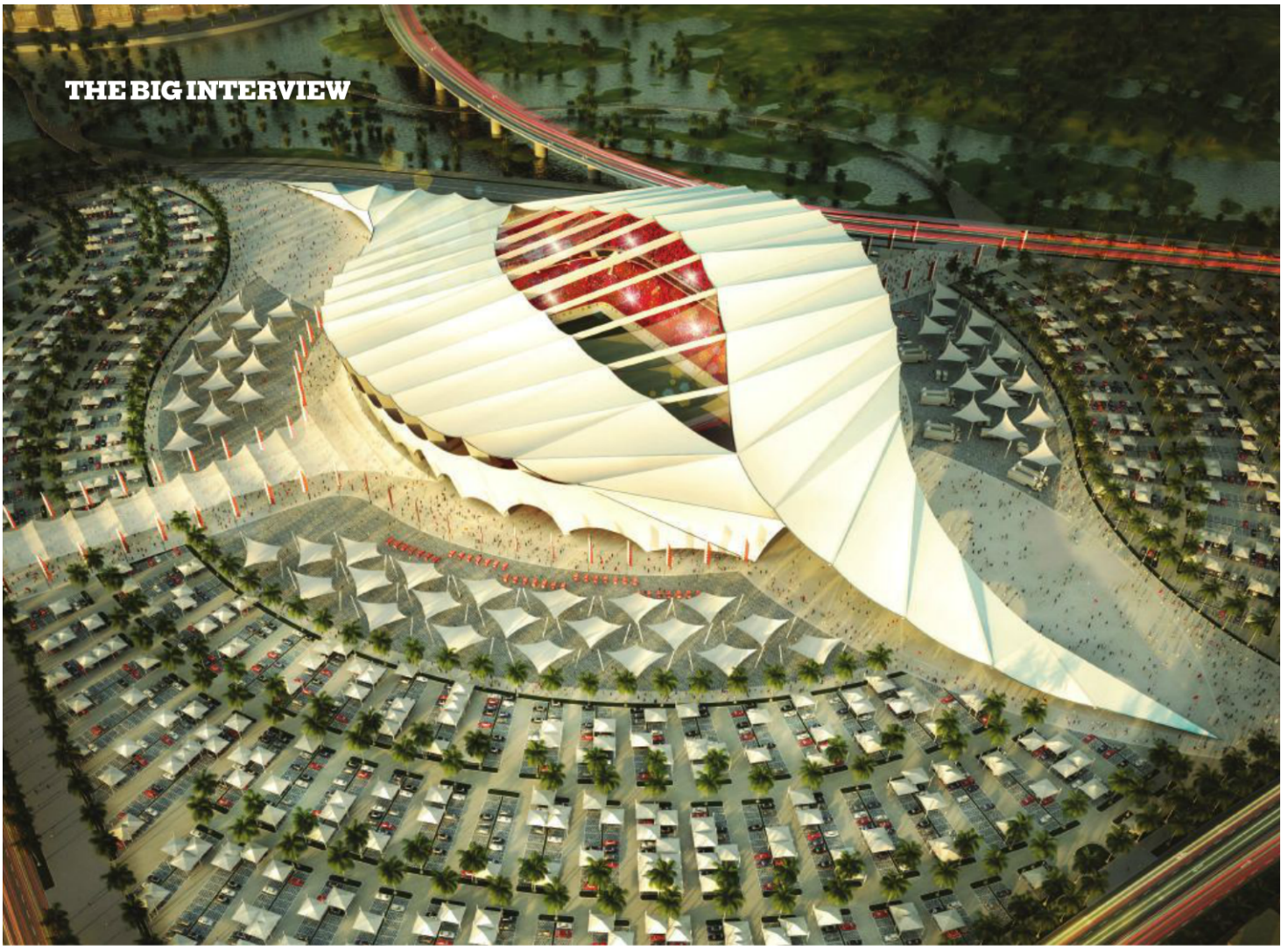


THE BIG INTERVIEW



Qatar promised to build air conditioned stadia in its winning bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup and, Sultan says, ASHRAE may well play a role if these projects are built.

have assistance and this is what made the difference. Everybody saw that I was working with a team and that there was seven or eight active ASHRAE members working together, like a dynamo, for the same cause.”

While the achievements of the chapter’s team in themselves are hugely impressive, Sultan says that they deserve even greater credit given the peculiarities involved in setting up such a society in Qatar. “We are a group that is made up of different nationalities and cultures from all across the world,” he explains. “It is a mixture of different people working together with different languages and different personalities. Everyone has got their own background and experience, and this is of course different from chapters in Spain, for example, or the U.S. To put all of these people together, working together as a team in order to achieve the necessary goals is not easy.

“Another issue which makes a difference between here and America or Europe is that, here in the Gulf, everyone comes [to the region] to work and the working hours per day are excessive,” he continues. “Everyone is in the office till eight o’ clock or sometimes



Doha has been the scene of several international ASHRAE events.

THE BIG INTERVIEW



PLAYING A ROLE

Although still nine years away, the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar is already a topic of hot debate throughout the world.

In its winning bid for a summer tournament, Qatar promised to build air conditioned stadia to ensure both players and spectators stay cool during the games. While a move to a winter World Cup is being mooted, and would make the necessity for air conditioned stadia redundant, the possibility remains that Qatar would have to deliver on its promise. So, being the local authority on all things HVAC&R, what role might the Qatari Oryx Chapter play in such a scenario?

"ASHRAE would play a role, for sure," says Sultan. "We will be onboard. Whether it is through consultants or quality approval, they will refer to ASHRAE."

"Hosting the World Cup in summer in 2022 will be a challenge," he adds. "But solutions have already been offered to provide air conditioned stadia. It is not a simple issue and will be expensive but, if it is required, it will be done."

With such projects in mind, the Oryx chapter is organising the first ever international conference on energy and indoor environment for hot-climate countries, which will take place in Qatar in February 2014. Sultan, who is the organising committee chair, says that the conference will cover a wide selection of topics tackling issues such as those raised by the prospective 2022 World Cup stadia projects.

/// We have a commitment to serve humanity, history and nature in our work. We are serving that commitment and we are all very committed."

Sultan takes to the microphone during one of the chapter's meetings which take place on a regular basis.

/// Maybe we are serving ASHRAE much better than people in these other countries. We are encouraged to do it, we are happy to do it, we enjoy doing it."

nine o'clock, so we have less time to serve ASHRAE compared to somebody in a country where the working hours are fewer. But, let me tell you, maybe we are serving ASHRAE much better than people in chapters from these other countries. We are encouraged to do it, we are happy to do it, we enjoy doing it."

Such passion and zeal from Sultan and his chapter has undoubtedly been central to Oryx's seemingly inexorable rise over the last five years, and it aims to continue this ascent as Qatar rebuilds itself at a pace perhaps unparalleled around the world. In such a ferociously developing environment, where

quickness may sometimes take precedence over quality, the chapter's role as paragon of HVAC&R virtue will be crucial to ensuring the health and safety of those occupying Qatar's future buildings. "ASHRAE is about continuous education [of engineers]," says Sultan. "The quality of workmanship [in Qatar] is improving, but it still needs a lot of work."

In the years ahead for ASHRAE, Sultan sees the organisation becoming global rather than just American, given that 25 to 30% of members are from outside the U.S., with the percentage growing. However, he can't foresee such a change affecting his, his colleagues or their society's highest calling. "We have a commitment," he says, "to serve humanity, history and nature in our work. We are serving that commitment and we are all very committed." **MEP**

300+

Number of members in Oryx Chapter