

Kuwait

Designed and supervised by Kuwaiti firm

Sabah Al Salem Stadium wins World Stadium Congress Award 2019

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: As part of the on-going efforts to achieve the objectives of Kuwait's National Development Plan and signal a new era for sports and recreation in the state, realising HH the Amir of Kuwait's Vision for 2035, the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) in Kuwait today announced that the architectural design of the new Sabah Al Salem Stadium has won the World Stadium Congress Award 2019 in the 'Future Stadium Design of the Year' category. The World Stadium Congress Awards ceremony, in its 6th year, was held last Tuesday in Amsterdam announcing Kuwait's win, which is the State's first global recognition for a sporting facility from the only international institution specialized in evaluating and recognising stadium designs worldwide.

In a word from PAS' Deputy Director-General, Sheikh Hamoud Mubarak Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah said: "Garnering further global recognition for this project is a testament to our progress in developing a world-class

stadium, and we would like to thank all those who are involved in and contributing to the realization of this project. We are very well aware that international sports tourism is considered a potential growth factor for the economy, and the Middle East is moving towards stability and growth with the promotion of sports industry, as it is expected to generate new business and employment opportunities and help accelerate economic growth".

The new Sabah Al Salem Stadium project comes as part of an ambitious plan to almost double the stadium's capacity to 30,000 (shaded) seats and expand the facilities of the club to increase its ability to embrace other sports. The Public Authority for Sports had commissioned Kuwaiti firm Pace - one of the leading multidisciplinary firms in the region for architecture, planning and engineering, to undertake the redesign and construction supervision of Al-Arabi Sports Club's centerpiece stadium. Project components also include a VIP area and corporate boxes

and sports halls under the benches/bleachers.

Pace CEO, Tarek Shuaib, stated: "We are extremely proud to see the project win yet another prestigious global award. This comes as recognition for our strong commitment to excellence in architecture and design, and 50 years of expertise in the industry. I would like to extend my utmost appreciation to Pace's team of dedicated professionals, who contribute to the growth of this firm on a daily basis, and help realize its vision, and achieve its goals and objectives".

Shuaib also added: "The building above street level almost floats above the ground floor, clearly separating the activities taking place within it. The stadium is closed from all sides of the pitch. The modern design of the stadium's facade incorporates a white continuous block unifying the wall and roof as one element. This element wraps around the tiers as tightly as possible and incorporates the symbol of the club. The wheat



Photo during the awards ceremony

leaves on the logo were chosen as the symbol for the new era in the life of the Al-Arabi Sports Club as they mean growth and prosperity. The pattern is more open at concourse level, as it is a more public area, hence allowing for light and ventila-

tion into the bowl, while being more closed at the top (where the sports halls are) until it fades into the solid form of the curved roof".

Commenting further, Mubarak said that: "Despite constraints on a limited plot size, the design of the

multipurpose stadium is internationally standardized to still be FIFA, UEFA compliant, fully optimising the use of space. In order to secure a family friendly environment, the project has been designed to be sensitive to surrounding areas. The overall area of the landscape around the stadium building is approximately 19,000sqm. Green areas for planting will be introduced which will have trees and shrubs and low feature plants with lighting. Specialist lighting for the landscape areas and the building facade will be carefully designed to enhance the landscape and the stadium building".

Al-Arabi Sports Club was founded in 1960 and is the first official sports club to be established in Kuwait. The Sabah Al Salem Stadium, located in the Al Mansouriyah district of Kuwait, is the club's home from the very beginning, and is widely regarded as one of the country's most iconic venues.



The new Sabah Al Salem Stadium

New Look

'Boushahry' developed an interest in sculpture while studying art

Jawad early paintings reflect influence of Van Gogh

This is the first in a series of articles on Jawad Jasim Mohammad Dabbak (Boushahry), a painter, sculptor, architect-designer, businessman.

By Lidia Qattan

Special to the Arab Times

Jawad Boushahry descends from a bourgeois stock, part of Arabian settlers on the Iranian shores of the Gulf; distinguished in their gift for business. "Boushahry" is a nickname pinned on his grandfather, Mohammed Dabbak, who was trading in hides and was holding a monopoly of the business by a contract he signed with the Ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Mubarak Al Sabah.

It was during his usual round through the local slaughter houses of old Kuwait town that people began calling him "Al Boushahry", because he came from Boushahr, a port on the shore of Iran and there he was taking the skins for tanning and trade. His son Jasim Mohammed Dabbak "Boushahry" took-on a different line of business, his passion was the stock market and real estates.

He married Jowhara Hussein Ismail, a lady of noble descent, who bore him three children: Sabah, Jawad and Meliha, and created a happy homey atmosphere for her busy husband and growing children; from his mother Jawad inherited her piety, gentleness and tolerance.

His father, a self taught man with a fine cultural background was his source of inspiration and encouragement from early child-

hood. Jawad was born in 1943 at the time when the tide of the second World War was turning in favor of the Allied Forces, but whatever was going-on in the world, life inside peaceful Kuwait was largely uneventful, indeed it was unaffected by the war, because of a special policy adopted by the government from the beginning of the war to ensure a normal living condition for the whole population by issuing the ration card for essential commodities which were sold at a nominal prize.

Checking

The regular checking by a specially committee going around the market and shops prevented any merchant to increase the price of other commodities, and at noon cooked rice was distributed in town to the hungry.

Jawad was the second-born and the only boy in a family of five; he was a beautiful child, highly inquisitive and sociable, in children games - he was always the leader; but though he loved to be with his friends, he was also inclined to be on his own.

During his school days he was very active in sports, he became the first Kuwaiti champion in table-tennis and distinguished himself in other forms of sport.

When alone he was always busy doing something, always eager to discover the world around him.

Apart from being skillful in making toys, his favorite pastime was sketching and painting.

In whatever he put his mind to do his father had always some words of praise or encouragement for him, this spurred Jawad to grow-up confident and objective, and sparred him of delusions or disappointments when he grew up.

Unlike most children of his days who delighted in catching birds during their seasonal emigration through Kuwait, Jawad never had the heart of trapping them; indeed his delight was to care for those his grandfather bought for him, and felt great sorrow when they died.

In school Jawad was a diligent pupil keen in attending classes, only when he was given an art assignment that made him so absorbed in it that he lost track of time, unintentionally he skipped one lesson or two of the afternoon classes.

In painting he approached his task with a passion that engaged him for hours, incidentally his early paintings reflects the influence of Vincent Van Gogh.

A good example is "The Student under examination" produced in 1961, in it Jawad transformed his experience in a synthesis of colors and movements that emphasize the emotional state of a typical student under exams empirically expressed and co-ordinate with creative vision.

Jawad Boushahry became seriously involved in art from the time he joined the first collective exhibition held in Kuwait in 1958, on the occasion of the first Conference of Intellectuals held in the country and the school authorities sought to impress the guests with an art exhibition, which revealed such a wealth of local talents that it was decided to make the event a yearly exhibition under the name "The Spring Exhibition" and to open a free atelier in town for talented young artists to practice art under the guidance of two teachers, one a sculptor the other a painter with all art material provided free of charge.

After joining the exhibition of 1958, Jawad began joining every other held in town starting with the first Spring Exhibition in 1959, he also joined other exhibitions held abroad.

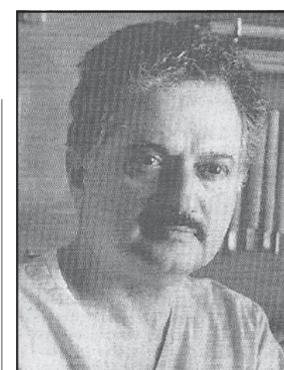
Artists

When the Free Atelier was opened, in 1960, he was among the first young artists attending regularly.

Painting was then his passion; he was imbuing his work with feelings derived from his impression on real life-situations as well as from nature combined to his vivid imagination.

Crowds amused him, he was fond of wondering about the busy dock and the market sketching or painting the life going-on in those places; everything interested him.

His father observing his growing interest in art was worried he would become too involved in it,



Jawad Jasim Mohammad Dabbak

but he allowed him to discover his potentials without interfering.

The path of Jawad emotional journey and attitude towards life was cast on those formative years, therefore, when he grew older and he had to make some changes in his choice of a career, he could remain faithful to his true vocation while still engaging in more prosaic pursuits, which incidentally helped him to cast his special place in the art movement in Kuwait through his involvement in the art committee at the Kuwait Council of Culture, Arts and Letters and through his Art Gallery, which became a magnet for artists and art lovers.

In 1963 Jawad graduated from higher school and got a scholarship to study Architecture at the University of Miami, Florida, USA.

All his life he had been very

close to his family, hence leaving home and be away from his people was a painful experience that lasted the full term of his study abroad.

He loved Architecture and did well in it, but he was for ever looking for any little chance to go home. It was largely because of his constant longing for home that he side-lined Architecture for the sake of art.

License

Architecture required five years of study and two years office-training before he could get his license, by comparison he could have had his Master's degree much earlier.

To lessen the pang of his longing in 1966, Jawad married a young relative, Fetuh, with her he returned to Florida, USA, but even with his wife by his side, he was still longing for home.

While studying art at the Miami University Jawad developed an interest in sculpture, so he left painting and began experimenting with marble, stone, welding and wood; in each field as the form he was creating was coming to life he was gaining a feeling for the materials he was working with. Eventually wood became his favorite material for sculpture because it was both plentiful and varied.

From those early days working with wood Jawad has been trying to discover new secrets and properties in the quality of wood he has been using and get the best of it.

To be continued