[in]formal Pattern Language
- a guide to Handmade Improvitecture® in Cairo

Pattern Template - Guide

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This pattern template will be presented to the University of Waterloo as part of the thesis requirements for the degree of Master of Architecture

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1 Select a pattern.

2 Indicate whether the pattern is a potential or a problem. Mark potentials with a [+] sign and problems with a [-] sign. Don't forget to write your name(s) pattern + or -

Example

3 Select a pattern

According to Christopher Alexander, a pattern is “a morpho-logical law which establishes a set of relationships in space”.

Select a reoccurring / characteristic / consistent phenomenon, arrangement or element in Cairo’s or Ard El Lewa’s informality. This pattern should be linked to a spatial logic.

4 Who are the key players involved / mostly affected / mostly interested in this pattern? Mark male dominated activities with [m] and female dominated activities with [f].

5 Provide a brief description / context of the pattern:
- empirical background of the pattern
- evidence of the pattern’s validity
- variations and different manifestations of the pattern

6 List other patterns that are connected to your pattern. Divide your list into larger patterns and smaller patterns.

7 Give your pattern an importance rank:
1. High priority: A pattern that is absolute, needs to be changed immediately or has major effects on the country / city.
2. Medium priority: A pattern that affects a certain community or has a moderate level of impact.
3. Minor priority: A pattern that seems to work, is relative or can wait. It still can be optimized through design.

8 How often is your pattern repeated?
- very often, every informal community
- often, Ard El Lewa specifically

9 Relate your pattern to general problems:

   A loss of scarce agricultural land
   D density, lack of open and green space
   G garbage accumulation
   R sanitary problem
   T traffic congestion
   C accessibility
   O overburdened services
   I adapting to social injustice
   ... (formulate a new problem)

10 Relate your pattern to general potentials:

   N homogeneous construction
   M micro-economies
   E low energy demands
   P close work home proximity
   S strong communal ties
   ... (formulate a new potential)

11 Elaborate why your pattern is considered a potential / problem:

12 Sketch a diagram illustrating existing network / spatial configuration / spatial + temporal appropriation / types

13 Formulate your solution / tool(s) to optimize your pattern in the form of:
- an illustration
- a statement: How and what is needed to solve the pattern?
- description of the tool: summery of the solution
- new key players that are affected by your introduced tool if applicable

14 Sketch a diagram illustrating your design interventions, its assembly, components and materials / new network / proposed operation + maintenance / allowable spatial + temporal appropriation / new map / new layout.

   How can your tool be embedded in the residents’ daily life?
   How can ordinary people build your design?
   How does your tool accommodate current and future informality and needs?