

Traditional Architecture of the Arabian Gulf

*Building
on
Desert Tides*

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Contents



FOREWORD	ix
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xi
INTRODUCTION	xiii
CHAPTER ONE. Shifting Sands: An Archaeological History of the Gulf	1
1 Introduction	1
2 The Bronze Age	2
2.1 The Gulf and Mesopotamia	2
2.2 Dilmun	2
2.3.1 Umm an-Nar	4
2.3.2 Wadi Suq	7
3 The Iron Age	8
4 The Hellenistic and Seleucid Gulf.....	9
5 The Late Pre-Islamic Period.....	10
6 Islam and the Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates	11
7 The Late Medieval Period	12
7.1 Hormuz and Julfar.....	12
7.2 The Arrival of the Portuguese	13
8 The 18th Century.....	16
8.1 Persia and Oman	16
8.2 Tribal Confederations	16
8.3 The Wahabi Movement.....	16
9 Conclusion.....	17
CHAPTER TWO. Tribes, Trade and Empire: The Arabian Gulf in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries	21
1 Introduction	22
2 Tribe	25
2.1 Tribe and the Economy.....	25
2.2 Kinship Terminology	27
2.3 Tribe, Authority and the State	29
3 Trade	30
4 The Empires	32
4.1 The British Empire	34
4.2 Conflict with the British and the Trucial System	35
5 Trade	37
6 Conclusion.....	39

CHAPTER THREE. Mosques, Houses, Markets and Forts: Building Types in the Gulf	43
1 Introduction	44
2 Domestic Architecture	44
2.1 Courtyard Houses	44
2.2 The Masonry House	48
2.2.1 Arab Masonry.....	48
2.2.2 Persian Masonry.....	51
2.2.3 Oman and Eastern Saudi Arabia	56
2.3 The Vernacular House	59
2.3.1 Palm Frond Houses	59
2.3.2 Woolen Tents	61
2.3.3 Stone Houses	62
3 Defensive Architecture	63
3.1 Types of Fortifications	64
4 Religious and Public Architecture	67
4.1 Mosques and Religious Architecture.....	67
4.2 Other Religious Buildings.....	73
4.3 Markets.....	73
5 Conclusion.....	74
CHAPTER FOUR. Beach Stone and Palm Frond: Style and Material	77
1 Introduction	78
2 Style and Time.....	79
2.1 Early Period.....	79
2.2 Transitional Period	80
2.3 Middle Period	80
2.4 Late Period.....	82
3 Persian Influences.....	83
3.1 Indian Influences	84
4 Builders.....	85
5 Materials	86
5.1 Masonry.....	86
5.2 Plaster	90
5.3 Wood	93
5.4 Palm Frond	95
5.5 Stone.....	98
5.6 Imported Materials.....	100
6 Conclusion.....	100

CHAPTER FIVE. The Upper Gulf: Bridge Between Empires.....	103
1 Introduction	104
2 Architecture by Locale.....	105
2.1 Basra	105
2.2 Kuwait.....	109
2.2.1 Kuwait City	109
2.2.2 Jasrah	118
2.3 Persian Towns in the Upper Gulf	118
2.3.1 Muhammareh	118
2.3.2 Bushehr	119
3 Conclusion.....	122
CHAPTER SIX. The Central Gulf: Of Pearls and Dates.....	125
1 Introduction	127
2 Architecture by Locale	129
2.1 The Hasa Oasis	129
2.1.1 Hofuf	131
2.1.2 Qatif.....	133
2.1.3 ‘Uqayr and Tarut Island	135
2.2 Bahrain	137
2.2.1 Manama.....	138
2.2.2 Muharraq	140
2.2.3 Riffa and the Interior	143
2.3 Qatar	145
2.3.1 Doha	146
2.3.2 Umm Salal Mohammed and the Interior	148
2.3.3 Wakrah	149
2.3.4 Zubara and the Coastal Villages	151
3 Conclusion.....	152
CHAPTER SEVEN. The Lower Gulf: A Varied Land	155
1 Introduction	157
2 Persian Coast	158
2.1 Langeh	158
2.2 Bastak	160
2.3 Bandar Abbas.....	161
2.4 Qeshm Island	162

3 Trucial Coast.....	163
3.1 Abu Dhabi	163
3.1.1 Abu Dhabi City and the Islands	165
3.1.2 Al Ain and the Buraimi Oasis	169
3.1.3 The Liwa Oasis.....	173
4 The Central Trucial Coast	174
4.1 Dubai	174
4.2 Ajman and Umm al-Qaiwain.....	179
5 The Northern Emirates	180
5.1 The Al Qawasim.....	180
5.2 Ras al-Khaimah Town	182
5.3 Jazirat al-Hamra	183
5.4 The Plains of Ras al-Khaimah	185
5.5 The Mountains of Ras al-Khaimah	189
5.6 Sharjah	191
6 Fujairah and the East Coast.....	194
6.1 Fujairah Town	194
6.2 Wadi Hayl.....	195
7 Conclusion.....	196

CHAPTER EIGHT. Oman: Gateway to the Gulf.....	199
1 Introduction	201
2 The Sultanate of Oman	204
2.1 Muscat and Mutrah: The Sultanate's Capital District	204
2.2 The Musandam	208
2.3 Gwadur	209
2.4 The Batinah Coast	211
2.5 Dhofar	214
3 Inner Oman.....	218
3.1 Dakhiliyyah and Wadi Samail.....	218
3.2 Sharqiyyah	225
4 Conclusion.....	228

EPILOGUE	231
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Foreword



“A nation that ignores its traditions and its past has no future.” This statement by the founding president of the United Arab Emirates, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahayan, expresses our strong commitment in the Arabian Gulf to study our history, to preserve our heritage, and to be proud of our traditions.

For centuries, we who live in the Gulf region have drawn strength and inspiration from the fact that our region has always been a bridge between East and West, where people have lived in peace and harmony with the environment – sailing on voyages of trade and exploration and making great contributions to human civilizations.

Traditional Architecture in the Gulf represents an important link in the study of the history and traditions of the region. It also brings to us a special understanding of our national identity, giving us an appreciation of our place in history and endowing us with special pride in our national heritage.

Academic interest in traditional architecture in the Gulf, however, is relatively recent. It was only when the Gulf States began to build their cities after the discovery of oil that the study of traditional architecture and heritage became relevant and necessary. I am very pleased to present this pioneering book, which describes an important period in architectural development in the Gulf, namely the period after the expulsion of the

Portuguese in the early 1600's. The author, Dr. Ronald Hawker, has succeeded in linking the different forms of traditional architecture with the new and modern architecture going up in the cities of the Gulf, with particular focus on Dubai. This linkage is important as it helps the reader to appreciate the cultural and historical thread connecting our past and our present.

I am very pleased to note in this book a clear appreciation and admiration of Gulf traditional architecture – an appreciation and admiration that all of us who live and work here share. Readers will enjoy the opportunity to learn about this fascinating topic. I am also very pleased that Dr. Hawker has undertaken the writing of this book while on the faculty of Zayed University – some illustrations in the book were completed by students in his classes. His work reveals how our universities are very active in the study of our traditions and heritage and are committed to expanding the base for research and education that is relevant to the United Arab Emirates and the Arabian Gulf.

I thank the author for this most interesting volume that brings about a proper understanding of the architectural heritage of the Arabian Gulf. The book is an excellent addition to the literature about the region. It is my sincere hope that it will help to stimulate interest in the subject and to promote sustained and continued efforts to explore our past and preserve our heritage and traditions.

Nahayan Mabarak Al-Nahayan

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research
and President of Zayed University
United Arab Emirates

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Translation for BUILDING ON in english to spanish: By building on local resources such as a strong sense of identity and neighbourhood solidarity to un. Examples of Building On in a Sentence.Â By building on local resources such as a strong sense of identity and neighbourhood solidarity to unlock positive dynamics, residents and public institutions are teaming up to make public spaces more beautiful and accessible to everyone and to promote cultural initiatives valuing the cultural heritage of the areaâ€™ s residents. build on sth definition: to use a success or achievement as a base from which to achieve more success: . Learn more.Â Click on the arrows to change the translation direction. Englishâ€™Spanish Spanishâ€™English. Englishâ€™French Frenchâ€™English.