

Middle East Design and Build Week Design Talks

Date: 12, 13, 14 September 2022

Time: 9 am – 6 pm

Venue: Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE. Hall numbers 3 & 4

Session 1 – 12 September 2022; 11:30 am

Keynote & Panel Discussion: The future of technology in Architecture – Delving into the future of design and construction

- What future technologies do you see becoming a staple in the future of design and construction?
- In the UAE, how have future technologies been used to develop new structures and equally conserve heritage sites?
- How has the development of virtual reality, augmented reality, etc affect the design process currently and how has the development of robotic fabrication, 3D printing, etc affected construction?
- What are the current challenges in the industry?

Programme

Time	Programme
11:30 am 15 minutes	<p>Keynote Dr Georges Kachaamy, Director of Centre for Research, Innovation and Design at American University in Dubai <i>Virtual Architecture: The Impact of Virtual Reality on Architectural Education and Profession</i> Abstract: <i>Technology has always impacted the method of architectural education, design, and profession. This presentation will cover the impact of virtual reality on the method of architectural design process and outcome in immersive virtual environments</i></p>
11:45 am 30 minutes	<p>Panel Discussion moderated by Azlina Bulmer, RIBA Director of International Dr Georges Kachaamy, Director of Centre for Research, Innovation and Design at American University in Dubai Mark Powell Kyffin, Head of Architecture for Abu Dhabi’s Department of Culture & Tourism Andrew Shaw, Managing Partner of AMA Design and current RIBA Gulf Chapter Chair Simone de Gale, CEO and Director of Simone de Gale Architects</p>
12:15 pm 15 minutes	Audience Q&A session
12:30 pm	Note of thanks by moderator
12:35 pm	Close

Speakers Bio & Profile Pics

Session 1 - The future of technology in Architecture – Delving into the future of design and construction

Dr Georges Kachaamy, Director of Centre for Research, Innovation and Design at American University in Dubai

Dr Georges Kachaamy is the Director of the Center for Research, Innovation, and Design (CRID) at the School of Architecture, Art, and Design, the American University in Dubai. He has served as the chairperson of the Department of Architecture under which the program has received the NAAB Accreditation. He is a professor of architecture, a registered architect, a certified VR Sketch trainer, a GRAVITY SKETCH Certified Instructor, an associate member of the American Institute of Architects, and an affiliated member of the UAE Society of Engineers. He was the recipient of the Japanese Government Monbukagakusho Scholarship and received his doctorate from the University of Tokyo in Japan.

As an academician, Dr Kachaamy's research interest relates to future and virtual environments, space planning, design, phenomenological theory in architecture, and evidence-based spatial experiments. He is mostly known for his vision towards futurist architecture that deals with Gravity Defiant Architecture (GDA) a.k.a. Airborne Architecture. He has more than 12 years of academic experience where he received the American University in Dubai President's award for teaching excellence, the President's Award for Institutional Effectiveness, the Provost's Award for Creativity in Design and the Visual Arts. In addition, he served on the board of the AIA Middle East Chapter as the Director of Continuing Education.

As a practicing architect, he has over 15 years of experience between Dubai, Tokyo, and Beirut. He worked on different national and international urban and architectural designs. His work spans from universal spaces for meditation to the urban conservation and design studies for cultural heritages and urban developments. His latest contribution was the design of the Executive MBA educational facility on AUD campus.

Moreover, Dr Kachaamy has won international prizes from renowned organizations such as the International Union of Architects, UIA (Union Internationale des Architectes) and for the past ten years he has published many articles and has been involved in architecture, art talks, and exhibitions. In 2018, 2019, and 2021 he was invited by the European Cultural Center to exhibit his architecture project "Rising Oases" and artwork "Unconscious" at the Palazzo Bembo and Mora in the context of the Venice Biennale. In addition, his work has featured on multiple media outlets such as CNN, MBC1, Skynews Arabia, SAMA Dubai, ArchDaily, The Magazine of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Middle East Architect, Compasses Magazine, MTV, and Future TV.



Mark Powell Kyffin, Head of Architecture for Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture & Tourism

Mark is a past Branch President and longstanding member of the Royal Institute of British Architects and a former member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservators.

He has studied and worked in the field of Architecture for over 23 years and has extensively worked on a number of complex and demanding projects in the Arts, Culture and Heritage Sectors.

For the past twelve years Mark has worked in The United Arab Emirates and gained an extensive knowledge of both Emirati Vernacular Architecture and the Modern Heritage of Abu Dhabi. This work has been mainly focused on the restoration, remodelling and refurbishment of Qasr Al Hosn (a building which is defined as Abu Dhabi's most significant heritage structure) The Cultural Foundation (a significant modern heritage landmark) the urbanisation of the heart of Downtown Abu Dhabi and other renowned Museum projects.

Mark's studies are encapsulated within his Architectural sketchbooks, which he was delighted to have exhibited in the UAE pavilion at the Venice Architectural Biennale in 2014.

Prior to joining The Department of Culture & Tourism Mark has worked for numerous international high profile Architectural Practices. He has been internationally recognised by his peers for the rehabilitation of Liverpool's oldest city centre cultural building which was conserved and extended as a contemporary arts centre.

The works which Mark has undertaken, have been recognised by UNESCO as being an exemplar approach to rehabilitating a World Heritage Site. He is delighted to have been recognised by his peers for these works which obtained a High Commendation in the 'Mies van der Rohe' award at the World Architecture Festival, in Barcelona 2008 and for the Qasr Al Hosn Musalla to be recognised as the best Religious building at the World Architecture Festival Awards in Amsterdam 2019.



Andrew Shaw, Managing Partner of AMA Design and current RIBA Gulf Chapter Chair

Andy Shaw RIBA is an architect and educator based in Dubai. He is the Managing Partner at AMA (www.ama.design). AMA is a boutique design studio, designers of the new landmark ‘Harbour Master’s Building’ in Dubai Harbour and three towers in Dubai Hills for Emaar.

He is the Chair of the RIBA Gulf Chapter, helping create multiple online events, the first Dubai Architecture Festival, and a regionally focused Sustainability Series.

He is also a Visiting Professor of Architecture at Heriot Watt University, Dubai, teaching a global multi-disciplinary climate change course.

Andy is passionate about how combining innovative technology and sustainable design can improve the built environment for all citizens, whilst addressing the emerging climate emergency.



Simone de Gale, CEO and director of Simone de Gale Architects

Simone is the CEO and director of Simone de Gale Architects, whose style is grounded in mathematical principles; each project an exploration of Rhythm, Pattern and Repetition tectonic, shaping innovative paths to advance architectural form throughout Central London and Internationally. Winner ‘Architect of the Year’ UK Women in Construction Awards, current RIBA Honorary Treasurer, CEO and named inventor of next-gen patented materials technology, developed with UK Ministry of Defence at TRL6 transforming material usage into sustainable construction systems.

Simone de Gale’s portfolio consists of super-prime residential, mixed-use schemes, luxury retail and commercial interiors in Central London and Internationally. The company is developing an international portfolio, with two masterplan projects underway in Tbilisi, Georgia. The company is expanding further with international projects; in Croatia, the Caribbean, as-well-as developing business opportunities in UAE, Czech Republic, Ukraine and Hong Kong.



Session 2 – 14 September; 11:30 am

Keynote & Panel Discussion: Towards sustainable architecture - design and construction methods, materials, and case studies from the region and beyond

- What are the many ways in which architecture can be sustainable? E.g., Materials used, re-adaptive architecture, construction processes, etc.
- What are the current construction patterns and how to shift focus toward green materials?
- What are the current challenges in the industry?
- Highlighting the panel’s regional and international projects that deal with sustainability in various ways

Programme

Time	Programme
11:30 am 15 minutes	Keynote Valeria Paseti , Founder and Managing Director of Conception Architects <i>Sustainability: A holistic Approach</i> Abstract: <i>This talk will look at how Architecture can contribute in the creation of a sustainable, inclusive and energy efficient future</i>
11:45 am 30 minutes	Panel Discussion moderated by Valeria Paseti Gary Dicken , Board member of BDP MENA LLC and Abu Dhabi studio leader Sandra Woodall FRIBA , Design Director at Tangram Gulf and current RIBA Gulf Chapter UAE Representative Debbie Flevotomou , CEO & Founder of DFA Dicky Lewis , Director White Red Architects
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Session 2 - Towards sustainable architecture - design and construction methods, materials and case studies from the region and beyond

Valeria Passetti, Founder and Managing Director of Conception Architects

Valeria Passetti is a Fellow of the RIBA and a Specialist Conservation Architect. Valeria is the Founder and Managing Director of Conception Architects, an award winning multi-disciplinary studio in Nottingham (UK).

An expert in sustainable conservation, she is a vocal advocate for the retrofitting and adaptative reuse of existing buildings in the fight against Climate Change. Her innovative design and research have won her many accolades in the UK and internationally.

Valeria was the RIBA Vice President Membership and a member of the RIBA Council and Board of Trustees 2017-2021.

She has been a member of the Board of Trustees of ICOMOS-UK since 2020

In 2006 she was appointed Honorary Consul of Italy in the UK, a position she still retains.



Gary Dicken, Board member of BDP MENA LLC and Abu Dhabi studio leader

Gary is an architect director, board member of BDP MENA LLC and Abu Dhabi studio leader.

His career with the firm spans over 30 years working on projects across many of BDP’s core sectors including Education, Culture, Workplace and Science and Technology.

His work is characterised by a careful analysis of context and an innate attention to detail from initial concept through to handover. Promoting a strong dialogue between client, design team, contractors and end users has always been fundamental to his approach.

Along with hands-on project leadership, he is responsible for developing the firm’s interests and project portfolio across the Middle East and North Africa region. Recent projects include the new Heriot-Watt University Dubai campus, 42 Abu Dhabi – the first international coding school of its kind in the GCC located in Abu Dhabi’s MIZA Creative District and the restoration and adaptive re-use of Qasr Al Hosn, Abu Dhabi’s former Royal Palace and seat of government and its oldest and most culturally significant building.



Sandra Woodall, FRIBA, Design Director at Tangram Gulf and current RIBA Gulf Chapter UAE Representative

Sandra is a passionate environmentalist, architect, urbanist, and researcher, who has lived and worked in the UAE for over 25 years. She is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Royal Society of Arts, and the Academy of Urbanism.

She is an award-winning designer who leads tangrams’ MENA region studio who were recognised as the “2019 MENA Architecture Firm of the Year” by the Middle East Economic Digest and who have received international accolades including six sustainable design awards for five different projects in four years.

She is the RIBA Regional Ambassador for Sustainability, promoting and developing UK education, design, and management skills, and is the UAE country representative on the RIBA Gulf Chapter Committee.

Sandra founded, curates and presents the Chapters’ ongoing “Sustainable Development Series” to share awareness, knowledge, skills, tools and best practice with built environment professionals across the GCC and to showcase projects, methods, procedures and strategies to empower and equip us all to meet the challenges faced in delivering the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals



Debbie Flevotomou, CEO & Founder of DFA

Debbie is a multi-award-winning architect, celebrated speaker and artist, founder of DFA.

Debbie's passion for nature-centric architecture drove her to leave a successful, promising career at Foster+Partners and start her own practice to change the world stage of architecture. Her mission became to inspire nature and people-centric design that brings people close to nature and improves their whole well-being. This drove her to start the THINK NATURE movement.

Starting from a single-architect company, Debbie quickly broke through into international business - a Greek female architect succeeding in the Middle East and North Africa. Of particular interest is Debbie's success in Africa, where she won 5 large-scale projects in Libya, with her boundary-pushing, bold, authentic designs.

Debbie has been recognised with 68 international awards and her work has featured in The Times, BBC, London Evening Standard, London & New York Build. She has lent her expertise to many projects and has judged an art competition on the BBC.

Debbie's latest awards include:

- Women in Architecture Award for Best Female Architect of the Year 2022
- Business Elite's 40 Under 40, 2020
- Most Influential Women in Architecture 2019
- Most Innovative Architect of the Year 2018

Debbie has also chaired RIBA-SLSA for 6 consecutive years and then was elected RIBA councillor for a further 3 consecutive years.



Dicky Lewis, Director White Red Architects

Dicky co-founded White Red Architects in 2014, unifying the large-scale project experience of his fellow directors into an energetic practice engaging in exciting projects in the UK and internationally.

He began his career at Foster + Partners in London, working on a variety of projects from conception of designs, such as the competition win of 425 Park Avenue Office Tower in New York, McLaren Production Centre through to delivery, and the technical design stage of Tocumen Airport in Panama.

