



AL FAHIDI HISTORICAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

ثقافة دبي
Culture للثقافة

Al Fahidi boat

A rowing boat that belonged to Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum and that fits 78 rowers. Created by the late Al Jalaf Muhammad bin Thani bin Hareb Al Falasi in 1971, it won first place in its first race in 1972 and continued to do so until 1992.

The components for building houses in the Al Fahidi Neighbourhood

The old houses in Al Fahidi Neighbourhood were built using traditional building materials that included shell stone, coral stone, saruj, and gypsum.



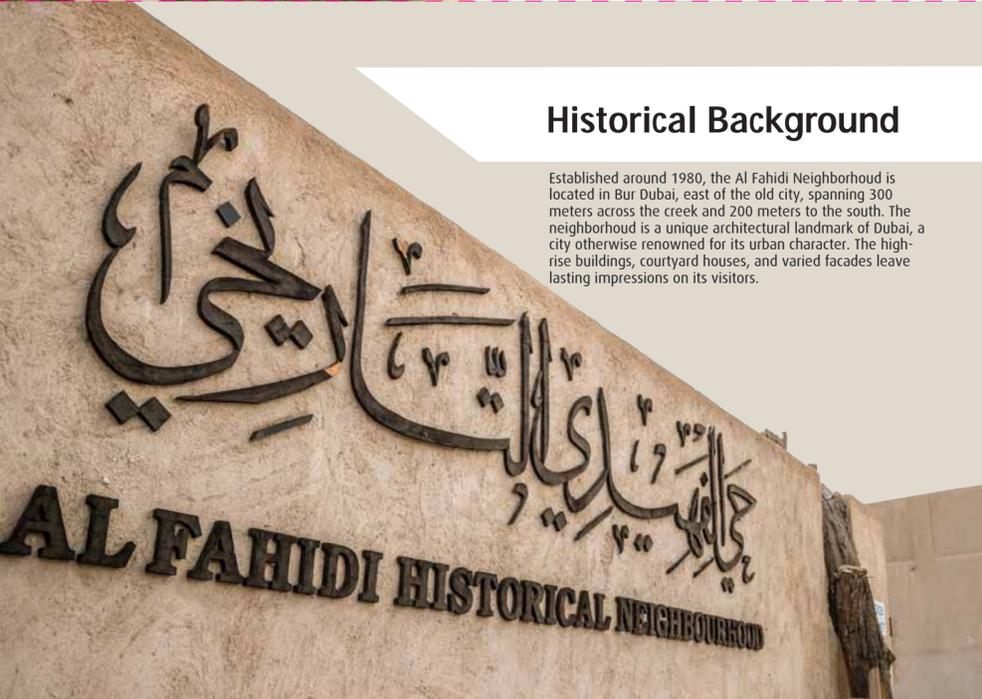
Wall of Old Dubai:

History is common with the significance of walls, which are some of the most distinctive architectural features of old cities. They bordered and defended cities and fended off foreign attacks, as was the case in Cairo, Damascus and Baghdad.

Old Dubai had two walls that defined its urban area. The older of the two, the Wall of Bur Dubai, was built around 1800 AD to protect the old city, including the fort, mosque and houses in Al Fahidi. The second wall, the wall of Bur Dubai, was built in the 1850s and is 600 meters long, 2.5 meters high, and 0.5 meters thick. It was constructed from marine stone and plaster and was demolished in the early twentieth century for city-expansion works. Only a few sections of its foundation still remain, and they were uncovered and restored by Dubai Municipality's Department of Historical Buildings in 2001.

Alleyways:

'Al Fareej' is an old Emirati name for a traditional residential neighborhood. It is marked by strong social relations — based on compassion, friendship and respect — that bonded its inhabitants. The neighborhood was distinguished by its narrow alleyways between buildings known as 'Al Sakeek.' Apart from providing shaded walkways, these alleyways improved air circulation.



Historical Background

Established around 1980, the Al Fahidi Neighbourhood is located in Bur Dubai, east of the old city, spanning 300 meters across the creek and 200 meters to the south. The neighborhood is a unique architectural landmark of Dubai, a city otherwise renowned for its urban character. The high-rise buildings, courtyard houses, and varied facades leave lasting impressions on its visitors.



Old Doors

Door shapes differ according to their specific functions. Castles and forts had doors that were thick to provide protection, whereas doors for houses in Al Fahidi had smaller 'Al Farkha' doors that provided privacy and were also equipped with a wooden latch. As for the doors inside the houses, they resembled the front doors but were slightly smaller. The social status of the homeowner was made evident from the size of the door and the decorations on it.



Barjeel

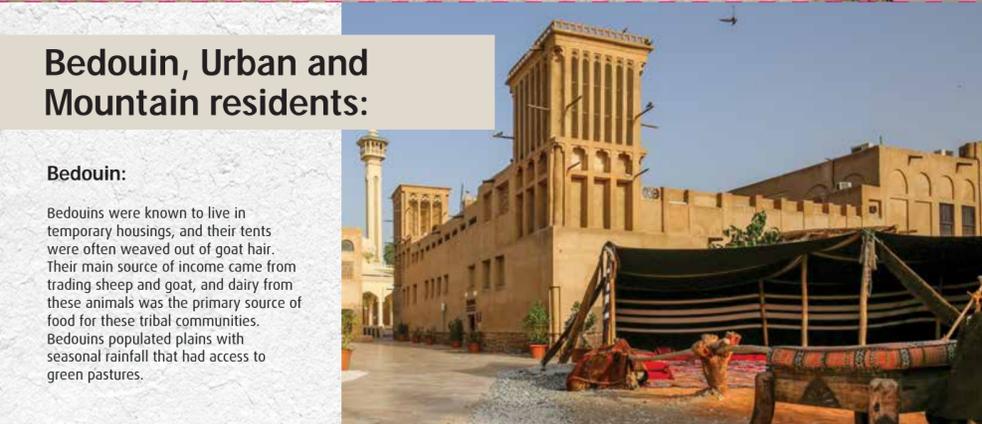
A tall, rectangular tower that somewhat resembles the towers of Italian bells, 'Barjeel' is a word that means wind channel or airways. It allowed for air to flow into old houses through openings that has on each side with a connection to a main room, which allows air to flow into the house and keeps it cool.



Pearl Diving:

A challenging marine profession that emerged out of dire necessity, resource shortage, and poverty. Most residents in the area were forced to dive to look for riches in the ocean, such as pearls, and sell them to pearl merchants (Al Tawaweeh) to earn a living. Emiratis depended completely on diving as their main source of livelihood as it provided them, their families, and children with a steady source of income.

Some houses were utilized as meeting places for some pearl merchants to discuss matters of the pearl trade and conduct some transactions related to buying and selling.



Bedouin, Urban and Mountain residents:

Bedouin:

Bedouins were known to live in temporary housings, and their tents were often weaved out of goat hair. Their main source of income came from trading sheep and goat, and dairy from these animals was the primary source of food for these tribal communities. Bedouins populated plains with seasonal rainfall that had access to green pastures.

Urban:

Urban residents lived in Al Areeesh houses made of coral stones that were also fitted with wooden doors and windows for privacy and had multiple rooms with complex interior sections. Walls separated the men's quarters from that of the women's and toilets were situated at a distance at a corner of the house.

Mountain residents:

These residents were distinct in terms of their traditions, arts and values. Their summer and winter houses (e.g. Bait Al Gefl and Bait Al Saif) were creatively constructed, and the residents adopted a unique way of farming, possessing in-depth knowledge about rainy seasons, planting techniques, irrigation methods, and harvests. They also devised distinct defensive strategies to protect their land and animals.

Old Craftwork:

Talli:

A traditional form of embroidery for women's clothing, made specially for decorative purposes. The embroidery is crafted using 'Al Hodoob' threads, where the ends are tied into a knot and attached to a small needle on a 'Kajoujah' pillow that holds the other end of the Talli reel.

Sadu:

Another traditional craft practiced by Emirati women to create various objects, such as the Al Ashriyah. The Al Ashriyah comprises three linear pieces of carpets and is used as a partition between the women's and the men's quarters, or within a tent.

Rope industry:

The rope is formed from the palm frond that is washed with water and left to dry before the fibers are peeled off and loosened into longitudinal parts that are twisted between the palm of a hand and a leg until the fibers hold together with a strap. Two fibers are twirled together between the palms until the desired length of the rope is attained. The thickness of the rope can also be customized depending on the intended use, e.g. thick ropes are generally used to tie animals or for diving, agricultural work, etc.

Al Safafah:

This process involves the weaving of palm wicker that was usually undertaken by nomadic women. The wicker is cleaned and cracked, and each batch is stained with a different color before they are soaked in water to soften them and facilitate their bracing. The women make strands from this wicker, which are intertwined with each other and trimmed by cutting the appendages from them, turning them into 'soffahs' ready for the manufacture of various tools, such as baskets, traditional fans, traditional bellows, mats and many more.



حكومة دبي
GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI

حي الفهيدي التاريخي
AL FAHIDI HISTORICAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

ثقافة دبي
Culture للثقافة

INSTITUTIONS IN AL FAHIDI NEIGHBOURHOOD

- 05 SHEIKH MOHAMMED CENTRE FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING
- 07 SHEIKH MOHAMMED CENTRE FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING
- 08 ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY
- 11 FOUNDATION FOR BENEFICIAL PEOPLE
- 22 JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION
- 29 BUREAU OF CULTURE - DUBAI AL-MAJLIS HOUSE
- 30 DUBAI CULTURE - HOUSE OF ACTIVITIES
- 31 DUBAI MUSEUM - ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE & ANTIQUITIES DEPT
- 34 DUBAI CULTURE - ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY HOUSE

HOUSE OF SAFEGUARDING THE EMIRATE HERITAGE

- 13 RECTORY HOUSE
- 15 DUBAI HISTORICAL MUSEUM
- 17 HOUSE OF CUSTOMERS
- 18 HOUSE OF CUSTOMERS

ARTISTIC HOUSES FOR PROFESSIONAL TALENTS

- 19 ARTISTS
- 20 ARTISTS' WORKSHOPS
- 21 ARTISTS' TRADITIONAL HOUSE
- 23 ARTISTS' GALLERY
- 24 THE PAUL GALLERY
- 25 THE PAUL GALLERY
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RETAIL

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RESTAURANTS/COFFEE SHOPS

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HOTELS

- 40 & 41 HOTEL
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- 44 & 45 HOTEL
- 46 & 47 HOTEL
- 48 & 49 HOTEL
- 50 & 51 HOTEL
- 52 & 53 HOTEL
- 54 & 55 HOTEL

LANDMARKS

- A UAE ROCK GARDEN
- B BREEZE HOUSE
- C UAE FLAG
- D LIVE SHOWS
- E AL FAHIDI MOSQUE - ALSO KNOWN AS DUBAI MOSQUE
- F BREEZE HOUSE 2
- G SPECIO BEDOUIN EXPERIENCE
- H AL FAHIDI TALLEST & OLDEST PLAIN PROXYNA DACTYLIFERA
- I THE OLDEST BEAT FOR RIDING HACE (AL FAHIDI)
- J PALACE AL FAREEJ (VISITORS LOUNGE)
- K BAIT AL SAIF
- L COURTYARD

PUBLIC AMENITIES

- 1 SHUTTLE BUS PICK UP & DROP OFF
- 2 TOILET
- 3 FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS
- 4 TOILET
- 5 PARKING
- 6 PARKING
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