

BATTLE McCARTHY©

Consulting Engineers & Landscape Architects



PROJECT:

Jabal Omar Towers, Mecca

CLIENT:

Makkah Construction and Development Company

ARCHITECTS:

T. R. Hamzah and Yeang

BM SERVICES:

Sustainable Masterplanning, Building Engineering, Building Services and Structures

VALUE:

Classified



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DESIGN BRIEF

To design a very high density apartment and hotel complex to accommodate pilgrims to the holy site of al-Haram. Optimal accessibility and views to al-Haram must be provided as well as a pedestrian network for the rapid movement of large numbers of pilgrims.

DESIGN INITIATIVES/ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

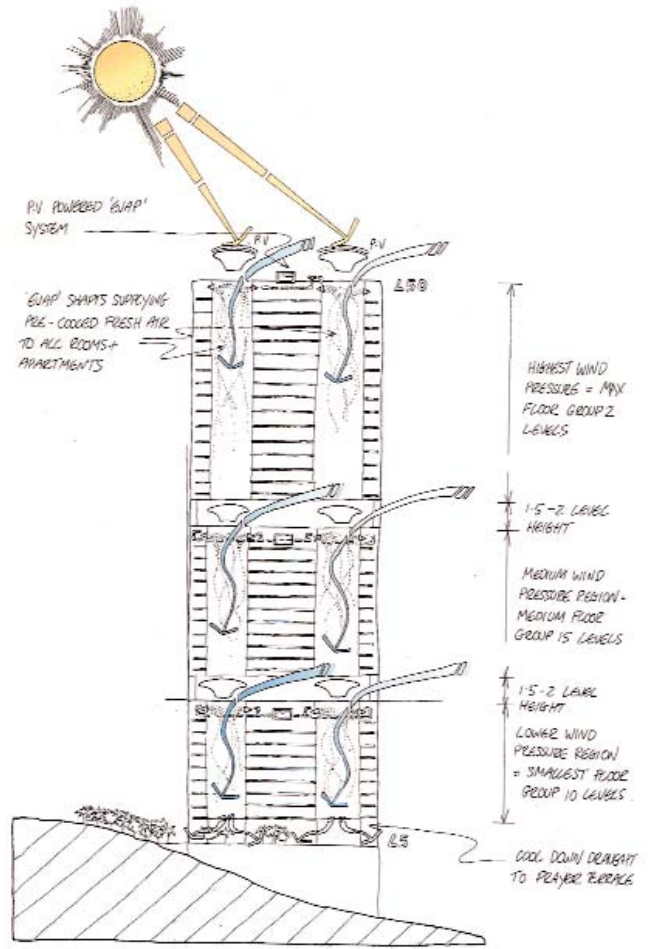
The site is divided so that views from apartments and hotel rooms look east towards al-Haram (the holy site in Mecca) whilst car parking and access is focused to the west. The arrangement of the towers also mirrors the existing mountain range around al-Haram.

There are seven 35 storey apartment towers, two 50 storey hotel towers and four smaller 15 storey hotel blocks. A four storey retail concourse is also provided. The tower plans are used to optimise facade area and views towards al-Haram. The site is arranged so that a central pedestrian concourse links all the towers to al-Haram, with a sophisticated array of elevators, escalators and travelators moving the pilgrims through the towers. Prayer zones are located every 5 storeys and a large open-air prayer terrace is located above the central pedestrian concourse.

As a passive low-energy air-conditioning design, "evaporative cooling shafts" are located within the towers to provide cool air to the circulation spaces and to supplement the air conditioning of the rooms and to the green gardens below.

Green spaces are important on the site and 94,000sqm of planted carpark and concourse roofs are connected via landscaped bridges to form continuous green routes through the site. The water supply for the landscaped areas is provided by recycled "grey" water.

Passive low energy cooling is provided by evaporative cooling shafts within some of the towers, these provide cool air to the circulation spaces and supplement the air conditioning of the rooms and green gardens below.



Evaporative cooling shaft



Building elevations

