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The slightly flattened spherical shape of the university’s Knowledge Centre is designed to optimise the building’s photovoltaic (PV) energy harvesting—based on its orientation, the inclination of the PV panels, and maximisation of the roof’s surface area. The glued laminated timber roof was chosen over steel because by using FSC- and PEFC-certified timber, it has a lower embodied energy coefficient.

Standing 50m tall, this modern interpretation of one of the region’s most iconic, traditional architectural features, captures the cooler upper-level winds and directs them to the open-air public square at its base. Sensors operate high-level louvers that open in the direction of prevailing winds and to close in other directions to divert wind down the tower.

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Welcome to Masdar City. Located 17 km from downtown Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, this is one of the most sustainable cities in the world. As a technology cluster, powered by renewable energy, Masdar City combines passive and intelligent design to push the boundaries of sustainability. At its core, the city is home to the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology—a graduate-level research university dedicated to advancing renewable energy and sustainable technologies.