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Hasan Abu Afash, Arabic type designer and typographer, is the founder of HibaStudio, a bilingual website (Arabic and English) featuring Arabic calligraphy, Arabic type design and typography launched in 2007 from Gaza, Palestine.

His type design work ranges from creating custom Arabic fonts, programming Arabic fonts in OpenType, converting fonts from Mac to PC and expanding fonts to cover all languages that use the Arabic script such as Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Kurdish, Pashto ... etc.

After his cooperation with Dr. Mamoun Sakkal, which started in 2004, and production of the OpenType font Hasan Al Quds licensed for sale through the Bitstream type library, Hasan was involved in an impressive array of new Arabic type design projects. He has created contemporary Arabic fonts and collaborated with several designers and companies around the world.

In 2008, two of his fonts (Hasan Hiba and Hasan Noor) were upgraded to the DecoType font format for use in WinSoft Tasmeeem, which is now bundled with InDesign CS4, by working with Mirjam Somers an award-winning Arabic type designer. Tasmeeem is a user interface based on the Arabic Calligraphic Engine (ACE) technology which has won the prestigious Dr. Peter Karow Award. Hasan has also upgraded the Basim Marah font for Tasmeeem with Mirjam Somers' assistance. Basim Marah was drawn by Basim Salem Al Mahdi from Iraq and then digitized by HibaStudio. In the same year, he developed the OpenType project for Alinma TheSans fonts which are based on TheMix Arabic, designed by Luc(as) de Groot and Mouneer ElShaarani for Al Inma Bank, Saudi Arabia. Later on, he developed also the OpenType features for Jumeirah Arabic, which was designed by Pascal Zoghbi (29letters) and Huda AbiFares (Khatt), for Jumeirah International, UAE.

Other projects he participated in include the development of the OpenType layout features needed for the Arabic script system in Seria Arabic fonts family, which was designed by Pascal Zoghbi for FontShop International, as well as the Chams fonts family which was designed by Al Mohtaraf Assaudi for the redesign of the Shams Newspaper in Saudi Arabia and the Arajhi fonts for Alrajhi Bank.

Since 2002, Hasan has worked and collaborated with Mamoun Sakkal in several projects; more notably the Burj Dubai Shilia project, Sakkal Seta, Sakkal Maya, Sakkal Baseet, Sakkal Kufi, and Microsoft Arabic fonts which included the updating of the OpenType instructions for fonts such as; Tahoma, Microsoft Sans Serif, Arial, Times New Roman, Segoe, Courier, Time New Roman, Ms Uighur and Sakkal Majalla.

In 2009, DIN Text Arabic and DIN Text Universal were released in collaboration with Panos Vassiliou of Parachute. This has been certainly one of the most comprehensive typeface design projects in the world today.

## ***Services of HibaStudio***

- Custom Arabic fonts design.
- Converting fonts to Unicode and OpenType.
- Converting fonts from Mac to the PC.
- Expanding fonts designed to cover all languages that use the Arabic script: Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Kurdish, Pashto ... etc.

## ***Professional Experience***

### ***July, 2010***

Din Text Universal and Din Text Arabic were released as a collaboration between Parachute® and myself. DIN Text Arabic is the basic Arabic version which includes Latin and supports all variations of the Arabic script such as Persian, Urdu and Pashto. The second version DIN Text Universal is the most advanced DIN superfamily ever. It combines the powerful DIN Text Pro with DIN Text Arabic. All together it supports hundreds of languages, proving to be an essential tool for corporations which operate internationally. It took about a year to complete the whole family which consists of eight weights from extra black to hairline.

### ***July, 2010***

My fonts are available on Winsoft E-store.

<http://www.winsoft-international.com/en/store/fonts.html>

### ***April, 2010***

Parachute® hosted an article/interview about my work and the current state of Arabic typography.

<http://blog.parachutefonts.com/?p=1646>

### ***February, 2010***

Developed the OpenType layout features that are needed for the Arabic script system in Chams fonts family (Regular, Bold, Black and Titling) which is designed by Al Mohtaraf Assaudi for the re-vamp of Shams Newspaper, Saudi Arabia.

### ***August, 2009***

My fonts are available on: FontShop E- store.

<http://www.fontshop.com/fonts/foundry/hibastudio/>

### ***January, 2009***

Developed the OpenType layout features that are needed for the Arabic script system in **Seria Arabic** fonts family (Light, Regular, Bold and Black ) which is designed by **Pascal Zoghbi** for **FSI FontShop International GmbH**, Germany. This custom version was reviewed and supervised by **Andreas Eigendorf, Technical Consultant** of the **FSI FontShop International GmbH**

### ***December, 2008***

Developed the OpenType features for **Jumeirah Arabic** font (Semi Bold) which is designed by **Pascal Zoghbi (29letters) & Huda AbiFares (Khatt)** for Jumeirah International, UAE.

### ***November, 2008***

Two of my fonts **Hasan Hiba** and **Hasan Noor** were upgraded to the DecoType font format for use in **WinSoft Tasmeeem** which is now **bundled with InDesign CS4**, by working with **Mirjam Somers** an award-winning Arabic type designer.

**Tasmeem** is a user interface based on the Arabic Calligraphic Engine (ACE) technology which has won the prestigious Dr. Peter Karow Award.

I have also upgraded the **Basim Merah** font for Tasmeem with Mirjam Somers' assistance. Basim Merah was drawn by **Basim Salem Al Mahdi** from Iraq and then digitized by myself.

**Basim Merah** is an Arabic display typeface.

It is useful for titles and graphic projects.

The font is based on the simple lines of free style calligraphy.

### ***May, 2008***

Designed **Hasan Amal**, an Arabic display typeface. It is useful for titles and graphic projects. This font is based on the simple lines of Kufi calligraphy.

It supports Arabic, Persian and Urdu. It has many weights: Light, Regular and Bold. It supports Unicode 5.1 and works on most programs and Platform (Windows, Mac)

### ***April, 2008***

Developed **Hasan Noor**, an Arabic display typeface. This font is useful for titles and graphic projects. The font is based on the simple lines of Square Kufi calligraphy.

It supports Arabic, Persian and Urdu. **Hasan Noor** supports Unicode 5.1 and works on most programs and Platform (Windows, Mac)

### ***February, 2008***

Developed the OpenType project for **Alinma TheSans** fonts (Regular and Bold) which is based on TheMix Arabic, designed by **Luc(as) de Groot** and **Mouneer ElShaarani** for Al Inma Bank, Saudi Arabia. This custom version was revised and supervised by **Fawaz Al-Otaibi**, corporate identity representative of the **Al Inma Bank**.

### ***September, 2007***

Developed **Hasan Ghada** font in five weights. This is an Arabic display typeface. It is useful for titles and graphic projects. The font is based on the simple lines of Modern Kufi calligraphy with new ideas for square and rectangle shapes and geometric feel.

It supports Arabic, Persian and Urdu.

It has many weights: Thin, Light, Regular, Medium and Bold. **Hasan Ghada** supports Unicode 5.1 and works on most programs and Platform (Windows, Mac).

In 2008, I created several styles of this font:

- **Hasan Ghada:**

Is an improved version of **KacstTitle** typeface which was converted to OpenType. It supports Arabic, Persian and Urdu. It supports Unicode 5.1.

- **Hasan Ghada Square**

Is a version of Hasan Ghada with a square look.

- **Hasan Ghada Short**

It is a version of Hasan Ghada with a small square look.

- **Hasan Ghada Rectangle**

Is a version of Hasan Ghada with a rectangle look.

### ***July, 2007***

Developed the OpenType project of **Arajhi fonts** (Light, Regular and Bold) for **Alrajhi Bank** of Saudi Arabia.

### ***April, 2007***

Designed **Hasan Enas Family**, an Arabic text typeface. This font is designed for text setting of extended texts in magazines, newspapers, books, and other publications. The font is based on the simple lines of Naskh calligraphy. It supports Arabic, Persian and Urdu. It has many weights: Light, Regular, Medium and Extra Bold. Hasan Enas supports Unicode 5.1 and works on most programs and Platform (Windows, Mac).

### ***March 2007***

Designed **Hasan Aya Families**, an Arabic display typeface. It is useful for titles and graphic projects. The font is based on the simple lines of Kufi calligraphy. It was created based on the Latin font "Bedrock" which was designed by Corel Corporation in 1992. It supports Arabic, Persian and Urdu. Hasan Aya has many weights: Light, Thin, Regular, Medium, Bold and Extra Bold. It supports Unicode 5.1 and works on most programs and Platform (Windows, Mac). I designed two styles of this font: Normal and Short.

### ***January 2007***

launched a bilingual website (Arabic, English) dedicated to Arabic calligraphy and computerized font design. The site title is **Hiba Studio** ([www.hibastudio.com](http://www.hibastudio.com)). This site gives many services including:

- Custom Arabic fonts design.
- Converting fonts to Unicode and OpenType.
- Converting fonts from Mac to the PC.
- Expanding fonts designed to cover all languages that use the Arabic script: Arabic, Persian, Urdu ... etc., according to the latest Unicode standards.

This web site has a number of good Arabic fonts, and I am working on several significant projects that will serve Arabic typography.

### ***October, 2006***

Assisted **Sakkal Design** with the font **Burj Dubai Shilia** designed for the Burj Dubai project.

### ***March, 2006***

Designed **Hasan Elham**, a decorative font. It is useful for titles and graphic projects. The font is based on the simple lines of Kufi calligraphy with new idea of rounded shapes and geometric feel. It is an original OpenType font compatible with Unicode 5.1 and will work on most programs and Platforms (Windows, Mac).

Hasan Elham supports Arabic, Persian and Urdu>

### ***October, 2005***

Participated in **Linotype's first Arabic Type Design Competition** in Germany with a classic Kufi font named **Hasan Hiba** and won the 5th place award.

### ***January, 2005***

Assisted **Sakkal Design** in updating OpenType instructions for Microsoft fonts (Tahoma, Microsoft Sans Serif, Arial, Arabic Typesetting, Times New Roman, Segoe, Courier, Time New Roman, Ms Uighur and Sakkal Majalla).

## ***2003 and 2004***

Cooperated with Mr. Sakkal and produced the OpenType font **Hasan Al Quds**. It was originally designed in 2000, and was entered in the TDC 2004 type design competition in the United States. Later, it was extended to support all the languages that use the Arabic writing system, supporting all the Arabic characters in the Unicode Standard 5.1. In 2004, it was further extended to five weights: Light, Regular, Medium, Bold and Extra Bold. The Hasan Al Quds fonts are licensed for sale through the Bitstream type library:

## ***March, 2002***

Designed **Hasan Ghada** and the first version was released under name **KactTitle** in typefaces group of **King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST)**. This group of fonts supported Linux operation system.

## ***December, 2001***

Started to work with type designer **Mamoun Sakkal** and worked on the fonts Sakkal Seta, Sakkal Maya, Sakkal Majalla, Sakkal Shilia, Sakkal Baseet and other fonts.

## ***2000***

Started my first steps as a type designer by designing some fonts using CorelDraw6 and Fontographer3.

## ***Education***

From 1990 to 1995 Graduated with B.A. in Chemical Engineering in Al Baath University in Syria- Homs

## ***Positions Held:***

- Designer in Al Quds corporation for Advertising from 1997 to 2005
- Type Designer (worked with Sakkal Design ([www.sakkal.com](http://www.sakkal.com)) since 2002.
- Freelance work for several type design projects.

## ***Skills:***

- Proficient in the use of many design programs like CorelDraw, Photoshop, Illustrator InDesign.
- Proficient in the use of many type design programs like FontLab and Ms VOLT.
- Experienced in developing Open Type projects for Arabic script fonts.
- Experienced in developing DecoType projects for Arabic script fonts.

## ***Affiliations***

Member in "**The Khatt Foundation**".

Member in **ATypI "Association Typographique Internationale"**.

## ***Awards***

**5th place award in Linotype's first Arabic Type Design Competition** in Germany with a classic Kufi font named Hasan Hiba.