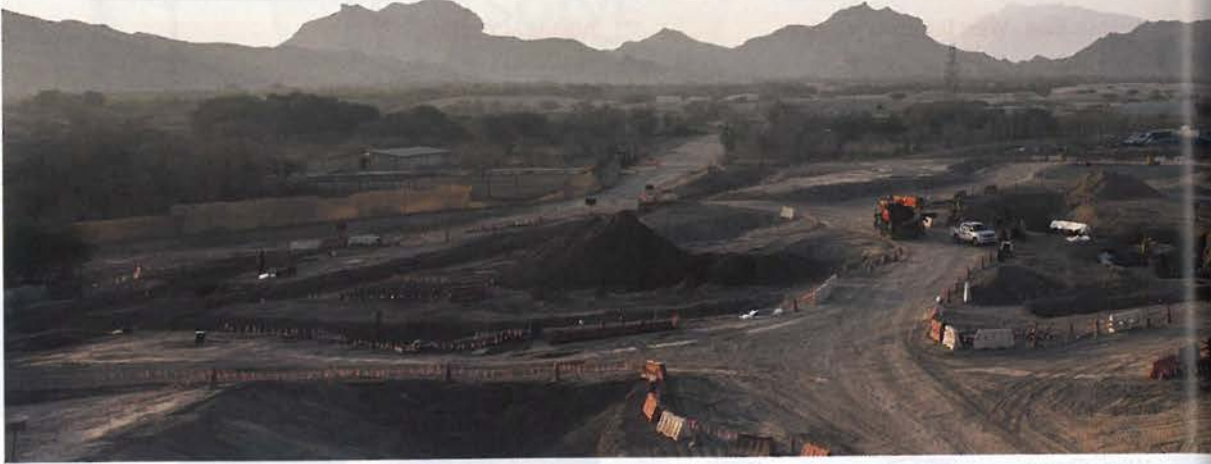


Sheikh Zayed Desert Learning Centre

Location Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort, UAE
Client AWPR, Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort
Completion: 2013
Gross Area: 15.000 m²
Cost: 280 mio AED



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The building functions as an educational museum as well as a research centre for desert and environment related issues. It is an accessible sculpture which is inspired by its surrounding rugged landscape. The structural form generates a continuous loop in the architectural promenade akin to the Moebius band. The building offers an array of experiences in the vertical axis. It spirals up around a central courtyard to a high point which offers a vista to the safari park and the mountain ridge. Furthermore, the building spirals down below grade around a funnel-like inverted courtyard space evoking the experience of geological layers. The building has obtained LEED Platinum and Estidama five pearls design rating. This achievement has been a result of a combination of passive and active measures in saving energy and water consumption as well as using partially local and recycled materials.



Chalabi Architekten & Partner ZT GmbH is a Vienna, Austria based Architectural Firm which was established in 1992 by the brothers Talik and Jaafar Chalabi. The firm established in 2010 a branch office in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. CAP's dedicated international and multi-lingual team has allowed the firm to operate successfully in Austria, Germany, France, Spain, Russia, Iraq, and the UAE. CAP have acquired expertise in a wide range of building types and scales, such as:
Institutional and Public Buildings, Residential, Hospitality, Public/Commercial buildings, Health Care, Master planning, Mixed Use Development, Interior and Landscape design.

