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CASE STUDY

A Diamond in the Sand

Qatar's National Library blends ancient history with modern architecture In the heart of West London

FACADES

Qatar National Library

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Project Name: Qatar National Library
Developer Name: Qatar Foundation
Architect: Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)
Consultant: ARUP
Main Contractor: Brookfield Multiplex
Subcontractor: Specialized Aluminium and Steel Co.
Processor: Future Architectural Glass
Location: Education City, Doha, Qatar
Product: CLAROVIEW (27 mm multi-laminated unit using Guardian Clarity and ultra-clear)
Processes Involved: Heat Treatment, Lamination

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Qatar National Library covers over 42,000 sq. metres and houses millions of books, e-books, historic texts, manuscripts, periodicals and more. The entire building has been envisioned to look like a single room with clear views of the surrounding areas. Tying into the entire project's overarching theme, the architect designed the building to resemble a diamond. A sunken patio in the heart of the building provides light to the office spaces while also serving as a transition space between the harsh outdoors and the sanctuary of books inside.

THE CHALLENGE

The customer's vision for the library required panels that offered clear views with minimal to no reflection. In addition to this, there was a substantial emphasis on integrating robust safety protocols to preserve some of the Middle East's most precious transcripts in the event of fire.

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OUR SOLUTION

To meet the customer's specific low-reflection requirements, we used CLAROVIEW that can achieve a reflective property as low as 0.7%. We made the use of Guardian Clarity anti-reflective glass to ensure that visitors to the library could enjoy clear views, while also providing them with 90% light transmission, making the building highly energy-efficient. The panels were incorporated into multi-laminated units which also offered enhanced safety and security. All glasses were processed in ourstate-of-the-art facility, adhering to the highest quality levels and achieving negligible optical distortion and edge displacement. Each panel was checked for optical clarity using a Litesentry Osprey scanner and passed through 100% inspection at the finished goods stage before delivery

THE OUTCOME

Our expertise and experience in the glass façade domain enabled us to successfully execute the project as per the customer's requirements. The panels we used were durable, scratch-resistant and safe, and did not need any additional maintenance. Panels as large as 1312 x 2406 mm were processed at our in-house state-of-the-art facility and provide clear views to patrons. Our laminated panels offered high light transmission of 90%, maximising the building's energy efficiency and keeping the books housed in the library safe. Our glass panels are a fundamental part of the building and help create an aesthetically-pleasing library where students, avid-readers and researchers can come together to expand their horizons and learn more about Qatar, the Middle East, and the world.

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Future Glass General Trading LLC
2411 Churchill Executive Tower, Business Bay, PO Box 117259, Dubai
+971 50 747 5473 | sales@faglass.com

WORK
P278 Al Ghail Industrial Area, Ras Al Khaimah (UAE), PO Box 86001
+971 7 258 9274 | +971 7 258 9071

www.faglass.com

/faglassllc