Samir Kassir Square
Beirut, Lebanon

Samir Kassir Square lies in the midst of Beirut’s Central Business District. It is bordered by buildings on three sides and by a street on the fourth. Despite its frenetic setting, it is a place of calm and peace. At its heart are two old ficus trees, large enough to shade most of the space. A reflecting pool with water cascading over its edges marks the border between the square and the street. The pool is flanked by a raised timber deck that encircles the trees and supports a long bench of solid stone. The western side of the square is a bermed area that accommodates the downward slope of the site. The berm has a ground cover of dwarf Natal plum (carissa macrocarpa), a water-conserving plant known for its dark evergreen leaves and its white star-shaped flowers and red berries that grow throughout the year.