



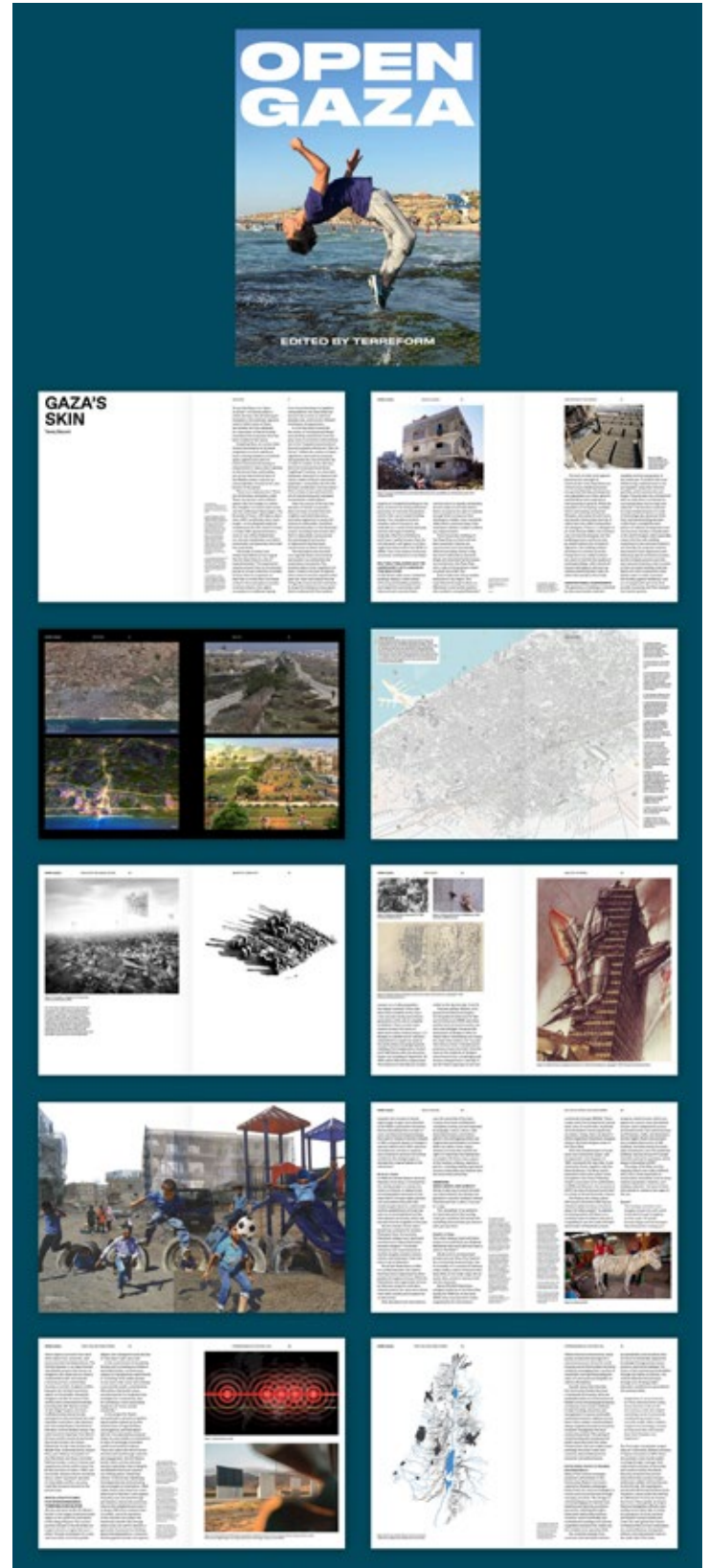
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **OPEN GAZA**

Edited By Terreform

Published by Urban Research

The Gaza Strip is one of the most beleaguered environments on earth. Crammed into a space of 139 square miles (360 square kilometers), 1.8 million people live under an Israeli siege, enforcing conditions that continue to plummet to ever more unimaginable depths of degradation and despair. Gaza, however, is more than an endless encyclopedia of depressing statistics. It is also a place of fortitude, resistance, and imagination; a context in which inhabitants go to remarkable lengths to create the ordinary conditions of the everyday and to reject their exceptional status. Inspired by Gaza's inhabitants, this book builds on the positive capabilities of Gazans. It brings together designers, environmentalists, planners, activists, and scholars from Palestine and Israel, the US, the UK, India, and elsewhere to create hopeful interventions that imagine a better place for Gazans and Palestinians. *Open Gaza* engages the Gaza Strip within and beyond the logics of siege and warfare, it considers how life can be improved inside the limitations imposed by the Israeli blockade and outside the idiocy of violence and warfare.



Rather than rehearse the statistics and calamities that have marked the abundant coastal enclave for social death, *Open Gaza* provocatively shows how Gaza continues to be a source of life in its ingenuity, love, and possibilities. Simultaneously, it makes clear that current conditions in Gaza are not inevitable but have been constructed, reproduced, and justified by lawmakers indentured by a political present. From a journey through a network of tunnels, an alternative digital grid, agriculture zones, transportation routes that rehabilitate a fragmented Arab world, this collection of essays is a powerful retort to the tired discourse that has framed Gaza's future as a security question contingent upon demilitarization and containment. *Open Gaza* is an exciting invitation into new futures that Gaza and Palestine, more generally, offer for Palestinians and the world.

Noura Erakat, author of *Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine*

Twenty years ago, I was part of a group of architects, historians, and activists asked to think about Jerusalem as a single, undivided city. Led by Michael Sorkin, we toured the area and formed a community of practice still operating today in opposition to Israel's occupation. The results were collated in *The Next Jerusalem*, and some of its contributors reappear in this volume. In *Open Gaza*, they are joined by a new generation of practitioners and scholars, who continue this most vital investigation and struggle against the continued Gaza's continued imprisonment. Their work—both critical and visionary—forms a seed that might one day sprout and bloom when this cruelly dominated and repressed place is free to find its own future.

Eyal Weizman, Forensic Architecture

*Open Gaza* provides an essential contribution to the study of modern Palestine and the greater Mediterranean Basin. The collection succeeds in providing a balance between works that highlight the dismal, wanton destruction of Palestinian lives and those that are underpinned fundamentally by an optimistic, constructive vision of the future. At its heart is a commitment to transforming shared urban spaces into something that materially reflects the boundlessness of Palestinian spirits. The imaginative collection addresses many of the practical questions posed by urban planning. Yet most usefully, these essays cast Gaza as a constituent urban space, interactive with the sites and cities around it. This frame permits the reader to imagine a future that breaks from our present-day reality of "containers," siege, borders and tunnels.

Ahmed Moor, CEO of Liwwa, Inc.



## **OPEN GAZA**

Edited by Terreform

Preface by Sara Roy

Contributors

Salem Al Qudwa, Hadeel Assali, Tareq Baconi, Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman, M. Christine Boyer, Alberto Foyo and Postopia, Yara Sharif and Nasser Golzari, Denise Hoffman Brandt, Romi Khosla, Craig Konyk, Chris Mackey and Rafi Segal, Sara Roy, Royal College of Art, Mahdi Sabbagh and Meghan McAllister, Francesco Sebregondi, Deen Sharp, Fadi Shayya, Malkit Shoshan, Bint al-Sirhid, Pietro Stefanini, Michael Sorkin, Helga Tawil-Souri, Visualizing Palestine, Omar Yousef

Publication Date: December 2019

348 pages (ca), full color, softcover, 8" x 11", ISBN 978-1-947198-02-9, Printed in the United States