Ecole Polytechnique d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme – El Moudjahid Hocine Ait Ahmed –

epau

Instituto Cervantes

With the support of

EMBAJADA DE ESPAÑA EN ARGELIA

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////// WORKSHOP

Wednesday 18

Thursday 19

november 2026

Bourbia conference room

floodable Spaces: Between Appropriation and Refuge



© Antonio TORRES et Miguel CAYUELAS

Building on the theme of the conference, Round-Trip Architectures, we would like to explore the potential of the floodable spaces along Oued El Harrach as places of opportunity and transformation. The movement of water, alternating between retreat and return, creates changing conditions across the landscape while also opening up possibilities for occupation and use. When the water recedes, these spaces can become places for everyday life, encounters and appropriation, where domesticity, comfort and the human scale take centre stage. When the water returns, they raise questions of refuge, protection and the relationship between open spaces and the built city.

In particular, we would like to examine how existing architecture can extend these public spaces, accommodate complementary uses and provide places of refuge, exploring the relationships between landscape, public space and urban fabric. Through this alternation, the movement of water becomes an opportunity to rethink how we inhabit the landscape. This back-and-forth between different conditions, uses and experiences allows us to learn from the place and imagine new forms of intervention.
The workshop would provide an opportunity to explore these questions through the students' ongoing projects, bringing their design intentions into dialogue with the realities of the site and using this exchange to open up new design possibilities.

Organisation committee

Pr **MESSAOUDENE Maha**, head of EPAU,

Pr **KACHER Sabrina**, Deputy Director for External Relations,

Dr **SRIR Mohamed**, Lecturer - Researcher, Director of the VUDD Research Laboratory,

Mme **SMAILI Imène**, Lecturer - Researcher,

Dr **HADJI Lydia**, Lecturer - Researcher,

Dr **ZERARKA Ibtissem**, Lecturer - Researcher,

Dr **HADJILAH Asma**, Lecturer - Researcher.

PROGRAM

Wednesday 18.11 / 13h-16h30

- 13h00 - 13h15 : Presentation of the IUA Studio's Theme
- Introduction: Inhabiting the Banks of Oued El Harrach Differently. Transforming Precarious Settlements, Building Resilience and Fostering New Forms of Urbanity, *Mohamed SRIR & Imène SMAILI*
- 13h15 - 14h15 : Presentation of the Study Sites by IUA Studio Students
- 14h15 - 14h30 : Introduction to the workshop, *Antonio TORRES & Miguel CAYUELAS*
- 14h30 - 16h30 : Session 1 : Sites et themes.

Thursday 19.11 / 09h-16h30

- 09h00 - 15h00 : Session 2 : From Themes to Projects
- 15h00 - 16h00 : Presentation of Results to the Jury
- 16h00 - 16h30 : Certificate award and closing ceremony