



DESIGN BRIEF HERITAGE ISLAND

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Created on:

May 24, 2023

Doc ID:	
Version:	-
Classification:	Open
Effective Date:	-

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Background

The Maldives, comprising of 1190 natural coral islands is renowned as a luxurious leisure tourism destination. With a tourism receipt of over a million tourists annually to the country, the Maldives has had a wide outreach to global markets, contending at various international fairs at the top ranks of beach destinations. However, the history and culture of this small island nation is often overlooked due to other culturally diverse countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia etc. in the region. Although its neighbours have an incredibly rich culture and a strong dominance in cultural tourism, the Maldives also has a fascinating history despite the size of the nation.

It is no surprise that a lot of Maldivians are also unaware of the remarkable history of the country and comparatively little is done to promote the historical aspects of the country. Housing Development Corporation, in executing the most ambitious project of the country to date, comprehends the importance of establishing a heritage district within the Hulhumalé project to promote the country's rich heritage and interesting past to enlighten locals and visitors alike to the amalgam of skills and activities passed down by our ancestors.

HDC realizes the exemplary opportunity to create a heritage island with the acquisition of Farukolhufushi during the reclamation of the second phase of Hulhumalé. Farukolhufushi is an island to the north of Hulhumalé phase I, previously operated as a tourist resort. As this was the sixth resort to be opened in the Maldives, HDC made use of the opportunity presented by building the heritage district on Farukolhufushi, incorporating the existing structures of the original resort to the development.

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Introduction

Nestled in the center of Hulhumalé phase II, the island Farukolhufushi will serve as the heritage district for the mega project Hulhumalé. Incorporated as part of the project during reclamation, the island was previously operated as a resort by Club Mediterranean; the sixth resort to be opened in the Maldives. Ownership of the island was transferred to Housing Development Corporation from Maldives Tourism Development Corporation in 2003 upon integration of the island as part of Hulhumalé.

Due to the nature of the island, Housing Development Corporation deemed the best use for this area would be to develop a cultural district surrounding the components of the original resort structures that could be restored and preserved. Additionally, Housing Development Corporation aims to acquire and exhibit other notable historical structures and artefacts in the district.

Separated from the city by fences and green walls, the entrance to the heritage district will be located on the North-eastern main road. Beyond the gate, the heritage district, including the botanical garden is a pedestrianized zone with limited use of buggies for transport in case of emergencies.

Heritage Island Development Project aims to create a culturally rich and environmentally sustainable destination for locals and tourists alike. The project seeks to celebrate the island's heritage while providing engaging experiences for visitors.

Vision Statement

Create, preserve and share to next generation.

Project Objectives

- i. Preserve and showcase the island's cultural and natural heritage.
- ii. Create a harmonious blend of vernacular architecture, landscapes, and amenities.
- iii. Promote educational opportunities and raise awareness about local flora and fauna.
- iv. Enhance visitor experiences through well-designed facilities and attractions.
- v. Foster sustainable practices in construction, operations, and maintenance.

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Proposed Facilities.

1.0 Island Vegetation

1.1 Urban Forest Façade

The Urban Forest Façade will encompass the island's perimeter, featuring a dense canopy of trees and lush vegetation. This green belt will serve as a natural buffer and an aesthetically pleasing entrance to the heritage island. The façade will be made with a selection of native tree species to promote biodiversity and environmental sustainability. Additionally, the walking paths and seating areas within the design will enable the users to observe and appreciate nature by promoting personal connections. Furthermore, the use of sustainable materials for walkways, such as recycled wood or permeable pavers and Incorporation of lighting elements to ensure safety and enhance the visual appeal during night-time will enhance the overall experience for visitors.

Integration with Surrounding Environment the Urban Forest Façade will be designed to seamlessly blend with the island's existing natural landscape, preserving the integrity of the surrounding ecosystem.

1.2 Ruhgandu Area

The Ruhgandu Area will serve as a cultural hub, showcasing traditional art, music, and performances. It will provide a vibrant space for visitors to immerse themselves in the island's rich culture. It also adds to the cultural significance of the space through Incorporation of traditional architectural elements such as paint patterns, paving design etc that reflect the island's cultural heritage. This space can also be used for interactive exhibits, storytelling, and workshops to educate visitors about local customs and traditions.

This space also offers recreational opportunities in the form of outdoor gathering space for community events, celebrations, and performances or inclusion of performance stages, seating areas, and shaded spaces for relaxation and enjoyment. Thoughtful placement of trees, shrubs, and sculptures can create an engaging and visually appealing environment.

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1.3 Maze Garden

The Maze Garden will offer a playful and interactive experience for visitors, featuring intricate pathways and hedges that form a challenging maze. Clear signage and wayfinding elements should be integrated to guide visitors through the maze in addition to interactive features, such as puzzles and clues, to enhance the maze experience. Selection of low-maintenance plant species suitable for maze gardens is essential for successful implementation and it would require regular pruning and shaping of hedges to maintain the maze's form and functionality.

1.4 Lotus Garden

The Lotus Garden will showcase the beauty of lotus flowers, providing a tranquil space for reflection and appreciation.

The design will have of various lotus species, including different colours and sizes, to create visual interest.

Thoughtful arrangement of lotus ponds and walkways for visitors to explore and observe the flowers up close.

Additional water features, such as fountains or cascades should be included in the design, to enhance the overall aesthetics and create a soothing ambiance.

Special attention must be given to maintenance of optimal water quality to ensure the healthy growth of lotus plants.

1.5 Local Flora Display

This will be a showcase of Native Plant Species a complete selection and display of a diverse range of native plant species to highlight the local unique flora.

Educational signages and interpretive materials should be installed to provide information about each plant's characteristics and ecological importance.

Installation of informative signage and interactive displays to engage visitors and educate them about the significance of local flora. Incorporation of multimedia elements, such as audio guides or digital displays, will create an immersive learning experience.

Sustainable practices, such as composting should be adopted to control and ensure the health and longevity of displayed plants. Regular maintenance and monitoring works should be carried out to preserve the vibrancy and aesthetic appeal of the flora display.

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1.6 Herbs Garden

The Herbs Garden will feature a variety of herbs, showcasing their culinary and medicinal value, while providing visitors with a sensory experience.

Display of herbs known for their healing properties, along with informational materials explaining their traditional uses. This can also be used to conduct workshops or demonstrations on herb cultivation and culinary applications. Addition of signage with interesting facts about herbs, will encourage the visitors to explore the diverse properties of different herbs and visitors can be encouraged to touch and smell different herbs promoting interactivity.

1.7 Mangrove Display

Creation of a dedicated area to showcase the significance of mangroves in coastal ecosystems and their role in protecting the shoreline is the main goal here. Interpretive displays and informative materials can be used to educate visitors about the unique features and benefits of mangrove habitats.

Construction of a raised walkway to allow visitors to traverse the mangrove area while minimizing environmental impact will further help with education and awareness generation. observation platforms and interpretive signage will help create an immersive experience. This will also allow local environmental organizations to organize educational programs and workshops.

1.8 Tropical Flower Garden

Flower Selection and Varieties the Tropical Flower Garden will showcase an array of vibrant and exotic flowers, creating a visual feast for visitors. Thoughtful arrangement of flowers will help create colour harmonies and captivating displays. Careful selection of flowers that bloom during different seasons, ensuring a continuous display of colour throughout the year. Regular pruning and maintenance to promote healthy growth and extend the flowering period.

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2.0 Commercial and Institutional

2.1 Heritage Centre

This centre should be used to showcase cultural heritage through engaging exhibits and artifacts. Integration of audio guides, touchscreens, and immersive technologies to provide a dynamic learning experience. Guided tours or demonstrations by knowledgeable staff or local experts should be arranged. To conserve heritage, collaborations with local heritage preservation organizations should be held to ensure accurate representation and conservation of cultural artifacts.

2.2 Local Delicacies' Kiosks

These will include a diverse range of kiosks offering food and beverages, souvenirs, and local products. They will also engage in provision of information and assistance to visitors. These kiosks will work with local artisans and vendors to provide authentic and locally sourced products.

2.3 Knowledge Hut

Will be offering rotating exhibitions featuring diverse themes, such as local history, nature conservation, or traditional crafts. Will be working with educational institutions and experts to curate informative and engaging displays.

Nursery should have hands-on exhibits and interactive elements to encourage visitor participation and experiential learning. There is room for workshops, lectures, or demonstrations to provide in-depth knowledge and practical skills.

2.4 Event Space

An open event ground that can be used for various activities. The event ground will have space for corporate team building events, cinema under the stars or outdoor camping. This is an open space along with a stretch of beach which can give access to the shore and beach.

2.5 Local Cuisine Restaurant

A restaurant showcasing local flavours, traditional recipes, and indigenous ingredients. Collaboration with local chefs or culinary experts to develop authentic and innovative menus. Design elements reflecting the culinary heritage and

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cultural traditions should be used to create a warm and inviting atmosphere that immerses guests in the local dining experience.

Emphasis should be put on sourcing ingredients from local farmers, fishermen, and artisans. Incorporation of educational elements, such as information on traditional cooking techniques or the cultural significance of specific dishes will be additional mean of creating engagement.

2.6 Ballroom and Event Hall

This should be an elegant and sophisticated building for formal events and celebrations. High-quality materials and finishes should be used to create a luxurious ambiance. This hall will have a minimum capacity of 700-1000 pax. This building will be a supporting structure for the hotel and will be operated by the hotel management.

Installation of decorative fixtures, such as chandeliers or focal point artworks, should be used to enhance the aesthetic appeal.

2.7 Tourist Hotel

Hotel Design should have architectural style that complements the island's natural surroundings. This hotel will be a seven-storey building offering specialized entrance and drop off zones. Hotel guests will have dedicated parking within the premises. Consideration of sustainability principles in building materials, energy efficiency, and waste management should be emphasized at all stages of development and operation.

The hotel should be offering a range of room types to accommodate different traveller preferences. Design elements that maximize views, natural light, and connection to the outdoors should be emphasized. Landscaping that preserves and enhances the island's natural beauty should be utilized.

2.8 Commercial Kiosks

Kiosks should be placed in strategic locations where traffic would be high to attract more visitors. Design elements that align with the island's overall aesthetics and heritage theme should be followed.

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3.0 Arts and Culture

3.1 Amphitheatre

The Amphitheater will be a focal point for cultural performances, concerts, and theatrical productions. Nestled within the island's natural landscape, this open-air venue will provide an enchanting setting for audiences to enjoy artistic expressions and connect with the island's vibrant cultural scene.

3.2 Cultural Villa

The Cultural Villa will serve as a center for preserving and promoting traditional arts and crafts. These dedicated spaces will exhibit the traditional interior design and lifestyle of a significant historical figure from past eras such as king Koimala, president Amin didi allowing visitors to witness the mastery of local artisans and learn about traditional lifestyle of significant figures.

3.3 Cultural Boutique

The Cultural Boutique will offer a curated selection of unique handicrafts, artworks, and traditional attire, allowing visitors to take home a piece of the island's cultural heritage. It will serve as a platform for local artisans to showcase their skills and contribute to the island's sustainable tourism economy.

3.4 Esjehi Gallery

This building is recreated here in its original form with the original materials where-ever possible true to its initial form. This will be a display of traditional architecture and layout of residential homes in the past.

The Esjehi Gallery will be a haven for art enthusiasts, featuring exhibitions of local and international artwork. Through rotating exhibits, visitors will have the opportunity to experience diverse artistic expressions and appreciate the beauty and creativity that transcends cultural boundaries.

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3.5 Odiharuge Display

The Odiharuge Display will celebrate the traditional boat-building heritage. Visitors can witness the craftsmanship behind these intricately crafted vessels and learn about their historical significance, cultural symbolism, and techniques employed in their construction through various displays and replica vessels on site.

3.6 Folklore Hut

The Folklore Hut will be a charming space where visitors can immerse themselves in traditional storytelling, folklore, and oral traditions. Through engaging performances and interactive sessions, guests can experience our rich narrative heritage and connect with age-old tales passed down through generations.

4.0 Amenities

4.1 Admin Building

Efficient and practical floor plan to accommodate administrative functions and support staff. Integration of visitor services, including ticketing, information desk, and exhibition space.

Design elements inspired by traditional architectural style, incorporating traditional motifs and materials. Harmonious integration with the surrounding landscape to create a visually pleasing environment.

Building should have adequate services and materials for visitor orientation, including maps, brochures, and audio-visual presentations and comfortable waiting areas for visitors.

4.2 Plant Nursery

Layout design of the nursery should be optimized for efficient plant propagation and maintenance. There must be adequate space for storing plants, potting materials, and equipment. Collaboration with local horticultural experts for best practices in plant cultivation.

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4.3 Ticket Counters

Counters should be placed at convenient and easily accessible entry points. The Design elements of these should reflect the island's overall design theme. Adequate queuing space and barriers should be established to ensure organized and efficient ticketing processes. Universal design principles should be applied to ensure accessibility for all visitors.

4.4 Public Toilets

Public toilets should be placed in strategic locations throughout the island for visitor convenience. Should ensure to have adequate number of facilities to cater for all users. High hygiene standards and regular maintenance protocols should be practiced there should be provision of accessible toilets and amenities for visitors with disabilities.

4.5 Guard houses

Strategic placement of guard houses at key entry points to ensure visitor safety and control access. Provision of a visible security presence while maintaining a welcoming atmosphere.

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Conclusion

Heritage Island Development Project aims to create a unique and captivating tourist destination that celebrates the island's cultural heritage and natural beauty. Through thoughtful design and integration of various elements, the project seeks to provide visitors with immersive experiences, educational opportunities, and sustainable practices.