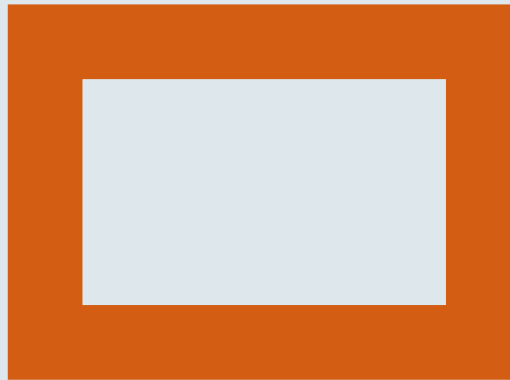


MARCH 2019 Newsletter

RIBA 

Gulf





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The committee was elected to serve and would love to hear what you have to say or what you would like it to address. Contact them on our social media platforms:



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CHAIR'S NOTE



Dear Members,

I hope you have had a successful end to 2018 and a promising start to 2019.

Headlining this newsletter issue, is the coverage of the Honorary Fellowship which was awarded to HH Ruler of Sharjah in a ceremony in London in early February. The Chapter is extremely thrilled of this recognition. It comes at a timely moment as Sharjah launches the Sharjah Architectural Triennale in November 2019.

Following the visit of RIBA President Ben Derbyshire in October last year to Dubai and Kuwait, and further to several meetings and discussions with the International Regions' team, the fruits of which are culminating in several changes currently being made by RIBA in order to serve its international members better. You would have already received notices of our regional events and news from an email id: international.regions@riba.org. (I would encourage you to add it to your mail contact list

and look out for updates on past and future events).

You may have noticed that RIBA International Regions have launched a new series of CPD talks entitled "Architects Breakfast Series" last month for the Gulf region. The first held at D3 in February was on the subject of Fire Strategy and Building Assurance for Architects. Look out for similar upcoming CPDs in this series coming up throughout the year.

It was good to see so many of you during the reception held at the British Consulate in Dubai during Cityscape as was organized by The Department of International Trade (DIT) in partnership with RIBA. DIT are holding a similar Networking Reception on the 18th March and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

The subject of our One on One interview for this issue is Mouaz Abouzaid. He is one of the first architects who took the Part III course and exam in the UAE when it was initially launched in 2015. We hope that his success

and accomplishment since will inspire others to follow his lead.

Our Projects' feature in this issue highlight a number of developments that are in the making across Gulf cities. These represent a diverse array of projects, from a mixed-use development in Bahrain, to a Sports Stadium in Kuwait to an Archaeological Museum in Al Ain.

We are very grateful to our sponsors Technal, Mapei and Dyson for their continued support. As you will see in this issue, both Technal and Dyson have organized a number of engaging CPD events across the region.

Stay connected and follow our social media platforms to keep up to date with events and news. We welcome your feedback, suggestions and contribution to the chapter. These are vital for our continued growth and success.

Warm regards

Sumaya Dabbagh

Chair, RIBA Gulf Chapter

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PROJECTS: MARASSI AL BAHRAIN – BAHRAIN



Marassi Al Bahrain is a unique waterfront commercial & residential mega project situated within the master planned community of Diyar Al Muharraq - Bahrain's largest private urban project.

Eagle Hills has appointed Pace to provide a full range of design and construction supervision services for the development which spans over a plot of 875,000sqm and is set to become one of the Kingdom's major shopping, family entertainment and dining destinations.

Located near to major highways and in close proximity to the central business district, upon completion the development will house approximately 22,000 residents within 5,600 high-end residential units. Pace inherited the architectural design from a previous internal consultant and was challenged to enhance and optimise the design according to the client's requirements, comments and guidance to gain quick approval and move speedily to construction documentation.



In a challenging environment, Pace had to display significant technical ingenuity and prowess to come up with a design and finishing solution that provides the look and feel of a luxury grand mall, but at costs 70% of similar projects in the region. Marassi Al Bahrain will also feature a high-end shopping mall 'Marassi Galleria' with 200,000sqm of gross floor area attracting world leading brands, many for the first time in Bahrain. The adjacent waterfront promenade will house a range of high-end food & beverage units, as well as two world-class waterfront hotels.

PROJECTS:

JAHRA MEDICAL CITY – KUWAIT



As part of Kuwait's ongoing plans to upgrade national health care and raise the capacity of hospitals by 60%, the Jahra Medical City project opened in July 2018 as one of the largest healthcare development projects in the Middle East.

The project was developed by Amiri Diwan, in collaboration with Pace | Architecture, Engineering + Planning – one of the leading multidisciplinary consultants in the region, commencing construction in March 2015 and fast-tracked to completion in a staggering 3 years.

The layout of the new internationally standardized medical complex comprises of eight separate buildings, most prominent is the main hospital building with a total built-up area of 440,000sqm and rising to 15 storeys. The architectural design process started with a concept based on the introduction of nature to the internal environment. The purpose of this is to create harmony within the facilities, as a means of contributing to the treatment and healing of patients. Green areas and interior spaces play an active part in strengthening this direction of design, creating an atmosphere full of life in numerous spaces.

The project is valued at 365 million Kuwaiti Dinars (\$ 1.18 billion USD) and includes a fully equipped 1234 bed hospital, a fully equipped dental facility with 115 treatment rooms and a regional health administration building. Furthermore, the hospital will feature a women's centre; trauma centre; 32 operating suites including 2 hybrid operating rooms, a hybrid CT operating suite, and a hybrid MRI operating suite. The outpatient facilities have 22 departments with 135 clinics with state of the art equipment which includes a 10 seat hyperbaric chamber, the only one in Kuwait.

Pace CEO Tarek Shuaib stated: "The art and design of the façades reflect the innovative and climate design expertise of Pace of using sunlight breakers as shading to control Kuwait's direct harsh sunlight. Pace's approach will manage and balance the exact amount of natural light required inside the building. This will create clear vision to pathways and internal movement circulation to provide a healthy internal atmosphere, especially when accommodating a large number of visitors in a hospital of this size."



PROJECTS: SABAH AL SALEM STADIUM - KUWAIT

Al Arabi Sports Club was founded in 1960 and is the first official sports club to be established in Kuwait.

In 2017 with growing activity, profile and scope at the club, The Public Authority for Youth and Sports commissioned Pace | Architecture, Engineering + Planning to redesign of the club's centrepiece stadium as part of an ambitious plan to almost double its capacity to 30,000 seats and expand the facilities of the club to increase its ability to embrace other sports.

The client's objectives were clear, to create a world-class and multi-functional stadium that embraces more than just one sport, while reflecting their own ambition to raise the profile and practice of football excellence in the country. One of the key criteria was to design a stadium that doubles the seating capacity of the existing stadium while preserving the same footprint area requirements. This will involve demolishing the existing stadium and replacing it with a new stadium as per FIFA and UEFA standards in an approximate area of 99,000sqm.

This situation guided the project's first design intentions on to how address these constraints into the design and to reflect a very much needed rational and concise initial design approach to the project – the bowl concept. The need for efficiency influenced not only the bowl design,

which needed to be as tight and constrained as possible, but also the design intent of the building, in order to reflect on the outside the compact nature of a bowl itself. A more solid form was thus pursued; something that would stand out as only one element, shaped according to the requirements. As the plot is located in a very urban and residential area, with buildings of maximum three storeys high and set in the club premises, adjacent to other facilities of the club.

So a more human, street, or club related scale is intended with the design. To achieve this, the ground floor is pushed inwards, expanding the street level and creating an open arcade that you can walk underneath, with retail, access to club facilities and access to the tiers.

A white continuous block makes the wall and roof look like one element. This element wraps around the tiers as tightly as possible and incorporates the symbol of the club. Wheat leaves on the logo were chosen as the symbol for the new era in the life of the club as they mean growth and prosperity.

The design of the project has been highly commended at the AIA Middle East 2018 Design Awards and recently commended at the AR Future Project Awards 2019.



PROJECTS:

AL AIN MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY, AL AIN, UAE



Client's Vision

The new development is set to showcase the region's rich heritage while allowing the visitor to experience the Al Ain Museum as a continuation of the vision of the Late Sheikh Zayed. It will be a center of collection, research, conservation and interpretation of the archaeological wealth of Abu Dhabi and the UAE.

Understanding Context

Nestled next to the 7000 years old Al Ain Oasis, The Al Ain Museum site contains two main historically significant structures: Firstly, the mud-brick building of Sultan Fort built in 1910 by the son of Sheikh Zayed the First, Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed. It is one of the most important historic buildings in the region, associated with the increased influence of the ruling Al Nahyan family in Al Ain from the end of the nineteenth century. Secondly, The Al Ain National Museum, the first museum in the UAE, which was built as part of the vision of the late HH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in 1971 to showcase the history of Al Ain from the Stone Age through to the foundation of the UAE. It is also one of the few remaining witnesses of the Modern era in Al Ain city.



Over the past 40 years several smaller structures were added on the site to house the increased demand for spaces for offices and storage facilities. These additions have produced an unintended barrier between the Al Ain Oasis and the other elements on the site.

The Al Ain Museum proposal by Dabbagh Architects recognizes the literal and symbolic significance of the Oasis as a source of life and prosperity for Al Ain, and seeks to re-establish its connection with the Sultan Fort and the Existing Museum. It also undertakes to create a new addition that will respect and enhance this rich setting.

Design Approach

The Sultan Fort and existing Museum buildings are tangible cultural landmarks of different eras. Together they form a system, preserving the local cultural identity and raising awareness of the history and heritage of the UAE.

Therefore, the new building presented an opportunity to add to this rich heritage. Its role is not only functional as a museum addition, but equally importantly, it forms part of the greater system, contributing to the narration of a story that conveys the cultural context of the past, present and a vision for the future.

Design Proposal

At the end of the nineteenth century, the fabric of the area adjacent to the newly built Sultan Fort was made up of dispersed, low density, single story mud-brick dwellings surrounded by courtyards. This area used to be referred to as "Harat Al Hosn": meaning; Fort neighborhood. The proposed design aims to bring back the human scale of the historic fabric of "Harat Al Hosn". By incorporating the originality of this early form with a modern adaptation, the new design is comprised of a series of small closely-knit buildings distributed across the ground floor. The majority of the museum's facilities are located underground allowing for a minimal impact to the surrounding sensitive historical context as well as a visual connection to the Oasis.

Located on the ground level are public facilities such as the Café, Museum shop, and Entry lobbies leading to the various elements of the museum below ground. Some of the unique volumes incorporate canopy structures, which serve to create shaded outdoor spaces.

A series of sunken courtyards carved into the New Museum Plaza create a strong connection to the main museum program below. In addition to providing a visual connection to the exterior, these voids allow natural diffused sunlight to enter the breakout lobbies and galleries on the lower level.

The lower level houses various exhibition spaces, a library, conservation labs and workshop areas, as well as administrative offices. The basement floor below contains back-of-house areas that require controlled light and temperature environment such as conservation storage together with MEP services plant facilities.

The carefully designed landscape uses a similar material palette as the built volumes to establish a connection between the existing site, the Oasis and the new museum. The Omani stone paving and terraces create a seamless flow between the main elements on the site while offering visitors a strong visual connection to each of the historic buildings as well as to the Al Ain Oasis.

Sustainability

The project aims to achieve a 2 Pearl Estidama rating by incorporating sustainable strategies, which include the use of locally sourced materials, energy and water conservation, as well as provision of comfortable indoor and outdoor environments. As a conservation project, it has a unique value within the region. Restoration of the Sultan Fort and the Existing '71 museum building will be a significant part of the works.

Project Status

Dabbagh Architects was selected from 16 international design firms as the winner of the Al Ain Museum Design Competition in October 2017. With the Design phase recently completed, the Construction is scheduled to start in Q3 2019 and be completed by Q4 2020.



The Team

Dabbagh Architects is the Lead Consultant for the Al Ain Museum project.

It leads the design in collaboration with the following parties:

The Client

Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Lead Consultant

Dabbagh Architects, Dubai, UAE.

Sub-consultants

Myrto Tsitsinaki, Conservation Architect /Engineer

BuroHappold Engineering, Building Engineering

GHD Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering

Duffy Chartered Engineers, Traffic Engineering

WSP, Safety & Security Engineering

WAHO, Landscaping

Nulty, Lighting Design

Limah, Signage and Wayfinding

Shankland Cox, Architect of Record

Matthews Southwest, Cost Consultancy

Dabbagh Architects

Dabbagh Architects is an award-winning boutique architectural design practice, recognized regionally for its contemporary design and quality-driven service. Having experience in various sectors, the studio's primary passion is to create culturally relevant architecture in the region.



ONE ON ONE: MOUAZ ABOUZAIID



Mouaz Abouzaid is an Award-Winning architect and an educator. With laser focus on simple, functional, contextual yet aesthetical design that accentuates his architecture designs

Abouzaid is, however, a BIM & Design Technology Manager. He is a proud winner of the MEAA Young Architect of the Year Awards of 2016. He also has the distinction of being nominated for the Architect of the year in 2018. This year, Abouzaid was appointed as curator for the Egyptian National Pavilion La Biennale di Venezia. His array of achievements goes on, and he won the WAFx Ethics and Value for Sheltainer Project and Highly commended for Middle East Architect Awards Concept design of the year. Moreover, Abozaiad has retained his position in the top 50 most influential Architects in the Middle East for 3 consecutive years.

For over 15 years, Abouzaid has been working at the top international firms in the Middle East. Equipped with such a tremendous working experience, Abouzaid is endowed with the perfection of exceptional specialist design and knows all the major and minor details of technical advancements. The horizon of his expertise covers multiple market sectors such as residential, commercial, cultural, hospitality and mixed-use.

Additionally, his varied work experience has given him the ability to understand each project thoroughly. He is always ready to accept the challenges and is accustomed to master the complexity of each project. With a remarkable ability to manage multiple projects at once, implementing new standards and technology to accelerate project timelines, Abouzaid strives to create designs that simplify and enhance people's interactions with the built environment. This unique expertise allows him to find the optimal design solutions to meet the client's customized objectives.

Q1: What drives you in your work?

Passion, commitment and thinking out of the box and the most important is to extract the finest results. I become excited when I have a concrete goal to meet, and enough time to figure out a robust strategy for accomplishment. I always keep on looking around the corners to exploit the new opportunities and accept the challenges to polish my skills.

Q2: How would you label your design approach?

simple, functional, contextual yet aesthetical design that accentuates my architecture designs.

Q3: Who are your Architectural heroes?

I want to say something essential before talking about the most respected personalities in the arena of architecture. It's easy to forget that the fundamental purpose of architecture is to provide shelter. For a significant sector of the world's population, it is a struggle against natural disasters, poverty, revolutions, and war. Some architects prioritize creating designs that will be marveled by many; others are passionate about finding solutions which can cater the basic needs in humanitarian architecture.

Therefore, I genuinely respect Hassan Fathi, Shigeru Ban, Aljandro Aravena, and Doshi. Three of them are the Pritzker winners for 2014, 2016 and 2017. Additionally, I admire the minimalist approach and always respect Mies van dero projects and love Rem Koolhaas approach and his way of thinking. To define Koolhaas, you have to move to his realm and enter the world of images, models, processes, and ideas.

Q4: What makes a project most rewarding for you?

I would divide this into 2 phases - the first phase in the conceptual stage, especially in competition entries. It is always pleasant when our designs get recognition. It motivates us to keep our spirit up and push the boundaries to move forward and meet the dynamics of perfection. While the other phase starts when we replicate the vision of our project project into reality. Then, I capture the user's experience and see smiles on their faces. At that time, I feel like I have attained the ultimate success in my mission.

Q5: What is your most significant achievement to date?

I try to setup several goals every year and always strive to achieve them. Starting from 2016, winning the Middle East Young Architect Award was the greatest achievements. This year winning the WAFx Ethics and Value in the World Architecture Festival is a great award which means a lot for me and all the team. The award title is self-explanatory, - "the project aim is to find solution for a painful reality that goes beyond the problems of the random living situation of a poor man". We choose to provide new hope for the people living amongst the dead in Cairo and focus on Egyptian life at cemeteries – where Life and Death are sides by side. The cemetery housing phenomenon in Egypt is just one manifestation of the larger problem in Egypt. We found that it is our professional and moral duty to spare part of our time and invest efforts to come up with the workable solutions.

Another achievement is that I was one of the curatorial team for the Egyptian national pavilion in Venice Biennale "Robabecchia" the informal city.



Sheltainer



Q6: Where do you see yourself in 5 years? What do you wish for in the future?

In five years, I see myself advancing with the team, developing and creating new opportunities where the organization can grow. I have been with Dewan for the last three years and a half leading the BIM department with a focus in Design and Technology.

I enjoy teaching and sharing knowledge; watching people succeed at what they do truly motivates me. Building great teams give a driving push to my passion. The reason behind this push is the universal rule which explains that when smart and creatives come together, they exercise a heroic efficiency to accomplish the exceptional and difficult projects. Parallel to design & technology, I'm looking forward to providing more solutions, designs and new hope for those people who are suffering worldwide and are deprived of shelters or housing facilities.



Robabecchia - The Egyptian National Pavilion

NEWS: HH RULER OF SHARJAH RECEIVES HONORARY FELLOWSHIP FROM RIBA

On 12th February, 2019, Ben Derbyshire, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, awarded Honorary Fellowship of the RIBA to His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah, in a formal ceremony at its headquarters in Portland Place, London.

RIBA Honorary Fellowships reward the contributions people have made to architecture in its broadest sense, its promotion, administration and outreach. In their different ways they have helped to improve the quality of design and influence the delivery of the built environment in a sustainable and creative way.

The RIBA citation stated that since becoming Ruler of Sharjah, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi as patron of the arts and architecture, has stamped and shaped Sharjah with its own individual architectural character. Through his own passion for creative design and Islamic architecture, and personally working closely with architects, he has commissioned a strong and distinctive body of work based on his strong advocacy for preserving cultural heritage and traditional vernacular architecture to an extent unparalleled in other Gulf cities. As a result, Sharjah has maintained a powerful cultural identity within the region.

The Ruler replied by thanking the RIBA for bestowing this honour upon him, as well as those who nominated him.



EVENTS: RIBA AT CITYSCAPE GLOBAL DUBAI, UAE

RIBA activity concentrated on working with DIT Creative Industries at a Mini-Industry Briefing Session Gulf region attended by DIT regional team. RIBA was one of the contributors. Marcus Deeley led the architecture session introducing Chris Williamson from Weston Williamson and Harry Dobbs from Harry Dobbs Design we provided an overview of the sector and discussed the differing needs of large and small practices. The key value of the session was the ability to build relationships with DIT teams across the region. Participants agreed this was a genuinely useful event and keen to see similar events in future years.

This was followed by the RIBA presence at the Cityscape Global Conference at InterContinental, Dubai Festival City. Presentations on architecture and design was made and RIBA president Ben Derbyshire gave keynote speech in afternoon Architecture section of the conference. Panel contributions include Chris Williamson, Dale Sinclair, Jonathan Ashmore and Adrian Dobson.

The evening was followed by the RIBA and DIT networking reception at the British Embassy hosted by his excellency Andrew Jackson HM Consul General and Benjamin Derbyshire, President, RIBA. The evening was well attended with over 180 participants. It presented an opportunity to engage with companies locally and discuss Expo 2020 Suppliers Forum planned for 5 November in London.



EVENTS:

AGA KHAN AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION ECOHAUS AT THE GERMAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MUSCAT, OMAN

Inspiration is a spark that unexpectedly connects two thoughts. However, inspiration cannot be forced, but it can be supported by exposing the mind to as many impressions and situations from as many different disciplines and backgrounds as possible.

In November, the event “Inspiring Spaces. Young Architect’s Forum 2019” was held for the second time by Alargan Towell and the German University of Technology in Oman. After previously presenting the “RIBA Presidents Medals Student Award” projects, that is considered to be the most prestigious award in architectural education in the world, this event was modelled around an exhibition of the “Aga Khan Award for Architecture” projects, that are seen as the works with the highest impact in the Islamic world. The projects, for example, a small library for children in Kosovo, a pedestrian bridge as a social space in Iran, a mosque in Bangladesh or a public square in an immigrant’s neighbourhood Denmark, were shown in the EcoHaus, a pioneering zero energy building on the university’s campus.

In addition to the exhibition a one-day event was organized by Prof. Nikolaus Knebel to bring together young architects and initiators of local urban projects as well as members from the municipality, ministries and research institutions. The main guest was Prof. Eike Roswag-Klinge, himself an Aga Khan Award winner, who presented his works and thoughts on “Building with Natural Materials”. The 40 guests from different ends of the industry’s spectrum engaged in fruitful discussions about big pictures and small initiatives. “We hope to see an Omani architect winning the Aga Khan Award soon.”, said Abeer Al Balushi, from AlarganTowell and co-initiator of the event. “It was simply wonderful. We left inspired and filled with hope. Two things that we are very grateful for.”, said Nadia Maqbool, co-founder of 23°North.



EVENTS:

RIBA CHARTERED PRACTICES TRADE MISSION, RIYADH & JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

The Trade Mission to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the United Arab Emirates included some of the UK's leading architectural and creative design companies keen to investigate business opportunities in the Gulf region. KSA is developing exciting plans and a real commitment to deliver Vision 2030 (creating a Vibrant society, a Thriving economy and an Ambitious nation). The UAE has developed into a world-class leisure and entertainment destination with Expo 2020 Dubai providing the catalyst for much of what is currently happening, which when completed should cement the UAE's position as a top tourist destination.

The mission, a joint-collaboration between DIT and RIBA identified companies for this visit which offered innovative services, products and ideas that are well suited to doing business in these markets. The group was a valuable mix of architects and other design orientated consultancies all architects (except ZHA and LMK – Hong Kong) where Chartered Practices. They each represented essential British business values of creativity, leadership, sensitivity and high-quality delivery to meet the challenges involved in transforming the built environments of KSA and the UAE. The delegation participated in a series of bilateral networking opportunities throughout the visit with key government agencies, developers and interested local and regional companies to explore how they could forge stronger business ties through discussions focused on current and planned projects, business opportunities and areas for future collaboration. Some of the delegates also attended the Cityscape conference and exhibition in Dubai. RIBA DIT group comprised some 11 companies. Dubai:

The visit to Dubai was relatively low key for the mission delegates. RIBA activity concentrated on working with DIT Creative Industries at a Mini-Industry Briefing Session Gulf region attended by DIT regional team. RIBA was one of the contributors. Marcus Deeley led the architecture session introducing Chris Williamson from Weston Williamson and Harry Dobbs from Harry Dobbs Design we provided an overview of the sector and discussed the differing needs of large and small practices. The key value of the session was the ability to build relationships with DIT teams across the region. Participants agreed this was a genuinely useful event and keen to see similar events in future years.

This was followed by the RIBA presence at the Cityscape Global Conference Address: InterContinental, Dubai Festival City presentations

on architecture and design. Ben Derbyshire gave keynote speech in afternoon Architecture section of the conference.

Panel contributions from

- Chris Williamson
- Dale Sinclair
- Jonathan Ashmore
- Adrian Dobson.

The keynote went down well. It is clear that having the RIBA president attend and speak gave the session greater gravitas. The panel discussions were ok. The subject matter was a little random and could have benefited from a clearer thematic approach. The RIBA participants gave a good account of themselves and stood out in terms of their knowledge, expertise and professionalism. One session became something of a beauty parade with individuals promoting their work as opposed to discussing the topic.

Followed by the RIBA and DIT networking reception at the British Embassy hosted by Andrew Jackson HM Consul General and Benjamin Derbyshire, President, RIBA.

Companies attending included; 10 Design, Action Impact, AECOM, Al Laith Group (ES Global), ARADA, Atkins, Azaz Architects, Barker Langham, BDP, Benoy, Chartwell, Digital Projections, DWTC, Dyson, Eight Inc, Engage Works, Fosters & Partners, Graphic History Co, Haley Sharpe Design, Harry Dobbs, Hopkins, Imagination, ISG, JLL, KBW, Keith Williams, Killa, Laing O'Rourke, Light Alliance, LMK Architects, McLaren Group, Myriad Global Media, Nulty+, Pico, Place Dynamix, Populous, Showforce, Spiralight, Sysco Productions, TAIT Stage, Tricon, What3Words, White Light, WOW, Zaha Hadid, Expo 2020

- Well attended (180) networking event; opportunity to engage with companies locally and discuss Expo 2020 Suppliers Forum planned for 5 November in London.

The trade mission effectively concluded once the Cityscape exhibition began. Mission delegates were given freedom to explore the exhibition and follow up their own meetings.

Marcus Deeley
21/2/19



EVENTS: PRESIDENT'S MEDALS AWARDS EXHIBITION IN AUS, UAE

The President's Medals is about rewarding talent, promoting innovation, and encouraging excellence in architectural educations. In 2018 we saw a number of universities across the Gulf has been a continued strong support of the President's Silver and Bronze Medals Awards exhibition. The final exhibition of 2017 President's Awards was held at The American University of Sharjah, at the Architectural engineering department on 13-15th November.

Every year, judging panels comprising distinguished architects, designers, engineers, journalists, and artists select the winners of the RIBA Bronze, Silver, and Dissertation Medals from entries submitted by schools of architecture worldwide.

The winners receive their awards from the RIBA President at a ceremony at the RIBA in London in early December of each year. Over the last few years, this showcase of talented student work has been exhibited in countries such as Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, France, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Kuwait, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

The RIBA Gulf would like to thank all our hosting partners and universities for their effort in showcasing the RIBA President's Medals awards exhibition.



BOOKS:

“TEN PROJECTS ON EDUCATING ARCHITECTS IN OMAN”

To highlight the successful development of the German University of Technology in Oman (GUtech) over the past decade, Prof. Nikolaus Knebel, one of the founding staff of the Department of Urban Planning and Architectural Design (UPAD), published a book to summarize his approach to educating architects and urban planners in Oman.

“In Oman, the realm for professional architects and urban planners is still in the making. Thus, educating the next generation of designers cannot go along the same paths as elsewhere.” said Knebel. “My approach is to strengthen what is usually not so much in the focus of an undergraduate programme, namely the edges of the real and the theoretical.”

Through getting students away from their desks and exposing them to primary experiences that are relevant for future architects and urban planners, such as working with real materials and real sites, real tasks and real clients, they get prepared for the world outside university. For example, following the EcoHaus project Prof. Knebel set up a building yard on campus where students can learn building with mud bricks, timber and other natural building materials. But he also involved students in designing a prototype for social housing based on interviews with the future users of these buildings. Prof. Knebel also emphasizes the studying

the of theories of architecture and the city. “Nothing is as practical as a good theory”, he said. “Fashions come and go, but when you are equipped with basic values you can last longer than one wave in design.” Thus students travel on excursions to see the region’s latest architecture in Oman, UAE or Qatar equipped with long texts to read and discuss. And they also learn to reflect on their own process of designing by understanding the theories behind it.

The book presents ten selected study projects from Knebel’s almost ten years of teaching at GUtech, each characterized by a verb that stands for the student’s main activity: find, plan, try, make, engage, build, explore, sense, reflect, envision. The book is available at the university and will be presented at the upcoming Muscat Book Fair.

Nikolaus Knebel: Ten Projects on Educating Architects in Oman. 68 pages. 2018. ISBN: 978-3-9820057-0-6

Prof Nikolaus Knebel



CPD: FACADE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING CPD EVENT BY TECHNAL, JEDDAH. KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Technal Middle East presented the Zak World of Façades, an International conference series on the subject of façade design & engineering. The conference now takes place in Asia (Singapore, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines and Hong Kong), Middle East (United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait), Africa (Kenya, Morocco and South Africa), Europe (United Kingdom and France), Australasia (Australia and New Zealand) and the United States of America. Now in its 54th edition globally and 11th edition in the GCC and the 1st edition in Jeddah. The conference discussed the latest innovations and challenges in the construction industry pertaining to the building envelope and showcased the latest technological solutions. RIBA – Jeddah Chapter was an associate partner for the event and was graced by the presence of Ms Amy Lam, RIBA Gulf Jeddah Chapter Head, and she participated as a key panelist on the special panel discussion: Innovations in Façade Construction for Modern Architecture. The panel discussion took on key topics such as:

- Digital influence on façade construction
- State-of-the-art trends in contemporary façade designs & aesthetics for Jeddah projects
- Culminating complexity of design with safety and sustainability features of the façade
- Latest materials on the block being used for contemporary façade designs



CPD: FACADE 3D BIM MODELLING BY TECHNAL, DOHA, QATAR

Technal in collaboration with RIBA hosted a Dinner event at the Marriot Marquis City Center Hotel in Doha on 21st Nov 2018. The event was well attended by the design and architecture community in Qatar with upto 75 professionals in attendance at the event. The presentation by RIBA covered aspects of the initiatives that RIBA undertakes within the Gulf Chapter and how RIBA promotes that cause of architecture globally. Technal's presentation covered highlights of the product's software portfolio that serves as an easy tool for design firms on their projects.

TECHNAL FACADE SOFTWARE PORTFOLIO

Seamless services for architects to study facade thermal performance, structural verifications and acoustic performances.

INTRODUCTION TO TECH 3D, TECHNAL BIM MODELING SOFTWARE

The presentation included a brief software demo on how to seamlessly produce facade details in Revit / Sketch up and other BIM platforms.

Tech3D® as a modelling tool provided by Technal is a unique, innovative and user friendly BIM object configurator:

It has been especially created for building specifiers and designers. It allows to :

- Save time to produce a BIM object for architectural aluminium construction designs.
- Generate a wide variety of projects from a basic window to a complex façade.
- Get the level of detail needed to reduce the file size.



CPD: CIRCADIAN RHYTHM LIGHTING CPD BY DYSON, RIYADH & JEDDAH, KSA

As part of their "Leverage behind lighting" mission and "Train 750 Specifiers" target - Dyson MEA has recently become a supporting sponsor of the RIBA Gulf Chapter, using RIBA Gulf as a platform to spread knowledge not only of Dyson as a brand but of its diverse technical features. Dyson in partnership with RIBA Gulf had successfully hosted the first DPD talk in Saudi Arabia in the two cities of Jeddah and Riyadh during the month of December 2018. The event was open to all RIBA members and non RIBA members. Marc Lemmens, EMEA Specification manager for Dyson, gave a two hour session talk on the topic of circadian disruption.

The topic was covering latest technologies and research studies on how task lights can be designed to improve working and living environments. Dyson specifically revealed a sample of their latest Dysons CSYS 4K task light engineered for the office environment with its enhanced performance due to touch sensitive continuous dimming, conical reflectors reducing glare and LEDs stay bright for up to 144,000 hours due to heat pipe technology.

The content was highly engaging for all attendees from different professional backgrounds. Architects, designers and suppliers were present during the CPD session. Some followed up with the RIBA Gulf city representatives requesting additional CPD talks to happen more frequently. Furthermore, following the event potential project discussions happened for the development of 4 shopping malls between an architectural firm who was amongst the attendees and Dyson.



Riyadh

Jeddah

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

18 March Event: Networking Reception DIT Dubai

April

14-15 April Conference: Cinema Build -, Riyadh, KSA

17 April CPD: "Access for Dubai 2020"

26-29 April Education: RIBA Part 3 Courses. UAE

Education: MEAP Access Course Interviews, UAE

7 -25 April Exhibition: President's Medals Exhibition at DAI. Kuwait

15 April CPD: Fire Safety Union of Consulting Engineers, Kuwait

28 April CPD: Architect's Breakfast, Muscat Oman (TBC)

June

18 -19 June Conference: Leaders in Architecture Summit , Dubai UAE

17-19 June Conference: BIM Middle East 2019 Conference & Expo Dubai UAE

27-29 June, Education: RIBA Part 3 Courses - UAE

RIBA 

Gulf

THANK YOU

RIBA Gulf would like to thank our sponsors Mapei, Technal, Dyson and collaborators for their support. These include:

- Cityscape Global
- Department of International Trade
- Technal Middle East
- Mapei
- Dyson

dyson

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