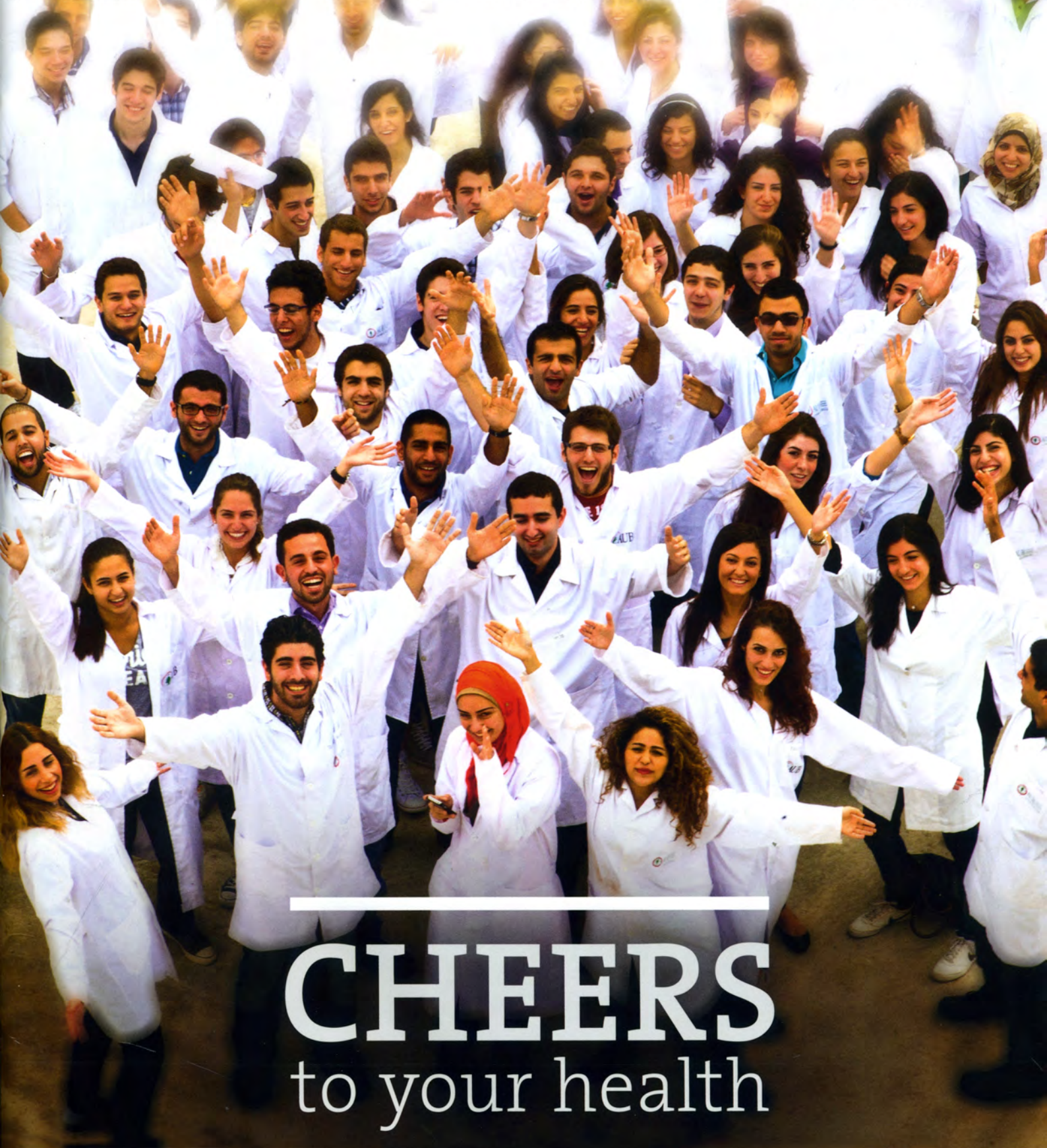


MainGate

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to effectively and critically access, analyze, utilize, evaluate, and create media messages—and develop media policies and strategies as well.

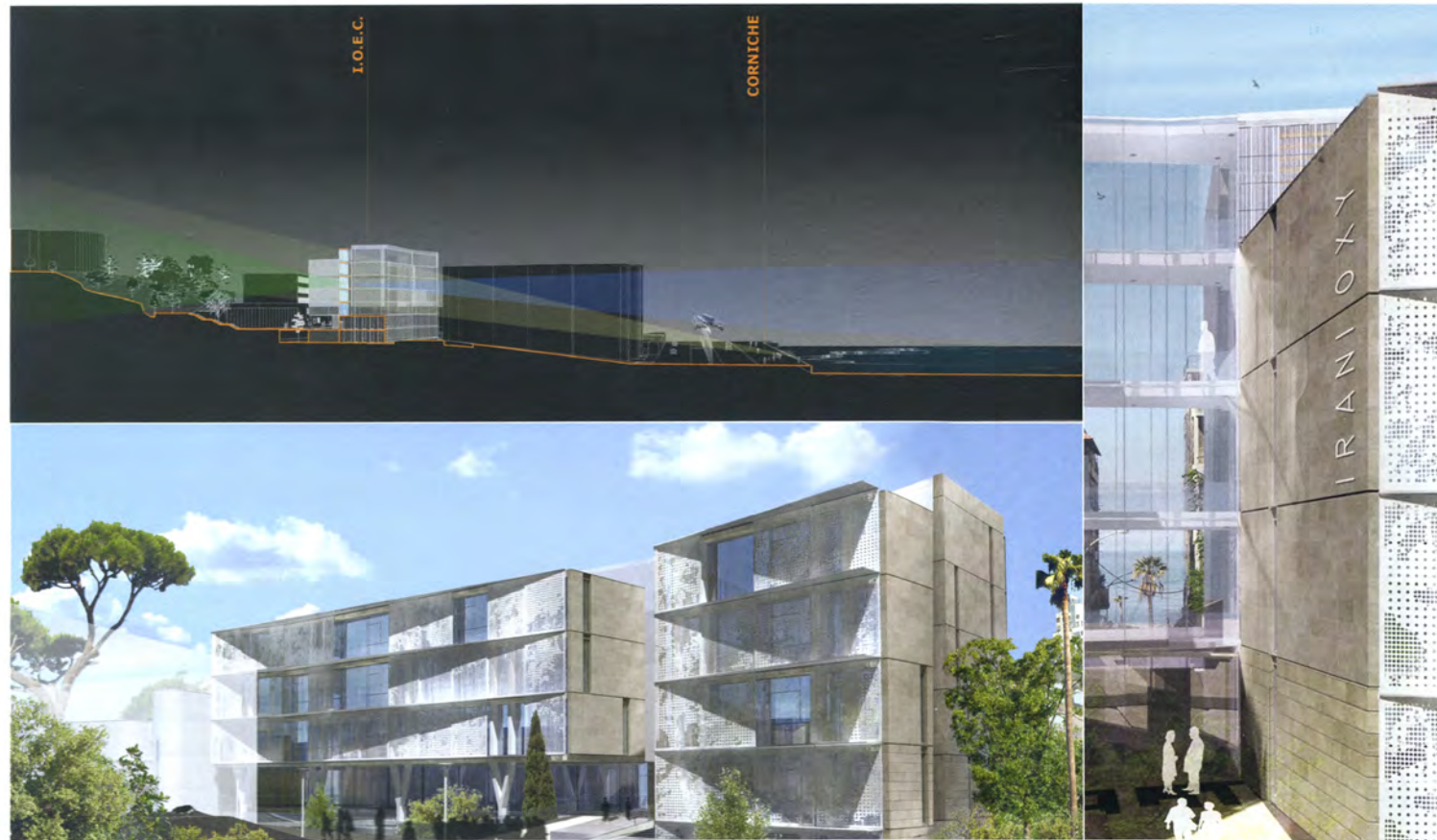
AUB's MA in Media Studies also offers students the flexibility to choose between a thesis and a non-thesis option. Students interested in pursuing their doctoral studies at some later date are encouraged to select the thesis track, which requires seven



Core Required Courses

- MCOM 300: Graduate Research Methods in Media Studies 3 cr.
- MCOM 301 (SOAN 313): Seminar in Communication Theory and Research 3 cr.
- MCOM 302 (SOAN 317): Seminar in Mass Media in the Modern Arab Society 3 cr.
- MCOM 395: Comprehensive Exam 0 cr.
- MCOM 399: Thesis 9 cr.

courses and a nine-credit research-intensive thesis. Those interested in working in the industry, public sector, or with civil society organizations are advised to take the non-thesis option, which allows for nine courses and requires instead of a thesis a three-credit research-based project.



Top: IOEC transverse section; bottom: south elevation; right: corridor view

FEA

Going Greener

Buildings generally dominate or block views, often both, but the Irani Oxy Engineering Complex (IOEC) will instead be a transparent corridor between two of the most appealing vistas in Beirut: AUB's clock tower and the Mediterranean as glimpsed through the complex from the verdant hillsides that slope down to lower campus.

For that and an abundance of other climate-friendly innovations IOEC is, according to the architects, the first project registered for LEED certification in Lebanon. The European

Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies and the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design have recognized Nabil Gholam Architects with the 2012 Green GOOD Design™ Award for both the complex and the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture's master plan.

Gholam says that the award accentuates the sweetness of winning the approval of AUB's jury in 2006, which was "sufficiently impressed to put its trust in an independent local firm. "They could have gone with a larger international competitor," he points out, but they clearly found the firm's plan for a "specific" yet "highly

adaptable" structure enticing.

Although bigger isn't necessarily better, the urban plan covers a lot of ground (37,000 sqm) and aims to transform lower campus into a "convivial, comfortable network of pedestrian flows and connections between the schools and the faculties," Gholam says.

"Because many of the people who are going to use the building are people who are going to make buildings," explains Gholam, "it has to be exemplary."

Construction is expected to be completed in fall 2013.

—S.M.

Spaces of Resistance

In July and August AUB's Department of Architecture and Design hosted a ten-day conference drawing professors and students from several disciplines and areas of study to examine "Spaces of Resistance" and how Lebanon has been a site of conflict and struggle.

The conference, co-organized with the University of California Humanities Research Institute, combined theoretical lectures and discussions with visits to sites in Beirut and southern Lebanon to explore the modern history of these places particularly in the last two decades. They toured examples of Solidere's construction after the Lebanese civil war, Hezbollah's reconstruction post-2006 war, developments along Beirut's Green Line, and a Palestinian refugee camp in the capital. The participants not only played the role of scholars, but also took part in the Beirut experience of residents and visitors alike.

Beirut has many stories from the past, memories of its ancient heritage, and competing narratives of war. The participants considered these narratives as they navigated through Lebanon's complex history and constant reorganizations and negotiations of territory becoming part of the interactions between the city and its inhabitants.

"There are times when the built environment speaks in lieu of its inhabitants, where it conveys a capacity of assembled action, of which the residents are a part..." said Abdou Maliq Simone, urbanist and professor of sociology at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

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