



## **QATAR FACULTY OF ISLAMIC STUDIES NOMINATED FOR INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE AWARD**

*Selection Recognises Qatar Foundation's Commitment to Innovation*

**Doha, Qatar, 21 May 2016** – The iconic Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies (QFIS) building at Education City has been nominated by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) for its inaugural International Prize.

The award is open to qualified architects located anywhere in the world, and QFIS, a college of Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and member of Qatar Foundation (QF), is one of 30 projects currently under consideration and the only Gulf representative.

Opened in March 2015, the 35,270 square-metre university is designed to serve the higher education needs of Qatar and other Islamic societies. Designed by Mangera Yvars Architects Ltd, it houses both an academic facility and a mosque which, with a capacity of 1,800 people, is one of the largest in Qatar.

“We are absolutely delighted and incredibly honoured to have been selected as a candidate for RIBA’s first ever International Prize,” said Engineer Jassim Telefat, Executive Director Capital Projects, QF. “This nomination illustrates our ongoing commitment to excellence in innovation, and highlights our dedication to continuous growth and development in order to serve the people of Qatar.”

Entries for the RIBA awards were submitted from 50 countries, and projects from more than 20 countries are represented in the diverse shortlist. The award will be officially announced in December 2016, and presented to the architects of the building that is regarded as the most significant and inspirational, and which exemplifies design excellence, architectural ambition and delivers meaningful social impact.

Since its opening, QFIS has been recognised by a number of international entities. In 2015 it was awarded the best building in the category of Religion at the World Architecture Festival and, in the same year, it was the winner of the MEED Quality Project of the Year.

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### **Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation’s Chairperson. QF’s work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education



sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>