



The Heat of Now: Designing the Future of Urban Heat, in Abu Dhabi

In the shimmering heat of the Gulf region, a new kind of city is taking shape. One where ancient architectural wisdom meets cutting-edge technology—and where people live well with extreme heat.

In this final episode of *The Philanthropist's Conversation*, our host Paula lands in Abu Dhabi to ask a powerful question: What does urban life look like, in a world where temperatures frequently reach 40°C?

Joined by senior government advisor Hamdan Al Suwaidi, Paula tours Abu Dhabi's historic landmarks like Qasr Al Hosn or the Grand Mosque to learn about the city's centuries-old relationship with heat. They also spotlight the United Arab Emirates' most innovative design initiatives, with a visit of the ultra-modern Masdar City – a large-scale urban project that put the UAE on the map when it comes to sustainability.

Along the way, you'll hear an exclusive interview with Gerard Evenden, a senior partner at Foster + Partners who helped designed Masdar. And we'll explore the UAE's sustainability agenda, which is moving away from oil wealth, and towards ecological stewardship.

So what can an experimental desert city teach the world about adaptation? And what conclusions should we draw from this series, to turn individual projects into engines for systemic change?

Find out today on *The Philanthropist's Conversation: Social Architecture to Address Urban Heat*.

Highlights:

- Welcome to Abu Dhabi (00:59)
- Meeting Hamdan Al Suwaidi in the Mandarin Oriental Lounge (03:05)
- An Historic Approach to Heat in Central Abu Dhabi (07:29)
- Islamic Futurism at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque (16:02)
- Masdar City: A Case Study in Heat Resilient Design, with Gerard Evenden (26:33)
- Introducing Ivan Peter and Pegasus's Ambitious Vision (37:31)
- Insights & Legacy: A Walking Tour of Masdar City (39:16)
- Reflecting on Abu Dhabi's Approach to Extreme Heat (51:28)

- Conclusions on Urban Heat and Applications for the Future (58:32)
- A Glimpse into Season 2: Spotlight on Food Resilience (01:04:48)

Links:

- [Episode Resources](#)
- [Gerard Evenden LinkedIn](#)
- [Pegasus Website](#)

- *SOCIAL MEDIA NOTE:*

The Philanthropist's Conversation heads to Abu Dhabi!

In the final episode of our first season, we explore what it really means to live well in extreme heat — and how a city can be designed not just to endure, but to thrive at 40°C.

Our host Paula touches down in the UAE to ask: *what happens to our way of life when heat becomes the new normal?*

On the shaded streets of Abu Dhabi, she meets Hamdan Al Suwaidi, a proud Emirati and senior government advisor who will embark her on a journey through Abu Dhabi's rich architectural heritage — from Qasr Al Hosn to the breathtaking Grand Mosque — before stepping into the future with a tour of Masdar City, a sustainable urban experiment built to model heat resilience.

You'll also hear:

- ◆ An exclusive interview with Gerard Evenden of Foster + Partners on the bold vision behind Masdar;
- ◆ A reflection on Islamic futurism and how culture shapes the UAE's approach to sustainability;
- ◆ An inspiring conversation about what it takes to turn innovation into long-term systemic change, and how *we* at Pegasus want to lead the charge!

This is one for the books. Join us for one last stop — and a glimpse of what the future of heat might feel like.

#ClimateResilience #UrbanHeat #SustainableCities #IslamicFuturism #Architecture
#ThePhilanthropistsConversation

Episode Resources

Cultural Research

Articles:

[Business Travelers - "A Story of the Sea"](#)

[Gulf News - "What makes Karak Tea special?"](#)

[Gulf News - "Dr. Hamed Bin Mohamed Al-Suwaidi: Man of two worlds"](#)

[Lobo - "Islamic Architecture: History And Essential Characteristics"](#)

[Muslim Aid - "The Islamic Golden Age"](#)

[The National News - "Geneology and the UAE: Stories that reveal who we are"](#)

[The Met Museum - "The Five Pillars of Islam"](#)

Websites:

[Abu Dhabi Culture - *Qasr Al Hosn*](#)

[Al Suwaidi Foundation](#)

[Dubai's Museum of the Future](#)

[Qasr Al Hosn](#)

[Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre](#)

[The Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental](#)

[Visit Dubai - *Museum of the Future*](#)

Academic Research:

[Noor Shakirah Mat Akhir & Muhammad Azizan Sabjan - Tafakkur as the Spiritual Mechanism for Environment Conservation](#)

[The State of Social Progress of Islamic Societies - "The Islamic Golden Age: A Story of the Triumph of the Islamic Civilization"](#)

Heat Resilience Research:

Articles:

[Arch Daily - "Al Bahar Towers Responsive Facade"](#)

[Arch Daily - "Reimagining The Mashrabiya: Functionality and Symbolism in Contemporary Architecture"](#)

[Arch Daily - "Barjeel Installation / Miskavi Architecture Studio"](#)

[Architizer - "Cultural Lattices: The Architectural Evolution of the Modern Mashrabiya"](#)

[Arup - "Engineering the Al Bahar Towers"](#)

[Fast Company Middle East - "Traditional Barjeel towers hold the key to sustainable cooling. So why isn't it more popular?"](#)

[Masdar.ae - "UAE announces Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative"](#)

[The Earthbound Report - "Building of the week: Masdar's wind tower"](#)

[The Sandy Times- "The Story Behind Abu Dhabi's Pineapple-Looking Buildings"](#)

[Time Out Abu Dhabi - “Inside Masdar City, Abu Dhabi - the world’s first zero-waste, low-carbon city”](#)

[World Resources Institute - What Would Cities Look Like With 3 Degrees C of Warming vs. 1.5? Far More Hazardous and Vastly Unequal"](#)

Websites:

[Abu Dhabi’s Department of Energy - Abu Dhabi Energy Outlook 2050](#)

[Abu Dhabi Sustainable Week](#)

[Foster + Partners](#)

[Foster + Partners - *Masdar City*](#)

[Foster + Partners - *Masdar Institute*](#)

[NEOM](#)

[World Future Energy Summit](#)

Academic Research:

[Eman Assi - Layers of Meaning and Evolution of Cultural Identity: The Case of Wind Towers in Dubai](#)

[Jiayi Jin - Urban design for sustainability: A case study of the carbon-neutral "Masdar City" in Abu Dhabi](#)

[World Resources Institute - City-Scale, City-Relevant Climate Hazard Indicators Under 1.5°C, 2.0°C, and 3.0°C of Global Warming](#)

Transcripts:

[Gerard Evenden Interview](#)

[Lenio Myrivli Interview](#)



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