TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S) – DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES ON THE PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

• Paper Title:
Understanding Heritage as Places: A Re-examination of the Burial Mounds of Bahrain

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present in person (with/without a written paper)

• Abstract:
Heritage, what we see today, is a micro-cosmic part of the earth; a visible tangible source of the anthropocene, comprised of both material objects and places. In the 21st century, the dynamic context of cultural heritage being considered a significant force of developments with multiple layers of historic settings, there exists a need to understand them beyond the material manifestations: buildings. Indeed, heritage buildings are closely associated with the places and practices of history. Hence, the sense-of-place in the historic environment, mostly discussed as an experiential outcome of the object and its surrounding must be focused as the broader and most meaningful heritage rather than the buildings themselves. Many have examined these ideas by defining the links between historic environment and the sense-of-place as place distinctiveness or sense-of-specialness, place-continuity and place-dependency. There is an emerging understanding towards associating memories with heritage described as place as a portal to history which is more powerful and meaningful.
This paper engages this approach to re-examine one of the unique heritage places in history: the Burial Mounds of Bahrain that have spanned across Dilmun and Tylos periods. The objective is to re-examine and understand the sense-of-place of the burial Mounds in terms of “places-as-heritage” to discover the intangible presence of the past. The paper aims at constructing the theoretical paradigm of the connection of the multifaceted slices of the anthropocene, through the examination of this as a case to illustrate.

The paper will traverse the historic burial mounds in Bahrain. In order to divulge the sense-of-place, it will analyze the archaeological records of the historic mounds, in terms of multiple slices of anthropocene. It buttresses the analysis by the engagement of the people’s perceptions and explores the indispensable transformations of the built spaces through the contemporary interventions and in the maintenance of heritage and the urban developments that have transformed the places. The research will contribute to understand the issues of heritage while promoting urban development by sustaining the historic 'sense-of-place'

• **Author Biography:**

Ayesha Agha Shah teaches at the Department of Architecture and Interior Design, University of Bahrain since February 2012. She has previously worked as a Lecturer of Architecture and research fellow of Heritage field at the NED University of Engineering and Technology, Pakistan.

After completing her Bachelors in Architecture from University of Karachi, Ayesha took keen interest in the built heritage. She studied for an MSc. in Historic Building Conservation at University of Portsmouth, UK. Here she was involved with the Heritage Cell, Portsmouth City Council as Conservation Architect.

While teaching at the University of Bahrain, she also focused her attention in teaching Design Fundamentals and Design Communication Skills.

Ayesha is a Fellow of UK-HEA (Higher Education Academy), ICOMOS (International Council of Monuments and Sites), PCATP (Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners) and IAP (Institute of Architects Pakistan). Due to her passion in conservation of heritage, she is always engaged with various research projects relating to Cultural Heritage and presented in different international conferences.