

Silicones protect the world's most inclined tower

Case Study: Capital Gate



AV15292

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Photo courtesy of ADNEC

City
Abu Dhabi

Country
United Arab Emirates

Products
*Dow Corning® 3362
Silicone Insulating Glazing Sealant
Dow Corning® 791
Silicone Weatherproofing Sealant*

Owner and Developer
*Adnec (Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions
Company)*

Architect
RMJM

Insulating Glazing Manufacturer
*White Aluminium Enterprises –
Glass Processing Division*

Steel and Glass Constructors
Wagner Biro Stahlbau group

Weathersealing Technical Distributor
Emirates Specialities Co LLC

The Project

- With a facade constructed from 23,000 square metres of glass and steel, the iconic and breath taking Capital Gate is the world's most inclined high rise building
- At 35 storeys high and 160m tall, Capital Gate is the centrepiece of the business and residential Capital Centre development. It offers 20,000 sq metres of office space on the lower levels and houses a presidential style five star hotel on the upper levels named 'Hyatt at Capital Centre', where each of the 189 designer rooms will be of a different shape and orientation
- Incredibly, the tower will lean 18 degrees westward which is 14 degrees more than the Leaning Tower of Pisa
- Capital Gate pays tribute to the legacy of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the late President of the UAE
- Approximately 12,500 triangular shaped insulating glass units were constructed using *Dow Corning 3362 Silicone Insulating Glass Sealant* which form more than 720 diamond shapes on the external facade
- *Dow Corning 791 Silicone Weatherproofing Sealant* was specified due to its proven durability and performance in climates where extreme weather conditions are prevalent

The Challenge

With floor plates that are staggered from the 10th floor up, the new Capital Gate building leans and twists like a corkscrew as it reaches skywards, thus creating an image which looks different from every direction. With a bespoke cladding system created for each floor, planning, construction and erection of the specially commissioned irregular diamond shaped facade was in itself a colossal challenge as was the manufacture, installation and weatherproofing of the asymmetrical, energy efficient glazing.

The Solution

Dow Corning 3362 Sealant was selected as the secondary edge sealant for each insulating glass unit, due to its excellent temperature stability and resistance to ozone and ultra-violet radiation – an absolute pre-requisite for the local climate. The glazed units were manufactured by White Aluminium who are certified members of the *Dow Corning® Quality Bond* initiative. Mr Jabr Doshan, Deputy General Manager of White Aluminium commented 'This project was particularly challenging given that each glass unit was unique which required careful and precise management by our production team. The sensitive solar control low-e coating was applied onto the glass by the glass manufacturer Cardinal in the USA. We removed the coating from the edges during cutting to avoid contact with the silicone'.

Unitised panels were constructed from diamond shapes which were prefabricated from triangular tubes, then glazed and weather sealed with *Dow Corning 791 Sealant*. They were then lifted into position and mechanically fixed to the main supporting structure. Christian Holler, Project Manager for Wagner Biro explained, 'We had no hesitation in specifying *Dow Corning 791 Sealant* for the weatherproofing of this project, given its compatibility with *Dow Corning 3362 Sealant* and its long proven performance record on many prestigious and challenging projects around the globe'.

The building facade of the Capital Gate Tower was completed in 2009 and the interior fitting is scheduled for completion by the end of 2010.

Dow Corning 3362 Silicone Insulating Glass Sealant

A neutral curing silicone sealant specifically formulated for use as a secondary seal in the manufacture of high performance insulating glass units, with outstanding adhesion to a wide range of substrates including coated, enamelled and reflective glass. *Dow Corning 3362 Sealant* has excellent temperature stability, is resistant to ozone and ultra-violet radiation and is certified by European Technical Approval ETA 03/0003 and complies with EN 1279-4 requirements.

Dow Corning 791 Silicone Weatherproofing Sealant

A premium performance weatherproofing sealant, *Dow Corning 791* is suitable for the weathersealing of structurally glazed facades, planar systems and general glazing and building facades constructed of brick, stone and traditional buildings products. With excellent weatherability and UV resistance, it is ideal for expansion, connection, perimeter and all other types of movement joints.

About Quality Bond

Quality Bond lifts silicone sealing and bonding to the highest level through the instigation of standards of best practices in quality control, quality assurance and product application by specialist silicone fabricators and applicators. *Quality Bond* allows customers and specifiers to share in *Dow Corning's* industry-leading expertise and benefit from our proven global performance track record. For more information, please visit qualitybond.com.

Your Dow Corning Sites:

EUROPEAN AREA HEADQUARTERS

Dow Corning Europe S.A.
Parc Industriel Zone C
Rue Jules Bordet
B-7180 Seneffe, Belgium
Tel : +32 64 88 80 00
Fax : +32 64 88 84 01

Dow Corning GmbH
Rheingaustraße, 34
D-65201 Wiesbaden, Germany
Tel: +49 611 23 71
Fax: +49 611 237 601

Your Dow Corning Construction contact details:

Toll Free Numbers:

From Belgium 0800 80 522
From France 0805 54 04 39
From Germany 0800 52 50 258
From Italy 800 92 83 30
From Spain 900 813161
From United Kingdom 0800 91 72 071

All other countries:

For English +32 64 51 11 59
For French +32 64 51 11 59
For German +49 611 237503
For Italian +32 64 51 11 73
For Spanish +32 64 51 11 66
For Russian +7 495 725 43 19

Fax number from all countries: +32 64 88 86 86

Your Dow Corning contact details (e-mails) :

Technical inquiries: eutech.info@dowcorning.com
Marketing: construction.marketing@dowcorning.com
Quality Bond : qualitybond@dowcorning.com
EHS inquiries : europa.ehs@dowcorning.com
Reach inquiries: reachsupport@dowcorning.com

Visit us on: dowcorning.com/construction

Other European Sites:

TURKEY

Dow Corning Kimya San.ve Tic.Ltd.Şti.
Halk Sok. Pakpen Plaza No:44 Kat: 1
34734 Kozyatağı, İstanbul, Türkiye
Tel: +90 216 4677645
Fax: +90 216 4673909

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Dow Corning Representation Office
17/23 Taganskaya Street
Moscow 109147, Russia
Tel: +7 495 783 6648
Fax: +7 495 783 6652

POLAND – CENTRAL EASTERN EUROPE

Dow Corning Polska Sp.z o.o
ul. Krolewska 27
00-060 Warszawa, Poland
AETS Phone: +48 22 717 07 52
Sales Phone: + 48 22 641 92 23
Fax : + 48 22 717 07 51

GREATER GULF COUNTRIES

Dow Corning Representation Office
Meral Building
Office Numbers 61.62 & 63
Building No.2572, Road No.2833, Block No.428
Seef District
Kingdom of Bahrain
Office Reception +973 17 562686
Office Fax +973 17 582052



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