

= Beit Al Quran =

Beit Al Qur 'an ( Arabic : بيت القرآن , meaning : the House of Qur 'an ) is a multi @-@ purpose complex dedicated to the Islamic arts and is located in Hoor , Bahrain . Established in 1990 , the complex is most famous for its Islamic museum , which has been acknowledged as being one of the most renowned Islamic museums in the world .

= = Establishment = =

Construction of the complex began in 1984 and the museum was officially opened in March 1990 by Abdul Latif Jassim Kanoo . It was built to " accommodate a comprehensive and valuable collection of the Qur 'an and other rare manuscripts " , a concept which , according to a regional magazine , is unique in the Persian Gulf region . The core of the museum 's holdings is Kanoo 's own collection of Qur 'anic manuscripts and Islamic art , since he was reportedly said to have been an avid collector . As his collection grew , he reportedly came to feel a strong sense of responsibility toward the rare manuscripts he had acquired . In 1990 , he donated his collection to the museum he established to operate a first @-@ of @-@ its @-@ kind institution dedicated to the service of the Qur 'an and the preservation of historic manuscripts .

The establishment of the institute was funded completely by public donations , with added help from a variety of people from all walks of life in Bahrain , ranging from heads of state to school children . The facilities at Beit Al Qur 'an are free to the general public .

The institution and its museum house an internationally celebrated collection of historic Quranic manuscripts from various parts of the Islamic world , from China in the East and to Spain in the West , representing a progression of calligraphic traditions from the first Hijri century ( 622 ? 722 AD ) and of the Islamic Golden Age , to the present day .

= = Facilities = =

The Beit al Qur 'an complex is open to the public on Saturdays to Wednesdays from 9am to 12pm and 4pm to 6pm respectively . The complex 's exterior designs are based on an old fashioned 12th @-@ century mosque . The entire complex itself comprises a mosque , a library , an auditorium , a madrasa , and a museum that consists of ten exhibition halls . A large stained glass dome covers the grand hall and mosque . The Mihrab , the sign indicating the direction to Mecca , is covered in blue ceramic tiles with engraved Al Qursi Qur 'anic verse .

The library consists of over 50 @,@ 000 books and manuscripts in three languages ? Arabic , English and French ? that are mostly on Islam . The institute does specialise in Islamic art , and many of the reference books have international importance . The library and its reading rooms are open to the public during working hours with internet access available , as well as providing individual rooms for researchers and specialists .

There is also an auditorium ? named the Mohammed Bin Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa Lecture Hall ? which can accommodate up to 150 people , and is mainly used for lectures and conferences . Guest speakers are brought to Bahrain from many countries , including the US , UK , and France . The conference hall is often made available for general use for public lectures in cooperation with different societies and institutions in Bahrain .

The Yousuf Bin Ahmad Kanoo School for Qur 'anic Studies is located within the site . The school offers seven study areas fully equipped with computers and modern aids , with separate classes for women and children learning the Qur 'an .

= = Museum = =

The Al Hayat Museum is the complex 's most recognized establishments ; it consists of ten halls spread over two floors , exhibiting rare Qur 'anic manuscripts from different periods , starting from the first century Hijra ( 700 AD ) . Manuscripts on parchments that originate from Saudi Arabia (

Mecca and Medina ) , Damascus and Baghdad , are present in the museum . The manuscripts undergo special procedures for the preservation of these artifacts , in order to protect them from damages . Some of the artifacts present in the museum include a rare manuscript of the Qur 'an , dating to 1694 AD and was printed in Germany . The museum also houses the world 's oldest translated copy of the Qur 'an , which was translated to Latin in Switzerland and dates to 955 AD . The first copy of the Qur 'an , written during the reign of Caliph Uthman ibn Affan , is on display in the museum alongside a number of small copies of the Qur 'an , which could only be read using optical instruments .

Grains , peas and rice , dating from the 14th century in present @-@ day Pakistan , which contain surahs engraved into them , are displayed in the museum . The exhibits include a rare number of gold and copper pottery and glass from different eras of Iraq , Turkey , Iran and Egypt , respectively .

The works of Islamic scholars , such as Ibn Taymiyyah are preserved in the museum . It has been claimed to have been " the only institute in the world dedicated to the Qur 'an and Qur 'anic studies " .