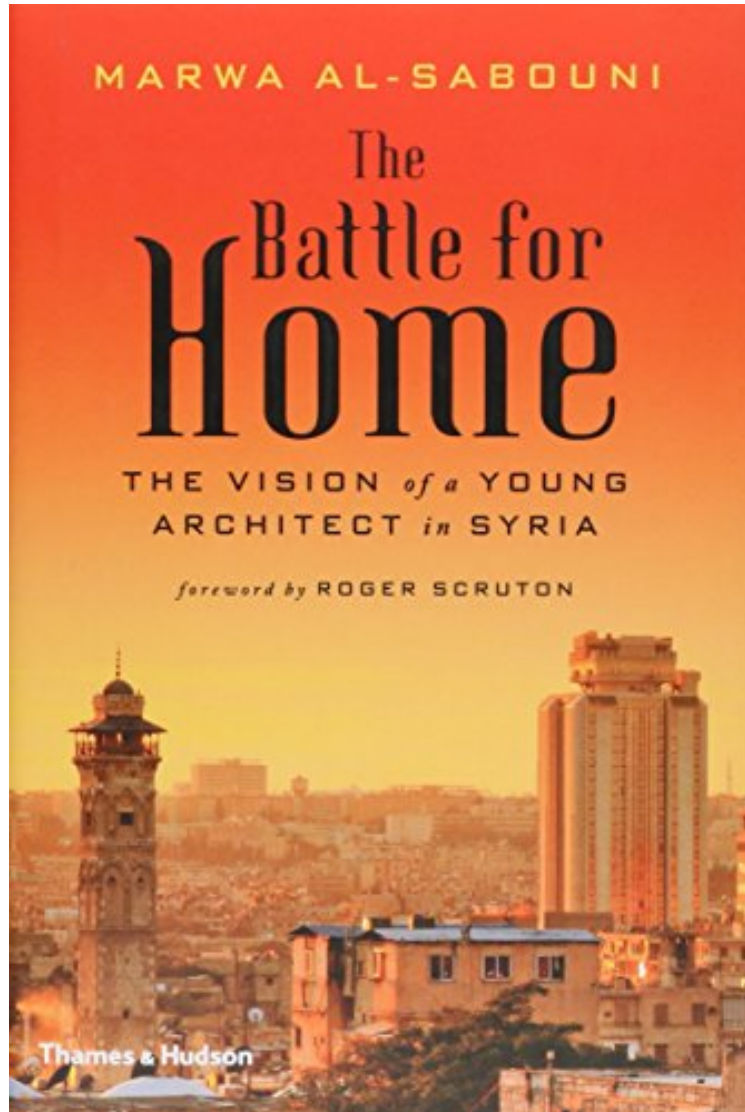


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The Battle for Home: The Vision of a Young Architect in Syria

Marwa al-Sabouni

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Marwa al-Sabouni : The Battle for Home: The Vision of a Young Architect in Syria before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Battle for Home: The Vision of a Young Architect in Syria:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Vital New Perspective on SyriaBy Owen HodgeHow many of us know of a city that we love, that makes us feel like we belong there, and where it means something unique and satisfying to say that you live there? Doesnt have to be a famous place or a tourist destination. It does have to be home. When that happens, people will identify as citizens of the city, rather than as members of a particular ethnicity,

national origin, or religion. This is how Marwa al-Sabouni experienced living in the Syrian city of Homs. This is what has been lost in the raging Syrian civil war. And this is what Marwa al-Sabouni would reclaim. She describes the horrific consequence of bombing and the terror of traveling across town through unpredictable checkpoints. She writes with beautiful persuasive power that the future of Homs depends on a vision of locally grounded urban planning that matches the needs of people rather than corrupt government bureaucrats, developers and landlords. Her passions are family, architecture, Homs, truth and courage. This is an important book from a number of perspectives. In this time of desperate brutal conflict she calmly insists that her skill as an architect is relevant. As far as I am concerned, Marwa al-Sabouni definitely makes the case. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Syria from the inside By brianna2949 Great read! We carry out our entire lives in architectural structures and naturally feel different in well-designed, beautiful and functional places .. but I had never really thought about this in depth before reading this book. I think the author has some really creative and progressive ideas about how architecture can influence social dynamics. There are of course so many factors behind the crisis in Syria, but her ideas are convincing. And beyond the actual topic of the book, just hearing a first hand account of someone living through all of this is reason enough to read the book. What I actually found most moving were her descriptions of the every day drudgery, frustrations, and limitations of living in such a corrupt and totalitarian state (long before the current crisis). Will make you think differently about immigrants and the freedoms we have. Highly recommend. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Architectural observations were good, but hard to see the possibilities with the ... By ELA Enlightening inside view of Syria. Architectural observations were good, but hard to see the possibilities with the current situation.

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

Absolutely compelling A singular perspective on the ongoing conflict in Syria [that] describes the destruction it has visited on the built environment and the high human toll Syrians have suffered, [and] also considers the more nuanced roles architecture and planning have played amid the chaos. (Starred) - Library Journal *The Battle for Home* is Sabouni's elegy to her devastated town, a memoir about survival, and a kind of manifesto, stressing the importance of architecture and urbanism for our understanding of the deeper roots of Syria's conflict and the seeds of civil war. Sabouni contends that Syria's built environment helped create the conditions for a popular uprising-turned-civil war. Her hope is that better, fairer urban development, policy, and architecture can aid eventual reconciliation. - Los Angeles of Books About the Author Marwa al-Sabouni has a PhD in Islamic architecture and runs a private architectural studio in Homs, Syria. She has written for *Architectural* and *Wall Street International*. She is co-owner of the first and only online media site dedicated to architectural news in Arabic, *Arch News*.