



مملكة البحرين
Kingdom of Bahrain

وزارة الثقافة
Ministry of Culture

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Rethinking Museum Display

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Bahrain National Museum



December 12 – 15, 2013

Bahrain National Museum

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain





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Introduction to the conference

The Bahrain National Museum is celebrating its 25th anniversary. It was the first modern museum in the region and is housed in a truly awe-inspiring, landmark building by Danish architects Krohn and Hartvig Rasmussen.

The conference will look into various international and regional projects of museum and gallery redevelopment, which will inform and feed into the necessary redevelopment of the permanent exhibition galleries of the Bahrain National Museum. In particular the specific sessions aim to explore new ways of object display, innovative exhibition design, creative use of space and the use of multimedia and new technology to improve the interpretation of the collection and to enhance visitor engagement and participation.

The current redevelopment of the Bahrain National Museum also needs to be seen in the context of the current radical transformation of the museums and heritage scene in the Gulf with grand-scale museum developments and new heritage sites opening one after the other. They all support the grand vision of the 'Arab Cities of the Future', however the impact is yet to be determined.

The conference will gather local, regional and international museum professionals to celebrate this anniversary together and to discuss innovative approaches and best practice in developing and implementing new permanent exhibition displays in the Gulf, and to share creative methods of good exhibition management practice.

The Bahrain National Museum

On December 15th, 1988, the Bahrain National Museum was officially inaugurated by the late Amir, H.H. Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa. Conceived and designed by Krohn and Hartvig Rasmussen, the building was one of the finest museums of its kind in the Gulf region. It is centrally placed on an artificial peninsula overlooking the island of Muharraq and is distinguished by its white travertine façade and dramatic courtyard. Indoors, the spatial organization and the inventive use of the light inflow create a great variation in the halls.

The Bahrain National Museum houses a rich collection of archaeological artifacts covering 6000 years of Bahrain's history. In addition to an ethnographic section, the museum also features a permanent display of Bahrain's leading artists.

Over the past 25 years, the Bahrain National Museum has played a key role in preserving Bahrain's heritage and culture and has served as a centre for the promotion of Bahrain's heritage and for the development of the arts. The temporary exhibition halls have hosted a myriad of international exhibitions, reaching out to the local and international community.



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Speakers & Workshop Leaders

Mr Marwan Basmaji, PhD, Director, Basmaji and Bielinska Architects, Jounieh, Lebanon

Mr Didier Blin, Architect, Scenographer, France

Ms Nadine Boksmati-Fattouh, PhD, Museum Advisor, Ministry of Culture, Bahrain

Mr Mounir Bouchenaki, Director, UNESCO ARC/WH, Bahrain

Mr Matthew Casey, PhD, Managing Director, Pervasive Intelligence Ltd, UK

Mr Gordon Davis, PhD, former Museum Advisor to the Bahrain National Museum, USA

Mr Eric Delpont, Director of the Arab World Institute Museum, Paris, France

Ms Pamela Erskine-Loftus, PhD, New York, USA

Ms Karen Exell, PhD, Lecturer in Museum Studies at UCL Qatar, Doha

Mr Rashad Faraj, Director, Bahrain National Museum, Bahrain

Mr Stephen Feber, PhD, Director, Stephen Feber Limited, Manchester, UK

Ms Suzy Hakimian, Former Director of the Beirut National Museum, Curator of mim – the Mineral Museum Beirut, Lebanon

Mr Knud Holscher, Prof., Director, Holscher Design A/S, Copenhagen, Denmark

Ms Anne Jaffrennou, La Méduse, artistic team member, Paris, France

Mr Pierre Lombard, PhD, Archaeology Advisor, Ministry of Culture, Bahrain

Ms Doris Prenn, PhD, Director, prenn_punkt, Linz, Austria

Mr Christian Rapp, PhD, Director, Rapp&Wimberger, Vienna, Austria

Ms Marilyn Scott, Director, The Lightbox, Woking, UK

Mr Chanel Seguin, La Méduse, artistic team member, Paris, France

Ms Selma Thomas, Senior Consultant, Washington, USA

Mr Claus Wohlert, Director, Wohlert Arkitekter, Copenhagen, Denmark

Mr Niels Friis, Architect, Wohlert Arkitekter, Copenhagen, Denmark

Moderation

Mr Christian Waltl, MPhil, Director, KulturAgenda – Institute for Museums, Cultural Enterprises and Audiences, Klagenfurt, Austria

Ms Susan Cooke, PhD, Independent Scholar and Ancient Art Expert, USA

Conference Language

English



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PROGRAMME

Thursday, December 12, 2013	
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival & Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Welcome & Introduction H.E. Shaikha Mai bint Mohammad Al Khalifa , Minister of Culture Rashad Faraj , Director, Bahrain National Museum Mounir Bouchenaki , Director, UNESCO ARC/WH
Key Note 10:00 – 10:30	Prof. Knud Holscher , Architect of the Bahrain National Museum
10:30 – 11:20	Session 1 – Putting the Bahrain National Museum into context. Museum developments in the Gulf region. - <i>Museums, Modernity and Meaning: A discussion of cultural impact in the GCC</i> , Karen Exell - <i>Museums in Context: the communication of 'place' in exhibitions</i> , Pamela Erskine-Loftus
11:20 – 11:30	Reflection & Discussion
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 – 13:15	Session 2 – Creative display methods and rethinking permanent exhibitions - <i>Putting the Arab World in a museum: a challenge</i> , Eric Delpont - <i>Concepts for staging and renovating permanent exhibitions</i> , Gordon Davis - <i>'What's New?' An evaluation of new museum displays in the UK</i> , Marilyn Scott
13:15 – 13:30	Reflection & Discussion
13:30 – 14:45	Lunch
14:45 – 16:00	Session 3 – The use of new technology. Interactive and multimedia displays - <i>Media in the Museum: A 25-Year History</i> , Selma Thomas - <i>The curator as creator – why the digital future will change exhibitions forever</i> , Stephen Feber - <i>Rethinking Mineral Museums Display – mim: A Mineral Museum in Beirut</i> , Suzy Hakimian
16:00 – 16:15	Reflection & Discussion
16:15 – 16:30	Coffee Break
17:20 – 18:00	Session 4 – Museums and Heritage Sites in Bahrain – an architectural and design approach - <i>Archaeological Heritage in Bahrain – an architectural approach</i> , Claus Wohler & Niels Friis - <i>BACK(to the)GROUND: Barbar Temples Visitor Center and the Tree of Life Visitor Center</i> , Marwan Basmaji
20:00 – 22:00	Official dinner organized by the Ministry of Culture



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Friday, December 13, 2013	
10:00 – 12:30	The Bahrain National Museum – Exhibition Redesign Status with Nadine Boksmati-Fattouh, Pierre Lombard & Didier Blin
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13:30 – 18:00	Study visit of Bahrain's museums and heritage sites - Qal'at al-Bahrain / Bahrain Fort Museum - Burial Ensembles of Dilmun and Tylos - Bait al Quran Museum - Riffa Fort (with Anne Jaffrennou & Chanel Seguin)
20:00 – 22:00	Official dinner organized by the Ministry of Culture
Saturday, December 14, 2013	
09:30 – 12:00	Workshop 1 Marilyn Scott & Matthew Casey , <i>'Back to reality' – A Demonstration of a project on augmented reality with the University of Surrey</i> Workshop 2 Christian Rapp , <i>'The Entertaining Museum. Integrated concepts for interactive exhibitions'</i> .
12:00 – 12:30	Workshop Discussion & Reflection
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:30	Workshop 3 Doris Prenn , <i>'Using all senses – Universal Design and access planning for exhibition display'</i> . Workshop 4 Stephen Feber , <i>'Exhibitions – from dream to reality – a step by step guide to success'</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Workshop Discussion & Reflection
20:00 – 22:00	Official dinner organized by the Ministry of Culture
Sunday, December 15, 2013	
15:00 – 17:00	National Museum Anniversary Celebrations

Programme may be subject to change!