

## Reem Mall

Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE

Status: Under Construction

Year: 2015

Program: Interior Design Development of all the Public Spaces inside the Mall [Circulation Spaces, Food courts, Prayer Room, Public Toilets] and the Administration Offices.

Located on Reem Island by the Hazaa bin Zayed Street and Al Reem Island bridge with fantastic views to the marina. The Reem Mall is surrounded by high quality residential developments set within a well-planned public realm. The Reem Mall will act as a focal point to shop, meet and relax for the whole district. The interior design, designed by RTKL, was developed to keep and maintain its original idea which was inspired by the beauty of context where is located, taking the Salt as the main motive from which the whole interior design will be developed to create a unique interior space.

The North part of the Mall, The Dynamic malls, where the changes in angles accentuated by the bridge connections to the upper level and the under bridge dynamic cross mall lighting. The handrails and bulkheads have an illuminated edge that follows

Lift lobby



## Reem Mall



Mangrove



Exterior view



Mangrove

the mall openings and voids. Upper level ceilings and skylights fold and step dramatically along the length of the mall, with reveals for natural light and backlit crystal ceiling features. Colorful and bold lighting of the crystal pattern ceiling form a continuous band while the slit skylights break in with dynamism. The demise piers, handrails and the bulkhead of the dynamic mall are all designed to reflect the erratic crystalline pattern. The language of the pattern is achieved in demise piers with different shades of glass. The handrails have the pattern interpreted in metal. The patterned handrails are placed across the mall with glass handrails running along the length of the mall.

The Urban malls to the south side. The malls follow this expression of adjoining and overlapping boxes, 'crystals' from the geologically based design concept. Overlapping spaces and volumes become malls and vertical circulation courts, with changes in ceilings to accentuate the space. The progression and transition from space to space along the south mall is ordered, with rectangular overlapping layers connecting and guiding. Paving pattern and materials reinforce the concept of overlapping and connecting crystals concept that is also extended to the Public Toilets areas. Ceiling coves step up to reveal panels of timber ceiling to bring warmth and texture to the retail environment. Crystalline light boxes and ceiling features cluster of the vertical openings, parting to reveal natural daylight.

The Mangrove Atrium is at the heart of Reem Mall, connecting to and anchored at either end by the main north and south entrances, the mall is the natural axis to Reem Mall, linking all levels and areas of activity and is the point of entry into the mall from the above ground parking levels. This space has the largest open internal volume and space of Reem Mall, the place for events and activity and to

## Reem Mall

*Crystal Foodcourt*

celebrate festivals and calendar associated programming. The Atrium will be alive and vibrant with color, noise and activity. This space takes design reference from the organic form of the neighboring salt mangrove. Organic forms and curves contrast with the crisp lines of the malls, with natural materials and texture to soften the retail environment. Natural light is filtered from the sculptural skylight casting shadow and pattern. The organic forms and patterns connect balustrading, bulkheads and screens. The upper level of the Mangrove atrium is focused on the activity within the main entertainment anchor; the Snow play and the City Walk café areas. The curved glass façade reveals key eye catching ice play elements and activity, with mall seating and café areas overlooking these and the overall snow play attractions.

*Mangrove Food Court*

At Mangrove Food Court is a height quality food court and this is also reflected in the selection of the materials and interior design. The Concept of the Food Court is based on the evocative images and associations one has of a Mangrove Forest: lush mangrove trees with long roots growing out of a sea of water filled with flowers whose leaves glare of the strong sunshine providing a rich environment for the user; curved surfaces and flowing lines dominate the interior design of the Mangrove Food Court. Two skylights above the seating area fill the space with natural light and accentuate three main seating areas. Defined by large wooden rings below the ceiling these areas have each a different character. The seating arrangement below every skylight has its own character with a central planter feature each. One zone is kept in blue color tones as reminiscence to the water in Mangroves,

## Reem Mall

Public toilets &amp; Prayer rooms



the second zone is defined by turquoise color to columns and furniture whilst the third and largest seating areas is kept in different shades of greens. All reflecting the colors within mangrove Forest. Tile flooring with timber finish the seating areas and ceilings clad in engraved timber panels inspired by tree leaves brings warmth to the space. The strong zenithal daylight is softened by the use of transparent ceiling patterns within the wooden ceiling rings. The Mangrove Food Court has a seating area size of 934 sq. meters including an outdoor dining terrace. 13 food and beverage units are located within the food court which serviced from Back of House.

At Crystal Food Court is located along the glazed north-west façade of the retail center customers experience day light and direct visual connection from the seating areas to the exterior including. The Concept is based the appearance of a Crystal with shape, fractured lines which is represented within the straight lines of the interior design. The rectangular seating layout is zoned by fixed seating islands and kiosks. These elements create spaces with different qualities: zones with loose tables and chairs allow for more maximum flexibility whilst others are more intimate with seating benches and fixed seating arrangements. Translucent visual screens and seating partitions with integrated planter beds structure the seating area and create openness and enclosures within the space. Reflections and visible fractions within a Crystal are translated into the design of the finishes and ceiling features by translucent internally illuminated light sculptures in varying shapes and forms made out of straight and angular lines. These forms illuminate the space, break and reflect the light in various angles and create the illusion of sitting within a Crystal while having a meal. Grey tile flooring in different shapes and patterns are combined with translucent colored chairs and tables. The food court has a total seating area size of 1385sqm including a covered outdoor dining terrace. It has capacity for 20 food and beverage outlets. All units except 2 kiosks within the seating area are entirely serviced from Back of House spaces.