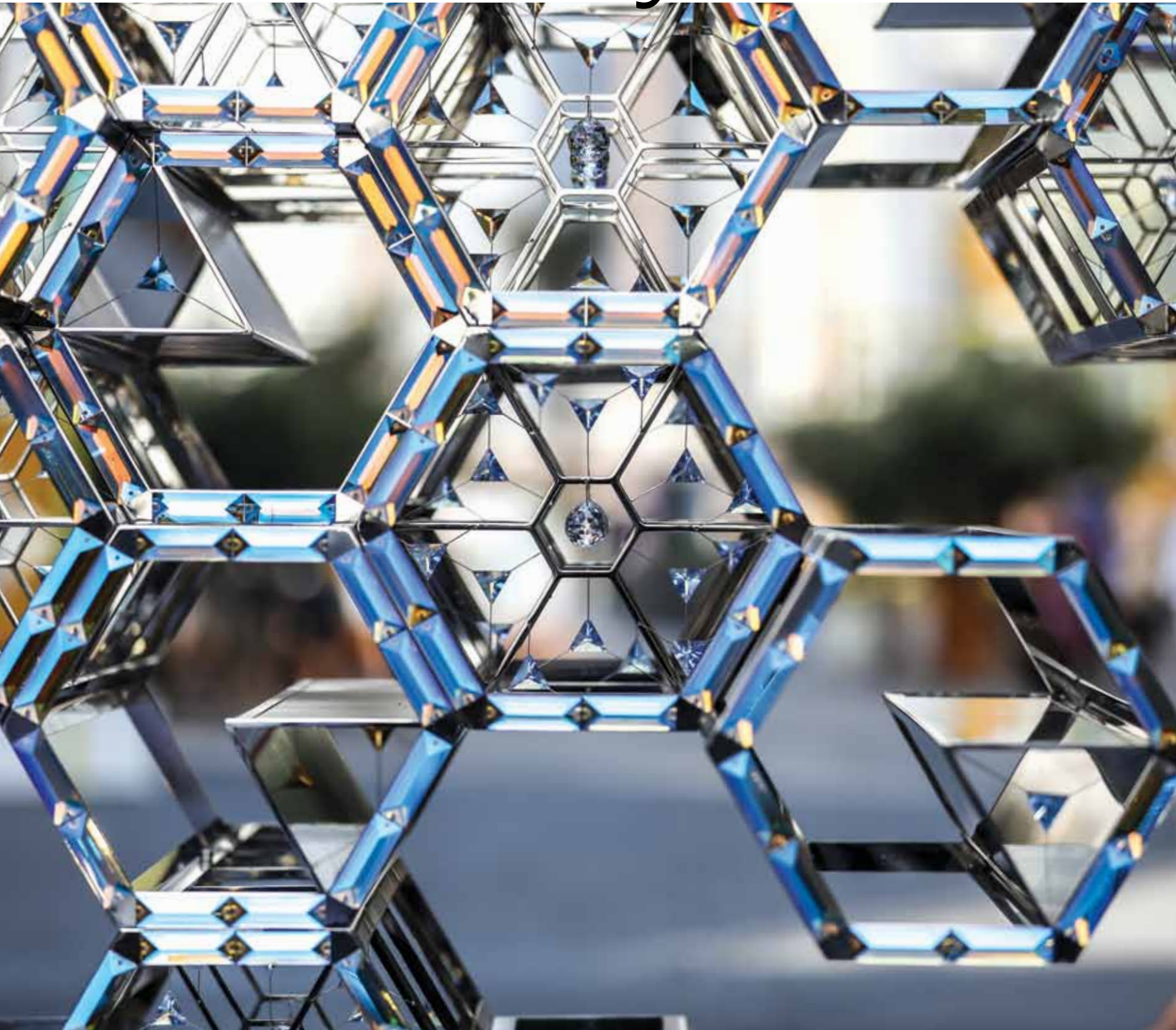


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Crystal kaleidoscope: sensational Emirati expressions
Merry moments: party essentials and embellishments
Design highlights: celebrating the very best of 2016
Spiritual architecture: minimalist new-era reflective spaces

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VISUAL APPEAL

The world's motoring press virtually swooned as one as the wraps recently came off the Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6 – an all-electric concept coupe capable of accelerating from zero to 100 km per hour in less than four seconds.

By any standard, it has stunning visual appeal thanks to the way in which it echoes classic automotive design principles with a glimpse of the future.

But arguably the most interesting aspects of the Vision Mercedes-Maybach

6 – which measures almost six metres long – are hidden from sight, most notably batteries under the floor which offer a range of more than 500 km, according to the manufacturer.

This is an emissions-free car that can be charged via a traditional cable, or wirelessly by an electromagnetic field. And just five minutes of charging can achieve an additional range of around 100 km – for those in a real hurry.



CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Retail pioneer Majid Al Futtaim showcased the design and sustainability performances of its latest malls, including City Centre Mirdif, City Centre Fujairah and City Centre Beirut, during World Green Building Week.

The Dubai-based company has received 'Green Star' status for a third successive year from global sustainability benchmarking scheme GRESB. And it has also now reached almost 75 per cent of its 2018 sustainability goals.

City Centre Mirdif last year became the world's largest shopping mall to be awarded Gold certification in Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance, by the US Green Building Council.

And earlier this year, City Centre Me'aisem was awarded LEED Platinum status for sustainable design features which include a water recycling system, solar panel lighting solution, reflective roofing membrane and the fact that more than 83 per cent of all construction elements came from recycled material.

Ibrahim Al-Zu'bi, head of sustainability at Majid Al Futtaim Properties, said: "We have extensively documented how both the design and operations of our shopping malls have enabled us to reduce electrical and water consumption, decrease emissions, and enhance our millions of visitors' lives through more natural light and other eco-friendly best practices."

INNOVATIVE PROJECT

The first phase of the largest healthcare construction project in North America is nearing completion.

The Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) merges three aging hospitals into a 22-storey complex spanning more than 278,000 square metres.

The Dhs5.4 billion project, by CannonDesign + NEUF architect(e)s, has been designed to achieve LEED Silver certification.

Sustainable features include the use of heat-recovery enthalpy wheels, which provide the highest level of energy recovery, a high-performance curtain-wall system with high recycled content, and the provision of accessible green roofs for increased insulation and to promote a healing environment within a dense urban site.

More than 50 per cent of wood materials have been FSC-certified; over 80 per cent of construction waste materials have been diverted from landfill sites; and some 360 secure bicycle parking places have been provided.

The CHUM complex will include 772 single-bed patient rooms, 39 operating theatres and more than 400 clinics and examination rooms, as well as 13 large-scale works of art which means it houses the highest concentration of public art in the city since the 1967 Expo.

