate places from each other, creating barriers between places, and are established and maintained by nation-state enforcements. In their earliest forms, borders were the edges of highly organized political empires; later, they became the expressions of centrally-organized nation-states. In all cases, the police power of states were/are critical to the creation and maintenance of borders. Throughout history, borders ranged from controlled but otherwise open to restricted to highly fortified and even militarized and, thus borders effectively close off areas in one way or another. Regardless of which types of borders, borders are exclusionary, whereas boundaries fundamentally only differentiate.

Political territorial borders have led to production of numerous stories of separation, loss, border-crossings, smuggling, banditry, yearning and death in the everyday life of border people.

Based on the review of the literature in political geography and international relations, and field work on international borders conducted over the last 40 years, international borders are classified into three major types as used by nation-states around the world: open, controlled, and fortified. (4)

In addition, fortified borders come in four sub-types:

**Fenced, fenced and walled, walled, and militarized borders.**

### Open Borders

The European Union is the best known region of the world where borders are completely open between countries that signed the Schengen Agreement of 1985: no passports, visas, and border inspections are required any more, although technically national identity cards are required. The Schengen rules were absorbed into the European Union (EU) in 1999. Twenty-eight countries, including all European Union (EU) countries (except Ireland and United Kingdom), and three non-EU members (Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland) have signed the Schengen Agreement. However, only 15 countries have implemented the common border control and visa provisions. (5)

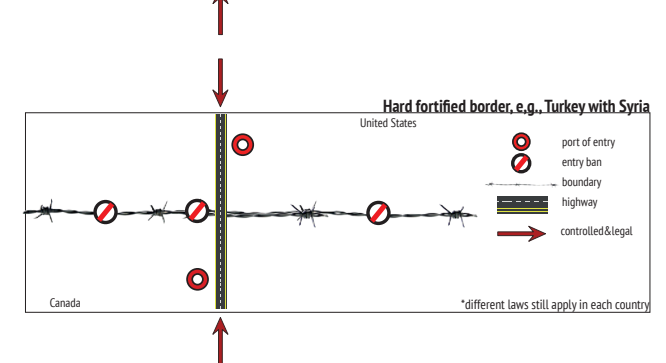
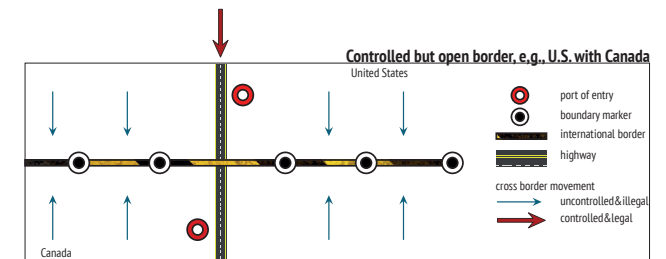
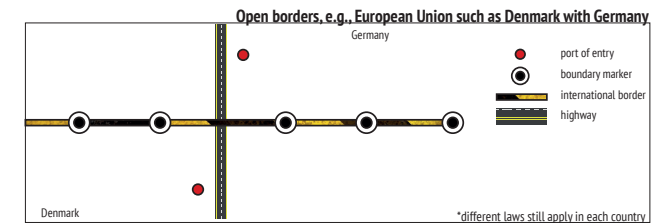
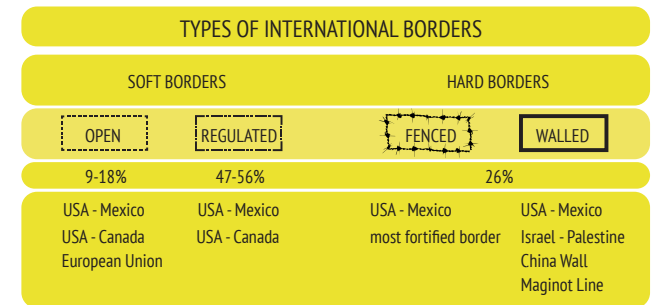
### Controlled Borders

The most common form of borders today are controlled ones. Only at border crossing points are people and goods checked for national immigration and custom rules. Passports, and sometimes visas, are required, but for most of the length of controlled borders no material barriers, such as wire fences, and therefore no border crossing controls are in effect. In other words, except for heavy trucks, people and goods can easily move across most of the length of these borders, albeit illegally! (6)

### Hard Fortified Borders

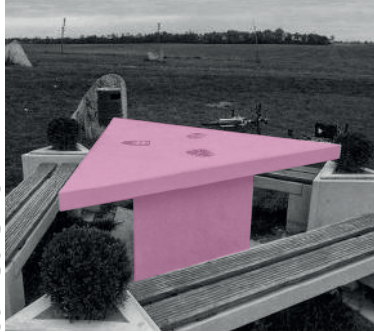
Fortified borders were created for military and, sometimes, violent encounters with other countries or cultural groups (Hadrian's Wall, Korean DMZ, Israel-Palestine Wall, Western Sahara Berm), but more commonly for immigration and economic reasons (e.g., U.S.-Mexico, India-Bangladesh, Iron Curtain -- although initially for military purposes). Of the about 195 international land borders, only 42 were/are fortified, from wired fences to militarized. And 57 percent of these fortified borders today are used exclusively for border control of illegal immigration, smuggling products, drug trafficking, and terrorists, rather than for military purposes.

Today, the 145 land-based nation-states around the world (excluding the 50 island countries, or 26 percent of the 195 countries in the world) employ three major international border types: 15-28 countries (8-14 percent) have open borders; 88-75 countries (45-39 percent) have regulated or controlled borders; and 42 countries (22 percent) had/have fortified borders. (7)



SOFT BORDERS

AUSTRIA - SLOVAKIA - HUNGARY



AUSTRIA - GERMANY



LATVIA - ESTONIA



SWEDEN - NORWAY



NETHERLAND - BELGIUM

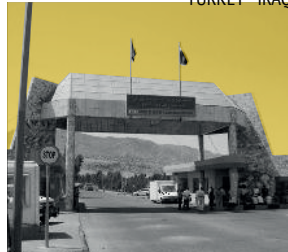


CONTROLLED BORDERS

BRAZIL - ARGENTINA - PARAGUAY



TURKEY - IRAQ



MEXICO - USA



CANADA - USA

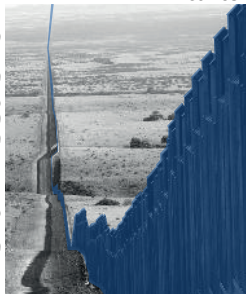


SAN DIEGO - TIJUANA

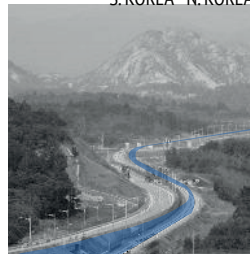


HARD FORTIFIED BORDERS

MEXICO - USA



S. KOREA - N. KOREA



PALESTINA - ISRAEL



SAUDI ARABIA - IRAQ



ISRAEL - JORDAN



INDIA - PAKISTAN



### In-Between Borders: Protected Zone

Border zones are areas near borders that have special restrictions to movement. Governments may forbid unauthorized entry to border zones and restrict property ownership in the area. Between hostile states, the border zone can be heavily militarized with mine fields, barbed wire and watch-towers. Some border zones are designed to prevent illegal immigration, and do not have many restrictions but may operate checkpoints within the border zone to check immigration status. In most places, a border vista is usually included and/or required. (8)

#### 1.4. Types of Border Zones:

##### Buffer Zone

A buffer zone is generally a zonal area that lies between two or more other areas (often, but not necessarily, countries), but depending on the type of buffer zone, the reason for it may be to segregate regions or to conjoin them. Common types of buffer zones are demilitarized zones, border zones and certain restrictive easement zones and green belts. (9) The zones function specifically monitored by border patrols in order to prevent illegal entry. Restricting entry aids in pinpointing illegal intruders.

Buffer zones have various purposes, political or otherwise. They can be set up to prevent violence, protect the environment, protect residential and commercial zones from industrial accidents or natural disasters, keep prisoners intent on escaping from rapidly acquiring hostages or a hiding place, and have uses in several other scenarios. Buffer zones often result in large uninhabited regions which are themselves noteworthy in many increasingly developed or crowded parts of the world.

##### Demilitarized Zone

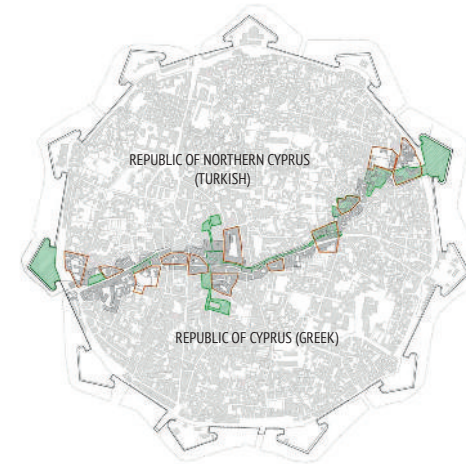
A demilitarized zone, DMZ or DZ is an area in which treaties or agreements between nations, military powers or contending groups forbid military installations, activities or personnel. A DMZ often lies along an established frontier or boundary between two or more military powers or alliances. (10)

##### Safety Zone (Safe Haven)

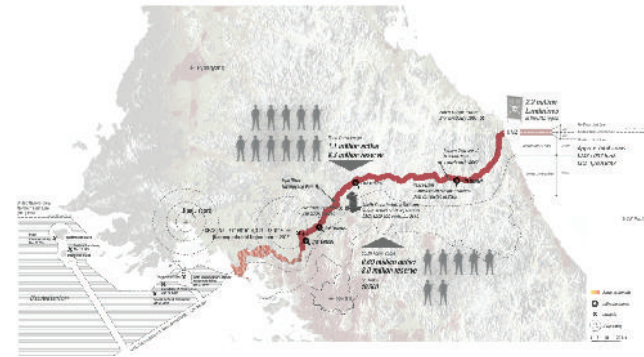
##### No-fly Zone

A no-fly zone (or no-flight zone) (NFZ) is a territory or an area over which aircraft are not permitted to fly. Such zones are usually set up in a military context, somewhat like a demilitarized zone in the sky, and usually prohibit military aircraft of a belligerent power from operating in the region. Aircraft that break the no-fly zone may be shot down, depending on the terms of the NFZ. (11)

GREEN BELT- BUFFER ZONE  
BETWEEN NORTHERN and SOUTHERN CYPRUS

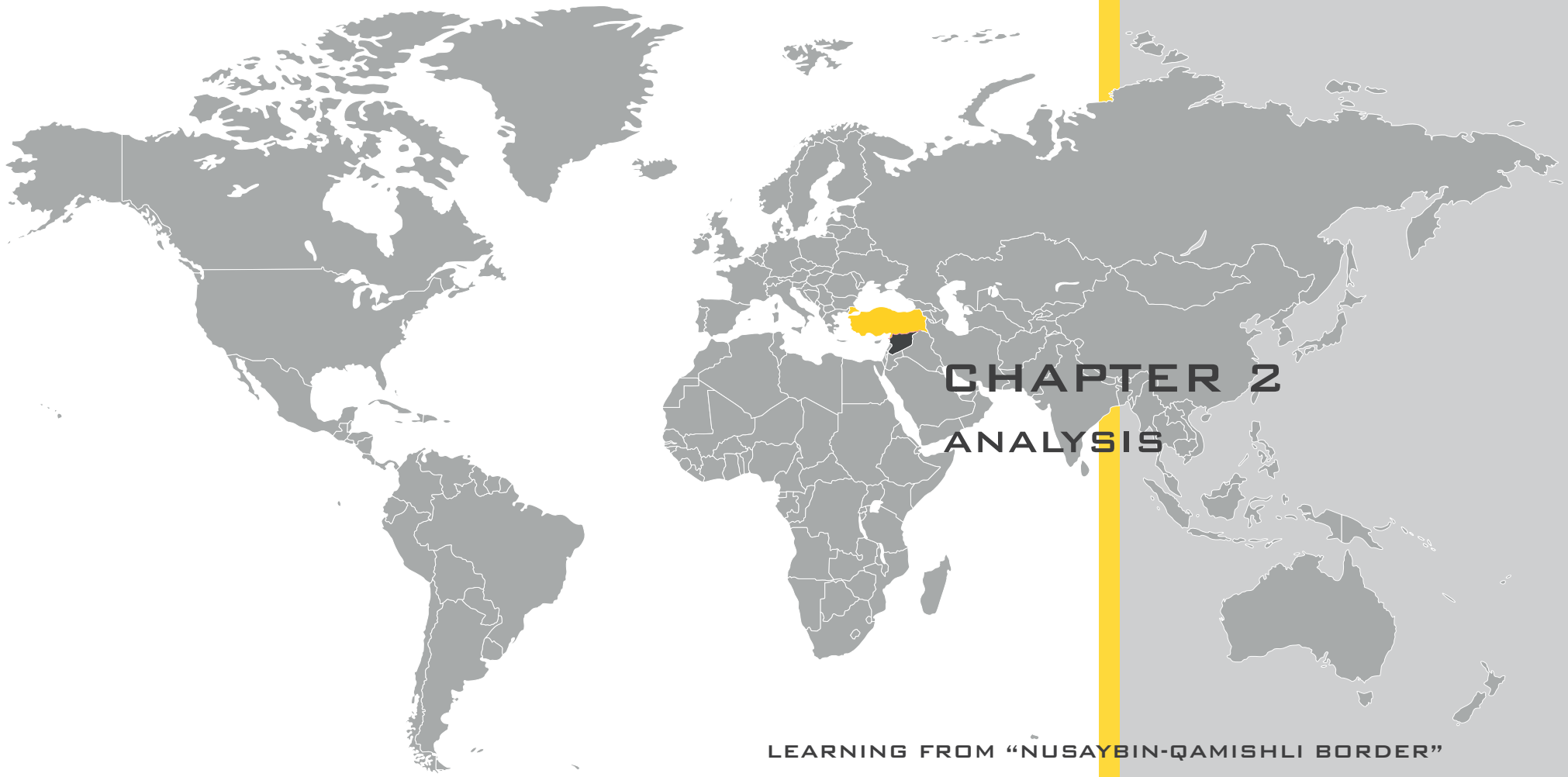
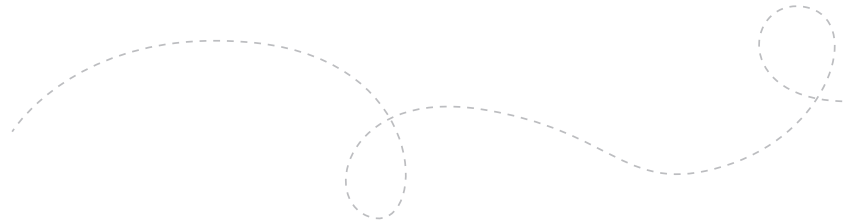


DEMILITARIZED ZONE  
BETWEEN SOUTH and NORTH KOREA



SAFETY ZONE: SREBRENICA





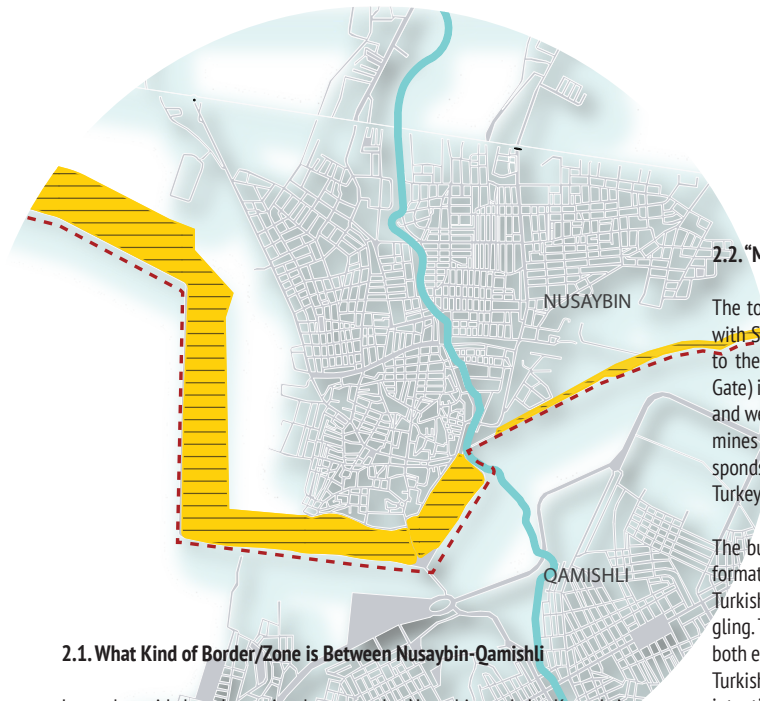
# CHAPTER 2

## ANALYSIS

LEARNING FROM “NUSAYBIN-QAMISHLI BORDER”







### 2.1. What Kind of Border/Zone is Between Nusaybin-Qamishli

It can be said that the region between the Nusaybin and the Kamishi is defined in two different ways, as the "safety zone and buffer zone". Both the buffer zone and the safety zone correspond to places where there is a ceasefire in case of a conflict, and where there is a roof for asylum seekers fleeing war, in terms international legal terminology. The safety zone corresponds to areas of international law that are more important and accepted by the UN as such. (For the safety zone, please refer to the UN's resolutions on Rwanda) But for the status of the safety zone, this top-level situation (because the UN sends its aid, peace troops, etc. if requested.) causes the confused use of the concept in everyday politics and discourse.

Although the Kurdish side calls it a safety zone, there is no resolution that the UN declared a safety zone for this area. Here, only that the Kurdish side names the region in this way. Safety zone description is a preferred concept for gaining international legitimacy or recognition. As for the Turkish government, it is not accepted that this is a safety zone. However, judging from international legal principles, it is not a safety zone as approved by the UN, nor can it be defined as a buffer zone, nor is it established as a buffer zone. This area can be called as the "Turkish Side Buffer Zone" which is formed by the Turkish side under its own security terms, and has a garrison character in practice. This area, which was expropriated from the owners of Turkish border villages, is under the control of Turkey. The interesting thing is that Syria does not maintain border security here.

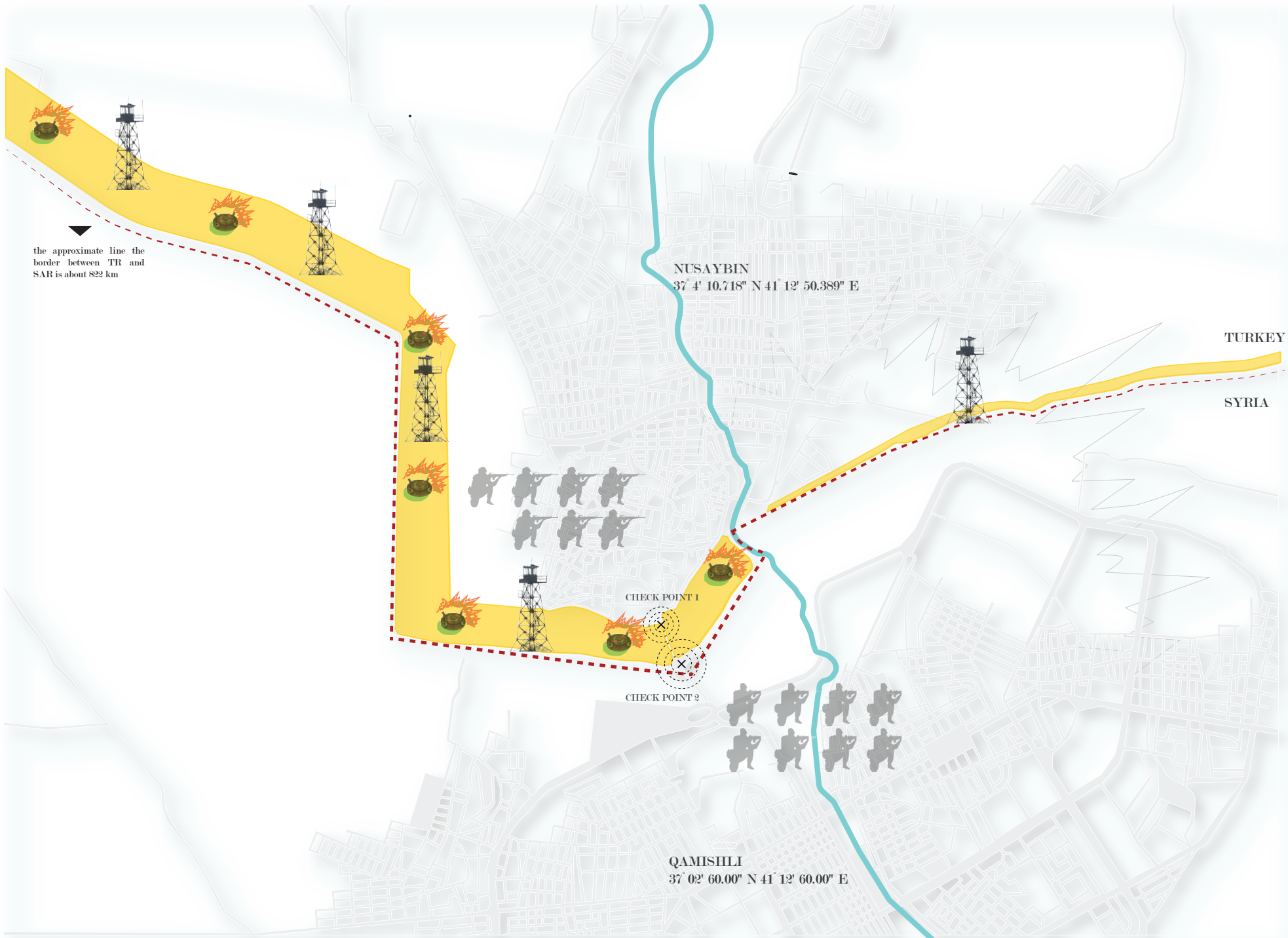
### 2.2. "Mined Area": Buffer Zone, where the borderline disappears

The total length of this "intervening area", which is formed on the border with Syria and Turkey, reaches 900 km and is narrowing from time to time to the extent adjacent to the border. At some points (Öncüpınar Border Gate) it reaches to 1200 meters. The total area is equivalent to 17,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and we can call it an area of approximately 2 Cyprus islands. The number of mines found to be buried on the Syrian border is 660.000, which corresponds to about two thirds of the total number of mines laid on the soil in Turkey. (12)

The buffer zone dates back to 1954. In fact, the situation that caused the formation of the zone is the landing it with antipersonnel mines by the Turkish government to prevent unauthorized border crossing and smuggling. The reason for using antipersonnel mines is that this type of mine is both easy to place and cause to suffer more than killing. In 1956, killing two Turkish customs officers by a group of smugglers on the border fired the intention of Turkey to intervene in the region. The area was mined again in 1984 and 1990. The reason for taking new measures in the region and increase in mine density at the border during that period was that it marked the upheaval of an organization, the real name of which is Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), and was first seen in Iraq and known as a terrorist organization for Turkey,

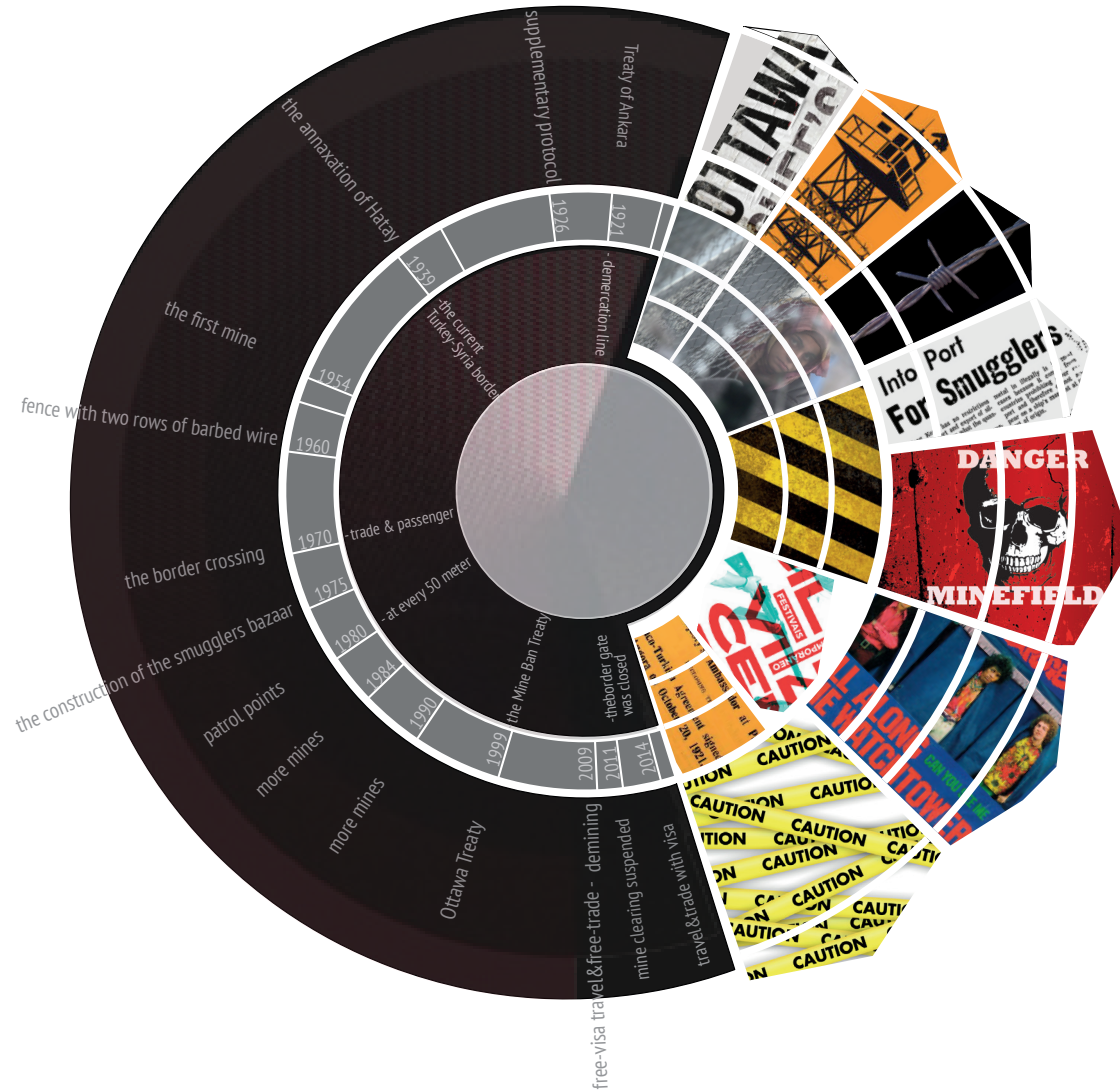
With the obligation of law, adopted by the Parliament, as a requirement of Ottawa Convention for Turkey to be party to it (entered into force on 1 March 1999), the work of cleanup of mines on the border of Turkey and Syria was tendered in 2009. The company that was going to undertake the work had to finish the job within 5 years, but the fact that it could do the agricultural business for 44 years was causing a controversy at that time. Because of the expropriation of land in time, former owners of the lands demanded that the land be given to them again because of the availability of arable land. Moreover, the fact that the companies that won the tender could also be from foreigners was in contradiction with the history of the border security policy of Turkey. The tender was canceled and the work of clearing the region from mines was transferred to the Ministry of National Defense, and a part of it was cleaned in 2011 by the Turkish Armed Forces Units, by the ministry's transfer of authority to provincial governments. The internal turmoil in Syria during this period and the tension of political relations between Turkey and Syria made the mine clearing activity more difficult and the cleaning work was suspended.





### TIMELINE OF NUSAYBIN-QAMISHLI BORDER

- 1921\_ Treaty of Ankara\_ demercation line
- 1926\_ supplementary protocol
- 1939\_ the annexation of Hatay\_ the current Turkey-Syria border
- 1954\_ the first mine
- 1960\_ fence with two rows of barbed wire
- 1970\_ the border crossing\_ trade&passenger
- 1975\_ the costruction of the smugglers bazaar
- 1980\_ patrol points\_ at every 50 meter
- 1984\_ more mines
- 1990\_ more mines
- 1999\_ Ottawa Treaty\_ the Mine Ban Treaty
- 2009\_ free-visa travel&free-trade\_ demining
- 2011\_ mine cleaning suspended
- 2014\_ travel&trade with visa



### 2.3. Timeline of Nusaybin-Qamishli Border

#### 1928 - 1954

The most important feature that separates the period from others is that the borderline is vaguely known. In this period, the kinship scheme operates in the usual way and trade is mostly performed among relatives. The border is only determined by a wire mesh. (13) By 1954, when the minefield was to be formed, the border would not interfere with relations and trade between the border settlements, and would not function as a physical barrier, and would continue to be permeable to daylight. The scarcity suffered by the country after World War II caused the spread of "smuggling", which was the only economic structure of border regions. In 1954, the Adnan Menderes Government created a mined zone within the Turkish border with the aim of preventing unauthorized cross-border transit and illegal trade. (14) In this period, the Turkish Republic intervened to the border areas by confiscating the land of property owners living in the border regions of Turkey due to the changing reasons (conflict, tension, expansion of buffer zones, security, etc.) in different places and times.

#### 1954 - 1974

This is the first time that the border was mined. In addition to the disambiguation of the mining and the wire mesh, a guard station at fifty meters along the border line was constructed, and a police station was built in each border village to increase border security. (15) It is possible to talk about some scattered crossings all the time.

#### 1960 - 1980

The period is a time when the barbed wire has risen and the ambushes have been laid more often and more cruelly. Kinship was divided, and there was not much shopping except for the occasions of condolences, weddings etc. But these were also very common and frequent. The marriages were still between the relatives and the borders.

#### 1975 - 1984

In the period after 1975, the border was becoming thicker. The mines were reset and one more wire was pulled; a watchtower and a soldier were installed at every 50 meters, and the passage was strictly restricted. Towards the end of the 1970s, the first passports were beginning to be issued, and the gate and customs began to appear as a border category. The post-1980 period is described as 'legalization of smuggling'.

During this period when the smuggling was international, Nusaybin lived its brightest days. In this period, the gates have become increasingly important; borderlines faded; the frontier of the border has begun to emerge, not commercially, but politically. For instance, relations with Syria and Iraq have begun to be addressed through the border issues of ethnicity and the PKK; so, the actions in the domains of the border have also become politicized.

#### 1985 - 1998

It is possible to mention several major categories in this period: the first is forced migration within. The second one is that the gate's gaining importance. As new social categories, businessman meant the one engaged in border trade; customs agent meant intermediary for the gate matters. The smuggled goods then came from Istanbul and Mersin by air and sea and were distributed to local networks within the country from here. Customs clearance was made in free zones.

The domain of the boundary became unclear; people living close to the border were almost completely unemployed. In 1998, Abdullah Öcalan's extradition to Turkey and the signing of the Adana Memorandum led to the unfreezing between two countries, and bilateral relations in the political sense began to be established.

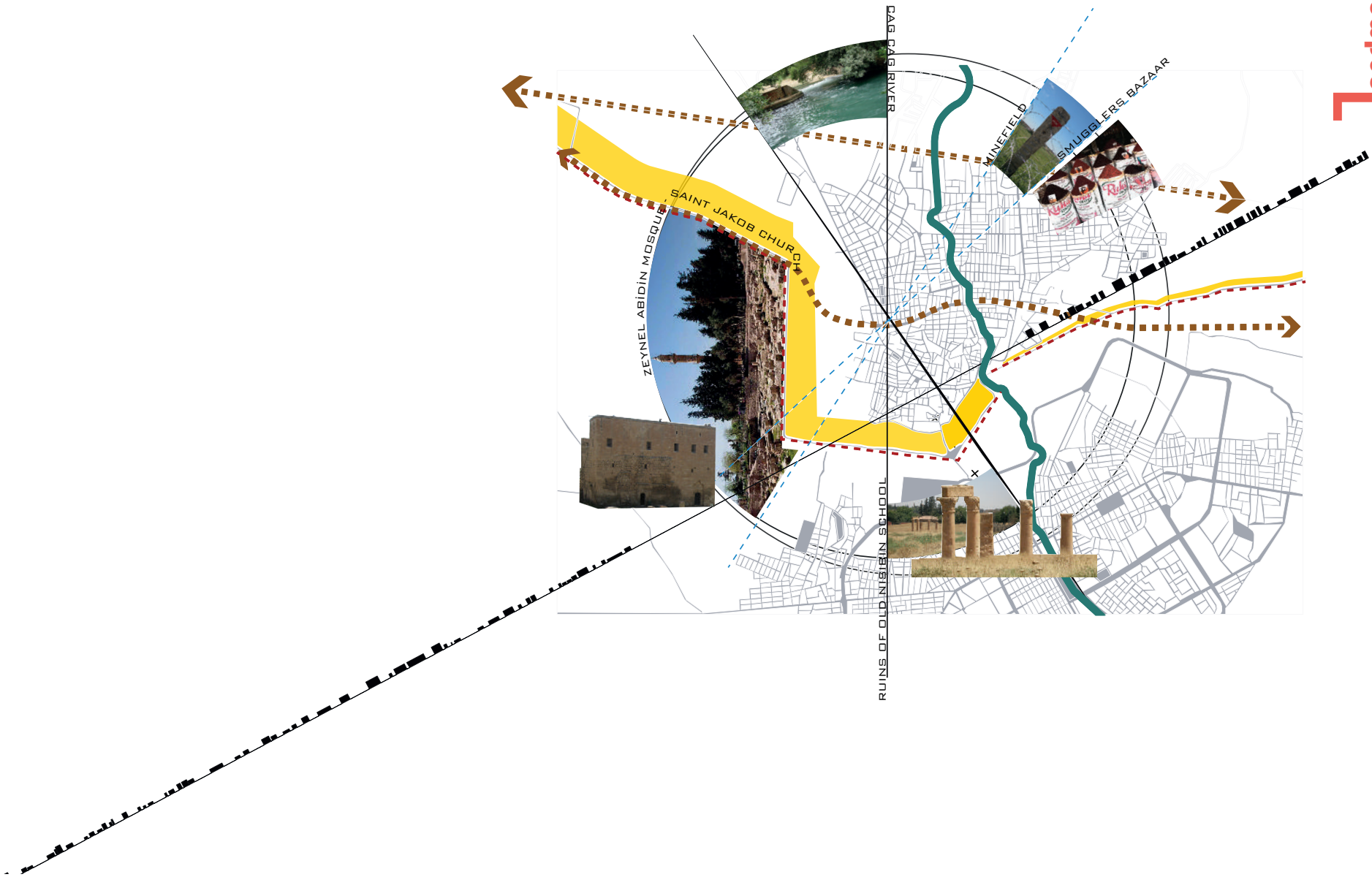
#### 1999 - 2010

With the obligation of law (16), adopted by the Parliament, as a requirement of Ottawa Convention for Turkey to be party to it (entered into force on 1 March 1999), the work of cleanup of mines on the border of Turkey and Syria was tendered in 2009. Visas were mutually lifted between the two countries in 2009. Then, crossing from Nusaybin Border Gate was increased as it was the case for all border gates. This has led to an increase in the demands of citizens who wished to visit two countries for touristic purposes, which had previously been mobilizing for trade. (17)

#### 2011 - 2014

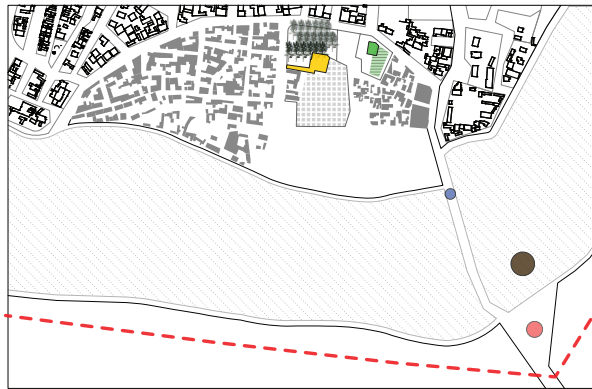
Due to the border security policy, the tender was canceled (18) and the work of clearing the region from the mines was left to the Ministry of National Defense, and a part of it was cleaned in 2011 by the Turkish Armed Forces with the authorization of the ministry given to the governorships. The internal conflicts in Syria during this period and the tension of political relations between Turkey and Syria made the mine clearing activity more difficult, and the work was suspended.

Due to the civil war that broke out in Syria in 2011 and the disputes started between the governments of Turkey and Syria after that, the door, opened and closed several times during the year, was closed completely on 8 December 2011. (19) In March of 2014, Syria started to apply visa again to Turkey because of the relations that were getting tense. (20)



**Landmarks of nureybin**

## 2.4. LANDMARKS OF NUSAYBIN



- ZEYNEL ABIDIN MOSQUE
- ⊞ CEMETERY
- SAINT JACOB CHURCH
- ⊞ ARCHEOLOGICAL RUINS OF ST JACOB CHURCH
- RUINS OF OLD NISIBIN SCHOOL
- ⊞ BUFFER ZONE
- - - BORDERLINE
- 1. CHECK POINT
- 2. CHECK POINT

### The First Christian-Assyrian Academy

The era of Nusaybin's erection began in the 4th century AD. (21) The Episcopal Mor Yakup of Nusaybin, who was one of the founders of the Antakya Academy, built the first Christian Assyrian Academy in 326 AD. About 800-1000 students were studying here as boarders. The official language of the school was the Assyrian. Besides Assyrian language, the Greek language was also taught here. Philosophy, logic, literature, geometry, astronomy, medicine and law education were given in this school. Many books were translated from the Greek to the Assyrian during that period.

The institution, also known as the Nusaybin School, continues its education until the 7th century, but the episcopate center of Nusaybin continues its activity until the beginning of the 20th century. All the roads connecting Asia to the Eastern Mediterranean and Mesopotamia to Eastern Anatolia passed through Nusaybin in antiquity. From geographical point of view, Nusaybin was one of the important cities of the region until the 11th century due to its location at the crossing point of important commercial and cultural network.

### ARCHEOLOGICAL RUINS OF ST JACOB CHURCH \_SAINT JACOB CHURCH

Mor Yakup Church is located just 100 m east of Zeynel Abidin Mosque. This church, known as one of the oldest churches in the Upper Mesopotamian territory, was built in 313 by Mor Yakup, who was appointed as the bishop of Nusaybin in 309 AD. From some inscriptions and texts, it is understood that the church was built as the baptistery building of the Nusaybin cathedral, but it was later transformed into the Mor Yakup church with the collapse of the cathedral and other structures.

### Zeynel Abidin Mosque Complex

Zeynel Abidin Mosque Complex has mosque, minaret, two tombs (Zeynel Abidin and his sister Sitti Zeynep moseleums), fountain, madrasah chambers, cemetery area and new ablution structures. According to the inscription on the tomb, the mosque was built in the 12th century.

Many Jews and Christians lived in Nusaybin. The Mor Yakup Church and Zeynel Abidin Mosque, standing side by side, have been the symbol of different people living together. The Jews in the region then migrated to Israel.



## 2.5. Infographics

### Temperature

The average annual temperature of Nusaybin is 18.9°C. In summer, the temperature can reach up to 40-45 °.The difference between the average temperatures of summer and winter seasons is high, which is very important in terms of showing the continentality. The average temperature is 31°C in summer and 7.2°C in winter. Especially during the summer months, the days when the high-temperature averages are 30 ° C or more include the whole of these months. The days when temperatures rise above 30°C start in April and continue to early November. The coldest months are December-January while the hottest months are July and August. In summer, when the relative humidity in the air is low, evaporation increases. When the air humidity is low, the temperature difference between night and day becomes high. The days when the temperature falls below 0°C are rather limited.

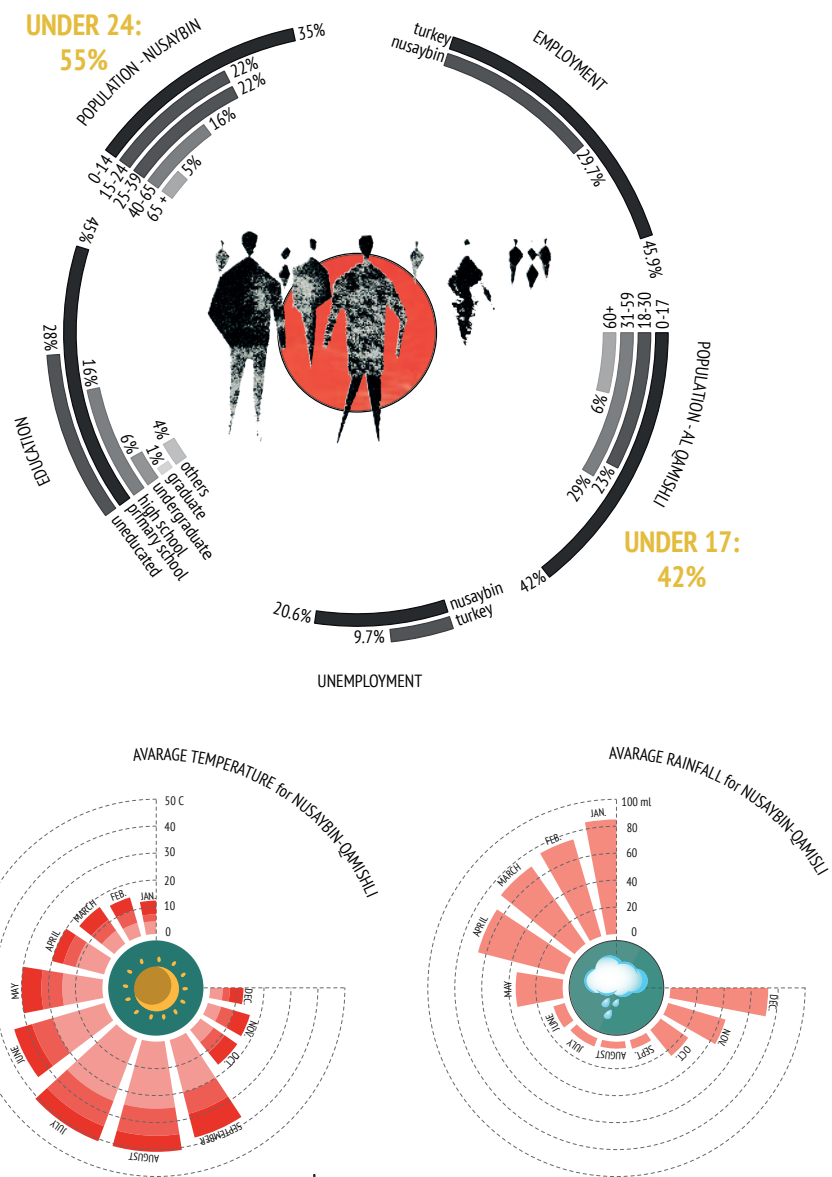
### Precipitation

The average annual precipitation in Nusaybin is 470.2 mm. When we look at the distribution of the precipitation to the seasons, we see that the maximum precipitation is in the winter (51.8%). Winter is followed by spring (34.9%), autumn (12.7%) and summer (0.6%). The maximum precipitation is in the winter season, which is due to the fact that the fronts coming from the Central Mediterranean influence the region. The fronts that cause these rainfalls last until April. The continentality has some influences in the excessiveness of the spring rainfall. Conventional rain is observed especially in May. The fact that almost no rainfall is observed in the summer months is due to the influence of the Basra Low-Pressure Center. The rarity of rainfall in the autumn can be due to the summer drought. When we look at the daily maximum rainfall amounts, we can see the amount of rainfall that is very close to or even more than the average rainfall amount in the other months including the winter months. This is important because it shows that the frontal activities in autumn and winter, and waterspouts (continentality) in other months are influential in the Nusaybin region. The rarity of the days when the rainfall is > = 10 mm also supports this.

### Wind

The average wind speed in Nusaybin is 1.5 m / s. The fastest blowing wind is from the north and the second fastest is from the south. The average number of stormy days in Nusaybin is 1 day. The winds that are effective in Nusaybin are usually light winds. The number of average windy days is 13.8 days, which shows us that light and moderate-strength winds are effective in Nusaybin.

Source:Nusaybin Weather Station







### Hydrography

The surplus of periodic streams around Nusaybin attracts attention. Rains occur in valleys in winter and early spring. The Çağçağa Stream, which continuously has a stream in its valley, is the most important stream in the river. The Çağçağa Stream, which is formed by the water from the Savur-Midyat region, is strengthened by two sources. These are Karasu and Beyazsu sources. The current of Karasu is  $4.2 \text{ m}^3 / \text{sec}$  and comes to the surface 8 km north of Nusaybin while the current of Beyazsu is  $4.2 \text{ m}^3 / \text{sec}$  and comes to the surface 2 km north of Nusaybin. By the combination of the waters of these two sources, the Çağçağa stream becomes a stream with a current rate of  $10 \text{ m}^3 / \text{sec}$  and flows continuously from summer to winter.

In addition, a regulator was built on the same water to provide irrigation water to an area of 8000 h. Irrigation canals are 8 and 30 km long. With these irrigation channels, Nusaybin can be watered. Çağçağa stream also provides Nusaybin province with drinking and usage water.

### Vegetation Cover

The natural vegetation of the province is steppe.

There were many gardens, vineyards and vegetable gardens in Nusaybin fifty years ago. A wide variety of trees, fruits, and vegetables used to be grown in the region. The Çağçağa Stream used to flow into the city from many tributaries. With this water, the gardens used to be watered, while the drinking water used to be supplied from the wells. There used to be four mills working with spring water in Kanika. People from many parts of the region used to come to these mills to grind their wheat. Rice used to be planted before cotton growing became common.

There are vegetable and fruit gardens in Bunistra Valley and the city centers of Akarsu and Pınarbaşı where Çağçağa stream flows. An important number of poplar trees are grown in these gardens. Viniculture is carried out in mountainous regions. The symbol of the province, cotton, wheat, barley, lentil, corn, sesame, and vegetables are grown throughout the soils of the province. Olive farming has also shown an important development in recent years.

The region was quite rich in forests. Until 1900, the northern side of the county had been covered with centuries-old oak trees, to the point where it merged with the plain. After this date, the Germans cut these forests to operate the locomotives in the years when the Haydarpasa-Baghdad Railway was built.

Existing forests are energy forests, which have lost their past grandeur due to the expansion of fields and devastation in the recent years. We can encounter gum trees, ash, willows and plane trees in the degraded coppice oak forests. The tree varieties in the region include poplar, pine, oak and various fruit trees.





**Subjective atlas of Nusaybin-Qamishli Border**

## 2.6. Subjective Atlas of Nusaybin-Qamishli Border\_Nusaybin and One Day at the Border

It can be argued that there is a concern of a chaotic atmosphere in the region, based on the news of conflict between Turkey and news from press and the media. But at least during the day of our Nusaybin tour, the city showed us a sunny, warm and quite calm face.

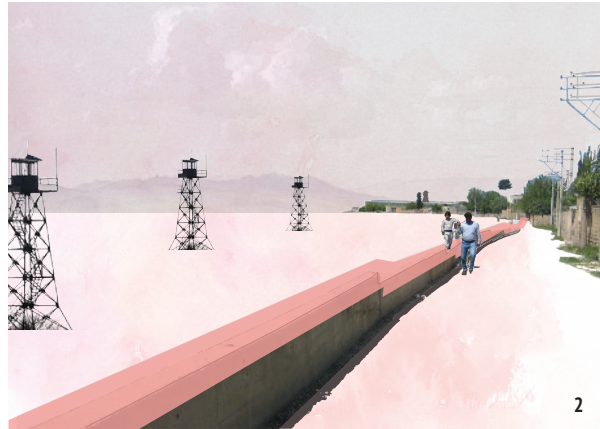
### 1. Borderline

Nusaybin, which is a stop on the Mardin - Sirnak highway, built on the route of the historical Silk road, sets its back on the border where it pulled himself back from the road. You notice that, after first crossing from the mainland towards the south (south), on the highway, the border actually continues with you. Nusaybin, in a sense, breaks the continuing border on the highway route and forcefully includes himself in the territory of Turkey. As we walked along the road on the left of the city center, we watched the Syrian border approximately four hundred meters ahead, and on the right side, we noticed that there were new structures immediately adjacent to the road. What we saw in our surroundings was not totally different from the images of a classic (Southeast) Anatolian district. Later, the railway, which sets up in a sense the southern border of the republican period, welcomed us.



#### Bordergate

The road leading to the border ends with an iron sliding door. At first glance, it may be seen that this is the border gate between the two countries, but as you approach, from the size of the checkpoint barracks, it is rather a point where you go through a first check, and that the border with Syria is not this line. We learnt that the actual border gate is about 250 meters further. It can be said that this zone, created between these lines, is defined as "safety zone or buffer zone". When we walk to the west from the border gate, the border police station built in the buffer zone welcomes us first.



#### Parallel to the Border: Earth Road

On the other side of the buffer zone, the presence of a stabilized road continuing along Turkey and Syria border line was also noticeable to us. This road continues almost all along our Syrian border. This road, on which the vehicles of the Turkish Armed Forces, which patrols for the Turkish border security, are in constant circulation, can be defined in a way as a physically established form of the virtual line drawn according to the Ankara Agreement between Syria and Turkey. Surveillance posts on the border have been placed along this route. We later found out that the road the soldiers in watchtowers used to change the guard was called "the street".



#### Buffer Zone

When we walked along this path along the western line of the city, we met people walking like we did. The dividing elements between the buffer zone and the road were in some places barbed wire, while in some places was the reinforced concrete wall. But these walls were built in a way that the height would not exceed 1 meter. Although we went to the area by believing that the mines located in the area bordered by Nusaybin were cleaned, we saw plates, on the wire mesh and walls that separate the buffer zone from the Turkish border, warning that the zone is mined. However, we have seen that these separating elements were deformed over time and could be easily passed through the region.



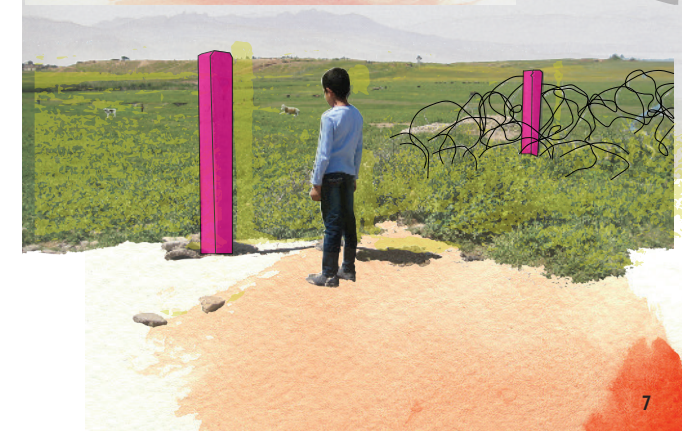
### People in the Buffer Zone

Despite the warnings of the security forces of border security, we saw children playing in the field and shepherds next to their animals. The children who entered the buffer zone from the point where the barbed wire deformed were flying kites and playing ball despite the mined land.

We can also understand that the region was suitable for agriculture, as the Syrians, whom we saw on the far side of the border, were working in the field. After an agreement concluded between two countries, Syria has been involved in mine clearing in the area, which partly include Turkey, and it started producing by planting olive trees in the area that it cleared. We learnt that the region was suitable for organic farming and the planting of valuable crops such as olives, cotton, grapes and sesame seeds. However, in the news of the media at the time of this clearing work, it was clearly stated that the cultivation was opened after clearing the region.

### Outdoor Ovens at the Border: Tandirs

A couple of tandirs caught our attention. We could not find out why they were at the border, though. They serve everyone; the people can use them to make their bread or whatever they would like. The women use these tandirs as outdoor ovens.





**History on the Border: Mor Yakup Church and Zeynel Abidin Mosque**

After walking a little further along the border, we headed towards the city center. We walked along the Nusaybin Cemetery, where we learnt that it was no longer serving because of its fullness, and then we visited the historic Zeynel Abidin Mosque and the nearby Mor Yakup Church. When we talked about that these structures of two different religions, standing side by side, enrich the cultural value of the region; we learnt then that a study was done on that. Within the scope of the project, two religious buildings are restored and a study was being conducted to combine and use the gardens. We learnt that the work on ruins were continued in Church's garden, and these were the continuation of work on ruins of the old Assyrian University (known as the Nusaybin School) of the MS 300 years, located in the immediate buffer zone of the Nusaybin Border Gate. (22) It was found that the dormitory building of this school, where 800-1000 students had been boarded, was in this region during the works in the garden of Church.

**Outdoor Cafe Houses at the border**

We can also mention tea houses that were close to the border and, in a sense, served as "observatory" for it. You could see the people who spend time all day in the wooden tea stools and tables under the trees in the tea houses, which are positioned next to the border gate and are located next to each other in a few places to the west of the city. While sipping our tea at the tea garden just across the door, we saw that a permission was given for 3 relief trucks awaiting transport to Syria at the border, and they crossed the border.



**Illegal hobby gardens in the Buffer Zone**

As we moved towards the eastern part of the city, we noticed that in some places on the Turkish side, the people fenced some areas in the buffer zone and created illegal lands. We witnessed here that they have grown their own products, and that they have been spending time with their families all day long, as if these were their gardens. We also noticed seats, which were placed facing the border, which the passage is prohibited, and which separates them from their relatives. When we talked to a woman who had one of these illegal gardens, she told us that her old mother had spent most of her time watching the other side here sitting in the bank. In other words, this state of the elderly woman was in fact an illustration of these people who had suffered from the border line for years.

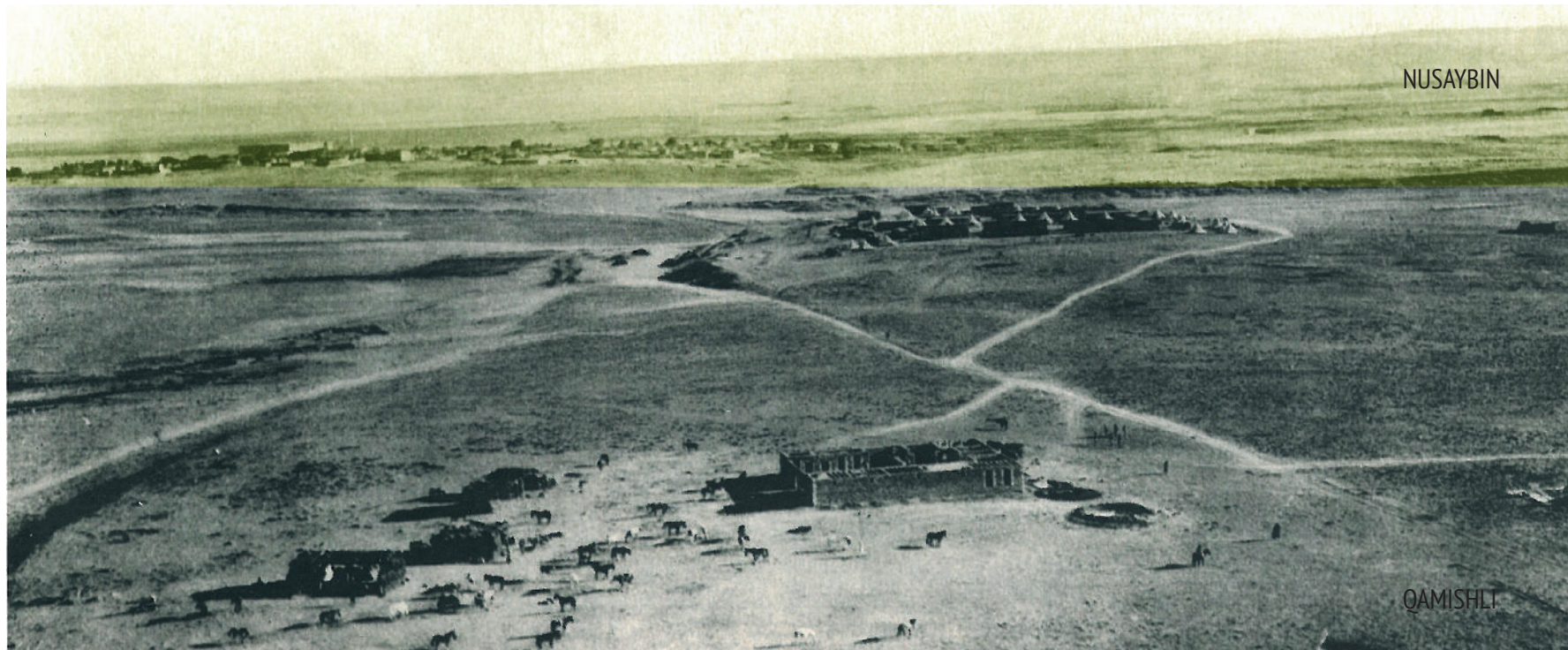




### Smugglers Bazaar

After a tour of the border, we went to the bazaar in the city where the smugglers' passages were, which was one of the places we were most curious of. When you think of the bazaar, do not imagine a place as Walter Benjamin describes in the Passages, as bright, spacious and elegant architectural structures where "flaneurs" take their turtles and spend time. In architecture, they are similar to the passages of a typical Anatolian city, but have irregular exhibits and scattered product varieties due to their use as warehouses and sales units. You can browse second-quality cosmetics products stored in the shop, depending on the intensity of the goods coming in at the time, and you may also compare, one side of the shop, the blades that are produced in the area with the smuggled German knives.

If we look at the history of smuggling, trade and the resulting smugglers bazaar, Neşe Özgen tells us that the borders before 1954 (when the buffer zone was created and the area was mined) were indefinite, and that relations and, accordingly, trade were at the level of kinship. After 1975, the relationship of the commercial relations with the kindredness was reduced; a further phase of trade was passed to, which focused on efficiency and profitably. In this period of global capitalism and its activities, the 'Smugglers' bazaar and passages were emerging as important centers for Nusaybin's economic market.



NUSAYBIN

QAMISHLI



NUSAYBIN

QAMISHLI

**Republican Period, Railway and the Border**

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Haydarpaşa-Baghdad railway line was built by the German railway company, and reached Nusaybin in 1917. (23) Then, in 1921, with Ankara Treaty, signed with the French, border negotiations between Syria and the Turkish Parliament began. In the first decisions, the Haydarpaşa-Baghdad railway line was used as the determiner of the south-eastern border. However, to the south of the railway, the home to many religious and public structures important for both Christians and Muslims (Zeynel Abidin Mosque and the houses, Selman-i Pak Mosque, Barracks Mosque and Barracks, Mor Yakup Church, Nusaybin School residences and entrance gate), Nusaybin, as a historical and commercial settlement, became a bargaining point for two powerhouses. The settlement wanted to be included in the Syrian lands by the French, but, with the power of the influencers of the city, it was included in the Turkish territory in 1926 with an additional protocol to the Ankara Treaty. (24)

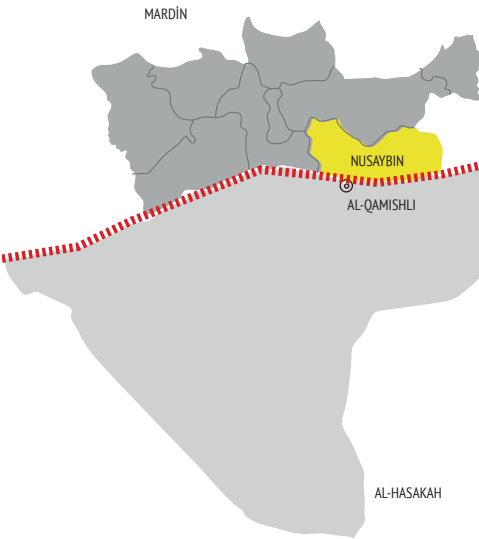
Many Jews and Christians lived in Nusaybin. The Mor Yakup Church and the Zeynel Abidin Mosque, which stand side by side, are the symbol of the people of the district who could live together although having different religions. The Jews in the region later migrated to Israel.

On the other side of the border, district of Kamişlı in Syria's Hasiçi city is a residential area. Kamişlı, founded by the splitting of the Nusaybin settlement in 1926, is a city made up of a population mostly of Assyrians and Kurds. Sociologists' "mirror placement" term, used to identify border settlements, also applies to Nusaybin - Kamişlı. Therefore, although divided in two different settlements in different countries, we cannot separate Nusaybin and Kamişlı from each other.

In the 1990s, a low intensity war between the Turkish Armed Forces and the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) in Turkey's many cities located in the eastern and south-eastern Anatolia brought along forced village evacuations and the process of displacement. Therefore, Kurdish families, forced to leave their discharged and burned villages, migrated from villages to towns. Nusaybin district was also one of cities taking migration from villages in this period.

PYD (Democratic Union Party of Syria), defining the areas densely inhabited by the Kurds in Syria as Syria Kurdistan or in other words Rojava, began fighting for autonomy in April 2012 and declared autonomy in early 2013. But that was not recognized by the Syria Arab State under the rule of Assad. YPG (People's Protection Units), seizing the control of 3 places in the region (Jazeera, Afrin and Kobani), established cantons there and began to struggle from time to time with the army loyal to the state, with the Free Syrian Army founded by dissidents, and most recently, with ISIS (Iraq Damascus Islamic State). One of the important cities of Jazeera Canton is Kamişlı. However, the Syrian government still maintains the control on the Kamişlı airport, border crossing and some governmental units.

Since Kamişlı is one of the least affected areas from the civil war in Syria, its population jumped from four hundred thousand to one million with the migration in recent years. This is a situation showing the extent how critically the city requires international relief. Therefore, border crossing's being closed in recent years and tense relations between two countries, complicate the passage of vehicles to deliver aid.



BORDER



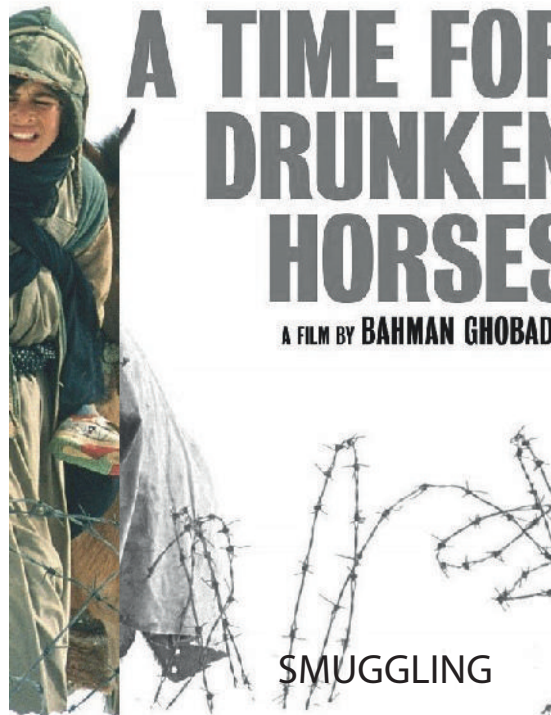
WAR



MIGRATION







SMUGGLING

## 2.8. SMUGGLING AT THE BORDER

If we look at the history of smuggling, trade and the resulting smugglers bazaar, Neşe Özgen tells us that the borders before 1954 (when the buffer zone was created and the area was mined) was indefinite, and that relations and, accordingly, trade were at the level of kinship. (25)

She says that, villagers, with the introduction of the border line, going to the other side of the border with the transire to do farming on their lands on the other side, exchanged tobacco, acorns, molasses, cut and processed trees to bring gas, salt, cigarette paper, mantle, paper. In other words, this activity was what the trade was there. The following years, the buffer zone was created, and the increase of the danger of borderline with the presence of land mines, a merchant group fed by the yeoman feudal system came forward. Along with the increase in the passage of custom-made goods, the relationship of the commercial relations with the kindredness was gradually reduced, and a further phase was passed which proceeded on efficiency and profitably. (26)

From 1975 onwards, as in Nusaybin, we see that the passages where illegal goods were sold were beginning to emerge in Kilis and Gaziantep. It is the period when barter trade was spreading, where goods were hidden from security forces providing border control and stored in passages (storage). In fact, it is said that this period is the most comfortable time for the people who smuggled in Nusaybin during this period, where smuggling reached the summit, and the goods were not subject to any inspection after being put into the store. But the invoicing was enforced with penalty. (27) This seems to be a way of legalizing the way of smuggling. This period was a time when prospered Arab families in Nusaybin migrated to big cities, such as Istanbul, Ankara and Bursa, and when Kurdish families migrated to cities from villages to work as "backbone" border workers. It can be said that the population density of Nusaybin began to slide from the Arab population to the Kurdish population. (28)

In the following period, border began to be mentioned together with border trade relations over the border issues of ethnicity and the PKK; so, the activities in the domains of the border have also become politicized. A group of people (300 people), come out in the morning and come in the evening, called "day breakers", as if they go to work every day from "Nusaybin Kapi". The customs and border security teams, which are mainly concerned with this group, have not been much interested by the control of large quantities of goods. In other words, the daily battles at gates are "local", the control of goods is national, and the revenue is international. (29)

Today we learnt from a dealer we talked in a bazaar on the Nusaybin border that smuggling was a difficult situation that was not done on horseback, and that the goods were no longer brought with smaller vehicles but with larger ones. Especially, we were told that electronic goods, brought through Iraq to be exported to Europe and American markets, were preferred as they were tax-free. However, in this situation that has been going on since years, we realized the reality, which was indeed a paradox: diversification of the goods, which are passed through the border, and increase in their value are thanks to the thickness of the border. (30)



UNEMPLOYMENT



YOUNG POPULATION



STRAINED RESOURCES

## 2.9. NOWRUZ

This nature festival is met with the spring in the northern hemisphere, and the awakening of nature is celebrated with abundance and fertility desires. This tradition' being called by different names means that it is celebrated by all the peoples of the Middle East and Central Asia, and it reminds us that it exists in different languages with different written forms. It's form of celebration varies by countries due to cultural contacts and interactions.

In particular, it can be said that in some countries the political side is dominant over its thematic weight and traditional features. However the specific differences, and whatever causes these may have, an optimistic reborn of nature theme seems to takes precedence again with wishes for abundance and an early celebration for it. This feature of tradition led to expansion of "new day", which is a folkloric expression of human-nature interaction, to human-human relation, and this feast represented a rebirth, revival in social life, and the collective hope. (31) Mainly the peace and brotherhood themes attached to the celebration assumed important functions based on the solidarity, sharing and even for increasing the awareness of social transformation. The idea of carrying renewal and revival observed in nature to social life is one of the most striking features of the cultural dimension of the tradition.

There are studies showing that Nowruz was celebrated in our region during the Ottoman period. It can be confirmed from documents that, in a short period at the beginning of the Republic, it was officially celebrated in Ankara. However, these celebrations were later excluded from the formal repertoire.

These celebrations' being permanently accepted in the collection of celebrations, and regaining its popularity have been rising along with Kurdish political opposition since the 1970s. (32) During that period, a popularization, which will produce a rhetoric and followers of the Kurdish opposition in the later periods was initiated. With the eastern rallies, Nowruz, which is a cultural event by its nature, was used not only as a cultural medium but also as a pattern of massive public opposition.

This case may be an example of process, which is described by Eric Hobsbawm as "invention of tradition". (33) With Hobsbawm's words, this process is actually "using the old materials for the construction of reinvented tradition for quite new purposes. (34) Here, talking about awakening of a tradition or carrying its very limited functionality in the social life to the political field rather than its invention could possibly be more accurate.

Rapid popularization of the Kurdish opposition in the 1970s attempted to create a collective discourse and protest over the presence of Nowruz. With these so-called Nowruz connection and with their political projects, this group wanted to mobilize the masses in their line, and used this tradition as an alternative political socialization as well as a cultural cocoon in which Kurdish identity will develop. (35)

Then, from the mid-1990s, Nowruz celebrations became the object of "historiography" problematic. By the said period, the emphasis on the history of these celebrations began to change. According to the generally accepted Turkish nationalist ideology, Nowruz celebrations were mostly associated or synchronized with the exit of Turks in the Ergenekon legend. (36) Emphasis on its roots extending to Central Asia, on the one hand, underlined its belonging to Turkish identity, on the other hand the coexistence was emphasized with its fraternity dimension. Conferences, painting competitions on Nowruz, celebrations with the participation of military and civilian high officials were observed to be frequent after that date. The underlying idea of Nowruz, "demanding the tradition back again", is as original and politically charged as Nowruz project itself at least, and thus it appears that the tradition was invented once more.

Nowruz's real power lies in the unity of the participants, different from each other, educated-uneducated, young and old, urban-peasant, and in the messages they can deliver. It is an oasis where collective identity, even for a day, is dreamed of and lived. "New Day" tradition, with its many similarities in different approaches, with joy and enthusiasm of a new beginning it contains, remains a structure where a respected and legitimate peace can be built.





**CHAPTER 3**  
**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**



NUSAYBIN

AL-QAMISHLI

## ANALYSIS OF BORDER DYNAMICS | SOCIAL READINGS

SOCIAL

ENVIRONMENTAL

UNEMPLOYMENT

young population

low-skill workers

low-income

WAR

migration

SMUGGLING

underground economy

STRAINED RESOURCES

low-green

low-water table

poorly energy

loss of habitat

### 3.1. ANALYSIS OF DYNAMICS

The approximate line the border between the Syrian Arab Republic (SAR) and the Republic of Turkey (TR) is about 822 kilometers (511 mi) long, was set by the Treaty of Ankara in 1921.

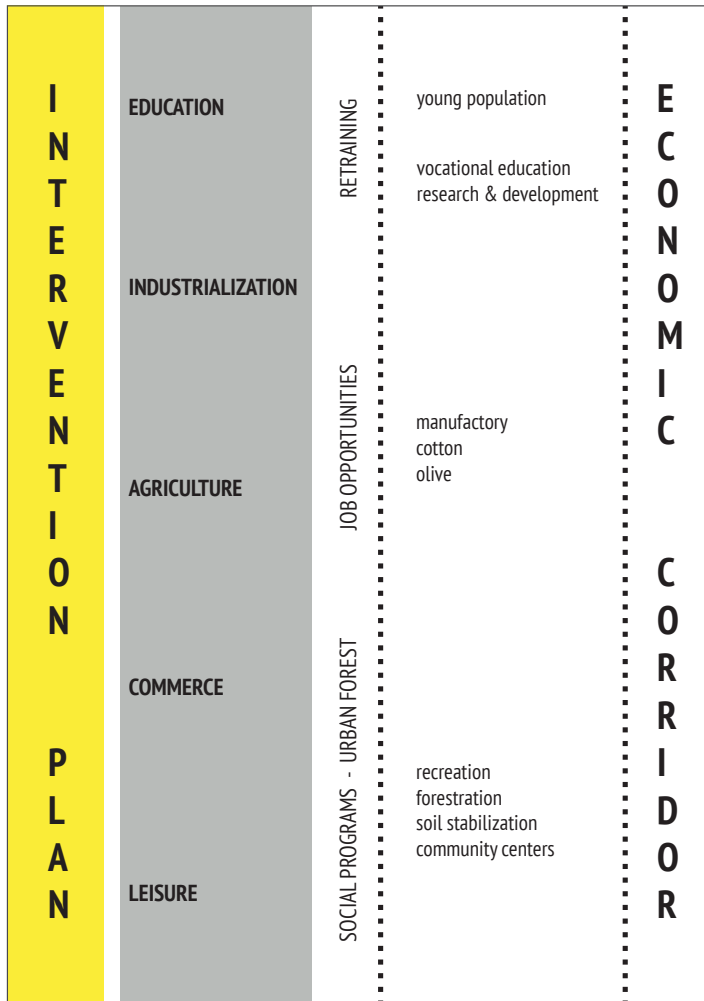
The border between TR and SAR from 1920's to the end of the first decade of the 2000's, its different temporalities, discontinuities how it feeds which time series, sovereignty and power tables. Borders should be seen as a complex set of contradictory spatial conditions that is beyond a single static line that is a result of series of spatial negotiations over time.

The main topic of this project is the buffer zone which has been constituted by TR, the border between Al-Qamishli and Nusaybin is filled with land mines, with a total of some 600,000 having been placed between the countries in the 1950s. The zone is monitored by TR's border patrols behind the barbed wires.

The wide-spread landmines across the buffer zone and other military installations are also lifted mental barriers. Despite this extreme impermeability, the border's inherent flows and porosities clearly prove that borders are never static or fully closed. There are separated families by the border and it is clear that there exists a tight relationship between each sites whatever the interaction.

It is important to focus the connection where flows of economy, ecology, politics, etc., reveal a particular kind of understanding of the border. Moreover the territory can be understood when take the place of ethnic connection to trading/smuggling connection.

The manufacturing sector has underperformed in Nusaybin and also Al-Qamishli due to various constraints, which, if addressed effectively, can unlock and untapped economic potential of the young demographics of Nusaybin and also Al-Qamishli. (both of them, almost half the population is under age 18).



### 3.2. INTERVENTION PLAN & ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

The research and project reflects on how the buffer zone might be transformed from a dividing and dangerous (mined) zone into an **economic corridor**, and this through a process that brings together the communities on both sides in a common vision for a peaceful and sustainable future.

#### What is “economic corridors”?

The use of “economic corridors” emerges as increasingly important to boost agricultural and other economic activities in a specific spatial area. While there are no universal solutions, a development tool that seems to be gaining ground is the so-called “economic corridor”. It defines an economic corridor as a conceptual and programmatic model to structure socio-economic responses to develop a territory, building on a linear agglomeration of population and economic activities along existing transportation infrastructure.

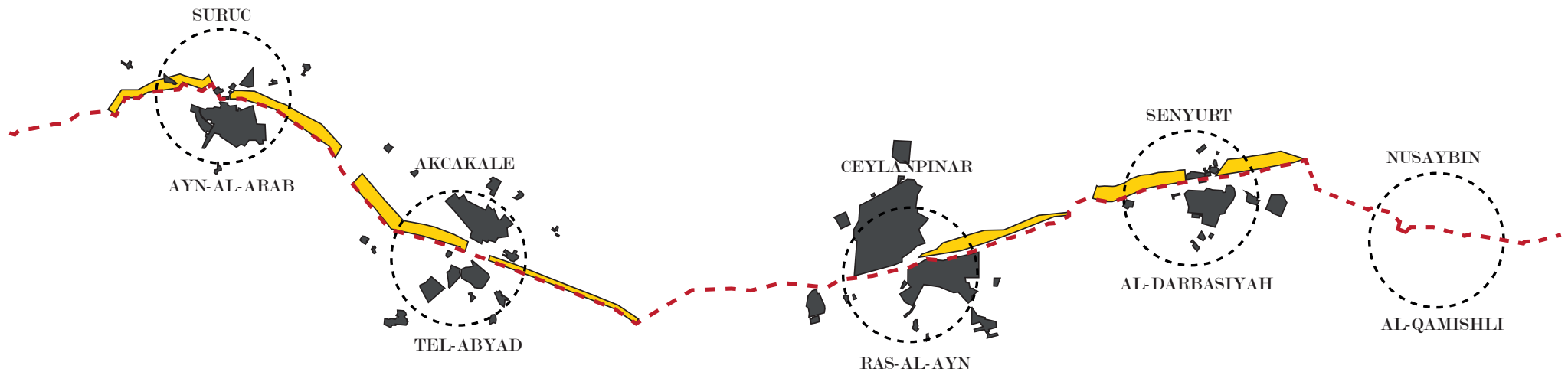
This linear agglomeration serves as the basis for planning concerted actions seeking to promote specific economic activities, such as agriculture and agro-industry, in a territory.

Economic corridors are integrated networks of infrastructure within a geographical area designed to stimulate economic development. Corridors may be developed within a country or between countries. Corridors exist in Asia, Africa, and other areas. Economic corridors also integrated infrastructure, such as highways, railroads and ports, and may link cities or countries. Upgrading transport and energy infrastructure brings in investment to a region, initially into sectors where there is potential to develop projects. Subsequently, connectivity and growth attract investments in related sectors.

Corridors may be created to link manufacturing hubs, areas with high supply and demand, and manufacturers of value-added goods. When implemented, economic corridors are often one of a package of different measures including infrastructure development, visa and transport agreements, and standardisation. Consideration of social needs, such as housing, is often considered.

The economic corridor approach emphasizes the integration of infrastructure improvement with economic opportunities such as trade and investment, and it includes efforts to address the social and other outcomes of increased connectivity.

### 3.3. Can “Economic Corridor” be organized in other buffer zones of the border?



As in the case of Nusaybin-Al-Qamishli buffer zone, more economic corridors can be formed in four different buffer zones along the Turkey-syria border. Over the longer term, the other corridors may extend to cross-border, 12 as in the case of regional corridors in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

Large infrastructure projects and increased mobility can create opportunities for large scale along the corridor. Corridors span across a region or province within a country. They may also include cross-border variants, i.e. regions composed of parts of two or more countries. The positive effects of this corridor include the increase in living standards, improved access to healthcare, education, and markets as well as the development of additional public service facilities.

Economic corridors provide an efficient transport system that cuts down physical and non-physical cross-border barriers, which include poor quality roads and railways and inefficient permit systems.

An economic corridor, as shared by the two development banks, has the following characteristics:

- covers smaller and defined geographic space, straddling a central transport artery;
- highlights bilateral rather than multilateral initiatives, mainly at border crossings between two countries; and
- stresses physical planning of the corridor and its surrounding area for focused infrastructure development that will yield maximum benefits. (38)

The corridor models identified propose various modalities of intervention to transform classic transport corridors into effective economic corridors and make them work for the agricultural sector. There is something that all the corridor models agree upon: the need to design a holistic intervention that combines a smart-mix of soft and hard instruments. Both hard and soft corridor components aim to reduce the cost of doing business in the area and facilitate start-up and operation of business ventures in their corridors.

As mentioned earlier, hard interventions include infrastructural elements such as roads, ports, railways, airports, energy and telecommunications networks, dams, irrigation infrastructure, market centres, warehouses, dryports and other productive infrastructure. Infrastructure is a major contributor to shaping the market along the corridor, but its development implies longer-term higher cost investments.

The financial situation of the corridor partners and the baseline of the corridor will influence the choices and balances between soft and hard interventions. Soft interventions are those that deal with the development of institutions and human resources aiming to build capacity to promote economic growth. Among the soft interventions are the following:

Policy research and dialogue (e.g. border policies and national policies dealing with land use, standards and public-private collaboration), treaties and streamlining of procedures to improve ease of business in the corridor.

Improvement of BDS, such as agricultural marketing, extension services and investment promotion. Financial and risk management instruments.

Transport facilitation (e.g. shipping and port services, trucking, railways, handling, warehousing, customs, insurance, banking and freight forwarding) and trade facilitation, including customs cooperation.

Incentives for the development of regional integration initiatives. Management of natural resources. (39)

Human capital development and innovation (R&D and technology transfer). Capacity building and organizational strengthening of both dedicated corridor institutions and national and regional institutions involved in the implementation of the corridor programme.

There are also challenges that lie ahead. Less developed areas to the level of the more developed ones, and mitigating adverse social impacts that may arise from development activities. Skills among countries also differ, which can impede application of new technology and raising productivity. Expanding industrial and economic activities along the corridor can lead to pollution and waste disposal issues. These environmental challenges require strategic environmental assessments and other tools to plan corridor investments, and develop policies for stronger protection of natural resources.

### 3.4. TRANSPORTATION DECISIONS

Transport and economic activity are inextricably bound with each other. Transport corridors are a set of routes that connect the economic centers within and across countries. A transport corridor encompasses several centers of economic activity. Subregional transport corridors connect to a regional transport system from urban areas in a country. Thus, a transport corridor in a geographic space is enhanced with improved infrastructure and logistics, and grows as an economic corridor.

#### 1. Interventions to be made to the highways

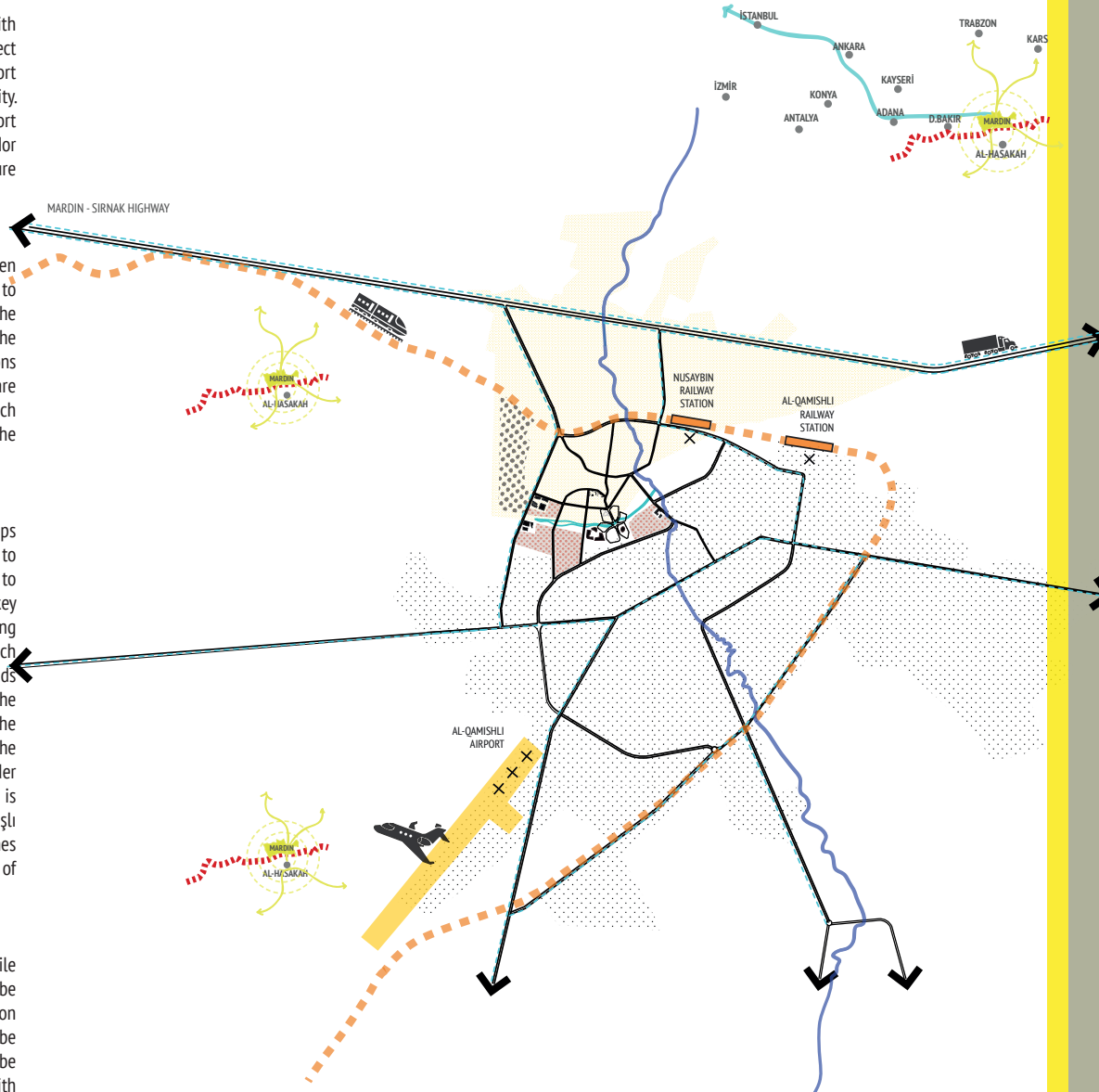
It is proposed that new road axles are formed between Nusaybin and Kamışlı and the existing axles are connected to each other. The highways have a strategic prefix for the economic corridor, which are proposed to be established in the buffer zone and to be formed in other intermediate regions along the border. These transportation axes, which are composed of pedestrian and highways, will multiply and enrich everyday life practices aimed to be established among the countries.

#### 2. Re-opening Nusaybin Railway Station

Nusaybin Railway Station, which is one of the important stops of the railroad that connects Turkey to Habur and indirectly to the Middle East, has not been used for several years due to conflicts on the Syrian side. Even expeditions within Turkey have been canceled due to the railway route continuing along the border. The fact that the Nusaybin Railway Station, which always maintained its commercial character in the crossroads of important roads and became the last stop before the southeast turn of the Baghdad railway line, was closed and the inaccessibility of the expeditions negatively affected the international trade in the region once practiced at the border gate. The next station is the Kamışlı Railway Station, which is about 2 kilometers away. Including Nusaybin and Kamışlı stations in Istanbul-Konya-Karaman high-speed train lines and reaching to Habur is one of the transportation decisions of the project.

#### 3. Re-opening of Kamışlı Airport

It was proposed that the airport, which was closed for a while due to the civil conflict in Syria, will be reopened and will be annexed with new import and export warehouses and provision of temporary storage areas. Thus, export corridors will be opened for the cotton and olive products planned to be produced in the region with the distribution premises, and with the introduction of commercial international flights.



RAW MATERIAL



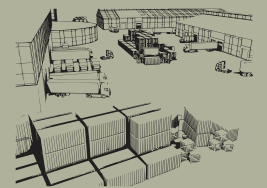
HARVESTING



MANUFACTURING



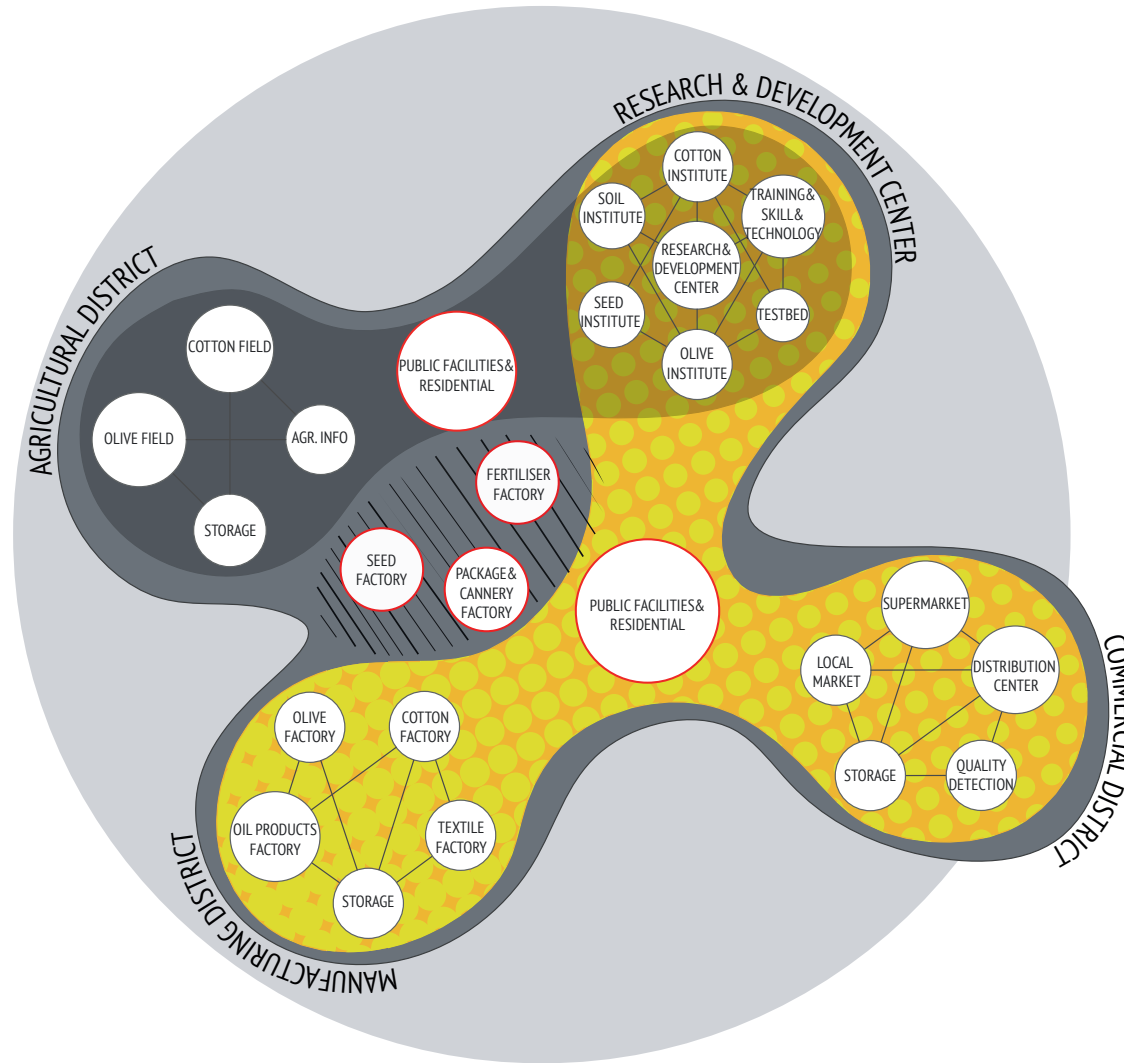
DISTRIBUTION



TRANSPORTATION







### 3.5. DISTRICTS

The intervention plan proposes a strategy the use of agriculture as a new industry that can bridge the gap between the low skilled workers and farming background of the area and the research industries that will form part of the districts future. The vision while producing economic benefits to the area completely ignores the existing situation of the border. A smaller scale industry combines with integrated intellectual property to fulfil context specific needs of district. These outputs include housing, personal mobility and knowledge; driven by use-value demand for a higher quality of life.

At the same time agriculture provides numerous community benefits such as community education, training, empowerment. Job opportunities can be increased through the intensification of this production in the district. Jobs such as researchers, farmworkers, agriculture specialists, nursery and planting personnel, management, can all be part of an agri-industry modelling.

The proposal is to generate an urban structure that both strategies of agri-industry and education together creating varied and complex interactions that generate new opportunities for the other selected zones. Interactions that will generate numerous, social programmes and employment opportunities.

The design promotes education, agriculture and industry within a residential district. Two critical parameters weighed in to shape up the project: primarily, the way the project with an ambition to become a pioneer in promoting the agri-industry modeling itself within the selected development areas along the border at Southeastern Anatolia District and effectively interacts with both. And on the micro level, enriching the residents' daily life within the project itself and insuring the success of the public functions.

The proposal is focused on both sides, where specific cultural, social and ecological issues can be addressed while engaging in larger spatial and institutional scales. A successful agriculture system should provide a whole process which needs different types of organization and linkages which could be projected to the actual site. Economic corridor is also integrated infrastructure, such as highways, railroad and port, and may link cities or countries.

If the railway in Nusaybin and airport in Al-Qamishli will be activated, the development potential of areas along the lines will also be unleashed to economic developments. The agriculture past of Al-Qamishli and also Nusaybin and its connectivity to broader markets through the revived railway and airport provides strategic opportunity for grown products.



2011\_March



2011\_June



2013\_September



2014\_November

### 3.6. Physical Interventions Guiding the Site Plan

Nusaybin and Kamışlı settlements, located in two opposite sides of the buffer zone, are linked to each other only with a way that has a border gate on it. There are watch-towers on the mined buffer zone. Though it is a mined zone with security check, some mobility is observed on this buffer zone in daily life. But as this mobility is not a legal formation, there are some problems in the region.

#### Problems

1. Cultures of border zones are potentially hybrid. Border zones allowing for easy inter-pass, can feed each other in terms of economy, as well. Such a relationship here means that, the zone between the two countries and the potentials would become;

- Inactive
- Inefficient
- Non-growing/Non-reproducing

#### Solutions

1. Lines were established to link the two sides to each other. Except for one of these lines, the other four are planned to enable pedestrian or vehicle traffic. One line will only allow for pedestrian traffic. On this social line, a square is set today at the point where the border gate is located.

2. A controlled water canal sourced by Çağ Çağ River will be taken inside the buffer zone. This canal will be fed by the artificial ponds set in Kamışlı region before and by the seasonal water springs.

3. With this internal water canal, it is aimed to;

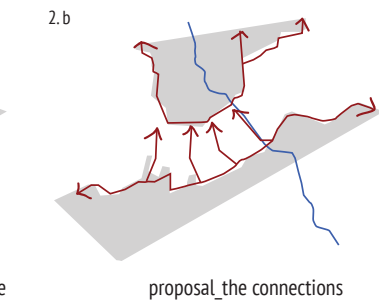
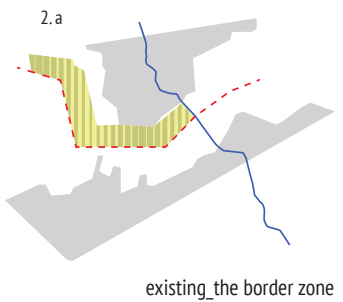
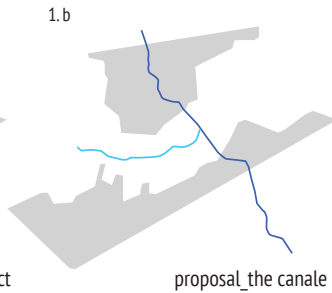
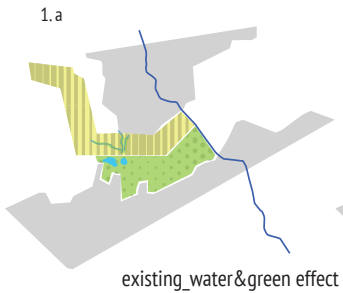
- Introduce fertile agricultural lands
- Enrich the habitat of the region
- Introduce marrow lands for the animals that are currently being illegally grassed down
- Use water and green for recreation areas

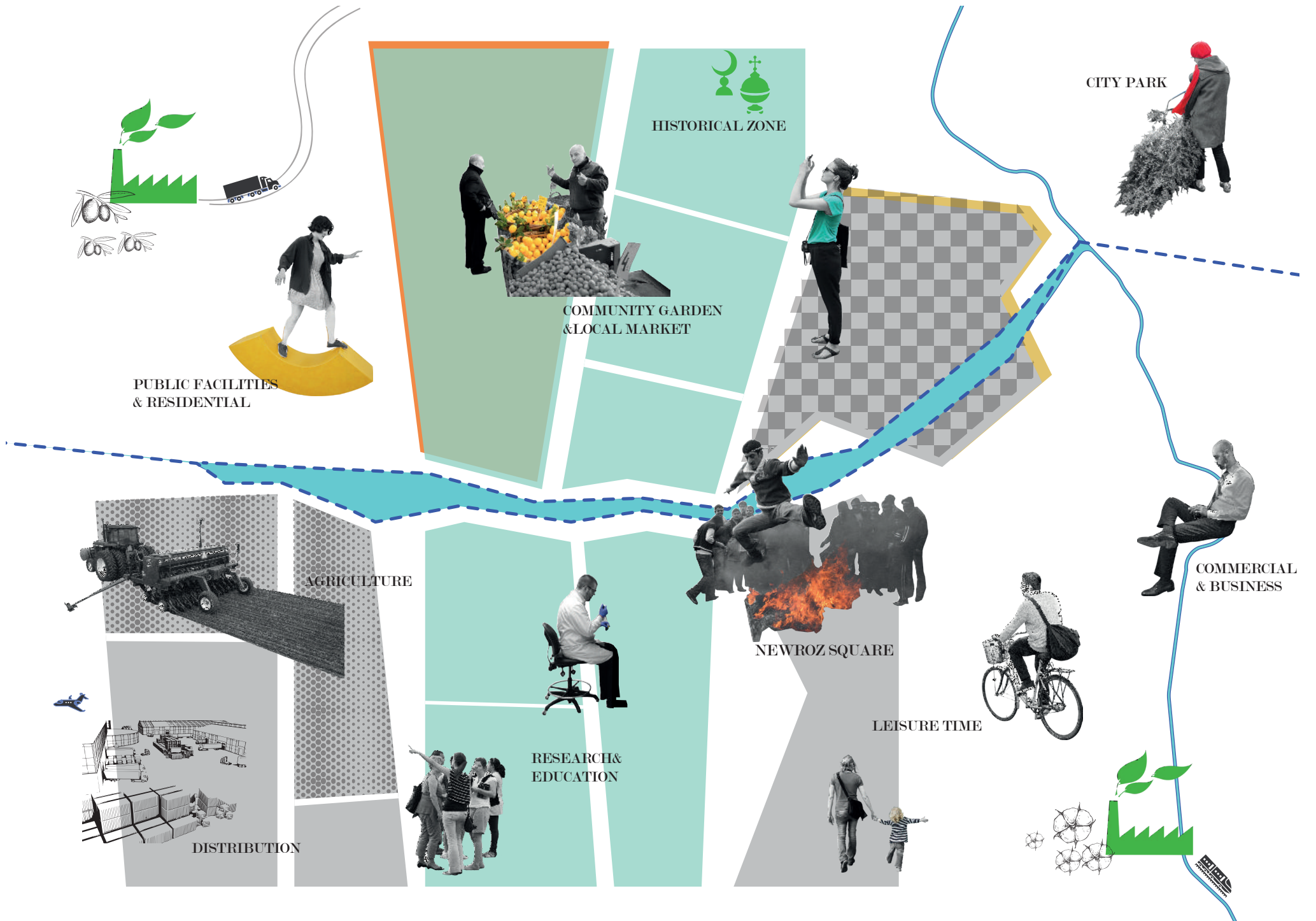
2. The buffer zone cannot be used although it is a fertile agricultural land. How do we understand that?

It can be observed from Google Maps that, agricultural lands in Kamışlı, which is located on the opposite side of the border line, remain green in four seasons.

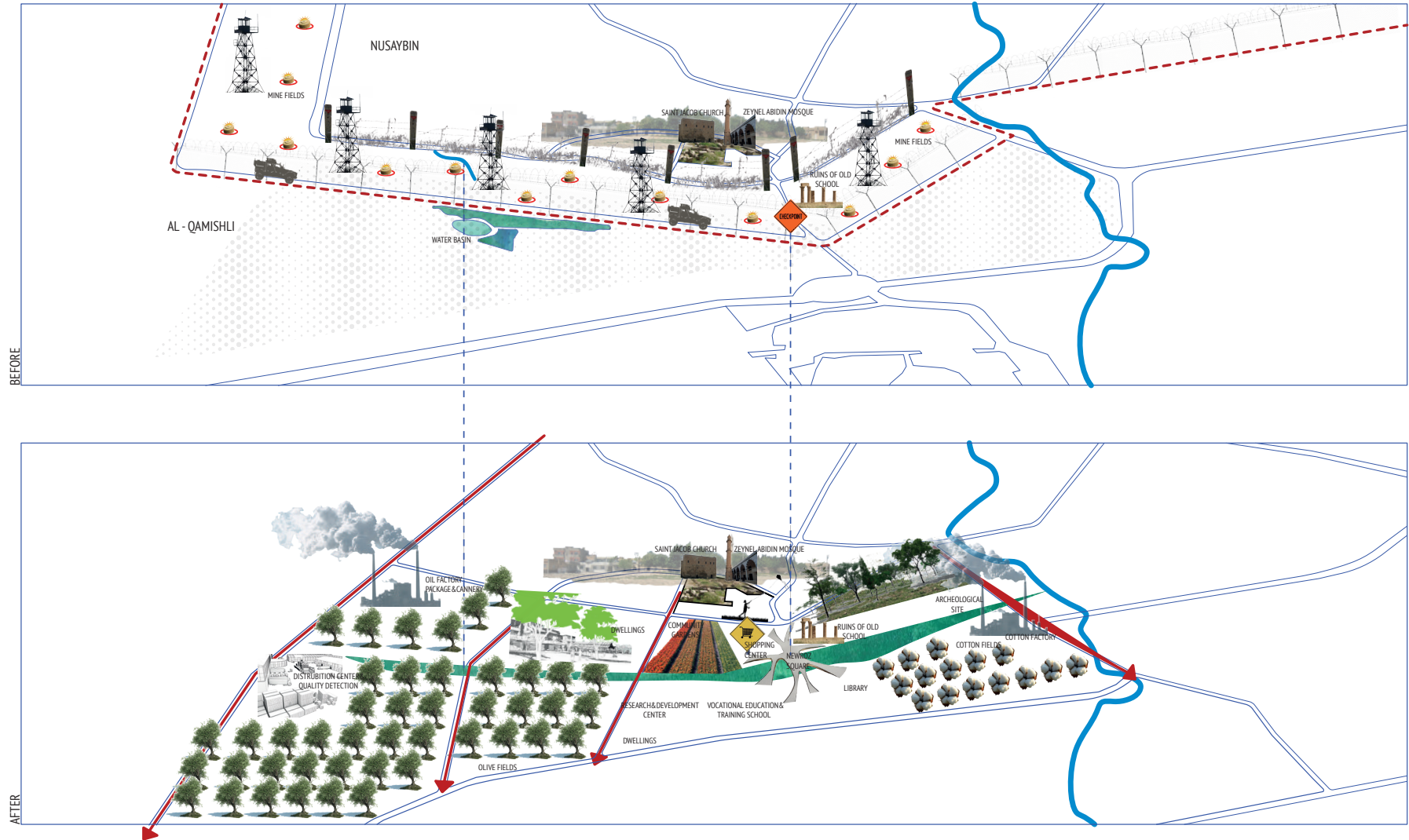
3. Çağ Çağ River is used for the remaining other agricultural lands in the region. Why is it not transformed into an item for production for the buffer zone, as well?

The great amount of periodical rivers and the water springs around Nusaybin can be observed from Google Maps of winter and spring seasons. It takes attention that, the surrounding of water springs become incredibly green in these months.

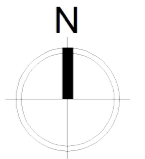




### 3.7. Planning Process



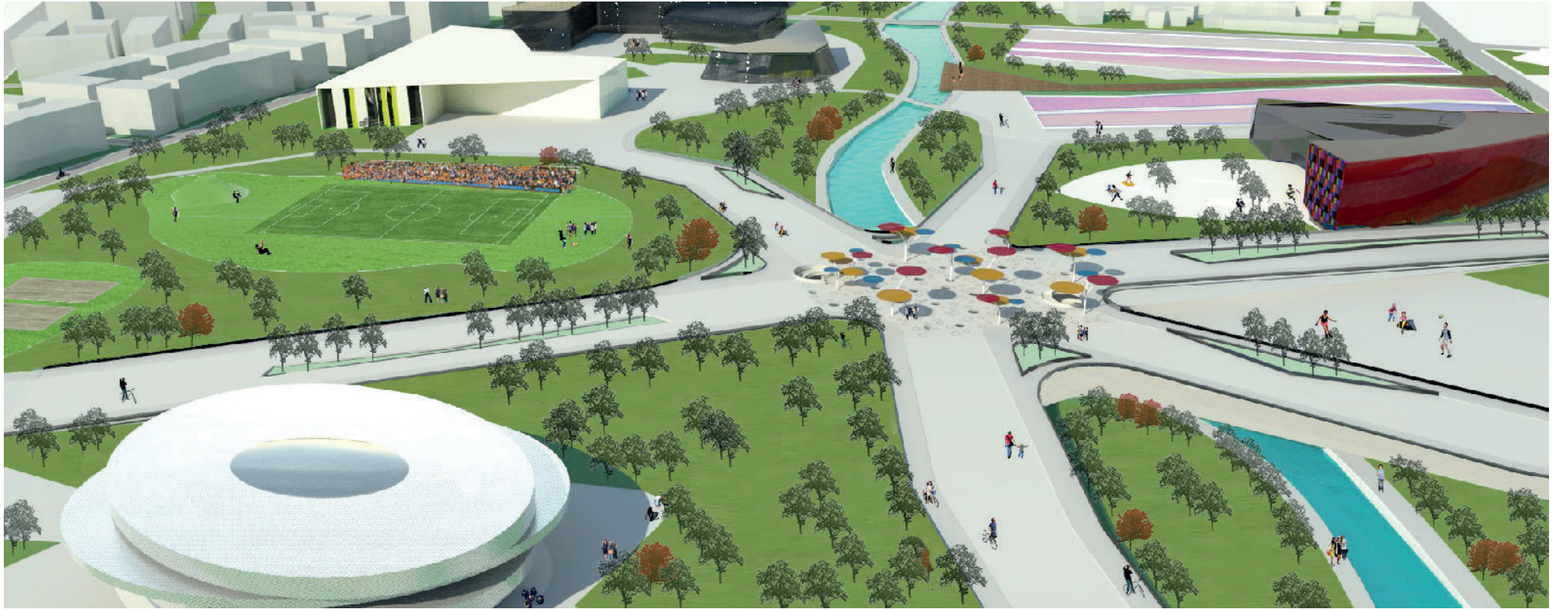
- 1 NEWROZ SQUARE
- 2 SHOPPING CENTER
- 3 LOCAL MARKET SQUARE
- 4 LOCAL MARKET
- 5 COMMUNITY GARDEN
- 6 LIBRARY
- 7 PLAY MOUNDS
- 8 GRASS MOUNDS
- 9 ZEYNEL ABIDIN MOSQUE & SAINT JACOB CHURCH
- 10 RUINS OF OLD NISIBIN SCHOOL
- 11 CITY PARK
- 12 ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE
- 13 COTTON FIELDS
- 14 GINNERY
- 15 RESTAURANT
- 16 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOOL
- 17 MULTIPURPOSE HALL
- 18 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER
- 19 SPORTS FIELDS
- 20 COLD STORAGE
- 21 OLIVE FIELDS
- 22 QUALITY DETECTION
- 23 DISTRIBUTION CENTER
- 24 HEAD OFFICE
- 25 OLIVE OIL FACTORY
- 26 HOTEL & FACTORY OUTLET
- 27 RESTAURANT & SHOP
- 28 OLIVE FACTORY
- 29 PACKAGE & CANNERY FACTORY
- 30 DWELLINGS
- 31 CAG CAG RIVER



MASTER PLAN







1. RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL ZONE

2. AGRI - INDUSTRY ZONE

3. RECREATIONAL ZONE

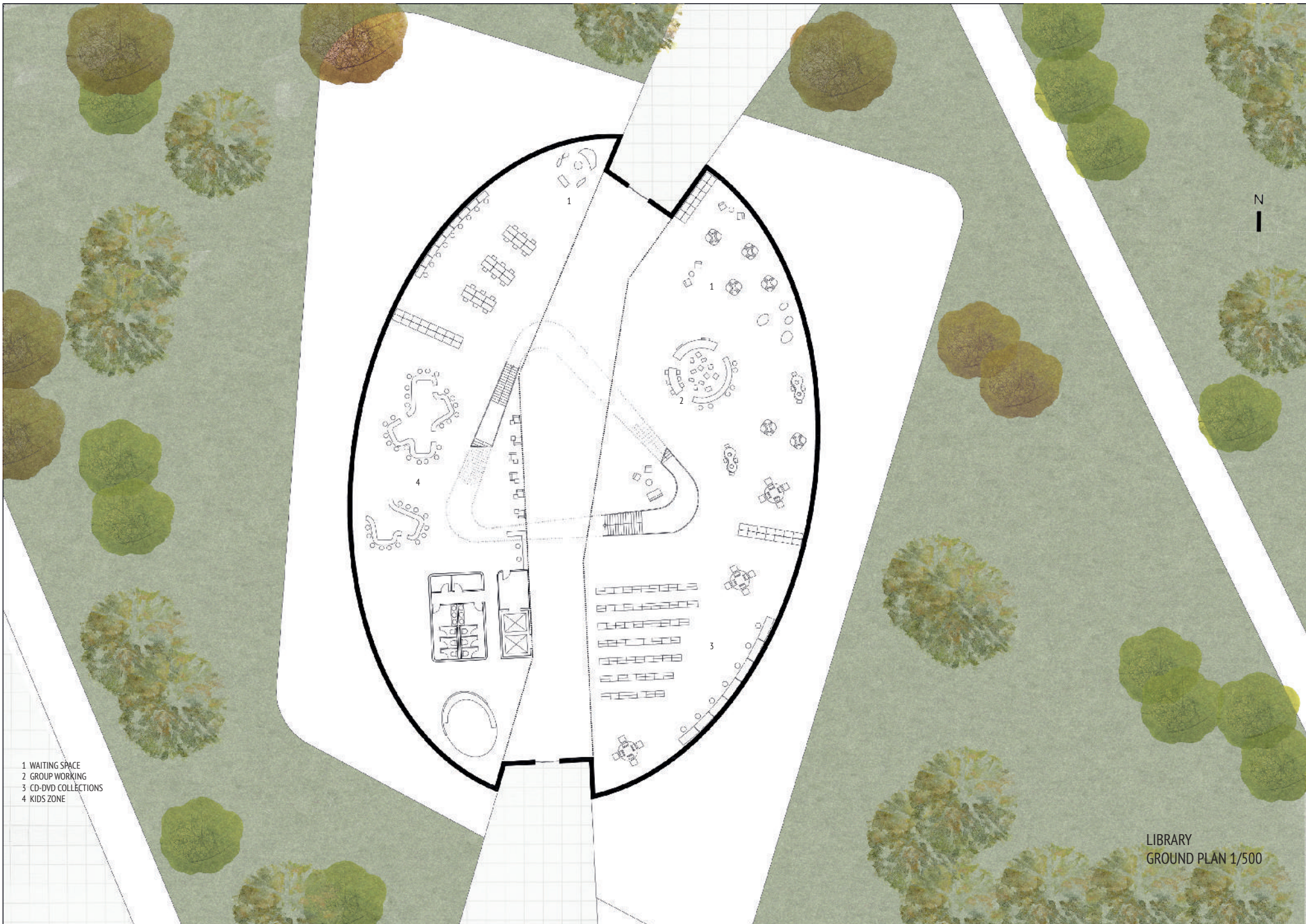
Library

Shopping Center

Local Market

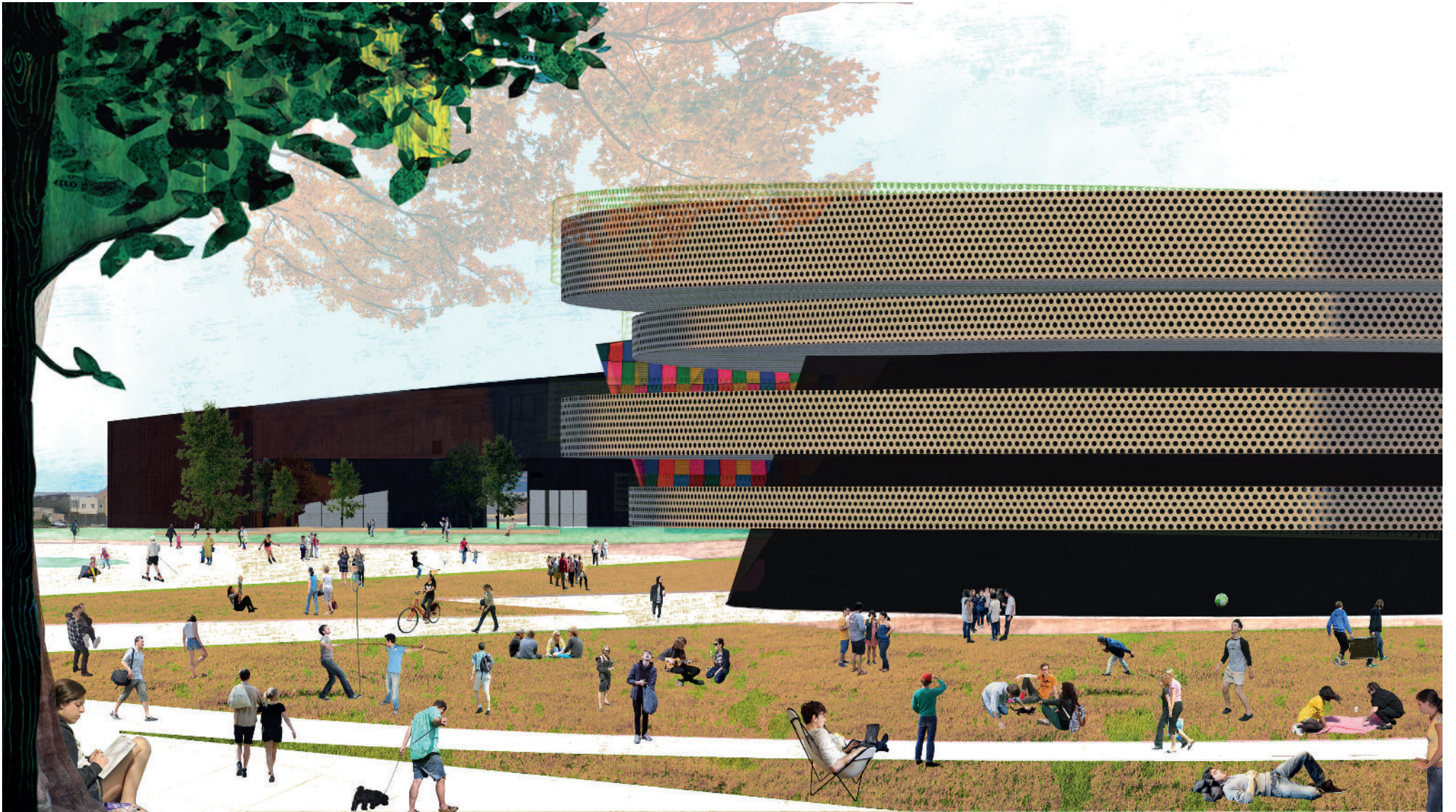
Zeynel Abidin Mosque Square





- 1 WAITING SPACE
- 2 GROUP WORKING
- 3 CD-DVD COLLECTIONS
- 4 KIDS ZONE

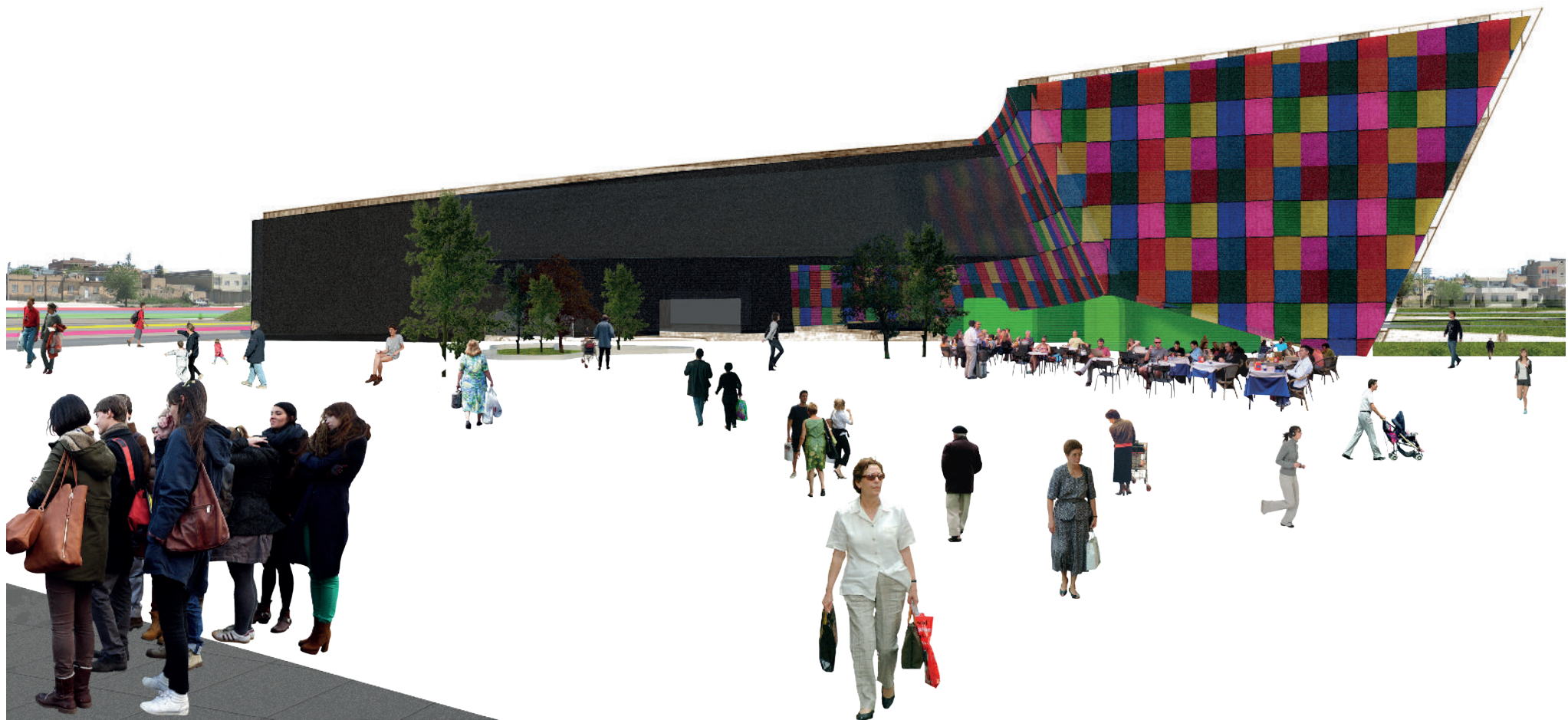
LIBRARY  
GROUND PLAN 1/500



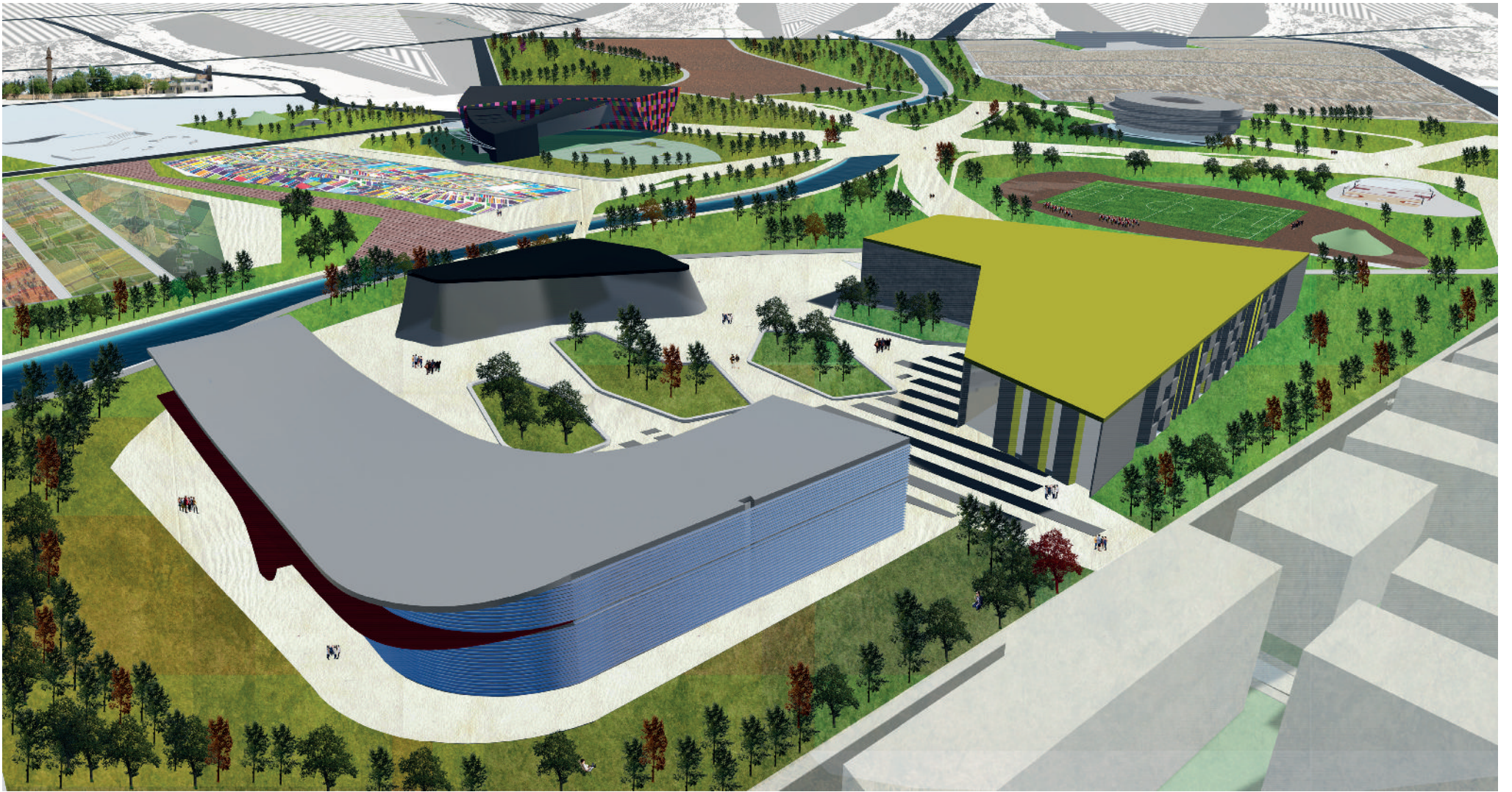


- 1 RESTAURANT
- 2 STORE
- 3 STALLS SELLING
- 4 LOCAL MARKET
- 5 KITCHEN
- 6 OPEN AIR MARKET

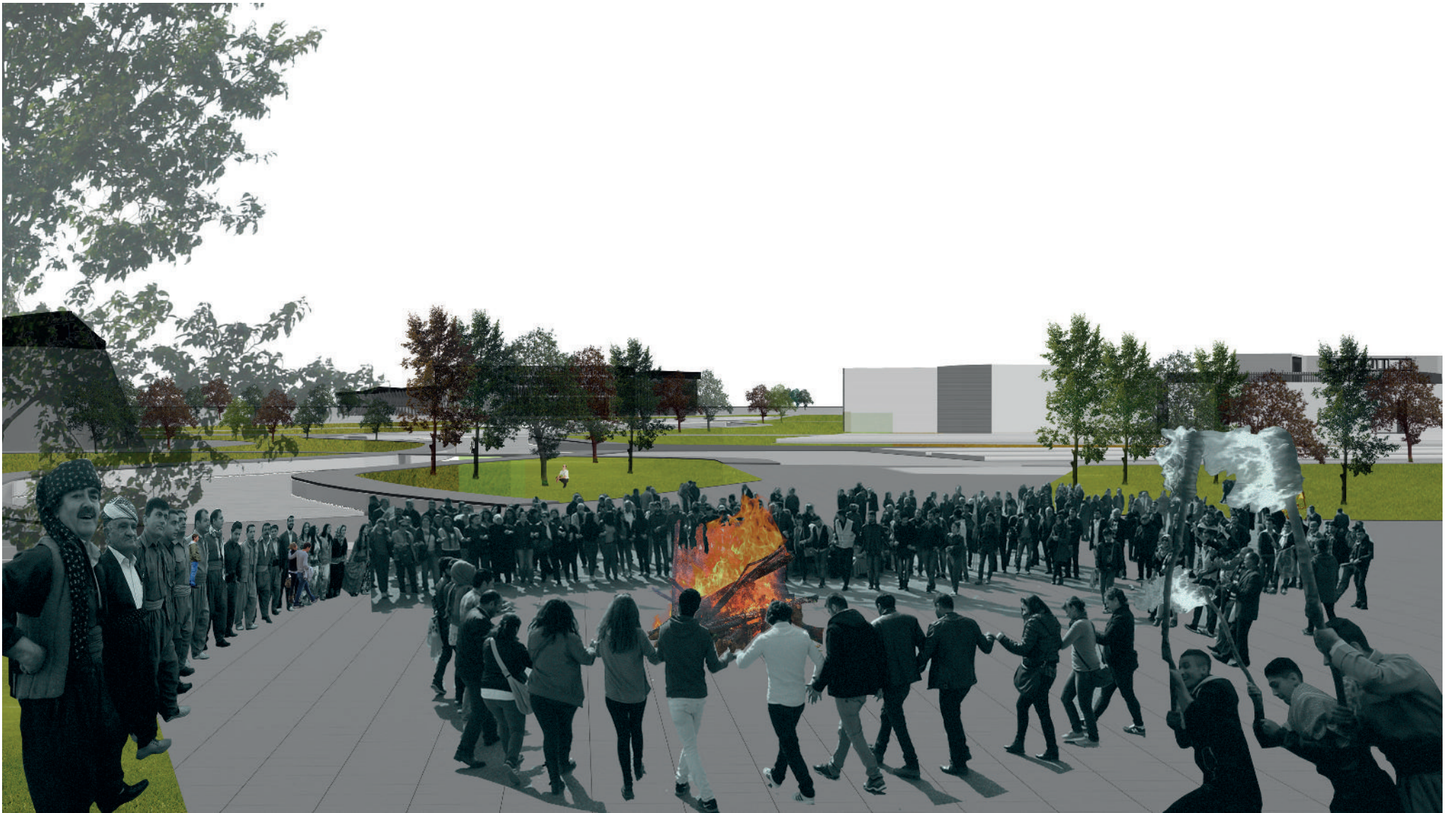
SHOPPING CENTER  
GROUND PLAN 1/500













Part 1: An economic corridor for a transformation of the mined-area in  
"Nusaybin - Al Qamishli Border"

Part 2: Agri-Industry Zone



**AGRI-INDUSTRY ZONE**

### Why cotton?

- Cotton production already exists, but it is inadequate when the potential is considered.
- The soil and climate are very suitable for cotton production.
- The number of the sectors it serves is abundant.

The cotton plant has great economic significance for humanity in terms of its widespread and compulsory use as well as for producer countries in terms of its added value and employment opportunities. The increasing population, increasing interest in natural fibres and increasing standard of living, altogether increase the demand for cotton. On the other hand, since the ecology of a limited number of countries is suitable for cotton farming, approximately 80% of global production is assumed by eight countries, including Turkey.

Although there is a strong cotton production structure in Turkey, there are many factors that can negatively affect this. These problems, which can affect cotton production negatively and should be solved, include mainly political problems, high production costs in cotton agriculture, problems in cotton cultivation, variety, seed and production techniques; cotton harvest, post-harvest (ginning) and unknown matter problems; problems in the cotton standardization system; inadequate training on cotton production and processing techniques; inadequate communication and cooperation among the related sectors of cotton.

### Why olives?

With its geographical location and its Mediterranean climate, Turkey is one of the leading olive and olive oil producers in the world along with other Mediterranean countries such as Italy, Spain, Greece and Tunisia. The homeland of olive is the Upper Mesopotamia and the South of Asia-Minor including the South-eastern Anatolia Region. Nowadays, the region covering Mardin, Hatay, Syria, Palestine and Cyprus is considered the homeland of olive. Olive and olive oil production in our country is mostly made in the Aegean and Marmara regions. Aydın, İzmir, Muğla, Balıkesir, Manisa and Çanakkale are the main sites for production. Due to the periodicity of the olive tree, a fluctuating pattern is observed in olive production; the high yield season (year of abundance) is followed by the low yield one (year of scarcity). Due to the lack of proper maintenance, harvesting and irrigation techniques, the production gap between the abundance and scarcity years is large. The lack of technical staff and that technological developments cannot cover the whole country result in that the targeted production levels cannot be reached.

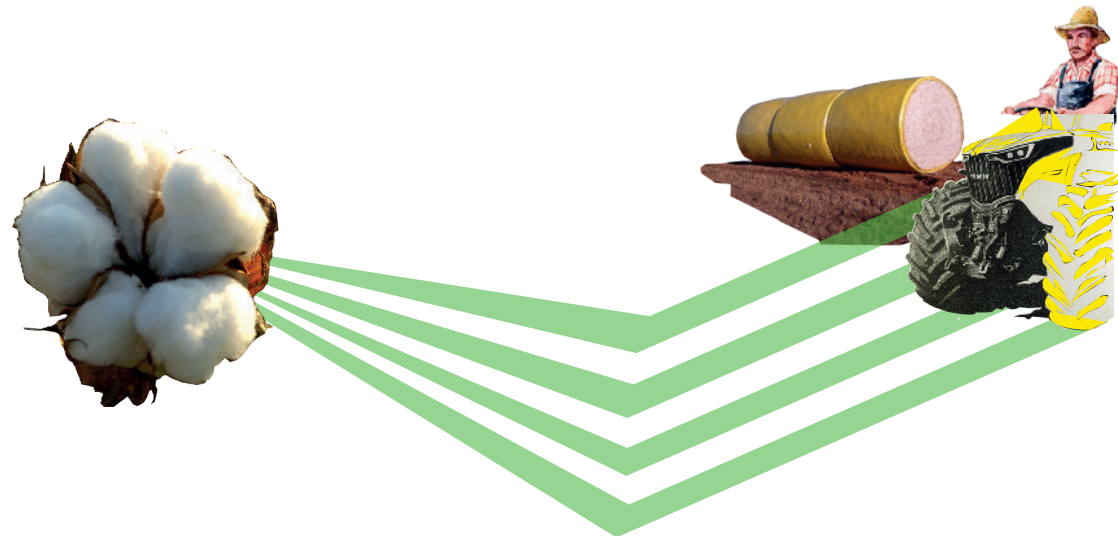
Source: TÜİK

	Unit	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16*
Cultivation area	1000 ha	481	542	488	451	468	458
Unginned Cotton Production	1000 ton	2150	2580	2320	2250	2349	2050
Unginned Cotton Yield	Kg/da	447	476	475	499	502	448
Fibre Production	1000 ton	817	955	858	878	846	779
Fibre Yield	Kg/da	170	176	176	195	181	170
Cotton Gin Yield**	%	38	37	37	39	36	38

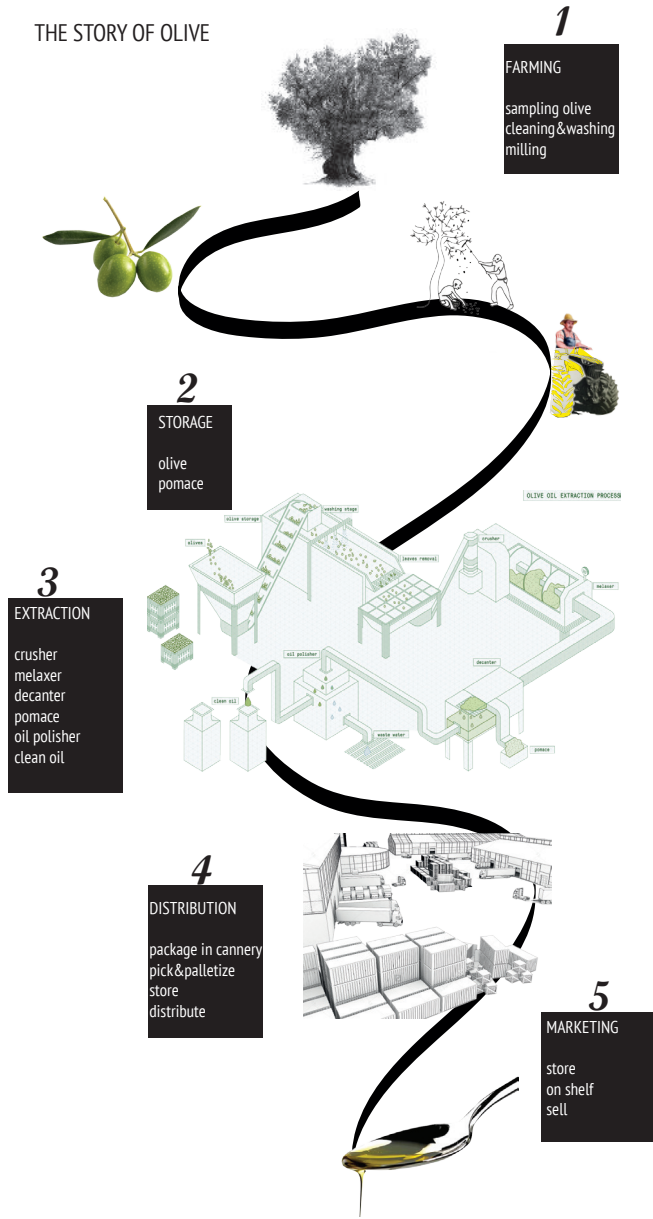
\*The approximate figures of 2015/16 are derived from the report on Turkey presented at 74th General Assembly of ICAC

\*\* Cotton gin yield has been calculated based on production figures of fibre and Unginned Cotton

Source: TÜİK [www.tuik.gov.tr](http://www.tuik.gov.tr)



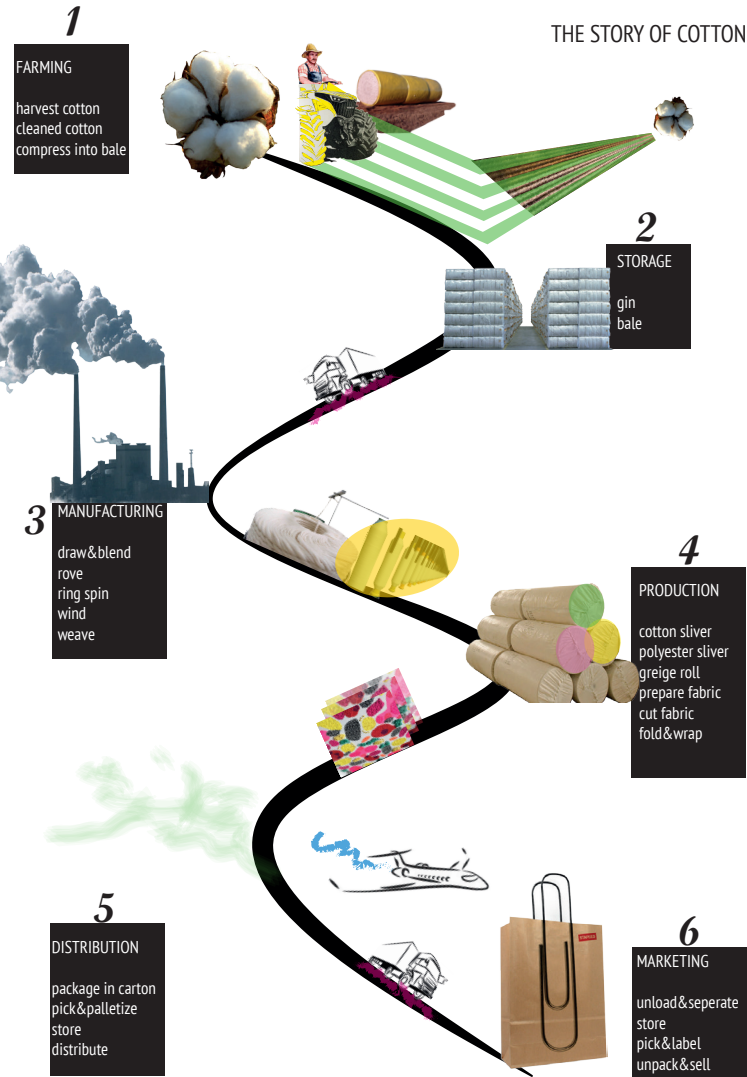
THE STORY OF OLIVE



The olive tree (*Olea europaea* L.) originated from Upper Mesopotamia and Southwest Asia, including a pan of the South East Anatolia Region of Turkey and Syria. The Semitic people in this region first did cultivation and improvement as early as 3000 BC. From this region, olive cultivation spread northward into Anatolia, then the Aegean Sea islands, Greece, Italy and Spain, southward into Egypt, then Tunisia and Morocco.

Other major crops in Upper Mesopotamia and mostly Syria include olives, mainly grown in the northwest, and cotton, particularly in Hasakeh, Raqqa and Aleppo governorates. Olive production fell to 450,000 tonnes in 2014, about half the average during the pre-conflict period, reflecting both poor rainfall. With more than 7 million fruit-bearing olive trees, Syria has huge potential to develop its olive and olive oil business once the conflict abates. Cotton output was already in decline in the late 2000s as a result of drought and crop infestation, but the situation has worsened since 2011. The 2014 crop was estimated by the agriculture ministry at 169,000 tonnes, compared with an average of more than 600,000 tonnes per year in 2 0 0 6 - 1 0 .

THE STORY OF COTTON



process steps for cotton & olive

## DISTRIBUTION CENTER

A distribution center for a set of products is a warehouse or other specialized building, often with refrigeration or air conditioning, which is stocked with products (goods) to be redistributed to retailers, to wholesalers, or directly to consumers. A distribution center is a principal part, the order processing element, of the entire order fulfillment process. Distribution centers are usually thought of as being demand driven. A distribution center can also be called a warehouse, a DC, a fulfillment center, a cross-dock facility, a bulk break center, and a package handling center. The name by which the distribution center is known is commonly based on the purpose of the operation. For example, a "retail distribution center" normally distributes goods to retail stores, an "order fulfillment center" commonly distributes goods directly to consumers, and a cross-dock facility stores little or no product but distributes goods to other destinations.

Distribution centers are the foundation of a supply network, as they allow a single location to stock a vast number of products. Some organizations operate both retail distribution and direct-to-consumer out of a single facility, sharing space, equipment, labor resources, and inventory as applicable. A typical retail distribution network operates with centers set up throughout a commercial market, with each center serving a number of stores. Large distribution centers for companies such as Wal-Mart serve 50–125 stores. Suppliers ship truckloads of products to the distribution center, which stores the product until needed by the retail location and ships the proper quantity.

Since a large retailer might sell tens of thousands of products from thousands of vendors, it would be impossibly inefficient to ship each product directly from each vendor to each store. Many retailers own and run their own distribution networks, while smaller retailers may outsource this function to dedicated logistics firms that coordinate the distribution of products for a number of companies. A distribution center can be co-located at a logistics center.

### Storage

Although the primary role of a distribution center is to receive large quantities of products and ship small quantities to individual stores, an important secondary role is storage. Many retailers give priority to having as many items in stock at once as possible. To conserve space, minimize inventory costs, and maximize the variety they offer, the retailer might stock only one or a few items of a particular product. This requires the ability to ship a replacement quickly once an item is sold. By keeping product on hand in the distribution center, the retailer can ship a replacement almost immediately after a product is sold.

### Processing

Another way to look at a distribution center is to see it as a production or manufacturing operation. Goods arrive in bulk, they are stored until needed, retrieved, and assembled into shipments. The efficient processing of a distribution center can greatly impact the final price of the product delivered to the end user. Efficient processing not only directly impacts the cost of goods through reduced labor, but it also indirectly impacts the cost of goods through reduced inventory. Inventory represents an investment with its associated investment interest or inventory carrying cost. Reducing the processing time of order processing can directly reduce the amount of inventory necessary to be stocked in the operation.

### Organization

All distribution centers have three main areas and may have additional specialized areas. The three main areas are the receiving dock, the storage area, and the shipping dock. In small organizations it is possible for the receiving and shipping functions to occur side by side, but in large centers, separating these areas simplifies the process. Many distribution centers have dedicated dock doors for each store in their shipping area. The receiving area can also be specialized based on the handling characteristics of freight being received, on whether the product is going into storage or directly to a store, or by the type of vehicle delivering the product.



## **Concept of Agri-Industry Zone**

### **1. Distribution**

Distribution Center  
Quality Detection

### **2. Factories**

Olive Factory  
Olive Oil Factory  
Package & Cannery Factory

Cotton Factory/Ginnery

### **3. Storages**

### **4. Restaurants**

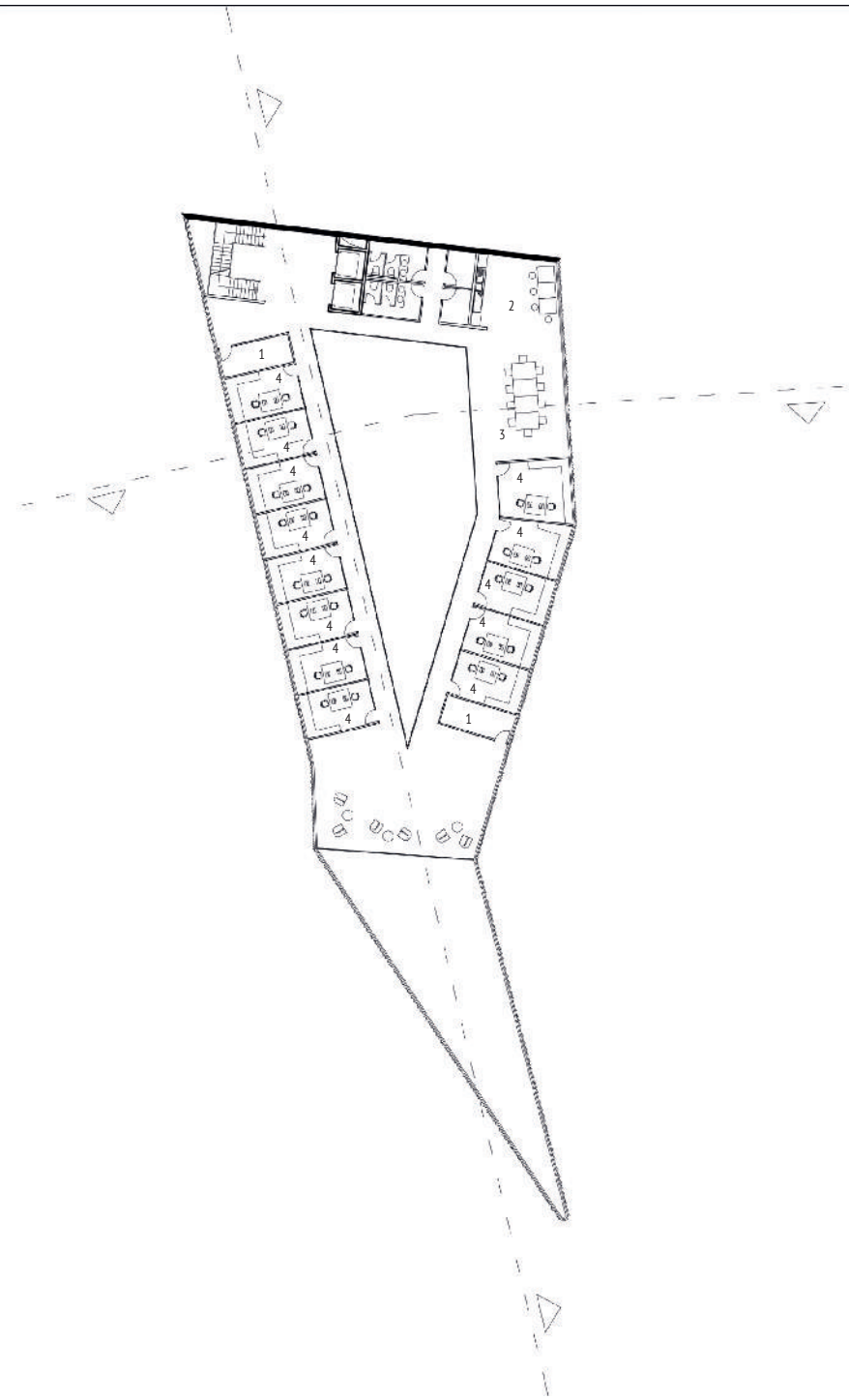
### **5. Hotel**

### **6. Factory Outlet**

### **7. Shops**



HEAD OFFICE  
 GROUND FLOOR 1/500



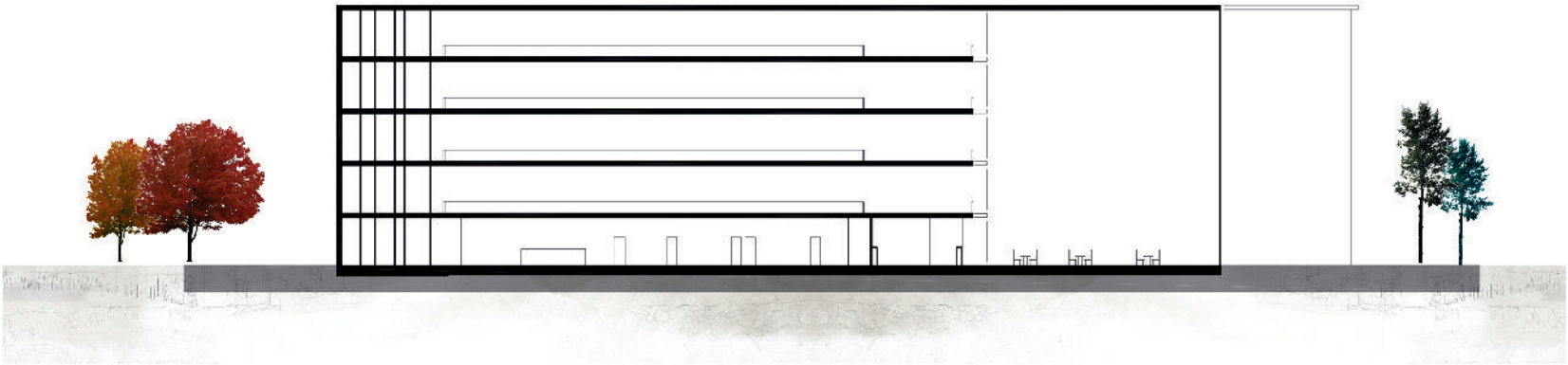
- 1 ARCHIVE
- 2 KITCHEN
- 3 MEETING ROOM
- 4 OFFICE

HEAD OFFICE  
FIRST FLOOR 1/500





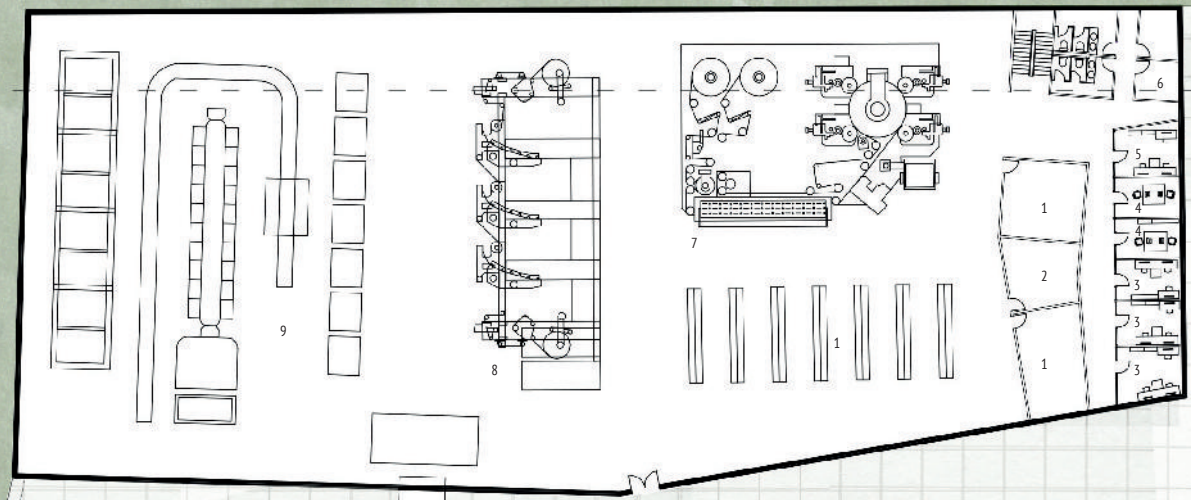
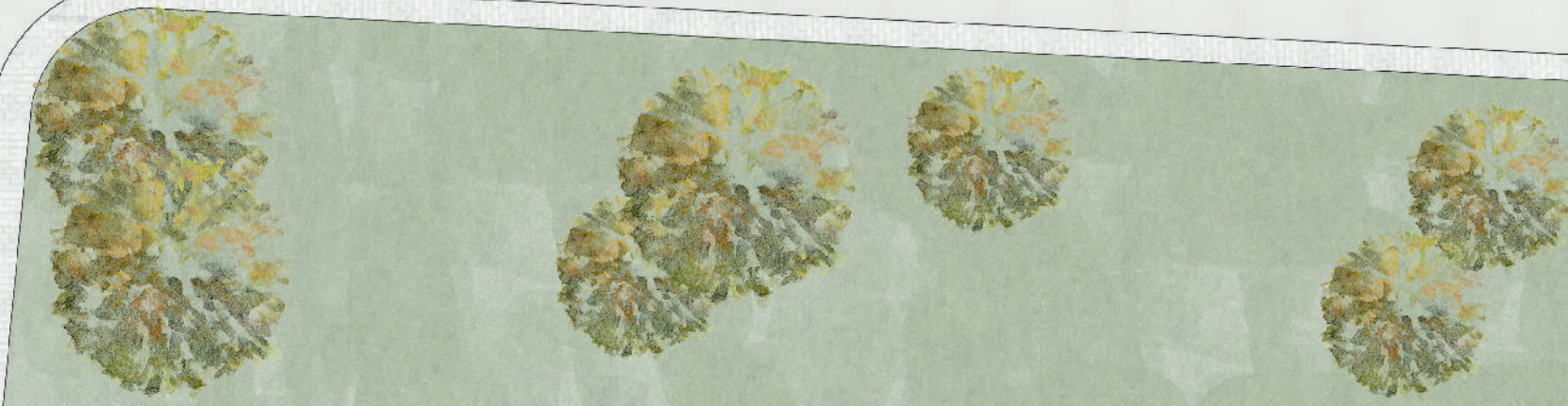
HEAD OFFICE  
SECTION A - 1/500



HEAD OFFICE  
SECTION B - 1/500

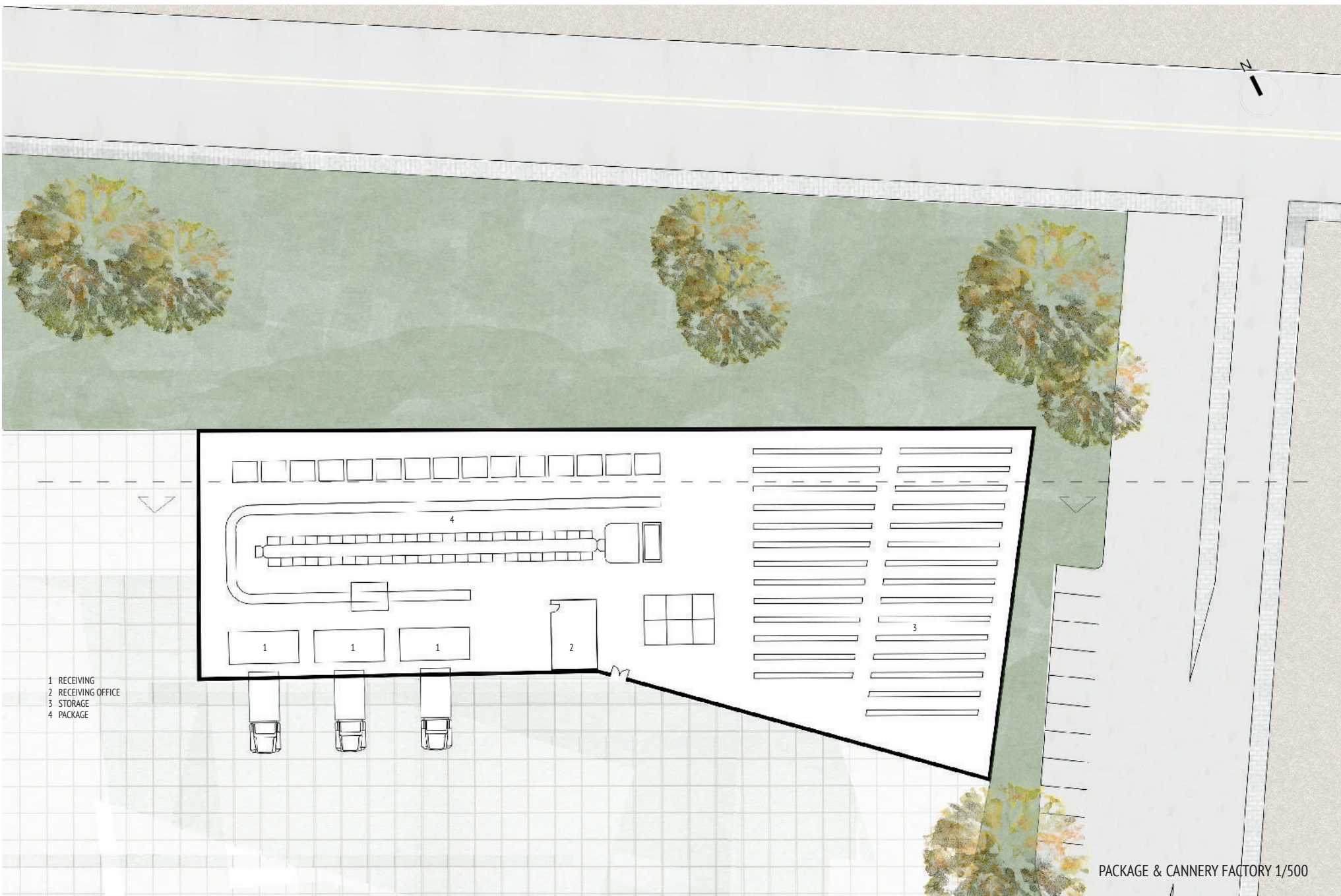
- 1 SHIPPING
- 2 RECEIVING
- 3 QUALITY DETECTION
- 4 WORKSPACE
- 5 LAB
- 6 STORAGE
- 7 OFFICE
- 8 KITCHEN
- 9 MEETING
- 10 MARKETING
- 11 TECHNICAL ROOM

QUALITY DETECTION  
DISTRIBUTION CENTER  
GROUND PLAN 1/600



- 1 STORAGE
- 2 MACHINE ROOM
- 3 OFFICE
- 4 GRAPHIC DESIGN
- 5 MARKETING
- 6 KITCHEN
- 7 CLEANING
- 8 PACKAGING
- 9 CANNERY

OLIVE FACTORY  
GROUND FLOOR 1/500



- 1 RECEIVING
- 2 RECEIVING OFFICE
- 3 STORAGE
- 4 PACKAGE

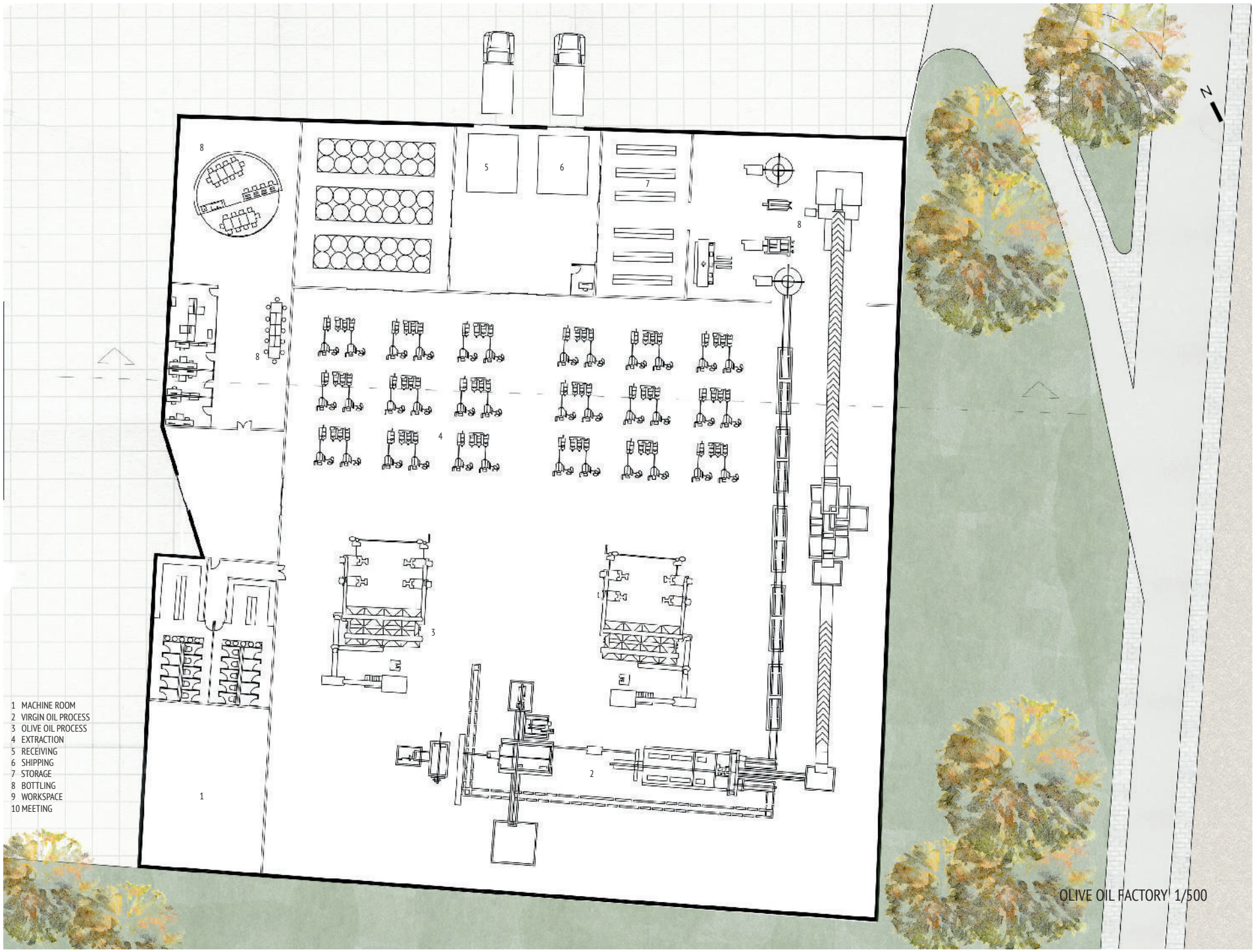
PACKAGE & CANNERY FACTORY 1/500



- 1 STORE
- 2 CUSTOMER SERVICE
- 3 MARKETING
- 4 OFFICE
- 5 MANAGEMENT
- 6 MEETING ROOM
- 7 HOTEL ROOM
- 8 BACK OFFICE
- 9 WAITING SPACE
- 10 OFFICE
- 11 STORAGE
- 12 KITCHEN
- 13 RESTAURANT



RESTAURANT & SHOP  
HOTEL & FACTORY OUTLET  
GROUND FLOOR 1/500



- 1 MACHINE ROOM
- 2 VIRGIN OIL PROCESS
- 3 OLIVE OIL PROCESS
- 4 EXTRACTION
- 5 RECEIVING
- 6 SHIPPING
- 7 STORAGE
- 8 BOTTLING
- 9 WORKSPACE
- 10 MEETING

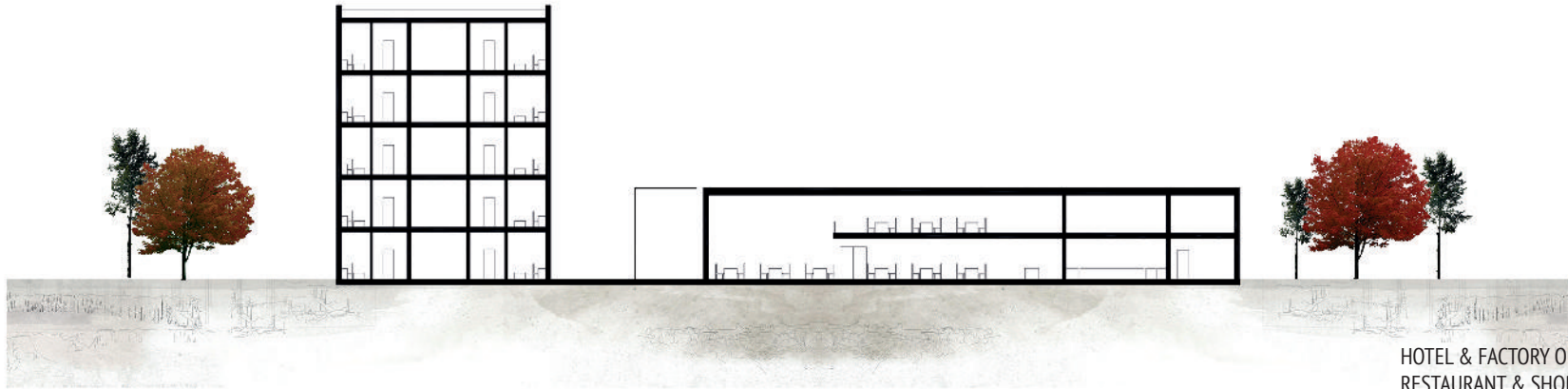
OLIVE OIL FACTORY 1/500



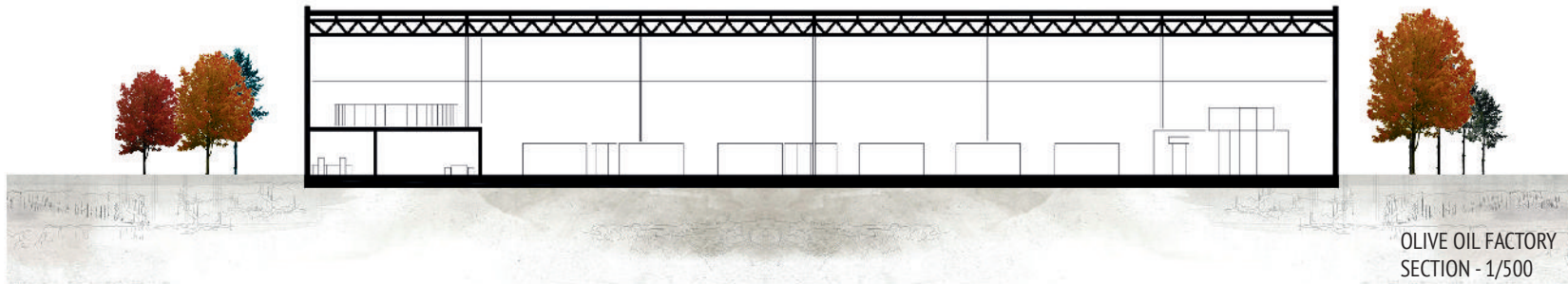
- 1 STORAGE
- 2 KITCHEN
- 3 OFFICE
- 4 RESTAURANT
- 5 STORAGE
- 6 TECHNICAL ROOM
- 7 MARKETING
- 8 OFFICE
- 9 RECEIVING OFFICE
- 10 GINNERY DEPARTMENT
- 11 SHIPPING



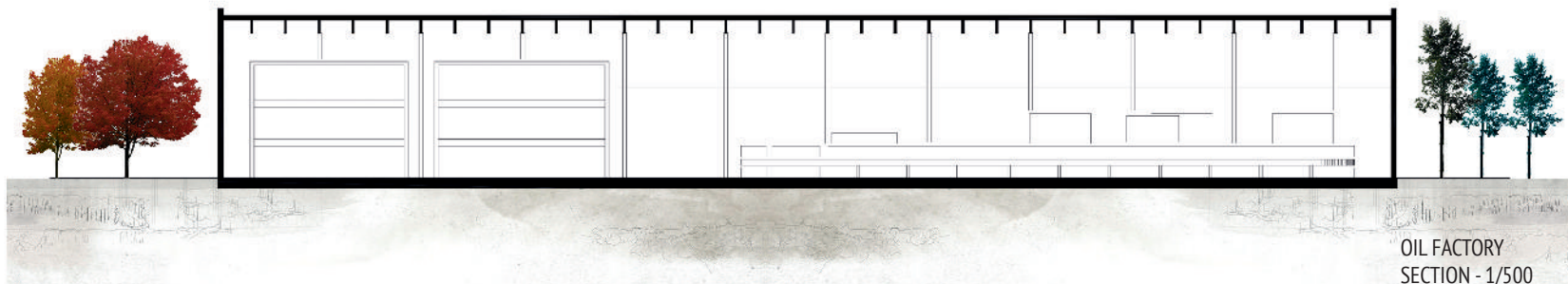
GINNERY & RESTAURANT 1/600



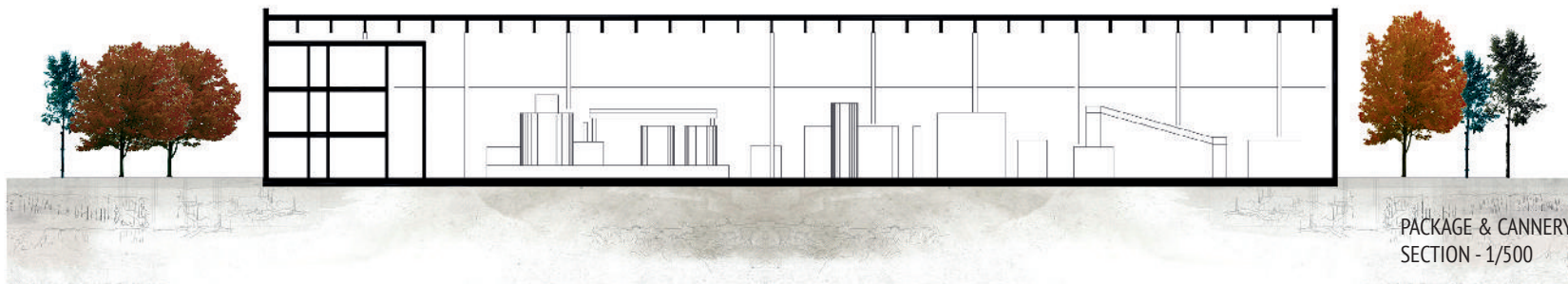
HOTEL & FACTORY OUTLET  
RESTAURANT & SHOP  
SECTION - 1/500



OLIVE OIL FACTORY  
SECTION - 1/500



OIL FACTORY  
SECTION - 1/500



PACKAGE & CANNERY  
SECTION - 1/500





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