Reconstruction as Violence
THE CASE OF ALEPPO

FRIDAY **MAY 10** & SATURDAY **MAY 11, 2019** IN MIT ROOM **6-120**

This two-day symposium seeks to address the following questions: How does violence and conflict not only destroy but constitute, design, and organize built environments and infrastructures? How do we understand the urbanization of warfare in relation to urban theory and reconstruction practices? Finally, participants will be asked to consider the recent warfare in the Middle East, with a special focus on Aleppo, in relation to the built environment and the extent to which reconstruction processes can be weaponized. Organized by Nasser Rabbat and Deen Sharp.

FRIDAY **MAY 10** 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM

OPENING REMARKS

Hashim Sarkis
MIT

INTRODUCTION

Nasser Rabbat
MIT

SESSION I

URBANIZATION AND DESTRUCTION

MODERATOR: Allison Cuneo, MIT

*Rethinking Urban Reconstruction through
Informal Settlements, a Syrian Historical Perspective*

Valérie Clerc
IRD France

(Re)Constructing Memory (as Violence)

Aleksandar Staničić
TU Delft

*Territorialities of Sovereignty:
Deconstructing the Spatial Correlates of Conflict*

Diane Davis
Harvard University

SATURDAY **MAY 11** 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

SESSION II

THE CASE OF ALEPPO

MODERATOR: Nasser Rabbat, MIT

*Survivor Cities:
Cultural Heritage in Context and in Contest*

Heghnar Watenpaugh
University of California Davis

Aleppo, Patterns of Damage: Beyond Winning the War

Laura Kurgan
Columbia University

The Ambiguities of Syria's Reconstruction

Frederick Deknatel
World Politics Review

Towards an Ethical Framework for Reconstructing Aleppo

Rim Lababidi
University College London

SATURDAY **MAY 11** 2:30 PM - 6:00

SESSION III

RECONSTRUCTION AS VIOLENCE

MODERATOR: **Huma Gupta, MIT**

*Planning as Re-Orientation:
Baalbek and Tripoli, c. 1952*

Lucia Allais
Princeton University

*Umudugudu w'Ingunguru:
An "Ordinary" Model Village*

Delia Duong Ba Wendel
MIT

Concrete Conflict

Deen Sharp
MIT

*Domicide in Syria:
Reconstruction as Re-Destruction of Home*

Ammar Azzouz
Architect, London

*Culturescaping the Post-Conflict Environment:
The Spatial Politics of "Peace"*

Andrew Herscher
University of MIchigan

CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY

Deen Sharp
MIT

Photo by Sergey Ponomarev

An election campaign poster for President Bashar al-Assad displayed on a ruined shopping mall in the Khalidiya district of Homs, shortly after Government forces regained control of the area. Built just before the war, the mall had never opened for business.