

## Damac completes Saudi tower foundation

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Damac Properties, one of the largest private developers in the Middle East, said it has completed the raft foundation for its iconic 'Al Jawharah Tower' in Saudi city of Jeddah.

Drake & Scull JV, the main contractors of the project, have now finished the foundation works and all basement levels. The pouring of the raft is a significant development in the construction process, said a company statement.

"This is a major milestone in the construction of Al Jawharah Tower. The foundations are crucial for the super-structure, but they take time to complete. Work will now really begin to accelerate and it should be a floor a week from this point forward" said Niall Mc Loughlin, senior vice president of Damac Properties.

Pouring the raft involved laying 420 tons of steel and 7,000 cubic meters of concrete, he pointed out.

"The sheer volumes of raw materials used in the foundations are staggering. 420 tons of steel is the equivalent of more than 400 motor vehicles, and 7,000 cubic meters of concrete, would be enough to fill 3 Olympic-sized swimming pools," Mc Loughlin added.

Al Jawharah Tower, located on the Jeddah Corniche on the coast of the red sea, is a 48-storey architectural masterpiece. The sleek, modern tower will be an iconic landmark, with its clean lines and shifting, interlocking façade defining the unique design.

The complexity of Al Jawharah's external façade creates reflective panels which disperse and refract light, creating an illusionary effect.

The dramatic exterior creates the framework for the spectacular interior design. Al Jawharah is the height of sophistication, with a grand reception area with double height lobby, designer guest lounge and concierge.

A spectacular residential tower, it offers luxurious 5 bedroom penthouses and 4, 3, 2 & 1 bedroom apartments. It will also offer residents separate male and female health clubs, which include gymnasiums, swimming pools and spa and sauna rooms.

According to Mc Loughlin, Al Jawharah will set a new benchmark for luxury in Saudi Arabia. "It is Damac's debut project in the Kingdom, and it is important that we make a statement with this development," he added.

Al Jawharah is being constructed in four major stages, with stage one defined as the basement to the ground floor; stage two from ground floor to the health club level; stage three from the health club level to level 20; and stage four from level 20 to the top floor.