

# do\_co\_mo\_mo\_

International committee for  
**documentation and conservation**  
of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the  
**modern movement**

## MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION FICHE

DOCUMENTATION / GOOD CONSERVATION AND RESTAURATION PRACTICE FICHE

Composed by working party of: Kingdom of Bahrain

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**0.1 accessibility**  
*opening hours/ viewing arrangements: 8:00 am - 4:30 am*

db  
code

## 1. Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/landscape/garden

1.1	Current name of building: Gulf International Bank B.S.C.	3
1.2	Variant or former name: Bank	4
1.3	Number & Name of street: Al-Dowali Building , 3 Palace Avenue	5
1.4	Town: Diplomat Area	6
1.5	Province/state: Manama	7
1.6	Zip code: 1017	8
1.7	Country: Kingdom of Bahrain	9
1.8	Geographic GPS coordinates: 26.240936, 50.583387	10
1.9	Classification/typology: Commercial COM	11
1.10	Protection status & date: Not protected – Renovated in 2019 By Mirai Architecture	12

## 2 History of building

2.1	Original brief/purpose: Banking	13
2.2	Dates commission/completion: Year of Completion 1982	14
2.3	Architectural and other designers: Gibb, Petermuller and partners	15
2.4	Others associated with building:	16
2.5	Significant alterations with dates: - 2019 – GiB Management approached Mirai -Architecture and Engineering, a consultation firm to completely change the exterior façade to imitate the style incorporated in the GiB headquarters in Riyadh Saudi Arabia. The architects in turn suggested a minimum intervention route for the building. The changes, through the minimum intervention route that was selected, was to polish the Italian marble and incorporating changes to the lighting of the façade to amplify and bring the attention to the mashribyas which is one of the defining character of the building. The site was redesigned to change the parking layout and their shading. The only major façade change that was brought to the building was the main entry projected shading and a fountain within the site. In line with the need of the client to showcase the rebranding of GiB – the new logo was incorporated at the main entry. This logo had to translate into the current times while also preserving the visual language of the building using steel and the use of patterns to imitate the mashribyas in the building.	17
2.6	Current use: Banking	18
2.7	Current condition: Well maintained	19

### 3 Description

#### 3.1 **General description:** 20

GiB Building is located in the financial district in Manama, capital of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The building façade is adorned with arches and mashribyas made out of steel and brown in color. The walls are of Italian marble of beige colour. There is a landscaped area in the front of the building and ground parking within this area.

#### 3.2 **Construction:** 21

The exterior of the building was of Italian marble and adorned with steel Mashribyas (a feature emblematic of the regional aesthetic identity). The color schemes adopted was inspired by the colors most commonly seen in the country- brown color of the mashrobyas imitating the traditional use of wood and beige Italian marble.

General information about the construction (value to modern movement will be talked about in section 4.1)

#### 3.3 **Context:** 22

Modern movement in Bahrain passed through a gradual contextual growth influenced by several socio political factors from discovery of oil in 1932 to being a British colonial protectorate, gaining independence in 1971 and the establishment of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in 1981. The initial period of the movement in Bahrain was an experimental ground deriving influences from Britain, India and Persia where the methods of construction were influenced by imported materials and technologies. The period following this in 1960s-1970 saw a pan Arab regional identity within the movement. This period also marked a boom in economy and the path towards establishing Bahrain as the financial capital of the Gulf.

The period following this is where we situate Gulf International Bank B.S.C. (GIB) building. It was designed by Gibb, Petermuller and partners and completed in 1982 in the planned business centre of Bahrain – the Diplomatic area. The building is a testament to both the growing aspiration and later establishment of Bahrain as the financial capital of the Gulf as well as the need to reflect the Arab Islamic identity into the built landscape of Bahrain.

### 4 Evaluation

#### 4.1 **Technical** 23

Mention any changes to the structure and construction value of the building in the context of modern development in the country.

#### 4.2 **Social** 24

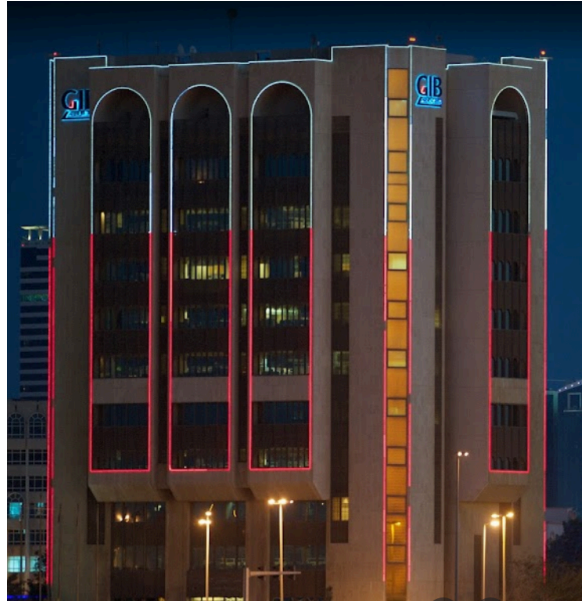
GiB building was one of the landmark building during the establishment of Bahrain as the financial capital of the gulf. This structure formed part of this rebuilding/rebranding project along with several other buildings built in the vicinity to form the diplomatic area. GiB building is one of the most important building showcasing the pan Arab political movement and style within the modern movement. The building with its arches and mashribyas is now an

important part of the city scape of Manama. Through the almost 4 decades of its existence the building faced little to no drastic change in its façade or identity. The interiors did face changes and renovation to fulfil the growing requirement of the staff for the continued function of the building as headquarters to one of the most important banks of the region. When the GiB management first approached Mirai Architecture and Engineering with the request to a complete rebrand, the architects within the team did a study of the building and its significance and value to the residents of the region. Such an activity was carried out to understand and study the need to preserve the identity of the building through a people centric perspective of the locality. These surveys brought forth an overwhelming consensus to preserve the exterior façade of the building and value of the site and the building to their memory and narrative.

- 4.3 Cultural & aesthetic** 25
- The features emblematic of this period of the movement is exemplified and celebrated in the GiB building. The building showcases arches and mashribyas incorporating the Arab Islamic identity into the modern movement while the technology and materiality boasts of the modernist construction methods. The mashribyas eloquently attributes to this duality in the GiB building – they adorn the facade of the building lending the regional identity but made out of steel, a material that was celebrating the technologies of the time. The facade was covered with Italian marble, justifying the globalization of the modern movement within the Pan Arab direction of the movement within the region. These materials and their usage was new to the region and their use in the form of mashribyas with its pattern served to conserve the local identity that was being propagated within the cultural and political sphere of the kingdom. The colours incorporated for the building is also another element to bring the locality into the design – using brown steel patterned mashribyas – reflecting the traditional use of wood and beige Italian limestone- the colour emblematic of the traditional buildings in Bahrain.
- 4.4 Historical** 26
- GiB building was conceived in the 1980s and stood as an important testament to the political and aesthetic position that Bahrain was propagating. The pan arab aesthetic that brought in the local/regional style within the modern movement was celebrated in the GiB building and is seen as an exemplary example of the country’s narrative post-independence.
- 4.5 General assessment** 27
- GiB building continues to be one of the important buildings in the financial district, Diplomat Area, in the capital of Bahrain. With the beautiful steel mashrbiyas and arches and polished Italian marble in its façade – this building is one of the highlights of the diplomat area. The clear features of the Arab Islamic style with the materials emblematic of the modern movement reflects the artistic value of the building and an important banking institution in the country and the region.

## 5 Documentation

- 5.1 Principal references 28  
<https://www.gib.com/en>  
Website of Gulf International Bank
- 5.2 Visual material attached 29



- 5.3 Rapporteur/date: 18, July, 2022 30
- 5.4 Repporteur email/other contact: Stany Babu, Haneen Altehmazi  
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## 6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R

Name of examining ISC member:

Sign and date of examination:

Approval:

Comments: