

ARCHITECT

MIDDLE EAST

NEWS, DATA, ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIC INSIGHTS FOR ARCHITECTS IN THE GCC

ANALYSIS

Urban planners and expert speakers scrutinise the lack of pedestrian space in Dubai

INSIGHT

Profiling the biggest and best projects that are set for delivery across the Gulf region in 2012

FEATURE

Locally-based architects pick their favourite UAE buildings from the past four decades

BACK TO BASICS

AK Design reinterprets the traditional Arabian courtyard

1979

Completion date of **Dubai World Trade Centre** (page 34)



3,900M²

Area of copper panels in **Natural History Museum of Utah** (page 46)



China to win ‘megatall’ building race by 2020



The 606m Wuhan Greenland Centre.

By 2020 China will have the largest share of buildings over 600m, according to the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH).

It said that, by 2020, China will own 10 of the world’s 20 tallest towers while the Middle East will have five.

However, the Middle East will be home to the two tallest buildings in the world – Dubai’s Burj Khalifa and the 1km+ Kingdom Tower in Jeddah.

China’s tallest towers will include the 606m Wuhan Greenland Centre.

The report coined the official term ‘megatall’ to describe buildings over 600m in height.

UAE’s stalled construction projects total \$958bn

The value of construction projects scrapped or on hold in the UAE soared to \$958bn in the 12 months to October 2011, according to a Citigroup report.

It found that \$604bn worth of projects were planned or underway, a decline of 33% on the previous year. Just \$14bn worth of new projects were announced in 2011, representing a 58% fall year-on-year.

Citigroup said Saudi Arabia and Iraq had replaced the UAE as the region’s dominant construction market.

Saudi has \$648bn worth of projects in the pipeline, the report said, which represents a 90% increase on 2010.



Citigroup noted a decline in activity.

DESIGNMENA.COM

This month’s top stories

- Dewan wins contract for Dubai retail
- LW Design’s Centro Barsha wins Best Hotel Interior award
- Steven Holl wins AIA Gold Medal for 2012
- Daniel Libeskind designs limited edition chandelier for Zumtobel
- SOM’s Nada Andric in Interior Design Hall of Fame
- 25 essential iPad apps for interior design students

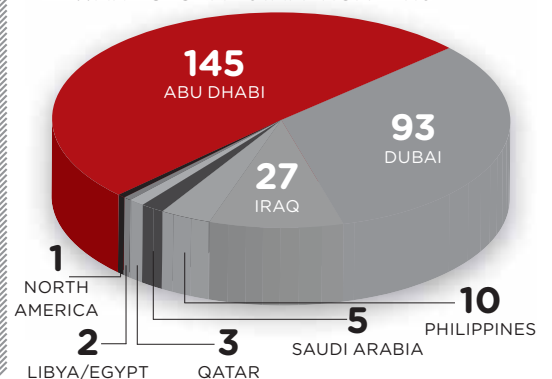
WEIRD PROJECT OF THE MONTH



Dutch firm MVRDV caused controversy with its proposed tower scheme for Seoul, South Korea, which was thought by many in the US to resemble the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York. The practice promptly apologised for the unintentional resemblance.

DATASTREAM

DEWAN - GLOBAL STAFF NUMBERS



PEOPLE



Holl is behind a major Beirut scheme.

Steven Holl wins AIA Gold Medal for 2012

Steven Holl has won the 2012 Gold Medal from the American Institute of Architects (AIA), one of the most prestigious prizes in the industry.

Holl will be honoured at the 2012 AIA National Convention in Washington, D.C.

The AIA highlighted Holl's "humanist approach to formal experimentation" and his ability to "tackle the urban-scale planning and development conundrums that define success in the built environment throughout the world."

Holl's portfolio includes the Kiasma Contemporary Art Museum in Helsinki, Finland and the Simmons Hall at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In the Middle East, Holl's practice worked on the Beirut Marina and Town Quay project, which is currently under construction in Lebanon.

Postmodern master Michael Graves picks up top award

US architect Michael Graves, one of the top exponents of postmodernism, has picked up the annual Richard H. Driehaus Prize.

Born in 1934, Graves is most famous for the seminal Portland Building in Oregon, completed in 1982.

His Middle East work includes buildings in Egypt and Lebanon, including the Steigenberger Hotel in El Gouna, Egypt.

Graves was part of the 'New York Five', a group of New York City architects (Graves, Peter Eisenman, Charles Gwathmey, John Hejduk and Richard Meier) whose work appeared in a Museum of Modern Art exhibition in 1967.

In 2003, an infection of unknown origin left Graves paralysed from the waist down. He is still actively working in his practice, Michael Graves & Associates.



Graves has worked in Egypt and Lebanon.

60 SECOND INTERVIEW

TAREK N QADDUMI
PRINCIPAL, TNQ

What are you working on?

In the next few weeks we will deliver the Enshaa sustainable labour housing project, as well as Park Corner, a mixed-use development in Jumeirah, and Al Nahda, a residential development in Sharjah.

Has the UAE market improved since the crisis?

The large availability of real estate space will continue to govern the construction market. However, projects are facing greater scrutiny from an economic perspective which is a driver for architectural best practice.

How so?

A competitive economic climate may seem restrictive for an architect yet it helps to challenge an architect's creativity. This environment certainly encourages more innovative ways to approach the design of space, and a more measured and calculated approach to experimenting with materials.



“By the time the 2022 World Cup is played here, Doha will be a new city, and Qatar will be a new country.”



Osama Hadid, managing director of Qatar based firm, AlJaber Engineering, shows faith in the state

“Masdar has been doing a great job for us. It is developing technology for the country and the whole world.”

HE Dr Rashid Ahmed bin Fahad, UAE Minister of Water and Environment



“Abu Dhabi is promoting the whole package in terms of the sustainability of the public realm.”

Michael Stott, UPC senior advisor

