

# City+

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City+

Doha

UAE

Cairo & Marassi

China

Both thrilling and frightening, massive urban growth is one of the global features of our time. City+ looks at striking developments in regions at the forefront of this growth. Through their structures and transformations each region is reflecting it's experience of globalisation, the opportunities, challenges and social shifts it brings. City+ probes at the narratives therein.

Having worked as a photographer since 2000 I have been lucky to have photographed in these regions many times. This series of photographs began in 2014.

In Doha, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, brand new skylines have shot up in the last few decades. With the initial financial boost from oil, these once minor cities at the heart of Bedouin territory have transformed themselves into ready-made arenas for global finance and cultural showcasing. An unprecedented streamlined urbanisation to immediately put themselves on the map.

Cairo is an old city struggling with the tensions of overcrowding and the social shifts globalisation can bring. This is illustrated in the contrasts of its development, which spans from uncoordinated home building and extensions often by families themselves, through to large pre-designed satellite districts. These districts look to ease the overcrowding and congestion of the city but exacerbate other problems such as inequality and social cohesion.

Marassi on the Egyptian north coast, is a vast pre-designed urban complex. 120km east of Alexandria and being built over decades, it is a resource hungry transformation of desert and harsh coastline into residential, leisure and commercial facilities.

With China's economic reform and embrace of globalisation, already large cities are being reconfigured for consumerism, corporate culture and mass migration from the countryside. With slick new corporate and residential towers replacing communist era low-rises and hutong-type networks, and industrial and logistics hubs encroaching on the rural areas, a new way of life is unfurling itself over the past.



West Bay skyline on reclaimed land



Construction and excavation for Doha Metro stations



Msherieb Downtown District (MDD) is the wholesale re-build of an existing city centre area in Doha. Due for completion in 2020 its emerging from the traditional surrounding city like an angular, white capsule of commerce and culture.

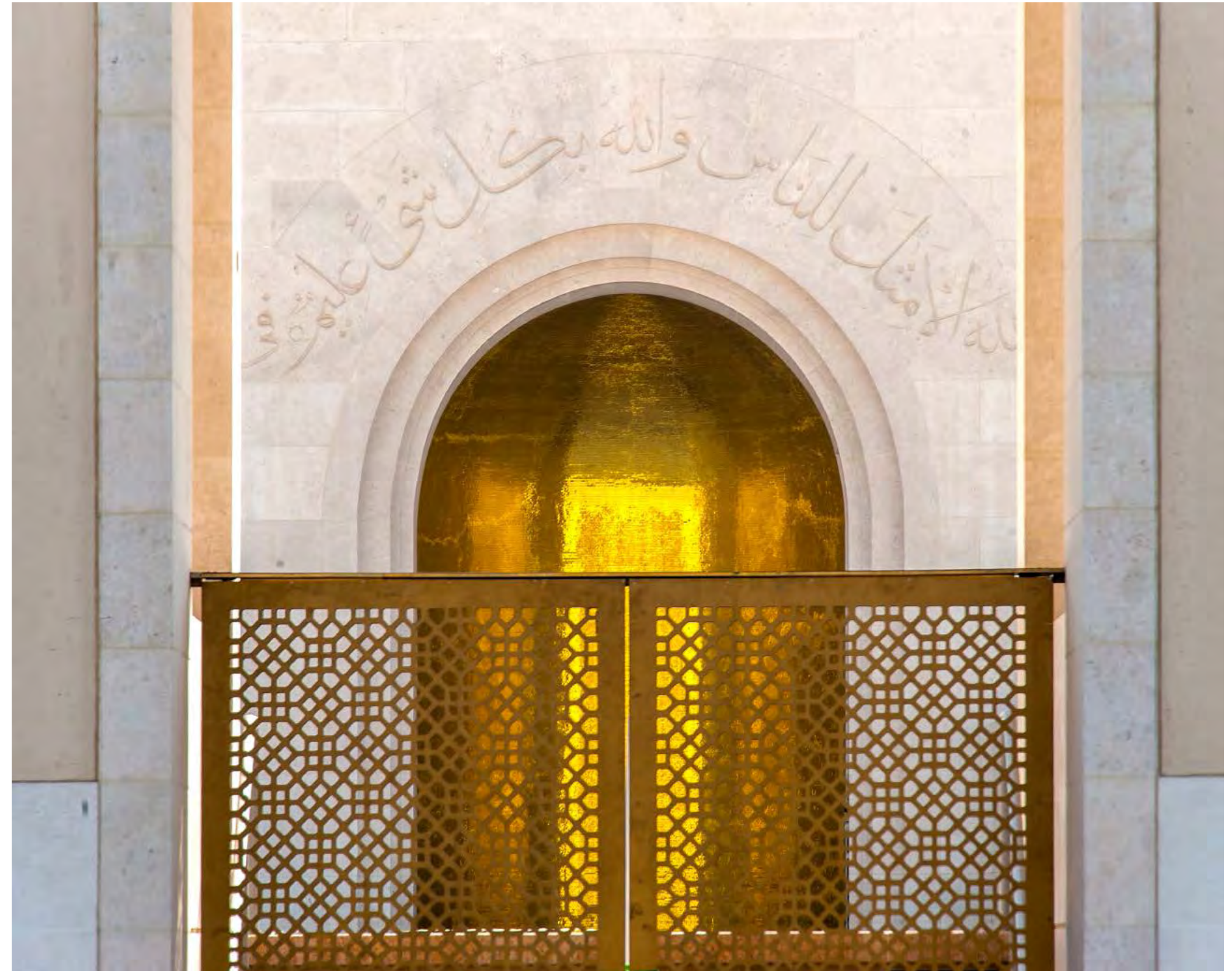
Msherieb Downtown District







Msheireb Museums and Archives building, MDD



Eid prayer hall, MDD



Msheireb metro station will be at the heart of the Doha Metro. All three lines will meet at this point connecting the growing commercial city and it's suburbs. The Metro is due for completion in 2020.

Construction and excavation for Msheireb Metro station, MDD



Residential and hotel construction, MDD



Monumental in scale, The National Museum of Qatar is an example of the epic urban statement that cities use to put themselves on the global map. It's captured here unpolished and exposed. A bare structure of ambition, extravagance and innovation carving its own space into the city backdrop.

The National Museum of Qatar





The 20th century Sheikh Abdullah bin Jassim Al-Thani's Palace, restored and intergrated as part of the new museum.

The National Museum of Qatar







The National Convention Centre



The National Convention Centre





Daria Island construction, Dubai



Landscaping and construction, Business Bay, Dubai





Cityscape, Dubai

Dubai has been the most brash in the Middle East region in its embrace of corporate and commercial culture. With epic urban planning and commercial showcasing it has established itself as a global entertainment and tourist hub.

Downtown and Burj Khalifa, Dubai



Residential, Palm Jumeirah, Dubai





Landscaping and construction, Business Bay, Dubai



Sheikh Zayed Road skyline with the Marina and Burj Al Arab in the distance, Dubai



Daria Island and The World Islands, Dubai



Skyline and infrastructure from New York Uni, Abu Dhabi





New York University, Abu Dhabi

Photographed in 2016, these are the first steps of landscaping, infrastructure and construction for what aims to be a sustainable aerospace and technology park. Being completed in various stages it is part of the Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030.

Nibris Aerospace Park, Al Ain



Landscaping and infrastructure, Nibris Aerospace Park, Al Ain



Landscaping and infrastructure, Nibris Aerospace Park, Al Ain





Landscaping and infrastructure, Nibris Aerospace Park, Al Ain





Looking towards Mokattam Hills, south east Cairo



Views from central Cairo towards the Mokattam Hills that dominate the south east and towards the pyramids of Giza to the west, show a city pushing up against its physical and historical boundaries.

Excavation and construction, Mokattam Hills, Cairo



Excavation and construction, Mokattam Hills, Cairo



Manshiyat Nase district, overlooking the City of the Dead, Cairo



In areas across the city, uncoordinated building and extensions often by families themselves, is a striking feature of Cairo's development.

Manshiyat Nase district, overlooking the City of the Dead, Cairo



Home building, Giza





Uncoordinated housing developments, Giza



Roof extension, overlooking Old Cairo,



Apartments, Cairo Festival City, New Cairo





Landscaping and infrastructure, Cairo Festival City, New Cairo

Cairo Festival City is a prestigious 700 acre neighbourhood in New Cairo. For the affluent, it offers a commercial urban lifestyle of open spaces, malls and business parks away from the overcrowding, congestion and infrastructure problems of central Cairo.

Landscaping and villas, Cairo Festival City



Landscaping and villas, Cairo Festival City



Site offices and amenities for the construction of Cairo Festival City





Landscaping and infrastructure, Cairo Festival City





Cairo Festival City Mall



Cairo Festival City Mall



Cairo Festival City Mall



Cairo Festival City retail park



Downtown business park, Cairo Festival City



Photographed at different stages of development, Marassi is a grinding inversion of an isolated harsh landscape to residential, leisure and commercial facilities.

Villas and landscaping, Marassi





Landscaping, Marassi



Apartments, Marassi





Apartments, Marassi



Beachclub, Marassi



Beachclub, Marassi



Golf course, Marassi



Lagoon and villas construction, Marassi





Apartments, Marassi



Beach front villas, Marassi

Apartments and landscaping, Marassi



Emporium Mall, Marassi





Villas and landscaping, Marassi



Villas and landscaping, Marassi





Industrial construction and landscaping, Eco City, Tianjin



Villas and landscaping, Eco City, Tianjin



Scale, bulk and distance are the key features of city vistas now prevalent throughout China. Already large cities are growing with migration from the countryside. Slick new corporate and residential towers rise among communist era low-rises and hutong networks which are in turn being demolished.

New commercial towers and communist era low-rise housing, Chengdu



Edge of city retail village construction, Suzhou



Developing an aspirational consumerism and tapping into the wealth of the affluent urban population has been a key feature of China's economic development. Here we see a forest of scaffolding mapping out a new retail district on the edge of Suzhou.

Edge of city retail village construction, Suzhou





New residential towers overlooking communist era apartment blocks, Changsha



New retail mall among old homes clearance, Changsha





Residential towers rising among hutong networks and old apartment blocks, Changsha



Qianximen bridge where the Jialing and Yangtze rivers meet, Chongqing



Situated in central China, Chongqing municipality is the largest in the country. The Jialing and Yangtze rivers also meet in Chongqing city, making the area a key manufacturing and transportation hub.

Yangtze River, Fengdu, Chongqing Municipality





Infrastructure, Daba Mountains, Hubei Province

The Daba mountains situated north east of Chongqing, dominate the route to the important cluster of large cities in east of the country; Wuhan, Nanjing, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Shanghai. The dramatic mountains are peppered with the infrastructure of connection and industry linking the two key regions.

Industrial park, near Fengdu, Chongqing Municipality



Industrial park, Yubei district, Chongqing Municipality





Landscaping, infrastructure and residential, Yubei district, Chongqing Municipality



New residential towers, Shizhu



Residential and infrastructure construction, Wuhan



Logistics park, Wuhan



Landscaping and residential, Shenyang



Large swathes of cities are demolished neighbourhood by neighbourhood, with extensive planning reconfiguring cities for commercial and corporate culture.

Old housing clearance, Shenyang



Rail station and residential construction, Beijing airport



New and old residential blocks, Beijing





Central Business District skyline and residential, Beijing



Hong Kong, a bay restricted city, is packed with innovative planning and infrastructure. Due for completion in January 2020 the Wan Chai bypass, which includes reclamation of Victoria Bay and a 3.7km tunnel, is the latest addition.

Wan Chai bypass construction, Hong Kong



Corporate architecture, Zhongke Rd.  
Zhangjiang High-Tech Park, Shanghai



Residential blocks, Zhangjiang High-Tech Park, Shanghai



Middle Ring Rd. and Middle Huaxai Rd. junction, Shanghai



Cityscape, Shanghai



The architecture of Pudong financial district pushing ever higher in an already vast city of towers, conveys well the magnitude of the urban era we're living through.

Cityscape with Shanghai Tower and World Financial Centre



