Gamal Bakry
Architecture Journey
a monograph
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Ask anyone on the street who Gamal Bakry is, they may or may not know. Ask any architecture student or architect and they will surely know who this man is. He is as famous for his designs as he is for his outspoken views on himself, architecture, the profession and the country.

Celebrating his 70th birthday last November, Bakry displayed half a century of design, innovation and involvement in the field of architecture. In a country where not everything is clear or obvious, the art of criticism is often misunderstood. Criticism is not by default the revelation of poor design decisions. Criticism can be a powerful educational tool that convincingly explains the positive aspects of a designer’s work.

Our decision to publish a monograph is a step in this direction of education. Part of the problem of the lack of architectural awareness is the lack of adequate documentation and first hand information (such as interviews). The decision to focus on the successful work of Bakry indicates our commitment to further the development of architecture in this community. Therefore, this issue is as much a tribute to this legacy as it is a criticism of some of his works.

Plurality by nature garners criticism, and as Bakry does not like to repeat himself, his works are therefore quite varied and dis-connected. In this issue we have a telling and insightful interview with the man himself. Different professionals from the field have also reviewed and criticized some of his built and unbuilt works as well as his little known talent for painting and graphic design.

Rarely are legends born, rarely are they unanimously loved, but always they leave an impression.

Tammy Gaber

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