

President of Beirut Arab University, Prof. Amr Galal El-Adawi's Speech
Faculty of Architecture – Design and Built Environment
“Constructing the Future” Workshop & “Digital Fabrication Laboratory” Launching

31/3/2017

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, fellow colleagues,

I would like to welcome all professionals and academics to the Faculty of Architecture for a workshop entitled “Constructing the Future”, and the launching of the Digital Fabrication Laboratory. Today, I am very proud to announce the initiation of this laboratory, a pioneering step taken by Beirut Arab University in the fields of architecture and architectural education in the region. It is also a pleasure to attend the workshop on “Constructing the Future”, which aims to clarify the elaborate technology that this laboratory adopts to modernize architectural design and planning.

For more than fifty years, the Faculty of Architecture at BAU has held a distinguished place among higher education institutions in the Arab World. BAU has accumulated various achievements throughout the years through innovation and novelty in teaching and development to improve the skills of its graduates, and provide them with the much-needed competitiveness to meet the continuous revolutions in the industry and in the job market. Most important among these achievements are the attainment of validation by the most prestigious international accreditation institution, the RIBA, and the Faculty's recent organization of an international conference in the premises of BAU, Debbieh Campus in the March of 2016. Today marks a new cherished accomplishment for BAU and the Faculty of Architecture that shall revolutionize architectural education at the University.

The Digital Fabrication Laboratory acts as a platform that sparks the interests of researchers, students, employees, small business owners, and everyone interested in technology in architecture and design. As such, it is the first of its kind in Lebanon, and one of the greatest additions to the services and laboratories offered by BAU to students, researchers, and others. In that, we aim to disseminate the culture of technology in the manufacturing industry not only for students but also for researchers and specialists who are interested in architecture and design. We hope and aspire to establish this laboratory as a beacon for technological innovation in architecture that enhances the ability to design, prepare, and foresee, to finally implement cutting-edge architectural designs.

In line with its research strategy, BAU is highly interested in the latest developments in the fields of research, research-based education, and 21st Century learning. Therefore, we place high value on supporting and enhancing the unique status of the Faculty in architectural

education in the region. This is achieved by graduating highly skilled architects who are able to foresee the future of architecture, as well as design sustainable and creative projects that are internationally recognized. We realize and value the skills, potential, and creativity of young minds, able to occupy leading positions in the job market. We continuously aim to nurture and support the growth of young talent through providing platforms such as the Digital Fabrication Laboratory. These platforms foster and support imagination, creativity, and design, to open the minds and eyes of our students, graduates, and researchers to new unforeseen aspects of architecture.

At BAU, we draw for ourselves a vision of strengthening and consolidating the bond between academics and the industry. We prepare students to be unique graduates and creative individuals who are able to keep pace with the practical and vigorous demands of the job market and the industry, to produce real innovations in design and architecture. BAU envisions to perform its academic, cultural, and social roles through the implementation of modern curricula, recruiting specialized academic staff, establishing up-to-date laboratories, introducing innovative teaching tools, and enhancing students' achievements.

I believe that the innovative and creative student projects that we shall witness in today's workshop and laboratory launch will be a solid confirmation of the abilities, skills, and talents of the youth. They also pave the way for further success and innovation in education, to help students in developing and realizing their potential towards a better future.

Before I conclude, allow me a few words of appreciation. I would like to thank Prof. Ibtihal Bastawisi, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, for her keen efforts and endless dedication. I would also like to thank our colleagues, the industrious team at the Faculty of Architecture. I certainly congratulate you all on your achievement.

Finally, I would like to extend my pleasure in welcoming you here today, and I hope you enjoy today's workshop and laboratory launching!