

***The Mountain and the Carpet***

The idea of 'Unity within Variety' contained in the whole Jabal Omar Development Project is an important element of balance and the proposal provides tools for supporting this balance. Within the proposal these tools for managing the balance between unity and variation have been divided into two main areas, entitled the 'Mountain' and the 'Carpet'. Under these two titles the proposal works with:

1. Providing tools to create a façade expression of character and variation that nevertheless gives the city quarter an overall, cohesive identity, the Mountain.
2. Creating an overall figure, which includes the whole city quarter with different intensity, the Carpet.

In order to create this identity we use the metaphor of the Mountain about the city quarter's heavy parts – the volume of the buildings – and the Carpet as a metaphor for the lightly floating covering that binds all the surfaces of the city quarter together. The curved roads and different terraces offer large possibilities for creating identity and for exciting, spacious urban design sequences throughout the new city quarter of Jabal Omar.

The vertical surfaces, the Mountain

The buildings and the sides of the tunnels and multi-storey car parks are treated as stone surfaces with the option of large variations, but always with a façade cladding of natural stone materials. This strengthens the metaphor for the city quarter as a stylised mountain growing out of the landscape. The form of the façade is vital to this motif and this proposal has three design strategies:

- a. That all façades should appear with 50% stone façades and that no long, connected ribbon windows may be created. This means that the windows must appear as a pattern on the façade surface.
- b. That at least 4 bay windows are established on each building which must in their design be based on the Arabic mashrabiya. These are executed in wood and should be seen as large, sculptural elements on the façades. Up to 8 large units may be placed on each façade.
- c. That the joins between the surfaces and the façades should in their design communicate the structure of the Carpet in this transition in the form of coverings.

The horizontal surfaces, the Carpet

In order to create an overall design motif that weaves all surfaces together as a Carpet the proposal uses a covering, in the form of a large mesh, which, with different variations of structure and density, runs through the whole development and creates visual coherence among all parts of the city quarter. The Carpet is used as a poetical motif for the pattern and functions of the covering, as the Carpet can be very closed and function as a cover or be completely open and just function as a cohesive design. The horizontal surfaces are defined by the following elements:

- a. the Carpet as the cohesive, horizontal covering.
 - b. piazzas/meeting places under the Carpet where the covering provides shade.
 - c. roof gardens on all the development's lower buildings where the Carpet provides shade.
- Thereby the form of the Carpet and its function and design are closely woven together. The proposal sees the utilisation of the landscape and the covering of the Carpet as closely connected figures. Thus a dense covering over a roof garden can function either to create shade or as a hothouse.

Special design areas:

- Iconic buildings: In order to create variation and significance in the design of the buildings 8 buildings have been selected and modelled as sculptural building volumes. The buildings may be varied by different angles and curved façades.
- Multi-storey car parks : The multi-storey car parks appear as bases for the buildings and this is expressed through their design as grottos, caves or canyons.
- Shopping mall : The atmosphere in the new mall is created by lights that cross each other, the overhead light wells drawing light down through the storeys and the view to the terrace gardens from each level. The scenography will be planting and waterfalls as in an indoor oasis.





The Carpet: technology, comfort/shade and construction.

In addition to its identity-creating elements the Carpet also has the function of being a technological experiment, of providing a space of experience and comfort. The main construction itself is of steel and painted in a light aluminium colour so that it is set off as a light and elegant element. The artificial lighting is built into the main construction and in selected zones solar cells are built in. In the construction by the gardens and the parking spaces the Carpet may appear as different types of covering in the form of surfaces and patterns, but is continually inspired by the Arabic tradition for geometric shapes as the basis of its identity.

Design manual: A design manual is created to ensure that the design ideas are maintained while still guaranteeing the individual building the freedom to create its own identity within the overall framework. A design manual can be divided as follows: The façade principle must be followed, but the execution of patterns, vertical and horizontal lengths may vary. The bay windows must be established in the sizes indicated and with wooden cladding, but they may be positioned anywhere on the building – just as the detailing itself is optional. The materials on the façade must be coordinated with the colour coding/cards to create cohesion. Cohesion must be created between the Carpet's construction and buildings through coverings around entrances and façade design next to landscaping. Here, again, there is an overall guiding principle, but the execution and actual design are up to the individual architect.

Note on the finances of the proposal

The basis of the design itself for individual buildings with the indicated façade pattern is not deemed significantly to alter the financial estimate for each individual project. The extra features and elements on the iconic buildings are intended as part of the marketing value that can be assigned to individual functions. The Carpet has been divided into several financial parts. Thus each plot is obliged to include the cost of its local covering over entrances, etc. into construction costs for each building. It is precisely the idea that the Carpet should have varying density which contributes to making the development realistic. Identity and design are weighted by energy from solar cells, venues in the form of lighting, and the covering of gardens and squares.

