



# Dubai



# BROWNBOOK

An urban guide to the Middle East

الدليل الحضري للشرق الأوسط

January 2011

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Brownbook is an urban lifestyle guide focusing on design, culture and travel across the Middle East and North Africa. We publish six times a year.

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### World Architecture Festival goes ME



One of the architecture world's biggest meets is about to branch out to the region. In March, Abu Dhabi will host a Middle Eastern-specific iteration of the World Architecture Festival (WAF), which takes place annually in Barcelona. Architect Rafael Vinoly heads up a diverse and wholly inspiring panel of speakers. Hanif Kara, the head juror of the Aga Khan Award For Architecture, is set to speak at the event, along with Gerard Emery and Angus Campbell, two of the partners in the Foster + Partners firm.

The WAF Select Gallery, an exhibition space within the event, will showcase 50 of the top, Middle Eastern relevant projects from the Barcelona outing last November. Amongst these, the recently completed Tripoli



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The WAF Select Gallery, an exhibition space within the event, will showcase 50 of the top, Middle Eastern relevant projects from the Barcelona outing last November. Amongst these, the recently completed Tripoli Congress Centre (pictured), designed by Turkish architecture office Tabanlıoğlu, which scooped top awards at Cityscape Global last year, is a highlight. We're also interested to see the extent of the Haramain High-speed Railway Stations, Saudi's ambitious intercity rail system.

Elsewhere, there's quite an interesting slant towards new developments in Tehran. The Vanak Garden Residential Complex is one such project, a collection of open space-conscious new apartments that try to bring some sense of rural-style conviviality into the depths of this sprawling city. The exhibition will examine how Vanak is proposing an alternative, more green-focused future for new architecture in the Iranian capital and points towards the structures of older neighbourhoods around town as an inspiration to make this happen. The development was shortlisted for WAF's prestigious award in the 2010 outing in Barcelona.

There are also a number of pertinent and refreshingly relevant seminars taking place over the course of the event – Lee Polisano, founding partner of London firm PLP Architecture, talks about strategies to draw in long-term tourism without compromising some sense of 'regional authenticity', while Hanif Kara (Aga Khan Award) discusses the need to establish a modern, regional language of architecture. March 6-7

