

## **Al Zorah masterplan wins regional recognition**

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Al Zorah, a lifestyle development in the UAE, has won recognition for its unique masterplan that integrates the beauty of its natural setting with the most modern urban amenities to create a refined coastal destination.

At the Arabian Property Awards ceremony, held recently in Dubai, UAE, Al Zorah's masterplan was feted with the 'Best Mixed Use Development' Five Star Award, said a statement.

Located along a natural peninsula on the coastline of Ajman, the flagship project is spread over an area of 5.4 million sq m. It has been masterplanned by the UAE-based Solidere International, part of Solidere, the Lebanese public company that is responsible for the urban regeneration of downtown Beirut.

Phase One development which is currently progressing includes the first package – comprising 16 units – of Al Zorah Golf Villas, a gated community with rooftop terraces and an 18-hole signature golf course by Nicklaus Design. This phase also comprises four marinas, two world-class beachfront hotels and resorts, a clubhouse, serviced residential apartments, boardwalk, beachclub and wellness centre.

Construction work has been completed on the infrastructure for the marinas, while work is well under way on the two beachfront hotels and resorts.

The 18-hole Al Zorah Golf Course, which is expected to open next year, is located within a natural preserved environment of native sandy areas and mangroves, and a stroll away from the seafront.

Switzerland-based Troon Golf, considered to be the world's leading high-end golf development company, will operate and manage the project.

Set right on the Al Zorah Golf Course, Golf Villas are a distinctive gated community within the destination.

With elegant white architecture contrasting with the green surroundings, the 42 villas offer rolling outdoor views onto the golf course. Semi-enclosed courtyards provide secondary open-air living spaces and a private swimming pool.

The project also includes Al Zorah Golf Clubhouse, which will have a large swimming pool, a children's pool with a landscaped pool deck, a modern gymnasium, a gourmet restaurant, a café, a multipurpose hall, and a club for teens.

Imad Dana, chief executive officer of Al Zorah Development Company, said: “The Arabian Property Award for the accomplished work on Al Zorah is a testament to the exceptional design and planning that we bring to this unparalleled lifestyle development.

“Guided by Solidere International, Al Zorah’s masterplan stands out for its development approach of integrating the natural environment with modern amenities. From an extensive beachfront to naturally conserved and nurtured mangroves, Al Zorah will offer residents the opportunity to live in harmony with nature.”

Layth Madi, the chief masterplanner of Al Zorah, who received the award for the masterplan, which was prepared in partnership with Solidere International, said: “The masterplan for Al Zorah is compelling and responds to the unique setting of the development located between the Arabian Gulf and an inland lagoon and mangroves.

“Our masterplan for Al Zorah placed the emphasis on the human scale, by proposing a compact and walkable development composed of a network of streets, promenades and public squares which serve to connect several distinct mixed-use neighbourhoods. We are pleased and privileged to work with Solidere International on this visionary project, which continues a long-standing tradition of distinctive and truly ground breaking development.”

The masterplan achieves the right balance between nature preservation and the requirements of urban development, underlining Al Zorah as the first project in the region to create a nature reserve within the context of a private development, said the statement.

The masterplan designates the inland lagoon and mangrove as the ‘Al Zorah Reserve’, a protected biosphere.

The site's natural beauty has established the foundations for an eco-friendly development proposition with 60 per cent of the land area devoted to protected mangroves and public space.

The Arabian Property Awards recognised leading property developers, architects and interior designers. - **TradeArabia News Service**