

Online Learned Event, organised jointly by ICE Oman, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman and University of Wolverhampton, UK

Preserving Heritage, Building Sustainability: Perspectives on Cultural Restoration and Sustainable Urban Development in Oman

Date: Wednesday, 23 September 2026

Time: 19:00 – 20:30 (Oman time) | 16:00 – 17:30 (UK time)

Location: Online, Microsoft Teams

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Event Overview

Organised jointly by the ICE Oman Committee, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman and University of Wolverhampton, UK, this webinar explores the vital connection between cultural heritage preservation and sustainable urban development in Oman. Bringing together experts from academia and industry, the session will showcase innovative approaches to restoring and documenting heritage assets while integrating sustainability principles into modern urban planning and development.

Through presentations on the renovation of the Koofan Heritage House, the digital documentation of Oman's historic harat settlements using emerging technologies, and the Ras Al Hamra Development case study, participants will gain insights into how engineering, technology, and strategic planning can support both the conservation of cultural identity and the creation of resilient, future-ready communities. The webinar will highlight best practices in heritage restoration, digital preservation, sustainability frameworks, climate resilience, and sustainable city development, demonstrating how lessons from the past can inform a more sustainable future.

Event Agenda

19.00 Short event introduction by Prof Dr Khalifa Al-Jabri FICE – ICE Oman Committee Chair and ICE country representative in Oman

19.05 Koofan Heritage House Renovation | Speaker Dr Alaa Hamood CEng MICE – Head of Civil Engineering, University of Wolverhampton, UK and the homeowner of the restored property, Mr Faisal Koofan

19.30 Harat Restoration and Documentation Presentation 'Digital Heritage Documentation in Oman: Preserving the Past through Emerging Technologies' | Speaker Dr Aliya Al-Hashim – Assistant Professor, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

19.50 Ras Al-Hamra Sustainable City Presentation 'Sustainable Mixed-Use City, the Ras Al Hamra Development Case Study' | Speaker Dr Jaber Al Siyadi – Ras Al Hamra Development Manager

20.10 Q & A

20.30 Closing remarks

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Speakers

Dr Alaa Hamood CEng MICE – *Head of Civil Engineering, University of Wolverhampton, UK*

Dr Alaa Hamood is the Head of Civil Engineering at the University of Wolverhampton, UK, and a Chartered Civil Engineer (CEng) and Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (MICE). With nearly three decades of experience in civil engineering since graduating in 1996, he has developed extensive expertise across the infrastructure sector, having worked on a wide range of engineering projects in the Middle East and the UK before transitioning into academia in 2010. Since then, he has successfully combined his industrial experience with teaching, research, and academic leadership, working closely with industry to educate and support the development of the next generation of civil engineers for professional practice.



Dr Aliya Al-Hashim – *Assistant Professor, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman*

Dr Aliya Al-Hashim is an Assistant Professor at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, specializing in digital heritage documentation, computational design, and urban performance evaluation. She holds an MSc in Built Environment from the University of Arizona, USA, and a PhD in Building Technology from the Georgia Institute of Technology, USA. Her research explores how advanced digital technologies can support the documentation, conservation, and management of Oman's architectural heritage, while also informing sustainable design and urban planning practices. She is passionate about bridging research and practice through innovative teaching and interdisciplinary collaboration, preparing the next generation of architects and engineers to make informed, evidence-based design decisions.



Dr Jaber Al Siyadi – *Ras Al Hamra Development Manager*

Dr Jaber Al Siyadi is a seasoned built environment professional with over 25 years of experience in real estate, infrastructure, and strategic project development across Oman's public and energy sectors. He currently serves as Development Manager for the Ras Al Hamra Development Project at Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), leading the delivery of a flagship mixed-use master-planned development. Dr Al Siyadi holds a DBA from the University of Northampton, an MSc in Construction Project Management from Loughborough University, and a BSc in Civil Engineering from Sultan Qaboos University. He has also completed executive leadership programmes at the Maastricht School of Management and Saïd Business School, University of Oxford. A member of OSE, ICE, and APM, he holds professional certifications including APMP and Certified Value Analyst (CVA).

