

Msheireb Mosque at Msheireb Downtown Doha Now Open to Public for Prayers

Doha, Qatar, June 6 2016: Msheireb Properties, a subsidiary of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), has announced that the Msheireb Mosque, located in the heritage quarter of Msheireb Downtown Doha, is now open to the public for prayers.

Located within Phase 1 of Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD), the Msheireb Mosque is in close proximity to the Msheireb Museums and is easily accessible from around the Msheireb neighbourhood and the adjoining souq area. Spread over an area of 1,400sqm, the newly unveiled mosque can accommodate 600 worshippers, and house dedicated prayer halls for both men and women. It also has a dedicated parking area and lifts from the basement.

Msheireb mosque incorporates a specifically tailored daylight and sunlight design, to create dynamic sun patches inspired by Qatari motifs within the main hall during prayer hours, and needs no artificial lighting during daylight hours. Embracing key principles of Islamic art, geometric patterns and designs, the Msheireb Mosque fuses Modernist ideas with a historically familiar arrangement of Islamic volumes, spaces and thresholds.

The concept of the mosque is based on the principles of simplicity, functionality and spirituality of traditional Qatari mosques combined with a modern interpretation to create a calm and serene environment for prayer and worship.

The mosque features a beautiful facade and landscaping with pomegranate, olive and date trees which are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. The design of the building is based on traditional Qatari mosques, which have for centuries used orientation, shading, natural ventilation and water to create comfortable environments for prayer and worship.

Eng. Abdulla Hassan Al Mehshadi, Chief Executive Officer at Msheireb Properties, said, "The new Msheireb Mosque is a major milestone in this new, dynamic area. Our aim was to develop a sanctuary for worshippers that embrace the key principles of Islamic art and architecture. In line with our commitment to preserve Qatar's heritage and religious traditions, it will offer worshippers a comfortable and calm environment to pray. We look forward to giving the community an opportunity to experience the new mosque."

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About Msheireb Properties

Msheireb Properties is a real estate company and a subsidiary of Qatar Foundation. The company was established as a commercial venture to support the Foundation's aims as well as the realisation of Qatar's 2030 Vision.

Msheireb Properties' mission is to change the way people think about urban living and improve their overall quality of life, through innovations that encourage social interaction, respect for culture, and greater care for the environment.

Msheireb Properties spent three years researching Qatari architecture and numerous approaches to urban planning all over the world with the most respected experts in the industry – in order to realise an architectural language rooted in the best of the past that may be preserved for and by future generations.

The company's name, Msheireb, means 'a place to drink water' and is the historical name of the downtown area of Doha. The company's corporate identity depicts the mouth of a stone well, a feature of traditional Gulf societies, and its distinct ink effect evokes classical Arabic calligraphy.

Msheireb Properties recently achieved ISO certification from the British Standards Institution for quality (ISO 9001:2008), environmental performance (ISO 14001:2004), and occupational health ,safety (BS OHSAS 18001:2007) and international ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management Standard.

About Msheireb Downtown Doha

The "Msheireb Downtown Doha" (MDD) project aims to create a legacy for sustainable urban development in Qatar by reviving the old commercial district of Doha with a new architectural language that is modern, yet inspired by traditional Qatari heritage and design. The entire development is designed to consume fewer resources, generate less waste, lower costs and achieve a reduced carbon footprint. On completion, MDD will be the world's largest certified sustainable community with over 100 commercial buildings, 900 residential units accommodating more than 2,600 residents and over 10,255 car parking spaces. The 310,000 square meter development can host over 60,000 visitors. All the planned buildings meet the LEED Gold standard for environment performance and some buildings will aim for a Platinum rating.