

Eden Project to bring green tinge to Gulf

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While Western concepts such as the golf course have been successfully transplanted to the Gulf, plans are afoot to give the region a different tinge of green.

This follows reports that the Emirs now want to bring in their own version of Britain's Eden Project.

Likely attractions will include tropical rainforests and a low-carbon village just 25 miles from some of the world's most important oil fields.

The Eden Project complex in Cornwall, England comprises a number of domes that house plant species from around the world, with each emulating a natural biome.

The domes are made out of hundreds of hexagons plus a few pentagons that interconnect the whole construction together; each of these is a transparent cushion made of tough plastic.

The first dome emulates a tropical environment, the second a warm temperate, Mediterranean environment.

The desert biomes for the Gulf meanwhile will include recreations of the Malaysian and West African jungles, packed with mahogany trees, ferns, orchids and banana plants and teeming with tree frogs, geckos and birds, according to Britain's Sunday Times.

Expectations are that the first site will be alongside offshoots of the Louvre and the Guggenheim on Saadiyat Island near Abu Dhabi city.

The project is one of five proposed offshoots of the Eden Project. Three of them, all in early negotiations, would be in the Gulf, according to the report.

Tim Smit, chief executive of the Eden Project, said he had insisted it should have an Arab identity.

“The thing has to be infused with Arab tradition and motifs, poetry and art,” he said.

“They found that an alien concept initially, but there's a growing awareness in the Gulf of a need for an Arab cultural renaissance, rather than just aping all things western.”

{ Arabian Business }