

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lessons From Dubai

NORR Architect Yahya Jan presented “New Architecture and Culture of Dubai” as input to Iconic Architecture discussion in Calgary

CALGARY, May 15, 2008 – Calgary Architecture and Urban Studies Alliance (CAUSA) today hosted Dubai architect Yahya Jan, Vice President and Design Director at NORR Group Consultants International Limited, UAE, as he presented ‘New Architecture and Culture of Dubai’, part of the lecture series ‘Create Great Architecture; A Design Dialogue for Calgary’.

“I understand that Calgary is at a pivotal point in its emergence as one of the world's leading cities, just as Dubai was a few years ago,” said Mr. Jan. “It’s been an amazing and inspiring experience for me to be part of Dubai’s use of iconic architecture to communicate its developing status as a world economic centre. Dubai is an emerging global city and leading edge technologies, innovative city planning and effective marketing have helped achieve that position. I’m happy to share our ‘lessons learned’ with Calgarians.”

The two cities share a number of characteristics - a harsh and changeable climate, vast oil riches, a challenging economic transition, unprecedented population growth and a vision of international greatness. Could Dubai and Calgary also share a passion for inspired and inspiring architecture?

Certainly, Calgary’s boom has created a huge demand for office space in the downtown core. As the City looks for ways to meet this demand, it also wants to distinguish itself among leading cities around the globe. Mr. Jan’s discussion of the role of iconic architecture in Dubai’s growth provided ample food for thought in this regard.

Mr. Jan has 20 years experience in architectural design and has been a member of the NORR’s Dubai office since 1996.

During this time, Mr. Jan has been involved in designing a wide range of project types in U.S.A., U.A.E., Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, and Russia. These include high-rise office and residential towers, retail malls, hotels, institutional buildings and multi-use complexes.

NORR’s UAE offices account for almost 20% of the 1,200 staff worldwide of the Canadian architectural and engineering consultancy, the Ingenium Group, which includes Calgary’s Poon McKenzie Architects. NORR’s portfolio of built and under construction work in the UAE exceeds \$5B in value; their current projects in Kuwait, Doha, Bahrain, and Amman exceed \$1B; and new projects are being launched in Saudi Arabia and Russia.

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Some of NORR's most recent contributions to the astonishing Dubai skyline include: The Emirates Towers; Shangri-La Hotel and Al Fattan Marine Towers. The firm is currently involved with construction administration and project execution for the Burj Dubai - slated to be the tallest building in the world at completion.

Ingenium Group Inc.

The Ingenium Group of companies offers an extensive range of engineering, architectural, interior design, and project management services focussed on quality performance, superior client service and on-budget, on-time delivery of innovative solutions. The companies employ more than 1,200 professional staff in offices in Canada, the United States, Latin America, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Asia.

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