

### **RIFAT CHADIRJI PRIZE 2026**

AN INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE IDEAS COMPETITION

## The Right to Landscape

Reclaiming Land and Sustaining Lives in Sahl Al Khiam, Lebanon







beirut urban lab مختبر المدن بيروت

### In Collaboration With

The 2026 Tamayouz Chadirji Prize is organised in collaboration with the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), and the IFLA Middle East Region, together with the Beirut Urban Lab at the American University of Beirut. This year's theme, *Landscape*, continues the pioneering spirit of Rifat Chadirji in expanding the boundaries of design and advancing the prize's mission to establish an accessible source of ideas that respond to social challenges through innovative design.







beirut urban اعلى ا المـدن يىروت



### A Landscape Vision for Sahl Al Khiam in Southern Lebanon

The Rifat Chadirji Award invites landscape architects, architects, and urban planners worldwide to propose a landscape led recovery vision for Sahl Al Khiam in Southern Lebanon. The valley, an agricultural lifeline endured occupation and recurrent bombardment, remains vital to the livelihoods, ecology, and identity of the Khiam community. Despite extensive damage, the Sahl survives as a rare space of continuity and refuge.

This year's cycle considers Sahl Al Khiam as a key case study for the role of landscape in post war recovery. Participants are invited to address the core design question: How can a landscape led recovery vision for Sahl Al Khiam restore livelihoods, protect ecological systems, and affirm the community's right to landscape in a landscape that endured occupation and recurrent bombardment?

Proposals should demonstrate how recovery can balance nature conservation with economic regeneration, and community wellbeing with environmental health, through strategic and sustainable interventions that safeguard the long term ecological and spatial integrity of the valley.

### Why Landscape?

The landscape is part of the land, as perceived by local people or visitors, which evolves through time as a result of being acted upon by natural forces and <a href="https://human.beings">human.beings</a>. Accordingly, landscape is part nature and part culture. It embraces a tangible dimension, physical and spatial, but also intangible cultural perceptions and social valuation associated with a specific context.

The layered meaning of landscape expands the scope of designers, encouraging them to respond not only to what is visible (the land and its nature, the environment), but also to consider intangible social, economic, and political dimensions. The expansive and layered meaning of Landscape has been successfully applied to frame the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, to promote sustainable development, and to address rights and social justice.

A holistic, dynamic landscape reading is not limited to <u>landscape architecture</u>, a new profession in many parts of the world. Rather, it is an approach that can be adopted across design disciplines to write scenarios that respond to the specificity of the place, prioritise social needs, provide for livelihoods and a quality life while ensuring a healthy environment for future generations.



### Why Sahl Al-Khiam?

Large valleys such as Sahl Al-Khiam, are distinct geomorphological features of the hilly terrain in southern Lebanon. Whether the valley boasts a river or only seasonal water courses, it plays an important ecological role by contributing to landscape connectivity and the movement of wildlife.

The flat land, fertile soil and environmental sheltering in valleys makes them prime agricultural lands, a shared social and economic asset, their landscape integral to the identity of villages located on ridges that define the valley.

Ecological and cultural significance, the history and scale of Sahl Al-Khiam make it a valued heritage, a *cultural landscape*, that represents the "combined works of nature and humankind" and that "express a long and intimate relationship between peoples and, their natural environment" (<a href="https://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscape/">https://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscape/</a>).

Valleys in Lebanon are under threat. In times of peace, from the construction of dams and, since 2023, the threat of Israeli bombardment and occupation. The destruction of al-Khiam village has come to amplify the significance of the valley, Sahl Al-Khiam, as a source of income to support the rebuilding of homes, and as a mental refuge from the war-ravaged landscape of the village.

There is as well, the potential threat that residents of destroyed villages might relocate their homes in the flat land of the valley. This would undermine the integrity of the valley landscape, as sustainable ecosystem, as foundation for livelihoods and as heritage with repercussions of transforming the regional landscape character in Southern Lebanon.

Herein lies the challenge of this project, to propose a vision for Sahl Al-Khiam that reaffirms the totality of the valley as a landscape while imagining futures that protect the cultural landscape as central to the survival of people and nature in southern Lebanon.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Context: South Lebanon - Page 7 The Landscape Design Challenge - Page 12 Intervention Site: Sahl Al-Khiam - Page 16 Competition Data - Page 27 Submission Requirements - Page 28 Regulation, Evaluation and Judging Panel - Page 29 Selected Resources - Page 39





### **Context:** Southern Lebanon

The competition's focus is on southern Lebanon, a region known as *Jabal Amil*. The terrain is hilly, 200–800 above sea level. The climate is semi-arid, with rainfall of 300 – 400 mm/year. The landscape is typically Mediterranean, a mosaic of cultivated valleys, terraced slopes planted with olive trees. Mediterranean maquis scrubland is everywhere, a 'connective tissue' that blankets the terrain and accounts for Lebanon declared a 'Biodiversity Hotspot'.

Geographically and culturally, Jabal Amil is a continuation of northern Palestine, a landscape rich in biblical and Roman heritage with pilgrimage sites held sacred by Christians and Muslims.

Arbitrary national borders following WWI ruptured the terrain, split social connections, and undermined historical continuities. Following the Nakba and the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, Jabal Amil became a perennial landscape of war (Khayyat 2022).

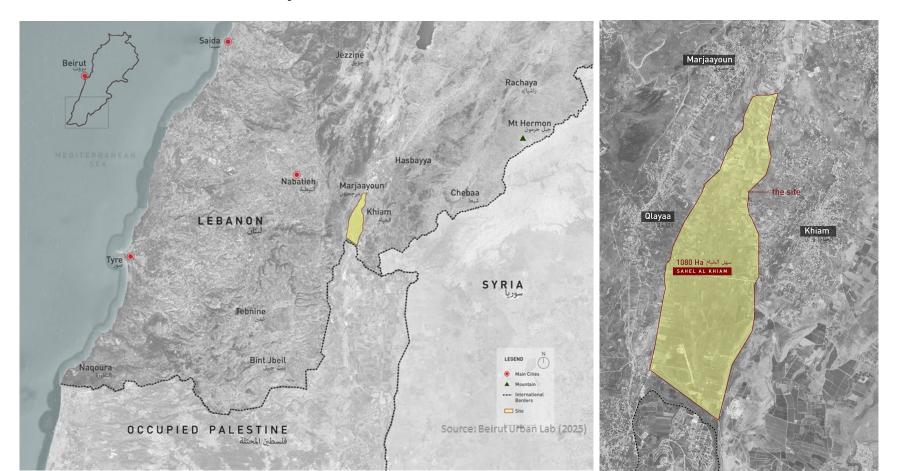
Southern Lebanon weathered guerrilla wars, repeated bombardments and massacres, two Israeli invasions in 1978 and 1982, a 22-year Israeli occupation that ended in 2000, and the 2006 war.

The October 2023 Israeli war on Lebanon superseded previous wars in intensity and scale. Destruction from Israeli bombing across Southern Lebanon destroyed 27 border villages. Fields, orchards, and woodlands were scorched with white phosphorous and uprooted.

In her book, Khayyat (2022) describes Jabal Amil as "A Landscape of War". 'Landscape', understood as the multiple meshworks of humans, plants, animals, and geographic formations that together have found ways not only of surviving but also of thriving in the inhospitable conditions of perennial war.

Decades of seasonal recurrence, war is always a factor shaping the agricultural and habitation practices of people in Jabal Amil. The Mediterranean maquis landscape is acclimated to seasonal fire, and the dry-land agriculture, the cultivation of olives and tobacco, can sustainably withstand the climate, lack of infrastructure, and is well-suited to domestically based agricultural labor. Goats, the most common livestock, are well-suited to conditions of war, as they can safely graze in mine fields.

### Southern Lebanon: Jabal Amil and Sahl Al Khiam





#### "

Long after the last bomb falls and the fires smolder into ashes, the earth carries the scars. Southern Lebanon, also known as Jabal Amil, is such a place where the soil, rivers and forests bear the weight of war. Here battles are fought not just on the ground but against it, waged with calculated fury to sever people from the land that sustains them"

- Rami Zurayk | The Land Remembers





### Why a Landscape Vision/Intervention

A landscape vision for Sahl Al Khiam can contribute to recovery by weaving a story of the attachment to place as the rationale for survival, and of cultivating the land and caring for nature as acts of resistance.

A landscape approach to recovery looks beyond the aggregate components and specific concerns to embrace the totality of the valley landscape and how it can benefit people while protecting natural resources. A landscape vision for Sahl Al Khiam will improve chances for income generation and enhance current agriculture-related ones; affirm current socio-spatial practices related to the natural features in the valley as places of reprieve and social gathering; and consider alternative energy generation and sustainable management of water and wastewater.

The vision for Sahl Al-Khiam, it is hoped to serve as a model to acknowledge the ecological and morphological significance of valleys as the 'backbone' of the regional landscape character in Jabal Amil.

A landscape vision will also serve to showcase landscape architecture, an emerging profession in the Arab World, and demonstrate the potential of landscape beyond the current focus on garden design and urban greening.



### **Landscape Design Intervention**

Participants are expected to propose a vision at the valley scale and illustrate this through one or more site specific interventions that demonstrate how the vision can be spatially realised. The intervention can focus on:

#### 1. Water Landscapes: Freshwater springs

**Challenge:** unregulated use, café and restaurants, and unregulated solid waste disposal by visitors **Design Narrative/ Intervention:** (a) protecting the spring as a natural resource through sustainable use and (b) recognizing the springs as places of gathering and socializing, of encountering nature (c) formalizing the 'kazdoura', the footpath leading from the village to the Ain Al Dardara Spring.

#### 2. Productive Landscapes: Agriculture in the Sahl

**Challenge:** limited scope and productivity that undermines contribution to local livelihoods **Design Narrative/Intervention:** (a) circular production mode that balances increased productivity with sustainable practices to preserve soil and minimize the use of water, (b) venues for marketing the produce, and (c) refrigeration and processing to enhance livelihoods

#### 3. Infrastructural Landscapes: Wastewater and Energy

**Challenge:** outdated approach to infrastructure that undermines environmental health **Design Narrative/ Intervention:** (a) upgrade existing sewage treatment by exploring nature-based solutions, (b) sustainable energy generation, and (c) conceptualizing infrastructure as a multifunctional landscape that combines services, energy, and wastewater, with leisure and production.

These three layers are suggestions for clarification and do not prescribe a specific design direction. Participants are encouraged to develop their own reading and writing of the Sahl Al Khiam.





### **Cross-Cutting Themes**

The proposed landscape vision for the Sahl Al-Khiam should take note of the following cross-cutting themes:

#### Landscape Heritage

The landscape vision should recognize the various layers of heritage in the valley and weave them into proposed narratives. Sahl Al-Khiam is a living landscape heritage, a natural setting and cultural landscape with historic structures and architectural features that embody the memory of war in southern Lebanon.

#### The Community

Prioritizing the health, well-being, and livelihoods of the inhabitants of Al-Khiam is key to all interventions. Whether through the experience of nature in the valley or through forward-looking agricultural strategies, the landscape vision should alleviate hardship in the aftermath of war and reaffirm the attachment to the land as an act of resistance

#### Sustainability

The hallmark of a landscape design approach is that it integrates concerns for human wellbeing and environmental health. Whether through low-impact development, regenerative design, nature-based solutions, energy generation, or wastewater management, upholding environmental sustainability is key in the management of resources in Sahl Al-Khiam





### Sahl Al-Khiam: The Valley

Sahl Al-Khiam, also known as Sahel Marjayoun or al-Marj, is one of the largest valleys in Jabal Amil, spanning an area of 1,080 hectares. *Sahl* in Arabic means flat land or plain, whether coastal or part of inland valleys. *Marj* is another Arabic word for 'cultivated field'. Both words are used synonymously to describe the flat part of valleys that characterize the landscape of Jabal Amil. Bordering the valley are Christian, Muslim, and Druze villages and towns that exemplify co-existence in Lebanese society.

Sahl Al-Khiam – Marjayoun is rich in water resources ('the word Marjayoun combines marj' valley, and ayoun, plural of Ain – the Arabic word for freshwater spring). This is evidenced by the many freshwater springs in the valley, replenished by the waters of the snow-peaked Mount Hermon.

Nested between two ridges, the Sahl Al-Khiam (450 meters above sea level) is a continuation of the larger valley. The village of Khiam, which gives its name to this portion of the valley, is located along the crest of the eastern ridge. Villages located along the western ridge are dotted with smaller villages, Qlayaa, and Borj Al-Moulouk.

## **EL KHIYAM** English Hospital **EL QLAIAA** Al-Mari Road x Israeli Landmark Military Base naccessible area 964). El KHIYAM, retrieved from American University of Berrut, Archives and Special Collections

# **Ongoing Occupation of the Valley**

Israeli bombing of Khiam is part of the "scorched earth" policy aimed at rendering border villages like Khiam uninhabitable. Threats are there to empty border villages in order to make room for a Special Economic Zone, masking an agenda to turn the area into a military buffer protecting Israel's northern settlements.

And though the destroyed village of Al Khiam is not under occupation, the southern portion of the valley, Sahl Al-Khiam, is inaccessible due to repeated threats by the Israeli Army.

Local communities endure daily aggression by the Israeli presence on the Hamames hill, a strategic vantage point that overlooks the valley and its surroundings, and one of five points being illegally occupied by the Israeli army to this date.

From the elevated vantage point of the Hamames ridge, the Israeli Army surveils all activity in the valley and its surroundings, monitors the incoming and outgoing of local residents as they go about their daily lives, and threatens them with drone strikes and gunfire.

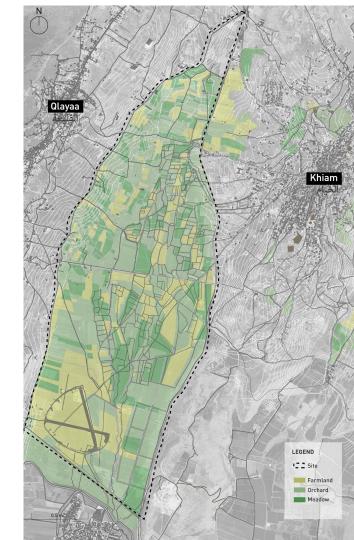
This occupation has split the valley into two zones, north and south of the "Marej Road" (one of two main roads through which locals enter Khiam), with the Southern part being presently largely inaccessible due to fear of attacks.

### **Agriculture in the Valley**

In Al-Khiam and throughout Jabal Amil, agriculture is not only the key source of livelihood but an act of resistance, defiantly maintaining a way of life against the ongoing threat of aggression. Agriculture sustains communities and renews attachment to the land. Productivity is integral to the valuation of land and landscape, which explains why cultivating the valleys and tending to olive groves is a source of pleasure, just as walking from the Khiam to the Sahl, experiencing the open landscape, provides reprieve.

As with other valleys, most of Sahl Al-Khiam is privately owned, apportioned by families that live in the village of Khiam. Agriculture in the valley is the source of village livelihoods, a living landscape of inherited rural traditions and seasonal agricultural practices that are the pride of village communities.

Seasonal income is secured from agriculture in the Sahl. Owners generally lease their land for sharecropping. As a result, cash crops are favored, legumes, corn, onions, watermelon, and summer vegetables, rather than the more sustainable cultivation of trees, fruit trees. Long-term landscape strategies are necessary, and equally, perennializing agriculture to encourage sustainable agroforestry (Zein, R. E., Sleem, K., & Nehme, M., 2022).









### Al Khiam: The Village

In the months of relentless bombing beginning in October 2023, intensified in September and October 2024, Khiam village was emptied of its residents.

Israel targeted the living fabric, destroyed over 500 homes, and damaged over 1000 (as per numbers presented at a convention on reconstruction of the Southern villages at the Order for Engineers and Architects).

The Israeli army also targeted major infrastructure, including power and water stations, such as the Marjayoun and Wazzani plants, which supply the village and its neighbors with electricity and water.

Since the ceasefire agreement in February 2025, out of an estimated 18,000 inhabitants, 900 families have returned to reside in their village.

Despite the 'ceasefire', those families endure daily attacks and an illegal Israeli occupation of a large portion of Khiam's cadastral lands. Since then, Israeli drone strikes have killed over 260 people, and the threats have prevented 82,000 people from returning to Khiam Village.



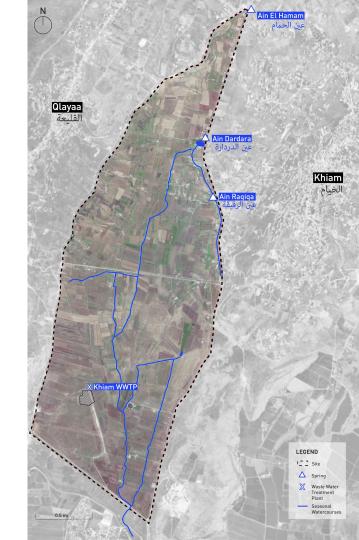
### **Water & Infrastructure in the Valley**

Three freshwater springs in Sahl Al-Khiam sustain agriculture in the valley. Two of them, Ain Dardara and Ain Raqiqa, serve as a destination for the inhabitants of Khiam who promenade down from the village to the springs. They go on a *Kazdoura*, the vernacular for a leisurely walk, to meet at the spring, socialize in the cafes and restaurants in view of the water collection pond.

Seasonal watercourses that punctuate the valley sides leading down to the Sahl are integral to the valley landscape, geomorphological features, and ecological conduits. Many are utilized, terraced, and cultivated. Others are colonized by native maquis scrubland, serving as a wildlife habitat.

Considering the high water table in the valley, wells are often the source of irrigation, but costly for individual farmers. In 2015, an irrigation scheme was established in the Sahl in cooperation with an Italian company that benefited 120 farmers.

At the southern edge of the Sahl is a sewage treatment plant that serves three municipalities, one of which is Khiam. However, the conventional method of treatment can benefit from sustainable and environmentally friendly alternatives.









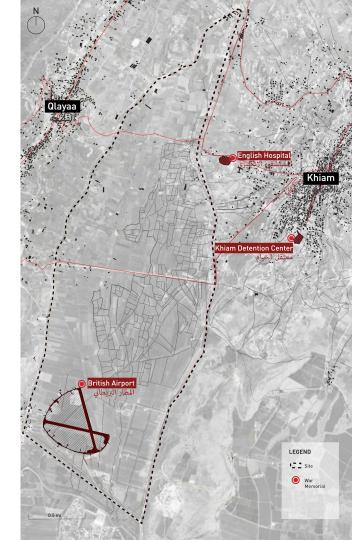


### **War Memorials**

Sahl Al-Khiam features three historical landmarks: the **British Airport**, also known as al-Marj Airport, built during WWI with locally quarried stones. Site ownership has long been contested by local families, the Lebanese state, the Greek Catholic Patriarchate, and a colonial company, before coming under Israeli control during the 1978 occupation. Today, the British Airport has been incorporated into agriculture, cultivated by local farmers, with what remains of the hangars used for agricultural storage.

The **English Hospital**, situated near the entrance of Khiam, a short distance from the Ain Dardara, was constructed in 1945 as a field hospital; its subterranean corridors stand as a material trace of World War II. The hospital was restored in 2005 and repurposed as a museum commemorating World War I, but was bombed and reduced to ruins in 2006. It remains today in a state of disrepair, overgrown with olive trees.

A third landmark is the **Khiam Detention Center**, originally constructed by the French Mandate in 1933 as military barracks, which was used during Israeli occupation as a detention center from 1978 until liberation in 2000, when hundreds of detainees were freed. Today, the building stands as a symbol of resistance, a pilgrimage site a witness to the painful history of successive occupation and resistance in Sahl Al-Khiam.









### **DATA**





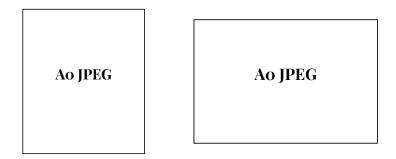
Click for Information Package

### **Submission Requirements**

- 1. Two Ao boards in JPEG format. Every team is encouraged to submit all the information they consider necessary to explain their proposal. Content may include but is not limited to plans, sections, elevations, visualisations and diagrams. Both Ao boards must be in the same layout; both landscape or both portrait.
- 2. Word document Vision Statement (500 Words Max), concept and explanation of the design proposal.
- 3. One 16:9 Main Image of the Entry in JPEG format. This image will serve as the primary visual for publications. It must be taken directly from one of the Ao boards (not a new or additional image) and may be cropped to fit a 16:9 ratio if necessary.
- 4. The proposed landscape vision/interventions for the Sahl Al-Khiam can include multiple scales: 1/1000 for a site plan, 1/200 for site specific interventions Sectional elevations and Concept Diagrams.
- 5. Optional animation (up to 180 seconds): Participants may submit a walkthrough/flythrough animation to help illustrate their proposal. The animation is entirely optional and serves only to support visual storytelling. Projects that include an animation will not have a competitive advantage, and entries without one will not be at a disadvantage in the judging process.
- 6. Submit your entry by using the upload link in your registration confirmation email.

#### Poster Layout:

Posters can be in whichever layout the participant finds suitable; Portrait or landscape with the unique registration number placed in the upper left corner of the board in 22pt font.



A zip file should contain: (All files must be named after the unique registration number):

- 2 X Ao (JPEG 300 dpi).
- 1 X Word DOC (500 Words Max).
- 1 X 16:9 Main Image of the Project (JPEG 300 dpi).

Optional: Up to 180 seconds of animation - The animation should be exported in 16:9 aspect ratio, preferably in Full HD (1920x1080px) and in a standard video format (MP4 recommended).

### **Assessment Criteria**

The proposed landscape vision/interventions for the Sahl Al-Khiam will be judged according to the following criteria:

#### **Vision and Concept**

- Strength of the underlying design idea
- Creativity and thematic clarity
- Integration of ecological and cultural narratives in a coherent design response.

#### **Functionality and Usability**

- Accessibility and circulation in the valley
- Improved management of agriculture and water
- Innovative regenerations strategies for energy

#### Site Responsiveness

- Sensitivity to topography and existing ecosystems
- climatic efficiency
- Use of native or adapted species
- Balance between natural and built elements

#### **Cultural and Social Relevance**

- Response to the cultural or historical identity of the place
- Engaging community action
- Inclusive and equitable design

#### **Sustainability and Ecology**

- Stormwater management and water conservation
- Habitat creation or preservation
- Minimization of environmental impact

#### **Visual and Verbal Presentation**

- Quality of plans, sections, and renderings
- Clarity of ecological or conceptual diagrams
- Effective communication of intent and strategy

### JUDGING PANEL

This year's judging panel brings together leading figures in architecture and landscape architecture from across the Middle East, Europe, and beyond. The panel includes distinguished academics, practitioners, and institutional leaders whose collective expertise reflects the Award's commitment to rigorous, internationally grounded evaluation.



### Jala Makhzoumi

International Federation of Landscape Architects, Middle East Region, Lebanon/UK

#### Marina Cervera

Adjunct lecturer at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spanish Society of Landscape Architects, Spain

### Howayda Al-Harithy

Director, School of Architecture and Design, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

### Hayriye Eşbah Tunçay

Professor at the department of Landscape Architecture, Istanbul Technical University. Turkiye

### Abdul Halim Jabr

Architect, Educator, Urban Design Consultant, Balamand University, Lebanon

### Batoul Faour

Architectural researcher, writer, and filmmaker, Lebanon

### Carey Duncan

Landscape Architect, Moroccan Society of Landscape Architects, Morocco

#### Ahmed Al-Mallak

Founding director of Tamayouz Excellence Award, Educator at Coventry University, UK

### **Timeline**

December 2025 Competition launch

30 July 2026 Registration Deadline

31 July 2026 Submission deadline

 $August\ 2026\ Shortlist\ Announcement$ 

September 2026 Winners Announcement

All Deadlines are 6pm GMT (London).



### Regulations

- 1. This is an anonymous competition; the Unique Registration Number is the sole identifier.
- 2. The official language of the competition is English.
- 3. The registration fee is non-refundable.
- 4. Contacting the jury is strictly prohibited.
- 5. Tamayouz Excellence Award reserves the right to modify the award schedule if necessary.
- 6. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances, and Tamayouz is not responsible for technical issues on the participant's side.
- 7. Entries that do not follow the rules, submission requirements, or file specifications (including incorrect, corrupt, or inaccessible files) will not be reviewed.
- 8. Participation in the competition constitutes full acceptance of all regulations.
- 9. Any attempt to reveal identity (names, logos, watermarks, QR codes, or recognisable stylistic signatures) will result in disqualification.
- 10. Plagiarism or unauthorised reuse of existing designs will result in disqualification.
- 11. Eligibility requirements must be met and may be verified.
- 12. Entrants retain authorship, but grant Tamayouz non-exclusive rights to publish and promote submitted work with full credit.
- 13. The jury's decision is final and not subject to appeal.
- 14. Regulation on AI Use:
  Participants may use AI tools in a supportive capacity during the design process. AI-generated content must not replace the participant's own authorship, spatial reasoning, or design decision-making. Entrants are fully responsible for ensuring the originality and intellectual integrity of their submissions.

  Tamayouz reserves the right to request clarification or conduct a design verification interview with shortlisted teams to confirm authorship.

### **Registration and Eligibility**

#### **Eligibility**

We welcome participation from landscape architects, architects, and urban planners and students from around the world.

Individuals, teams (up to 8 members) or studios are eligible to enter. Multidisciplinary collaboration is strongly encouraged.

#### **Registration Fees**

- Early Registration: \$75 from December to end of February 2026
- Standard Registration: \$90 from March to end of June.
- Late Registration: \$110 beginning of July until deadline.

#### **Institutional Registration**

This option is open for institutions interested in sponsoring their students to participate in International competitions and showcase their students' work on a global platform.

Universities can sponsor its students and staff who wish to participate in the International Graduation Projects Award, Dewan Award for Architecture and the Rifat Chadirji Prize for Architecture. There are three sponsorship tiers:

Gold Institutional Sponsorship—\$500: You can submit up to 50 submissions across all awards.

**Diamond** Institutional Sponsorship—\$1,000: You can submit up to 150 submissions across all awards.

Platinum Institutional Sponsorship—\$1,500: You have up to 300 submissions across all awards.

#### **Student Registration Fees \$50 only**

In support of student participation and experiential learning through competition, student-led teams may register at a discounted rate of \$50.

To qualify, the student must be the actual team leader, and a valid student ID must be submitted during registration as proof of eligibility.

For student teams, the team name should include the university (e.g. 'UNIVERSITY NAME - Team X')

Recognition,
Opportunity, and
Celebration

The winners of the Rifat Chadirji 2026 Award will receive the following prizes

#### **Prize Winner**

The Rifat Chadirji Prize Statuette

+

\$5000

Certificates

+

Tamayouz Medals for the team

+

Invitation to attend the Award Ceremony (Flights and Hotel)\*\*

#### 2nd Prize

\$3000 Three Thousand USD

+

Certificates

+

Invitation to attend the Award Ceremony

(Flights and Hotel)\*\*

#### 3rd Prize

\$2000 Two Thousand USD

+

Certificates

+

Invitation to attend the Award Ceremony (Flights and Hotel)\*\*

#### Up to 7 Honourable Mentions

\$500 Five Hundred USD for each Entry

+

Certificates

+

Invitation to attend the Award Ceremony \*\*\*

+

Published in the Annual book

#### **Top 20**

Published work on our website, on social media pages and in exhibitions.

#### Ceremony

Biennially, Tamayouz
Excellence Award invites
architects, planners, artists and
academics from around the
world to celebrate
architectural excellence within
the region and worldwide.

Our ceremonies mark a milestone in bringing people together and bridging cultures.

Winners will be invited to the 2027 ceremony.

An invitation to attend the Tamayouz Award Biennial Ceremony for the Top 10 mentioned above, \*\*representative of each of the TOP 3 winners will have their Flight and Accommodation costs covered by the organisers of the prize; Tamayouz Excellence Award. \*\*\* Tamayouz Excellence Award will only cover the flight and accommodation for the Top 3 winners. Honourable Mentions will receive invitation to attend the ceremony, the invitation doesn't include funding of expenses \*\*\*\* Winners are responsible for all travel related arrangements such as visa, insurance, tests and vaccination certificates when required.

### THE PRIZES



### The Rifat Chadirji Prize Statuette

Designed by Dia al-Azzawi in tribute to Rifat Chadirji, the award is presented once per cycle. Cast in resin, its form is inspired by Chadirji's architectural language.

### Tamayouz Medal

Created in 2012, the Tamayouz medal has grown into a defining symbol of architectural achievement. Its design draws directly from the award's arabesque logo.





#### Dia al-Azzawi

Dia Azzawi is internationally recognized as one of the pioneers of modern Arab art.

### TAMAYOUZ CEREMONIES









For ceremony videos see: <u>2016</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2025</u>

### Rifat Chadirji Prize

Rifat Chadirji (1926–2020) was a pioneer Iraqi Modernist Architect who influenced and inspired generations by the landmark architecture he created and through volumes of published work. He was a brilliant photographer, designed modern furniture, and explored culinary traditions and various aspects of Iraqi culture.

Chadirji held key governmental and advisory positions, contributing to national planning and housing strategies. His intellectual contributions earned him global recognition, including honorary fellowships from the Royal Institute of British Architects and the American Institute of Architects, the Aga Khan Chairman's Award, the Sheikh Zayed Book Award, and an honorary doctorate from Coventry University in 2015.

The <u>Tamayouz Chadirii Prize</u> was established in his honor, launched in 2017 as a "thematic, open ideas, international prize focusing on design proposals responding to local challenges and opportunities."

The focus of the 2026 Tamayouz Chadirji Prize is 'landscape', organised in collaboration with the <u>International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA)</u> Middle East Region and the <u>Beirut Urban Lab</u>, American University of Beirut. The theme of landscape follows in the pioneering spirit of Rifat Chadirji, exploring and expanding the boundaries of design and the prize's objective of establishing an "accessible source of ideas that respond to social challenges through design".



### Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge the following individuals and institutions that have volunteered in the preparation of this competition:

- Batoul Faour, architect and resident of Al Khiam, who was among the first to return to her village document and volunteer her professional expertise in the early days of recovery, also for kindly sharing her photos from Khiam.
- Mariam Bazzi, landscape architect and urban designer, Beirut Urban Lab, American University of Beirut, who provided background research and follow up with GIS and Satellite Images and in formating the powerpoint and assembling the brief and references.
- Maroun El-Daccache, professor of architecture, Lebanese American University, and Aya Abdallah, project coordinator of Al Khiam Surveys, with architecture students Lynn Chaaban, Lara Rahal, Samer Lawand, and Ibrahim Akkaoui
- Rami Zurayk, professor of landscape design and ecosystem management, American University of Beirut, for sharing his extensive knowledge of Jabal Amil
  and for recommendations of relevant research
- Munira Khayyat, professor, New York University Abu Dhabi, for sharing her much-valued research on ecologies of war in southern Lebanon.
- Khaled Sleem, engineer agricole, for advising on agriculture in the Sahl and sharing relevant research.

### **Selected Resources**

- Ahmad Baydoun. (n.d.). White Phosphorus. Retrieved September 26, 2025, from https://whitephosphorus.info/
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- Al-Harithy, H. (Ed.). (2021). *Urban Recovery: Intersecting Displacement with Post War Reconstruction* (1st ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003091707
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