

Cityscape Qatar 2014 Awards gala recognizes excellence in Real Estate

UDC, Panorama Hilton Residence, HMC and Msheireb bag top awards

June 3 2014, Doha, Qatar: Leading Real Estate professionals, consultants VIPs and special guests gathered yesterday at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) to celebrate winning Real Estate developments at the third edition of the Cityscape Awards for Real Estate in Qatar.

Cityscape Qatar is taking place under the patronage of HE Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Qatar, and was inaugurated on Monday by HE Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim bin Mohammed Al-Thani, the Minister of Economy and Commerce.

The United Development Company ("UDC") was the star performer of 2014, winning two awards: the Commercial & Mixed Use Project Award and the Residence Project Award for The Pearl-Qatar.

The Leisure & Tourism Project Award Panorama went to the First Qatar Real Estate Development Company for the Panorama Hilton Residence.

The Community & Culture Project Award was scooped by Hamad Medical Corporation & Qatar Foundation for its Qatar Bio Bank.

Msheireb Properties came out as winner of the Retail Project Award for its Msheireb Downtown Doha project.

Open only to Qatar-based projects, a large number of entries were drawn from the top real estate development companies and project owners, with the winners selected by a panel of top international judges. Applications for the awards demonstrated the highest level of excellence across six criteria, including design, planning, construction, fulfilling the brief, management and sustainability.

Mr. Deep Marwaha, Group Director for Cityscape said, "The Cityscape Awards were created to recognize outstanding individuals and companies who are leaders in delivering exceptional real estate developments in the fast growing Qatari markets. We hope that these awards will spur on the great efforts of these leaders in the Real Estate sector and continue to encourage investors to consider the projects on offer as we enter our final day".

Cityscape Qatar 2014 enters its last day on a high, after two days of exhibitions, panel discussions, networking and awards ceremony. The region's leading real estate event is expected to attract over 8,000 people over the three days, with approximately 100 exhibitors coming from over 20 countries. Delegate participation and visitor figures were up significantly from the 2013 edition as a sign of growing momentum in the Qatari real estate market.

Ibrahim Jaidah, CEO & Chief Architect, Arab Engineering Bureau said, that the third annual Cityscape Qatar 2014 shows great potential of real estate market in Qatar.

"It showcases some mega projects of major local developers, and for a few we are playing major role in design and construction supervision. In comparison to the previous years this exhibition is considerably larger and there is an apparent shift in the exhibitors' profile."

Paul O'Brien, CEO, The Land, part of the Al Rajhi Group, said, "The soft launching of the new Land strategy and identity are proving effective at this year's Qatar Cityscape. Not only has there been a positive response from our clients and prospects, but the new pricing deals and partnerships with QNB, Al Khaliji and Habitat are driving interest in the market. 2014's Cityscape has so far proven an effective platform to soft launch the newly structured business, now 100% owned by Al Rajhi Group".

Samuel Warren, Director of International Residential Developments at Chesterton, a regular exhibitor at Cityscape is delighted to see the quality of visitors remaining high here in Doha.

He said, "We see many visitors to the Cityscape events keen to invest in high-end real estate in London. With growth projections set to be strong over the coming years, as much as 47% in five years, many visitors from the GCC are keen to benefit from the security and long term benefits. The buyers here in Qatar realize this and are keen to learn more from us."

Matthew Warner, Business Development Coordinator at Astaris Holdings in Turkey, said "We are pleased to be here in Doha, a city which like Istanbul has seen significant change over the last decade.

"Our luxury developments, The Residences at Mandarin Oriental Bodrum and Macka Residences interior design by Armani/Casa Managed by Kempinski, Istanbul have been well received here. We look forward to welcoming more guests from Qatar at our projects"

Cityscape Qatar 2014 is supported by its Foundations Sponsors Ezdan Holding Group and United Development Company, with Qatari Diar Construction Products Company and Mall of Qatar as Silver Sponsors.