

												
								حكاوي بورسعيد 7akawy Port Said (Port Said Stories)				

→ **ليه حكاوي؟ - Why 7akawy?**

بورشعيد بتتكلم - Port Said Speaks

طبقات الحكاوي - Layers of 7akawy

حكاوي بورشعيد - 7akawy Port Said

What is 7akawy Port Said?

Context

Port Said is a coastal city in northeastern Egypt, located at the entrance of the Suez Canal. Known for its strategic position, diverse communities, and layered history.

7akawy Port Said

A visual storytelling project mapping Port Said's history through its inhabitants' personal memories and oral narratives. Each story, tied to a theme—displacement, industrialization, trade, and music—is illustrated as a map, preserving lived experiences and celebrating the city's emotional identity. A supporting digital platform is created, archiving illustrated maps with audio narratives, and an interactive map that lets visitors explore the city and its stories.

Why 7akawy Port Said?

①

Personal Motivation

Port Said, a second home through family ties, held stories that remained unexplored until this project.

②

Creating Connection

Aiming to build a deeper connection between people and the city.

③

Untold Stories

Highlighting significant yet often untold stories from Port Said to give a voice to its residents.

Which 7akawy?

①

Personal Memories of Port Saidis

Using oral histories connected to specific places to focus on the personal memories of its people

②

Highlighting Significant Topics

Simplifying Port Said's four main historical themes into accessible stories, making complex history easier to understand & connect with

ليه حكاوي؟ - Why 7akawy?

→ **بورشعيد بتتكلم - Port Said Speaks**

طبقات الحكاوي - Layers of 7akawy

حكاوي بورشعيد - 7akawy Port Said

RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

Listening to the City

①

Long-term immersion

6 months of fieldwork – allowing time to return, reflect, and build trust over multiple visits.

②

Collaboration & Connection

Conversations with residents where each one led to another – creating a wide, interconnected pool of stories.

③

Supporting Data

Secondary research conducted to identify the most significant topics about the city.

Documentation



*Photographs from various field trips to Port Said
*All images taken by the designer

ليه حكاوي؟ - Why 7akawy?

بورسعيد بتتكلم - Port Said Speaks

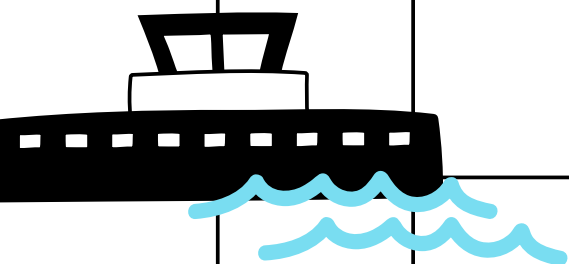
→ **طبقات الحكاوي - Layers of 7akawy**

حكاوي بورسعيد - 7akawy Port Said

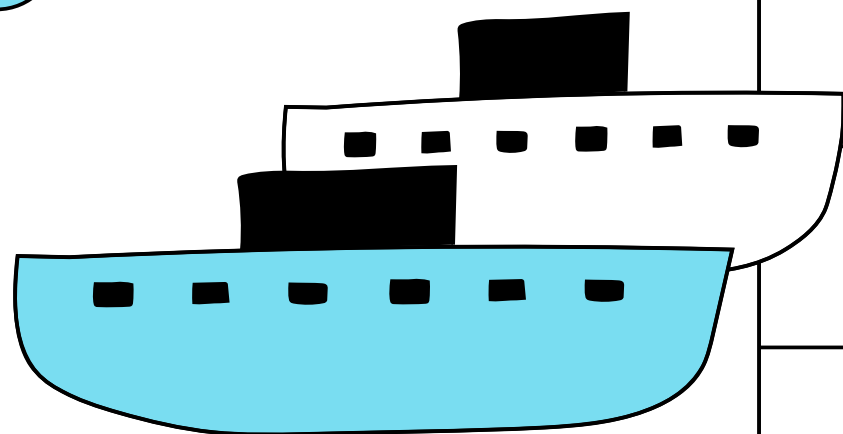
Which 7akawy?

Content Selection

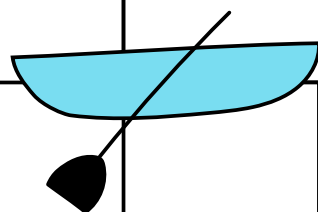
Four main themes were selected based on the relevance to the city: displacement, industrialization, trade, and music culture. Each topic is portrayed through the eyes of a storyteller based on their personal experiences highlighting places within the city that are significant.



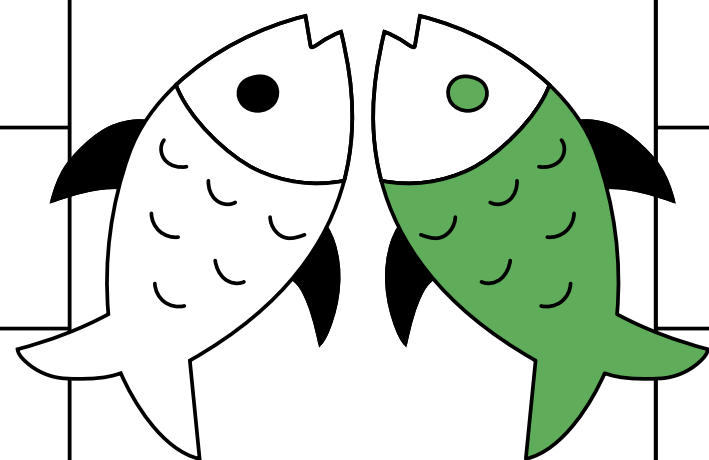
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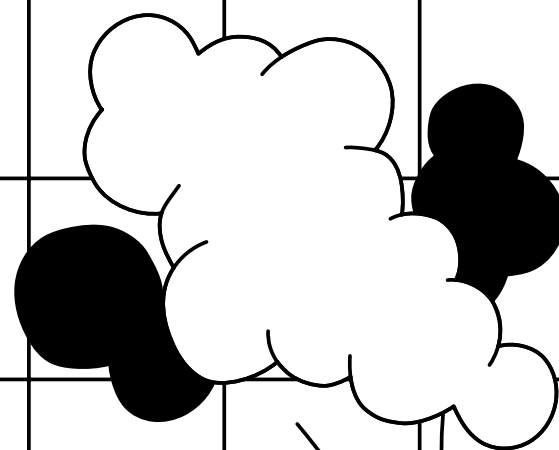
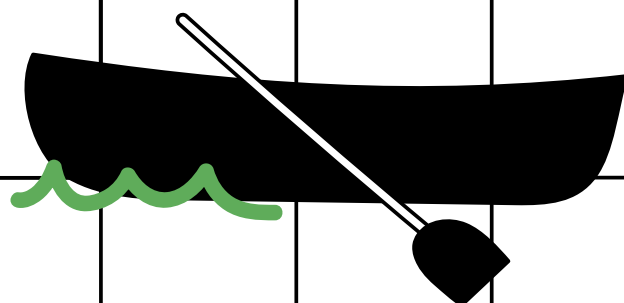
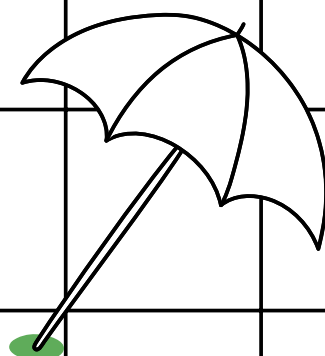
الصناعة
Industry



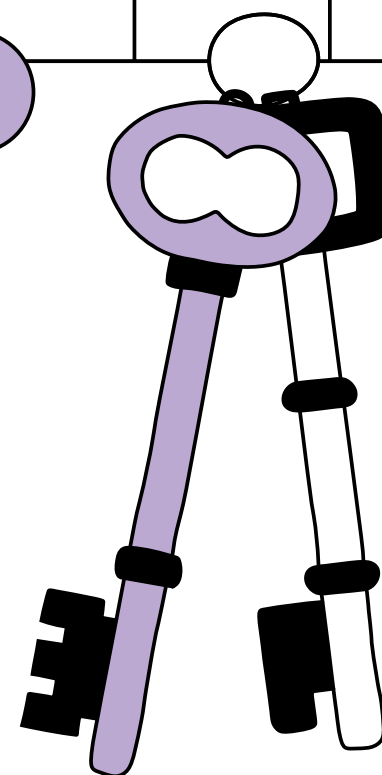
4



التجارة
Trade

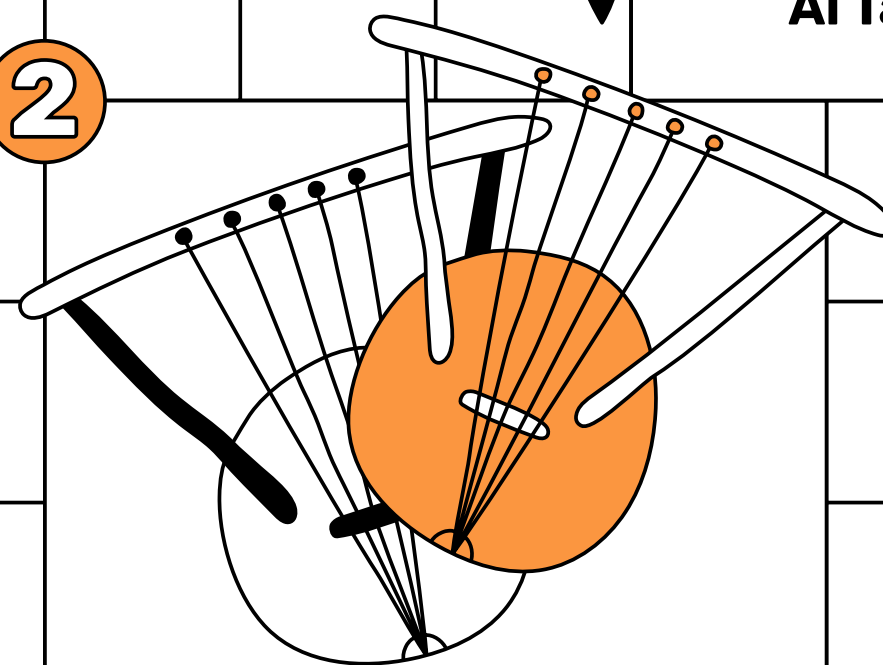


1

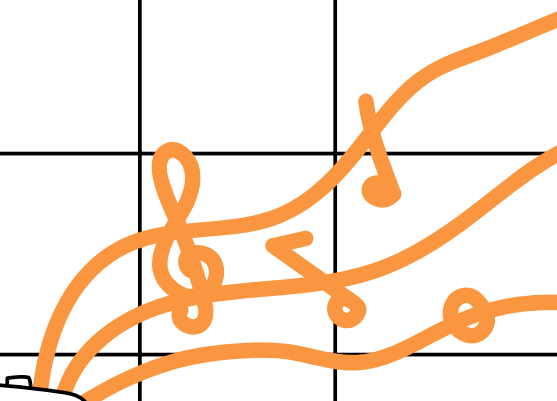
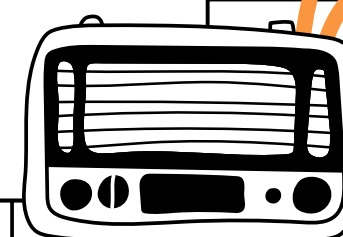


التهجير
Al Tahgeer

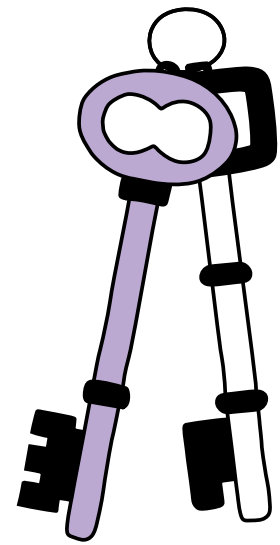
2



السسمية
Simsimya



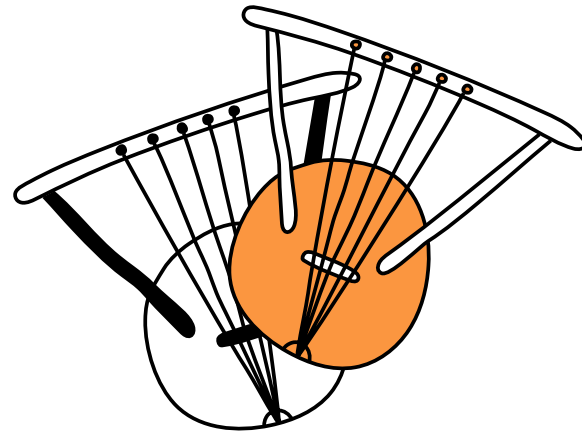
Port Said Topics



Sa7eb El Mafatee7
Ahmed El Sayad



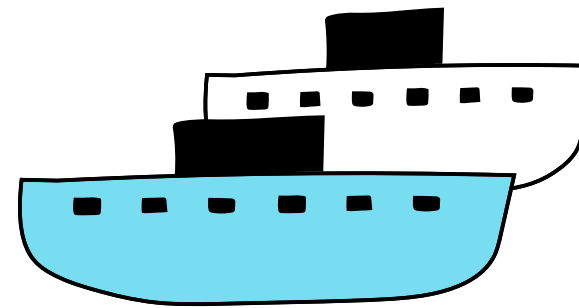
Al Tahgeer



Wazir El Sa3ada
Mohamed Ghaly



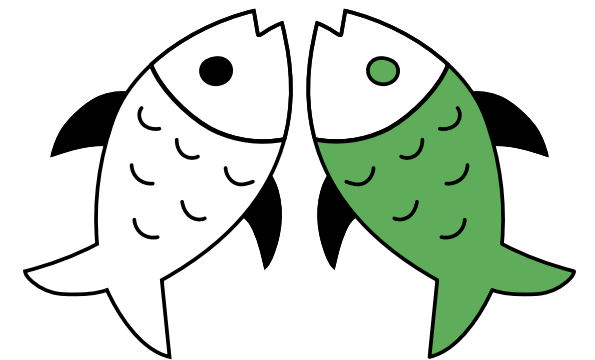
Simsimya



Sane3 El Sofon
Mohamed El Mahdy



Industry

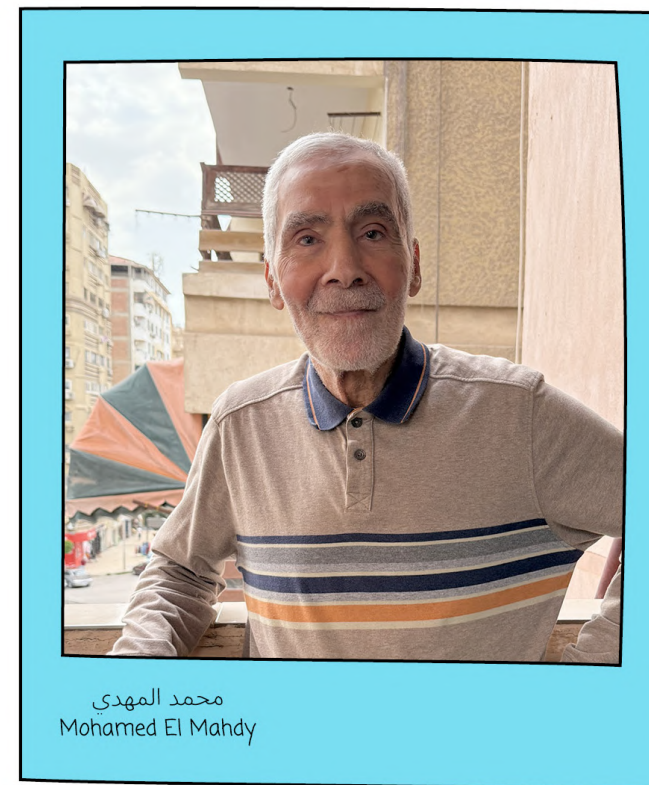
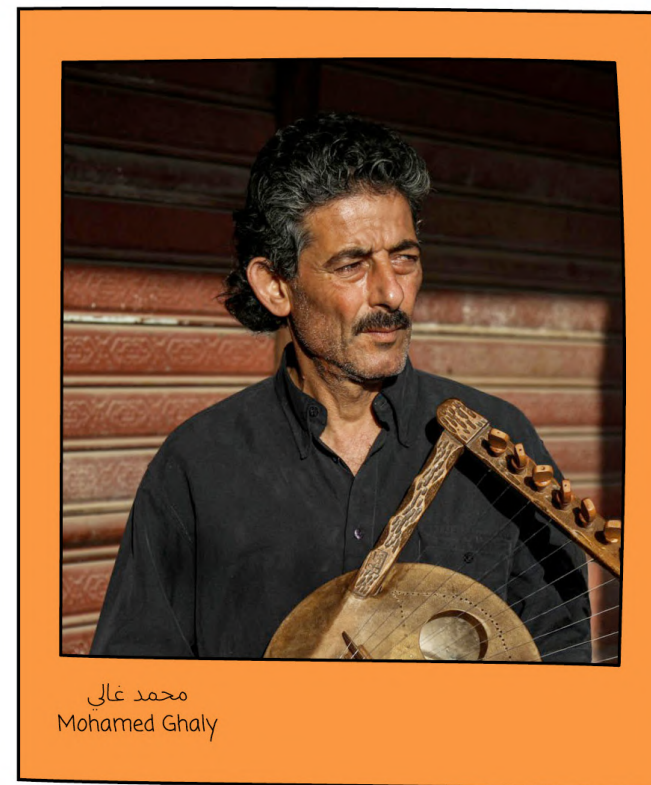


7ares El Ba7r
Mahmoud Yehia



Trade

Port Said Representatives



*Photographs of topic representatives interviewed

*All images taken by the designer except for Mohamed Ghaly taken by fadel dawod

ليه حكاوي؟ - Why 7akawy?

بورسعيد بتتكلم - Port Said Speaks

طبقات الحكاوي - Layers of 7akawy

→ **حكاوي بورسعيد - 7akawy Port Said**

Printed Material

①

Introduction

Contextualizing the project & introducing the city through the 4 themes and their representatives.

②

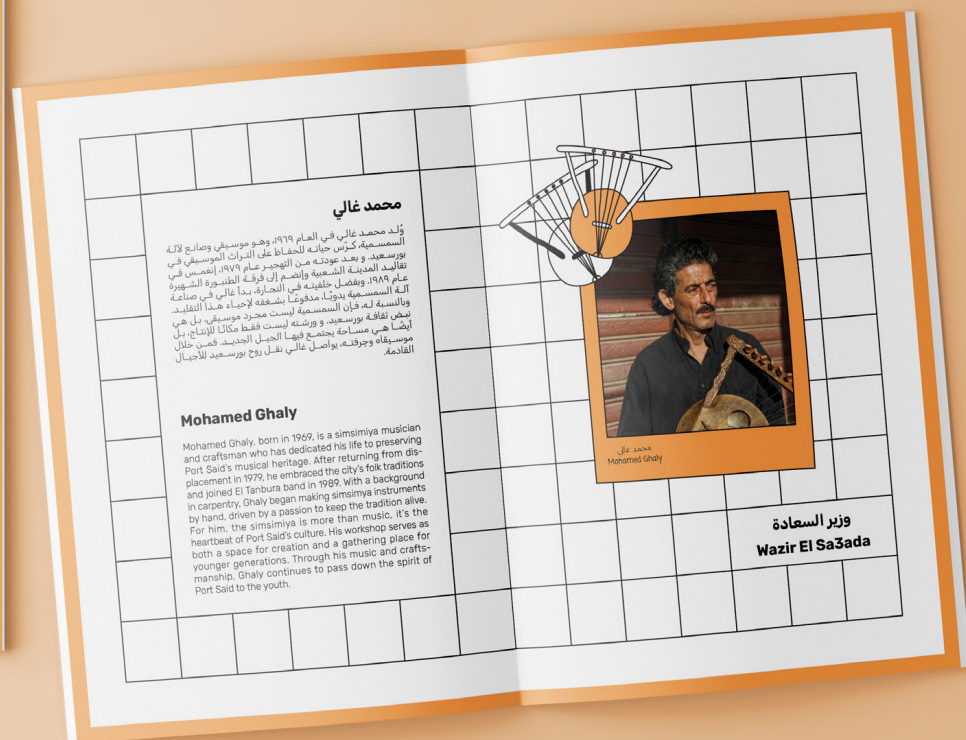
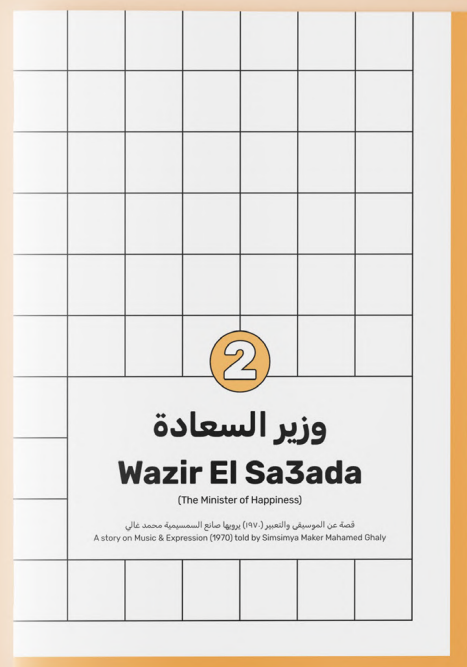
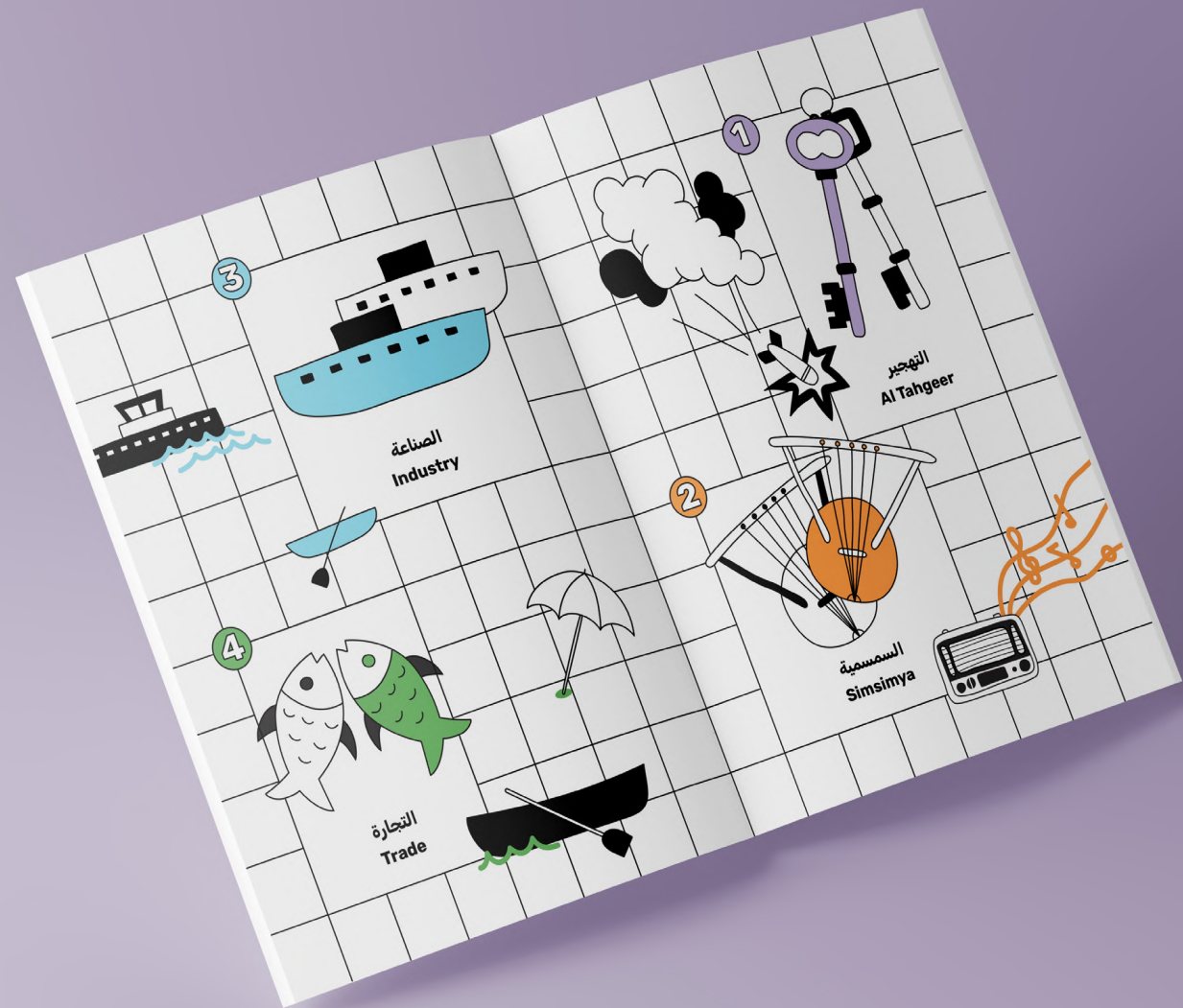
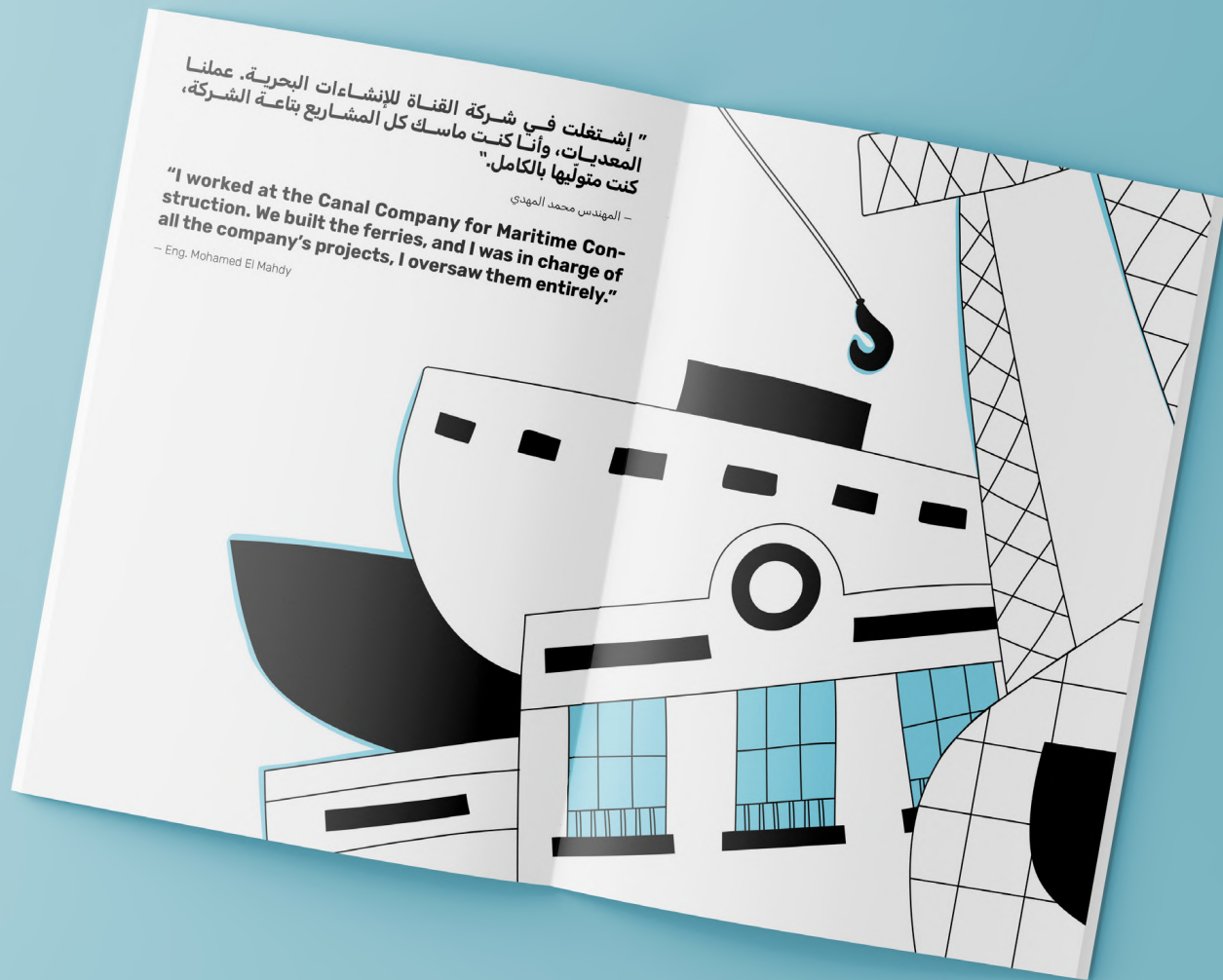
Illustrated Maps

Showcasing the places that each resident discussed which are relevant to their theme.

③

Map Backs

Providing more information about each resident & showcasing the places using photographs.



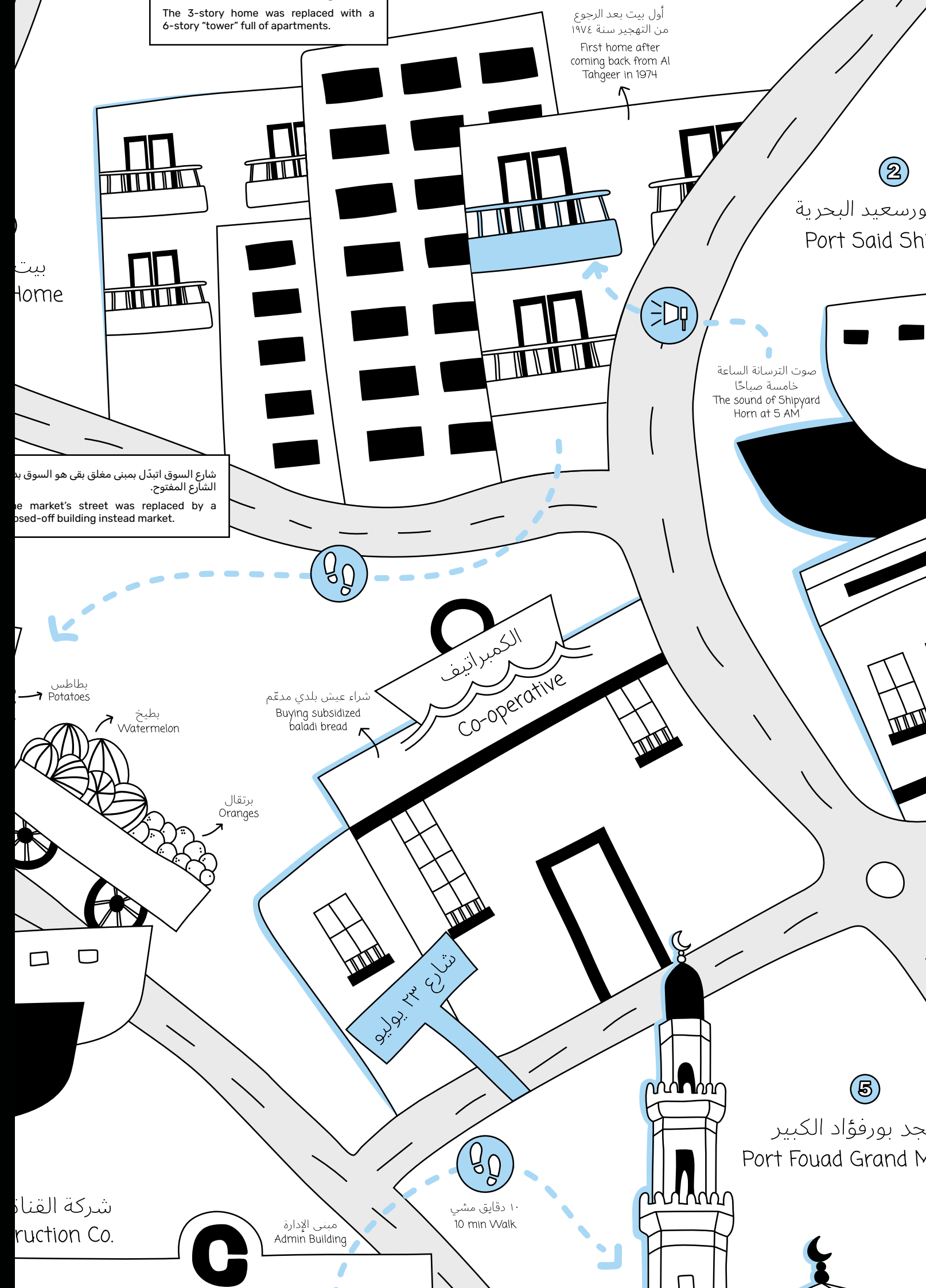
*Introductory book spreads



*Folded map collection



*Packaging containing map collection & Introductory book





*Folded map collection & box

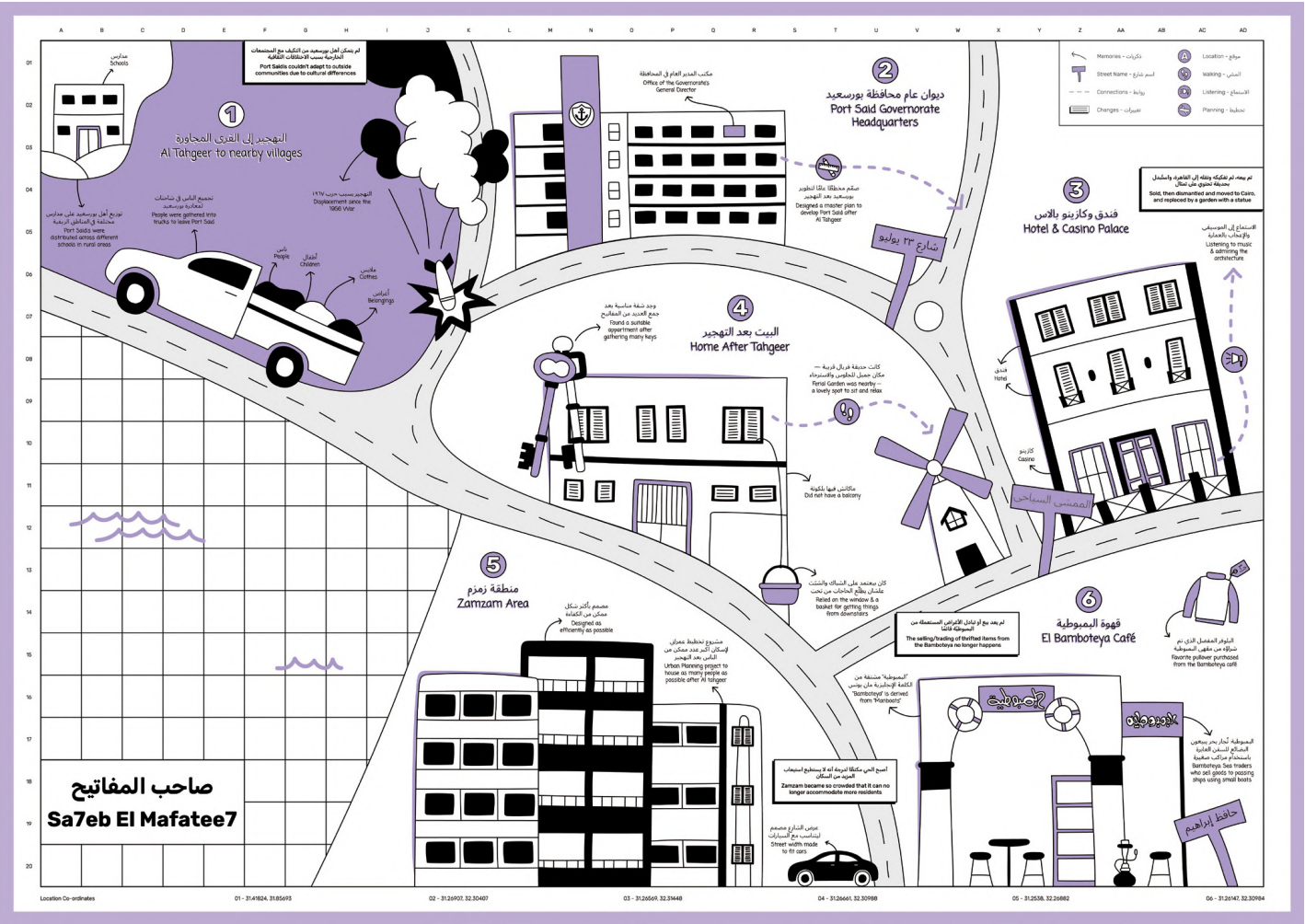
حكاوي بورسعيد

7akawy Port Said

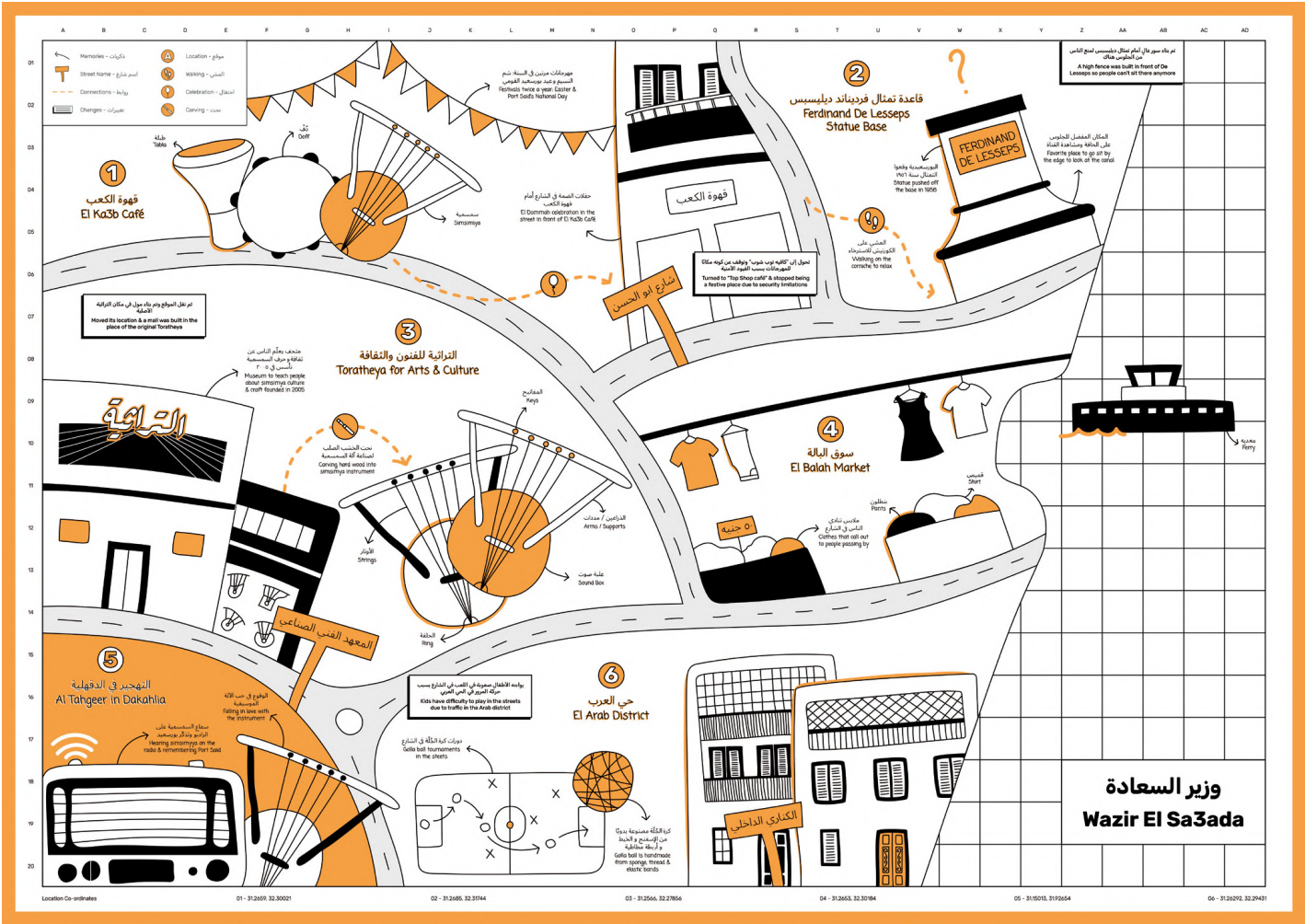
(Port Said Stories)

(Port Said Stories)

Illustrated Maps

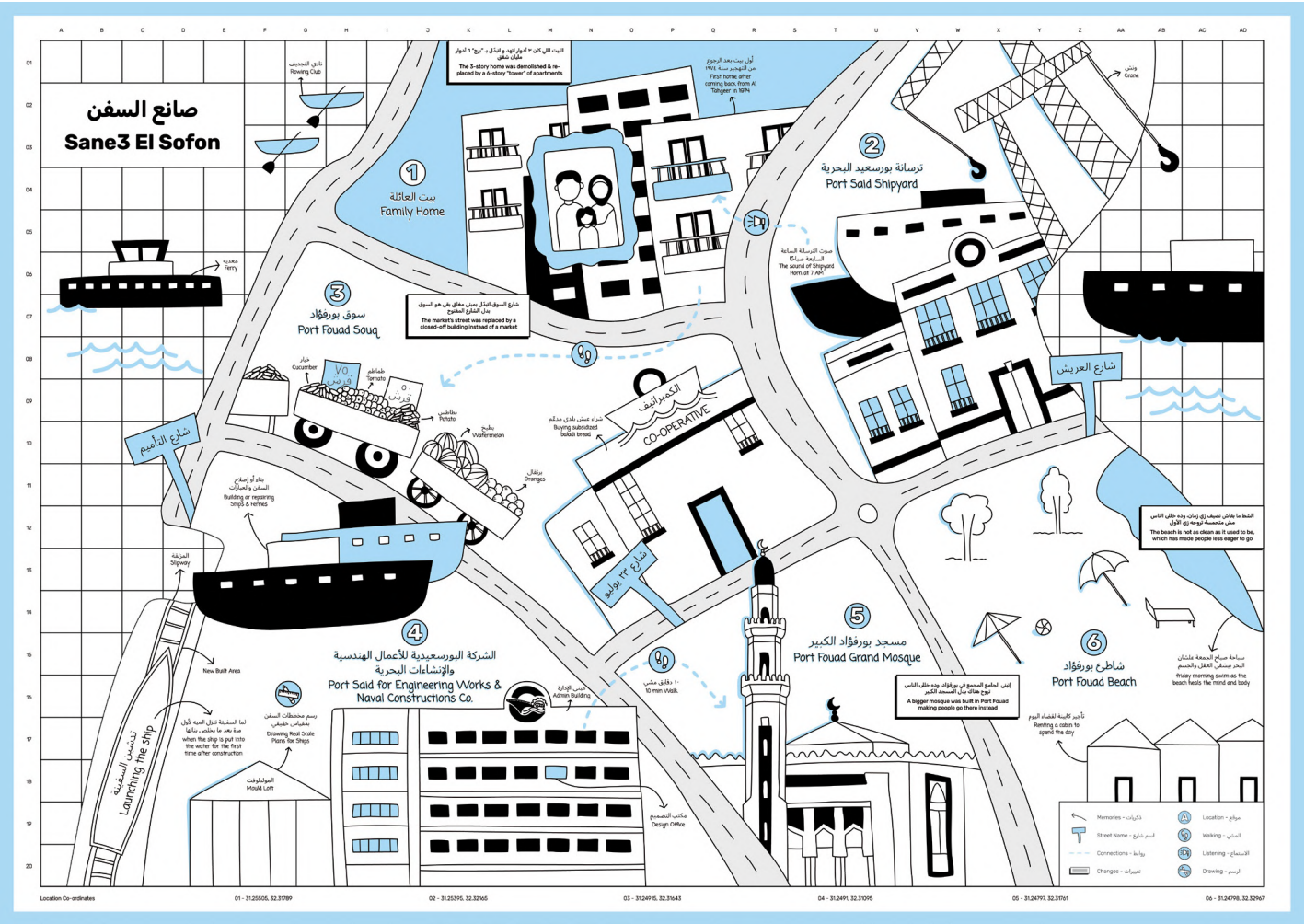


*Illustrated Map 1: Al Tahgeer narrated by Ahmed El Sayad

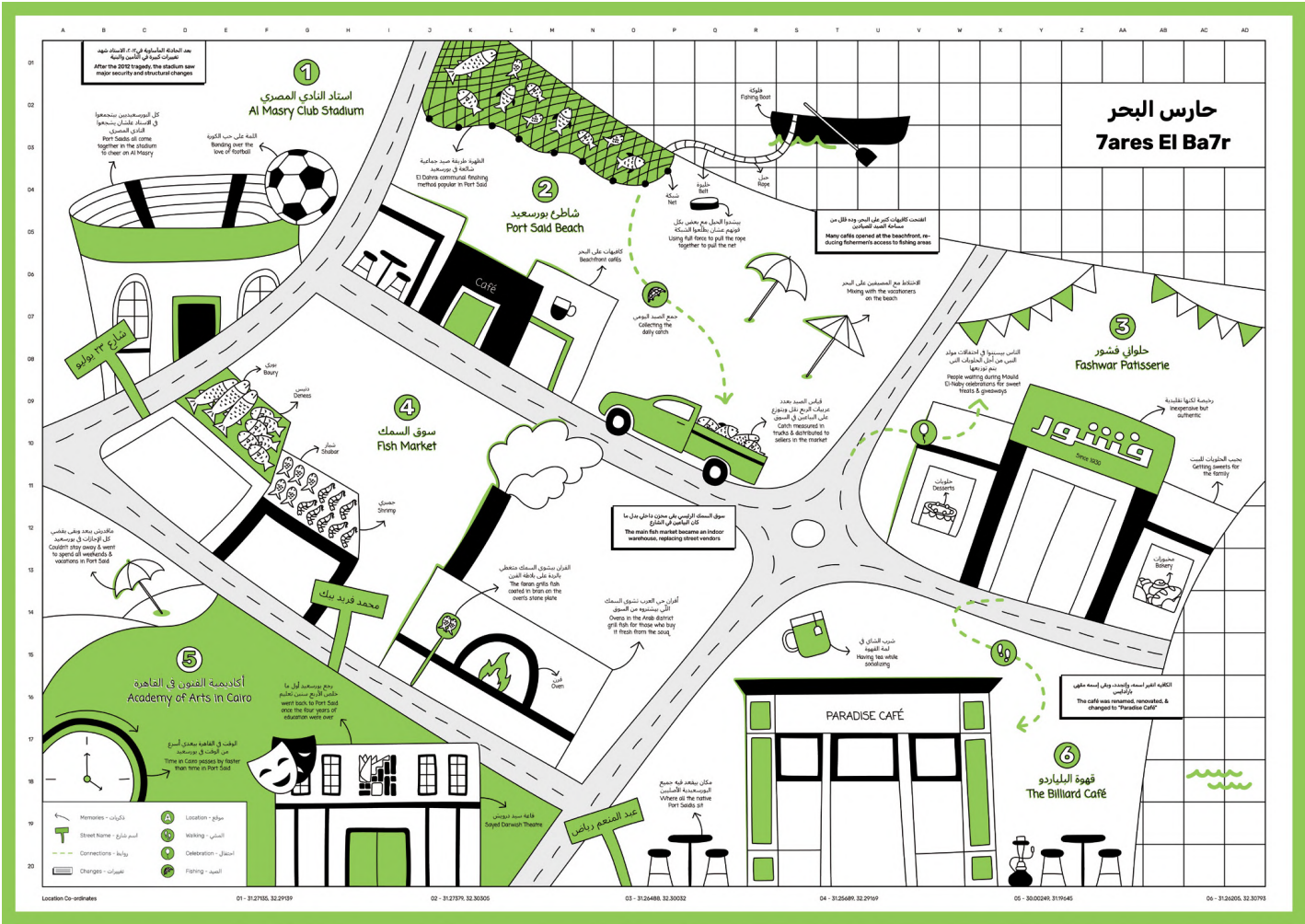


*Illustrated Map 2: Simsimya narrated by Mohamed Ghaly

Illustrated Maps

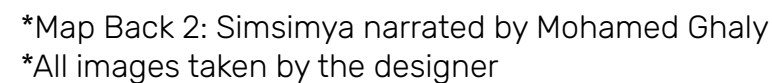
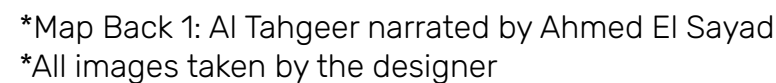


*Illustrated Map 3: Industry narrated by Mohamed El Mahdy

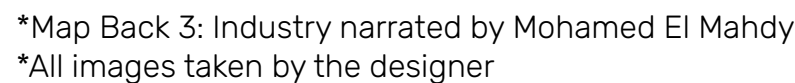


*Illustrated Map 4: Trade & Fishing narrated by Mahmoud Yehia

Map Backs



Map Backs





*Folded Illustrated Map

A story on Music & Expression (1970) told by Simsimiya Maker Mohamed Ghaly
قصة عن الموسيقى والتعبير (1970) رواها صانع السمسيميا محمد غالي

Wazeer El Sa3ada
(The Minister of Happiness)

وزير السعادة

2

1



توب شوب كافيه
Top Shop Cafe

2



FERDINAND
DE LESSEPS

قاعدة تمثال فرديناند ديليسبس
De Lesseps Statue Base

3



التراثية
Al Torattheya



محمد غالي
Mohamed Ghaly

4



سوق الباشا
El Bash Market



حي العرب
Arab District

6



ابواب حي العرب
Doors in Arab District

5



الاستماع للسمسيمية على الراديو
Listening to simsimiya on the radio

من هو وزير السعادة؟

يُعد محمد غالي أحد أساتذة السمسيميا وحارس الروح الموسيقية لبورسعيد. وُلد عام ١٩٦٩، وتشكل ارتباطه المبكر بالمدينة من خلال صوت السمسيميا الذي سمعه عبر الراديو خلال سنوات التهجير في طفولته. وعند عودته إلى بورسعيد عام ١٩٧٩، ألتحق في إراتريا الموسيقية وانضم إلى فرقة التمسيرة الشهيرة عام ١٩٨٩. و بخصوره الدافئ والمبهج وأخاذه العميق لفته، كرس غالي حياته ليس فقط للعزف على السمسيميا، بل لصناعتها أيضًا لينقل روحها إلى أجيال جديدة.

وبدافع رغبته في الحفاظ على السمسيميا كحرفة يدوية حيّة، أجه غالي إلى صناعة آلة مستلهمة من حترته السابقة في الحجارة، فبالنسبة له، فإن السمسيميا ليست مجرد موسيقى، بل هي روح بورسعيد نفسها منسوجة في ناسله وأطفاله. والحرفة التي تلي هذه الروح نابضة بالحياة.

Who is Wazir El Sa3ada?

Mohamed Ghaly is a master of the simsimiya and a keeper of Port Said's musical spirit. Born in 1969, Ghaly's early connection to the city was shaped by the sound of the simsimiya he heard on the radio during the years of displacement following al targeer in his early childhood. Returning home in 1979, he immersed himself in Port Said's musical traditions and joined the renowned El Tamsira band in 1989. With a warm, joyful presence and a deep commitment to his craft, Ghaly has spent his life not only playing the simsimiya but also crafting it, passing on its spirit to new generations.

Motivated by a desire to keep the simsimiya alive as a handmade tradition, Ghaly turned to crafting the instrument, building on his background in carpentry. To him, the simsimiya is more than just music; it is the soul of Port Said woven through its people, its songs, and the enduring craft that keeps its spirit alive.

كيف شكلت السمسيميا بورسعيد؟

السمسيمية أكثر من مجرد آلة موسيقية، إنها رمز لقافي وُلد من مجتمعات قبائل السوسى، تاريخيًا، منحت السمسيميا أصالي بورسعيد صوتًا للتعبير عن قصصهم وآرائهم، وعززت هويتهم الجماعية من خلال الموسيقى، وكانت لها أيضًا الأايضة تجمع الجيران معًا، ناسجة الفرح والحمود وروح العناية في نسق الحياة اليومية للمدينة.

بعد أن أدرك محمد غالي القوة العاطفية العميقة للسمسيمية، قرر أن يتعلم كيفية صنعها يدويًا بدلًا من العزف عليها. ومن خلال تراثه، استمرت السمسيميا في الإزدهار في بورسعيد، لتصبح حيكتًا تربط سكان المدينة بماضيهم ومجتمعهم وأحاسيسهم بالفخر. وبالنسبة لغالي، فإن كل آلة يصنعها هي وسيلة للحفاظ ليس فقط على تقليد موسيقي، بل أيضًا على ذاكرة و روح مشتركة تنتمي إلى قلب بورسعيد.

How did simsimya shape Port Said?

The simsimiya is more than a musical instrument. It is a cultural symbol born from the communities of the Suez Canal. Historically, it gave a voice to the people of Port Said, allowing them to share stories, express opinions, and strengthen their collective identity through music. Its vibrant sounds brought neighbors together, weaving joy, resilience, and humor into the city's daily life.

Mohamed Ghaly, witnessing the deep emotional power of the simsimiya, took it upon himself to learn how to craft it by hand rather than play it. Through his dedication, the simsimiya continues to thrive in Port Said, serving as a living thread that ties the city's people to their past, their community, and their sense of pride. For Ghaly, every instrument he crafts is a way of preserving not just a musical tradition, but a shared memory and spirit that belong to the heart of Port Said.

صاحب المفاتيح Sa7eb El Mafatee7

حي العرب El Arab District

منطقة زمزم Zamzam Area

بعد التهجيد Home After Tahjeed

سوق السمك Fish Market

صانع السفن Sane3 El Sofon

بيت العائلة Family Home

ترسانة بورسعيد البحرية Port Said Shipyard

سوق بورفؤاد Port Fouad Souq

الكمبراتيف CO-OPERATIVE

شارع العريش

الشركة بورسعيدية للأعمال الهندسية والإنشاءات البحرية Port Said for Engineering Works & Naval

شاطئ ما يقاش نظيف ذي زمان، ولم جلى الناس مش متحمسه تروجه زي الأول The beach is not as clean as it used to be, which has made people less eager to go

حافظ إبراهيم

El Barnabery

لم يعد سا أو ديك بالخراب

لم يعد سا أو ديك بالخراب

لم يعد سا أو ديك بالخراب

لم يعد سا أو ديك بالخراب

لم يعد سا أو ديك بالخراب

لم يعد سا أو ديك بالخراب

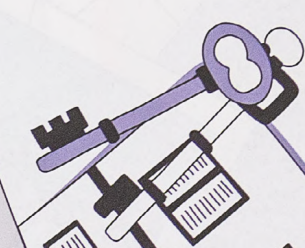
لم يعد سا أو ديك بالخراب

لم يعد سا أو ديك بالخراب

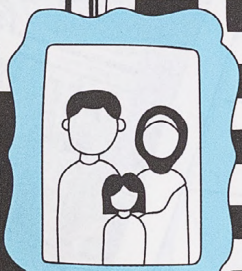
Location Co-ordinates
Kids have difficulty to play in the streets due to traffic in the Arab district



مصمم بيتي بشكل مكرر من كماله
Designed as efficiently as possible

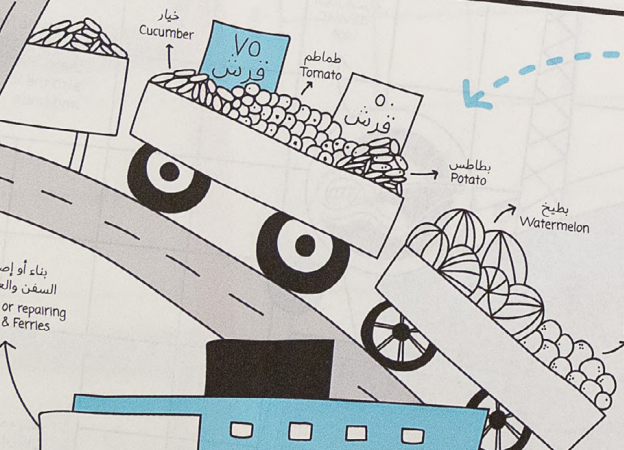


أول بيت بعد الرجوع من التهجير سنة ١٩٧٤
First home after coming back from Al Tahjeer in 1974



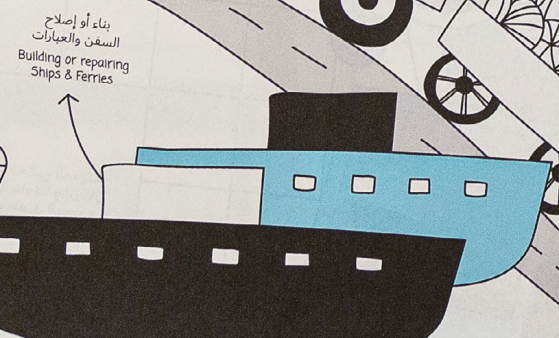
البيت اللي كان ٣ أدوار اتهد و ابتدل بـ "برج" ٦ أدوار
The 3-story home was demolished & replaced by a 6-story "tower" of apartments

شارع السوق ابتدل بمبنى مغلق بلى هو السوق بدل الشارع المفتوح
The market's street was replaced by a closed-off building instead of a market



صوت الترسانة الساعة السابعة صباحا
The sound of Shipyard Horn at 7 AM

شراء عيش بلدي مدقم
Buying subsidized baladi bread



مسجد بورفؤاد الكبير

شارع التأميم

المرقطة Slipway

بناء أو إصلاح السفن والعبارات
Building or repairing Ships & Ferries

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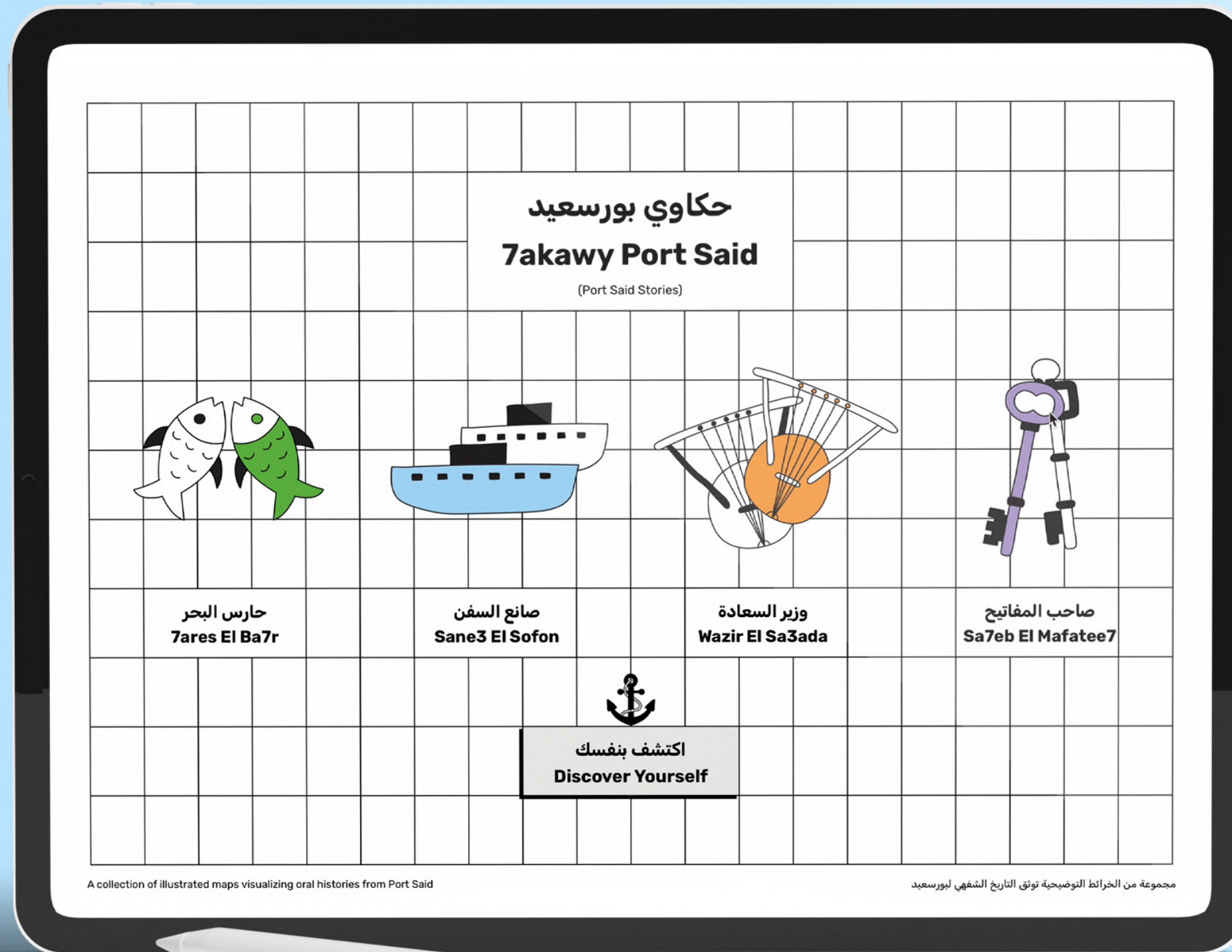
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Digital Platform

Website

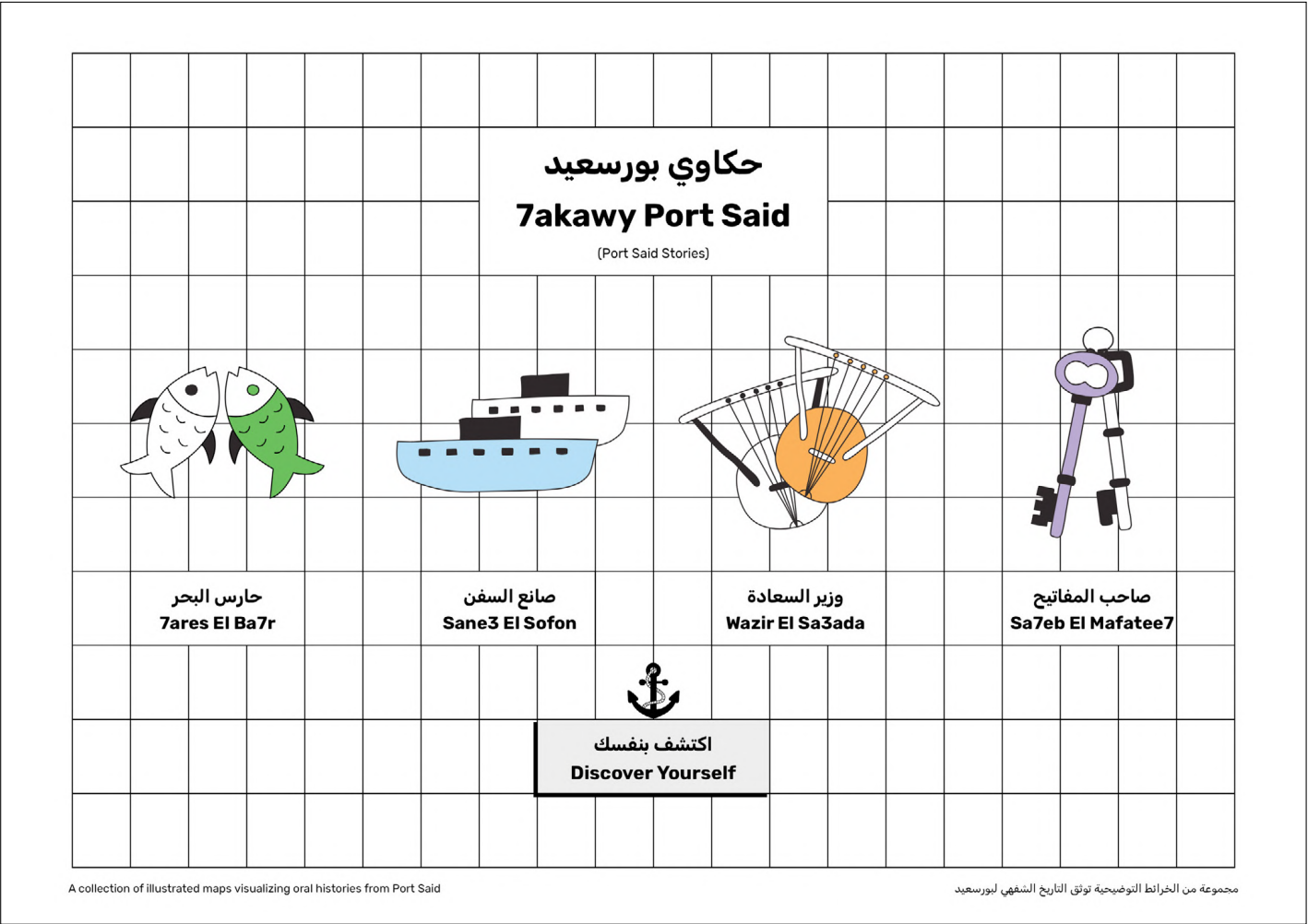
The digital platform supports the project by allowing viewers to hear residents' stories. It archives illustrated maps alongside audio recordings, enabling visitors to listen to the storytellers while exploring the illustrated maps. An accurate interactive map is incorporated to encourage people to explore the city themselves, allowing them to navigate directly to the places featured in the project.

Website Link: www.7akawypoportsaid.com

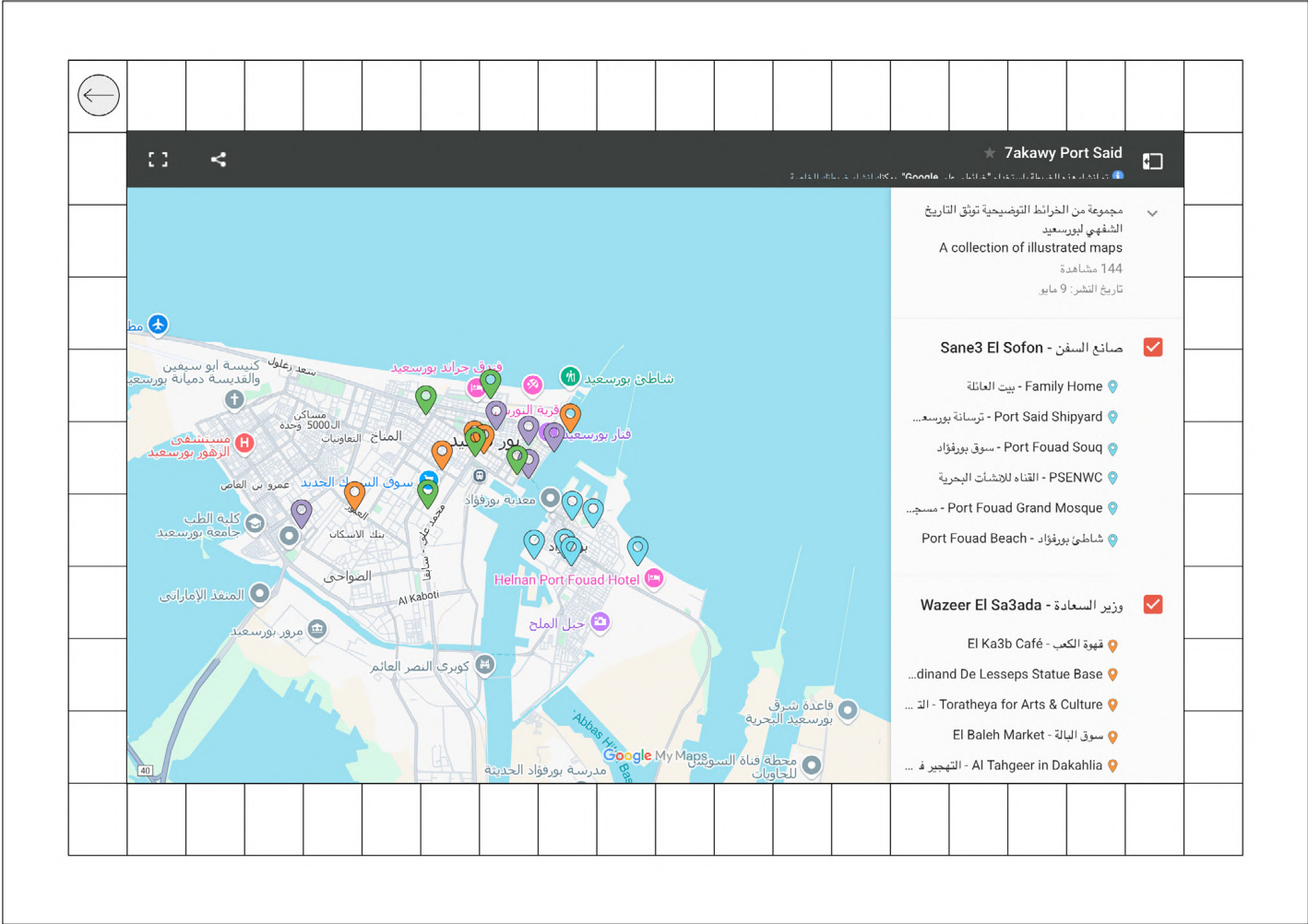


*Website Landing Page

Website Screens

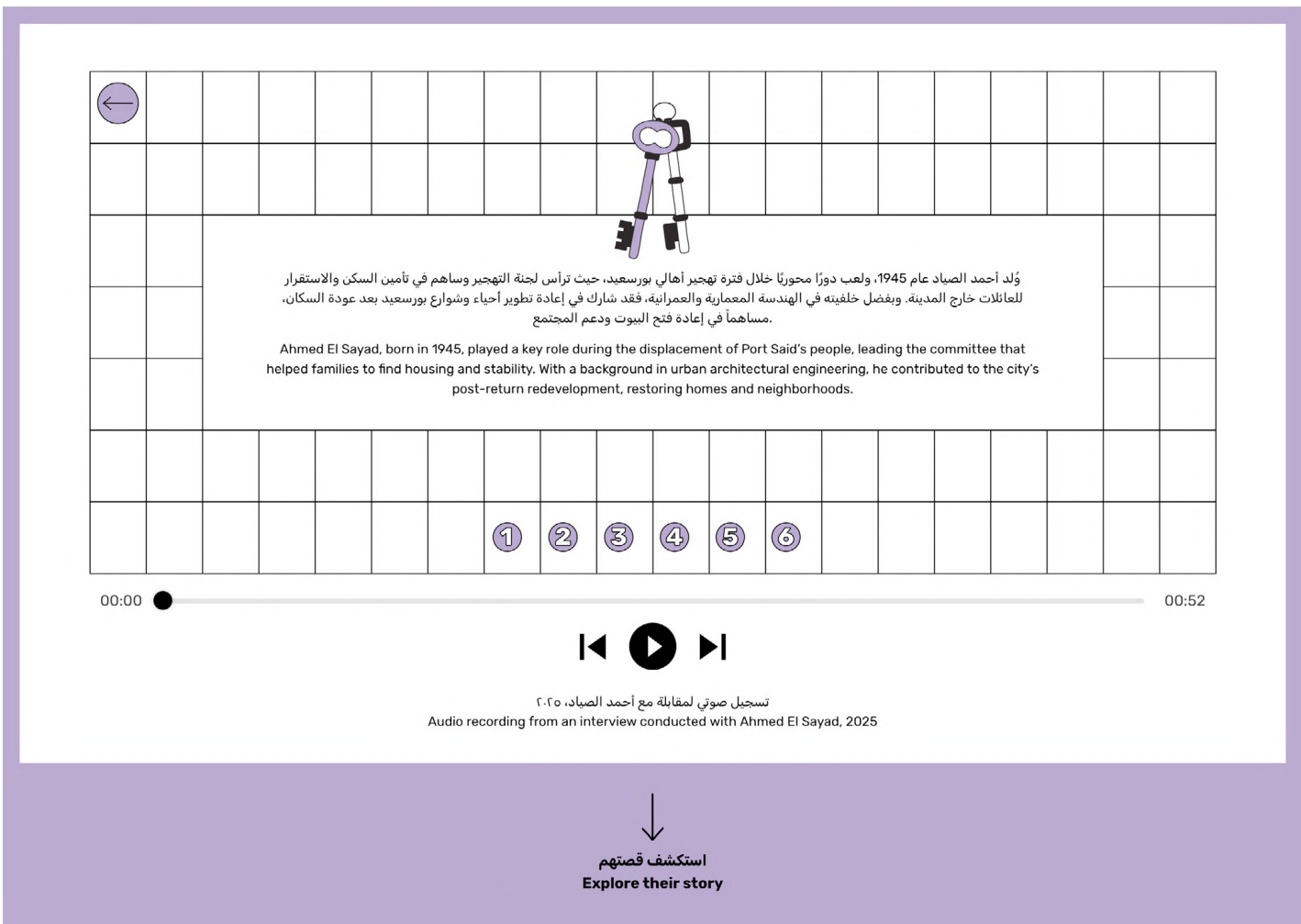


*Landing Page

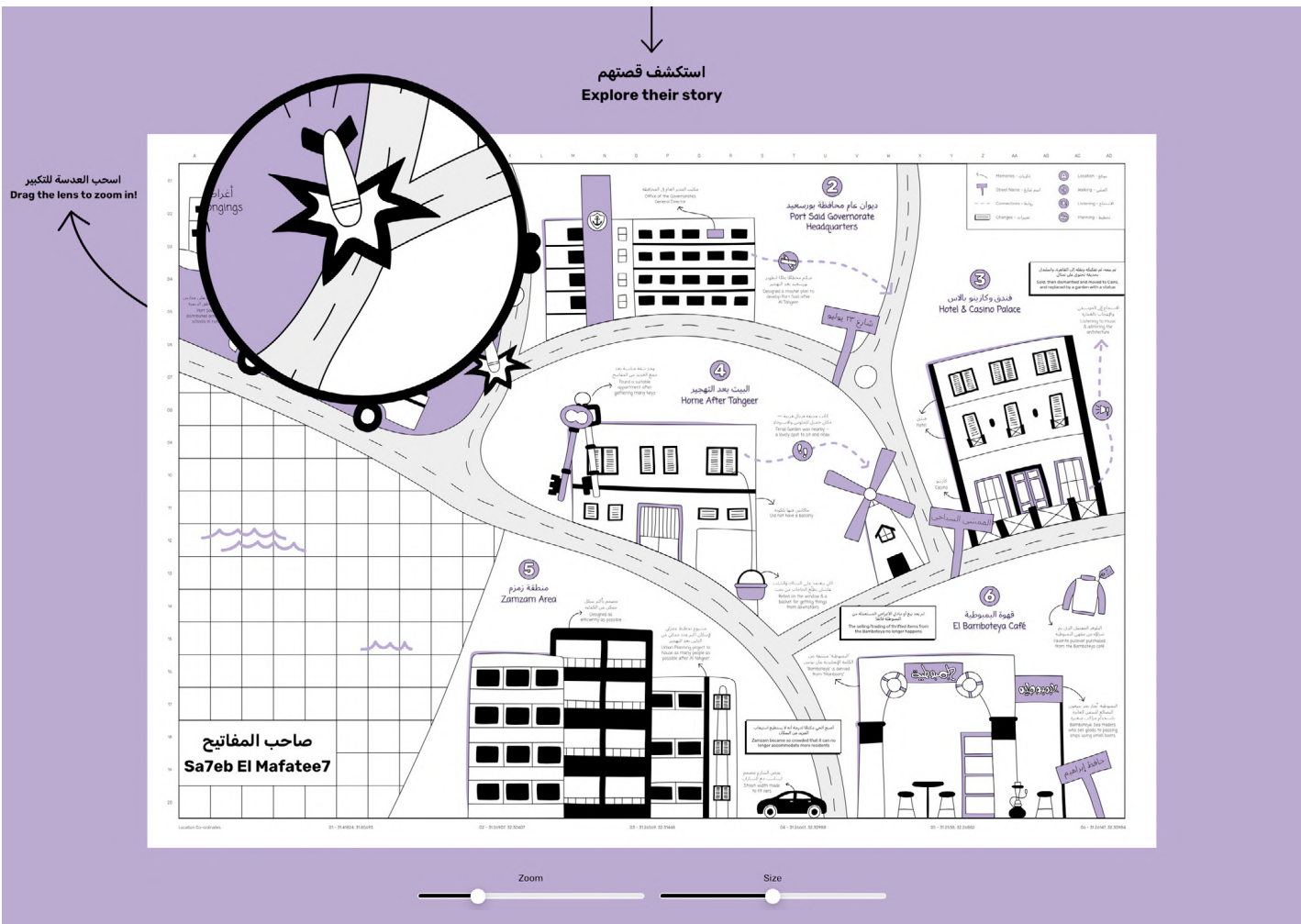


*Map screen: Accurate Map to encourage viewers to visit places within the stories

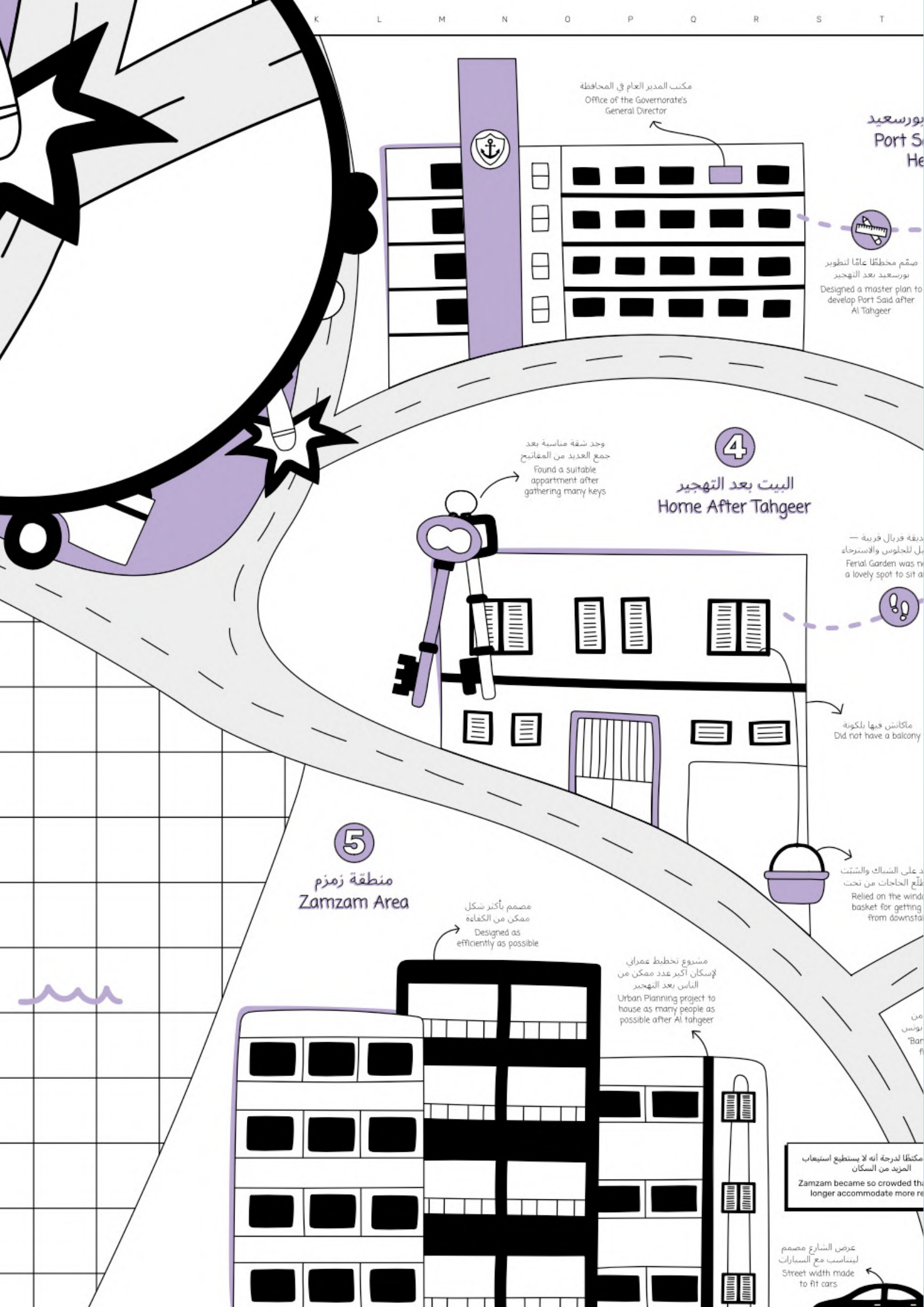
Website Screens



*Storytelling Screen: Audio recordings from interviews explaining the places illustrated



*Illustrated Map screen: Digital illustrated map so that viewers can explore while listening



*Map screen: Accurate Map to encourage viewers to visit places within the stories

وُلد محمد غالي في العام 1969، وهو موسيقي وصانع لآلة السمسمية، كرس حياته للحفاظ على التراث الموسيقي في بورسعيد. و بعد عودته من التهجير عام 1979، إنغمس في تقاليد المدينة الشعبية وإنضم إلى فرقة الطنبورة الشهيرة عام 1989. وبفضل خلفيته في النجارة، بدأ غالي في صناعة آلة السمسمية يدويًا، مدفوعًا بشغفه لإحياء هذا التقليد.

Mohamed Ghaly, born in 1969, is a simsimiya musician and craftsman who has dedicated his life to preserving Port Said's musical heritage. After returning from displacement in 1979, he embraced the city's folk traditions and joined El Tanbura band in 1989. With a background in carpentry, Ghaly began making simsimiya instruments by hand, driven by a passion to keep the tradition alive.

1

2

3

4

5

6

00:25

0



تسجيل صوتي لمقابلة مع محمد غالي، ٢٠٢٥

Audio recording from an interview conducted with Mohamed Ghaly, 2025

↓

استكشف قصتهم

Explore their story

*Storytelling Screen: Audio recordings from interviews explaining the places illustrated



شكراً
Thank you