



SHABABIK ALHEKMA



IN FOCUS

MIDTERM JURY EXCITEMENT AT ARCHITECTURE DESIGN STUDIOS FOR THE FALL 2022-23

A Successful Completion of Midterm Jury
at the Department of Architecture

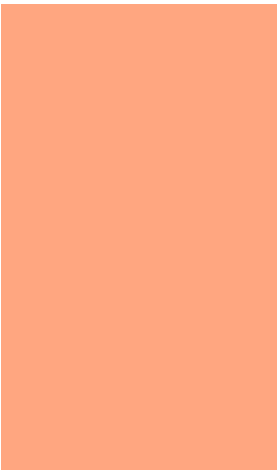
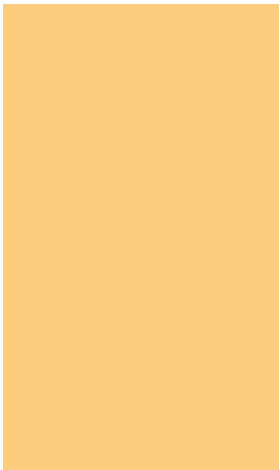
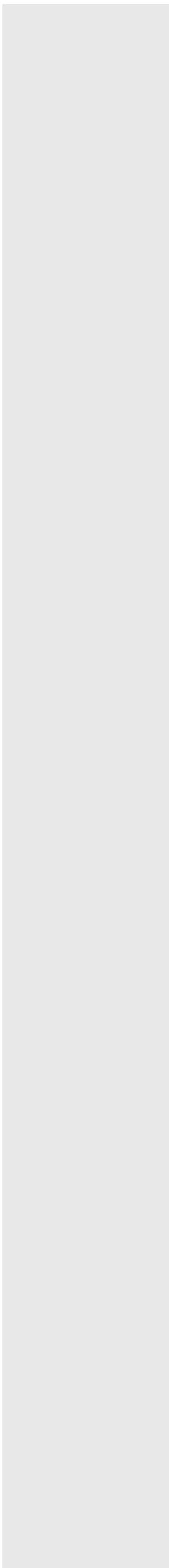
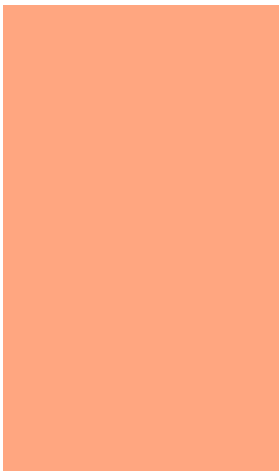
INTERNATIONAL TRIP TO SPAIN

An Architectural Tour to Madrid and
Barcelona

A SPACE OF OUR OWN

The New Architecture Student Lounge





I. ACADEMICS

- A. MIDTERM JURY EXCITEMENT AT ARCHITECTURE DESIGN STUDIOS FOR THE FALL 2022-23: A SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF MIDTERM JURY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
- B. MOCK-UP INTERVIEWS: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO MIDTERMS
- C. FACULTY AND STUDENTS' RESEARCH ACTIVITY AT THE ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT
- D. MASTERING CONCRETE: EXPERIMENTS IN SUSTAINABILITY
- E. LESSONS FROM THE MODEL SHOP: VISUALIZING MATERIAL AND STRUCTURE IN PHYSICAL FORM

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I. ACADEMICS



**A. MIDTERM JURY EXCITEMENT AT
ARCHITECTURE DESIGN STUDIOS FOR THE
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OF MIDTERM JURY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHITECTURE**

**B. MOCK-UP INTERVIEWS: AN INNOVATIVE
APPROACH TO MIDTERMS**

**C. FACULTY AND STUDENTS' RESEARCH
ACTIVITY AT THE ARCHITECTURE
DEPARTMENT**

**D. MASTERING CONCRETE: EXPERIMENTS IN
SUSTAINABILITY**

**E. LESSONS FROM THE MODEL SHOP:
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MIDTERM JURIES



Midterm Jury Excitement at Architecture design Studios for the Fall 2022-23: A Successful Completion of Midterm Jury at the Department of Architecture

A successful completion of Midterm project juries by the architecture students of Fall 2022-23 took place on November 24-26, 2022 at the old architecture building at DAH. All design studios' students presented their midterm work. It was a recognition moment for the students for which they have worked day and night to achieve specific outcomes within this time of the semester. The great encouragements and the handful guidance of the studio instructors and external jurors have become fruitful with the wonderful outcome of these projects.





The event was graced by the presence of department chair, Prof. Jihad Farah and all the faculty members of the Department along with a good number of respected external jurors. The jury members are well reputed professionals in their own fields of architecture and education. The jurors included Dr. Nader Azab, Dr. Mohammed Gomaa, Ms. Sima Refae, Ms. Shatha Abualfaraj (Department of Architecture, DAH), Arch. Rasha Farsi (Zaki Farsi Engineering Consultant Group), Arch. Khaled Fallattah (Department of Architecture, KAU), Arch. Abdulaziz Albarrak (Department of Architecture, KAU), Arch. AbdulMuhsin Addas (Department of Architecture, UBT), Arch. Turki Gazzaz (Co-founder, BRICKLAB) and more. Their valuable comments on the design projects helped the students to understand the potentials and problems of the projects as well. There were variety of projects regarding urban issues, social problems, environmental issues which were identified, observed and to some extent solved by the students.

Many of the projects were highly commended by the jurors based on their merit. Enthusiastic participation of Architecture Students of different levels transformed the department into a very lively and happening venue filled with festive mood. Successful events like these are essential to ensure high standard of graduating professionals from universities and to establish a resourceful bonding between profession and academia.

Architecture Department is thankful to the external jurors, participants, students and the university administration for their support and would like to take this opportunity to wish a very bright, prosperous future to the fresh architects from DAH.





Salah Zughaibi Office
SZ Engineering Consultants

**Foster +
Partners**

CA 
Collaborative Architects

MOCK-UP INTERVIEWS: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO MIDTERMS



In today's day and age, students need a connection between their studies and the professional world. It is a necessity for students to understand how the real world of getting a job works. Furthermore, The Department of Architecture advocates for its students. It prepares them for what is next on their journey to professional success. During the midterm week, Ms. Sima Refae introduced a creative twist on examining her Professional Practice's students. Ms. Sima set up several mock-up interviews with household national and international architecture firms and non-profit organizations as a medium of midterms. Additionally, the interviews were set with Norman + Partners, Collaborative Architects + Partners, Bawtaqah Foundation, and SZ Engineering Consultants. Furthermore, Norman + Partners is a global studio for sustainable architecture, urbanism, engineering, and design, founded by the famous Norman Foster in 1967. With offices across the world, the practice works as a single entity. Also, Collaborative Architects + Partners is an award-winning architecture and engineering firm established in 2012. CA+ pioneered a holistic design approach to architecture through a wide range of work, from urban planning, public and civic buildings, and cultural facilities to product and furniture design. In addition, Bawtaqah Foundation originally started as a non-profit organization. It was founded by six Saudi students finishing their higher-level education in the United Kingdom in 2013. Their main aim was to share their architectural knowledge with other students in the United Kingdom. The foundation was established in 2016 after the founders graduated, moved back to Saudi Arabia, and continued their activities back home. Also, SZ Engineering Consultants was founded by Eng. Salah Alzughaiby. It has more than 38 years of experience in design and engineering consultancy in various governmental and private projects. The invitees were contacted before the examination date and given a rubric to assist in the process of grading the students' interview skills, CVs, and portfolios. Finally, the invitees were interested in certain students and were happy to recruit them as soon as they graduated.



**FACULTY AND
STUDENTS' RESEARCH
ACTIVITY AT THE
ARCHITECTURE
DEPARTMENT**

Research is an important part of the faculties' activity in Academia but also is essential for the development of students' competencies. In the following, we present the faculty's and students' research activity.

Full-time faculty and their recent research activity

In Spring 2022, in the department and among the full-time faculty, there were six PhD holders. The following presents a brief of the research interests and recent activities:



Prof. Jihad Farah

Prof. Jihad Farah is interested in environmental and local urban policies, mainly how different urban and local governance models emerge to deal with environmental challenges related to water, solid waste, lack of greenery, food issues, etc. He has extensively published on these subjects. Since January 2022, he is co-lead researcher of a 18-months research on urban food resilience in the Lebanese context, with circa. 100,000 euros from the French National Research Agency and in partnership with researchers from the Poitiers University and Sciences Po Paris University. He has been leading a team of 10 researchers and research assistants and is halfway in terms of field analysis.

He has also published:

o In Spring 2022:

- FARAH J. & VERDEIL E. (2022) Instruments and Spaces of Waste Governance in Lebanon, Geocarrefour, <https://journals.openedition.org/geocarrefour/17699>, SCOPUS INDEXED
- FARAH J., (2022) Environnement et aménagement urbain au Liban: Une approche par l'étude des systèmes sociotechniques et des controverses, CAREP, <https://www.carep-paris.org/publications/axes-de-recherche/ecologie-et-politique/vima/papiers-de-recherche-vima/environnement-et-amenagement-urbain-au-liban-une-approche-par-letude-des-systemes-sociotechniques-et-des-controverses/>

o In Fall 2022:

- FARAH J. & SADEK S., (2022) Micro-housing, Vertical Marginalization and “Normalcy”: Negotiating Inclusion Arrangements in the Interstices of Residential Apartment Buildings in Beirut, In Maloutas T. & Karadimitriou (dir) Micro-segregated cities. An international comparison of segregation in dense cities, Edward Elgar Publishing, (in press)
- FARAH J. & AOUN O., (2022) Une instrumentation humanitaire déterritorialisée pour les services d'eau et d'assainissement dans les camps de réfugiés syriens au Liban: origines et limites, Géocarrefour, 96/1, <https://journals.openedition.org/geocarrefour/19633>, SCOPUS INDEXED
- FARAH J., KASHMAR Z. (2022) Paysages urbains, imaginaires, controverses et arrangements des espaces publics à Beyrouth, Méditerranée , 134, <https://journals.openedition.org/mediterranee/14025>, SCOPUS INDEXED

He has submitted for publication in Environment and Planning (SCOPUS INDEXED Q1) and awaits response:

- FARAH J., Environmental Controversies and Sociotechnical Infrastructural Black-Boxes in Lebanon: The Role of Materiality, Territoriality and Knowledge Production in Framing Environment and Local Politics Relations

He has intervened in the 2022 Conference of the Association of European Schools of Planning (July 29th, 2022), with a abstract-reviewed presentation:

- MADY C. & FARAH J., Public Space Activism as Entrepreneurialism? The Case of Beirut Lebanon before and after 2019.
-



Dr. Mohammad Gomaa

Dr. Mohammad Gomaa is interested in climate-adaptive urban planning. He has published extensively on this subject. Recently he was a co-lead researcher on a research entitled “Adapting Sustainable Urban Planning to local climate Change in Egyptian new towns, case study: new Aswan’”, funded by STDF and DAAD.

He has published:

- In Spring 2022: Gomaa, M., Ragab, A. (2022). Investigating the Spatial Autocorrelation of Surface-Air Temperature for Different Ground Materials in Hot Desert Climate. The Egyptian International Journal of Engineering Sciences and Technology, 39(1), 49-59
- In Fall 2022: Gomaa, M. (2022). Investigating Socioeconomic Factors Influencing Households’ Residential Location Choice Using Multinomial Logit Analysis. International Journal of Architectural Engineering and Urban Research, 5(1), 92-115

He has recently submitted also for publication:

- Gomaa M., Assessing the Impacts of Population Relocation Induced by Future Sea-Level Rise Scenarios on Transportation Systems in Coastal Communities" to be published in the journal of Environmental Sciences and Sustainable Development (SCOPUS INDEXED)
-



Dr. Shifana Kaafil

Dr. Shifana Kaafil's research interests focus on building science and construction materials. She has extensively published on this subject.

She has published in Spring 2022:

- Kaafil F. (2022). Modelling of cracked concrete and identification of design parameters using static nonlinear analysis. Civil Engineering and Architecture, 10 (2), 584 - 599. DOI: 10.13189/cea.2022.100216. (SCOPUS INDEXED)
 - Kaafil F. (2021). Dynamic response of cracked concrete rehabilitated with composites. Electronic Journal of Structural Engineering, 21, 1–9.
 - Omar R. & Kaafil F. (2022) Preliminary Study to Show the Effect of Building Envelope Materials on Thermal Comfort of Buildings Located in Hot Humid Climate, World Journal of Engineering and Technology, 10(2), (SCOPUS INDEXED)<https://www.scirp.org/journal/paperinformation.aspx?paperid=117108>, (SCOPUS INDEXED). This article was published with one of the department students.
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Dr. Tamsen Anderson

Dr. Tamsen Anderson is currently revising and expanding her article “‘A Necessary Evil’: The Struggle Over Smell in Chicago’s Southern Suburbs” for the *Journal of Urban History*. Ephemeral by nature, odors produced by industrial activities have often been overlooked as a factor in the spatial configuration of metropolitan areas, but the conflict over industrial smells has long played a role in the urbanization process. The modernization and growth of American meat production during the second half of the nineteenth century generated some of the most offensive industrial odors.

In the rapidly growing city of Chicago, new landowners and residents began settling in once-peripheral areas occupied by animal processing factories. Repulsed by the smell of decaying animal matter, citizens on the southern outskirts of Chicago fought an ongoing series of battles to push noxious-smelling animal by-products factories, deemed a “necessary evil” by city officials, farther out onto the metropolitan periphery. The most famous of these was the conflict between the Northwestern Fertilizing Company and the Village of Hyde Park in the 1870s. Dubbed the “Perfumery War” by the Chicago press, the clash between the fertilizing company and its suburban neighbors raised questions about property rights, land use, and environmental pollution that remain relevant today as residents on the fringe of American cities continue to struggle against offensive odors emitted by the animal by-products industry.



Dr. Nader Azab

Dr. Nader Azab is currently working on two research projects. The first studies the meanings and dimensions of community in gated residential compounds in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The proliferation of such communities has increased interest in exploring the potential of these communities to contribute to the sustainable future of Saudi Arabia. The second is a qualitative study investigating environmental justice in Jeddah. Data will include primary sources, such as interviews with key officials and surveys among the affected populations, as well as secondary sources. It will shed light on hidden dimensions of sustainability and sustainable development by evaluating the city's current plans and policies. The study will conclude with a proposed approach for dealing with similar situations in the future.

Students' research

One hallmark of the research activity in the department and that should be well recognized is that of involvement of students in research activities. In fact, in the design discipline where focus is on projects and practice, it is quite rare to find students involved in proper research and even less in research publication.

In Spring 2022, students have been remarkable at this level:

- One co-authored a research publication in a Scopus indexed journal (see above)
- 16 students participated in the Research and Innovation Forum organized in DAH. Three won awards including:
- Ms. Ruqaiya Fathima Baig, 1st prize for presentation: Feasting in Moderation: How Urban Farms Can Provide Practice Based Agricultural Knowledge
- Ms. Zainah Bagaber, 2nd prize for presentation: The Lost Place of Focus: Reclaiming Our Focus in the Age of Distractions
- Layal Jadhhaq, 3rd prize for poster: The Future of Jeddah After Sea Level Rise

This was possible due to the high involvement of the faculty, especially Dr. Shifana Kaafil and Tamsen Anderson in the Research Committee who assisted the students in the writing of their research and reviewed their papers.



MASTERING CONCRETE: EXPERIMENTS IN SUSTAINABILITY



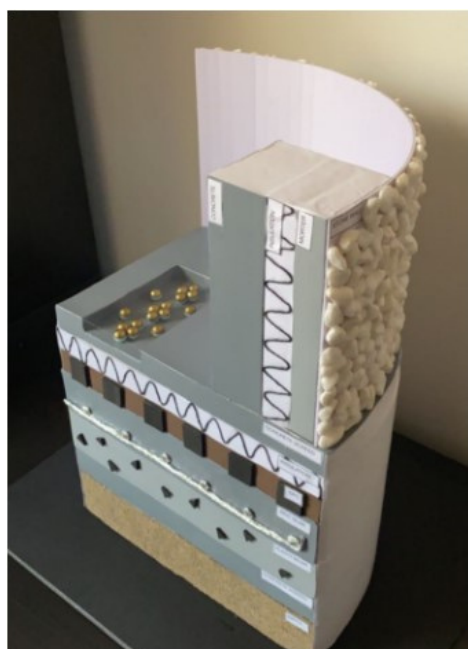
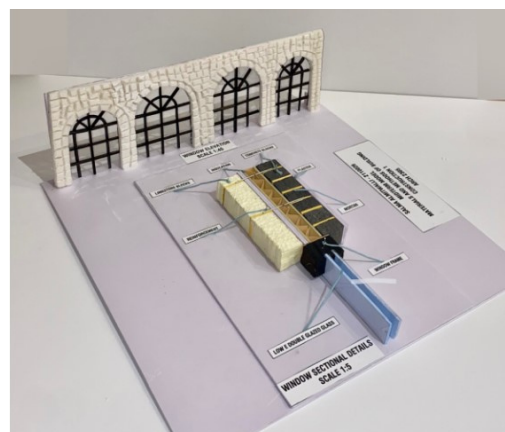


Concrete is the most widely used construction material in the world. Strong, durable, and relatively inexpensive, the material offers many advantages. However, the production of concrete has a high environmental cost, contributing significantly to carbon dioxide emissions and climate change. The production of sustainable concrete offers hope that building with concrete can be more environmentally friendly. The Master of Architecture Students in Dr. Shifana Kaafil's Advanced Material Technology course are working toward that goal by replacing a portion of the cement used in the production of concrete with different post-consumer products. They experimented using Arabic gum, coal ash, coffee capsules, corn cobs, paraffin wax, rubber tires, shells, and wood waste, which they cut into fibers or ground into a fine powder before mixing with cement, producing in a dry mix with either a coarse or fine aggregate. Students are in the process of testing the strength of the mortar and concrete cube at the Solutions and Mining Laboratory in Al Sharefeyah District in Jeddah. They will conclude their experiments and report their findings at the end of the semester.

LESSONS FROM THE MODEL SHOP: VISUALIZING MATERIAL AND STRUCTURE IN PHYSICAL FORM



In the age of 3D printers and augmented reality, hand-built models are still valuable tools that help in understanding buildings. In Materials and Methods of Building Construction I, Dr. Shifana Kaafil developed a model-making project that horizontally aligns with Studio I: Form and Order in Cultural Context. Students were asked to create a model showing the relationship between their architectural concept and selected building technology. The most important purpose of the assignment was to enable students to visualize the relation between different types of construction materials and the use of different types of connectors joining structural members. Among other things, students showcased models of a building's façade and foundation, as well as water features inside a building and sections of important constructions details, such as doors, windows, and roofs.



II.TALKS AND WORKSHOPS



**A. CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE GUGGENHEIM BILBAO MUSEUM: A VIEW
FROM THE INSIDE BY FERNANDO PÉREZ**

**B. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE
INDOOR LIGHTING ENVIRONMENTS: AN
ENLIGHTENING TALK BY DR. NAJIB AL-ASHWAL**

**C. THE ROLE OF ENERGY SIMULATION TOOLS IN
DESIGNING ZERO-ENERGY BUILDINGS: A
LESSON IN SUSTAINABILITY BY DR. YATHREB
SABSABY**

**D. OTTOMAN SPATIAL ORGANIZATION OF
THE PRE-MODERN CITY OF AL MADINAH: A
JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY WITH ATIF
ALSHIHRI**

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUGGENHEIM BILBAO MUSEUM

A View from the Inside by Fernando Pérez

ARCHITECTURE

GUGGENHEIM BILBAO





SPANISH ARCHITECT FERNANDO PEREZ, WHO IS CURRENTLY DIRECTOR OF IDOM IN SAUDI ARABIA, WILL OFFER EXPERT INSIGHT INTO FRANK GEHRY'S LANDMARK DESIGN OF THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM BILBAO, SPAIN. HE BEGAN HIS CAREER IN THE OFFICE OF FRANK O. GEHRY AND ASSOCIATES IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA BEFORE JOINING IDOM, A LEADING INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING ENGINEERING FIRM, IN 1993, WHEN HE TOOK CHARGE OF OVERSEEING THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM BILBAO'S EXTERNAL TITANIUM CLADDING, ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR ASPECTS OF THE BUILDING'S DESIGN.

FERNANDO PEREZ

SUN, 30 OCTOBER

01:00-02:00 P.M

068-Hall



In October 2022, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain celebrated its 25th anniversary. When the museum opened in 1997, Canadian American architect Frank O. Gehry's exuberant cacophony of complex geometric forms dazzled the architecture world and public alike, giving rise to the neologisms "starchitect" to convey Gehry's celebrity status and "Guggenheim effect" to describe the building's transformative economic impact on the once-struggling post-industrial city. Upon initial inspection, the museum's design may appear haphazard and highly subjective, but in his talk Spanish architect Fernando Pérez dispelled these notions, revealing the intensive and introspective design process. Currently the Middle East Director of IDOM, an international consulting, engineering, and architecture corporation headquartered in Spain, Pérez began his career working in Frank Gehry's office before joining IDOM in 1993. IDOM, which served as Executive Architect on the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, worked closely with Design Architect Frank O. Gehry and Associates, to achieve the design team's vision.

Although the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao's innovative form has often been attributed to the use of computer-aided design (CAD) software, Pérez disclosed that Gehry and his young, open-minded design team used physical, rather than digital, models until the final phase of the design process. Thus, the computer was only a tool used to enable to construction of a challenging design, not the generator of the design itself. Pérez also countered the perception that the museum's design was the product of impetuous or random decisions, explaining that it resulted from careful consideration of the program and user experience. To gain insight into these critical factors, the program was exploded into disparate fragments, which the design team continuously reworked and reassembled, even during the construction process, when prompted by requests from the client or budgetary demands. In addition, the team routinely constructed mock-ups and ran real-life tests to assess the building's performance. In sharing his personal experience of working on the museum, Pérez imparted a valuable lesson to architecture students: despite its irreverent, playful appearance, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao was the product of pragmatic as well as aesthetic design decisions.



METHODS AND TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE INDOOR LIGHTING ENVIRONMENTS

An Enlightening Talk by Dr. Najib Al-Ashwal



Light is one of the fundamental elements of architectural design. At a pragmatic level, the presence of light, whether natural or artificial, allows a user to occupy and use a building safely and comfortably. An architect's sensitive manipulation of light can also enhance the architectural experience by creating different emotional effects. For instance, direct natural light can be energizing while muted lighting can be relaxing. Moreover, changes in natural light can be a subtle reminder of the time of year and day as well as shifting weather conditions. Sitting near a window a bright summer day is a strikingly different experience than sitting near the same window on an overcast day in the winter. Light can also help enliven a building by transforming a space or surface with the flickering pattern of shadows. Today, at a time when climate change is a pressing global concern, architects are turning their attention to the important role natural light can play improving energy efficiency and thermal comfort in buildings. In his talk exploring methods and techniques to improve indoor lighting environments, Dr. Najib Al-Ashwal, currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Technology Malaysia, examined innovations in daylighting design to improve the sustainability of indoor lighting environments. His research draws on his long academic experience, honed with a bachelor's degree in Architecture from Sana University in Yemen; a Master of Science Degree in Architectural Engineering from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in Saudi Arabia; and a Ph.D. in Sustainable Architecture from Science University in Malaysia, distinguished as the only Accelerated Programs for Excellence government-funded autonomous university in Malaysia.

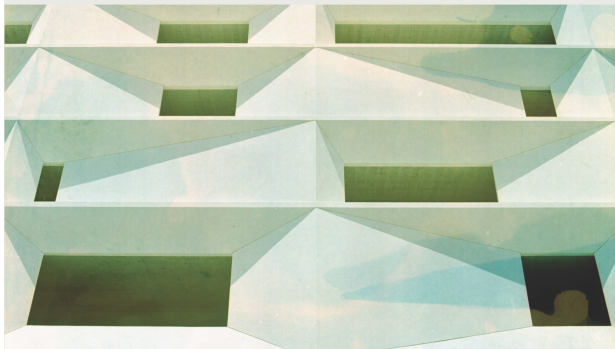
Architecture
department

**27
OCT**

**INNOVATIVE DAYLIGHTING
METHODS/TECHNIQUES TO
IMPROVE INDOOR LIGHTING
ENVIRONMENT**

كلية التصميم والعمارة
HERMA SCHOOL OF DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE







DR. NAJIB AL-ASHWAL
*Faculty of Built Environment and surveys
University Teknologi Malaysia*

Dr. Najib Al-Ashwal is currently a post-Doctoral fellow at University Technology Malaysia. He received a Ph.D. in Sustainable Architecture from University Sains Malaysia. He got a Master of Science in Architectural Engineering from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia, and a bachelor's degree in Architecture from Sana'a University, Yemen. His main research interests include Sustainability, Daylighting, Green Buildings, Energy efficiency, and thermal comfort in buildings.

ZOOM

Meeting ID: 938 6014 2031
Passcode: 465066

THURSDAY 27 OCT
09:00:00-10:00:00 A.M

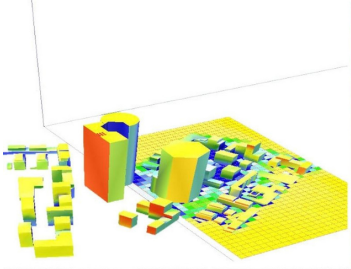
THE ROLE OF ENERGY SIMULATION TOOLS IN DESIGNING ZERO-ENERGY BUILDINGS

A Lesson in Sustainability by Dr. Yathreb
Sabsaby



Globally, rapid economic and urban growth and the modernization of living standards have led to a significant increase in buildings' energy consumption and their production of greenhouse gas emissions, which are linked to global warming and climate change. In her timely talk, Dr. Yathreb Sabsaby, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture at Lebanese University in Beirut, addressed the role that energy simulation tools can play in the design of zero-energy buildings to combat environment problems. In contrast to conventionally designed high-energy consuming buildings, zero-energy buildings can balance the production and consumption of energy, thereby dramatically reducing and even eliminating excess energy and carbon emissions. The development of low- and zero-net energy buildings is vital to move toward energy efficiency and sustainability in the built environment. Dr. Yathreb introduced students to energy simulation software, which allows architects to analyze energy performance through all stages of the design and construction process. Using this tool, architects can minimize a building's reliance on active mechanical systems, thereby improving the energy efficiency of the built environment.

ROLE OF ENERGY SIMULATION TOOLS IN DESIGNING ZERO-ENERGY BUILDINGS




 كلية الفنون والعمارة
 HENNA SCHOOL OF DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE

Oct 23 | 01 PM
Architecture Department

 **ZOOM**
 Meeting ID: 999 6588 9027
 Passcode: 711759



DR. YATHREB SABSABI
*Assistant Professor
at the Architectural
Engineering department*

She worked as an Architectural Designer and Consultant in the private and real estate development sector for about 13 years by designing and implementing more than 25 residential buildings. She has been teaching in several Lebanese universities since 2013. Her research topics are Energy efficient high performance building design, building performance simulation, energy modeling, building materials performance, retrofitting projects and many other topics by using energy simulation software.

ROLE OF ENERGY SIMULATION TOOLS IN DESIGNING ZERO-ENERGY BUILDINGS

Abstract:

In the past few years, the rapid development of urbanization, economic development, living standards and climatic changes have led to a significant increase in the energy consumption of buildings. The purpose of this lecture is to present how we can design zero-energy buildings (ZEBs), which is known to be capable of balancing its own energy production and consumption close to Zero. Development of low- and zero-net energy buildings is vital to move toward energy efficiency and sustainability in the built environment. To achieve zero or low energy targets in building, it is essential to use the design process that minimizes the need for active mechanical systems. The building performance simulation software plays a role in advancing methods for architects and designers to analyze energy performance through all stages of the design and construction process and make decisions for improving energy efficiency in the built environment. Therefore, this lecture reviews the role of energy simulation software for the performance of buildings to move for more advanced levels in modeling the integrated design process of ZEBs.

OTTOMAN SPATIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE PRE-MODERN CITY OF AL MADINAH

A Journey Through History with Atif Alshihri



On November 15, Atif Alshihri gave an engaging talk on the architectural and urban heritage of Medina in western Saudi Arabia. Arch. Alshihri is an architect, consultant and academic with a strong commitment to responsible practice, research, and public service. His practice and research agenda are focused on the urban form and development of cities in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. His current research addresses the confluence of culture, history, and the development of cities in the Arabian Peninsula. He is the recipient of several prestigious research awards, including a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley, and an award from the Islamic Manuscripts Association (TIMA), an affiliated project of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge.





Drawing on his research published in ABE Journal—Architecture Beyond Europe, Arch. Alshihri shared his insights on the pre-modern urban development of Medina during the Ottoman reign within the framework of the Ottoman administration of Arab provinces. Upon defeating the Egypt-based Mamluk Sultanate in 1517, the Ottomans annexed the Islamic holy cities of Mecca and Medina. Arch. Alshihri focused attention on the significance of Medina to the Ottoman state structure, despite its remoteness from the center of political power. In an effort to legitimize their rule by symbolically tying themselves back to Prophet Muhammad, the Ottomans transformed Medina in its own image by introducing typical Ottoman hallmarks of urbanization, including a defensive wall and military fort. They also built domed, centrally planned mosques with pencil minarets in the distinctive Ottoman style. However, the spiritual significance of Medina also influenced Ottoman methods of spatial organization. Special efforts were made to accommodate religious traditions and practices. Thus, as Arch. Alshihri convincingly demonstrated, the urban character and texture of the city at the end of Ottoman rule in Arabia was the result of a fusion of spatial innovations and deep-rooted traditions, which shaped a lasting historical image of Medina.



ARCHITECTURE



AL-MADINA HERITAGE'S TALK

ARCH. ATIF ALSHIHRI

SPEAKER BRIEF:

Atef Alshehri is an architect, consultant and academic with strong commitment to responsible practice, research and public service. His practice and research agenda is focused on the urban form and development of cities in the MENA region. His current research addresses the confluence of culture, history and development of cities in the Arabian Peninsula. He is the recipient of several research awards, such as the Fulbright fellowship at the University of California-Berkeley and the award of the International Islamic Manuscripts Association (TIMA), Cambridge, UK.

📍 HALL-68 📅 15 NOV ⌚ 1-2 PM



Among the audience was Dr. Ulrike Freitag, who is Director at Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin and holds a full special professorship (S-Professur) at Freie Universität Berlin in the Institute of Islamic Studies. Dr. Freitag is an historian of the modern Middle East specialized in the urban history of the Arabian Peninsula in its global context. Her recent scholarly work includes *A History of Jeddah: The Gate to Mecca in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*, published in 2020, by Cambridge University Press. Dr. Freitag and her students attended the lecture as Arch. Alshihri's guests. After the presentation, she and Arch. Alshihri met informally with the Architecture Department's faculty and students to delve deeper into topics related to architecture and urbanism in Saudi Arabia.



III.VISITS AND TRIPS



**A. INTERNATIONAL TRIP TO SPAIN: AN
ARCHITECTURAL TOUR TO MADRID AND
BARCELONA**

**B. FIELD TRIP TO A MALL UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

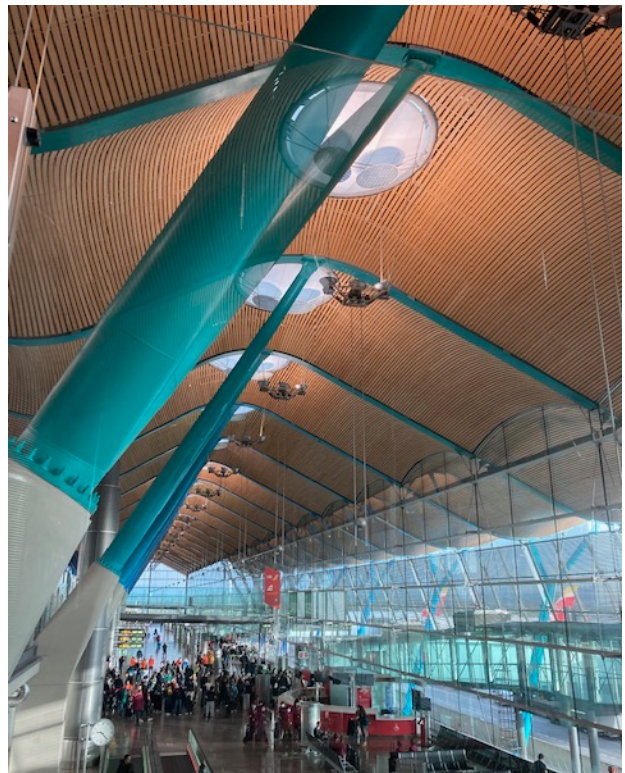
INTERNATIONAL TRIP TO SPAIN

An Architectural Tour to Madrid and Barcelona



On November 23, 10 architecture students embarked on seven-day whirlwind architecture tour of Spain, spending three days in Madrid before traveling on a high-speed train to explore Barcelona for four days. Expertly organized by Ms. Shatha Abualfaraj, the architecture tour attracted the interest of students from Studio I (Leena Musallam, Daliah Adnan Ghazzawi, Mariyah Oma Alattas, Noran Fareed Alharazi), Studio III (Shahad Jamal Azhar, Rafal Sofian Makki, and Hala Mohamed Sultan), Studio V (Lubna Adnan Shukri), and Studio VII (Lujain Rayan Qutub and Dalal Ibrahim Albassam as well as her sister Danah Ibrahim Albassam, a Banking and Finance major and architecture enthusiastic). Dr. Tamsen Anderson assisted Ms. Abualfaraj in chaperoning the group.

The students' architectural adventure began immediately upon landing at Madrid-Barajas Airport in Terminal 4, which was designed by the British High-Tech architect Richard Rogers at the turn of the 21st century. The students gazed at the terminal's undulating bamboo-clad ceiling, which was inspired by the movement of birds in flight. The rainbow hues of the tilted columns further enhanced the liveliness and dynamism of the interior. However, Terminal 4 offered far more than a lesson in aesthetics. The use of shading elements for the curtain walls, the addition of skylights and the bamboo ceiling demonstrate how a sustainable approach can be integrated into a variety of architectural languages.



**Terminal 4, Barajas Airport
Madrid, Spain
(2005)**

Ensconced at the Hotel Urban in the cultural center of Madrid, students were within easy walking distance to the city's premier cultural amenities, including the famed Prado Museum, a Neoclassical building designed by the Spanish architect Juan de Villaneuva in 1785. The Spanish Pritzker Prize-winning architect Rafael Moneo's stripped-down cubic form and colonnade of his extension to the Prado Museum, completed in 2007, echoes the entrance pavilion of the original museum without resorting to imitation, a valuable lesson imparted to visiting architecture students. Also notable is Moneo's use of red brick, a contextual nod to the city's vernacular architecture.



**Prado Museum
Madrid, Spain
(1785)**



**Prado Museum Extension
Madrid, Spain
(2007)**

Logging upwards of 20,000 steps per day, students encountered an array of grand revival buildings from the turn of the twentieth century in Madrid's fashionable neighborhoods, guided by local architect Daniel Siminovich, an expert on tensile design, fabrication, and construction. Among the most impressive was the Palace Hotel, designed in 1912 by Catalan architect Eduard Ferrès y Puig. Belying its opulent ornamental flourishes, the Palace Hotel was the most modern building in the city when built, constructed of reinforced concrete and equipped with private bathrooms and telephones for each of the 800 guest rooms. In line with the building as a whole, the monumental Art Nouveau-stained glass dome in the rotunda combined the grandeur of the classical tradition with advanced materials and technologies, creating a spectacular effect.



**Palace Hotel
Madrid, Spain
(1912)**

In Madrid, the focus was not on buildings alone. Students were encouraged to consider architecture within its urban context. To help in this endeavor, they had several opportunities to study the urban fabric from a panoramic view, including from the terrace of the *Círculo de Bellas Artes*, a multidisciplinary cultural organization housed in an eclectic classical revival style building designed in 1926 by the Spanish architect Antonio Palacios. With the city splayed out below, the tour guide pointed out the *Grand Vía* (Great Way), an important diagonal thoroughfare that cuts through the center of the city. Inspired by Baron Haussmann's urban transformation of Paris in the 19th century, Madrid's city planners began constructing the *Grand Vía* in 1910, to connect the *Calle de Alcalá* (one of the city's longest streets) with the *Plaza de España*. From their elevated position, students could see the strong contrast between the grand revival styles of the architectural monuments lining the *Grand Vía* and the surrounding vernacular buildings characterized by red brick walls and clay roof tiles.



**Círculo de Bellas Artes
Madrid, Spain
(1926)**

To the north of Grand Vía stands the historic Chueca neighborhood, which has been inhabited since the 17th century. Students spent several hours roaming the neighborhood's old narrow streets lined with fashionable bakeries, restaurants, and shops featuring locally-made goods.



Chueca Neighborhood Madrid, Spain

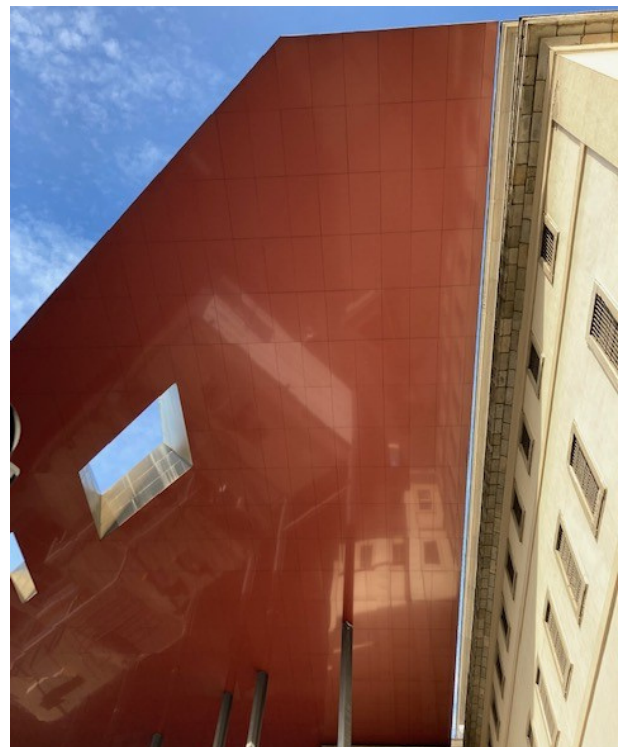
Students also had an in-depth tour of the Foundation Francisco Giner's Free Institution for Education complex in the Chamberí neighborhood, located immediately north of Chueca. Completed in 2015 by Spanish architects Christina Díaz Moreno and Efrén García Grinda of the firm amid.cero9, the complex is centered around a courtyard garden, which was conceived as a place to accommodate the free exchange of ideas. Reflecting the experimental nature of Giner's open, non-hierarchical educational philosophy, Moreno and Grinda's avant-garde multifocal glass-walled classrooms, wrapped in a protective metal latticework, encourage teachers and students to engage in thoughtful dialogue rather than rigid top-down form of instruction. The same ideas informed the sculptural design of the auditorium. The placement of cavern-like side boxes flanking the stage prompted students to question whether the design caused problems with acoustics and sight lines.



**Foundation Francisco
Giner's Free Institution for
Education
(2015)**



A similar debate arose over Jean Nouvel's High Tech extension to the Reina Sofía Museum, which was greeted with widespread acclaim when completed in 2005. The reflective red surface of the cantilevered fiberglass roof and the dramatic volume of space underneath elicited audible gasps of astonishment from the students and chaperons. Equally impressive were the rooftop views that unfurled far into the distance and the playfully futurist-looking restaurant interior. However, the tour guide pushed students to think more critically about the design. Steering them behind the building, he drew attention to the design's impact on its neighbors, who suffer from the glare that reflects off the glossy roof. As students are routinely reminded in their design studios, architecture must be considered from multiple perspectives to help ensure it functions not only for its users, but also in relation to the surrounding context.



Reina Sofía Museum Extension
Madrid, Spain
(2005)



**The Glass Palace, El Retiro Park
Madrid, Spain**

Like Madrid locals, students enjoyed a respite from the crowded city streets while visiting a variety of parks, including the picturesque El Retiro Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Originally owned by the Spanish monarchy, the extensive grounds, which cover approximately 350 hectares, became a public park in the 19th century. The Glass Palace is among the park's architectural highlights. Built for the 1887 Philippines Exposition to promote commercial and economic relations between Spain and its colony, the Glass Palace's metal frame, glass envelope, and soaring interior space, minimally obstructed by cast iron columns, conveyed the country's technological prowess.

Upon leaving Madrid, students had the opportunity to visit Atocha Station, a building that illustrates some of the key design issues that face contemporary architects working in cities with a rich history of architecture and urbanism. Design in the late 19th century by the Spanish architect and engineer Alberto de Palacio y Elissague (a student of the French civil engineer Gustave Eiffel, designer of the Eiffel Tower in Paris), Atocha Station has been altered over the years to accommodate developments in rail transportation. Beginning in 1985, Rafael Moneo expanded the facilities to accommodate Alta Velocidad Española (AVE) high speed trains. However, rather than demolish the historic rail terminal, Moneo converted the grand vaulted space into a greenhouse filled with tropical plants, creating a tranquil spot in which harried passengers can rest before rushing to catch their trains in the adjacent terminal.



**Adaptive Reuse of Atocha Station
Madrid, Spain
(1985-93)**



**Hotel Nobu Restaurant
Barcelona, Spain**

Upon arrival to Barcelona, students had only a short walk from the Barcelona Sants Train Station to the Hotel Nobu, a luxury hotel chain founded by celebrated Japanese Chef Nobu Matsuhisa and Academy Award-winning American actor Robert de Niro. Each morning students enjoyed panoramic views of the city, the mountains and the sea while having breakfast in the hotel's top floor restaurant.

On their first day in Barcelona, Dr. Ricardo Gómez Val, Associate Professor in the Department of Technology at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya and a lecturer at the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya Barcelona School of Architecture, led a walking tour through the picturesque narrow streets of the historic El Born neighborhood and the Gothic Quarter.



**Gothic Quarter
Barcelona, Spain**

In the span of a few short hours, students experienced a sampling of the city's rich architectural history, including the remains of the ancient Roman wall, medieval and Renaissance palaces, as well as Santa Caterina Market, a 19th century food market renovated by Spanish architects Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue, founders of the firm EMBT. Completed in 2005, the restored Santa Caterina Market was intended to help revitalize El Born neighborhood. The addition of the colorful undulating tiled roof and sculptural, tree-like columns created a distinctive identity for the new food hall, subtly drawing on the design language of Barcelona's famous turn-of-the-twentieth century Modernisme movement (the Spanish version of Art Nouveau).



**Santa Caterina Market
Renovation
Barcelona, Spain
(2005)**



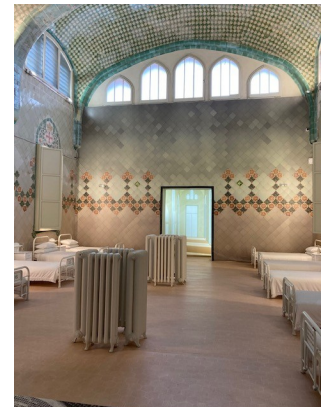
The Modernisme movement in Catalonia was spurred by rapid economic growth from industrialization. Seeking to express their unique Catalan identity, Modernisme architects designed wildly inventive buildings synthesizing an eclectic array of influences from the natural world as well as from European medieval, Islamic and Mudéjar architecture. Completed in 1908, Lluís Domènech i Montaner's Palace of Catalan Music is one of the masterpieces of the Modernisme movement. The building's palatial character was expressed by its heavily sculpted red brick façade, colorful mosaic tiled columns and walls, and fanciful interior details like the stylized flower bosses in the vaulted ceiling and the ceramic blooms used to decorate the necking of the hexagonal brick columns.

Palace of Catalan Music
Barcelona, Spain
(1908)

The other days spent in Barcelona included tours of the most famous Modernisme buildings in Barcelona, which were primarily led by Joanna Thomas, a British architect educated at the Architectural Association in London. To enrich their understanding of Lluís Domènech i Montaner's work, students visited the Hospital of the Holy Cross and Sant Pau, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site together with the Palace of Catalan Music. Built between 1901 and 1930, the Hospital of the Holy Cross and Sant Pau is the largest Art Nouveau complex in the world. Among the most prominent buildings are the large central administration block and 12 pavilions that served as hospital wards. Although medieval in form and many of its details, the hospital complex was a model of modern hospital design, informed by the architect's visits to more than 200 hospitals around the world. The pavilions were situated in an idyllic garden setting to help uplift patients' spirits and speed their recovery. They were also oriented to provide plentiful natural light and to allow for the efficient cross ventilation of interior spaces, which boasted easy-to-clean decorative tiled surfaces that helped maintain hygienic conditions. Montaner's Hospital of the Holy Cross and Sant Paul and the Palace of Catalan Music demonstrate that architectural creativity is not limited to one aspect of design, but can be expressed simultaneously in form, plan, spatial organization, building systems, and style.



**Hospital of the Holy Cross and Sant Pau
(1901-30)**



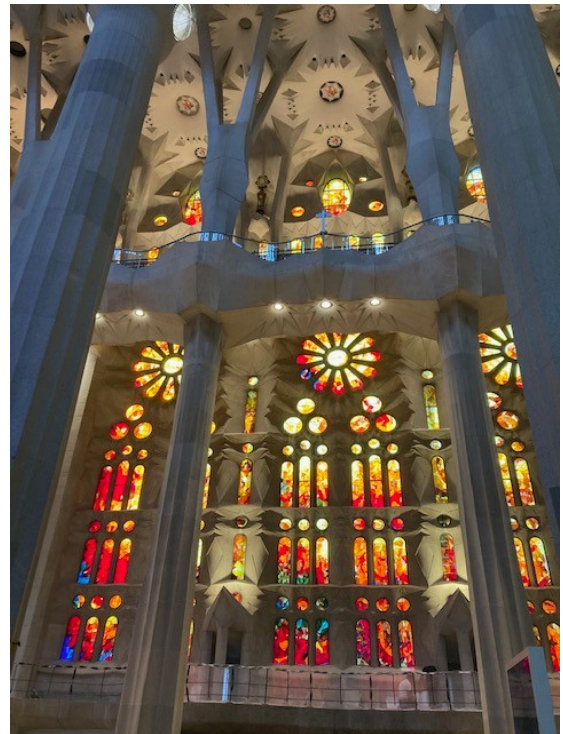
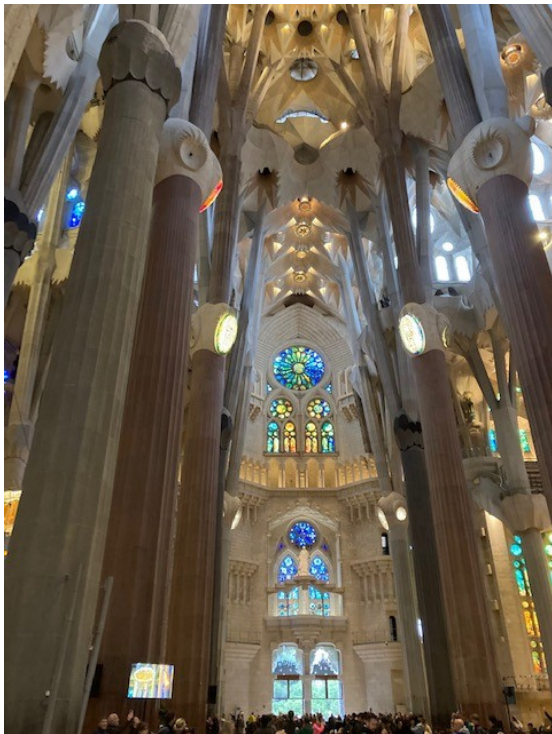
The highlight of the Modernisme architectural tour was undoubtedly visiting Antoni Gaudí's iconic buildings, which have played a pivotal role in making Barcelona a global capital of tourism. Witnessing the throng of tourists crowding the sidewalks to see Gaudí's architecture unquestionably impressed upon students the enduring historic, cultural, and economic value of architecture. During the tour of the Sagrada Família, students learned how nature inspired the form, structure, and ornamental details of Gaudí's architecture. Viewing nature as the manifestation of God's perfection, Gaudí designed a forest-like interior with columns that branch out to distribute lateral loads. Highlighting the symbolic correlation between columns and trees, Gaudí included oval indentations at the intersection of the column's "trunk" and "branches," mimicking the appearance of burls, the knotty growths found on old trees. In some instances, his references to nature were even more literal, such as the turtles that serve as the base of some of the columns on the Nativity Façade. However, Gaudí's symbolic language is multivalent. For example, the yellow, blue, and green stained-glass windows at once symbolize, among other things, the birth of Christ and poverty while the yellow, orange, and red stained-glass windows symbolize the resurrection of Christ and water. Beyond his inventive forms and symbolic architectural language, Gaudí was a master of structural innovation, using inverted catenary arches to reach such great heights and designed tree-like columns to eliminate the need for supporting buttresses.

Students also had the opportunity to visit some of Gaudí's most notable residential projects, including Casa Vicens, Casa Batlló, and Casa Milà, which were designed for Catalonia's industrial bourgeois families, who built monumental homes along the city's fashionable new boulevards, such as the Passeig de Gràcia. Although they varied in design, Gaudí sought to develop a distinctly Catalan architectural language in his houses and apartment buildings. His inspiration included the region's natural landscape—the caves and craggy profile of the surrounding mountains, the undulating form of waves, and the twisted strands of seaweed—along with symbols of Catholicism, such as crosses and attributes of saints. As in Sagrada Família, Gaudí residential buildings were also innovative in structure and materials, using inverted catenary arches in attics and steel frames and curtain walls in the Casa Milà. His earlier houses and apartment buildings may have been more traditional in structure, but he experimented in other ways, including in using paper mache for decorative ceiling elements in Casa Vicens. Gaudí also paid careful attention to exploit natural light as much as possible in his apartment buildings, designing units around large lightwells and installing glass in interior doors and walls. To ensure plentiful fresh air and a comfortable indoor environment in the Casa Batlló, he designed a pulley system to open a large swathe of the living room windows and provided air vents under the windows near the floor.

The importance of nature for Gaudí was highlighted for a final time when students strolled through Park Güell. The cave-like viaducts, the colorful serpentine bench, and playful animal sculptures, such as the famous multi-colored mosaic lizard near the entrance, were reminders of Gaudí's seemingly endless font of creativity.



The Sagrada Família
(b. 1882)

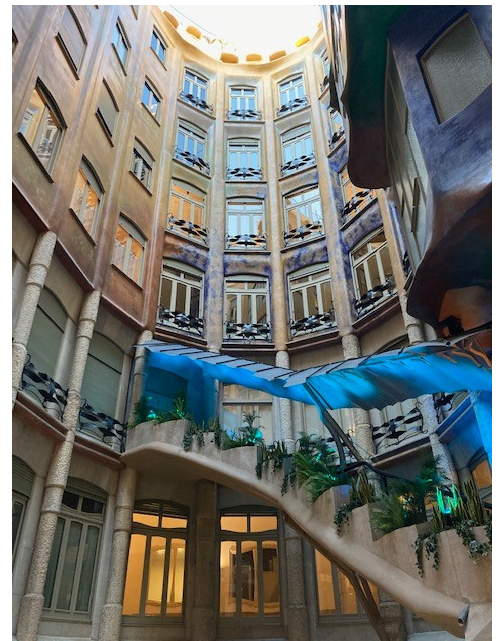




**Casa Vicens
(1885)**



Casa Batlló
Barcelona, Spain
(1904)

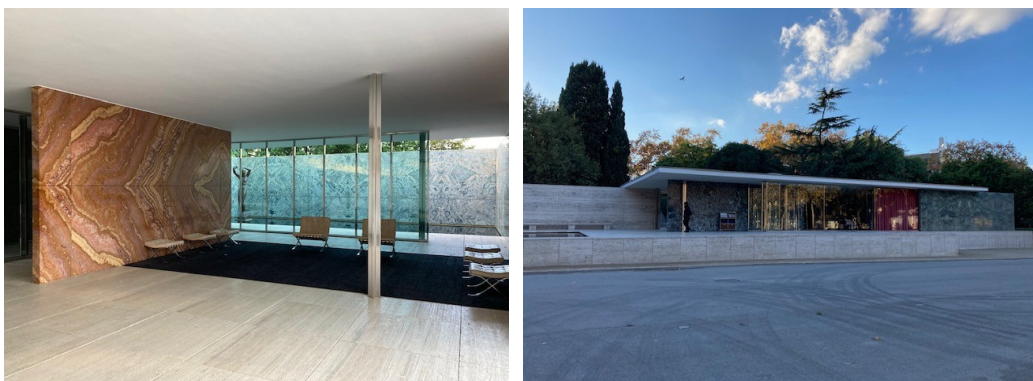


Casa Milà
Barcelona, Spain
(1912)



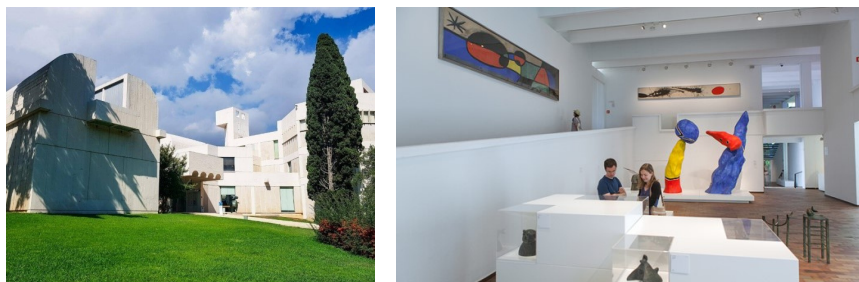
Park Güell
(1900)

Although best known for Modernisme, Barcelona boasts major monuments of modern and contemporary architecture, foremost among which is the German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's Barcelona Pavilion, built in 1929 for the International Exposition in Spain and subsequently reconstructed in 1986. Originally known as the German Pavilion, the Barcelona Pavilion served to showcase Germany's aesthetic and technological innovation. Embodying Mies' famous aphorism "Less is more," the Barcelona Pavilion is a meticulously refined, minimal composition of intersecting horizontal and vertical planes. The thin white concrete cantilevered roof seems to weightless hover above the slender cruciform steel columns supporting it, an effect enhanced by the glass curtain walls. The horizontal line of the roof plane is extended by the smooth surface of the reflecting pool over which it cantilevers. Further helping to elevate the design to iconic status are its elegant proportions and luxurious materials, which include the complementary pairing of golden-red onyx and polished green marble walls.



Barcelona Pavilion
Barcelona, Spain
(1929; rebuilt in 1986)

Located just a few minutes further up Montjuïc hill from the Barcelona Pavilion is another major work of modern architecture: the Fundació Joan Miró, completed in 1975 by the artist's close friend Spanish architect Josep Lluís Sert. Reminiscent of the late work of Sert's colleague Le Corbusier, the building's barrel vaulted sculptural concrete form provides an interesting foil to the Barcelona Pavilion's abstract and volumetric design. In response to its Mediterranean climate and context, the museum is organized around a central courtyard, allowing natural light into the galleries. Clerestory windows, which can be shaded, help modify lighting conditions to help protect the art. As students learned from visiting the Barcelona Pavilion and Fundació Joan Miró, the architectural language of the modern movement was far more complex and multidimensional than simplified narratives of architectural history suggest.

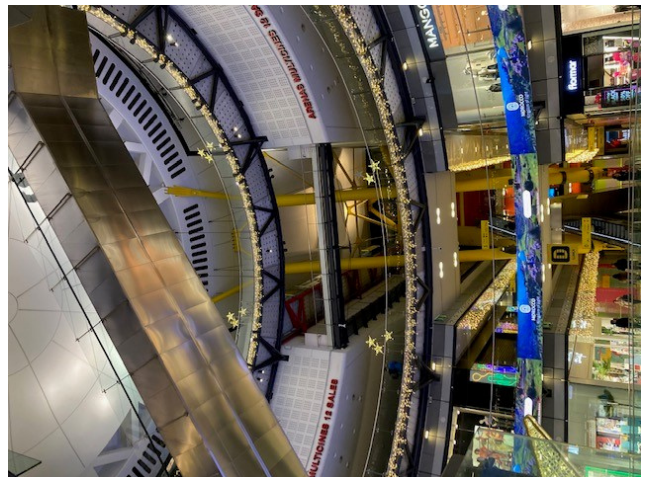


Fundació Joan Miró
Barcelona, Spain
(1975)

Two of the last buildings students visited highlighted the important role that architecture can play in engaging the public and reinvigorating old, overlooked parts of cities. Completed in 2004, Jean Nouvel's Torre Agbar (later renamed the Torre Glòries) was built as a gateway to Barcelona's new technical district, a former industrial area in the northern part of the city. Like Gaudi, Nouvel was inspired by the city's surrounding natural environment, including the jagged peaks of Montserrat Mountain. The tower's dynamic projectile form was also intended to evoke Sagrada Família's soaring spires and geysers, a reference the Water Company of Barcelona, a subsidiary of the company that commissioned the tower. To enhance the liquid effect, the reinforced concrete tower was clad with colorful lacquer aluminum sheets, which in turn were covered by glass louvers, reflecting light and visually dissolving the building's mass. Although not without controversy, the Torre Agbar's striking design acted as a magnet for real estate development, spurring the construction of new commercial and retail projects in the technical district. In a city with such a rich architectural heritage, new construction is not the only way to create a landmark attraction. In 2011, Richard Rogers converted a defunct bullring into the Arenas de Barcelona shopping center. The striking neo-Mudéjar façade featuring Moorish arches and decorative mosaics and ablaq stonework was retained, but the deteriorated interior was rebuilt for commercial and retail functions. Visiting the redesigned Arenas de Barcelona showed students that the adaptive reuse of historic buildings can be an opportunity to maintain links to the historic urban fabric while accommodating the changing needs of cities.



Torre Glòries
(2004)

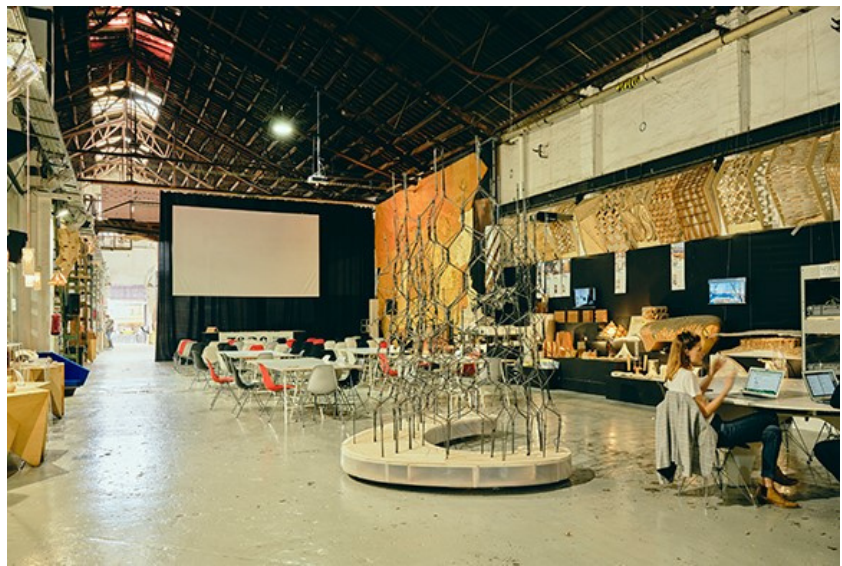


Arenas de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain
(2011)

Students spent their final day in Barcelona touring two of the city's preminent institutions of architecture education: the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC) Barcelona School of Architecture, the city's first private architecture school, and the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC), internationally renowned for its innovative multidisciplinary approach to research and design. At the UIC, students were introduced to the architecture school's hands-on studio culture, where intensive model making activity was on view. The school's emphasis on model making as a critical part of the design process was showcased in the tour of the school's extensive model shop facilities. The visit to IAAC was also an exciting experience for students, who gained some preliminary insight into the innovative, sustainability-related types of research architecture students can pursue at the master's level. One IAAC graduate student shared her experiments using plants to generate energy. In addition, students toured the institution's Green Fab Lab, the first digital fabrication laboratory oriented to self-sufficiency, and studios.

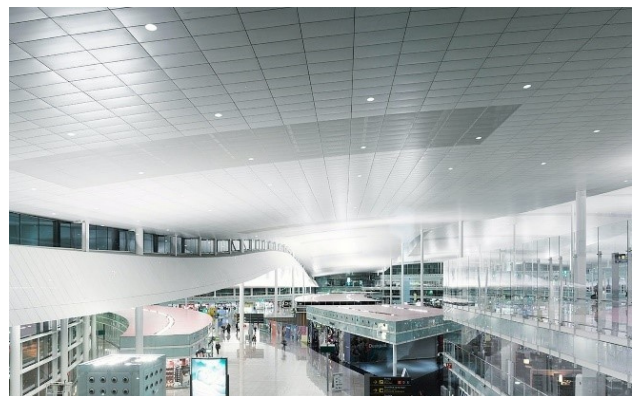


Universitat Internacional de Catalunya Barcelona School of Architecture



Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia

The departure from the Ricardo Bofill designed Terminal 1 in the Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat Airport offered one final opportunity for students to take in the country's architecture. Exhausted from the intensive itinerary, students nonetheless returned to university energized and inspired by the breadth of their architectural experiences in Spain.



Terminal 1, Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat Airport Barcelona, Spain (2009)

ON-SITE LEARNING

A Construction Visit to Avenue Mall



Site visits are a critical component of architectural education. Students are given the opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge in real world situations, thereby transforming abstract concepts into tangible and memorable experiences. On the morning of November 17, Dr. Shifana Kaafil and her Structural Design students toured Avenue Mall, which is currently under construction in Al Muhammadiyah District in Jeddah. Over the course of three and a half hours, the site engineer Mohammad Elbadrawy and the project manager Tameem Kouzi addressed all aspects of the construction process, beginning with the importance of safety. Students were reminded that wearing safety helmets and high visibility jackets can mean the difference between life and death on a construction site, where physical injury is an ongoing concern. Students were also introduced to a variety of advanced construction methods and technologies, including the post-tensioning of pre-stressed concrete slabs and smart parking guidance systems. For architecture students, the city's construction boom offers exciting opportunities for hands-on learning in the field.



IV. OTHER EVENTS



**A. HONORING THE PAST, ANTICIPATING THE
FUTURE: INTRODUCING ARCHITECTURE ALUMNI
TO THE ENVISIONED MASTER OF
ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM**

**B. DAR AL-HEKMA UNIVERSITY'S INNOVATION
LAB: THE NEW HOME OF DIGITAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN JEDDAH AND THE
WESTERN REGION**

**C. A SPACE OF OUR OWN: THE NEW
ARCHITECTURE STUDENT LOUNGE**

D. LYAL AZAN INTERVIEW

HONORING THE PAST, ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE

Introducing Architecture Alumni to the
Envisioned Master of Architecture Program



On November 8, Dar Al-Hekma University hosted an Alumni Afternoon Tea to reconnect with valued alumni, who have contributed so much to the university. In conjunction with the event, the Architecture Department organized a multi-media display in the northern wing adjacent to the rotunda. Architecture alumni who graduated during its 10-year span were introduced to its newly amended Master of Architecture Program. The Architecture Department's recent accomplishments were highlighted in the inaugural edition of its monthly newsletter Shababik AlHekma, which was displayed on an interactive SMART board. As part of the celebration, alumni embossed their fingerprint on an "Alumni Tree," a symbol of their cherished contribution to their alma mater.

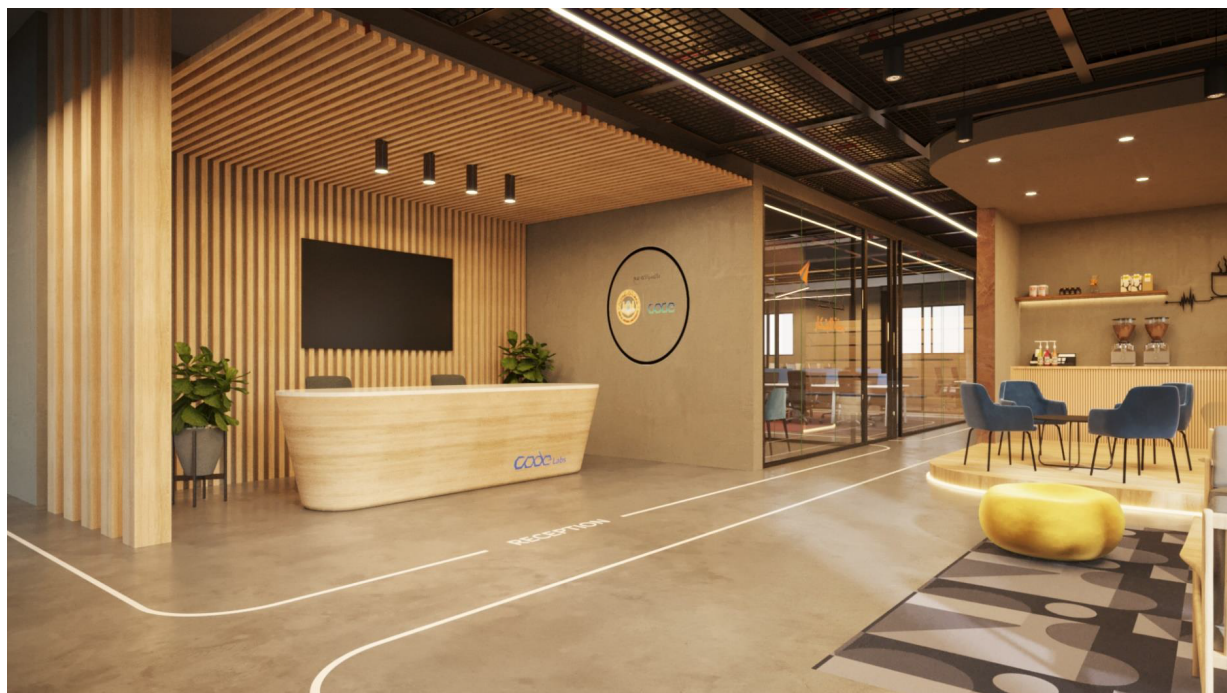


DAR AL-HEKMA UNIVERSITY'S INNOVATION LAB

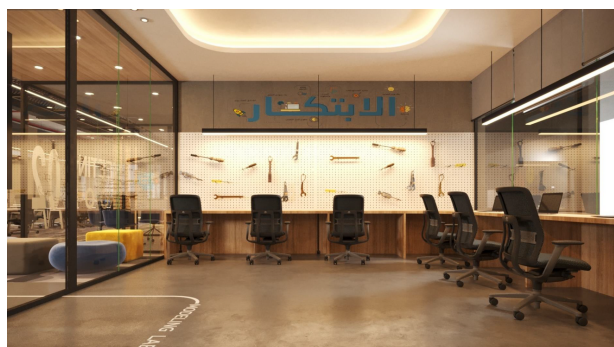
The New Home of Digital Entrepreneurship in
Jeddah and the Western Region



وزارة الاتصالات
وتقنية المعلومات
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

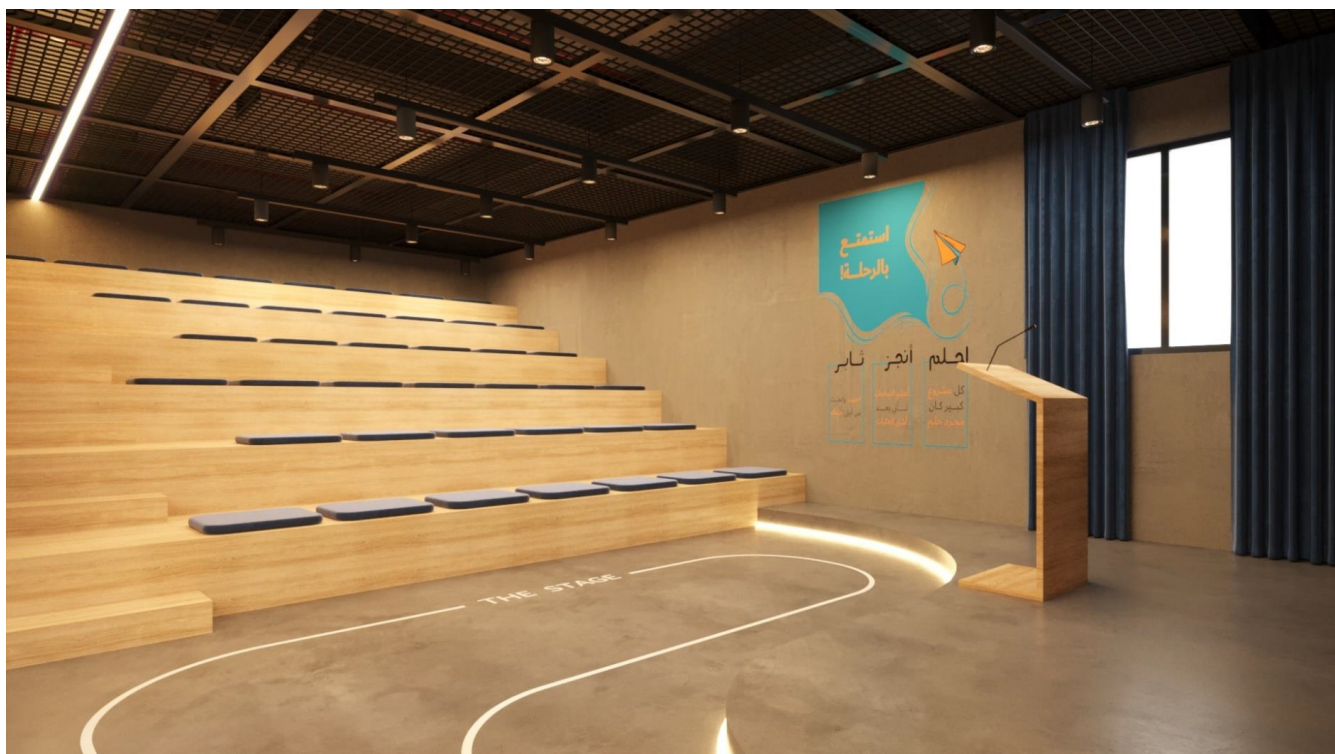


The Saudi Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology has recently launched an initiative to establish innovation labs throughout the country promoting and supporting digital innovation. Dar Al-Hekma University has the honor of being chosen as the first home of the innovation lab in the western region. Among the reasons for the university's selection was its accessible location and ability to provide ample space for the innovation lab, which will accommodate 3D printers and other high-tech prototyping equipment; offices and working areas for use by start-up companies; as well as a showroom in which to exhibit newly developed products. Preparing for the installation of the innovation lab was a joint effort between Ms. Huda Raqib, Executive Director of the Finance and Administration Division; Ms. Afnan Kurdi, Manager of the Executive Director Office; Ms. Reem Saklou, Director of Support Services; and Professor Jihad Farah, Chair of the Architecture Department and Director of the Master of Architecture Program.



Scheduled to open during the 2023 spring semester, the innovation lab will be located near Gate 4 on the southwest side of the building, providing easy access to the visitor parking lot. For the first two years of operation, the innovation lab will be operated jointly by CODE (Center of Digital Entrepreneurship) and Dar Al-Hekma University, thereafter which it will be run solely by the university. Dar Al-Hekma University welcomes the opportunity to serve the greater community by offering cutting-edge digital facilities to Jeddah's up-and-coming entrepreneurs. The innovation lab is open to any student who has a project requiring the use of its spaces, machinery, and equipment. The student will be required to register through a dedicated online app to make a reservation. For architecture students, the innovation lab will be a valuable complement to the resources provided in the Model Shop.





A SPACE OF OUR OWN

The New Architecture Student Lounge



From the founding of the French Académie des Beaux-Arts in the 17th century, architecture students have been known for spending countless hours in studio working on their design projects. Searching for a haven away from the intense studio environment, the Architecture Department's Class Representatives proposed transforming the decommissioned Koran Room on the first floor into a student lounge in September. Student surveys confirmed the widespread support for a private space where students could rest, socialize, and meet to organize activities. In response to the students' request, Dr. Jihad contacted university management, with the assistance of Ms. Malak Al-Saadi, the Administrative Assistant, Ms. Alanoud Aljadaani, Model Shop Assistant, and Ms. Amal Alhumrani, Tamheer/Volunteer, to receive permission to convert the Koran Room into a lounge for architecture students. Located in Room 181, the space is conveniently located in the Architecture Department's upstairs corridor near studios and frequently used classrooms. Upon approval of the request in October, Ms. Shatha Abualfarj and members of the .dwg Club, foremost among were Zainah Bagaber (Studio VIII) and Deema Waheeb (Studio VII), worked closely with Support Services to adapt and furnish the room using available furniture and materials from the university's storerooms. A large couch provides plentiful seating for students, who also have the option of lounging on one of many oversized bean bag chairs or sitting more formally around a table. In the future, members of the .dwg Club hope to use inexpensive design strategies, such as mirrors, to enhance the sense of space and make it even more comfortable and appealing to fellow students.



LYAL AZAN

Interview



This month we interviewed Lial Ayzan, a senior in her fourth year in Dar Al-Hekma University's Bachelor of Architecture program. She was recently selected to serve as the Student Council Representative for the Hekma School of Design and Architecture for the 2022-23 academic year.

Question: Please provide a little background about yourself.

Answer: I am passionate about my major. I am always looking for an opportunity to improve and have a steady source of motivation that drives me to do my best. My sister, Ayat, opened my eyes to architecture and pushed me to challenge myself.

Question: When and how did you become interested in architecture?

Answer: My sister studied architecture at Dar Al-Hekma University. When I was in high school, I used to see my sister working on her assignments. It seemed like exhausting, but very interesting work. For me, architecture is not only a science but also art. Architecture is a sensitive environment. People can feel and sense stories and emotions through spaces and walls.

Question: Why did you decide to serve on the Student Council?

Answer: I wanted to raise and fix issues facing majors in the Hekma School of Design. Also, I am interested in implementing new programs and activities.

Question: What is the role of the Hekma School of Design's Student Council Representative?

Answer: I am the point of contact between the Student Council and students majoring in programs in the Hekma School of Design and Architecture. I raise issues that concern them and represent their viewpoints.

Question: What are your plans as Student Council Representative for the Hekma School of Design and Architecture?

Answer: I would like to increase the number of incoming students and help them understand the major subjects. My goal is to provide workshops and training for high school students attending the university's Open House events. I hope to give them insight into the life and experiences of design majors at Dar Al-Hekma University.

V. QUTUF
A CREATIVE HARVEST

**A. MENTAL MAP OF JEDDAH BY NARDIN
ALZAWAWI**

B. ART WORK BY ZAINAH MOHAMMED BAGABER

MENTAL MAP OF JEDDAH

by Nardin Alzawawi



By Nardin Alzawawi
Assignment 1
Architecture and the City



In one of the first lectures we took in Architecture and the City, taught by Dr. Oula Aoun, we were handed an assignment to draw a personal mental map for the city of Jeddah using the key elements mapped out by architect, urban planner, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Professor Kevin Lynch. By drawing on our collective memories and experiences, Lynch proposed an alternative approach to mental mapping and designing cities by analyzing and identifying key districts, nodes, landmarks, paths, and edges.

We all form impressions and images of our hometowns; even places we've never been. These impressions are usually based on landmarks and memories rather than an actual proper layout of a place. No one has an accurate image of their city because it is subjective, so there is no one accurate mental map and no wrong one. Although people's mental maps of their environments and those they're familiar with tend to be more realistic than those they've never visited.

When I was given this assignment, I was a bit uncertain about how I would illustrate the entire city since there are some areas I still haven't explored. So, I focused mainly on the spots and neighborhoods I know and love. Furthermore, I used Lynch's key elements according to my perceptions of places in my city and focused on the well-known landmarks and nodes. Additionally, as Jeddah is renowned for its unique sculptures all over and for being an open-air museum, I attempted to convey this in my sketch using a color combination that would capture the city's spirit and its diverse and colorful artworks.

By drawing on my personal memories of Jeddah, this mental map holds both a record of some of the city's main landmarks and features as well as an insight into the ways in which I navigate and experience it. As the city grows and changes, this map becomes a documentation of a particular imaginary, offering a unique window into one person's Jeddah at a particular moment in time.

ARTWORK

by Zainah Mohammed Bagaber





The Heritage Composition - watercolor painting

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS



READ IN THE NEXT ISSUE



December 5

Ms. Sima Refae organized a free hand sketch trip to Al-Balad with her fundamental students in preparations for their final exam.



December 7

The Department of Architecture hosted a talk titled: How to Become a Successful Architect by Mohammed Waez.



December 13

The Department of Architecture collaborated with Arch. Alain Bony to host an online seminar titled: When Architecture Becomes a Canvas.



VII. CREDITS AND CONTACTS



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