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Matthew Engele takes top honours 19





ARCHITECT OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2016

This year saw 295 entries across 15 categories from all over the Middle East, giving our judges the tough task of assessing the designs, personalities and creative companies who were nominated. The winners were revealed during a gala celebration at the Conrad, Dubai on 29 November.

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Community and Cultural Project of the Year

Mleiha Archaeological Centre

Dabbagh Architects

he Community and Cultural Project of the Year was Dabbagh Architects for the Mleiha Archaeological Centre.

The project integrates some of the region's oldest historical remains into a design which reflects the context of its desert location. The judges called it "a delightful building that rises out of its landscape context and generates some sublime spaces".

Sumaya Dabbagh, who runs the company, said: "To be honest, we were up against Dubai Opera so I felt that Opera would win being a much bigger project, but I am really delighted and it is such

an honour for me and my team.

"It is a unique project and we are really happy how it turned out. It is very contextual, it takes the desert environment into consideration. It is sustainable and I think it creates a really good visitor experience, which was our aim."

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Dubai Opera Atkins

SHORTLIST

Abwab 2015 LOCI Architecture+Design **AI Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre** HH Rulers Office Sharjah

Persian Pottery Research Center Arash G Tehrani Design Studio

Wasit Natural Reserve Visitor Center X Architects

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