

## **Meraas Holding project scoops award for development seen as 'shape of things to come'**

The Avenue, a Dubai development won the Commercial Project of the Year award for Meraas Holding at last night's Construction Week Awards.

Omar Delawar, chief projects officer at Meraas Holdings, collected the award.

"It's an amazing feeling to think that the industry and the judges are appreciating the project. It's something new, and we're so excited to present it to Dubai," he said.

The retail project includes restaurants and shops, but its pedestrians-friendly design offers something different from Dubai's many malls.

"We didn't want to go with the same malls, so we've been looking for something is not there still in Dubai, which is this style of outdoor experience with shops and F&B," explained Delawar.

The development, which won one of the six project categories awarded on the night, was praised by judges for being a great example of a regeneration project that makes good use of a low-rise, mixed-use approach, an approach which one judge described as the shape of things to come.

Delawar described the development as similar to offerings in the United States and in Europe, but unlike anything else in the Middle East.

"The architecture is completely different; you wouldn't find this style of architecture elsewhere in Dubai. Contemporary, modern, but still new. We think we're adding something new to Dubai."

The award presentation was made by Mike Collins, international sales manager for SAS International, an associate sponsor of the event.

Looking to 2013, Delawar said that he believes the market is booming and coming back again.

"Currently as Meraas we are having a massive amount of projects that we are planning for the coming five years."

The Highly Commended finalist in the category was Etihad Towers, entered by Hill International.

The event saw awards presented in 17 categories covering people, projects, initiatives and companies.

The gala ceremony, presented by Du, was the culmination of regional events held in Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia throughout 2012. The awards seek to recognise and reward the best of the region's construction industry, with entry open to developers, contractors, consultants and sub-contractors.

The event was supported by two platinum sponsors: Tekla Corporation and FAMCO.

A full review of all the winners and finalists will feature in a special issue of Construction Week on December 29.