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# Saudi Women Architects and Planners Sustainable Cities Lab

UK – London and Oxford  
16 -19 January 2018

Concept and Programme

January  
2018

Join the flows of ideas



## Saudi Women Architects and Planners Sustainable Cities Lab UK – London and Oxford, 16 -19 January 2018

### Introduction

This Sustainable Cities Lab is the first think-tank for sustainable cities in the Gulf Region led by Platforms for Sustainable Cities and Regions in collaboration with Arab Urban Development Institute, University of Westminster, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and leading professionals. The Lab focuses on sustainability, well-being, resilience and on prompting innovative and responsive cities with reflection on Saudi cities. These issues are currently debated by the UN and worldwide as essential values for cities. Meanwhile the Lab contributes to building a strong network of influential women in the field, who together with colleagues in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can be a nucleus for a broader discussion and exchange of best practice in the Gulf Region.

Saudi cities have witnessed a rapid urbanisation over the past decades developing into leading world cities and centres with modern architecture, administration, businesses and infrastructure while maintaining their genuine local culture. However like other world cities, city planning efforts, which have for a long time been focused on accommodating population and economic growth, have encouraged monofunctional areas, dependency on private car-transportation and paid less attention to the ecological and life qualities, liveability, quality of neighbourhoods and public spaces.

There are currently intensive efforts in the Kingdom to improve the condition of cities that we have to build on. In particular, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 expresses the great insights of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the height of his ambitions to strengthen the Kingdom as a *sustainable world vibrant society with fulfilling lives, a thriving diverse economy* and inclusion of the non profit sector and the private sector in development. In this framework and with a growing worldwide interest among cities in sustainability, resilience and quality of life/wellbeing as essential values for people and businesses, it is important to reflect on the qualities of Saudi cities and how Saudi cities can be inspired to fulfil the Kingdom's visions and at the same time inspire other cities.

Vision 2030 allocates great importance to strengthening women's role in society. Like in other countries, Saudi women architects, planners and professionals working with city issues have an important role to play in the future of cities. Their views are crucial for assessing the current situation, and as professionals and educators they can significantly influence the development ahead. Their understanding of society and

potential role in raising awareness and in facilitating women and youth involvement in urban management and community development are highly important and valuable. We will address the following issues:

- How can cities with their built environments, urban spaces and neighbourhoods provide good frameworks around living, work and leisure contributing to sustainability and wellbeing?
- How can we work consciously towards high quality environments, better quality of life and more inclusive and connected cities?
- How can we make our buildings and cities more resilient?
- How to capitalise on local values?
- How to increase awareness, collaboration, community involvement and impact?
- How can women architects and planners have a greater role in practice?

This lab creates a highly qualified forum for working with these questions and creates links between the Saudi and the British professional and academic environments. In the Lab we will:

- Learn about how cities in the UK and other countries work towards sustainable development, wellbeing and resilience.
- Reflect on the strength and values of Saudi cities and their challenges, and exchange best practice in architecture and planning. **Join the flows of ideas!**
- Reflect on how you can have more impact as an architect, urban designer and planner while understanding the particular professional context in which you work.
- Exchange with UK professionals and academics around education and practice.
- Get empowered with a strong network of women in the field.

### Who would be interested in the Lab?

The Lab is designed for a group of 15-18 women including academics and practising architects, urban designers and professionals involved with city and social issues, and other interested participants from the public and the private sectors.

## Methods of the Lab

The Lab aims to create a Thinking, Learning, Exchange and Networking forum through:

- Combining lectures, debates, workshops/group work and field trips.
- Linking with leading academic and professional environments.
- Discussing international case studies, cases from the UK and from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia while reflecting on the complexity of urban change, the implication of local context and how ideas and best practice can be understood in different settings.
- Strengthening critical thinking through reflecting on current approaches and practices related to the Lab themes.
- Learning strategies for understanding challenges and opportunities and formulating visions across complex settings.
- Encouraging new thinking/innovation and to lead positive development based on learning from local knowledge and existing potentials.
- Bringing professional women together and facilitating exchange.

## Lab based on dialogue

The driving ideas for the Lab and its programme are being developed in dialogue with the contributors and the participants. Short contributions from the participants following a call for papers are expected to enrich the debates and the outcomes. Special thanks go to urban designer, Zainab Alireza, for her on-going support locally in KSA.

## Visions Book

The Lab outcomes and discussions will be documented in a report Visions Book that will provide valuable input to coming discussions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to the exchange of ideas between KSA and the UK. It will be an introduction to the coming Think Tank in the Gulf Region. The participants will receive a complimentary copy. The two rapporteurs for the Lab are:

BA Arch MA Urban Design Kinda Ayoub  
BA Arch MA Culture and Creative Industries Tala Bakhsh

## Thanks

We would like to thank very much our collaborators Arab Urban Development Institute, University of Westminster and Oxford Brookes University as well as Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and Middle East Centre in Oxford for supporting this forum. We thank very much AECOM for sponsoring a Lab Day and the British Council for offering two scholarships to attend the Sustainable Cities Lab.

We would like to express our gratitude to University of Westminster for welcoming the Sustainable Cities Lab and for offering the venue and all support available to the participants.

We thank all our contributors and participants who have helped shape the Lab and for sharing their valuable knowledge. We extend a special thanks to urban designer Zainab Alireza for her support to the Lab and valuable advice.



## Sustainable Cities Lab: Intro to the Sessions

### Session 1: Sustainable and Responsive Cities

The session will cultivate a holistic approach to developing and managing sustainable, responsive and intelligent cities that are inclusive, liveable, economically vibrant, environmentally aware and with high life quality. Here we merge current international debate on sustainability, resilience, wellbeing and smart cities to develop a useful approach to the bettering of our cities and neighbourhoods. We will discuss opportunities and challenges to meet the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and to create more resilient cities, and discuss how we can include measures in our plans and building designs to enhance sustainability. There will be focus on strategic thinking, collaboration, and participation while stressing the need for a women-based approach to understanding city qualities and the important role of women professionals in city making. We will discuss cases from the UK, Europe and the Gulf Region and how the discussion can inspire local decision and practice.

### Session 2: Wellbeing in the City - Wellbeing, health and happiness

This session will inform and inspire better ways to envision, develop and manage public infrastructure for the wellness of people in cities. It will bring a new focus on people and their quality of life in today's and tomorrow's cities through wellbeing principles and best practices. Health, the quality of public spaces and the role of architecture in encouraging happiness are emphasised as essential measures for wellbeing in our cities and should therefore be important elements of strategic thinking and urban development actions. We will as well explore qualities relating to islamic architecture in relation to our wellbeing.

### Session 3: Resilience

Improving resilience is essential to sustainability. Here we will reflect on significant strengths in our communities to elaborate on, and concrete risks/threats to manage. Risks can either be community related issues, climate change or natural disasters. While Session1 presents the Resilience concept, this session will target improving resilience related to selected types of challenges, for example preserving identity, the impacts of climate change and cities' lacking inclusiveness and connectedness. We will discuss case-studies while focusing on the importance of multi scale strategies and collaboration among different public and private actors, society organisations and individuals.

### Session 4: Responsive architecture

Generally speaking, major decisions concerning our cities take place as a result of a trade off between different political, economic and social interests. Lack of aware projects on the ground can result in unused potentials and inequalities. Architects and urban designers must have an important role in influencing development and look at their own works as catalysts of change and as leaders of sustainability and innovation at all levels. The session, which will take place at University of Westminster will shed light on how architects and planners negotiate context based on understanding of potentials and challenges and how inspiration from other experiences can prompt surprising new ideas.

### Session 5: Plans and goals

This session will focus on how cities negotiate concrete challenges and set priorities while having sustainability as a goal. Presentation of the work on London Plan will give a valuable insight and inspiration to the participants and provide a starting point to discuss potentials, strengths and challenges facing Saudi cities and how to set priorities in this context. We will explore how Jeddah is setting priorities and planning goals and reflect on the implication of local settings and good ways for planning and managing cities.

### Session 6: Community involvement

Scholars and practitioners agree that community involvement should be an essential component of conceiving our buildings and spaces and planning our cities in view of more qualities and a sustainable future. Through reflection on cases from the UK and Saudi Arabia we will explore how urban activism and NGOs' involvement can be catalysts of change, and the benefits of community involvement through both the formal planning process and activist actions. We will also discuss planning frameworks and new methods for strengthening community participation and its impacts. The importance of women and youth involvement for shaping places and in city development will be emphasised.



### Session 7: Culture - Heritage and City

Through a guided visit to Oxford City, dialogue with Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and guided visits to its building (by architect Abdel Wahed Al-Wakeel) and to the Middle East Centre (by architect Zaha Hadid) we will discuss the relationship between architecture, culture and heritage and how much heritage means to cities, people and sustainability of communities. At the same time, we will explore the role of architectural interpretation and how a profound understanding of Islamic Architecture and Plan can relaunch an innovative model of sustainability. This is in prolongation of our discussion in session 2.

### Session 8 and Session 9: Education, Profession and Network

In these sessions we will highlight the importance of building strong and informed professional networks through different strategies: 1) strengthening and targeting education, 2) bridging gaps between practice and education, and 3) working for a strong professional organisation and women network. The sessions elaborate on a visit to Oxford Brookes University to discuss the role of education and on meeting the Former President of RIBA, as well as on a group work on the relationship between education and practice to meet city challenges and a competitive professional market.



Middle East Centre - Photo credit: Iqbal Alam



Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies - Photo credit: www.oxcis.ac.uk

## Sustainable Cities Lab: Programme

### DAY 1 - Tuesday the 16th of January

Venue: University of Westminster, 35 Marylebone Road, NW1 5LS

- 8.30 - 9.15 Registration and coffee  
The sessions will take place in the Lab venue unless stated otherwise.
- 9.15 - 9.20 Welcome by Platforms/Roudaina Al Khani and introduction to the Lab  
Welcome by AUDI/Deputy General Mr. Abdullah Alsubil
- 9.20 - 9.30 Welcome by University of Westminster

### Sustainable and Responsive Cities

How can a holistic approach to our cities combining different strategies prompt more sustainable, liveable and resilient cities? How to meet the Kingdom Vision 2030?  
How to meet the Global Development Goals - the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Habitat's New Urban Agenda?  
What are the opportunities and challenges to architecture, planning and city management?  
What can the world look like if women are more involved in city making?

- 9.30 - 9.45 **Responding to challenges facing cities - KSA Vision 2030**  
Dr. Roudaina Al Khani, Director and Founder, Platforms
- 9.45 - 10.10 **Masculine and Feminine cities: Complementary visions -**  
Debate with the participants on architecture, inclusiveness, quality of neighbourhoods and public space, community involvement etc.
- 10.10 - 10.30 **Women role in city design and development, and importance of networks**  
Angela Brady, Director, Brady Mallalieu Architects. Former President of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Design Council CABE Built Environment Expert
- 10.30 - 10.50 **Sustainable city strategies - A holistic approach**  
Dr. Roudaina Al Khani, Director and Founder, Platforms
- 10.50 - 11.10 Coffee break
- 11.10 - 11.50 **Interactive Workshop: Sustainable neighbourhoods**  
**Kick-off Paper: Urban Design Interventions for Informal Settlements: The Case of Ghulail, Jeddah**  
By Architect Students Sarah Abu AlHamil and Bayan Hallak  
Group work and presentations moderated by Dr. Roudaina Al Khani.
- 11.50 - 12.00 Break

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### Wellbeing in the City

How can cities offer better frameworks around our quality of life, health and happiness?  
What can we learn from local values? How can cities inspire each other?

- 12.00 - 13.00 **Envision a better quality of life for tomorrow's cities**  
Urban specialist Marie Dariel, Director of A Thousand Faces, and Architect Declan O'Carroll, Practice Director Architecture and Masterplanning, Atkins
- 13.00 - 14.15 Lunch break
- 14.15 - 14.40 **Smart technologies for more informed policies. Inclusive public spaces and healthy cities**  
Dr. Areej Alwabel, Center for Complex Engineering Systems at the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) and MIT
- 14.40 - 15.05 **Can architecture encourage happiness and wellbeing?**  
Nouha Hansen, Platforms
- 15.05 - 15.30 **Landscape of the City, Memory and Belonging**  
Tala Bakhsh, BA Arch MA Cultural and Creative Industries
- 15.30 - 15.50 **Debate with speakers and participants on wellbeing in the City**  
Moderated by Marie Dariel and Dr. Roudaina Al Khani
- 15.50 - 16.10 Coffee break

### Resilience in the City

- How can prompting connected and inclusive cities improve resilience?  
How can preserving urban and regional cultural identities create resilient communities?  
How to manage the impacts of desertification?  
How can integrated, multi-scale strategies and collaboration improve community resilience?
- 16.10 - 16.30 **The role of identity in delivering more resilient cities**  
Georgia Watson, Professor and Research Director of Urban Design at Oxford Brookes University
- 16.30 - 16.50 **Using resilience as a strategic engagement tool in cities**  
Kieran Power, Principal sustainability and resilience consultant, AECOM
- 16.50 - 17.10 **Building Urban Resilience in the Arab Region**  
Nuha Eltinay, Director of Urban Planning and Sustainable Development, Arab Urban Development Institute

17.10 - 17.30 Debate with speakers and participants on resilience in the city  
Moderated by Dr. Roudaina Al Khani

19.00 Official Lab Dinner at Sky Garden

**DAY 2 - Wednesday the 17th of January**

Venue: University of Westminster - Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment

**Responsive Architecture (context, visions and innovation)**

How can architects be agents of change and innovation?  
How to negotiate local settings?  
How can inspiration be adapted to new contexts?

- 09.10 - 09.35 **The Architecture of Ambivalence in Saudi Arabia**  
Dr. Sumayah Al-Solaiman, Dean of the College of Design,  
Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University
- 09.35 - 10.00 **Architecture - from aesthetics to politics. Architecture with narratives**  
Ben Stringer, Senior Lecturer, Faculty for Architecture and the Built Environment, University of Westminster
- 10.00 - 10.10 Introduction to the architectural exhibition:  
**Reviving Milton Keynes as a self sufficient and sustainable community**
- 10.10 - 10.25 Coffee break
- 10.25 - 11.00 Exhibition visit
- 11.00 - 11.25 **Planning for sustainability and resilience in context**  
Tony Lloyd-Jones, Director of Consultancy and Research at Max Lock Centre, Reader and Course Leader, University of Westminster
- 11.25 - 11.45 **Planning in context - A case study from Saudi Arabia**  
Dr. Faredah Almurahhem, Umm-Alqura University, Makkah
- 11.45 - 12.15 **Sustainable socio-cultural guidelines for neighbourhood design in Jeddah**  
Khadijah Fatani, presenting a paper by Khadijah Fatani, Mady Mohamed and Samah Al-Khateeb, Effat University, Jeddah
- 12.15 - 12.35 **Panel debate:** The role of architects, architects/planners, local context, inspiration, innovation  
Ben Stringer, Tony Lloyd-Jones, Khadijah Fatani and participants  
Moderated by Dr. Roudaina Al Khani
- 12.15 - 13.30 Lunch break

## Plans and Goals

- 13.45 - 14.10 **London Plan - Goals, priorities and tools - Working for a better city**  
Speaker Greater London Authority
- 14.10 - 14.35 **Vision led planning: to meet the challenges of our cities**  
Urban Planner Zainab Alireza, Senior Urban Designer at AECOM
- 14.35 - 15.00 **Debate with speakers and participants - Understanding context and priorities**  
Moderated by Dr. Roudaina Al Khani
- 15.00 - 15.20 Coffee break

## Urban Management and Community Involvement - from plan to urban activism

How can community involvement inform city development, city planning and city management?  
How can the private sector in the new circular economy be a positive agent of change?  
What role can women and youth play as agents of change?  
How can urban activism and NGOs' involvement be a catalyst of change?  
Which planning frameworks are most suitable to enable community involvement?

- 15.20 -15.45 **The role of circular economy in community inclusion and environmental sustainability to deliver Vision 2030**  
Dr. Dina Al-Nahdy, Jeddah, CEO ENTEC
- 15.45 - 16.10 **Open spaces transformed our community**  
Mrs. Zakiah Bandagji, Founder of Friends of Jeddah Park/  
Speaker representing the organisation.
- 16.10 - 16.35 **On the role of women and youth in city management**  
Dr. Haifa Al-Hababi, Assistant professor, Architecture and Interior Design Department, College of Engineering, Prince Sultan University
- 16.35 - 17.00 **Debate with speakers and participants on community involvement**  
Moderated by Dr. Roudaina Al Khani
- 17.00 - 17.15 Break
- Free evening

## DAY 3 - Thursday the 18th of January

**Expert-guided visit to Oxford city**  
Oxford Brookes University, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and the Middle East Centre

Trip moderated by Dr. Ahmad Sukkar, Expert in Islamic studies and the architecture-culture relationship.

08.00 - 09.30 Travel to Oxford

## Culture, heritage and city 1

What role can heritage play in strengthening communities' and cities' sustainability?  
How to understand the value of heritage in our current practice?  
Can vernacular / islamic architecture inspire a new model for sustainability?

09.30 - 10.45 Visiting the Middle East Centre, St Antony's College.  
Meeting the Centre's Director, Professor Eugene Rogan and other academics.  
Visiting the building - Building by Zaha Hadid.

10.45 - 12.15 Visiting Oxford City  
Guided trip by Dr. Ahmad Sukkar, Expert in Islamic studies

12.15 - 13.30 Lunch in Oxford

## Education - profession 1

Venue: Oxford Brookes University

13.50 - 14.20 **How to prepare urban designers and planners for a competent career with ethics and to meet sustainability challenges**  
Introduction to the new BA in urban design and planning  
Laura Novo, Senior Lecturer in Planning and Urban Design, School of the Built Environment, Oxford Brookes University

14.20 - 14.50 **Women's role in the urban design profession**  
Georgia Watson, Professor and Research Director of Urban Design at Oxford Brookes University

14.50 - 15.15 Debate moderated by Professor Georgia Watson and Dr. Roudaina | 8



## Culture, heritage and city 2

Venue: Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies

- 15.45 - 16.10 Introduction to Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies  
Professor Farhan, Director.
- 16.10 - 16.50 Visiting the building - Building by Abdel Wahed Al-Wakeel
- 16.50 - 17.15 **Debate moderated by Dr. Ahmad Sukker.**
- 17.30 - 19.30 Travel back to London
- 19.30 Free Dinner

## DAY 4 - Friday the 19th of January

Venue: University of Westminster - Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment

## Education and Profession 2

How can academic and professional women inspire and benefit from each other?  
How can questions around our cities be introduced in the different educational programmes to support a holistic approach to cities?

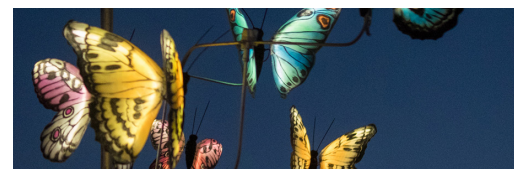
- 09.30 - 10.10 **Strengthening planning education to prepare a generation of professionals with an eye on the SDGs**  
Dr. Giulio Verdini, University of Westminster, Course Leader  
Designing Cities BA
- 10.00 - 10.25 **Strengthening architecture and art education**  
Dr. Effat Fadag, Director of the Centre of Art and Design at Dar Al-Hekma University, Jeddah, KSA.
- 10.25 - 10.45 Coffee break
- 10.45 - 11.10 **Culture and heritage through Education**  
Dr. Faredah Almurahhem, PhD. Assistant Professor, Umm al-Qura University, Makkah
- 11.10 - 11.45 **Saudi architects and planners between education and practice**  
Workshop on strengths, challenges and potentials  
Led by Dr. Roudaina Al Khani

- 11.45 - 12.00 **General Lab reflections and perspectives**  
Dr. Roudaina Al Khani in dialogue with the participants

- 12.00 - 12.30 Coffee Break / Formal closing

## Field Trip - optional

- 13.30 - 16.00 **Walkable City**  
Study trip across London historic and new neighbourhoods and spaces  
Lunch during the walk.
- 17.30 Lumiere London, Light Festival



Nightlife by the Lantern Company 2018

## Organisers and Speakers



Lab leader and  
organiser

## Roudaina Al Khani

Architect MAA, Urban and Regional Planner DEA, PhD.

Roudaina Al Khani is Director and Founder of the practice Platforms for sustainable cities and regions and a lecturer in Planning and Urban Design at University of Westminster. She has extensive experiences in sustainable development and integrated strategic urban planning from Europe and the Middle East, from local governments, consultancy to ministries and international organisations, NGOs and research. She is a board level expert and a project manager driving innovative processes.

Among her works prior to Platforms is leading the statement report for Copenhagen City Strategy at Copenhagen City, managing Agenda 21 on behalf of the Finance Administration and the city debate platform on architecture and planning with the Danish Architecture Centre. She worked on the regional plan of Holbaek and advised the Danish Ministry of Urban and Rural Affairs on the implementation of EU-Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities.

Roudaina advised German International Cooperation in 2008-2009 on transferring sustainable city development strategies to Syria working with 16 cities. She assessed planning, legal settings and capacity building needs, and co-launched the Syria State of Cities Report. As a high-level international advisor on planning and sustainability to the Syrian Presidency in 2009-2011, Roudaina took the initiative to establishing Sustainable Syria Programme and advised on the National Five Year Plan and the planning system. She oversaw the establishment of plans, including Damascus Master Plan.

Roudaina's research on harbour-front redevelopment, revitalization and sustainability in North Europe led to her Ph.D. in 2007 from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. In this relation she was appointed Member of the Scientific Committee of the Worldwide Network on Port Cities, including of its 15th World Conference Cities & Ports in Rotterdam, 2016, chairing its topic on joint sustainable strategies.

Roudaina has a Master Research Degree DEA in Urban Policy, Spatial Planning and Management from Paris Planning Institute. She is an Architect from Damascus University and Member of the Danish Association of Architects.



## Zainab Alireza

Senior Urban Designer, MA Housing & Urbanism

Zainab is a Senior Urban Designer in AECOM's Buildings and Places studio with ten years' experience. Holding a Masters in Housing and Urbanism, Zainab has an extensive understanding of the factors influencing good urban design and has a keen interest in developing positive public experiences through urban strategies.

Zainab has experience working on projects at varying scales and location, including long-term spatial visions for mega-city regions, masterplans and urban design strategies for residential, commercial and retail projects..

Zainab recent experience has been focused on Strategic planning, possessing a deep understanding of physical and social influences unique to regions . Most recently, Zainab has played key roles in South East Protected Landscape - 25 year vision, the Jeddah Plans 2033 and the Connected Gaza Vision 2050.



### Dr. Dina Al-Nahdy

CEO /Partner ENTEC Environmental Technology Company

Dina Hasan AlNahdy co-founded “ENTEC” Environmental Technology company in 1995. With a bachelors in accounting, diploma in Environmental Management and an honorary doctorate in Environmental affairs and sustainable development from the U.N.F as well as being a certified LEED consultant, Alnahdy oversees the strategic direction of ENTEC.

Working as a consultant since 2007 dedicated to improving the environment by offering sustainable environmental and Green economical solutions to clients from both private and governmental sectors in KSA along with ENTEC team of experts.

Dina is also president of the environmental committee in Jeddah chamber of commerce where she works on bridging the gaps between private sectors and ministries to facilitate achieving the countries environmental and sustainable goals and empowering local private sector and individuals to be on global standards IN THE VIEW OF VISION 2030.

The long and impressive list of Alnahdy community work includes organizing environmental awareness programs. “Hand In Hand national environmental awareness initiative” that broke the world Guinness record in the largest hand printed environmentally friendly canvas in the world a ( 10235 m2) spreading environmental awareness to more than 1,2 million people from all categories of the community. In addition to many awards and achievements successive for her outstanding achievements awarded by GAMEP, European – Arab environmental organization and numerous awards crowned her efforts in environmental and sustainability from several global and local organizations.

AlNahdy is a member of a long list of organisations, such as Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Saudi Society for Environmental Sciences, VP of Women’s Comity for Maritime Safety Border Guard Mecca area.



### Dr. Sumayah Al-Solaiman

Assistant Professor, College of Design  
Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University

Dr. Sumayah Al-Solaiman is Dean of the College of Design and Assistant Professor at the Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University. She has a PhD in Architecture from Newcastle University (2010). Her thesis was titled “The Architectural Discourse of Riyadh: An interpretive-historical reading of its contemporary architecture”. Both her Master of Architecture (2002) and her Bachelor’s degree in Interior Architecture (2000) were from King Faisal University. Her 16 years of teaching experience include 4 years at Newcastle University. She completed her Ibn Khaldoun Postdoctoral Fellow in the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Nov 2013-Jan 2015). Her research interests include areas of intersection between architecture and politics such as the mediation of power in space and place; ideologies and nation-building in architectural practice; and regionalism within modernism. She has some peer-reviewed publications and participated in conferences and symposia. She was also editor-in-chief of ‘Forum: International Journal of Postgraduate Studies in Architecture, Planning and Landscape’.

She was appointed a member of the municipal council for the mayoralty of Dammam in its third cycle (2016-2020). She is also a columnist at Al-Yaum Newspaper. She has represented Saudi Arabia in official delegations to India, Austria, the UK and the USA. Her past positions include, Vice Dean for Quality, Development and Academic Accreditation, Chair of the Graphic Design and Multimedia program at the College of Design and Director of the Patents and Technology Transfer Office at the University of Dammam. Besides her academic and administrative duties she was the organizer for the International Sustainability through Biomimicry conference (Dammam, 2012); head of the executive committee of UD’s participation in the International Exhibition and Conference of Higher Education (Riyadh, 2013 & 2014) and project manager for the redevelopment of UD’s website.

## Dr. Areej Al-Wabil

Principal Investigator - Engineering Systems

Dr. Areej Al-Wabil is a Principal Investigator in Center for Complex Engineering Systems (CCES) at KACST and MIT, and a Principal Investigator in the Joint Center of Excellence for Earth and Space Sciences at KACST and Caltech.

Dr. Areej's research interests are in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), User experience (UX) and Interaction Design. Prior to joining the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), she was a Postdoc in MIT's Ideation Lab at the School of Engineering and served as the Vice Chair of KSU's Software Engineering Department, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs at Prince Sultan University (PSU), Research Associate at the University of Texas, and Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Kent's School of Engineering and Digital Arts.



## Angela Brady OBE PPRIBA

Architect, TV broadcaster Design Champion

Angela is a past president of RIBA (2011-2013), and graduated in Architecture from the Dublin Institute of Technology with a post graduate scholarship in Copenhagen & Part III exam at Westminster Uni London.

Angela is a director of award winning Brady Mallalieu Architects, set up with Robin Mallalieu specialising in quality contemporary sustainable design based in London. She was chair of RIBA Women in Architecture (2000-2005) and promotes more women into construction.

Angela has given over 100 keynote speeches around the world, including in India, China, Vietnam, USA, EU, UK and the Middle East on sustainable city making and low carbon design. She advises many design review committees on creating a quality sustainable built environment, including with Design Council Cabe, Corydon and Bexley.

As a professional TV broadcaster Angela co wrote and co presented the TV series "Designing Ireland" about Irish Architecture, Craft, Industrial Design and Design Thinking. She presented design style of 6 cities on 'The Home Show' on Channel 4 and designed and built the house on "Building the Dream" in 65 episodes on ITV. In 2016 Angela was awarded an OBE and PDSA for services to Architecture.



**Marie Dariel**  
M.A., M.Sc. Urban., Cert. Psych.

Marie Dariel is Director of A Thousand Faces Ltd. She is specialist in integrated urban development and urban wellbeing, blending 15 years of international experience in sustainability, capacity building and psychology in France, the UK, Africa, China and Latin America. She trained at the Institute of Urban Planning and Architecture of Venice, the Institute of Political Studies of Paris (Sciences-Po) and the Gestalt Centre of London, and collaborated with UN HABITAT, with French and British construction and development leaders such as Eiffage, British Land, Stanhope, ARUP, and developed design labs with Chinese best universities and innovation leaders.

With her consultancy company “A Thousand Faces Ltd.”, she helps city leaders, designers, developers and organisations to create places that are better for people and bring better quality of life in cities, by integrating human well-being, biomimicry, environmental psychology in urban projects and reconnecting them with nature, people’s sense of growth, safety, belonging and happiness.



**Nuha Eltinay**  
Architect, Planner, RTPi

Nuha is the Director of Urban Planning and Sustainable Development at the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI) since 2014. Nuha is currently a PhD Researcher at London South Bank University, School of Built Environment and Architecture. Her research deals with building urban resilience in the MENA Region with focus on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the contexts of climate change, conflict, and displacement.

Nuha’s works include presenting a comprehensive research and engagement program MENA Urbanization Knowledge and Disaster Risk Management at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan 2015, in collaboration with the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) – World Bank Group.

She participated in the 2015 UNISDR Expert group on developing the Indicators for the New 10 Essentials-Making Cities Resilient Campaign, the GFDRR 2016 Understanding Risk Forum, the 2017 UK Alliance for Disaster Risk, the 2017 UNISDR-Words into Action Words: Implementation guides for the Sendai Framework /guideline (National Focal Points, National Platforms and Local Platforms), 2017 Policy recommendation: Coherence between the Sendai Framework, the SDGs, the Climate Agreement, New Urban Agenda and World Humanitarian Summit, and the role of science in their implementation. Nuha is also involved in the ongoing process of the development of UNISDR Roadmap and Guide on the use of Open Data Infrastructure for Urban Resilience.

Nuha is a qualified architect and member of the British Royal Town Planning Institute since 2010.

### Dr. Effat Abdullah Fadag

Director of the Center for Art and Design, Dar Al Hekma University

Dr. Effat Abdullah Fadag is an Associate Professor of Fine Art. She is an artist and an academic. Exhibiting her work both locally and internationally. Dr. Effat received her Master and Doctorate of philosophy in Fine Art from the University of Creative Art, KENT, becoming the first female in Saudi Arabia with a PhD in Fine Art. She worked as the Department chair of Islamic Art at King Abdul-Aziz University. She was a full-time consultant at Dar Al-Hekma University, serving as the Dean of Hekma School of Design and Architecture for three years.

During that time, she was a part time consultant at King Abdullah University for Science and Technology developing the Art in Lab-Residency program. Dr. Effat is also the founder and Creative director of Naqsh Art Studio. A studio that raises art understanding and support artistic social initiatives with the community. She is currently working at Dar Al Hekma as the Director of the Center for Art and Design.



### Tony Lloyd-Jones

Director of Consultancy and Research at Max Lock Centre, University of Westminster

Tony Lloyd-Jones is a Planner and Reader in International Planning and Sustainable Development in the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at the University of Westminster in London. Director of Research and Consultancy at the University's Max Lock Centre.

Tony Lloyd-Jones' international urban sustainability-related research focuses on use of spatial, statistical and other analytical methods to explore development impacts of rapid urbanization in cities and regions in Sub-Saharan Africa, South and South East Asia, and Latin America.

Previously, Urban Policy and Statistics Adviser to DFID from 1997 to 2005, he advised the UK Government on housing and sustainable urban development issues at the United Nations. Author of recent policy guidance on urban resilience, disaster risk management and reconstruction for DFID, the World Bank and other agencies.



Declan O'Carroll  
Architect ARB, RIBA

Declan O'Carroll is Practice Director Architecture and Masterplanning at Atkins. He is a chartered architect, practitioner, lecturer, writer and researcher with 30 years of professional experience and a portfolio of over 40 successful projects in the UK, Europe, Middle East, China and East Asia. Declan O'Carroll acted for more than a decade as the Global Architecture Leader for ARUP and as the Group Leader of ARUP Associates, supporting the development of architecture studios in Milan, Shanghai, Shenzhen, sitting at the Global Building Executive Board of ARUP.

Declan O'Carroll is a recognised world expert in sustainable design and has devoted himself to leading pan-disciplinary integrated teams and redefining the conventions of building-design partnerships to include collaborations with artists, psychologists, anthropologists, sociologists and other professionals. He has been commissioned by a variety of leading clients such as British Land, Stanhope, Barbican, BSKyB, ParkView International, Nokia China, Qatar 2020 Fifa Bid Committee, GSK and University of Cambridge.

His projects have been recognised for their excellence in concept, design and delivery, receiving international, national and regional awards including; World Architecture, RIBA, BCO, Civic Trust, British Construction Industry among others.

Declan O'Carroll is a Visiting Lecturer to a number of global architecture schools and has held a number of institutional positions including the Green Issues Strategic Review Committee of the British Council for Offices. He offers consultancies through his new studio Atelier OCA to clients, collaborators developing innovative projects throughout the world.



Kieran Power  
Environmental and social scientist  
Associate Director – Sustainability and Resilience at AECOM

Originally educated in Australia, Kieran is an environmental and social scientist working in the areas of urban resilience, disaster risk reduction, sustainability and climate change adaptation. He currently leads AECOM's involvement in Europe and the Middle East with major transnational programmes such as the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) programme. As part of the 100RC initiative he has worked with cities in varying stages of development, including Ramallah (Palestine), The Hague (Netherlands) and Paris (France) to deliver complex stakeholder engagement and produce public-facing strategies aimed at building capacity to withstand and bounce back from acute shocks and chronic stresses. Kieran is also one of the authors of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Resilience Scorecard for Cities and is AECOM's coordinator the Making Cities Resilient programme, which currently has over 3,800 member cities.

Kieran is also passionate about supporting organisations to prepare for the effects of climate change. Working across the critical infrastructure, local government and Defence sectors, his projects have ranged from technical risk and adaptation assessments, to hands-on engagement and training with communities and practitioners around climate adaptation pathways. Before joining AECOM, Kieran worked in a sustainability capacity building role with Australian community housing organisations, helping to remove barriers to investment in energy efficiency and tackle energy poverty.





**Georgia Butina Watson**  
BA MA PhD FRSA

Professor of Urban Design and Director of the OISD-Urban Design Research Group, Oxford Brookes University. She is also Academician and Regional Co-Ordinator of the Academy of Urbanism and Chair of the Urban Design Group Book Award scheme.

Georgia Butina Watson has an extensive portfolio of teaching, research and consultancy work. She has directed many high-profile research projects funded by UK and international governments, research councils and other bodies and has won many commendations and national awards for innovative research projects. She was also voted one of the top 50 women UK Planners by the Planning Magazine and is registered on the panel of experts for Sustainable Urban Environments (SUE) group. She was Head of the Department of Planning at Oxford Brookes University (2001-2015), Research Tutor and Chair of the University Research Degree Committee.

Georgia was a Principal Investigator of the EPSRC funded project on Retrofitting Cities 2050, which includes sustainable urban futures scenario building and visioning and is a Co-investigator of the ESRC funded Healthy Urban Mobility (HUM) project. Her professional expertise includes the study of urban morphology, environmental psychology, participatory planning and urban design, sustainable urban design, public/private partnerships in planning and urban design, community development, healthy cities, urban growth management and place-identity. She has published a number of books including *Designing Sustainable Cities in the Developing World* (with Roger Zetter) and *Identity by Design* (with Ian Bentley). She has also published a large number of journal articles and papers on urban design matters and has been a keynote presenter at many UK and international conferences.

She is presently involved with the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) on the growth corridor linking Oxford and Cambridge and is an evaluator for the Healthy New Towns programme, funded by the NHS England. Her key international projects include the evaluation of the Qatar National Plan; Sustainable Community Development projects in Thailand, Mexico, Brazil, Vietnam, Russia, Palestine, Slovenia and Croatia.



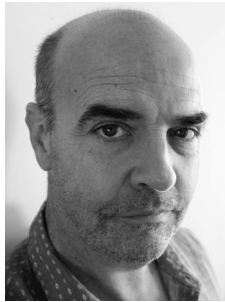
**Ahmad N. Sadek**  
Architect, Urban and Regional Planner PhD

Dr. Ahmad Sadek is Regional Director - Gulf Region at Platforms. He is a highly experienced architect, spatial planning consultant and educator. Throughout his practice and academic experience, spanning over 20 years, he has undertaken a variety of senior positions with Government Institutions and international consulting firms in which he has contributed, led, and advised on the delivery of all aspects of spatial development planning and management. Among recent works, Dr. Sadek advised RAK Municipality and Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council on various urban and regional planning matters. Of his works: establishing the ESTIDAMA programme, casting the vision of Abu Dhabi Plan Capital 2030, delivering a brief for Abu Dhabi Emirate Spatial Plan and establishing a Master Plan for Eco-Business Park at RAK.

Dr. Ahmad Sadek has occupied positions in prestigious universities across GCC, Middle East and Europe, among which the American University of Sharjah, and has taught in graduate urban planning programmes and trained and mentored public planning officers. He has also designed several mixed use and recreational developments.

All the while, Ahmad Sadek has been endorsing innovative planning methods to meet the principles of sustainable and resilient development reflected in his consultancy work and his planning and design of sustainable communities and buildings in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Ahmad Sadek is a qualified architect with a PhD in Spatial Planning from the University of Venice (IUAV), Italy in 1998. He speaks multiple languages including Arabic, English, Italian and French; and he is a member of the American Planning Association (APA).



**Ben Stringer**  
Senior lecturer

Ben Stringer has lectured in architecture for many years, including at UCL, Oxford Brookes, and the University of Westminster, where he currently leads a Masters design studio (DS12), and teaches history and theory.

Ben has recently been studying Architecture's relationship with rurality. He is concerned that that the discipline, and society in general, has become overly 'urban centric' and that cities in any case, cannot be properly understood in isolation from their rural hinterlands.

In 2015 he organised the conference 'Re-imagining Rurality', and he is currently working on a book of essays and artworks with the same title. He recently edited a Villages and Globalization issue of the journal Architecture and Culture. He is also a trustee of a city farm in Oxford.



**Ahmad Sukkar**  
PhD. M.Res (London), M.Arch (AA), BA-Dipl.Arch (Damascus)

Ahmad Sukkar is an architect, urbanist, educator, and researcher based in Oxford. His work examines the interaction between culture and architecture in connection with design, heritage and identity in the Middle Eastern cities. Conducting research on the humanities and Islamic architecture, he has recently completed the Imam Bukhari Visiting Research Fellowship at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, which was supported by awards from both the centre and the Barakat Trust in Oxford. Completing a PhD in Humanities and Cultural Studies at Birkbeck College, University of London, he is currently working on publishing his doctoral thesis on architectural humanities in Islamic studies, which received several awards and has recently made the final shortlist for the British Association for Islamic Studies' De Gruyter Prize for the Study of Islam and the Muslim World. His Master's Degree in Architecture and Urbanism at the Architectural Association in London received distinction and an international award.

Ahmad Sukkar has worked at leading architectural offices contributing to award-winning projects in Europe and the Middle East. At Zaha Hadid Architects, he contributed to Pierresvives Building in France, which received the Royal Institute of British Architects' European Award, 2013; at Wael Samhouri Architecture and Urban Design, he contributed to the Faculty of Letters and Humanities at the University of Damascus, which received the Cityscape Special Award, Highly Commended for Master Planning, 2010. He has presented his work at international conferences, exhibited internationally, and published individual and team-work widely.



Sustainable Cities  
Lab assistant

## Nouha Hansen BA (Hons) Architecture

Nouha Hansen is the Director of Architecture at Platforms for sustainable cities and regions. Nouha is currently studying for her Masters of Architecture degree at the University of Westminster where she also leads the student Architecture Society.

Nouha completed her bachelor degree at University of Westminster in 2015 with First Class Honours. Before joining Platforms, Nouha worked at Sheppard Robson Architects on the new Imperial College Molecular Science Research Hub, London and London Business School. She also participated in architectural competitions for University of Cardiff, University of Cambridge and University of the Arts London. In 2014, Nouha and her team from Westminster won the First Prize of the American Institute of Architects' Student Charette for their Water Maze as a reinterpretation of urban swimming. Nouha and her team have just won the DS Smith First Prize at the International London Fabrication Festival 2017 held at the University of Westminster for best use of material in their pavilion design.

Nouha believes in a cross-disciplinary work process and being open to inspiration and replies from any knowledge/experience field. She has a special interest in the cross-over of architecture and the arts and how the arts can benefit architecture in revealing unusual interpretations and connections for understanding and developing spaces and their uses.

