

WATG designs the Four Seasons Dubai

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Architecture and design firm [WATG](#) opened the [Four Seasons Resort Dubai](#), located on 14 acres along the waters off Jumeirah Beach. Influenced by the neighboring seaside, the structure is inspired by Arabic architecture mixed with a more contemporary design.

Located on the Arabian Gulf, the five-star hotel is comprised of 237 rooms - including 49 suites - giving guests views of the Gulf, Burj Khalifa and rest of the downtown skyline. The property, which opened in the last quarter of 2014, has spas, swimming pools, family activities and 10 restaurants and lounges.

Designed by architecture and design firm WATG, the hotel was inspired by characteristics often found in Andalusian-style architecture. This includes using classic spatial proportions and resources in recessed entries, balconies in each room and windows to allow natural light. Also reminiscent of Mediterranean designs is the lobby, measuring 33 feet. This space is topped with an octagonal dome complete with gold leaf finishing, which compliments the interior's marble structure.

According to Mark Yoshizaki, VP at WATG, the location of the Four Seasons was a determining factor when the building was designed. Situated along Jumeirah Beach, surrounded by low-rise buildings, the firm needed to ensure that the design made a statement without being out of context. This included acknowledging local culture by respecting the privacy and security of visitors at a private club located adjacent to the hotel, as well as designing a structure that would not infringe on the ocean and city views of those in surrounding buildings.

The company faced these challenges in various ways, including utilizing a variety of massing, single-loaded corridors and landscape strategies that respected the property's neighbors.

The Irvine, California-based WATG worked on several projects in Dubai and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the past. Among others, it was involved in the development of Atlantis, The Palm, a 1,500-room hotel and 60-acre water theme park also located in Dubai. This 23-floor hotel is reminiscent of the Atlantis Bahamas, which was also designed by the WATG. It has 1,539 rooms.

Established in 1945, WATG planned, strategized, designed and landscaped more than 12 completed projects in the Middle East, including the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi and the One&Only Royal Mirage in Dubai.

WATG and affiliated design studio Wimberly Interiors have offices in Irvine, Los Angeles, New York, London, Istanbul, Dubai, Singapore and Honolulu. WATG offers design services comprising strategy, planning, architecture, urban design, landscape and interior design for urban, tourism and resort destinations.

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