

ARCHITECT

MIDDLE EAST

NEWS, DATA, ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIC INSIGHTS FOR ARCHITECTS IN THE GCC

BUILDING FOCUS

On site at Aldar Academies' newly opened Al Bateen School

CASE STUDY

Aedas' double award-winning housing scheme in Afghanistan

BEST IN CLASS

Dubai's Rolex Tower by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill wins Best Overall Project at Middle East Architect Awards 2011

PEOPLE



Eric Owen Moss receives Jencks Award from RIBA

US architect Eric Owen Moss received the annual Jencks Award from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

The RIBA noted that Moss' buildings have 'helped shape the discourse of architectural internationally'.

Moss' practice, Eric Owen Moss Architects (EOMA), has worked in global locations, including Russia and Austria, but the majority of its portfolio is situated in California, including the Samitaur Tower in Culver City.

Awards patron Charles Jencks added: "Eric Moss has been committed to evolving a unique local grammar of architecture from the Culver City vernacular that is at once creative, critical and evocative, a commitment to place and character for 30 years that is without parallel."



Reconstruction of Mariinski Theatre in St. Petersburg by Eric Owen Moss.

CTBUH appoints architect as new chairman

Architect Tim Johnson has been elected chairman of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH), the international body for high-rise towers.

Johnson will succeed current chairman, structural engineer Sang Dae Kim, at a ceremony during the CTBUH Seoul Conference from 10-12 October 2011.

He said: "As a tall building 'junkie' I am passionate about tall buildings and will continue to emphasise the urban habitat as a crucial aspect of this organisation.

"As an architect, one of my roles in the industry is to be the keeper of the vision, a conductor and catalyst.

Johnson is a design partner for NBBJ where he leads the firm's international commercial design practice. He will chair CTBUH until October 2013.

60 SECOND INTERVIEW

SUMAYA DABBAGH, PRINCIPAL, DABBAGH ARCHITECTS

What do you enjoy most about working in the Middle East?

As a Saudi architect educated in the UK, the opportunity to contribute to the growth of the region has been particularly rewarding. There is an opportunity to bridge the gaps between Middle Eastern sensibilities and Western know-how.

What are the needs for the industry?

There is a need for developers and planners so that the city is not left with isolated pockets of individual beautiful developments which do not consider the spaces created in between them.

Where are the current opportunities in the region?

The change in economic climate has forced a greater consideration of value, quality design and sustainability for projects. In the UAE, KSA and Qatar, these challenges and opportunities require talented architects to create better and more innovative design.



“The ‘pipe dreams’ of the past are exactly that, and clients are now demanding intelligent designs backed up by research.”

Karim Benkirane, regional managing principal - Woods Bagot Middle East

“The time has come to move the talk of sustainable and environmentally sound practices into real action.”



Eng. Issa M. Al Mohammadi, chief executive officer, Msheireb Properties

“The fundamentals of the Dubai market remain strong. It never changed, even after the financial crisis.”

Niall McLoughlin, senior vice president, Damac Properties

