

# AlShandagha Revitalization



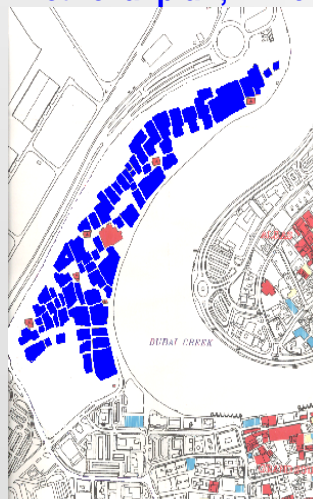
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Al Shandagha is one of the oldest districts of Dubai City, which formed on a peninsula between the Arabian Gulf and Dubai Creek. Mainly, it was inhabited by fishermen and urbanely developed to host to social figures and later the Dubai Ruler's House. During the 1970<sup>th</sup> & 1980<sup>th</sup> demolition concluded most of the buildings to accompany the new planning of the city. The plan was part of ambitious program to preserve cultural properties and facilitate the growing shopping tourism move. Politics had challengingly accelerated the project.

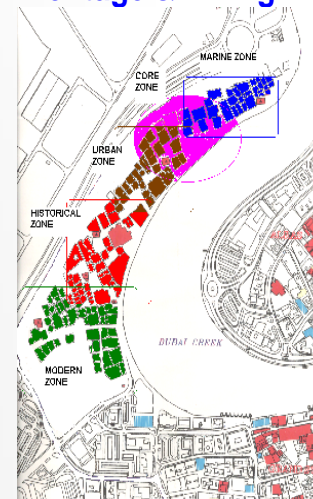
Al Shandagha had witnessed the various urban developments that were implemented in its retrieval plan; Time Record of Urbanism. Both Heritage & Diving Villages were Phase One.



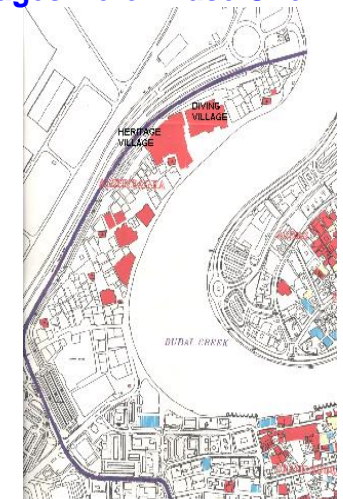
Inhabited & Living District  
1930



Survival Structures  
1980

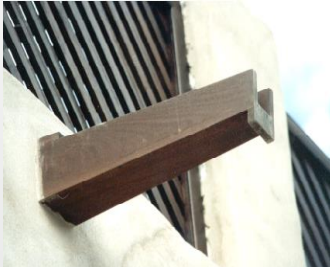


Time Record Plan  
1995



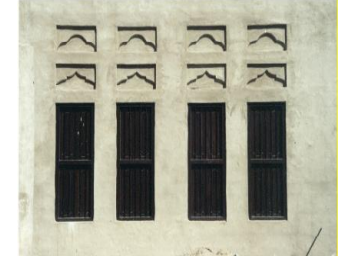
Reconstruction & Restoration  
1996





Design development was a successful mission that involved all concerned specialized sections of Dubai Municipality. In 49 days the tender documents were prepared with lots of mistakes and missed details. The 5 months construction contract required intensive supervision of expert consultant and the architectural designer on hourly basis. Naturally the 149 variation orders were needed to correct the wrong details or satisfy the lost ones. The project had hi-lighted the crucial role of Site Architect.



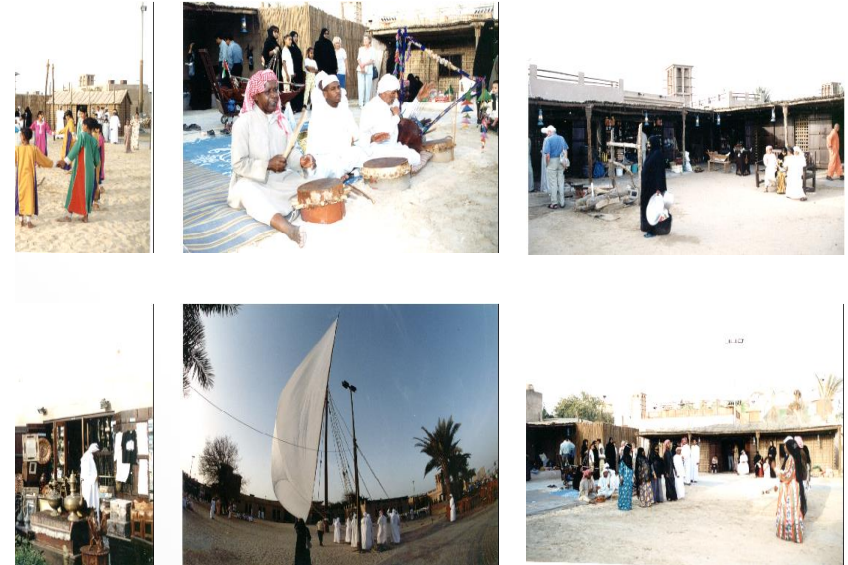


Traditional architecture of UAE was simply constructed as investigated by Professor Lamie. Lack of structural materials had economized the architecture and limited its development within decorative manner rather than structural one. The natural deteriorated materials, e.g. gypsum, coral stones, wooden joist, had integrated with the climate conditions to age the traditional structure within 70 – 100 years. Few examples had escaped that due to various reasons. The project replaced the deterioratable materials with modern ones without any distortion on the architectural format. Also the buildings had been fitted with all modern facilities and preparations. Even the modern composed plaster had kept the traditional texture and features as well.

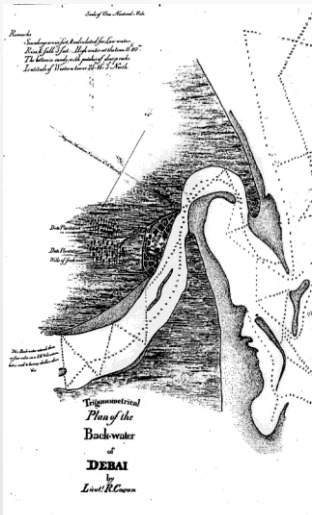




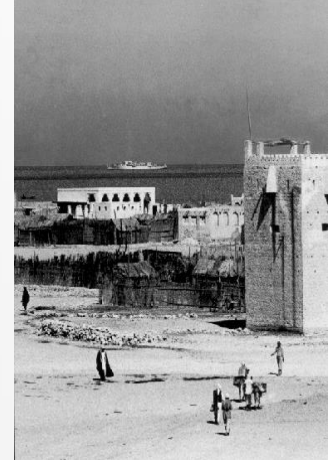
The architectural referrals of the project were mainly the early records of visiting photographers along with the few authentic surviving structures. Many additions and modifications had taken place during the last 30 years that almost changed the real architecture character of the society. The heights were mostly a single story while wind-towers were the landmarks. Imported wooden joists were essential to form slabs and replace the ugly-looking palm trunks. Some treatments were applied to fight the termites, while robes of palm fibers were successful to improve structural consolidation between woods and gypsum mortar. Corals were either collected from the near-by reefs or imported from Arabian sea islands. Hydrated corals were used without dressing.



The annual shopping festivals of Dubai were immediate functions for the villages to show-up. Gradually, the modifications were set to achieve the optimum usage culturally, commercially and even politically. The success had attracted various educational, promotional and public awareness programs and activities. The end-user, Tourism & Commercial Promotion Dept. had made a distinct difference. The multiplied ratings of tourism since 1997 are much obvious. Dubai became not only an oil producer but a tourist destination as well. Visitors enjoy not only the free trade city along with its revived culture and characteristics.



Dubai City since 1822 and 1940 to 1970, is a city of fast and accelerated growth. The commercial and economical prosperity had reformed the urban and architectural characteristics and morphology. By 1990 it was too challenging to preserve the cultural and visual identity in front of ambitious urban facilities and requirements. Few examples escaped the demolition, which record main elements and concepts of traditional architecture. Most elements of traditional architecture lacked the proper documents or scientific records that would assist their restoration. The achieved revival efforts were distinct due to the state wealth, initiation and political attitudes.







شكراً  
Thank You