

# Reconstruction & Rehabilitation of the Al Nouri Complex in Mosul

## Competition Fact Sheet



International **single stage** architectural design project competition conducted in **open** procedure

<https://unesco.com/mosulcompetition>

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## Competition

UNESCO will administer an **international design competition** for selecting a winning design entry for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Al Nouri Complex in Mosul. The international design competition for this project **will start in November 2020** and will draw submissions from a wide range of architects and engineers from around the world to submit a design proposal for reconstructing and rehabilitating the Al Nouri Complex.

- **Organizer:** UNESCO Office in Iraq, in coordination with the Ministry of Culture and Sunni Endowment in Iraq and the United Arab Emirates.
- **Competition manager:** UNESCO Secretariat for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Al Nouri Complex Competition.

## Project Description

The city of Mosul, meaning “**the linking point**” in Arabic, has been for millennia a strategic crossing and a commercial and cultural link between the north, south, east and west. Due to its **strategic location**, it became home to a large number of people from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities and religious beliefs. However, this unique location also made it a target for violent extremism. In 2014, conflict struck the city.

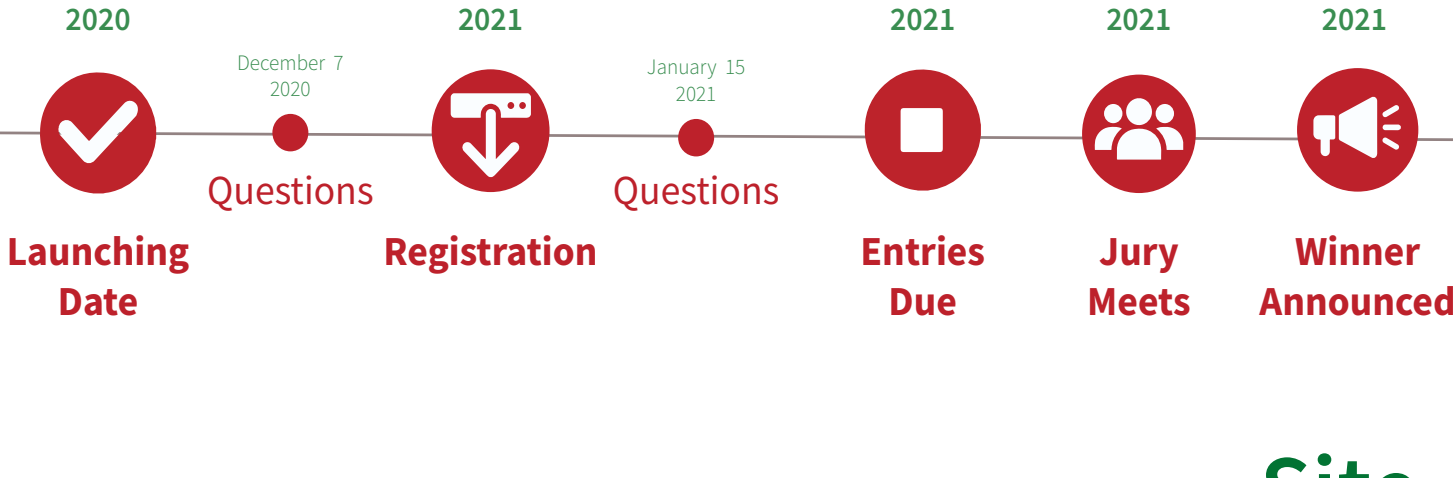
As part of the ‘**Revive the Spirit of Mosul**’ initiative, UNESCO, the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and the Iraqi Sunni Endowment, with the generous financial support of the United Arab Emirates, have committed to reconstruct and rehabilitate the Al Nouri Complex in Mosul. The reconstruction of this important landmark of the city is of upmost importance to send a strong signal of resilience and hope, as a first step towards social cohesion and reconciliation in the post-conflict Iraq. Indeed, historical sites and monuments are not only a scientific tool of knowledge, but they also represent a powerful **symbol of belonging, community, and identity**, whose rehabilitation will facilitate recovering the memory of the ‘Moslawis’ that once felt part of a vibrant and emerging city.

The Al Nouri Complex, since its construction in the second half of the XII century, has constituted a core site in the **urban life and development of the City of Mosul**. In fact, looking at the historical transformations of the city over the centuries, it appears clear how the complex can be classified among those “main monuments” influencing the different street layouts.

Located in the north-eastern sector of the Old City, with an area of approximately 11.050 sq., the Al Nouri Complex includes main landmarks, such as the Al Hadba Minaret and Al Nouri Prayer Hall, a number of secondary buildings and an extensive open area.

Severely damaged in 2017, the Complex will be the subject of an **integrated rehabilitation program**, meant to reconstruct the Al Nouri Prayer Hall, and, at the same time, integrate new functions to be hosted in the newly designed or rehabilitated secondary buildings, which will enhance further the role that this important complex has played for Moslawis over the century. The program will also encompass the redesign of the open space and the relation of the Complex with the surrounding historical urban fabrics, through its new gates and fences, in order to recover its central function in the urban life of the Old City.

## Competition Timeline



## Site

### The Al Nouri Complex

**Old City of Mosul, Nineveh Governorate, Iraq**  
Site: 11,050 square meters approximately  
Building Gross Area: 4,900 square meters

This architectural design project competition has two main components: the rehabilitation of the Al Nouri Mosque Complex and the reconstruction of the Al Nouri Prayer Hall.

**The rehabilitation of the Al Nouri Mosque Complex** calls for a conceptual design for the construction of new buildings with diverse functions, the rehabilitation of all three of its historical buildings and their integration into the new designs, and the landscaping design of the entire site. By creating new spaces dedicated to the community – for **education, social and cultural activities** – the project envisions a space to serve the community beyond its principal religious function.

**The reconstruction of the Al Nouri Prayer Hall** calls for a conceptual design for conserving the remaining standing structure of the prayer hall and its integration into the new building, which is a reconstruction of the prayer hall as it was in 2017 before its intentional destruction.



## Jurors

The jury is made up of the following members listed in alphabetical order (9 jurors and 2 alternates):



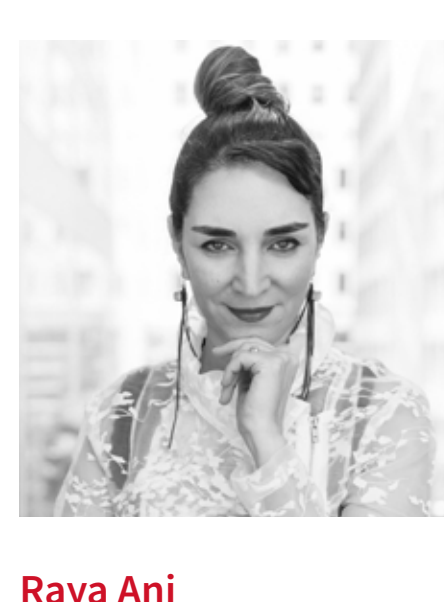
**Howayda Al-Harithy**  
Saudi Arabia

Professor of Architecture and Director of the School of Design at the American University of Beirut.



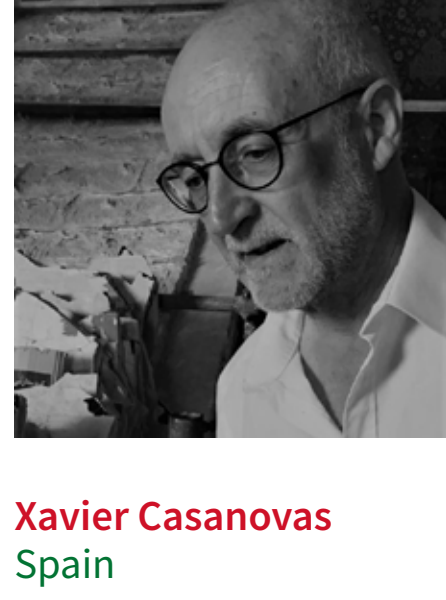
**Ahmed Alomary**  
Iraq

Head of the Department of Architectural Engineering at the University of Mosul



**Raya Ani**  
Iraq

FAIA, LEED AP, Founder and Design Director at RAW-NYC Architects



**Xavier Casanovas**  
Spain

Expert in urban regeneration and sustainable rehabilitation and professor at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia



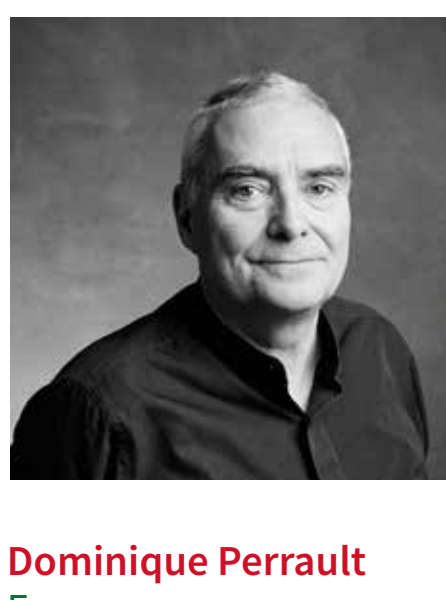
**Amel Chabbi**  
United Arab Emirates

Head of the Conservation Section at the Department of Culture and Tourism for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi



**Shahira Fahmy**  
Egypt

Architect, urbanist, creative researcher and founder of Shahira Fahmy Architects



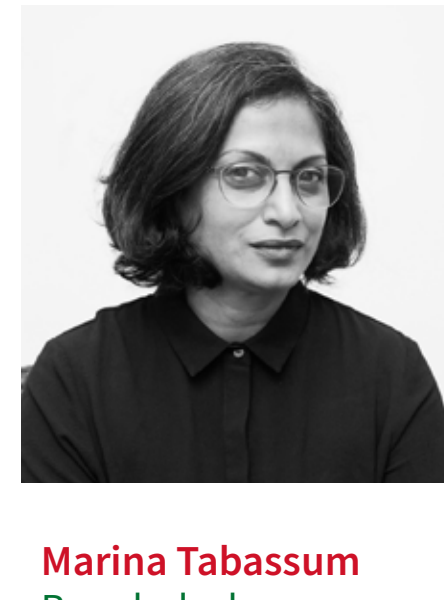
**Dominique Perrault**  
France

Architect, founder of Dominique Perrault Architecture (DPA)



**Wang Shu**  
China

Architect and co-founder of Amateur Architecture Studio



**Marina Tabassum**  
Bangladesh

Architect and principal of Marina Tabassum Architects.



**Shadia Touqan**  
Palestine

Architect, urban planner and director of ARC-WH (UNESCO Category 2 Centre)



**Jerzy Uścińowicz**  
Poland

Professor of Architecture and Head of the Division of Architecture of Local Cultures in the Faculty of Architecture of the Białystok University of Technology.

## Prizes

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$50,000**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$30,000**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$20,000**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize \$15,000**

**5<sup>th</sup> Prize \$10,000**

**honorary mentions for entries with special merit**

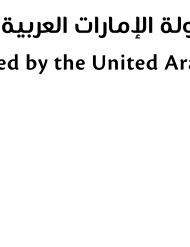
## Goals and aims for the rehabilitation of the Al Nouri Complex

Create an **integrated design** inspired from and compatible with the traditional architecture of Mosul’s Old City, while considering the retention of **authenticity** and integrity of the Complex;

Create an **oasis of peace** and tranquillity for worshippers and a vibrant vital centre for the community, through the established new additional functions.;

Integrate an **environmentally conscious design**, which in the Mosul context should consider locally resourced materials, climate and efficiency;

**Integrate** the newly designed buildings, landscaping and reconstructed portions with the **remains of historical landmarks** within the Complex.



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