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CONFERENCES

**Building Sustainability into the Middle East Abu Dhabi**

**Date:** 5 November  
**Venue:** Westin Abu Dhabi Golf Resort & Spa  
 Key event for sustainability and green building in the Middle East that will focus on energy efficiency and lifecycle costing.

The conference will see industry leaders gather to discuss and debate the way forward for the region's construction industry in terms of sustainability.

This is a forum designed to foster interaction between industry, government and higher education. Experts will share their experience on innovative projects delivered.

**Social Infrastructure KSA 2012**

**Date:** 13 November  
**Venue:** Radisson Blu, Riyadh  
 This event will see contractors, developers and government bodies discuss how social infrastructure projects can be delivered according to set timelines and the highest cost-efficiency.

The conference will see leading figures from construction, real estate and government discuss the challenges they need to tackle in the large-scale rollout of schools, housing and hospitals.

The introduction of a mortgage law in Saudi Arabia is expected to improve the housing supply and subsequent social stability. Consultants and contractors alike anticipate that this will mark a real turning point and provide further incentive for the success of future social infrastructure projects, as a growing young population is expected to result in a strong demand for mortgages.

This same young population will



Eng. Yousif Abdulla, UAE Ministry of Public Works, at the CW Leaders Summit 2012.

also put pressure on the need for education facilities.

As always when dealing with Saudi Arabia, it can take a while to make sense of the scale, but an indicator of the importance of infrastructure to the Saudi government and people can be seen in the budget for

infrastructure projects, which is in the region of \$69.3bn.

The Social Infrastructure KSA conference will allow the leaders of the Saudi Arabian construction sector to share experiences and ideas with senior government representatives.

AWARDS



**ME Architect Awards**

**Date:** Tues 23 October  
**Venue:** Westin, Dubai

**CW KSA Awards**

**Date:** Mon 12 November  
**Venue:** Radisson Blu, Riyadh

**MEP Middle East Awards**

**Date:** Wed 28 November  
**Venue:** Westin, Dubai

**CW Awards**

**Date:** Wed 12 December  
**Venue:** Ritz Carlton DIFC, Dubai

**fmME Awards**

**Date:** June 2013  
**Venue:** TBC

Conferences and Events News

**International design competition mooted for Jeddah**

The Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI) for public art in renewable energy infrastructure is considering a third international design competition focusing on the historic core of Jeddah, Al-Balad.

LAGI seeks to engage artists, architects and designers in the development of renewable energy infrastructure as objects of city beautification. Following the first competition, which was sponsored by Masdar and focused on sites



Al-Balad, the historic core of Jeddah.

at Abu Dhabi's Yas and Saadiyat Islands and Dubai's Ras Al Khor, the current design competition for New York's Freshkills Park received 250 submissions from creative minds out of 39 countries.

Co-founder Robert Ferry, who is speaking at the Architectural Design Days Jeddah conference on 10 October, is excited to present how Jeddah can benefit from an adapted design competition for Al-Balad.

Tapping into an international and regional pool of creativity within Saudi defined guidelines allows new cultural

and economic impulses for Jeddah, he argued.

Frey said: "The talk will provide an overview on the background of the initiative in the context of eco-art history, urban planning and the carbon-neutral movement, with particular attention on the notion of 'positive impact' construction."

"Both the 2010 LAGI competition for the UAE and the 2012 competition in New York City will be highlighted. The potential for LAGI to create proposals for the Al-Balad area of Jeddah will be also be presented."