

West Bay Office Tower

Doha, Qatar

Designed 2004

The West Bay Office Tower has been designed for a site on the outskirts of the city of Doha, Qatar. The other buildings nearby include hotels, high-rise residential buildings, and other offices. The project would enjoy views of the Persian Gulf and good proximity to central Doha. Our goal in designing the project was to create a building that responded to the harsh desert climate in an environmentally appropriate way.

The stone clad concrete structure of the building has been designed using a computerized optimization program that minimizes the use of material for the most efficient and economical configuration. The diagonal members become more slender but more frequent on the higher floors of the tower. The oval floor plate encloses the conditioned volume with the minimum amount of surface area. Curtain wall mullions are placed on a uniform 1.5-meter module that is independent of the building structure. The clear glass wall encloses an efficient centralized core with flexible lease spans.

The design maximizes the use of daylight while avoiding heat gain and glare through the introduction of a sunshade/light shelf on each floor. The enclosure of the office is placed eccentrically within the structural cage to allow the light shelf to vary in depth on an arc defined by the path of the sun. It is deepest on the east and west elevations, shallower on the south and diminishes to nothing on the north, where no shading is required. The parabolic profile of the shelf allows an even glow of daylight to extend across the ceiling to the building core, while blocking direct light for most of the day

A dynamic landscape that incorporates pedestrian paths, a vehicular drop off, a café, health club, and covered parking greets visitors to the building. The glass walls of the three-story lobby allow this landscape to flow across the site. Vectors of movement through and around the site define the form of the landscape. It gives the site a unique sculptural quality and attempts to convey the impact of the building structure on the ground.