

do_co_mo_mo_

MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION FICHE

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

DOCUMENTATION / GOOD CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PRACTICE FICHE

Composed by a working party of the Kingdom of Bahrain



0.1 accessibility

opening hours/ viewing arrangements: closed temporarily

db
code

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

- | | | |
|------|---|----|
| 1.1 | Current name of building: Juffair Volleyball Stadium | 3 |
| 1.2 | Variant or former name: Bahrain International Volleyball Development Center, Asian Volleyball Championship | 4 |
| 1.3 | Number & Name of street: Road number 4007 | 5 |
| 1.4 | Town: Juffair | 6 |
| 1.5 | Province/State: Manama | 7 |
| 1.6 | Zip code: Null | 8 |
| 1.7 | Country: Kingdom of Bahrain | 9 |
| 1.8 | Geographic GPS coordinates: 26.212788441522747, 50.6010065841931 | 10 |
| 1.9 | Classification/typology: Recreation REC | 11 |
| 1.10 | Protection status & date: Not protected. The stadium needs proper maintenance, especially flooring. An article was written in October 2012, which states that the sports hall should maintain its old shape, as it is the first gymnasium built in Bahrain, and it is one of the sports heritage sites that must be preserved.
– Talks of demolition | 12 |

2 History of building

2.1 Original brief/purpose: 13

Bahrain International Volleyball Development Center is an indoor Volleyball Stadium. It was officially inaugurated under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the late Emir of the country, on December 16, 1979, the Youth Center Hall in Juffair was opened on the occasion of the establishment of the Asian Volleyball Championship, which got organized for the first time in an Arab country. The launch of the Asian Championship for men was on National Day on December 16, 1979, under the patronage of the late Emir Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa. The Bahrain Volleyball Federation is proud of having come up with the idea of establishing the first international center in the world in the mid-eighties to spread that experience to various countries.

Today, the stadium remains a center for playing Volleyball with different players around the region. However, due to the pandemic and the lack of maintenance, the stadium is used at its minimum.

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 2.2 | Dates commission/completion: September 1979 – December 1979 | 14 |
| 2.3 | Architectural and other designers: David Morgan (Module 2 -No longer operating), Hael Elwary (The Modern Architect) | 15 |
| 2.4 | Others associated with building: G.P. Zachariades (GPZ) (Contractor), Tony Prince (MEP Engineer), TEMCOR USA (Supplier of Dome) | 16 |
| 2.5 | Significant alterations with dates:
December 1979- Opening ceremony
November 2010- Swelling on the floor of the stadium caused several Volleyball cancellations. | 17 |

February 2011- Removing the wooden floor (parquet), which was under the rug, as it was damaged by the burrs that protruded after removing the wooden floor. The issue of the hall floor is one of the topics discussed by the officials of the Bahrain Volleyball Association with the Secretary General of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who made an inspection visit last Thursday evening to the Youth Center Hall in Juffair to find out all its needs.

October 2012- The amount for rebuilding the gym is up to \$10 million, equivalent to (BD 3.8 million), which is the total amount for this project. Al-Hajj indicated that the project submitted by the General Organization for Youth and Sports includes the demolition and rebuilding of the gymnasium. The rebuilding should be preserving its old shape as it is the first gym built in Bahrain, and it is one of the sports heritage that must be preserved, stressing that the gym will be built according to the latest international standards, which will enhance Bahrain's position when hosting indoor sports. Al-Hajj indicated that the General Organization for Youth and Sports is keen to implement the gymnasium project in the Juffair area, which is one of the distinguished service areas in the Kingdom and includes many services that will contribute to the establishment of the hall in the required manner in addition to the area's hotel services, restaurants, and others, which contributes to the ease of residence Tournaments and sporting events in this region rich in services.

January 2016- Several ideas were raised regarding the Juffair Hall with the Ministry of Works, as there was a tendency to renovate the hall in the same structure that it is known for, with the preparation of the surrounding areas around it and increasing the capacity of the masses as well. Still, after the study, the brothers in the Ministry of Works explained that the area suffers from (traffic jams), and therefore the people will be harmed. In addition, the project will need a high budget, and therefore we are back to square one in this regard.

May 2017- The Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs reported that it is now preparing for the implementation of a comprehensive development project for the Juffair Sports Hall.

- 2.6 Current use: The stadium is still a volleyball room but has not been used actively since 2017. 18
- 2.7 Current conditions: Poor condition with little to no maintenance and ongoing talks of demolition. 19

3 Description

- 3.1 General description:** 20
Juffair Dome was conceived as an indoor volleyball stadium with an approximate total seating capacity of 2,500 - 3,000 with a V.I.P. stand and office spaces commissioned by the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport in 1979. It was built to house the Asian Volleyball Championship in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The stadium was completed in 3 months. The roof, which is one of the prominent features of the stadium, comprises a spherical Aluminum Dome supplied by TEMCORE USA and installed by GPZ. It was the first of its kind dome structure in Bahrain and is emblematic of the modern technologies and materiality that were prevalent in the period. Originally designed by a British firm called Module 2 Bahrain. The client and Architect proposed a quick and easy structure to house the playing hall. They have visited similar projects in Kota Kinabalu, a city in Malaysia to study and review the best details and materials to be used as they have already existing halls.
- 3.2 Construction:** 21
The Geodesic dome was designed and fabricated by a specialist team in the U.S.A. to fit the requirements at the site. Accordingly, the ready Geodesic dome arrived from the U.S.A. and a team installed it in a matter of seven to ten days. Exterior cladding of aluminum composite sheet with insulation on aluminum tubular space framing system. The advantage of using a Geodesic dome system is that there are no columns in the playing area. This will give you a clear span and height in the middle which is ideal for the playing area.
- 3.3 Context:** 22
Juffair Dome is located in Juffair, home to the US Naval base since the 1970s before which the British Naval base had occupied it from 1935 till 1971 when the treaty expired and the Island attained complete independence. The location at the point of its conception was an important aspect which when seen within the post-independence development in the country catering to international image adopting modern style in an area that was home to British and then the US Naval base. Being constructed as the Asian Volleyball Championship, it was important to be located in the central city of the Kingdom of Bahrain. By that time Juffair was recently reclaimed as an island and had a sufficient amount of land for large complex projects.

4 Evaluation

do.co.mo.mo_

International Specialist Committee ISC/Registers
for office use only

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

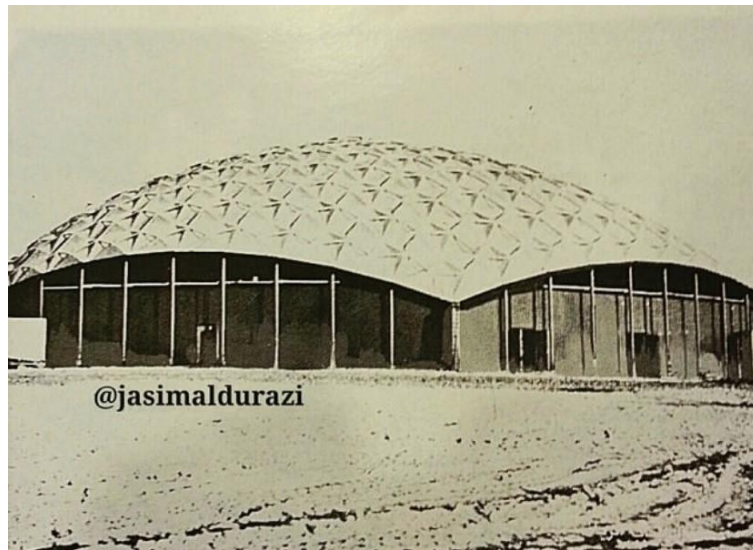
- 4.1 Technical** 23
The architectural firm, Arab Architects, introduced a retractable seating system/audience system all around the playing area. This enabled them to house the volleyball court area as well as other larger playing courts by simply retracting the seats. A mezzanine level was also constructed to maximize seating capacity. Good air conditioning design and lighting systems were made through Bahrain's local companies. Toilets, shower & changing rooms, pantry, and other support facilities were provided. External features include car parking, landscaping, and a grand entrance.
- 4.2 Social** 24
Juffair dome was one of the important buildings testament to the sports legacy of Bahrain. Volleyball is one of the most important sports in the country. The sport started gaining popularity in 1919 and became an organized sport in the 1950s with championship games being organized and the establishment of the Bahrain Volleyball Federation in 1974, joining the Arab Volleyball Organization in 1975, and getting affiliated with International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) in 1976. The popularity of the game led to the decision to the establishment of the Juffair Dome. The structure was completed in a fast-tracked manner taking just 3 months with Bahrain hosting the 1979 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship which took place in December. In 1987 Bahrain hosted FIVB U21 World Championship with the Juffair dome being one of the venues and hosted the Final match which drew a large crowd into its hall. Juffair dome stands testament to this legacy but has fallen in popularity in its use due to the surrounding development, overcrowding, and traffic issues which led to the use of other sporting halls in Riffa and Isa Town. The dome continued to be in use in other activities such as a basketball court, gymnasiums, and for other smaller tournaments but the use has reduced, and now it's more or less abandoned with talks of demolishing the structure.
- 4.3 Cultural & aesthetic** 25
The dome remains to stand as an important structure in Juffair and the country's sporting legacy. The dome structure is an emblem of modern development and technology with its unique style. It stands out in its form in the urban landscape of Juffair marking itself as a landmark in the region.
- 4.4 Historical** 26
The use of the dome structure, a first of its kind in Bahrain, while laying the groundwork for the modern development of Bahrain with the latest available technology of the time is a pinnacle to the image that Bahrain was trying to portray to the world.
- 4.5 General assessment:** 27
Juffair dome was conceived at a time when Bahrain was establishing itself within the international community and defining its identity. While the country was aspiring to be the financial capital of the Gulf during this period – the development of sports arenas and hosting international games was aimed to bring more tourists and investments to the country. The unique dome structure and its usage catered to Bahrain's image of the land of leisure and business. The building is one of the important structures that was established defining modern Bahrain and its aspiration.

5 Documentation

- 5.1 Principal references 28
- <https://www.fivb.org/en/Volleyball/viewPressRelease.asp?No=65594&Language=en>
Website of G.P.Zachariades
- <https://www.alayam.com/alayam/sports/430688/News.html> The floor of the Juffair Hall "swells" and causes the matches to be postponed, Alayam News, November 2010
- <https://www.alayam.com/alayam/sports/447143/News.html> Comprehensive maintenance of the Juffair hall..and change the floor, Alayam News, February 2011
- <https://www.alayam.com/alayam/sports/189237/News.html> Al-Hajj: The cost of building the gym in Juffair is 3.8 million dinars, Alayam News, October 2012
- <http://www.alwasatnews.com/news/1246013.html> Al-Shabab and Sports": Rebuilding and rehabilitating Al-Ahly Club... and a gym for Al-Shabab Club, Alwasat News, May 2016
- <http://www.alwasatnews.com/news/1065063.html> Al-Hajj: Restoration of Juffair Hall is a priority of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Alwasat News, June 2016
- <https://www.alayam.com/Article/sport-article/407323/Index.html> Youth Hall..a museum, Alayam News, September 2017
- <https://www.alayam.com/Article/sport-article/410047/Index.html> Who adopts the idea of my great colleague Nasser Muhammad... transforming the Youth Hall into a museum?, Alayam News, July 2018

5.2 Visual material attached

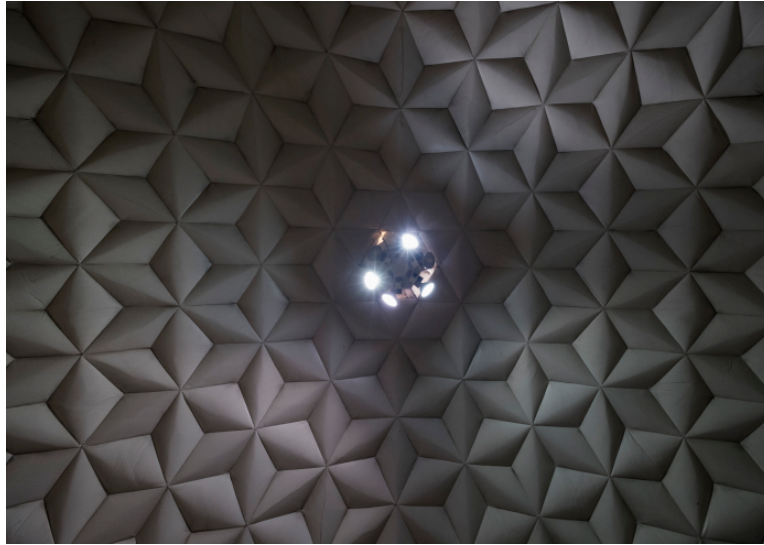
29



do.co.mo.mo_

International Specialist Committee ISC/Registers
for office use only

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



do.co.mo.mo_

International Specialist Committee ISC/Registers
for office use only

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



5.3 Rapporteur/date: 22- July- 2022

30

5.4 Repporteur email/other contact: Stany Babu, Haneen Altehmazi
haneenaltehmazi@outlook.com

6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R

Name of examining ISC member:

Sign and date of examination:

Approval:

Comments: