



Project Name: **Wind Tower**
 Type: Housing | 6,500 sqm
 Location: Salmiya, Kuwait
 Date: 2014-2017
 Client: Wafra Real Estate Co.
 Cost: Confidential
 Photography: [AGi architects](#)

Awards: - A'Design Awards 2012 - Silver A'Design Award "Architecture, Building and Structure Design Category - Residential Complex"
 - International Property Awards (IPA) 2011 – Highly Commended at Arabian Residential Property Awards "High Rise Architecture"

Project Description

Wafra Vertical Housing introduces a **new concept to urban living** that adapts to the evolving lifestyle of 21st Century contemporary Kuwait. Considering the increasing demand for land in the city, **the transformation of single family dwelling typologies becomes a must**, where tenants should be able to enjoy **privacy** as well as benefit from **vertical solution amenities and prime location**.

Understanding and reinterpreting local environmental techniques is one of the main targets of this design. The services core of the building is thus located on the southern wing, in order to minimize sun exposure and consequently reduce energy consumption – acting as a thermal barrier to the rest of the building. Hence, minimum openings are placed on the aforementioned façade, while on the other hand the building opens to the North, facing the sea and enjoying its privileged views. **Optimal opportunities for natural lighting and cross ventilation** also become an essential driving force for the design, which give the tower its character and determine its final orientation. Taking the idea of the traditional middle-eastern courtyard typology and developing it volumetrically, the initial concept flourishes in the form of the tower. The courtyard is no longer constrained to the core of the building; instead, it borrows light and ventilation from the facade, funnels it through the pool area and flows through all levels finding its way out through the opposite façade.

Granite stone is chosen for the **façade**, in order to give the tower an aspect of a **monolithic sculpture** that is carved by the wind, in contrast with the smooth surfaces of the interior courtyard that are rendered in white plaster.

Functionally and geometrically, the tower is raised on a plinth that comprises 2 levels, where public spaces – including swimming pool and gym area – are located. The apartments rise up organically and allow for light and ventilation to penetrate through. Full tower height is 13 levels, where 12 duplex apartments are piled in order to preserve privacy. An extra penthouse crowns the building, including rooftop gardens and terraces that are advantageously profited.

Team

Main Architects: Nasser B. Abulhasan
 Joaquín Pérez-Goicoechea

Project Leaders: Stefania Rendingelli
 Lulu Alawadhi

Project Team: Georg Thesing
 Juan Carlos Jimenez
 Cristina Ruiz
 Alfredo Carrato
 Ehsan Abdulrasoul Rahimi
 Ibrahim Abu Fayyad

Engineers: Arturo Macusi
 Joseph Thomas

AGi architects

The international design firm [AGi architects](#) was founded by two architects educated at Harvard University, **Joaquín Pérez-Goicoechea** and **Nasser B. Abulhasan**.

With a noticeable **international** character and a **multidisciplinary** focus, [AGi architects](#) offers a **professional service** emphasizing **quality, creativity** and **exclusive design**. AGi has a vision to create environments that create a lasting value for clients through distinctive and imaginative solutions. At present, the studio has offices in **Kuwait and Madrid**, with a team comprised of **more than 50 professionals**.

The studio's architecture is based on four founding pillars: **innovation, an inherent life component, ecological and social interventions** and **research**. AGi architects provide comprehensive services in architecture, urban planning and design, interior design, research, consultancy and complementary services.

[AGi architects](#) have been recognized with **more than 25 international awards** such as: **Boutique Middle East Architecture Firm of the Year 2015, 2014 & 2012, Residential Project of the Year 2015, 2013 & 2012, at MEAA; Selected Project at FAD International Awards 2016; Best Religious Building 2014 at WAF Awards; Nomination for the Mies van der Rohe Award 2015.**

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