

*Dariusz Zandi* brings over 40 years of design and planning experience in the Middle East. Drawing from a geographically and culturally diverse background.

Dariusz has made contributions to design and planning projects in the Middle East and elsewhere.

He completed his education in architecture, urban design, and city planning, film and photography in the United States, moved to Dubai in 1980 to take a position in the Dubai Municipality's Town Planning Department; as a Senior Architect and Town Planner. This continued to 1994 before he established two organizations registered in Dubai, UAE: Total Design, a design studio, and Total Arts, a gallery that displays collections of art from various continents and cultures.

Dariusz Zandi acted as the Chair of the UAE Architectural Heritage Society (English Chapter) and regularly lectures in his field.

### ***Education***

- Master of Architecture, University of Pennsylvania, 1980
- Master of City Planning, with certificate in Urban Design, University of Pennsylvania, 1979
- Bachelor of Architecture, School of Architecture and Environmental Studies, City College, City University of New York, 1977
- Bachelor of Science in Architecture, School of Architecture and Environmental Studies, City College, City University of New York, 1976
- Stage design, construction and photography, Ohlone College, Fremont, California, 1976

### ***Professional & Civic Activities***

- Architectural Advisory Board of American University of Dubai, 2009-present
- Lecture at Future Cities Conference Dubai, Kyushu University Japan, Azad University of Dubai, New York University, San Francisco University, City College of New York
- Faculty of Higher College of Technology, UAE, 1994-1997

### ***Associations & Employment***

- **CetraRuddy**, New York City, 2008-present
- **SOSH Architect**, New York City, 2005-2008
- **Gruzen Samton IBI**, Dubai, New York City, 2004-2015, Director of Middle East
- **Hi Rise Construction Company**, Dubai, UAE, 1993-1997, Managing Partner for construction and construction supervision of residential, commercial, industrial buildings in the UAE
- **Dubai Municipality**, Planning Department, 1981-1994, Senior Architect, Town Planner, Urban Designer in charge of regional, rural, residential, recreation, commercial, industrial, environmental, and planning projects including historical restoration, master planning and urban design projects
- **Jafar Tukan and Partners**, Amman, Jordan, 1977-1978, Design

- and production of working drawing for architectural and urban design, commercial and residential projects in Amman, Jordan and the GCC, among them, the archaeological center and hotel in the ancient site of Petra and reconfiguration of Roman site and ancient city of Jerash, Deira Creek Corniche in Dubai, Taga Residential & Commercial Center in Riyadh
- **Claude Samton Associates**, Architect, New York City, 1972-1980, Design and production of working drawing for architectural and urban design projects in and around New York state. The projects included housing renovations, office space planning, reuse of New York City underground stations and tunnels
  - **Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies**, New York City, 1972- 1973, Lecture coordinator, worked with Andrew McNair and Peter Eisenman in organizing their lecture series

### *Historical Restoration Projects, 1981-present*

#### **Sheikh Saeed House, Historical Preservation Section for Dubai Municipality, UAE, 1981-1987**

Project Manager, Senior Architect. Studied, designed and supervised the reconstruction of project along with Makiya Ass which involved the building's conversion into the Historical Documentation Museum. This project was the recipient of an award from the Arab Cities Organization as an example of the renovation of traditional buildings and vernacular architecture in the Gulf.

#### **Dubai Museum (Al Fahidi Fort), Historical Preservation Section for Dubai Municipality, UAE, 1985-1990**

Project Manager, Senior Architect. Designed study along with the consultant. Since 1971, Al Fahidi Fort has been the home to Dubai Museum. The Museum houses artifacts which give a fascinating insight into the history and culture of the region. The materials used to construct the fort were coral rock for walls, sand for infill and hardwood mangrove poles. Palm leaf matting was used to span the joists and covered with lime and stone slurry to give a hard finish.

#### **Study of Dubai Creek in view of the inscription on the World Heritage List for UNESCO, 2012**

Consultant to provide technical assistance for the preparation of the Nomination File in view of the inscription of Dubai Creek on the World Heritage List for UNESCO and for the Architectural Heritage Department of Dubai Municipality. The output of the consultancy was a series of research papers detailing three distinct aspects relating to the history and heritage of Dubai and of Dubai Creek: Life along the Creek, Boats and boat owners and seafarers, A comparative review of the Gulf cities and their commercial role from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present was included in this study.

#### **Gulf Encyclopedia for Sustainable Urbanism, Research Project by Harvard University, 2011**

Consultant to provide technical advice to Gulf Encyclopedia for Sustainable Urbanism study (UAE region). The methodology was based on a rigorous understanding of the past, present and future development trajectories in the region as well as on the most current knowledge of sustainability. The past was analyzed to help answer how urban growth has coped with environmental conditions and society needs, while the present was examined both deviation of local traditions together with the new cosmopolitan culture in the region. The underlying concept is that future urban growth should study and learn from the past, and understand how present being shaped by forces resulting from future projections and aspirations.

The other restoration projects are:

- **Hatta Ancient Village, Dubai Historical Preservation Section, Dubai, UAE**
- **Old Al Ahmadiyah School, Dubai Historical Preservation Section, Dubai, UAE**
- **Police Museum (Naif Fort), Department of Tourism, Dubai, UAE, 2002**
- **Fujairah Fort, Government of Fujairah, UAE, 1996**
- **Majlis Art Gallery (historical building), private client, Dubai, UAE**
- **Fossil Museum, Muscat, Oman**
- **Fez Old City Restoration, Morocco, 1979**
- **Ali Qoli old neighborhood restoration, 1979**

### *Architecture, Urban Design, and Housing Projects, 1978-present*

#### **Madinat Al Soor, Dubai Waterfront Development, For Nakheel, Dubai, UAE, 2007-2009**

Urban designer along with RMJM, for the one million square meter “Madinat Al Soor” mixed-use development, a sustainable, modern pedestrian city for approximately 22,000 new residents. Located at the harbor entrance to Waterfront City, Madinat Al Soor includes residences, souks, hotels, as well as civic and cultural facilities which derives its inspiration from the richly textured, Arabic settlements, with their narrow and intimate streets, compact, low-rise buildings and courtyards, canal systems and waterfront spaces, and emphasis on environmental sustainability. While prototypical Arabic town planning principles inform the project, individual buildings and spaces will reflect a modern understanding of the Arabic architectural vernacular and will conform to contemporary building methods. Indigenous sustainable design techniques will be integrated, with an emphasis on passive solar shading and siting to achieve a natural cooling effect. The site’s position is ideally situated to capture the cooling breezes of the local northwesterly prevailing wind, and the combination of solar shading, light ventilated roof systems, and landscape design could result in energy savings of as much as 30 to 40 percent.

#### **Downtown Jebel Ali, For Limitless, Dubai, UAE, 2006-2009**

Architect and urban designer with Gruzen Samton of New York City, for the Development Code Guidelines and Urban Design and Architectural Code Enhancement. Articulation based on visual/pedestrian height vectors and landmarks. Enhanced view corridors, gateways, edge definitions, small

plazas, vistas and landmarks, arcades, iconic building and scale of 207 hectares, 11 kilometers long/200-300 meters wide, potential built-up 6 to 7 million square meters, estimated living/working population 250,000 to 300,000 people massing.

**Nebula, Madinat Al Arab, Dubai Waterfront Development, For Al Burj, Dubai, UAE, 2006-2007**

Architect and master planner partnered with Shirdel and Associates. Overall master plan and building design for 300,000 sqm of gross floor area a kilometer long and 250 meters wide. The project in Precinct C of Jebel Ali is made up of seven plots over three street blocks of varying height from 10 to 55 stories along the sea and the canal. The proposal suggests a cohesive heterogeneous urban space, which facilitates the buildings with direct accessibility of public spaces in various levels. The proposal is a merger of public and private spaces linking the boulevard, park and the beach throughout the canal and canal esplanade. The master plan, visually, is based on a main icon and several signature buildings with a linear expression along the side of the beach, reinforced by two other major features: Boulevard Park and the Retail Spine/Arcade.

**Al Wasl New Town, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, For Limitless, Dubai, UAE, 2006-2009, under construction**

Architect and urban designer with Gruzen Samton of New York City, for the single family villa and town house development based on culture and place, climate and privacy control, architectural studies, elevation variation studies, sustainable/innovative design consultation and presentations.

**Dubai Promenade, For Nakheel, Dubai, UAE, 2005-2006**

Architect and urban designer with Gruzen Samton of New York City, for six residential towers as part of an architectural competition around a central park, North/Marina Towers 1.3 million sqft, South/Beach Towers 1.6 million sqft. Six residential towers arrayed around a central park, integrating with the ceremonial access to the proposed hotel complex at the tip of the peninsula. North Towers or Marina Towers have their distinct character, responding to the marina promenade. South Towers or Beach Towers are composed of slender, narrow profile maximizing views and ventilation.

**Al Ghurub Island Resorts, For Aldar, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 2005-2006**

Master plan design for six holiday resorts with Gruzen Samton of New York City in Al Ghurub Island located north east of Abu Dhabi Island, which is only accessible by seaplane and boat. Most of the island was left untouched to benefit from its natural beauty and resources of mangrove plantations and marine wildlife. To preserve the tranquility of this virgin island, the transport within was provided through battery cars via narrow pathways.

**Khasab Resort Development, Private Developer With Omani Tourism Authority, Oman, 2008**

Architect and coordinator with SOSH Architects of New York City, for

the complex of a resort hotel, apartments, luxury villas and palaces developed along the mountains coast of Oman in the northern cliffs of Musandam. Designing with the natural contour of the rocky mountain terrain and the sheer cliffs of the site resulted in a beautifully integrated design into the highly sensitive ecosystem of the site.

**World Islands, For Arabian Global Investments, Dubai, UAE, 2008-2009**

Architect and coordinator with CetraRuddy of New York City, for preparation of the contract document and schematic design for five Islands of Paraiso, The Islands of 1001 Nights, Oman and Yemen.

**Dubai Master Plan, Dubai Municipality, UAE, 1982-1985**

Senior Architect, Town Planner. Directed the master plan and city development documents for the city of Dubai. The plan included a development scheme for the old downtown and envisioned the plan for the city as well as the wider plan on the Emirates level. The program includes residential, commercial, industrial zoning, highways, a new airport, parks, cultural and civic institutions, and public transportation.

**Al Maktoum Road Development Scheme, Dubai Municipality, UAE, 1983-1985**

Senior Architect, Town Planner. Directed the master plan for a 2 kilometer long urban redevelopment surrounding this major road that links the Dubai airport to downtown Dubai. The scope of the project included the revision in urban land use, as well as zoning and massing the buildings in the vicinity of this major throughway.

**Safa Park, Dubai Municipality, UAE, 1982-1987**

Senior Architect, Town Planner. Directed the design of the 70 acre redevelopment of the existing Safa Park along with URPAK, in the heart of the residential community of Jumeirah. The development includes the introduction of lakes and hilly landscaped areas, with recreational facilities for children and sports including an intricate network of paths for jogging and running.

**Mushrif Park, Dubai Municipality, UAE, 1982-1990**

Senior Architect, Town Planner with Dubai Municipality. Directed the design of a 250 acre site for a national park and safari zoo in the outskirts of the city of Dubai along with PCA as the consultant. The design was divided into zones to facilitate the best possible use of the hilly terrain and the existing vegetation. The project included an oasis, indigenous plant life, palm trees, and formal and international gardens. The zoo was planned to cover over 100 acres and utilizes the existing hilly landscape to create a landscape similar to the animals' natural habitat.

**Global Village, Government of Dubai, UAE, 1997-1998**

Designer of the master plan of a 50 acre site along Dubai Creek and adjacent to Al Garhoud Bridge. This waterfront theme park development includes a

marine museum; theaters, apartment buildings, office towers, and shopping center replicating well-known architectural monuments throughout the world.

**Courtyard – Commercial, Cultural and Community Center, Dubai, UAE, 1996-1998**

Design and Project Manager for the construction of a 40,000 sqft commercial complex. This landmark's design contrasts distinctive exterior features with the warm, artistic feel of the offices, retail spaces, artist workshops and studios. The center has been instrumental to transform the Al Quoz neighborhood into an artistic and cultural hub.

The Courtyard's concept was to create a viable multidisciplinary community center, which could house a variety of functions, exhibitions and cultural activities in a city with many different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. It was created to be a place for people to meet, interact and learn about each other while engaging in art and culture.

**Jumeirah Palm Frond Villas, For Nakheel, Dubai, UAE, 2007-2008**

Designed the clusters of four luxury signature villas for several of Palm Jumeirah's fronds using the traditional Arabic architectural style, with gardens and swimming pools.

**Private villas, Mirdif, Dubai, UAE, 1996-1997**

Designed and constructed a set of private villas, incorporating the layout of indigenous architecture, at the edge of the desert.

**Design of private residences throughout the UAE, 1978-present**

***Multimedia Projects, 1981-present***

Whether advising corporate art initiatives and acquisitions or curating contemporary art exhibitions, as the co-founder of one of Dubai's first art spaces, the Dubai Art Center, Dariush Zandi has made contributions to art and design projects over the last 40 years.

List of selected projects are:

- **MOCAfest** Art Exhibition, Curator, World Islamic Economic Forum, Madinat Al Salam, Dubai, 2014
- **Dubai Chamber of Commerce**, Consultant and supplier of artworks, Dubai, 2011-present
- **Magic of Persia** art exhibition and auction, Curator, Dubai DIFC and Abu Dhabi Yas Island, 2011
- **Sand show**, Project Co-Director and Curator, proposed: a large scale land art project, Abu Dhabi
- **Cultural Program for Al Soor**, Planner, Dubai Waterfront project, development for 25,000 population, Dubai, 2009

- **Documentary films for Architectural Heritage Museum**, Consultant and Director of 10 films, Dubai, 2007
- **Commercial Bank of Dubai** headquarters, Consultant and Designer of artworks, Dubai, 2003
- **Naif Police Museum** exhibition, Curator and Executor, Dubai, 2002
- **Documentary Films for Naif Police Museum**, Consultant and Director of 3 films, Dubai, 2002
- **Courtyard Art Complex**, Designer and Project Manager, including art galleries, artist workshops and studios and retail spaces, Dubai, 1998
- **Al Ahmadiya School**, Project Director, museum and documentary films, Dubai, 1998
- **Opening Ceremony of FIFA's AFC Asian Football Cup**, Design Consultant, Abu Dhabi, 1996
- **Fossil Hall**, Executor, Natural History Museum, Muscat, 1995
- **Dubai Museum**, Project Director and Executor, Al Fahidi Fort, Dubai, 1994
- Exhibition of **French Major Architectural Projects** for Dubai Municipality, Curator and Organizer, Dubai, 1988
- **Pearl of the Gulf**, Project Director, a monument at the intersection of the Gulf and the Dubai Creek, Dubai, 1988
- **Permanent Collection of Old Photographs and Historical Documents** at Sheikh Saeed House, Curator, Dubai, 1988
- **Sheikh Saeed House**, Project Director, Museum of Old Photographs and Documents, Dubai, 1985
- **Dubai Arts Center**, Chairman of Photography, Board Member, Instructor, Dubai, 1981-1990

### *Publications*

- **Architectural Heritage of the Gulf**, Co-Author with Shirley Kay, 1994
- **Off-Road in the Emirates**, book I, 1992
- **Off-Road in the Emirates**, book II, 1996
- **Off-Road in the Emirates**, book III, 2003
- **Off-Road in the Emirates**, book IV, 2007

Contributions to:

- **Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World**, edited by Paul Oliver, UK, 1996
- **Windtower**, Peter Jackson & Anne Cole, 2007
- **Those Were The Days**, Shahnaz Pakravan, 2008
- Around 20 publications, mainly books of photography on Urban Design and contributions to many domestic and international books and publications