

# Type/Genre-Muharraq

## Creative & Political Preservation Practices in Bahrain

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The Pearling Path project in Muharraq, Bahrain was initiated in 2011 with an ambitious goal: attract former residents with new buildings and rigorously preserve the old and original. This was antithetical to projects in other Gulf cities, which grew in height, restricted access to the ocean<sup>1</sup>, and left historic sites (UNESCO-listed and otherwise) to deteriorate. This research is about preservation practices as advocacy for public space and resistance to commercial appropriation.

This research documents how protected sites are carefully renovated, how new buildings incorporate historic typologies<sup>2</sup> or genres<sup>3</sup>, and identify political motivations in emerging preservation practices. There are 6 (and counting) identifiable preservation strategies to inform an organized study: material, site, form, utility, technique, and ornament. This information can be organized effectively with a diagrammatic tool called the “iconographic transect,” which arranges items according to their resemblance to their original icon. Using the two systems will produce a matrix of strategies as they relate to the original element being preserved.

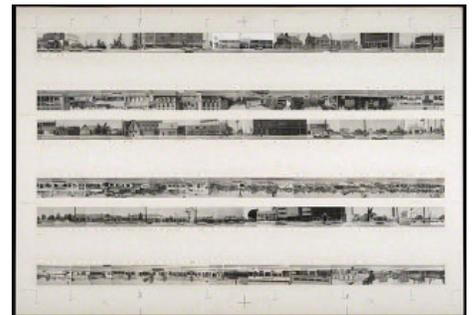
The images produced will be graphic, simple to follow, and informative. Other forms of research will include detail drawings, and research methods inspired by Atelier Bow Wow’s Pet Architecture and Ed Ruscha’s Every Building on the Sunset Strip.

The work I value doing most is motivated by expanding on the knowledge provided by local and disciplinary context and history. I have found that preservation and creative design aren’t mutually exclusive; even the most imaginative projects that I have created operate in a localized discourse. This research in Muharraq will broaden my perspective on preservation’s creative and political potential, and allow me to refine my research techniques.

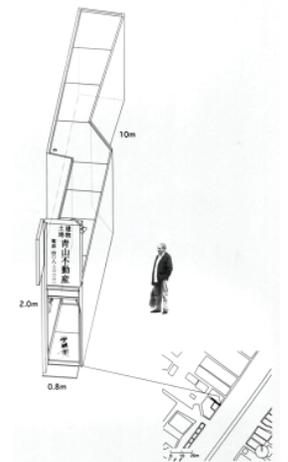
I also hope to contribute this research to architectural journals (including Fresh Meat, which will focus its next issue on material matters), and share the work with the AIA-Chicago and hopefully future students.



*Pearling Pathway Entry (old and new)*



*Ed Ruscha’s Every Building on the Sunset Strip*



*Atelier Bow-Wow’s Pet Architecture*

1. Interview with Noura Al Sayeh Holtrop in *Kinfolk* 2019.
2. Rossi, “Architecture of the City”
3. Val Warke, “Type-Silence-Genre”