

AL MADINA A'ZARQA WINS PRESTIGIOUS MIDDLE EAST ARCHITECTURE AWARD

Muscat, Oman, 15 October 2008: Al Madina A'Zarqa, the most significant tourism and real estate infrastructure project in the Sultanate of Oman, was awarded the 'Best Concept Design' prize at the annual Middle East Architecture Awards held recently at The Westin Hotel in Dubai. The project was also shortlisted in two other categories including the 'Best Developer' and 'Best Mixed Use Development'. The award ceremony, which was open to many prominent developments in the Middle East, focused on projects that illustrated unparalleled creativity in concept and brilliance in design.

Accepted by Saif Al-Hinai, Vice President of Development at Blue City Company 1 (BCC1), the company tasked to deliver Phase 1 of Al Madina A'Zarqa, the award strengthens the project's credentials as a leading player in innovative architecture and design, underlining it as one of the region's most dynamic and creatively designed developments.

"We are extremely proud to have received this award. It recognises the architects and engineers that continuously strive to build and beautify the city environment, utilising cutting edge of design and construction techniques. Al Madina A'Zarqa has combined conceptual ability with physical ambition in the Middle East's architecture industry to deliver truly outstanding results and has set the benchmark for which others must aim" said Mr Al-Hinai.

Al Madina A'Zarqa's success underlines Oman's ability to not only compete but also triumph within the highly competitive Arabian property arena. Entries were judged by an international panel of professionals whose collective knowledge of the property industry is second to none and unsurpassed by any other property awards according to the awards organisers.



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AL MADINA A'ZARQA

The city will become a world destination and will centre its economic development on trade, sports and wellness, medicine and healthcare, education, entertainment and tourism and hospitality. It will also generate large scale employment opportunities for Omani nationals, promote freehold property ownership for nationals and expatriates alike and serve as a hub for leisure activities in the Sultanate.

Commenting on the award Richard Russell, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of BCC1 said, “The award is continued affirmation for the creation of this iconic city and its innovative design. This also confirms the evolution of Oman in the global real estate arena as an attractive real estate investment proposition that is unique by virtue of being true to its authentic roots whilst aspiring to a world-class future.”

“In an industry where the public are becoming increasingly well informed and discerning about the property they purchase, the Middle East Architecture Award acknowledges Al Madina A’Zarqa’s quality, leadership and innovation,” concluded Russell.

Currently being developed on a 32 square kilometre plot of prime beach-front land, Al Madina A’Zarqa is a blueprint for Oman’s economic diversification and promises to shape city developments for the Sultanate in the future. The project has a timeless quality unique in the land of Arabia.

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About Al Madina A’Zarqa

Located on a natural peninsula 60 minutes from Muscat, Al Madina A’Zarqa is a 32 square kilometre (12.36 square mile) waterfront city being built along 16 kilometres (9.95 miles) of shoreline adjacent to the Gulf of Oman. Al Madina A’Zarqa is more than just a resort real estate development; the city is being designed and built to include all the elements needed for a thriving metropolitan community. When complete, the city will be home to 200,000 people who will live, learn, work, relax and play in surroundings that are harmonious with the existing Omani landscape, architecture and culture.



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Al Madina A'Zarqa will serve as a growth engine for the Omani economy and will radically expand the tourism facilities in Oman. The city will generate large scale employment opportunities for Omani nationals, promote freehold property ownership for nationals and expatriates alike and serve as a hub for leisure activities in the sultanate.

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