

## Erga Reforestation Day: When We Say Green, We Mean Green!

Photographer: Rabih Shalhoub



# erga NEWS

WINTER 2011/2012



### EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Winter 2011 issue of the quarterly newsletter of Erga Group-Architects, Planners & Consulting Engineers! This issue elaborates the most recent projects that are currently in progress locally and overseas. Erga is proud to announce its new overseas winning contest: the BSO HQ in Syria. This newsletter also gives you insights about Erga's staff highlighting a few who recently reached outstanding achievements within their work progress.

Happy Reading!

*Elie & Randa Gebrayel*  
Chairman & Vice Chairman

## DHOUR EL CHOUEIR RESIDENCE

### LOCATION

*Dhour El Choueir, Lebanon*

### Altitude

*1200 m*

### Built-Up Area

*25,000 sqm*

### DESIGNED BY



### ARCHITECTS

*Elie & Randa Gebrayel*

In Collaboration With:



### ARCHITECTS (CONCEPT)

*Paul Abi Dergham &  
Marie Rose Hobeika*



Lost in a forest of gracious pine trees, overlooking a private lake, enjoying panoramic views, "Dhour el Choueir Residence" experiences mountain life in luxury, total comfort and tranquility. Inspired by the famous Frank Lloyd Wright, the architectural character of the villa follows the main points that define the "Prairie House": the horizontal organization of the facades, the low sheltering roof, the spaces open to "light, air, prospect". The hierarchy of the spaces, the relationship between interior and exterior is amplified by the addition of porches, terraces and flower boxes, the use of natural materials, colors of the earth and especially the autumnal hues.

*Lost in a forest of gracious pine trees, overlooking a private lake, breathtaking panoramic views, Dhour el Choueir Residence experiences mountain life in luxury, with total comfort and tranquility.*



LOCATION  
Marina Dbayeh, Lebanon

TYPE  
Complex

Built-Up Area  
78,350 sqm

## DESIGNED BY



ARCHITECTS  
Elie & Randa Gebrayel

In collaboration with the following partners:



G M ARCHITECTS



SEAN K SIMMS  
PLANNING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS LLC



ARCHITECTS (CONCEPT)

Paul Abi Dergham & Sami Ghanem (Left to Right)



CIVIL ENGINEER  
Elias Moussa



SCOTT LEE  
President & Principal  
of SB Architects

"Passionate" and "driven" are the two words most often used to describe him, and architecture is woven into every aspect of his life.

With over 20 years of design experience, Mr. Scott provides the firm with senior leadership and design talent, specializing in hotel, resort, recreational and mixed-use projects. He plays a leading role in determining the firm's long-term mission, direction and goals. Scott's active role in business development and marketing has been a driving force in the company's successes and its emergence as a force in the hospitality industry.



In five decades of practice, SB Architects has established a world-wide reputation for excellence in the planning and design of large-scale hotel, resort, vacation, ownership, multi-family residential and mixed-use projects. Widely recognized for its highly individual approach to design, the firm has received over 200 awards for design excellence.

# LEBANON WATERFRONT CITY

Waterfront City is a joint venture between Joseph G. Khoury et Fils Holding and Majid Al Futtaim Properties, a perfect blend of both regional and local expertise.



The Waterfront City project is located in one of the most attractive Marinas of the Middle East. It is a landmark residential project offering a unique destination of the highest living standards.

Phase I is mainly composed of two different architectural types and a complementary landscape design tying them together through a scenic promenade overlooking the marina. The two types of buildings are available with a different design and function yet working harmoniously to breathe new life into the neighborhood.

The project's Phase I is divided into two distinct architectural product types, and a complementary landscape design/promenade that ties them together. Buildings have been designated as Type I and II, the product types are distinct from each other in terms of design and function, but as neighbors, they will form a complementary duo.

### General key points for Type I Buildings:

- \* Four buildings located along the Marina Promenade
- \* 7.4m Ground Level retail / commercial + 8 residential floors above
- \* Two basement Levels featuring mechanical, parking and service functions for retail and residential
- \* Pool and Fitness Club located in the basement fronting the Marina
- \* All apartments enjoy panoramic views of the Marina, even the ones that have their facades to the streets.



Since first creating the Société Nationale d'Entreprises in 1965, Joseph G. Khoury, contractor and pioneer, was embarking on the long fruitful road of a master-builder, passionate of perfection and work well done. Under his directorship the Société Nationale d'Entreprises has executed a multitude of projects in Lebanon and the Arab World in many diversified fields. This work was crowned by the project Reclamation and Development of the "Littoral Nord", consisting of approximately 2,600 linear meters of coast line and a total area of 1,003,000 m<sup>2</sup>.



#### MAJID AL FUTTAIM PROPERTIES



**Alvaro Portela**  
Chairman

"Mr. Al Futtaim recognised that consumers wanted to do more than just shop. They wanted a place to meet, socialise, eat, relax and be entertained with family and friends."

Established in 1992 by Founder and President Mr. Majid Al Futtaim, a new kind of retail and leisure experience was brought to the region. Mr. Al Futtaim recognised that consumers wanted to do more than just shop. They wanted a place to meet, socialise, eat, relax and be entertained with family and friends. Today, the Majid Al Futtaim Holding has established itself as the leading retail and leisure pioneer across the Middle East and North Africa region. Welcoming over 120 million customers a year, its shopping malls have revolutionized the retail industry, such as Mall of the Emirates which became the resort of the Middle East, leading innovation through the inclusion of the world famous Ski Dubai brand, a multi-award winning masterwork. Majid Al Futtaim Properties continues to be guided by the vision of its founder and is proud to use his name.

#### General key point Type II Buildings:

- \* Three buildings located on two blocks, situated at East and West of the Promenade
- \* Each block features a secured shared internal courtyard, with private access and recreational or passive uses
- \* Two basements levels feature mechanical, parking, and all service functions for both retail and residential
- \* All buildings feature residential uses on the ground floor with private garden terraces and ground level access
- \* Pedestrian access to lobbies and cores are located on both roadway and courtyard sides
- \* All apartments have both roadway and courtyard views, surrounded by future residential blocks on all sides.



LOCATION  
*Damascus, Syria*

LAND AREA  
*Offices*

BUILT-UP AREA  
*8656 sqm*

## DESIGNED BY



ARCHITECTS  
Elie Et Randa Gebrayel

In Collaboration With:



ARCHITECTS (CONCEPT)

Paul Abi Dergham Et Marie-Rose Hobeika

Located in the heart of Damascus, along Al Brazil street, the project lies on a built-up area of 8656 m2 in the vicinity of the four seasons hotel.

The ground-breaking Bank of Syria & Overseas building is set to transform the Damascus landscape while reflecting the uniqueness of the city and espousing its traditional character and surroundings, leaving an indelible mark on the skyline and setting new architectural standards.

# WINNING COMPETITION: BANK OF SYRIA & OVERSEAS HQ

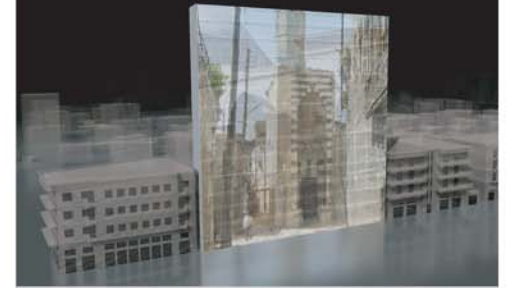
The concept of the project is mainly founded on three points:

1- The country's history is portrayed through the reflective material on the main elevation mirroring its rich surroundings. Communication between the old and new is achieved.

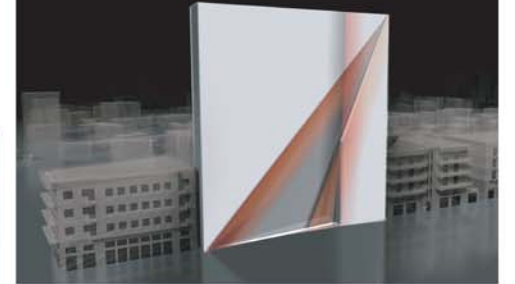
2- An iconic building: The elegant volume is meticulously sculpted. The transparency symbolizes trust and confidence.

3- Commitment to public accessibility:  
The entire volume of the building was intrinsically planned to ensure constant communication and interaction between the bank and the public.

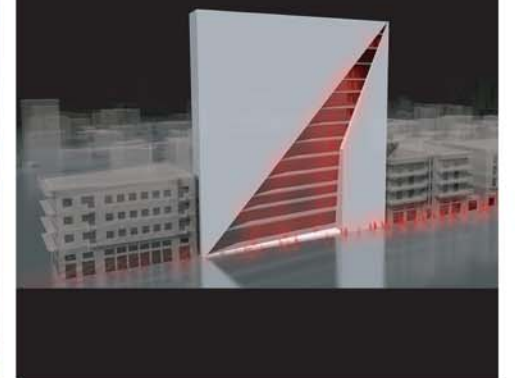
CONTRAST THAT CREATES HARMONY



AN ICONIC BUILDING



A COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY



LOCATION  
*Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia*

LAND AREA  
*5,582 sqm*

BUILT-UP AREA  
*94,000 sqm*

## DESIGNED BY



ARCHITECTS  
Elie Et Randa Gebrayel

In Collaboration With:



ARCHITECTS (CONCEPT)

Paul Abi Dergham Et Sami Ghanem (Left to Right)



ARCHITECT (DEVELOPMENT)

Kamal Aoun




# AL RAJIHI OFFICES



Located in Al Khobar, on the main highway of King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz which adds value to its existence and identity, the project is a large investment offices development in KSA. The tower is divided into 18 floors above ground level and 2 floors underground. Ground and mezzanine floors are utilized to serve only banking and retail functions; above which an array of 4 parking levels are inserted, then 12 office levels with high efficiency ranges are stacked over each other forming the dynamic shape of the tower with glazing exterior envelope and strip louvers located horizontally along each slab level. The combination between the dynamic and geometrical masses forms the basis of the tower image, the adaptation of the transparent elements on the facades all around reduce the effect of the bulkiness created by the floor plate itself and helps giving it a feel of lightness for smooth interaction with the surroundings.

# KLINK BUILDING

 **LOCATION**  
Achrafieh, Lebanon

**ALTITUDE**  
70 m

**BUILT-UP AREA**  
15,000 sqm

## DESIGNED BY



**ARCHITECTS**  
Elie & Randa Gebrayel

In Collaboration With:



**ARCHITECTS (CONCEPT)**  
Paul Abi Dergham &  
Maram Atallah (Left to Right)



**ARCHITECT (DEVELOPMENT)**  
Naji Haddad



The attractive klink building in the heart of Achrafieh, is characterized by the warmth of its material, the abundance of greenery on its elevations, and its elegant and strong presence within its context. When this complex project started, it ended up at the very beginning, a result of all the constraints the site imposed, and it seemed hopeless to find any order to govern it; but after an elaborate design process, an architectural language was reached able to give harmony and order to all the different zones of the project.

# IN THE PRESS



**Sama Beirut Project:**  
Al Meemaar El Aarabi Magazine,  
Issue No. 2, Spring 2010



**Beit Misk Project:**  
B'here Annual Review,  
Lebanon 2010-2011

# ZAATAR W ZEIT

 **LOCATION**  
Mastita, Lebanon

**TYPE**  
Restaurant

**BUILT-UP AREA**  
385 sqm

## DESIGNED BY



**ARCHITECTS**  
Elie & Randa Gebrayel

In Collaboration With:



**ARCHITECTS (CONCEPT)**  
Paul Abi Dergham &  
Maram Atallah (Left to Right)



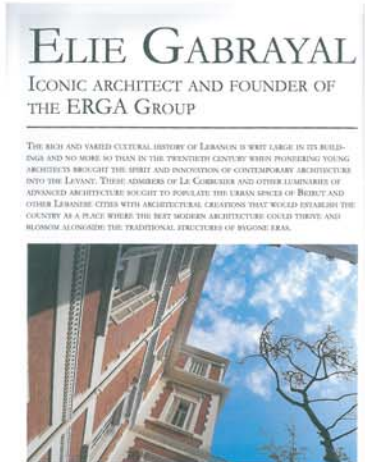
**ARCHITECT (DEVELOPMENT)**  
Paulette Maghariki



Zaatar w Zeit's new identity, while maintaining its warmth, moved towards an industrial/corporate feel; therefore steel was to be a major material along with the raw concrete and rough wood finishes. Two distinct boxes define the project, contrasting in character, yet complementing each other.



**Plus Towers Project:**  
Al Mouhandes Magazine,  
Issue No. 25, November 2010



**Article about Mr. Elie Gebrayel:**  
Architect & Founder of Erga Group:  
Adam Levant Magazine

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# MANAZEL

 LOCATION  
Cairo, Egypt

Type  
Urban Planning, Complex

## DESIGNED BY



ARCHITECTS  
Elie & Randa Gebrayel

In Collaboration With:



ARCHITECTS (CONCEPT)  
Paul Abi Dergham & Rita Najm



ARCHITECT (DEVELOPMENT)  
Walid Badri



## ARCHITECT OF THE SEASON



Name  
Zaha Hadid

Date of Birth  
October 31, 1950

Nationality  
Iraqi - British



Zaha Hadid is a London-based architectural designer, whose work encompasses all fields of design, ranging from urban scale to products, interiors and furniture. Central to her concerns is a simultaneous engagement in practice, teaching and research, in the pursuit of an uncompromising commitment to modernism. Hadid's built work has won her much academic and public acclaim. She has also completed furniture and interiors. Zaha Hadid's field, and a medium for the exploration of her design which is widely published in periodicals and monographs. Hadid has been chosen as the first woman to become the 2004 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize.

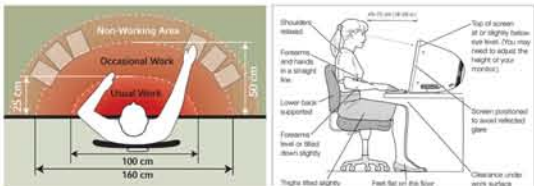
## TRIBUTE TO ICON STEVE JOBS



Steve Jobs may not have been the greatest technologist or engineer of his generation. But he is perhaps the greatest user of technology to have ever lived, and it was Apple's great fortune that he also happened to be the company's founder.

## LET'S TALK ERGO... AT ERGA

Ergonomics aims to design workstations, work processes, and tools to fit the job of the staff member since he is more likely to be exposed to risk factors that may lead to musculoskeletal injury. These include repetitions, awkward postures and static forces. Every person responds to them in different ways; some may have symptoms of an injury others performing the same tasks may not have any. The risk factors can be identified and reduced to lower the risk of injury for all staff. Even workers not experiencing pain should take ergonomics seriously to reduce the risk of developing an injury. The most important thing to do is to know how to adjust your office workstation to suit your needs as shown in the two pictures below.



# "BUILDING A DREAM HOME"



## DESIGNED BY



ARCHITECTS  
Elie & Randa Gebrayel

In Collaboration With:



ARCHITECTS (CONCEPT)  
Paul Abi Dergham & Andre Chahine (Left to Right)



ARCHITECT (DEVELOPMENT)  
Walid Badri

" Yes, Erga made my dream come true but not any dream, and not any house!

For each one of us has so many different dreams, ranging from aspirations to fantasies , and one of my fantasies was building a traditional Lebanese house with *genuine authenticity* and *practical usability*.

And here is where Erga comes in. Numerous months of hard work and long hours by a professional team translated my dream to drawings and maps. Technically difficult requirements were resolved by architectural ingenuity and not by my concessions. What I ended up with was a home and not a house, and it was my home.

To me Erga represents the ideal partner that is professional, helpful and above all ethical. The only thing that Erga lacks is the letter "t", because with this letter, and a bit of remodeling, Erga becomes what it actually is: "Great". "

Mazen Hamdan, Villa Owner  
Daher El Souwan, Lebanon



# A WEEKEND OF FUN OUTSIDE THE CORPORATE WORLD



CONGRATULATIONS TO ERGA'S TEAMS FOR WINNING 3 GOLD AND 4 SILVER MEDALS AT THE BEIRUT CORPORATE GAMES!

# PHOTOGRAPHY: AN ART, A PASSION, OR JUST A HI-TECH LIGHT BOX?



Written By  
*Mazen Lahham*

Title  
*Senior Software Developer,  
Photographer*

Erga Head Office  
*Lebanon*

"Is photography an art? Well, for some people, it is a capture of beauty whereas for others it is an art of making the world around them more beautiful by applying their creativity and technical skills. It is a unique way of telling people how you see the world in a single frame. When you are taking a portrait of someone, you are not only revealing the personality of the subject being photographed, but you are revealing yours as well. Being a creative photographer requires more than talent for success. It requires appreciation of the art, a passion, and learning technical skills. Compared to other arts, photography is capable of capturing the flying moment, the fixed and never-changing moment of reality. It breaks the borders of the world we live in. It is an art of playing with reality, an art of manipulating & beautifying the nature around us. Consequently, photographers decide what to take a photo of, what elements to exclude and what angle to frame the photo. Do you look for something extraordinary even in ordinary things? Do you want to capture a moment that will stay forever? Do you have an eye for perfection? If yes, then photography is your passion. If not, then it is just a Hi-Tech light box. Finally, it is truly hard to describe photography in a few words since a picture is worth a thousand words; just look into the captures shown to the right..."



SARAH-RITA KATTAN:  
METICULOUS MICROCEBUS MURINUS  
Written By  
*Sarah-Rita Kattan*

Title  
*Architect (Development) / Youth Advisor in  
the World Scout Committee*

Erga Head Office  
*Lebanon*



"Intrigued by its mission, educating young people to play an active role in society, I joined the scouting family at the age of 16 as a Rover. At the age of 24 I was proposed to be one of the representatives of the Lebanese Federation of Scouts in the 11th World Scout Youth Forum. I was elected to be one of the 6 youth advisors, believing that the achievement of this noble vision can be done through the engagement of young people in decision-making bodies at national level. Since then, I've been coordinating with my team members to enforce the voice of the youth worldwide."

# "MUSIC HAS BEEN DESIGNING MY LIFE SINCE CHILDHOOD"

Written By: Patrick K. Morcos  
Project Architect - Development, Musician  
Erga Head Office, Lebanon



"I grew up listening to my father's voice and musical plays. Influenced by him, I began playing the piano at the age of five. At the age of thirteen, in his memory, I started playing the "nay". Moreover, in 1998, I got the nay baccalaureate degree from the Lebanese National Conservatory of Music and started my architecture major in the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik. During my education years, I participated in many religious and folkloric concerts with the choir of the faculty of music; this strengthened my personality and gave me self-confidence. In 2002, I was awarded with the golden medal in "Studio el Fann". Until today, I play a part with "l'Ensemble Morcos", a family self-directed musical group. My devotion and passion for music are endlessly decorating my life and influencing my architectural designs. They provide me a smooth way to overcome the difficulties of life. Finally, as a musician and as an architect, I will keep the Art of Music in my life, and I will hopefully spread it and grant it to my children, as my parents did..."

GREEN DAY



What a better way to celebrate Green Day than distributing to Erga's fellow staff members some of what nature has to offer us: landscape engineer Mitri Harmouche, offered anyone who desires seedlings of green & red basil, as well as tomato & cherry tomato which he had planted himself ... Bon Appetit & Have a Wonderful Green Day!

CAMPING IN JBEIL



ATV FARAYA - ZAHLE - FARAYA



CAMPING AT CHOUWANE, NAHR IBRAHIM



ERGA QATAR



LOCATION  
*Doha*

Written By  
*Elie Chebly*

Title  
*CIO - Chief International Officer*

Since its inception in 2008, Erga Qatar has grown consistently upon the award of Qatar Professional Engineering license, Grade A to meet the growing demand in the country. Inspired to maintain a loyal commitment to Erga's visions and strategies, it has grown to more than 30 staff professionals of various nationalities, talents and skills, all united for a shared goal: to provide the best professional consultancy services and to establish strong strategic partnership.



NEWLY-ENGAGED & NEWLY-WEDS



Kamil Aoun  
& Hanane Bou  
Karam  
  
*February 09, 2011*



Wissam Eter  
& Mira Moussa  
  
*June 06, 2011*



Wissam Fahed  
& Maya Saliba  
  
*August 12, 2011*



Abdo Atallah  
& Lara Bejjani  
  
*August 14, 2011*

NEWBORN BABIES



Maëlle  
Nizar Cortas  
  
*March 02, 2011*



Marie-José  
Georges Saad  
  
*May 03, 2011*



Sophia  
Jad Abboud  
  
*June 06, 2011*



Maria  
Firas Kossaifi  
  
*June 07, 2011*

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