



Figure 1: Art Déco block of flats, Cairo, Ali Labib Gabr, arch., c. 1928

## Objectives:

- Achieve a broader understanding of the worldwide spread of European architecture across empires during the 19th and 20th c. by focusing on its vectors, connections, semantics and materiality.
- Combine architectural history with area studies' knowledge, in order to map and analyze the full range of dissemination patterns and border-crossing relationships, potentially leading to highlight shortcomings in postcolonial theory.
- Structure and develop the emerging scientific community researching the Action's topics at European level.
- Set up the technological and methodological bases for data sharing on the topics of the Action in collaboration with non-European researchers.

## Working Group 1: Actors and networks of expertise

The aim is to map the professional networks at play in the dissemination of European architecture overseas, based on education, socio-religious identity or corporate activity, and their possible intersections. Attention is devoted to the methodologies applicable to the topic. Discussions on 'social network analysis' and 'prosopography' have been held. An expected outcome of the WG1 will be the development and experimentation of a theoretical and methodological framework to analyze the mechanisms and flows of the international circulation of European experts and expertise in the field of architecture.

## Working Group 2 : The printed media and the construction of a canon

The group aims at documenting European architecture overseas through little-studied printed material such as local periodicals, and to question the interplay of canonical designs and mainstream architecture. It focuses on building journals produced locally during the 1930s-1960s (e.g. *Techniques et travaux* in French Morocco) as well as on the architectural section of general journals (e.g. *Africa* in Spain). The goal is to have an inventory of alternative vectors (publications) and an annotated bibliography, and to produce an anthology of texts offering alternative viewpoints on European architecture overseas.

## Working Group 3 : Documenting transnational architecture

The aim is to approach European architecture beyond Europe through the built environment, and to confront material culture with archival evidence. A concern is to keep databases as 'shallow' as possible to prevent an overly complicated approach to the management and accessibility of the data. The ultimate aim is to produce a framework for data sharing, using a platform (Halimede, a CMS using Alfresco) being developed by one of the participating countries (FR).

## Working Group 4: Conceptualizing an infrastructure for collaborative research

The aim is to support research and allow for data sharing within the network, while considering the sustainability and interoperability of the digital data produced. Considering the digital divide within the network, the group will work at disseminating standards, best practices and appropriate tools. One expected outcome is the preparation of a "Training school" addressing needs identified within the network.

## Main Achievements:

- A website was designed and launched in July 2010 ([www.architecturebeyond.eu](http://www.architecturebeyond.eu)); 60 screens currently display the visual or textual content made available. The website's features are a publications vault, the members' bibliography and a treasury of images, copyright-free, provided by Action members.
- The Action held on 19-20 April 2011 its 1st Annual Workshop on "Cosmopolitanism, diasporas and the transnational dissemination of European architecture". The presentations highlighted the impact of the extra-colonial agency in the making of "colonial" architecture through 3 main channels: "Nomadic experts and émigré architects", "International enrolments in Architectural schools", "Diasporic communities".
- Plans for a peer-reviewed, multilingual, electronic journal devoted to the topics of the Action were made and approved. The journal title is *Architecture beyond Europe*.