

Beginning of Hope

It is necessary to work towards a future that expands quality and sustainability in construction. EPISA strives to establish a comprehensive vision that changes the prevailing pattern of housing construction in Syria. Therefore, our team at EPISA designed the "Beginning of Hope" project by applying the building design technique that supports transforming traditional building typologies into modern buildings through sustainable and environmentally friendly standards.

Every human has the right to live in a home that promotes their humanity and protects their family from life-threatening circumstances. A significant segment of Syrians suffered displacement from their homes and were required to seek asylum within and outside Syria. EPISA has worked on designing a modern residential project that would provide housing for displaced Syrians. Our theory is that if Syrians can live in dignity and community, they can improve their economic and civic lives.

We have studied aspects of housing, living requirements, and social services necessary to improve quality of life and compiled the research into this project.



An illustration of the general site and how the project will appear after its creation

Project

All residential buildings are designed to adhere to sustainable practices. The roofs will contain places for growing simple crops that will benefit the residents, solar panels to heat water, and walls of the buildings will be surrounded by wall plants covering all the walls of the buildings. These green designs will improve the aesthetic of the built environment most importantly capture carbon and provide the environment with oxygen.

EPISA's project is designed to be built over 115 acres of land and contains two models of residential buildings.

- The first model: Three floors building and a refuge (basement). A residential building with four apartments on each floor, two apartments of 60 m² and two apartments of 90 m².
- The 60 square meters apartments contain two rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a balcony.
- The 90 square meters apartments contain three rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a balcony.

This model of the building is designed on three floors and a refuge (basement reinforced with concrete). The refuge area for each building is 123 m². It contains toilets, kitchen, and a bathroom.

The number of residential buildings for this model is 53, so the total apartments for these buildings of this model are 636 apartments, 318 apartments, with an area of 60 square meters. And 318 apartments with an area of 90 m² in addition to 53 refuges.



(The first model)

- The second model: This is on the strip shape of the buildings. We have two shapes of it according to the building entrances.
- The first model is a long strip building that has three separate entrances, every floor contains two identical 90 m2 apartments facing each other, For this form in the project, 36 apartments, each of which is 90 m2, contains a room three, kitchens, a bathroom, and a tow balcony.
- A strip building with four entrances, each one contains two residential apartments and has 3 floors. The number of apartments in this shape is 54 apartments. The area of the residential apartment of this shape is 90 square meters, each apartment contains three rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and two balconies.



(The second model)

The Result of This Residential Project

The total number of residential apartments would be 720 residential apartments, (402) 90 square meters apartments for large families, and (318) 60 square meters apartments for smaller and mid-size families.

60 square meters apartments will be assigned to families of (4 - 6) person.

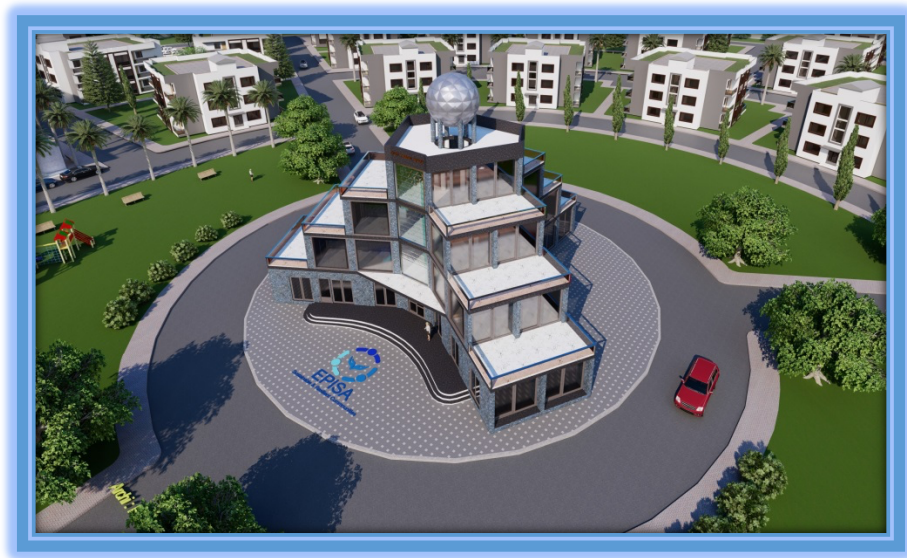
90 square meters apartments will be assigned to families of (6 - 8) or more person.

By collecting and evaluating the number of people on the apartments, the total number of the prospective beneficiaries from this project will be between 5500 to 6000 people.

Services and Facilities in this Project

1- Service Commercial center:

Our team at EPISA has designed 370 square meters Mercedes sing shaped. It consists of four floors; the area of the upper floors decreases in a hierarchical shape. This building has an administrative service office that serves as a municipal building and contains a special dispensary for urgent health and medical services. The building also contains halls, restaurants, and cafeterias on its upper floors to operate and serve the residents of the project. This building is located in the middle of the project, surrounded by large areas and green spaces separating it from the residential buildings, in addition to all road lines and networks leading to this building and considering it as a center for the village or the residential complex.



(Illustrative image of the commercial service building, the squares and green areas around it)

2- School:

Our team at EPISA has designed a school with a capacity of up to 1,000 students in classes with total of 28 departments. It also contains an administration room, rooms for mentors, and a public library for the school. It contains sanitary facilities, toilets for students, in addition to toilets for teachers. Moreover, there is a sports field for training inside the school. As for sports activities, there are large yards and green areas as recreational activities of psychological support for students and general outdoor respite. The right to education is to advancing a healthy society.



(Illustrative image of the school building in the Beginning of Hope project)

Place for Worship:

Every human has the right to practice their own religion, and has the right to have a place of worship, therefore our team has designed a 530 square meters mosque, it contains all of the main facilities which is a place of ablution, three toilets for men and the same for women. Inside, it contains a place for prayers men and a room for women, in addition to rooms attached to the mosque that are used as an Islamic library that contains places for reading and learning.



(Scene and illustration of the mosque)

4- Football Field,

Amusement Park for kids and Public Park:

Our team at EPISA has worked hard to ensure that this residential development is modern, environmentally friendly and vibrant in terms of green spaces, so our team paid great attention to green spaces, parks, theme parks, and play areas for recreation. Also, our team designed the rooftops to contain vegetable beds that could provide vegetables to the residents, forming vertical walls outside covered with climbing plants. We live in this environment, so we have to make it beautiful and preserve it to increase the quality of life for the residents.



(Playgrounds and parks of “Beginning of Hope project)

5- Electricity project:

The EPISA team has studied providing electricity services to residential buildings and others by relying on clean, environmentally-friendly energy by generating electric power from sunlight. Therefore, it is assigned an area of up to 6000 m² to extend and spread the solar energy system to serve the buildings and external lighting. The energy panels are to a height of up to 2 square meters from the ground with iron stakes; the aim is to take advantage of the space under the solar panels to raise some types of poultry, further expanding economic opportunities and food security opportunities for the residents in the project.



(Exploitation of spaces under solar panels for raising birds and poultry)

6- water and sanitation:

Potable water: The project contains a well to provide potable water and build a water tank, water pumps to bring water to all buildings and facilities, and designing a water system to deliver water to buildings.

Sanitation: EPISA team is planning to establish two sewage networks. The first is to drain the building waste from unclean water, and then filtering and purifying this water to be reused for the purpose of irrigating green areas.

The second is for rainwater drainage, which is not connected to the first network, where we plan to store this water in an artificial lake for the purpose of benefiting from it, including watering and irrigation and the establishment of fish farming project to provide job opportunities and food for the residents of this project. Water is life, so let us preserve it and not lose sight of it.

			
Hoses to drain water from the soil	Rain drainage from the soil	Drainage of rainwater from the project roads	An artificial lake near the project, which is filled by rainwater harvesting, is invested in watering and fish farming

EPISA team studied the allocation of areas for agriculture, where we plan to distribute plots of land to some families to work on them to produce vegetables for daily consumption, in addition to adopting large parts of the rooftop areas as areas used for agriculture.

EPISA team launches an appeal to all those who are concerned with refugees in general and Syrian refugees, in particular, to extend a helping hand and contribute to starting and completing this project that will promote humanity and serve the Syrian people. We call on the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and humanitarian organizations in all countries of the world to contribute and help us to work out our aspirations for the Syrian displaced.

Main achievements

- 1- Focusing on the sustainable development for the residents within the project through solar energy and water conservation through utilizing the roofs of buildings, commercial areas, and others green areas.
- 2- Focus on caring for nature, green spaces, and carbon reduction.
- 3- Enhancing the positive psychological impact on the residents of psychological comfort and restoring hope for people.
- 4- Focusing on the strength of this project in all respects in terms of excellence and it is the first project that was planned in all respects / economic / functional / aesthetic / service and the project will be linked with large, global organizations.
- 5- The project will result in great job opportunities that will improve the economic reality of the citizens.
- 6- We plan to make this project as a sustainable economic circle. A continuum, its links are the people living in the project who complement each other.
- 7- A pioneering project of its kind that gives the ambition to other NGOs to follow the modern practical steps in implementing housing projects for the impacted Syrians. It is a unique experience towards sustainable development and achieving stability on several levels.
- 8- Implementation of similar projects in the future and in other regions of Syria
- 9- 6,000 people provided with respectable, developed and clean housing
- 10- Clean healthy environment.
- 11- Promoting the idea of sustainable development and clean energy among Syrians and secondly between governmental and non-governmental organizations
- 12- Changing the method of construction carried out by international and local bodies in Syria to make homes for human habitation.
- 13- All families within the project are self-sufficient and receive revenue from the proceeds obtained from sustainable ideas within the project.
- 14- Improving the psychological condition of the residents within the project.
- 15- Obtaining the Carbon Credit award
- 16- Obtaining the Mercedes company award through the shape that was designed for the commercial building
- 17- Carbon neutral
- 18- 100% clean energy



Archi: Ridvan Ayoub. Yes, this is a Beginning of Hope

EPISA team plans to provide support for the "Beginning of Hope" project through 3 steps:

First step: targeting financial support from individuals, private trusted businessmen, and charities in the US & EU & Arab organizations through launching a website to collect donations.

The second step: EPISA team has a wide media plan to cover the launching of the project through a big promotion plan to bring trust, echo, and attention to strengthen the donation process. Media influencers and notables will be part of the promotion of the project.

The third step: will be through targeting local and International NGOs to attract them to support our project and that will be after showing what we have done in this project.

The project will start according to the available fund granted to the project. If the support is partial, part of the project will be built. It is possible for the project to be made in several phases and parts, and this depends on the amounts that will be entered into the project budget and granted for the establishment of the Beginning of Hope project.

local and International NGOs are invited to support this project to show that we can do the change.

