Philosophy, structure, and goals for designing the National Aflaj Museum of Oman

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Marrakesh, Morocco, October 26th, 2022
Oman is the gift of aflaj!
Why Aflaj are important?
Countries with systems of water sharing like Aflaj (Aflaj, Khattara, Qanat, Karez, Saqiyah, Foggara, Mambo, Galerias, Puquio, Ingruttati, Surangam etc)
Philosophical concepts

• Water heritage begins with the birth of civilization, and it is still ongoing

• We are not the owner of water-ecosystem, but we are part of it

• Water problems are mostly anthropogenic

• Technology is just a tool not a goal

• Many visitors lack the basic knowledge prerequisite for understanding water issues
Mission

• Education

• Documentation (tangible and intangible heritage)

• Preservation (Physical and digital)

• Awareness

• Amusement
Targeted groups

• All people

• Special showcases for:
  • 3-5 years old
  • 6 to 10 years old
  • 10 to 14 years old
Informal education of kids 8-10 years old.
Location

• Expandable

• Easy to access

• Away from noise and other pollution

• Close to model aflaj

• Away from possible floods and other natural risks
Showcases

• Scientific concepts

• Future challenges (*Example climate change*)

• History

• Aflaj in other countries

• Tangible heritage

• Intangible heritage
State-of-the-art in museology

• Virtual reality games
• Holography
• 7d cinemas
• Digital geometry
• Laser
• GIS and touch screens
Selection and display of exhibits

• Direct link to the themes and up to date
• Scientifically proven and correct
• Concise, simple and direct language
• Integrated
• Able to stimulate curiosity
• Have fun
• Safe to use
• Access to special needs
It is not just a museum!

• Research center
• Library
• Labs
• Database
• Academy
• Consultancy
THANK YOU!