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The historical Beirut city in Lebanon

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Abstract

The author is connected to Beirut by a particularly pleasant experience since (as dean of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sarajevo) he was directly involved in the academic cooperation of three faculties, the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette (ENSAPLV) Paris, the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sarajevo and the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA) Beirut in the period 2007-2011. The second, threatening, connection of the Author with the city of Beirut was realized through two architects who presented "examples of the bioclimatic architecture of Beirut" in Barcelona (International symposium: Bioclimatic architecture in the mediterranean, Barcelona, 08-14 June 2006).

Keywords: Mediterranean, Lebanon, Beirut

1. Introduction

Beirut is the main and largest port city in Lebanon with about 1916100 inhabitants (2018)^[1]. The city is located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, at the foot of the Lebanon mountain range. It is one of the oldest cities in the world with a history of more than 5,000 years. Due to its long history, where it established itself as an important cultural and economic center of the Middle East and much wider, where peoples, religions and cultures mingled, Beirut gained the reputation of a cosmopolitan city, the "Paris of the Middle East" and the "Switzerland of the Middle East". Its development began to stagnate before, and especially after, the Lebanon War (1975-1990) in which Israel, on the one hand, and the PLO forces, Syria, Fatah and Hezbollah, on the other, clashed. After this war, the reconstruction of Beirut followed, which was mostly completed by 2009. Today, Beirut is the seat of several UN and regional specialized organizations: the UN Office for Economic and Social Affairs for the region of West Asia (Economic and Social Council Ecosoc Beirut, ECOSOC), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Regional Office of UNESCO- and for Arab countries, the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO)...

The first mention of Beirut dates back to the 15th century BC, when the city is mentioned in an impression on a clay tablet from the ancient Egyptian city of Tell el Amarna^[2]. The city, as a city-polis, was known during the time of the Phoenicians as Be'erot ("fountain"), which is probably where its current name comes from. The ancient Romans occupied this city in 64 BC and granted it the status of a colony (Colonia Iulia Augusta Felix Berytus). The Romans kept his common name, adapting it to the Latin expression, Berytus. From the time of the administration of ancient Rome, there are many archaeological remains of Roman public buildings in the area of today's Beirut: hippodrome, circus, baths, theater, basilica, residential villas... The city was hit by a devastating earthquake (and after it by devastating sea waves) in 551. The Arabs (635) captured this city and gave it the name Beyrut, which is a continuation of its name from the Phoenicians. Prince Arslan bin al-Mundhir founded there (759) the Principality of Sin-el-Fil, from which the Principality of Mount Lebanon (English: Principality of Mount Lebanon) developed, and later Greater Lebanon. In the period (1110-1291), Beirut was in the possession of the Crusaders, as part of their Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem (English: Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem). The old Prince of Beirut, John of Ibelin (1179-1236), after the battles with Saladin (An-Nasir Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub, Salah ad-Din, 1138-1193), rebuilt Beirut and built his palace there (Ibelin). The Arabs were again (1291) ruled by the Druze, a separate ethnic and religious group. During the reign of Sultan Selim I (1512-1520), the Ottoman Empire occupied (1516) Syria and today's territory of Lebanon. The area around Beirut is organized as a special sandjak, included in the composition of the Syrian Eyalet. The city was governed by local emirs who were submissive to the Ottoman sultan. However, some emirs (Fakhr-al-Din II, for example) tried to gain independence through armed rebellions against the Ottomans, but these efforts were defeated.

During the administration of the Ottoman Empire, Beirut became a cosmopolitan city, with strong business ties with Europe and (later) with the USA. Here the USA founded (1866) the American University of Beirut (AUB). In Beirut, French engineers built (1894) a modern port and a railway (1907) Beirut-Damascus-Aleppo (Aleppo), thereby strengthening French influence in this area. At this time (1911), the ethnic composition of the inhabitants of Beirut was: 77,000 Christians, 36,000 Muslims, 2,500 Jews, 400 Druze and 4,100 foreigners. Local official (part of the Ottoman Empire) Salim Ali Salam (1868-1938) was the deputy mayor of Beirut and a member of the Ottoman parliament at the beginning of the 20th century, a man with progressive ideas. He made a huge contribution to the development of Beirut as a cosmopolitan city. After the end of World War I (1918), Beirut (and all of Lebanon) began to be governed by France. During World War II (1943), Lebanon gained independence, and Beirut became its capital. Beirut had the status of a regional intellectual and educational center, a major tourist destination and a banking center that managed the trade and traffic of oil and gas from the Persian Gulf. After the Lebanon War (1975-1990), Beirut was intensively rebuilt in order to regain its previous status by the (again) Israel-Lebanon War (2006), where the Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafic Hariri (1944-2005 (assassination) had a particularly great merit)). However, even today, the area of Lebanon, and especially Beirut, is a place where huge, mutually controversial, interests of the Near and Middle East region, Europe and the world as a whole collide.

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Source: Prof. dr Ejub Dzaferovic (April 20, 2008)

Fig 1: Author at Rafic Hariri International Airport in Beirut

2. Natural resources and sights

Beirut is located on a peninsula, on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, at the foot of the Lebanon mountain range (Fig. 5.2.1, Fig. 5.2.3). The climate in the city is Mediterranean (type Csa, according to the Köppen climate classification), where winters are mild and rainy (with an average temperature of 11 °C), and summers are hot and dry (with a temperature in August of around 32 °C). Autumn and spring are warm. Due to its characteristic geographical location and local geomorphology, the city is characterized by daytime (blowing from the sea to the land) and night (blowing from the land to the sea) winds. The average annual precipitation is 825 mm/m². In the city itself, the occurrence of snow is rare, while its occurrence on the nearby Libalon mountain is regular and abundant. It is the nearby mountains with snow and ski centers that give Beirut, a Mediterranean city, a special specificity and wealth [14].

Mount Lebanon (Arabic: جبل لبنان = jabal lubnān) is a true gift of the city of Beirut and the entire country of Lebanon. Located close to the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, this mountain creates a high threshold towards the hinterland and is a "catcher" for clouds and rain, which contributes to the appearance of a large number of water sources and streams. The average height of this mountain is 2500 m, and the height of its highest peak, Jabal al-Makmela (Arabic: الجبل السوداء القرمزية) is 3093 m. Due to its altitude, Mount Lebanon [14] generates snow that is "food" for many sources of drinking water and watercourses. The mountain is a natural gem where people in all seasons, including winter, have an ideal place to stay in nature and a large number for recreation (mountaineering, alpinism, hunting, fishing on its watercourses, skiing...), (Figures 2, 3, 4).



View of Mount Lebanon



View from Mount Lebanon on the city of Beirut



Ski resort on Mount Lebanon above the Beirut city

Fig 2: Mount Lebanon

Source: <http://en.theoutlook.com.ua/article/7526/10-facts-aboutlebanon.html>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://www.kaloustian.eu/LebanonBeirut/Llebanon%20data%20files/index%20BeirutLebanon%20panorama%20voor%20Lebanon%20page.html>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20130221-the-adrenalinesports-capital-of-the-middle-east>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.



Fig 4: The Beirut City

Source: <http://www.citiestips.com/view/-130797>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <https://www.gtreview.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Beirut-Lebanon-Aerial-View.jpg>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://www.technostation.tv/beirut-lebanon-from-war-touberhaus/>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0a/Pigeon%27s_Rock_Beirut_Lebanon.jpg, Accessed: March 29, 2024.



Fig 3: Cheddar. The cedar tree is a symbol of Lebanon, so it is also on its flag

Source: <http://en.theoutlook.com.ua/article/7526/10-facts-aboutlebanon.html>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.



3. Architectural cultural and historical heritage

As a crossroads of peoples, religions and cultures, Beirut is a city with an extremely diverse cultural and historical heritage where architecture has a particularly important place. The Phoenician Port of Beirut is located between Rue Allenby and Rue Foch in Beirut (archaeological site known as BEY039). The port dates back to the Bronze Age (1200-1150 BC), and its current location is 300 m from the sea. Near this port are two Ottoman piers from the 19th century (archaeological sites known as BEY018 and BEY019). Archaeological excavations were carried out in 2000, 2011 and 2012 (Figure 5).



Source: <https://www.ooroom.org/forum/threads/phoenician-port-of-beirut-in-danger-of-oblivion.45732/page-2>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Fig 5: Phoenician port in Beirut

Roman baths in Beirut. The remains of Roman baths were found in the center of today's Beirut and this archaeological site is surrounded by modern government buildings. The remains of the Roman baths were discovered in 1968-1969 years. The space with their remains is used today for various exhibitions and performances in order to preserve the memory of the place, the genius loci. The Roman Beytus had four thermal baths complexes (Figure 6).



Fig 6: Roman baths in Beirut

Source:

<https://www.robertharding.com/index.php?lang=en&page=search&s=roman+baths&smode=0&zoom=1&display=5&sortby=0&bgcolor=white>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/76/Centreville_de_Beyrouth.JPG, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Roman Basilica at the Forum Beryrus (French: Basilique romaine au Forum Beryrus). In Beirut, there are still today the remains of the columns of the former Roman basilica (Figure 7).



Source: <https://www.adventurous-travels.com/posts/is-beirut-safe>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Fig 7: Roman basilica on the Forum Beryrus

Church of Saint George Maronite is the cathedral church of the Maronite Catholic Archeparchy in Beirut. The church was built (1884-1894) according to the project of the architect Giuseppe Maggiore, in the style of neoclassicism, based on

the model of the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore. During the Israel-Lebanon War (1982), the church was damaged and looted (when some works of the painter F. V. E. Delacroix also disappeared). After the war, the church was renovated (2000) and given to the Maronite community in Beirut (Figure 8).



Fig 8: Church of Saint George Maronite

Source:

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4d/ChurchMosque.jpg>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source:

<http://www.mountainsoftravelphotos.com/Lebanon/Beirut%20Downtown/slides/Beirut%2016%20Maronite%20Cathedral%20of%20St.%20George%20Inside.html>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

The Cathedral of St. Elias and St. Gregory the Illuminator is the central (cathedral) Armenian-Catholic church in Beirut located in the city center, on Debbas Square. The church was built in 1928 with the financial support of Pope Pius XI (1857-1939). The architecture of the church is based on the tradition of old Armenian churches (Figure 9).



Fig 9: The Cathedral of St. Elias and St. Gregory the Illuminator

Source:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1b/Cathedral_Saint_Elias_and_Saint_Gregory_The_Illuminator.jpg

Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://placesmap.net/LB/Saint-Elias-and-Saint-Gregory-the-Illuminator-Armenian-Catholic-Cathedral-46680/>

Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral is the central (cathedral) Greek church in Beirut. The church was built (1764-1772) in the business district, Downtown Beirut (Figure 10).





Fig 10: Seint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Source: <https://travel.sygi.com/en/poi/greek-orthodox-cathedral-of-saint-george-poi:30031>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/16748457@N08/6872329368>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://www.mountainsoftravelphotos.com/Lebanon/Beirut%20Downtown/slides/Beirut%20St%20Georges%20Greek%20Orthodox%20Cathedral%20Main%20Altar.html>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

The Government Palace in Beirut (Arabic, romanized: Al-Sarāy al-Kabir, French: Le Grand Serail) is the seat of the government of Lebanon. The building is located not far from the Lebanese Parliament building, on a hill, in the center of Beirut. The building was built (1853) by order of Ibrahim Pasha (then the Ottoman administrator in Egypt), during the administration of the Ottoman Empire, in the style of Neo-Ottoman architecture (Figure 11).



Fig 11: The Government Palace in Beirut

Source: <http://www.habeeb.com/lebanon.photos.15.beirut.html>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://ttnotes.com/grand-serail.html>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://www.shg.com.lb/project/chicago-house-with-pool/>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

The American University of Beirut (AUB) was founded in 1875. It is a private, secular and independent university in Beirut where the degrees obtained are confirmed in New York¹. The annual operating budget of this university is 423

¹ The university is the highest ranked university in the Arab region, 235th in the world (QS) ranking (for 2018).

million dollars, with an additional 605 million dollars from various donations. The university campus consists of 64 buildings (buildings of individual faculties, university hospital, four libraries, three museums, seven buildings for student accommodation...). Teaching at the university is conducted in English, and students come from 120 countries (Figure 12).



Fig 12: The American University of Beirut (AUB)

Source: <http://www.aacu.org/the-american-university-of-beirut/>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://lebanon2030.com/team/the-olayan-school-of-business-osbat-the-american-university-of-beirut/>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/67396/14-out-of-28-topscoring-students-in-official-Lebanese-Baccalaureate-join-AUBwith-full-scholarship>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

The Robert Mouawad Private Museum is housed in the private palace of the Lebanese businessman Robert Mouawad, in the Zokak el-Blat neighborhood of Beirut. Zgada pačaće/museum was built (1891) in neo-Gothic style (which is the influence of Venetian palaces). The museum was opened in 2006. The museum houses exhibits from different cultures: works of art, rare book collections, Chinese porcelain, ceramics, carpets, jewelry, icons, antique weapons, (...), (Figure 13).

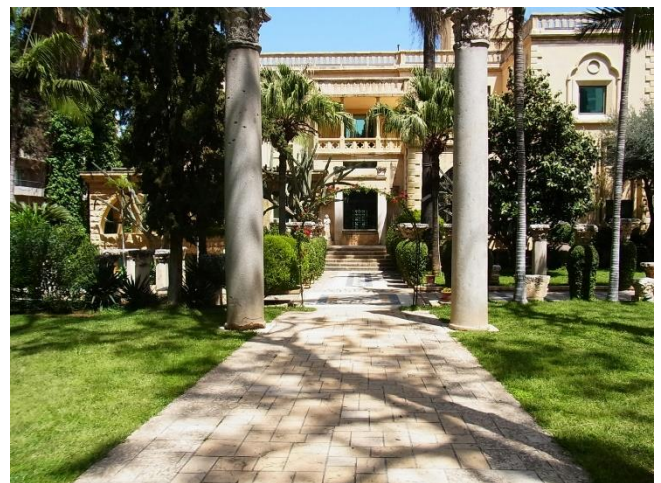


Fig 13: The Robert Mouawad Private Museum

Source:

<http://www.destinationlebanon.gov.lb/en/TourismType/details/12/34>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source:

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2b/Beyrouth-Robert-Mouawad-Private-Museum-06-Robert-Mouawad-Privat>

e_Museum_0_Robert_Mouawad_Private_Museum_0.jpg,

Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: http://www.aboutleb.com/destination/596/robert-mouawadprivatemuseum?fb_comment_id=10150844774542947_27573227#f1c77c90aba57d8, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Maghen Abraham Synagogue, one of the main Sephardic synagogues in Lebanon, is located in the Jewish quarter of Wadi Abu Jamil, in the business district, Downtown Beirut. The synagogue was built (1925) on the site of an older synagogue that was destroyed (502) in an earthquake, according to the project of architect Bindo Manhama, and has been renovated several times to date (Figure 14).



Fig 14: Maghen Abraham Synagogue,

Source:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/425730971004455763/>,

Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://lebanonuntravelled.com/maghen-abraham-synagoguebeirut/>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Beirut City Hall was built (1924) according to the project of architect Youssef Aftimus, in the center of Beirut, in the style of eclectic architecture (combination of Venetian and Arab architecture), (Figure 15).



Fig 15: Beirut City Hall

Source:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/78/Beirut_city_hall.jpg, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

The building of the Lebanese Parliament in Beirut (Arabic, romanized: Majlis an-Nuwwab, French: Chambre des députés) was built (1934) during the French administration in Lebanon, according to the project of the architect Mardros Altounian, in the style of eclecticism (with elements of the architecture of Paris, Istanbul and Cairo). The building was damaged during the Israeli-Lebanese war (1982), and was later rebuilt (Figure 16).



Fig 16: The building of the Lebanese Parliament in Beirut

Source:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/world-economy/88484/lebanon-predicted-to-grow-25>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://ecomnewsmed.com/article/3345/lebanon-is-about-to-vote-for-the-2018-budget>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

The National Museum in Beirut (Arabic, romanized: Mathaf Bayrūt al-waṭānī, French: Le Musée national de Beyrouth) is the central archaeological museum in Lebanon, founded in 1942. The museum keeps 100,000 exhibits, dating from prehistory to the present day. The museum building was damaged during the Lebanon War (1975), but was later restored (Figure 17).

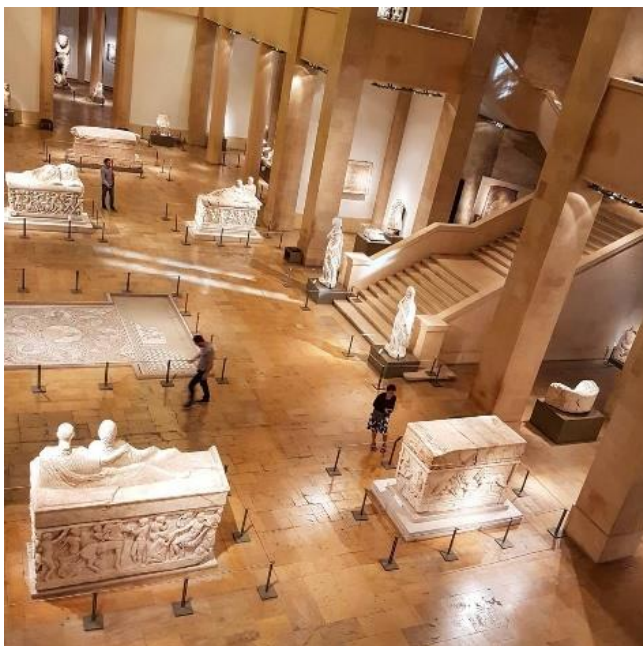


Fig 17: The National Museum in Beirut

Source: <http://ttnotes.com/national-museum-of-beirut.html>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://www.lebanoninapicture.com/pictures/the-nationalmuseum-in-beirut-was-beautifully-restored>
<https://www.dailysabah.com/history/2016/11/03/lebanons-national-museum-reveals-hidden-treasures>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Beirut International Airport (Arabic, romanized: Maṭār Bayrūt Rafīq al-Ḥarūrī ad-Dwaliyy, French: Aéroport international de Beyrouth) is the only commercial airport in Lebanon, located about 9 km from the center of Beirut. The airport was opened in 1954, on the site of the earlier Bir Hassan airport. The airport has two runways for taking off/landing airplanes (Figure 18).

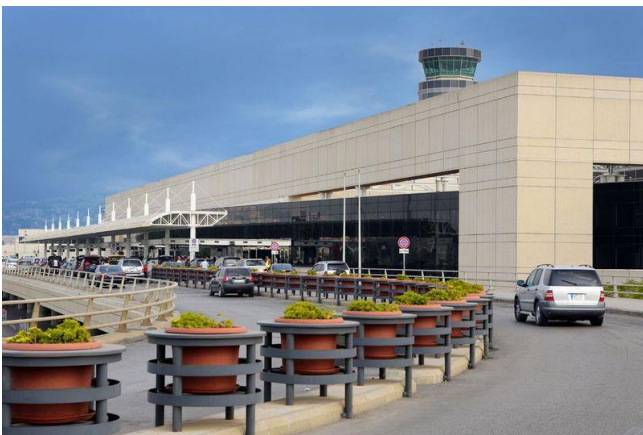


Fig 18: International Airport in Beirut (Rafic Hariri International Airport)

Source: <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/lebanon-airport-workers-held-over-terror-contacts-201325791.html?guccounter=1>

Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/99/Beirut_Airport_aerial_overview_Lim.jpg, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: https://www.souar.com/details.php?image_id=19586, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Haigazian University in Beirut (Armenian: Haygazyan Hamalsaran) was founded in 1955 with the support of the Armenian evangelical community, as Haigazian College, to be granted university status (1996). Classes are held in Armenian, Arabic and English. The university is open to all

people, regardless of nationality, religion, race and gender (Figure 19).



Fig 19: Haigazian University in Beirut

Source: <https://www.arabamerica.com/lebanons-haigazian-university-achieves-international-success-in-facebook-global-challenge/>

Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source:

<http://www.yellowpages.com.lb/en/business/universities/haigazian-university-hu>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Camille Chamoun Sports City Stadium is a multipurpose stadium, the largest stadium in Lebanon with a capacity of 48837 seats for spectators. The stadium is located in the Bir Hassan area. The stadium was built (1957) and reconstructed (1997) according to the design of the architectural firm Lacey Architects & Engineers (Figure 20).



Fig 20: Camille Chamoun City Stadium in Beirut

Source:

http://stadiumdb.com/stadiums/lib/camille_chamoun_sports_city_stadium, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Raouché is a residential and business district in Beirut located on a high cliff above the sea. The backbone of this neighborhood is Avenue de Paris, which is connected to residential and business buildings, restaurants and cafés. The settlement was named after the rock Raouché (Rock of pigeons, Rock Raouché). There is a legend according to which the unusual rock in the sea is the remains of a monster killed by the hero Perseus to save Andromeda (Figure 21).



Fig 21: Raouché

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raouch%C3%A9#/media/File:Raouché_Lebanon.jpg, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <https://media.touristtube.com/best-travel-images/The-Raouche-Sea-Rocks-on-the-Coast-of-Beiru?id=ExdMXXj3> Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <https://www.reserveout.com/beirut-ar/bay-rockraouche/promotions/bay-rock-new-yearseve/1426627860550106500>
Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <https://www.amoma.com/hotel-raouche-arjaan-by-rotana-217175/en>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

The United Nations Lebanon headquarters was built (1997) according to the project of the architectural firm El Khoury Architecte. At that time, Kofi Annan was the Secretary General of the UN. The building is located in the center of Beirut overlooking the Riad El Solh Square and the Pierre El Khoury monumental park. The building houses the offices of several UN agencies (including the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, ESCWA). The usable area of the building is 43,000 m². The building is an example of contemporary design, where its conceptualization and materialization is arranged in accordance with the energy and environmental conservation agenda (Figure 22).



Fig 22: Headquarters of the UN Institutions in Lebanon (Beirut)

Source: <http://www.solidere.com/city-center/solidere-developments/realestate/un-house-escwa>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <https://3dwarehouse.sketchup.com/model/4404a9dcd6b56f5553131cd426bb9708/UN-ESCWA-Headquarter-of-the-United-Nations-Lebanon?hl=de>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

The Muhammad Al-Amin Mosque, also known as the Blue

Mosque, is located in the business district of Beirut (Downtown Beirut). The mosque was built (2002-2008) according to the project of the architect Azmi Fakhuri on the site of an earlier construction, stere zavija (small buildings, madrasahs), based on the architecture of Ottoman mosques. The usable area of the mosque is 11,000 m², the dome (blue dome) is 48 m high, and the height of its four minarets is 65 m each (Figure 23).



Fig 23: The Muhammad Al-Amin Mosque

Source: <https://www.gtreview.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Beirut-Downtown-Mohammad-Al-Amin-Mosque.jpg>
Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Zaitunay Bay is an exclusive beach in Beirut located in the bay of the same name. The project of this complex was done by the architects (2014) Steven Holl (1947-) and Nabil Gholam (1962-). The promenade is conceived as the surface of the sea with waves along which there are spaces for exhibiting works of art. The Quayside Restaurant, which extends next to the Beirut Marina, with its specialized shops, is the central location of the complex, which has seventeen restaurants and five retail outlets. The roof of this complex is a walkway with stone paving ("stone beach"). Another important place of this complex is the Yacht club, built in 2014. There are nine apartments in the club with rich amenities: swimming pools, bars, libraries, games rooms, fitness and wellness centers... Above the apartments, which are on the ground floor, there are forty-four rooms (Figure 24).





Fig 24: Zaitunay Bay

Source:

https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/LocationPhotoDirectLinkg294005-d2553904-i268509850-Zaitunay_Bay-Beirut.html

Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source:

https://www.souar.com/details.php?image_id=41869&sessionid=c043n211qg4nfh5dld91o047, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source:

<http://www.solidere.com/city-center/solidere-developments/realestate/zaitunay-bay>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

The Sursock Museum in Beirut (French: Musée Sursock à Beyrouth) is a museum of modern and contemporary art that is arranged in the private villa of the architect Nicolas Ibrahim Sursock, which was built in 1912 in Rue Sursock, Achrafieh district of Beirut. The owner donated the villa to the city of Beirut. After the death of the owner of the villa (1952), its renovation into a museum began, which was opened in 1961. The architecture of the villa is an eclectic mix of architectural expressions of the architecture of Italy (Venice) and Ottoman architecture (Figure 25).



Fig 25: Sursock Museum in Beirut

Source:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bc/Sursock_ho_use.jpg, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source:

<https://www.pinterest.ch/pin/464363411560357932/>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source:

<http://darcawards.com/architectural/sursock-museum-lebanon/>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

The Souks of Beirut (French: Les Souks de Beyrouth) is the main shopping district and public space in Beirut. There are about 200 shops, 25 restaurants and cafés, a children's science museum, an entertainment center, 14 movie theaters, an open market... The center is a unique combination of traditional and contemporary in all segments of people's lives (Figure 26).

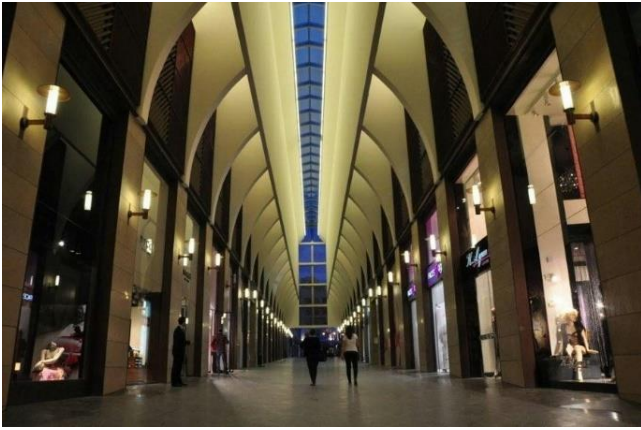


Fig 26: The Souks shopping district in Beirut

Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/440930619741698071/>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://www.culturedivine.com/beirutsouks.html>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <http://flashydubai.com/souks-in-dubai/>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Beirut Sport Dome is a multipurpose hall whose dome had a span of 51 meters (Figure 27). The hall was destroyed during the Israeli-Lebanese war (1975).

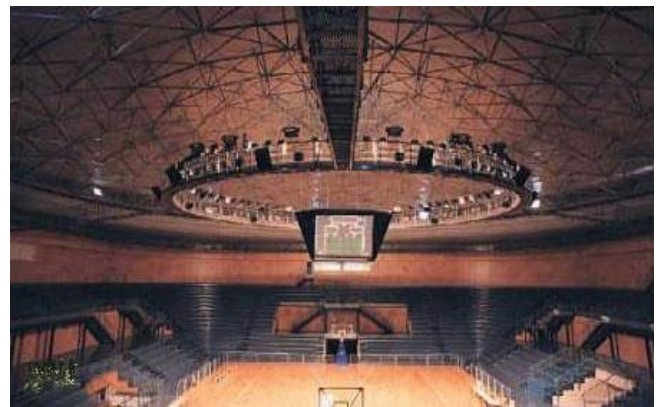


Fig 27: Beirut Sport Dome

Source: <https://www.cstindustries.com/projects/beirut-sports-dome/>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

The Beirut International Marathon (BIM) is a sports event that takes place annually in Beirut, from October 19, 2003. The number of participants in this race increases every year (from 6,000 runners in 2003 to 47,000 runners in 2017). The marathon is an official manifestation of the International Association of Athletics Federations (International Association of Athletics Federations, IAAF), (Figure 28).





Fig 28: The Beirut International Marathon (BIM)

Source: <http://www.beirutmarathon.org/story.php?id=about-story>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/inpictures/2014/05/picturesthousands-run-beirut-m-201456104610104393.html> Accessed: March 29, 2024.

The Music Festival in Beirut (French: Fête de la Musique à Beyrouth) was founded in 1982, and is held on the day of the summer solstice, June 21. It is an international music festival in which more than 120 countries participate (Figure 29).



Fig 29: The Music Festival in Beirut

Source: <http://www.rfi.fr/moyen-orient/20160621-fete-musiquebeyrouth-liban-jack-lang-monde-arabe-culture-resistance> Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/fullimage/a029b20e-5681-493d-8298-712a4c2c2919/f02bf39a-7dd7-4791-8c98-0b1bc1155c82> Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Beirut Jazz Festival is an international manifestation of jazz music that has been held in Beirut since 2012 (Figures 30, 31).





Fig 30: Beirut Jazz Festival

Source: <http://www.lebtivity.com/event/beirut-international-jazz-day-2018>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Source: <https://www.productionfactory.cc/items/view/25>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.



Fig 31: Modern Beirut

Source: <http://en.theoutlook.com.ua/article/7526/10-facts-aboutlebanon.html>, Accessed: March 29, 2024.

Conclusion

Beirut is the main and largest port city in Lebanon. The city is located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, at the foot of the Lebanon mountain range. It is one of the oldest cities in the world with a history of more than 5,000 years. Due to its long history, where it established itself as an important cultural and economic center of the Middle East and much wider, where peoples, religions and cultures mingled, Beirut gained the reputation of a cosmopolitan city, the "Paris of the Middle East" and the "Switzerland of the Middle East". Its development began to stagnate before, and especially after, the Lebanon War (1975-1990) in which Israel, on the one hand, and the PLO forces, Syria, Fatah and Hezbollah, on the other, clashed. After this war, the reconstruction of Beirut followed, which was mostly completed by 2009. Today, Beirut is the seat of several UN and regional specialized organizations: the UN Office for Economic and Social Affairs for the region of West Asia (Economic and Social Council Ecosoc Beirut, ECOSOC), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Regional Office of UNESCO- and for Arab countries, the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AAO)... After the Lebanon War (1975-1990), Beirut was intensively rebuilt in order to regain its status by the (again) Israel-Lebanon War (2006) had previously, where the Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafic Hariri (1944-2005 (assassination)) had a particularly outstanding merit. However, even today, the area of Lebanon, and especially Beirut, is a place where huge, mutually controversial, interests of the Near and Middle East region, Europe and the world as a whole collide.

There are many similarities between Beirut and Sarajevo; both cities have a population of a wide range of ethnic diversity, a rich history and cultural layers. These facts initiated the academic cooperation of three faculties, the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La

Villette (ENSAPLV) Paris, the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sarajevo and the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA) Beirut in the period 2007-2011.

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