



Office 501B, Floor 5
Building 4, Dubai Design District
Dubai, UAE, PO Box 333244

+971 4 5638888
info@rmjmd3.com
www.rmjm.com

Press release

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RMJM's Grand Mosque and KSA Pavilion Projects Shortlisted for d3 RIBA Gulf Architecture Festival 2020

Two of RMJM Dubai's projects, the Grand Mosque of Gate Avenue and the KSA Pavilion, were selected to be part of the final shortlist for the upcoming d3 RIBA Gulf Architecture Festival 2020, which will take place in Dubai on 11-13 November 2020.

The event is organised by the Royal Institute of British Architects as part of their Gulf Chapter program, in parallel with the Dubai Design Week. The programme aims to promote architecture and design excellence in countries of the Gulf, including the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the Sultanate of Oman.

The state-of-the-art Grand Mosque of Gate Avenue in Dubai was completed in 2019. With a capacity of 500 people, it is located at the heart of Dubai International Financial Centre and while its design includes traditional references, it was conceived to be a modern and non-conformist facility. It marks an important addition to the interconnected ecosystem that exists at DIFC. The building is easily recognisable thanks to its exterior Mashrabiya screen decorated with Islamic geometric patterns. The KSA Pavilion was created as a concept for the Expo 2020, with the goal to take its visitors on a "Journey of Discovery" through Saudi Arabia.

"KSA has been in the heart of RMJM since the 60s, we are always very proud to be involved with landmark projects that help realise the vision of the kingdom." said Sotiris Tsoulos, Design Director at RMJM Dubai.

Its design was inspired by the winding tracts of the country's desert landscapes and it is organised in four hubs, centred around four themes: Connection, Creation, Innovation and Opportunity.

"Kingdom's Expo 2020 Pavillion was one more time a challenge to express the agile and young face of the kingdom and the concept of open walls, and the pavilion was designed around the idea of a country with open walls, a country that embraces change, a country of youth."- Sotiris Tsoulos, Design Director | RMJM Dubai

Both these projects combine modern traits and traditional elements, which make them two great showcases of architecture in the Gulf. While preserving a certain cultural identity, they illustrate the innovative ambitions of the region.

Notes to the Editors

About RMJM

Founded by Sir Robert Matthew and Stirrat Johnson-Marshall in 1956, RMJM Group is one of the largest, most geographically and culturally diverse architecture firms in the world. With studios across five continents, the RMJM family can share knowledge, expertise and design talent, enabling them to think quicker and act faster. Working stronger together, they are global enough to make a difference while still being local enough to be personal. Through their shared vision of success, RMJM has spent more than 67 years creating a legacy of world-class design.

For further information, please contact:

Kateryna Novoselova
Group Marketing Director
E: k.novoselova@rmjmd3.com