Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium and mixed use development, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE

The Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi has been completed after a 16-month ultra-fast track construction project. Built to FIFA standards, the stadium covers an area of 45,000 square metres with a capacity of 25,000 seats. The scope of the project further included a sports hall, commercial buildings and extensive exterior landscaping.

The stadium is part of another further development that covers 500,000 square metres and includes 700 apartments, green spaces, two office buildings, 50 restaurants, shops and a 170-room hotel.

The project is the first component of this broader development that will have its effect first on the city of Al Ain, but also on the wider region including the neighboring countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Location: Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Client: AFAQ Holding
Engineer: EC Harris
Contractor: BAM International
Contract type: Design & Build
Contract period: June 2012 – December 2013
Contract sum: €145 million

‘Ultra-fast track FIFA-standard stadium in Abu Dhabi.’
One of the most characteristic elements of the stadium is the external façade which consists of fabric elements resembling the trunk of a palm tree that also can be lighted by LED lights in 15 different content modes. On the top of the stadium roof, 200 floodlights are fixed to provide the illumination of after-dark soccer games.

Due to the extreme temperatures during the hot summer months, the palm bowl shape of the roof also provides pleasant conditions for both the players and the fans. It is one of the stadium’s uniqueness, which is designed in a way that matches can take place in the shadow after 5pm. On the inside, it reveals the complex geometry of its cantilevered steel trusses, which was achieved by using robotic cutting and welding technology.

It was a design and build contract. BAM introduced a lot of value engineering proposals which had to be integrated into the design and therefore new building permits were required within the 18 months.

BAM International started the project in mid-2012 and remained right on schedule with all aspects of the construction, making use of 10.5 million man hours. At peak there were 400 men staff up to the supervisor level and 4500 labourers on site.