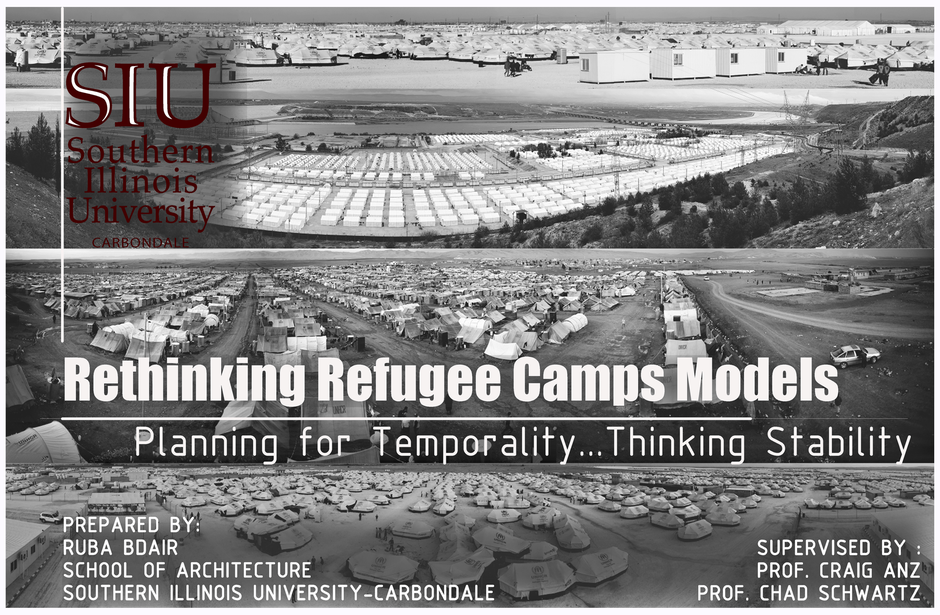
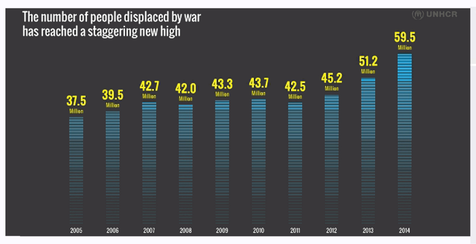
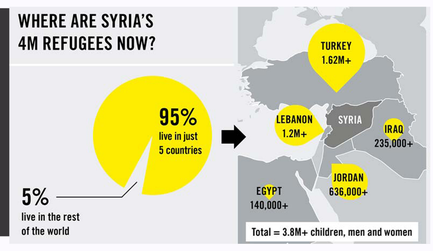
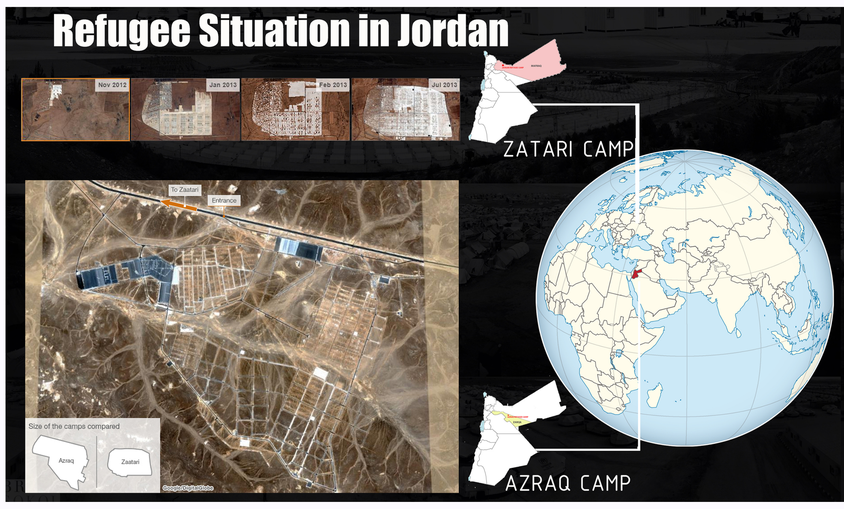
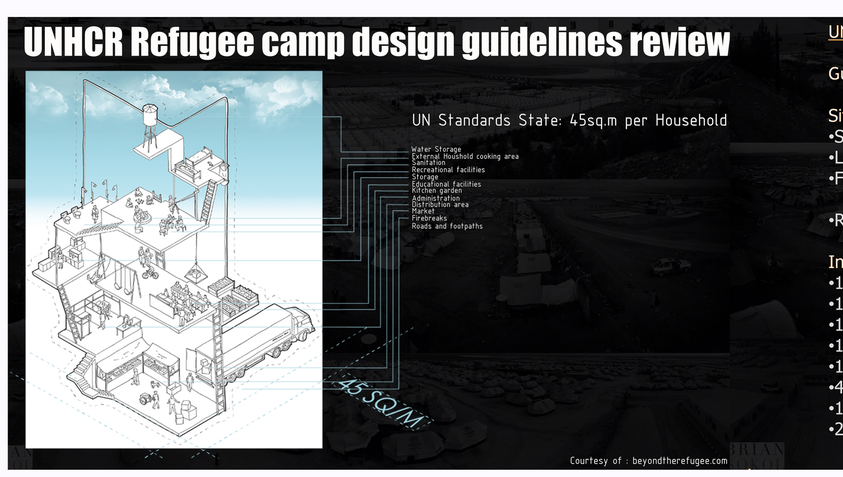
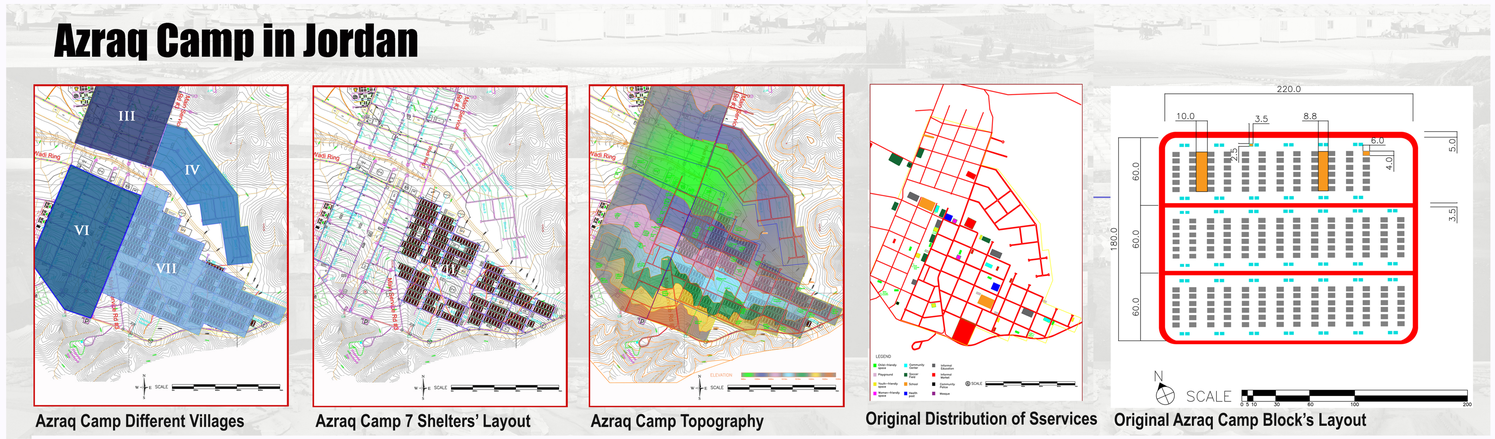
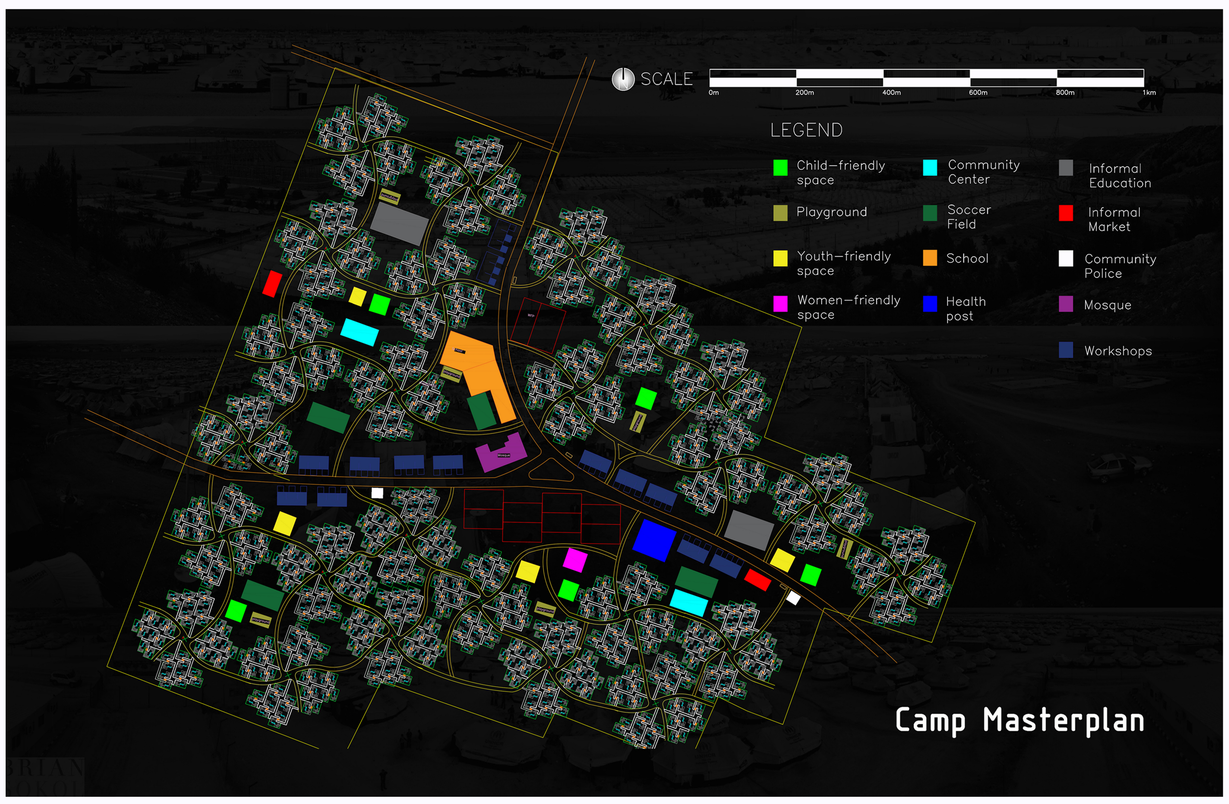
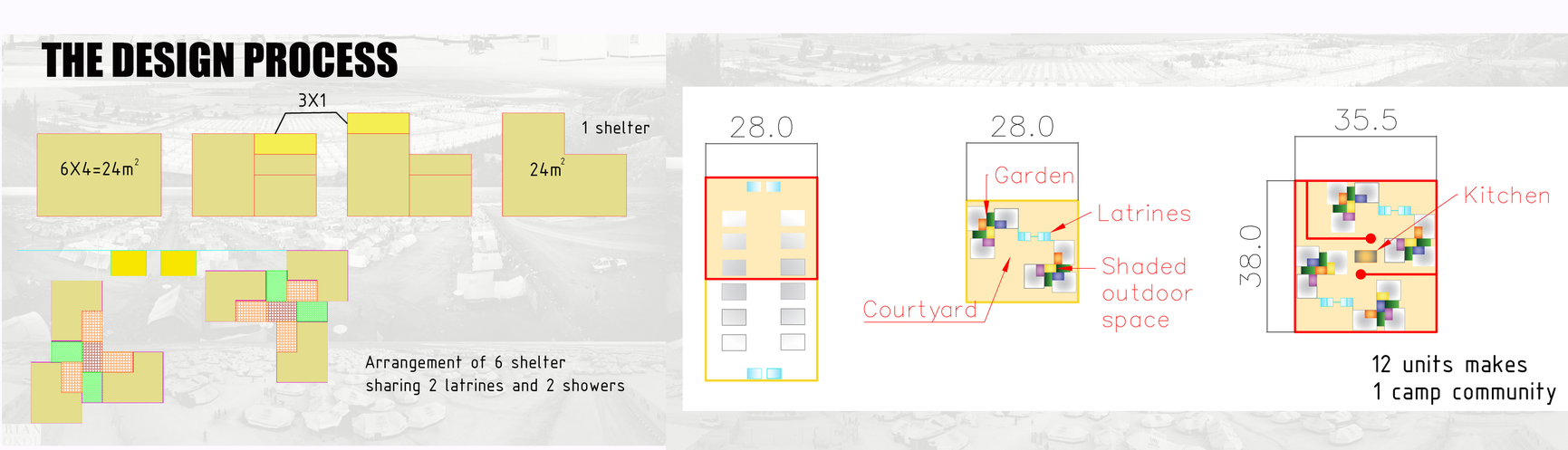
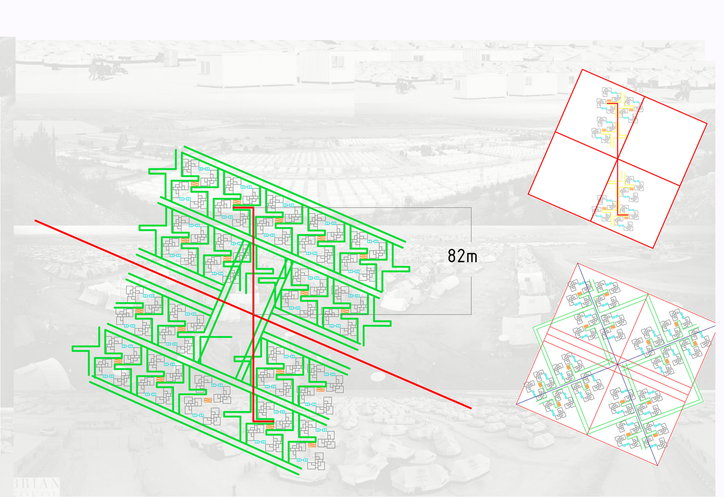
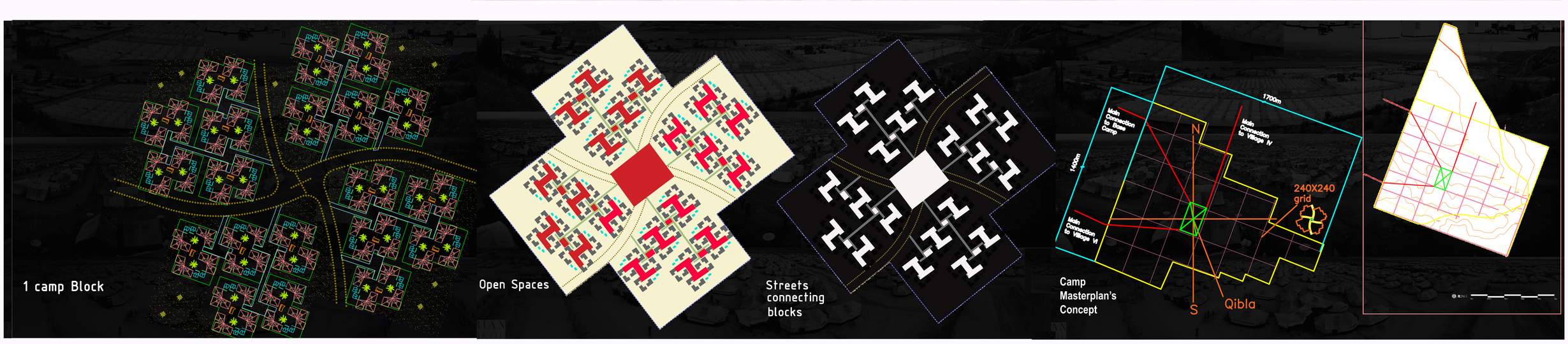


This research aims to find architectural and urban design related solutions to enhance the living conditions of refugees who are trapped in a protracted refugee situation. Such a situation results when 25,000 or more refugees from the same nationality have been in exile in a given country for five or more years as defined by the US Department of State.

The situation of protracted refugees has received considerable interest from UNHCR due to the major consequences associated with this situation. Yet, the current UNHCR guidelines for designing refugee camps seem to be insufficient in solving the different aspects of the problem and accordingly, the camps are becoming overcrowded and fail within a few years.

As an example of that refuge situation, focus within this research is upon the two refugee camp models found in Jordan; the Zaatari camp and the Azraq camp. Both were established as a consequence of the recent civil war in Syria, started in 2011.