

محمد الاعسم Mohamed Al Assam

المؤسس، رئيس مجلس الإدارة
Executive Chairman, Founder
ديوان مهندسون + استشاريون
Dewan Architects + Engineers

MOHAMED AL ASSAM

Born in Baghdad (b. 13 Mar. 1948) to a middle class family, with roots in the old city of Najaf. As the son of both ancient cities of Baghdad and Najaf, important factors that played a major role in the thinking and performance of Al Assam as an individual, an architect, and at a later stage, as urban planner.

Mohamed completed his high school with an outstanding score, allowing him to apply and get into the Architecture School of Baghdad University, established by the "Godfather" of Iraqi architects Dr. Mohamed Makkiya (1914 - 2015), which witnessed the arrival of the first generation of Iraqi architects who studied in prominent schools abroad and returned with dominating architectural views of that time.

An introductory lecture by Dr. Makkiya in the "Critique Auditorium" about the leading role of the Architect as The Master of "Techts/Craftsmen", and how the profession of architecture has a major responsibility in the development of a civil society, left a great impact on Al Assam, and filled him with pride and responsibility in being actively involved in a profession that is locally rooted, to design functional buildings with quality craftsmanship and strong aesthetics, and that allow its inhabitants to use these buildings with a great sense of happiness given the intelligent spatial relations and use of "honest" building materials.

Given the above, Mohamed was not a fan of any particular style or architectural theory, but rather learnt architecture from the passion of doing, and designing fit-for-use and performance architecture. Mohamed strongly believed that the architect should be like a "barometer" of the society he lives in, responding to the changing needs of its inhabitants with a strong sense of social responsibility.

Upon completion of the 5 years BSc. program in Architecture, Al Assam was fortunate in securing short employments along IraqimasterarchitectslikeDr.Makkiya,inhisbeautifulatelierin aBaghdadi traditionalhouse, overlooking the Tigris. Mohamed remembers his contribution to the State Mosque project in Kuwait. Another short employment was with Rifaat Chadirji (b. 1926), and his vanguard team led by Ma'ath Al Alousi (b. 1938), where Al Assam enjoyed the impressive presentation techniques of the office and worked on developing drawings for a Stadium in Bahrain.

In the public sector, Al Assam worked for the Iraqi Ministry of Public Works, during his engagement with Mehdi Al Hasani office (b.1930...). At that stint, Al Assam was entrusted with his first encompassing project for the design and management of the Headquarters of the Iraqi Navy Force in Basra.

Mohamed's entrepreneurial bug, thrusting Mohamed to establish his own practice in 1974 with Zuhair Al Ansari (b. 1946...), in a search for additional independency and liberty of expression. Key projects from that period, like the collaboration with the office of another Iraqi pioneer Architect Hisham Munir (b. 1930) for the design of Assembly Halls and Kindergartens in the Samawa Governorate (now Muthana - Iraq).

The architect's professional consultancy works in Iraq's 1970s were tied to a gloomy centralized and repressive political system, which had negatively affected all professions and their ability for growth and development. As an outcome of that limiting atmosphere, and in search for security, professional dignity and freedom, Mohamed elected to immigrate from his home country and to explore new opportunities in the emerging new cities of the Gulf Region.

Al Assam moved to the U.A.E in 1976. In the UAE, only the larger cities of Dubai and Abu Dhabi had the shape of real cities at that time. In this sensitive environment, Mohamed's firm Dewan Architects + Engineers emerged and established itself (established in Abu Dhabi 1984) as a leading contributor to the cityscapes of the UAE through its practices in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and later in Baghdad, Barcelona, Manila, Sahrjah, and Riyadh.

Over the past 35 years, DEWAN has focused on developing its name and brand as a "design-led" architectural firm. Different clients will have varying requirements and visions for their respective developments. With this in mind, Dewan Architects + Engineers has always been especially sensitive to these client directions without compromising the form and function of its designs.

Dewan has maintained its solid reputation as "The Quality Architects" and has maintained an impressive client portfolio of the largest developers and clients in the region. The office continues to grow its portfolio across the region and with forays into Africa, CIS countries, and SE Asia, firmly establishing itself as an international practice.

As a homage to his "Birth Country", Al Assam seized the first opportunity to return to Iraq after the war of 2003 and the fall of the previous regime, and contributed significantly to most of the new developments and reconstruction efforts across Iraq including large scale projects like The 1st prize international award winning, Urban Renewal of the Old City of Kadhimiya in Baghdad, and similar Urban Renewal and Rejuvenation projects for the old city centres of Najaf, Karbala as well as master planning and urban planning work for Basra and Dewaniya.

In addition to Educational developments for Universities of Samarra, Karbala, Kufa and many other public buildings like the Basra Governorate, Najaf City Council, Court buildings, and many other hospitality and sports developments. A significant portfolio of projects, which was at a peak time managed by 4 local offices around the country with a large team of architects, engineers, and administrators.

The participation in these projects was metaphorically like a "Reconstruction" of Al Assam's Architectural Memory, to which he dedicated the best time and resources of both himself and his firm, and collaborated with some of the best international experts in the profession to contribute to this process.

Continuing this legacy, Al Assam being a co-founder, is acting now as a Board Member for Makkiya Association (an NGO registered in Baghdad), and a frequent Jury for the International Tamayouz Awards of Architecture. In addition, Mohamed Al Assam & Dewan Architects + Engineers have launched this year 2018 the 1st round of The Annual Dewan Competition Awards for young architects, which will strive to encourage future developments in Iraq, with international exposure and solutions, addressing social needs and challenges, empowering young generations, and promoting a better built environment.



Mohamed Al Assam

Executive Chairman/Founder

m.alassam@dewan-architects.com

BACKGROUND

With an entrepreneurial spirit early on in his professional life, Mohamed Al Assam first established his private practice more than 4 decades ago in the United Arab Emirates. Today Dewan Architects + Engineers is one of the most prominent A&E firms with over 500 employees working from 9 offices across 6 countries and with a clear vision for growth and preservation of the ethos and ethics of its founder to develop a design firm that respects the profession and has a clear mandate for corporate social responsibility towards its employees and the community at large.

The firm is and has been involved in iconic projects across the UAE, Saudi, Iraq, Egypt, Vietnam, China, and other markets, designing sustainable, aesthetically and functionally balanced performance-based buildings including hotels, mixed-use developments, residential communities, educational institutes, high-rise towers, retail and leisure developments, and master-planning of entire communities.

As current serving Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mohamed has been instrumental in setting the strategic direction of the firm with a clear plan for financial performance, growth and expansion in new markets and sectors, and in setting the firm's design strategy in terms of design director and ethos. Dewan continues to receive industry accolades with top honours from leading publications like Building Design Magazine and Engineers News Record, both ranking Dewan as one of the top firms regionally and globally.

In 2021, the firm has been ranked as Top 40 globally and Top 5 in the Middle East. Mohamed is an active speaker and participates in various regional and global conferences where he talks about the industry in general, participates as jury in various international awards.

In addition to lecturing at universities about architecture and geo-political influences that affect our industry in this part of the world. Under the slogan "Empowering young architects around the world while responding to design challenges in Iraq", Mohamed has established the Dewan Award, as part of the Tamayouz Excellence Award program of championing and celebrating the best of architecture in Iraq and around the world.

The Dewan Award is a international award focuses on proposing designs responding to local challenges in Iraq. This prize aims to introduce Iraq and its challenges to the world and invite architects to submit their ideas and to establish an uncompromising open source of ideas tackling social issues in Iraq through design and present it to responsible authorities.

In addition to the commercial performance of the firm, Mohamed has and continues to have a passion for developing young talent across the Arab world, many of whom remain with the firm 20+ years from joining, while others remain positive ambassadors of the firm as they progress with their successful careers at other firms and businesses.

Mohamed has also coined "Dewanees" as a term for endearment for those that are employed by the firm and contribute to the success of the firm with total commitment and dedication.

As a culmination of Mohamed's contribution to the industry, at the end of 2021 Mohammed Al Assam was had the privilege of conferring the degree of Doctor of Arts, honoris causa, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to architecture in the middle east by the prestigious Coventry University in the United Kingdom.

EDUCATION

Honorary Doctor of Arts, Coventry University, UK.
Bachelor Degree on Architecture, University of Baghdad, College of Engineering, Baghdad, Iraq.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2014 - Present	Executive Chairman/Founder Dewan Architects + Engineers Iraq, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Manila
1984 - 2014	Founder/Owner & Managing Director Dewan Architects + Engineers Iraq, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Manila
1980 - 1984	Projects Manager Rawaisat Contracting Company Kuwait City, Kuwait
1976 - 1980	Projects Manager Wigmore Assam & Partners Consultants Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

GCC/Middle East
North Africa

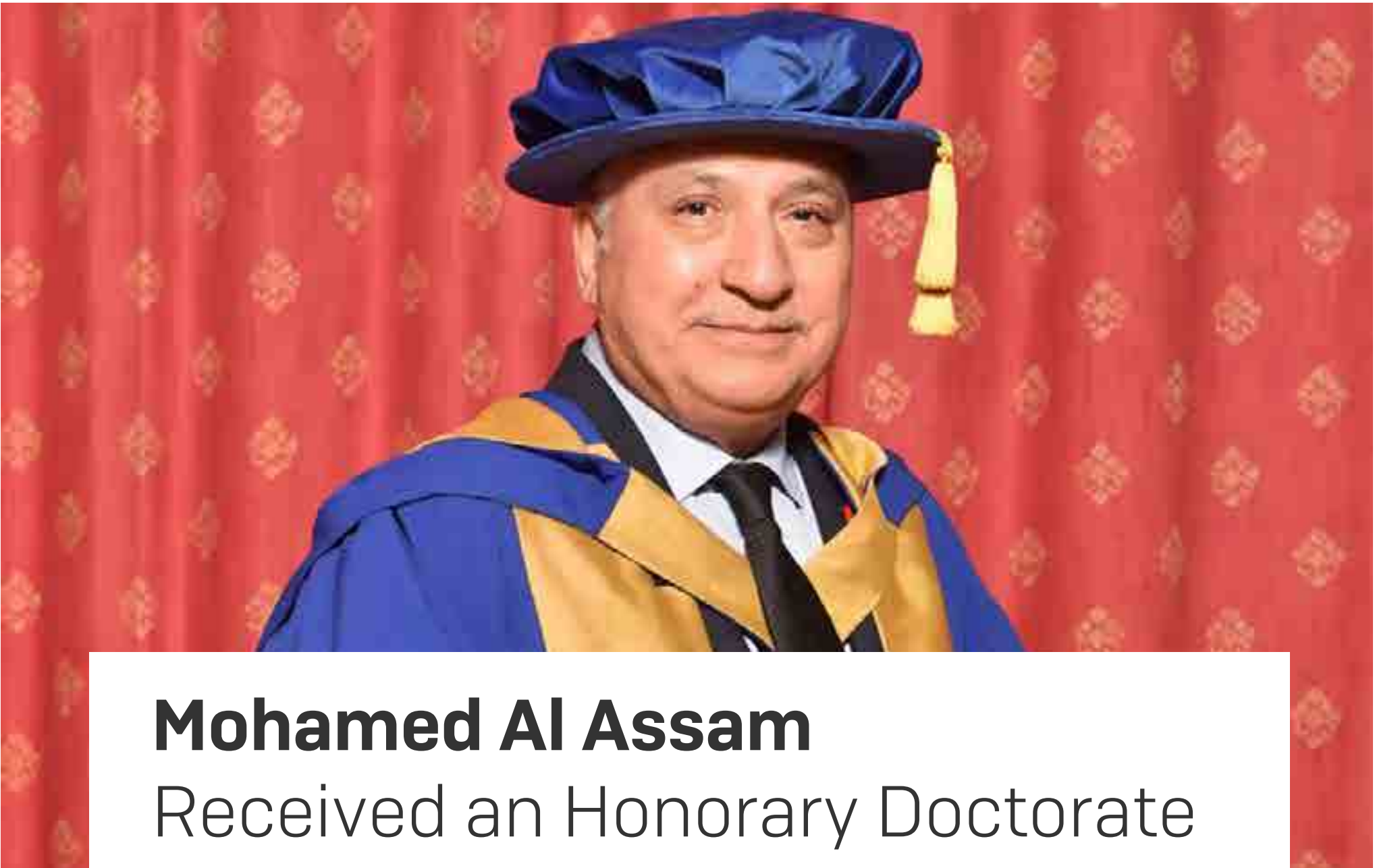
CONTACT

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Website	www.dewan-architects.com www.dewan.ae



Press

Awards & Interviews



Mohamed Al Assam
Received an Honorary Doctorate
Honorary Doctor of Arts
2021, Coventry University, UK



Mohamed Al Assam
MEA Talks Interview
Middle East Architect Magazine
August 2018



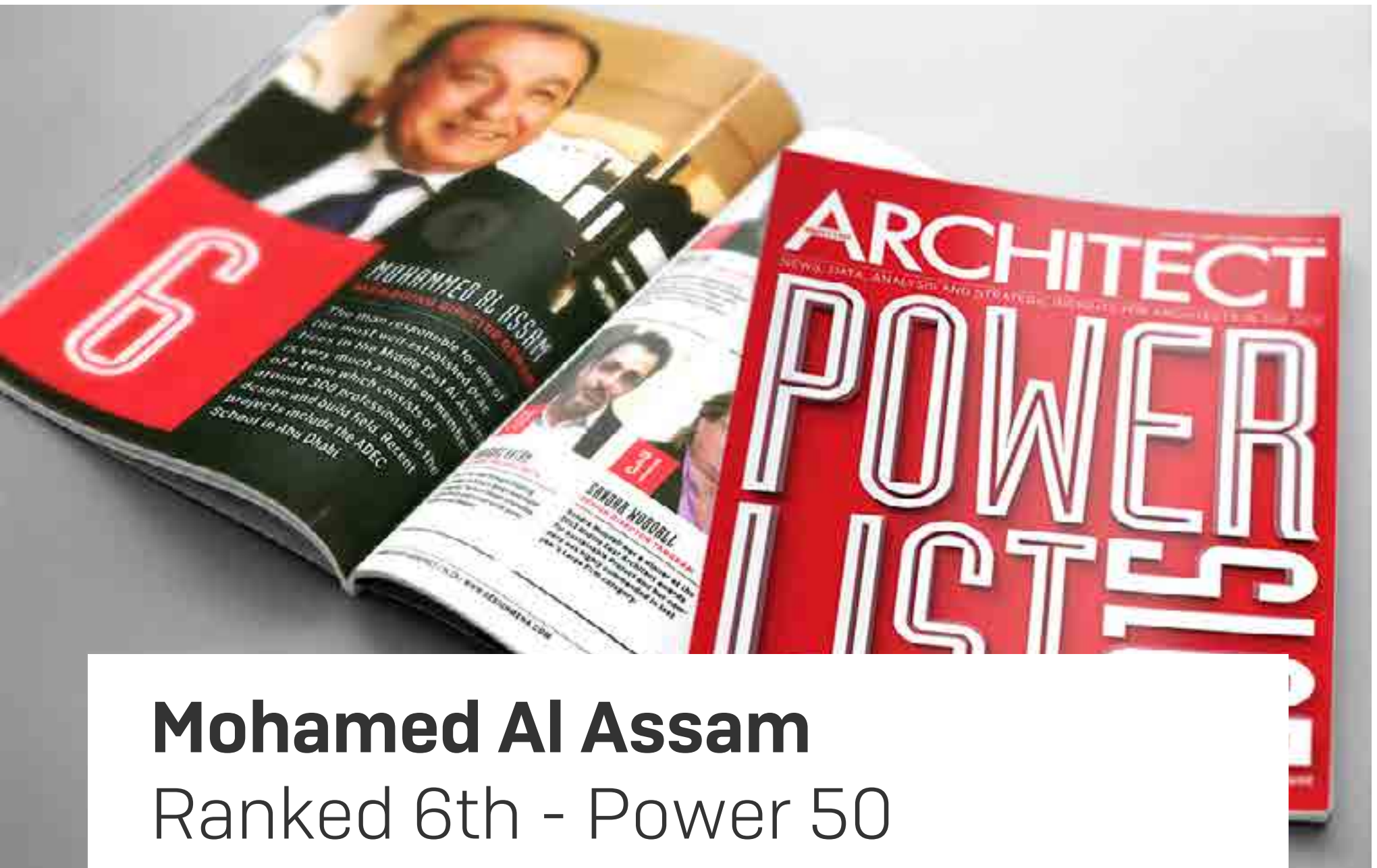
Mohamed Al Assam
Judging Panel Interview
Tamayouz Excellence Award
October 2018



Mohamed Al Assam
Ranked 10th - Power 50
MEA Magazine Power 50 List
January 2019



Mohamed Al Assam
Ranked 10th - Power 50
MEA Magazine Power 50 List
January 2017



Mohamed Al Assam
Ranked 6th - Power 50
MEA Magazine Power 50 List
January 2015

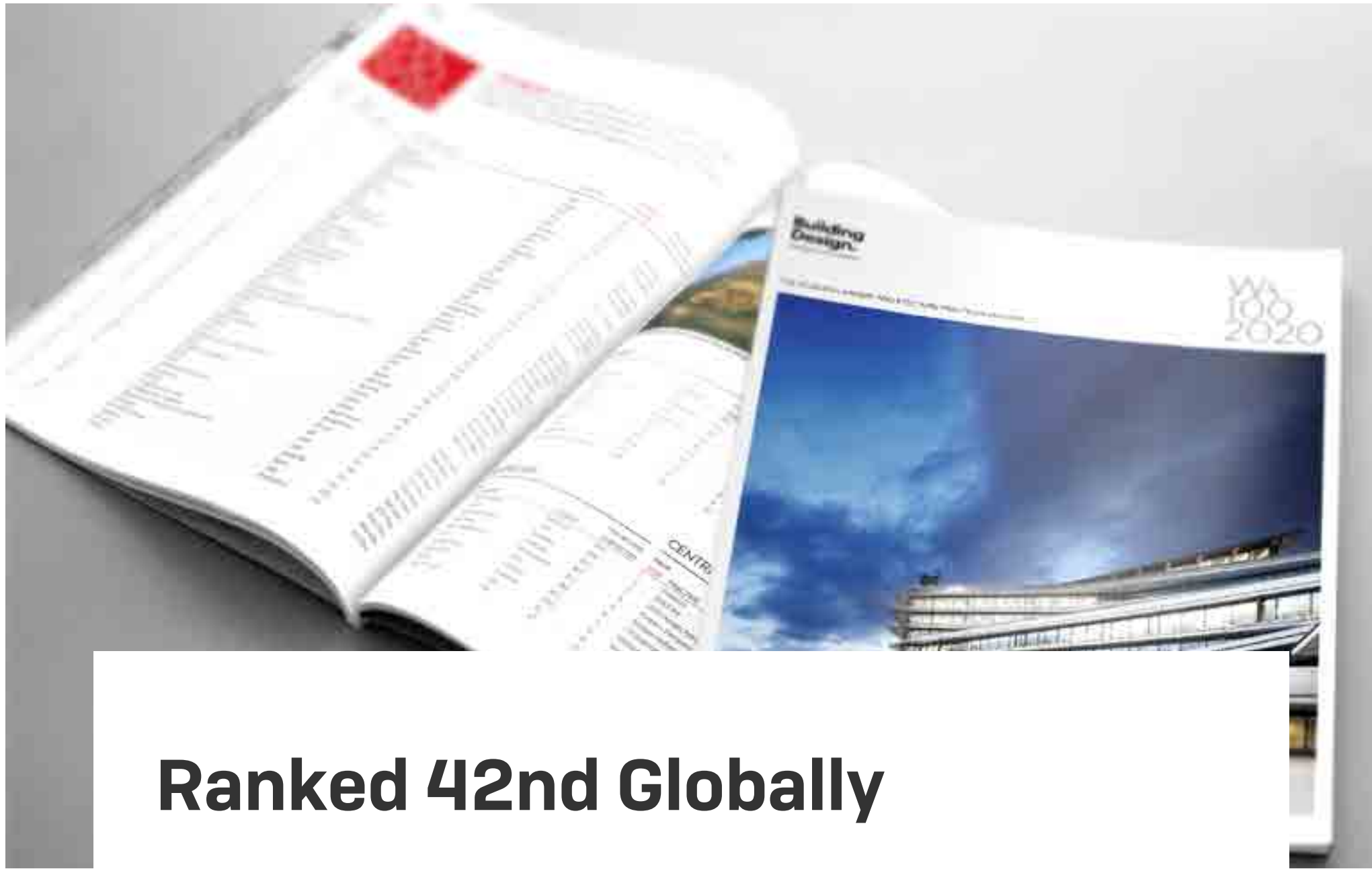
Rankings

BD WA Top 100
Middle East Architect
Engineering News Record



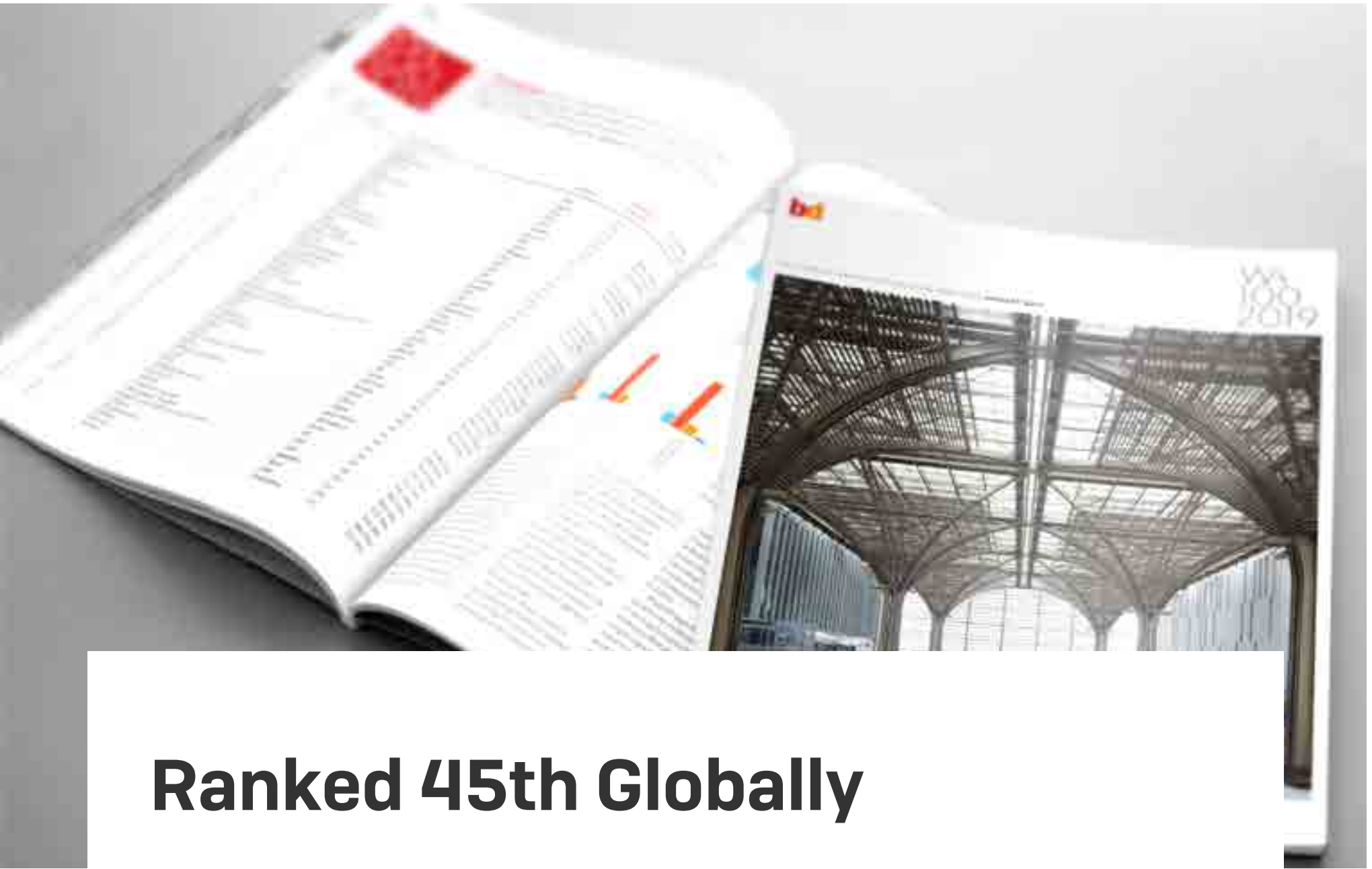
Ranked 40th Globally

World Architecture Top 100
BD Magazine 2021 Edition



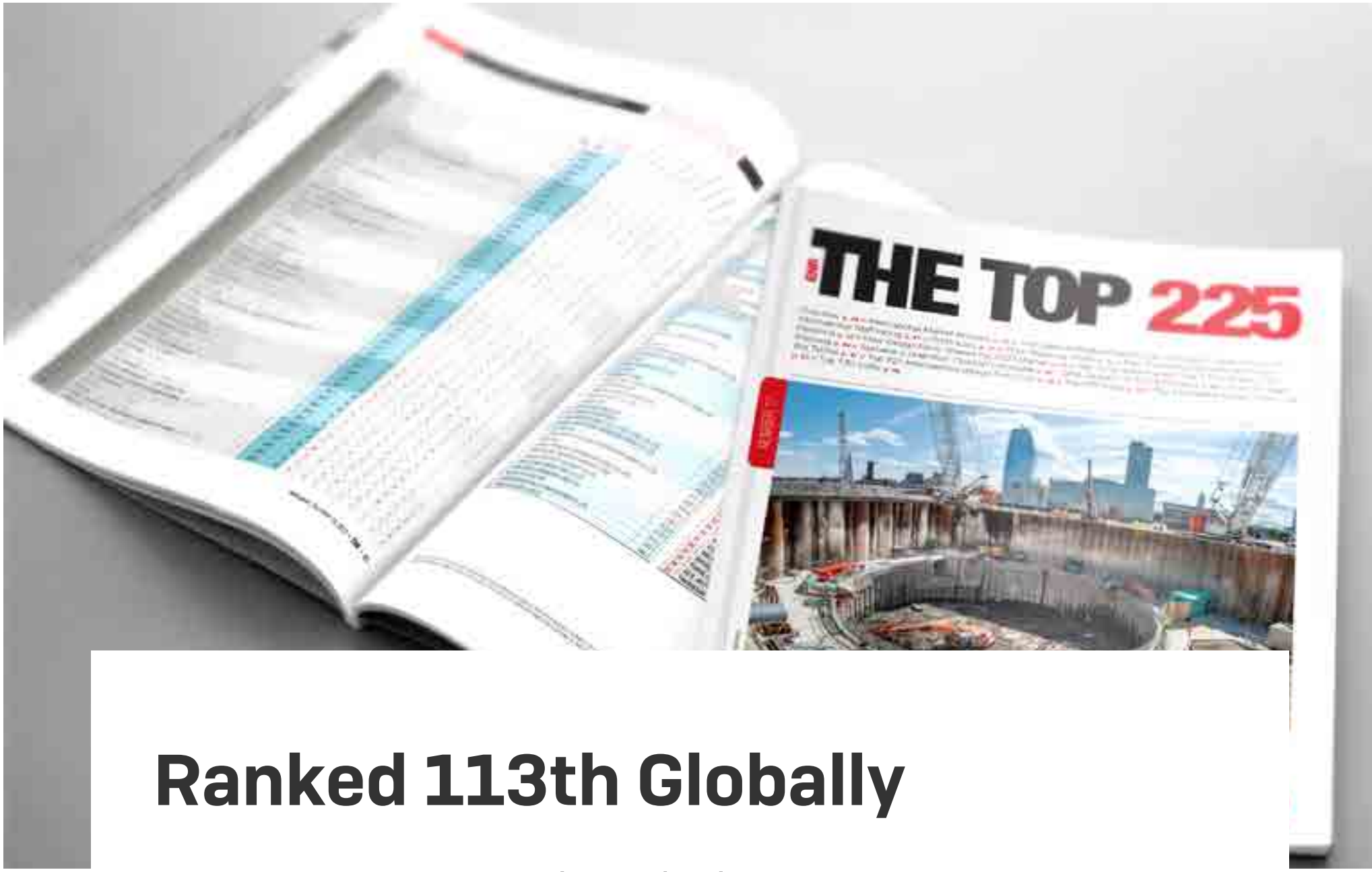
Ranked 42nd Globally

World Architecture Top 100
BD Magazine 2020 Edition



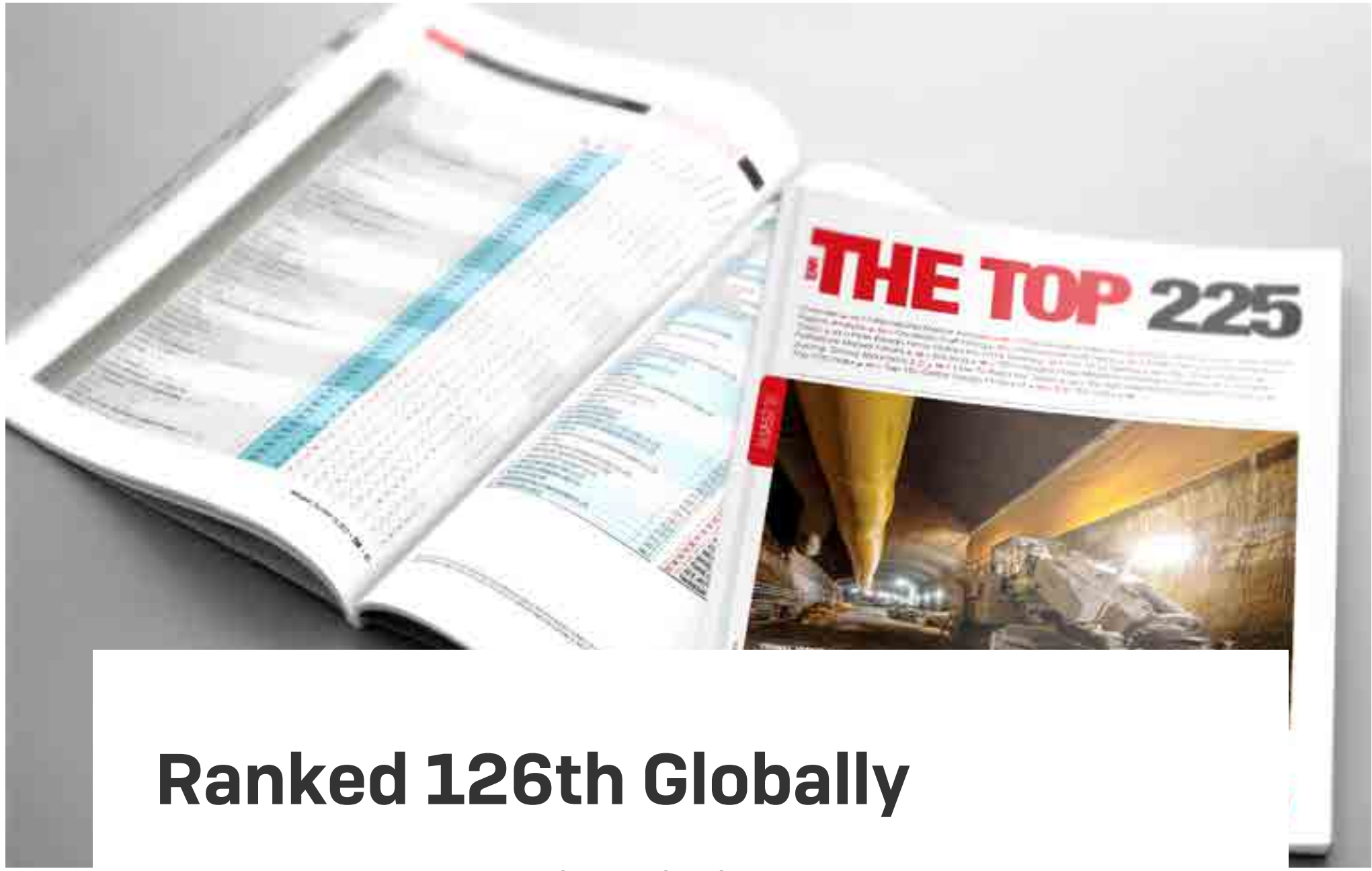
Ranked 45th Globally

World Architecture Top 100
BD Magazine 2019 Edition



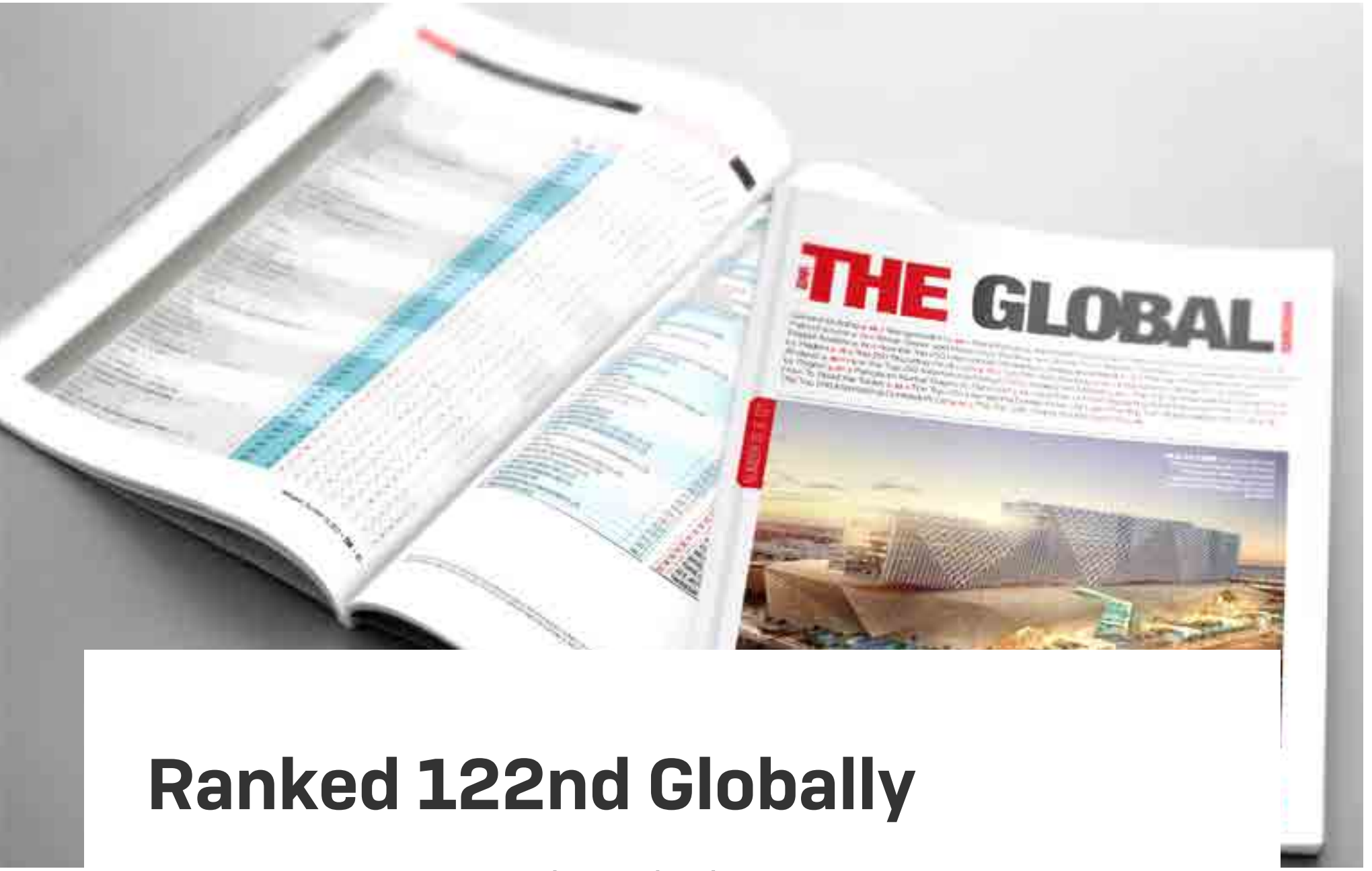
Ranked 113th Globally

Top 225 International Firm
ENR Magazine 2021 Edition



Ranked 126th Globally

Top 225 International Firm
ENR Magazine 2020 Edition

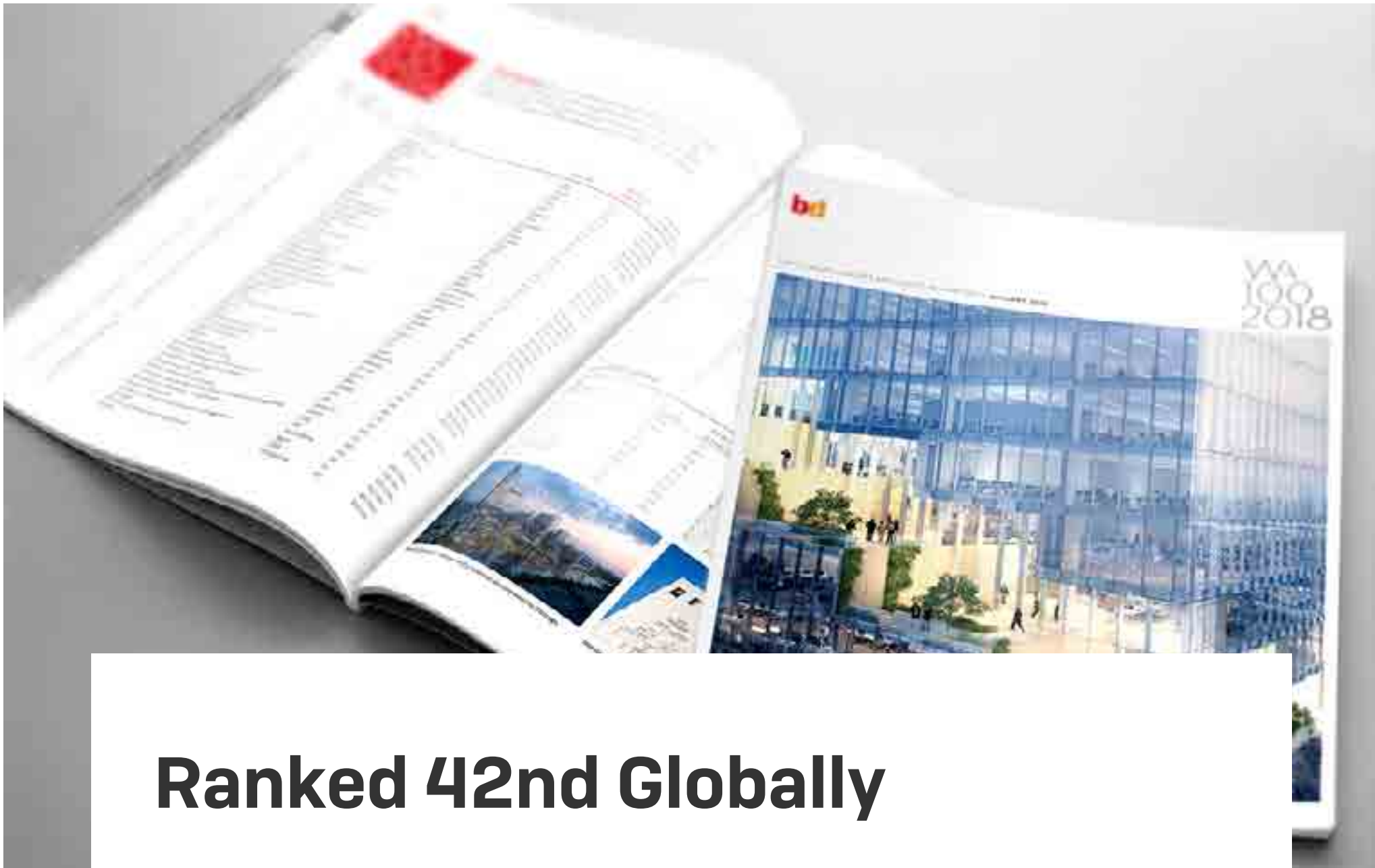


Ranked 122nd Globally

Top 225 International Firm
ENR Magazine 2019 Edition

Rankings

BD WA Top 100
Middle East Architect
Engineering News Record



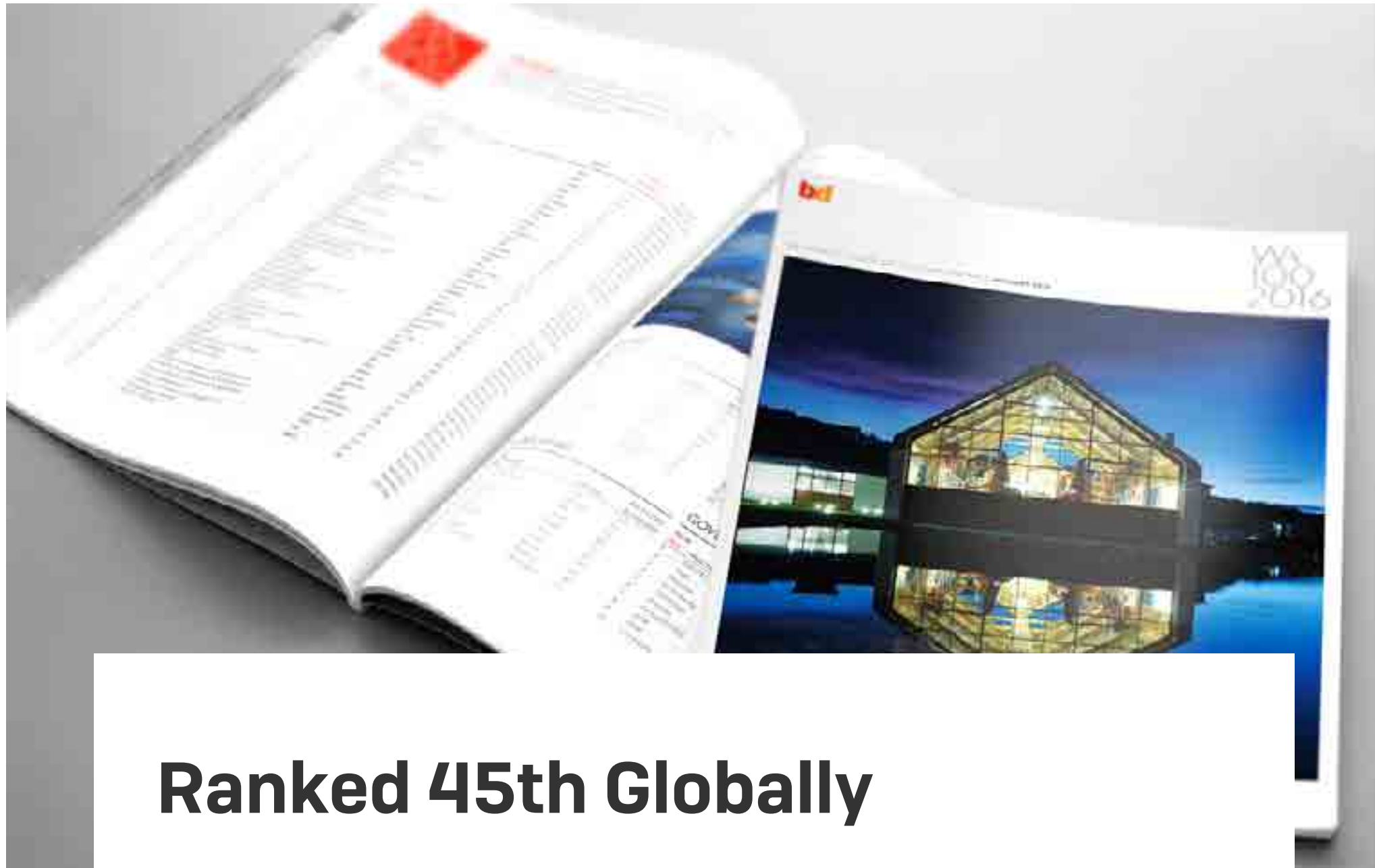
Ranked 42nd Globally

World Architecture Top 100
BD Magazine 2018 Edition



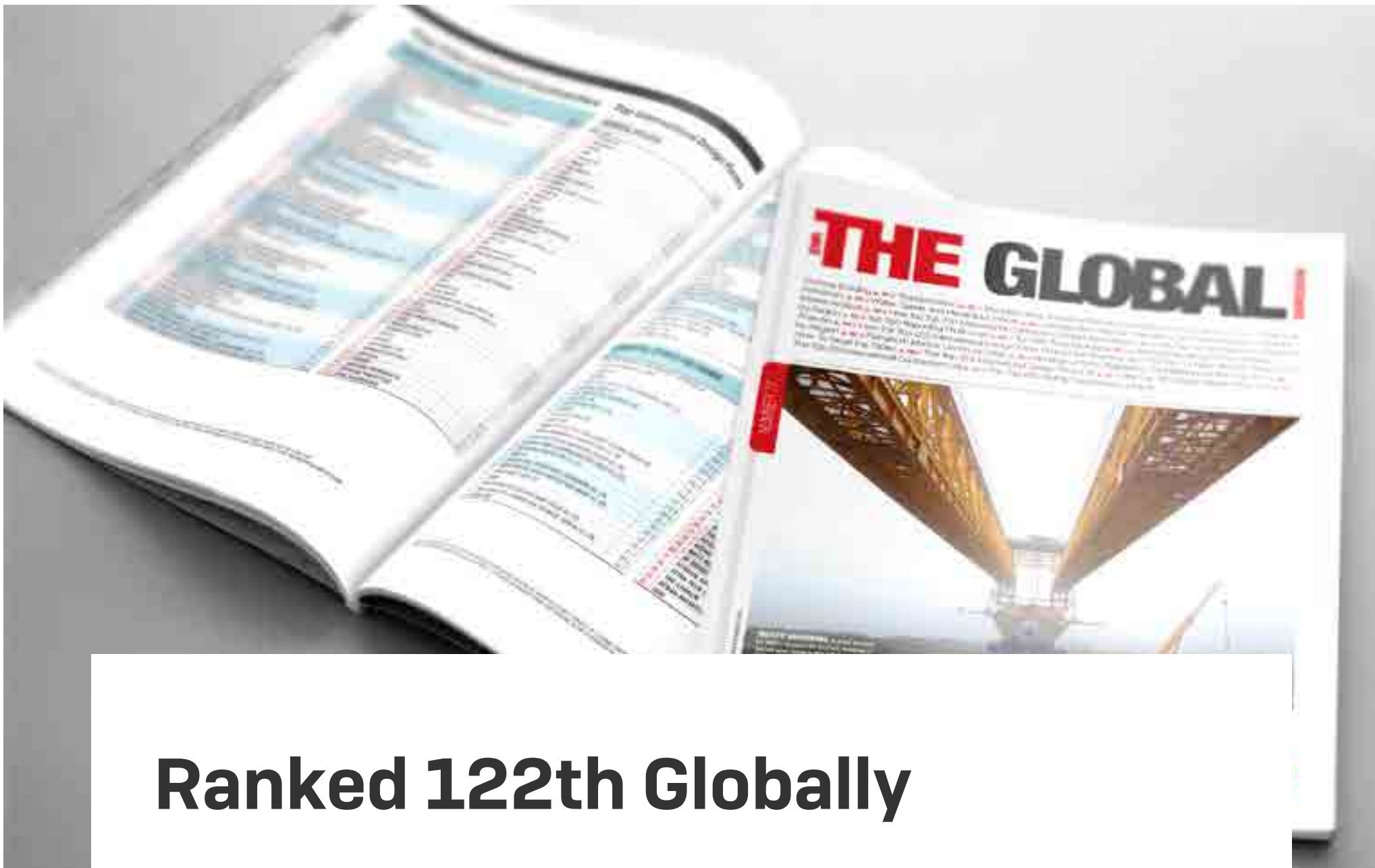
Ranked 42nd Globally

World Architecture Top 100
BD Magazine 2017 Edition



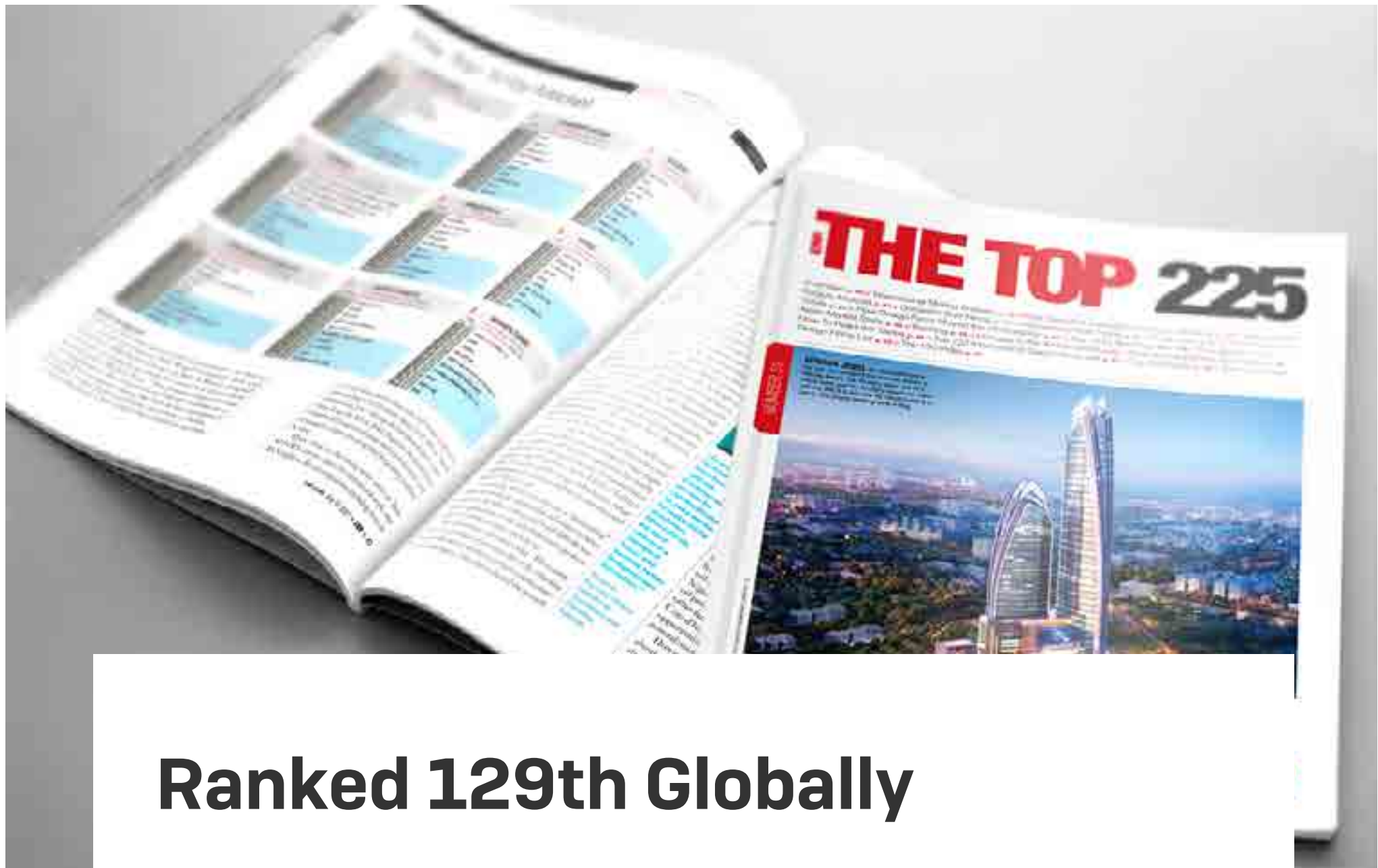
Ranked 45th Globally

World Architecture Top 100
BD Magazine 2016 Edition



Ranked 122th Globally

Top 225 International Firm
ENR Magazine 2018 Edition



Ranked 129th Globally

Top 225 International Firm
ENR Magazine 2017 Edition



Ranked 136th Globally

Top 225 International Firm
ENR Magazine 2016 Edition

Dewan Award

Tamayouz Excellence Award



Dewan Award for Architecture

Dewan Award is the newest award to be established as part of the Tamayouz Excellence Award program of championing and celebrating the best of architecture in Iraq and around the world.

The Award is named after Dewan Architects + Engineers, One of the leading architecture firms in the world and one of the most established firms in the Middle East.

The Dewan Award is a international award focuses on proposing designs responding to local challenges in Iraq.

This prize aims to introduce Iraq and its challenges to the world and invite them to submit their ideas and to establish an uncompromising open source of ideas tackling social issues in Iraq through design and present it to responsible authorities.

This award was established through a fund allocated by Dewan Architects and Engineers and Mr. Mohammed Al Assam, the founder and managing partner at Dewan, after being involved for several years with Tamayouz Excellence Award.

Aim

The aim of the Dewan Award is to empower young architects around the world providing them with crucial guidance to excel in the industry and knowledge in real project scenarios and experience at Dewan Architects and Engineers.

Eligibility

Architects, students, engineers, and designers are invited to participate in this award, participants can participate as individuals or teams [4 Team members Maximum]. We encourage the participation of multidisciplinary teams.

Competition Structure

This is a single stage Competition with the aim of identifying the most appropriate proposal, which best satisfies the general and specific objectives of the contest.

Competitions



2021
A GIRLS SANCTUARY COMPETITION
An Annual International Ideas Competition



2020
ALMEDINA YOUTH HOUSE COMPETITION
An Annual International Ideas Competition



2019
AL UMMA PARK COMPETITION
An Annual International Ideas Competition



2018
SCHOOL IN THE MARSHES COMPETITION
An Annual International Ideas Competition

UNGC

United Nations Global Compact



Dewan Joins United Nations Global Compact

With over 8,000 corporate participants and other stakeholders from over 135 countries, Global Compact is a strategic policy initiative for businesses that are committed to aligning their operations and strategies with 10 universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labor, the environment and anti-corruption.

It is the largest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative in the world and offers a practical framework for the development, implementation, and disclosure of sustainability policies and practices.

On becoming a signatory, Mohamed Al-Assam, founder, chairman and managing director of Dewan, said: “By signing the Global Compact, Dewan recognizes and endorses the business value of operating in an ethical, environmental, and socially responsible manner and, as a signatory, we will continue to enhance our contribution towards building a sustainable society.”

He added: “Our support for the UN Global Compact is a formal expression of our commitment to conduct our business with the utmost respect for universal principles around human rights, workplace standards, responsible environmental practices, and anti-corruption.”

The company has also participated in its first engagement since joining the UNGC by attending the general meeting of the Iraq UNGC Network, which took place in Baghdad, Iraq on Dec. 17.

During the meeting, which was attended by Mohamed Al-Assam, a number of crucial issues were discussed, including the contribution of the Iraq Network to “Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum“, a back-to-back business event of the global UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

Dewan Architects & Engineers is a regional architectural and engineering design firm with offices in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Qatar, and the Philippines, and with over 26 years of industry successes across GCC countries, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Milestone

1976 - 1999



1976

Mohamed Al Assam

Launched his own practice, Establishing the first office in Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates in a small porta cabin as shown in the image.



1984

Dewan First Office

As demand grew in the UAE the first fully fledged design studio was launched in Abu Dhabi securing projects to grow the capitals skyline.



1988

Baniyas Tower

The Baniyas Tower was Dewans first project to be completed and remains to be an iconic building in Abu Dhabi.



1999

Dewan Dubai

As Demand grew in the country, Mohammed Al Assam launched his second studio in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Milestone

2003 - 2009



2003

Dewan Baghdad

As an Iraqi Mohammed dream was to launch is practice in Iraq and help build the country, In 2003 his dream became and reality and Dewan Baghdad was launched. Working with the government and private investors, Dewan secured some prestigious projects along the way.

2007

Dewan+Ithmar Partnership

In order to expand in the region and Globally Mohammed brought in Ithmaar Capital, a regional private equity firm, as a strategic investor to partner with Dewan to successfully penetrate new markets.

2008

Dewan Manila

The Practice“s Fourth Studio, Established.

2009

Dewan Riyadh

The Practice“s Fifth Studio, Established.

Milestone

2009 - 2014



2009

Dewan 25th Anniversary
Dewan Celebrates Its 25th Silver Jubilee Anniversary.

2011

Dewan Basra
The Practice“s Sixth Studio, Established.

2013

Dewan Joins UNGC
UN Global Compact The Largest Voluntary Corporate Responsibility Initiative In The World.

2014

Dewan 30th Anniversary
Dewan Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary.



Milestone

2014 - 2018



2014

Dewan Wins Mega Projects

With Emaar One Of The World“s Most Valuable Real Estate Development Companies.

2014

Dewan New CEO

Ammar Al Assam Appointed As Chief Executive Officer Of Dewan.

2017

Dewan Wins National & GCC Award

For Education Project Of The Year At The Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) Quality for Project Awards 2017.

2018

Dewan Wins National Award

For Retail Project Of The Year At The Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) Quality for Project Awards 2018.



Milestone

2018 - 2019



2018

Dewan Has Moved To D3
New Collaborative Workspace
In Dubai Design District (D3).

2018

Dewan Award For Architecture
School in the Iraqi Marshes Competition
By Tamayouz Excellence Award 2018.

2019

Dewan Award For Architecture
Al Umma Park Competition
By Tamayouz Excellence Award 2019.



Milestone

Milestone

2020 - 2021



2020

Dewan Award For Architecture
Al Medina Youth House Competition
By Tamayouz Excellence Award 2020.

2021

Dewan Award For Architecture
Girls Sanctuary Competition
By Tamayouz Excellence Award 2021.

2021

Dewan KSA Expansion
Dewan Launched New
Office in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

2021

Dewan Misr
Dewan Launched New
Office in Cairo, Egypt.



Milestone



Portfolio

Mamsha Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Size
307,398 sqm
Client
Tourism Development & Investment Company



Portfolio

The Fountain Views, Dubai UAE

Size
640,000 sqm
Client
Emaar



Portfolio

52|42 Twin Towers, Dubai, UAE

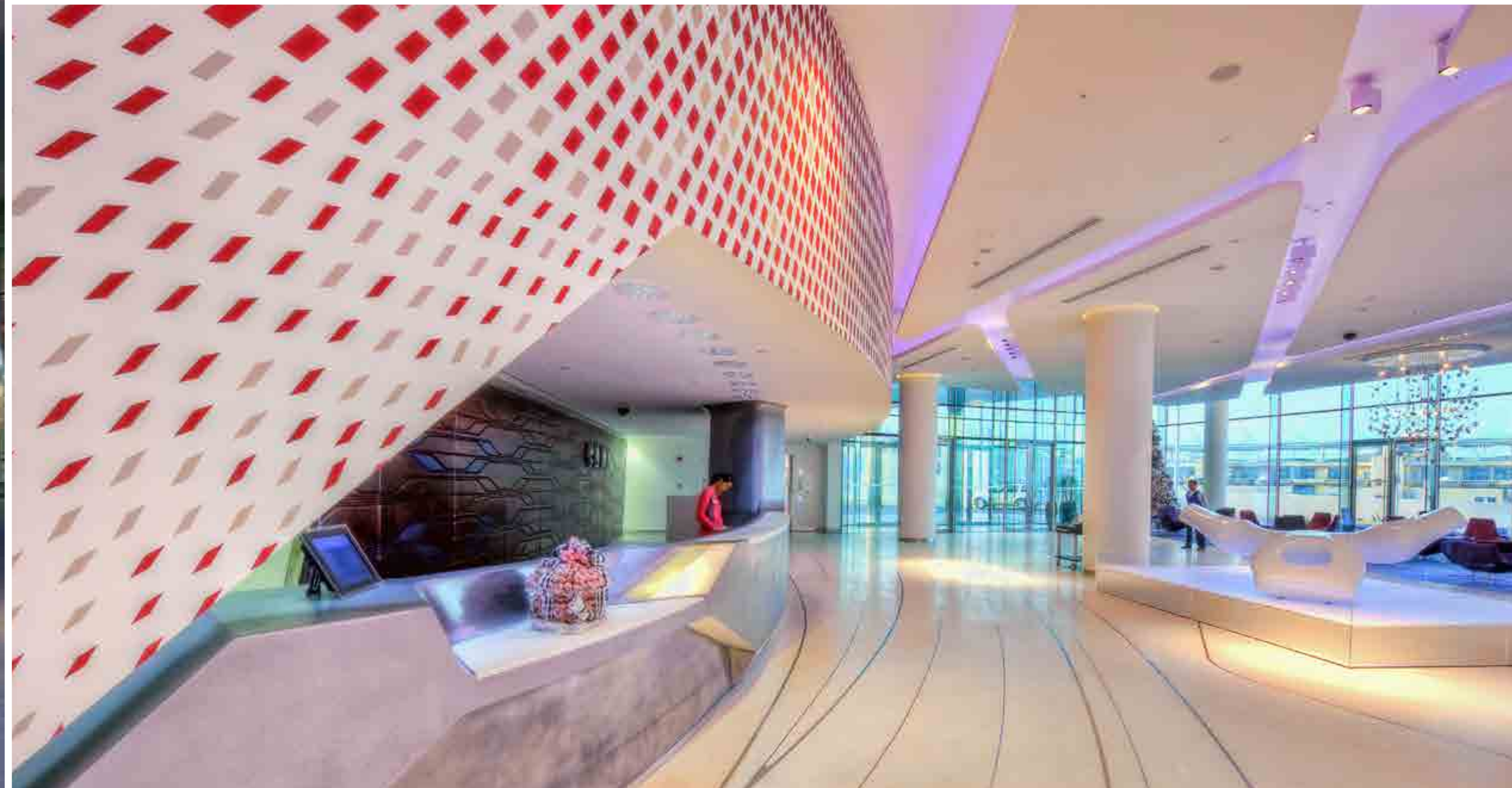
Size
12,000 sqm
Client
Emaar



Portfolio

Lapita Hotel, Dubai, UAE

Size
37,805 sqm
Client
MERAAS



Portfolio

Yas Viceroy Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Size
120,000 sqm
Client
Aldar Properties



Portfolio

Reem Mall, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Size
585,000 sqm
Client
Al Farwaniya Property Developments



Portfolio

Arar Master Plan, Arar, KSA

Size
255,000 sqm
Client
Saudi Downtown Company



Portfolio

Buraydah Master Plan, Buraydah, KSA

Size
58,000 sqm
Client
Saudi Downtown Company



Portfolio

Solforest EcoPark, Hanoi, Vietnam

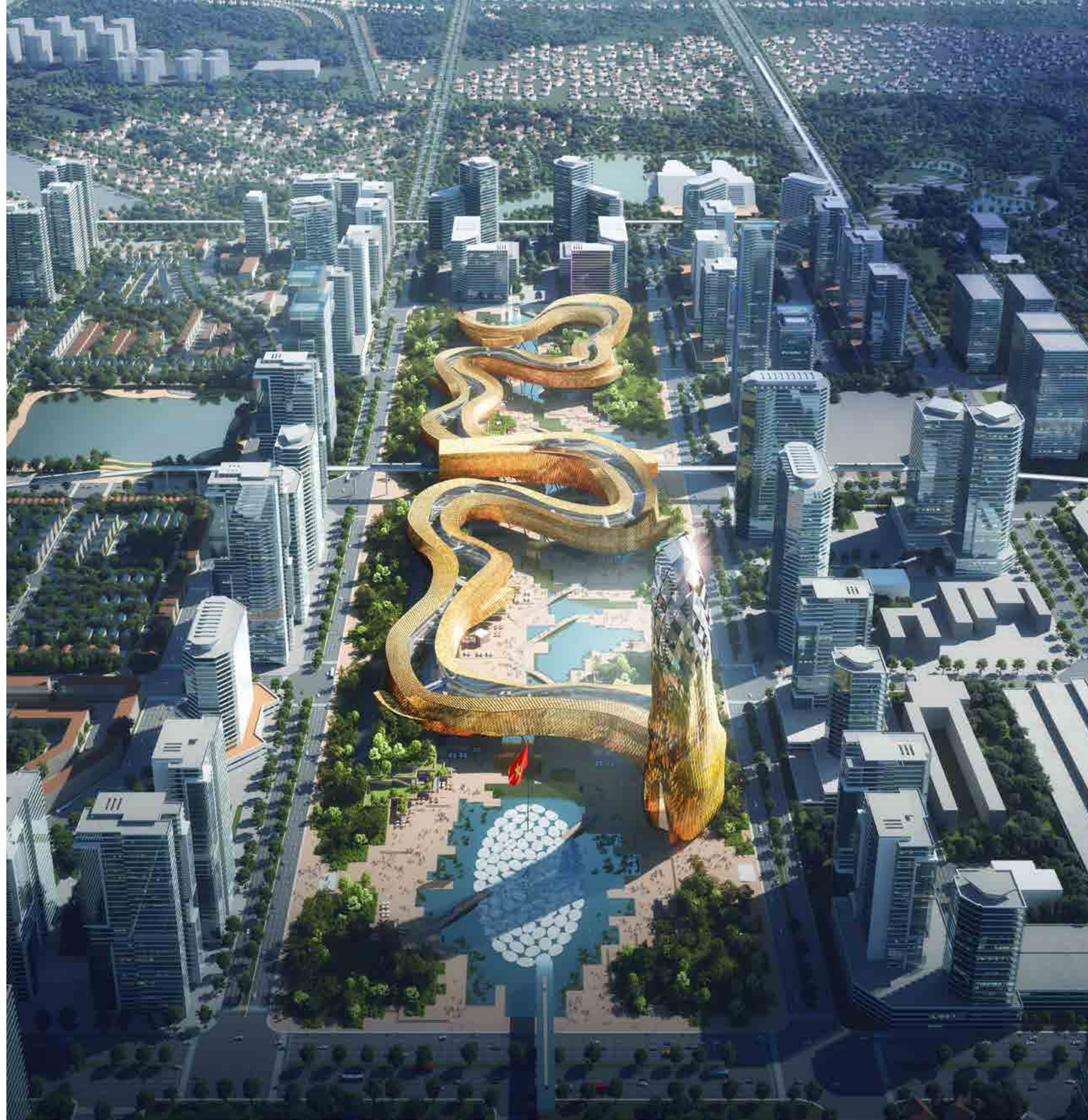
Size
129,000 sqm
Client
Private



Portfolio

Vung Tau Hotel, Vung Tau, Vietnam

Size
90,000 sqm
Client
Private



Portfolio

Dragon Tower, Hanoi, Vietnam

Size
700,000 sqm
Client
Hanoi Ministerial



Portfolio

Madinat Al Nakheel, Basra, Iraq

Size
42 Million sqm
Client
Private



Portfolio

Samarra University, Samarra, Iraq

Size
2.6 million sqm
Client
Ministry Of Higher Education
And Scientific Research



Portfolio

Kadhimiya Development, Basra, Iraq

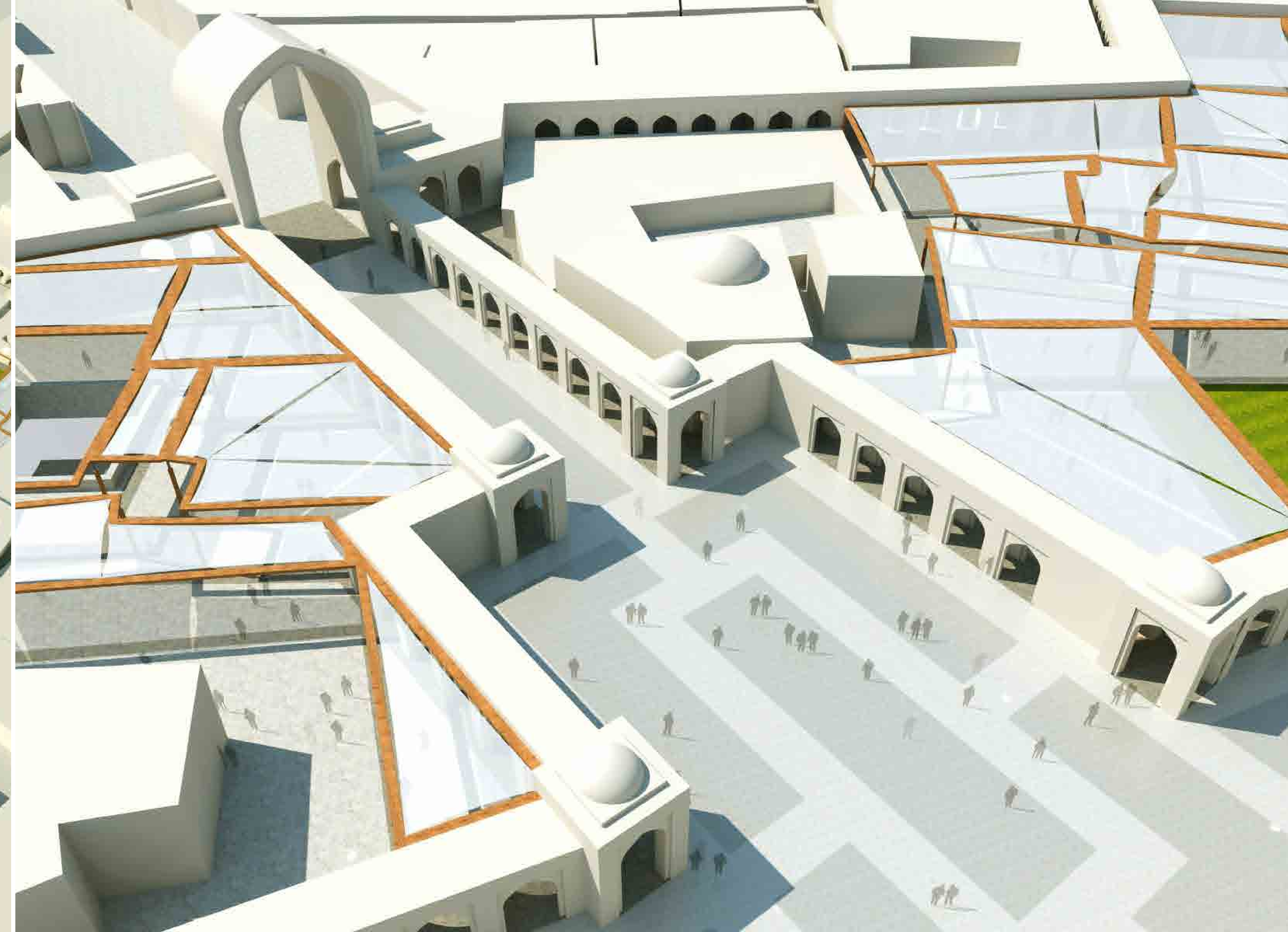
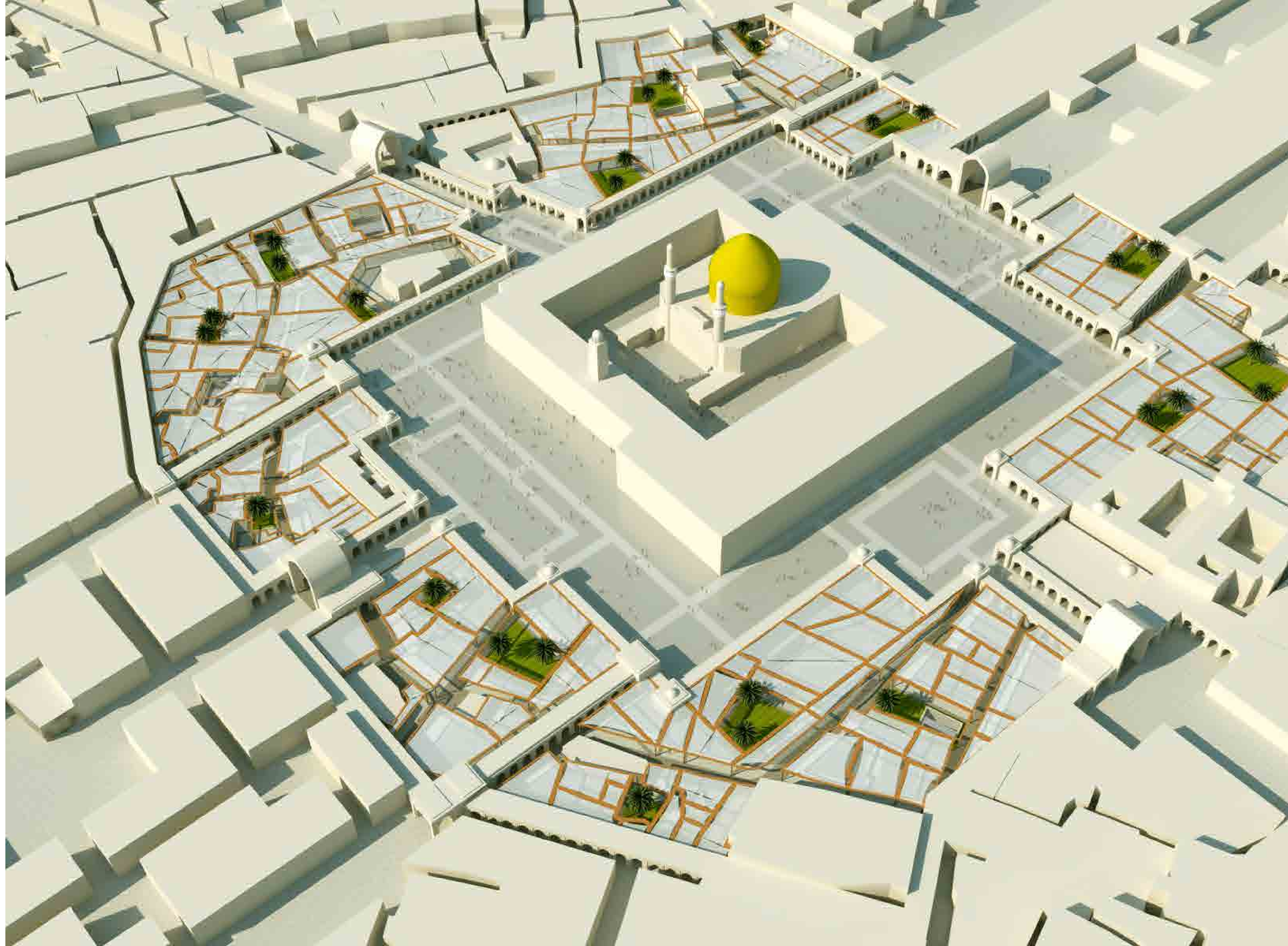
Size
800,000 sqm
Client
Baghdad Municipality



Portfolio

Basra Culture Palace, Basra, Iraq

Size
21,000 sqm
Client
Basra Governorate



Portfolio

Najaf Urban Renewal, Najaf, Iraq

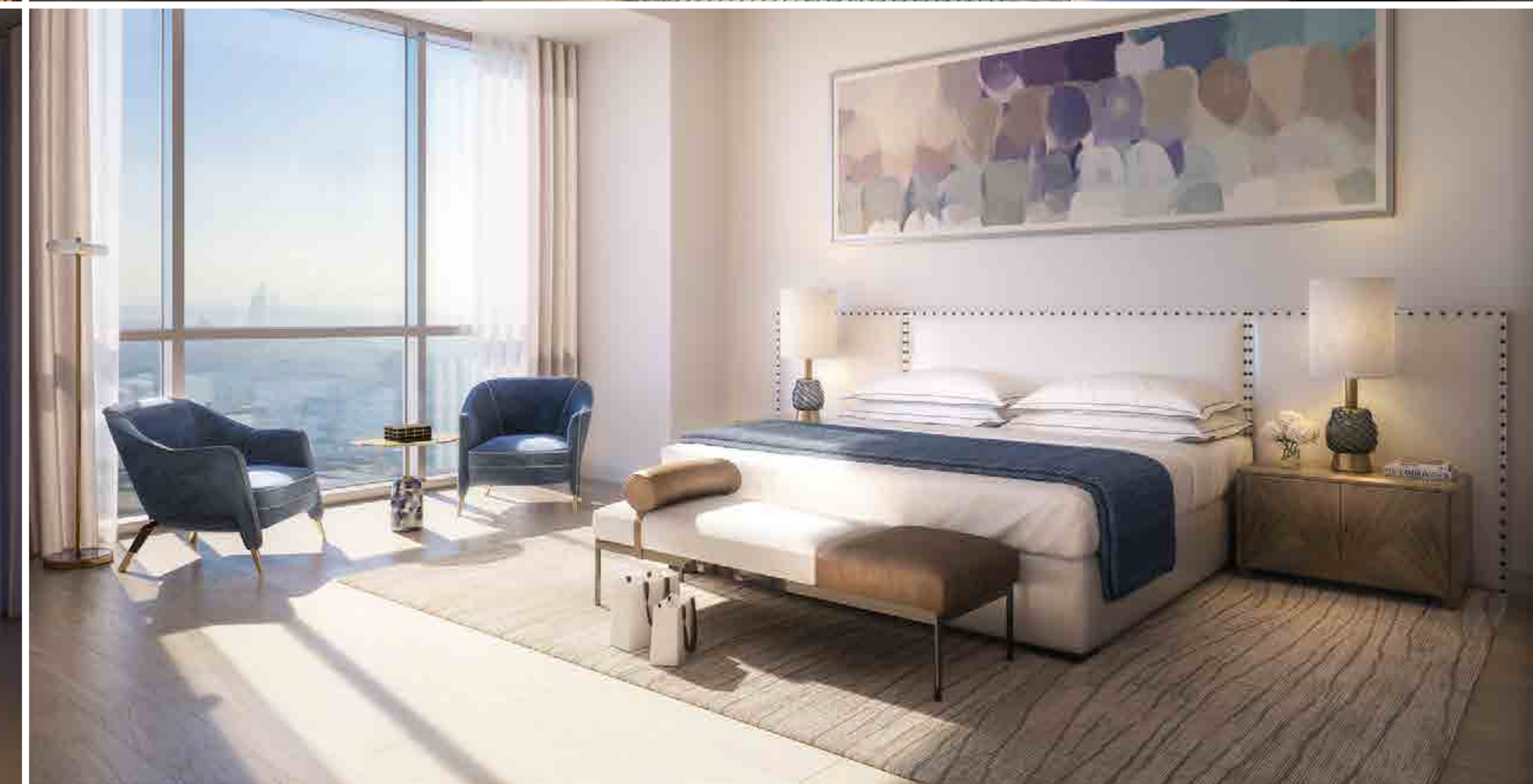
Size
1.5 Million sqm
Client
Najaf Municipality



Portfolio

Karbala Urban Renewal, Karbala, Iraq

Size
1.5 Million sqm
Client
Karbala Municipality



Portfolio

Dubawi Tower, Dubai, UAE

Size
198,807 sqm
Client
Shuaa Real Estate Development



Portfolio

Dubai Harbour, Dubai, UAE

Size
346,108 sqm
Client
Private



Portfolio

Dubai Harbour, Dubai, UAE

Size
346,108 sqm
Client
Private



Portfolio

Port De La Mer, Dubai, UAE

Size
340,000 sqm
Client
MERAAS



Portfolio

Dubai Water Canal, Dubai, UAE

Size
46,500 sqm
Client
Meraas/Dubai Properties