**Minutes virtual Network Meeting Architecture & Design on 12.11.2020**

List of participants

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| * Prof. Dr. Ralf Roßkopf, GJU * Prof. Dr. Ziyad Haddad, GJU * Prof. Dr. Maram Tawil, GJU * Amani Malhas, GJU * Rawan Majzoub, GJU * Dr. Farah Alatrash, GJU * Hazar Marji, GJU * Yayha Alabdallah, GJU * Stefanie Kirsch, GJU * Dr. Monica Heitz, HS Magdeburg-Stendal * Prof. Dagmar Eisermann, HS Koblenz * Prof. Christine Bernhard, HS RheinMain Wiesbaden | * Prof. Dr. Linn Song, HS Rosenheim * Prof. Dr. Steffi Husslein, HS Magdeburg-Stendal * Dipl-Ing. Lucas Fernandez-Trapa, HS Koblenz * Prof. Paulo Ferreira-Lopes, HS Mainz * Prof. Hartmut Jahn, HS Mainz * Melanie Beisswenger, HS Ostfalia * Nicole Wichmann-Sperl, Bauhaus Universitaet Weimar * Elena Stamm, HS Darmstadt * Tanja Bauer, HS Heilnbronn * Dagmar Willems, DAAD |

The new Dean of the School of Architecture and Built Environment (SABE) Dr. Maram Tawil welcomed the participants of the Network meeting and informed the network members that the former Dean Dr. Ziyad Haddad became the new Vice-president of GJU. Dr. Maram Tawil also introduced the new Exchange Coordinator of the Architecture Department Amani Malhas as successor of Rejan Ashour and welcomed the new Head of Departments Hazar Marji (Design) and Farah AlAtrash (Architecture). Then the Vice-president for international Affairs Prof. Dr. Ralf Rosskopf introduced himself and gave a warm welcome to the SABE colleagues and German Network members.

The network heads Prof. Dagmar Eisermann (HS Koblenz) and Prof. Christine Bernhard (HS RheinMain Wiesbaden) updated the participants on recent cooperation projects and the origins of collaboration with GJU. HS RheinMain Wiesbaden was a founding member of the partnership in 2007 with continuous staff and student exchange between Wiesbaden and Amman, Prof. Christine Bernhard highlights that GJU became one of the most important exchange partners of her university expanding for other faculties at HSRM and a stable student exchange in Design even during Covid-19. She also reminds then network and the GJU colleagues of her role as spokeswoman at the Deutsch-Jordanische Gesellschaft and the annual meetings in Bonn and Berlin to address GJU topics on a high political level. Prof. Dagmar Eisermann looks back at a collaboration with GJU of 11 years with several workhops and excellent students coming to Koblenz during their study semester. She mentions the Joint Master Green Building and Sustainable Architecture once planed with Prof. Martin Zerwas (HS Koblenz) suggesting to include professors from Engineering. Dr. Maram Tawil and Dr. Farah AlAtrash are in contact with Prof. Zerwas again and plan to expand the network and partners involved by including TH Koeln and KIT Karlsruhe.

All participants introduced themselves.

Updates from GJU and Partner universities about Online Teaching

Dean Dr. Maram Tawil gave a presentation (PPT attached) on her Architecture projects with several German partners over the last past years and updated the Network members on recent developments at SABE including the challenges of online teaching since the Covid-19 pandemic started during spring semester 2020.

Ms. Dagmar Willems, DAAD, introduced the participants on new approaches in Digitalization funded and offered by DAAD within her presentation on “Virtual exchange – New formats of teaching and digital cooperation” (PPT attached). Her presentation offered a variety of virtual collaboration opportunities such as flipped classrooms and labs ([www.flipped-lab.de](http://www.flipped-lab.de)) as a best paractise of TH Koeln, global virtual student teams, shared syllabus with added language learning tools. The DAAD program “International Mobility & Cooperation Digital (IMKD)” offers several opportunities for SABE and its German partners in re/designing Learning space and offering more blended learning in the future study plan.

Participants than discussed with Ms. Willems several problems and challenges of digital teaching formats:

* Virtual international classes need to be credited and also accounted for professors
* If too many students are virtually joining classes, how to handle and supervise them?
* It needs flexibility to open up other ways of synchronized/assynchronized courses and flipped classrooms
* De-aggregatization of lectures/courses needs to be discussed
* Expertise of knowledge at a university will then be distributed globally. Who is controlling it?
* Psychological effect of losing personal contact even eye contact must be taken into account. Don’t miss the human side of digitalization

Then the Network Meeting was devided in two sub-session for Architecture and Design participants.

**Architecture Session**

Participants: Maram Tawil, Amani Malhas, Farah AlAtrash, Nicole Wichmann-Sperl, Linn Song, Elena Stamm, Dagmar Eisermann, Lucas Fernandez-Trapa, Carolin Kaus, Stefanie Kirsch.

**TOP 1** Dr. Maram Tawil gave insights in SABE e-Learning tools, virtual meetings and GJU’s digitalization strategy in setting up smart classrooms to have interactive lectures. She gives a brief update on her joint projects with RWTH Aachen and Bauhaus Universitaet Weimar and Farah Altrash about her cooperation with HfWU Nuertingen and FH Wuerzburg-Schweinfurt. Then the network members were asked about their feedback and experience with Online-Teaching. Prof. Linn Song (HS Rosenheim) made good experience working in smaller groups with students than having too large groups where student-professor relation gets lost. ZOOM and Metamos (Open Souirce communication platform) work well, while Moodle is not that good for online teaching. Nicole Wichmann-Sperl (Uni Weimar) found teaching Design projects in Architecture difficult and Elena Stamm (HS Darmstadt) said the quality of work is decreasing. It needs more efforts by the professors to explain content twice and more times and logistically teaching at home and the atelier different student groups is very tiring. Uni Weimar uses BigBlueButton (BBB) as it is safer than ZOOM. Using graphic boards or even iPads worked well but virtual supervision is only efficient in small groups. Dr. Maram Tawil allowed double the number of students in her online classes and smaller groups on campus to minimize the risk of Covid-19 infection.

**TOP 2** Prof. Dagmar Eisermann (HS Koblenz) and Dipl.-Ing. Architect Lucas Fernández-Trapa talk about the Virtual international studio project with South Africa, its opportunities and limits of two shared classrooms. Dipl.-Ing. Lucas Fernández-Trapa says it needs the expertise of professors to motivate and teach students and involve them in projects especially when working virtually.

**TOP 3** Digitalization: Enriching the study plan with virtual lectures, augmented reality and additional online courses offered by German Flying Faculty. Because SABE was not ready to realize physical Flying Faculty or field trips of FHWS virtually many projects got postponed. Farah Alatrash stresses the importance of personal interaction for brainstorming and working in joint projects (MIRO platform) when tools are available but hardware is missing. Exchange Coordinator Amani Malhas says her Department is not ready for break-up rooms with ZOOM or BBB and needs to prove the number of Incoming students to participate virtually in her classes is not set up yet.

Carolin Kaus (HSRM) offers SABE students to join her online courses but students need to be enrolled at the German host university, also for the exam and final presentation to be acknowledged. It was suggested to use the Learning Agreement for attending online lectures abroad, chosen from the electives.

Prof. Linn Song (HS Rosenheim) is interested to come as Flying Faculty in fall 2021.

**TOP 4** Amani Malhas (GJU) gives a presentation about her projects at the Architecture Department. She shared her experiences and challenges of the last semester taught online. Digital reviews were the norm and this challenge created an opportunity for students to interact with reviewers from different schools and different cultures. SABE needs proper access to databases and is depending also on close cooperation with the German partners in this regard.

TOP 5 and 6 are not discussed because there was no time left before the group of Design professors re-joined.

**Design Session**

The session moderated by network head Prof. Christine Bernhardt (UAS RheinMain) started with

**Top 6 Sound of Amman (DAAD project)**

Prof. Hartmut Jahn (UAS Mainz) and Prof. Yahya Alabdallah (GJU) presented their project “The sound of Amman” which was developed on the basis of the project “The sound of Lisbon” and set up in collaboration with composer Prof. Paulo Ferreira-Lopes (UAS Mainz). The project aims at carrying out documentary investigations of the living and living conditions of the inhabitants of Amman. The two basic elements of audiovisual perception (sound / film) form the starting point of the project. The project is supported by DAAD funds. Due to the Corona pandemic the project which basically lives from direct exchange and the experiences and impressions on site, had and has to be carried out remotely which turned out to be a major challenge to the project and the creative process. The meetings took place in audio-visual classrooms, filming took place in Amman and Germany effectuated by the respective working groups on site.

**Top 1 Updates from GJU: Feedback about Online-teaching, SABE e-learning-tools**

Dr. Rawan Majoub presented the pros and cons of the online-learning experience at SABE:

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| **PROS** | **CONS** |
| Time efficiency | Teacher / students engagement is lower than in physical courses (especially studio & workshop courses) |
| Jury members from all over the world can be integrated into project discussions | Low attention span for students (great potential for distraction) |
| University teachers from all over the world can be integrated into teaching / classes | Danger of sense of isolation |
| Students can review/revise teaching content: pre-recorded classes | Inadequate students’ attendance tracking |
| Full documentation of teaching material | Dependence on technology involved: internet connection etc. |

She pointed out that the strict reduction to remote teaching presents manifold challenges particularly to the area of design with creative processes involved.

With regard to graduation projects Dr. Rawan Majoub highlighted the chance to involve jury members from Germany more easily into the process via virtual sessions, at the same time she underlined the need to stick to the strict regulations set out for the projects. She suggested a more regular virtual exchange between Jordanian and German colleagues during the phase of the graduation projects.

**Top 2 Prof. Christine Bernhardt (UAS RheinMain) and Hazar Marji (GJU): Joint Design Project “Cookbook Amman” and New Master program at UAS RheinMain**

**Joint Design Project “Cookbook Amman”**

* **Aim:** Bilingual printed cookbook including recipes and information on Jordanian life & culture => offering mutual cultural experiences via the encounter with people, highlighting Jordan’s diversity (peaceful melting pot in the Middle East)
* **Period:** Spring 2019 to spring 2021, including visit of the German project group in Jordan; the German and Jordanian project team collaborated in the photographic and filming process
* **Funding:** Alumni Club (UAS RheinMain), Promos scholarships by DAAD, “Family Bernhardt Foundation”
* **Additional set-up:** Corresponding online platform showing videos about traditional cooking in Jordan

**New interdisciplinary Master program “Crossmedia Spaces” at UAS RheinMain**

* **Focus**: interdisciplinary and cross-media presentations
* **Aim:** creating media-designed spaces - with digital and analogue media, in real and virtual space, as locations for visitors to make experiences, to inform themselves and communicate.
* **Areas:** combination of artistic and creative cross-media projects, courses in design theory and artistic conception, entrepreneurship, intercultural communication and presentation
  + **Three subject areas**:
* Interdisciplinary and cross-media design,
* Artistic conception and design thinking,
* Team building and project management
* **Structure:** In the first two semesters, the degree program focuses on the potential and competencies of cross-media design, and in the third semester students apply this knowledge and develop a creative solution in a master's project - preferably developed in team constellations.
* Some of the modules are / will be taught in English
* Start is possible in the summer and winter semester

**Top 3 Internship at Hisan Salti in Amman (Field report by Laura, student of Prof. Christine Bernhard)**

* Laura presented to the network her field trip to Jordan and especially her shooting experience in 2019
* Appeal: encourage more German students to go to GJU

Prof. Christine Bernhardt pointed out that enforcing the exchange from Germany to Jordan is one of the major tasks of the network

**Top 4 Digitalization and new approaches of e-learning: Enriching the study plan with shared virtual lectures, tutorials and additional online courses offered by German Flying Faculty**

* Virtual classrooms offer a chance of accompanying graduation projects in a regular and intense way => closer collaboration and arrangements
* Integrate German university teaches into the jury work thereby
* Possibilities of German university teachers to be supervisors of graduation projects in collaboration with partners at GJU

**Top 5 Participation in DAAD/Erasmus calls, joint projects at Amman Design Week**

* DAAD funding programs do not focus much on the creative field of design, which makes it much more difficult to apply for and implement projects with DAAD funding. There is little expertise in the DAAD in the field of design.

**Points raised in the general discussion:**

* Network group “Design” to start a series of virtual meetings every two months (shorter and more regular virtual meetings); virtual meetings are to complement the (physical( annual meetings
* Linkage of the next network meeting with Amman Design week if possible

As the time of the virtual Network meeting was limited not all topics could be addressed and the discussion had to come to an end. It was agreed on meeting every two months in virtual format to discuss and update each other in shorter time intervals.

The next Network meeting in 2021 will be held at HS Saarbruecken or HS Koblenz (tbc) on October 28th. If the Amman Design Week will take place in 2021 it was suggested to have the Network Meeting in Amman. Rawan Majzoub will get information on that and update the Network.

**To Do List**

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| **Task** | **Responsibility** | **Time frame** |
| Joint Master „Green Building & Sustainable Architecture“ | **Dr. Maram Tawil, Farah AlAtrash, GJU**  (together with HS Koblenz, KIT, TH Koeln) | asap |
| New directions in Curricula development | **Prof. Christine Bernhard, HSRM**  **Prof. Dagmar Eisermann, HS Koblenz**   * Input from Network Heads | February 2021 |
| Including Online-Teaching, E-Learning tools with German professors (Flying Faculty) | **Rawan Majzoub, EC Design**  **Amani Malhas, EC Architecture**  (supported by Ms. Laura Schergaut, FF Program Coordinator at IO) | February 2021 |
| DAAD projects and future Study Group Mobility | **Yahya AlAbdalah, GJU**  **Prof. Hartmut Jahn & Prof. Paulo Ferreira-Lopes, HS Mainz** | tbd |
| New interdisciplinary Master program “Crossmedia Spaces” at UAS RheinMain | **Prof. Christine Bernhard, HSRM Wiesbaden**  **Prof. Rawan Majzoub, GJU** | asap |
| Participation in DAAD/Erasmus calls, joint projects at Amman Design Week | **Prof. Christine Bernhard, HSRM Wiesbaden**  **Prof. Rawan Majzoub, GJU**  <https://ammandesignweek.com/> | January 2021 |
| Amman Design Week | **Rawan Majzoub**  Update regarding next Network Meeting | January 2021 |