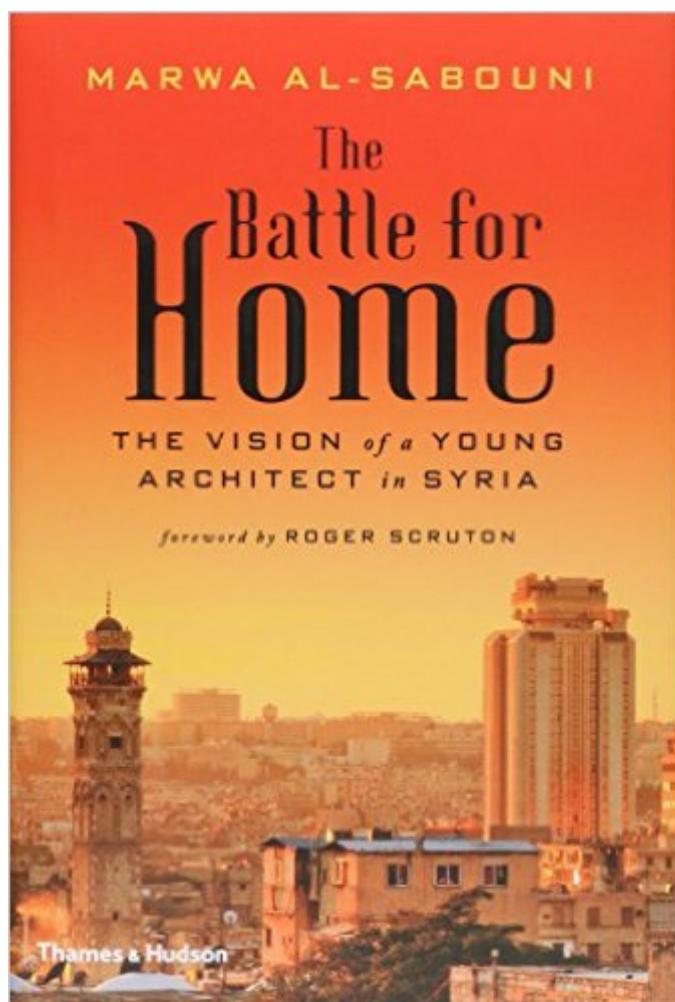


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# The Battle For Home: The Vision Of A Young Architect In Syria



## Synopsis

An architect's gripping account of living and working in war-torn Syria, and the role architecture plays in whether a community crumbles or comes together. Drawing on the author's personal experience of living and working as an architect in Syria, this timely and fascinating account offers an eyewitness perspective on the country's bitter conflict through the lens of architecture, showing how the built environment and its destruction hold up a mirror to the communities that inhabit it. From Syria's tolerant past, with churches and mosques built alongside one another in Old Homs and members of different religions living harmoniously together, the book chronicles the recent breakdown of social cohesion in Syria's cities. With the lack of shared public spaces intensifying divisions within the community, and corrupt officials interfering in town planning for their own gain, these actions are symptomatic of wider abuses of power. With firsthand accounts of mortar attacks and stories of refugees struggling to find a home, *The Battle for Home* is a compelling explanation of the personal impact of the conflict and offers hope for how architecture can play a role in rebuilding a sense of identity within a damaged society. 50 black-and-white line drawings

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

About 75 percent architectural analysis, 25 percent personal experience in Syria, and overall a great and very different angle on the situation in Syria. Excellent insight into how poor urban planning and entrenched corruption contributed to the scope of the conflict. I'm reasonably familiar with Syria from traveling there, but al-Sabouni's perspective as an architect is one I hadn't heard before. Very

grateful to read such an interesting book from a Syrian herself, rather than from a foreign reporter, as so much of the coverage is.

The author is an architect who express her views on her country, the war, the reconstruction of Syria in a very beautiful way. Through our sketches and drawings, you can witness how she see the damages down to cities and her optimism. It's a touching, interesting book. Was impressed by the honesty of her work. Great book.

Having lived in Damascus and loving the old cities, it was refreshing to hear a Syrian decry the hideous concrete block apartments that fill tiny streets with such ugliness. But her review of the architecture community does not give me much hope that Syria will be rebuilt with any beauty.

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