

Jakob + MacFarlane to design innovative new campus for Université Française d'Égypte

Paris, 2 March 2022: The architecture firm Jakob + MacFarlane have been awarded the design of a new campus for the Université Française d'Égypte. The winning proposal was submitted as a consortium comprising Cairo-based architects Raafat Miller Consulting, with the French engineering firm Artelia and landscape architects Sempervirens. The competition sought architects whose vision would usher in a new era for the Université Française d'Égypte (UFE) in Shorouk, Cairo, which is set to welcome up to 7,000 students. Dominique Jakob and Brendan MacFarlane will lead on the design of a campus spanning over 32,000 square meters dedicated to learning, research, accommodation, catering, recreation, and administration. This project marks a significant moment for the firm, representing a culmination of knowledge and expertise gained over 20 years in architecture and academia. This project is part of an ambitious strategic development plan, backed by the Egyptian and French governments, a partnership between the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

Combining the aesthetic and the practical, Jakob + MacFarlane's passion for education and commitment to sustainability shines through in the highly visible project. The entire campus design is shaped according to the two dominant natural forces of the Egyptian landscape: the sun and the Nile. An overhead solar panel shade roof shelters the campus and provides energy. Gray water from the accommodation areas will be captured and repurposed for landscape irrigation via a filtration system.

Traditional architectural principles will be integrated into the buildings with a contemporary twist. Structures evoking *barjeel* wind towers harnessed with modern mechanics will facilitate air circulation, and sunken gardens of endemic desert plants are present throughout, aiding in water conservation as well as providing outdoor lecture spaces.

"Both Brendan and I have been enamoured with Egypt's history since our youth," said **Dominique Jakob**. "Looking to the country's past and traditional architectural design proved to be both a source of inspiration and an answer to our environmental concern. By harnessing the power of clean sources of energy and utilising natural elements available in the region, we hope to succeed in creating a truly sustainable campus."

Brendan MacFarlane, commented, "This is an important moment of the coming together of two cultures, sharing knowledge and cultural histories, in a campus that we hope inspires and educates. Knowledge sharing is also central to our collaboration with Raafat Miller Consulting, Sempervirens and Artelia, as well as the planned contributions by local artisans who will collaborate with the University's architecture students during ongoing workshops to produce prototypes of the low-carbon clay bricks."

UFE's new campus embodies the vision of an oasis for convening people and ideas in a collaborative environment. The innovative, progressive design by Jakob + MacFarlane pushes the boundaries of sustainable architecture whilst representing local context in materials, form, and landscape.

The plans for the Shorouk campus align with the vision of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the year 2050 and set new standards for green academic campuses in the region.

For more information, please visit the [Jakob + MacFarlane webpage](#). You can also keep track of its progress via [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).