

Studio Anne Holtrop

ETH Zürich

seminar week

FS20



Kingdom of Bahrain

March 16–22, 2020

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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 civilizations 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 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. Throughout the week, we will also visit the archeological site of Dilmun Burial Mounds in A'ali, and a boat trip to Jarada Island. We will go pearl diving and visit the oil drilling sites in the desert.

Price range C, includes flights, accommodation, guided tours and a dinner.

Professor Anne Holtrop and assistants Yuiko Shigeta, Stephan Lando, Cecilia Marzullo.