



**LEEDS
ARTS RESEARCH
CENTRE**

CREATIVE REFUGE

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READER IN ARCHITECTURE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION STATEMENT

Creative Refuge, an equal collaboration, documents the experience of three art-based workshops conducted with children at Burj El Barajne Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon. Exploring children's dreams and play, the project responds to the camp's dense living conditions and the political constraints of its residents' refugee status, using its limited local resources to engender community participation. The key question is how the sense of belonging present among displaced social groups can be a touchstone for political change.

The book is a document of the social/spatial findings of the workshops; a catalogue of children's stories, dreams, play spaces, and family histories; and a manual for educators using participatory processes and contextual/situated learning for children, focusing on issues of displacement, rights, and refuge.

Published in English and Arabic, and distributed in the UK, USA and Middle East (selling 1500 copies), Creative Refuge is a key reference book for practitioners, activists, NGOs and policy-makers on displacement in the Middle East and Europe. After using it during the Talbyeh Camp Development Project in Amman to train local facilitators in participatory methods, Muna Budeiri, ICIP Deputy Director, UNRWA HQ Amman, described Creative Refuge as 'An enormous effort that expands our notions of what's possible in the restricted spatial and social context of a Palestine refugee camp... brimming with creativity of thought and expression.'

Awarded an A.M. Qattan and Prince Claus Fund grant, Creative Refuge raises awareness of political refuge in the Middle East by documenting the lived experience of women and children. Policy on these issues is often imposed on displaced people with little experience of their circumstances. Creative Refuge aims to influence policy through highlighting these circumstances, suggesting that if, even within the constraints political refuge, creative community is still possible, so much more could be achieved with adequate funding and greater empathy.

BOOK BLURB

Creative Refuge brings forward the experience of three workshops working with children at Beit Atfal Assomoud, Burj El Barajne Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon. The publication is a research catalog of the collected children's stories, dreams, play spaces, and related family histories as well as a research document of the social and spatial findings of the three workshops. It is also an educational manual for practitioners and educators working with children and participatory creative processes, who are in particular interested in working with contextual and situated learning and issues of displacement, rights, and refuge. The workshops explored children's Dream and Play practices in relation to living within the urban dense conditions of the camps, and the political constraints of their status as residents in refuge.

The book is produced in both Arabic and English, aiming to preserve the cultural specificity of the language of the workshops and of the camp context, but at the same time to invite a wider audience into the stories and research.

The book has been made possible through the support of A.M. Qattan and Prince Claus Fund's "Selat: Links Through the Arts, 2012," Palestine International Institute, Norwegian People's Aid and Aramex.

Keywords:

Lebanon

Participatory Practice

Play

Links:

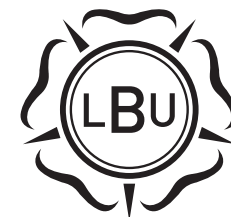
<https://tadweenpublishing.com/blogs/news/15526249-new-book-creative-refuge>

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