

Aga Khan Award for Architecture

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WINNING PROJECTS

Samir Kassir Square

Beirut, Lebanon

Client: Solidere (Société Libanaise de Développement et Reconstruction)

Architect: Vladimir Djurovic Landscape Architecture

Completed: 2004



Project Description

A serene and contemplative space in the heart of downtown Beirut, Samir Kassir Square provides welcome relief from the built-up urban fabric and frenetic pace of the central business district. Two historic ficus trees provide shade at the centre of the space, and a reflecting pool with water cascading over its edges marks the border with the street. The pool is flanked by a rectangular timber deck that encircles the two trees, and has at its western side a long bench of solid stone. The edges of the site have 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 which grow throughout the year.



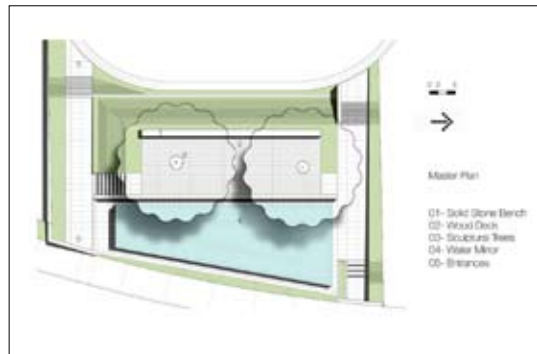
The architect Vladimir Djurovic is known for his attention to detail and his carefully chosen, limited palette of materials. At Samir Kassir Square, his sparing use of durable materials and economy of elements points to a clear new direction for landscape design, in a region where the discipline is not yet well established or mature, and where designers often try to emulate prototypes (such as tropical, English or French gardens) that are inappropriate and out of context, both visually and environmentally.

Jury Citation

One could read Samir Kassir Square simply as a stone bench, a wooden deck and a reflecting pool designed for the sole purpose of providing a visual frame for two of the oldest trees in downtown Beirut. Another possible reading would be that of a highly crafted and complex urban artefact which skilfully tackles the spatial conditions and infrastructure of its locality with a few calculated moves. The strength of the project is that it is purposefully situated between the two readings, in a state of restrained and silent complexity.

It is through the rigorous design approach and an economy of elements and language that the project achieves its objectives. The insistence on showing only what is essential - and nothing else - is what makes this particular work excel. One can trace a harmonious and logical thread that links the general idea to the detail, the architecture to the landscape, and the space to the city.

The importance of this work lies not only in the assimilation and transformation of its context, but also in what it necessitates, or rather how it actually transforms. This project conceives the public urban space as a shift in the city's rhythm. It emerges as a contemplative space where the diverse is celebrated, and allowed to exist in serene silence.



Project Data

Client Solidere (Société Libanaise de Développement et Reconstruction), Lebanon: Nasser Shamma, chairman and general manager; Subhi Rifai, project manager

Architect Vladimir Djurovic Landscape Architecture, Lebanon: Vladimir Djurovic, principal; Paul De Mar Yousef, design architect; Salim Kanaan, project architect

Contractor AG Contracting, Lebanon

Lighting Designer Light Box, Lebanon

<i>Water Engineer</i>	Hydrelec, Lebanon
<i>Site area</i>	815 m ²
<i>Cost</i>	US\$ 322,000
<i>Commission</i>	July 2002
<i>Design</i>	July 2002 - October 2002
<i>Construction</i>	November 2002 - May 2004
<i>Occupancy</i>	May 2004
<i>Websites</i>	www.solidere.com www.vladimirdjurovic.com

Lebanese architect Vladimir Djurovic established the Beirut-based Vladimir Djurovic Landscape Architecture (VDLA) in 1995. The firm offers a full range of landscape architectural services with all their architectural and interior complements. Their expertise extends from the creation of getaways and retreats, to the planning and development of boutique hotels and resorts, from private residences, to intricate urban spaces. Djurovic has been successful in architectural competitions and has won a series of awards, including the American Society of Landscape Architects' Residential Design Award of Excellence for the Elie Saab Residence in Lebanon in 2007 and a Cityscape Architectural Review Award in 2005. He has lectured at Imperial College London and the Architectural Association of Ireland and his work been featured in many international journals and magazines.



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WINNING PROJECTS

Rehabilitation of the City of Shibam

Wadi Hadhramaut, Yemen

Client: Ministry of Culture, Yemen; German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation; local community, Shibam

Architects: GTZ Technical Office and GOPHCY

Completed: 2005 (new phase ongoing)



Project Description

The mud-brick high-rise buildings of Shibam cluster in a walled mass that exudes the genius of Yemeni architecture. As an urban monument, Shibam is of international architectural significance, yet the motor of this rehabilitation project is not the preservation of buildings but rather the creation of new economic and social structures that will restore the vitality of the city. A joint Yemeni-German initiative, the Shibam Urban Development Project has stemmed depopulation by providing technical and financial support for the renovation of almost half of the housing stock. It has worked with the local authorities to improve essential services and infrastructure. Most importantly, it has given local people the means and the confidence to take concrete steps towards improving their lives. Through new community-based organisations local craftsmen are being trained, women are being offered literacy classes and the chance to learn new skills, and agriculture in the outlying area is being revived through the restoration of the old canal and spate irrigation system.



Jury Citation

Over the course of two decades, a number of agencies and individuals have committed time and resources not simply to preserve the unique urban and architectural heritage of the ancient city of Shibam, but also to establish a viable alternative to the mundane mass architecture found in many economically depressed parts of the world. In restoring nearly 200 houses and disseminating social services, the Urban Development Project has approached the city as a living community rather than a historical artefact frozen in time.

Through the efforts of NGOs, architects and stakeholders, Shibam has eluded imminent obsolescence under the amnesiac pressures of globalisation, growing into a platform for the reinvention of the vernacular high-rise in 21st-century conditions. Located on the threshold between past and present, tradition and modernity, this walled city of vertical mud-brick high-rises, with its labyrinthine streets and lanes, unfolds its own iterative narrative in a stunning, almost oneiric topography. All these efforts have allowed the citizens to re-imagine their city beyond its sheer liminality in the cosmopolitan discourse of contemporary urbanism.



Project Data

Client German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ), Germany; Ministry of Culture, Yemen; local community, Shibam

Local Council: Tariq Talib Falhum, director general, Shibam District; Mari'i Badr Jabiri, secretary general; Hud Bazurais, Shibam representative

Implementing Agencies General Organisation for the Preservation of Historic Cities of Yemen (GOPHCY): Abdullah Zaid Ayssa, director (2006-2007); Abdullah Bawazir, director (2000-2005). German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Sana'a: Thomas Engelhardt, director (2007); Helmut Grosskreutz, director (2000-2006). GTZ Shibam office: Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj, team leader (2004-2007); Ursula Eigel, team leader (2000-2004)

Other Sponsors Social Fund for Development, Yemen; German Development Services (DED), Germany

<i>Architects and Engineers</i>	<p>GTZ and DED: Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj (GTZ), development of housing programme/ project support; Tom Liermann (DED), historic features programme and training for technical unit; Mohamad al-Kaderi (GTZ), management of technical unit (2002–2005); Erik Schweikhardt (GTZ), support for technical unit; Martin Zeifert (DED), plumbing and infrastructure expert</p> <p>GOPHCY: Jamal Bamakhrama, management of GOPHCY contribution; Sadiq al-Mashhour, management of technical unit (2006); Ali Baraja, field architect; Mazin Sheikh al-Masawi, field engineer</p>
<i>Administration</i>	Khalid Gaashan (GTZ), project officer/planner
<i>Documentation and Archiving</i>	Monaf Abboud and Abdullah Sabain (GOPHCY)
<i>Consultants</i>	Burkhard von Rabenau, economist; Hadi Saliba, conservation planning; Jamal Jaber, wood conservation; Khaled Sharif and Nabil al-Jerafi, solid waste management; Nadim Rahmoun, infrastructure implementation
<i>Community Development Officers</i>	Aisha Said, senior community development officer (2000–2004); Hana Bin Taleb and Eshraq Aidan, community development officers; Amina Bin Taleb, junior community development expert (all GTZ)
<i>Principal Master Builders</i>	Housing Programme: Said Baswatayn, supervisor; Monuments Fund projects: Jam‘an Basaida, Mbarak al Juraydi and Awad Huwaydi, supervisors. Mud Architecture Association: Salem Awad Msawnaq, chair (2007); Faraj Salim Kwayran, chair (2005–2007); Senior Master Builders’ Committee: Salem Msawnaq, Ubayd Basawatayn, Salem al Hadri, Jama‘an Basaida, Mahfuz Huwaidi
<i>Master Builders (Housing & Monument Restoration)</i>	Ali Marbash, Faraj Kwairan, Saleh Bahdaila, Kamal al-Hadri, Hazmi al-Hadri, Khairan Bayashout, Mahfouz Bahdaila, Mohamad Baswaitin, Omar al-Hadri, Faraj Badawi, Awad Baziad, Ahmad Bayashout, Ashour Kwairan, Said Wadaan, Ahmad Houwaidi, Ali Bakrbashat, Jum‘an Mouzaynan, Ahmad Badawi, Awad Wad‘an
<i>Master Carpenters</i>	Ahmad Bajidah, Omar Bajidah, Mahfuz Bajidah, Sabri Kharaz, Fadil Bajidah, Ahmad Baya‘shut, Brik Zubair, Ali Zoubair

<i>Site area</i>	81,000 m ²
<i>Cost</i>	US\$ 4,000,000 (calculated December 2006)
<i>Commission</i>	January 2000
<i>Design</i>	2000 - 2006
<i>Construction</i>	2000 - 2006
<i>Completed</i>	2005 (new phase ongoing)
<i>Websites</i>	www.gtz.de www.shibam-udp.org

The German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) is an international cooperation enterprise commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ) to implement technical development cooperation programmes worldwide. Yemen is a priority partner country and GTZ has been active there since 1969. BMZ also sponsors the German Development Services (DED) to place seconded experts with development partners.

The General Organisation for the Preservation of Historic Cities of Yemen (GOPHCY) was established in 1984 as the organisation responsible for the preservation of the urban fabric of the Old City of Sana'a. The scope of its mandate was later enlarged to include all of Yemen, and it is the state authority for historic preservation of urban heritage, reporting to the Ministry of Culture.

The Social Fund for Development is a Yemeni organisation established in 1997 as a major component in the national social safety net. It implements community development programmes to improve people's access to basic services and works to create an enabling environment for small and micro enterprises.

The Shibam Urban Development Project was initiated in 2000 through the efforts of Ursula Eigel (team leader 2000-2004). After completing her studies in law and social sciences in Frankfurt, Munich and Paris, she joined GTZ in 1975, directing urban programmes in Zambia, Jordan, Yemen, and Nepal among many other countries. She was the team leader for the GTZ project on government reform in Kenya from 1988 to 1996.

The project's current team leader, Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj, is a Syrian architect trained at the University of Texas at Austin, where he received both his bachelor's and master's degrees. Hallaj works on urban development, planning and heritage conservation. Prior to his work in Shibam, he had a private architectural practice in Aleppo, Syria, where he also served as the chair of the Technical Committee responsible for the preservation of the Old City of Aleppo.



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WINNING PROJECTS

Central Market

Koudougou, Burkina Faso

Client: Koudougou Municipality

Architect: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) / Laurent Séchaud

Completed: 2005



Project Description

The impact of Koudougou's Central Market is twofold: at the urban scale, it reinforces and enhances the fabric of a mid-sized town, providing a monumental civic space for commercial and social exchange. On the level of construction, it introduces simple and easily assimilated improvements to a traditional material - stabilised earth - which allow it to achieve its full aesthetic and environmental potential. By using blocks of compressed earth, the market not only demonstrates the superior climactic performance of the local building material, but also shows how humble earth blocks can be used to create a sophisticated pattern language of vaults, domes and arches.



The market is the third of its type to be built under the direction of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in cooperation with the Programme de Développement des Villes Moyennes of the Burkina Faso government, which aims to strengthen the country's mid-sized towns through building commercial infrastructures. The market was the result of a process that brought together and engaged the entire community in the site selection, design and construction of the market as well as its continuing use. A 1:1 prototype of a typical retail space was constructed which helped facilitate communication between the different collaborators, simultaneously allowing refinement of the design, development of innovative construction techniques and practical training of the local masons.

Jury Citation

The Central Market responds sensitively to its urban context while also creating powerful sculptural spaces in its interior. Blocks of compressed earth are used to form celebratory domes, vaults and arches, demonstrating how large repetitive structural spans have the capacity to ennoble public space.



The building of a 1:1 prototype of a typical retail space facilitated communication between the different collaborators, simultaneously allowing refinement of the design, development of innovative construction techniques and practical training of the local masons. More than just a piece of physical urban infrastructure in a mid-sized town, this project is the result of a truly participatory process that brought together and engaged the entire community in the site selection, design and construction of the market as well as its continuing use. With simple means, the project has shaped a monumental civic space for meeting and exchange.



Project Data

Client

Koudougou
Municipality,
Burkina Faso

Sponsor

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Architects

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation: Laurent Séchaud, principal architect, Burkina Faso; Pierre Jéquier, consultant, France

Engineer

Etablissement Public Communal pour le Développement, Burkina Faso: Joseph P. Nikiema

Technician

Harouna Moyenga, Burkina Faso

Master Masons

Zanna Kientega, Mouboë Bado, Kouka Bonkougou, Michel T. Zagre, Sanata Kabore, Victorine Bonkougou (all in Burkina Faso)

<i>Built area</i>	27,750 m ²
<i>Site area</i>	29,000 m ²
<i>Cost</i>	US\$ 2,470,000
<i>Commission</i>	June 1999
<i>Design</i>	August 1999 - September 2004
<i>Construction</i>	January 2001 - June 2005
<i>Occupancy</i>	June 2005
<i>Bibliography</i>	Thierry Joffroy, <i>Eléments de base sur la construction en arcs, voûtes et coupoles</i> , publication du SKAT, Centre de Coopération Suisse pour la technologie et le management, St Gall, 1994
<i>Website</i>	www.sdc.admin.ch www.mairie-koudougou.bf/lamunicipalite/epcd.html

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is the agency responsible for the overall coordination of international development activities within the Swiss Foreign Ministry. Its aim is to alleviate poverty in partner countries by implementing projects that promote economic reform and governmental autonomy, helping people to help themselves. SDC's bilateral development cooperation concentrates on 17 priority countries and seven special programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America. At the multinational level, SDC collaborates with UN agencies, the World Bank and regional development banks.

Laurent Séchaud (b. 1967) completed his architectural studies at the University of Geneva in 1995. He worked on a variety of projects in urban planning and architecture before becoming involved with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Burkina Faso. He has been part of the Programme de Développement des Villes Moyennes (PDVM), a team working on making regional development hubs in medium-sized towns in the state of Burkinabe in Burkina Faso. His projects have included offices, markets, an abattoir, a bus station, institutional buildings and workshops. Apart from his work with SDC, he has also designed houses and a women's centre in Burkina Faso.



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WINNING PROJECTS

University of Technology Petronas

Bandar Seri Iskandar, Malaysia

Client: Institute of Technology Petronas

Architects: Foster + Partners, UK and GDP Architects Sdn Bhd, Malaysia

Completed: 2004



Project Description

Set in hilly and forested terrain 300 km north of Kuala Lumpur, the University of Technology Petronas responds both to the physical landscape and to the weather patterns of the Malay peninsula. In terms of scale, its radial geometry is more consistent with town planning than with conventional building.



A soaring, crescent-form roof supported by steel columns winds around the edge of the site, covering pedestrian routes and providing a defined, shaded zone for social interaction and circulation. To preserve the natural topography, the core academic buildings are wrapped around the base of a series of knolls; viewed from a distance, the university's canopy elevation echoes the tree canopy of the densely forested site.

This is an exemplary use of a performance-based approach to architectural design that goes beyond the diagram. The design has been carried through to completion with meticulous detail, rigour and persistence, and engendered a transfer of knowledge, process and technology between Foster + Partners and the Malaysian firm GDP Architects, which has in turn led to their collaboration on other projects.

Jury Citation

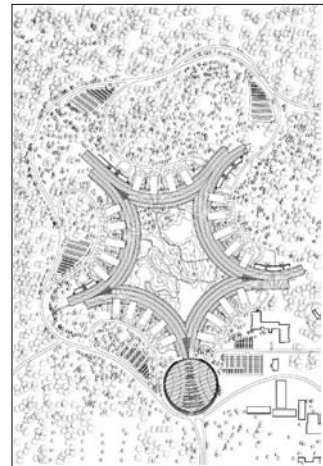
The project's significance lies in a number of aspects.

First, its prototypical built configuration, consisting of an all-encompassing shaped canopy with functional boxes inserted underneath, is a contemporary reinterpretation of the classic metaphor for tropical architecture - an umbrella that offers protection from the sun and rain.

Second, the building provides a defined shaded zone for social interaction and circulation under an overhead enclosure. This is a high-tech, emblematic architecture appropriate for a scientific university in a rapidly developing nation.

Third, the careful physical integration of a complex educational structure with the existing landscape is achieved in an ingenious way, by wrapping the built forms around the base of a series of knolls.

And fourthly, this is an exemplary use of a performance-based approach to architectural design that goes beyond the diagram. The design has been carried through to completion with meticulous detail, rigour and persistence. It sets new standards in the quality of construction without significant cost premiums. In aggregate, the Jury found the design to be instructive, aesthetically satisfying and technologically novel.



Project Data

<i>Client</i>	Institute of Technology Petronas, Malaysia
<i>Architects</i>	Foster + Partners, UK: Lord Norman Foster, chairman; David Nelson, head of design. GDP Architects Sdn Bhd, Malaysia: Kamil Merican, CEO and principal designer
<i>Project Manager</i>	KLCC Projects BHD, Malaysia

<i>Engineers</i>	Meinhardt Pte Ltd, Ranhill Bersekutu Sdn Bhd, Wimsa HSS Integrated and Majid & Associates Sdn Bhd, structural engineers, all in Malaysia; Roger Preston & Partners, UK and Majutek Perunding, Malaysia, mechanical engineers
<i>Consultants</i>	Research Facilities Design, USA, landscape consultant; Sandy Brown Associates, UK, acoustic consultant; Marshall Day Acoustics, Malaysia, acoustic consultants; BDG McColl, Malaysia, signage; Jurukur Bahan Malaysia/KPK, quantity surveyor; Shah PK & Associates, Malaysia, Gillespies, UK, landscape architects; Lightsource International (Asia), Hong Kong, lighting designer; PMP Consultancy, UK, planner
<i>Built area</i>	104,000 m ²
<i>Site area</i>	85,000 m ²
<i>Cost</i>	US\$ 174,816,000
<i>Commission</i>	January 1998
<i>Design</i>	January 1998 - January 2002
<i>Construction</i>	January 2002 - January 2004
<i>Occupancy</i>	August 2004



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WINNING PROJECTS

Restoration of the Amiriya Complex

Rada, Yemen

Client: Government of Yemen, General Organisation for Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts (GOAMM)

Conservators: Selma Al-Radi, Yahya Al-Nasiri

Completed: 2005



Project Description

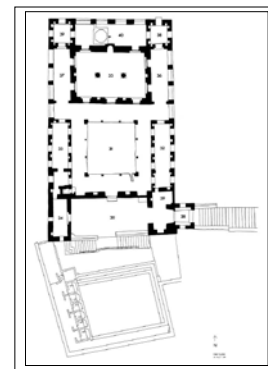
The Amiriya was built at the beginning of the sixteenth century by the last ruler of Yemen's Tahirid dynasty, Amir Ibn `Abd Al-Wahab. It consists of a highly ornamented and painted prayer hall, a madrasa and the private living quarters of the sultan. At the beginning of the 1980s, the Amiriya was in a precarious condition. Any conventional preservation project would have been a costly undertaking, so the project director developed a well-defined philosophy of restoration which made pragmatic use of traditional methods of construction, using local stone masons, labour and materials.



Over 500 craftsmen and artisans were trained and employed by this project. Foreign experts were only employed during the last phase of restoration, dealing with the conservation of the tempera wall paintings. In keeping with the spirit of the project, they have trained local people in the craft. With its reliance on local knowledge and experience, the restoration of the Amiriya represents a milestone in the protection of cultural heritage in Yemen.

Jury Citation

The Amiriya, extraordinary in both its structure and its decoration, represents one of the richest and most complex Islamic styles found in the architecture of Yemen. Twenty-five years ago the building was in a state of extreme dilapidation; it is now completely restored through a remarkable project that has seen the recovery and revival of lost techniques of building and ornamentation, including the repair of elaborate carved stuccowork, the restoration of the rich tempera wall paintings, and a revival of the manufacture of qudad, the smooth waterproof plaster so prominent in Yemeni architecture. Over 500 craftsmen and artisans were trained during this project. Scores of them have since gone on to work on the restoration of many other buildings and monuments in the rest of Yemen (including one previous winner of the Aga Khan Award in 2004, the Al-Abbas Mosque). This effort has given an important impetus to the process of restoration and conservation in Yemen as a whole, which has innumerable major buildings in desperate need of rehabilitation.



The Award has been given in recognition of the work of these craftsmen, and of the vision and persistence of those who have carried this project through to fruition.

Project Data

<i>Client</i>	Government of Yemen, General Organisation for Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts (GOAMM). Abdullah Bawazir, director; Yusuf Abdallah and Qadi Ismail al Aqwa', former directors
<i>Patron</i>	Abdul Karim al-Iryani, former Prime Minister of Yemen
<i>Sponsors</i>	Governments of Yemen, The Netherlands and Italy
<i>Project Directors</i>	Selma Al-Radi, director Yahya Muhammad Al-Nasiri, director (1986–2005); Izzi Muhammad Muslih, director (1983–1986), GOAMM
<i>Project Administration</i>	American Institute for Yemeni Studies (1994–2004): Christopher Edens, resident director (2000–2004); Noha Sadek and Marta Colburn, former resident directors. Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen (KIT), Amsterdam (1983–1988)

<i>GOAMM Staff</i>	Adnan Jamil Nu'man, site manager; Camillia Mohammad Ana'm, Abir Atef Radwan, Jamal Mohammad Thabet, Mohammad Abdel Wahab No'uman, Rashad al Qubati, Adel Said Mohammad, Ibrahim Ali Saad, Saleh Naji Utaif, Amin Saleh Mauri, team members
<i>Craftsmen</i>	usta Izzi Muhammad Gas'a, master stone mason; usta Muhammad Gas'a, usta Salih al-Basiri, usta Abdul Rahman Lutfallah, master builders; Mohammad Ali Sultan, Abdallah Sultan, qudad masters; Abd al Razzaq al-Usta, Qassim Mohammad al-Usta, master carpenters
<i>Conservation of Mural Paintings</i>	Centro di Conservazione Archeologica, Italy; Roberto Nardi, director; Chiara Zizola, technical director
<i>Stucco Restoration</i>	Ali Hamud Abu al Futtuh al Nasiri, Mohammad Hamud Abu al Futuh al Nasiri, Mohammad Jarada
<i>Lighting and Exhibition Design</i>	Architectenbureau Jowa, Amsterdam, Jowa I. Kis-Jovak, Erco Lighting, Germany, light fixtures; Eyes on Media & Vechtmetrieur, Amsterdam, exhibition panels, Mohammad Abd al-Wali, Yemen, electrical work
<i>Ground floor area</i>	920 m ²
<i>Total floor area</i>	2,760 m ²
<i>Cost</i>	US\$ 2,657,000
<i>Commission</i>	January 1983
<i>Design</i>	July 1983 - January 2003
<i>Construction</i>	May 1986 - September 2005
<i>Completed</i>	September 2005
<i>Bibliography</i>	Selma Al-Radi, <i>The Amiriya in Rada</i> , Oxford, 1997 Selma Al-Radi, Roberto Nardi, and Chiara Zizola, <i>Amiriya Madrasa: The Conservation of the Mural Paintings</i> , Rome, 2005

Selma Al-Radi is an Iraqi archaeologist and a specialist on the medieval architecture of Yemen. She read Oriental Studies at Cambridge University and completed a PhD at the Archaeological Institute, University of Amsterdam. Dr Al-Radi went to Yemen in 1977 to catalogue the collection of the National Museum in Sana'a and restore the buildings to house the museum. In 1983 she embarked upon the restoration of the Amiriya in Rada, a project that she steered through to completion 25 years later. Dr Al-Radi has excavated in Iraq, Egypt, Kuwait, Cyprus, Syria and Yemen, and has published extensively in Arabic and English.



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WINNING PROJECTS

Moulmein Rise Residential Tower

Singapore

Client: UOL Development Pte Ltd, Singapore

Architect: WOHA Architects / Wong Mun Summ, Richard Hassell

Completed: 2003

Project Description

This is a residential high-rise in the tropics - with a difference. Instead of relying on mechanical systems for climate control, it borrows low-energy strategies from vernacular housing. The traditional monsoon window, a horizontal opening that lets in the breeze but not the rain, is incorporated into the design of a 28-storey block to address the challenges of a tropical climate. Orientation, internal planning, overhangs, cross-ventilation, shading and perforation are all reapplied here in a contemporary manner.

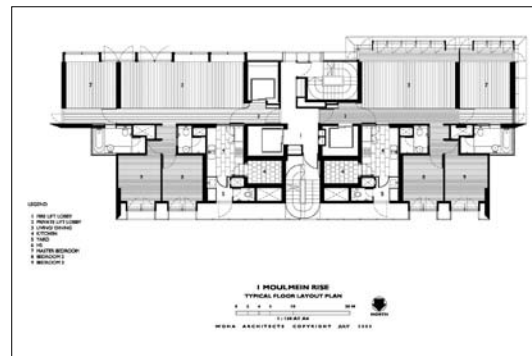
The sometimes conflicting requirements of site, climate, technology, building regulations, developer and users were all taken into account and incorporated into a set of strategic guidelines that were used to develop the design at all levels. A modular system regulates all the architectural dimensioning, from floor-to-floor heights down to the smallest details. And instead of treating the occupants as identical consumers, the design allows for variation in both the plan and the facade, expressing individuality through recombining different arrangements of overhangs, monsoon windows and screens giving a strong variety to the units and the facade.

Within the constraints of a developer-driven brief, the building establishes a distinctive urban presence while providing privacy and comfort to the people who inhabit it.



Jury Citation

This building has received an Award for its creative response to the issue of speculative high-rise housing, which avoids the kind of market-approved clichés that the client usually expects the architect to develop. In a field where attractive gestures on the facade tend to be valued more than spatial quality, the design offers an alternative that takes account of climate, spatial relations, site restrictions, daily living patterns and profit requirements. By transforming the various constraints into a set of didactic design guidelines, the architects were able to define a product that is quite different from the norm in the real-estate market.



The design addresses the challenges of the tropical climate by reinterpreting the traditional elements of the monsoon window and the perforated wall and by establishing a relation of different volumes to maximise air circulation. The facade ingeniously incorporates a version of the traditional balcony that responds to the needs of everyday life. The plans of the apartments are composed of basic geometric forms, enabling the client to maximise sellable space while giving the users effective furnishing options. There is also an elegant use of materials and details. In all these respects, Moulmein Rise could be regarded more as a design approach than solely a built form.

Project Data

<i>Client</i>	UOL Development Pte Ltd, Singapore.
<i>Architects</i>	WOHA Architects, Singapore: Wong Mun Summ, Richard Hassell, partners.
<i>Contractors</i>	Shining Construction Pte Ltd, Singapore; Arzbergh Engineering Group Pte Ltd, Singapore; Fairways Construction & Landscapes Pte Ltd, Singapore; Hitachi Asia Ltd., Singapore; Sum Cheong Piling Pte Ltd, Singapore; Venus Enterprises Pte Ltd, Singapore; Focchi (Singapore) Pte Ltd, Singapore; Magnificent Seven Corporation Pte Ltd, Singapore.
<i>Engineers</i>	Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte Ltd, Singapore, mechanical engineer; Dai-Dan Co. Ltd, Singapore, electrical engineer; Acacia Engineering Pte Ltd, Singapore, plumbing.
<i>Consultants</i>	KPK Quantity Surveyors (1995) Singapore Pte Ltd., quantity surveyor;

ABL Lim (FPC) Pte Ltd, Singapore, fire safety;
Shin Nippon Air Technologies Co Ltd, Singapore, air conditioning consultants.

Ground floor area 230 m²
Built area 6,491 m²
Site area 2,340 m²

Cost US\$ 9,137,000

Commission November 1999
Design November 1999–April 2001
Construction April 2001 - May 2003
Completed May 2003

Bibliography “Monsoon cool”, *The Architectural Review*, December 2004
“High, Medium, Low”, *Architecture Asia* 3, 2004
New Directions in Tropical Asian Architecture, WOHA Periplus Publishing 2005
10 x 10_2: 100 Architects, 10 Critics, Phaidon 2005
“Asian Breezes: towards sustainable architecture, No 1 Moulmein Rise”, *JIA*, 2005
“Svelte Suburban” *Architecture + Design* 10, 2004
“Size does not matter”, *Singapore Architect*, June 2005

Website www.wohadesigns.com

Formed in 1994 by Singaporean Wong Mun Summ and Australian Richard Hassell, WOHA, with a mix of designers from diverse backgrounds, explores integrated design for the built environment, encompassing masterplanning, architectural, landscape, interior, and lighting and furniture design. WOHA has received numerous international awards for excellence in design, and has been featured in many international professional publications. It has offices in Singapore and Thailand, and has been involved in projects all around the Asia Pacific region.

Wong Mun Summ holds a bachelor of architecture degree with honours from the National University of Singapore, awarded in 1989. Before establishing his private practice in July 1994, Wong worked in the office of Kerry Hill Architect on projects around Southeast Asia, including the much acclaimed Datai Resort in Langkawi, Malaysia. He has received numerous design awards including the Royal Australian Institute of Architects International Award in 1999, and the Singapore Institute of Architects Awards in 2001, 2003 and 2004.

Richard Hassell received a bachelor of architecture degree with first class honours from the University of Western Australia, Perth, in 1989 and a master’s degree in architecture from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Australia, 2002. He has been a member of the Design Singapore Council since 2005 and has taught at the University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



Aga Khan Award for Architecture

2 0 0 7

WINNING PROJECTS

Royal Netherlands Embassy

Old Airport Zone W24, K13, House 001,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Client: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The
Netherlands

Architects: Dick van Gameren and Bjarne
Mastenbroek

Completed: 2005



Project Description

The Royal Netherlands Embassy complex lies amidst the urban sprawl on the southern outskirts of Addis Ababa, enclosed within a dense eucalyptus grove. The architects' guiding principle was to preserve and respect the topography of the surrounding landscape while addressing the functional requirements of a working embassy. They took care to maintain existing contour lines and leave the vegetation and wildlife undisturbed.



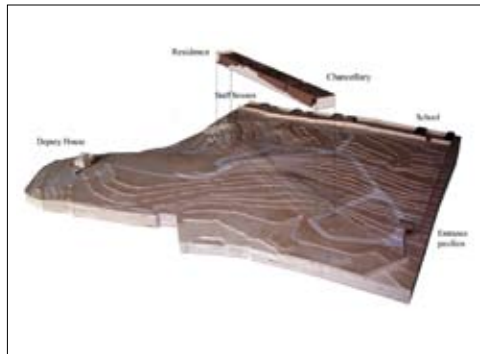
The main building, an elongated horizontal volume, cuts across the sloping terrain on an east-west axis. Walls, floors and ceilings are pigmented the same red-ochre as the Ethiopian earth and are uniformly composed of concrete, creating the effect of a cave-like space, reminiscent of the rock-hewn architecture of Ethiopia. By contrast, the roof garden with its network of shallow pools alludes to a Dutch water landscape.

Jury Citation

An unashamedly contemporary and simple organisation of spaces, the Dutch Embassy in Addis Ababa overcomes the complexities of security and surveillance normally associated with the design of embassy compounds, intersecting with the landscape to create new and unexpected relationships with the host site – a walled eucalyptus grove in the city. The massif architecture, at once archaic and modern, belongs as much to the Muslims, Christians and the indigenous tribes of Ethiopia as it does to its Dutch homeland.



In its conception and daily operation, the building responds to its social and physical context with inventive design and poetic sensibility. This is an architecture that works with its environment, reducing the use of mechanical services and relying instead on natural ventilation and high insulation. The project's sensitivity to process has left its mark in the raw character of its formation - another delicate reminder of how buildings, as formations of material culture, can register and enhance spaces of encounter.



Project Data

Client

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

Architects

Dick van Gameren and Bjarne Mastenbroek, The Netherlands

ABBA Architects Plc, Ethiopia: Rahel Shawl, local architect
Local Project Manager
Gary Campbell, Ethiopia

Engineers

Arup Associates, engineering consultant, UK; Campbell Management Project Services: Yared Belayneh, resident engineer; San-Mech Consult: Worede Melaku, local sanitary and mechanical engineer; FASTEK Consult: Fessahaie Kelati, electrical engineering consultant; OTT Consulting Architects & Engineers: Mesfin Bereded, resident architect

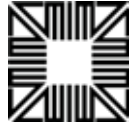
Contractor

Elmi Olindo & Co Plc, Ethiopia

<i>Built area</i>	3,300 m ²
<i>Site area</i>	55,000 m ²
<i>Cost</i>	US\$ 7,332,000
<i>Commission</i>	May 1998
<i>Design</i>	May 1998–May 2002
<i>Construction</i>	December 2002–April 2006
<i>Occupancy</i>	June 2005
<i>Bibliography</i>	Catherine Slessor, “Dutch Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia”, <i>Architectural Review</i> , May 2006, 54–6 Chiara Baglione, “Ambasciata dei Paesi Bassi, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia”, <i>Casabella</i> , April 2006, 64–75 “Dutch Embassy in Ethiopia”, <i>Detail</i> , January/February 2006, 51-3
<i>Websites</i>	www.netherlandsembassyethiopia.org www.dickvangameren.nl www.search.nl

Dick van Gameren (b. 1962) graduated from Delft University of Technology in 1988. He founded an office with Bjarne Mastenbroek in 1991, and two years later they joined the architectengroep in Amsterdam. He now runs his own office, Dick van Gameren Architecten BV. His work has won several prizes and been the subject of monographs published by 010 in 2001 and NAI in 2005. He was appointed Professor of Architectural Design at Delft University of Technology in 2005.

Bjarne Mastenbroek (b. 1964) studied in Delft and worked first for Mecanoo in Delft and then for Enric Miralles in Barcelona. In 1991 he founded an office with Dick van Gameren; in 1993 they became part of the architectengroep in Amsterdam. In 2002, with Ad Bogerman, he established SeARCH, which brings together 30 international architects and designers. SeARCH develops architectural and urban projects and undertakes research on architecture, landscaping, urbanism and new building products and materials.



Aga Khan Award for Architecture

2 0 0 7

WINNING PROJECTS

Rehabilitation of the Walled City

Nicosia, Cyprus

Client: Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot
Communities of Nicosia

Architect: Nicosia Master Plan Team

Completed: 1989 - ongoing



Project Description

Since 1979, a remarkable effort has been made by the representatives of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities of Nicosia to regenerate the historic walled city and protect its architectural and urban heritage.

This was the first and for some time the only joint project carried out at the local level by both communities and it has been a sustained effort, uninterrupted by the ebb and flow of politics.

The programme was initiated under United Nations auspices, and has grown into a major project that enhances the wellbeing of all the inhabitants of the city.



The Nicosia Master Plan project treats the city as a united entity, implementing works in both parts of the city. It has maintained a high standard of workmanship and skills in urban restoration and renewal, and involved the close cooperation of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot members of the project team. The preservation of the cultural and architectural legacy of the historic centre has provided an impetus for private investment, attracted new residents, encouraged tourism and strengthened economic activity. In addition, the rehabilitated buildings are breathing life into the divided city, and new cafés, restaurants, cultural centres and public spaces abound.

A bold and forward-thinking project, the Nicosia Master Plan has brought together opposing communities by identifying what unites rather than divides them. It has used the shared space of a historic urban core as the motivating factor to develop a relationship of cooperation and positive coexistence that has continued to evolve over quarter of a century.

Jury Citation

The representatives of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities of Nicosia decided to transcend a tense political situation and take the first steps towards reversing the city's physical decay and economic decline through the catalyst of restoring the historic walled city. Out of this initiative grew a rehabilitation programme that would ultimately enhance the wellbeing of all the inhabitants of Nicosia.

The project has maintained a high standard of workmanship and skills in urban restoration and renewal and involved the close cooperation of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot members of the project team. The preservation of the cultural and architectural legacy of the historic centre has provided an impetus for private investment, attracted new residents, encouraged tourism and strengthened economic activity. In addition, the rehabilitated buildings are breathing life into the divided city, and new cafés, restaurants, cultural centres and public spaces abound.

The project is a fine example of how, with tolerance and sensitivity, opposing sides can be brought together to build a shared space for all people and all faiths.



Project Data

<i>Client</i>	Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Communities of Nicosia
<i>Initiators</i>	Lellos Demetriades, Representative to the NMP (1979–2000) Mustafa Akıncı, Representative to the NMP (1979–1990)
<i>Current Representatives</i>	Eleni Mavrou, Representative of the Greek Cypriot community Cemal Bulutoğuları, Representative of the Turkish Cypriot community
<i>Coordinators</i>	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

<i>Sponsors</i>	United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Union
<i>Nicosia Master Plan Teams</i>	<p>Greek Cypriot community: Agni Petridou, team leader; Athina Papadopoulou, Elena Sofianou, Eleni Petropoulou, Nayia Savvides, Marina Tymviou, Simos Droussiodes, George Tsangarides, architects; Paris Skouloukos, civil engineer; George Passiardis, quantity surveyor; Elena Papamichael, Iro Ioannou, junior architects; Yianna Constantinou, Poli Votsi, Andreas Giallouros, Demoulla Metaxa, Frosso Anastasiou, technicians; Christos Kyriakou, Caterina Photiou, office assistants, all in Cyprus</p> <p>Turkish Cypriot community: Ali Güralp, team leader; Cemal Bensef, Ali Kodan, Gamze Keleşzade, architects; Zeka Yılmaz, Hüseyin Cakır, civil engineers; Ayça S. Cıralı, town planner; Mustafa Kelebek, technician; Gül Öztek, Hülya Davulcu, Emine Pilli, Ahmet Buçaner, Kerime Darbaz, Aydın Tayyareci, Mehmet Kanan, team members, all in Cyprus</p>
<i>Site area</i>	2,010,000 m ²
<i>Cost</i>	US\$ 18,749,000 (Greek Cypriot side) 1986-2007 US\$ 6,900,000 (Turkish Cypriot side) 1986-2007
<i>Commission</i>	1979
<i>Planning</i>	1981
<i>Design</i>	1986 ongoing
<i>Construction</i>	1987 ongoing
<i>Occupancy</i>	1989 ongoing
<i>Bibliography</i>	<p><i>Nicosia Master Plan, Walled Nicosia: A Guide to its Historical and Cultural Sites</i> (Nicosia: NMP, n.d.)</p> <p>United Nations Development Programme, <i>Revitalizing Old Nicosia</i> (Nicosia: Partnership for the Future Programme Management Office, n.d.)</p>
<i>Websites</i>	<p>www.undp-unops.org</p> <p>www.nicosia.org.cy</p> <p>www.undp-act.org</p>

In 1979, at a meeting of the representatives of both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in Nicosia, it was agreed that the two sides should cooperate closely for the purpose of preparing a common masterplan for the unified development of the city. The objective of the project was the improvement of the built environment and living conditions of all the inhabitants of the city.

A bi-communal, multidisciplinary team of national and international experts was formed in 1981 to prepare a joint masterplan for Nicosia. The team consists of town planners, architects, civil engineers, sociologist, economists and experts in traffic and transportation, conservation, landscape, urban finance and other technical staff. The formation of this team was one of the first attempts at technical cooperation between the two communities.

Initial funding for the Nicosia Master Plan (NMP) project was provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Implementation was through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). More recently, funding has also been provided by the European Union.



Aga Khan Award for Architecture

2 0 0 7

WINNING PROJECTS

School in Rudrapur

Dinajpur, Bangladesh

Client: Dipshikha/ METI non-formal Education, Training and Research Society for Village Development

Architects: Anna Heringer and Eike Roswag

Completed: 2005



Project Description

Hand-built in four months by architects, local craftsmen, pupils, parents and teachers, this primary school in Rudrapur, a village in north west Bangladesh, uses traditional methods and materials of construction but adapts them in new ways. The architects, Anna Heringer from Austria and Eike Roswag from Germany, made every effort to engage the skills of local craftsmen, helping them refine processes and learn new techniques that they could then use to improve the general standard of rural housing.

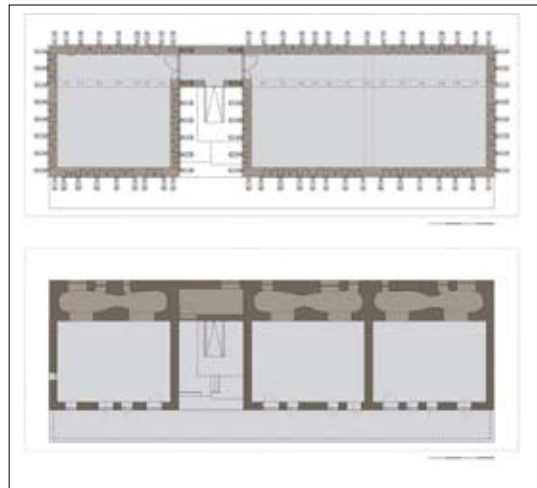


The school is part of the Modern Education and Training Institute (METI) of the Bangladeshi NGO Dipshikha, which places an emphasis on helping children develop their own potential and use it in a creative way. The building follows the same principles, bringing out the best in local materials by inventively combining them with improved construction techniques. Earthbound materials such as loam and straw are combined with lighter elements like bamboo sticks and nylon lashing to shape a built form that addresses sustainability in construction in an exemplary manner.

Jury Citation

This joyous and elegant two-storey primary school in rural Bangladesh has emerged from a deep understanding of local materials and a heart-felt connection to the local community. Its innovation lies in the adaptation of traditional methods and materials of construction to create light-filled celebratory spaces as well as informal spaces for children. Earthbound materials such as loam and straw are combined with lighter elements like bamboo sticks and nylon lashing to shape a built form that addresses sustainability in construction in an exemplary manner.

The design solution may not be replicable in other parts of the Islamic world, as local conditions vary, but the approach - which allows new design solutions to emerge from an in-depth knowledge of the local context and ways of building - clearly provides a fresh and hopeful model for sustainable building globally. The final result of this heroic volunteer effort is a building that creates beautiful, meaningful and humane collective spaces for learning, so enriching the lives of the children it serves.



Project Data

Client

Dipshikha/METI
non-formal Education, Training and Research Society for Village
Development, Bangladesh: Paul Cherwa Tigga, executive director,
Prodip Francis Tigga, headmaster

Architects

Anna Heringer, Austria; Eike Roswag, Germany

Supervisors

Sepal Debsharma, Afser Ali, Abu Solaiman, Dipshikha,
Bangladesh; Emmanuel Heringer, carpenter, basket weaver,
bamboo consultant, Germany; Stefanie Haider, blacksmith,
Germany

Civil Engineers

Ziegert Roswag Seiler (ZRS), Germany: Christof Ziegert, Uwe
Seiler

<i>Craftsmen</i>	Mud work section: Reboti Roy, Nikhil Chandra Roy, Buden Chandra Roy, Aminul Islam, Apon Chandra Roy, Suresh Chandra Roy, Jitendra Nath Roy, Sonjib Roy. Bamboo section: Romesh Roy, Fatik Roy, Bimol Roy, Upendra Nath Roy, Khokendra Nath Roy, Susen Roy, Vhomol Chandra Roy, Bimol Chandra Roy. Sontosh Purification, carpenter (all in Bangladesh)
<i>Built area</i>	325 m ²
<i>Cost</i>	US\$ 22,835
<i>Commission</i>	January 2004
<i>Design</i>	March 2004 - August 2005
<i>Construction</i>	September 2005 - December 2005
<i>Occupancy</i>	December 2005
<i>Bibliography</i>	<i>da! Architecture from and in Berlin 2006</i> , exhibition catalogue, German Chamber of Architects in Berlin <i>Architectural Review</i> , December 2006 <i>architektur.aktuell</i> , October 2006 <i>bauwelt</i> 32, 2006 <i>Detail</i> , April 2007 <i>Flair</i> , September 2006
<i>Website</i>	www.meti-school.de

Anna Heringer (b. 1977) studied architecture at Linz University of the Arts, Austria. Since 2004 she has held a lectureship there, and is project manager at BASE - habitat/architektur konzepte, Linz University of the Arts. In 2006 she began her doctoral studies at Munich Technical University, on strategies for sustainable building in northern Bangladesh. She is vice-chairwoman of Shanti, a German-Bangladeshi partnership founded in 1983, with the aim of arranging exchange programmes, for example the transfer of professional volunteers.

Eike Roswag (b. 1969) completed his architectural studies at Berlin Technical University in 2000, after which he took on freelance architectural work and consultancies. In 2003 he joined ZRS Architects and Engineers to plan and build a variety of projects using earth as a building material. In 2006 he joined the staff of Berlin Technical University and founded Roswag & Jankowski Architects Partnership.

Founded in 1978, Dipshikha - Informal Education, Training and Research Society for Village Development is a Bangladeshi development organisation set up to encourage the independence of communities in rural Bangladesh through sustainable development.