

CONTINUITY AND CHANGE: NEW ARCHITECTURE FOR QATAR



JOHN MCASLAN + PARTNERS

JOHN MCASLAN + PARTNERS (JMP) IS WORKING ON FIVE MAJOR BUILDINGS IN PHASE 1A, 1B AND 1C OF QATARI DEVELOPER DOHALAND'S 'MUSHEIREB' PROJECT. JMP'S BUILDINGS INCLUDE THE CULTURAL FORUM, A NEW 5-STAR HOTEL AND SERVICED APARTMENTS WHICH DEFINE THE EASTERN AND WESTERN POLES OF AL BARAHAT, A MAJOR NEW CIVIC SQUARE THAT FORMS THE CULTURAL HEART OF THE 'MUSHEIREB', AS WELL AS A MOSQUE, A SCHOOL, AND RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WITHIN THE \$5.5 BILLION DEVELOPMENT.

THE MUSHEIREB DEVELOPMENT, THE WORLD'S FIRST SUSTAINABLE DOWNTOWN REGENERATION PROJECT, WILL REGENERATE A 31 HECTARES (76 ACRES) SITE IN THE HISTORICAL DOWNTOWN DOHA. THE PROJECT AIMS TO TRANSFORM THE OLD COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS DISTRICT INTO THE VIBRANT, COHESIVE AND CULTURALLY ALIVE CITY CENTRE THAT IT ONCE WAS. THE UNIQUE MIXED-USE PROJECT WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY ADDRESS ISSUES OF CONGESTION, SUSTAINABILITY, AND MAINTAINING THE AESTHETIC AND SOCIAL INDIVIDUALITY OF QATAR.

JMP'S WORK TAKES ITS CUE FROM DOHALAND'S VISION TO SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE QATAR'S CITY CENTRE SPACES WITH ARCHITECTURE THAT IS CONTEMPORARY AND SUSTAINABLE, WHILST REMAINING SENSITIVE TO QATARI VERNACULAR AND HERITAGE.



Plan highlights the Musheireb Heart of Doha project and JMP's involvement

1. 5-Star Hotel and Serviced Apartments
2. Cultural Forum
3. Doha School
4. Daily Mosque
5. Superblock Q

We are developing design proposals for a new primary school in Doha, Qatar, as part of the Musheireb masterplan development.

Acting as the gateway to the new heart of the city centre, the school will offer the local and wider community an integrated learning environment for 450 pupils, under a fully-bilingual instructional programme. The scheme also comprises a nursery school, and sport and recreation

facilities which are available for local community use.

A reinterpretation of the traditional courtyard typology is evident in the school's arrangement on the urban site, with the classrooms arranged in curriculum-led clusters around the perimeter of a series of intimate and variable courtyards and gardens, which will become open-air extensions of the teaching spaces.

The school buildings themselves take inspiration from the forms and massing of traditional Qatari village communities, and this language also extends to the climatic responses, where the careful play of building orientation, windows and shading devices help to create naturally-ventilated spaces for most of the school year.

The school is currently at Schematic Design stage and is due to begin construction in 2011.



5-STAR HOTEL + SERVICED APARTMENTS



The concept for these buildings is underpinned by the underlying visionary principals for the Musheireb project. The series of buildings that make up the hotel and serviced apartments take their point of reference from the past and the traditions of Qatari architecture, but are interpreted to define a new language which is firmly embedded in the future. In defining a new language for Qatari architecture we were first drawn to tradition, and developing an understanding of what makes the architecture of Qatar unique to the region. In defining that tradition the fragments of history reveal a story which has its origins in the small fishing villages and communities on which the city was founded.

The silhouette of the buildings and the use of varied active roofscapes is an important aspect of traditional architecture, delineating routes and connections

and marking key points of intersection of routes.

The buildings are unified through a crafted approach to the use of materials and detailing. The facades of buildings are treated as solid forms, into which apertures and recesses are cut to reveal the mass and depth of the material.

A key driver for our development of the massing and elevational treatment of the hotel and serviced apartment buildings has been the integration of the buildings with that of the hierarchy, scale and character of the street, lanes, squares and courtyards that surround the site.

Integral to the design is sustainability and the use of low energy systems, through both active and passive means.

The environmental/climatic characteristics of the site have informed the orientation of building and the design of internal/external spaces, and the building fabric.



Clockwise from left - serviced apartments, view of hotel from Al Barahat, hotel courtyard



CULTURAL FORUM

Our design for the Cultural Forum is rooted in Qatari and Islamic urban and domestic tradition, these cultural references are fused with recent innovative design of a new generation of international cultural building.

Our design gives shape, meaning and energy to the Forum's diverse gathering of people and cultural content. It will bring together the world-views of artists, performers, and the public in a place of shared encounter. Our fundamental intention has been to create a design that makes the Cultural

Forum a marvellously welcoming and open place, functionally, creatively, and urbanistically. It must be as interesting to children as it might be to those who are highly informed, culturally. It must create an atmosphere of discovery that is as palpable to overseas visitors as it is to Qataris. And it must make sense in the way it contributes to its new urban setting.

We understand very clearly that Doha's cultural and commercial strategy is founded on something far more ambitious than a dramatic, familiarly international development.



Our design seeks to express Qatari innovations in a building that demonstrates Qatar's outreach to other places, and cultures.

The building is conceived as a large stone block from which spaces, routes and courtyards are carved or voided out.

This results in an architectural expression which is a reinterpretation of the traditional Qatari house, typically of massive wall construction with limited openings to the external facades to avoid overlooking. The accommodation would be arranged around a central courtyard providing

privacy, shelter amenity space and a more comfortable microclimate.

The form of the four quadrants of the building, the central courtyard intersected with urban routes, is reminiscent of Islamic city patterns, connecting a series of courtyards providing shade and interplay between light and dark spaces, much like the traditional souk.

Clockwise from left - central atrium, view from Al Barahat, view from Jalmood House (adjacent retained heritage house)





Daily mosque prayer room (below) and interior courtyard (right)



DAILY MOSQUE

The new Jumaa Mosque is within the Mohammed Heritage Quarter, one of the most historic parts of inner Doha. Close to the original Doha coastline, the area, and its immediate surroundings have always been the anchor of religious and political power serving the indigenous population.

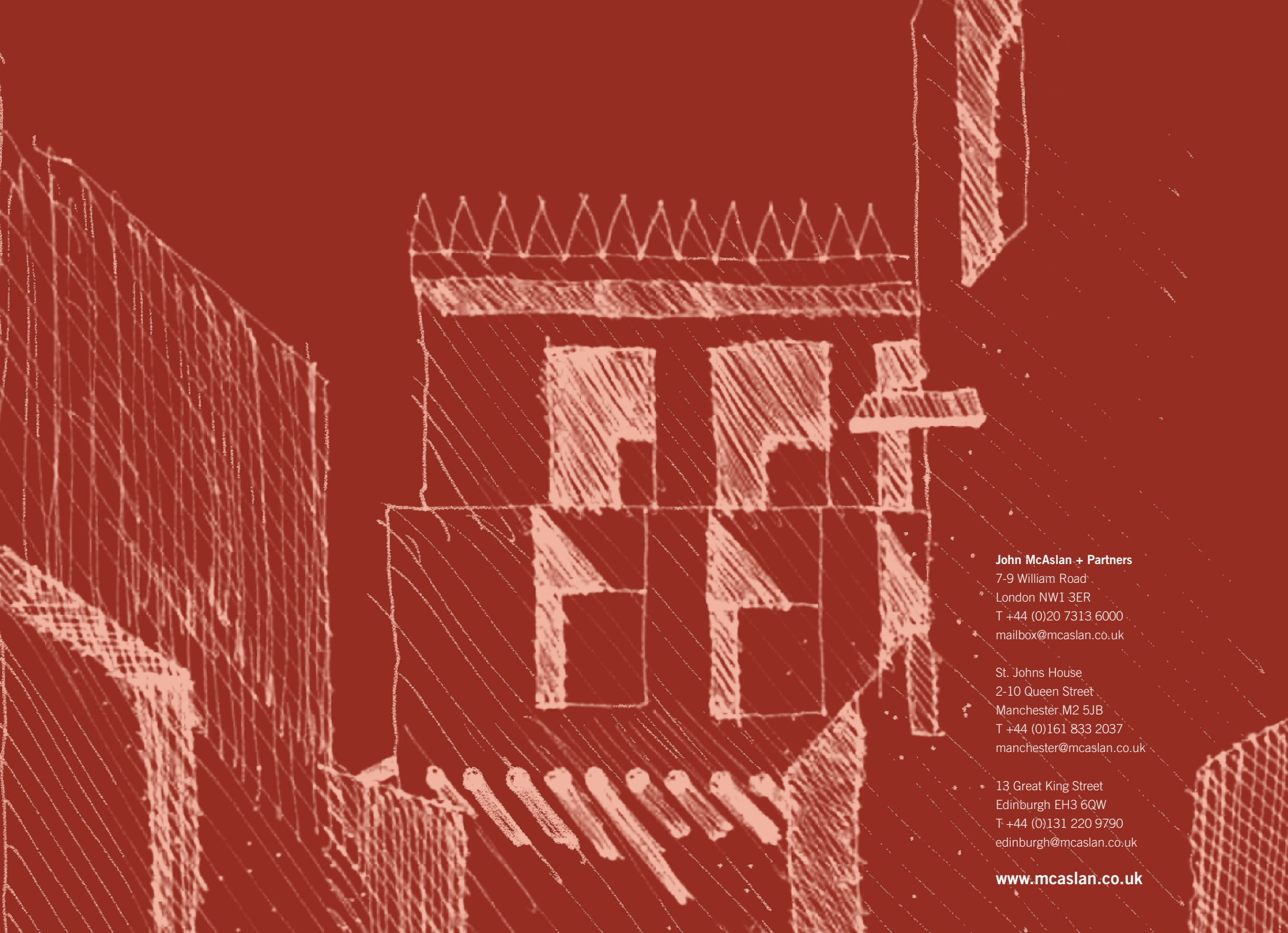
We have sought a fusion of highly elegant Modernism with a historically familiar arrangement of volumes, spaces, and thresholds whose strong sense of presence is made even more resonant by the use of specifically Qatari materials and architectural details. We have rejected pastiche. Our design concept is

about a meeting of architectural cultures in which contemporary design is inflected with resonant marks of locality, and deeper Islamic history.

The perfect cube building consists of white stone which provides a strong and robust front with clean lines. Metal Islamic gates enclose the entrance pavillion and support spaces including retail and Imam accommodation. Within the prayer hall an explosion of golds and ochres fill the space - the walls are gilded with motifs. A colonnade of stone wraps the courtyard on both sides framing a perfect courtyard square. In its centre, a pond and

ryhill give a sense of calmness and comtemplation before the entrance to the Prayer Hall.

Stone, simplicity, warmth. local materiality, solidity and permanence are in keeping with the overall masterplan and feel of this prominent site and surrounding heritage buildings.



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