

UNLIMITED DOHA DESIGN PRIZE: THE OPEN CITY

OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



Created by



Strategic Partners



Architectural Partners

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MAKOWER ARCHITECTS
مكاوير المعمارية

DAF Doha Architecture Forum

1. INTRODUCTION

Under the patronage of H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, and in partnership with Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, the British Council is seeking applications from designers to participate in the Unlimited Doha Design Prize which in 2016 responds to the theme of The Open City.

The *Unlimited Doha Design Prize* is a unique learning opportunity which takes the form of a one-week design-residency¹ to be held in Doha between 18 and 26 March 2016. The theme is The Open City which is focussed on mobility within the city, and in particular how designers can improve the experience of movement thereby ensuring that buildings and the public realm are open and accessible to all.

This open call seeks applications to take part in the design-residency. From the applications submitted, an international jury of experts will select up to 20 participants to take part in the residency – 10 from the UK and 10 from the Gulf. We welcome applications from architects, urban designers, engineers, 3D designers, technologists, researchers and other related specialists. Applications can be submitted either by individuals or by practices, with the latter permitted to propose up to three attendees.

During the design-residency, experts will be on hand to deliver lectures and talks and stimulate discussion and development of ideas. Participants will collaborate within teams to develop a response to a site brief and at the end of the design-residency will present their ideas in the form of drawings, films, models and so on to a jury comprising an eminent panel of international experts.

As well as all participants benefiting from the chance to acquire knowledge, develop their creative thinking and cultivate new international networks, the winning team will be awarded the Unlimited Doha Design Prize, which includes a £15,000 grant towards further development of the project proposal.

2. QATAR AND NEW APPROACHES TO DESIGN

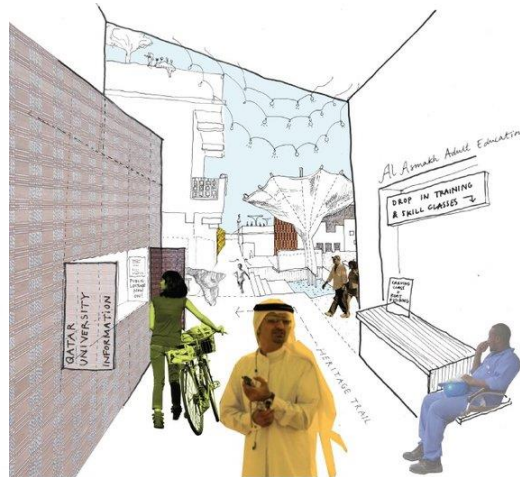
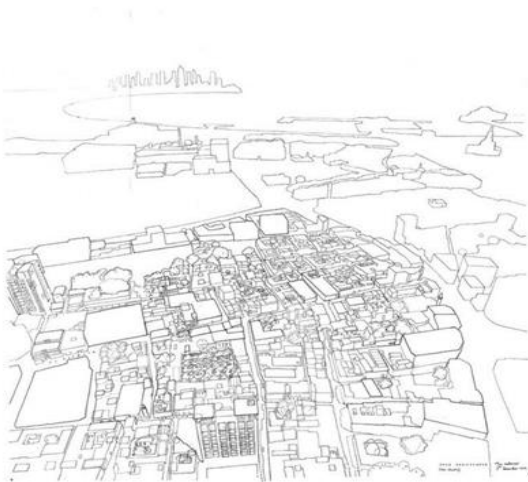
Doha is one of the most dynamic cities in the world and the extraordinary pace of change is creating an opportunity to build many new planned communities in and around the city. Architecture, design, innovation and art are fundamental to the city's evolution and emerging identity and the city's incredible growth and transformation makes it one of the most interesting places in the world for designers to work.

The Qatar National Vision 2030 aims to 'guide economic, social, human and environmental development of the country and support it to be inclusive for the citizens of Qatar in various aspects of their lives'. A testbed for many emerging ideas will be the design work and development taking place in the run up to the 2022 World Cup when Qatar will welcome the World to Doha, giving many people their first experience of visiting the Gulf.

The development of new infrastructure, neighbourhoods and key urban spaces and public buildings represents an extraordinary opportunity to pioneer and test new design solutions.

¹ The design-residency is commonly understood to allow participants, across any discipline, to enjoy time and space away from their regular environment to reflect, research and consider ideas and new ways of developing their practice.

3. THE ONE-WEEK DESIGN RESIDENCY



The Unlimited Doha Design Prize is a follow-up to the highly successful Old Doha Prize 2013, an architectural charrette to redesign part of the historic city in Qatar. The Old Doha Prize 2013 won widespread praise for creating a collaborative environment for the sharing of knowledge, skills and insights between UK and Qatari designers. According to the international panel of judges it was an inspiring arena for “provoking debate and raising awareness about the cultural, urbanistic and economic potential of the run-down areas of Old Doha.” The Unlimited Doha Design Prize 2016 will build on the successes of 2013 with a new theme of The Open City.

The Opportunity: In the context of a dynamic and rapidly developing city, the Unlimited Doha Design Prize represents an opportunity to undertake research and to develop new ideas and innovations that will help realise open, accessible cities. One of the key benefits for participants is the collaborative environment the design-residency creates, offering the chance for participants to team up with designers with a variety of different specialisms and interests, and who have different disciplines, backgrounds and experiences.

The one week design-residency in Doha is supported by lectures, discussions and educational events. The successful applicants will have the opportunity to study the city, and, in response to a carefully chosen site brief, to develop and deliver designs at a variety of scales and using a choice of different media. Outputs could include drawings, models, photography, film and text.

The outcome of the design-residency will be new design solutions that cater for the diverse movement and built environment needs of city populations, and which offer the prospect of realising innovative new physical, soft and social infrastructure that will help transform lives on the ground. Participants will have benefitted from an intensive exchange of ideas within a collaborative environment that will enrich their store of knowledge and ideas, thereby enhancing their future practice.

In addition, the winning team will be awarded the Unlimited Doha Design Prize, and gain the chance to undertake further development of the project proposal (see further details below).

The Open City theme: Cities thrive through creating opportunities for a better life. Key to this is designing better accessibility within cities, thereby maximising ease of connection between people, and to the businesses, services and public spaces that they want to use.

In recent years, designers have been encouraged to think more about movement within the city. Accessible design, usable and inclusive design, and universal design are all approaches to design that can result in products that are easier for everyone to use, including people with disabilities. Such concepts apply across the entirety of built environment, including not only buildings, transport infrastructure, public space and parks, but also to key products, services and facilities that help improve the experience of movement and connectivity.

Consequently, opening up the city to all by improving the experience of movement for all urban residents will involve a wide array of different types of designers, each of whom will benefit from collaborating across disciplines and working with experts in a range of technologies or on designs that extend beyond their traditional spheres of interest.

Responses to 'The Open City' brief should examine the experience of moving through the city and reflect the requirement to plan for improvements to the experience of mobility within the city. It could be anticipated that participants wish to explore how design helps improve access across different areas of the city or within buildings, the journey through public space and from the public realm into the private sphere. Although they are not limited to the themes below, we anticipate areas of interest may include:

- Improvements to architecture and urban building design to improve the experience of movement;
- Building frontage and public space – e.g. how buildings meet the ground, thresholds of public space to private space, shading or arcades to improve public realm;
- The experience of movement through public spaces, or over a longer journey, e.g. from residential neighbourhoods to urban centres;
- Response to the harsh climate of Qatar and its seasonal cycles;
- The experience of pedestrian transitions across major roads or accessing transport infrastructure;
- Technologies, products or signage to improve the experience of navigating public space or buildings;
- Products, technologies, services and facilities to be independently used by people with a variety of disabilities;
- SMART technologies and urban flows, whether pedestrians, public transport or cars
- Products, technologies or urban furniture that improve the experience of inhabiting the public sphere

A detailed site brief will be issued at the start of the design-residency. The scope of deliverables will be open to development by the participants but will include at least one model to ensure that all presentations can be collated and reviewed as an ensemble.

The Study Area: Teams will study an 80 hectare regeneration area in Old Doha that is located within minutes of the historic city centre and identify opportunities within the site that relate to improving the experience of mobility and the built environment. The site area represents the past, present and future of Doha and the area contains key intersections in the form of road junctions and public

transport nodes, transitions between neighbourhoods, key new public spaces, street frontages and public buildings.

The Education Programme: As part of the Unlimited Doha Design Prize, there will be an education and practice programme featuring key experts in the field including high profile UK and Gulf leaders from the architecture and design sector including eminent institutional representatives such as:

- Brian Timmoney, Partner, Foster + Partners
- Professor Nick Tyler, CBE FEng, Professor of Civil Engineering, University College London
- Abdullah al Baker, Board Member Qatar Engineering Society, President of the Architectural Association
- Mark Dyer, Accessibility and Inclusive Design Advisor, Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy
- Mohuiddin Jamaledin, Senior Architect and Senior Regional Planner, Ministry of Municipality and Environment
- Alastair Donald, Architecture Programme Manager, British Council
- Tim Makower, Director and Founder, Makower Architects
- Dr. Yasser Osman Moharam Mahgoub, Head of Department of Architecture and Urban Planning College of Engineering
- Virginia Newman, Director at KSR Architects and RIBA Diversity Ambassador, Royal Institute of British Architects
- Maha Al Hajri, Director of Architecture & Engineering Department, Qatar Museums
- Dr Yasser Elsheshtawy, Associate Professor, Architecture, UAE University

4. THE UNLIMITED DOHA DESIGN PRIZE AWARD

The design-residency will culminate with the teams presenting their projects to a judging panel chosen from the experts listed above in the education programme. The winning team will be awarded the Unlimited Doha Design Prize. Through this prestigious event the winning team will be granted:

- ✓ A £15,000 grant award to provide the opportunity and resource for the further development of the winning project proposal. This might include the implementation of the project in the form of additional research, an exhibition, publication, installation, public intervention or film.
- ✓ The opportunity to visit and, subject to negotiations, exhibit at the London Festival of Architecture in June 2016. This includes flights and accommodation for Gulf participants.

The programme is designed to provide all participating teams with a valuable learning opportunity and additional benefits which could include:

- ✓ Publicity and networking opportunities, including press coverage and the chance to present projects to Qatari institutions and developers.
- ✓ Attendance and participation in a wider programme of associated lectures and events.
- ✓ The chance to gain practical experience in - designing for accessible cities, share skills and development ideas in a creative context and new environment.
- ✓ The opportunity to establish new contacts and develop knowledge networks between architects and designers in the UK and the Gulf.

- ✓ An improved understanding of the context, history and opportunities in Doha, and of key innovations and thinking in accessible design.

5. WHO SHOULD APPLY?

We welcome applications from architects, urban designers, engineers, 3D designers, technologists, researchers and other related specialists.

Applicants are permitted to apply either as individuals or as practices. A practice is entitled to propose up to three attendees.

UK Criteria for eligibility to apply:

- Applicants should have a minimum of two years professional experience post qualification in a relevant sphere of design. There is no upper limit set but the event is primarily aimed at professionals looking to gain experience in international projects and collaboration.
- Applicants can be independent designers or researchers, or either principals or employees within a practice. If the applicant is an employee within a practice, they should have the support and endorsement of their practice.
- Applicants based in the UK will be nationals or resident and currently based there.
- Participants must be resident in Doha from the 18 March-26 March 2016 and provide the British Council with necessary details for arrangements of travel.
- Multiple applicants from practices accept that travel and accommodation costs for one representative per practice will be covered (see Finance section below).
- Participation in the Unlimited Doha Design Award will not exclude applicants from future British Council projects.

Gulf Criteria for Eligibility to Apply:

- Applicants should have a minimum of two years professional experience post qualification in a relevant sphere of design. There is no upper limit set but the event is primarily aimed at professionals looking to gain experience in international projects and collaboration.
- Applicants can be independent designers or researchers, or either principals or employees within a practice. If the applicant is an employee within a practice, they should have the support and endorsement of their practice.
- Applicants based in the Gulf will be nationals or resident and currently based in Qatar, KSA, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain or UAE.
- Participants must be in Doha from the 18 - 26 March 2016 and available to take part in the design-residency.
- Good English level is required, as the whole programme will be delivered in English.

Additional Information

If you wish to participate in the design-residency you will be expected:

To commit to time before the project for preparation and research, including a briefing session(s) in advance (either in person or via video conference).

To participate in potential additional aspects of the project such as widening engagement through education, writing, media relations, public events and further initiatives related to the Unlimited Doha Design Prize.

Should they wish, Gulf based architects may invite one person from another design or creative discipline to join their team (such as an urban designer, interior designer, artist, film maker, photographer, etc). Additional team mates must be based in the Gulf and proposed as part of the original application.

6. HOW TO APPLY:

If you would like to participate, please submit an Expression of Interest. This should be in the format of an A4 PDF portfolio of up to 10 pages (minimum of 6 pages). Submissions should be written in English, and include the following mandatory information:

- i. Main areas of your design interest in the context of The Open City theme outlined in Section 3 above (Max 500 words)
- ii. Up to five examples of key projects (realised or speculative) that represent your approach
- iii. A short statement that briefly outlines why you are applying to take part in the Unlimited Doha Design Prize and your perspective on the issue of The Open City (Max 500 words)
- iv. CV of the proposed attendee(s).

Submissions should be in **PDF format** and **not to exceed 2MB in size**.

Submissions should be emailed to **UDDP@britishcouncil.org** by **23.00 (GMT)** on **Sunday 28 February 2016**.

Successful applicants will be notified on **2 March 2016**

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

From the responses to this open call, an international jury of experts will select up to 20 participants for the residency – 10 based in the UK and 10 based in the Gulf. We welcome applications either from individuals or practices, with the latter permitted to propose up to three attendees.

The selection panel will base their decisions on assessment of the following criteria:

- Evidence of ability to pioneer innovative approaches to relevant areas of design
- Experience, qualification and achievements
- Clarity of presentation in example projects and evidence of ability to develop relevant material to project (e.g. drawings, models and visual presentation material)
- Criteria outlined in short written statement

Selection

The participants from UK and the Gulf will be selected by an international selection panel convened by the project team. The panel will include a representative from:

- British Council
- Qatar Museums
- Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy

- Qatar University
- Makower Architects
- Ministry of Municipality and Environment
- Royal Institute of British Architects

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Project Partners

Qatar Museums, Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, Foster + Partners, Ministry of Municipality and Environment , Qatar University, University College London Qatar, Royal Institute of British Architects, Qatar Society of Engineers, Makower Architects and Doha Architecture Forum.

Finance

Architects are expected to contribute their time to the design-residency. Selected participants from the UK and the Gulf will be provided with economy return flights to Qatar, accommodation and daily meal expenses for the duration of the visit.

This is available for one architect per participating practice. Practices are permitted to support up to an additional two members of staff if they are also able to contribute the remainder of the funding. The venue (studios) in Doha, pre-agreed materials and other practical resources required during the design residency will also be provided.

Press and Publicity

The press and marketing team will coordinate a dedicated campaign in order to publicise the project to a wide range of media in the UK and the Gulf region. This will include both specialist architecture press and general media. The selected participants are expected to agree to any reasonable requests for press or media. With prior agreement film and photography will be taken during the event for the purpose of media and project documentation. Rights will be held by the organisers.

Question and Answers

Should you have any questions relating to the application or the design residency please email **UDDP@britishcouncil.org**

Answers to all questions will be published by **15 of February 2016** on the British Council's Architecture, Design, and Fashion blog: **<http://design.britishcouncil.org/>**

NOTES

British Council

The British Council creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. We are a Royal Charter charity, established as the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We work in more than 100 countries, and our 7000 staff – including 2000 teachers – work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year through English, arts, education and society programmes.

Within the Architecture, Design and Fashion team we develop exhibitions, exchanges, events, workshops, installations and specialist visits in conjunction with our colleagues and partners to create links and connections between designers and cultural institutions around the world. Recent projects include the British Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale, Everything Forever Now, Atlas of the Unbuilt World, 1:1 Architecture Dialogues. For more information on our work in architecture, design and fashion please visit <http://design.britishcouncil.org/>

Qatar Museums

Established in 2005 by His Highness the Father Emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani to combine the resources of all museums in the State of Qatar, Qatar Museums (QM) is a governmental organisation whose remit is to develop museums and cultural institutions and provide an effective system for collecting, protecting, preserving and interpreting historic sites, monuments and artifacts. Under the leadership of its Chairperson H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, QM is transforming the State of Qatar into a cultural hub of the Middle East. The Museum of Islamic Art, inaugurated in 2008, is Qatar Museums' flagship project. The organization won further global acclaim with the December 2010 opening of Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art.

QM's goal of becoming a "global leader in the world of museums, art and heritage" will be advanced in the coming years with ambitious, world-class projects, including the Jean Nouvel-designed National Museum of Qatar. For further information please visit www.qm.org.qa

Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy

The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) and our stakeholders are designing and constructing the stadiums that will host millions of fans at the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar™. Together, we are also planning host country operations for the tournament and ensuring the readiness of all other infrastructure required for its success.

The stadiums, precincts and other infrastructure are an important part of the amazing legacy the SC is delivering. We are also improving the lives and long-term prospects of workers on our projects. Using football as a catalyst for development, we are equipping young people locally and globally with the tools to build better futures for themselves and their communities. We are creating unprecedented opportunities for skills and career development in Qatar and across the Middle East. And we are providing vital support to the innovators and entrepreneurs who will contribute to Qatar's becoming a knowledge-based economy. The investments the SC is making today will pay dividends for generations to come, in line with Qatar's vision of a healthy and prosperous global future.

Foster + Partners

Foster + Partners is one of the most innovative architectural practices in the world today and is led by Founder and Chairman Norman Foster and a Partnership Board. Although the office has a large campus in London, where it was first founded in 1967, today this is one of a global network of studios. Over the past five decades the practice has pioneered a sustainable approach to architecture and ecology through a strikingly wide range of work, from urban masterplans, public infrastructure, airports, civic and cultural buildings, offices and workplaces to private houses and product design. The studio has established an international reputation with buildings such as the world's largest airport terminal at Beijing, Swiss Re's London Headquarters, Hearst Headquarters in New York, Millau Viaduct in France, the German Parliament in the Reichstag, Berlin, The Great Court at London's British Museum, Headquarters' for HSBC in Hong Kong and London, and Commerzbank Headquarters in Frankfurt. The practice has received over 700 awards for excellence and won over 140 national and international competitions.

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) champions better buildings, communities and the environment through architecture and our members. The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) champions better buildings, communities and the environment through architecture and our members. The RIBA was founded in 1834 for '...the general advancement of Civil Architecture, and for promoting and facilitating the acquirement of the knowledge of the various arts and sciences connected therewith...'.

We do not receive any government funding but rely on our 40,000 members, sponsors and our charitable trading operations to make our work possible. The RIBA works to promote and support effective architectural practice and to maintain standards in the profession. The RIBA support the highest standards in architectural education within the UK and internationally through its academic validation system helping to raise global standards in architectural education. [@RIBA](http://www.architecture.com)

Qatar University – College of Engineering

The Department of Architecture and Urban Planning at Qatar University participates in achieving Qatar National Vision 2030 and Qatar National Development Plan. The guiding theme of all department's activities is to achieve a "Livable and Sustainable Urban Environment" in Qatar. Sustainability is becoming an integral part of learning, teaching, research and professional practice in the field of architecture. It is the road-map to achieve a resilient environment and society. Based on the value of experiential and active learning, the university applies Project-Based Learning (PBL) as a critical educational approach. The design studio is the spine of the curriculum where all knowledge and skills gained in other courses are synthesized. Creative, technical and professional design solutions illustrate students achievements of required knowledge and expertise. <http://www.qu.edu.qa/engineering/architecture/>

Makower Architects

Makower Architects is an international practice, based in Doha and London, specialising in architecture and urbanism. Their current projects include the Old Doha Regeneration Framework Zones 15+16, Qatar Enterprise Zone, the Al Rayyan Gate Masterplan, the GORD Eco-Villa and several major housing and mixed-use projects in London and Cambridge.

Tim Makower has been involved in Doha for almost ten years, since the inception of Msheireb where, as the partner in charge at Allies and Morrison, he worked to create a new language of contemporary Qatari architecture and urbanism; reinterpreting the traditions of the Past for the 21st Century. As well as numerous architectural projects and the overall regeneration of Msheireb, this has also led to a rich cultural programme in which Tim has been a leading figure. Amongst other initiatives, he created the Drawing from Msheireb Project, the Old Doha Prize and was the co-founder of the Msheireb Arts Centre, the Sadaa al Thikrayat Arts Project, and the Doha Architecture Forum.

Municipality of Municipality & Environment (MME)

Emiri Decision No. (5) of 2016

Ministry of Municipality & Environment (MME) is a service Ministry directly related to the general public, in order to meet the requirements of their daily life, and contribute through its subsidiary departments, municipalities and centers, to the rapid development of the State of Qatar. This is in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 that aims to place the country among the developed countries, based on the pillars of human development, economic, social and environmental development. The Ministry is vested with tacking both Municipal Urban Planning, and Environmental issues.

The Ministry is working under the guidance of His Excellency the Minister of Municipality & Environment, on the dissemination of electronic services provided to the general public, in a bid to eliminate the paperwork, which will be replaced by the e-government portal of the State of Qatar.

<http://www.baladiya.gov.qa/cui/index.dox>

Doha Architecture Forum

The Doha Architecture Forum is an informal association of Doha's architecture and design community, hosing a platform for discussion and exchange amongst members of the profession and the general public.

Our mission is to increase awareness as to the role of architecture and build a critical discourse on architecture, urbanism and the build environment by inviting eminent designers and thinkers visiting Doha to speak and share their work and nurturing a regular forum of knowledge sharing and debate amongst professionals, academics and students in Doha on the built environment.