

# Innovative buildings for the future

University of Bahrain architects reformulate concept of vertical housing designs

● Aimed at creating suitable, comfortable and quality residence for Bahraini family

● Maximising limited spaces requiring consultants to go towards vertical construction

TDI | Manama

University of Bahrain architecture students have presented innovative designs with the concept of vertical housing.

It was part of the seventh edition of “Housing Bank for Engineering Creativity” competition organised by the Housing Bank in cooperation with the university.

The competition’s slogan, “Vertical Housing Environment”, saw various designs aimed at creating a suitable residence for the Bahraini family that meets the requirements of a comfortable life and makes them feel the quality of life, taking into account the limited spaces that require consultants to go towards vertical construction.

The top three winners of the competition were Abdullah Muhammad Hassan, Ahmed Abdul Jabbar Hilal and Layal Tahseen Shana’a. Their designs were cho-



One of the winning vertical housing design concepts

sen from among the 118 projects submitted by fellow students of the Architecture Department of the College of Engineering.

The jury, consisted of experienced academics and engineers, selected a short list of 28 projects, which were in turn subjected to evaluation again, lead-

ing to the selection of the three winning projects.

Regarding his project, Hassan said: “Providing comfortable and appropriate housing to preserve the citizen’s dignity is among the global challenges at the present time, and given the limited lands, Bahrain tends to create a suitable environment for housing that takes into account the needs of the individual, society and available resources.

“From this standpoint, I tried in my design to reformulate the concept of housing from the horizontal position (the natural position) to the vertical position in the so-called vertical cities, by designing four main

neighbourhoods in proportion to the authentic Bahraini culture derived from the popular neighbourhoods (Al Furjan).

“It is distinguished each neighbourhood has a unique identity, indicating that the neighbourhoods meet different needs such as entertainment, education, worship and the likes.”

Hilal focused on creating a “human connection between the residents of vertical residential complexes” in his project to enhance a sense of safety, belonging and familiarity.

He divided the city into three different villages, then divided each village into three different neighbourhoods. Through this

approach, opportunities are provided for residents to meet their neighbours and thus gain a sense of belonging.

He pointed out that his design features vertical vegetation, which would create shades for the building, as well as provide better air quality for residents.

For her part, Shana’a stressed on converting the horizontal life experience into a vertical experience consisting of several miniature models of residential neighbourhoods, so that each model includes several types of apartments that are able to accommodate different sizes of families and suit their diverse tastes.

“Providing comfortable and appropriate housing to preserve the citizen’s dignity is among the global challenges at the present time, and given the limited lands, Bahrain tends to create a suitable environment for housing that takes into account the needs of the individual, society and available resources.”

ABDULLAH MUHAMMAD HASSAN, UOB ARCHITECTURE STUDENT

Her project was designed using the “Clustered Stacking” pattern due to the levels of privacy that this type of stacking guarantees in addition to the appearance of the resulting irregular construction.

It reflects the image of the old Bahraini neighbourhoods, preserving Bahrain’s cultural identity, and thus increasing the feeling of the residents.

University of Bahrain president Prof. Dr. Riyad Yusuf Hamzah expressed the university’s pride in the ongoing partnership with the Housing Bank for the seventh year in a row in this award.

He stressed that this partnership aims to find innovative solutions to housing issues, especially citizens’ housing through a future youth vision.



The jury, consisted of experienced academics and engineers, selected a short list of 28 projects, which were in turn subjected to evaluation again, leading to the selection of the three winning projects.

## Indian School wins Health is Wealth Trophy

● The three-day AMH MEDATHALON 2020 was organised virtually by the American Mission Hospital

TDI | Manama

The Indian School Bahrain was declared the winner of the AMH MEDATHALON 2020 Health is Wealth Trophy for 2020.

The three-day virtual event was organised by the American Mission Hospital.

The award is based on the overall scores of students and teachers who participated in various contests which included quizzes, speeches, debates and short films on this year’s topics related to the pandemic, viruses, biological science and the advances in the field of medicine.

“The headwind of COVID-19 has disrupted the learning and education industry,” said the Corporate CEO, Dr George Cheriyan, while speaking during the Grand Finale on Friday.

“But for every disruption by an obstacle that comes our way, we must look for an opportuni-



Dr Cheriyan speaking during the Grand Finale

ty to solve the problem and to adapt to a new form. Once we come out of this COVID crisis, you will see that a lot of learning is going to move outside, away from the conventional classroom.

“On our part, AMH remains committed to stay connected to the community so that both physical and mental wellbeing is cared for, despite the context we find ourselves in.”

Dr Krishna of AMH organised the event with co-organiser Dr Babu Ramachandran.

The quiz was conducted by well-known quiz master Aneesh

Nirmalan. The toppers in the Quiz were Angel Deena Saji of Asian School, Rohit Sriram of New Indian School, and Harishankar Prasad of Asian School.

The Speech Contest winners were Falak Mansoor of Sacred Heart School, Neha Francis of Indian School, Aaron D’Costa of Sacred Heart School, and Srinidhi Vardharajan of the New Indian School. The judges made a special mention of Daniah Khaled of Alia National School, as a promising speaker.

The teachers debated on the topic “It is resolved that students holistic wellness is the

AMH remains committed to stay connected to the community so that both physical and mental wellbeing is cared for, despite the context we find ourselves in.”

CORPORATE CEO, DR GEORGE CHERIYAN

school’s responsibility”. The Asian School teachers’ team, comprising Anjana Gopinath and Vanitha Reynold, was declared the winning debate team.

Indian School teachers’ team of Priya Laji and Anju Muralidharan and another Indian School teachers’ team of Shwetha Shaji and Savitha Rajesh Nair took the second and third places, respectively.

The Short Films by students which won the contest are – ‘The New Dawn’ by the Indian School, ‘Face the Phase’ by Al Noor International School, ‘Tring...Tring’ by Indian School and ‘With High Hopes’ by Asian School.

## UoB launches smart chat service for students

TDI | Manama

The Student Service Center at the University of Bahrain launched a smart chat service called chatbot to automatically respond to students’ inquiries and questions via automatic chatting on the WhatsApp application, 24 hours a day.

The launch of this service comes within the endeavours of the university to develop and facilitate means of communication and interaction

with students, and to save time and effort on them.

The service package recently launched by the Information Technology Center, in cooperation with the Student Service Center at the University of Bahrain, includes various services for regular and new students, and the new service was tried with a large number of students, and their feedback was taken on it from observations and suggestions, and the service was developed on this basis.

## Decision to ensure suitable workers’ accommodations hailed

TDI | Manama

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) has praised the decision of the health minister regarding the health requirements and specifications for workers’ accommodations that guarantee their rights, especially the rights to adequate standards of living and health.

The institution highly valued Bahrain’s interest in the welfare and rights of residents, stressing that the decision was consistent with the precautionary measures taken by Bahrain to mitigate the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and protect the workers’ right to health. NIHR said it would monitor the implementation of the decision