

# SYMPOSIUM OVERVIEW

## ***Petroleum Modernism: October 13, 2016***

This symposium investigated the ways in which the discovery and export of petroleum from the Persian/Arabian Gulf during the first half of the twentieth century led to cultural, economic, and social changes, with significant architectural and urban consequences in the region and beyond. While research at the time focused primarily on exploring contemporary developments, our symposium sought to present and discuss new historical research regarding key decades between the 1960s and 1980s that witnessed the pioneering efforts to transform the built environment of the Gulf. During those years, despite a shared climate, geography, and culture, most Gulf countries developed distinct “national” agendas that generated different “modern” architectural identities. Against the backdrop of historical “modern” developments, the symposium participants also discussed how the national identity of the Gulf countries had been challenged by the rise of a generic globalization.

Nota bene: Presentation titles and affiliations are reproduced on the opposite page as they appeared on the symposium poster in 2016.

## **INTRODUCTORY SESSION**

### **Modernization, Modernism, and the Role of 'Resource Extraction'**

Michelangelo Sabatino, PhD, Professor and Director of PhD Program in Architecture  
*Illinois Institute of Technology*

#### **Keynote: The Global Petroleumscape**

Carola Hein, Dr.-Ing., Professor and Head Chair: History of Architecture and Urban Planning  
*TU Delft*

## **SESSION 1**

Dwelling, Education, and Recreation

### **Dwellings Beyond Oil: Residents' Perception and Spatial Transformation**

Saad Alghamdi, PhD Candidate  
*Illinois Institute of Technology*

### **Kuy-e Narmak: A Resilient Heritage of Modern Housing in Iran, Tehran**

Seyed Mohamad Ali Sedighi, PhD Candidate  
*TU Delft*

### **Spatial and Social Connectedness: Gendered Educational and Recreational Spaces for a 'Modern' Islamic Society**

Ghadah Alghamdi, Independent Scholar

**Respondent:** Maureen Flanagan, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Lewis College of Human Sciences  
*Illinois Institute of Technology*

## **SESSION 2**

Urbanism and Infrastructure

### **Gulf Cities as a (Post-) British Project**

Bader AlBader, PhD Student  
*University of Michigan*

### **Consequences of Contrived Urbanism: Funded by Oil and Caught Between Tradition and Modernization**

Saud Alkhaled, Independent Scholar

#### **Respondent:**

Kheir Al-Kodmany, PhD, Professor of Sustainable Urban Design  
*University of Illinois at Chicago*

## **SESSION 3**

Transportation: Airplanes and Automobiles

### **Petroleum Infrastructure: Jet-Age Transportation**

Mohammed H. Alkhabbaz, PhD Candidate  
*Illinois Institute of Technology*

### **Automobiles and Infrastructure on Urban Planning in the Gulf**

Omar Almahdy, PhD Student  
*Illinois Institute of Technology*

#### **Respondent:**

Amy Thomas, Collegiate Assistant Professor  
*The University of Chicago*

## **SESSION 4**

Technology, Building, and Craft

### **Death of a Desert**

Mohammed Ali Khesroh, PhD Student  
*Illinois Institute of Technology*

### **Gulf Petroleum Economy Manifestation on Architecture & Urban Landscape During the 1960s and 1970s**

Amjad Alkoud, PhD Student  
*Illinois Institute of Technology*

**Respondent:** Mahjoub M. Elnimeiri, Professor  
*Illinois Institute of Technology*