

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN PROJECT

Location: Jabal al Akhdar, Libya
Client: ECOU

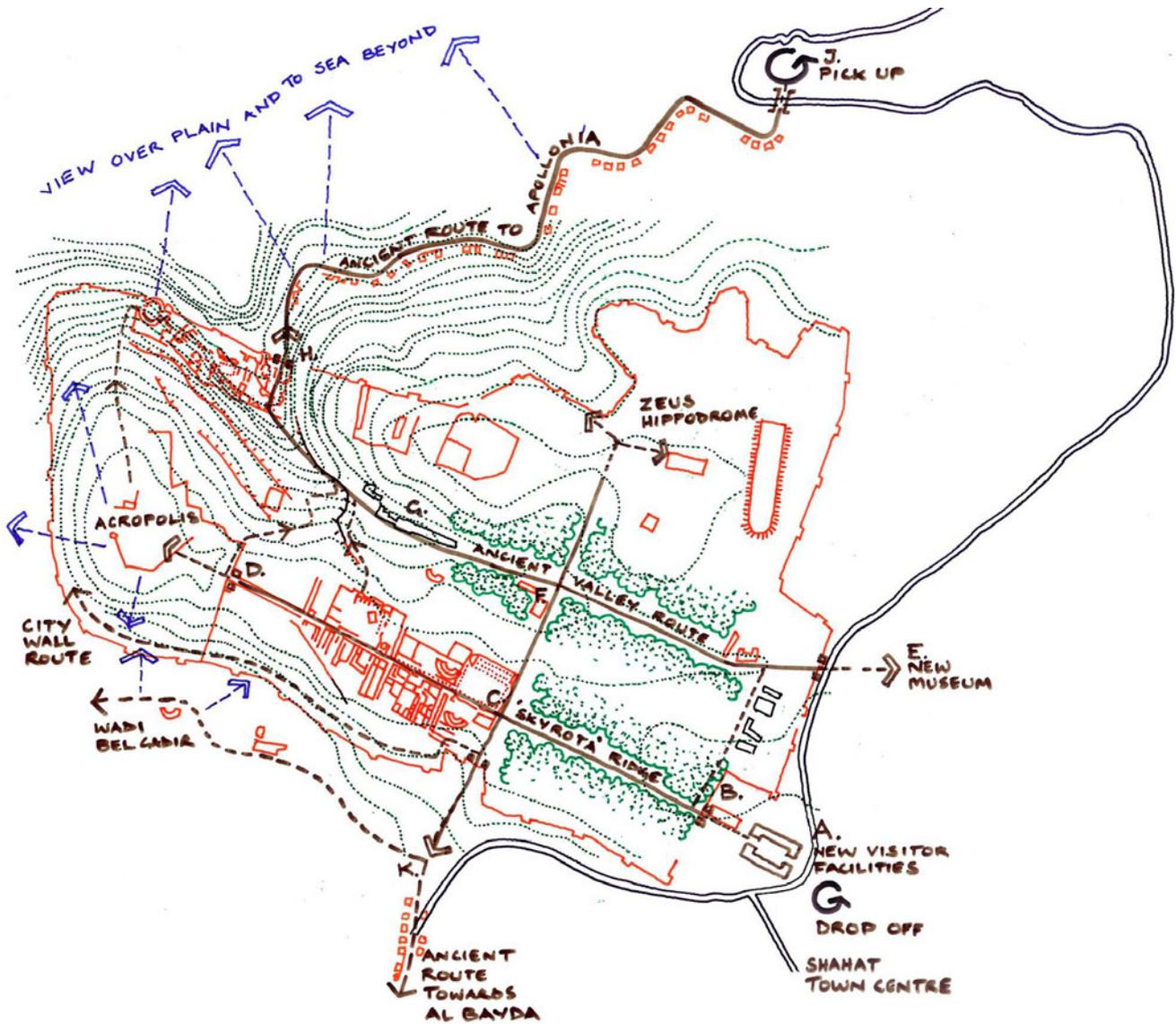
Appointed: October 2008
Report presented: July 2009

The Green Mountain Project began as a Libyan initiative to explore the economic and physical potential of the eastern Jabal al Akhdar, or Green Mountain Region.

We developed architectural strategies to guide the sustainable growth of this underdeveloped but important region.

In the context of a greater project to define a planning vision for rapid regional growth and vital preservation, our priority was to produce visitor strategies for the four main ruined sites of ancient civilization – Teuchira, Ptolemais, Apollonia and Cyrene. The scope of these studies ranged from simple orientation devices to museums and gateway centres.

The role of modern towns in the growth of the region was integral to the masterplan solutions. The proposals engaged with their context whilst providing a sustainable framework for urban and economic growth.



Above: Visitor strategy sketch masterplan for Cyrene.



Above: View from an ancient amphitheatre over the Green Mountain landscape to the Mediterranean Sea.



Above: An example of some of the archaeology in the World Heritage Site of Cyrene.

Context

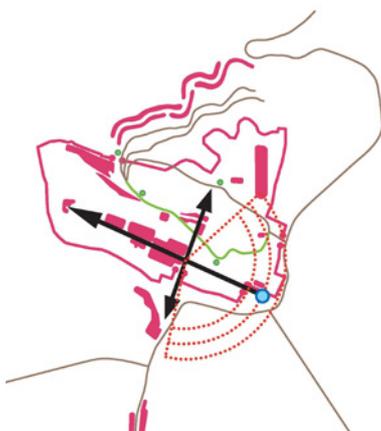
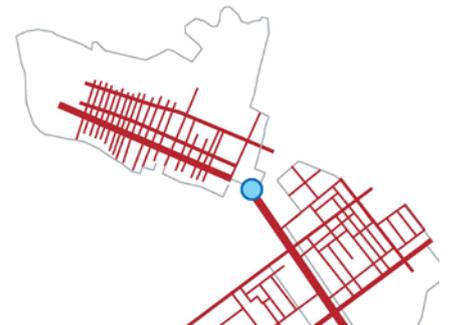
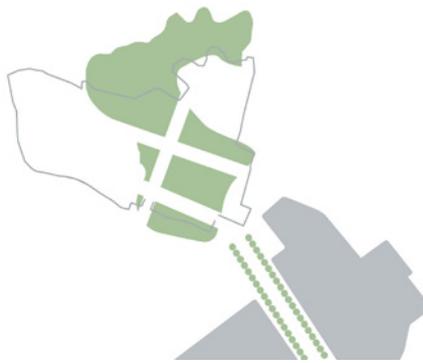
Stretching some 200km from Tocra in the west, to Derna in the east, the Green Mountain Region rises 2500ft above sea level. It is formed by geological formations that are unique in Libya. The Region consists of a narrow coastal plain, well defined escarpments, dissected terraces and a steppe topography that gives way to the vast plain of the Northern Sahara Desert.

The Green Mountain Region has hosted civilizations from the ancient Greeks to the Romans, and the Byzantines to the Ottomans. The dramatic wadi steps and mountain-maritime climate support a unique biodiversity, making the area important academically as well as economically, drawing visitors from across Libya and beyond.

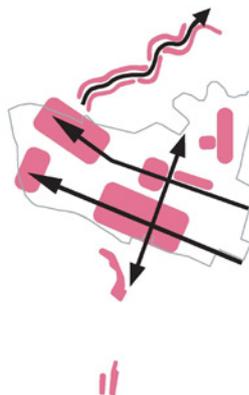
Each proposal in our architectural strategy emerged from a broader understanding of the organisation of other remains along the Libyan coast, linking the visitor’s approach to unifying urban features of the ruined cities – the Carthage-to-Alexandria road, the prevailing wind direction or the link to the sea.

Collaboration

The Green Mountain Project was led by the Libyan Engineering Consulting Office for Utilities (ECOU). We were part of a collaborative team in partnership with ECOU which was led by engineering firm Ramboll UK. The group shared a vision for a low energy future for Libya, where local identity and diversified economies would be linked to a built environment design specifically for Libya’s unique climate, context and culture.



Above: Cyrene’s major sites and the major routes of the ancient street plan.



Above: Cleared routes through the existing forest make sense of the ancient street plan and a new visitor gateway building aligns with the ancient gateway.



Above: A new gateway links the modern plan with the ancient street plan. by connecting modern and ancient towns, investment benefits local people.