

GRIMSHAW

Press Release

Ruler of Sharjah appoints Grimshaw to design botanical garden

Thursday 26th July 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grimshaw has been appointed for a new botanical garden in Sharjah, UAE, which has a mission to encourage discovery and education while conserving the rich floral heritage of Sharjah, the UAE and the rest of the world.

The signing ceremony between Grimshaw and His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah was held in London last week, with work to begin immediately with a team based in Grimshaw's New York and London studios.

H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi has established the project as a demonstration of the importance of science, knowledge and investment in human endeavour. With a site spanning more than 60ha it is similar in scale and ambition to the Eden Project (Cornwall, UK) and Oman Botanic Garden (Muscat, Oman), both designed by Grimshaw.

Andrew Whalley, Deputy Chairman at Grimshaw said, "The Eden Project is a great example of an engaging conservation experience with immersive environments and a rich education programme. Eden is teaching many generations about the natural world in all its wonder. We will build on this with even bolder aspirations for the Sharjah Botanical Garden."

The project supports the educational, cultural and scientific vision for Sharjah with displays of rare plants alongside comprehensive scientific research and innovation centres. With a variety of immersive environments, the botanical garden will educate people about various natural habitats and the importance of conservation.

Located within an urban context, the site for the Sharjah Botanical Garden is adjacent to the Sharjah New Mosque and a proposed future residential development and will offer the residents of Sharjah and the UAE an opportunity to enjoy the expansive garden on their doorstep.

Grimshaw Partner for International Operations, Keith Brewis said, "This is Grimshaw's second botanical garden in the region and our first in the UAE. These projects represent a significant step forward in conserving the natural wonders of the Middle East; we look forward to designing a unique experience for residents of Sharjah and all those who are inspired to address important ecological challenges."

The Sharjah Botanical Garden will contain a rich and diverse range of natural habitats from around the world set within the overall garden landscape, and individual biome enclosures will contain specific plant life environments. It will also have nurseries, a training centre, research institute and recreational areas.

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Image captions:

1. Site photo ©Grimshaw
2. Contract signing (L-R): Andrew Whalley (Deputy Chairman, Grimshaw); Professor Dr. Amr Abdel-Hamid (Director General, Sharjah Research Academy); H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan

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bin Mohammed al-Qasimi (Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah); Dr. David Aplin (Senior Executive Sharjah Botanic Garden, Sharjah Research Academy); Keith Brewis (Partner for International Operations, Grimshaw). ©Grimshaw

3. Inside view of an Eden Project biome ©Hufton+ Crow

About Grimshaw

Grimshaw is an award-winning, international architectural practice with offices in Los Angeles, New York, London, Doha, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne and Sydney employing over 600 staff. The practice's international portfolio covers all major sectors and has been honoured with over 200 international design awards including the prestigious Lubetkin Prize.

Grimshaw is dedicated to the deepest level of involvement in the design of their buildings in order to deliver projects which meet the highest possible standards of excellence. The company's work is characterised by strong conceptual legibility, innovation and a rigorous approach to detailing, all underpinned by the principles of humane, enduring and sustainable design.

<https://grimshaw.global>