

HELIX HOTEL

ABU DHABI, UAE
2008

ROLE

Leeser Architecture was awarded first prize for their Concept Design submission in the international, invited competition.

SIZE

250,000 square feet

COST

n/a

PROGRAM

The five star hotel includes 208 guest rooms; lounges, restaurants, conference rooms, and a cafes dispersed throughout the building, a indoor-outdoor health spa, and a roof deck pool.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Working with Atelier Ten, Leeser Architecture designed the building to maximize the building's heat and energy conservation.

DESIGN COMMENTS

The central focus of the luxury hotel is a helical floor surface that surrounds an undulating void, with public functions of the hotel occurring at each level. The hotel challenges the idea that visitors must engage in the stale paradigms of rigid hallways and atria that characterize a typical hotel stay. Guest rooms are folded into the hotel amenities along the helical path through the building, creating an urban world of unregulated paths within the hotel. Though the void seems to offer unmitigated visibility, there are enclaves for private meetings and guest privacy. Designed to be both an icon and platform for world class service, the hotel will serve as an anchor facility in the Zayed Bay District and greater Abu Dhabi.



(right) **Interior void from above.** The 208 guest rooms and suites of the Helix Hotel are arranged around a helical floor of, dispensing hotel visitors into public space. As the helix winds upward, programmatic elements change from lounges and restaurants on the bay, to meeting rooms and conference facilities, to the luxury indoor-outdoor health spa on the fifth floor, ending with the upper pool deck on the roof.

(below) **Lobby.** Helical floor peels up from the ground floor of the hotel. From the lobby visitors are able to experience the expansive atrium above.



