

The Kabul Challenge

HOW TO BALANCE:

The need for rapid housing development

VS

The goal of a planned green city

A series of slides summarizing a student workshop exploring development on the periphery of Kabul.

A MIT-SIGUS Workshop January 27-31, 2003
School of Architecture and Planning
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Student Teams Tackle Issues

- Self-selected teams included planners, architects, engineers, economists
- 5 Tasks
 - ▣ work in a multi-disciplinary group
 - ▣ 'digest' large amounts of data
 - ▣ develop implementation scheme
 - ▣ design land development pattern
 - ▣ summarize and present proposals

All in 1-week!



Context of Explorations

- Client is UN-Habitat, Municipality of Kabul, and Ministry of Urban Development and Housing.
- Prime resource and mandate is in the **“PEOPLE’S REBUILDING AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY”**, UN-Habitat
- Detailed information, particularly for site, not available.



Situation Reviewed

- 23 years of war destroyed 1/2 of all physical assets
- Over 50% of Kabul destroyed; over 80% in informal areas
- The city exploded from 2 million to over 3 million in one year.
- Obsolete Russian Master Plan of 1978 still respected



Common Strategies

- Water is scarce: a simple, deep well is provided to minimize impact on ground water level
- Land is re-parceled with priority allocation to returning families.
- Land development costs to City of prime importance.



Location

The Reference Site

Airport

Polytechnic

SITE

University

City Center

Palace

Location Details

The Reference Site

Existing Communities

Rivers (Seasonal?)

Villages (All Destroyed?)

Site Views

Remains of Housing



Main Road



Dried Riverbed



Village Life



Four Strategies

Rebuilding in a Troubled Land
Neighborhood Centers as a
Social Development Tool



COMMUNITY REBUILDING FRAMEWORK
An Urban Management Proposal



The New-Qala

Guiding Informal Settlements with Traditional Structures

“KABUL *Maghrib*”

New Commercial Center
as Redevelopment Catalyst