

# Kuwait's new \$500m retail project set to open in 2012

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The Avenues shopping mall, Kuwait.

A \$500m extension to Kuwait's largest shopping mall is set to open next year, with further plans to make it one of the world's best, officials have said.

Work on the third phase of The Avenues Kuwait is now 40 percent complete and is on schedule to start operating next year, announced Mohammad Abdelaziz Alshaya, chairman and managing director of Mabane Company.

The new phase is comprised of six districts, each with their own unique character. They will include the Prestige, the Grand Avenue, the Mall, SOKU (based on New York's Soho district), the Souk and the Bazaar.

Harvey Nichols will embark on a sixth venture outside the UK and Ireland with the opening of a store in the mall.

Spread across two floors and 10,000 square metres of retail space, the store is due to open spring/summer of 2012, the luxury retailer said.

Alshaya, in comments published in the Kuwaiti media, said the success of The Avenues was shown by the "great demand for leasing in the new extension by regional and international high-end brands".

And he added that the company was "moving forward" with phases four and five of a plan to make the Avenues one of the world's leading malls.

He said: "I am delighted to confirm that the construction of the new extension of The Avenues is taking place as scheduled. Around 40% of the extension has been completed, and it is expected to be inaugurated in 2012."

He added that a fifth phase, which will include a number of hotels, is also in the pipeline.

"Through our future expansion plans, we aspire to make The Avenues one of the most important shopping cities not only in the region, but also in the world, through its distinguished design and its leasing area which we hope will exceed 400,000 square metres."