



CIAV – International Committee of Vernacular Architecture

CALL FOR PAPERS ANNUAL MEETING and CONFERENCE Al Ain, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, UAE 2012

CIAV invites all ICOMOS members and all interested professionals to its next annual meeting and conference to be held in Al Ain, UAE 19th – 22nd November 2012

The theme for the seminar will be “**The place of vernacular built heritage in a rapidly changing context**” The venue will be Al Ain, in the eastern region of Abu Dhabi Emirate, one of the seven emirates that constitute the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The landscape of the city is characterized by the oasis, the desert and the mountain. The cultural sites of Al Ain were inscribed as a serial property on UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 2011.

Earthen buildings make the majority of the built heritage of Al Ain. Some are archaeological remains from the Bronze Age, Iron Age or the Islamic period. Others are vernacular buildings in or around one of the six oases that originated the modern Al Ain city. The vernacular earthen buildings of Al Ain are in various states of conservation. They also vary in significance and authenticity. The context of the vernacular heritage is changing rapidly from desert environment to urban and suburban cityscapes.

The conservation of vernacular buildings faces challenges on many levels. On technical level, construction materials are fragile and vulnerable in modern city context. On the levels of function and management, reinstating vernacular buildings to play a role in modern day life is another major challenge. On the urban level, the fast pace of development puts a huge pressure on the vernacular built heritage. Parallels can be made from the region and other regions on the questions facing the place of the vernacular built heritage in a rapidly changing context.

Main conference theme:

The place of vernacular built heritage in a rapidly changing context

Sub-theme 1: The built vernacular heritage within context

- Session 1: Vernacular architecture of al Ain, Abu Dhabi and the Gulf region
- Session 2: Vernacular architecture in time and place
- Session 3: Reflections on vernacular architecture concepts with reference to ICOMOS Charter on Vernacular Architecture

Sub-theme 2: Technical aspects of conservation for vernacular buildings and archaeological sites

Session 1: Conservation techniques and approaches

Session 2: Emergency conservation

Session 3: Capacity building, traditional craftsmanship, old materials and techniques for conservation and new use

Sub-theme 3: Reinstating vernacular buildings in the present and future

Session 1: Rehabilitation and adaptive reuse for vernacular built heritage

Session 2: Urban pressure, environmental change and vernacular architecture

Session 3: Vernacular architecture of the present and the future
(including World Heritage & Human Rights)

A poster session: On vernacular architecture in general

The exhibition of VERNADOC 2012

ADACH Exhibition on Earthen Architecture

CIAV Annual Meeting

Call for papers: Participants wishing to present papers at the conference should submit an abstract no later than 1st April 2012 by email to hossam.mahdy@adach.ae . The abstract shall be in English including one or two illustrations, if relevant. Final submitting of paper is 1st September 2012.

Post conference tours within Abu Dhabi Emirate and the United Arab Emirates, ADACH will offer an opportunity to visit other interesting heritage sites.

The host: Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH). We look forward to welcoming you in Al Ain!



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