

## Press release

22 January 2019

# Dubai Design District showcases exhibition on sustainable architecture by Foster + Partners

Foster + Partners: The Art of Sustainable Architecture | Building 6 Atrium, Design Quarter, Dubai Design District (d3) | 31 January - 28 February 2019.

Foster + Partners, in association with Dubai Design District (d3), is presenting its first exhibition in the UAE, entitled 'The Art of Sustainable Architecture', investigating the work of the practice through the lens of sustainability. Focussing on the importance of human experience in the design of the built environment, it also shines a light on Foster + Partners' integrated approach to design that combines expertise from several disciplines. This approach brings unique design solutions that are tailored to the site, its context, users and culture. A wide overview of the practice's work, the exhibition also asks pertinent questions about the future of the built environment, inviting the audience to creatively speculate about what their surroundings may be like over the next fifty years and beyond.

Sustainability has been a central theme of Foster + Partners' work for more than five decades. In a wide variety of projects it has pioneered a holistic approach to issues of energy, water, waste and transport that remains integral to the practice's work, which includes the sustainable Masdar City masterplan in Abu Dhabi, the Haramain High Speed rail in Saudi Arabia, two of the world's first ecological office towers – the Commerzbank in Frankfurt and the Swiss Re headquarters in London, Apple Dubai Mall and the Index

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Tower in Dubai, and most recently, Bloomberg's new European Headquarters in London – the world's most sustainable office building.

Gerard Evenden, Head of Studio, Foster + Partners commented, "Promoting the sustainable design of our built environment is essential if we are to rise to the challenge of climate change. The Middle East has shown remarkable vision in endorsing a green future and we are delighted to have the opportunity to host this exhibition in Dubai showcasing our sustainable approach to architecture and urbanism."

Mohammed Saeed Al Shehhi, CEO at d3 commented: "We are delighted to support Foster + Partners, one of our architectural business partners, in their first exhibition at d3. Today's environmental and economic challenges have brought sustainability to the forefront of design and production methods and it is important to recognise this. The UAE has taken great steps to incorporate sustainable design in the creation of living spaces, with a target to become one of the most sustainable cities by 2020. It is exhibitions like this that demonstrate the evolving design industry in both Dubai and the Middle East."

The exhibition offers visitors a unique insight into the workings of the studio exploring the use of different tools that have revolutionised the way designers work. The exhibition includes models, photographs, drawings and films that illustrate the depth of research and analysis that goes into designing and building some of the most complex and innovative projects in the world.

The exhibition will be on display from 31 January to 28 February. There will be an accompanying lecture by Gerard Evenden on 31 January on 'Sustainable Futures' at 12.30pm at the Building 4 Atrium, Design Quarter, Dubai Design District (d3).

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## About Dubai Design District

Dubai Design District (d3), a member of TECOM Group, is a destination dedicated to design that reinforces Dubai's new status as a UNESCO Creative City of Design.

Established to provide a platform for the region's growing number of designers, creative professionals and artists to unite, create and inspire, d3 has fast become a hub for inspiration and innovation. Located in the heart of Dubai, the thriving neighbourhood is home to emerging designers as well as international brands.

With over 450 creative partners, including architects, interior designers, photography studios, product and fashion designers, d3 also has more than 45 retail stores and eateries. The Design Quarter at d3 offers visitors the opportunity to discover a variety of design showrooms and art galleries, indulge in authentic dining experiences, and shop at homegrown lifestyle boutiques, fashion ateliers, and international design showrooms.

d3 is also a popular events space that attracts international artists and audiences to cultural exhibitions and gatherings such as Dubai Design Week, Fashion Forward and Sole DXB a regional lifestyle platform for footwear, fashion, culture, art and design. In addition, the destination regularly hosts a roster of industry talks, workshops and educational programming, accessible to people of all ages.

Now open to the d3 community and the district's visitors, The Block at d3 is a space to escape, relax, unwind and get fit. The recreational facility features a skate park, a basketball and volleyball court, climbing walls, an urban beach, as well as outdoor seating and entertainment areas.

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## About Foster + Partners

Foster + Partners is a global studio for architecture, urbanism and design, rooted in sustainability, which was founded over fifty years ago in 1967 by Norman Foster. Since then, he and the team around him have established an international practice with a worldwide reputation for thoughtful and pioneering design, working as a single studio that is both ethnically and culturally diverse. The studio integrates the skills of architecture with engineering, both structural and environmental, urbanism, interior and industrial design, model and film making, aeronautics and many more – our collegiate working environment is similar to a compact university. These diverse skills make us capable of tackling a wide range of projects, particularly those of considerable complexity and scale. Design is at the core of everything that we do. We design buildings, spaces and cities; we listen, we question and we innovate.

The studio has established an international reputation with buildings such as the Hearst Headquarters in New York, 30 St Mary Axe in London, Hong Kong International Airport,

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the German Parliament in the Reichstag, Berlin, The Great Court for the British Museum, Headquarters for HSBC in Hong Kong and London, the ME Hotel in London, Bund Finance Center in Shanghai, the Metro Bilbao, the Carré d'Art Nîmes, the sustainable Masdar development in Abu Dhabi, and research centres for Stanford University, California. Recent work includes, The Murray in Hong Kong, Apple Dubai Mall, Chateau Margaux Winery in Bordeaux, Queen Alia Airport in Jordan, and Bloomberg's new European headquarters in London. Currently, the practice is involved in projects such as the Sheikh Zayed Museum and Brookfield Place in the UAE, Aswan Hospital in Egypt, Norton Museum of Art, Florida, and Apple's headquarters in California.

## Exhibition Team

Foster + Partners

Spencer de Grey

Katy Harris

Eliana Guerzoni

Mrinal Rammohan

Pablo Jorge

Sam Strudwick

Milly Huynh

## Sponsor

Dubai Design District

## Support

Department for International Trade, British Embassy Dubai

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