



**Press Notice: Pattern Architects, London**

**Project: Hazza Bin Zayed (HBZ) Stadium, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

The newly completed HBZ Stadium is the home of Al Ain Football Club, one of the leading clubs in the UAE Pro League. Designed by Pattern Architects, the 25 000 seat FIFA class football stadium introduces a new approach to sports architecture in the Gulf region by embedding Al Ain's identity into the very fabric of the design. Part of this identity is defined by the local desert climate and landscape.

Al Ain is the second largest city in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and has been inhabited for thousands of years. It is well-known for its date palm plantations. Pattern's design is inspired by the rotating fractal geometry of the date palm fronds. The architects used the latest parametric technology to create an outer facade that reflects this.



This “Palm Bole” facade also acts as a passive cooling device; shading the building during the heat of the day whilst allowing fresh air to flow. Within the bowl this creates comfortable spectator conditions and aids grass growth for the pitch.

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The roof for the HBZ Stadium is the first example in the region that is specifically designed for solar protection. Most stadia in the Gulf are based on the European model of a drip-line roof that has been developed for wet climates and is therefore redundant in arid parts of the world.

Pattern Architects took inspiration from the Arabic head-dress and created a sinuous and gravity-bending parasol roof that shades the pitch and the spectators during a match, whilst allowing enough sunlight on the natural grass pitch during the day to allow it to flourish. The apparent levitating form of the roof allows all spectators an unobstructed view of the action and intensifies the atmosphere within the bowl during the match.



A key area of investigation was audience segmentation. The unique slope-cut lower tier addresses this at HBZ and results in more high value seats.

As a typology, HBZ Stadium is very much a sports venue in a community. Pedestrian access is encouraged and there is no sea of car parking around the stadium. The architecture also supports non-match day opportunities and a building that is a vibrant destination year-round.

“HBZ Stadium is our first built project. It embodies our design principles of natural order, mathematics and visual harmony. We are very, very proud of it and what we have achieved as a practice going into our fourth year”, Architect Dipesh Patel, Founder of Pattern.

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## HBZ Key Design Credits:

The original client was The Crown Prince Court with the following design team:

Lead Design & Architecture: Pattern Design  
Architect of Record: Mark Habre & Associate  
Lead Consultant & Masterplanner: Broadway Malyan  
Structural Engineer: Thornton Tomasetti  
Building Services: Hoare Lee

Post-contract the design team changed and was employed by BAM (Main Contractor);

Lead Design & Architecture: Pattern Design  
Structural Engineer Roof: Schlaich Bergermann & Ptn  
Structural Engineer Superstructure: WSP  
Building Services: Hoare Lee

## Pattern Design Team Credits:

Past and present staff who have all contributed to HBZ Stadium (pre- and post-construction)

Alan Mclean, Alice Aldous, Andrea Cunsolo, Andy Hau, Carol Taffinder, Celia Aldridge, Clare Kennedy, David Ola, Dipesh Patel, Eamonn Kelly, Ece Cakir, Edoardo Milli, Eldred Godson, Frank Anatole, Gabrielle Tester, Janet Ashong Lamptey, Jon-Scott Kohli, Laura Baker, Lindsay Johnston, Loreana Padron, Matthew Aidan, Michael Lowe, Myron Sullivan, Nick Tyrer, Patrick Tee, Prasanna Kumar, Ruth Hiscock, Tony Russell, and Vicky Chang

## About Pattern:

Pattern is a London-based architectural practice focussed on innovative rule-based parametric design. Mathematics and beauty are both key areas of research for Pattern.

The practice is interested in projects that enhance user experience by addressing well-being and visual harmony. Pattern is committed to creating designs that achieve a balance between technology and the natural world.

The practice's design methodology is based on rigorous analysis. This informs Pattern's contextual approach addressing local culture, climate and customs.

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