

URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

Women in Arabia and Islam: The path from rural to urban spaces in Islamic world

Women's Pavilion Programming
in co-curation with Louvre Abu Dhabi

Concept Note



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| Date | Thursday 4 th November, 2021 |
| Time | Event time: 11:00-13:00 Dubai Time Arrival time: 10:30 at the Women's Pavilion |
| Venue | Women's Pavilion Majlis |

The formation of Madinat in the Islamic world is based on a set of ethical values that were later transformed into a blueprint for an ideal city in the Arab region. These urban spaces witness the development of Muslim civilization throughout history until today. At the heart of Arab urban discourse, women endowed and pioneered many important and outstanding architecture that have a crucial impact on the Muslim cityscape.

Urban space has long been designed by men for men in many records of history. Yet looking into Arab and Muslim urban civilizations, women have played significant roles in the making of the cities.

Inspired by the architecture of Louvre Abu Dhabi – designed by Jean Nouvel with inspiration from the Arab world where the galleries are modeled as Medinas and the rain of light from the dome inspired by the intertwined palm fawns of Al Ain Oasis, we examine the rich history and traditions of Arab architecture and urban development, and unveil women's contributions to the formation of buildings and urban spaces.

Overview

Throughout Islamic history, women have immense impact on the establishment of religious and civic buildings. Such buildings include monuments, mosques, madrasa (schools), tombs, caravansaries, hamami (Bath), and darussifa (hospital). For instance, Princess Dayfa Khatun, regent of Aleppo, provided the city with one of its famous monuments, the Madrasa al-Firdaws. Seljuq princess Safwat al-Mulk ordered the construction of an impressive funerary cupola. Nafisa al-Bayda, the wife of Egyptian Mamluk leaders Ali Bey al-Kabir and Murad Bey ordered and sponsored the building of the Sabil-Kuttab, a monumental public water fountain in Cairo.

These buildings greatly enriched Islamic architecture, shaped the identity of Muslim cities, and contributed to the progress of Islamic societies, as they reflect women's needs and relationships with space, especially urban space. The functionality and characteristics of these buildings reflect women's various political and social roles and daily practices in societies, from performing Islamic rituals, to education and community services.

The remarkable contributions of women from Arab and Muslim region in the progress of Islamic architecture and urban development in history inspire women of today to participate and lead in urban management and governance. In order to truly achieve inclusive and sustainable cities, we

must put women at the core of urban planning – understanding women's needs and habits, ensuring women's safety and comfort, recognizing and celebrating women's crucial role in the development of urbanism in the Arab and Muslim region.

Join us in the Women's Pavilion to explore how better we could recognize the role of women from Arabia and Islamic region and amplify their positive contributions in rural and urban development:

Key Questions

- How have women been paving the way from rural to urban spaces and shaping cities from history until today in the Arab and Muslim world?
- What Arab and Islamic architecture and traditions of the use of space reflect women's needs? How different would buildings and public spaces look like if women were the designers?
- What more needs to be done to ensure women are participating and leading rural and urban development in the Arab and Muslim world?

Event agenda

1. All speakers are guided from salon to Majlis stage
2. Hind Alowais, Senior Vice Presentent of International Participants, Expo 2020 Dubai welcomes everyone from the podium and gives the floor to moderator and panelists (5min)
3. Moderator Carolina Collazos opens up the session and delivers a presentation from Louvre Abu Dhabi to set the scene (20 min)
4. Moderator Carolina Collazos welcomes and introduces speakers (5 min)
 - a. Dr. Alamira Reem Al Hashimi
 - b. Dr. Ahlam Zainal
 - c. Samantha Cotterell
 - d. Olivia Duncan
5. Moderated panel session (60 min)
6. Questions from audience (25 min)
7. Moderator closes the session and thank you's (5 min)

Post session Women's Pavilion tour: Women's Pavilion exhibition entrance 13:30 – 14:00 Dubai Time

Speakers networking lunch: Bahrain Pavilion 14:00 – 16:00 Dubai Time

Panelists

Carolina Collazos -- Presenter and Moderator

Museum Educator at Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE



Carolina was born and raised in Colombia. She has lived, studied and worked in Colombia, the United States, France, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. Carolina holds a Bachelor's degree in History of Art & Archeology and Masters in History of Art Museum Studies both from Sorbonne University.

Carolina joined Louvre Abu Dhabi in 2017 when the museum opened its doors to the public. She works for the Education Department of Louvre Abu Dhabi as a Museum Educator. Key aspects of her responsibilities include extensive research to develop contents related to Louvre Abu Dhabi's collection, as well as educational programs for schools, universities and the general public. Carolina tours the museum visitors through the galleries in meaningful and engaging ways and is passionate about Louvre Abu Dhabi's vision, mission & narrative.

Dr. Alamira Reem Al Hashimi-- Panelist

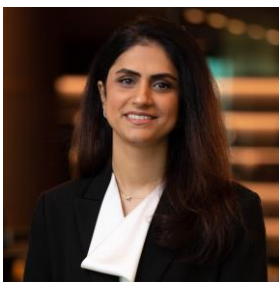
Urban planner, researcher, author, UAE



Alamira Reem Al Hashimi (PhD; MPL; BA Arch) is an urbanist, architect and historian. She is the first Emirati woman to be awarded a PhD in urban planning and is considered one of the leading researchers on the urban development of the UAE. Dr. Alamira Reem is actively engaged in government initiatives related to strategy and master planning, documentation and preservation of the built environment, knowledge development and outreach, and has over 15 years of local and international experience in urban planning and design. With an extensive research background, she has authored several publications, including Planning Abu Dhabi: An Urban History, a book that explores and documents Abu Dhabi's urban development. She regularly shares her expertise on UAE architecture and urbanism, place identity and branding, and urban theory and design at industry forums, conferences and universities around the world. Dr. Alamira Reem has dedicated herself to advancing architectural and planning knowledge of the UAE locally and globally. and has been featured as one of 150 Inspiring Emirati Women (Zahrat Al Khaleej), 17 Emirati Women you need to know about (Emirates Literature Foundation), and Five female Emirati writers shaping the country's literary scene (The National). She serves on the Board of Directors for the Emirates Planning Association and the Technical Committee for UAE Modern Heritage.

Dr. Ahlam Zainal -- Panelist

Chief Development Officer – GFH Properties, Bahrain



Dr. Ahlam joined GFH Properties in 2019 and currently holds the role of Chief Development Officer. Dr. Ahlam has over 14 years of experience in field of architecture, urbanism and real estate project management with several previous positions in Amlak Social Insurance Organization Development Company, Bahrain Real Estate Investment (Edamah), Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, Ithmaar Development Company, and the Urban Planning & Development Authority in Bahrain. She has also interned in Skidmore, Owings & Mirrell (SOM) in Chicago and in Masdar Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company. Dr. Ahlam also serves as a board member in Al Sahel Resort Company and Al Areen Holding Company.

Dr. Ahlam holds a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering from the University of Bahrain, a Master's degree of Architecture in Urban Design (MAUD) from Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, Massachusetts, as well as a Doctorate of Engineering degree from the Urban Engineering

department of the University of Tokyo, Japan. Her PhD research focused on the Metabolism movement and the Japanese influence on the architecture and urbanism of the Gulf region.

Samantha Cotterell – Panelist

Executive Director of Design, Royal Commission for Al Ula, KSA

Samantha is a professional architect, masterplanner and urbanist with 23 years' experience on large scale international projects including 16 years in Design Leadership roles for the development and delivery of Major Sport Events worldwide.



Samantha has held key roles as Overlays Expert, Development Strategist and Delivery Specialist on projects including Dubai Expo 2020, Doha 2020 Olympic Bid, Doha 2011 Asian Football Cup, Athens 2004 Olympic Games, Doha 2006 Asian Games, Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games and the Qatar Sports Venue Master Plan.

She was Design Director and co-author of bid files including the Doha 2020 Olympic Bid, the winning bid file for the Qatar 2011 Asian Football Cup and the winning bid file for the 2010 World Indoor Championships in Athletics.

Samantha is the founder of DESIGNSPORT, a Sport Design Advisory Consultancy providing design services to government and private clients involved in the design, development and delivery of major sporting events and infrastructure worldwide including the winning architectural design competitions for the National Stadium of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup Stadium 'Al Thumama'.

Olivia Duncan -- Panelist

Urban Designer & Planner, PhD candidate at UCL Bartlett School of Architecture



Olivia Duncan is an architect and urbanist holding a Master of Science from Oxford University in Sustainable Urban Development and is now a PhD Candidate at UCL's Bartlett School of Architecture on a remote and part-time basis. She has dedicated the last twelve years of her career to the Abu Dhabi government serving multiple sectors at the Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT) and is currently part of DMT's Urban Design Studio working on a variety of assignments from Emirati Residential masterplans to high profile fast paced projects. Since 2012, Olivia has been lecturing on a part-time basis, Urban Planning and Housing at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Campus and was an adjunct faculty member at Amity University's School of Architecture for a couple of years. Prior to her experience in the UAE; Olivia worked with architects and masterplanners in New Zealand, Australia and Brazil. Drawing upon a wide range of international experience in architecture, urban planning and design; Olivia is passionate about the community's wellbeing and their participation in urban development projects.

Moderated Q&A (30 min)

Questions will come from both physical and virtual audience

The event will be live-streamed via the Virtual Expo platform. Your biography will be shared digitally as part of the event.

Audience & Media

More details, such as session live-streaming link, media communication toolkit, etc., will be shared closer to the event.

Media opportunities: Please let us know if you request for media interviews.

APPENDIX 1

Introduction of the Women's Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Women in Arabia and Islam series

EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Since the first Great Exhibition held in London in 1851, Expos have connected people and provided special spaces to spark dialogue amongst those who are curious about the future. Running from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, Expo 2020 Dubai will bring the world together to imagine, design and build a more sustainable, dignified and prosperous world. One that is cleaner, safer and healthier. One inspired by collective action around shared challenges, and in which future generations will flourish. Under the theme of "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future" and our three sub-themes of Sustainability, Mobility and Opportunity, Expo will be a platform for positive, collaborative change.

THE WOMEN'S PAVILION AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Our Women's Pavilion, under the exhibition title 'New Perspectives', is a critical component of this vision and will be curated by Expo 2020 Dubai in collaboration with Cartier. In highlighting the positive contributions of women, we will demonstrate that when women thrive, so too does all of humanity.

The UAE has dedicated itself to ensuring that issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) are centrally addressed in everything we do at Expo 2020 Dubai. By shining a light on women past and present, known and unknown, the Women's Pavilion challenges the misconceptions that women still frequently face, seeks out new perspectives on the impact women bring to our world, explores new approaches to creating a more equal world, and identifies ways in which we, together, can create new perspectives, change deep-rooted perceptions, and adjust mindsets.

Through different modes of convening, our goal is to highlight that the only way to peace, prosperity, and sustainability is through the full and equal participation of women.

LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Created by an exceptional agreement between the governments of Abu Dhabi and France, Louvre Abu Dhabi was designed by Jean Nouvel and opened on Saadiyat Island in November 2017. The museum is inspired by traditional Islamic architecture and its monumental dome creates a rain of light effect and a unique social space that brings people together.

Louvre Abu Dhabi celebrates the universal creativity of mankind and invites audiences to see humanity in a new light. Through its innovative curatorial approach, the museum focuses on building understanding across cultures: through stories of human creativity that transcend civilisations, geographies and times.

The museum's growing collection is unparalleled in the region and spans thousands of years of human history, including prehistoric tools, artefacts, religious texts, iconic paintings and contemporary artworks. The permanent collection is supplemented by rotating loans from 13 French partner institutions, regional and international museums.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a testing ground for new ideas in a globalised world and champions new generations of cultural leaders. Its international exhibitions, programming and Children's Museum are inclusive platforms that connect communities and offer enjoyment for all.

WOMEN IN ARABIA AND ISLAM

Women in Arabia and Islam is a series of ten cultural talks held in partnership with the Louvre Abu Dhabi research programme inspired by the artworks of the Louvre Abu Dhabi museum and celebrating the rich Muslim heritage. Taking a historical and cultural perspective, the events focus on sharing and recognizing the positive role women from Arab and Islamic backgrounds have played in the course of history until today.
