

# ARCHITECTURAL EYE CANDY

Visiting Cityscape Dubai (4-6 December 2006) – the largest international property development event in the world, with a visiting architect in tow, his facial expression was priceless. Room after room (totalling 55,000 square metres showcasing 500 exhibitors from 35 countries) was bursting with architectural models, all vying to be taller, bigger, more ambitious than the last, no expense spared. (At the end of the show, a staggering Dh 588 billion (\$160 billion) worth of projects was announced).

ALONGSIDE the property developers, who were busy impressing investors (a large percentage of the projects on display are speculative) – there was a strong presence of architects firms – including Aedas, Gensler, Zaha Hadid Architects, Arquitectonica and Norr – selling their skills in a bid to get a slice of the action. One of the most impressive projects on display, for design excellence, and its blending of nature with architecture, was the Serrenia residential project in Egypt. Designed by Norman Foster and sold through Vantage Real Estate in London, it showed how sympathetic landscape-friendly property development can be done. Foster's snake-like Serrenia Hotel (apparently inspired by the Red Sea corals) is set to be 'as instantly recognisable as the Pyramids'.

Dubai's ruler, the visionary Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who is largely credited for Dubai's phenomenal development, paid a surprise visit on the last day and spent an hour touring the show. Donald Trump Jr further sealed Cityscape's position on the world stage, by making a keynote address to delegates, praising in particular, the UAE real estate sector's "can do" attitude. Joined by his sister, Ivanka and brother Eric, the three have been charged by their real estate legend father Donald Trump with taking the Trump brand overseas. As well as the Middle East, they are eyeing India, the focus of a special session at the Cityscape Conference, and Russia.

One of the highlights at Cityscape, was the World Architecture Congress – two days of talks and discussions, covering such subjects as 'Keeping It Cool: Basic Architectural Skin Solutions for Cooler Buildings in Hot Climates' (with wonderful examples by Nabil Gholam's Architecture & Planning studio in Beirut). There was also a series of workshops, exploring such topics as 'Shopping Centres: What Could They Be', led by British architectural provocateur Will Alsop, who argued that the shopping centre is either seen as an economic generator or an urban evil, responsible for killing city centres. With globalisation, shopping centres around the world seem to contain the same shops, so diversity and localisation will become an important part of the experience – question is, how to achieve that? [www.cityscape-online.com](http://www.cityscape-online.com), [www.serrenia.com](http://www.serrenia.com)



## Cityscape-Architectural Review Awards

The Cityscape-Architectural Review Awards are now considered a significant annual event on the architectural calendar. The awards are the culmination of months of debate and consideration by a distinguished panel of judges including Paul Finch, Editor, *The Architectural Review UK*; Dr. Suha Ozkan, Secretary General Aga Khan Award for Architecture, Switzerland; Jack Pringle, President Royal Institute of Architects (RIBA), UK; Dr Fathi Rifki, Dean of Architecture at the American University of Sharjah, UAE; Raj Rewal, Raj Rewal Associates, India; and Ken Yeang, Llewellyn Davies Yeang, Malaysia.

Award entries represented completed buildings or projects that are incomplete/still on the drawing board, within five categories: commercial/mixed-use, community (including religious and public use), leisure, residential and transport. Paul Finch, Editor, *The Architectural Review* commented, "The winners exemplified a commitment to quality design and architecture that was both sensitive and complementary to culture and the environment in the developing world."

FROM TOP:  
ONE END OF THE SERRENIA HOTEL  
SERRENIA BOULEVARD MAISONNETTES  
THE OTHER END OF THE SERRENIA HOTEL  
SERRENIA DETACHED VILLA

## THE AWARDS

### RESIDENTIAL BUILT

**Winner** Ernesto Bedmar, Bedmar & Shi, Singapore

**Project** Trevoze 12 Group Housing, Singapore

**Judges comment** "A dense and sophisticated project it nevertheless provides a sense of privacy in contact with nature"

### RESIDENTIAL FUTURE

**Winner** Luca Donner, Donner & Sorcinelli Architetti, Italy

**Project** Breathing House, Riyadh, KSA

**Judges comment** "This is an ingenious reinterpretation of a Riyadh house in which issues of privacy, environmental comfort and family use have been combined in a design which could be replicated without difficulty."

### COMMERCIAL BUILT

**Winner** Murat Tabanlıoğlu & Melkan Gursel Tabanlıoğlu, Tabanlıoğlu Architecture in partnership with Jerde, Turkey

**Project** Kanyon, Istanbul, Turkey

**Judges comment** "The radical geometries of this mixed-use development have made it a destination for visitors intrigued by its curved architecture"

### COMMERCIAL FUTURE

**Winner** Mouzhan Majidi, Foster + Partners, UK

**Project** Living Wall, Amman, Jordan

**Judges comment** "An elongated slab is split as though the wind has carved out spaces in between the buildings. An urban project of pleasing simplicity."

### COMMUNITY BUILT

**Winner** Look Boon Gee, Look Architects, Singapore

**Project** Bishan community Library, Bishan Place, Singapore

**Judges Comment** "A delightful & unexpected building, this library project uses 'pods' to enliven the city street as well as providing useful interior spaces"

### COMMUNITY FUTURE

**Winner** Cesary Bednarski, Studio Bednarski Ltd, UK

**Project** Kariobangi South Nairobi, Kenya

**Judges Comment** "This apparently simple approach to creating a new environment for a poor community is in fact based on a sophisticated analysis"

### SPORTS & LEISURE BUILT

**Winner** Chai Wai Kin, Jufri Yusoff, Lim Meng Kuan, Timur Designs, Singapore

**Project** Palawan Beachfront Amenities Sentosa, Singapore

**Judges comment** "A variety of attractions, including a zoo, are combined through a simple architecture which takes advantage of readily available timber."

### SPORTS & LEISURE FUTURE

**Winner** Rodolfo Machado & Jorge Silveti, Machado & Silveti Associates, USA

**Project** Citadel Square, Beirut, Lebanon

**Judges Comment** "A light touch approach to protection (but also a celebration) of an ancient archaeological site has been handled with great skill"

### TRANSPORT FUTURE

**Winner** Mouzhan Majidi, Foster and Partners, UK

**Project** Queen Alia International Airport, Amman, Jordan

**Judges comment** "Airports are frequently incoherent and dismal places. This design through its simplicity of plan and form, will be a high quality exception."

## THE SPECIAL AWARDS

### ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

**Winner** Mouzhan Majidi, Skidmore Owings & Merrill, USA

**Project** Bridging the Rift

**Judges comment** "The environmental strategy had clearly informed the architectural approach rather than being added to at a later stage"

### ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE AWARD

**Winner** Tawfiq Abu Hantash, Group for Design & Architectural Research, Jordan

**Project** Princess Salma Estate

**Judges comment** "Continuing the Jordanian contribution to Islamic architectural culture, this development provides a contemporary version of a grand courtyard residential site."

### MASTERPLANNING AWARD

**Winner** Mona Rizk, ACLA, UAE

**Project** Cairo Future City

**Judges comment** "An ambitious proposition for a 21st century city outside Cairo proposes an environmental section including a roof level mesh covering much of the site."