



## BIOGRAPHY

*Dr. Mohsen Zahran*

### EDUCATION

Born and raised in Alexandria, Egypt, Dr. Zahran received his B. Sc. in Architecture *cum laude* at Ein Shams university in Cairo in 1958.

He continued his education in the United States, receiving a master's degree in Architecture and Urban Designs from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge in 1961, a master's degree in Fine Arts from Princeton University in 1963, and finally a Ph.D. in Environmental Planning from Princeton University in 1965.

He also received a TBΠ certificate for remarkable engineering studies there, the following year he became a fellow for the Salzburg Seminars (1981); and a Fullbright fellow (1986).

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Dr. Zahran was appointed at Alexandria University, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Architecture, in 1965, and is now Emeritus professor.

He was head of department from 1994 to 1998. Dr. Zahran was seconded professor at Beirut Arab University and became Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at Beirut Arab University (1978-1982).

Dr. Zahran has been active in the comprehensive planning and urban development of a greater Alexandria. He was Chairman of the Urban Planning Commission of the Governorate from 1983 to 2000, and responsible of the comprehensive Master Plan for Alexandria 2005, and supervised its updating to 2017. He was also responsible for the design and supervision of the execution of the Alexandria International Gardens.

At the international professional level, Dr. Zahran has contributed to many international projects as an Expert and Consultant, especially to various United

Nations organs like UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, UNCHS , UNICEF, ECUA, ESCWA, UNCHBP. His work has earned him many international and local prizes. Besides this, he has also been a member of many international and local juries for architectural and urban development competitions. He has authored many books on architecture and urban planning in both Arabic and English.

Dr. Zahran has received many national and international awards in honor of his achievements, including the Medal of Distinction of the First Order from Egypt for his work on Alexandria Planning, as well as the French "Legion d'Honneur" for his work on the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Project. He is a member of several professional and civic associations.

As advisor to the president of Alexandria University for the revival of the Ancient Library of Alexandria Project Dr. Zahran was chosen as Rapporteur of the Preparatory Committee for the establishment of the Project at the University. He served on the Committee for the preparation of the Architectural Brief for the International Competition for the Design of the Library. He served as Deputy Chairman of the International Jury for the International Competition for the Architectural Design of the new Bibliotheca Alexandrina .

He was appointed as Executive Director of the General Organization for the Alexandria Library (GOAL) in February 1989, according to presidential Decree 523/88, which established the General Organization of the Alexandria Library. In 1992, Dr. Zahran was appointed Deputy Project Manager for the Bibliotheca Alexandria Project, to represent the Egyptian Government in the Project execution and implementation. In June 1995, he became the acting Project Manager upon the retirement of the Project Manager appointed by UNESCO, thus carrying out the full duties of two positions. He helped in the organization of international meeting, especially for the first meeting of the international Commission at Aswan on 12 February 1990.

During his tenure as Deputy Project Manager, and then Project Manager, he represented the Owner in the preparation for the execution for the award of the contracts for the Design and Engineering of the building, as well as in the Preparations for and the Decision Making Committee for the Tender Actions for Phase # 1 and Phase # 2 construction activities. His work including overseeing and monitoring the execution for the contracts, making sure the Contract Conditions were honored, the payment of invoices are made on time, and that progress was maintained according to the time schedule. He reported all implementation activities regularly to the Follow-up Committee appointed by the Minister for this purpose.

He has also overseen the library services, including the building up of the collections, contacts with organizations, institutions in Egypt and abroad. He has ensured that the training of the librarians and other human resources are carried out in parallel at international standards through in-house training and abroad through scholarships, visits, and internships. He has negotiated with many governments, organizations and institutions for the support of the library building, the new Information System,

the Science Museum, the Planetarium, the Archaeological Museum, Calligraphy Museum. Consequently, he concluded 24 protocols on behalf of the Library, which provide financial and in-kind support for the Project, such as books, training, expertise and equipment. The total international financial support raised with his effort has amounted to about US\$ 31.5 million. He has also helped the creation of Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in eighteen countries, and followed up their activities and support of the Project through participation in their annual meeting and encouragement to maximize their efforts in support of the Project.

He has been Editor in Chief of all Bibliotheca Alexandrina publications, including a quarterly newsletter and many publicity materials in three languages since 1990, as well as well eleven other books about conservation of the rare works and manuscripts in Alexandria in addition he was:

- Member of the Engineering Faculty Council, Alexandria University, 2003/4.
- Member of the Urban Planning Committee of the National Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, 2004/5.
- Chairman of the International Jury for the architectural Competition for the Urban Design of the new center for the City of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 2004.
- Referenced in the International Encyclopedias: Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in Engineering, Who's Who in Science and Technology, Who's Who in the Arab World,....
- Elected as Fellow of the American Biographical Institute (ABI).
- Awarded the ABI Certificate of Merit. Certificate of Achievement.
- Selected as one of 5000 world Great Achievers, by the ABI.