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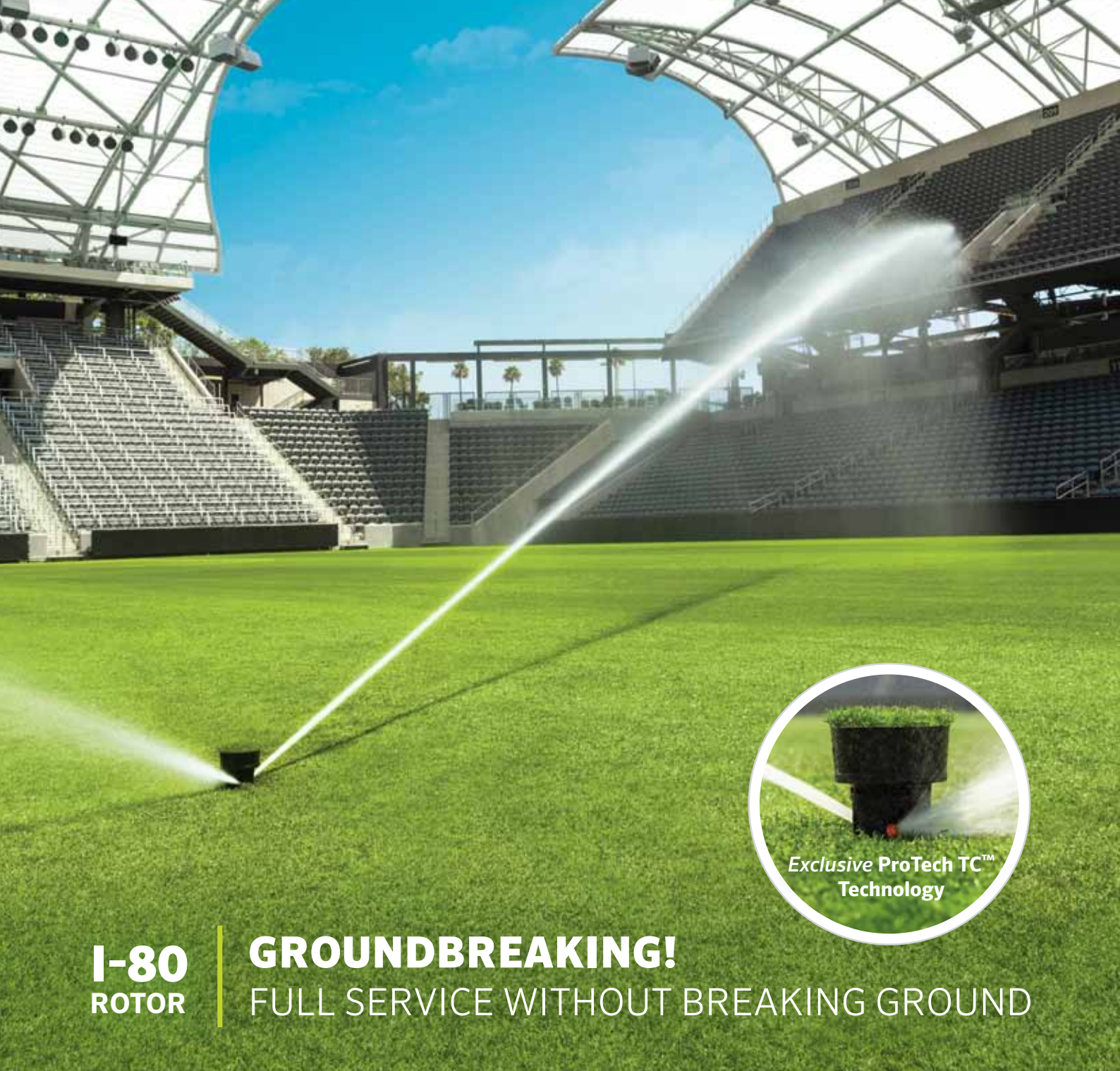
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Thankfully we are approaching the cooler months in this part of the world, we can look forward to spending our precious evenings and weekends with family and friends outdoors. It's especially at this time of the year that I truly appreciate our hard working gardeners, landscape architects and urban planners whose combined efforts contribute to some of the world's most beautiful public and private landscapes.

Our November issue highlights some of these works of art locally, namely Vero Studio's Serenia's residences in Dubai and we speak to the head of Parks for the Western region in Al Ain (page 24) to learn more about his experiences in the industry and what the Al Ain municipality are doing to enhance their public spaces.

We also feature Buenos Aires Olympic Village and Olympic Park after the recently held Youth Olympic Games 2018. (Page 40) As well as projects from Martha Schwartz Partners (Page 26)

Finally, don't forget to attend the Urban Design & Landscaping Expo (UDLE) running from 26th to 29th November at the Dubai World Trade Centre as part of The Big 5.

Enjoy the issue!

John Hampton

The opinions and views contained in the articles in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily of the publishers. The publishers cannot be held liable for any mistake or omission enclosed in the publication.

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AUS College of Architecture, Art and Design invited to exhibit at celebration of Da Vinci-influenced castle

The College of Architecture, Art and Design (CAAD) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) has been selected among the world's leading architecture institutions to participate in a prestigious exhibition celebrating the 500th anniversary of the foundation of the Chateau de Chambord in France, which is widely believed to be influenced by Leonardo Da Vinci.

Invited by the national estate of Chambord, students and faculty from CAAD will be working on a design proposal for the Chateau (castle) during the fall semester to be featured in the exhibition *Chambord 1519:2019—Utopia at Work*, which will take place at Chateau de Chambord in April 2019. Their proposal has been shortlisted, and the CAAD team has been invited to participate in the exhibition with a select group of 20 other teams from high-profile architecture programs around the world.

Dr. Varkki Pallathucheril, Dean of CAAD, highlighted the significance of the invitation:

"For the Department of Architecture at CAAD to be counted among some of the world's most prestigious architecture programs is a great honor and confirms the level of excellence that we continue to see in our students and faculty as both professionals and academics."

Construction of Chateau de Chambord began in September 1519 when the first stone was laid of what is now revered as an architectural gem of the Renaissance. It is widely understood that Leonardo da Vinci, who died a few months before the start of the construction of Chambord, played an influential role in its design.

The exhibition aims to highlight the significance of Chambord and examine it in the light of its original intellectual, political and

artistic Renaissance context and the Utopian worldview. These considerations and the influence of Leonardo da Vinci will be put into perspective through a display of drawings, paintings, models, objects, and also digital tools, in order to allow the public the opportunity to truly appreciate this monumental piece of architecture and capture its uniqueness.

Professor George Katodrytis, Head of the Department of Architecture at CAAD, said the submission by AUS students discusses the concept of Utopia—an imagined place or state of perfection—in 21st century architecture, and investigates modern themes found within the Renaissance relic of Chambord. The proposal also seeks to apply these to propose a new kind of Utopia that considers the environmental and ecological challenges we face today.

"The speed and obsessive production of architecture and urbanism in the 21st Century has generated multiple Utopias, yet none of them are avant garde, unique or worthy of attention. We have an abundance of non-space, that is, spaces without themes. As we inch further into the 21st century, it becomes evident that to achieve any form of Utopia, we must look at Utopia's troublesome relationship with nature and the environment."

"Our proposal aims to rethink the volatile relationship between the contemporary and climate change to create a blueprint for a new, ecologically driven Utopia."

Assistant Professor of Architecture Juan Roldan is currently teaching an elective class titled *Architecture and Utopia* to develop the design proposal of CAAD's participation in the exhibition. In this class, students will create design drawings, models and a video to be prepared to be exhibited at the Chateau de Chambord in April 2019. ■

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NEWS & EVENTS

■ Designed by European Golf Design, the 18-hole par-72 championship course will challenge golfers at all levels

■ Located in the heart of Dubai Hills Estate, a joint venture between Meraas and Emaar, the course spans an area of 1.2 million square metres



Construction of Dubai Hills Golf Club's 18-hole championship golf course complete



Tee off to a brand-new golfing experience at the Dubai Hills Estate, the serene, lush lifestyle destination, developed as a joint venture by Emaar Properties and Meraas, and located only 15 minutes from Downtown Dubai and City Walk.

The construction of the 18-hole par-72 championship golf course designed by European Golf Design of Dubai Hills Golf Club is complete with work on the clubhouse marking brisk progress. Offering a challenge to golfers of all handicaps, it is billed to become one of the key golfing destinations in the Middle East region.

The golf course is set on 119 hectares (about 1.2 million square metres) – nearly the size of 63 football fields – and meanders through a series of valleys and wadis, and around a network of lakes to create a stunning golfing experience. It is set against the striking Downtown Dubai skyline adding to the sense of grandeur with the iconic Burj Khalifa in the backdrop.

Adding to the choice of residents in Dubai Hills Estate, one of the most sought-after residential destinations in the city, Dubai Hills Golf Club is central to the mega-development's lifestyle ethos. With numerous premium villas and townhouses set around the golf course, residents become part of a lush-green community.

A destination for those who seek to live in active and green environment, Dubai Hills Estate is a fully integrated community that offers residents access to world-class choices. The Dubai Hills Golf Club adds to an array of attractions including the Dubai Hills Mall, which will offer over 650 retail and F&B outlets, family entertainment, a cineplex and hypermarket, and a vibrant Boulevard, which offers diverse social experiences including cafes, restaurants, recreational facilities, art studios and retail options.

A differentiating strength of Dubai Hills Golf Club is the exceptionally designed Academy Building, which sits at the heart of the spacious floodlit practice facility. It will serve as a service point for golfers arriving early and will feature two golf studios, teaching bays and an F&B kiosk. The practice facility also includes a 220-metre long warm up area with multiple target greens designed to allow golfers to practice shots from wedge up to medium-long irons before going out to play.

The warm up area can also be converted into a 9-hole short course in the evenings. Additionally, the facility will include a dedicated short game area where golfers can hone their chipping and a large practice putting green. The course will be maintained using recycled water and has been planted with Platinum TE Paspalum (greens) and Pure Dynasty Seeded Paspalum (tees and fairways) along with a wide array of lush desert landscaping.

Located at the crossroads of Al Khail and Umm Suqeim Roads, Dubai Hills Estate is one of the largest master-planned communities in the city. Offering a unique opportunity to live a serene lifestyle in the heart of Dubai, Dubai Hills Estate offers breath-taking views of the iconic Dubai skyline, in addition to parks and other lifestyle amenities. Fact Sheet - Dubai Hills Golf Club ■

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The Opus by Zaha Hadid opens to businesses

The unique building that will house the first ME hotel in the region is now taking commercial clients

The Opus by Zaha Hadid, one of Dubai's most unique buildings, has officially opened its doors for companies.

The striking landmark has reached a significant milestone in its completion as businesses have begun taking ownership of its commercial units.

Companies will now begin the fitting-out process to complete their bespoke offices. Businesses to have already collected their keys range from multinational Fortune 500 companies to regional creative agencies, emphasizing The Opus' attraction as a destination for architectural admirers in the heart of Dubai's Business Bay and Burj Khalifa district.

As well as the prime address and proximity to Downtown Dubai, Inhabitants of The Opus will also have full use of the building's state-of-the-art ultra-luxury facilities.

Mohammed Hmeid, Sales and Marketing director at Omniyat, said: "We're thrilled to open the commercial spaces of The Opus and to already have several companies setting up their offices.

The idea of The Opus has always been one to create a multi-faceted experience for clients in one of the world's most iconic architectural structure in Dubai's ultimate commercial address. The melting void is home to renowned lifestyle hotel ME by Melia, world class Michelin star restaurants and private residences designed by Zaha herself and a bespoke wellness center with signature facilities. Residing in this building gives you the ability to work, eat, live and play all one riveting location."

The Opus is uniquely distinct from the famed architect's list of iconic projects as it is one of her very first projects in Dubai to have been fully designed from an interior and exterior perspective, where every element of the hotel and residential space, recognizable with her signature curves and flowing lines have been handpicked by her complementing the powerful elements of the exterior of The Opus.

Omniyat has been working on the project alongside Zaha Hadid Architects since 2008. The Opus is designed as two separate towers that coalesce into a singular whole, taking the form of a cube. The cube is 'carved' to create a central void that is an important volume in its own right, providing views to the exterior from the heart of the building. It is this unique design and finish that makes The Opus instantly recognizable and will before long transcend the building into iconic status.

As well as the commercial units, The Opus will also house luxury serviced residences. In Q4 2019, ME Dubai hotel will open along with more than a dozen food and beverage outlets.

Located within Burj Khalifa district of Dubai, the Opus by Zaha Hadid Architects for Omniyat will house the first ME by Melia hotel in the Middle East. Operated by Melia Hotels International, one of the world's leading hoteliers with more than 350 hotels in 39 countries, ME by Melia hotels are located in cultural capitals across the globe with their progressive, design-driven approach.

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Reinvent Paris

Urban life and city nature in three dimensions. That is the main concept of SLA's winning project in the international mega competition Reinventer Paris. Here SLA has won one of the competition's central projects: Ternes-Villiers. In the project SLA creates a distinctive, green urban space on top of the Boulevard Peripherique - the big ring road that circles the whole of Paris.

SLA's winning project combines city nature-based ecosystem services, fully climate-adapted urban spaces and new social meeting places with underground parking, pedestrian-friendly connections and large roof terraces, which among other things will house a tea plantation. The project puts a 5,000 m2 urban roof deck across the Boulevard Périphérique and ties the City of Paris together with its suburbs.

"The project is a rethinking of both urban life and city nature in the Parisian periphery. By working with city nature and urban life as complete ecosystems we can create new urban experiences and brand new green contexts in an otherwise very gray and traffic-congested part of Paris. The project not only offers green attractions at street level, but lifts urban life and city nature high over Paris' facades and roofs, which adds a whole new dimension to what it means to live and work in Paris," says partner Rasmus Astrup.

In Reinventer Paris over 650 international architectural teams has for over 14 months competed for 23 key sites in Paris. It is one of these sites, SLA has won. Among the winners of the other sites are Sou Fujimoto, Dominique Perrault and David Chipperfield.

SLA's winning project is created in collaboration with the major French bank BNP Paribas, which also serves as the project's investor. Building architects on the team is the French architects Jacques Ferrier Architecture and Chartier Dalix Architectes.

- The site is 5,500 m2 and does today consist of (polluted) air on top of Le Peripherique.
- SLA designs the 2,000 m2 urban area with 63 trees (both pines and broad-leaved trees) and an abundance of plants and shrubs. Thus, 55 percent of the urban spaces is covered in green.
- The 2,600 m2 green roofs are 90 percent covered in green - including a tea plantation, greenhouses and a tea cafe. The tea cafe is called COMPTOIR RICHARD.
- All building facades are covered with green plants that both clean the air and add green life qualities.
- In total, there are more than 200 different tree and plant species in the project to create multifunctionality and biodiversity.
- All the wood species of the project are native, from the Paris region, and are selected based on their aesthetic and performative capabilities with regard to ecosystem services (= how they treat clean air pollution, rainwater, etc.) and on the basis of the wind, sun and shadow conditions. Of prominent tree species are field elm (*Ulmus minor*), scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.), European hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), evergreen oak (*Quercus ilex*) and midland hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). ■

Facts: Reinvent Paris

Service: Design of urban space, green roofs and green facades

Location: Ternes in Paris, France

Client: BNP Paribas Real Estate

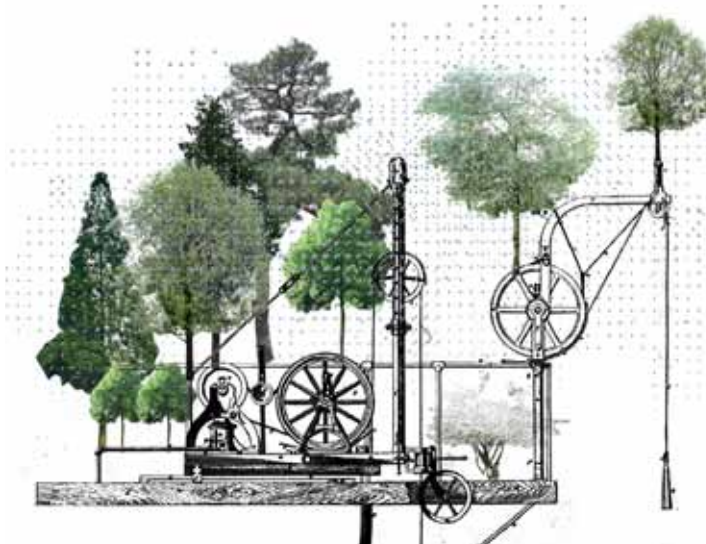
Design period: 2015-2019

Realization: 2020-2022

Area: 5,500 m2

Collaborators: Jacques Ferrier Architectures, Chartier Dalix

Visualisations: Beauty and the Bit



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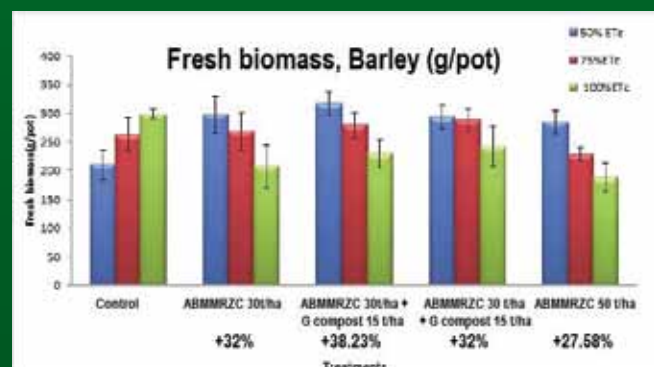
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Syngenta, 2016.

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DISCOVER DUBAI'S TOP 5 OUTDOOR AREAS ACCORDING TO RESIDENTS

With the perfect season for open air activities being just around the corner, Dubai residents are getting ready to unwind at the city's expanding outdoor areas. A survey conducted by the Urban Design & Landscaping Expo, the region's premier event for the Landscaping, Infrastructure & Urban Development industries, asked residents to vote for their favorite outdoor spot in Dubai during the cooler months.

Over 43,000 voters crowned The Beach at JBR by MERAAS as the number one happy go-to area in the Emirate, followed by Al Mamzar Beach Park, and another MERAAS development – La Mer. City Walk and Dubai Miracle Garden also made it to the top five.



The beach at JBR crowned favorite outdoor area by Dubai residents

Outdoor spaces increase people's happiness and are vital for livable cities, experts say ahead of the Urban Design & Landscaping Expo



La Mer



City Walk



Miracle Garden



La Mer

Well-designed outdoor areas are a major drive for happiness, experts point out.

“Mixed use that promotes diversity of spaces with programs responding to specific needs of the people is a major drive for happiness” says Ceylan Belek Ombregt, Associate Director at Martha Schwartz Partners, and a speaker at the Urban Design & Landscaping Summit on November 28 at Dubai World Trade Center.

“Soft landscapes in particular create an antidote for accumulated stress in today’s cities, which is caused by congestion, pollution, increased urban heat and lack of open space and resources. Soft landscapes cool down the effects of global warming.”

Rasmus Astrup, who will deliver a presentation on “City Nature - How to grow a livable city” at the Urban Design & Landscaping Summit, agrees: “Urban spaces are vital for livable cities.”

LANDMARKS



City Walk



Al Mamzar Beach Park



The Beach at JBR



The Beach at JBR



Al Mamzar Beach Park

“There’s an increasing request for a more sustainable approach within landscape design and urban spaces, but there is still a lot of room for improvement,” he adds.

According to Rasmus, in the Middle East much more “wild”, local plantings need to be brought into urban developments.

“Nature is part of every nation’s culture,” he explains. “When you create planting with the local nature you achieve robust and resilient urban spaces. We can use the plantings to optimize the micro climate by providing lowered temperatures. Not only does it make you sense the plantings, the local species also make you understand and appreciate your country.”

With the expansion of its outdoor areas, Dubai is scraping its stereotype of a city living and breathing exclusively during the cooler months.

In response to the growing demand for urban design and landscaping solutions, the first Urban Design & Landscaping Expo (UDLE) will launch at the Dubai World Trade Centre from 26 to 29 November this year.

Running as part of The Big 5 international construction show, the event will display the most innovative solutions for the construction and maintenance of urban and green spaces, sports grounds and playgrounds, from around the globe.

UDLE will also host the high-level Urban Design & Landscaping Summit on November 28, gathering some of the most prominent local and international experts in the field.

Key speakers include the Deputy Mayor – Green Spaces, Nature & Biodiversity, of the City of Paris, Pénélope Komitès; Senior Landscape Architect + UNESCO World Heritage Advisor at Oman Botanic Garden, Andrew Burton Anderson; the Urban Planning Advisor of the Sharjah Urban Planning Council, Val Zillig; the Head of Parks Section at Al Ain Municipality, Ayub Hassan Algaferi; and the Director of Urban Planning at the Dubai Creative Clusters Authority (DCCA), Ahmad Bukhash.

With the theme “Promoting greener, healthier and more sustainable built environments with best practices in urban design and landscaping”, the Urban Design & Landscaping Summit will attract landscape architects, municipalities, urban designers, property developers, parks and resorts, contractors, as well as engineering and building consultants.

Focusing on the opportunities and challenges faced in turning the region green, the Summit will explore the initiatives taken up by global and local government bodies, as well as prominent projects developed by urban design and landscape architecture firms both globally and locally. ■

Organised by dmg events, the Urban Design & Landscaping Expo (UDLE) will run from 26 to 29 November 2018 at the Dubai World Trade Centre as part of The Big 5. The event is free to attend for pre-registered visitors. To know more visit www.udlexpo.com or click [HERE](#) to register.

The Urban Design & Landscaping Summit will take place from November 26-29th, from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm.



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Terraforces' association with the Middle East region began in 2005 when it was chosen for the iconic Palm Island project at Jumeirah. The project was to create retaining walls with access steps along the shoreline of Palm Jumeirah's fronds, primarily to protect them against erosion and provide the residential units with access to the beach. However, it was just the beginning of the long challenges faced for this massive project. The first task was to identify a local manufacturer to produce and supply the blocks and steps. The key requirement was to select a company with good quality products and the right infrastructure to meet the demanding timelines of the project. Holger Rust, founder and member of Terraforce had to do this arduous task of shortlisting the local block manufacturers. After careful consideration, he selected Consent LLC as an exclusive manufacturer of Terraforce Products in the Middle East.

Consent then went on to successfully manufacture and supply 1.6 million Terraforce L16 and 4x4 Step blocks to Palm Jumeirah, that now make up the lush gardens and steps to the beach from the many luxurious villas on the island.

Today, almost 14 years later, the Terraforce blocks have stood the test of time and are intact thereby contributing to the impeccable landscape of Palm Jumeirah and Consent is still successful supplying the blocks to many prestigious projects in the UAE and neighbouring GCC countries.



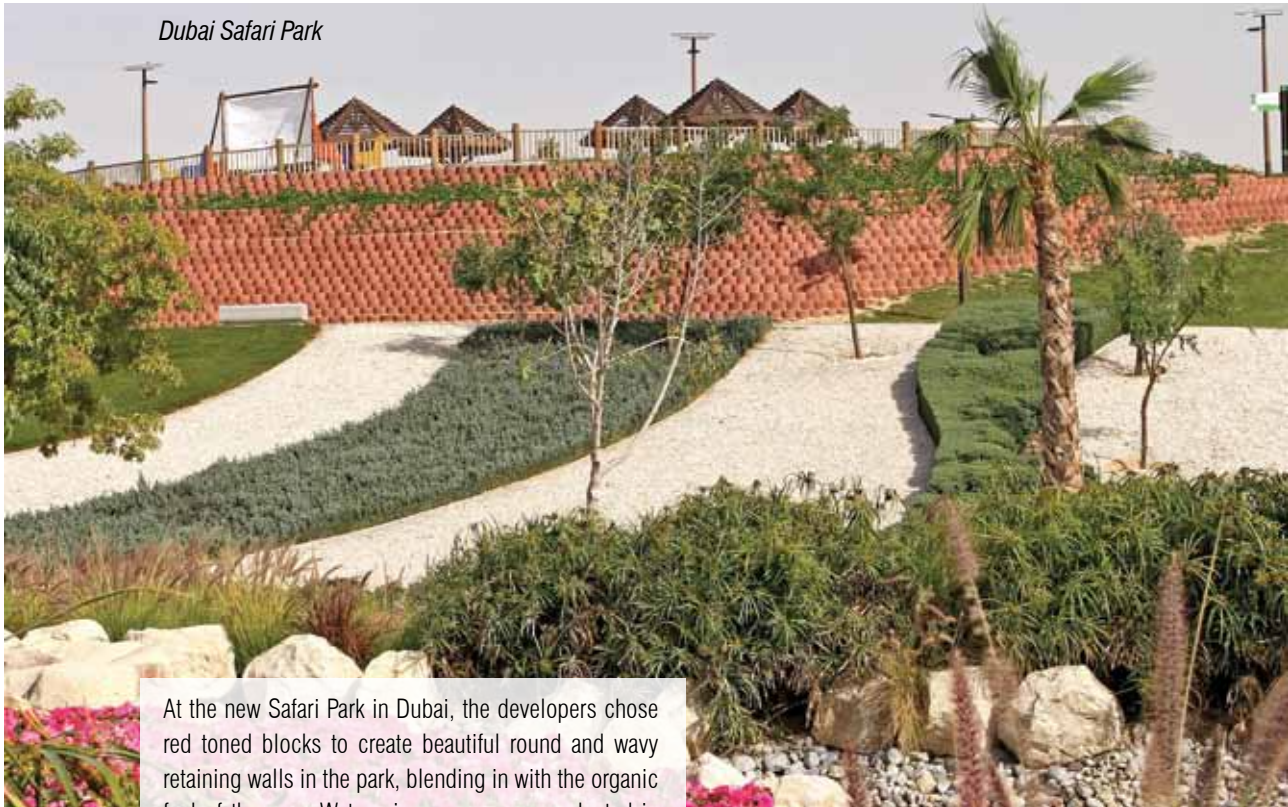
Palm Jumeirah

These projects include a cleverly planted sound barrier wall at the new Al Jalila Children's Hospital, Dubai, an initiative of His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai. The plants used here were specifically chosen for their water-wise properties and today the retaining wall is almost completely covered in greenery.

Another project that showcases the ability of the blocks to be cut neatly to turn 90 degrees or sharp corners is this rustic rock face retaining wall at Dubai Silicon Oasis. This project is the perfect example of a neatly installed Terraforce wall providing space for a public playground, pedestrian walkway and parking bays.

Also worth mentioning is the sea shore projection wall at the Fairmont hotel in Ajman, where the initial proposal was for an RCC retaining wall. This was then changed to a Terraforce retaining wall as a cost efficient and viable solution wherein the wall provides a below sea level barrier against water erosion and an above ground platform for the pool and entertainment area, with beautiful, rounded 4x4 Step block ramps to the beach.

Dubai Safari Park



At the new Safari Park in Dubai, the developers chose red toned blocks to create beautiful round and wavy retaining walls in the park, blending in with the organic feel of the area. Water-wise creepers were planted in the blocks, to create a green and flourishing feel to the completed walls.



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RETAINING WALL



Fairmont Ajman

Yet another eye-catching example of the “green” aspect of the blocks is the copiously planted beachfront wall installed at the Ritz Carlton hotel at Jumierah Beach. This wall stands in stark contrast to the high rises towering in the back ground, thus providing a welcome green belt to hotel guests and beach goers alike.

Outside of the UAE, Consent has supplied Terraforce blocks to several projects, one of the most notable projects being the cloverleaf Salwa interchange project in Qatar, lined entirely by Terraforce block terraces and exquisitely planted. The Souq Waqif amphitheatre in Qatar is yet another tastefully designed project where Terraforce 4x4 Step block have been used to provide seating arrangement with lights inserted into the blocks at intervals to enable night-time lighting for visitors. Consent has also supplied Terraforce Blocks to several projects in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain



Souq Waqif

When asked why the blocks are so popular, Holger explains that the unique block design allows the Terraforce retaining wall system to support all requirements of a sustainable site development: “Every project tackled with Terraforce products has the potential to be aesthetic”

Alan Sakr, General Manager, Consent LLC acknowledges Terraforces’ superior technical features for different applications but feels its popularity in the region is more due to the ease of installation. “Very simple and fast installation method, a good wall is achieved at the site with small demonstration and training which Consent is providing. Moreover with its weight being less compared to similar retaining wall products, it is a preferred product for site workmen” ■

Terraforce supports the Customers with Preliminary Design and also an option to use a special software suited to design their own wall. The technical team at Consent provides support to all queries and clarifications. For more information or technical support, you may contact arun.s@consent.ae or mobile +971558703046 Dubai, UAE: Phone: +971 4 3472011 www.consentblock.com



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Ayub Hassan Algafry
Head of Parks for Al Ain's
Western Sector

*Project manager since 2011
and Head of section since 2012.*

*Bachelor of Agriculture
Science in Arid Land from
UAE University 2004.*

*I'm responsible for supervising all
landscape maintenance activities as head
of section & project manager in Al Ain city
municipality for the western sector. I also
prepare the landscape agreement terms in
the tender of documents.*

How much public green space is there in Al Ain?

Al Ain currently has 24 public parks different sizes (six parks under the western sector umbrella) and 46 play grounds (15 play grounds under western sector). The total green area to the last survey in 2017 was 19,383,980 m². It's our goal to improve the services inside the existing parks and other open areas.

Most significant ongoing public landscaping project in Al Ain?

The Municipality of Al Ain City use local plants with low water consumption to meet the challenges of water shortages. As a first step, they have started to plant local plants in open areas along the streets. The Municipality is also expanding its garden projects to include more services for people with special needs and the elderly (senior citizens) with the application of the standards of sustainability.

What initiatives does Al Ain municipality have in place to protect public parks from littering?

Community service departments in the municipality conducts awareness workshops for schools and residents of the regions in order to preserve the gardens through population gatherings and visits

In your opinion, what changes need to be adopted in the GCC landscaping industry to become on a par with the rest of the world?

I think that the trend in increasing green spaces is somewhat equal to urban

development. We live with challenging climatic conditions, yet we must meet our community needs for recreational areas so we need to develop the concept of gardens and diversify the sources of entertainment, as well as investment and services with new technologies.

What have been the main changes in policy affecting landscape design within Al Ain municipality?

The policies of the municipality of Al Ain are clear regarding the theme of parks and they are for the public interest in terms of encouraging the use of local plants, taking into consideration the aesthetic view, in addition to some laws that prevent the removal of perennial and local trees. We are trying to attract new investors all the time for green areas.

Do you have any special memories as an avid reader of landscape magazine reader?

When I joined the Parks Department in 2009, I didn't have any previous experience in this field, so I started to read and follow the specialists and experts that were featured in the magazine. This helped me to increase my knowledge of gardens, garden culture and the history of gardens. Today, thanks to this, I am a certified trainer and section manager in the municipality and I have provided a day-long workshop on the history of the gardens, in addition to the experience gained through the study of designs in terms of plant types, plant distribution and maintenance cost calculation, which gave me the authority to approve or reject certain projects. ■





When it comes to contemporary city planning, health and well-being are the new buzz words in the realm of design. In our practice, we have found that the ability to live a healthy lifestyle has become one of the most important factors that people say matters to their well-being (Department of Health, Wellbeing - Why it matters to health policy). The ability to pursue a well-balanced lifestyle, through which we can feel physically, socially and mentally well, allows us to not only function better but may also contribute to living a longer, healthier life.

The impact of fostering a healthy population has more consequences beyond the immediately apparent. Human population is expected to grow exponentially in the coming decades, magnified in part by life expectancies longer than just a decade ago. In fact, the NHS reports that, on average, people are now living 12 years longer than when it was first established in 1984 (*Office of Health Economics 2009: Sixty Years of the National Health Service*). The amount of services required to support this growing population will have a massive impact on our economies, as well as our safety, security, and on our environment.



Martha Schwartz Partners: Designing the Urban Environment for Health and Wellbeing

By: Ceylan Belek Ombregt



It is on this point that the landscape can contribute in a wide scope and in a variety of scales. There is ample research conducted that demonstrates the myriad ways well-being can be achieved through good design of our environment, as well as the economic benefits of using landscape to help manage our resources (*Future health Sustainable places for health and well-being*, CABI).

It's a long-held dogma that well-being can affect patient recovery periods in hospitals, thus reducing treatment costs (*Department of Health, Wellbeing - Why it matters to health policy*). Several more recent studies in horticultural therapy have taken this a step further to track how hospital stays have been greatly reduced when patients have access to green space – whether through a window, atrium, or just an image (*Huisman, Morales, van Hoof and Kort, 2012, Healing environment: A review of the impact of physical environmental factors on users and* https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/future-health-full_1.pdf)

Several of our European clients have begun to implement this in practice. In hospital planning and design, the key goals included providing access to nature, views from patient rooms, exposure to natural light and its

HEALTH AND WELLBEING ENVIRONMENT



daily circadian rhythm, and attending to noise levels and acoustics. Equally important is that patients are afforded privacy and dignity.

In 2015, Martha Schwartz Partners (MSP) applied these principles for an 83-hectare branch of Centre Hospitalier Emile Mayrisch, Sudspidol Hospital Project in Esch sur Alzette, Luxembourg. Currently under construction, when completed Sudspidol will create a living, flowing and harmonious wellness space. The open space is divided into three themes: the inner courtyards of the hospital, the health park with its lively, urban green oasis along the waterway, and the green roofs. These three areas are closely linked by a continuous network of paths and connections following the “lozenge” shape of the buildings extending into sites adjacent to the hospital that will link them with future development. The terraced natural landforms upon

which the building sits set up a topographically exciting ground plane for a parkland environment, full of trees and vegetation. This natural area will be conducive to interaction between patients, doctors, students, and visitors and provide a restful and calming atmosphere. Additionally, rainwater run-off from the site’s hardscape surfaces and the green roof will be diverted into the existing naturalized canal which function as a filter. Remaining excess water from the roofs will be stored underground for future irrigation of the landscape.

In cities, there is a strong relationship between disadvantaged neighborhoods that lack access to parks and their social, physical engagement to their surroundings. In turn, this can affect crime rates, mental illnesses, overweight and obesity in children and as some studies suggest that access to safe and clean outdoor space can contribute to preventing many of these urban concerns (*Lee and Maheswaran (2011), The health benefits of urban green spaces: review of the evidence*).

In our practice, we have found that the combination of green infrastructure and solid urban planning can contribute to the well-being of the communities in

which they are used. The St Mary’s Churchyard project in the London Borough of Southwark, was developed by MSP in 2008 with the financial assistance of the London Development Agency as part of the Elephant and Castle Regeneration Scheme. The site had previously housed a medieval parish church in the 14th century and was successfully built and razed, and had been an open park since the 18th century.

Though intended as a temporary park until the area would be developed, MSP’s key design goals for St Mary’s were to reorganize the park while retaining its positive historic qualities, link this open space to the city, and ultimately to make the park a safe, accessible, and desirable place for the surrounding community. These goals were achieved by incorporating park access, safety features, and activity into the design. The one-hectare project, with its children’s playground and flexible open spaces, had an immense impact on the community as most families did not have their own open space and needed a safe place to be active. The flexible design added color and a bit of whimsy to this urban space, and provided a number of different spaces in which people could gather. Welcoming, attractive night time lighting meant more people were able to use the grounds in the evening. The site has won the British Association of Landscape Industries Award for Regeneration.

Today, 54% of the world’s population lives in urban areas and with an additional 12% of the global population expected to move to urban centers in the next 30 years (www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/world-urbanization-prospects-2014.html), it is critical that we consider how the landscape should be considered for the social well-being of the people who will be living in them. The design for the Monte Laa public housing project in the south of Vienna, Austria began with the goal of developing





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HEALTH AND WELLBEING ENVIRONMENT

a healthy social network in this close-knit community. The Monte Laa city district was initially divided by city highway A23 (Südosttangente). The goal of the master plan was to create a compact city quarter through which its two parts – 4,000 workplaces to the south and 1,200 residential units to the north – were stitched together by a long, 12,000 square meter park. The park bridges the highway and is consciously designed to be barrier free – ramps connect the terrain level differences and are easily accessible along the length of the park. As an urban park set within a dense development, the edge along the length of the park actively addresses the transition between public and private spaces, providing a mix of personal and communal areas in which this diverse community resides. The elevation of the landscape changes, working as both a visual and physical means of defining the series of varying spaces devoted to different uses.

Most important, by dividing up the successive spaces, instead of creating one large, open park, the Monte Laa central park is better able to fulfill the social and physical needs of the residents who live there. The surrounding community is a mix of low income and immigrant families. By providing a series of varying activity spaces, this urban landscape better aids the community to integrate. Residents are able to feel like they have their “own” space, yet enjoy the park on a communal scale. The successful integration of the community is evident in the level of commitment that the residents make to maintain the park. This sense of community has contributed to the Monte Laa



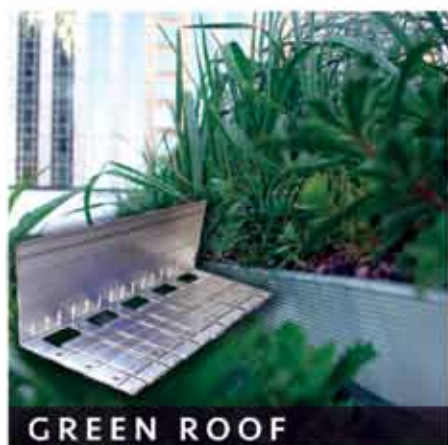
development being the first choice of those seeking public housing in Vienna.

Global warming and buildup of carbon dioxide also has an immense effect on our health and well-being. MSP as a firm believes that it is our duty as designers of the public realm to address and mitigate the problem for the public good. For example, the firm considers afforestation of our urban centers to be a critical component in this effort. Each tree can absorb as much as 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year and can sequester 1 ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches 40 years old (<https://projects.ncsu.edu/project/treesofstrength/treefact.htm>). Other statistics show that depending on site, terrain and rainfall, it takes

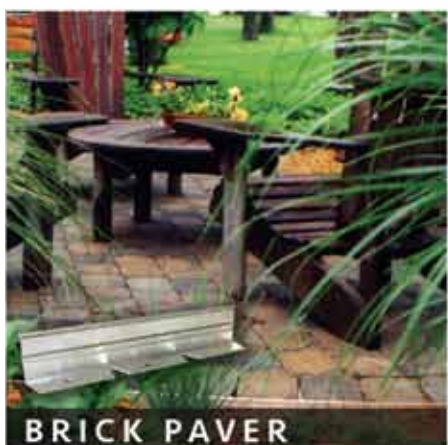




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HEALTH AND WELLBEING ENVIRONMENT

4-15 trees to sequester one tonne of CO₂ (<https://carbonneutral.com.au/>). Perhaps the most critical resource on earth will be fresh drinking water. Its effective use and cooling effects cannot be understated.

China has become a world leader in the effort to create sustainable cities. The Beiqijia Technology Business District in Beijing China, completed in 2016, was designed to set the stage for future development in the immediate area by incorporating the principles of sustainability that tackle the harsh environmental conditions of the compact, densely populated city. The goal of this park was to knit together the residential and commercial buildings that surround it and offer a centralized area in which residents and visitors will both find ways to enjoy the outdoors and live a healthier lifestyle.

A long, curving water feature separates private residential in the south from the more publicly occupied buildings towards the north. Designed to utilize harvested, treated rainwater collected from the site, this large-scaled water element is a centralized focal point that also creates enjoyable, playful and relaxing experiences for the local residents and public visitors. Public seating and open areas surround the health center within the park, available to all. At the northern most perimeter, along Qui Bei Road Promenade is the Eco Zone: a linear landscape with an ecological function that collects and absorbs storm water runoff from the impervious surfaces of the site. The mesic habitat provides a strong imageable landscape for the project along this major road. Seating, an area for strolling and one of the two sculptural gateway structures occur here and draw people into the green heart of the site. Reflecting the spiritual needs of the community, cultural icons abound – most prominently through the sculptural gateways that frame the entrances and invite people into the park. The result has been an immediate endorsement by the surrounding community, with the park in constant use at all hours of the day.

Urban landscape is the primary experience that is shared by all. Landscape is a crucial piece of infrastructure that holds every component of our environment together. In order to form healthy societies with high wellbeing, we must invest in the landscape and its collective power to change and influence our sustainable future. ■



Company:

Situated at the intersection of landscape, art and urbanism, Martha Schwartz Partners is committed to the design of urban landscapes and the public realm as the foundation for sustainable cities that are healthy across all aspects and sectors of urban life. Our work combines many facets of the urban sphere into cohesive and beautiful spaces. People, wildlife, ecology, architecture, infrastructure, traffic, and history all combine into the public realm that we are often defining for cities. Over the past 35 years, we have had a good deal of success transforming cities into unforgettable urban landscapes because we stick to a set of core values for each project.

Contributor:

Ceylan Belek Ombregt is a practicing registered landscape architect, researcher and lecturer with more than fifteen years of international experience. She resides in London and practices at Martha Schwartz Partners (MSP) as a Director. At MSP, she has led several international projects including the award-winning Beiqijia Technology Business District in Beijing China and the Moscow Children's Route in Russia. She is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design (MLA), the Istanbul Technical University (MSc), and the University of Istanbul (BLA); and is a Ph.D. candidate in sustainable design. Ceylan also taught the graduate studio modules and led the Master's Program in Landscape Architecture and Garden Design at Writtle School of Design.

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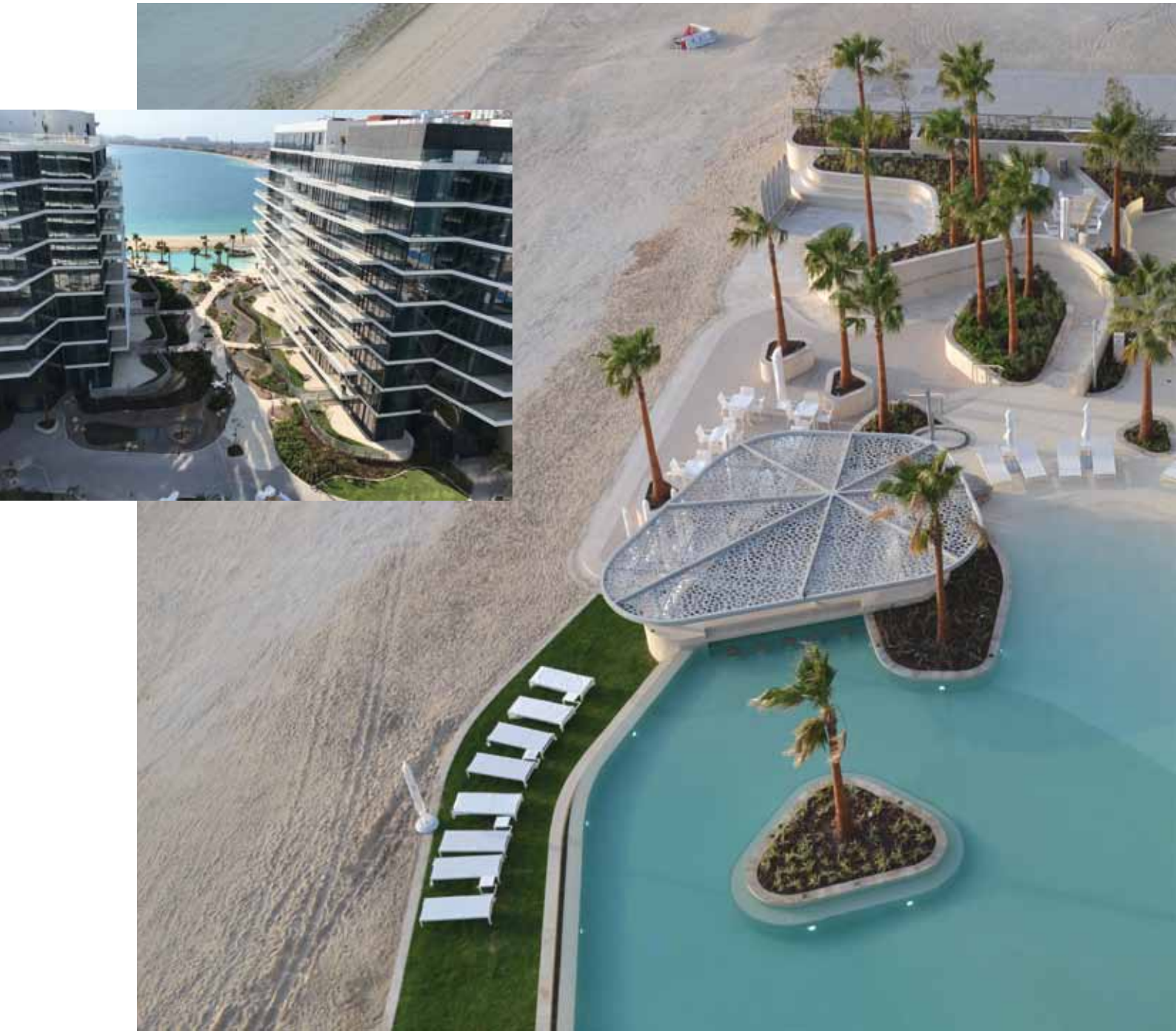
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RESIDENTIALS





Haya Miri

Inside look at Serenia Residences, Dubai

By: Haya Miri
Landscape Architect
Vero Studio

What was Vero's role and your role on the project?

Vero was appointed on this project in 2012 by Gaj Architects, who were the lead consultant for Serenia Residences. We were appointed to provide a full design package, from concept to tender, along with the production of an IFC package for our supervision works. We were appointed for the supervision of the landscape construction works, including the main works period and Defects Liability Period. As part of our scope, we made sure that every element was built as per the intended design, and provided quick and effective solutions for any obstacles encountered along the way whenever required.

As part of the contract, we were required to visit the site at least twice a week to supervise the work, attend site meetings with the main consultants and the contractors, and respond to all raised inspections, RFIs, and shop drawings to guarantee the quality of work. The job also included regular meetings with the client, during which minor design changes had to take place given the then-current site conditions. Being the main consultant from Vero on site, I had to be present at all times on site with the contractor's site agent, and I also had to coordinate any design changes or client demands and requests immediately with the contractor through updated sketches and drawings to ensure correct construction.



RESIDENTIALS

What makes the project different to other residential projects in Dubai?

Serenia Residences challenged all aspects of design with its unique landscape which had contemporary yet cultural design elements, modern architecture, and most importantly panoramic views. It is not your typical residential complex with the regular facilities offered. The landscape and architecture designs aim at exceeding the expectations of the standard residential projects in Dubai and seek to take the project to the next level.

The main landscape design objective for Serenia was to create a natural and serene space that caters for all age groups and residents. We tried to recreate natural elements within the landscape by designing a beach entry for the pool, a sustainable Wadi design with cascading water running through natural boulders and river pebbles, and by filling the space with “natural” mounds of planting and gravel with the intention of indirectly recreating natural dunes.

The stark contrast between the linear, rigid architecture and the curvy, organic landscapes differentiate it from other typical residential designs. With its unusual water feature design as a main arrival element to offering an outstanding experience, residents are welcomed with a vast space of greenery surrounded by vegetated mounds. Hidden between these mounds is a miniature golf course along with a children’s play area.



Residents are visually directed towards the beach-like pool design through the curvy shaped Wadi and the row of flame trees within the pathways. The pool flaunts an infinity edge at sea water level, giving it a limitless feel as though it were part of the sea. With cascading water that splashes down a pond of river pebbles, a real waterfall sound is replicated as wind blows right through. Being the first of its kind in Dubai, the smooth, sandy-like resin bonded paving around the pool provides the residents with a whole new experience as they can sunbathe in very shallow water. The strategic location of Serenia Residences, being right by the beach and with open views to the sea, along with the innovative architectural design fends off the unbearable humidity on a hot UAE summer day.



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I RESIDENTIALS

What were the most challenging parts of the project?

Serenia was my first supervision project in the UAE, so I was very excited to be in charge, and now I'm really impressed with the end result. However, we faced many issues and difficulties throughout the process, similar to those that happen in any other construction project. The biggest challenge we faced was the construction of the arrival plaza water feature. Many workshops with MEP consultants and water feature designers took place to ensure that the outcome resembled the design intent. Another difficult part of the supervision was the intense coordination needed amongst all disciplines on board. Some of the issues we faced were external problems such as receiving broken landscape elements like bespoke concrete seating units and paver units, plants that were not as per our specifications, or incorrect gravel and boulder sizes. Fortunately, though, after multiple meetings with the contractors and suppliers, we managed to solve these issues and deliver a top-quality product.

What you enjoyed most about the project?

The experience as a whole was a tremendous learning opportunity for me. Every day I faced new obstacles to resolve, new situations to learn from, and more progress to witness. Seeing the project develop quite literally from the ground up, to become what it is now, a pristine residential complex, was quite exceptional for me. One of most memorable times I had during site inspection was towards the end of the project, when residents had already moved into the complex. Seeing the design filled with people, the space being used as it was designed for and intended to be, and realizing the outcome of three years' worth of work was one of the most rewarding moments for me throughout the entire project.

In general, site supervision is a challenging and difficult process to go through, especially if it's your first in the UAE. Dealing with the contractors alone is often very stressful and



demanding, but the whole experience is so different and interesting in its own way. Although I can't say I enjoyed every part of it, there were definitely times when I really looking forward to visiting the site.

One of the things I enjoyed the most during this stage of the job was viewing it from the penthouses on the top floor. Each penthouse has a view of a different part of the landscape design. Some of the views overlook the pathways between the waterfall, with the aqua blue waters of the sea and the pool appearing as one at the end of the view. Other ones show the complete view of the main pool with its beach entry bounded sand, resembling the adjacent beach front. And finally, other views display the arrival plaza with its green oval and water feature, which looks just as mesmerizing and complex as it does from the eye level perspective.

Viewing Serenia from above is just another way of confirming Vero's ability to oversee the project from concept to construction. Comparing the rendered plans submitted during the concept phase in 2012 with the top view images from 2018, I can say that Vero can and will absolutely provide you an outcome identical to your vision. ■





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Sports and Social Legacy

In 2013, the International Olympic Committee selected Buenos Aires to be the host of the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games between October 6th-18th. The announcement was the culmination of a bidding process launched in September 2011, which originally included six candidate cities in Scotland, Colombia, Mexico, Poland and Netherlands. This was the first time the YOGs were held in South America.

Under the direction of the City Government –and a team especially created for this purpose– the planning and management of processes for the construction of an Olympic Village started in 2014. The year after, the process was entirely focused on the request for bids and national contests for the buildings' design; 2016 and 2017 for construction works and 2018 for final stages and start up.

In compliance with the general needs and the essential philosophy of all Olympic Games –“to identify post-Games legacy uses for all permanent venues to ensure that Games-related investments deliver benefits for years to come to the city and its people”–, the Buenos Aires City Government carried out a holistic research and implementation plan which was rooted into local urban-social necessities. The selection of one of the districts (Comunas in Spanish) located in the south of the City as the “to be converted-area”, for the games, was a clear response to social and urban indicators. With some of the lowest indicators of human development and quality of life, this part of the



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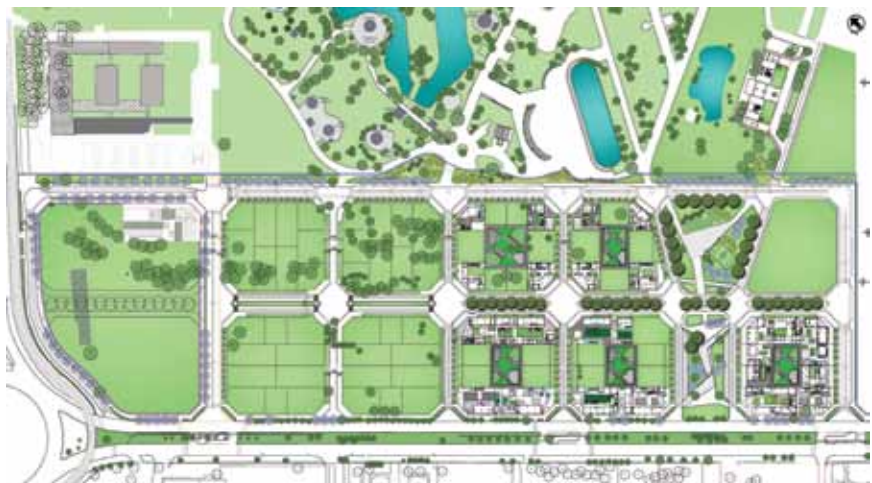
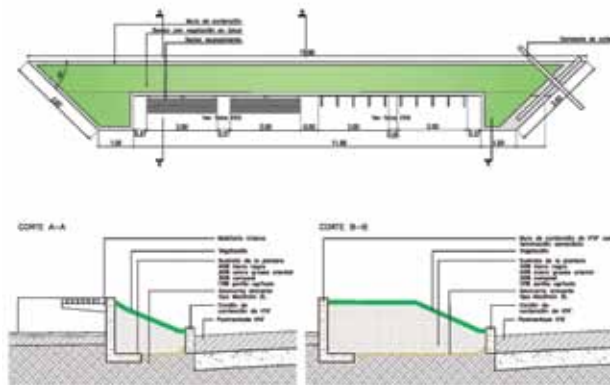
I OLYMPIC VILLAGE



city was already the object and in the midst of a transformation process; by choosing a large neglected site in Comuna 8 to build the Village –a thematic park built in the 1980s which had inadequate maintenance plans and witnessed many change of uses until finally falling in an almost complete state of abandonment a few years ago–, the City guaranteed a comprehensive renovation of the area and the village itself as a key dimension of housing legacy. Planned together with the Institute of Housing of the City (IVC), the City Government's project for the conversion of the Athletes' Village into affordable housing in this area (1,200 new homes) is now finished. From a first online registration (in 2018) with an initial number of 10,000 applicants, the IVC's focus in determining selection criteria was on ensuring that the system of the (up to 30-year fixed) loans would be granted this way: 80% for the Comuna's residents, 10% for teachers and a final 10% for police officers. Today, the allocations' processes are finished and owners will receive their homes in March 2019.

Out of the total 100 hectares covered by the former park, 49 hectares were destined to a new system of green areas (the result of another national competition launched in 2017) and 18 hectares were destined to urban development and housing. Included in the latter objective, the Olympic Village covers 3.5 hectares, combining built areas (125,000m²) and open spaces such as boulevards, streets, plazas and gathering areas. The project's director, architect Florencia Piñero Villar, explains: "The thirty one buildings and the public spaces which make up the Village cover almost four hectares but the overall project is much larger. We had to build brand-new infrastructure – from water supply, sewage and electrical grid to fiber optic and

road systems– for a total area of 9.7 hectares. At some points during the construction works we had 2,000 people working in the site and 13 construction cranes, in one day. We had to follow a very tight agenda and, consequently, articulate a very methodical work plan that would allow all involved teams to work simultaneously and as easily as possible. The remaining 6 hectares will be developed in future stages, after the Games, in line with the new zoning established for the area."





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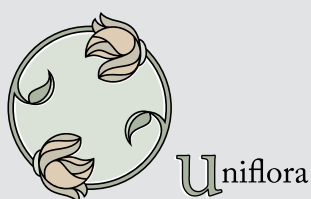
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I OLYMPIC VILLAGE

In order to generate a consistent planning and building process, in 2016 the City passed a special law for the Olympic Village Master Plan and surrounding areas, thus regulating many new urban-social requirements and, especially, defining the district's rezoning and the long-term development's conditions. With the new land use zoning, the area incorporates new green spaces, both around the newly created blocks and inside them -as central green plazas- and ground-floor retail, all of which can be already appreciated in the Village.

The 3.5 hectares of the actual Village include five blocks, a pedestrian main boulevard and some secondary ones, a large plaza and parking. The buildings were the result of five separate national competitions whose objective was achieving a diverse architectural design for the five different blocks. In this way, the City made sure that the site's general image wouldn't be the typical dull one which had prevailed in all past local social-housing projects.

One of the main goals for the landscape was to create as much absorbent surface as possible, capturing and storing rainwater



and reducing irrigation needs and, as well as, peak runoff during rain events. With this clear objective, the project incorporated all kinds of impervious surfaces and green infrastructure for rainwater harvesting: green roofs, permeable pavement, rain gardens, swales and curb cuts to help redirect rainwater. Among these features and specific designs which make up the landscape plan, there are two which can be highlighted: one,



the draining planters built along the full extent of the buildings' facades and passing underneath the ramps located in front of the main access doors; two, the large central gardens in every one of the buildings, whose ground level is slightly lower than that of the enclosing streets, thus creating large natural rainwater retention areas. Completing the comprehensive design of the linear draining planters, all main piping of the different infrastructure systems are located underneath, thus avoiding any possible repairing perforations in concrete slabs and then reducing maintenance costs and works. Ultimately, both the planters and the central gardens collect and conduct the stormwater runoff towards the city drainage network.

The planting plan preserved most of the large trees existing in the site and incorporated only native species and a varied list of grasses and herbaceous for planters and smaller areas.

The construction works took exactly 26 months and demanded



an extremely consistent work plan and manage of overlapping schedules. During the first week of October 2018, when crowds of young athletes from all parts of the world arrived at the site, the place appeared sharp and complete. In the future, locals will be enjoying this completely renovated area of the city and more new development will take place; we hope with the same consistency and conscientiousness with which the Village's planning stages were accomplished. ■

Location: City of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Idea and Project's design: City Government of Buenos Aires / Ministry of Urban Design and Transportation (MUDyT): Minister Franco Moccia

Project's Planning, Management and Implementation:

Director of Special Projects' Unit: Maria Florencia Piñero Villar

Landscape Plan's Director: Estela Viarengi / Design Team:

Subsecretary of projects (MUDyT)

Buildings' Design: Winning teams of the five Competitions

Total area: 3.5 hectares (Village) / 9.7 hectares (new urban infrastructure systems)

Date of completion: August 2018 (First Stage: Olympic Village)

Photography: Pablo Elías, María Florencia Piñero Villar, Jimena Martignoni.





Buenos Aires' Olympic Park breathes new life in the community following the recent Youth Olympic Games

By: Jimena Martignoni



In early October, Buenos Aires was the host city of the third Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG). These games, which are held every four years and are promoted by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), gathered about 4,000 athletes from 206 countries. It was also the first with an equal number of male and female participants, contributing to gender equality. The city offered a number of different sites for a diverse range of sports (a total of 32 disciplines) but the Olympic Park held most of the competitions and activities. Located at the newly planned Sports District, part of a large-scale urban and social conversion program in the south of the city, the 30-hectare site became the star location for the games. In the future, this park will replace the national Center for High Intense Sports (CENARD in Spanish), which will be then saved only for residential uses and development.

The Olympic Park was part of a sweeping revitalization project based on the renovation of the traditional Roca Park. Designed and built in the 1980s by a renowned local architect and planner, the decline of this park started almost two decades ago, mainly because of lack of maintenance, and since then had been left in a clear state of neglect. When the City started planning the Olympic Village and sites for the 2018 Games, part of the overall budget was allocated for a new area for sporting events. In 2015 after national elections, the newly elected officers of the City Government's Ministry of Urban Development decided to use this same budget for a more complete program, making use of part of the existing aforementioned Roca Park. The existing general infrastructure -such as underground piping for lighting and water supply- plus a long-established landscape represented by clusters of large trees and a very well-defined



I OLYMPIC PARK



path system were used in favor of the project, thereby reducing construction costs.

This decision, which was strategically taken to strengthen the idea of a new Sports District in the city, was also in line with general needs set by the National Secretary of Sports. One of the main conditions, originally demanded by this Secretary, was a clear pedestrian connection between the different pavilions designed to accommodate the diverse list of sports. The architectural and landscape layout for the Venue Master Plan was then the result and combination of the land conditions of the existing large park and the technical conditions set by the different involved leading institutions. Started in January 2017, the construction works took no more than ten months.

The main access to the Olympic Park is connected, at one side, with one of the largest clusters of trees still standing in the site, thus creating a first welcoming image related to the history of the park and a large green presence. Upon entering the site, the pavilions are clearly visible. This shows the consistency and geometrical basis of the overall plan: a large external vehicular ring which encloses an entirely car-free inner area with a pedestrian pathway connecting six whitish light-structure boxes where the competitions take place. Visitors can walk from one pavilion to the next while passing by open fields and tracks, watching other activities going on while getting to their destination. Athletes can also go from one box to the next, but they mainly stay at those where they play and compete, using the private service areas, usually located underground or at ground level, depending on the venue's constructive conditions.

Both the six buildings and the connecting semi-roofed walkways are metallic light-structures that, combined, create a visual balance and a counterpoint to the natural open surroundings. The connecting pergola's total width is three meters and most of this area is covered with a special kind of fabric shade resistant to hail and other climate conditions. Completely open at both sides, this walkway becomes a dynamic itinerary from where to appreciate the adjacent landscape and the sight of the different buildings and fields, sometimes as separate objects dotting the site, sometimes as a single composition.

In order to adapt to the existing topography and slopes of the original park, the two largest pavilions were positioned at the site's lowest points, opposite to one another. In one of them, the change elevation was used to generate the necessary height for the Olympic Swimming Pool, built underground; the second largest pavilion provides the space for Artistic Gymnastics, in this case taking advantage of the same change elevation to meet the mandatory heights for the practice of this sport. Both buildings offer glazed curtain walls that ring the entire facades at grade, creating an open and inviting presence



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OLYMPIC PARK



at ground level and a fabulous visual connection between the activities inside and the park outside.

These two pavilions have a total height of 14 meters, a length of 110 meters and 65 meter wide. The other four buildings located around the site and adjacent to the walkway are lesser in size, all of them extending for 70 meters in length and 45 meter wide; with a more flexible layout, these smaller pavilions are able to offer multiple fields and the practice of a diverse range of sports.

By playing host to one of the world's biggest sporting events, Buenos Aires as any other Olympic host city, will have the opportunity to provide lasting sporting legacies that help promote and develop sport. In this case, once the games are finished, the venues will be converted into a multi-sport facility for elite athletes (replacing the aforementioned Cenard's facilities, completely renovated and improved), which will also

incorporate administration offices, a health-center and a hotel; the sports arenas will be also available for major sporting events and public use. ■

Location: City of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Project's Design and Management: City Government of Buenos Aires (Mayor E. Larreta) / Ministry of Urban Design and Transportation (Minister Franco Moccia)

Subsecretary of Projects: A. García Resta / Urban Innovation, **Director:** M.Torrado

Subsecretary of Construction: M. Palacio / Site

Construction's Director: C. Cané

Total area: 30 hectares

Date of completion: September 2018 (First Stage)

Photography: Javier A. Rojas, Pablo Elías, Jimena Martignoni.



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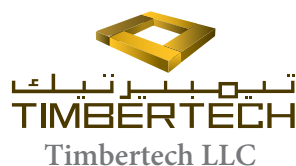
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