

S. 2007

# Al Manakh

**Dubai Guide**  
Moutamarat

**Gulf Survey**  
AMO

**Global Agenda**  
Archis

Ole Bouman

# An Awakening in Dubai

You have been considered dead for years, leading a vegetative life, dependent on a life support system. Like a somnambulist you murmur words that make no sense and gaze at things that are not there.

Not responding to any stimuli, doctors do not know how to resuscitate you. They take you outside, to see if fresh air will help. They try shock therapy. Then, finally, they find the place for you. The air may not be really fresh, but the locale is certainly shocking.

Waking up, you find yourself where nothing is as you knew it. Things look familiar, but the system according to which they operate is very, very different. These differences do not preclude a learning experience, however. To make your time as productive as possible, we have provided a guide.

After you have found your way from souk to mall, from pathway to ski dome, from desert to golf course, from mansion to skyscraper, you will have acquired an appetite for further navigation in this strange world. A guide will then no longer be enough. You'll need an atlas.

You start to see patterns, grasp relations, and enjoy connections. The awakening continues by resettling yourself in a region that shows unprecedented energies in land use and creation. You are going to have a hard time keeping track, so we will help you with mapping.

Then, as soon as you have a profound understanding of the new realities around you, you finally feel a new urge to intervene again.

The awakening has completed. The coma of a designer who has lost all relevance and inspiration has ended. Re-energized, you want to act, to make a difference. Looking back at the world from which you came, you see entirely new tasks and endeavors. We have started to list them for you. An agenda for design.

Here it is: a guide, an atlas, an agenda... Here is Al Manakh

Rem Koolhaas

# Last Chance?

**We live in an era of completions, not new beginnings.**

**The world is running out of places where it can start over.**

Sand and sea along the Gulf, like an untainted canvas, provide the ultimate tabula rasa on which new identities can be inscribed: palms, world maps, cultural capitals, financial centers, sport cities...

Yet, much like Singapore in the 1980s and China in the 1990s, the recent development of the Gulf, particularly Dubai, has been met with derision: Mike Davis' damning 'Walt Disney meets Albert Speer'<sup>1</sup> echoes William Gibson's characterization fifteen years ago of Singapore as 'Disneyland with the death penalty'.<sup>2</sup>

The recycling of the Disney *fatwa* says more about the stagnation of the Western critical imagination than it does about Gulf Cities.

To be a critic today is to regret the exportation of ideas that you have failed to confront on your own beat, dragons you have been unable to slay; the vast majority of developments that critics deplore originated and have become the norm in their own countries.

The tragic effect of architecture's inability to recognize and think through modernization's inevitabilities is a wistful language of perpetual disappointment with what is produced and the endless recycling of nostalgic panaceas as well-meaning but moribund alternatives...

It is particularly cruel that the harshest criticism comes from old cultures that still control the apparatus of judgment, while the epicenters of production have shifted to the other end(s) of the globe.

Is it possible to view the Gulf's ongoing transformation on its own terms? As an extraordinary attempt to change the fate of an entire region? Is it possible to present a constructive criticism of these phenomena? Is there something like a critical participation?

(To counter the problem of the workers' accommodation, for instance, there is now talk of three-dimensional legislation, which would define an Arab *Existenzminimum* and mass-produce it...)

The Gulf is not just reconfiguring itself; it's reconfiguring the world.

The Gulf's entrepreneurs are reaching places that modernity has not reached before... Perhaps the most compelling reason to take the Gulf seriously is that its emerging model of the city is being multiplied in a vast zone of reduced architectural visibility that ranges from Morocco in the West, then via Turkey and Azerbaijan to China in the East. In each of the countries of this Silk Belt, the Gulf's developers operate on a scale that has completely escaped 'our' attention.

This burgeoning campaign to export a new kind of urbanism – to places immune to or ignored by previous missions of modernism – may be the final opportunity to formulate a new blueprint for urbanism. Will architecture grasp this last chance?

1. Mike Davis, [www.tomdispatch.com](http://www.tomdispatch.com)

2. William, Gibson, *Wired* September 1993

# A Region in Brief

The current architectural substance of the Gulf consists of four major components, produced in three distinct waves:

1. In the seventies and eighties – as part of the first surge of oil wealth and therefore as a matter of course – big architectural names were involved in the Gulf... Jørn Utzon (Kuwait National Assembly), Kenzo Tange (Kuwait International Airport and Arab Gulf University plan), the Smithsons (unrealized Kuwait City plan), Kiyonori Kikutake (unrealized hotel), William Pereira (Sheraton Hotel), The Architects Collaborative (Abu Dhabi Cultural Center).

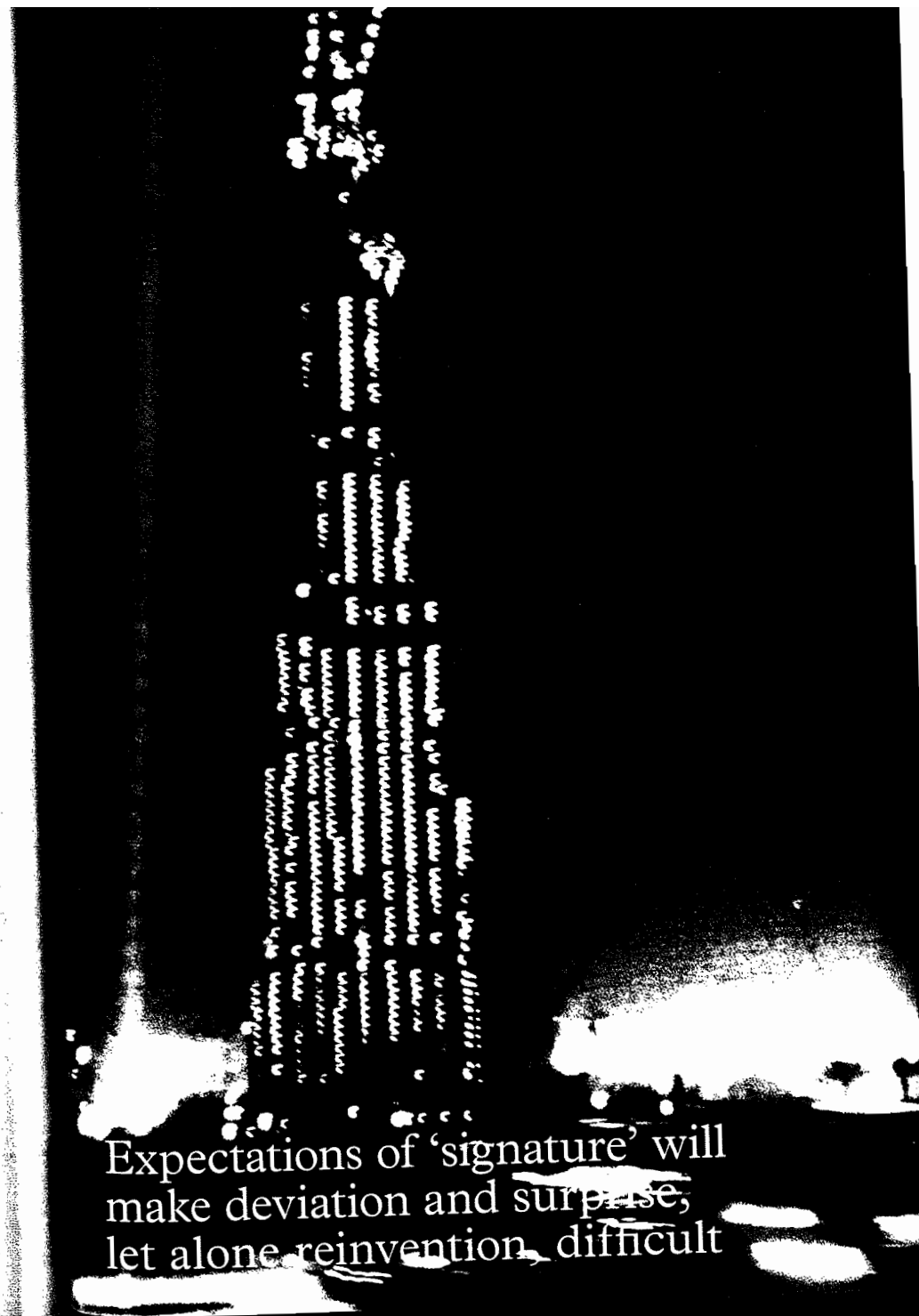
The Gulf became a field of architectural experimentation, where vernacular elements, particularly indigenous cooling and natural ventilation techniques, were used to renew and redefine contemporary architecture...

2. In the second wave in the nineties, firms typically with an engineering background, but soon equipped with master planning and even architectural sections, whose convenient presence on the ground gives them an almost monopolistic claim to most planning and architectural efforts – Halcrow, Atkins, more recently HOK – developed among them an intricate, quasi-organic resort urbanism, driven by coastline multiplication, both on land and on sea...

It is this wave that has given Dubai its unique 'look.'

3. Superimposed on this context, will be the imminent contributions of international starchitects like Zaha Hadid, Jean Nouvel, Norman Foster and others; the dilemmas faced by the third wave are obvious: relatively inexperienced clients, the 'experience economy' as the sole and pervasive discourse, a well-established quasi-Islamic-modernist language, expectations of 'signature' which will make deviation and surprise, let alone reinvention, difficult.

4. Independent of these phases, we can also observe since the seventies an ongoing production of 'undesigned', modest – but dominant in places like Sharjah – presence of a generic, modernist 'architecture without architects' – a cheap, seemingly spontaneous, mostly concrete, always utilitarian architecture that comes closest to traditionally 'urban' conditions: closely packed streets, alleys, galleries, parks and plazas and residential neighborhoods based on mini-compounds. These have an appeal, especially compared to globalization's past and future fireworks. – RK

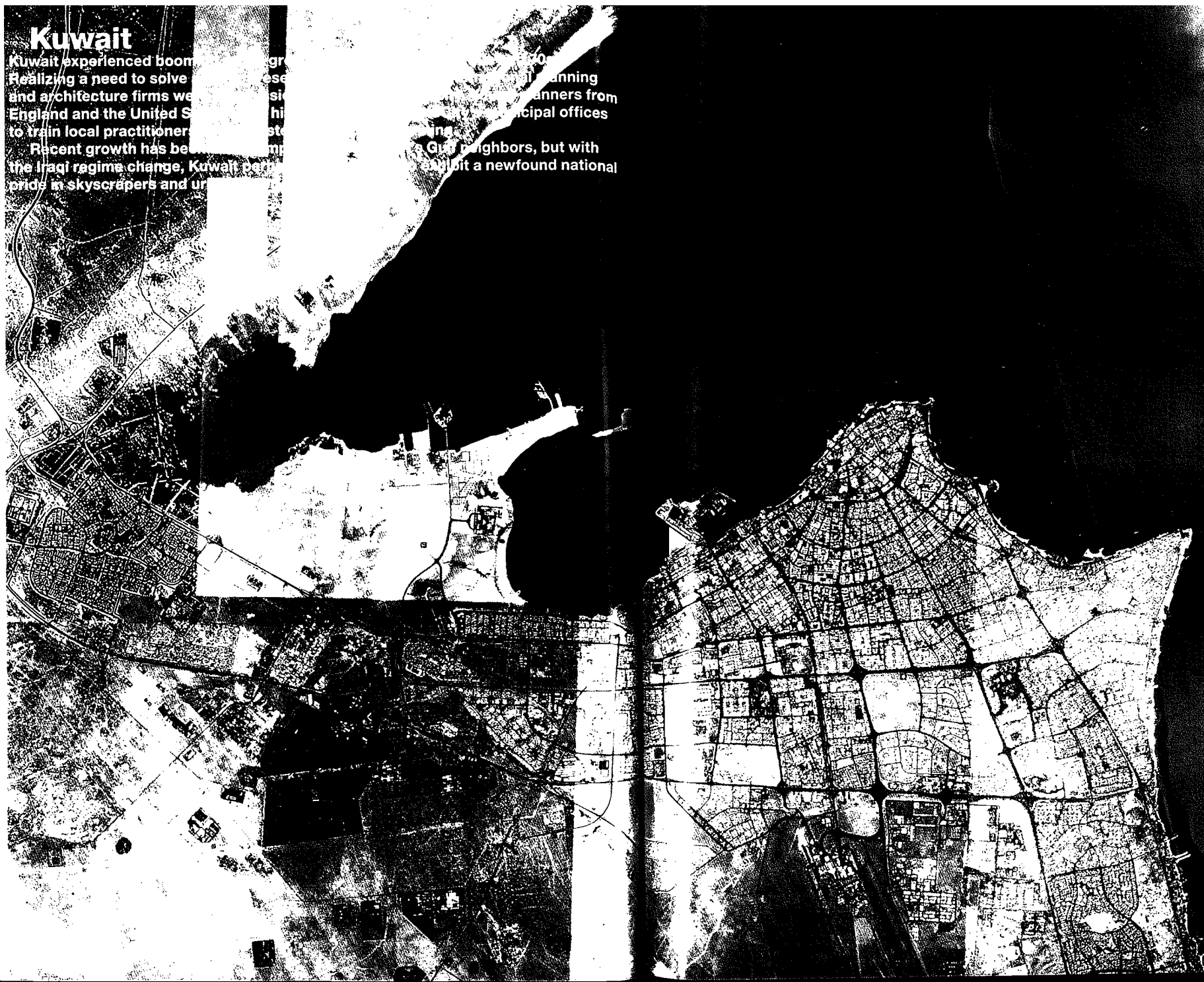


Expectations of 'signature' will make deviation and surprise, let alone reinvention, difficult



# Kuwait

Kuwait experienced boom growth in the 1970s. Realizing a need to solve these issues, planning and architecture firms were brought in from England and the United States to help and to train local practitioners. Recent growth has been rapid, but with the Iraqi regime change, Kuwait has exhibited a newfound national pride in skyscrapers and urban planning.

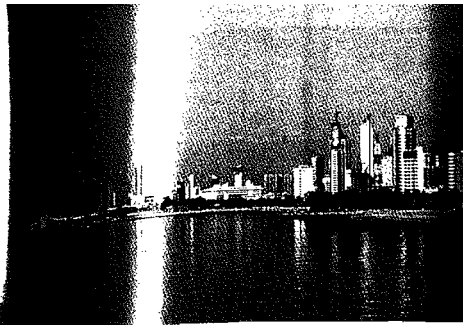


# Snapshots

Gulf Histories



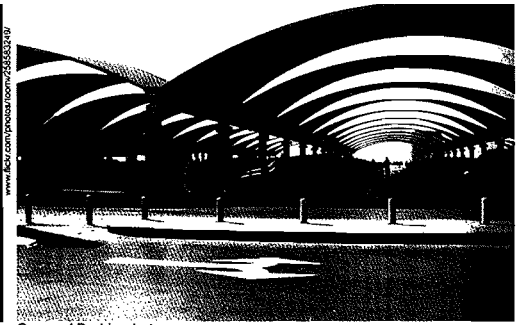
Kuwait's new waterfront and Arabian Gulf Street: 100% public



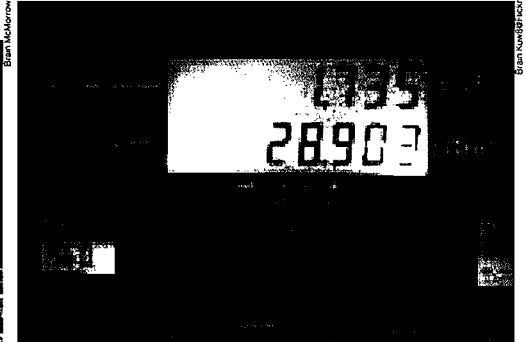
Kuwait Bay



Billboard with 'The support of the Kuwaiti people as a whole, we are starting to write a new page in our modern history'



Covered Parking Lot



Inexpensive gas prices in Kuwait. Current price is \$0.17/L



Old City souk



Saihiya shopping arcade



Saihiya facades



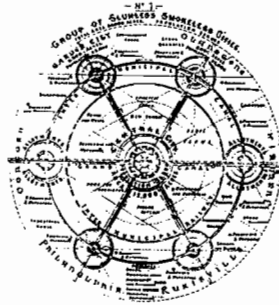
Where old meets new, Arabian Gulf Street

Gulf Survey

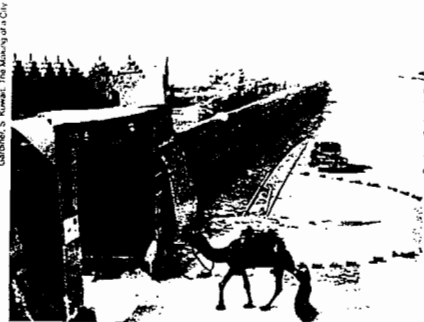
AMO

**Growth Driven Planning**

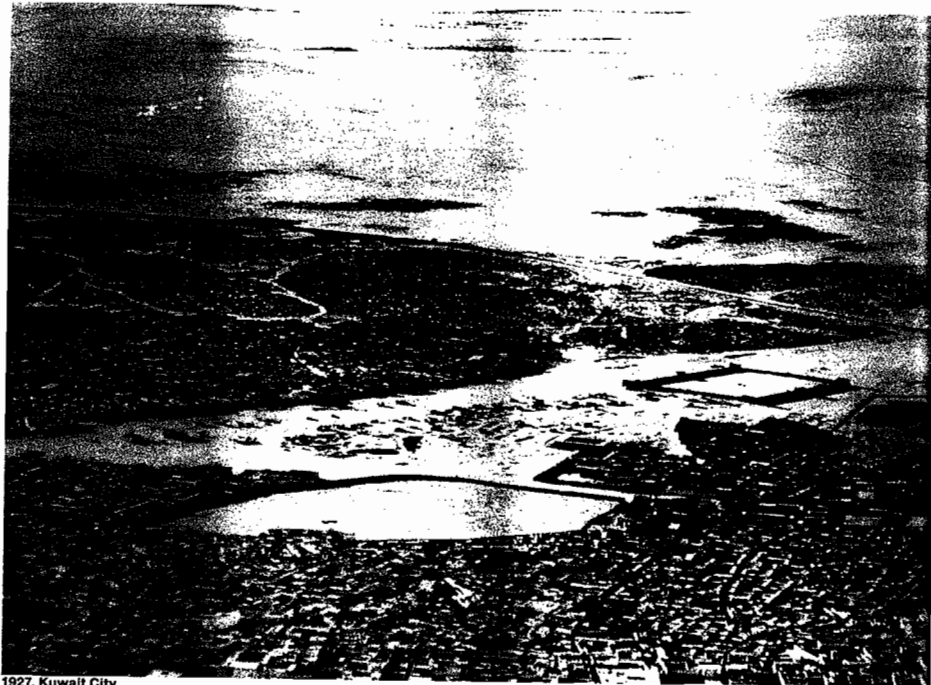
Kuwait's urban history has been a series of intricate but restrained maneuvers. Careful estimations determine an infrastructural framework, which in turn is filled with roads and buildings. Only when the plan is complete does Kuwait consider a new plan. Ebenezer Howard's Garden City model provided the ideological blueprint for achieving Sheikh Abdullah as-Salim as Sabah's desire to distribute newfound oil wealth with his people. Each neighborhood is afforded a similarly structured welfare system. Garden cities, then, required British architects, and thus begins a long relationship with British urbanism.



Howard diagram for the Garden City

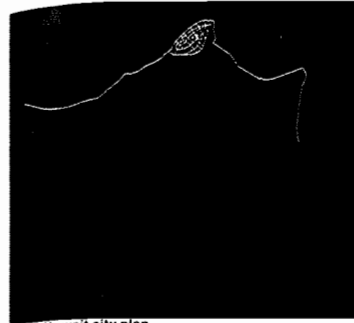


1950. The Old Wall of Kuwait



1927. Kuwait City

The first master plan was a direct application of Ebenezer Howard's Garden City theory. [The new city] is almost entirely a product of foreign influences, and predominantly among these ... is the influence of the English.



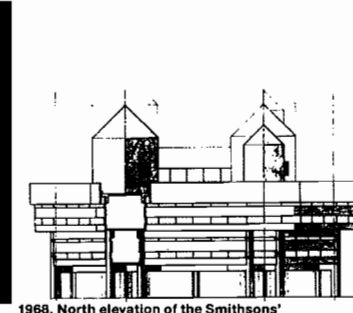
1950. Kuwait city plan



Al Jahra Gate looking up Fahd Al-Salem Street, Kuwait's main artery



1952. Minoprio and Spencely First master plan for Kuwait city



1968. North elevation of the Smithsons' Demonstration Building

[T]he Kuwaitis wanted well-known names. We asked each of the architects to think about a city, and to express their thoughts as architectural ideas – visually, do you see? – not as written reports. They were given about a year to do this. Yes, I agree a dream of a commission.

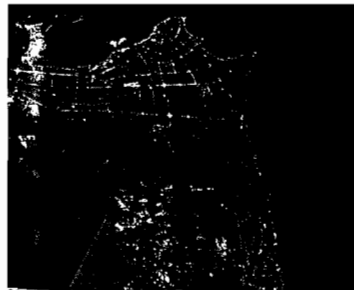
Leslie Martin on Team X's Urban study and Demonstration Building for Kuwait City 1968-1972



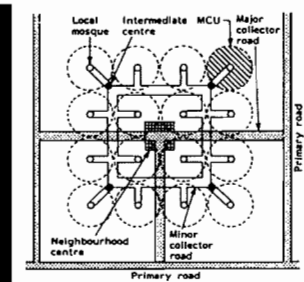
1967-72. Development and growth plan, Sir Colin Buchanan and Alan McCulloch



1972. Peter Smithson presents the model of the mat-building concept to the Crown Prince of Kuwait. The Smithsons' proposed fees and project were too expensive, precluding the execution of the project



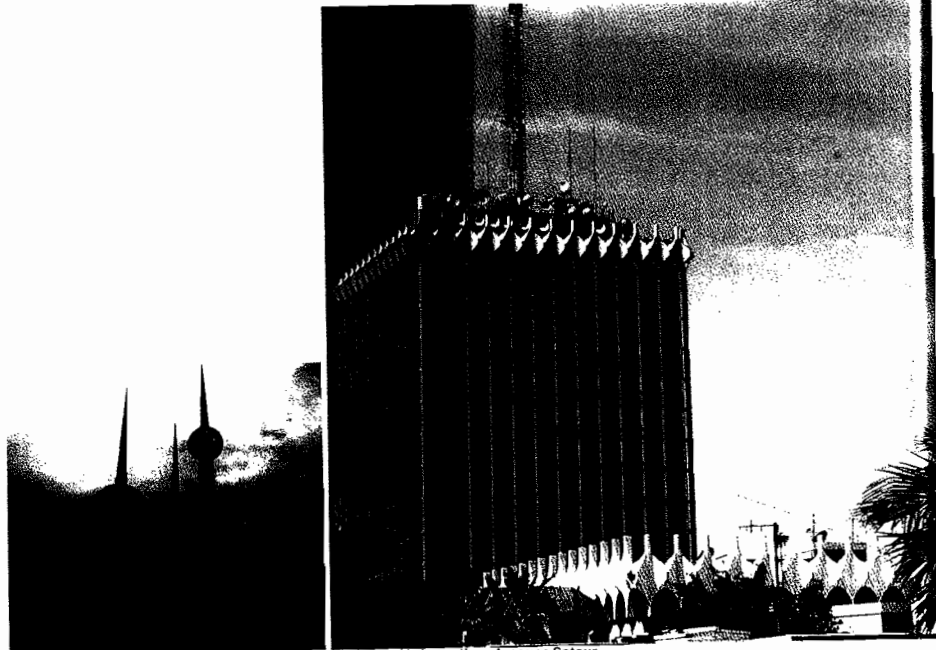
2006. Kuwait city satellite



Mosque Community Unit (MCU) No household would be more than 250m from a mosque. Al-Khiran Proposal, Shankland and Cox and Partners

**1970s. Modernism in Kuwait**

Before 1960, Kuwait had fallen victim to disappointing housing developments and unimpressive office buildings. 'Understandably, the Kuwaitis wanted well-known names,' is how Leslie Martin describes his meetings with Dr. Omar Azzam about inviting a 'world-class' group of architects to consider Kuwait City's urbanism and, eventually, its architecture. The 1970s offer some of Europe's most current architects a chance to alter a city's course.



1972. Kuwait Towers, Sune Lindström and Malene Björn (winners of Aga Khan Award 1980)

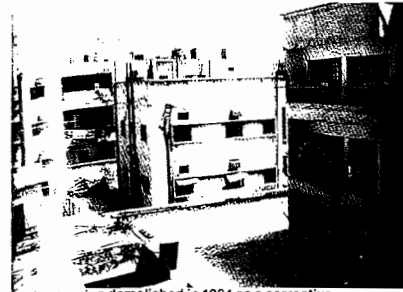
Ministry of Information, Jacques Satour

There seem to be two parties in the discussion regarding Kuwait's architectural identity. One that feels that if architects are functional, use the most technologically advanced technique and are part of the human condition, then they will naturally reflect a local moment in history. The other party believes these technological aspects must be adapted to the local conditions to create a Kuwait identity in architecture.

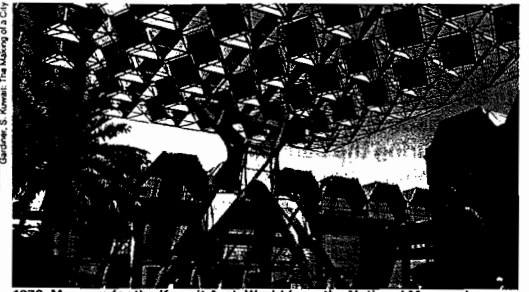
Dr. Y. Mangoub, interview July 27, 2006



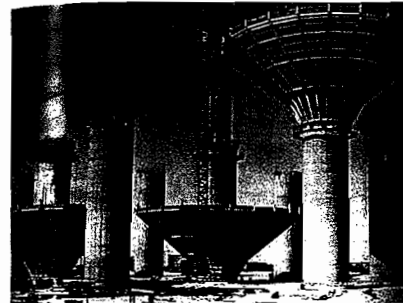
1971. Jørn Utzon National Assembly Complex



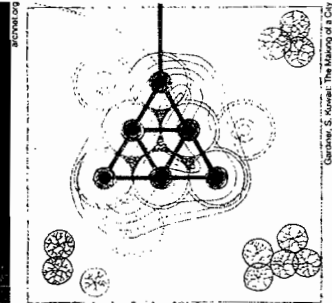
1950s. Housing demolished in 1984 as a corrective measure after the attempted assassination of Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed Al Sabah



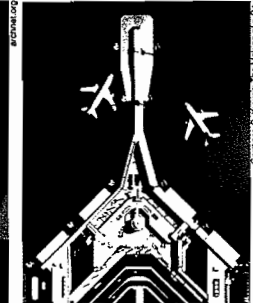
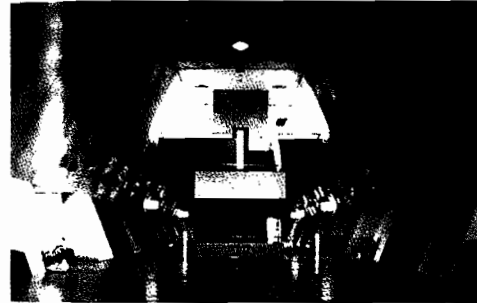
1976. Museum for the Kuwait Arab World (now the National Museum), Michel Ecochard



1976. Water Towers, VBB / Sune Lindström and Malene Björn



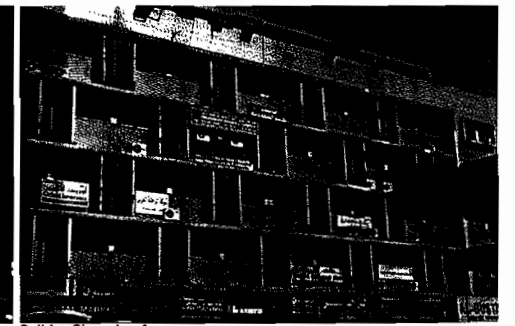
1976. Plan of Water Towers, Sune Lindström and Malene Björn



1979. Kuwait International Airport, Kenzo Tange



1978. Offices, stores and parking, SOM



Saliha Shopping Area

**1960-1980. Regional Criticism**

Mid-century Kuwait takes pride in attracting global (Western) architecture, and through a process of university-building and professional training it tries to bring forward its own group of architects and developers. A work in progress, Kuwait still relies on a substantial foreign presence.

Measuring the danger of an imminent British withdrawal from the region in 1968, Kuwait joins other regional states in an offer to pay them to stay, knowing that certain neighbors are keen on access to Kuwait's wealth.

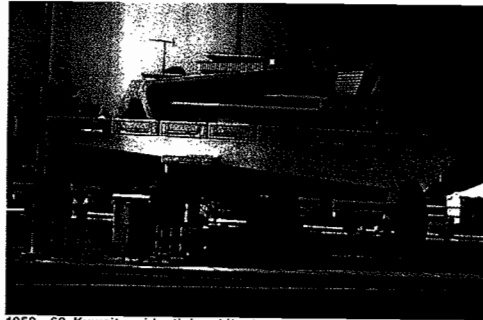
Kuwait's diplomacy is a careful mix of ruse, political handshaking, payoffs and beseeching foreign assistance. Its 'development fund' helps keep potential challengers at bay through monetary support of their large-scale projects. Neighboring Iraq, hungry for a coastal presence and demanding an impossible loan, would eventually occupy the country. This time, however, the foreign patrol would not be British, but American; a newer ally finds reason to protect Gulf interests.

Gulf Histories

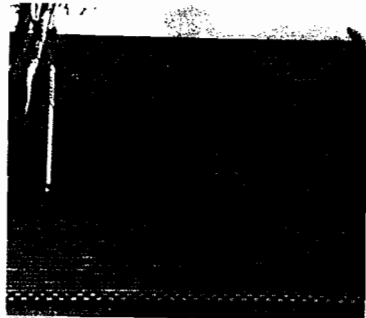
Our teachers at architecture school usually dismiss such [modern] architecture as 'cosmetic': using an Arab architectural veneer, instead of understanding the real heritage of Arab architecture's spatial organization and true spirit.

Ahmed Hamed's Web Blog (360 degrees East)  
Thursday, April 6, 2006 at 8:21 am

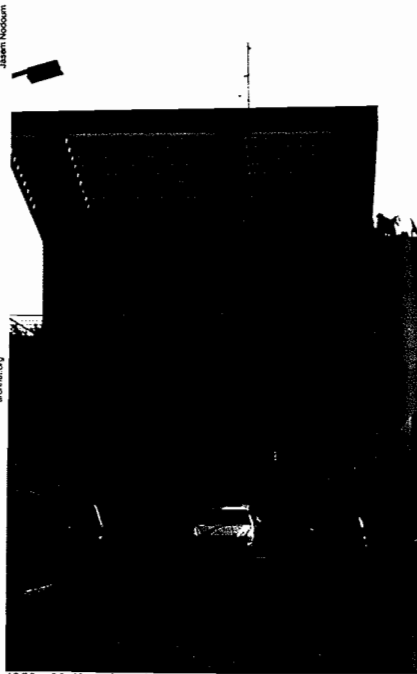
**A Modern Architectural Statement of the Late Post Oil Period**  
The facade rejects use of historic clichés. The articulation of volumes, masses and elevation elements are pure responses to functional requirements. Concrete is used as a facade material, its mass broken by the volumetric elevations  
Huda Al Bahr, 'Contemporary Residential Architecture', NMAAR  
Vol. 13, Aga Khan Foundation, 1998



1950 - 60. Kuwait residential architecture

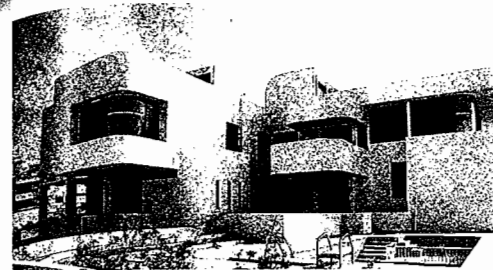


1980. Four Kuwait Residences Ghazi Sultan



1950 - 60. Kuwait residential architecture

Kuwait's Burden of Wealth - A New Oil Centre in Arabia.



1979. Domestic architecture



Urbanization in Kuwait, Readings in Architecture  
Saba George Shiber, By Dr. Yasser Alshaghad

Saba George Shiber is a legend in Kuwait architecture. He worked as an architect in Kuwait 1960-64 and wrote a detailed account of the first master plan of Kuwait

**Defence pact with Kuwait to end**

Small text article snippet about a defence pact with Kuwait.

May 14, 1966, The Times



Advertising on Mubarak Al Kabeer Street

Stephen Denner, Kuwait: The Making of a City, 1968



1967. Traffic in Kuwait City

'Here in Kuwait there is a phrenetic [sic] race to achieve the aesthetics of a utopia or the graveyard of aesthetics. Over 200 architects, and God-Knows-how-many-nonarchitects, are bitterly vying with each other in a race to try every conceivable form and fetich even a super-human is incapable of inventing or concocting.'

George Shiber, Urban Forms and Aesthetics, 1961



The Gulf War: Coastal ambition and economic plight were the spurs to an invasion gamble



**1991/2004. Redefinition / Emergence**

The retreat of Iraqi forces in 1991 and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2004 releases increased levels of optimism. This gradual assurance of stability sparks a rejuvenated pride in the state, a desire to put Kuwait City more firmly on the global map. Kuwait also sees the post-occupation era as a moment of self-review - of the 1.4 million expatriates who fled the country, only less than a third return to the country. A process of Kuwaitization is at least nominally put in place.

Subiya Town v. Silk City captures Kuwait's threshold position between its historically careful approach to future and an undeterred global modernism... between a forty-year-old plan and a two-year-old marketing maneuver. Neither approach has proven real, but the unlikely materialization of either in pure form may at least signify a current form of Kuwaiti identity.

**Women's Rights in Kuwait**  
 Hundreds of protesters in Kuwait have held a women's rights protest outside the country's all-male parliament. The assembly is debating a government request to speed up the passage of a law on women's rights, which was approved by the cabinet last May. But most Islamic groups in Kuwait are against granting women political rights and the parliament has twice defeated similar measures in recent years.  
 BBC Online, Monday, March 14, 2005



2005. Massouma Mubarak, Kuwait's first woman cabinet minister  
 2006. The Kuwaiti parliament passes a law allowing women to vote and stand for election, but it comes too late for the following polls

The Liberation Tower - the tallest structure in Kuwait - to be called The Kuwait Telecommunications Tower before the Iraq invasion halted construction. The structure received no damage, and construction resumed after the Iraqis were expelled. Upon completion in 1993, the tower was named Liberation Tower

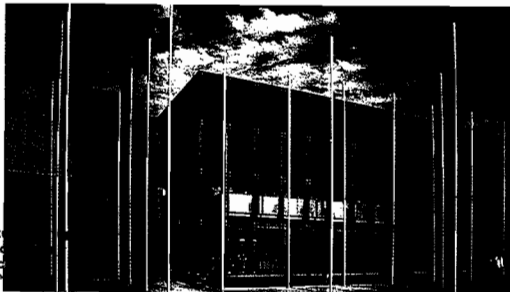


[Living in Kuwait] includes free health and education, generous housing loans for newlyweds, cheap petrol, power and water, subsidised bread and other essential goods, and a job for the asking. Because Kuwaitis are essentially guaranteed jobs by the state, all but 7% of the workforce are civil servants.  
 Middle East Online, January 15, 2005



Gulf War Martyrs Museum, the only building intentionally left unrepaired after the war

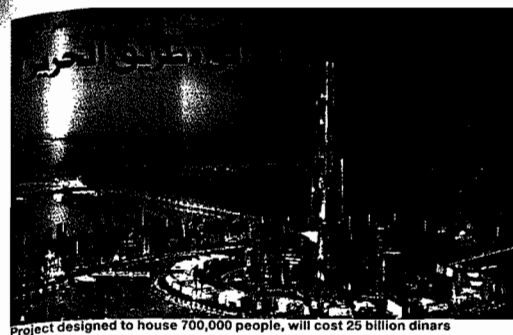
'Sheikh of Chic' Kuwait  
 Villa Moda Kuwait's first luxury becomes a key destination for Kuwaitis looking for top notch  
 By Omer Hassan - Kuwait City Middle East Online



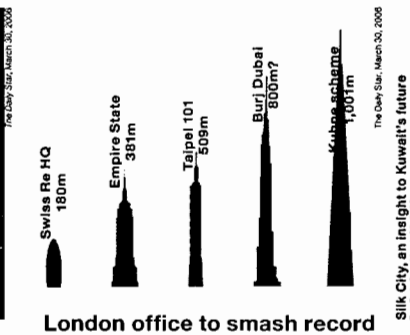
2004. Villa Moda, a new fashion emporium Pierfrancesco Cravet



2005. Fashion Show by Kuwaiti designer Adiba el Mahboub



Project designed to house 700,000 people, will cost 25 billion dinars



London office to smash record

The Daily Star, March 30, 2005  
 Silk City, an insight to Kuwait's future  
 The Daily Star, March 30, 2005

**Silk City, an insight to Kuwait's future**

Project designed to house 700,000 people, costs 25 billion dinars

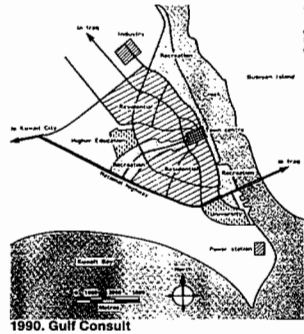
**SILK CITY** The Kuwaiti government has approved a plan to build a new city, Silk City, in the desert north of Kuwait. The project is designed to house 700,000 people and will cost 25 billion dinars. The city is planned to be built on a 10,000-hectare site. The project is a joint venture between the Kuwaiti government and a private company. The city is planned to be built in the desert north of Kuwait. The project is designed to house 700,000 people and will cost 25 billion dinars. The city is planned to be built on a 10,000-hectare site. The project is a joint venture between the Kuwaiti government and a private company.

**Silk City, an insight...**  
 FROM PAGE 1  
 The project is designed to house 700,000 people and will cost 25 billion dinars. The city is planned to be built on a 10,000-hectare site. The project is a joint venture between the Kuwaiti government and a private company. The city is planned to be built in the desert north of Kuwait. The project is designed to house 700,000 people and will cost 25 billion dinars. The city is planned to be built on a 10,000-hectare site. The project is a joint venture between the Kuwaiti government and a private company.

The concept of the new city will combine Arabic philosophy, culture and politics.



2009. Mubarak Tower will be 1001 m high and will form the landmark for this new city. The tower was inspired by the 1001 nights story and the desert plant life. The tower will be composed of 7 vertical villages which will consist of hotels, offices, residences and entertainment facilities.



1990. Gulf Consult

Private or Public



Silk City Plan



2006. Subiya Island (or Silk City) at present

**Building on a New Found Confidence?**  
 In terms of master planning Subiya Town has been on the drawing board since 1983 - it was revised in 1986/87 and now it is coming back to life, but it could take another 20 years to be developed'  
 Al Jaouli  
 Robert Conford, 'Building on a new found confidence?' ITP Business, June 24, 2006

# Bahrain

Conquered by Saudis in the 18<sup>th</sup>-Century, appropriated by Christian myth as the location of Eden, claimed by Persians until the 1970s and now marked by the US as a model Middle East democracy, the small, somewhat arable island has had a long history of foreign grabbers.

When the Al Khalifa family arrives on the island and forces the departure of the occupying Persians, the waning maritime supremacy of Persia in the Gulf is finally brought to an end, with the Gulf remaining 'Persian' only in name. A United Nations mandate keeps it known as such.

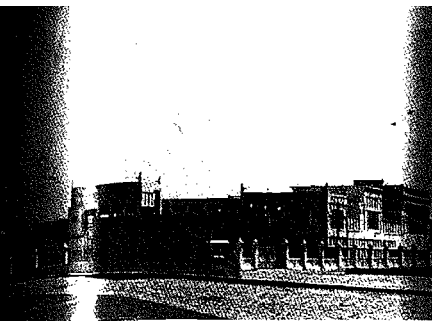
Bahrain's notoriety of late is derived from its uncomfortable mix of oil wealth and intense American interests in its geopolitical position. How Bahrain will charter these influences remains to be seen.



# Snapshots



2009 Bahrain Financial Harbour almost complete



2006. Road to the capital, Manama



Pearl Roundabout



Generic Modernism



Bahrain International Circuit (Formula One)



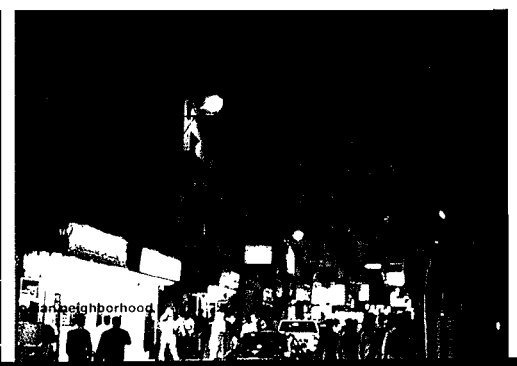
Congestion on the way to the old town



Old town



Views towards the Salman Capital



Market neighborhood

**Free Trade**

Because of relatively high levels of fresh water, Bahrain has always been a trade hub of some kind. The trade of pearls, textiles, cigarettes and even humans made the harbor busy with intrigue. Its central role for the region evolves with the British selecting the island for its main presence in the Gulf. With the British come the first formal educational facilities and the seeds of Western-style forms of debate and politics.

Just as the pearl industry begins to decline, Bahrain finds oil, the first Gulf state to do so, in 1932. Decades-long speculation proven true, there begins a hungry rush of Western companies ready to capture shares of the reserves. British engineers, diplomats and their families move to Bahrain for a sense of adventure and chance to profit from the boom. For a brief moment, Bahrain glows in the world's attention and begins to define Gulf opulence.

With oil come more people, and with more people comes a flood of urbanization issues that Bahrain has to confront within a decade. Oil's discovery forces Bahrain to urbanize at a pace ten times that of the Western world which had taken its time in the 'birth pangs' of its Industrial Revolution. In 1963 the government announces the opening of Isa Town, a new village outside Manama to accommodate a newly established working-class. Increased populations means more sprawl beyond Manama's old center. Manama becomes just a neighborhood in a nameless conglomerate sometimes referred to as 'Bahrain,' despite the fact that it occupies only 30% of the kingdom's land. Growth continues with no such thing as an urban boundary.



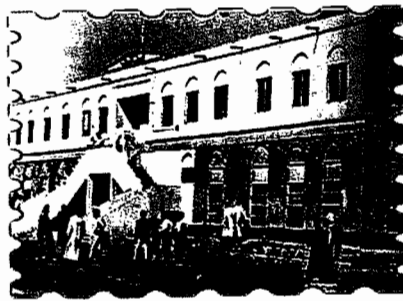
1967. Al Ahli Club

**SELLING CULTURED PEARLS IN THE GULF**

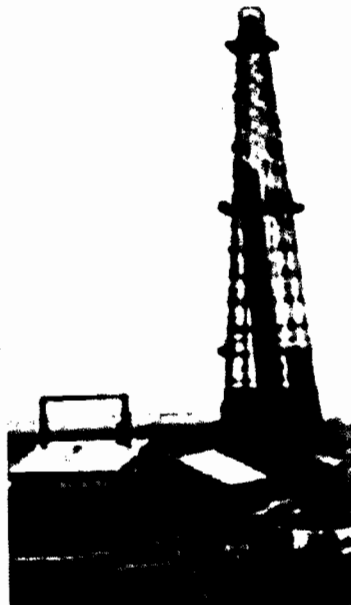
**ARABS SENT TO PRISON**

FROM OUR BAHRAIN CORRESPONDENT  
Two Arabs were recently convicted in Bahrain of cheating some local pearl dealers by selling them cultured pearls, which they had brought from India, as real pearls. They were each sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.  
The sale of cultured pearls in Bahrain is absolutely forbidden. Their introduction into the country would destroy the reputation of the Bahrain pearls and many merchants and thousands of divers, who have no means of livelihood except the

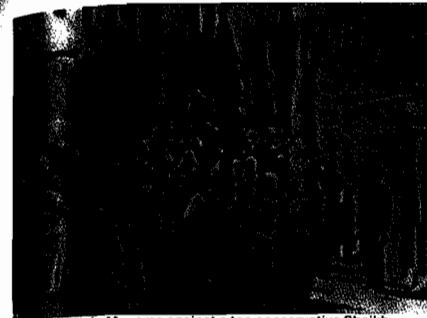
The London Times, 1927



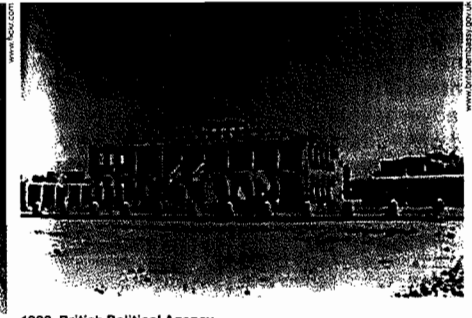
1919. British establish first formal school in the Gulf



1932. Bahrain's first oil well



1920s. Riots in Manama against a too conservative Sheikh



1920. British Political Agency



1932. Klud De Garren discovers the first oil well in Bahrain



1950s. The wind blows in the right direction HH Sheikh Salman Al Khalifa with American oil executives



The popular Bahraini artist Mohammed Zawayed with other players in Baghdad



Al Ahli and Al Oruba Clubs offer cultural and entertainment events



Bahrain Cinema, one of many cinemas which begin appearing in Bahrain after the opening of schools from 1919 onwards

**Finance Harbor**

Bahrain's Golden Age of Black eventually fades in comparison to other more immense oil fields in the Gulf. Reserves now running out, Bahrain has already confirmed its next role as the Financial House of the Gulf. Already in 1974 an advertisement presented the island as a fully occupied, lush Eden of resorts and diversified business opportunities. Tourist destinations are behind plan, but Bahrain's financial presence is mightier than that of any Gulf neighbors. With over 30 banks settled on the island, Bahrain not only pushes its own development; it also hedges its development bets by bankrolling its coastal competitors' development.

**Bahrain Encompassing the Economy of the Gulf**



1970s. Sheikh Mohammad bin Issa Al Khalifa hosts CALTEX Oil Company delegates

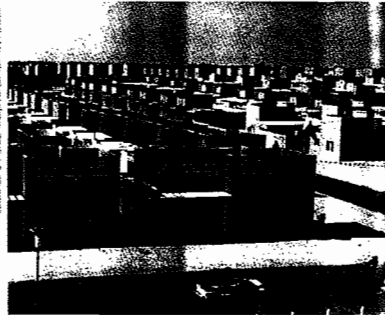
**BUILDING NEW TOWN IN BAHRAIN**

**BRITISH FIRM'S CONTRACT FROM OUR ESTATES CORRESPONDENT**

A design by a British firm has been accepted for the construction of a new town in Bahrain which ultimately will house some 15,000 people or nearly a quarter of the total population of the kingdom. The plans were prepared by George Wimpey and Company, Ltd., who will be managing the construction work with their Bahrain associates, Yusuf bin Ahmad Khamis. Work is to be started in December on the first stage which, over a five-year period and at a cost of about \$100 million, will provide a new...



1970s. Isa Town



**OVERSEAS NEWS**

**Bahrain bridge to Arabia planned**

**Significant for Gulf politics**

From THE LONDON TIMES, December 20, 1972

South Arabia and Bahrain have been linked together in the plans for a new bridge across the Red Sea. The bridge, which is to be built by the United Arab Emirates, will connect the two countries and will be a significant step towards the unification of the Gulf region. The bridge is to be built in the form of a series of viaducts and will be a major engineering feat. It is expected to be completed by the year 2000.

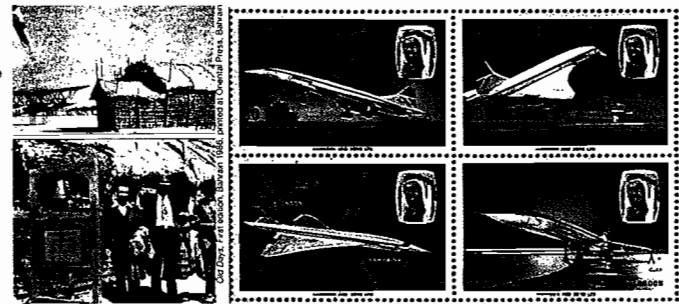


1982. Gulf International Bank B.S.C. Gibb, Petermuller and Partners



1984. United Gulf Bank, SOM

The first Bahrain airport built as a hut. The bell used in signalling a plane's landing and departure is seen below. 4 knocks signifies the aeroplane approaching, while 6 knocks signifies the aeroplane's departure time.



For 4 years Bahrain was the only stop for supersonic Concorde flights in the Gulf

**An Idea That Failed: Spreading Manure To Spread Wealth**

Northwest Fertilizer Remains In U.S., Deserts in Bahrain Don't Bloom; FBI Probes

By HERBERT G. LAWSON and RAY VICKER Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

"TACOMA (API)—The city of Tacoma soon may claim a dubious distinction: The decomposing capital of the Northwest. Cow manure is being shipped to the Middle East for a billion-dollar desert reclamation project financed by Arab oil money."

Among all the ways that oil-rich sheikhs and states find to spend their surplus petrodollars, this one seemed more unworthy than most. It involved enough raw material to cover each square inch of the Persian Gulf sheikdom of Bahrain—an intended re-



**BAHRAIN offers more than most.**

**BAHRAIN offers more than most.**

A stable political environment to which to live and work.

Educational opportunities for all - from primary to postgraduate, with Government scholarships for higher education abroad and locally financed schemes planned for Bahrain students studying abroad; a modern technical school planned for 1974, and a new Teacher Training College for men and women in 1975; a health-rehabilitation school for children born in 1974 and 1975 with U.S. and U.S. over-look for day and boarding schools.

Excitement of the Gulf Technical College to award baccalaureate degrees for technical skills from the rapidly evolving industrial community.

A National Health Service, with the most modern facilities incorporated in a newly designed QCO and Hospital for men; women hospitals for women, as well as a J. B. Sanatorium.

Planning for all income levels, and the most comprehensive "new town" development in the Middle East.

First class communications: A choice of daily international flights to Europe and the Far East, as well as all parts of the Gulf region.

Mina Salman, Bahrain's port, recognized as the most efficient in the Gulf, handles up to six million of 20 foot diameter containers, and provides extensive warehousing and mechanical handling facilities.

A 24-hour telephone service world-wide, as well as tele and cable facilities for private and commercial subscribers.

If you would like to know more about Bahrain, please write to:

The Superintendent-General,  
The Ministry of Information,  
Manama,  
Bahrain.

or  
The Embassy of the State of Bahrain,  
29 Grosvenor Ave.,  
London SW1 4AL.

From the Gulf Airways and the 1974.

The oldest sporting fields in the world.

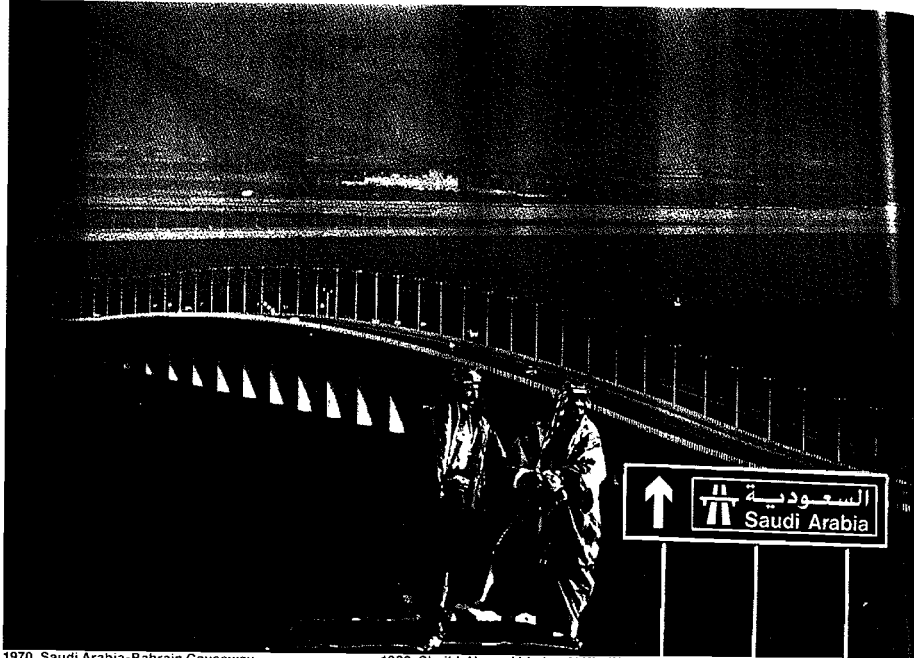
Home Islands.

CAPEC to build dry dock in Bahrain



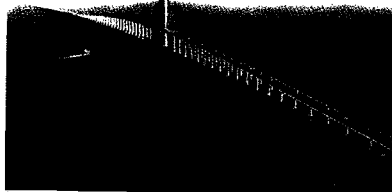
### The Bahrain Model

Success can be damning. On November 6, 2003, US president George Bush declares Bahrain a model Middle Eastern democracy; just over six months later, the American government urges its expat citizens to leave in response to terrorist threats against Americans on Bahraini soil. Attention from a giant, faltering democracy only makes the errors and contradictions of its trainee more glaring. The result – a UN censure and a Human Rights Watch condemnation. Bahrain follows its own course to democratization. Oppositional rallies that adhere to a strict Islamic code of separation of the sexes exemplify the emerging Bahrain model toward freedom.

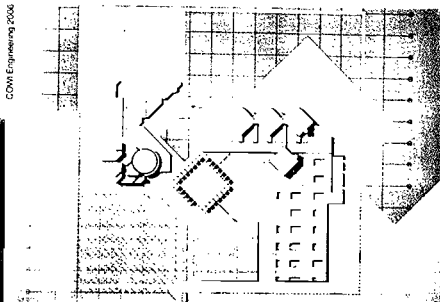


1970. Saudi Arabia-Bahrain Causeway, Christiani and Nielsen Pcl. Engineering

1939. Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, ruler of Bahrain, with King Abdul Aziz bin Saud, King of Saudi Arabia

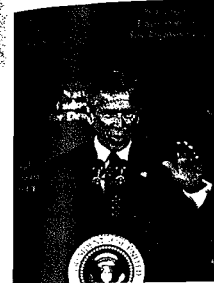
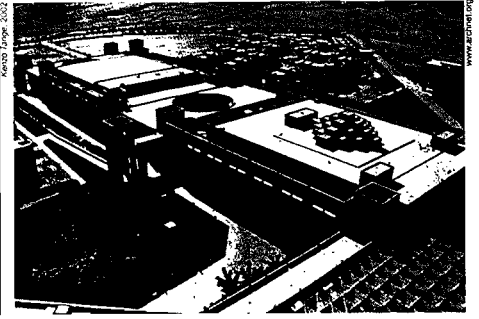


2006. Proposed design for the Friendship Bridge to Qatar, COWI Engineering

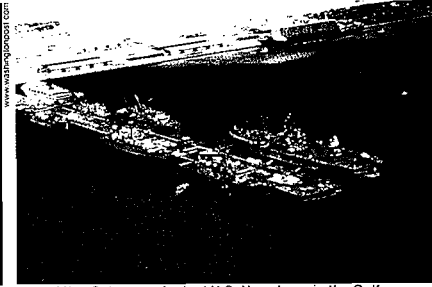


1988. Bahrain National Museum. KHRAS Arkitektur

1984. Arab Gulf University. Kenzo Tange



2003. George Bush highlights Bahrain as model 'new democracy in the Middle East'



2004. Mina Sulman, principal U.S. Navy base in the Gulf

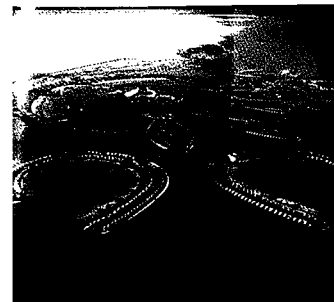
**Bahrainis Embrace Political Satire**  
Al-Jazeera, Friday, November 14, 2003  
**Bahraini Human Rights Centre Dissolved**  
Al-Jazeera, Wednesday, September 14, 2004  
**Bahrainis Rally For Reforms**  
Al-Jazeera, Friday, May 06 2005  
**The King Has Dissolved The Parliament!**  
Mashhad TV July 26, 2006



Riffa Heights project – An upscale community with sea-views and golf course where Shiites cannot buy land



2006. Riots demanding political reforms



Durrat Al Bahrain, located on the south coast of Bahrain. Will include 13 different islands



2006. Michael Jackson in Bahrain

It is probable that Michael Jackson converted to Islam. Jermaine Jackson was saying. Jermaine, 52, converted to Islam in 1999 and now lives in Bahrain, where he also recently taken up residence. The Independent, Friday, Feb 23, 2007



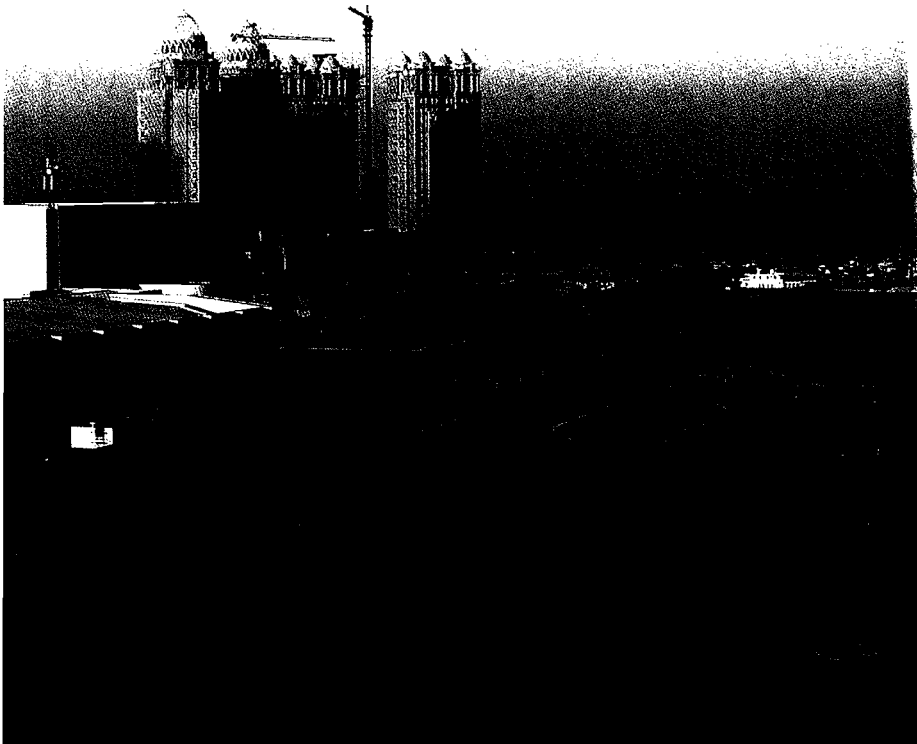
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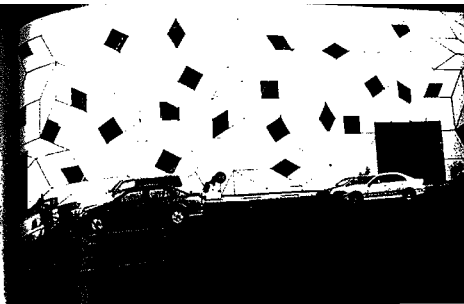
county



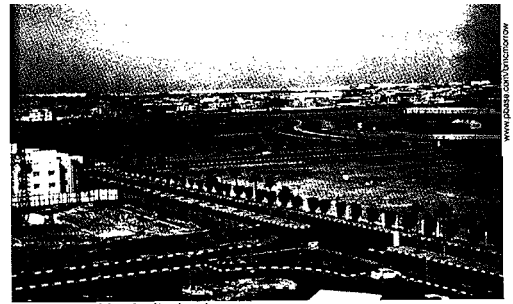
20 10 20 10 20 10



View towards the sea from Doha's developing shoreline



Qatar Education City. Liberal Arts and Sciences Building  
Arata Isozaki



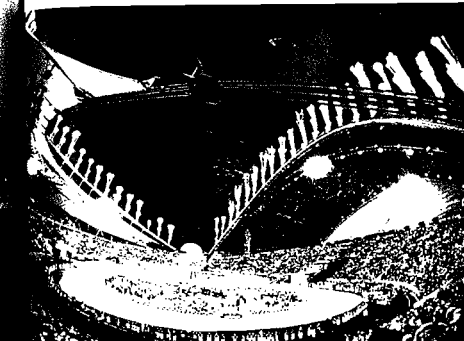
Periphery waiting for its developer



Sword Arch on Grand Hamad Street



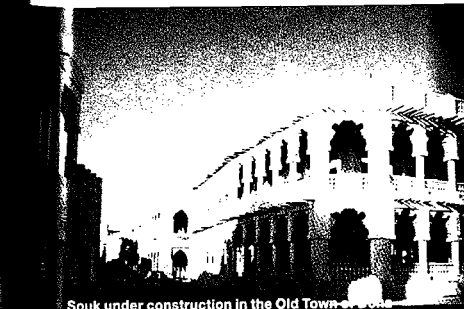
Banks on Grand Hamad Street



December 2006. Fireworks in the Khalifa Stadium  
mark the opening ceremony of the 15th Asian Games



Villa



Souk under construction in the Old Town



Bus station

**High Contrast**

Even relative to other Gulf locations, Qatar was recently staggeringly poor. Its expansive deserts were once condemned by travelers as deadeningly dull and unpleasant. The seas around it had been controlled by Bahrain, precluding the state's ability to compete on open waters. Constantly having to fight off Bahrain to the West and Saudis to the South, Qatar had nothing much to defend besides its pride.

In 1949 Qatar's fate changes with the discovery of oil. Almost overnight Qatar transforms from the forgotten peninsula of the Arabian Coast to a stronghold of British presence. Having witnessed the transformation of Bahrain by petrodollars, Qatar proceeds cautiously – a hospital, an airport, a sports stadium, a clocktower in a traditional style and a modest palace, especially for an oil sheikh.



1935. Doha aerial view



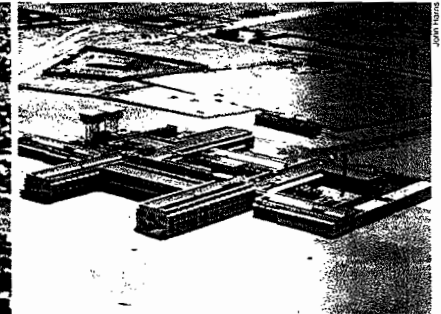
1935. Al Khor City



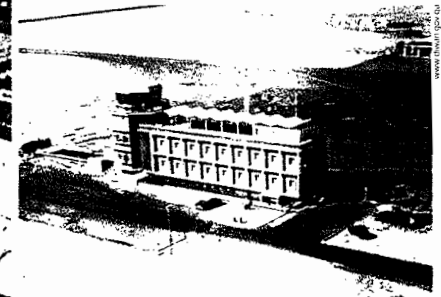
1930s. Looking for pearls



Late 1950s. New housing complex in Khalifa using traditional Arab housing typology



Qatar State Hospital in Doha John Harris



1960. Doha airport



1960. Interior of the Sheikh's palace



1960. Clock tower with Amiri Diwan in the background

**Step Further**

One step at a time, Sheikh Khalifa builds a museum and one of the first universities in the Gulf, the University of Qatar. Modest architects are chosen and encouraged to express traditional aesthetics in modern form. There is one exception - the Sheraton Hotel, which to this day is the backdrop of any recognizable photo taken by a tourist. For some it heralds the extravagance of Egyptian pyramids - an almost always empty hotel built to tower above the city and its coast.

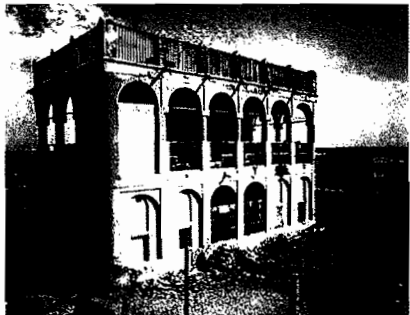
**A cautious man of total power**

The Emir of Qatar, who begins a three-day state visit to Britain today, is a traditional Gulf ruler intent on taking his country into the 20th century, while believing in using its oil revenues cautiously. His manner is decisive and forthright, but he subjects decisions to a careful, typically Qatari assessment. Little is done without his personal approval and few things go on within the Emirate without his knowing about them.

Qatar, a small peninsula state thrusting into the Gulf from the Arabian heartland, is very much his personal fiefdom and his capital, Doha, his painstaking creation.

father's absence in Europe. His brother, Sheikh Abd al-Aziz, is the highly visible Minister of Finance in Petrobras, who has accompanied his father to Britain. Another younger brother, Sheikh Abdullah, is deputy Commander-in-Chief, also educated at Sandhurst. A brother of the Emir, Sheikh Sultan bin Hamad al-Thani, was Foreign Minister, albeit inactive, until his death last summer. Another brother, Khalifa, is Interior Minister.

The Emir is about to move his administrative offices into a huge new palace that looms over the present Imperial Drive in the heart of the city. The building reflects the principal occupant's attempt to retain traditional values in a modern society, not an easy alliance in today's Gulf.



1972. The old palace will be transformed into a museum

[Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani] policy is one of cautious but determined development, avoiding the mistakes of other states whose growth threatens to get out of hand.

The London Times, 1975



1982. Doha Zoo John S. Bonnington

**QATAR NATIONAL MUSEUM**

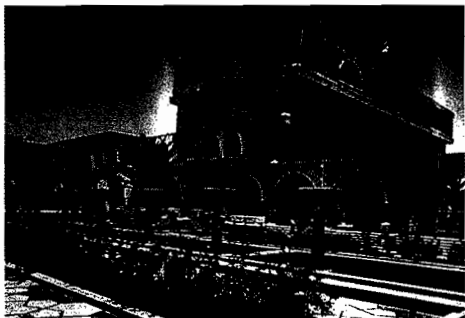
Qatar's new Museum - perhaps the most important, certainly the most striking, cultural development yet undertaken in the Gulf - was the direct inspiration of the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani. The decision to establish a national museum, one of the first acts of his reign, was taken in 1972, and was followed by three years of planning, site selection, architectural research and a crash reconstruction and building programme.

Direction of the project was the responsibility of the Ministry of Information in general and in particular the Minister, Mr Issa Ghassan al-Kuwari.

From the outset, Sheikh Khalifa was concerned to preserve those remnants of his people's past and their way of life before the Emiri oil wealth had transformed their lives. Evidence of Qatar's past would inevitably be irretrievably lost by the developments and the social, welfare and industrial projects which he now determined to introduce. The site chosen for the new Museum was therefore appropriate - a small corner of traditional Qatar beyond the Old Amir Palace, near the home of the Amir's family; indeed he himself had spent his childhood there.

**Restoration of the Palace**

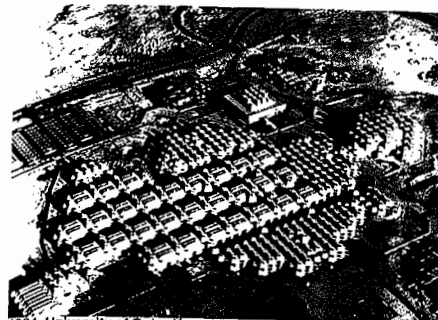
Though they were in a relaxed condition, enough of these small and simple buildings remained to allow them to be faithfully reconstructed.



1980. Ministry of Information and National Theatre James Connel



1985. Naiga housing complex Anwar Atta



1984. University of Qatar Kamal El-Kafrawi with Ove Arup



**Gulf Nations' White-Elephant Projects Remain After Boom-Era Spending Ends**

By Peter Thornell

Half a century of the West's dream of a new Middle East. From the 1950s, the 110 million dollar Sheraton resembles a huge ancient pyramid. But modern operators remain within.

Classroom-sized elevators offer a panoramic view of the hotel's 200-foot-high main hall and its crystal chandeliers, including restaurants and dining areas. It also has three restaurants, a pool club, health club, six indoor bowling alleys and, for entertainment, 30,000 sheets.

In 400 magnificent rooms are stocked with everything from slippers to refrigerated soft drinks and, they bring an entire private Gulf state, including a bank, in the bathroom, even the beds have lamp-panels.

All the hotel lacks is guests.

Since its opening in March 1982, the Doha Sheraton's occupancy rate barely has averaged 40 percent, and it is 30 percent below what Sheraton figures as the long-term goal for hotels of this class.

The government company that runs the hotel says it is not a success.



1982. Sheraton Hotel. William L. Pereira and Associates



1980s. Doha Kourinish

**Hopes are pinned on gas when the oil runs out**

Qatar is more fortunate than some of its oil-producing neighbors. Since oil may turn out to be the world's largest reserves of non-renewable gas, the country does not have the same worries about its future once the oil runs out.

But the gas is not without its own problems. Since 14 years after the discovery of the North Field reserves, the government is only just getting round to developing them and such ability of the project and the uncertainty about future markets.

The North Field covers an



'The opinion and the other opinion.' Al Jazeera logo

In 1996 the Emir established a new TV channel called Al Jazeera ("The Island"). This channel would change the face of the media world. Two years later he abolished censorship on radio and television.



### Size Doesn't Matter

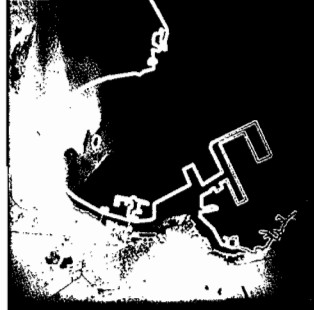
There has never been a boom in Qatar.

Money is spent on jewels, not size. Dusting off its cultural campaign of the 1970s, Qatar chooses to focus on cultural endeavors – devoting funds to invite top-ranked universities, Qatar is not only building a new campus, but an Education City. As part of the reorganization of the Kournish, four major cultural projects are on the way.

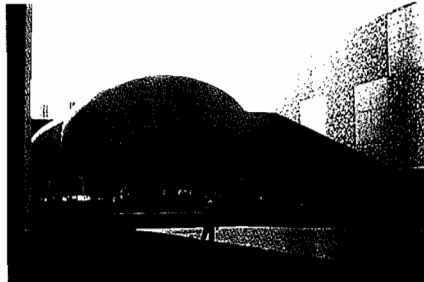
In a kind of competition with Abu Dhabi, the Sheikh's cousin has made the emirate known by being the fierce buyer at any major art auction.



2005. Doha West Bay development Halcrow



1956. Satellite photo with 2003 coastline



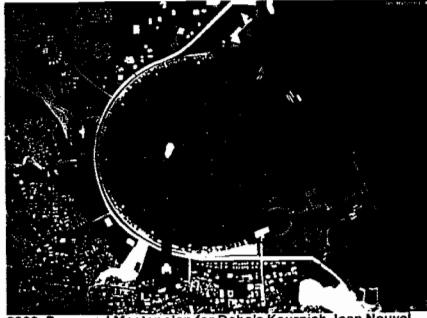
Education City hosts branch campuses of some of the world's leading research universities, such as Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar



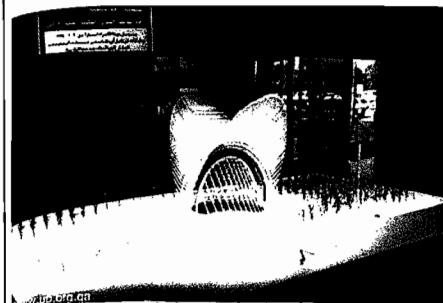
2003. Satellite photo with 1956 coastline



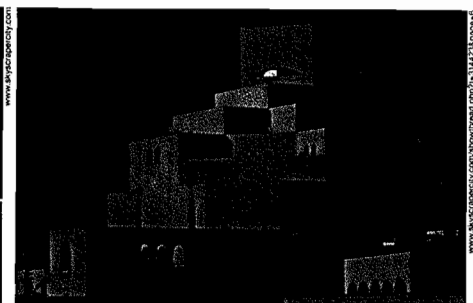
Doha roundabout



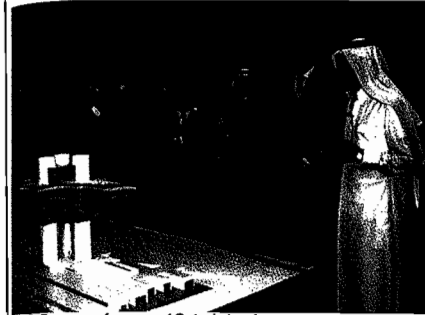
2003. Proposed Master plan for Doha's Kournish Jean Nouvel



Photography Museum designed by Santiago Calatrava for Doha, Qatar appears to have been stalled



December 2006. Museum of Islamic Arts. I.M. Pei

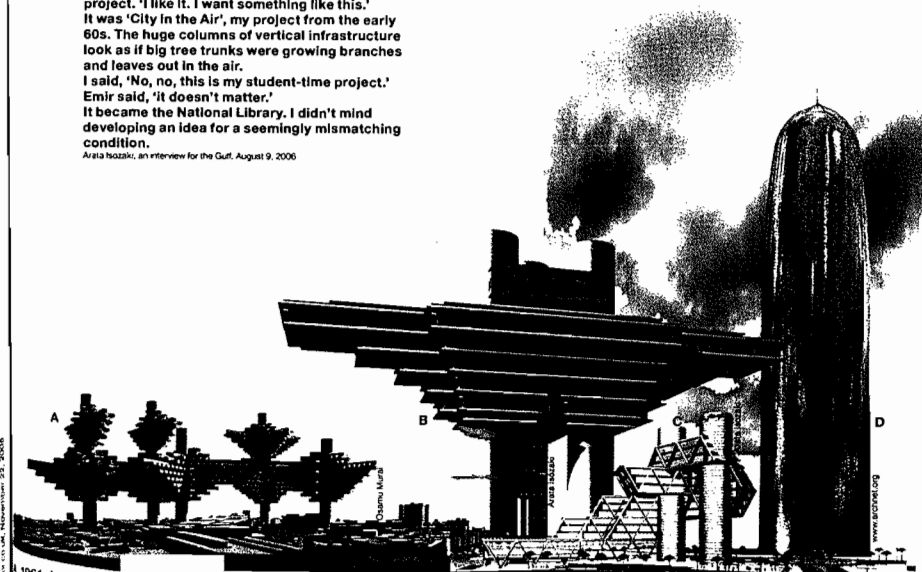


2005. Press conference of Qatar's tourism

The Emir looked in my book and pointed at a project. 'I like it. I want something like this.' It was 'City in the Air', my project from the early 60s. The huge columns of vertical infrastructure look as if big tree trunks were growing branches and leaves out in the air. I said, 'No, no, this is my student-time project.' Emir said, 'It doesn't matter.' It became the National Library. I didn't mind developing an idea for a seemingly mismatching condition.

Arata Isozaki, an interview for the Gulf, August 9, 2006

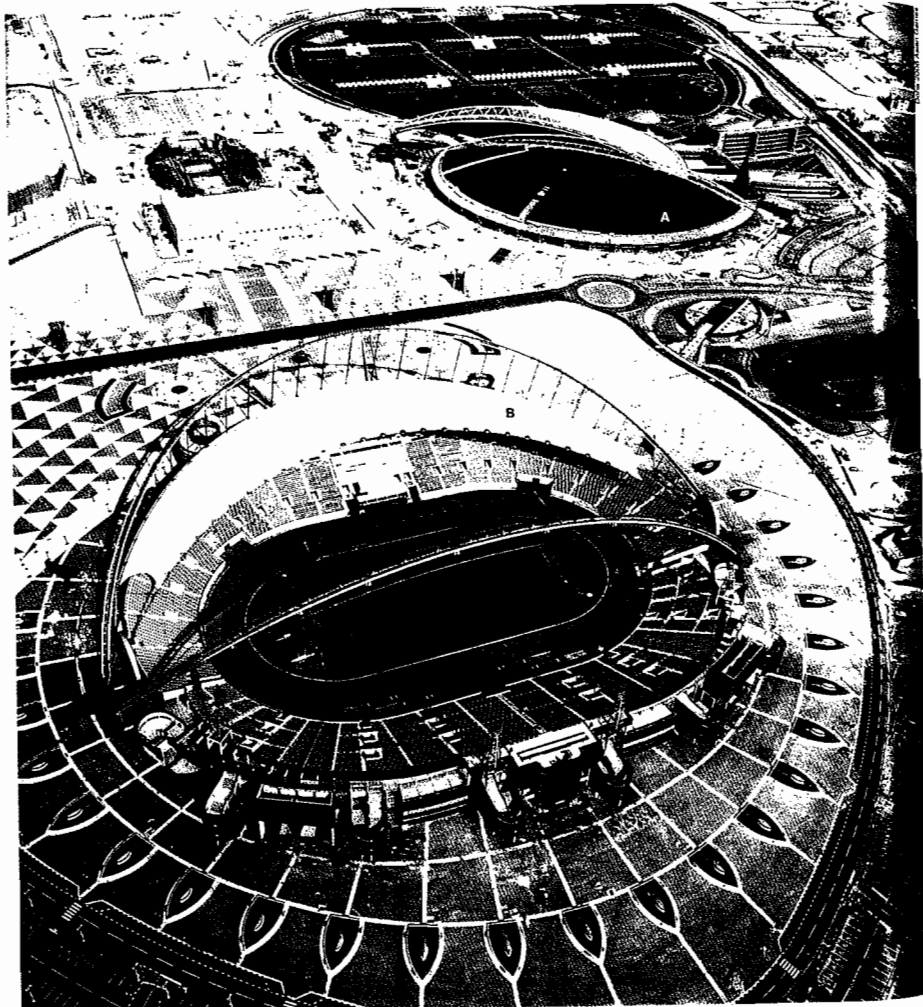
President Bush planned to bomb Arab TV station Al-Jazeera



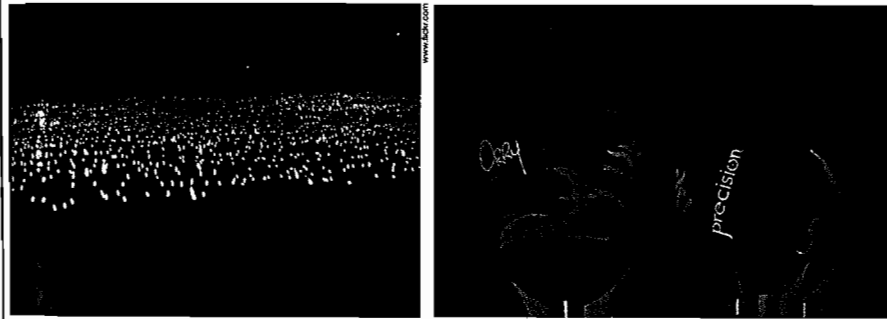
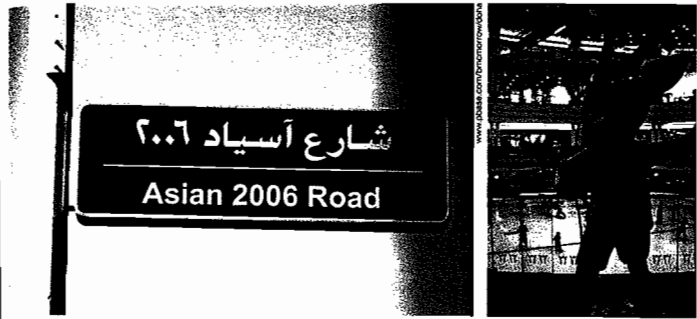
- 1961. Imaginary project: City in the Air. Arata Isozaki
- 2005. Qatar National Library. Project on hold. Arata Isozaki
- 2005. Qatar National Bank. Project on hold. Arata Isozaki
- 2003. Proposed Tower on Doha's Kournish. Project on hold. Jean Nouvel

### Asian Games

Doha hosts the Asian Games in 2006, the largest ever. The Games have raised the status of Doha as a venue for international events. When will the Olympics take place in the Middle East?



2006. Al Khalifa Sports City. R. Taillibert



## Abu Dhabi

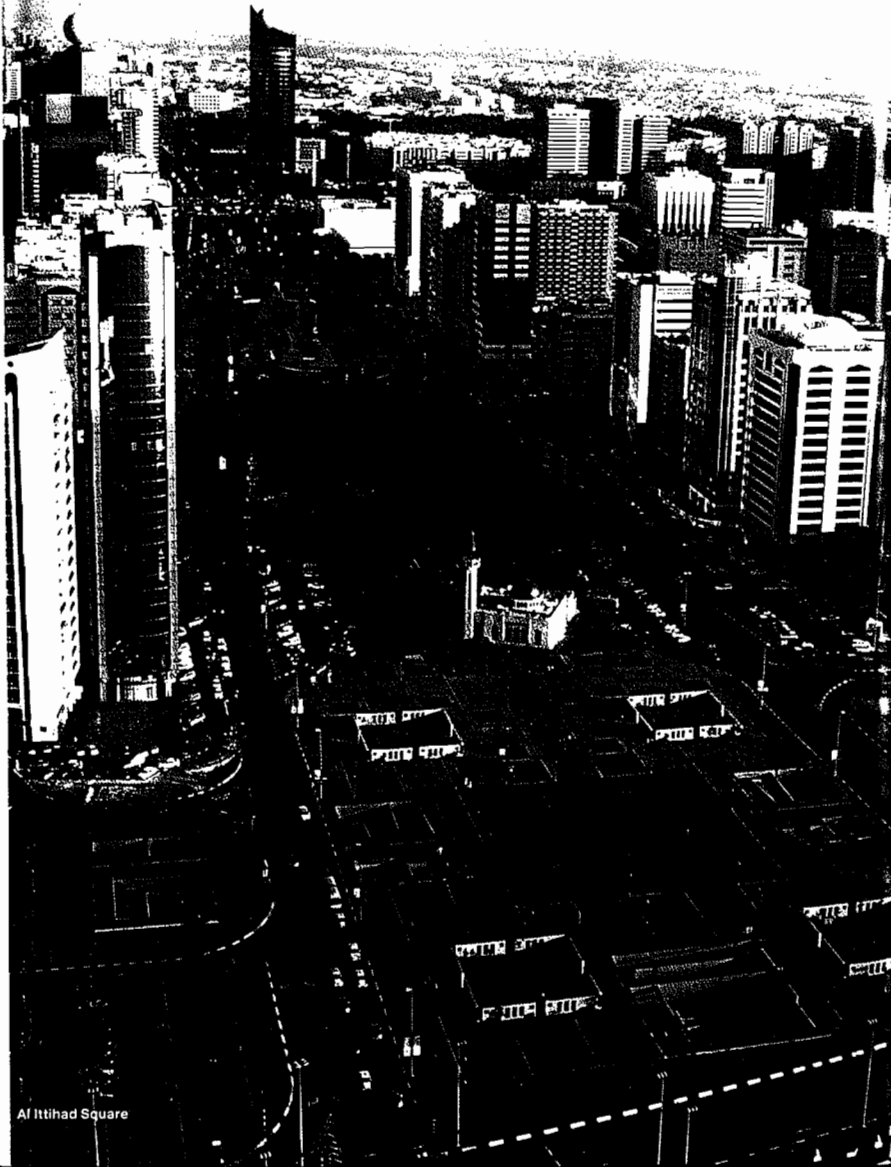
Abu Dhabi has nothing to prove. Its anchored indispensability in global markets – as a result of its immense oil reserves – ensures that its regional and global position remains undisputed.

With its global political weight ensured, Abu Dhabi has developed a confident and careful approach to its urban development. Whereas cities worldwide have converted their municipal departments into marketing machines for attracting outside investment, Abu Dhabi sells privilege, not pitches.

It was a slow start, with oil monies not quickly reinvested in urban development until the ascension of Sheikh Zayed.

In the past year, media requests have been granted to a press eager to know the Emirate's plans. Abu Dhabi is now responding to the competitive sphere in the Gulf with a clear agenda, backed up by a new tool for the Gulf – culture master planning.

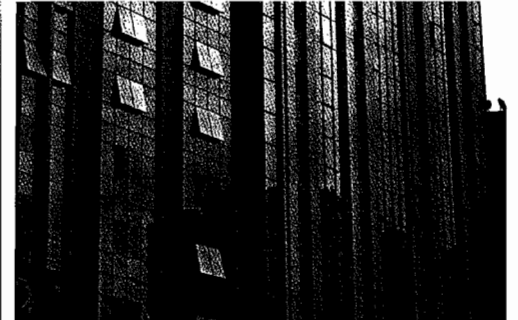




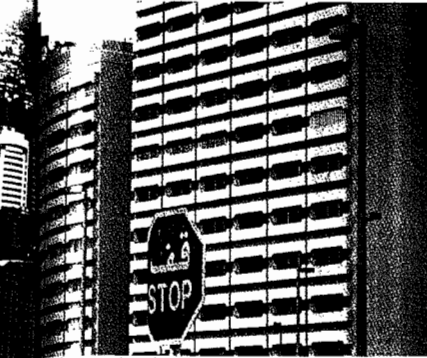
Al Ittihad Square



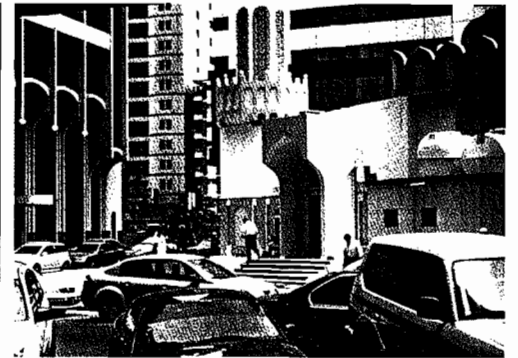
...between cities on road to Dubai



Reflexive passive ventilation, when air conditioning is on too high



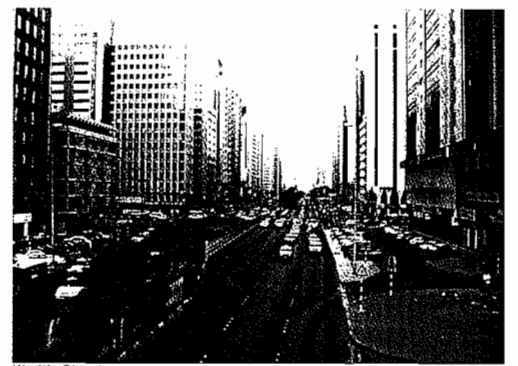
...omiche apartments



Parking before mosque



...Port Zayed



Khalifa Street



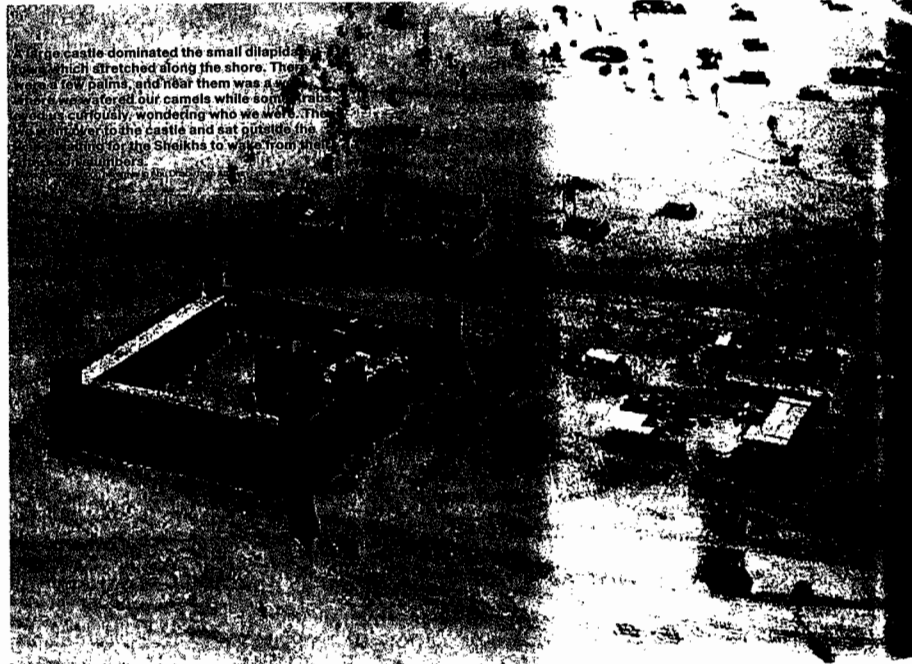
...ern day dhows

**The Hobbyist**

Sheikh Zayed replaces his brother in 1966 as ruler of Abu Dhabi, resulting in a shift in the Emirate's approach to investment and development. Beyond the obvious need for roads and infrastructure, the Sheikh extends a clear vision of urbanity, comparable to Western monarchs from centuries before who made architecture and urbanism their hobbies. Eager British engineers and European architects help the Sheikh realize some of the best examples of stadiums, airports, and hotels in the region, generating a stately field of commemorative structures and verdant landscaping.



Upon the urging of the British Political Agent, John Harris visits Sheikh Shakhbut – two days' air travel to Dubai and a full day of jeep travel over sand, water and sand again to arrive in Abu Dhabi about 150 km away



1950. Abu Dhabi Fort



1960s. Abu Dhabi stamp



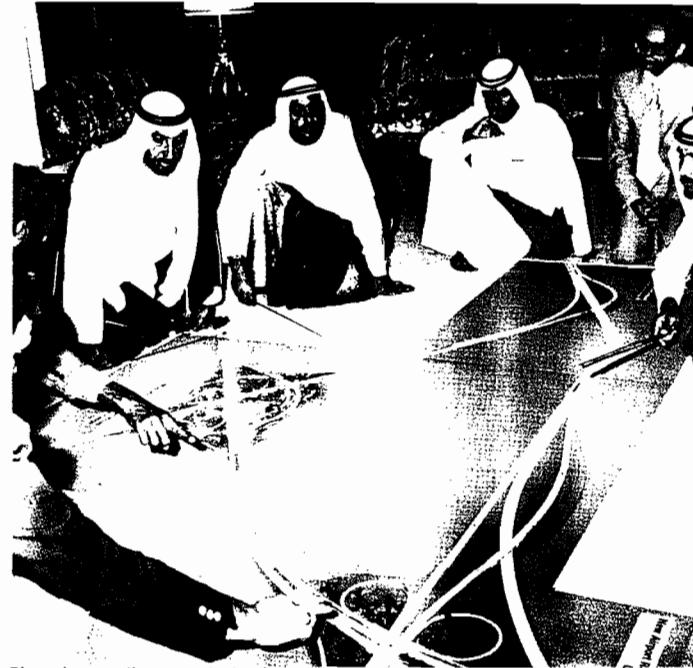
1961. Abu Dhabi airport terminal



1960s. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan with Sheikh Tahnoon planning Abu Dhabi National Oil Company buildings

**Abu Dhabi – Gateway to the Gulf**  
It is no longer of special interest when land blossoms where there was formerly a vast expanse of white sand; when a sleeping fishing village is transformed almost overnight into a large sprawling city with modern buildings rising on the debris of old palm leaf huts; or when concrete roads probe into a desert as silent and as ancient as time.

Advertisement that appeared in *The Washington Post*, December 16, 1970



Discussions over the new road network



**Opulence in Landscape**

Corniche – where seafront meets skyline – sculpts the city's façade. The urban device is borrowed from Monaco, via Beirut and Kuwait, and generates housing prices that compete with towers facing New York City's Central Park. The Corniche's at once current and dated feel, represents Abu Dhabi's developing history of opulence and confident ease.

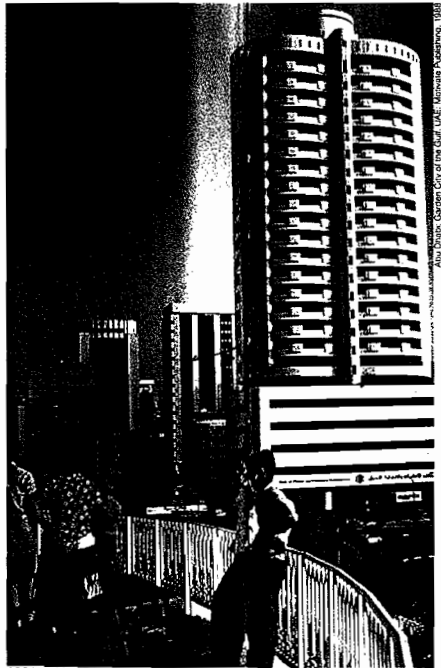
The Corniche also exemplifies Abu Dhabi's obsession with green. Over 130 million planted trees garnish landscaped highways, waterfront resorts, residential yards, and oasis-style parklands – all notable despite the conspicuous lack of rainfall (only 43 mm per year in the city). Even the Emirate's much fought-for inland oasis is now almost dry, now requiring desalinated water from the coast.



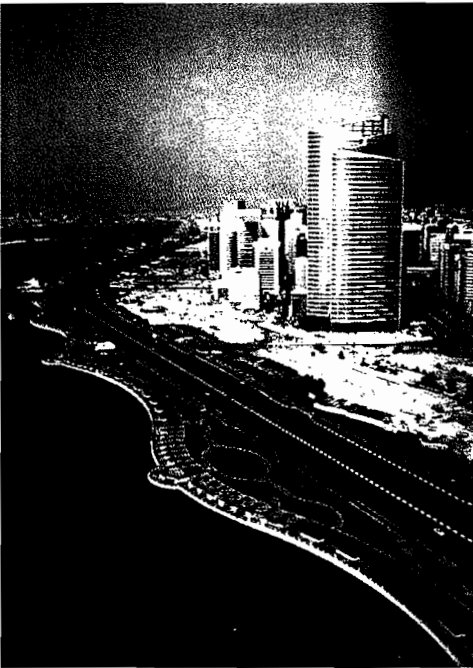
1950s. Abu Dhabi seafront



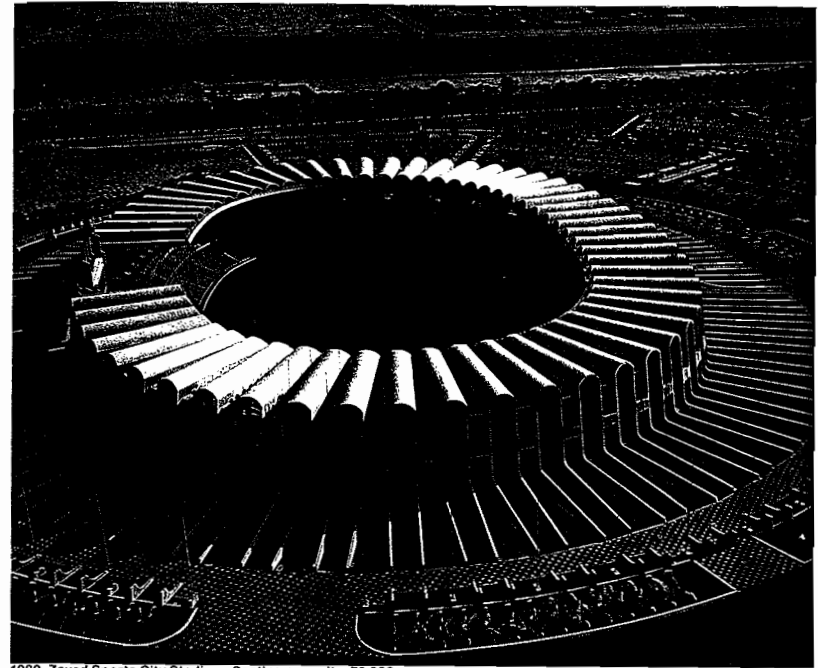
1970s. Abu Dhabi Corniche



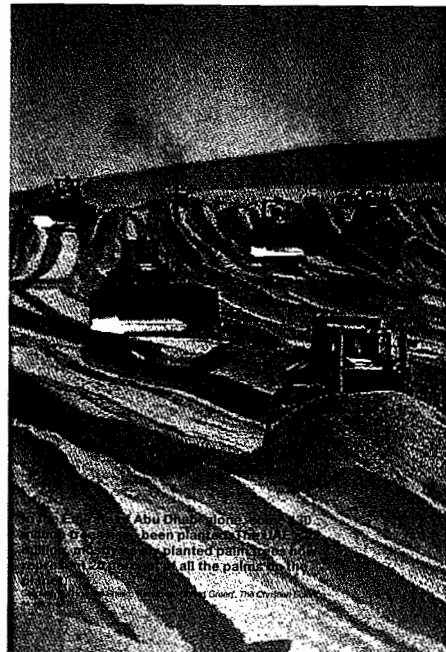
1980s. Abu Dhabi Corniche



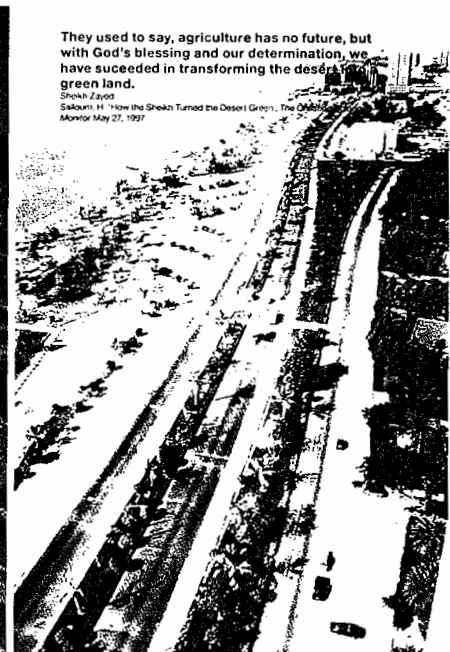
2006. Corniche redevelopment



1980. Zayed Sports City Stadium. Seating capacity: 70,000



A fleet of bulldozers dig into desert sand during the construction of canals and lakes in Abu Dhabi.

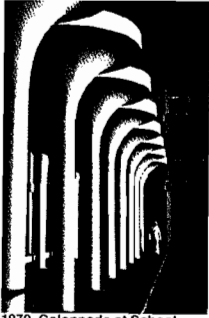


The UAE is the largest water consuming country after the US and Canada

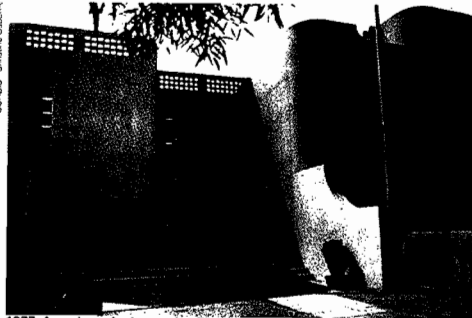
They used to say, agriculture has no future, but with God's blessing and our determination, we have succeeded in transforming the desert into green land.  
Sheikh Zayed  
Sabkhat '11: How the Sheikh Turned the Desert Green. The UAE Observer May 27, 1997

## Single Vision

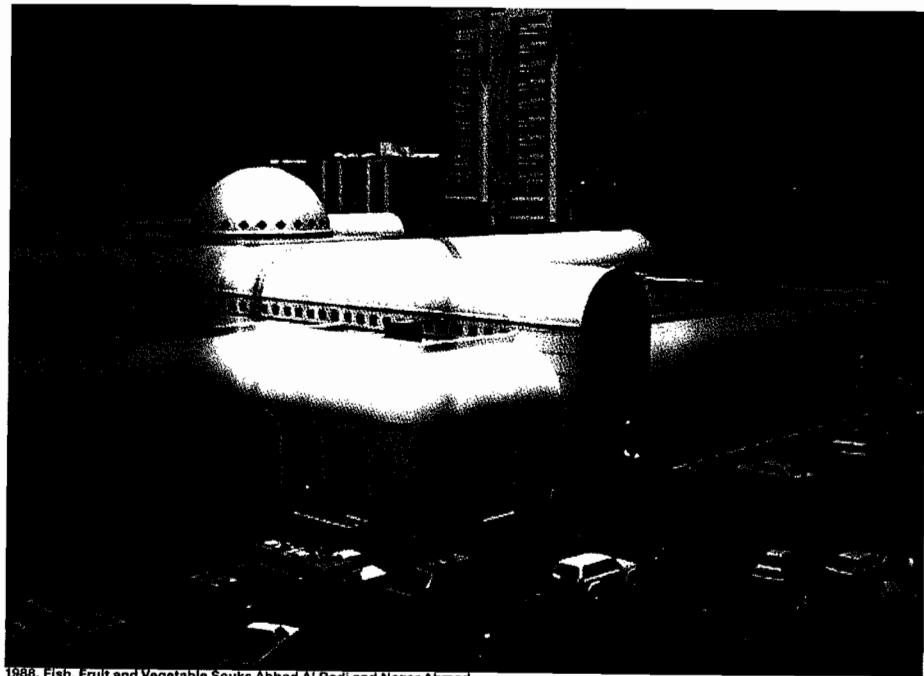
Reinforcing the original fort within a new cultural compound, erecting sculptural stadiums for Olympic aspirations and transforming an obsolete airport into strolling gardens – the 1980s saw the realization of Sheikh Zayed’s vision. Shopping centers, offices and residential towers pepper the vanishing desert, but all within the strict land use controls of the Sheikh.



1970. Colonnade at School



1977. American Ambassador Residence John Harris

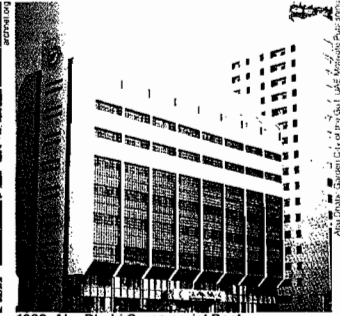


1988. Fish, Fruit and Vegetable Souks Abbad Al Radi and Nazar Ahmad

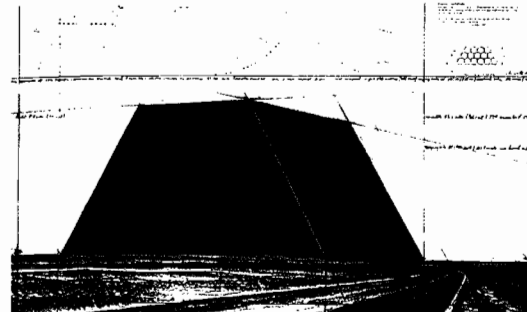
The city has thus developed a calligraphic skyline...buildings are erected at the rhythm of the monarch's consent.



1985. Abu Dhabi Library and Cultural Center, The Architects Collaborative



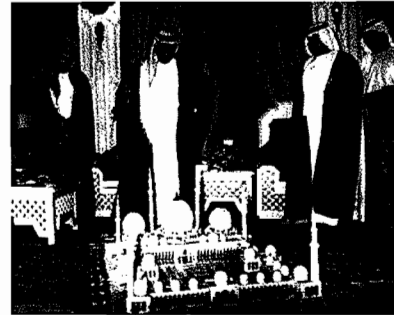
1988. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank



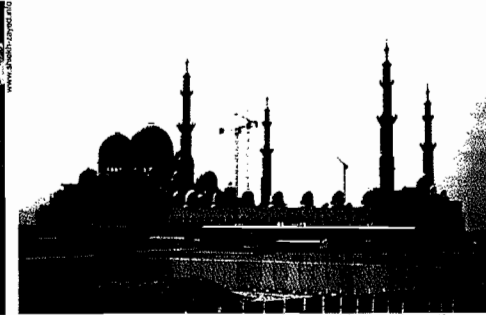
1977. The Mastaba of Abu Dhabi proposed by Christo



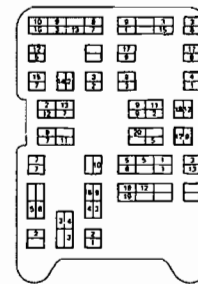
1988. Abu Dhabi National Oil Company



Sheikh Zayed reviews model for the 'Zayed Mosque'



The new mosque will accommodate 30,000 worshippers at one time



Old souk in Abu Dhabi, with 196 shops

www.abudhabi.gov.ae/urban-planning/2015-08-18/15000-02

Instinctive habits are, mercifully, much more powerful than bad architecture; and the residents of the souk were simply ignoring all the architect's design on them. They had set up stalls in the walkways and constructed their own labyrinth in spaces which had been meant as routes of access.

Jordanian Rabou, Arabia, 1979



1962. Development plan with the Ruler's palace and Governmental buildings

## An Awakened Giant

In 2005 Sheikh Khalifa, Zayed's son, single-handedly transforms Abu Dhabi with new laws opening emirate real estate to the free market. Overnight, Abu Dhabi experiences the avarice of investors wanting a piece of an unending success story. Huge developments would sell out in less than an hour. Made even stronger by the fact that its impressive development plans are not founded in desperation, Abu Dhabi brings stiffer competition to the region.

Evolution of the tourist industry: from sun/sand, to shopping and now to culture. Even compared to bold efforts to extend coastlines along the Gulf, this next stage could very well test the financial endurance of the Gulf. Money has to fill the gap. Not only investing in an extravagant building project, Abu Dhabi will also foot the bill for its own collection imprinted with Guggenheim endorsement.

### More Fortunes Than Degrees

A local pastime is betting how much taller Abu Dhabi's clock tower will be than Dubai's most impressive local landmark, which is, of course a clock tower.

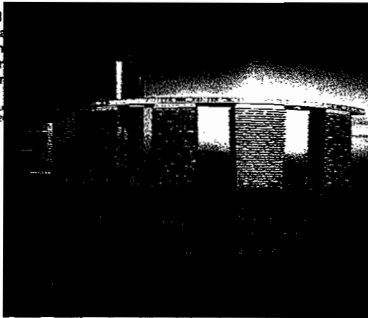
*The Washington Post* November 4, 1974

Estimates of ADIA's [Abu Dhabi Investment Authority] size range from \$200 billion to 'way north of \$500 billion', according to one foreign investment banker. In other words, it may be the world's biggest investment fund.

After a decade of living in Dubai's shadow, Abu Dhabi - the UAE's largest emirate - is now developing its own projects that look set to challenge its smaller neighbor to the north. Last week a free hold property sold out in 45 minutes. Foreman, Colin 'Abu Dhabi gets ready to strip out of the shadow cast by Dubai.' *ITP Construction* June 25, 2005 [www.itp.net/business/features/details.php?i=7832&category=construction](http://www.itp.net/business/features/details.php?i=7832&category=construction)

While we recognise and applaud success, we do not view Abu Dhabi's development in terms of 'catching up' like to emphasise that plans currently in development or in the pipeline are at the top end of the market.

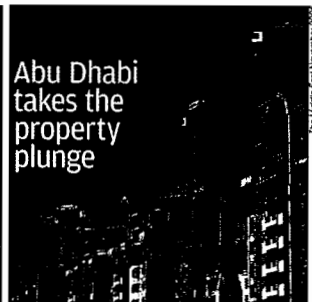
Ali Ahmed Hassan, Director of Marketing Abu Dhabi Tourist Authority, 'Abu Dhabi: Corner of Age', *ITP Hospitality*, August 4, 2005



'The Gate,' Saadiyat Island, Arqitectonica



2006. Yas Island development in Abu Dhabi showcased at Dubai Cityscape



Abu Dhabi takes the property plunge



1980s. Chamber Tower and Clock Tower

Abu Dhabi: Capital City of the Gulf, United Arab Emirates, Modern Publishing, 1988

Collectively, Persian Gulf-based carriers are set to increase their passenger capacity 140% by 2011.

News: 1. Middle East's Gulf-based carriers are set to increase their passenger capacity 140% by 2011. *Business Week* April 10, 2006

## Abu Dhabi Sitting pretty

Abu Dhabi  
Haven of prosperity in a turbulent sea

IT IS nice to be rich, but nicer still to have it all amid a surrounding sea of trouble. Even among the monarchies of the Gulf, whose wealth has soared with the price of oil, the emirate of Abu Dhabi stands out as serenely blessed.

Super-rich Kuwait sits uncomfortably close to unruly Iraq and obstreperous Iran, and Saddam Hussein's invasion in 1990 burned up much of its fortune.

1999 → 2006  
Change of Plan  
Culture = Money

The Persian Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi said it will invest \$730 million in ... developing a Gulf island into an international 'capital and commodities center.' The action... heats up a competition to be the region's financial hub. *Wall Street Journal* July 2, 2005

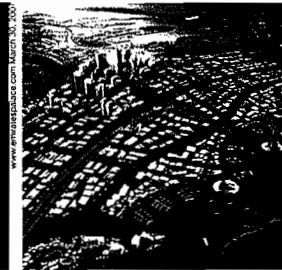
Abu Dhabi ... unveiled a new public joint stock company charged with developing ... its flagship Saadiyat Island project ... into a strategic international tourism destination. [www.abudhabi.ae](http://www.abudhabi.ae)

You should expect that all figures in paintings will be clothed.

© 2006 The Trustees of the Guggenheim Foundation



Emirates Palace literally glows with luxury. The hotel, owned by the government of Abu Dhabi, took more than three years and reportedly more than \$3 billion to build, which would make it the most expensive hotel in the world



Transformation of Saadiyat Island. Plans include a franchised Louvre Museum



July, 8 2006. Frank Gehry at Emirates Palace Hotel, Abu Dhabi



July 8, 2006. Thomas Krens, Guggenheim Director, and Sheikh Suroor bin Mohammed Al Nahyan



Autopolis car center to be built in Abu Dhabi

The Guggenheim Effect  
Bilbao's Investment  
1997: 80m euro  
Abu Dhabi Investment  
2006: 155m euro

[www.abudhabi.ae](http://www.abudhabi.ae)

# Dubai

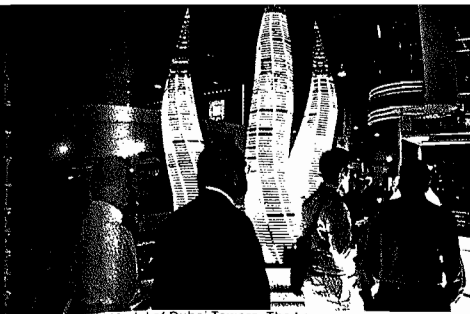
Situated somewhere between the Gulf's mouth and oil fields, Dubai has had to work for its notoriety. An enduring optimism of bigger and bolder has almost always paid off since 1960 when Sheikh Rashid had the practically useless creek dredged as the emirate's first step toward holding the largest harbor in the world. Its cultivated attitude of superlatives has been the foundation for the Gulf City, creating a regional family who will either copy or improve the Dubai model.



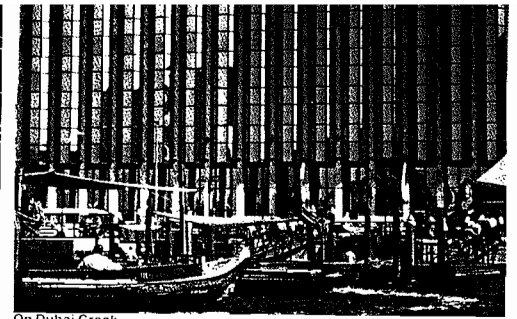
# Snapshots



2007. Dubai Marina under construction



2008. Model of Dubai Towers, The Lagoons, on display in Cityscape



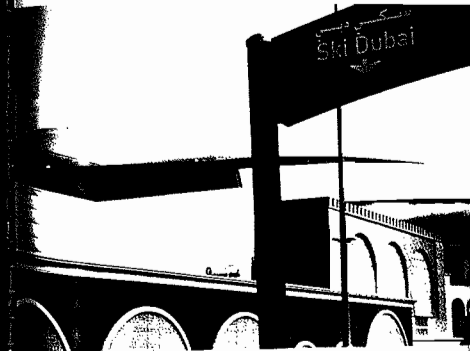
On Dubai Creek



Makeshift roundabout at construction site



Satwa, behind Sheikh Zayed Road



Ski Dubai, Mall of the Emirates



Barbershop in Deira



Mall of the Emirates, 'the world's first shopping resort'



Deira, the old city of Dubai



### 1901. World's First Free Zone

The Persian port of Lingah, in the Bastak region of Iran, raises taxes on all local merchants. The Sheikh of Dubai sees opportunity, promptly abolishes tariffs and declares Dubai a free port. Persian merchants relocate to Dubai, in what is now called Bastakiyah, named after their previous home. Making room for its first merchant immigrants, Dubai establishes its ability to host parallel worlds.

Dubai leverages anticipated oil revenues for British loans to fund its first large-scale urbanization efforts. Rejecting visionary formalism, plans imagine modern amenities where there are only sand trails for donkeys and camels. One of Halcrow's first consultations for the emirate concludes that 4 berths would be adequate for a proposed port; Sheikh Rashid demands 15, signalling a continuously more ambitious vision than what conventional wisdom might recommend.



1937. Dubai Creek

A Dubai Dhow returns to port

### The Gold Hustlers

Merchants in Tiny Port On Persian Gulf Thrive By Smuggling to India

Official Price \$35 an Ounce But Hoarders Doubt Value Of Dollar. Pay Up to \$85

Dubai Dhows vs. Indian Navy

Wafer-thin bars of gold weighing 3.75 ounces are preferred for smuggling. They are worth \$150 each. Current value \$2,489



1948. Traditional houses with windtowers, Dubai



1949. The British-built Al Maktoum Hospital, the region's first and later expanded by John Harris



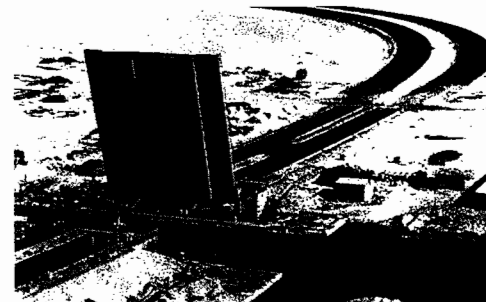
1960. Dubai International Airport expands trade routes



1960. Sheikh Rashid at the opening of Dubai International Airport



1960-1965. The dredging of Dubai Creek opens the emirate to more and larger ships and transforms Dubai into the largest port in the Gulf



1963. The Al Maktoum drawbridge unifies the old town with the expansive deserts of Dubai and its future skyscraper highway



1970s. New Bastakiyah arising within the old, with Port Rashid in background. Copying urbanism for tourism

**High Modernism**

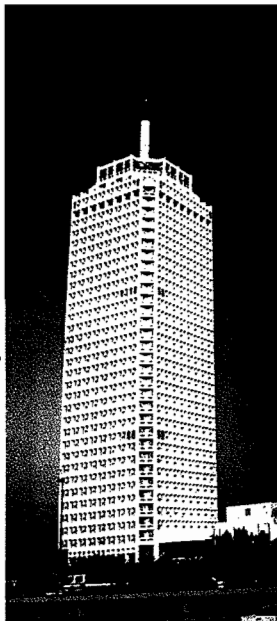
One British politician present during the building of early Dubai says that everyone shaping the desert town could fit at a dinner table. A mix of appointed local leaders and British consultants, spearheaded by Sheikh Rashid, chooses a Modernist style of civic amenities: hospitals, schools, and roundabouts, all at reasonably modest scales. Sheikh Rashid's final statement ushers in a new architectural era: one of the first World Trade Centers in the world and the tallest building in the Middle East until 1991.



1967. Port Rashid



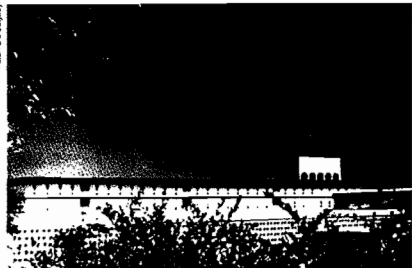
1962. Clock Tower was one of Dubai's early landmarks



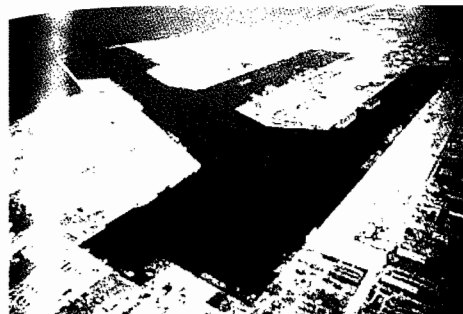
1974. Dubai World Trade Center. 56 million pounds and the Middle East's tallest building at the time John R. Harris & Partners



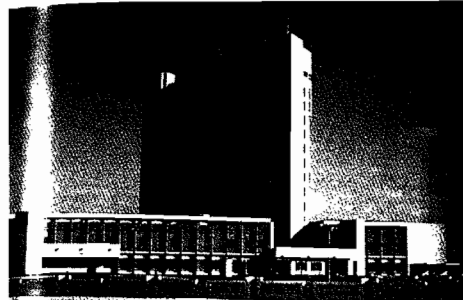
1978. Sheikh Rashid oversees plans for a new port development



1978. Rashid Hospital John R. Harris & Partners



1976. Port Jebel Ali announced to be one of the largest ports in the Gulf



1977. New Dubai Hospital



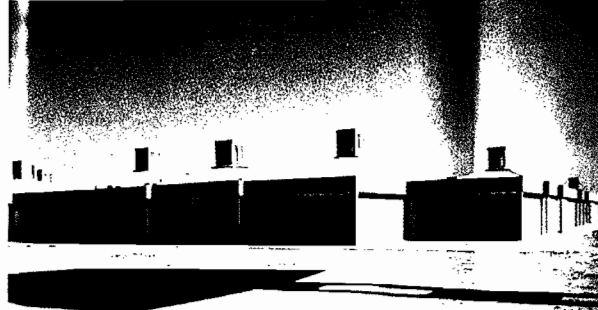
1978. Town Hall Complex Pacific Consultants International



1978. Dubai International Airport



1979. National Bank of Dubai John R. Harris & Partners



1979. Prototype Kindergarten School Jafar Tukan and Partners

*Is Dry Dock in Dubai To Be High and Dry And Pie in the Sky?*

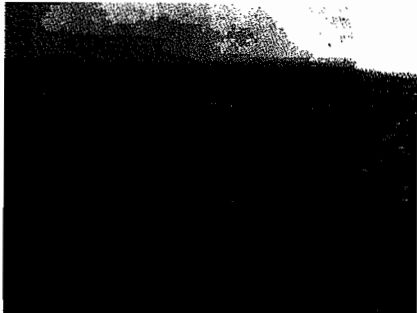
Was Street Journal May 6, 1980

*Its Oil-Wealthy Sheik Spends Billions on Risky Ventures; Ice Rinks in Persian Gulf*

Dubai Plans to Build Port in Persian Gulf Costing \$765 Million.

**Boomtown**

It is impossible to overstate the amount of development Dubai is undergoing. With almost \$125 billion committed to current and planned projects, the Dubai real estate portfolio exceeds 2005 foreign investment in the U.S. economy. A mild disappointment at the Dubai Financial Exchange's onset caught some headlines, but every significant developer in the region has reacted with only steadied vigor. Heavy-hitting foreign investors are increasing their Gulf presence, e.g., Carlyle Group, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, and Halliburton, which has announced establishing its headquarters in Dubai.



1990. Sheikh Zayed Road

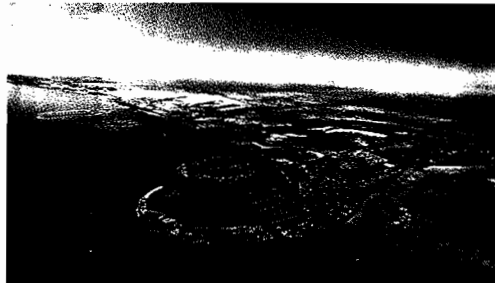


2006. Sheikh Zayed Road from World Trade Center

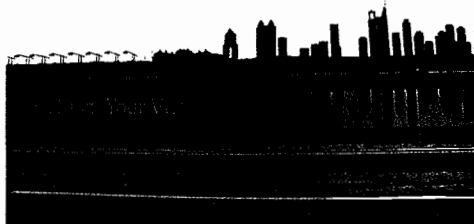
**Dubai Sharpens Focus to Rein in Runaway Development**

After years of frantic development, Dubai is trying to put its house in order, focusing its ambitions on a few important sectors of the economy and consolidating its status as a regional business and trade hub. When other Gulf states are taking advantage of the regional financial boom to finance vast infrastructure projects, a recently published Dubai strategic plan aims to maintain the emirate's competitiveness and to counter perceptions of haphazard expansion. Dubai's efforts, [Ahmad bin Byatt] said, would focus on improving productivity in those sectors and would hope to turn the city into a platform to export knowledge and expertise.

Financial Times, Mar 23, 2007



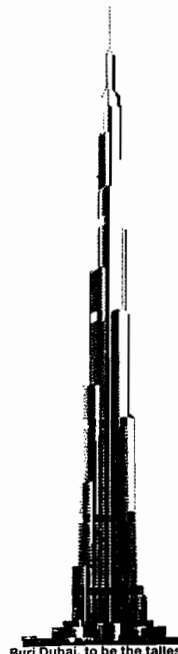
'Take wisdom from the wise - not everyone who rides a horse is a jockey.' Poetry written by Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum, as written on the water by the new land formation of The Palm Jumeirah



Sheikh Zayed Road, billboard for the Lagoons



Model of Bawadi. To be the world's longest hotel development with the world's largest hotel 'Asia Asia' as its centerpiece



Burj Dubai, to be the tallest building in the world

There's the tallest building, Burj Dubai... A billboard the size of Piccadilly Circus... The biggest shopping mall in the world is already here. Another, bigger, the world's largest retail development, is under construction. There's to be an underwater hotel (\$500m). One indoor ski resort, with real snow and its own black run, exists already. There is to be a second, with a revolving mountain. Plans are mooted for a Chess City, with 32 tower blocks of 64 floors, each in the form of a chess piece. There's to be a 60-floor apartment block in the shape of Big Ben. There will be a pyramid and a building called Atlantis that will cost \$600m and include a 'swim-with-the-dolphins encounter programme'. An Aviation City and a Cargo Village, an Aid City and a Humanitarian Free Zone, an Exhibition City and a Festival City, a Healthcare City and a Flower City, a \$4bn extension to the airport and another entirely new airport along the coast towards Abu Dhabi, ... annual capacity 120 million passengers... Next to it ... there will be several smaller cities that will cater to the financial, industrial, service and tourism industries'. The Middle East's answer to Disneyland, called Dubailand, which is far larger than Monaco, is costing \$4.5bn. It will employ 300,000 people in the various joylands, servicing 15 million visitors. A new urban railway, with 37 stops, begins construction soon. Dubai is to have its own Silicon Oasis (\$1.7bn) for computer companies. A mixed development called Dubai Waterfront/Arabian Canal covers an area larger than Barbados and will house, when completed (\$6bn), more people than Paris.

The Guardian, February 13, 2006

Halliburton to Move Headquarters to Middle East Hub of Dubai U.S. oil services firm Halliburton Co. (HAL) is moving its headquarters and chief executive to Dubai in a move that immediately sparked criticism from some U.S. politicians. Texas-based Halliburton, which was led by Vice President Dick Cheney from 1995-2000, did not specify what, if any, tax implications the move might entail. It plans to list on a Middle East bourse once it moves to Dubai - a booming commercial center in the Gulf. The company said it was making the moves to position itself better to gain contracts in the oil-rich Middle East.

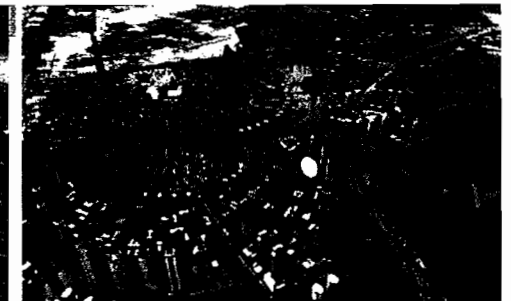
For News, March 12, 2007



2006. New community on the Palm Jumeirah



2006. Arabian Ranches, a new development in Dubailand



2010. Dubai Business Bay Halcrow

**The Hub**

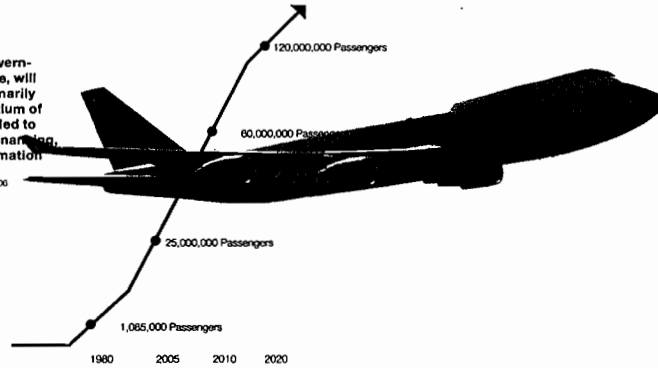
The recently opened Dubai Financial Exchange is beginning to fill the missing gap of a global 24-hour market, between New York and Tokyo. Dubai is halfway to everywhere. Global convergence: Chinese export hub, medical experts hub, international congresses hub, hospitality hub, floriculture hub ...

Dubai has evolved a tax exemption plan into a system of non-hierarchical cultural and social norms. In fifty years' time, Dubai has delivered the world's most intricate and simultaneously flat-footed system of cross-cultural coexistence. Giving new meaning to the term 'programmatic planning', Dubai creates an impossible community of contradictory neighbors: raucous rugby fans, Chinese marts, mosques, non-Islam prayer districts...

**Dubai Turns Focus to Airports**

A new company backed by the Dubai government, called Dubai Aerospace Enterprise, will invest \$15 billion by 2015 in airports, primarily in the Middle East and Asia. The consortium of six existing Dubai companies, is scheduled to build and operate airports and provide financing, maintenance, airplane leasing and information technology services.

Kevin Brass International Herald Tribune Wednesday, March 29, 2006

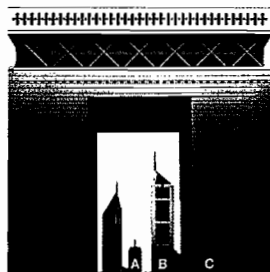


**Harvard Medical School Dubai Center Breaks Ground On State-of-the-Art Educational Facility**  
The [\$1.8bn] HMSDC building's most notable feature will be the Maktoum Harvard Medical Library, ... the most advanced collection of clinical and professional development resources in the region.

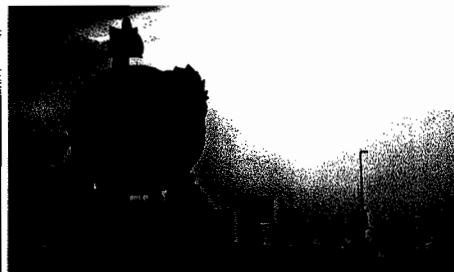
Middle East Company News Web, February 28, 2006



2005. A Dubai official and a Harvard Medical School representative discuss development plans



Three financial landmarks:  
A. 1979. World Trade Centre  
B. 2001. The Emirates Towers  
C. 2006. Dubai Intl. Finance Center



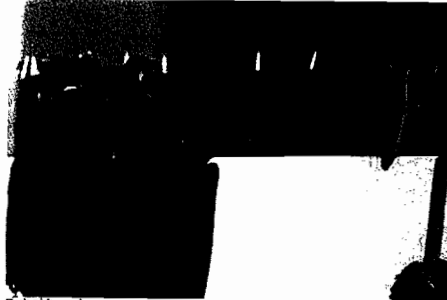
Dragon Mart, Dubai. The largest trading hub for Chinese products outside the Chinese mainland is taking its final shape at International City. It is expected to house 3000 Chinese companies



Spectators sit in the stands as they watch matches the second day of Dubai International Rugby Sevens



New parking garage opposite ancient merchant tradition along the Creek on Baniyas Road



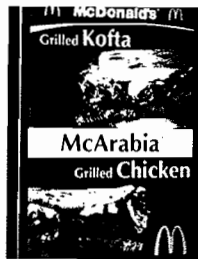
Dubai beach



Russian fur stores in Deira in a shopping mall where Pakistani workers speak fluent Russian and English



2006. Christie's holds its first auction in a Dubai hotel



'The way Islamic and Western values and cultures are being merged is wonderful.'  
B4 Clinton, Leaders' Conference in Dubai, November 29, 2003



December 2005. Emirates Towers

The way Islamic and Western values and cultures are being merged is wonderful.



# Sharjah

Next to its spectacular neighbor, Sharjah stands out as the capital of the Generic. Without Sharjah, Dubai could not survive: its cheap housing, Iranian restaurants, and night markets offer an authentic and affordable urban life for Dubai's workers...

Beyond its basic substance – vast blocks and towers untouched by the architects' imagination, abandoned casually in the sand like illegally parked cars – are stunning efforts like University City, a 5-kilometer linear strip of prefabricated white-domed structures embedded in a stark geometric landscape and the hundreds of virtual skyscrapers of inactive drilling platforms moored along the quay side...

Sharjah has a long-standing commitment to contemporary culture: established museums, even a Biennale that was a place of genuine culture long before Abu Dhabi started to collect museums for its Cultural District.

The great charm of Sharjah is its authenticity – a modern, Islamic city, its complete absence of superlatives and exaggeration.





# Snapshots

Gulf Histories

142



Gulf Survey

AMO

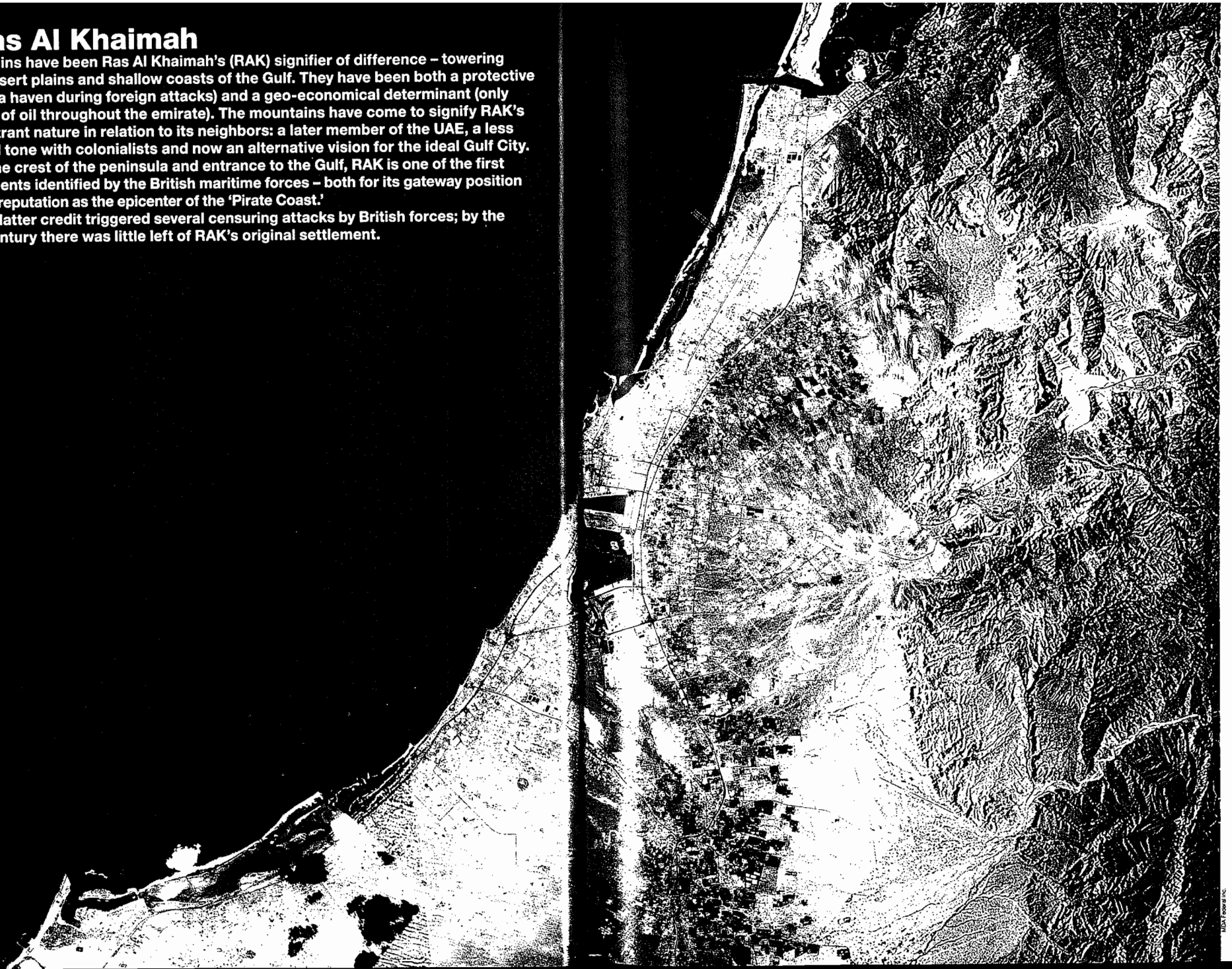
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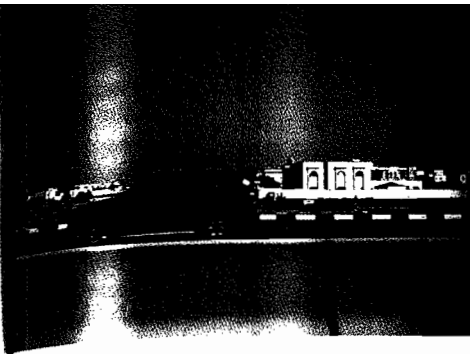
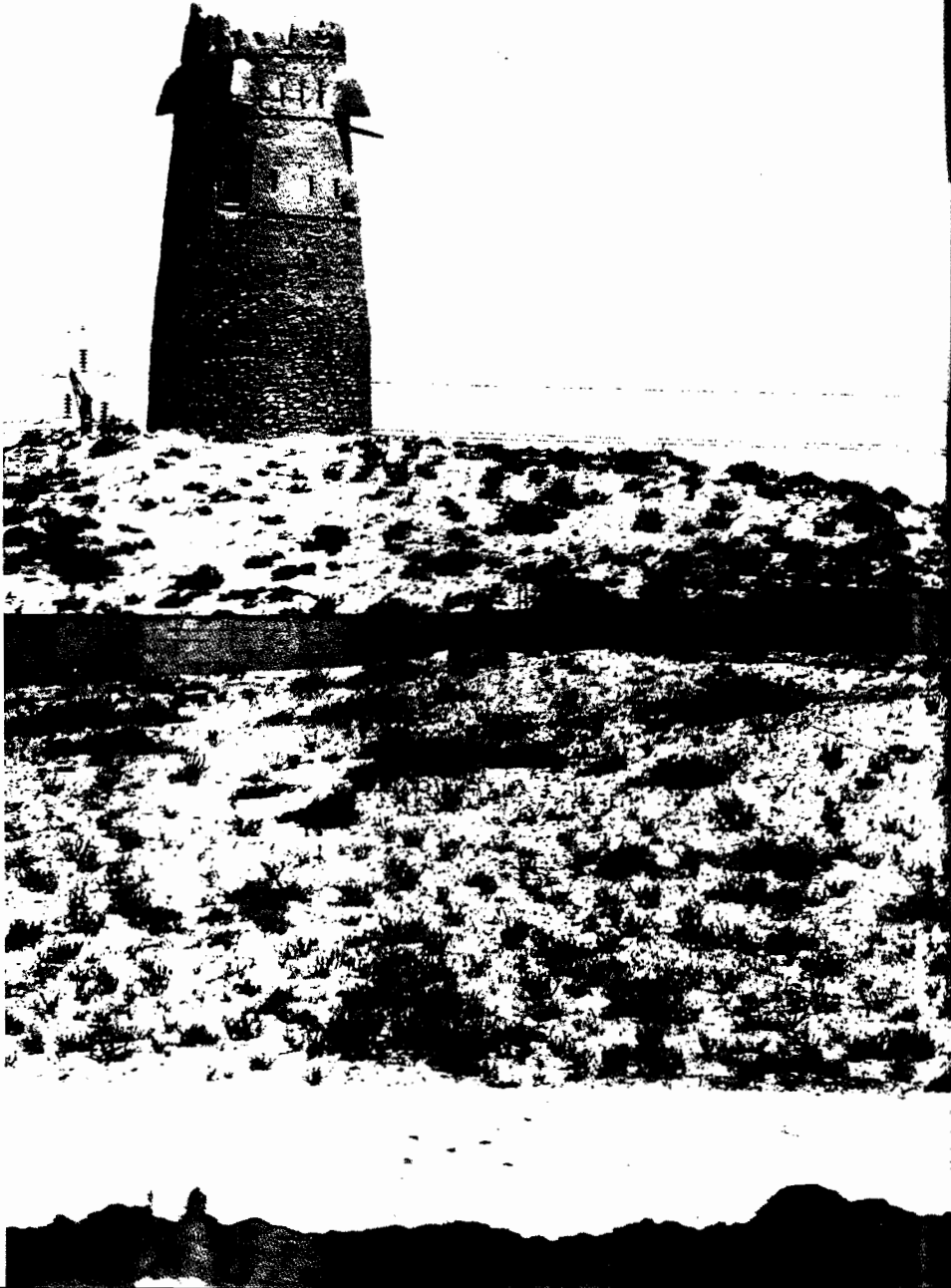
## Ras Al Khaimah

Mountains have been Ras Al Khaimah's (RAK) signifier of difference – towering over desert plains and shallow coasts of the Gulf. They have been both a protective shield (a haven during foreign attacks) and a geo-economical determinant (only a trace of oil throughout the emirate). The mountains have come to signify RAK's recalcitrant nature in relation to its neighbors: a later member of the UAE, a less obliged tone with colonialists and now an alternative vision for the ideal Gulf City.

At the crest of the peninsula and entrance to the Gulf, RAK is one of the first settlements identified by the British maritime forces – both for its gateway position and its reputation as the epicenter of the 'Pirate Coast.'

The latter credit triggered several censuring attacks by British forces; by the 20<sup>th</sup>-Century there was little left of RAK's original settlement.





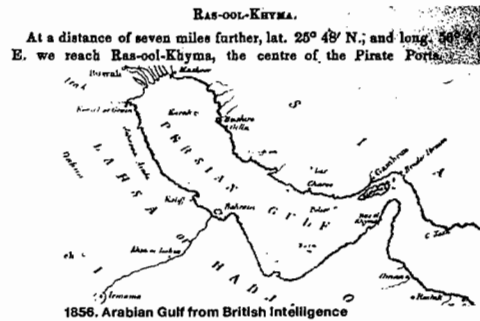
**Subside**

After the British presence is made more permanent in the Gulf and RAK's piracy economy stifled, RAK remains quiet as the other Trucial States clamor for British morsels... airports, ports, and access to faraway harbors. Once the only place mentioned on a 19<sup>th</sup>-Century traveler's map of the Arabian coast, RAK retires to dormancy – running less ambitious harbors and pearling expeditions. The British increasingly favor Abu Dhabi over the other emirates, a preference only to be escalated by future oil discovery there. Abu Dhabi's power and wealth force RAK to become a welfare subject to the larger emirate, which doles out oil dividends to the lesser emirates in order to keep regional peace. Perhaps not coincidentally, the same engineering firm that lays the foundation of modernity in Abu Dhabi and Dubai – Halcrow – is hired to do the same for RAK.

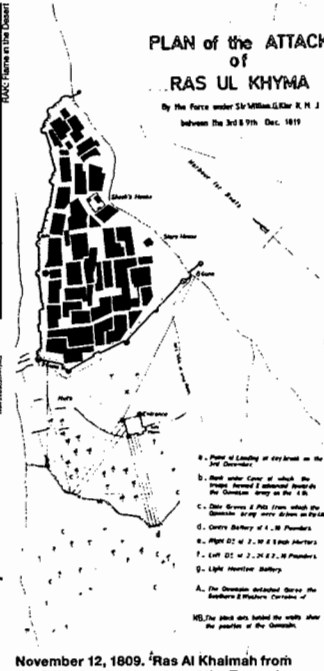
RAK's oil reserves make up 0.1% of UAE's total reserves, hardly enough to justify commercial tapping. Simultaneously RAK has developed several ersatz economies that have quietly become profitable and essential to the Gulf. Rock quarries feed the millions of tons of rock that make outlandish terraforming possible, and its ceramic and cement feed the avaricious building in fellow Gulf Cities. Though not addicted to oil, RAK is addicted to other emirates' sky-high addictions.



1809. British attack Ras Al Khaimah



1856. Arabian Gulf from British Intelligence



November 12, 1809. 'Ras Al Khaimah from the S.W. and the situation of the Troops'

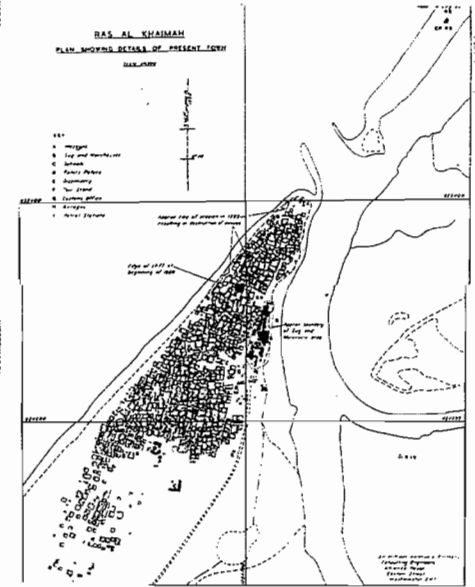
Not a single stone remains of the city that the British burnt down in 1820.



1930. RAK aerial



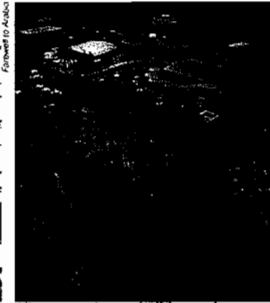
1960. RAK aerial



1969. Map of RAK by Sir William Halcrow and Partners



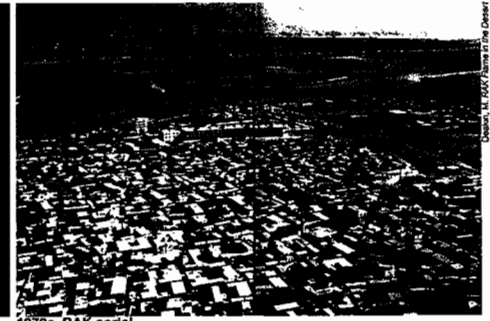
Pearl divers



All set to welcome holiday-maker; a hot spring bath at Ras Al Khaimah



Ras Al Khaimah mountains, its sources of income

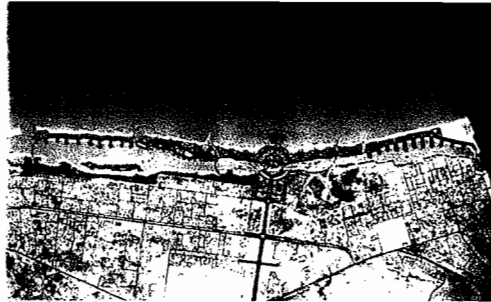


1970s. RAK aerial

**A Ticking Clock**

Investment and diversification have caught the imagination of RAK. The emirate yearns to define itself in contrast to its better known neighbors. But like its other UAE neighbors, the contrary emirate has invited Halcrow back – this time to consider a complete design for the emirate from financial centers to suburban cul-de-sacs and resorts. A landscape full of difference, but a plan in need of a plan.

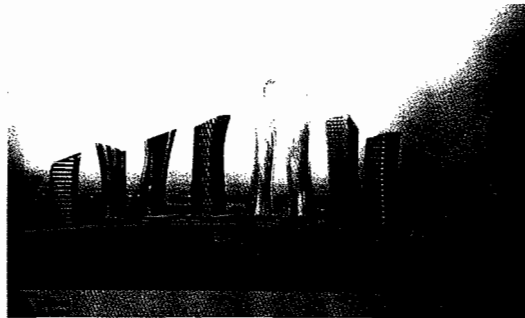
An Arabian Switzerland or a Dubai bedroom community? RAK must make its move quickly, especially since it lies so dangerously close to a booming economy. Dubai's development reverberates beyond its borders; urbanization always comes with the sprawl of the not-always-desired. RAK has made gestures toward eco-tourism, which could very well be the emirate's defining contrast, but first a beauty needs to be found in the not-green.



2006. Saraya Islands to be developed by Saudi Oger Ltd. and Saraya Real Estate in Ras Al Khaimah

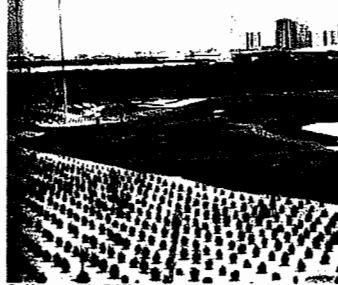


January 2006. Ras Al Khaimah

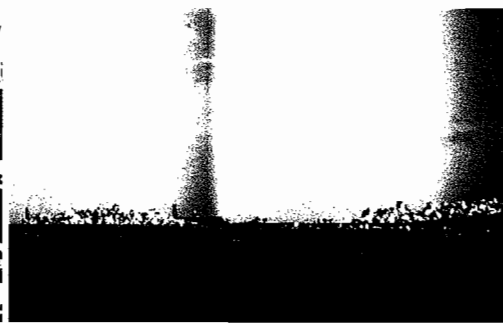


RAK Offshore development to be built in Ras Al Khaimah

18-hole golf course (16,000 m<sup>2</sup>) = 16.5 Olympic-sized swimming pools water per day



Golf course in RAK



Stone Quarries: barges leave RAK for The World, Dubai



2007. Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr and Rakeen appointed Snehotta to design an iconic gateway building for the city of Ras Al Khaimah



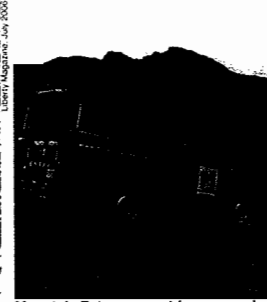
2006. Al Hamra Village-sea side resort, under construction in RAK



Julfur Towers, RAK free zone



Adventure vacationers in RAK

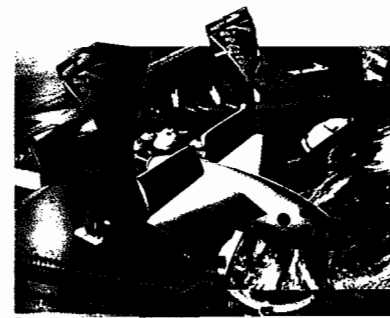


Mountain Extremes, outdoor excursion



Adventure RAK: Jebel Al Jais Master Plan Strategy by Halcrow


RAK 'eco-hotels' to boost tourism prospects.



Proposed Space Port RAK, Space Adventures

**RAK Files into the Future**  
We are very keen to attract capital from all over the world to be invested here. We are in talks with Asian and European partners.  
Wak, T. Arabian Business, June 16, 2006

I started hiking up in the [Ras Al Jebel] hills and talking to the tribes who lived there...They thought I was out of my mind! They couldn't believe that people would actually pay to go walk in their hills and sleep in stone houses.  
John Fachetto, founder, Mountain Extremes. Finding adventure amongst the skyscrapers. Liberty Magazine, July 2006



**'LIFE WILL BE IDYLIC THERE'**

CLIVE REED AND HIS WIFE MAY HAVE INVESTED IN A DUBAI HOME BUT FOR A RETIREMENT ABODE THEY CHOSE THE UNSPOILT RAS AL KHAIMAH FOR A PIED-A-TERRRE

Property Weekly

'On the new road from The Springs it takes me about one hour and five minutes to get to the development in Ras Al Khaimah'

'It has all the benefits of Dubai but it is still a cheap location and, as part of the UAE, you have no tax. It has easy communications, no bureaucracy, easy paperwork and no red tape. ...You can register a company, and tomorrow morning you're in operation.'  
Khalid Matar, CEO RAK Ceramics