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## Ahmed A. Alaidarous (Arch, Phd)

### Cultural Conservation & Architectural Consultant

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*Experienced architect since 2007 & higher educational professor driving cultural conservation & architectural planning engagements*

Proven subject-matter expert with a Doctor of Philosophy focused on Architectural conservation, restoration, and Cultural evaluation from Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV), Spain. Skilled team leader, project manager & consultant that has successfully implemented heritage development interventions across various sites. Articulated & confident multilingual communicator able to deliver presentations, drive change & provide a strategy for a range of audiences from students to international stakeholders. Recognized by colleagues for excellence in various methodologies & paradigms for the conservation of world heritage monuments & knowledge of international policies of conservation (UNESCO, ICOMOS) & implementations from research to delivery. Alaidarous has utilized his background in the domain of heritage management and conservation in both areas of tangible and intangible heritage, which he had acquired as well as enriching his experience and promoting his research skills and expertise along with providing consulting services and research in the field of his specialization and exchanging knowledge, experiences.

#### Highlights of Expertise

##### Architecture

- Architecture Studies
- Monuments Restauration
- Heritage Sites Development

##### Cultural Conservation

- Curriculum Design
- Conservation Management
- World Heritage Convention

##### Leadership

- Project Management
- Strategy & Operations
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Heritage Sites - Vernacular Building Methods in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Built Environment - Middle Eastern & Developing World Urban Gentrification
- Architecture Studies & Planning - Architectural & Heritage Documentation
- Visualization & Simulation - Heritage Evaluation and Sustainable reuse
- Unplanned & Historical Districts - Red Sea Basin Traditional Architecture (Jeddah)
- Sustainability & Resilience in Architectural Design - Earthen Traditional Architecture

### EXECUTIVE ROLES

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*Head of the Department of Heritage Resources Management & Tour Guidance – Faculty of Archaeology & Tourism*

*King Saud University – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

- Chair of the Department of Heritage Resources Management and Tourism Guidance College of Tourism and Archaeology Jul 2017 – Present
- Board Member at Saudi ICOMOS, ICOMOS Oct 2020 – Present
- Board Member at Saudi Art and Design Association Sep 2018 – Present
- Chair of the Saudi Tourism Association Sep 2017 – Feb 2021

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Feb 2017 – Present  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

### **Faculty Member – Assistant Professor**

*Department of Heritage Resources Management & Tour Guidance  
Faculty of Archaeology & Tourism – King Saud University*

- Creating & implementing instructional plan for university bachelor students for areas of focus including the management of historical areas, regional differences of vernacular architecture in Saudi Arabia & rehabilitation programs for historical & urban areas.
- Increasing engagement with nonprofit & governmental leadership (Ex. Turquoise Mountain Foundation & the Development of Madinah Authority & Ministry of Culture & Tourism);
- Improving & expanding architectural documentation by inventorying, categorizing & evaluating heritage & cultural assets, spanning over 13 regions that feature 100 cities & villages.

Sep 2013 – Feb 2017

### **Faculty member – Lecturer**

- Developed educational plans & curriculum for university students that promoted awareness & appreciation of cultural history, Vernacular Building Methods & international tourism.

Oct 2007 – Sep 2013

### **Faculty member – Demonstrator**

- Received an international mobility scholarship award for academic merits.

Sep 2017 – Present

### **Training Program – Supervisor**

- A supervisor on the spring training program for students of the Department of Heritage Resources Management and Tourism Guidance.

Mar – May 2008

### **Assistant Architect in Archeological Mission**

Al 'Ula, Saudi Arabia *Faculty of Archaeology & Tourism – King Saud University*

- Led the digital reconstruction effort that reconstructed structures using an urban tissue study of the old city.
- Produced digital copies of the site as part of a larger restoration effort of the old city of Al Ola, sponsored by the local municipality & King Saud University.

## CONSULTING PORTFOLIO

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Jun 2019 – Present

### **Cultural Data Collection as Project Management Consultant**

Riyadh – Saudi Arabia *Chair of Civilizational Heritage*

- Directed historical research, data collection & presentation of findings.
- Trained surveying teams including developing inventorying methods.
- Supervised field research teams during the process ensuring compliance with governing policies & procedures while promoting best practices.

- Final outputs included writer reports, data bank, categorization of findings, future state proposal & presentation of a dictionary of the targeted heritage subject.
- 2021: Head of the team of prepared the methodology for the national documentation of Saudi traditional foods.
- 2021: Head of the team in site survey and desktop search for the documentation of heritage foods in the Medina Region.

**Nov – Dec 2020      Part-time advisor to international invitation to tender for heritage site**

Kairouan – Tunis      IMAR. Urban Consultants

- Restoration of heritage site of Kairouan Mosque and basins of Aghlabides and their surroundings.

**Oct 2020 – Present      Evaluation of Architectural Heritage Sites**

Najed , ALQassim ,      RC Heritage, France

Asir & Al Baha – Saudi Arabia

- Primary on-site data collection from 30 targeted architectural heritage sites.
- Evaluation of promising sites with high tourism and investment potential.
- Followed a comprehensive bottom-up approach to identify and prioritize old towns.
- Data analysis and report redaction of detailed information gathered on each location.

**Aug – Sep 2020      University's Museums & Galleries Digitalization Action Planning Design**

Riyadh – Saudi Arabia      King Saud University

- Primary activities included worldwide research of best practices.
- Final outputs including writer reports, building evaluations, categorization of findings, future state proposal & a presentation of conceptual designs to decision makers for digital platforms.

**Jan – Jul 2020      Urban Regeneration Consultant**

Madinah –      Al Madinah Al Munawara Region Development Authority

Saudi Arabia

- Restored Al Fath Mosque & laying the foundation to regenerate the Seven Mosques urban area.
- Proceeded with preliminary studies: Historic research, urban study & architectural survey.
- Set conservation goals & determine counter deterioration factors.
- Supervised field teams to ensure compliance to best practices.
- Wrote reports, building evaluations, categorizing & recommending proposals.
- Presented conceptual designs to decision makers.

**Jul 2019      Evaluation & Documentation Consultant**

Diriyah– Saudi Arabia      Diriyah Gate Development Authority

- Proceeded with preliminary studies: Historic research, urban study & architectural survey.
- Set conservation goals & determine counter deterioration factors.
- Supervised field teams to ensure compliance to best practices.
- Wrote reports, building evaluations, categorizing & recommending proposals.

## CURRICULAR OVERSIGHT

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*Department of Heritage Resources Management & Tour Guidance – Faculty of Archaeology & Tourism  
King Saud University – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

- **Heritage Conservation (Bachelor students)**

Coursework emphasized the Heritage documentation, Heritage planning Low, Heritage restoration and sustainable heritage management plan.

- **Traditional Built Heritage in the Kingdom (Bachelor students)**

Coursework emphasized the traditional built heritage in different regions of Saudi Arabia, including its patterns, characteristics, building materials & its distinctive features.

- **Built Heritage Management (Bachelor students)**

Delivering & explaining best practices for managing historical areas, identifying risks & evaluating processes & methodologies for the conservation & rehabilitation programs for historical & urban areas locally & globally.

- **Practical application in Heritage Management (Internship Supervision)**

Academic & professional development focus that supports students through a self-evaluation process to identify strengths & areas of development, define professional objectives & set measurable & data-driven goals. Coordinated with supervisors to ensure progressive improvement & progress in the student's development.

- **Graduation Final Research Project (Research Supervision)**

Orient, support & supervise the final research project by determining with precision the consistency of the question studied, validating the plan & approving the applied methodology.

## CONFERENCES

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- Giving lectures on Earth Architecture in Saudi Arabia: Documentation and Adaptation at Cátedra UNESCO de Arquitectura de tierra, culturas constructivas y desarrollo sostenible Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de la Universitat Politècnica de València.

Feb 2016 - Cátedra UNESCO de Arquitectura de tierra, culturas constructiva, Spain

- Presence lectures and workshops of Earth architecture at Cátedra UNESCO de Arquitectura de tierra, culturas constructivas y desarrollo sostenible Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de la Universitat Politècnica de València. LAS ESCALAS DE LA RESTAURACIÓN - TALLER DE MORTEROS DE CAL VIVA MEZCLADA EN CALIENTE and INICIACIÓN A LA PRODUCCIÓN Y USO DE BTC (BLOQUES DE TIERRA COMPRIMIDA).

Sep 2015 - ESCALAS DE LA RESTAURACIÓN. Valencia, Spain

- Giving a lecture at the First Saudi Archeology Convention in a restoration workshop titled "Our Ancestors are the approach of our restoration".

Jul 2018 - Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage, Riyadh

- Attending and participating in the First Heritage Forum.

Mar 2018 - Sharjah, ICCROM-Athar

- Supervising the training agreement for training students in collaboration with the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies.

Dec 2017 - King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies. Riyadh.

- Participating with the Event Management Committee Team in initiating a lecture series entitled "We guide to entrench our heritage".

Oct 2017 - Department of Heritage Resources Management and Tourism Guidance, Riyadh.

- Attending a workshop on academic leadership under the supervision of the Ministry of Education.

Oct 2017 - Ministry of Education, Riyadh.

- Giving a lecture entitled "Sustainability of conservation works in historic Jeddah", under the supervision of Saudi Council of Engineers, Architecture Heritage Section.

Nov 2017 - Saudi Council of Engineers, Riyadh.

- Conduction a three-day workshop entitled "Preserving the urban heritage" under the auspices of the Deanship of Skills Development, King Saud University.

Jan 2017/2020 - King Saud University, Riyadh.

- Giving a lecture on urban heritage and modernity as part of the Wednesday Lectures events at King Saud University, College of Tourism and Archaeology.

Dec 2016 - King Saud University, Riyadh.

- A2018/2020: Chairman of the Department's Organizing Committee of the World Heritage Day Fair held at Albujairy District on April 18th, 2018.

Apr 2018/2020 - King Saud University, Riyadh.

## EDUCATION

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- **Doctorate in Philosophy (Ph. D.) in** Technologies of Architectural Conservation of Earthen Heritage Buildings, School of Architecture, Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV), Spain. Title: Investigating the best methods for structural stabilization procedures for Historical earthen building conservation in Saudi Arabia: a technology-led construction analysis. Universitat Politècnica de València. 2012-2016
- **Master of Science (MSc) in** Architectural Conservation from the Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies (SCCS), School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Britain. Title: The Conservation of Old Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: A technology-led construction analysis, the Case Study Nassif House. 2011
- **Bachelor of Architecture, 2007** King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Architectural designs & presentations with topics in the history of architecture

## LANGUAGES

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- Arabic (Native)
- Spanish (B2)
- English (IELTS 6.5)

## PROGRAMS & SOFTWARE

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Adobe, Autodesk & Office suites. Various CAD programs. Render programs and add-ons. Content & Database managers. Multimedia Editing. Bibliography Managers. Multiple publication editing and proofreading tools. Windows & Macintosh environments.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & STATUS

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- Member of the Saudi International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and board member at Saudi ICOMOS
- Member of the Board of Directors Saudi Art and Design Society.
- Member of Saudi Heritage Preservation Society.
- Member of Saudi Travel and Tourism Association.
- Member of Saudi Council of Engineers.

## HONORS & AWARDS

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- Winner of the King Salman Prize for Studies and Research of History of the Arabian Peninsula (2018)
- International mobility scholarship awarded for academic merits (2012)
- King Abdulaziz University recognition award (2007)

## VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCES

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2019 – present Riyadh – Saudi Arabia	Creation and facilitating a weekly coop workshop to support demonstrators & lecturers in developing their Ph. D. Research proposals
2019 – present Riyadh – Saudi Arabia	Leading weekly workshops to support newly and soon-to-be graduated in preparing their resumes, professional interviews and cover letters writing

## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

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Feb 2019	Participating with a refereed scientific journal titled "The evaluation and processes of restoration work in the kingdom: Old Jeddah case study", at Association of History and Antiquities. Riyadh – Saudi Arabia
Sep 2017	Participating with a refereed scientific paper titled "The study and analysis of the adaptation of

earthen constructions in Hadramaut, Yemen" at the Conference of Vernacular and Earthen Architecture: Conservation and Sustainability, INSTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DE RESTAURACIÓN DEL PATRIMONIO.

Sep 2015

Participating with a refereed scientific paper titled "The documentation and analysis of the earthen architecture in Saudi Arabia" at INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VERNACULAR HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABILITY.