Baghdad Design Centre
An international annual ideas competition

10.Feb - 09.Sep
The Rifat Chadirji Prize 2018

Photo Courtesy of Mustafa Nader
The Rifat Chadirji Prize 2018
An International annual Ideas competition responding to local 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).

Baghdad is situated on both sides of the Tigris River. The city is approximately 300 miles from the northern, southern, and western borders of the country. It has a temperature range of 5°C - 15°C in winter and an average of 47°C in summer. Baghdad is divided into two parts by the Tigris River; the eastern part is called Al-Rusafa and the western part is called Al-Karkh.

The Abbasid Caliphate established their capital in the city of Baghdad in 762CE. Over the next five centuries, Islamic culture flourished and Baghdad became renowned as a centre of learning and tolerance. Scholarship was encouraged and scientists, doctors, philosophers and engineers made significant advances in their fields. Art and architecture combined to produce beautiful mosques and palaces. This period is known as the Golden Age of Islam.
Site and the Old Building

The site is the old Baghdad Governorate Building in Al-Rusafa side of Baghdad (old Al-Rusafa area), the site lies between Al-Rasheed st. to the north, Al-Mutanabbi st., Al-Shuhadaa Bridge and Madrasa Mustansiriya to the east, the Abbasid Palace to the west and Al-Qishla and Tigris river to the south.

The partially remaining building fabric on the competition site is what was once the Old Baghdad Governorate Building built in the early 20th century.

The Old Baghdad Governorate building was heavily damaged (only the skin of the building remains) due to the looting and the vandalism in the week that followed the 2003 US invasion of Iraq. The site is currently underused, and have not been properly maintained.

The competition site and the skin of the old building are now called Al-Multaqa (the meeting point), where people usually meet before heading to the crowded surrounding areas.
The competition site is in the old Al-Rusafa neighbourhood, the historic centre of Baghdad and has a long history going back to more than a thousand years. This old core has become a complex urban organism, the area of Old Al-Rusafa once enclosed within the old wall is approximately 5.4 square kilometres, contains nearly 15,700 buildings. Currently, Al-Rusafa forms a contracting mixture of dense irregular traditional fabric and gridiron modern developments often conflicting with each other in form, scale and function, the importance of Old Al-Rusafa is not only local but also regional and national. It contains the biggest concentrations of traditional suqs (markets), workshops, some of the most significant mosques and governmental administrative buildings in Iraq.

The nearest main street to the site is Al-Mutanabbi Street, one of the oldest and best-known streets in the Iraqi capital, viewed as a barometer of the state of Iraqi culture over the course of the centuries. The history of the street goes back to the time of the Abbasids, it was the site of the first book traders’ market in the metropolis that was Baghdad. With its almost inexhaustible supply of books, it was named after the 10th-century classical Iraqi poet Al-Mutanabbi. On Fridays, thousands of Baghdadis visit the old Al-Rusafa area many of these visits start at the Al-Multaqa (Our competition site) then to Al-Mutannabi or spending time at one of the many famous Baghdadi coffee houses, cultural spots or markets in the area.

Al-Rasheed Street, in downtown Baghdad is the commercial heart of this area and contains the city’s financial district, government buildings, and the copper, textile, and gold bazaars. Al-Rasheed Street has the best examples of Art Nouveau and Art Deco buildings examples in Iraq.
The Challenge

The period following 2003 has been one of the most challenging times for modern Iraq. In the wake of the US invasion and the looting that followed it, the country witnessed and felt countless traumas affecting all parts of society. Crimes against public property surged, while attacks on Iraq’s art, culture and heritage became commonplace.

Since 2003, more than half of the listed and historical buildings have been lost. At the moment, the majority of Iraq’s heritage buildings have become victim to two negative approaches: either they are intentionally or unintentionally neglected, leading to their collapse or they are unlisted and replaced with modern, low-quality developments. In the last 15 years, 700 buildings out of 1,300 historical buildings in the Iraqi capital have been lost, according to various news reports. Old Al-Rusafa is one of the historic centres of Baghdad, and its built fabric has been under pressure from modern development and has suffered tremendous losses in terms of its traditional forms.

For this reason, this competition hopes to see a new 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 transformation of the site into a Design Centre that showcases the best of contemporary Iraqi design and is also a space of creative collaboration forms the basis of the brief. Whilst creating a new and optimistic vision for the future of design within Iraq the proposals should also set a benchmark for the respectful treatment of cultural heritage in a true fusion of the old and the new.
Response
Participants are asked to transform the current unused site of the Old Governorate Building into the Baghdad Design Centre while integrating the damaged facades in their ideas for the building. The facades will be a memorial for an era in Baghdad’s history.

The Constraints
The 8m high x 0.48-0.5m deep damaged facade is to be incorporated into the design of the Baghdad Design Centre. The integration of the front façade is a must, the other 3 facades’ integration is optional. Brick Dimensions 24*12*8cm

The Program
- A Flexible Space for Exhibitions, meetings and Lectures (Up to 200 people).
- Shared workshop space for artists architects and designers.
- Library
- Reception with 2 administrative offices
- Co-working and shared office space for startups
- Restrooms
- A Cafe / with a seating area and restrooms
- Parking is not required.
- A public space: The site, currently free of programme, provides spatial relief within a very dense urban fabric and has become a meeting place. It is suggested that a significant part of the proposed use could be maintained as a public space.
Participants are asked to transform the current unused site of the Old Governorate Building into the Baghdad Design Centre while integrating the damaged facades in their ideas for the new building. The facades will be a memorial for an era in Baghdad’s history.

The 8m high damaged facade is to be incorporated into the design of the Baghdad Design Centre. The integration of the front façade is a must, the other 3 facades’ integration is optional.
ELIGIBILITY
Architects, students, engineers and designers are invited to participate in this prize. Participation can be on an individual or team basis (maximum of four team members). We encourage the participation of multidisciplinary teams.

Under no circumstances will jury panel members, organisers or any of their family members be allowed to participate in this competition.

SCHEDULE
09 / February / 2018 - Official announcement of the competition and Early bird registration.

06 / June / 2018 - Start of the Standard registration.

01 / September / 2018 - Last week for registration.

06 / September / 2018 - Closing date for Registration.

09 / September / 2018 - Closing date for Submissions.

November / 2018 - Announcement of Results.

December 2018 - Annual Tamayouz Excellence Award Ceremony.

All Deadlines are 11:59 pm GMT (London)

REGISTRATION
Early Registration: £40/$50 from 06/02/2018 Until 06/06/2018

Standard Registration: £58/$75 from 07/06/2018 Until 31/08/2018

Last Chance Registration: £75/$100 from 01/09/2018 Until 06/09/2018

REGISTER HERE
REGULATIONS
1. This is an anonymous competition with the Unique Registration Number is 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 contextual parameters of the project through identification of local challenges, construction and living culture.
RESPONSE - Aspirational and original projects with programmatic response to existing environmental and social conditions and local challenges.
RESOLUTION - Spatial, material and technical justification. Clarity of design process.
IMPACT - Clear definition of positive transformative social, spatial and environmental impact of the project.
VISION - Aesthetic, materials and technical ambitions and treatment of the damaged facades.
Important Information

Click for Location

Click for a 360 view of the site

Click to Download CAD Drawings, images and recommended readings

Click for a video of the site
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

1 - One A0 board in PDF format, Every team is encouraged to submit all the information they consider necessary to explain their proposal. Content may include but not limited to plans, sections, elevations, visualisations, diagrams, etc. The resolution of the boards must be 150dpi 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

Zip File:
1 X A0 (PDF - 150 dpi)
1 X Word DOC (250) Words
**PRIZES**

The winners of the Rifat Chadirji Prize 2018 will receive the following prizes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize Winner</th>
<th>2nd &amp; 3rd Prizes</th>
<th>People’s Choice Award</th>
<th>Top 20 Certificates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Rifat Chadirji Prize Statuette</strong> + <strong>$5000 &amp; Certificate</strong> + <strong>Trip to the 2018 Award Ceremony (Flights and Hotel)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1000 Each</strong> + <strong>Certificate</strong> + <strong>Trip to the 2018 Award Ceremony (Flights and Hotel)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$500 Certificate</strong></td>
<td><strong>Published work on our website, social media pages and in Exhibitions.</strong></td>
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**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, Every year Tamayouz International Award chooses a different city to host the ceremony, in 2017 it was held in Amman - Jordan. This year’s City will be announced later in the year.
The Judging Panels of Tamayouz Excellence Award always comprised of world class architects, engineers, planners, designers and academics.

- 2012: Dame Zaha Hadid, DBE - UK Judging Panel Chair
- 2016: Tamayouz Excellence In Graduation Projects Jury Board convened at Coventry University
- 2017: Our Judging Panel for the Rifat Chadirji Prize for Architecture; Rebuilding Iraq’s Liberated Areas - Mosul’s Housing

2016: The Tamayouz Award judges during the ceremony in Amman - Jordan
The Rifat Chadirji Statuette 
by Dia Azzawi

Internationally celebrated Iraqi Artist, Dia Azzawi designed the Rifat Chadirji Prize statuette, a sculpture inspired by the built work of Rifat Chadirji. Dia Azzawi has generously given the design and the production of 25 sculptures as gift to Tamayouz Award in appreciation of Rifat Chadirji’s cultural role in Iraq and the wider region.

Born in Baghdad in 1939, Dia Azzawi started his artistic career in 1964, after graduating from the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad and completing a degree in archaeology from Baghdad University in 1962. With exhibitions of his work held his art features in international private and public collections including the Museums of Modern Art in: Baghdad, Damascus and Tunis; Jeddah International Airport; British Museum, Tate Modern, and Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Institut du Monde Arabe, Bibliothèque Nationale de France and Colas Foundation, Paris; Gulbenkian Collection, Barcelona; and Library of Congress and the World Bank, Washington.
PUBLICATIONS
Click on Any logo to see the media mention

Ceremony Video

TV Interviews

NBC NEWS
REUTERS
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

For the 2017 Tamayouz Ceremony in Amman Click HERE
The Rifat Chadirji Prize 2017 - Mosul’s Housing Exhibition and Presentations

Two public exhibitions were held in Amman, a number of upcoming events are planned in other cities throughout 2018.

Triplicity Architects - Honorable Mention 2017

H.E. Minister of Housing and Public works in Jordan, H.E Iraq’s Ambassador to Jordan and Executive Board of the Iraqi Business Council in Jordan visit the Exhibition

Head of Architecture at Cambridge University, Professor Wendy Pullan (judge) and the winners of the Rifat Chadirji Prize 2017
ABOUT THE PRIZE

The Rifat Chadirji Prize is the newest prize to be established as part of the Tamayouz Excellence Award program of championing and celebrating the best of Iraqi architecture.

The prize is named after Dr Rifat Chadirji (1926), a great Iraqi Architect whose influence and importance is far beyond built work. The award will officially be launched in January 2017, celebrating the 90th Birthday of the brilliant architect. The Rifat Chadirji Prize is a thematic open-ideas international prize focusing on design proposals responding to local challenges throughout Iraq. The primary objective is to establish an accessible source of ideas to combat the country’s social challenges through design.

“Let us architects acknowledge our problems and make art of them. Let us accept our fate and celebrate our art as beautifully as Rifat Chadirji celebrated his.” Robert Venturi - 1984
PHOTOS AND INFORMATION
Download Information Pack here

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Please check all terms and conditions on www.rifatchadirji.com

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