



A rendering of an exterior view of Beirut Terraces. Image courtesy Herzog and de Meuron.



A rendering of an interior view of Beirut Terraces. Image courtesy Herzog and de Meuron.

Architect Bigwigs Come to Beirut

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Beirut is experiencing an architectural boom, with several major projects by international 'starchitects' being realised in the Lebanese capital. Jean Nouvel has restarted work on the iconic The Landmark project. Located in downtown Beirut and worth \$149 million, the project was originally scheduled for completion in December 2008 and features a 42-storey tower with a five-star hotel along with commercial spaces. "My design will be aligned with the spirit of Beirut's history, but also to create a new Beirut," remarked the architect. Similarly, Swiss Herzog & De Meuron (the same duo behind the conversion of London's Bankside Power Station into the Tate Modern) are working on the residential Beirut Terraces Development. The residential tower will apply the concept of a 'vertical village', integrating sustainability as a key component into its 120 apartments and due for completion in 2013/2014. "The concept draws inspiration from the traditional architecture of Beirut garden homes of the 1930s," explains Dr Bassim Halaby, Chairman and CEO of Benchmark. Finally, Iraqi London-based Zaha Hadid (*Canvas 3.2* and *6.6*) has won the design for the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut (AUB). A former student of the institute, Hadid's design was chosen on 20 February from five finalist entries and will be located north of the Green Oval, where it will feature spaces for seminars, conferences and a resource database library. "AUB expects that this centre will extend the university's mission to engage in high quality research that is simultaneously of significant service to Lebanon and the region," commented Provost Peter Heath at the 7 March announcement ceremony.