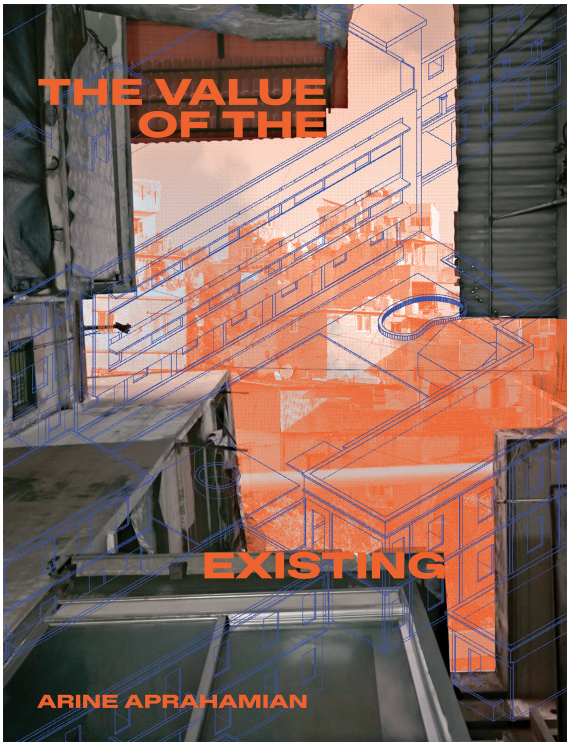
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The Value of Existing

Arine Aprahamian

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Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding USA, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines, Malaysia, and Australasia. India non-exclusive.
Size	275 mm x 210 mm
Pages	300 Pages
Illustrations	250 color
Price	£45.00

- A rigorous architectural argument—grounded in the dense urban fabric of Bourj Hammoud, Beirut—for a transferable method of precision intervention over demolition, and for recognising the value already embedded in the existing built environment
- The case-by-case intervention model is presented as replicable, making the book relevant far beyond its specific context
- Research developed under Pritzker Prize-winning architect Anne Lacaton as part of the prestigious Rolex Mentor and Protégé Initiative—lending the work exceptional intellectual lineage and visibility
- One of very few architectural research books focused on the suburbs of Beirut and the Lebanese urban context, filling a genuine gap in the literature
- Draws on photography and visual material from a short documentary about the research that was screened at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2025—grounding the research in a body of work that has already reached an international audience
- Preface by Anne Lacaton: Pritzker Prize-winning architect and co-founder of Lacaton & Vassal, Paris. Lacaton served as mentor to the author Arine Aprahamian through the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Initiative, under which this research was developed

Too often, buildings are evaluated through narrow, predefined criteria—energy performance, regulatory compliance, cost, or aesthetic standards—creating a hierarchy in which the new appears rational and future-oriented while the existing is cast as obsolete, messy, and expendable. Demolition becomes the default response: one we can no longer afford environmentally, socially, or economically. This book proposes a different way of engaging with the built fabric. At its core is the capacity to recognise value in what already exists—to begin not from deficiency, but from what already sustains life. The study focuses on Bourj Hammoud, a dense, low-income neighbourhood in the eastern suburbs of Beirut, where the author grew up. Through three case studies, immersive fieldwork, and direct engagement with residents, the research examines how architecture can identify overlooked spatial potential and intervene with precision rather than replacement. In a place where space is a luxury and public areas are nearly absent, small, targeted interventions can meaningfully improve spatial quality and daily life—within real economic constraints. Rather than proposing a master plan, this book presents a way of seeing and working: one that might be applied elsewhere.

Lebanese-Armenian architect, designer and researcher **Arine Aprahamian** explores affordable and sustainable futures through architecture. She co-founded MÜLLER APRAHAMIAN in 2018. A Fulbright scholar, she was mentored by Pritzker Prize laureate Anne Lacaton through the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative.

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