

Yeni Bir Hayat A New Life



The Journey of Many...

On September 14, 2022, a 10-year-old girl named Amal arrived to John F. Kennedy airport. Not your average girl, Little Amal, whose name means "Hope," is an eleven-foot-tall puppet controlled by 4 puppeteers. Amal represents all of the children who fled Syria during the country's long civil war. Little Amal is exploring the five boroughs of New York City spreading the message, "Don't forget about us."

Protest in Syria began in March of 2011 under the regime of Bashar Assad, and after a violent government crackdown, tensions escalated into an all-out civil war. The United Nations documented the Syrian government implementing the use of chemical weapons on its own civilians at least 25 times from March 2013 to March 2017. In 2019, Syria experienced a severe winter with high winds, and flooding on top of increased violence aimed at healthcare facilities displacing an estimated 400,00 people. (1.) 17,000 Syrian refugees departed from the region in 2021, a portion of the total 5.6 million since the beginning of the conflict, a majority seeking asylum in Turkey.

47% of the Syrian refugee population are children including Ali, age 13, and his older sister Fatima, 15. Both born in the City of Aleppo, their home was targeted in an airstrike. Scared, but under the protection of their parents, Ali and Fatima traveled across their home country through many dangerous checkpoints to the city of Idlib. There, they stayed at a camp where they met nice people, were given food and clothes. The peaceful, untraditional home they built unexpectedly disappeared in the spring of 2021 when a flood wiped away the entire camp. Ali and Fatima know their parents love them very much, but it's time for them to travel alone and escape Syria. Ali and Fatima must walk to Turkey.

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Location Background

As of April 21, 2022, there are a total of 3,762,385 Syrian refugees in Turkey, and 50,702 people living in temporary housing centers Turkey host more Syrian refugees in total than any other country. Syrians with wealth and opportunities successfully reach European or other Western countries, but most Syrians travel to Turkey because of its geographical proximity. Many Syrians refugees are Sunni Arabs that desire to stay in a majority Muslim country furthering the popularity of Turkey. The path of travel for Syrian refugees start in camps near the boarder of Syria then individuals travel into more interior cities of Turkey.

In the flat plains under the foot of the extinct volcano Mt. Erciyes, lays the city of Kayseri, Turkey. About 46 miles from the city of Idlib, Kayseri is an ancient city founded by the Romans in the 1st century BCE. Citizens proudly display their Roman and medieval heritage to the present day. Kayseri is a thriving commercial city, known for their textiles and furniture production. It is also considered to be a cultural hub since Kayseri is home to multiple universities and museums. Once a stop on the silk road, this city is still easy to access via railway, plane, or by road. Unfortunately the climate can be extreme, citizens can experience harsh winters along with extreme heat in the summertime.

Solve for:

Uniting Cultures, Extreme Weather, Implementing Local Building Materials

Color Symbolism in the Middle East

- Islam, Strength, Fertility, Wealth, Prestige
- Rebirth, Mystery
- Healing, Evil Repellent, Wealth
- Earth, Comfort

Building Materials

- The native tree species, Cedar, is used on the door, window frames, and built structures. It is a durable hardwood that can withstand harsh environmental use.
- Adobe is a native resource to Turkey. It is a traditional building material used for centuries. The exterior facade insulates and cools interior spaces.
- Volcanic stone is a natural resource in Kayseri as there is an inactive volcano in this area. Volcanic stone is a great natural and eco-friendly tool for insulation.

Hive Geo tile is a locally sourced tile out of Turkey. It is used as a secondary accent tile in the courtyard. In both Syria and Turkey, small mosaic tiles are used excessively throughout all spaces interior and exterior. A similarity between Syrian culture and Turkish culture.

Hive Stellar tile is a locally sourced tile out of Turkey. It is used as the primary decorative tile in the courtyard space. Repetition is a strong component to the Islamic religion that is prevalent in this area. Unending repetition coincides with the meaning of infinite which then relates to the one and only Allah.

Design Statement

When designing a temporary refugee shelter it is important to incorporate design choices that are informed for trauma, health, and safety. With trauma informed design we incorporated privacy tapestries to separate spaces, added a prayer space (as Islam is the main religion of this area) and making sure exterior doors and interior storage are lockable to make the occupant feel safe and in control of their things. We designed for health by incorporating lots of natural lighting and biophilia in the interior and exterior spaces. To boost overall moral we showcased materials that are seen in both Turkey and Syria.



This environment welcome teenage refugees of Syria, and this campus consists of multiple living quarters that can house two individuals. Each house has space for sleeping, prayer and meditation, light meal prepping, and a place for eating. Latrines, showers, and a community kitchen is stored in a larger shared building on campus. This small community has room to grow and due to the use of locally sourced materials that are traditionally crafted, new homes can easily be constructed.

The courtyard appeared in Syria about 3 millennia ago. It is an enduring architectural feature of the middle east with the ability to regulate extreme weather. In the city of Aleppo, the courtyard was used to store food and other supplies. Syrian courtyards have fresh water wells and decorative, fragrant plants such as jasmine, roses, and lemon trees. In addition, the tile work is highly intricate with geometric patterns. The courtyard here in Kayseri, will host local Turkish flora such as lavender, maple, and fig trees and meld them with traditional Syrian plantlife. This space is the residents' social hub. An area to build community and a home for celebration.



Between displacement and long distance migration mental health can take a serious turn for the worse. Minors traveling alone are more likely to have developed PTSD in any parts of that process. Within this refugee space all materials were chosen based off of trauma informed design. Using cool blue tones, there is a sense of tranquility. The mosaic tiles are a pattern referenced from Islam. It is a pattern that can be repeated which in turn represents the idea of the infinite - Allah. This room is furnished with a prayer rug and table for placement of religious necessities (i.e. Qu'ran and prayer beads). Before a prayer ritual is started one must cleanse their body. A feet washing station with a built in shelf for towel storage was a required feature to honor these prayer moments to their fullest extent.



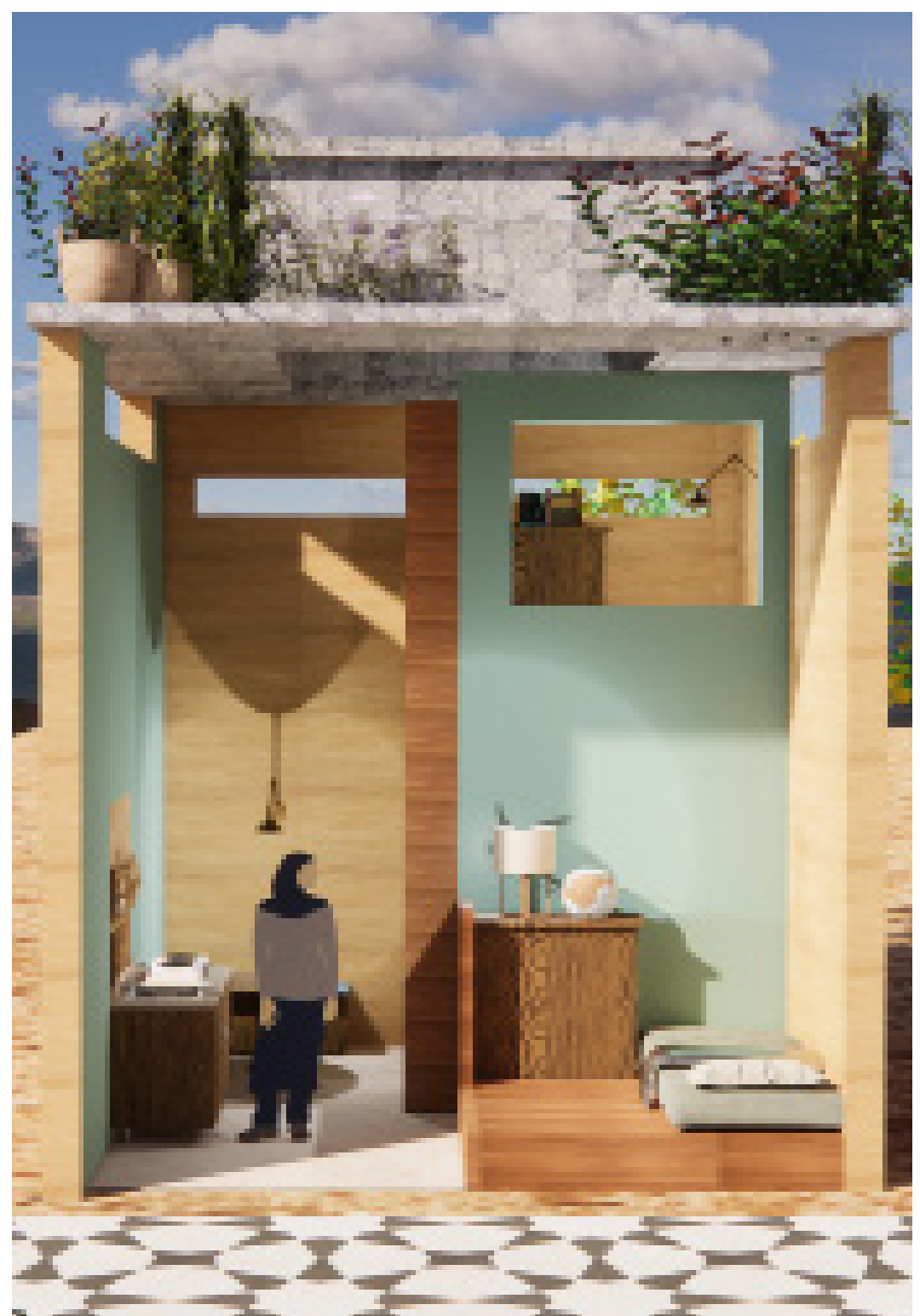
The kitchenette has green painted adobe walls to symbolize strength, subtly empowering the residents of their new homes. The sink will not only assist with after meal clean up, but help promote personal hygiene stopping the spread of illnesses. A small hot plate will give residents a spot to reheat food or make a light snack. This gives individuals the space to make choices and a sense of autonomy. A lower level window lets in natural light and can be closed for needed privacy. Along with lower cabinets, additional storage can be found in the built in dining space benches which happen to be made of Turkish cedar topped with Syrian fabric.



Walking into the living space the individual first notices a small kitchenette with a built in dining area. A small accessible sleeping space is to the right along with a private prayer room. With the perimeter of 50 sq. meters, in order to place a second sleeping quarter, a loft was introduced above the prayer area. Simple ceramic tile local to Turkey is featured on the main floor, and cedar wood flooring brings warmth



The Al-Iwan Hall is a traditional Syrian architectural feature. This is a room slightly raised that overlooks a courtyard, without a door and roofed. Inspired by that characteristic this shelter's ladder not only leads to a sleeping loft, it goes up to the roof where a latch door can open. This allows the resident to overlook the courtyard and enjoy nature.



There are a few different features within this shelter that regulates temperature such as adobe, volcanic stone and the wind catcher method. The adobe exterior is a barrier for high temperatures, the volcanic stone is an eco-friendly insulation alternative, and the wind catcher method creates active airflow moving warm and cool temperatures throughout the shelter from cutouts from two low points on the exterior walls to centralized high points in the roof.