Remains of palatal compound

By Bonnie James

The well-preserved remains of a palatal compound among the new findings from the ongoing archaeological excavations in the abandoned town of Al Zubarah, situated on the northwest coast of Qatar, by the University of Copenhagen are considered perhaps the best preserved example in the country to the end of 17th century pearl fishing activities.

Though Al Zubarah is quite well known for its archaeological value, the remains of a palatal compound was one of the most important finds during the entire 2010 season, pointed out Dr Tobias Richter, an ar- chaeologist at the University of Copenhagen and the University of Copenhagen Qatar, Qatar Islamic Archaeology and Heritage (QIAH) project's deputy fieldwork director.

Dr Richter and his colleagues from University of Copenhagen are working on the remnant palatial compound in Qatar, which he says is not the outstanding example of such structures in Qatar, as it also includes a lot of other examples describing the management of the property and the social structure of a surrounding area that need to be covered.

Expressing the hope that this finds can be preserved and that the University of Copenhagen and the QIAH (Qatar Islamic Archaeology and Heritage) project's deputy fieldwork director Dr Tobias Richter will continue working with one of the most important traditional structures in the Arabian Peninsula.

The palatial compound, which this expert found among the new findings, is the largest fortified compound, measuring 100 by 100m, in Al Zubarah.

The compound, with towers at each corner and court-yard fortis, is very likely the work of the ruling family of the town, Dr Richter said. It should have been a multi-functional structure, of palatial buildings, of a church and a mosque. A large compound, measuring 100 by 100m, in Zubarah.

Three major areas are being uncovered in Al Zubarah, all of them continued from the earlier phase. They are the remnant of a promenade, of a defensive structure and of shelters over the excavated area, as part of the three-propped approach of research, conservation and management.

All the structures are belonging to the late 18th century.

In this montage, Commercialbank employees guide prospective employees and students at CNA-Q 2011 Education and Career Expo.