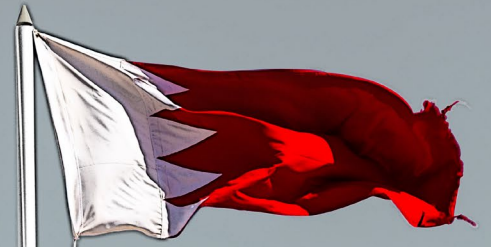


المنامة



Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain



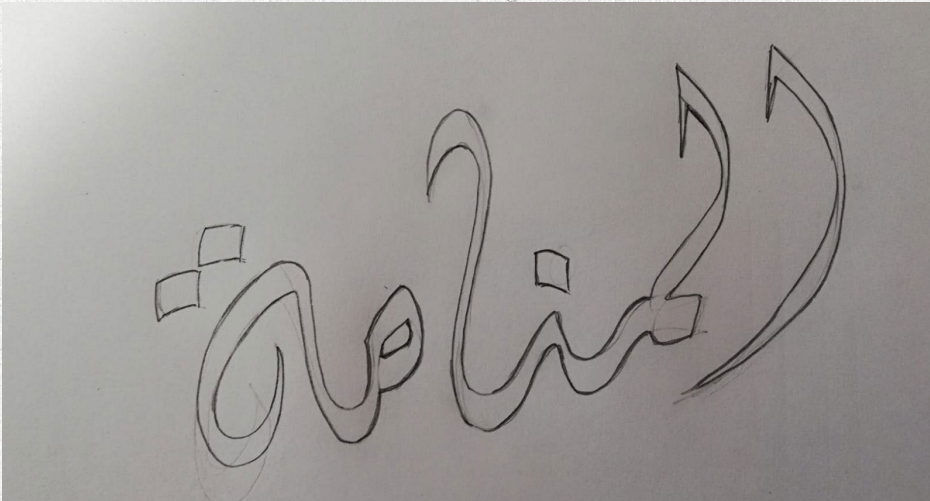
ABOUT

Manama is the capital and largest city of Bahrain, with an approximate population of 157,000 people. Long an important trading center in the Persian Gulf, Manama is home to a very diverse population. There is evidence of human settlement on the northern coastline of Bahrain dating back to the Bronze Age. The Dilmun civilisation inhabited the area in 3000 BC, serving as a key regional trading hub between Mesopotamia, Magan and the Indus Valley civilisation. Approximately 100,000 Dilmun burial mounds were found across the north and central regions of the country, some originating 5,000 years ago.

THE PROCESS

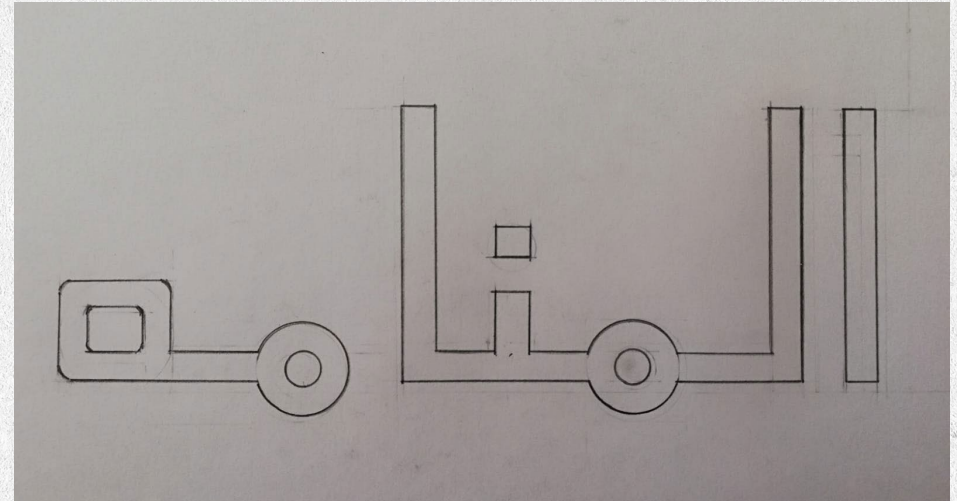
I started by sketching out 2 of my favorite styles of Arabic calligraphy (Kufic & Diwani). There are five principal Arabic calligraphic cursive styles: Naskh, Nasta'liq, Diwani, Thuluth, Reqa. Based on last weeks workshop challenge, I felt that the Kufic and Diwani were the best candidates for this week's workshop challenge as I came across them the most. Despite them having a style of writing, you don't necessarily end up with the same exact font, as different calligraphers can write the same word using one style and end up with different fonts. Think of it as a cursive font in English for example, and you will get the idea. For the example below, I am using the capital of Bahrain (MANAMA - المنامة).

المنامة



DIWANI

Diwani is a cursive style of Arabic calligraphy developed during the reign of the early Ottoman Turks in the 16th and early 17th centuries. It was invented by Housam Roumi, and reached its height of popularity under Süleyman I the Magnificent (1566–1520).



KUFIC

Kufic is the oldest form of the Arabic script. The style emphasizes rigid and angular strokes, which appears as a modified form of the old Nabataean script. Due to its straight and orderly style of lettering, Kufic was frequently used in ornamental stone carving as well as on coins.

I decided to go with the Diwani calligraphy, it feels more appealing and artistic. Larger variations called djali are filled with dense decorations of dots and diacritical marks in the space between, giving it a compact appearance.

الحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

الحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

Decorations

الحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

Letter "ا" (alif)
Stand alone

الحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

Letter "ل" (lām)
Connected

الحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

Letter "م" (mīm)
Middle Connected

الحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

Letter "ن" (nūn)
Middle Connected

الحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

Letter "ا" (alif)
End Connected

الحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

Letter "م" (mīm)
Beginning Connected

الحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

Letter "ة" (tā' marbūṭah)
End Connected

For my application idea, I thought the best place would be in Bab Al Bahrain. Bab Al Bahrain (Arabic: **باب البحرين**, translated Bāb al-Baḥrayn meaning Gateway of Bahrain) is a historical building located in the Customs Square in central business district of Manama. It marks the main entrance to the Manama Souq. I decided to create the letters out of gold, as Bahrain is famous for its 21k Gold. It also gives a touch of royalty (since Bahrain is a Kingdom) and generosity.





3D golden Arabic calligraphy on a dark, textured background. The calligraphy is highly stylized and appears to be a mix of modern and traditional script, possibly reading 'Omar' or 'Mal'.

Thank You!

Omar Mal