



AL REEM ISLAND PROPOSAL 2 ABU DHABI, UAE

Design: ALTUS Architecture + Design
Proposal For: PDI World Group

This concept considers traditional regional architecture as a starting point for a climatically responsive design. The podium is extended into a long, narrow, wrapping space that provides an interior courtyard and arcade for retail and commercial space. The height of the surrounding podium within the court provides southern shading, while the shape of the surrounding tower can function as a wind tower, drawing air down into the courts. The cladding for the façade is based on traditional local patterns, with the large, white cladding pieces being opaque and the space between as glass. This offers some solar protection as well as turning the focus spatially inward towards the courtyards.

The forms of the towers are influenced both by regional architecture and the formal logic of the 'ziggurat' as it could be applied to a vertical structure. The towers are carved and sliced to generate entry, a sense of place and to signify 'gateway'. Screening takes the form of the inverse of the pattern applied to the base—the extruded pattern becomes a sunscreen on the south façade, gradually tapering away to a standard mullion depth from south to north. The pattern would fit operable windows within the square openings, allowing the towers to take advantage of natural ventilation. The screening follows the 'uncarved' portions of the tower façades, ultimately extending past them above the actual towers. This provides the pinnacles of the towers with a visual expression that is both unique and inherent in their design.