

01  
COVER

# Rural Damascus Agriculture Directorate

Architectural Editorial Dossier

Architect Mohammad Esam Al Aouf

*Esam Al Aouf*  
ARCHITECT



ARCHITECTURAL  
EDITORIAL DOSSIER  
2024



# A civic composition shaped by an irregular site.

The winning proposal transforms a wedge-shaped parcel into a legible institutional ensemble. Linear and curved wings establish distinct edges, while courts, glazed links and framed voids create an internal civic address.

## FIRST PRIZE

NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION / 2004

**PROJECT** Rural Damascus Directorate of Agriculture & Agricultural Reform Headquarters

**PROGRAM** Government / Administrative

**ARCHITECT** Mohammad Esam Al Aouf

**DOCUMENTED** Archival photography 2010 / aerial record 2011

**LEVELS** Basement + Ground + four upper floors





# The award that established the project

The original certificate identifies the proposal by architect Mohammad Esam Al Aouf as the First Prize winner among eight submitted projects at the Syrian national level.

NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION

1<sup>ST</sup>  
PRIZE

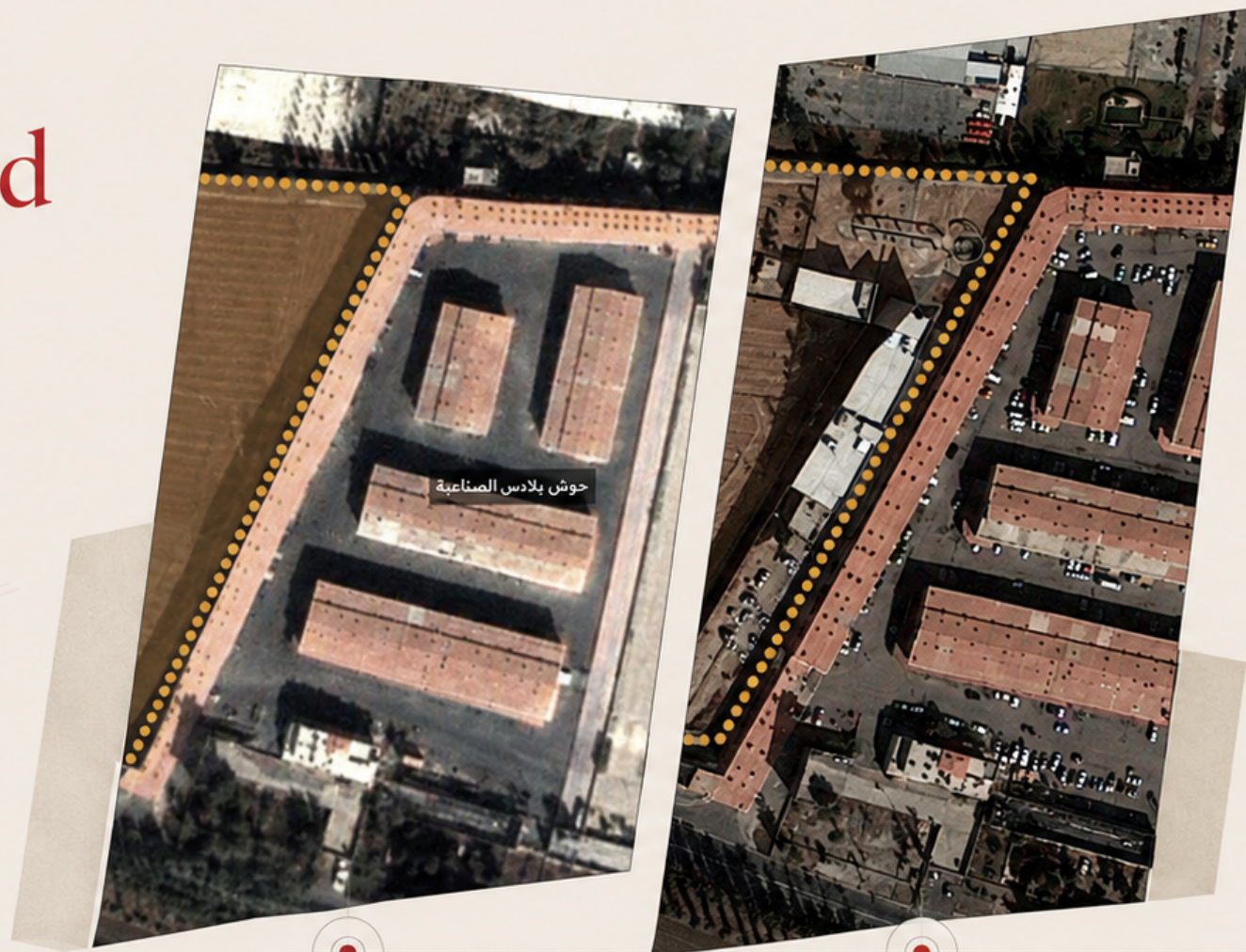


ORIGINAL AWARD CERTIFICATE / 2004



# A site transformed over time

A wedge-shaped parcel on the Damascus-Daraa corridor became an active generator of the project geometry rather than a residual constraint.



• WEDGE  
AS GENERATOR

• GEOMETRY  
OVER CONSTRAINT

• ACTIVE  
INSTITUTION

•  
COMPETITION

2004

VACANT SITE

2011

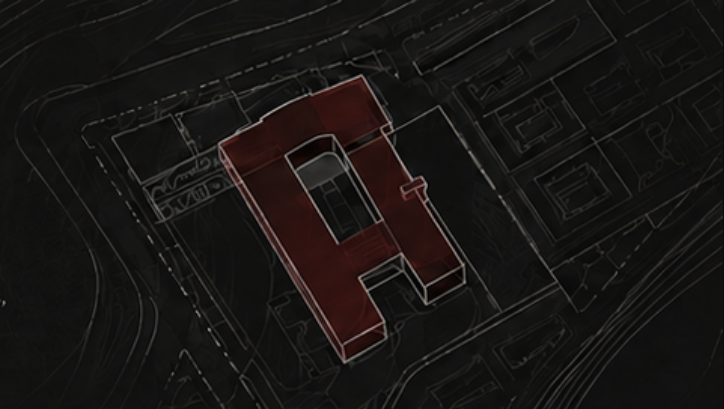
BUILT INSTITUTION

•  
CONSTRUCTION ARCHIVE

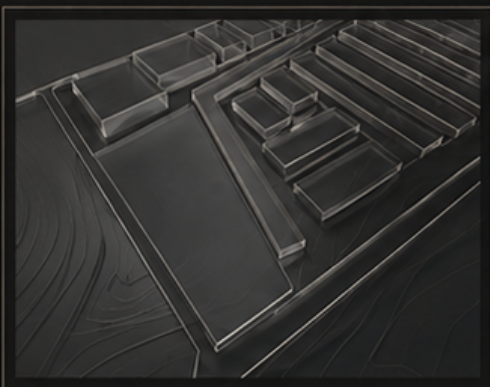


# Massing as a sequence of moves

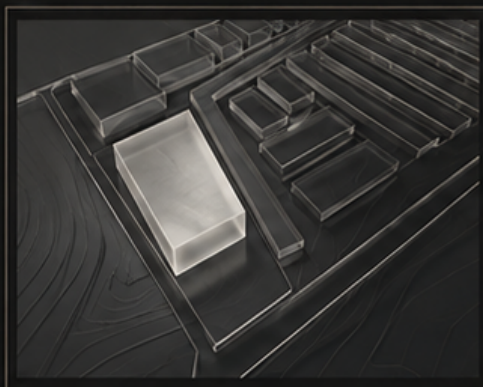
Eight studies trace the shift from site datum to a family of linked wings, courts and oblique edges.



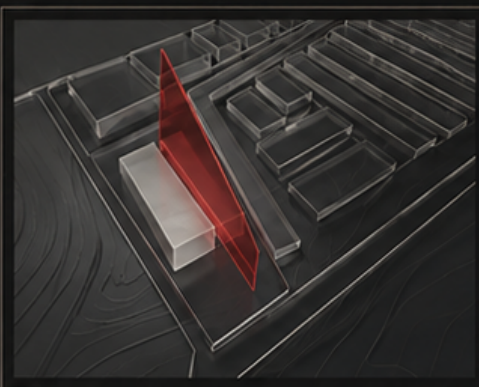
## 01 SITE



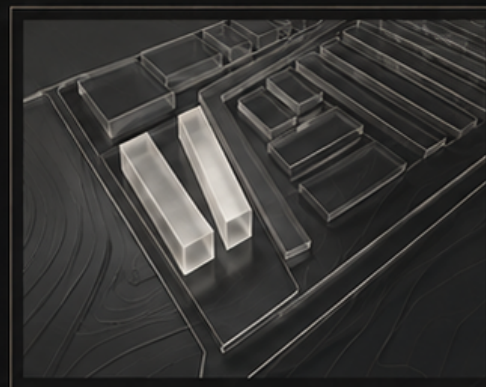
## 02 FOOTPRINT



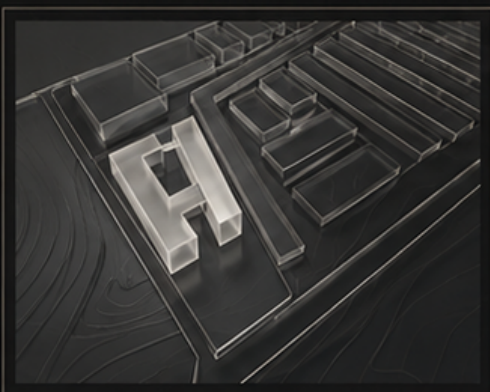
## 03 DATUM



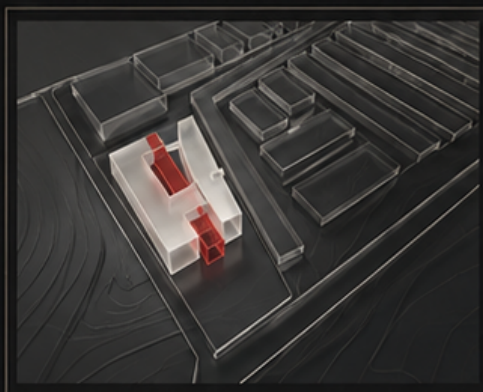
## 04 SPLIT



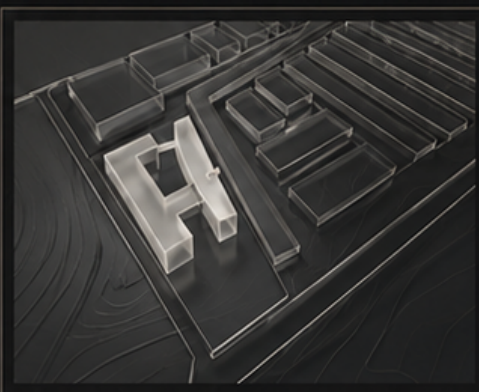
## 05 VOID



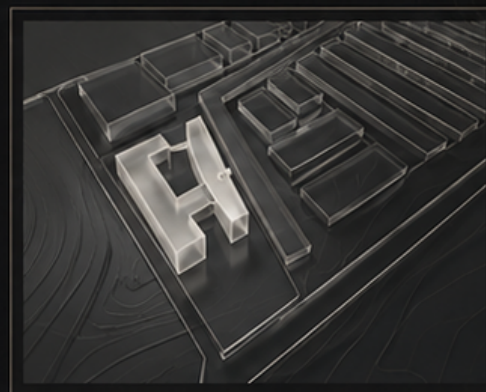
## 06 LINK



## 07 REFINE



## 08 COMPOSE

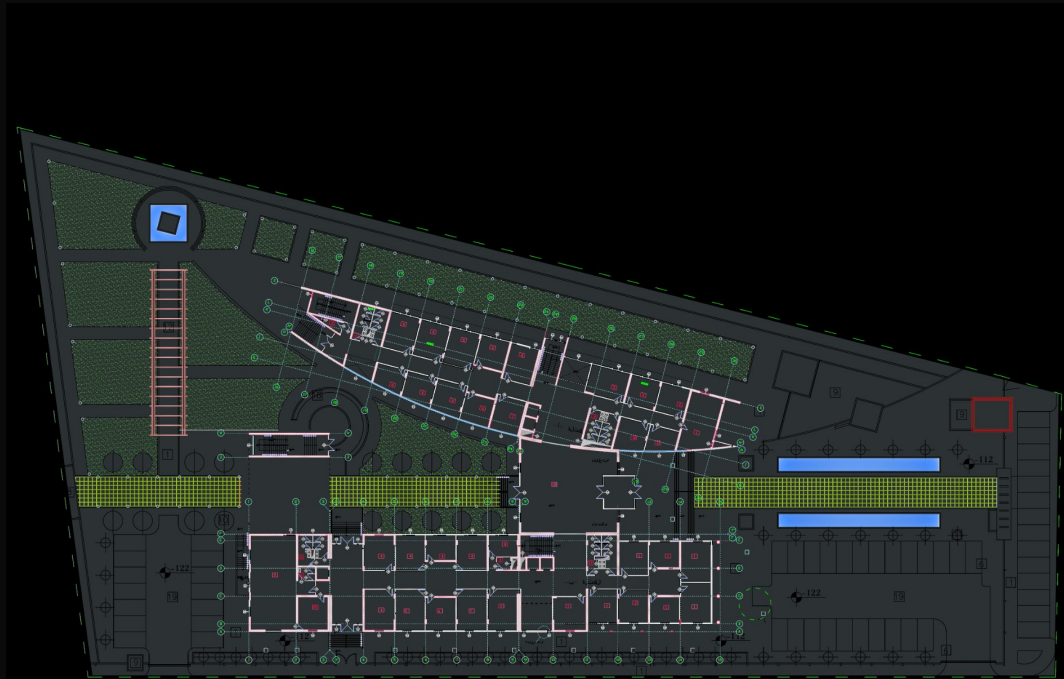




One site.  
Two principal  
wings.  
A protected inner  
realm.

Parking, pedestrian movement, planted courts and water elements are organized around the building mass rather than treated as residual landscape.

SITE PLAN



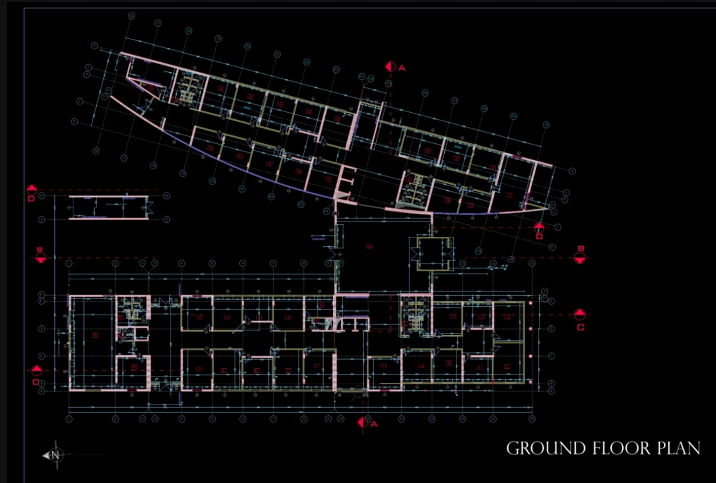


# Ground + First

ORIGINAL PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

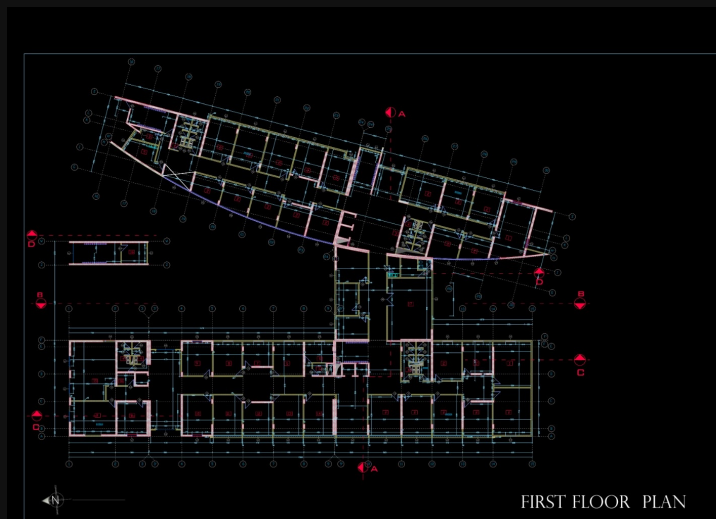
## OI

GROUND FLOOR



## O2

FIRST FLOOR

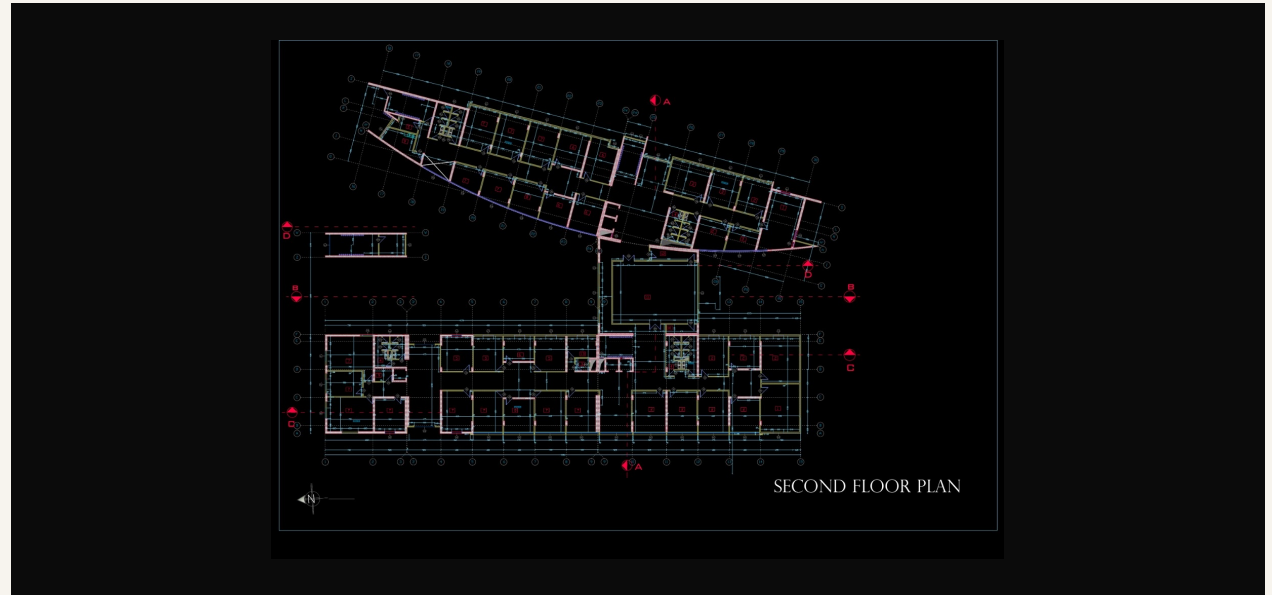




# Second + Third

03

SECOND FLOOR



04

THIRD FLOOR





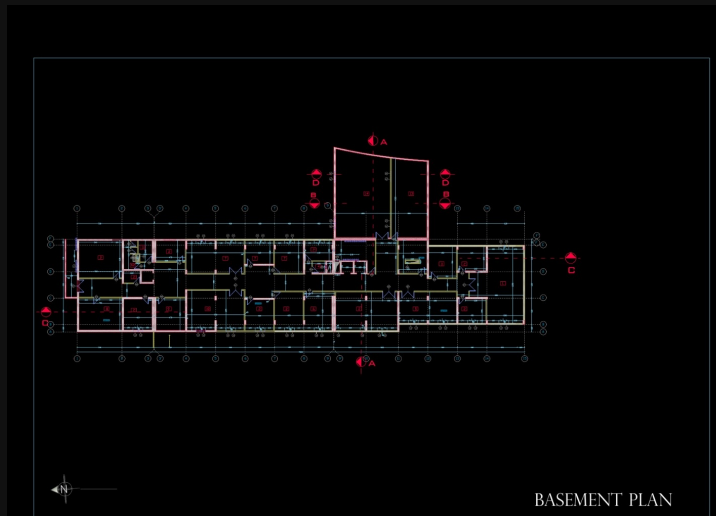
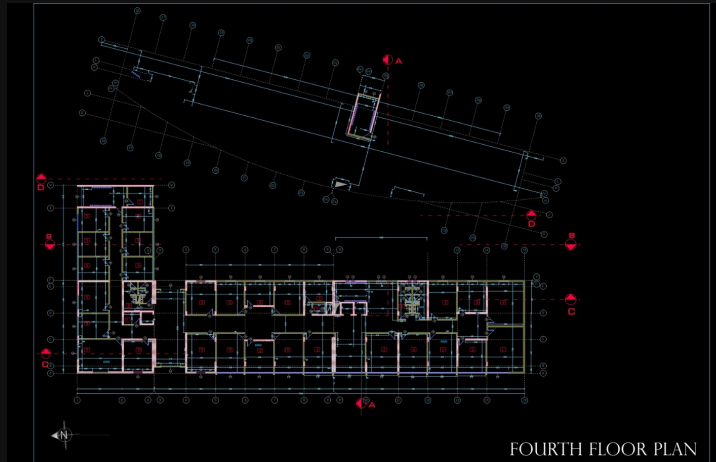
# Fourth + Basement

05

FOURTH FLOOR

B1

BASEMENT

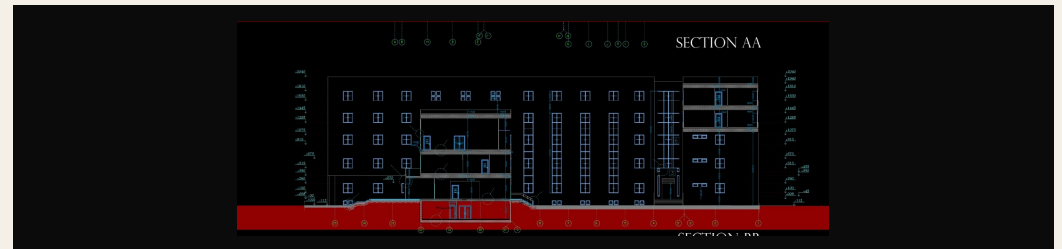


Sections reveal the project as a field of solids, voids and circulation.

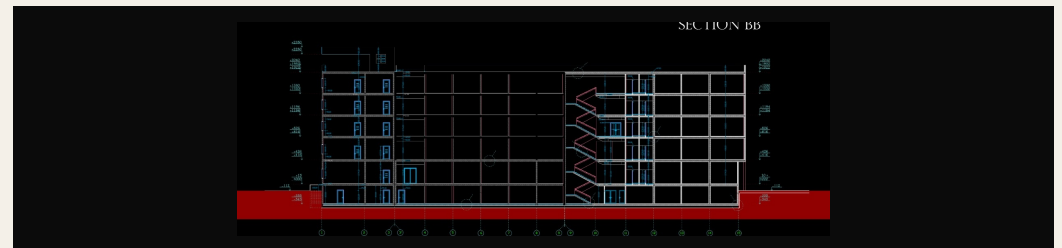
AA



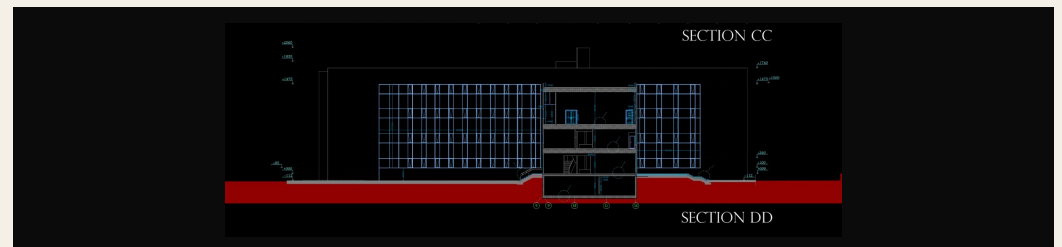
BB



CC



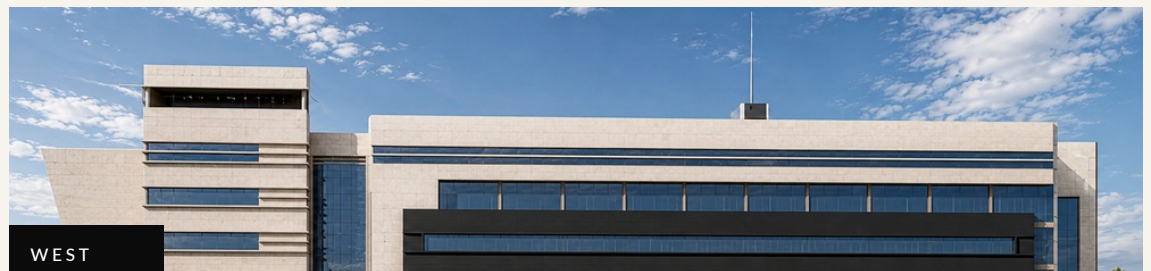
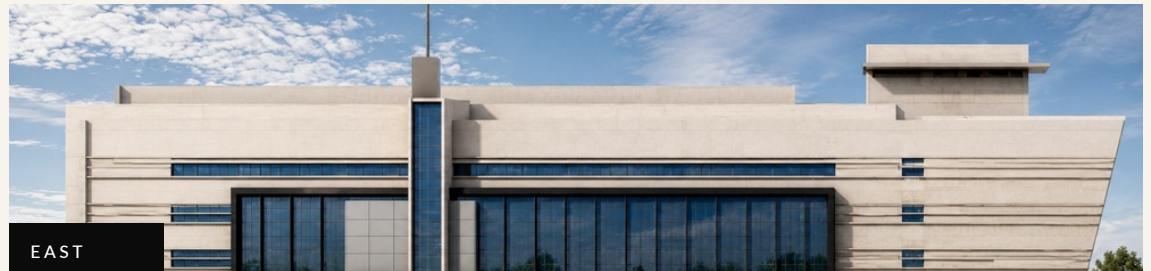
DD





# Four elevations. One architectural language.

Solid stone-clad planes, vertical glazed slots and continuous horizontal openings are recalibrated on each face rather than simply repeated.





# Arrival Sequence

## A Journey into Place and Purpose

The approach to the Rural Damascus Agriculture Directorate is conceived as a carefully choreographed sequence—one that gradually reveals the architecture while cultivating a sense of welcome and institutional dignity.

From the landscaped entry drive to the monumental threshold, each moment reinforces clarity, order, and connection to place.

### 01 A Framed Introduction

The form emerges between landscaped edges, establishing symmetry and presence.

### 02 The Approach

A generous walkway and refined landscaping guide visitors toward the heart of the institution.

### 03 The Threshold

A monumental entrance expresses openness, stability, and civic pride.





03

CAMPUS  
PRESENCE

# Sculptural Forms

A composition of bold lines  
and pure volumes, the  
architecture defines the  
campus edge with clarity  
and timeless presence.



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# Campus Gateway

## A Threshold of Learning and Landscape

The architectural composition articulates a strong sense of arrival—where built form and landscape converge to define the spirit of the campus. The gateway structure frames views, filters light, and creates a memorable threshold between the city and the academic realm beyond.



B THE GATEWAY EXPERIENCE



C CAMPUS COMPOSITION



D COURTYARD PERSPECTIVE



# Reflections & Outlook

## Courtyard Geometry

The architecture of the directorate is shaped by clarity, proportion, and purpose. Framed by strong geometric volumes and reflective surfaces, the courtyard becomes a place of orientation and calm.

Openings are precisely placed to balance light, privacy, and visual connection—creating a composed environment that supports both function and identity.



### A | GEOMETRIC SKY FRAME

A vertical dialogue between glass and stone, framing the sky and emphasizing architectural scale and precision.

### B | COURTYARD OUTLOOK

A measured perspective through the heart of the campus, revealing order, openness, and the civic landmark beyond.

### C | REFLECTED IDENTITY

The glass façade mirrors the architecture's own rhythm—capturing light, movement, and a sense of place.



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# Institutional Elevations

## Presence in Form and Function

The architectural language reflects clarity, purpose, and permanence—rooted in context, expressed in refined simplicity.



**Enduring Materials**  
Clad in natural-toned stone, chosen for resilience, clarity, and timeless presence.



**Ordered Openings**  
A disciplined rhythm of openings ensures light, ventilation, and visual balance.



**Contextual Harmony**  
Landscaping and natural elements frame the architecture, enhancing its institutional role.



### Side Elevation

The building's proportions and façade composition create a strong and consistent institutional presence.



### Oblique View

Clean lines and balanced volumes provide depth and dimension to the architectural expression.



### Main Approach

A formal entry sequence emphasizes symmetry, accessibility, and institutional dignity.





07

LIGHT &  
INTERIOR

# Light & Interior

Atmosphere, Material, Experience

Light is the silent architect of this building — defining form, revealing texture, and animating space throughout the day.



“Architecture  
is the learned game,  
correct and magnificent,  
of forms assembled  
in the light.

— Le Corbusier



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# Arrival and overview



AERIAL CONTEXT STUDY



CAMPUS AND COURT STUDY



# Day / Night





# Design language carried into construction

Across representation and archival evidence, the project retains its defining elements: planar mass, recessed portals, vertical glazed circulation zones and a calibrated contrast between solid and transparent surfaces.



VISUALIZATION STUDY



ARCHIVAL BUILT PHOTOGRAPH / 2010



# Rural Damascus Directorate of Agriculture

|                                                                              |                                                                            |                                                                                              |                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| PROJECT                                                                      | ARCHITECT                                                                  | AWARD                                                                                        |                       |
| Rural Damascus Directorate of Agriculture & Agricultural Reform Headquarters | Mohammad Esam Al Aouf / Esam Al Aouf                                       | First Prize - National Architectural Competition, 2004                                       |                       |
| PROGRAM                                                                      | LOCATION                                                                   | LEVELS                                                                                       |                       |
| Government / administrative headquarters                                     | Rural Damascus, Syria                                                      | Basement + Ground + four upper floors                                                        |                       |
| ARCHIVAL RECORD                                                              | VISUALIZATIONS                                                             | PHOTOGRAPHY CREDIT                                                                           |                       |
| Project photography dated December 2010; aerial documentation 2011           | Contemporary visualization studies prepared from the project archive, 2026 | Project archive - photographer / copyright holder to be confirmed before external submission |                       |
| 2004                                                                         | 2010                                                                       | 2011                                                                                         | 2026                  |
| COMPETITION                                                                  | BUILT ARCHIVE                                                              | AERIAL RECORD                                                                                | VISUALIZATION STUDIES |



ESAM ALAOUF ARCHITECTURAL ATELIER

*Architecture as a precise act of place.*

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ESAMALAOUF.COM

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ARCHITECT

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