



Studio Anne Holtrop

ETH Zürich

Green Corner Building, Studio Anne Holtrop

seminar week

HS23



MATERIAL GESTURE:

SITE

Royal Burial Mound, photo by Camille Zakaria

Kingdom of Bahrain

October 23–28, 2023

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For millennia, Bahrain was known as Dilmun and was associated with the land of paradise and the Garden of Eden. The region was a central economic and cultural hub that linked trade routes from the South East to the civilisations of Mesopotamia. Pearls from this region were sought after as the world's most beautiful and thus shaped the economy, history, and culture of Bahraini society. The increasing demand for pearls generated a single-product economy on the island and influenced the livelihood of the entire society. Nowadays, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities celebrates this heritage with an initiative called the Pearling Path, a cultural project listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

During our trip, we will visit the Pearling Path, which comprises of the coral reefs and oyster beds, the pearl diving and trading culture, and traditional buildings. We will see new architectural projects that have been added to rehabilitate the old city, such as the Visitors Centre by Valerio Olgiati, the Dars and Public Squares by Office Kersten Geers David Van Severen, the Search Library by Atelier Bow-Wow, the Parkings by Christian Kerez, and ongoing and recently completed projects by Studio Anne Holtrop, such as the Qaysariya Suq and the Siyadi Pearl Museum. Through-out the week, we will also visit the archeological site of Dilmun Burial Mounds in A'ali, and a boat trip to Jarada Island. This seminar week is open to a maximum of 25 students.

Experts: Noura Al Sayeh Holtrop (architect & curator), Camille Zakharia (photographer), Ali Karimi (architect and co-founder of Civil Architecture) Maitham Almubarak (architect at Studio Anne Holtrop and co-designer at Bahraini Danish) & Batool Alshaikh (curator and co-designer at Bahraini Danish)

Expense category E (1001–1500 CHF) includes the costs of flights, accommodation, daily excursions with experts. The amount does not include food.

Prof. Anne Holtrop and assistants Yuiko Shigeta, Grace Prince, Stephan Lando, Philip Stöckler, Arturo López Ayala.

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