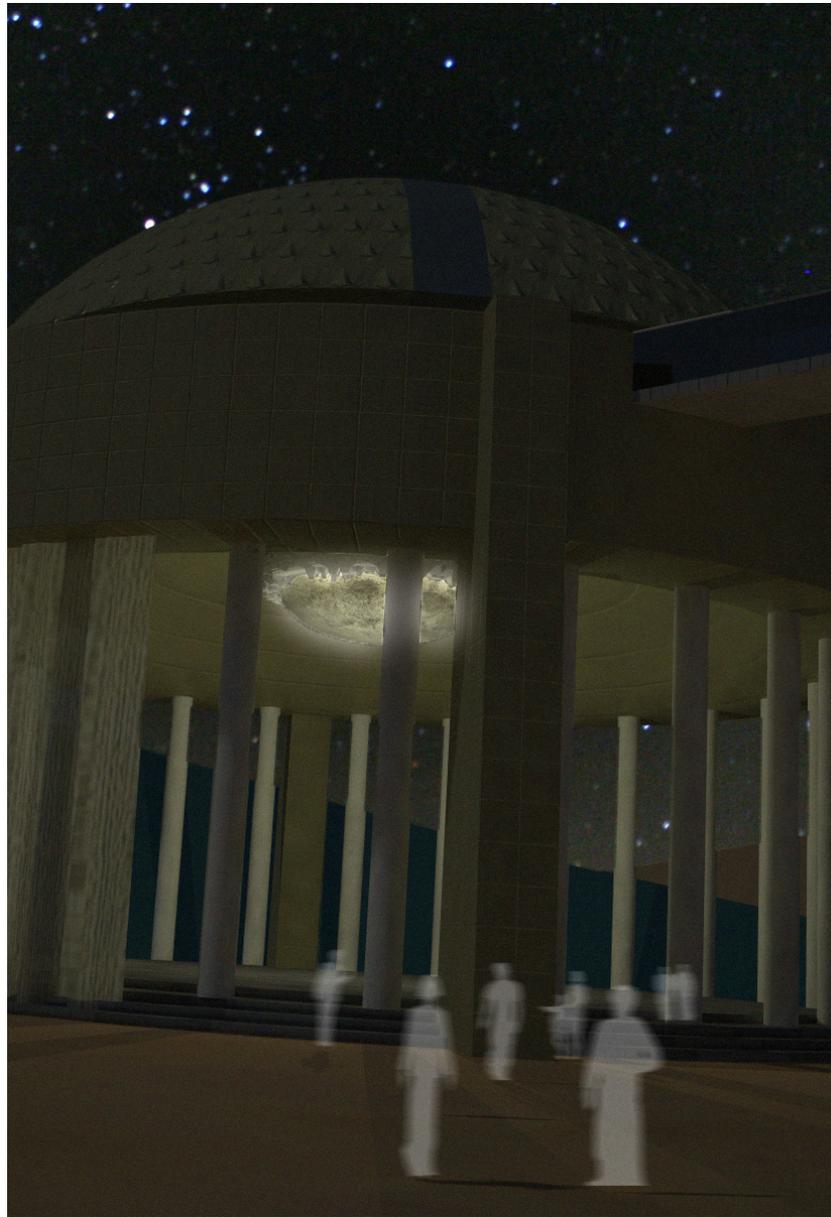


MOONLIGHT OASIS

NOMAD ACADEMY 2008





The MOONLIGHT OASIS

The Moonlight Oasis a blueprint made for his Royal Highness Sheik Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al Qasimi.

The Moonlight Oasis is a further development of the Moonlight Garden. Moonlight Garden is a time-honoured Islamic cultural phenomenon, which arose from an even more ancient phenomenon: the Islamic cross garden, the Garden of Eden. As far as we can tell, nowhere is the Moonlight Garden in current usage. However, it is our dream that this wonderful phenomenon be resuscitated.

The Moonlight Garden was an enchanted place, where poems were recited by the light of the moon, where there was spiritual dancing and music and where the water, the tiles and the white flowers reflected the moonbeams.

In preparing a present day rendition of The Moonlight Oasis the central objective of our concern has been to conjoin the past with the present, since we believe that no culture can move its way into the future without being equipped with an understanding of the past.

This project for a Moonlight Oasis consists of four elements.

The first is: an arching and elongated form, a barchan dune, oriented northwest-southeast along the wind direction, its longitudinal axis (see the enclosed description). The barchan dune have the shape of a crescent moon and occurs if the wind comes steadily from the same direction and are encountered in the United Arab Emirates.

The barchan is a sculpture-architectonical component, which also serve as a monument to commemorate the greatness of the desert.

The second element consists of water which will flow forth from the brink of the dune and over the slip face which is orientated towards the pavilion.

The third element, situated in the sand dune's southern end, is a circular pavilion, placed in such a way so as to be partially encircled by the barchan dune's cusp. Six columns bear a vaulted ceiling aloft. Like the sand dune itself, the pavilion's elevated surface of floor will be covered with tiles, and there will be cushions for the comfort of the sitting guests. Flowing draperies can be drawn between the columns, when necessary, for purposes of shielding off external sources of light. The materials will be light-coloured.

The image of the moon is conveyed down onto a circular-shaped surface of sandblasted glass situated in the centre of the pavilions vault. The mirror image of the moon will be so sharp and so large that the mountains of the moon will be clearly visible and the moon will be perceived as that classical object that we regard it to be.

The observatory may be compared – technically and in terms of equipment – with a stellar observatory. The telescopic images of the moon are transferred to advanced electronic equipment, which duplicates the moon with a diameter of 6 meters on a circular sandblasted glass disc, placed in the center of the dome.

Nowhere on the earth does such a gigantic and accurate image of the moon entering its different phases throughout the year exist. Here, each individual may experience and observe, without the use of a telescope, the gigantic lunar image as a luminous celestial body, while the poets recite from their works, or works from the extensive Islamic literature are being narrated.

With modern communication equipment, the moon over Sharjah could become a communication possibility by global standard for the Emirates – a brand and good investment for the MOONLIGHT OASIS.

On days where the moon does not appear sufficiently bright due to the weather, the observatory would be able to switch to already existing satellite images that project live recordings of the moon day and night.

The fourth element is the oasis and in this way Islamic traditions unite in one location – in an oasis – with the Moonlight Garden as the key culture signifier, in the middle of a spa resort. The entire ground floor functions as spa facilities and accommodation and living rooms of varying size.

A visit to the spa resort, be it a resident or a tourist, may be based on the Islamic herbal medicine's healing powers – absorbed in a beautiful, modern, yet rich in tradition, relaxed surrounding. All made with the outermost consideration for the environment.

Shady palm trees, fruit trees, bushes and herbs are cultivated on location in the surrounding gardens and on the roof of the resort residences and spa facilities.

The rooms and facilities of the building are arranged around the gardens and their small murmuring fountains with a view hereof through shady colonnades at all sides.

MOONLIGHT OASIS will, as an exhibitionproject, be shown as an integrated part of NOMAD ACADEMY GOES PUBLIC, Sharjah Art Museum 12.11 – 12.12.2008.

The exhibition proposes a row of projects for the public space in Sharjah and a series of models for an Arab Cultural Institute in Copenhagen. The exhibition is part of an ongoing Cultural Exchange program between Sharjah and Denmark and more of the works are results of a collaboration between Arabic, Iranian and Danish people.

A NOMAD ACADEMY PROJECT 2008

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CONCEPT, ARCHITECTURE and DESIGN

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TEAM

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Salim Abdali, astrophysicist, lector

Lars Bukdahl, poet

Dr. Al Azzawi, archaeologist

Nasser Moaedi Jorfi, astrologist

