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ONE LAND and PLATFORM PARADISE



FAST, the Foundation for Achieving Seamless Territory, announces One Land and Platform Paradise: two projects celebrating the rebirth of Ein Hawd, an unrecognised Palestinian village in Israel

August 28th to September 7th , Ein Hawd, Israel

Amsterdam, July 14th – Following the four-year project, One Land Two Systems, which created a new masterplan for (and with) the unrecognised Palestinian village of Ein Hawd, FAST announces the culmination of the process in two new celebratory initiatives.

One Land Two Systems began with an international architecture and design competition for the development of an alternative master plan for the village. The winners of the competition, a group of architects and designers from France, Germany and Israel, have joined FAST and the community of Ein Hawd to further develop a sustainable solution for the village.

The plan has now been completed by FAST, to the satisfaction of Ein Hawd's residents, for whom it is the beginning of making their dreams a reality. It is now being used in negotiation with the authorities to have Ein Hawd fully recognised by the state. The process, meanwhile, has acted as a model for a new kind of architectural practice based on community, sustainability and politics.

From August 28th to September 7th, a series of public events and workshops, and spatial,

social and cultural interventions in Ein Hawd will finalise the project by making concrete changes in the village and its surroundings. The project is divided into two programmes: ONE LAND and PLATFORM PARADISE.

ONE LAND will celebrate the rebirth of Ein Hawd through its new masterplan by unveiling the community's first ever public building: the Golden Heart Pavilion, an inflatable designed by FAST. A FAST market will explore a new sustainable economic foundation for the village, uniting agriculture, tourism, aesthetics and hospitality. A Landscape Plan will provide for the restoration of the original Mediterranean landscape, and an exhibition will showcase Ein Hawd's past and present a vision of the future.

PLATFORM PARADISE, an art show commissioned by FAST and curated by Maurizio Bortolotti assisted by Noga Inbar, will open from September 1st to 7th, and continue until November 1st. Invited artists and architects will address the village's lack of public space (as an 'unofficial' place) by interacting with the villagers to improve their living conditions and generate new kinds of common ground. "Platform Paradise is a democratic tool aimed at bringing art (projects) into a specific living space of a community. The lack of cultural institutions in Ein Hawd creates a new condition in which art is represented and used. In this experimental space a new kind of art projects will emerge" (Maurizio Bortolotti).

Over 20 external participants in the two projects will join the residents of Ein Hawd in a series of activities and master classes. Representing a variety of expertise and experience, they will include the Palestinian artist Sharif Waked and poet Salman Natur, plus international names like artist Dan Graham, architect Yona Friedman, and film-maker Ali Kazma. Malkit Shoshan, Director of FAST, says: "This project redefines the role of art, design and architecture. It generates flexible tools and new social, cultural and economical spaces aimed at improving the living conditions of a specific context and a specific community, that of Ein Hawd. At the same time, it creates a new model, a platform, of creative social and spatial interventions that goes beyond politics."

Sponsors: FBKVB, The Netherlands Architecture Fund and OXFAM novib

Participants: The community of Ein Hawd, FAST, Muhammad Abu AlHayja, Malkit Shoshan, Ali Kazma, Berend Strik, Camila Pinzón Cortes, Dan Graham, Debra Solomon, Gianluigi Ricuperati, Gillian Schrofer, Map Office, Matthijs Bouw, Maurizio Bortolotti, Nico Dockx, Nisreen Abu Al Hayja, Ole Bouman, Petra Blaisse, Rebecca Gomperts, Salman Natour, Sharif Waked, Stefano Boeri and more.

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BACKGROUND

Both the past and the future can be constructed or destroyed – literally, through what we choose to build, protect and create in the physical world. No more so than in the Middle East, where the Israeli and Palestinian conflict is acted through the architecture and physical planning of the land. Behind the seemingly down-to-earth work of Israeli spatial planners lies a reality, which is actively re-shaping the land into a divided state. While for Israeli towns and villages the future is constructed, the so-called 'unrecognized' Palestinian villages¹ remain blank areas on planners' drawings, or are literally wiped off the map. One Land Two Systems aims to make visible and counter this reality by using architecture, art and culture tools. The project consists of international architecture competition, public debates, exhibitions, art interventions and construction of a multidisciplinary community centre.

Ein Hawd and Ein Hod

The story of Ein Hawd is the story of two villages Ein Hawd and Ein Hod. Ein Hod is the biggest artist's village in Israel. It was established in the beginning of the 1950s by a group of Dadaist artists led by Marcel Janko. He had 'found' a Palestinian village with hundreds of years of history, a village that had been confiscated in 1948 by the Israeli military, its 900-old villagers made refugees in a single stroke. The Israelis renamed the place Ein Hod, the 'place of beauty'.

While the new artists village was taking shape right on top of a confiscated one, the extended Palestinian family of Abu al Hayja fled from their homes in Ein Hawd to their own agriculture land in the mountains. Only 1.5km away from their village. The family eventually lost all hope of returning to their old homes and built new ones in their hiding place. They called the new village Ein Hawd, after the old one. The new Ein Hawd was an 'unrecognized village' (until February 2004), and its people classed as internal refugees. This meant that, for over 50 years, they lived without basic services like water, electricity, schools or medical care, struggling with the authorities day by day for their right to exist. Finally, in February 2004, after years of continuous struggle, the government recognized the village – or rather 80 dunams (80,000 square metres) of it, a very insufficient area for its present existence and its future development.

With this act of recognition, the Israeli government imposed a master plan on Ein Hawd for the development of the village. The plan gives the village a total amount of land of 80 dunams or 80,000 square metres (1 dunam = 1,000 square metres), an area it has already outgrown. Of this, 13 dunams (13,000 square metres) in the village centre is considered a 'military area'. The master plan doesn't take into consideration large parts of the village; it leaves no space for future expansion, demographic growth, economic development, or future sustainability. Through the switch from unrecognized to recognized, the imposed master plan pushes the village further into a straitjacket of destructive political planning.

¹ Nowadays, more than 100,000 Palestinians (Beduins, Druze and Muslims) are living in over 80 unrecognized villages in side of Israel (not in the Occupied Territories). These people are living as internal refugees under constant displacement and demolition threats. They live with no access to basic infrastructure like water, electricity, schools, kindergartens, medical clinics etc.