### Al Hamra Tower

**Facts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official Name</th>
<th>Al Hamra Tower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Names</td>
<td>Al Hamra Firdous Tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure Type</td>
<td>Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>COM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>Kuwait City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address &amp; Map</td>
<td>Al Shuhada Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Function</td>
<td>Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural Material</td>
<td>Concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Start</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official Website</td>
<td>Al Hamra Tower</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Height**

- **Occupied**: 371.4 m / 1,218 ft
- **Architectural**: 412.6 m / 1,354 ft
- **To Tip**: 412.6 m / 1,354 ft

**Floors**

- **Above Ground**: 80
- **Below Ground**: 3

**Projects**

- **# of Elevators**: 43
- **Top Elevator Speed**: 10 m/s
- **Tower GFA**: 178,061 m² / 1,916,633 ft²
- **Development GFA**: 186,381 m² / 2,006,188 ft²
- **# of Parking Spaces**: 1,460

### Companies Involved

**Owner**

- Al Hamra Real Estate Co.

**Developer**

- Ajial Real Estate and Entertainment; Al Hamra Real Estate Co.

**Architect**

- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
- Al Jazera Consultants

**Structural Engineer**

- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
- Hyder Consulting; BuroHappold Engineering

**MEP Engineer**

- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
- AEG; Meinhardt

**Project Manager**

- Turner International LLC

**Main Contractor**

- Ahmadiah Contracting and Trading Company

**Other Consultant**

- Acoustics: Shen Milsom Wilke, Inc.
- Commissioning: AEG
- Façade: ALT Limited
- Façade Maintenance: Entek Engineering Ltd.
- Fire: Arup
- Geotechnical: Consultancy Group Company
- Landscape: Francis Landscapes
- Life Safety: AEG
- Lighting: OVI Lighting
- Security: Shen Milsom Wilke, Inc.
- Traffic: Parsons Brinckerhoff Consultants Private Limited
- Vertical Transportation: Van Deusen & Associates
- Wind: BMT Fluid Mechanics Ltd.

**Material Supplier**

- Elevator: Hitachi, Ltd.
- Sealants: Dow Corning Corporation
- (not specified): Momentive
About Al Hamra Tower

Al Hamra Tower stands as an icon symbolizing Kuwaiti national pride. The form of the building appears to be cut from a prism, a void taken from the center, with each floor plate rotating counter-clockwise around the core. The result is a spiraling geometry that unravels to the top. The void, which shifts from west to east, exposes the solid southern core wall, which is visually distinct from the other glazed and transparent walls wrapping around the rest of the building. Two solid “flared walls” provide the transition between these two conditions, covering the complex geometry of the rotating floor plates.

The southern façade, exposed through the central void, is clad in stone with angled window cuts to respond to the intense solar conditions of the area. The same material treatment is given to the flared walls that cover the curvilinear faces along the edge of the spiral void, only without window openings. The concrete construction of these elements also allows them to act as thermal mass walls, slowing heat gain during the day and releasing stored heat at night. The curved east, north, and west façades are clad in vision glass, providing clear views of the surrounding city and Kuwait Bay while also optimizing the spaces against glare and heat gain.

At the north side of the building is the main lobby, a 24-meter-high space that extends from the building core to the perimeter frame. To increase the area of the lobby, the columns along the exterior slope inwards, forming an intricate lamella structure that is both functional and elegant. At the top of the tower, a 40-meter-high space with a restaurant and observation deck provides far-reaching views of the city. To produce these unobstructed views, a cantilevered steel truss system was employed to support the roof and curtain wall glazing, reducing the necessary columns in the space.

Al Hamra Tower

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Interview: Al Hamra Tower
18 Oct 2012 – Mark Sarkisian & Aybars Asci, SOM

Al Hamra Firdous Tower
Oct 2011 – Aybars Asci & Mark Sarkisian, SOM

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