



RENOVATION

OBSOLESCENCE and

20th Century Housing in the New Millennium

Conference: 14-15 December 2015

Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title:

Adaptive reuse initiative in the UAE; Young Emirati designers' vision

2. Format: _____ Written paper and verbal presentation _____

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5. University or Company Affiliation: Zayed University

6. Abstract (300 words):

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) comparatively to Europe, is a young nation. The country was established in 1971. The period after formation (1971-1991), saw the construction of a nation not just in political terms, but also physically, forming cities and infrastructure where once, there was none, only desert. Architecturally, the country is defined by the very old such as Qasr al Hosn palace in Abu Dhabi (1761) and the very new; Burj Khalifa in Dubai (2010). The cities' buildings from the period in between are normally categorized as 'recent architecture'. They are often overlooked, regarded as unimportant, sometimes described as 'ugly' and in need for demolition to make space for new development. As architects who have long lived in the region, we understand the value of these buildings, not only from an architectural point of view echoing the design and construction practices of the time, but also as places

engraved within the memories of the cities' dwellers. Following the celebration and acknowledgement of architecture of this period at the recent National Pavilion UAE in the 14th Venice architectural biennale (2014), we embraced the call out from the curatorial team for adaptive re-use of these buildings and incorporated it into our Interior design studio at Zayed University.

The presentation showcases how the design studio can become a vessel for understanding the value of these buildings. We chose two case study buildings in Abu Dhabi; The ADNOC residential buildings (1977) and the Abu Dhabi Bus Terminal (1989). Through the students' projects, a research investigation explored a series of 'after life' possibilities for these structures. The design proposals varied from showcasing the pragmatic, the bizarre, the incredible and the poetic. They provide a glimpse into the design consciousness of young Emirati females, who are yet to play a role as the future builders of this nation.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words maximum for all authors):

Marco Sosa is an Architect, photographer and filmmaker, teaching Interior Design at Zayed University, Abu Dhabi. In 2012, Sosa published a book about the oldest functional mosque in the UAE; "Al Bidiya Mosque, A visual Essay". In 2014, Marco was appointed part of the curatorial team as Head of Design for the National Pavilion UAE 14th Venice Architecture Biennale. The exhibition, curated by Dr Michele Bambling, titled "Lest We Forget; Structures of Memory in the UAE", chartered the impact of modernist architecture in the UAE and provided an insight in the overall history of architecture for the past 100 years.

Lina Ahmad holds a Master from the Architectural Association, London. She has over 10 years of professional experience working as an architect. Within academia, her work has been awarded and exhibited, including contributions for the National Pavilion UAE at the 14th Venice Architecture Biennale. Ahmad is the recipient of the Architecture + Cityscape Award "Designing for a new world" under the category of 'Aspiring Architect'. Ahmad holds an Assistant Professor position at Zayed University, Abu Dhabi. In 2015, Ahmad published a book titled; Cellular 'Network' City, presenting an investigation into the realm of algorithmic architectural design.

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