



ANARCHITECT*

PRESS RELEASE

APRIL 2019

ANARCHITECT completes the Al Faya Lodge

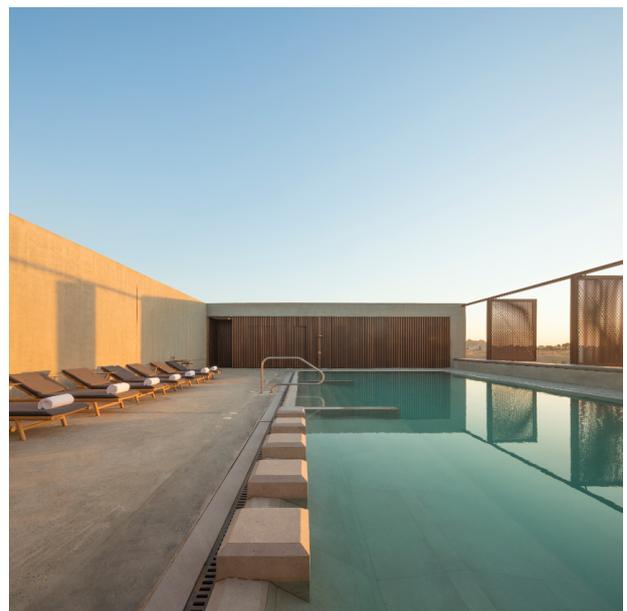
The practice is responsible for the architecture, interiors and furniture design of this boutique lodge & spa, set in the crimson desert landscape of Sharjah



Set at the foot of Mount Alvaah, the Al Faya Lodge is nestled into the UAE's prehistoric crimson desert landscape with close proximity to the UAE's first petroleum pump. The Al Faya Lodge is a new addition to the Sharjah Collection - a group of distinctive boutique hotels and eco-retreats purposefully located in key locations throughout the Sharjah Emirate.

The architecture and design of the Al Faya Lodge, by architect Jonathan Ashmore and his Dubai and London-based practice ANARCHITECT are paramount to the experience it provides. Two single-story, stone-built buildings from the 1960s, previously occupied as a clinic and grocery store, have been re-imagined into a contemporary boutique lodge and restaurant.

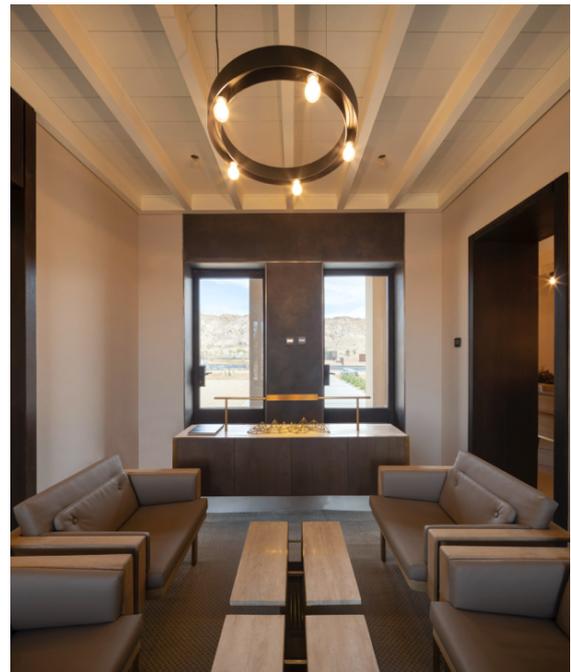
Together with the addition of a newly built saltwater spa building, Al Faya Lodge is set to become a new and unique destination in the UAE.



The architecture and interior interventions purposely contrast the original fabric of the existing buildings. CorTEn steel emphasizes the new additional layers that have been introduced to repurpose and extend the spaces to accommodate a new series of programmes. In doing so, ANARCHITECT has inadvertently drawn more focus to the original buildings, creating clearly defined thresholds and the juxtaposition between that what is old and what is new.

Jonathan Ashmore, practice Principal, comments: "Desert conditions present extreme heat in summer with intense and prolonged sun exposure so it is important to consider these factors when first designing the form and mass of the building and secondly the selection of suitable and robust materials which go hand in hand. Desert sites are exposed to all the elements and not just sunlight. The elements also include driving rain, sand storms and low-temperatures at night. Locally sourced stone or concrete construction provide heavy thermal mass to deal with these extremes with regards to temperature fluctuations. Surface materials like Corten steel and secondary structure materials like robust hardwoods and aluminum were also explored to add refinement and precision to the design particularly for over-sailing roofs, shading elements and also terrace decks raised above the level of the sands."

The Lodge comprises of a dining, reception room, library & roof terrace. Within each room of the five-bedroom lodge is a feature skylight for star-gazing, the luxe room has the added experience of a private roof terrace and dual aspect. The purpose-built spa building houses an open-air saltwater pool and three salt spa experiences; heat, water and salt inhalation. The Al Faya Lodge is to be booked in its entirety, with the spa experience available exclusively to the lodge's guests. The spa offers complete privacy with a self-service approach during the guests' stay. The restaurant and visitors' reception are located on the other side of the property and comprise a dining room, outdoor terrace, fire-pit and a public roof terrace.



Al Faya Lodge offered a one-of-a-kind and exciting challenge for ANARCHITECT with their passion for site-responsive projects and affinity to detail and materiality. The choice of material is contextual and relevant not only to the harsh, arid, desert climate but also to the historical presence of the iron in the region.

CorTen steel, teak hardwoods and plastered-render offer a subtle tonal change and texture to the buildings which are intended to mature with timeless longevity in response to the impact of the climate.

The Lodge, Spa and Restaurant buildings are divided by a through-road which creates an unusual and dynamic urbanity to the master plan of the retreat. The buildings together with the historical petroleum pump command a presence to the road in the scarce desert landscape and will become both a destination and stop-off for those who know and for those who then discover this new intervention.

The project is designed to become a destination that offers relief from the intensity of the City for short breaks. Al Faya Lodge is purposely primordial allowing one to simply exist, absorb and contemplate the surroundings in your own individual way and time. It embodies the ambition of the client and design vision of ANARCHITECT to create a memorable experience for the curious, discerning clientele, where a unique, passionate and contextual approach to the project has resulted in one-of-a-kind property.

Completion date: Q1 2019

Location: Mount Alvaah, Mleiha, Sharjah UAE

Total Area: Plot area 8,000sqm

Architecture, Interiors & Furniture design: by ANARCHITECT

Client: SHUROOQ (Sharjah Investment and Development Authority)

Additional information:

Materials: CorTen steel, Laminam porcelain, Polished concrete, Parklex exterior grade-timber, TMT Ashwood, Travertine stone, Flamed granite stone

Product Suppliers:

ANARCHITECT (bespoke Interior furniture)

Deltalight (lighting)

RODA (Outdoor chairs)

Kohler (Sanitaryware)

Manital (Ironmongery)

CorTen (exterior oxidized steel cladding)

Consultants:

Structure & MEP: Client in-house

Landscape: DesertINK

Furniture Procurement: H&H

Spa Consultant: The Wellness

Contractor: Alba Tower & Obaid Al Abdi

Joinery: Thomas & McQuaid

ENDS

For further press information, high-res images, interview opportunities and expert comments, please contact Justyna Green at +44 (0) 7931 489 895 or j@justynagreen.com.

About ANARCHITECT

ANARCHITECT is a multiple award-winning architecture, interior architecture and design practice based in Dubai and London that specializes in delivering bespoke projects for design-conscious private and corporate clients globally. Its diverse portfolio of built work spans residential, leisure, hospitality, workplace and culture throughout the Middle-East, Europe and Asia.

Founded in 2013 by British architect Jonathan Ashmore, the practice manifests architecture across diverse scales of design with superlative craft, detail and materiality. Architectural discourse is applied in equal measure to each of the disciplines - architecture, interior and design to create highly resolved buildings, spaces and objects beautifully balanced in form, function and detail.

ANARCHITECT recently became one of the first Internationally RIBA Chartered practices outside of the UK while still remaining a boutique design driven office, further recognizing our consistent high quality of design and professionalism.

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