



All lit up: the colour-changing gridshell

Abu Dhabi's Yas Hotel opens for Grand Prix

Set overlooking the marina and positioned right on the Yas Marina Circuit, the Yas Hotel will be a focal point from October 30 to November 1 as Abu Dhabi gears up to host the inaugural 2009 Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

The hotel is being launched by Aldar Properties, and is designed by the New York studio of Asymptote (principals Hani Rashid and Lise Anne Couture), with interior architecture by Jestico + Whiles, London, Richardson Sadeki, New York and De8 Architetti, Bergamo, Italy.

The Yas Hotel's advanced contemporary design features and external LED colour-changing gridshell that will be seen for miles around. It comprises 5,000 individual panes of glass which are lit via a sophisticated LED system, providing different shades and colours.

The hotel comprises two separate buildings, connected by a bridge overlooking Yas Marina Circuit, featuring an exclusive lounge bar and a VIP level housing local artworks. This bar atop the racetrack, a concept by Georges V Restauration whose work includes Buddha Bar, will be a destination venue and host eminent DJs in the evening. In the wider hotel, guests will have a choice of eight restaurants.

Throughout the hotel, guests will enjoy views over the F1 race track, the marina or Yas Island. Bespoke furniture, all created to fit the buildings' unique shape and character, make the room designs distinctive and original. All-glass bathrooms allow natural light to infuse the rooms, with suites featuring large tubs sitting at the window – offering some of the best views of Yas Island.

The lofty, double-height Yas Presidential Suites reflect the monumental structure of the building at large, enhanced by the all-white design, original contemporary artwork and furnishings from MOMA. There is also a private lap pool and full terraces offering panoramic vistas. For guests who like to keep friends and family close, the Crown Prince Court comprises half a floor and 12 bedrooms, while the The Ruler's Court is spread over two floors and encompasses two Presidential Suites, giving 28 bedrooms and a private lift. 0

The Spa aims to reinterpret the traditional hamam. Built around a central cylindrical column, the heated circular room is created entirely from stone; the column reveals an inner core, with a chilled floor to counteract the heat, and an illuminated nightscape ceiling.