STUDIO IN MOTION

FAYOUM, EGYPT EDITION - 2025

Dr. Sherif Goubran

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FUTURES

Measure, Analyze,
Mobilize for the Built
Environment

STUDIO IN MOTION

Studio in Motion is an ongoing exploration of architectural education beyond the classroom. It positions learning as a dynamic, place-based process, where travel, fieldwork, and direct engagement with context become essential tools for understanding architecture.

Developed as part of the **Engaged Sustainable Futures (ESF)** platform, the studio extends learning into real environments, moving beyond abstract studio conditions toward observation, making, and critical reflection. Each edition focuses on a specific location and set of conditions, using the site itself as a laboratory for investigation.

Across different geographies, the studio explores how architecture responds to climate, material, and local knowledge, encouraging students to engage with both global discourse and vernacular practices.

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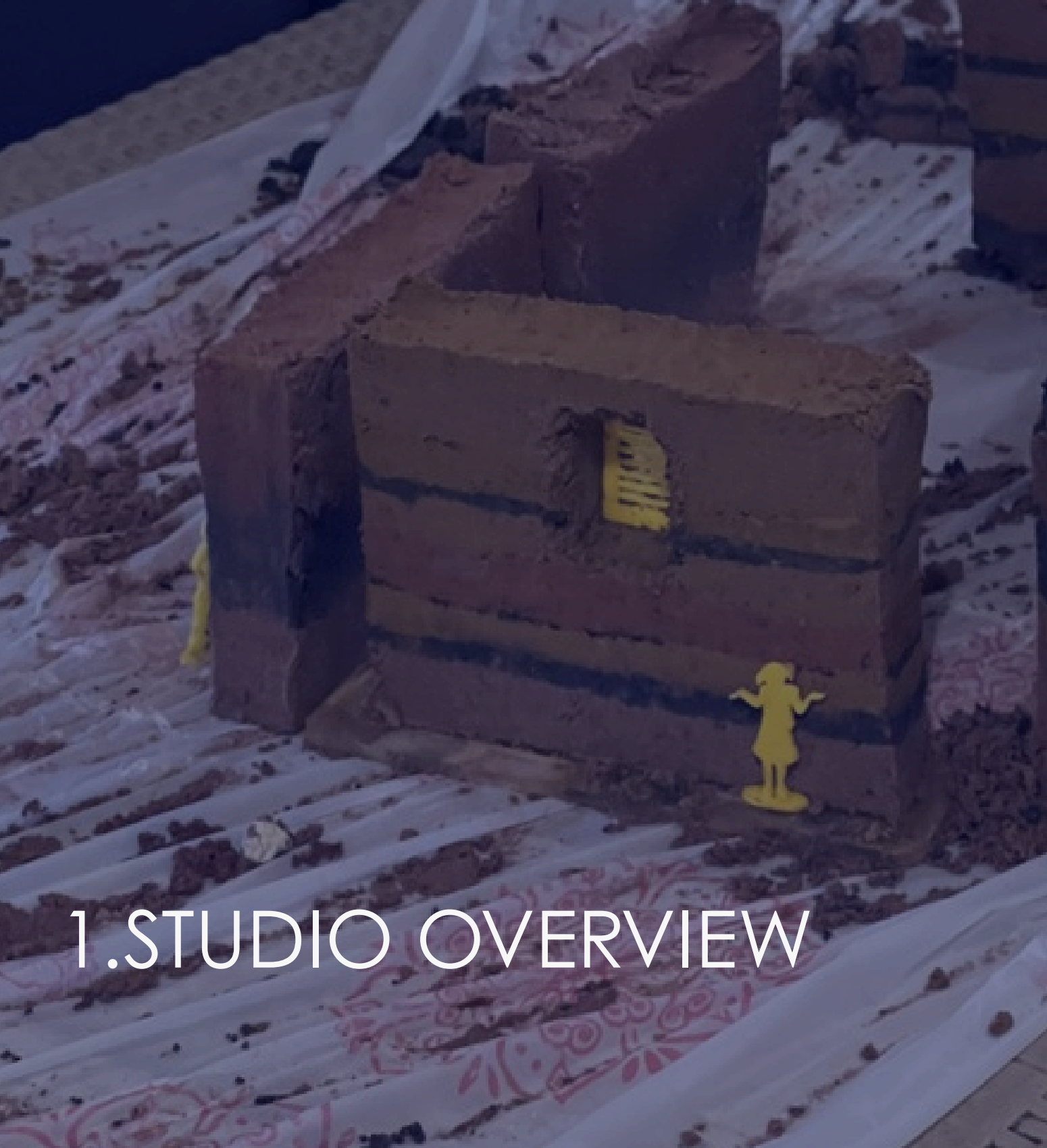
FAYOUM EGYPT EDITION

The Fayoum edition explored architecture through landscape, ecology, and hands-on making. Set within the natural environments of Fayoum, the studio immersed participants in local building practices, material experimentation, and direct engagement with place.

Through site visits and studio discussions, participants explored how architecture can respond to climate, terrain, and local knowledge. The experience encouraged understanding the landscape as an active part of the design process rather than simply a setting.

A key part of the programme was a rammed earth construction workshop led by Handover Projects, where participants were introduced to earthen building techniques through lectures, demonstrations, and collective prototype construction. The session focused on material behavior, layering techniques, and the environmental potential of low-impact construction methods.
The studio also included pottery workshops, birdwatching activities, safari explorations, and campfire discussions, creating space for reflection on ecology, craft, and architecture.

This edition positioned architecture as a process of learning through observation, experimentation, making, and engaging directly with the environmental and cultural context of Fayoum.



1.STUDIO OVERVIEW

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DAY 1

Introduction to Fayoum as a living landscape shaped by ecology, agriculture, and craft traditions.

Students engage in an exploratory visit across key sites, observing the relationship between land, material, and settlement. The day includes initial design studio feedback sessions.

DAY 2

A hands-on introduction to rammed earth construction, led through a practical workshop combining theory and application. Students learn about soil composition, layering techniques, and structural behavior, followed by the collective construction of a prototype, translating knowledge into physical form.
Workshop held by: Handover Projects using Dakkah

The day continues with a site exploration safari, exposing students to the diverse terrains of Fayoum, and concludes with an informal campfire discussion, reflecting on material, climate, and design responses.

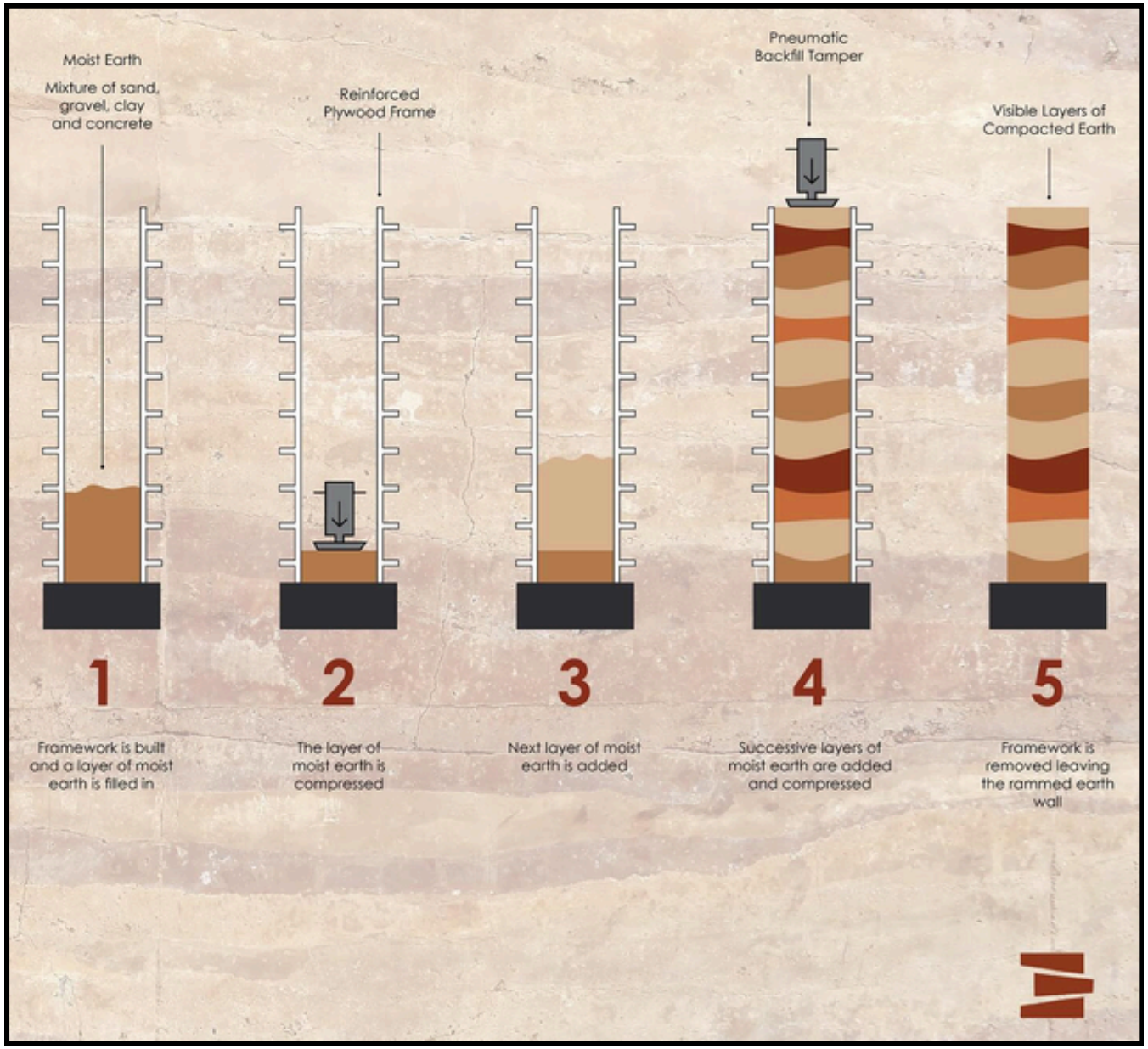
DAY 3

An early morning bird watching session introduces students to the ecological rhythms of the site, reinforcing sensitivity to natural systems.

This is followed by a pottery workshop, exploring clay as both a cultural practice and architectural material. Students engage directly in shaping and forming, understanding process, tactility, and transformation.

2.LEARNING OUTCOMES

RAMMED EARTH PROCESS



Source: Handover Projects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3.EXPERIMENTATION OUTCOMES

PROTOTYPE: MINIATURE RAMMED EARTH WALL

This initial prototype explored the fundamentals of rammed earth construction through layering and compression. Using locally sourced soils, sand, gravel, and natural pigments, different material mixes were compacted within a temporary formwork to create a stratified wall section.

The exercise demonstrated how variations in material composition influence texture, color, and structural performance, while highlighting the role of compaction in achieving stability and cohesion. Beyond its technical function, the prototype revealed the aesthetic potential of earth as a construction material, where layers become a visible record of the building process.

As a first experiment, the wall served as a hands-on introduction to material behavior, construction techniques, and the relationship between craftsmanship and architecture.

4.DOCUMENTATION


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fayoum
pottery
school


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Teaching Staff:
Dr. Sherif Goubran
Dr. Reem Fahmy
Lobna Anous
Tamer El Gabaly
Sara Amin
Heba ElKammah

Rita Gabriel
Amina Khairy
Haya Hafez
Farida Aboul Seoud
Habiba Atef
Lila Hassib
Salma Kassab
Jana Hassan
Merna Abdelaall
Malak El Halawany