

# CREATING IT 1:1

## An interview with Founder and Chief Architect of 1:1 Architecture and Designs

The world of architecture is never short of ideas. From traditional to contemporary, the trends change in a blink of an eye; and there are few architects who take the bold step to change the way the world drifts. Ms. Maysam AlNasser, who considers herself an artist more than an architect, is on her path to bring in these waves of transformation. Following are the excerpts from the interview Bahrain This Week had with this founder and chief architect of 1:1 Architecture and Designs.

### Can we have a brief description on the beginning of one to one?

I've always been fascinated by the dialogue between space and culture. I did my master thesis under the title "space and cultural transformation" in which I studied how space leaves its impression on culture, reshapes its identity, customs and habits, and how culture on the other hand manifests itself on its surroundings; founded the design studio 1:1 to put all those concepts to test, and explore the conscious mix between Art, Architecture and Psychology.

### Your venture name is so very unique. How did you decide on the name 1:1?

1:1 is a ratio that represents the true drawing scale, when drawing is an exact match to reality. It also represents the ratio between our conceptual theories and design interpretation.

### Which is the biggest and challenging project you have managed so far? And do you remember the first project done by 1:1?

The tight deadline we had to follow while designing the Heritage Festival for the ministry of culture. Yet we enjoyed designing it and we loved

**"We are proud with the diversity and variety scale of projects, our main methodology is the conceptual approach to any design, whether it's architectural, interiors or furniture design."**



architectural, interiors or furniture design. We introduce a holistic approach that goes beyond the architecture to connect other fields of design. The studio provides design services in their most contemporary, abstract and minimal form.

### Do you create interior design accessories (like lamp shades) as per requested by clients or as separate entities for sale?

We do ready pieces for sale, as each piece has a story and a concept. The studio is our lab and an ongoing workshop producing and testing experimental pieces. We challenge material characteristics- provoke the laws of physics, gravity, logic, and the conventional use of furniture to introduce new ways, redefine our cognitive knowledge and address the continuous conversation between

traditional and contemporary, organic and defined.

### Why should one approach 1:1 architects and designs?

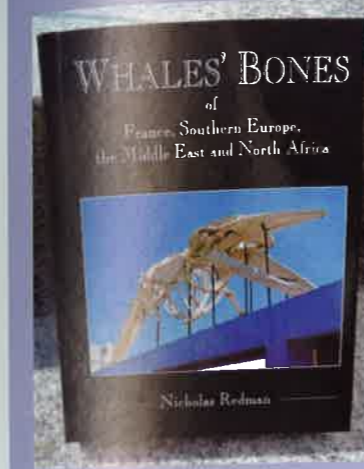
We believe that places reshape us as much as we shape them. We design peoples' emotions through architecture. We study the psychological impact spaces have on their inhabitants, and address the double-sided conversation between space and culture in our designs. This is something unique which we guarantee to provide anyone who approaches us.

### What message would you like to convey to Bahrain's upcoming architects?

There are so many designers around. To stand out in this contemporary design field, one has to embrace his own identity and reflect it on design.



# Bahrain's Famous Whale Skeleton



A recently published book on famous whale skeleton displays around the world has featured the Bryde's whale skeleton on display in front of the Bahrain Science Centre on its front cover. Details on the skeleton and where it was found are also described in the book.

The author of the book 'Whales' Bones of France, Southern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa', Nicholas Redman, visited Bahrain from London in 2013 specially to see the whale on display on the archway in front of the Bahrain Science Centre. He spent a whole day measuring, photographing and discussing the whale skeleton display before returning to London.

The carcass of the whale, whose skeleton is on display, was washed up on the eastern end of the King Fahed Causeway on the 15th of May 1995. The bones were recovered by staff from the Bahrain National Museum who cleaned and preserved them. The skeleton was first put on display outside the Bahrain Science Centre in July 2012.

However, concerns were raised that the archway was not strong enough so the Ministry of Social Development replaced it with a larger, stronger archway and the skeleton was re-displayed in November 2013. The remounting took place under the supervision of Amal al-Buflasa from the Ministry of Social Development and Salman Bu Harib from the Bahrain National Museum.

The skeleton is that of a fully grown adult Bryde's whale Balaenoptera brydei. It measures 14 m long and would have weighed about 20

tons in life. Bryde's whales live in the Gulf as well as in all the warm oceans of the world and are related to the blue and humpback whales, which are baleen whales that feed on shoaling fishes, plankton and squid. They do not have teeth, like toothed whales (such as sperm whales) and dolphins, but huge baleen plates that filter their food out of the water. These plates hang from their enormous jaw bones.

Bryde's whales can swim at speeds of upto 24 km/hr but usually cruise along at a more leisurely 5-6 km/hr. They dive for 5 to 15 minutes to depths of 300 m and communicate with one another using deep groans and moans. Noise created by ships and coastal industries interferes with their ability to hear one another.

They breed every second year and have a gestation period of 12 months. The mothers nurse their young for a further 6 to 12 months. The calves are 4 m long and weigh 1,000 kg at



birth! Bryde's whale hunted for over a estimated to be individuals left in are poorly studie exact conservati

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