

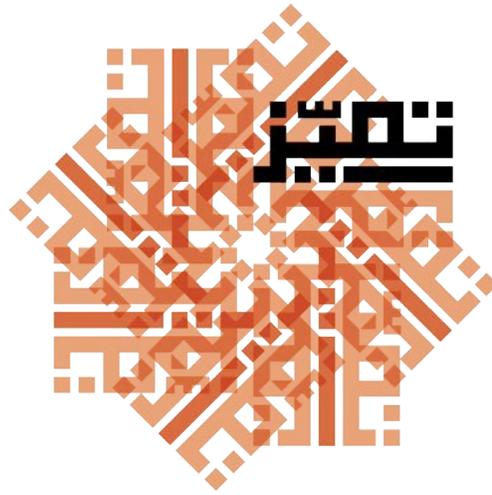
26.Mar - 20.Aug

Dewan Award for Architecture 2019

# AI UMMA Park COMPETITION

AN ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL IDEAS COMPETITION

[www.Dewan-Award.com](http://www.Dewan-Award.com)



TAMAYOUZ  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARD

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AWARD FOR  
ARCHITECTURE

EST. 2018

Empowering young architects around the world while responding to design challenges in Iraq

## Baghdad

Baghdad is the capital of Iraq with an area of 204.2 square kilometres and a population of 8,765,000, making it the largest city in Iraq, the second largest city in the Arab world (after Cairo, Egypt) and the second largest city in Western Asia (after Tehran, Iran).

Split in two by the Tigris River, Baghdad sits approximately 300 miles from the northern, southern and western borders of the country. Its eastern part is called Al-Rusafa, while its western part is called Al-Karkh. Temperatures range from 5°C to 15°C in winter and maintain an average of 47°C in summer.

Establishing its capital in Baghdad in 762CE, the Abbasid Caliphate laid the foundation for the flourishing of Islamic culture in the city, which occurred over the following five centuries. Baghdad became synonymous with tolerance and education, as it served as a regional hub for intellectual advancements in fields such as science, medicine, philosophy and engineering. And further marking the 'Golden Age of Islam', art and architecture combined to produce beautiful mosques and palaces.



## Cultural Context: Pre-1900

The Southern Gate of Baghdad (also known as the Eastern Gate), Bab Al-Sharqi, was originally located at the end of the city's southern wall, which stretches near the Tigris River in Al-Rusafa. Once known as Bab Kulwathi (named after the road that leads to the village of Kulwatha), Bab Al-Sharqi has also been called Bab Al-Basliah (named after an adjacent path that leads to a village of onion plantations).

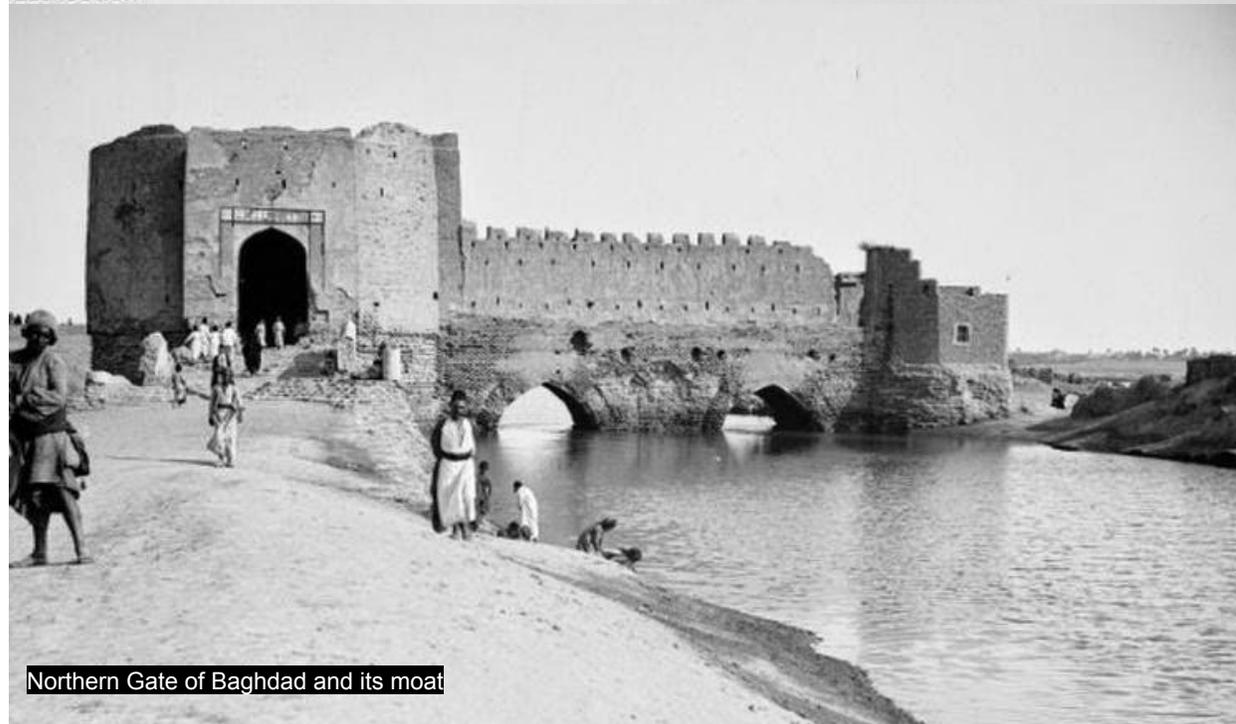
During the British mandate, which began in 1917, the gate was transformed into the Church of St. George, and served as the church of the British Protectorate. When British writer, traveller and political officer Gertrude Bell passed away in 1926, a mass was held in the church, and Bell was buried in the English cemetery located at the Eastern Gate.

Bab Al-Sharqi was removed in 1937, due to the city's urban expansion and its proximity to Tahrir Square.

The current park, which sits on the ancient site of the city wall and moat, was established as King Ghazi Park, named after the second monarch of Iraq.



Al-Bab Al-Sharqi (Southern Gate) of Baghdad before its destruction باب الشرقي ببغداد - ويسمى باب (كلواني) وباب البصلية



Northern Gate of Baghdad and its moat

## Cultural Context: 20th Century and the King Ghazi Park

King Ghazi Park opened in 1937 and replaced the Southern Gate. After the 14 July, 1958 revolution, it was renamed Al Umma Park (meaning: the park of the nation) and it underwent extensive renovations, which saw the construction of fountains and a ducks' lake, as well as the expansion of green spaces.

Art installations were also added to the park's premises, such as the Freedom Monument by Jawad Salim, the Mural of the People by Faiq Hassan and the Motherhood Statue by Khaled Al-Rahhal.

Surrounded by a vibrant network of markets, cinemas, theatres, music and photography shops, as well as restaurants and cafes, Al Umma Park once served as a major urban entertainment area for Iraqi families. However, its environment gradually deteriorated over time as Baghdad underwent social change and political unrest from the 1970s to (and after) the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Suffering from the explosions of nearby car bombings as well as long-term negligence, the park transformed into an unsafe haven and meeting place for criminal activity. Although Baghdad Municipality reopened the park on 25 December, 2008, it remains unsafe.



Al Umma Park in the 1960s

## Art Installations in Al Umma Park

After the fall of the monarchy, the first Iraqi head of republic, Abd Al-Kareem Qasim, commissioned three major public art works commemorating the transformation of the political system in 1958, which were to be coordinated by Rifat Chadirji. The artworks included the Freedom Monument by Jawad Salim, the Mural of the People by Faiq Hassan and the Monument of the Unknown Soldier in Firdos Square.

**The Freedom Monument:** The Freedom Monument by Jawad Salim (Iraq's most prominent artist) features 14 bronze castings that symbolise the 14 July Revolution. The images shown reflect various points from Iraq's history, and include Babylonian, Assyrian and Sumerian styled reliefs, as well as stories of the 1958 revolution.

At the centre of the monument, a soldier breaks the bars of a prison with strength and persistence. The turning point in the artwork, this story leads to visuals of peace and prosperity.

Although the 50m long x 15m high monument was Salim's design, he was unable to see the project reach completion due to his premature death in January 1961. The project was finalised later that year.



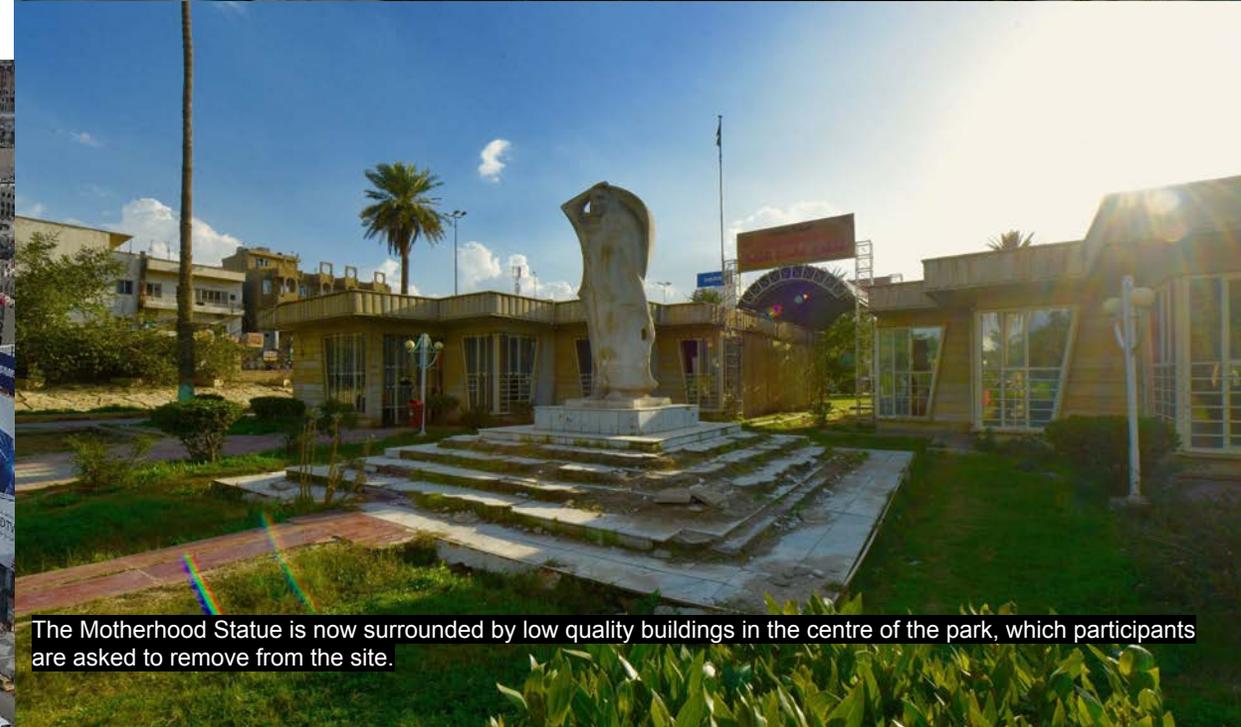
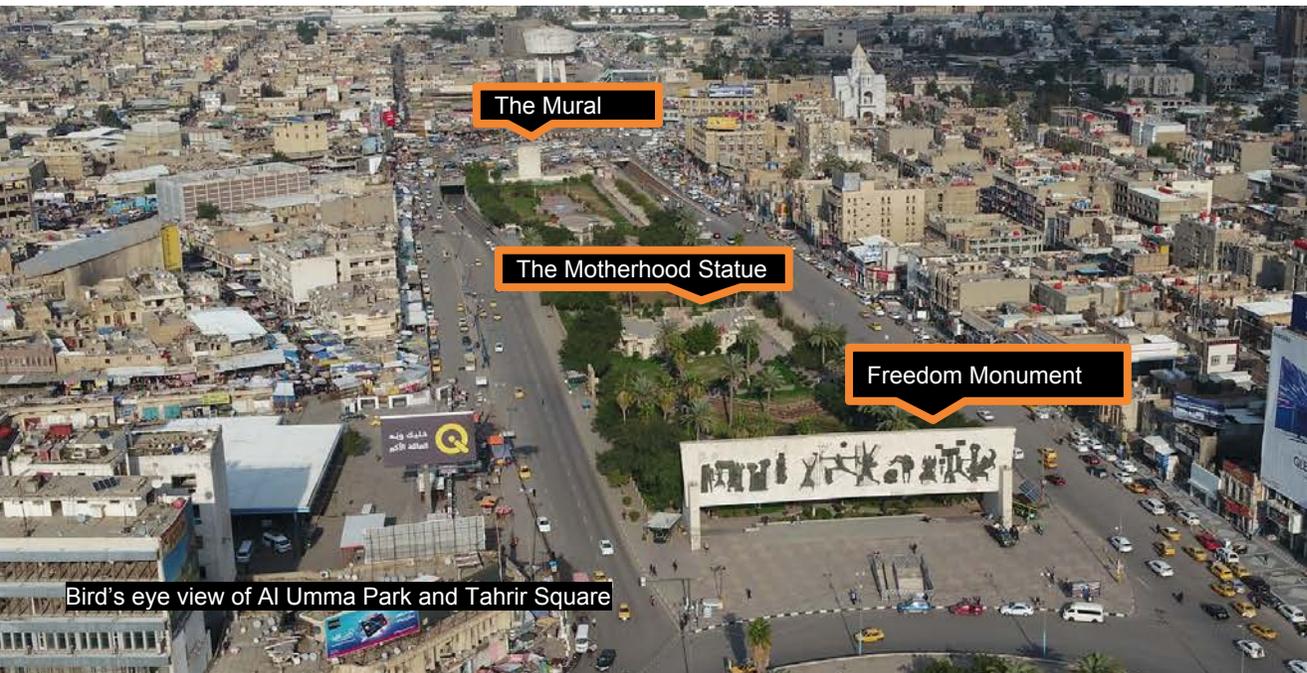
The completed monument, known as Nash al-Hurriyah (Freedom Monument), has survived various attempts to have it taken down and is one of Baghdad's most iconic public works.



Iraqi architect Rifat Chadirji designed the platform for the reliefs. His concept was for the Freedom Monument to look like a banner carried by the demonstrators.

**Mural of the People:** Mural of the People by Faiq Hassan was completed in 1960 and became a landmark due to its size — 10 metres by 4 metres. The artwork features different characters of Iraqi society joining hands and releasing doves, including a soldier, worker, peasant, woman and child. The mural was made using mosaics on a cement base.

**Motherhood Statue:** The Motherhood Statue by artist and sculptor Khaled Al-Rahhal was unveiled in 1961. Featuring a mother looking at an optimistic future, the stone figure is 4.5 metres tall. The location of this installation can be changed by the participants.



## Nearby Landmarks



Museum of Modern Art



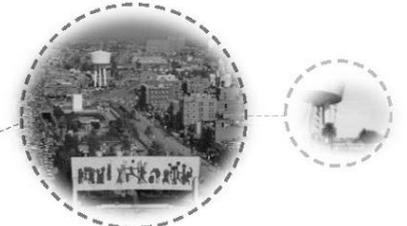
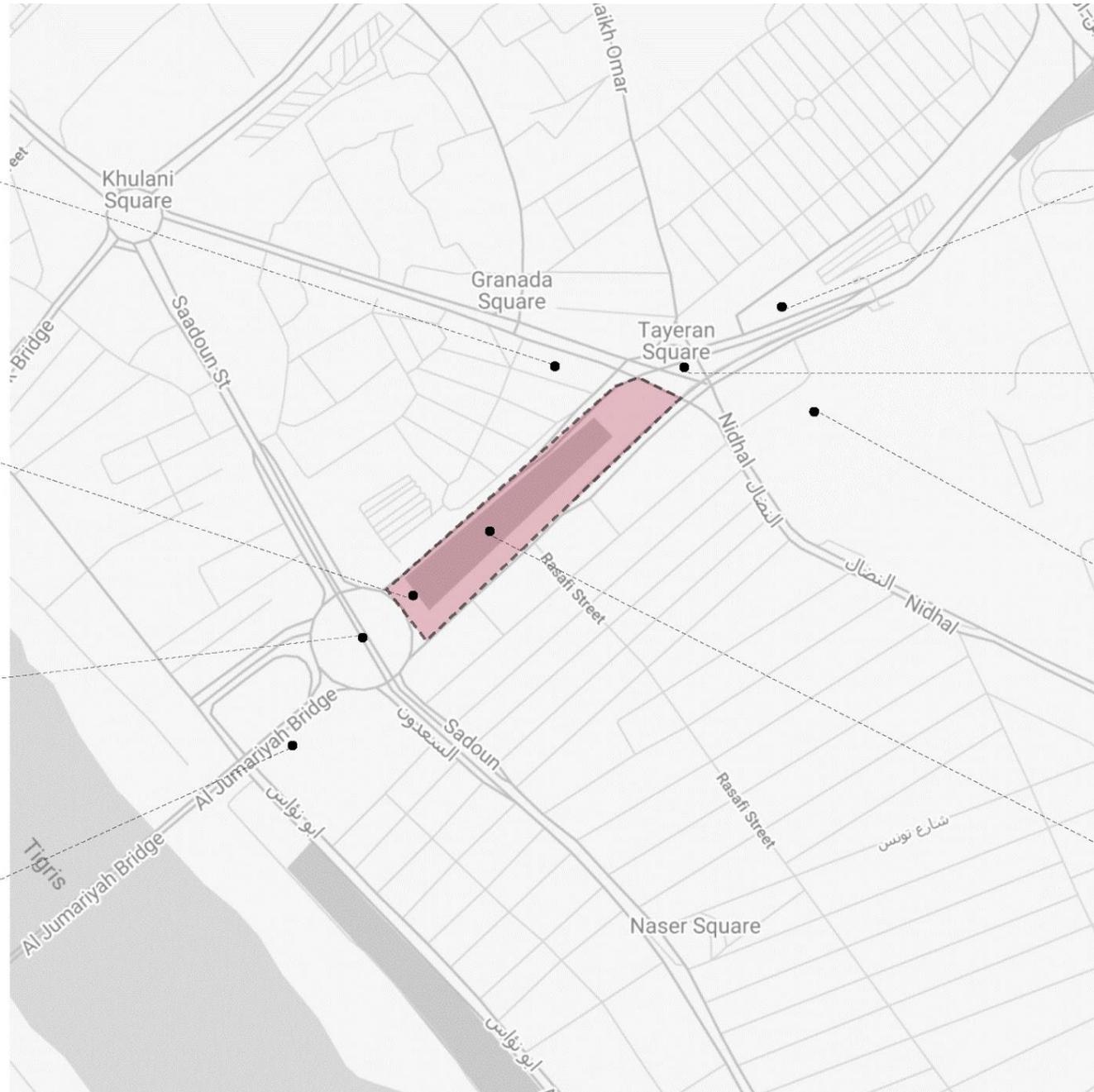
Freedom Monument



Tahrir Square



Al Aqeeda School for Girls



Water Tank Eastern Edge



Tayeran Square



Armenian Church



The Mother Statue

## Site Information

The proposed plot of Al Umma Park is 24,830 square metres and is strategically located as a buffer between the traditional/organic urban fabric of Baghdad and its modern/planned urban fabric. The former consists of Al Rasheed Street, the commercial heart of the area that contains the city's financial district and government buildings, and the copper, textile and gold bazaars. Al Rasheed Street features the best examples of Art Nouveau and Art Deco buildings in the country. At the other end of the park is Al Saadoon Street, which was once the 'High Street' with exclusive retail boutiques, cinemas, restaurants, bars, cafes and other leisure and entertainment outlets.

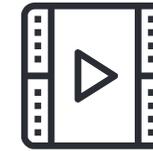
Al Umma Park is perpendicular to the Tigris River, and is linked to Al Jumhuriya Bridge. It sits across Tahrir Square — the main public square where major political events that have occurred in the city's modern history have taken place.



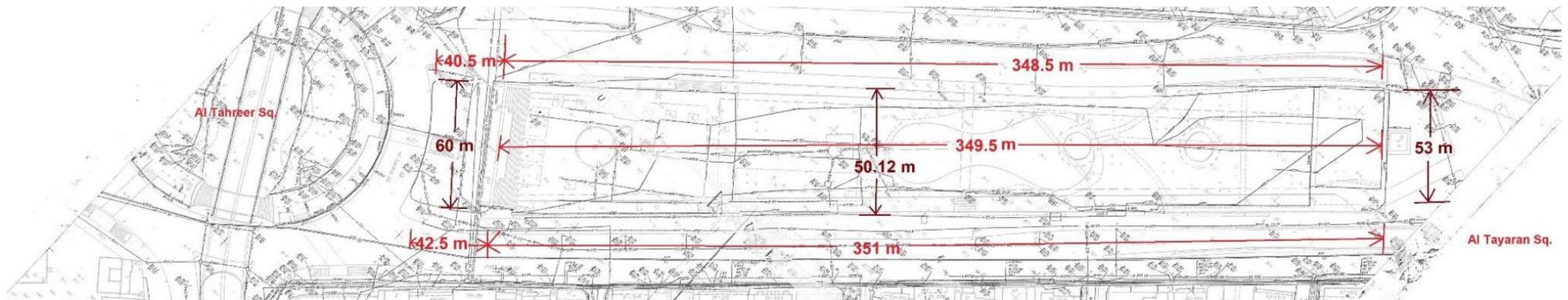
[Click for Location](#)



[Full information package](#)



[Click for a drone footage of the site](#)





The Freedom Monument and the park's entrance in the 1960s



During the wars and the UN imposed sanctions, the country's social structure was dramatically changed due to the economic impact of those times. In this photo, Iraqi citizens sell their home accessories to survive.

## The Challenge

As a result of decades of neglect followed by the Iraq - Iran war in the 1980s to the UN imposed 13-year embargo that started in 1990, Al Umma Park has greatly degraded. However, its transformation from a family-friendly urban space into an unwelcoming and inhospitable environment following the 2003 invasion has perhaps been its most challenging time – as well as for the whole of Iraq.

In the wake of the most recent US-led invasion and the ensuing looting and chaos, the country witnessed and felt countless traumas that affected all parts of society. Crimes against public property surged, while attacks on Iraq's art, culture and heritage, as well as its built environment, became commonplace. Since 2003, and under the government's watch, many listed and historical buildings have been lost, including some of the urban fabric surrounding Al Umma Park.

This competition seeks a new urban planning and architectural approach that helps Baghdad celebrate its heritage and raise awareness of the importance of maintaining all the layers of its history and heritage. The objective is the urban rehabilitation of Baghdad's central park, restoring it to its former glory – a recreational space that served as an attraction for families and a platform for Iraqi art and history.



Surrounding roads to be included within the new park borders

## The Response

Participants are asked to redesign Al Umma Park as a green lung in the capital's dense urban fabric, creating an optimistic vision for the future and a safe space for public gatherings and socialising. Proposals should reflect the legacy of the park and integrate the existing artwork (the Freedom Monument, the mural and the statue) within its redesign.

The park should have: (1) underground level/levels that include[s] a connection to the proposed Baghdad Metro\*, and (2) Al Umma Center, which would mark the historical events the park has witnessed. This centre can be located anywhere on the site, but we encourage it to be situated on a lower level (to keep the surface as green as possible) with connections to the metro station and other services.

All surrounding traffic needs to be diverted underground, with road networks integrated into the new site borders and used in the redesign of the park. Participants can suggest a supportive land-use for the buildings on both sides of the park\*\*.

\*The Baghdad Metro is still in proposal phase, but for the competition we are asking participants to connect the park to the metro.

\*\*Participants can suggest a supportive land-use, a redesign for the buildings or a facade treatment is not required but allowed if participants find necessary.

## Design Programme

The site is currently neglected, but provides spatial relief from a very dense urban fabric. It is suggested that a significant part of the proposed use could be maintained as a public space. An overall urban landscaping and masterplanning treatment of the park is required, with the following potential components:

- Ponds/Fountains
- Sports activities, walking tracks, games and playgrounds
- Art installations
- Food and beverage outlets
- Open air theatre that can be used as a live music concert venue  
multi-purpose stage
- Speakers corner
- Subterranean level with connection to the proposed metro.

In addition, participants should propose a suitable location and building design for Al Umma Center that features the following programme:

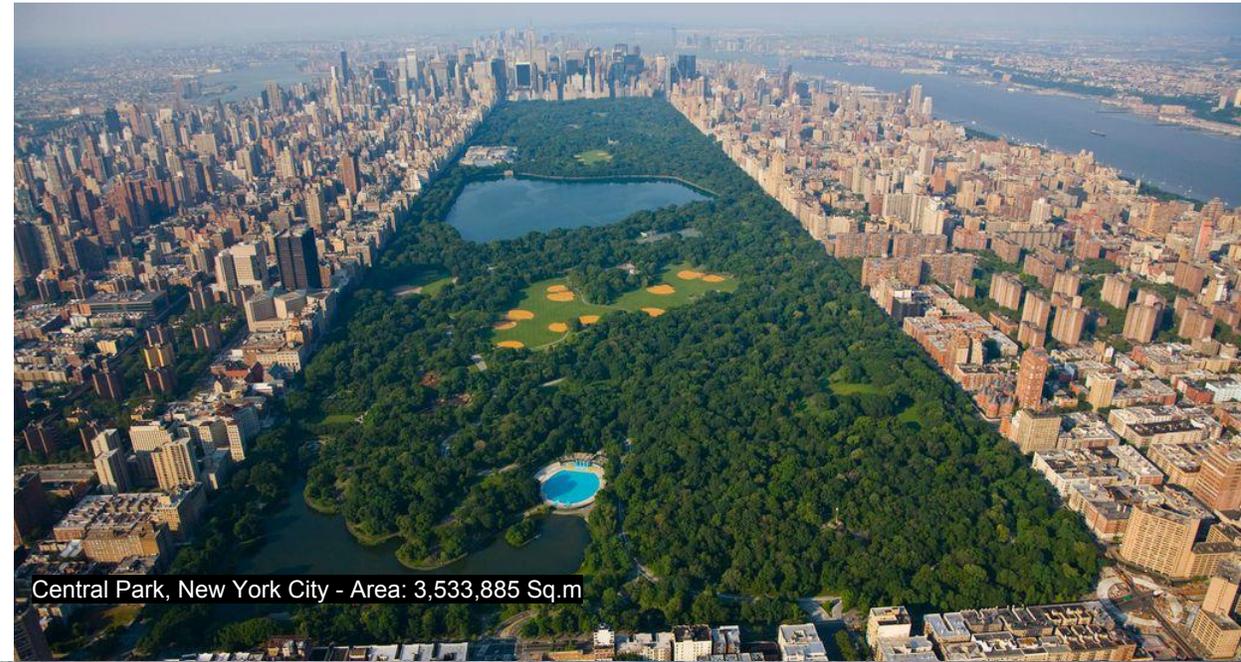
- Entrance hall, public circulation - gathering space / connected to the park and the metro.
- Space for temporary installations and exhibitions 300 sq.m
- Permanent exhibition area / museum 200 sq.m
- Lecture hall 200 sq.m
- Research and Documentation Center / Library 300 sq.m
- Administrative area 200 sq.m
- Cafe and restaurant
- Amenities and security.

*There are no constraints or limitations to the number of levels below the park's ground level. Participants to determine as they see suitable*

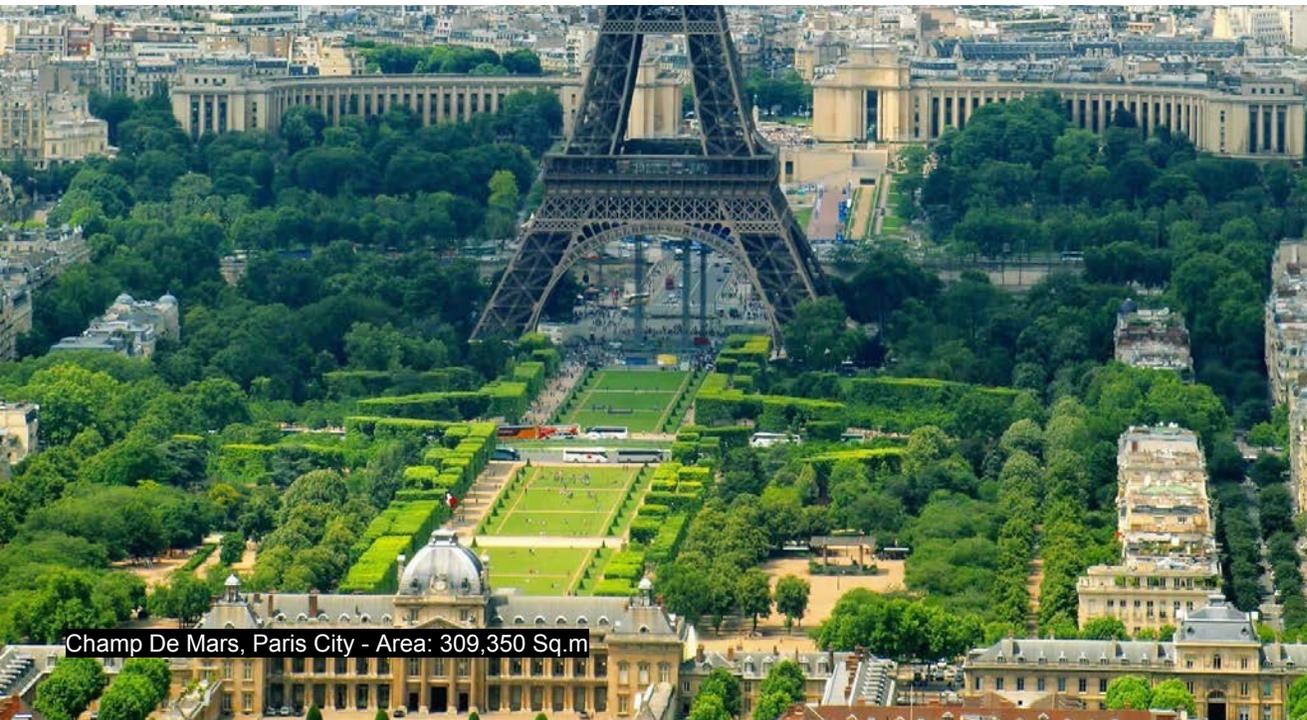
## Benchmarks

Common park components: Ponds, fountains, sports activity zones, research centre, museum memorials, monuments, domestic animals, restaurants, amusement park, playgrounds, theatre, galleries, speaker corner, live concert spaces, multi-purpose spaces, underground spaces and parking.

Parks usually offer large spaces underground in central locations in cities. We encourage participants to benefit from placing underground levels under Al Umma park as it is in the heart of the city of Baghdad.



Central Park, New York City - Area: 3,533,885 Sq.m



Champ De Mars, Paris City - Area: 309,350 Sq.m



Azhar Park, Cairo City - 300,000 sq. m

## Eligibility

OPEN TO ALL

Architects, students, engineers and designers are invited to participate in this prize. Participation can be on an individual or team basis (maximum of 4 members per team). We encourage the participation of multidisciplinary teams.



## Schedule

27 / March / 2019 - Competition launch and early registration

01 / May / 2019 - Start of the standard registration

01 / August / 2019 - Start of the late registration

15 / August / 2019 - Closing date for registration

20 / August / 2019 - Closing date for submissions

November / 2019 - Announcement of results

December 2019 - Annual Tamayouz Excellence Award Ceremony

*All Deadlines are 11:59 pm GMT (London)*

## Registration

Early Registration: \$70 from 27/March/2019 - 30/April/2019

Standard Registration: \$85 from 01/May/2019 - 30/July/2019

Late Registration: \$100 from 01/August/2019 - End of registration period

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

## Regulations

1. This is an anonymous competition with the **Unique Registration Number** as the only means of identification
2. The official language of the award is **English**
3. The registration fee for this award is non-refundable
4. Contacting the Jury is **prohibited**
5. As the award organiser, Tamayouz Award reserves the right to modify the award schedule if deemed necessary
6. Entries will not be **reviewed** if rules or submission requirements are not followed
7. Participation assumes acceptance of the regulations

## Evaluation

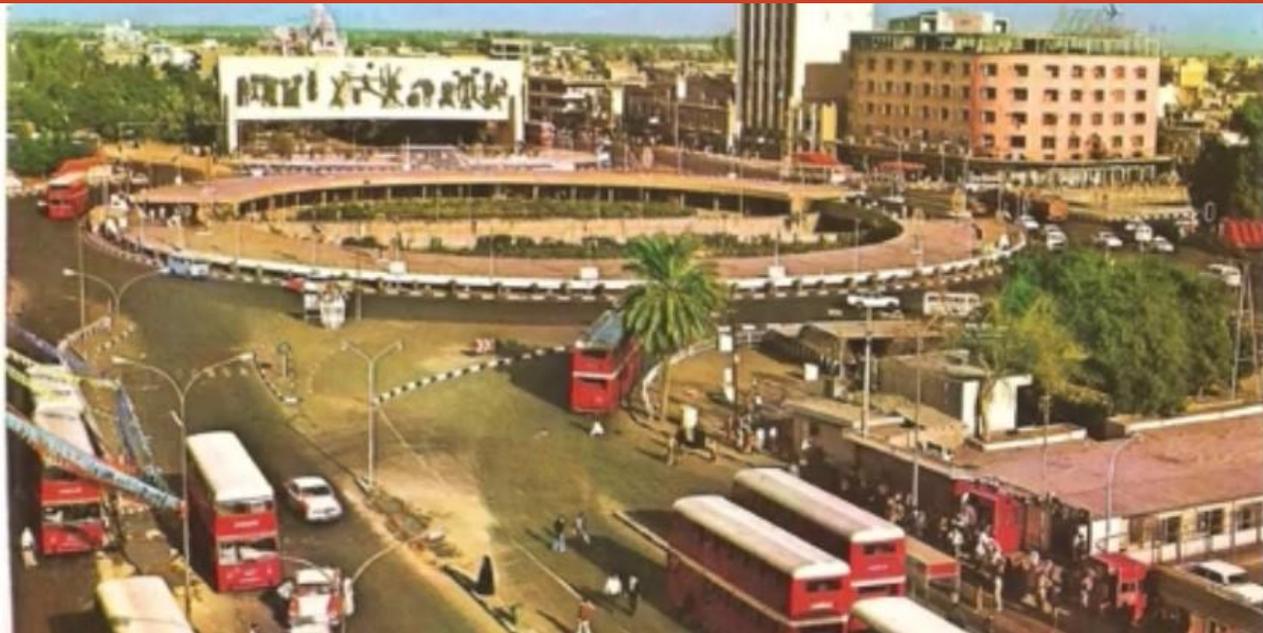
**RELEVANCE** - A clear declaration of conditions that set the urban and cultural contextual parameters of the project through identification of local challenges and potential opportunities, living culture and the daily use of the park.

**RESPONSE** - Aspirational and original ideas with a programmatic response to existing local urban, environmental and social conditions and challenges.

**RESOLUTION** – Spatial and technical justification, Accessibility, durability, safety and security. Clarity of the design process.

**IMPACT** - Clear definition of positive transformative social, spatial and environmental impact of the project.

**VISION** - Aesthetic, technical, environmental and sustainability ambitions.



## Submission

Participants required to submit the following (In one **Zip** file named after the **unique registration number**):

**1 - One - A0 board in JPEG** format. Every team is encouraged to submit all the information they consider necessary to explain their proposal. Content may include but is not limited to plans, sections, elevations, visualisations, diagrams, etc. The resolution of the boards must be **300dpi** with the **unique registration number** placed in the **upper left corner** of the board in **18 pt** font.

**2 - A word document file** containing the project statement (**250 Words Max**) explaining the design proposal.

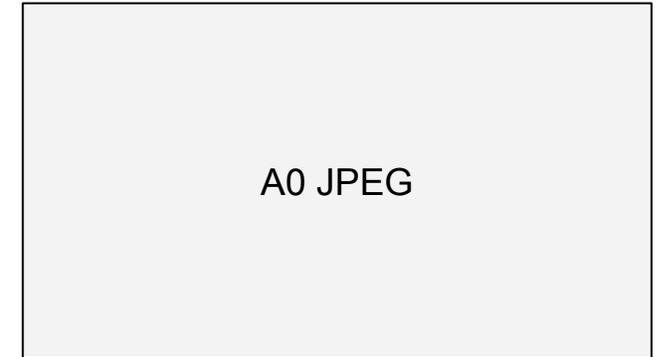
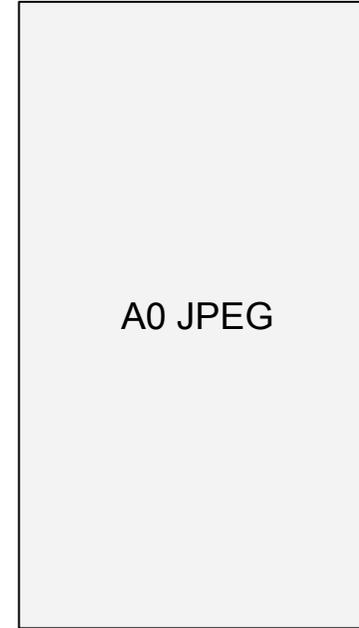
**3 - Submit your entry** by using the upload link in your registration confirmation email.

**NOTE:** All files must be named after the **unique registration number**

## Requirements

## Poster Layout

Posters can be in whichever layout the participant finds suitable; Portrait or landscape.



**A zip file:**

**1 X A0 (JPEG - 300 dpi)**

**1 X Word DOC (250) Words**

## Prizes

The winners of the Dewan Award 2019 will receive the following prizes

# 1st

**6 MONTHS  
EMPLOYMENT AT  
DEWAN ARCHITECTS +  
ENGINEERS,  
RENEWABLE TO ONE  
YEAR OR \$6000\***

# 2nd

**\$3000  
+  
CERTIFICATE  
+  
Trip to the 2019 Award  
Ceremony  
(Flights and Hotel)**

# 3rd

**\$1000  
+  
CERTIFICATE  
+  
Trip to the 2019 Award  
Ceremony  
(Flights and Hotel)**

**7 x Honourable  
Mentions  
Certificates**

# Top 20

Published work in publication,  
on our website, social media  
pages and in exhibitions.

First prize will be a fully paid employment at Dewan for 6 months expandable to one year supervised by seniors with experience in all departments. If for any reason this cannot be achieved then a sum of \$6000 will be presented

## The Ceremony

An invitation to attend the Tamayouz Award Annual Ceremony for the **Top 20** mentioned above, The **TOP 3** winners will have their Flight and Accommodation costs covered by the organisers of the prize; Tamayouz Excellence Award.

## Judging Panels

The judging panels of Tamayouz Excellence Award always comprised world class architects, engineers, planners, designers and academics.

The judging panel for the Dewan Award for Architecture 2019 "Al Umma Park" will be announced soon.



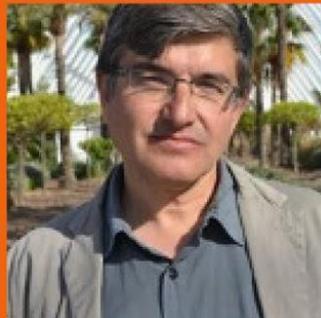
2012: Dame Zaha Hadid, DBE - UK  
Judging Panel Chair



2018: Our Judging Panel for Dewan Award for Architecture for Architecture; School in the Iraqi Marshes competition.



Dr Jala Makhzoumi  
Iraq



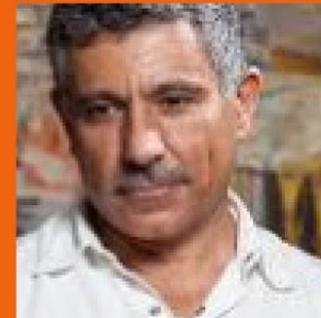
Fernando Olba  
Spain



Mohamed Al-Assam  
UAE



Felipe Samarán Saló  
Spain



Ammar Khammash  
Jordan



Matteo Poli  
Italy



Manhal Haboubi  
Iraq

Click on Any logo to see the media mention

Ceremony Video



TV Interviews



## Tamayouz Award 2016 Ceremony

The 2016 Tamayouz Excellence Award Ceremony was hosted by the Iraqi Business Council in Jordan at the Grand Millennium Hotel in Amman



For the 2016 Tamayouz Ceremony in Amman Click [HERE](#)

## Tamayouz Award 2017 Ceremony

The 2017 Tamayouz Excellence Award Ceremony was hosted by the Iraqi Business Council in Jordan at the Grand Millennium Hotel, Amman



## Tamayouz Award 2018 Ceremony

The 2018 Tamayouz Excellence Award Ceremony was hosted by the Iraqi Business Council in Jordan at the Grand Millennium Hotel, Amman



For the 2018 Tamayouz Ceremony in Amman Click [HERE](#)

## About the award

The Dewan Award For Architecture is the newest award to join the Tamayouz Excellence Award programme, which champions and celebrates the best of architecture in Iraq and around the world.

The award is named after Dewan Architects + Engineers, one of the leading architecture firms in the world and one of the most established firms in the Middle East. The Dewan Award is an international award that addresses and responds to local challenges in Iraq, inviting architects to submit their ideas and establish an uncompromising open source of ideas tackling social issues in Iraq through design to present to responsible authorities.

This award was established through a fund allocated by Dewan Architects and Engineers and Mr Mohammed Al Assam, the founder and managing partner of Dewan, after being involved for several years with Tamayouz Excellence Award.



This year Dewan Architects + Engineers are offering six-month employment to the winner of the Dewan Award (renewable up to one year).



Dewan's generous sponsorship of Tamayouz Excellence Award in five years has thus far amounted to 12 student internships, 24 months of experience and more than \$50K invested in the training of young architects and more to come.

## **Dewan Architects + Engineers**

Dewan Architects + Engineers has a flourishing and successful legacy spanning over 35 years. Through the spirit of its long-standing culture of fostering strong relationships and encouraging dynamism and leadership, the firm has grown into one of the region's leading and highly reputed architectural and engineering consultancy firms. Dewan is a reflection of the diverse and passionate mix of people within the firm and it is through this multiplicity that we strive and grow.

Creativity and utilising the right people for the job is the driving force behind building the teams that can work closely with the clients to help achieve the task at hand. These powerful relationships, enforced by the talent and passion of the teams, are what drive the projects and the relationships to deliver quality to the end user. As an active member of the communities we live and work in, our responsibility is to be a conscientious participant in this global world and to contribute positively and actively with a clear vision of adding value to the environment that we live in.

A passion for excellence is tangibly evident in every stage of a Dewan project, from design conception to successful completion of construction. Dewan's steadfast commitment to sustainable design and construction resonates across the firm which is dedicated to employing design and construction practices that minimize resource consumption and the negative impact of buildings on the environment. Dewan's architects and engineers are LEED Accredited Professionals and ESTIDAMA Certified Professionals.

# Dewan

## Architects + Engineers

# Check out our other Awards

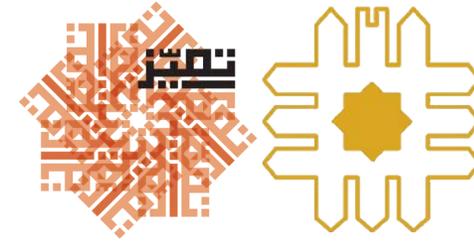
7 Awards and competitions are running through out 2019 with our annual prize giving ceremony at the end of the year



**TAMAYOUZ  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARD** | TAMAYOUZ  
LIFETIME  
ACHIEVEMENT  
EST. 2014



**TAMAYOUZ  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARD** | WOMEN IN  
ARCHITECTURE &  
CONSTRUCTION  
FOR THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH  
AFRICA



**TAMAYOUZ  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARD** | MOHAMED  
MAKIYA  
PRIZE  
FOR THE MIDDLE EASTERN  
ARCHITECTURAL PERSONALITY OF  
THE YEAR



# PHOTOS AND INFORMATION

[Download Information Pack here](#)

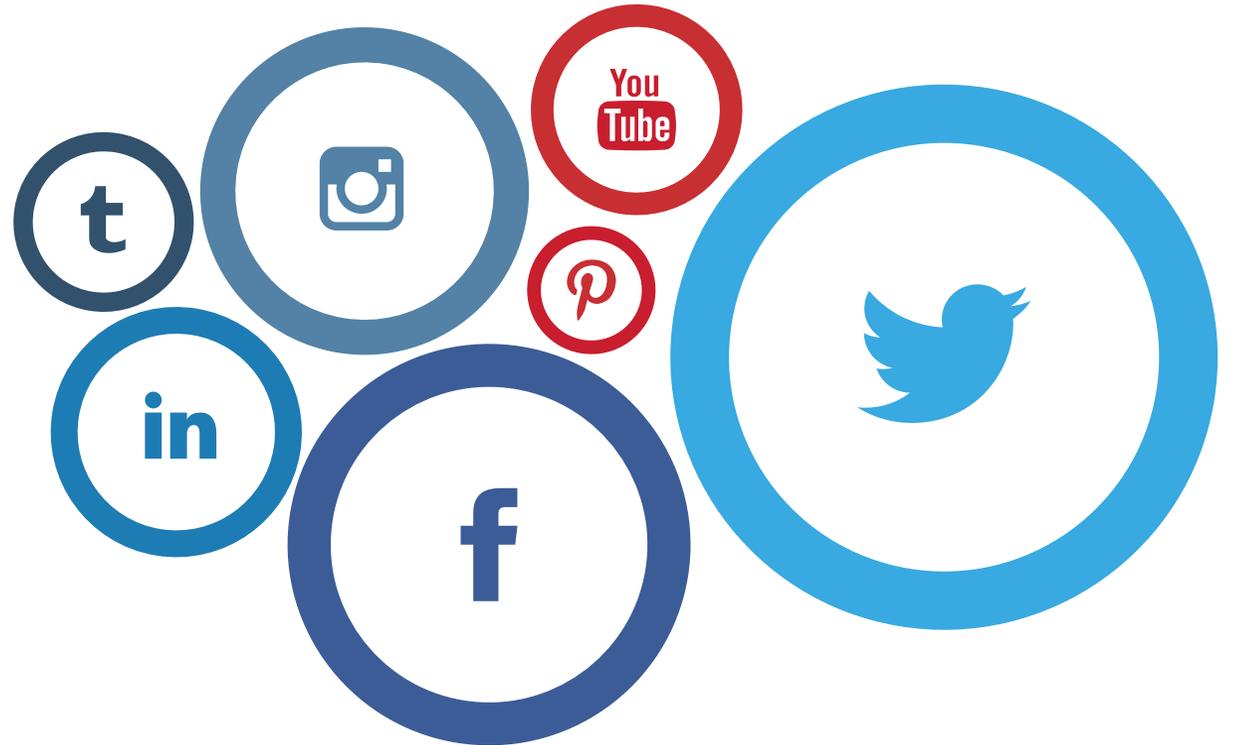
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# CONTACT

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[Dewan@Tamayouz-Award.com](mailto:Dewan@Tamayouz-Award.com)





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