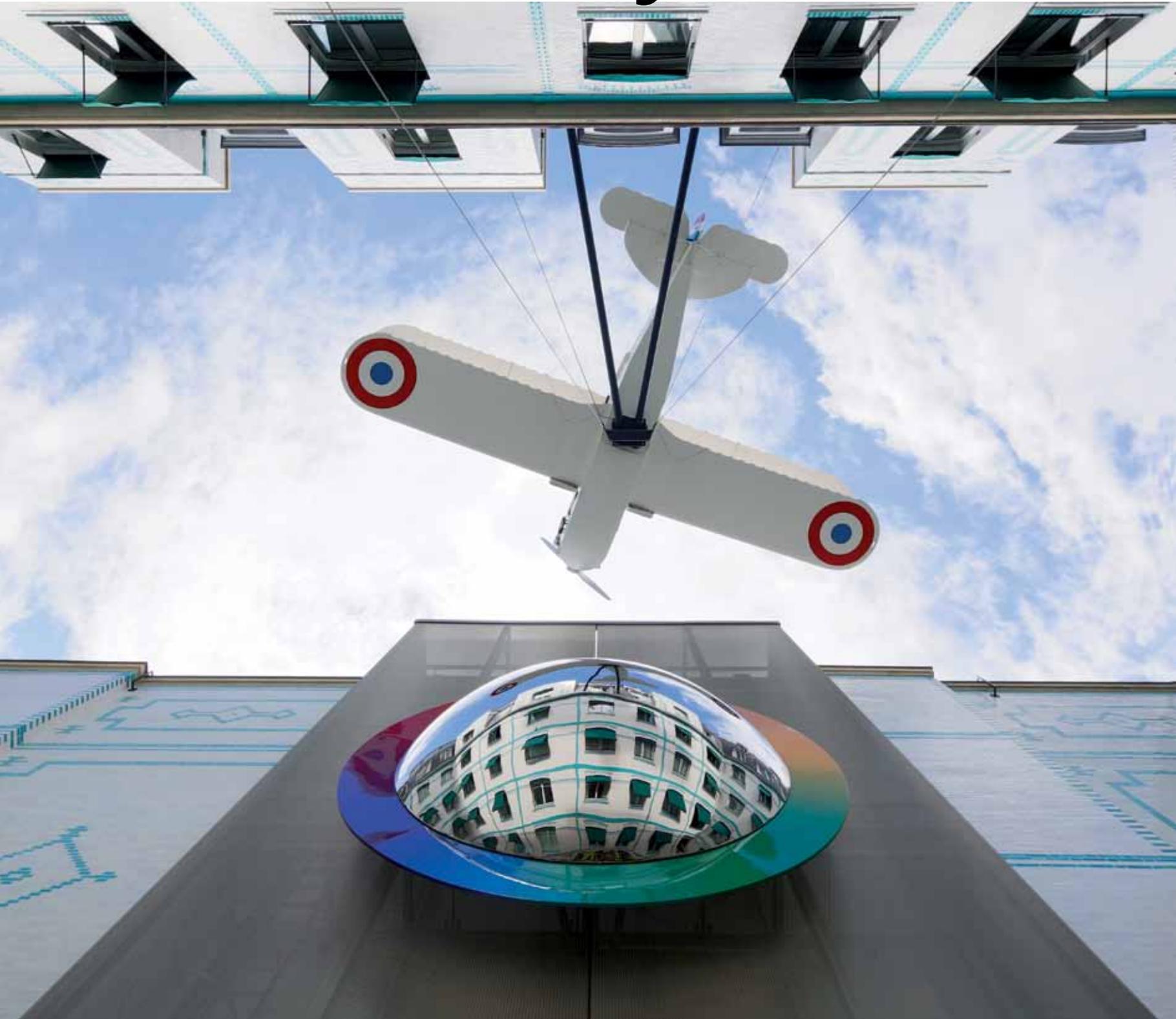


The Middle East's architecture, design, interiors + property magazine

identity®

ISSUE 142
YEAR THIRTEEN
JULY 2015
A MOTIVATE PUBLICATION



C'est magnifique! Martinet's meticulous revival of a grand Parisienne hotel
Stylish homework: media and work spaces customised for instant success
Design safari: from Milan to the Hamptons, UAE creativity moves abroad
Ramadan Kareem! Inspirational and edgy trends for giving for sharing

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QR 20.00 SR 20.00 KD 1.50



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GOOD AS GOLD

The 2015 Holcim Gold Prize has been awarded to Mario Camargo and Luis Tombé of Colectivo720, together with Juan Calle and Horacio Valencia of EPM Group, for their proposal to transform a decommissioned reservoir in Medellín, Colombia, into a public park.

Their design takes pre-existing elements, such as tanks and pools, to help create an outdoor auditorium and venues for a variety of community-based activities that focus on the value of water as a crucial resource of urban life.

The proposal features passive solar elements along with the use of natural lighting and ventilation while rainwater and greywater harvesting will help irrigate the new park. Local vegetation will be used to improve general environmental qualities by creating bird-watching and wildlife trails.

Mohsen Mostafavi, Head of the Global Holcim Awards jury, said: "The jury applauds the careful integration of the ensemble into the physical and social fabric of Medellín – in a scheme that is a model for best practice that could be emulated by other cities in Latin America and around the globe."

The awards, by the Holcim Foundation, take place every three years and recognise architectural design interventions that address sustainable building and construction issues worldwide.



LEED-ING THE WAY

The new office of Quebec City architectural company STGM is targeting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification.

The two-storey, 1,000-square metre structure uses an innovative aerothermal design and recuperation of internal heat to help achieve a 60 per cent reduction in energy consumption while a solar wall was built on the south-west façade to preheat fresh air.

Wood salvaged from old houses in the locality has been given a second life in the building's interiors while water management measures include the use of low-flow faucets and shower heads.

Rain water is collected to flush toilets, a charging station for electric cars has been provided and 86 per cent of the interior spaces receive natural light, contributing towards reduced energy costs.

SITTING PRETTY

Full Grown is an English company that is growing trees by training and coppicing willow, cherry, oak and ash into the shape of chairs which are expected to be available in mid-2017.

Gavin Munro, the man behind the firm, used to make driftwood furniture in Scotland and California before being inspired to grow trees directly into useful shapes.

He said: "In essence it's an incredibly simple art. You start by training and pruning young tree branches as they grow over specially made formers.

"At certain points we then graft them together so that the object grows into one solid piece – I'm interested in the way that this is like an organic 3D printing that uses air, soil and sunshine as its source materials.

"After it has grown into the shape we want, we continue to care for and nurture the tree, while it thickens and matures, before harvesting it in the winter and then letting it season and dry.

"It's then a matter of planing and finishing to show off the wood and grain inside."

Munro believes that his production method requires an estimated 25

per cent of the energy required to produce a wooden chair through conventional means.

A series of geometric pendant lamps and mirrors frames are expected to be ready for release in late spring next year.



GOING PLACES

The world's first hydrogen-powered, zero-emission street tram system is now operational in Dubai.

The Dubai Trolley hop-on hop-off service will eventually cover a 7km route across the breadth of Downtown Dubai, passing by iconic landmarks such as the Burj Khalifa, The Dubai Mall, The Dubai Fountain, Souk Al Bahar and Mohammed Bin Rashid Boulevard.

Ahmad Al Matrooshi, Managing Director of Emaar Properties, said: "The Dubai Trolley is an innovative and sustainable mode of transit that fits perfectly with the requirements of visitors and residents alike to Downtown Dubai."

The trolley cars have been specially designed for Emaar by Los Angeles-based company TIG/m Modern Street Railways.

Each double-decker tram accommodates a maximum of 74 passengers who can choose between air-conditioned seating downstairs or the open-deck area.

The trolley buses have an operational speed of 16km per hour.



TOP GEAR

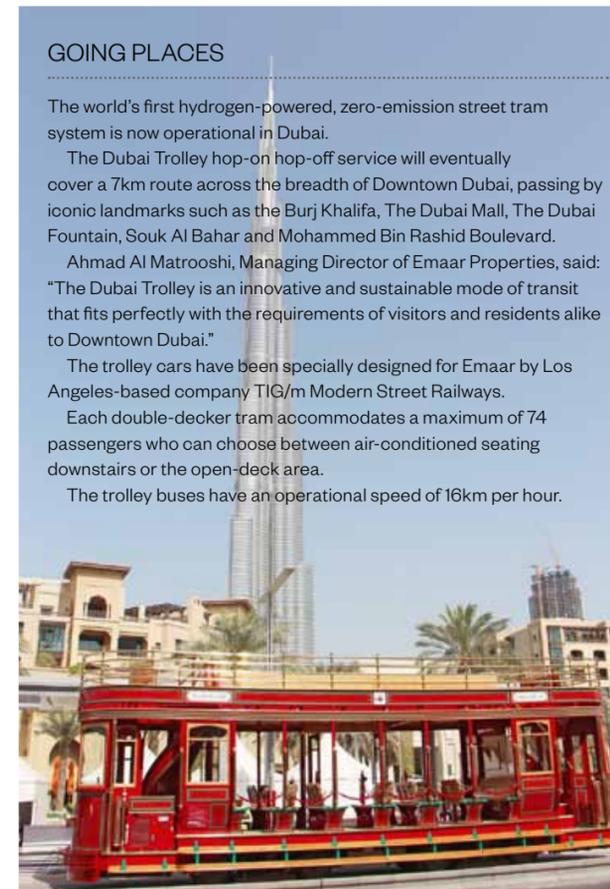
Honda has taken the wraps off its FCV Concept which features an all-new fuel cell with a cruising range of more than 700km.

The company has been developing fuel cell vehicles – powered by electricity generated through the chemical reaction of hydrogen and oxygen – since the late 1980s.

Honda state this will be the first car of its type to have the entire powertrain, including the down-sized fuel cell stack, housed under the bonnet of a conventional sedan.

The high-pressure hydrogen storage tank can be refuelled in around three minutes with Honda supporting the development of a hydrogen infrastructure. Germany, for example, is expected to have 50 filling stations by the end of the year.

The FCV CONCEPT is due to go on sale in Japan in the first half of 2016 and will then be available in the United States and Europe.



UNIQUE TABLES

Altar is the Budapest-based brainchild of András Lacfi who takes old pinball machines and creates a stunning range of unique coffee tables combining functional pieces of furniture with art.

Each piece takes anywhere from 200 to 350 hours to craft, not including any time taken to develop a concept and source a vintage machine as the company uses only broken units.

Lacfi said: "Here they are reincarnated as wonderfully complicated, meticulously planned and crafted beings.

"Our objects are inspired by the arcade and rock culture of the past decades. We will repurpose vintage parts or create something entirely new.

"We believe these artefacts to be places of fun, domestic worship – a celebration of dedication, personality, boldness and a bit of nostalgia."

Each table is therefore one of a kind with Altar determined to ensure that "none of these pieces are ever anonymous, bland or lacking in personality."

Tables are usually interactive while lighting features are converted to feature LED fixtures.

Altar was last year honoured after receiving two A'Design Awards in Italy.

