

OUALALOU + CHOI

MOROCCO PAVILION

EXPO 2020 DUBAI

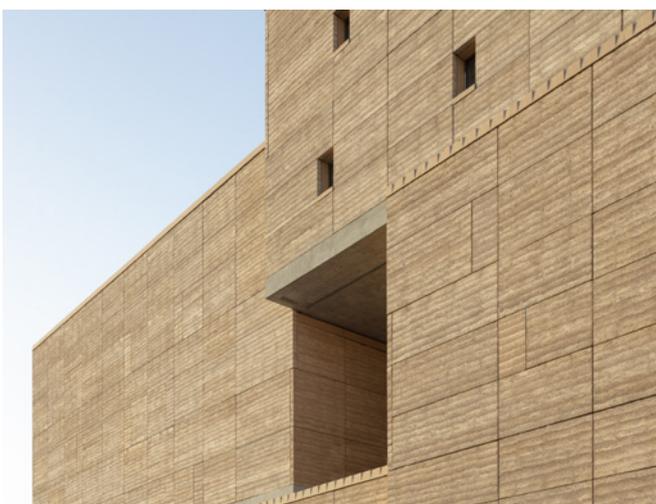
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PRESS RELEASE



The Morocco Pavilion at the 2020 Expo in Dubai, designed by architects OUALALOU+CHOI, showcases how traditional Moroccan design and construction techniques can find new relevance in contemporary design and urban development efforts. One of the few buildings which will not be dismantled after the end of the world exposition, the Morocco Pavilion aims to push the technical and creative limits of traditional building materials to new heights.

The Pavilion's 34-meter-high rammed earth façade is an ambitious technical feat pioneering in its advancement of rammed earth construction methods. Rammed earth, a traditional building material in Morocco, plays a key role in passively regulating indoor conditions in hot and arid places. To achieve the heights of the Morocco Pavilion's facade, raw and compacted rammed earth was formed into prefabricated panels coupled with a lightweight concrete frame. Its use in the Pavilion



proves that it is a material at once traditional and innovative, offering an example of how traditional building methods can serve to inspire more sustainable models of urban development.

Comprised of 22 stacked rectangular volumes visually resonant with vernacular rammed earth villages in Morocco, the Pavilion encompasses 14 exhibition spaces, restaurants, shops, and offices. Visitors will stroll along an inner 'street' composed of a ramp connecting all the exhibition spaces, an explicit reference to the experience of meandering through the medina. The Pavilion attempts to reduce the number of air-conditioned spaces to the bare minimum, utilizing passive strategies of climate control such as the thickness of the earthen walls, multiple vertical gardens, and the presence of a large central patio to naturally ventilate and cool the building.

In line with this commitment to sustainability, after the conclusion of the 2020 Expo, the Pavilion will be converted into a housing complex, with existing facilities adapted into apartments and communal spaces.

[OUALALOU+CHOI](#) is an award-winning international team of architects and urban designers based in Paris and Casablanca. Founded by Tarik OUALALOU and Linna CHOI in 2001, the office considers the architectural project as a means of exploring given restraints, questioning the limits of the design profession, and creating work which resonates across different cultures and contexts.

Projects by the firm include [the United Nations COP22 Village](#) (Marrakech), the new [Cultural Center of Morocco in Paris](#), the plan for the renewal of the historic center of the city of Casablanca, [the Morocco Pavillon at the Universal Exposition in Milan 2015](#) (Milan), [Volubilis Museum](#) (Meknès), [the FLIJ tent at the Arab World Institute](#) (Paris), and ['Decrypting the Pantheon'](#), a large-scale installation at the Pantheon in Paris, France.



MOROCCO PAVILION EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Client : Kingdom of Morocco
[EXPO 2020 Dubai](#)
Date : Completion August 2021
Location : Dubaï, United Arab Emirates
Exhibitions, Restaurants,
Program : (Traditional Moroccan Restaurant, Tea Room, Modern Street Food Area), Lounge, Event Space, Offices, Shop
Site Area : 1467 m²
GFA : 6057 m²

PROJECT CREDITS

Architects : OUALALOU+CHOI
Tarik Oualalou, Linna Choi
Design Team : Alia Ben Ammar (Site Architect), Daniel Larré (Project Architect), Daniele Pasin, Ava Violich, Chloé Zimmermann.
Consultants : Earth Structures Group
PMC : Mace
Engineering : SETEC, e.construct
Facade engineer : T/E/S/S
Local architect : e.construct
Photographs : Archmospheres, OUALALOU+CHOI

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High resolution photos are available here:
<https://we.tl/t-aWdjnNZdUe>

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