

EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

As with the first Industrial Revolution's multifaceted influence on our history, the reverberations of the second Industrial Revolution (also known as the Technological Revolution) at the turn of the century can still be felt today. One of the distinguishing elements between the two revolutions is the exploration of, and dependence on, petroleum as an energy source. Petroleum and its by-products became synonymous with modernity (modern society). Perhaps, like no other place, the intense and forceful development conveyed by the word "revolution" could be better seen as it was in the case of the development following the discovery of petroleum in the Persian Gulf.

Examining this petroleum-led development in the Gulf region shows how architectural and urban development in relation to petroleum was linked only in terms of the capital it generated (for the most part). In the College of Architecture PhD Program at IIT, a group of students came together to examine the topic of petroleum and modernism a bit further than just the monetary effect of the petroleum industry. It was a challenge to take on such a topic, given the difficulty of reaching back to the region and navigating through the bureaucracy and periodic changes at a geopolitical level. However, we thought we could follow in the steps of the Greek Titan Prometheus. Petroleum is the equivalent to Prometheus's fire; it is modernity's essential source of energy. For the inaugural issue of the *Prometheus* journal, we decided to share with the world how petroleum influences architectural modernism.

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The essays in this inaugural volume are an expansion of selected shorter essays that were presented at a symposium in the PhD Program at the College of Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology, in October 2016. Students who authored these contributions were united by the interest to understand an urban and architectural development that took place around them.

Carola Hein, the keynote speaker at the symposium, illustrates in her essay "The Global Petroleumscape" how petroleum modernism constitutes a network of global nodes of ports that share a number of similarities but also raise the tension between the local and global.

Mohammed H. Alkhabbaz takes on the Dhahran Civil Air Terminal as a case study to explain how the industry of petroleum operates on many levels other than just generating capital for the development of infrastructural projects. Seyed Mohamad Ali Sedighi opens up the discussion on housing in Tehran by showing how the traditional urban environment reacts with resilience modernism under the influence of the swaying political forces of petroleum in Kuy-e Narmak. In contrast to this economy without oil under Mosaddegh, Saad Alghamdi's essay touches on the shift from pedestrian- to automobile-dependent neighborhoods in an economy of petroleum in Saudi Arabia. The result of the dependence on the automobile in overall city urban planning is discussed by Omar Almahdy who takes Riyadh as the case study for his essay.

The discussion turns to Kuwait with Bader AlBader's "Return of the Prodigal Suburb." The essay analyzes Kuwait's premier mall as a major symptom of a petro-subsidized suburban lifestyle and its discontents (as well as its potentials). Amjad Alkoud answers the question of how the petroleum economy manifested itself on the architectural and urban front by taking Dubai as a case study. It is our aim to explore the topic of petroleum and modernism. The essays included in this volume kindle discussions that continue to shed light on the intersection of technology, culture, and architecture.

This is a culmination of a multistage, collaborative effort from all contributing authors and symposium participants. First, we want to thank the contributing authors who shared the intellectual curiosity in searching for answers that we thought were important. We would like to thank our symposium's session respondents for their critical remarks and stimulating discussions: Dr. Maureen Flanagan, Dr. Amy Thomas, and Dr. Mahjoub Elnimeiri. We also thank all IIT faculty and staff, in particular Dr. Rahman Azari who helped bring this project to completion. We are extremely grateful for the driving force of initiating and establishing the tradition of conducting a student-led symposium at the PhD Program: Dr. Michelangelo Sabatino. The symposium and this publication would not have been possible without his continual encouragement, support, and guidance, first as director of the PhD Program in Architecture at IIT, then as Dean of the College of Architecture.