

## Top realty firms bag Cityscape awards



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Doha

United Development Company (UDC) was the star performer at the Cityscape Qatar 2014 awards ceremony winning Commercial & Mixed Use Project Award and the Residence Project Award for The Pearl-Qatar.

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

Residence.

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

Msheireb Properties came out as the winner of the Retail Project Award for its Msheireb Downtown Doha project. Leading Real Estate professionals, consultant VIPs and special guests gathered at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) to take part in the awards ceremony.

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.

Speaking on the occasion, Cityscape Group Director Deep Marwaha said, "The Cityscape awards were created to recognise 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 of 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," Jaidah said.

Paul O'Brien, CEO of The Land, 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\fd 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 percent owned by Al Rajhi Group."

Samuel Warren, Director of International Residential Developments at Chesterton, a regular exhibitor at Cityscape is delighted to see the nhigh 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 percent in five years, many visitors from the GCC are keen to benefit from the security and long term benefits. The buyers here in Qatar realise this and are keen to learn more from us."

Matthew Warner, business development coordinator at Astas

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," Warner said.

Cityscape Qatar, which is taking place under the patronage of Prime Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al Thani, is supported by its foundation sponsors Ezdan Holding Group and United Development Company, with Qatari Diar Construction Products Company and Mall of Qatar as silver sponsors.