

منبر الآجي

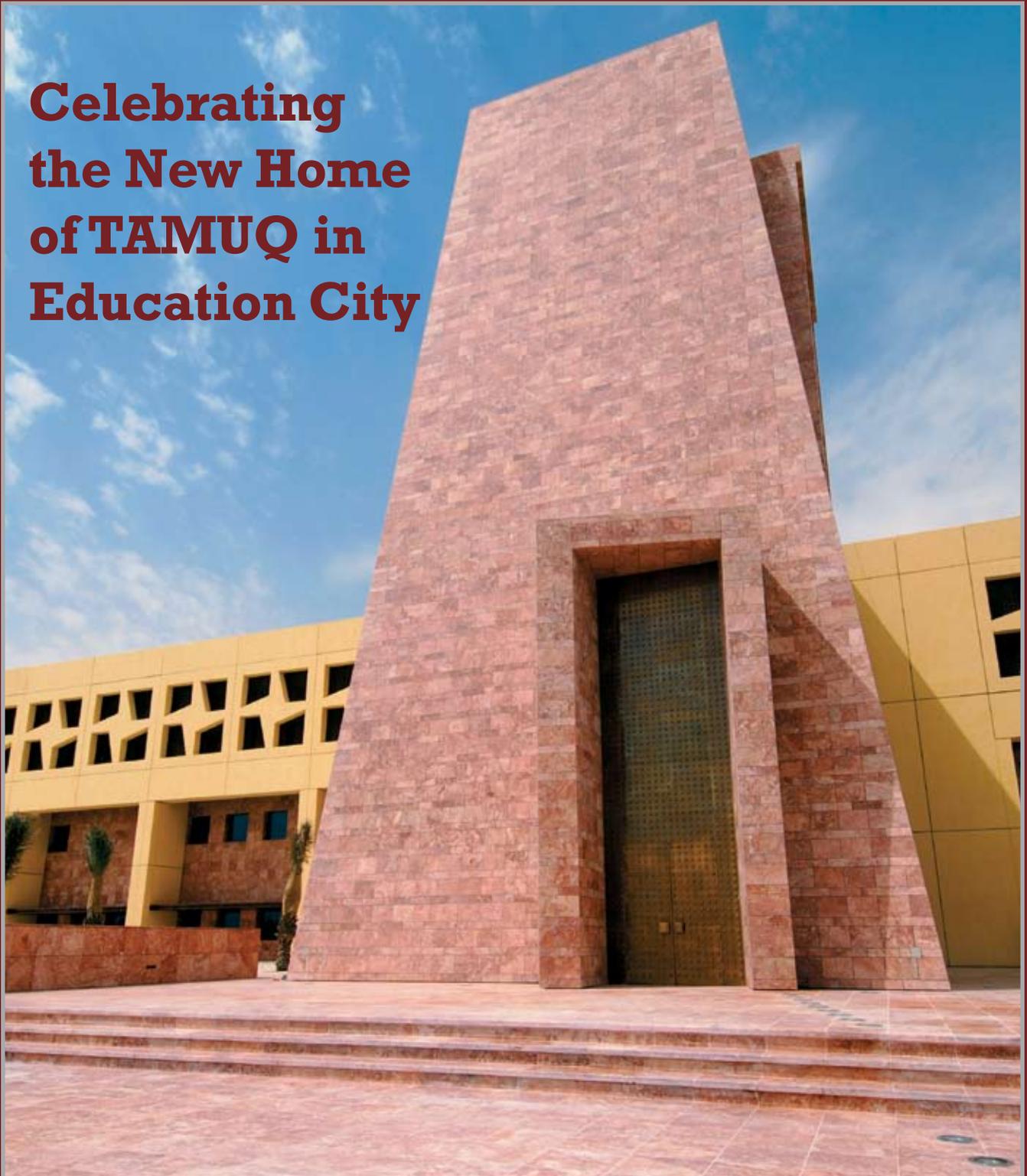
# The Aggie Platform

*News from Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Volume 3, Number 3

Engineering Building Celebration Special Issue 2007

**Celebrating  
the New Home  
of TAMUQ in  
Education City**



## NEW BUILDING CELEBRATION



His Highness, The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani (third from left), and Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (second from right), along with (from left to right) Mrs. Anita Perry, First Lady of the State of Texas, Texas Governor Rick Perry '72, Sheikhha Al-Mayassa bint Hamad Al Thani, Chairperson of Reach Out To Asia, President George H.W. Bush, Mrs. Barbara Bush, and His Excellency Abdulla bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Qatar's Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Industry, visited TAMUQ's new home in Education City during an exclusive tour following the Engineering Building Celebration.

### The Aggie Platform منبر الآجي News from Texas A&M University at Qatar

Dr. Mark H. Weichold, *Dean and CEO*

*Published by*  
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Texas A&M University  
at Qatar

ENGINEERING

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منبر الآجى  
**The Aggie Platform**

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See more of the 55,000 square meter facility, a masterpiece by Mexican architect Ricardo Legorreta.

**Dean's Investiture  
10**



**Engineering  
Building  
Highlights  
16**



# *Qatar Foundation and Texas A&M University Celebrate the TAMUQ Engineering Building March 19, 2007*

**I**F YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME. And the guests who helped celebrate the new engineering building in Education City provide a revealing indication of just how significant this project is.

By invitation of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, guests included the 41<sup>st</sup> President of the United States, Mr. George H.W. Bush, Qatar's Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Industry, H.E. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Texas Governor Rick Perry, Texas A&M University Interim President Eddie J. Davis and scores of ministers and other dignitaries. Administrators, faculty, staff, and students, as well as their families, from both the College Station and Qatar campuses participated in the three days of celebration. Texas A&M University alumni, Education City partners, and industry leaders completed the group.

Qatar Foundation and Texas A&M University hosted over 1200 guests at the "Celebration of Partnership, Innovation and Empowerment" on March 19, 2007. TAMUQ was honored by the presence of His Highness, The Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and Her Highness Sheikha Mozah.

At the official ceremony held at Education City's Ceremonial Court, guest speakers congratulated Qatar Foundation and Texas A&M on creating one of the finest engineering buildings in the world and reminded students of how lucky they are to study in such a facility. Dr. Ed Davis presented Her Highness and Education City with a sculpture created by Mr. Rodney Hill, Texas A&M Professor of Architecture. The sculpture, "Obelisk of Knowledge," shows the origins of science from this region and highlights the partnership between Qatar Foundation and Texas A&M.

TAMUQ students then gave guests a glimpse of their future at the "2027 Aggie Reunion." The "graduates" reminisced about their days at Texas A&M at Qatar and took the opportunity to thank the leadership of Qatar and Texas A&M for making Education City a new home for Texas A&M. With a nod to the origin of the main campus, a train arrived to take Their Highnesses and other dignitaries to the newest "station" for Texas A&M for an

exclusive tour. Other guests enjoyed a video journey of TAMUQ since coming to Education City in 2003 with a finale laser show featuring stunning images of the new Engineering Building. At the close of the ceremony, guests were invited to the Engineering Building for a reception.

On the occasion of the celebration of the Engineering Building, Qatar Foundation honored TAMUQ with the inaugural performance in Education City of Lebanese dance troupe, Caracalla. Caracalla performed “Knights of the Moon,” commissioned by Qatar Foundation.

“Texas A&M’s tradition of innovation is demonstrated in its proud research record. It was always part of the Education City concept that this should be a place not only where knowledge is spread, through teaching, but also where new knowledge is created, through research. This building will enable Texas A&M to teach at a higher level, through Master’s programs, and to embark upon research programs.

This will be another important step in creating a solid, internationally respected research base — something that does not exist at this point in the Arab World. We are doing this because we value the creation of knowledge for its own sake, and we want to contribute to pushing



forward the boundaries of knowledge for the benefit of all mankind, just as the scientists and philosophers of the Arab world did several centuries ago.

This university is giving young people the skills and the courage to challenge the status quo, to look for new ways of doing things, and to forge their own destiny, and a

new destiny for this country.

In conclusion, I want to publicly thank Texas A&M University for bringing here “The Spirit of Aggieland.”

— Dr. Abdulla Al-Thani  
Vice President, Education  
Qatar Foundation

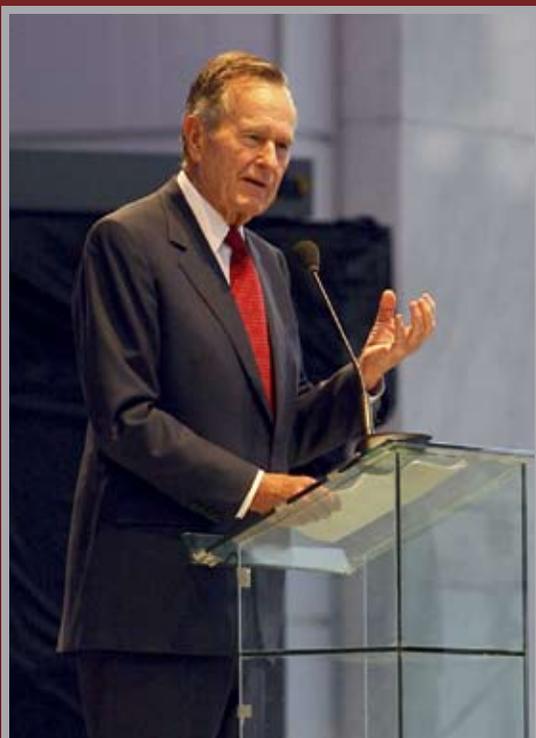
Left: Prior to the ceremony, Mr. John White, Chairman of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, visits with Dr. Sheikha Ghalia bint Mohammad bin Hamad Al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar’s National Health Authority. Right: His Excellency Yousef Kamal, Qatar’s Minister of Economy, visits with Dr. Ed J. Davis, the Interim President of Texas A&M University.



Texas A&M University was truly honored by the presence of His Highness, The Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned at the Engineering Building Celebration. Over 1200 guests, including many dignitaries, showed their support for TAMUQ and Qatar Foundation at the event.



***“ As a proud Aggie and member of the Texas A&M family, and as someone who considers himself a friend of Qatar, this is indeed a day for celebration. Today, we celebrate the ties of humanity that know no geographical boundary. Today, we celebrate a commitment to educational excellence and scholarly achievement that transcends culture. Today, most of all, we celebrate a partnership between two great peoples – and two great institutions – that will foster greater opportunity, prosperity, and indeed hope for the Qatari people, and for the peoples throughout the Gulf region.***



***Speaking as an American, speaking as a friend of Qatar who respects your traditions as well as your progress, let me express my sincere hope that the students who pass through these hallways understand both the blessings and the responsibilities that come with your knowledge. It is the essence of enlightenment that each of us has a contribution to make to mankind – to overcome the obstacles to progress, and to advance the human condition. ”***

**— George H.W. Bush, 41<sup>st</sup> President of the United States of America**

**“** *We are here because we believe education has the potential to change the world.*

*It cannot only empower young engineers to build, innovate and create...*

*...it can raise the standard of living, break down cultural barriers, and create a roadmap for both peace and prosperity.*

*In creating an Education City on the outskirts of Doha, Her Highness has created a beacon of hope in the Middle East with a foundation built not by bricks and mortar...*

*...but by fortifying young minds.* **”**

— James R. “Rick” Perry  
Governor of the State of Texas  
Texas A&M Class of 1972



## 2027 Aggie Reunion Doha, Qatar





Instead of nominating one student speaker, a group of TAMUQ students created a show for guests to fully understand the Aggie experience and how Texas A&M at Qatar and its new facility will impact their future. The show was set in the year 2027 at an Aggie Reunion and they reminisced with a fellow Aggie from the main campus about life at TAMUQ. (Bottom) The students invited a small group of dignitaries to ride a train to the newest “station” of Texas A&M in Education City.

“**T**echnology advances are redefining the knowledge and skills that students need to compete in today’s world. To bridge the technology gap, we are empowering the current and future generations with the technological tools they need. A clear example is the new engineering building of Texas A&M University at Qatar we are gathering here today to celebrate.

As students work their way through the various programs offered by Texas A&M University at Qatar, they will have the privilege of training in a collaborative and research focused institution based in a state of the art complex. The advanced technology infrastructure in the new engineering building will



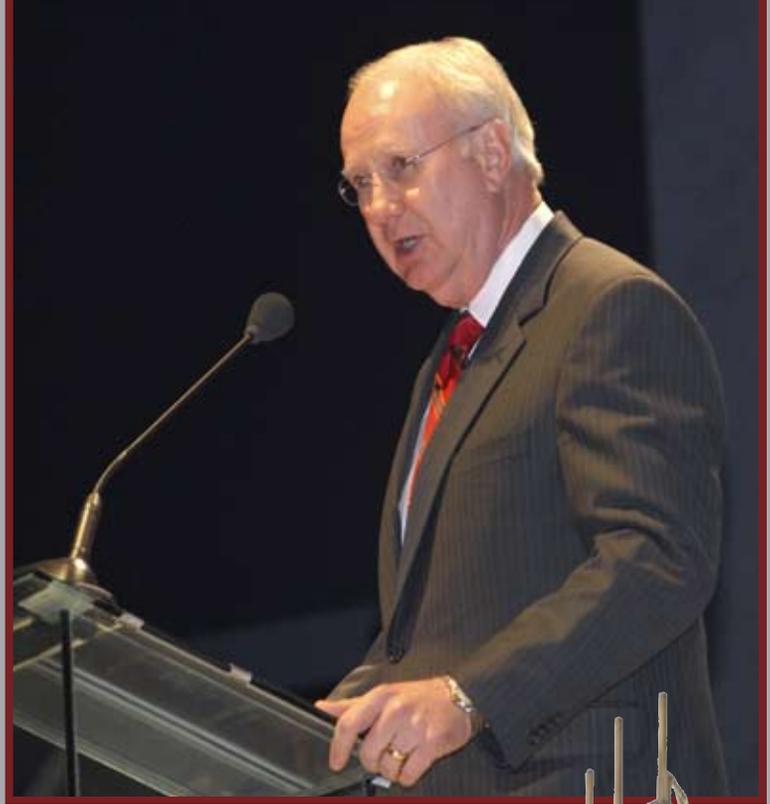
enable students and researchers to conduct their work in an environment rarely found anywhere in the world.

Universities have always been the source of inventions, great ideas, and capable individuals that make any country thrive. No matter what country we call home, we all have similar concerns about the quality of education provided to our children. Undoubtedly, better education is the key to better opportunity and is the foundation for a better life and a brighter future.”

— His Excellency Abdulla Bin Hamad Al-Attiah  
Second Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Energy and Industry, The State of Qatar



“We have come together today to celebrate not only the opening of this magnificent building but also the strong partnership between Texas A&M University and Qatar Foundation—a partnership that continues to benefit all of us. This occasion also allows us to reflect on the progress we’ve made toward our collective vision of expanding and enhancing educational opportunities for students in this region and, indeed, throughout the world.



We also celebrate the opportunities that this campus and this facility will provide not only to the students and faculty from the Qatar campus but also to the students and faculty from the College Station campus—opportunities to visit Doha and to learn more about Qatar and its people as well as the Arabic culture and its rich history.

We believe that Texas A&M, the State of Qatar and Qatar Foundation have many

common interests. At the forefront is our mutual commitment to high-quality education and our keen interest in enhancing research that will foster economic development.”

— Dr. Ed J. Davis  
Interim President of  
Texas A&M University



Mr. Rodney Hill, Texas A&M University Professor of Architecture, designed and sculpted this magnificent structure as a gift to Her Highness Sheikha Mozah and Education City. The sculpture will be on permanent display in the Engineering Building.





(Top) Guests enjoyed an outdoor reception at the Engineering Building, while Their Highnesses and guests toured the building with architects Ricardo (center of right photo) and Victor (left of right photo) Legorreta. Mr. Saad Al-Mohannadi (above left), Vice President of Capital Projects for Qatar Foundation, helped explain the design and construction process during the tour. (Center photo) Near the end of the tour, His Highness, The Emir, and Governor Perry '72 give the Aggie sign of approval, "Gig 'em!"



As part of the three-day celebration of the Engineering Building, Dr. Mark H. Weichold was formally invested as Dean and CEO of TAMUQ. Members of the Board of Regents, administrators and faculty from the main campus, TAMUQ Joint Advisory Board members and faculty, as well as Qatar Foundation administrators, all participated in the academic ceremony.

The Texas A&M University System and all three campuses of Texas A&M University (College Station, Doha and Galveston), as well as Qatar Foundation and the other universities in Education City, were represented during the investiture of Dr. Mark H. Weichold as Dean and CEO of TAMUQ.



*Excerpts from Dean Weichold's Inaugural Address:*

“There is nothing in my history with Texas A&M University that compares to what we are part of in Education City. It is quite humbling and exciting to be a part of this very unique and revolutionary approach to education.

From my observations, it is clear that the Texas A&M engineering curricula combined with close faculty/student interactions and state of the art teaching and research facilities will make the educational experience at TAMUQ unmatched anywhere else in the world. Our classrooms and teaching laboratories are, and will continue to be, filled with





the latest technology that enhances the learning and interaction among students and faculty.

While Texas A&M and Qatar Foundation can provide top-ranked academic programs and world-class facilities, it is how the faculty and the students use the resources that determines the success of the university. I am pleased to say that in the nearly three months in my role as Dean, I have seen the commitment and dedication of our faculty and our students that virtually guarantees the success of the TAMUQ program.

It is my vision that TAMUQ will:

**I.** Craft its student body from the most talented, capable students from Qatar and from around the world, producing engineers able to solve the most challenging problems in any place, in any culture, and under any conditions;

**II.** engage the best faculty members from around the world to direct the learning process and to conduct scholarly activity in fields important to Qatar and the world; and

**III.** be a community partner locally and globally using the creation and dissemination of knowledge to bridge cultures.

It is my objective...whether we are students, faculty, staff, or administrators...that all of our efforts should be focused on the complete education of our students to prepare them with the technical expertise, the leadership skills, and the broad world view so that they will serve as tomorrow's leaders in business, government, or academia and to so serve upholding the highest standards of professionalism, ethics, and integrity."



*“I am very privileged to have worked with Mark since the early days of the Qatar campus project. Not only does Dr. Weichold bring years of experience in academics, he also brings rich experience in the management of a large, complex organization, having interacted daily with business executives, state policymakers, and parents and friends of Texas A&M. His experience has prepared him well for the position of Dean and CEO of the Qatar campus.”*

— Dr. David B. Prior  
Executive Vice President and Provost  
Texas A&M University



## AGGIE RING PRESENTATION



“Certainly the ring represents the values we cherish as Aggies – Integrity, Loyalty, Excellence, Leadership and Service – yet, it is also a symbol that unites us and displays our pride in Texas A&M to the world. As I have often surveyed Aggies on what our ring means to them, I routinely hear some common themes – achievement, perseverance, dedication, opportunity, camaraderie, and even family. For our students gathered today, perhaps our ring represents the future – your future as well as the future you have helped shape for generations to come here in Qatar.”

— Mr. Porter Garner, Executive Director  
The Association of Former Students  
Texas A&M Class of 1979

### TAMUQ Students Receiving Aggie Rings:

**Abdulla Al Fehani '07**

**Suha Al-Sulaiti '07**

**Hamad Bin Shamlan '07**

**Lama Al-Oreibi '08**

**Khalid Al-Meer '07**

**Nayla Al-Malki '07**

**Sabla Alnouri '08**

**Lulwa Al-Maslamani '07**

**Reem Al-Mansoori '07**

**Bashar Hassna '07**

**Manal Al Mousawi '07**

**Nikhil Shanbhag '07**

**Miaad Al-Boloshi '07**

**Sara Al-Saadi '07**

**Mohammed Al-Marri '07**

## AGGIE RING PRESENTATION



*“ Today 15 of my fellow Aggies and dearest friends receive their Aggie Rings, that one item that will always distinguish us as great leaders, efficient engineers and respectful individuals. Congratulations! Every student here is excited and happy for you. ”*

— Ameer Khader, Class of 2008  
TAMUQ Student Body President



Because of the growing Aggie population in Qatar and the region, TAMUQ and the Qatar A&M Club hosted the inaugural Middle East Aggie Reunion and BBQ. A combination of camel rides and dominoes brought together the two cultures ... including Doha-style Texas BBQ!



Aggies of all ages and campuses enjoyed the Middle East Aggie Reunion at TAMUQ. The evening included a performance by the Aggie Wranglers, camel and train rides and remarks from the Qatar A&M Club President, Robbie Schilhab '75 and Bill Flores '76 (left), 2007 President of The Association of Former Students.



With over 140 guests from around the globe, Qatar Foundation and TAMUQ felt it important to show the guests more than Education City. A city tour of Doha, visits to the old souqs, carpet and gold shopping, the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs, and a trip to the beautiful dunes were all included in the busy three-day itinerary.

## EXPERIENCING QATAR



Traditional Qatar pastimes and meals were a highlight of the three days of celebration. (Top) Texas State Senator Jeff Wentworth '67 enjoyed a meal with some Aggie Wranglers. (Right) Dozens of TAMUQ staff, faculty, members of the Qatar A&M Club and their spouses volunteered their time to host the guests and shared their knowledge of Qatar with those not familiar with the country.





“**T**he unique design of this building, exemplary of quality, was envisioned by the world famous architect Ricardo Legorreta, whose graceful works have become landmarks of human geography. This visionary architectural concept blends the traditional Islamic design of geometrical forms with sophisticated technological facilities. Cutting-edge technology facilitates communication, teaching, connectivity and research. The combination of research and teaching facilities on one site emphasizes the dedication we give to research and the importance of a partnership between research and teaching in generating a culture of innovation in our young scientific minds.”

—Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned



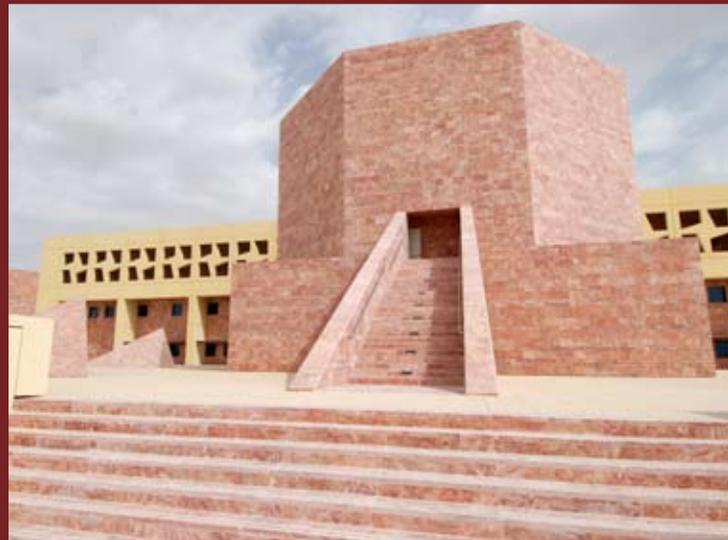




*“ This building is an exemplar of the magnificent work of world-renowned architect Ricardo Legorreta of Mexico. We believe that this will long be a centerpiece of Education City that will provide a place in which generations of students will come to expand their scientific knowledge, to learn more about their world, and to develop the skills necessary to contribute meaningfully in their respective fields. ”*

— Dr. Ed J. Davis

Interim President of Texas A&M University





**“ Educating and developing the engineers of the future is critically important and given the global environment and energy challenges we face — perhaps even more so today, than ever before.**

***Educating an engineer requires rigorous study designed to strengthen problem-solving skills and ignite ingenuity...to prepare those who will find ways to improve the world.***

***Thus, sharing knowledge and building paths for people to receive an engineering education is critically important.***

***Education City is a historic advance in higher education...a living demonstration of the good that comes from bringing together different cultures, people and ideas.***

***I have full confidence that among the exceptional students here today are the engineers who may literally change the world. ”***

**— Dr. G. Kemble Bennett, Vice Chancellor for Engineering  
Texas A&M University System**



**“Islamic architecture has always been an important influence in our work. The use of walls, textures, light, shadow and water allows creation of spaces that offer peace, encourage meditation, study and conversation. With a contemporary interpretation of Islamic courtyards, textures, grills, floors and ceilings, we designed a building that represents the modern Qatar and hopefully contributes to educate the new generations that such a wonderful culture deserves.”**

**— Ricardo and Victor Legorreta, Engineering Building Architects**



Texas A&M University  
at Qatar

**ENGINEERING**

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