

# Pearl Route

Muharraq, Bahrain

*Architect* Bahrain Ministry of Culture  
Muharraq, Bahrain

*Client* Bahrain Ministry of Culture  
& Antiquities

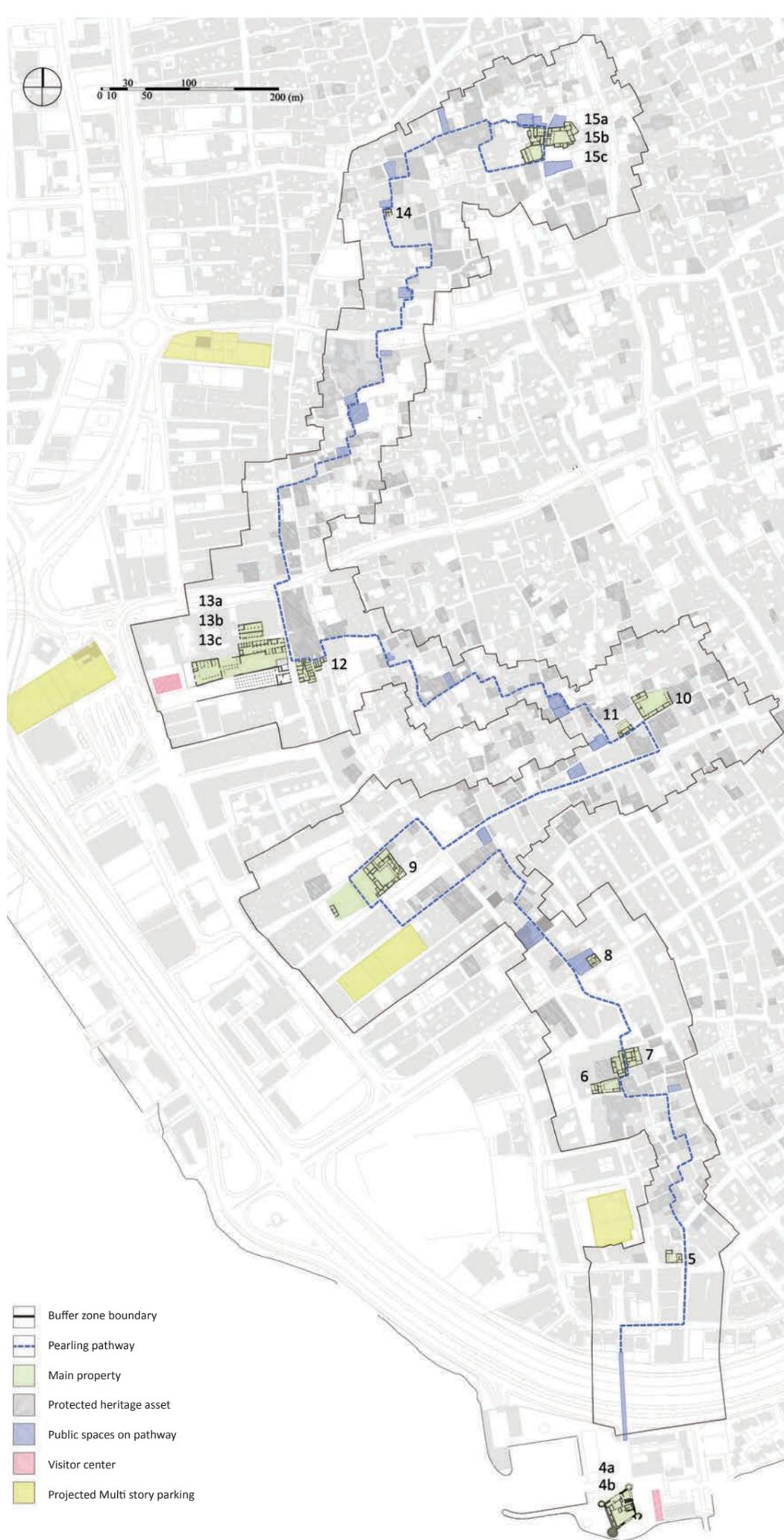
*Commission* 2010  
*Design* 2010 – 2013  
*Construction* 2011 – 2013  
*Occupancy* 2013

*Site* 330,000 m<sup>2</sup>  
*Ground Floor* 13,597 m<sup>2</sup>  
*Total Floor* 13,597 m<sup>2</sup>

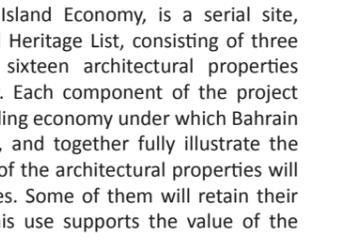
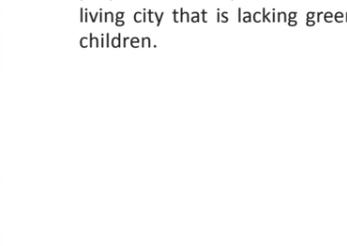
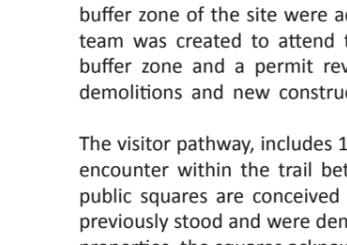
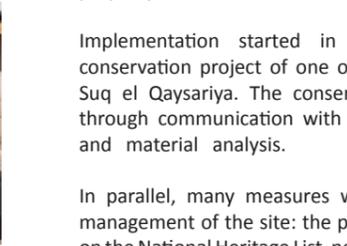
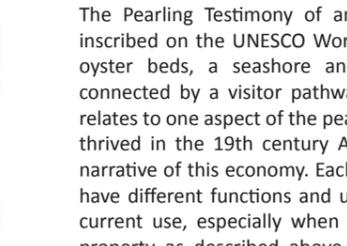
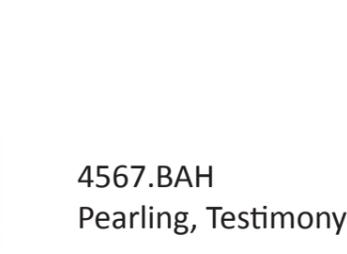
*Costs* USD 92,700,000

*Programme* A serial site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the project consists of three oyster beds, a seashore and sixteen architectural properties throughout Muharraq, each relating to one aspect of the pearling economy, connected by a visitor pathway. This pathway includes 18 public spaces that act as places of encounter, on plots of land where old houses previously stood, and acknowledge the need for green open spaces. It is planned to conserve and adapt the 16 architectural properties, build three new structures: two visitor centres and one pedestrian bridge linking the seashore to the town, and highlight the pathway through an urban design project and façade upgrade. Today, four site components, as well as a visitor centre, are open to the public, alongside two public squares.

*Building Type* Conservation & Adaptive  
Re-Use  
*2019 Award Cycle* 4567.BAH



- 15c Siyadi Mosque
- 15b Siyadi Majlis
- 15a Siyadi House
- 14 Nūkhidhah House
- 13c 'Amārat Ali Rashed Fakhro (II)
- 13b 'Amārat Ali Rashed Fakhro (I)
- 13a 'Amārat Yousif A. Fakhro
- 12 Siyadi shops bloc A
- 12 Siyadi shops bloc B
- 11 Murad majlis
- 10 Murad House
- 9 Fakhro House
- 8 Al Alawi House
- 7 Al-Jalahma House
- 6 Badr Ghulum House
- 6 Turabi House
- 5 Al-Ghūs House
- 4b Qal'at Bū Māhir
- 4a Bū Māhir Seashore
- 3 Hayr Shtayyah
- 2 Hayr Bū 'Amāmah
- 1 HaBū-l-Thāmah



## 4567.BAH Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy

November, 2015

Submitted by:  
Bahrain authority for culture and  
antiquities BACA

The Pearling Testimony of an Island Economy, is a serial site, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, consisting of three oyster beds, a seashore and sixteen architectural properties connected by a visitor pathway. Each component of the project relates to one aspect of the pearling economy under which Bahrain thrived in the 19th century AD, and together fully illustrate the narrative of this economy. Each of the architectural properties will have different functions and uses. Some of them will retain their current use, especially when this use supports the value of the property as described above.

Implementation started in early 2011 through a sample conservation project of one of the site's components, located in Suq el Qaysariya. The conservation principles adopted evolved through communication with UNESCO, experimentations on site and material analysis.

In parallel, many measures were taken for the protection and management of the site: the property components were inscribed on the National Heritage List, new regulations for construction in the buffer zone of the site were adopted, an emergency conservation team was created to attend to dilapidating houses in the same buffer zone and a permit review team was created to monitor demolitions and new constructions in Muharraq.

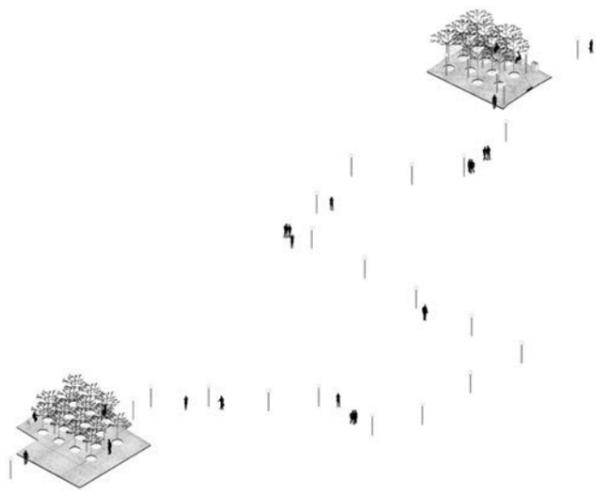
The visitor pathway, includes 18 public spaces that act as places of encounter within the trail between residents and visitors. These public squares are conceived on plots of land where old houses previously stood and were demolished. Instead of rebuilding these properties, the squares acknowledge the needs of a contemporary living city that is lacking green open spaces and playgrounds for children.



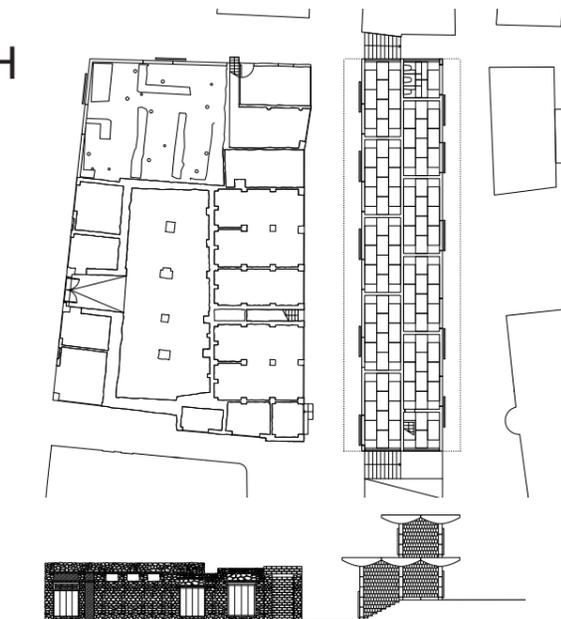
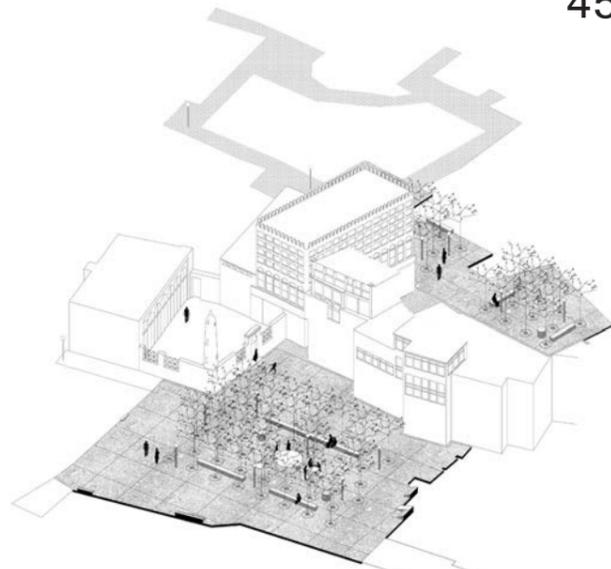
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### Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy

The ambition of the project is to act as a catalyst for the rehabilitation and urban upgrade of the Old City of Muharraq and to contribute to a sustainable development of the city, involving the inhabitants and creating new environmentally friendly economies.



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Public Spaces- Office KGDVS & Bureau Bas Smets with Transolar  
The 18 public spaces that follow the pearl trail are designed as micro-climates within the city through the use of natural shading and climatic devices.

Suq el Qaysariya Rehabilitation- BACA & Studio Anne Holtrop  
The rehabilitation of the old suq of Qaysariya includes the conservation of the original suq structures along with a new construction that is compatible with the historic fabric of the suq and incorporates passive cooling methods.

'Amārat Fakhro (I) Al-Ghūs House- BACA & Sahel Al Hiyari  
These two projects are the first of four completed conservation projects within the Pearl Path and demonstrate the principles of conservation applied.

