





- Sustainable Cities Lab for Saudi Women Architects and Planners in the UK, January 2018 in collaboration with Arab Urban Development Institute, University of Westminster and Oxford Brookes University. Funded by the British Council and Aecom. Held at the University of Westminster.
- Sustainable Riyadh Strategy. Client: Green Building Forum, Saudi Arabia. 2015.
- Resilient Amman Strategy. Framework. Client: 100 Resilient Cities, Rockefeller Foundation, London.
- Eco-Friendly and Smart Factory Concept. Client: Bolueta Engineering Group, Spain.
- Pilot Project – Network of European Green Capitals. Technical Bid in response to Call of Tenders by European Commission as part of GOPA Consortium (Sub-contractor). November 2017.
- Building the EU Observatory on Energy Poverty. Technical Bid to the EU in collaboration with GOPA com. and other partners. 2017.
- Operation of the Covenant of Mayors Office (COMO) – Support services – Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and IUC Programme. Technical Bid to EU in partnership with the Covenant of Mayors office and GOPA com. 2016.
- Strengthening City Knowledge for Sustainable Urban Development in KSA - UN Habitat, Future Saudi Cities Programme and Arab Urban Development Institute. International Technical Bid in partnership with Max-Lock Centre, University of Westminster, Professor Patrick Wakely and the Arab Urban Development Institute. The project included working out prosperity reports for Saudi cities, building the capacity of urban and national observatories and capacity building of municipalities. In the framework of urban planning reforms in KSA. Client: UN-Habitat. Bid approved by UN-Habitat. Platforms was identified as the technical director of the project. Entry approved by UN-Habitat.
- Planning Reforms in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Arranged by UN-Habitat in cooperation with Future Saudi Cities Programme. Technical Bid prepared in partnership with Max-Lock Centre, University of Westminster, Barton Willmore Urban Design Practices, UK, and the Arab Urban Development Institute. Client: UN-Habitat.

#### Public Lectures, debates and workshops under Platforms:

- Moderator of the session 'New Port City-Interface - Rethinking the Waterfront and Valorising the Maritime Identity' at the 17th World Conference Cities and Ports 'Sustainable Blue Futures', Arranged by the Worldwide Network of Port Cities in Tangier, 11-13 May 2022. The session hosted: James Kelleher, Dublin βPort Company; Imad Barrakad, Chairman of the Board, Moroccan Society for Tourism Engineering; Angel Pulido, General Manager Port of Sevilla; Natalia Urriza, Port Bahía Blanca,; Cato Johansen, Plan Chef Port of Oslo.
- Hosting the Webinar: Developing Blue and Sustainable Port Cities, organised by the Worldwide Network of Port Cities, 30th of March. Panelists: Professor Carola Hein, University of Delft; Alistair Gale, Port of London, Jamil Ouazzani, Société de Gestion du Port de Tanger Ville.
- Moderating the panel *How to Build a Sustainable Smart City?* gathering representatives from GLA, UK, Helsinki City, Finland and Ostend City, Belgium in Smart to Future Cities Conference, London 10th -11th April 2019.
- Moderating the panel Enhancing Connectivity and Leveraging Logistical Assets in Makkah Region Economic Forum, 24th - 26th March 2019.
- Keynote on Smart Cities in Toulouse Smart Forum, invited by the Mayor of Toulouse, 12th December 2018.
- Sum up of the outcomes of the Sustainable Development Workshop in the Kick-Off workshop of the EU Programme *Docks the Future* together with Charles Haine, Director WSP. Portugal, 2018.
- Lecture and panelist in the panel debate Resource Urbanism at London School of Economics, which launched LSE's research Divergent City Models - Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Singapore and Hong Kong. January 2018.
- Feedback on the new 2017 BA Urban Design, Planning and Development degree content, Oxford Brookes University. Invited to give consultancy by the Head of the programme.
- Sustainable Urban Activism. Lecture and participation in a panel debate on the Politics of Architecture arranged by the Architectural Society, University of Westminster. November 2016.
- Industrial Port Cities in Change - with a focus on the North European context. Invited Lecturer at Oxford Brookes University, Urban Design, Planning and Development, 27th October 2016.
- Rapporteur, Member of the Scientific Committee and Topic Chair at the 15th World Conference Cities and Ports, organised by the Worldwide Network on Port Cities, the Port of Rotterdam and the City of Rotterdam. 5-7 October 2016, Rotterdam.
- I Chaired and co-moderated the track: *How can joined flexible urban and port planning reinforce the sustainability of port cities?* Synthesis submitted at the end of October 2016 as input to the 16

World Conference Ports and Cities, Quebec 2018.

- Recent UN and EU Sustainable Development Policies – Post 2015. What Challenges for City Planning and Governance? Lecture at the international conference Europe at a Cross-Road, arranged by World Association for Sustainable Development WASD, London, 20-22 July 2016.
- Waterfront Redevelopment. Lecture and Interactive Planning Workshop that I held for Masters students at the Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment IDBE, University of Cambridge and gave feedback on students' projects for Odessa. July 2016.
- Sustainable Cities Workshop designed and held at University College London, facilitated by UCLU Green Economy Society. December 2015.
- Planning for Sustainable Cities and Regions. Lecture and participation in a panel debate at the Green Business Forum on Smart Cities & Sustainability, organised by UCLU Green Economy Society, University College London, March 2015.
- Conference Track Chair: Sustainability and Environment Management, in World Association Sustainable Development WASD International Conference Europe at a crossroads: the challenge for future sustainable development, Kings College, London, 20-22 July 2015.

2012 -  
2015

### **Independent Advisor in Sustainable Development**

*The Planning System in Syria*. Chapter in the International Manual on Planning Practice, International Society of Urban and Regional Planners ISOCARP. The document present how planning is led at different governmental levels, planning tools and planning control, citizen and community engagement, assessment of sustainability and governance practices and perspectives.

#### **Key university lectures in the UK:**

- Meeting Development and Sustainability Challenges in North Europe and the Middle East. Lecture held at the Development Planning Unit DPU, Bartlett, University College London at the occasion of 60 years birthday of DPU. December 2014.
- Green Economy, lecture and panel debate, University College London. March 2015.
- Advisor to the Ministry of Housing, Urban, and Rural Affairs in Denmark in relation to EU- Reference Framework of Sustainable Cities RFSC [www.rfsc.eu](http://www.rfsc.eu) and its implementation in the Danish local governments.
- Synthesising Al Khani's planning experiences with focus on the subject Inclusive Cities. Results presented at the International Federation of Housing and Planning Congress, Sweden, 2012.

2013 -  
2013

Holbaek Kommune, Holbaek, Denmark

### **Senior Level Planner & Project Manager**

Senior Planner/Project Manager with various municipal planning tasks:

- Ensuring the quality of the Development Structure of the Regional Plan 2013-2025 of Holbaek local government region combining cities, villages, and natural areas emphasising synergy among sector development goals and reinforcing partnerships. Major contribution:
- Hovedstrukturen (the main structure of the Regional Plan for Holbeak Region), Holbæk Kommuneplan 2013-25. Holbæk Kommune, Denmark [www.holbaek.dk/Politik/PlanerOgProjekter/Kommuneplan2013](http://www.holbaek.dk/Politik/PlanerOgProjekter/Kommuneplan2013).
- Managing mixed-use and welfare local development projects in synergy with the overall strategy, including process design, steering of planning applications, coordination, and negotiations with different stakeholders, environmental screening, and public hearing workshops. Outcomes are all documented in published plans and reports.

2009 -  
2011

Ministry of Presidential Affairs and Ministry of Local Administration, Damascus, Syria  
**Senior International Advisor**

A high-level sole position with planning and supervision responsibilities at the overall national, regional, urban, and neighbourhood levels with responsibility for Sustainable Development and Integrated and Strategic Planning in Syria. The main target of this position, which I was in charge of framing, was to improve the basis for promoting sustainable development in urban, rural, and natural areas, in social, environmental, economic, & cultural terms to the benefit of people, communities, economies, cities, and regions.

The role involved the following advisory activities - all documented in extended reports:

- Developed a framework and content for a cross-sector sustainable development programme for Syria to be a value-based overall guiding national strategy for the country that I negotiated at the ministerial level.
- Advised on improving the planning system and legal frameworks, including feedback on the urban and regional planning laws, the local government law and law on NGOs and related capacity building. Some of the outcomes are stipulating the election of city mayors, allocating cities the capacity to establish their own development strategies and including sustainability goals.
- Negotiated with different level actors, international aid organisations and NGOs.
- Assessed and provided feedback to planning activities and local and international planning teams at the national level and in cities and regions, including Syria Five Year Plan, undergoing Damascus master plan, Greater Damascus plan, Aleppo Plan and regional planning in North Syria. All documented in reports. Examples of outputs:
- Roudaina Al Khani, Assessment of Damascus Masterplan activity and reports, and comments, input and recommendations with a focus on sustainable development- on behalf of the Ministry of Presidential Affairs – to Ministry of Local Administration, Damascus Governorate and the contracting international consulting company. 2011.
- Established strategic cross-sector and political development guidelines for the Eastern Region, which is hit by climate change. President of a Minister-level comprehensive workshop on the future development of this region.
- Established guidelines for planning and development in the Syrian cities as a direct tool in the hand of local governments to implement the Sustainable Development Memorandum.
- Developed a national-level concept model for regenerating and managing Informal Settlement Areas based on an integrated sustainable development concept with a strong social and participatory component assembling local and international actors and a flexible management tool. Focus on a neighbourhood in North Aleppo.
- Chaired and moderated a governmental and inter-ministerial summit on the future of the Syrian Eastern Region (social, economic and environmental approach) appointed by the Prime Minister Cabinet, Syria. I compiled conclusions and presented them at the end of the conference.

2010 -  
2011

Syria Trust for Development, Damascus, Syria  
**Head of Strategy and Finance Committee, Board Member**

Board Member establishing the Strategy Committee and a strategy for developing the Trust under the First Lady into a distinguished NGO for children, youth and women and for culture and development in rural areas and civil society that works systematically for development in the entire country and as an institutional flagship.

**Main aspects and activities:**

- Established the Board Strategy Committee and a long-term strategy for the Trust in dialogue with other Board members.
- Recommended input to national level development strategies and laws in the Trust's main areas, hereunder the Law on Local Administration and the Law on NGOs.
- Encouraged close cooperation with partners from the NGOs, the public and the private sectors and its beneficiaries while influencing the national policies.
- Ensured alignment between Trust strategy and projects. Established monitoring methods and tools.
- Encouraged the organisation to work according to the principles of cost-effectiveness, improve its

- outreach and impact, be risk-aware, and develop its internal and external working methods.
- Formulation of organisation's governance documents and directions to its management.

2008 -  
2009 German Technical Cooperation GTZ, Damascus, Syria  
**International Consultant**

Key consultant for the transfer of international and European strategies for sustainable development to the Programme for Sustainable Urban Development GTZ-UDP, Syria (an agreement between the German and the Syrian Governments) and a key consultant assisting the Programme Manager in framing the programme. I carried out the following activities. **All the activities with outcomes are documented in consultancy reports:**

- Assessed urban development and planning frameworks.
- Assessment of the legal settings framing urban development and planning in Syria in relation to sustainable urban development goals, and recommendations.
- Consultancy Report submitted to GTZ, 2009. 57p.
- *Current capacities and capacity development needs of planning organizations in relation to sustainable integrated urban development and planning at all administrative levels.* Consultancy Report submitted to GTZ 2008. 54p.
- Established a concept and a programme for the GTZ-UDP Programming Workshop on Sustainable Urban Development, German International Cooperation, Syria - 7&8 May. The workshop was arranged for central and local level decision makers, planners, international donors, academics and professionals to identify support structures at the local and central levels.
- Moderated a panel gathering Syrian mayors under the GTZ-UDP Programming Workshop and held a key lecture: "Sustainable Urban Development in the international context - Planning strategies, planning partners, and planning tools".
- Report of the Programming Workshop on Sustainable Urban Development. 36 p.+ Arabic summary (12p.). Consultancy Report submitted to GTZ.
- Developed guidelines for evaluating the State of Urban Planning.
- Co-launched the Syria State of Cities Report supported by Cities' Alliance and, in this framework, the design, scientific coordination and moderation of a series of workshops on the state of planning and involving the capacity building of central and local government actors of 16 cities. Of the outputs:
- Roudaina Al Khani *Kick-Off Workshop SoCR, SoPP & CDS, Workshop Report, 2009.* Kick-Off workshop on the State of Cities Report (SoCR), the State of Physical Planning (SoPP) and City Development Strategies (CDS), July 7-8, 2008. For 16 Syrian Municipalities, local consultants and the Syrian Ministry of Local Administration and Environment. Arranged in the Syrian-German Wadi University.
- Scientific input (co-author) and comments to Memorandum on Sustainable Urban Development in Syria. Ministry of Local Administration in Syria, German Technical Cooperation and the Arab Urban Development Institute. 2009. The Memorandum was approved by the Syrian Government as input to Five-Year cross-sector National Plan of Syria 2011.
- Scientific moderator and co-scientific coordination of the international conference First Arab International Conference on Sustainable Development in Syrian Cities, conducted by the Program of Sustainable Urban Development in Syria, supported by the Ministry of Local Administration, the German Technical Cooperation with contribution from the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI). Damascus, September 28-29.
- Key presentations on planning and sustainability.

2006 -  
2007 City of Copenhagen, Centre of Urban Development, Copenhagen, Denmark  
**Urban Planner, Consultant and Project Manager**

Responsible for Municipal planning activities including developing scientific content, process design and management of the justifying report to a new thinking Copenhagen City Development Strategy and for managing large scale urban and waterfront projects:

- Led cross-municipal working groups working on the justifying report to a new thinking Copenhagen

City Development Strategy 2007 as part of the Municipal Plan. Major output: Municipality of Copenhagen, Planredegørelse 2007 til Kommuneplanstrategien (Copenhagen) (Justifying Plan report to Copenhagen municipal plan strategy), Municipality of Copenhagen, September 2007. I was Project Manager, scientific coordinator and responsible of the scientific content of this report.

- Key planner co-developing Copenhagen Development Strategy.
- Project Managed Copenhagen environmental plan Agenda 21 on behalf of the Finance Administration.
- Project Managed Copenhagen debate platform on architecture & planning CopenhagenX in collaboration with the Danish Architectural Centre DAC and the Municipality of Frederiksberg.
- Project Managed large-scale projects in the South Harbour.
- Arranged key public debates for the Lord Mayor of Copenhagen on issues including climate change, affordable housing, the city by the water, and flexible planning. One of these debates involved the Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, Ritt Bjerregaard and Mrs Nicky Gavron, Vice Mayor of London in a debate on affordable housing and climate change.
- Led the municipality assessment group of the North Harbour International Idea Competition and the development of the city Sustainable Development Tool employed in the assessment. The tool has been included in all subsequent planning work in the city and inspired other Danish cities.
- Collected best practice on combined energy systems and certification to inspire the North Harbour project.
- Contributed to the Restructuring of Cultural Infrastructure in Copenhagen project.
- Developed a tool for project management and negotiation among stakeholders to be used by colleagues in the Economic Department of the City.

1998 -  
2005

Royal Danish Academy School of Architecture, Copenhagen, Denmark  
**PhD Researcher & Urban Planner**

My PhD research, "Waterfront Redevelopment and Urban Revitalization - The factors, aspects and values involved in the regeneration and planning of harbour-front spaces" made a vital contribution to understanding the transformation of industrial cities under new economic conditions and city planning and governance approaches and ideals. It significantly contributed to research and practice on urban regeneration, revitalisation, integrated and strategic planning and sustainability. The research contributes to theory development as it links and combines different disciplines and to the development of research methods and more informed professional practice. Several world libraries, including MIT, The Arab Urban Development Institute and the National Library in Norway, requested the dissertation.

This multidisciplinary research deals with waterfront redevelopment and urban regeneration under changing economic, political, social and cultural/modernity conditions in the industrial port city, increasing globalisation forces and new planning, administrative and governance frameworks. "Waterfront Redevelopment" is a significant area of exploration that reveals recent approaches, tendencies and interests in industrial port cities. Focus is placed on Nordic countries. Copenhagen is a major case study. Oslo, Gothenburg and Amsterdam are comparative "filter cases". Meanwhile, other significant examples were explored including London, Le Havre and Barcelona, and target the capacity of the planning systems, regeneration strategies and partnerships.

Approached in terms of "space in reproduction" the research assesses the redevelopment of harbour-front spaces and their plans and strategies and resulting qualities in relation to sustainable development goals and as a result of changing governance and management forms. As a result, the research presents a qualitative tool for understanding change and for assessing and planning for the sustainable development of urban areas, cities and regions and their renewal. The research involves a broad interview enquiry with planning, political and economic actors in the studied cities.

During the preparation of this research I was invited to talk in public debates in Danish cities and was part of two centres at the Royal Academy; Centre for Planning and Centre for Multidisciplinary Urban Studies KACTUS – a new experimenting centre with a main project New Mapping of the City of Copenhagen. Key researcher exploring the transformation of the port and industrial areas in the Danish capital.

The research was supervised by Associate Professor Hans Ovesen with architect MAA Karsten Jørgensen, Danish Minister of Environment as Advisor.

2004  
Henning Larsen Architects  
**Architect**

Team member in 'Eyes of Tirana' International Architectural Competition - a large high-rise mixed-use building in the central area of Tirana and aiming to develop the profile of the Albanian capital. Awarded 1st Prize.

1994 -  
1995  
Municipality of Copenhagen, Architect  
**Architect**

Regeneration of the old Industrial Meat District in Vesterbro District, Copenhagen.  
Building Registration of the 36 buildings of the Meat District.

1987 -  
1991  
Research Scholarship by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**Scholar - Diplome d'Etudes Approfondis (D.E.A) in Urbanism & Planning**

Post Graduate Master Research in Urban Policy, Spatial Planning, Development and Management.  
Publicly defended Research Thesis: Evolution of the Centre-Centrality Correlation in Metropolitan areas – A Comparative Approach after World War II (French title). Major case studies: Boston, Lyon, Tunis, Damascus and Riyadh.  
Courses: Urban Services in developing countries with focus on South America and Africa, Energy Systems and Networks, Arab and Muslim cities, Comparative Metropolitan Trends, Peri-Urban Development in Region Ile-De-France. Planning, City Centres, decentralisation, renewal and local governments, Cartographies.

## Languages

English, Arabic, Danish: Native, bilingual proficiency.  
French: Very good speaking and writing.

## Communication Skills

- Excellent communication skills proved through chairing and moderation of conferences and workshops addressing various audiences.
- Excellent presentation and written communication skills acquired through a great number of public presentations I held at international conferences and capacity-building workshops and through professional experiences and high-level academic PhD research.
- Experienced in communicating with the general public through newspaper articles, radio and press interviews and public meetings and events.
- Experienced in working closely with high-level officials, politicians and different stakeholders acquired through my Project Manager and Board Member roles and advisory to ministries and international organisations.
- Positive and active team member able to inspire others and share information.
- Excellent coordination with different stakeholders acquired through professional practice and personal understanding.
- Excellent networking skills - Extended international professional network.

## Selected Publications

- 2020 Alkhani, R. Understanding Private-Sector Engagement in Sustainable Urban Development and Delivering the Climate Agenda in Northwestern Europe—A Case Study of London and Copenhagen. *Sustainability* 2020,12, 8431.
- 2016 R. Al Khani and Walter de Vries *Joint Planning Strategies for Sustainable and Flexible Port and City Development*. Synthesis of Outcomes of Topic 4 of the 15th World Conference of Ports and Cities, Rotterdam 5-7 October. Conference arranged by the World Network of Ports and Cities, the City of Rotterdam and the Port of Rotterdam.
- 2016 R. Al Khani, Recent UN and EU sustainable development policies (post 2015) – what challenges for city planning and governance? Paper presented at World Association of Sustainable Development WASD International Conference *Europe at a Crossroads: the challenge for future sustainable development*, Kings College, London, 20-22 July 2016.
- 2016 R. Al Khani The Planning System in Syria. Chapter including critical reflection on sustainability. In the *World Planning Manual 2015*, International Association of Urban and International Planners ISOCARP.
- 2012 R. Al Khani, “Planning for more Inclusive Cities”. Conference Paper at International Federation for Housing and Planning *IFHP 56th World Congress 2012*, Inclusive Cities in a Global World, Gothenburg. Pp. 57-63 In the conference Proceedings, IFHP.
- 2007 Ph.D. thesis in city planning titled: *Redevelopment and Urban Revitalization in the Changing Industrial Port City*. The factors, aspects and values involved in the regeneration and planning of harborfront spaces. Copenhagen is a major case study. Oslo, Gothenburg and Amsterdam are minor “filter” cases. 2 volumes, 1300 pages.
- School of Architecture, Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. Copenhagen, Denmark. Submitted in December 2005, defended in February 2007. Summary available.
- 2004 R. Al Khani, *Assessing Harbor-Front Redevelopment and Strategies in Terms of their Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals, and Challenges Confronted*. The case of Copenhagen. Book published by International Association Cities and Ports, France.
- 2004 R. Al Khani, ”Hvor havner den Blå Plan” (Where/how does the Blue Plan for Copenhagen Harbour land?). A press paper published in the newspaper Jyllands Posten (JPK), February 21, 2004, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 1995 R. Al Khani, “Obstacles and Strategy for the Development of the Copenhagen Waterfront”. Academic article in *Scandinavian Housing and Planning Research*, No.1, 1995, P.p. 17-30. Paper with referees.
- A complete list of professional reports, conference papers, engagement and knowledge-sharing activities can be provided upon request.