



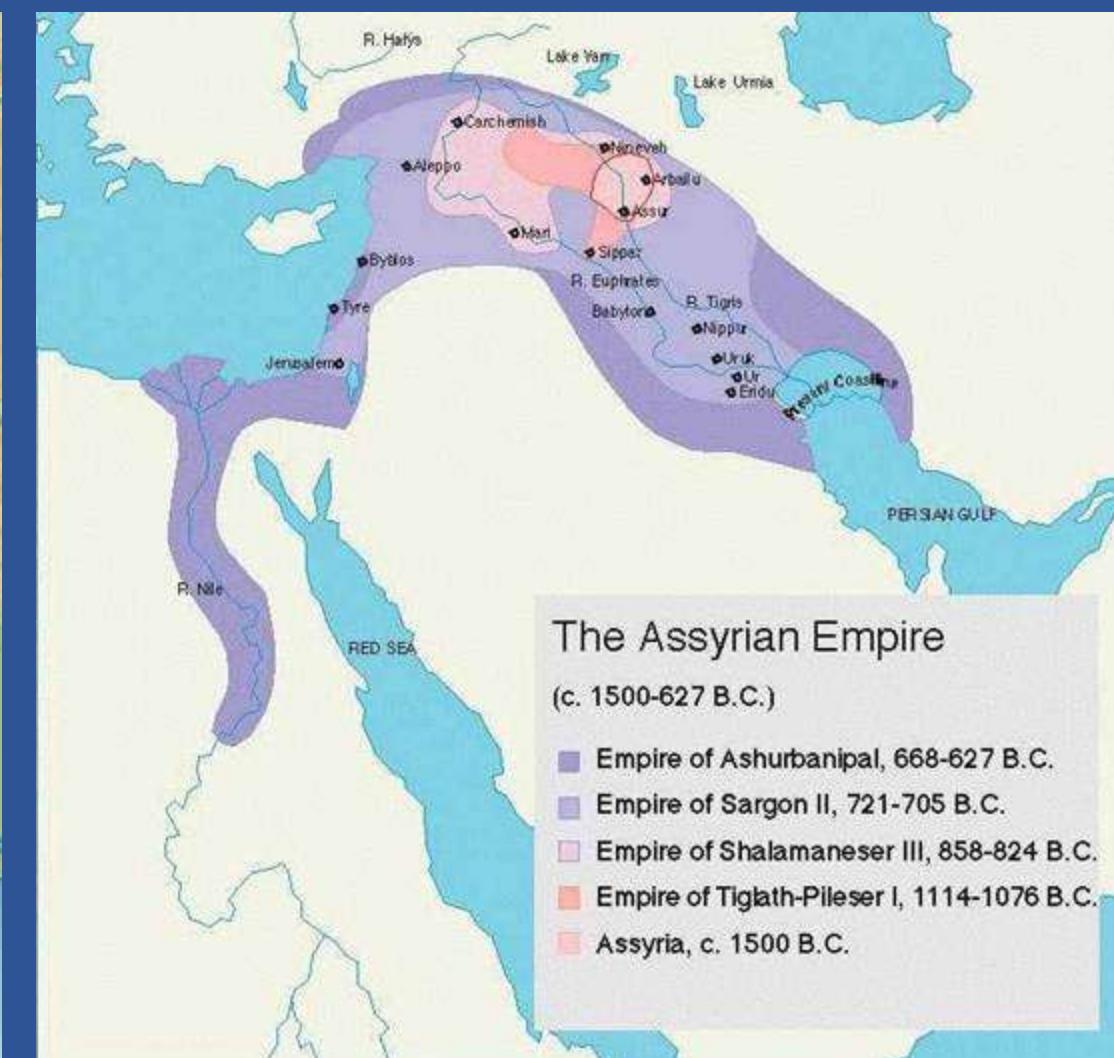
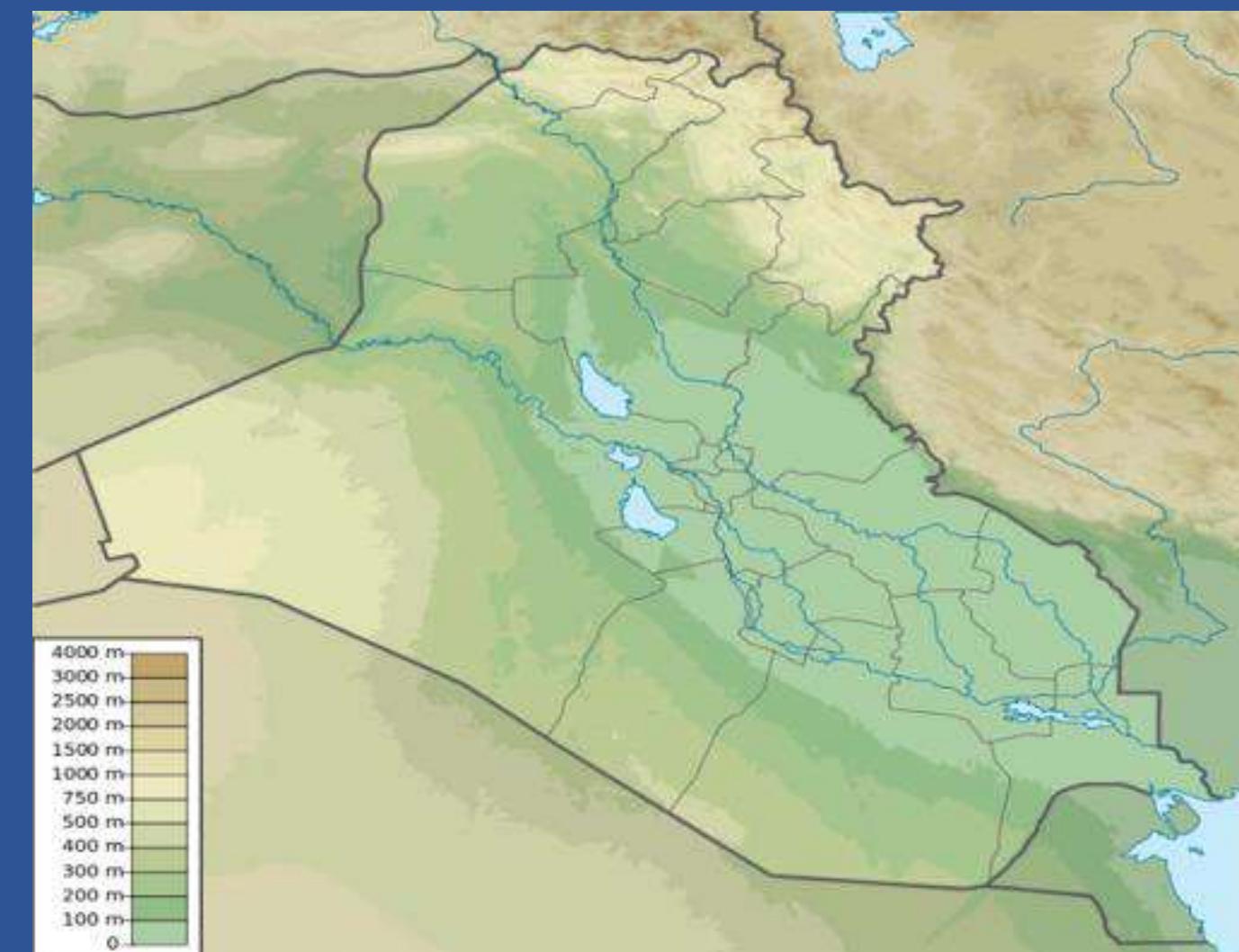
From Remembering to Revitalising

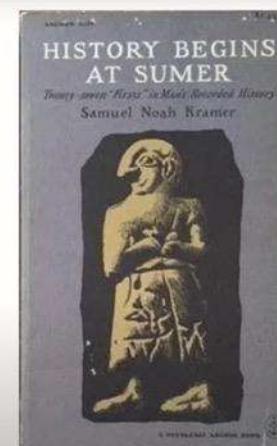
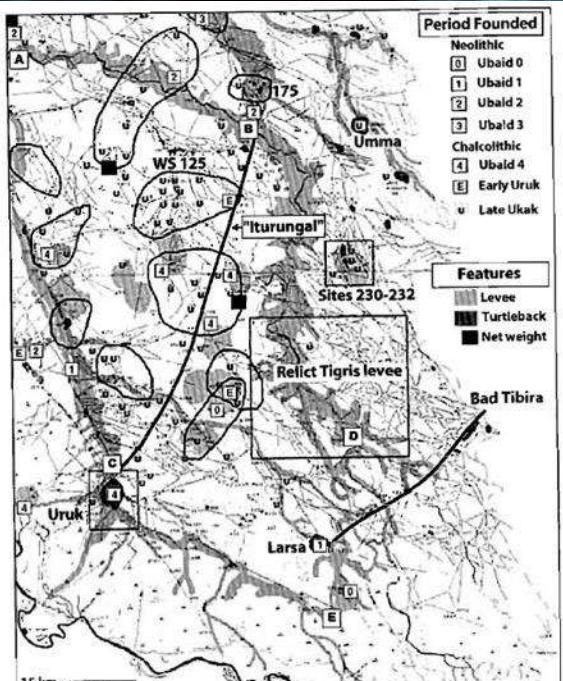
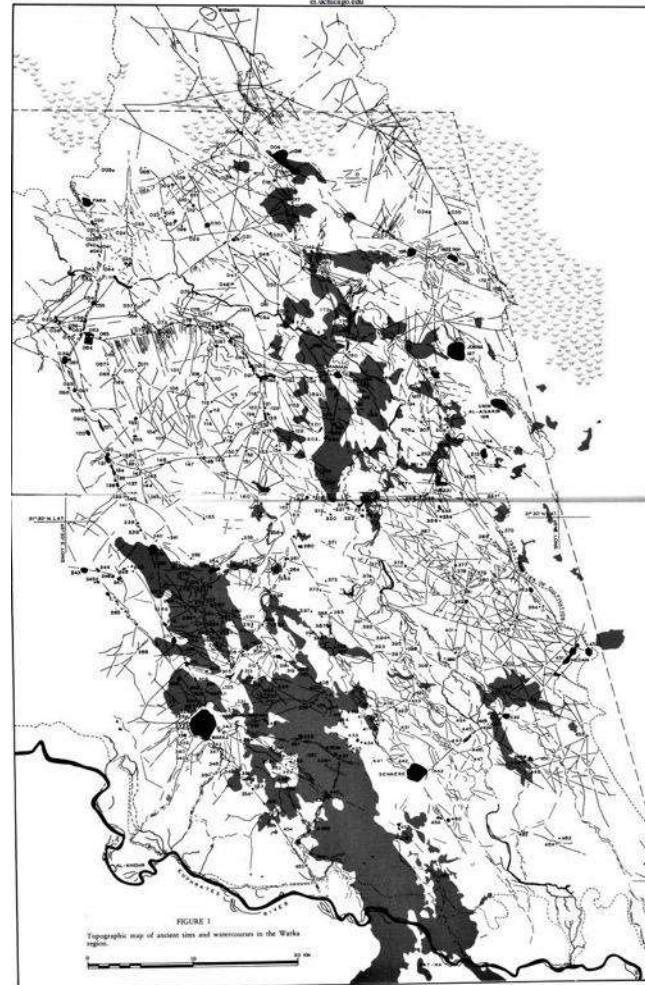
water cultures as active heritage for a future in Iraq

Hannah Lewis
Open Museum Initiative
for Water Cultures



Al-Saniya, Diwaniya, 2024





CULTURAL ECOLOGY AND EARLY MESOPOTAMIAN URBANIZATION

JENNIFER R. POURNELLE

Samuel Noah Kramer

The Uruk Countryside

The Natural Setting of Urban Societies

Robert McC. Adams and
Hans J. Nissen

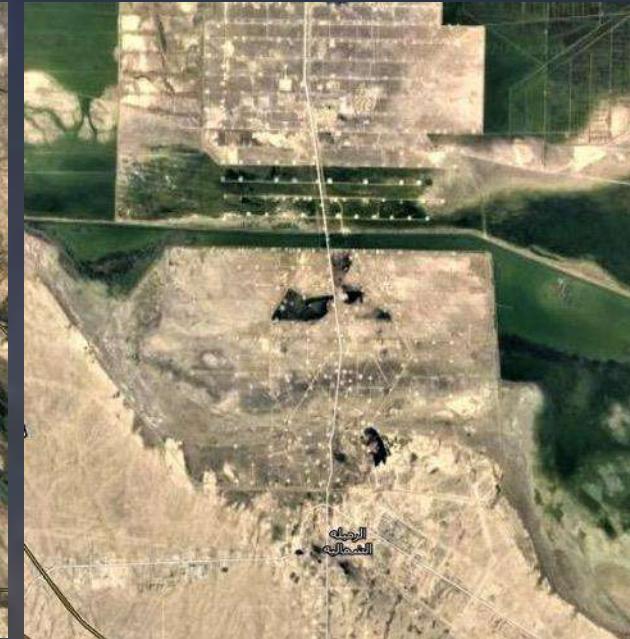
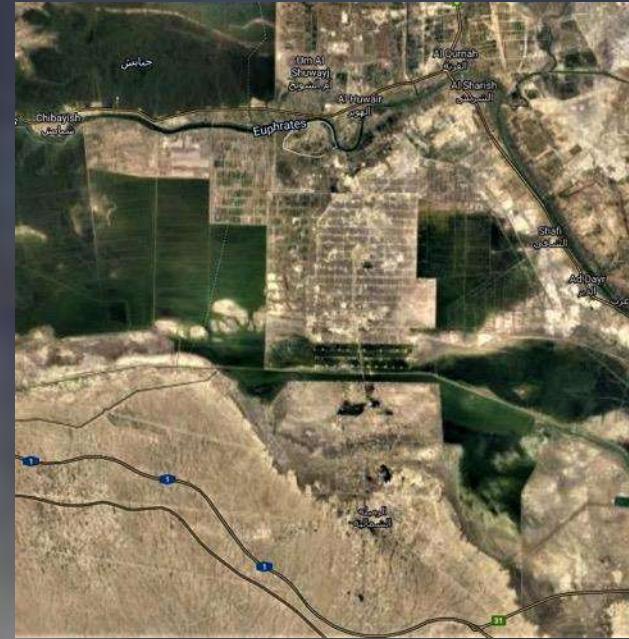
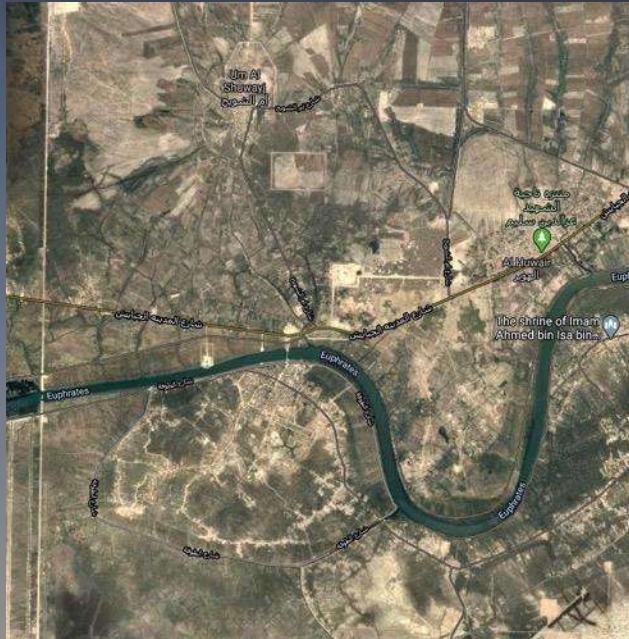
Dams Diminish Iraqi Marshes

-- Dam





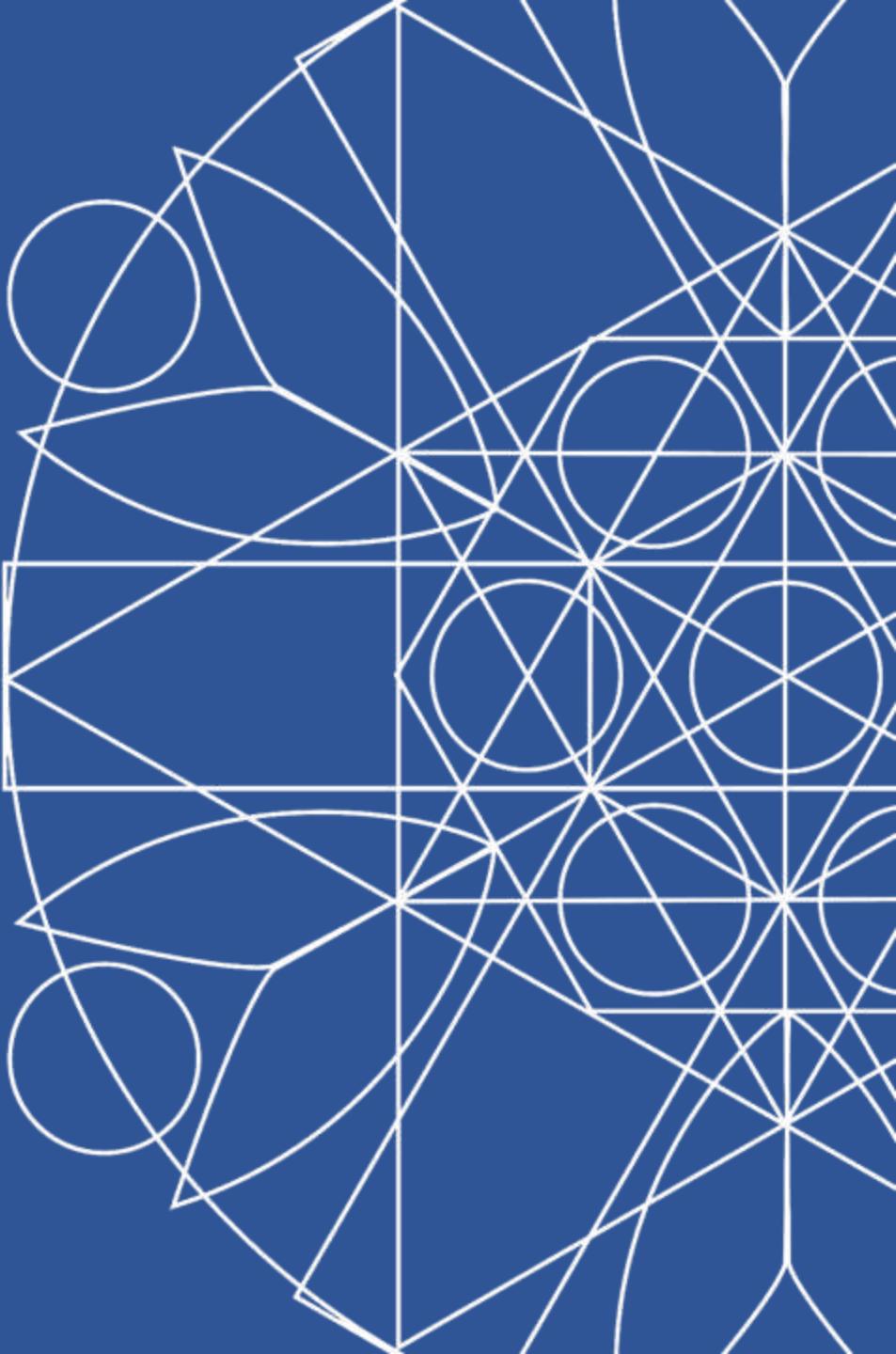


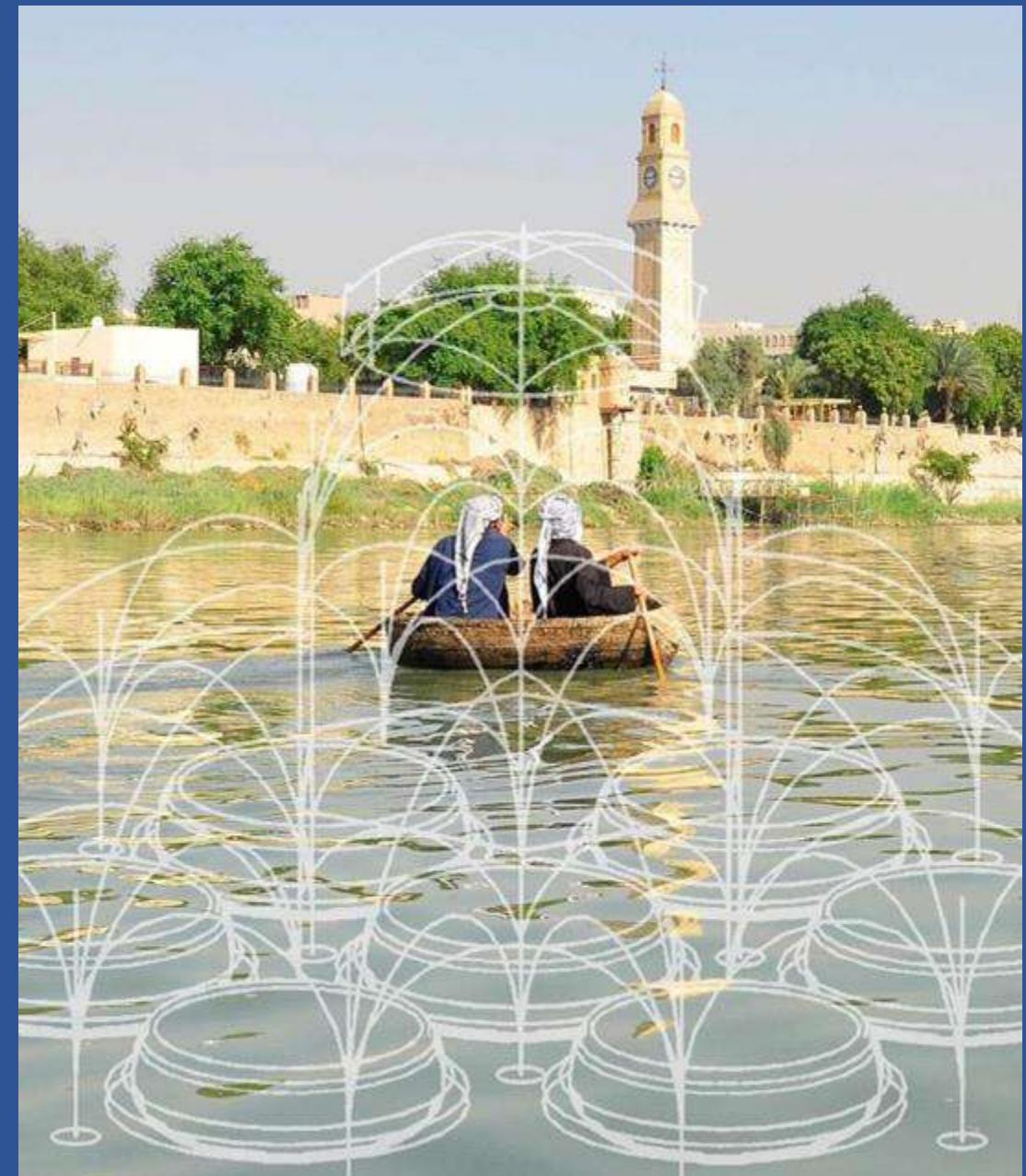
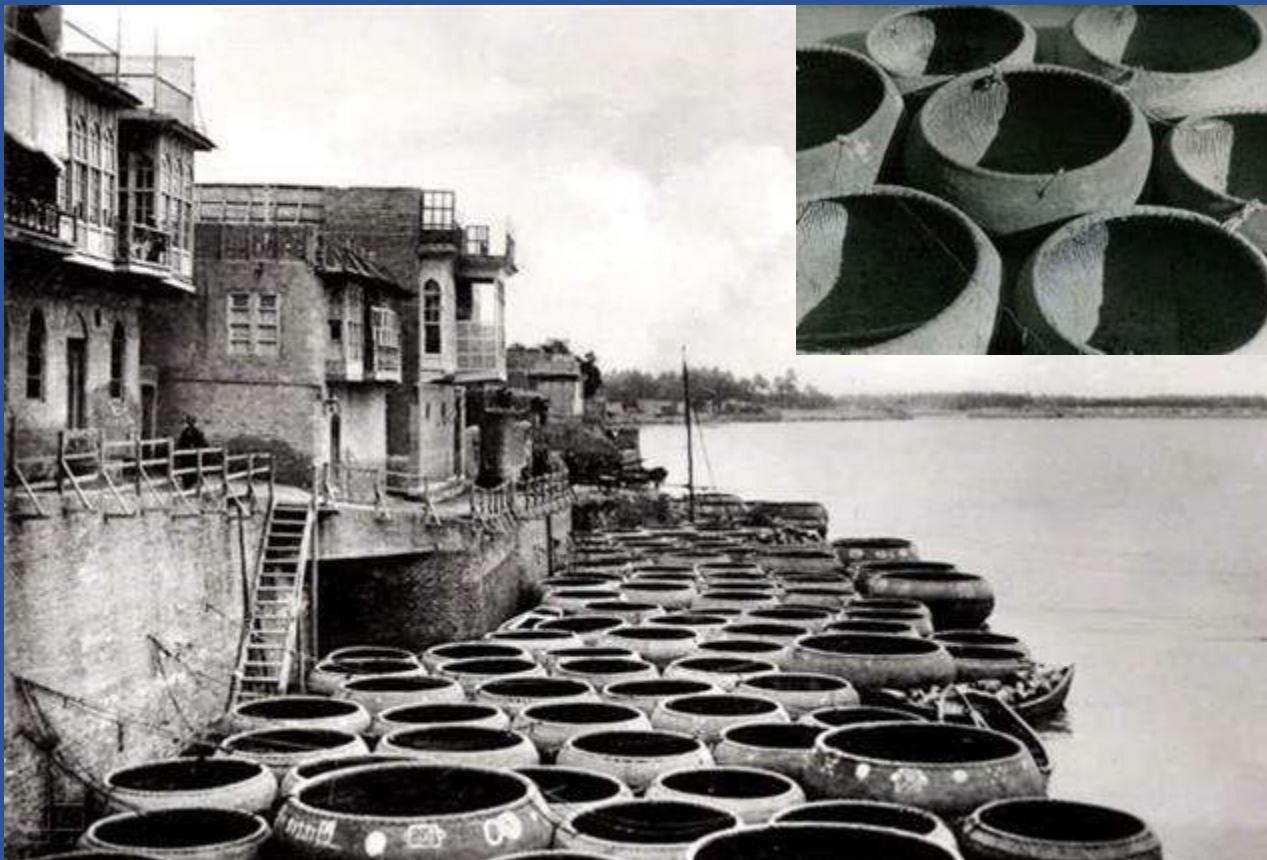




Phase 1:
Ark Re-imagined
2015-16

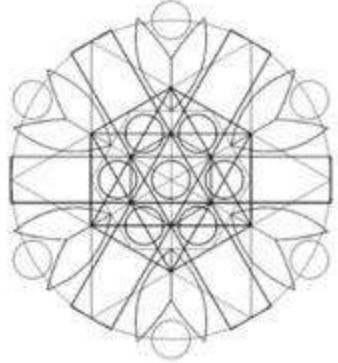
Concept and Scoping



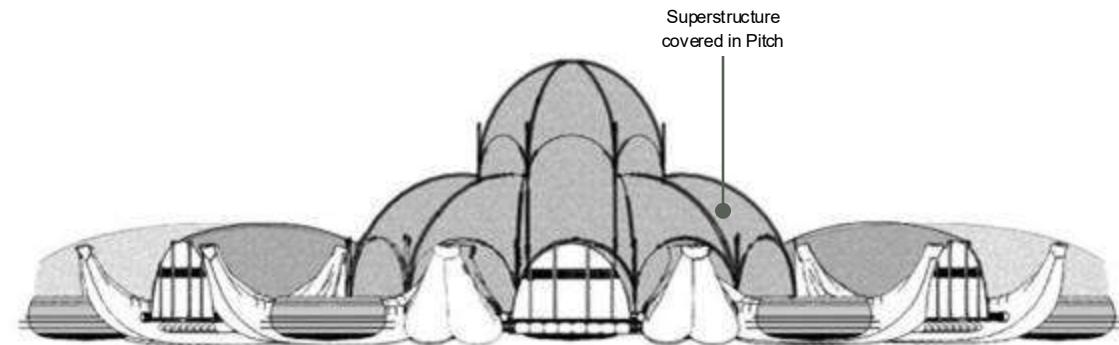
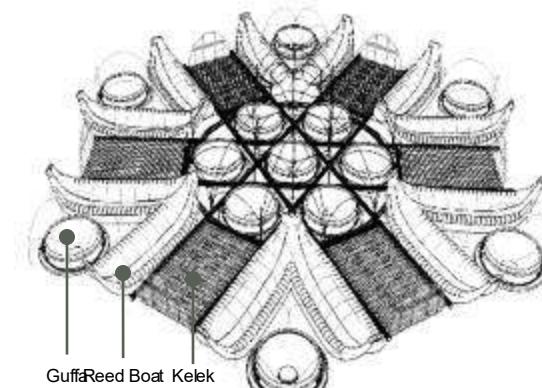
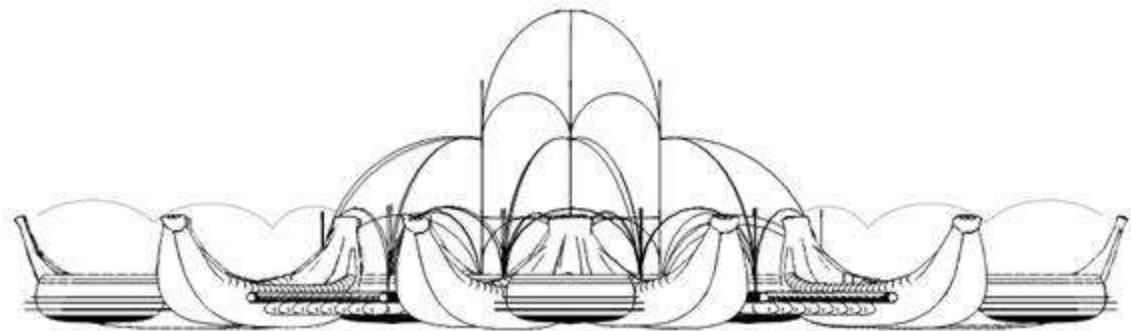
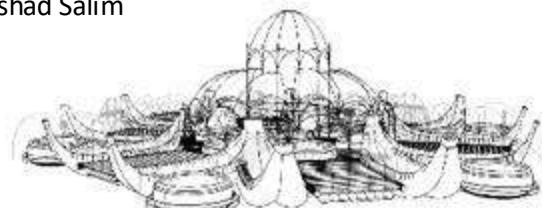
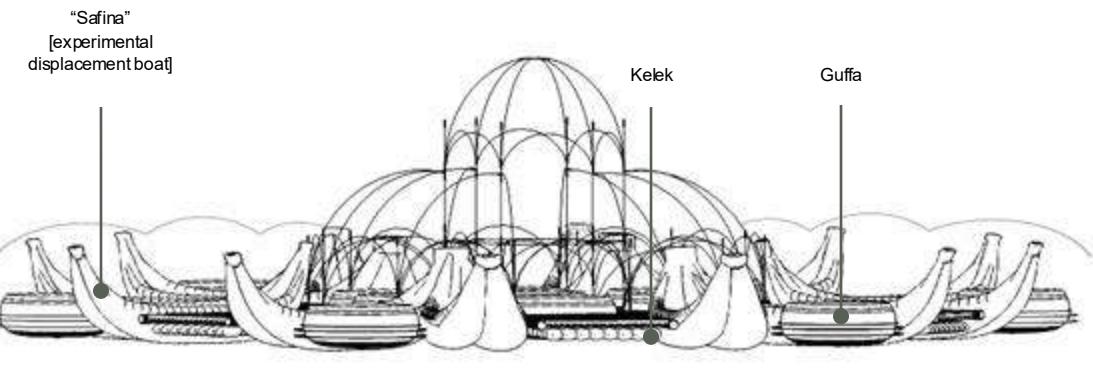
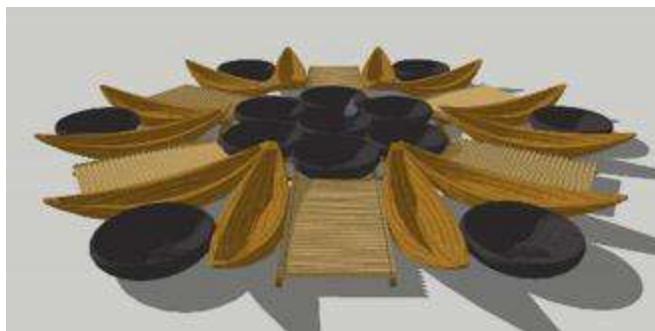
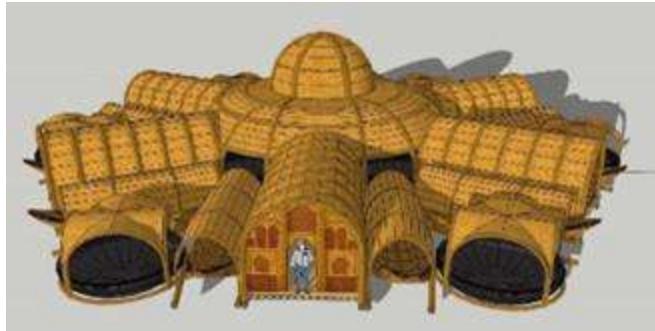


لو كان هناك سفينة انقاض من طوفان مهلك، وإذا " بنيت على يد انسان، فحتماً بثقافته الحرفية و مادة يضم أفضل ما في الماضي (و)بيئته في زمانه و مكانه ". والحاضر من أجل مستقبل يستحق العيش

رشاد سليم



"Had there been an Ark and if one were to build an Ark, it would be of its time and place (and) incorporate the best of past and present for a future worth living ." Rashad Salim





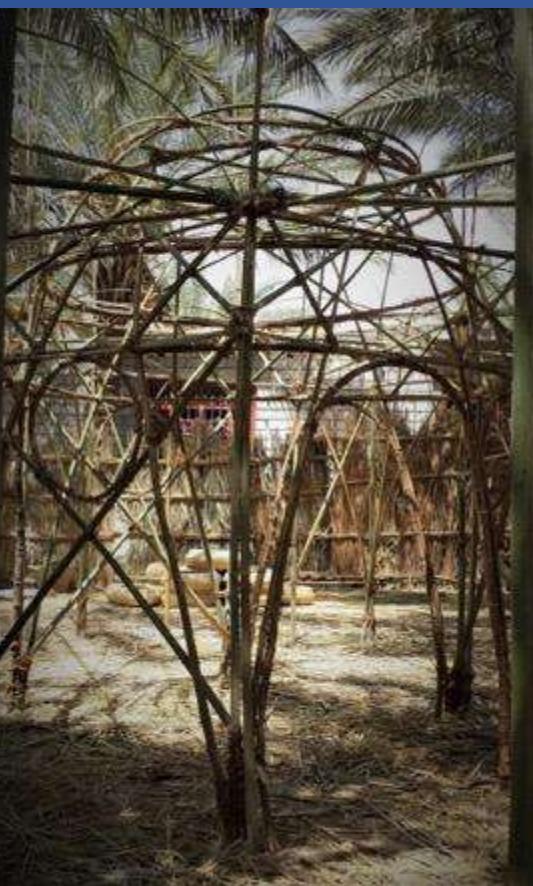
THREE STAGES OF A GUFÁ.
(1). Weaving the basket foundation.



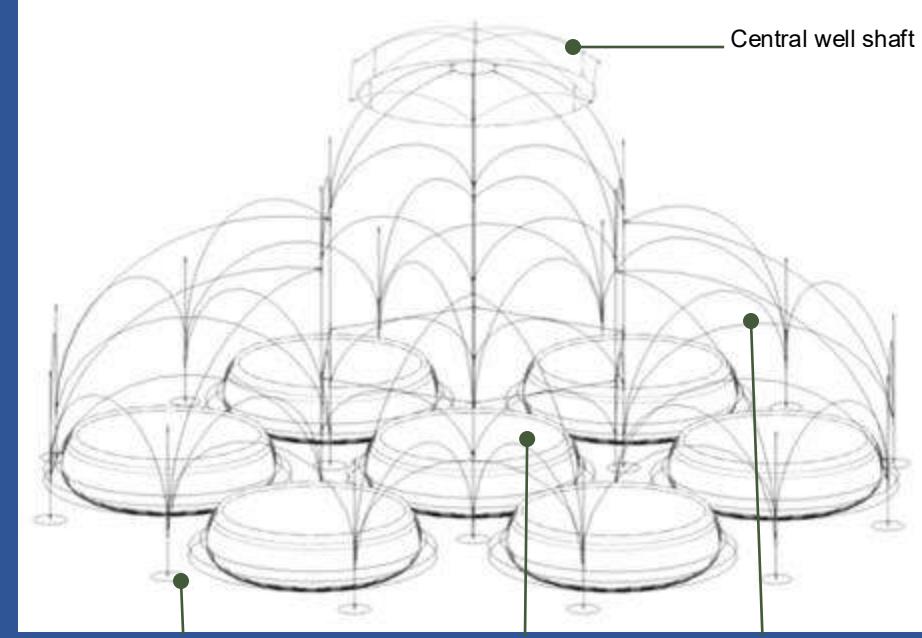
(2). Adding the "ribs".



(3). The finished gufa, daubed with bitumen to make it watertight.



Components of the Ark: Core with Superstructure



Stanchions support
Reed Bundle Columns

Central Guffa
accommodates the Ark Hearth

Reed Bundle Columns
and Arches form the
Ark Superstructure

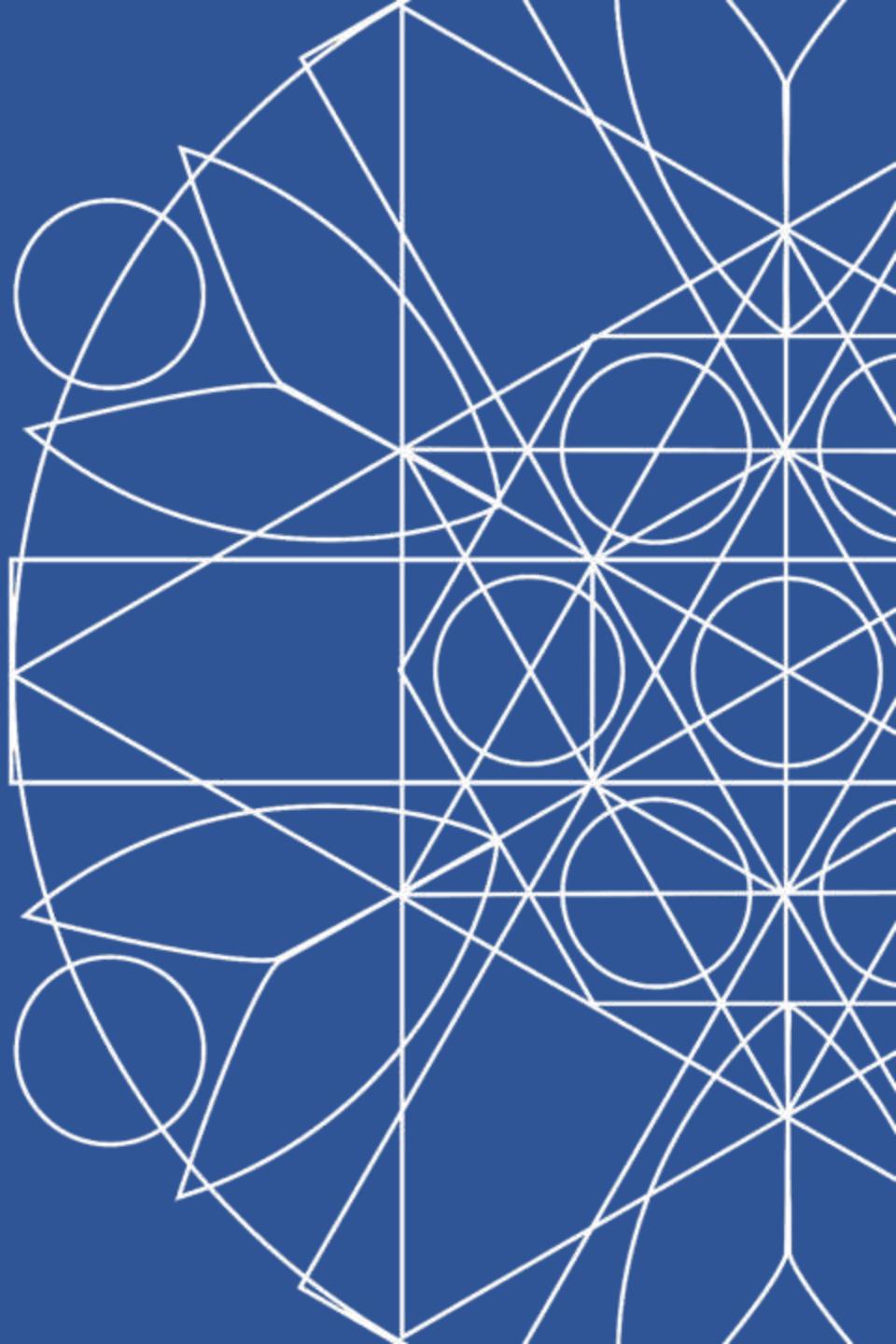


Palm and reed material construction



Phase 2: Ark for Iraq
2016-21

Boat Reconstruction
and Study



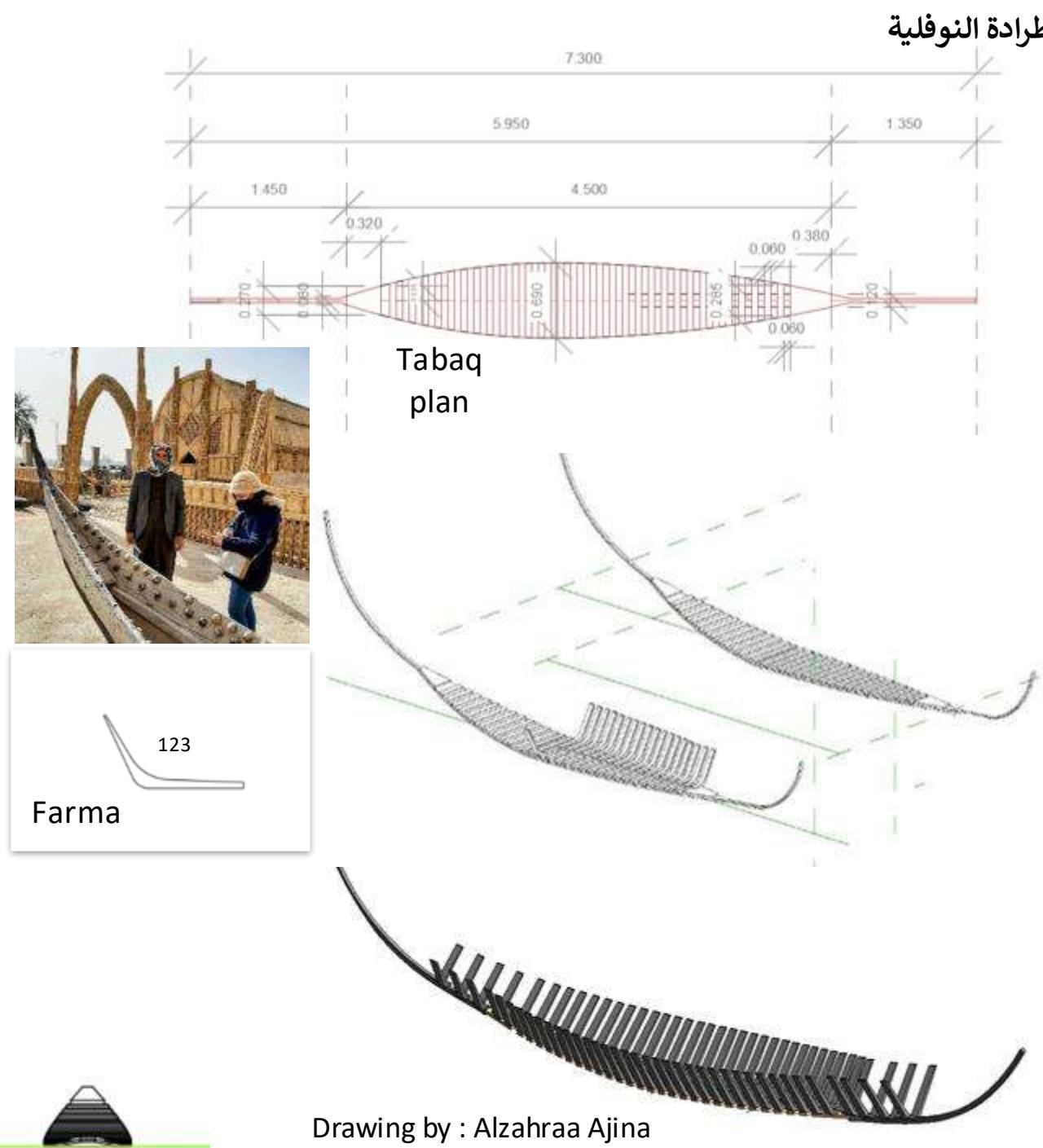
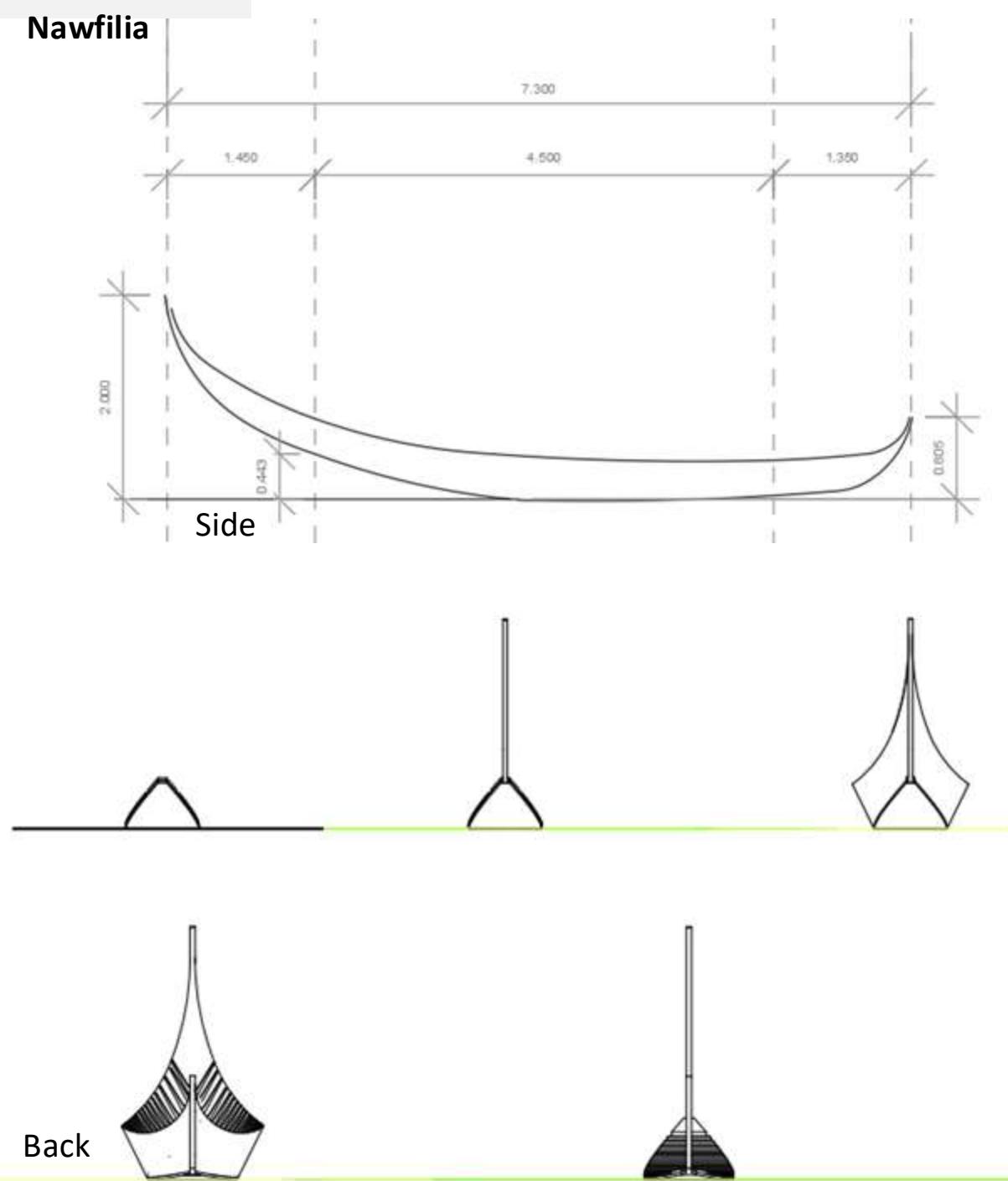
Ark For Iraq programme

A series of grant-funded projects during the past 8 years has delivered:

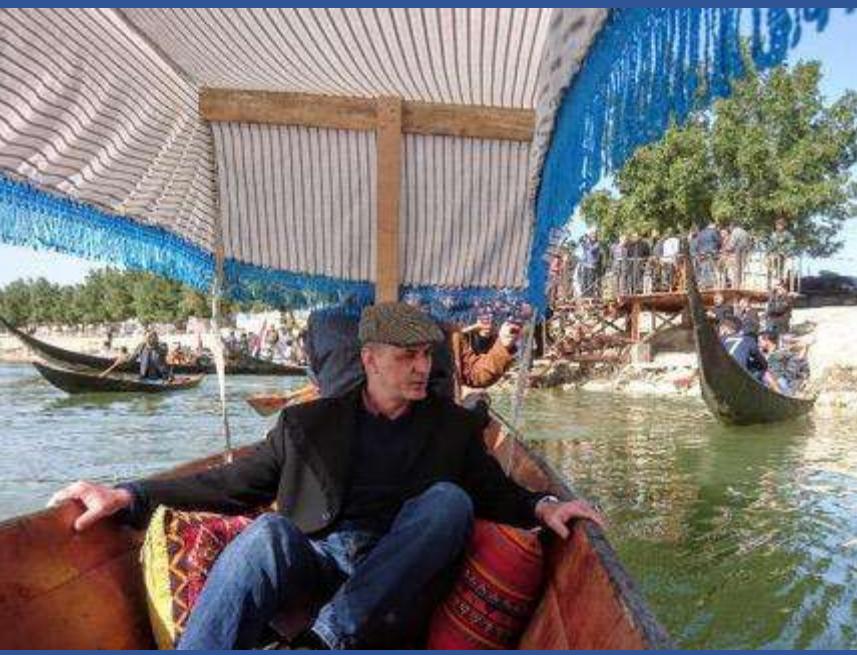
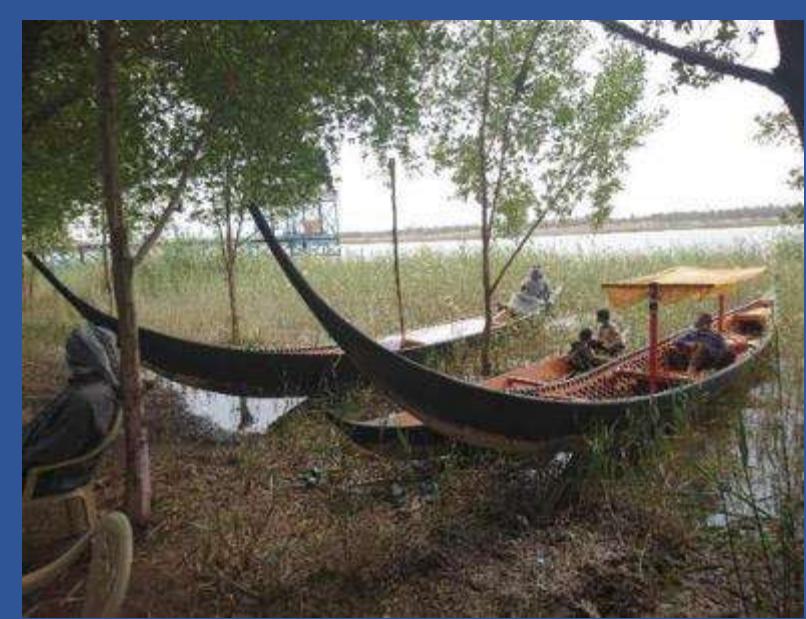
- ❖ A comprehensive survey and study of traditional and historical inland watercraft in Iraq
- ❖ A programme to revive the construction and use of heritage boats, including **Guffa, Shasha, Zaima, Isbiya / Kaiya, Delil, Tarada, Meshouf, Chilaika, Nawfilia, Teksi, Houri, Barkash, Ka'ed, Danek, Kelek, Ashari Balam, Groofi, Saaja, Dawwariya, Mizraq, Shekhtour, Baghdadi Balam, Muhaila, Jendoul**







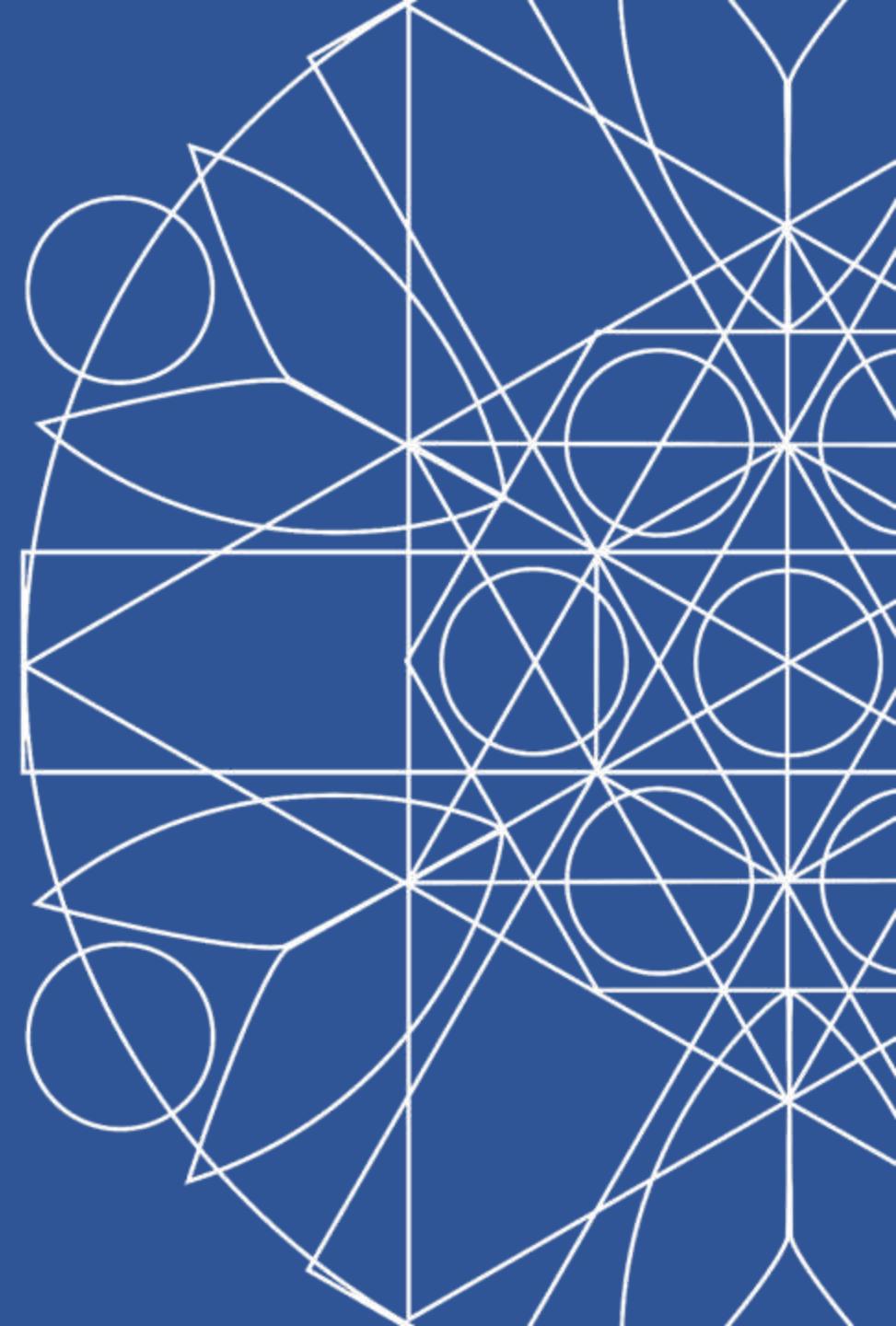
Drawing by : Alzahraa Ajina

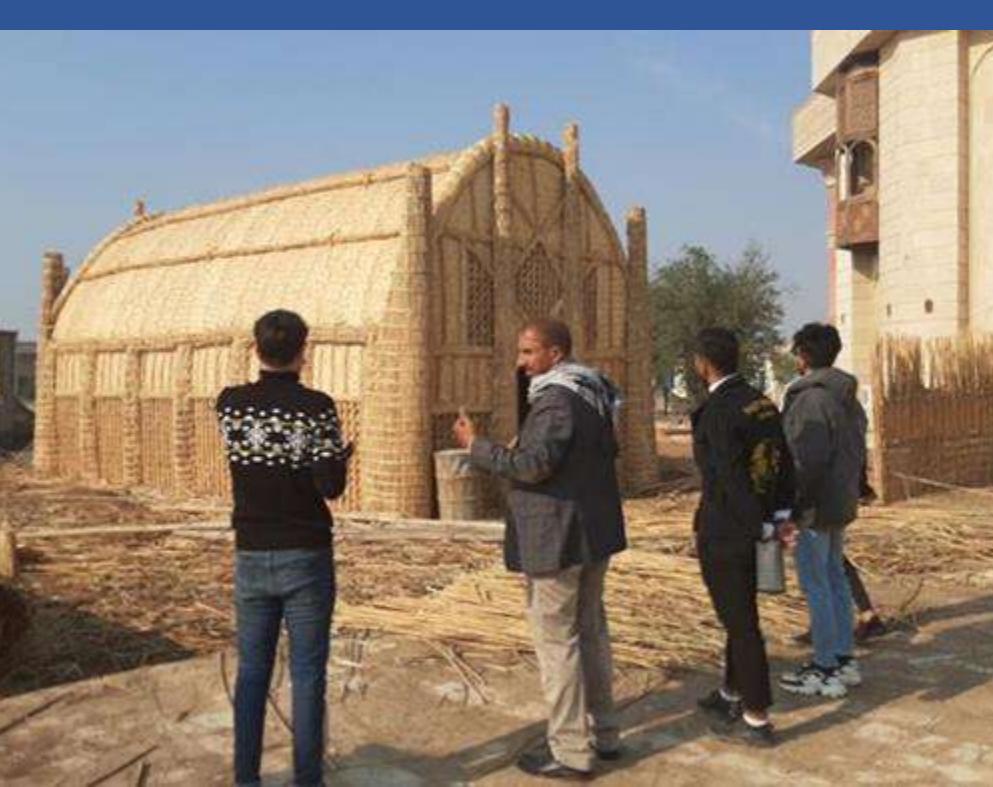


Phase 3: Ark for Iraq

2021-25

Revitalising Heritage and Building Partnerships



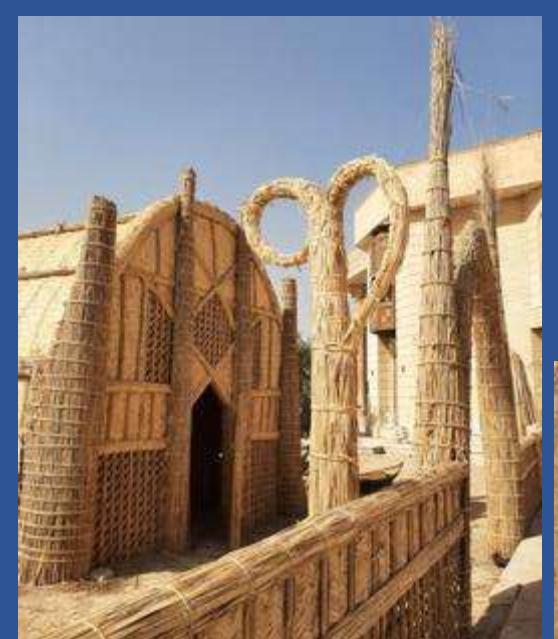








Open Museum Initiative for Water Cultures – Basra Hub



<https://www.watermuseums.net>



Exhibitions



- ❖ Open Museum Initiative for Water Cultures (Basra Hub)
- ❖ Maritime Heritage Gallery at Basra Centre for Manuscripts & Heritage
- ❖ Iraqi Maritime Heritage Touring Exhibition
- ❖ Rivers Connect Us exhibition at Paia Agency, Sulaymaniyah
- ❖ Maritime Heritage exhibition at Diwaniya Memory Archive



Basra Centre for Manuscripts and Heritage – Maritime Exhibition & Reference Library





Iraqi Maritime Heritage
Touring Exhibition



Boat Clubs

Iraqi Heritage Boat Clubs Network:

Babylon

Baghdad

Basra

Chibayish

Diwaniya

Midaina

Sulaymaniyah / Dukan

Suq al-Shuyukh

Boat club members/participants: 479

Water Scouts

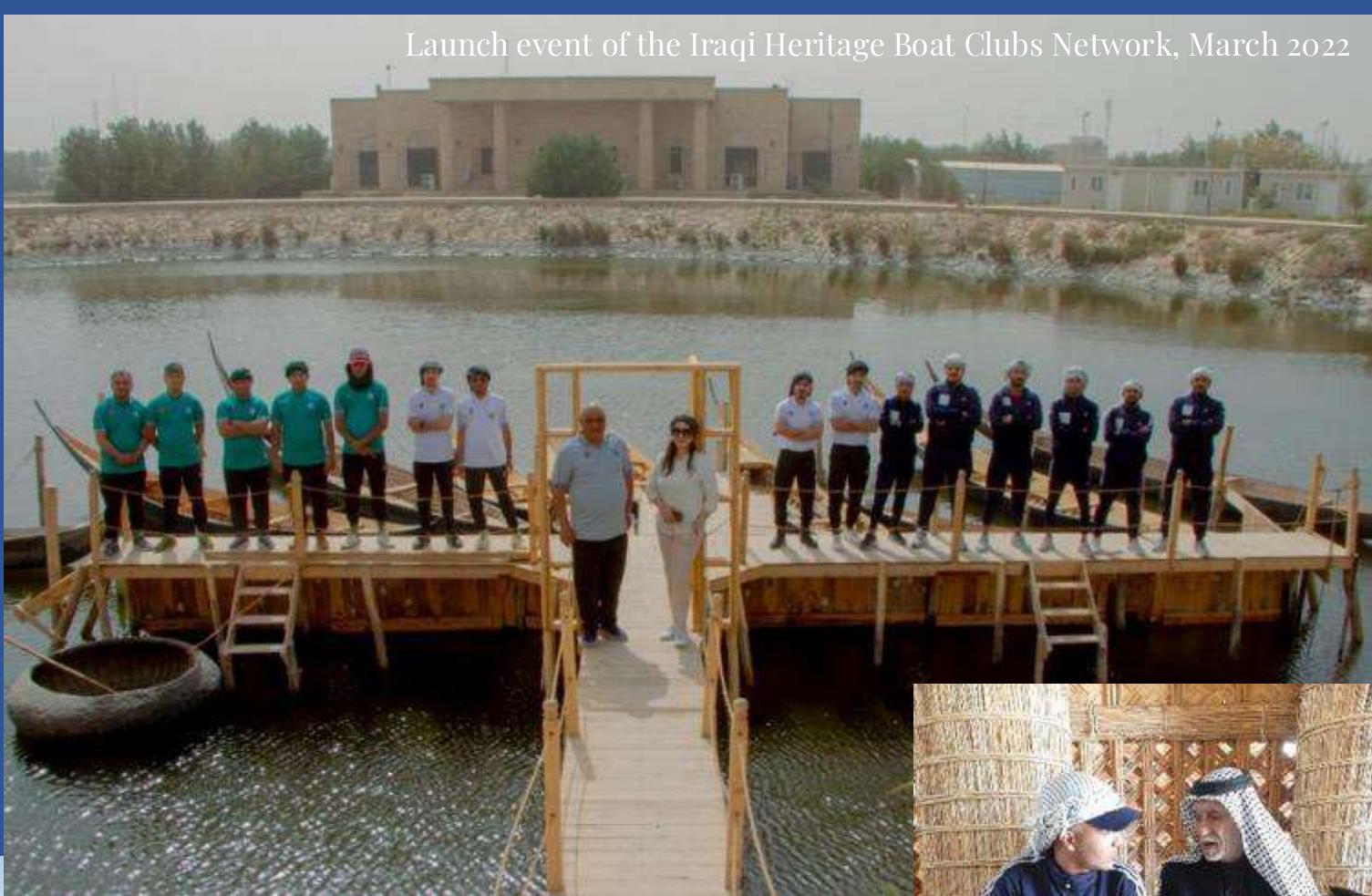
In July 2025, the Basra Scouting Association — a registered NGO — officially changed its name to the *Water Scouting Association*.

Gained the approval of the Ministry of Education's Iraqi Scouting Council to act as the coordinating body for Water Scouts initiatives across Iraq.

This development gives the programme national recognition and ensures that Water Scouts can grow as a youth movement, connecting local communities to their rivers, wetlands, and cultural heritage



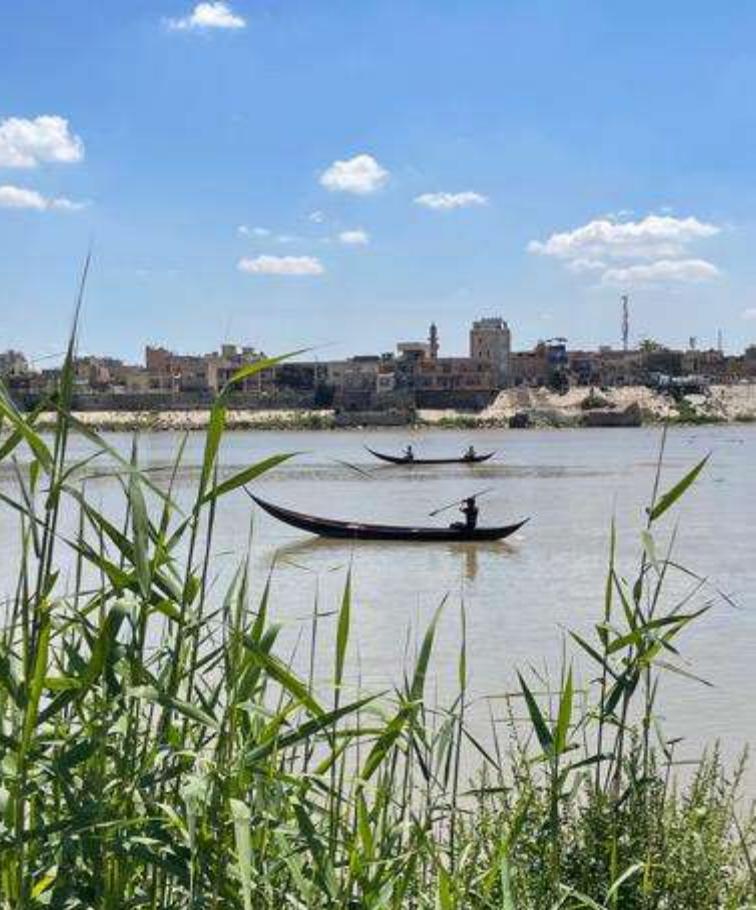
Launch event of the Iraqi Heritage Boat Clubs Network, March 2022



Iraqi Heritage Boat Clubs activities in Baghdad, 2023



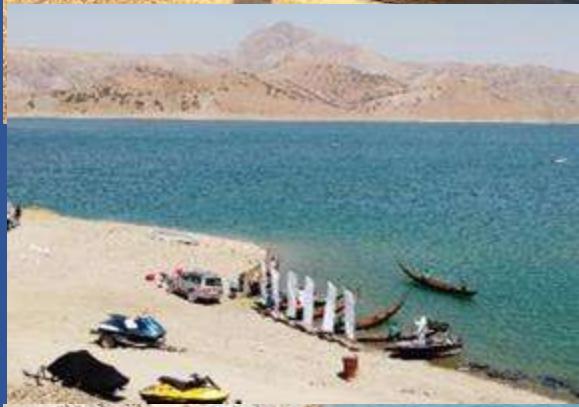
7



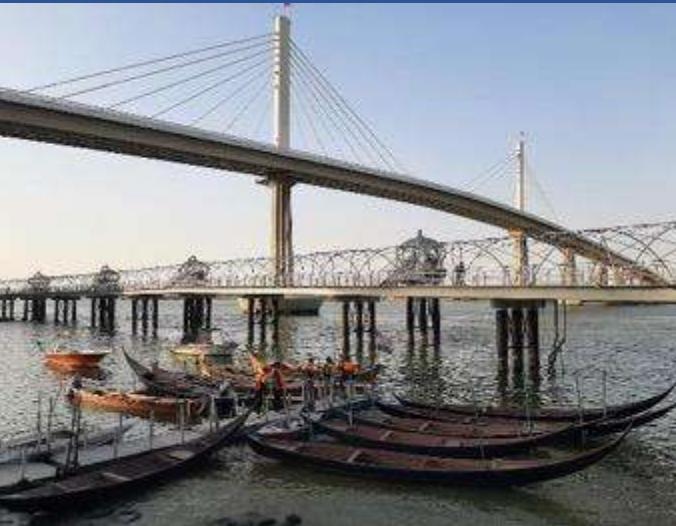
8



Launch of
Sulaymaniyah-Dukan
Heritage Boat Club,
July 2023

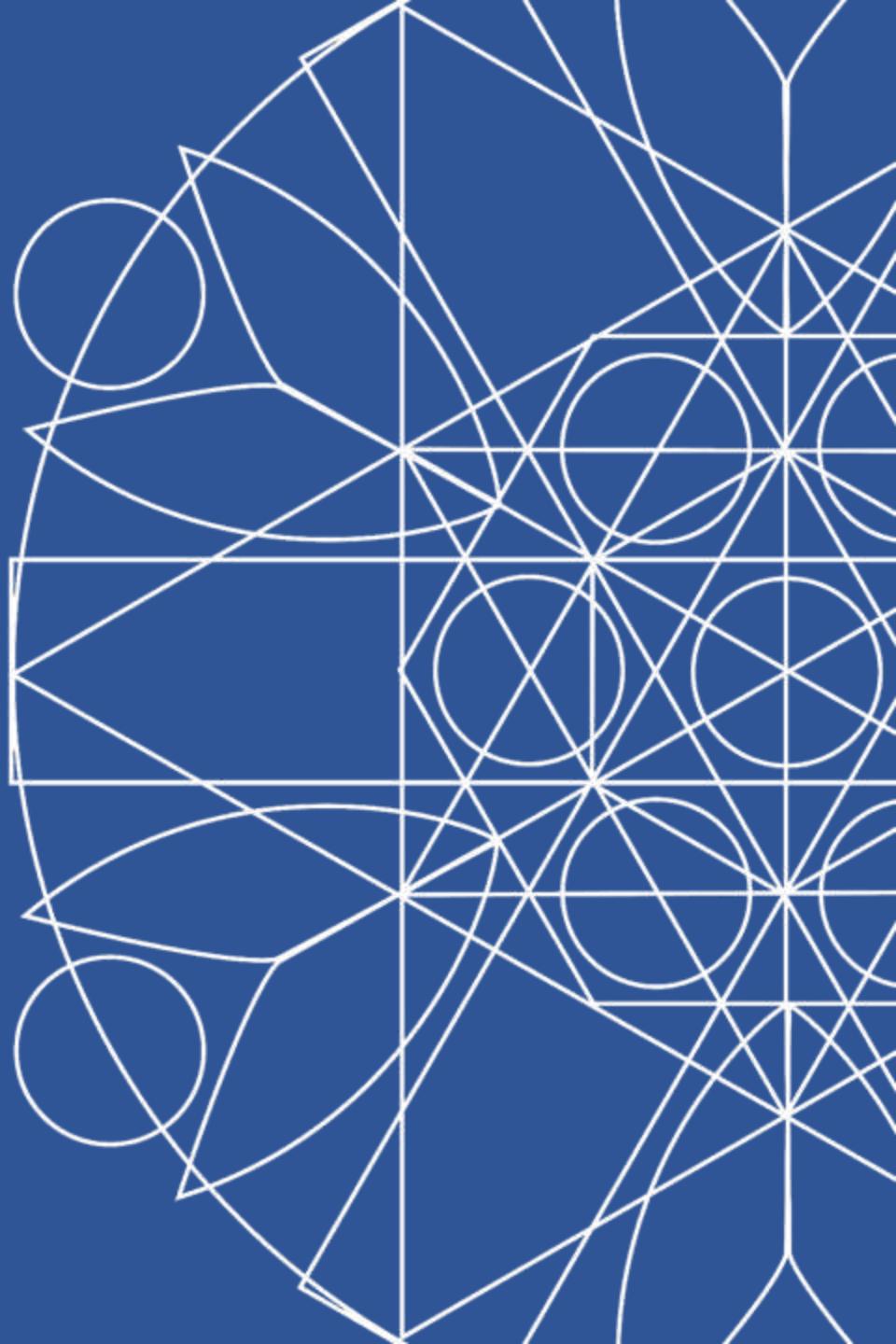


Iraqi Water Scouts Initiative launched November 2024



Contributing to Water Governance:

The Relevance of Cultural Heritage in Addressing Climate Change



رحم الله أمرء عرف من اين و في أين و الى أين - الامام علي (ع) الامام علي (ع)

God bless those who know whence they came, where they be, and where they are going.

- Imam Ali (PBUH)



Jewad Selim

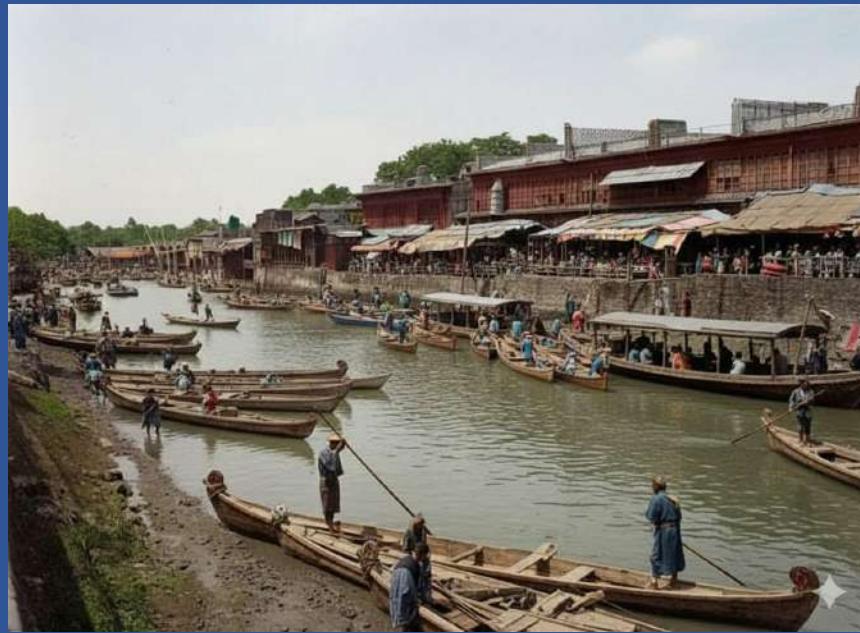
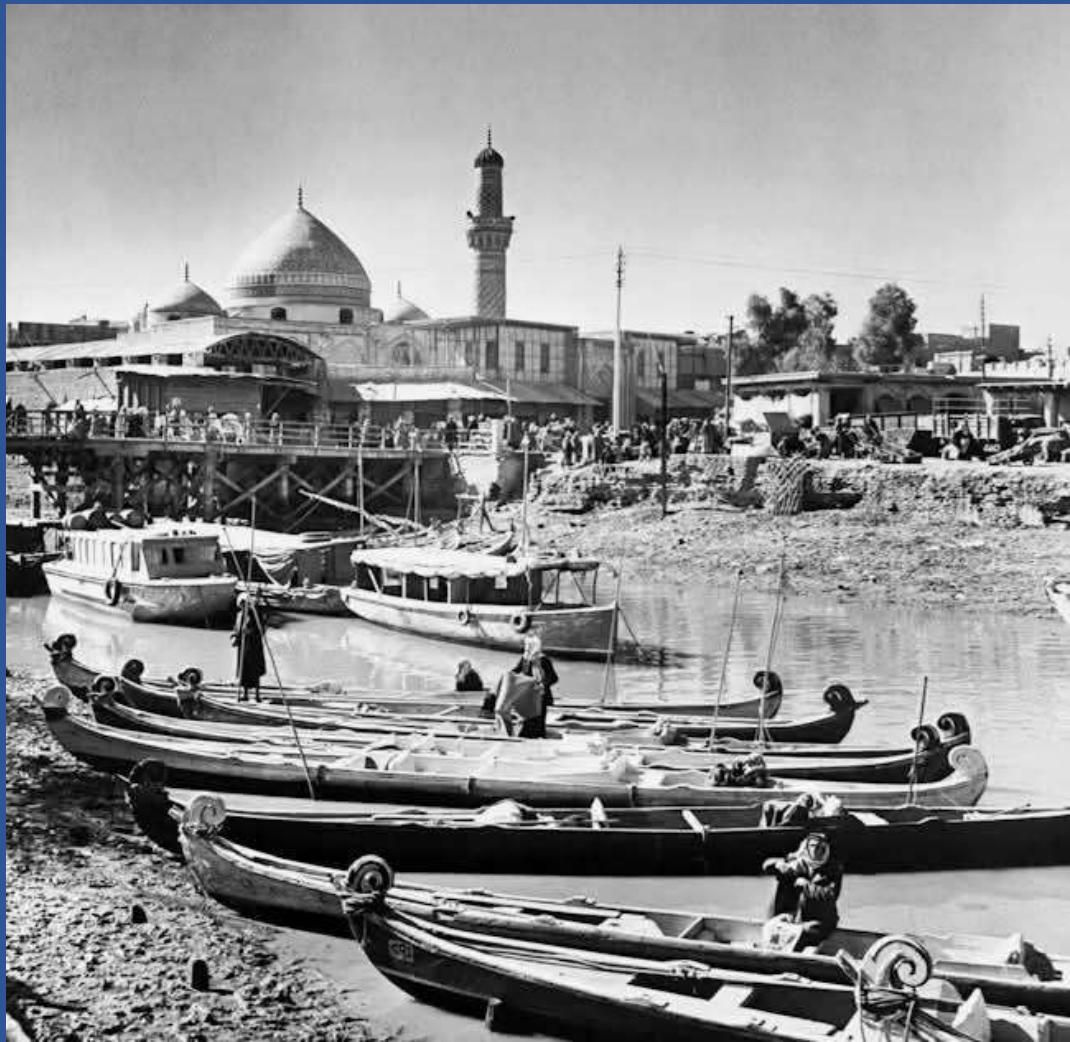


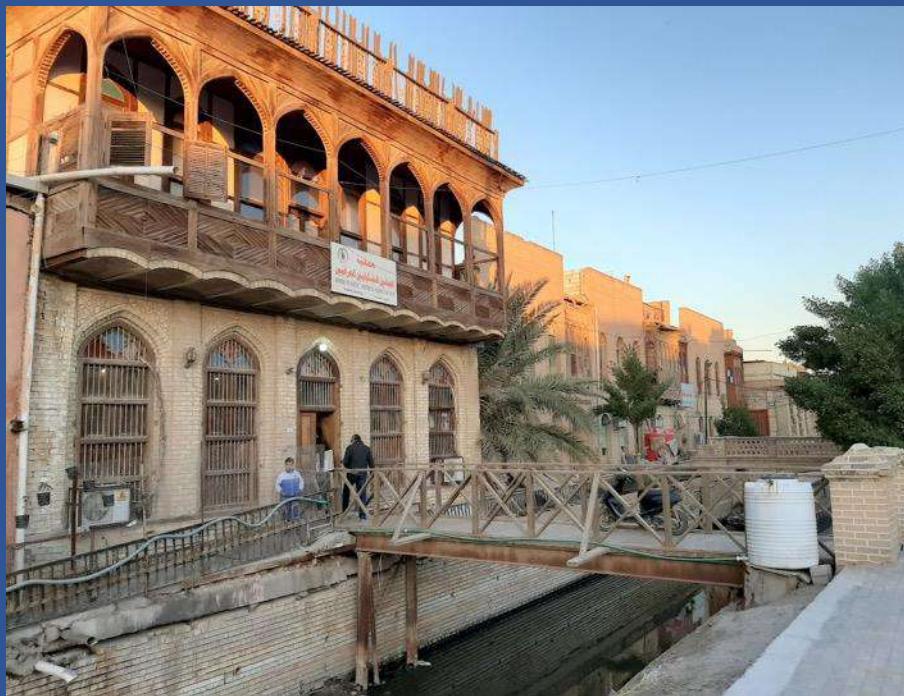
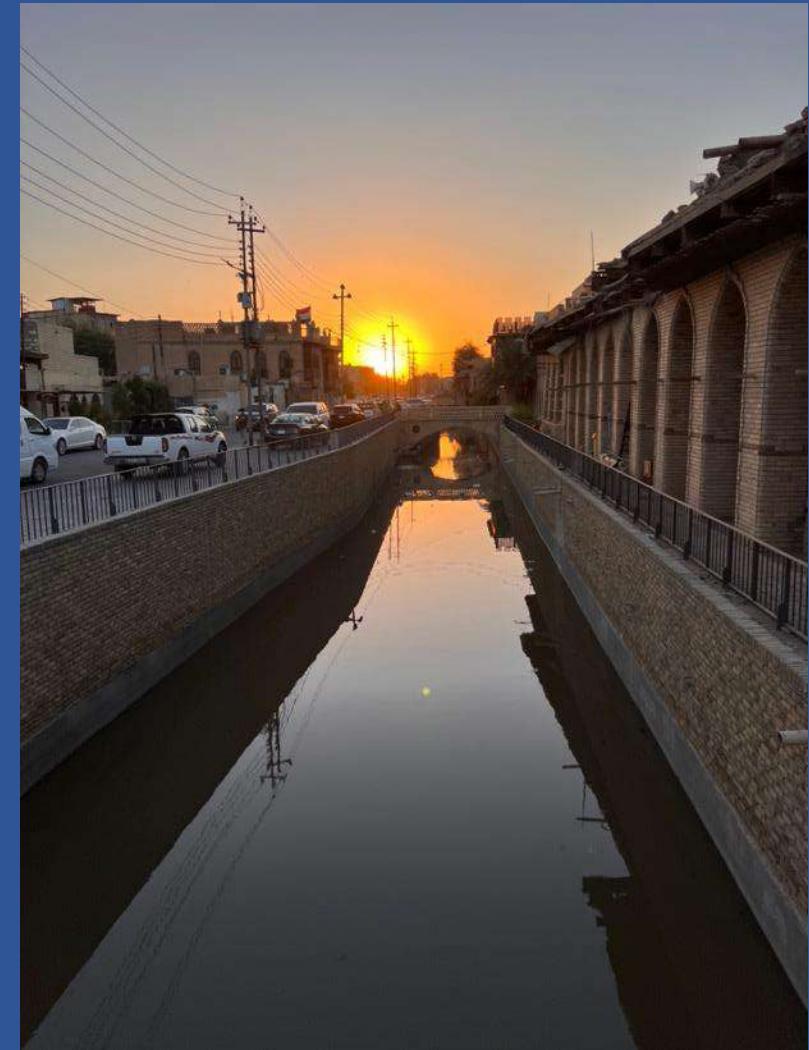
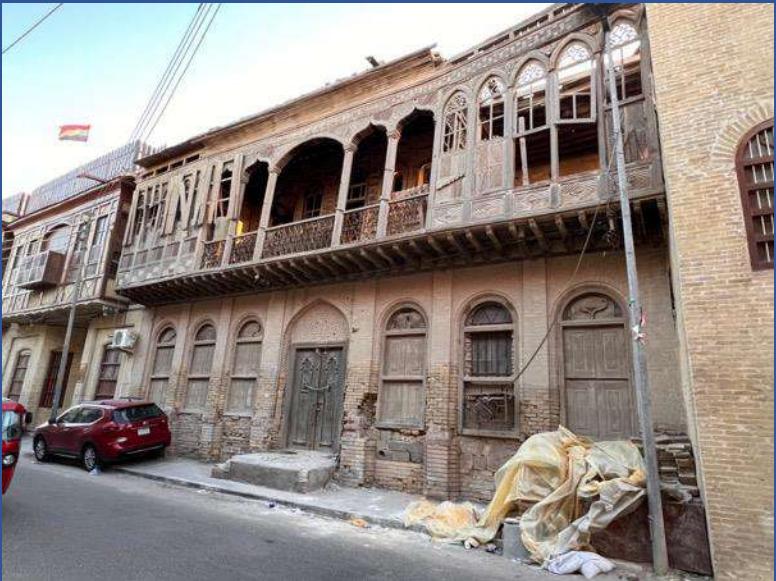
Mediha Omari

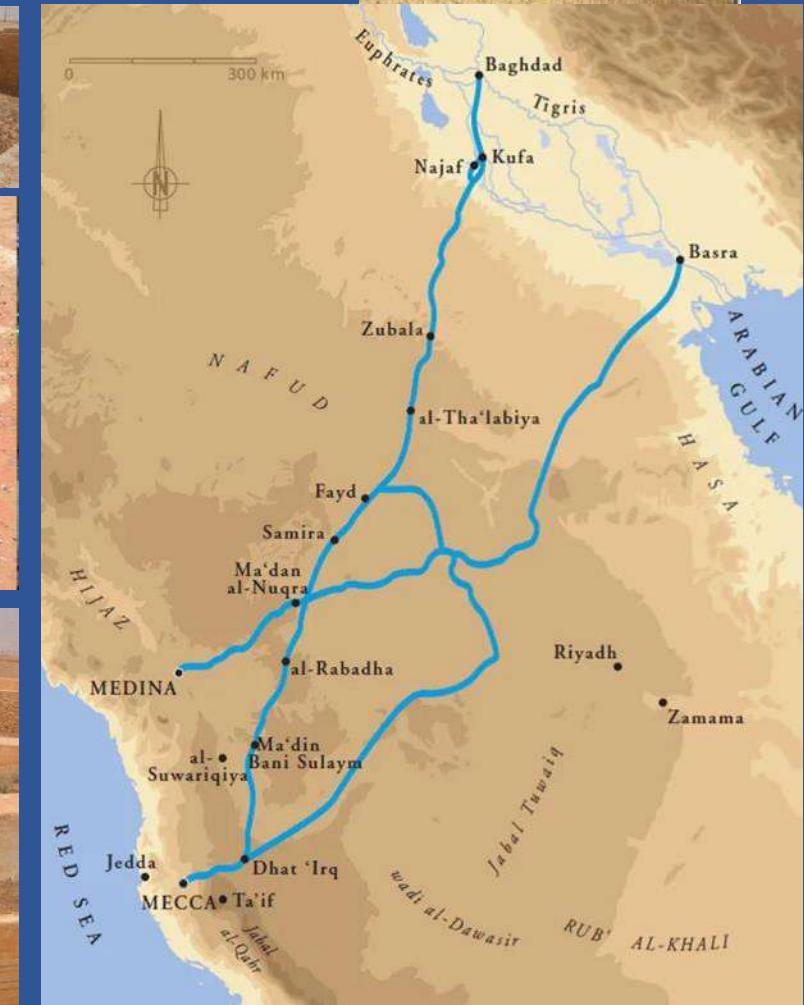
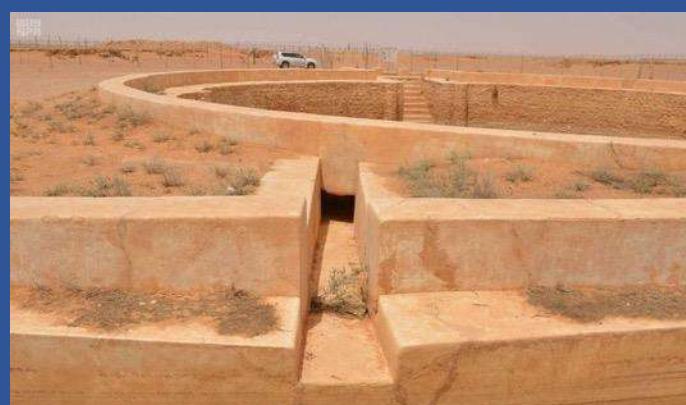
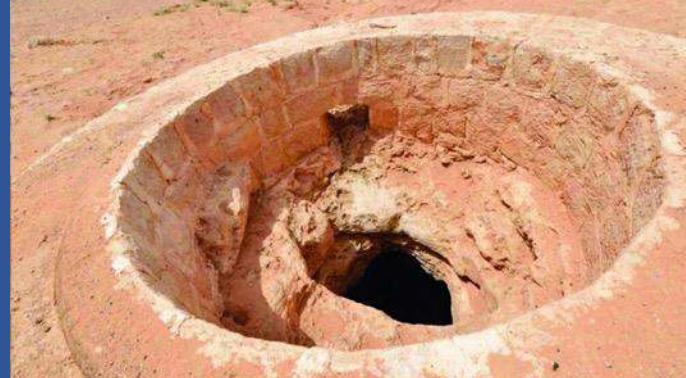
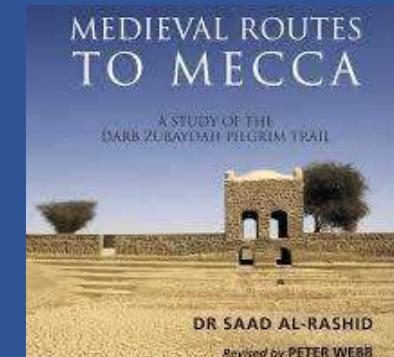
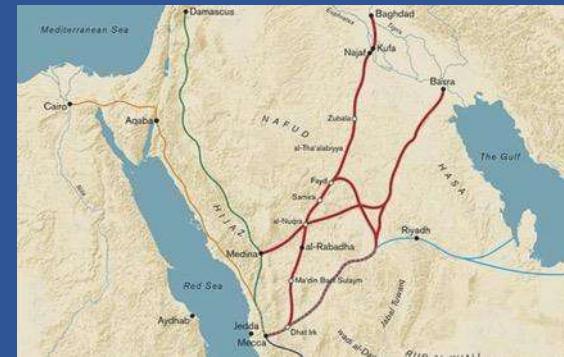
Cultural heritage is an inspiration and compass for past, present and future generations.











Saad A. Al-Rashid
University of Leeds (Department of Semitic Studies), 1977



Launch of Diwaniya boat marathon, 2024



مركز المخطوطات والتراث البصري

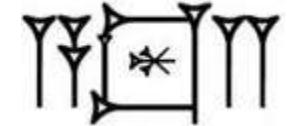
مركز المخطوطات والتراث البصري
Center of Manuscripts & Heritage in Basra



مُؤسَّسة شَنَاشِيلُ لِلْإِجْرَاءِ - التَّرَاثُ الْإِنْسَانِيُّ
(منظمة غير حكومية)
SHANASHIL FOUNDATION FOR HUMANITARIAN HERITAGE REVIVAL - NGO



جمهورية العراق
وزارة الثقافة والسياحة والآثار
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities - IRAQ



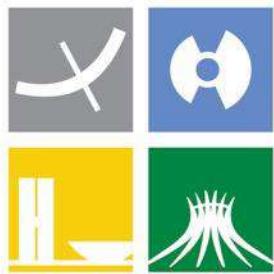
شبكة النهر



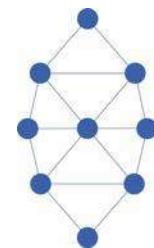
Thank you to all our Partners



And thank you to our hosts in Brasilia



6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF WAMU.NET IN BRASILIA



WATER
MUSEUMS
GLOBAL NETWORK

