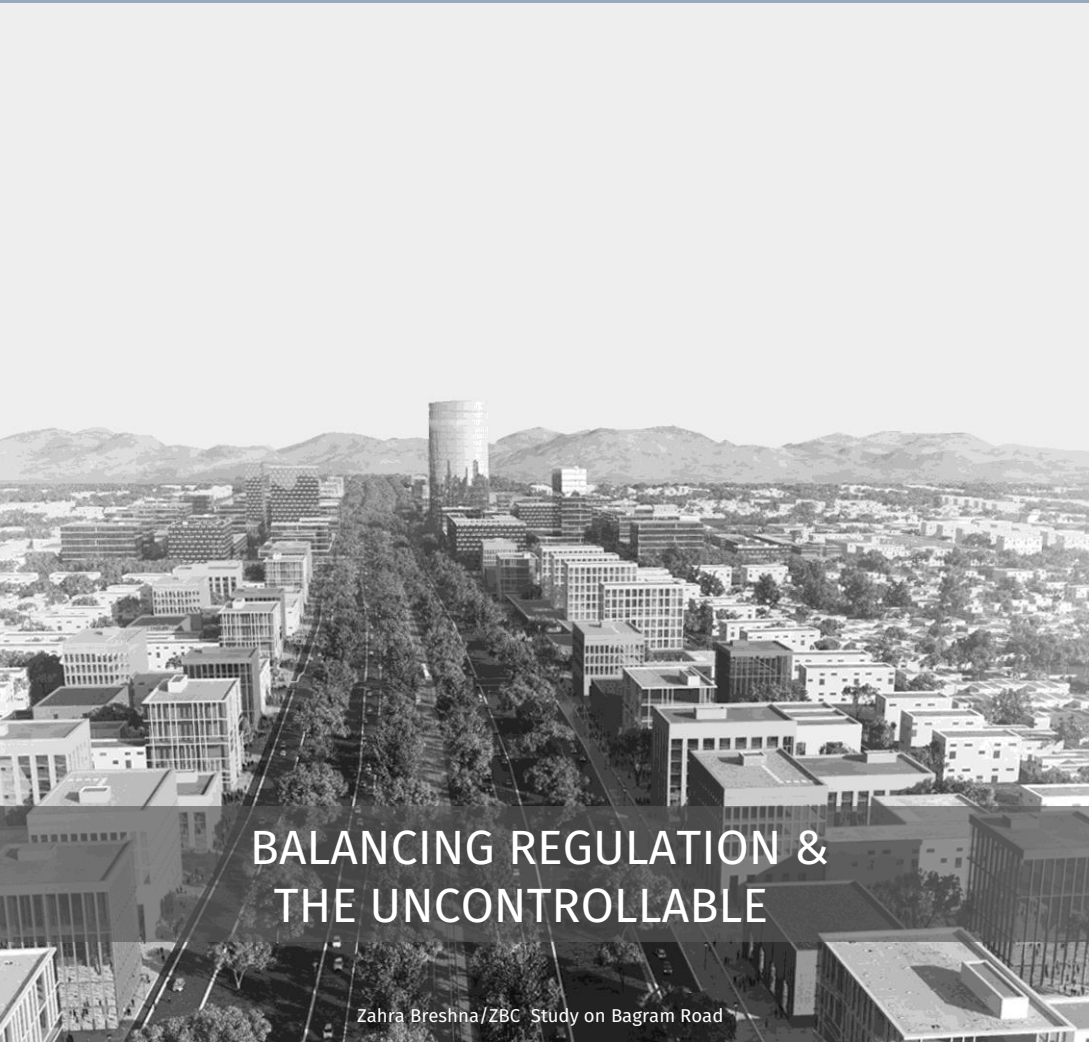


URBAN STEPS

URBAN Studies & Training in Evolving Planning Strategies



BALANCING REGULATION & THE UNCONTROLLABLE

Zahra Breshna/ZBC Study on Bagram Road

ZAHRA BRESHNA

Dr. Eng. Architect & Urban Planner

The URBAN STEPS program has grown out of Zahra Breshna's years of professional experience working in Afghanistan both within urban governmental institutions and as an independent architect.

It is evident that the "master planning" approach (based on the idea of "total control") mostly fails to cope with the proliferation of informal economies and settlements and other unregulated challenges in urban development. Administrative, fiscal and political sector planning is likewise highly centralized and unable to respond fast to changing circumstances. Urban planners therefore often struggle to address major problems. Caught up daily in bureaucracy, they are left with inflexible, unfeasible plans and insufficient time for research into new, more sustainable solutions. Moreover, there is an acute shortage of qualified planners and architects both in the public and private sectors.

We solve these problems by offering expertise and training.

URBAN STEPS

- enables a shift from "total control" to more strategic and realistic planning that applies the right methods and tools in evolving situations
- assists with the gradual adjustment of existing planning and implementation systems
- provides the upcoming generation of planners with opportunities for specialized on-the-job training and internships.



ZBC - Study on Modern Qala



ZBC - Self-contained Neighborhood



ZBC - Kabul Bank Design

URBAN STEPS

URBAN Studies & **Training** in **Evolving** **Planning** **Strategies**

URBAN STEPS is a multi-sectoral research and knowledge transfer program, with the mission to anticipate and respond to the challenges of rapid, uncontrolled urbanization in emerging megacities like Kabul.

We build viable, integrated solutions by collaborating with international research centers in various disciplines and sectors, as well as with the relevant local institutions.

URBAN STEPS recognizes that relationships between nature and society, between the economy and ecology, between tradition and innovation are fundamental aspects of inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban and community development.

We believe that balancing metropolitan-level regulation and the tradition of self-organization in culturally self-contained neighborhoods is the key to preserving cultural identity and achieving inclusivity and long-term sustainability for the future megacity of Kabul.

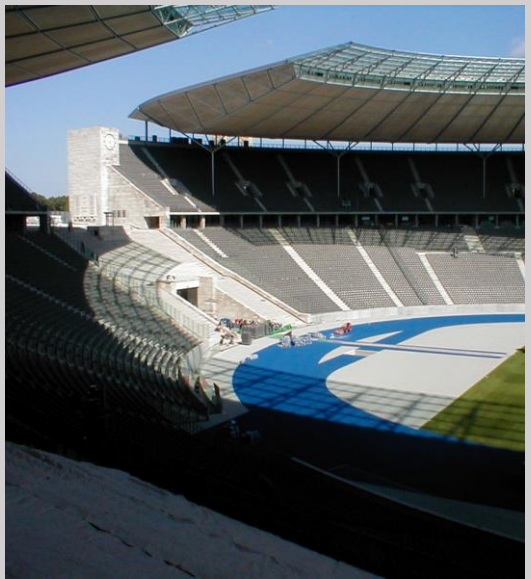
The program starts in 2022

Dr. Eng. Zahra Breshna
info@zahra-breshna.org
www.zahra-breshna.org

Examples of Zahra Breshna's Work



B+T for PWA - Museum Chemnitz/Germany



B+T - Project Management Olympic-Stadium Berlin/Germany



B+T - House Reichenbach, Berlin/Germany



B+T - Project Management Olympic-Stadium Berlin/Germany



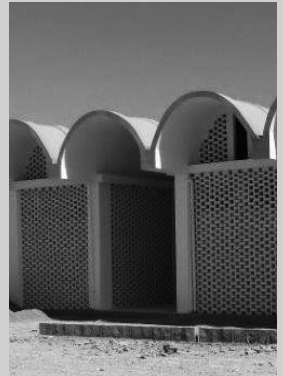
B+T - Stair Detail



B+T - Stair Detail



B+T - Museum Chemnitz



ZBC - School in Uruzgan

Zahra Breshna — Major Activities and Leadership Positions

- Initiator of URBAN Studies & Training in Evolving Planning Strategies (from 2022)
- Director of Breshna Foundation for Culture (since 2021)
- Advisor to PEM on technical and vocational education and training programs in North Afghanistan (2011–2013, 2018–) on behalf of KFW, Germany
- Breshna & Partners, Berlin/Karlsruhe (since 2016)
- Jury Member for the International Competition for Bamiyan Cultural Centre, 2015, on behalf of UNESCO
- Founder and Head of the Urban Planning Division (UPD) at Dehsabz Central Development Authority (DCDA) — Kabul New City (2010–2012)
- Head of Zahra Breshna Consulting (ZBC), Kabul/Berlin (since 2007)
- Advisor to the Ministry of Urban Development (MUD), Kabul Municipality (KM), Ministry of Culture and Information, Kabul (2005–2012)
- Founder and Head of the Department for the Safeguarding of Afghanistan's Urban Heritage (DSAUH) at the Ministry for Urban Development (MUD), Kabul (2004–2006)
- Co-founding Partner, Breshna + Thiele (B+T) Architects, Berlin (1996–2007)

Education

- PhD at the Department of Town and Regional Planning, KIT, Germany (2001–2004); thesis (published 2007) on revitalization strategies for Kabul Old Town, with emphasis on traditional decentral and self-organized neighborhoods;
- Diploma in Architecture, KIT, Germany (1995); thesis (published 1995): *The Challenge—Linz, Capital of the Federal State of Upper Austria*

Publications, Seminars, Workshops

- Monograph, diverse anthologies, journal articles
- Organization of scientific seminars; speaker at international conferences

Several Architectural Awards