Modern Architecture Kuwait 1949-1989
source: https://meemalessa.com/2017/09/20/modern-architecture-kuwait/
DISAPPEARANCE OF MODERN HERITAGE IN KUWAIT, ADAPTIVE REUSE OF AL SAWABER HOUSING COMPLEX

ARCH DIANA MOSQUERA¹
ARCH. DR. MARIE MOORS²

¹ Alhumaidhi Architects, Kuwait
² Faculty of Architecture and Arts, Hasselt University Belgium
CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION

2. THE EMERGENCE AND PLANNING OF MODERN KUWAIT
   2.1. PLANNING PROCESSES
   2.2. THE MASTER PLANS

3. ALISON AND PETER SMITHSON’S URBAN STUDY AND MAT-BUILDING

4. THE ‘AL SAWABER’ HOUSING COMPLEX
   4.1. THE EMERGENCE OF ‘AL SAWABER’
   4.2. ARTHUR ERICKSON’S DESIGN VS. DEVELOPER’S PROJECT

5. DESIGN EXPLORATIONS AND CONCLUSION

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY
1. INTRODUCTION

History of Kuwait, National Museum under construction
source: https://248am.com/mark/photography/history-of-the-kuwait-national-museum/
2. THE EMERGENCE AND PLANNING OF MODERN KUWAIT

2.1. PLANNING PROCESSES

Seafront of Kuwait City, 1950
Transformation of the Old city
source: https://248am.com/mark/kuwait/more-old-pictures-of-kuwait/
Aerial view Kuwait City centre
source: https://248am.com/mark/kuwait/more-old-pictures-of-kuwait/
2. THE EMERGENCE AND PLANNING OF MODERN KUWAIT

2.2. THE MASTER PLANS

Chronological overview of the Master Plans for Kuwait city; 1952-2030

source: Mohamamd ALsayegh 2017 - https://www.academia.edu/35038745/4KMP_Planning_Course_Introduction
International competition for the restructuring of Kuwait City

Plan of Kuwait showing the four areas selected for the demonstration buildings and a fifth area for Utzon’s prize-winning parliament building.

Key
1. Candilis
2. Pietila
3. B.B.P.R
4. Smithson
5. Utzon

source: https://www.academia.edu/35038745/4KMP_Planning_Course_Introduction
The first masterplan of 1952, Kuwait City

source: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Minoprio-Spenceley-and-MacFarlane-development-plan-
Al Sawaber housing complex, Kuwait City, 1997
source: https://www.imgrumweb.com/hashtag/alsawaber
The Old Dhow Harbour Kuwait, 1964 and Souk Al Wataniya, Kuwait City, early 1980s.
TAC: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Souk-Al-Wataniya-Kuwait-City-early-1980s-Source-TAC_fig1_320161290
Transformation of Kuwait City, 1960
source: https://www.academia.edu/35038745/4KMP_Planning_Course_Introduction
Peter Smithson presents the ‘Kuwait Urban Study and MAT-building’ proposal to the Crown Prince of Kuwait, 1970
source: https://twitter.com/a_alragam/status/1086736952261574657

Figure 130: Two composite montages of Alison and Peter Smithson; one is a re-worked perspective of a galleria within their Kuwait’s Mat-Building, and the other is a photograph of their model for the same building demonstrating the importance of the old mosque for their proposal. Source: Raphae Memon (based on the original Smithson’s images published in AR, 1974).
Survey of the existing Mosques
Site plan showing the minarets fixed to the galleries in the MAT-building
Urban form grid study of 1969 Report
4. THE ‘AL SAWABER’ HOUSING COMPLEX
4.1. THE EMERGENCE OF ‘AL SAWABER’

Design Model of the original design for Al Sawaber by Arthur Erickson, 1976
source: https://www.arthurerickson.com/unbuilt-
4. THE ‘AL SAWABER’ HOUSING COMPLEX

4.2. ARTHUR ERICKSON’S DESIGN VS. DEVELOPER’S PROJECT

Design Model of the original design for Al Sawaber by Arthur Erickson, 1976

source: https://www.arthurerickson.com/unbuilt-
Planning Principles

The following planning principles respond to the specific project site conditions and user requirements. They are the key elements in the application and execution of Part B, as they have been extended and developed in the course of the work on Part C.

1. The gardens are the unifying element.
2. Edge buildings providing enclosure.
3. The steeped buildings.
4. Equal internal and external relationships.

The project gardens are the unifying element and focal point of the community.

The east-west alignment of residential buildings provides a good climatic orientation for all dwelling units.

Edge buildings provide enclosure for the project garden and protection from outside visual intrusion.

A clear hierarchical organization, from dwelling units grouped in core group to dwelling units, clarifies the individual’s relationship to the whole community.

Several different dwelling unit types respond to different conditions in different locations within the building.

Every dwelling unit has its own private landscaped courtyard, protected from visual intrusion and screened from direct sun.

Core groups of up to 35 dwelling units are the basic building blocks of the project.

Every row of units has a common roof plane, and clearly distinguishes the project from existing non-standard apartment buildings.

Major rooms have identical internal and external relationships to all dwelling unit types.

Initial design by Arthur Erickson, 1976

source: https://www.arthurerickson.com/unbuilt-
Top view Al Sawaber complex, Kuwait City, 1989 versus urban development plans of Kuwait city, 2030

http://gckuwait.com/portfolio_page/kuwait-city-urban-development-2030/
5. DESIGN EXPLORATIONS

1. LANDSCAPE + PUBLIC SPACE
2. HIGH RISE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
3. COMUNAL SPACES
4. GIFTED SCHOOL + KINTERGARDEN
5. DWELLINGS

Organisation scheme of masterproject of Al Sawaber, Kuwait
source: Diana Mosquera
Floorplan and sections of masterproject of Al Sawaber, Kuwait
source: Diana Mosquera
Model of masterproject of Al Sawaber, Kuwait
source: Diana Mosquera
Details of model of masterproject of Al Sawaber, Kuwait

source: Diana Mosquera
East Asia Contractors Corporation, Kuwait City, Kuwait, 2019, before demolition versus during demolition of Al Sawaber.

source: Arab times 2018 and Tareq Alhouli 2019
CONCLUSION

Demolition of Al Sawaber housing complex, 2019
source: https://alqabas.com
Current situation of Al Sawaber housing complex, 2021

source: Diana Mosquera
Perspective of an equestrian display in the Organgerie Maidan - a montage of battlefield display
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY
