

PROJECT PROFILE

Application/Building Type: Mixed-use: offices, homes, hotel

Name: Burj Khalifa

Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Architect: Adrian Smith, currently of Adrian Smith + Gordon
Gill Architecture

Designer: Skidmore, Owings and Merrill LLP

General Contractor: Depa Ltd.

Featured Products: USG Sheetrock® Brand Cavity Shaft Wall
System, Paper-Faced Metal Corner Bead, Paper-Faced
Metal Trim, Joint Tape, All-Purpose Joint Compound,
USG Durock® Brand Cement Board



WORLD'S TALLEST BUILDING DEMANDS THE HIGHEST STANDARDS.

Soaring 2,717 feet, or a half-mile in the air, the 162-story Burj Khalifa holds many titles, including the world's tallest building. Completed in January 2010 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), it stands taller than two Empire State Buildings stacked on top of each other.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM), responsible for five of the 10 tallest buildings in the world, designed and specified the Burj Khalifa. Adrian Smith, currently of Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture, was the lead architect on the project. Driven not only to meet the height set by the building developers, but also to ensure that the structure itself has the right proportion, Smith's design is the reason the Burj Khalifa stands 900 feet higher than the goal set in the original design request.

A major reason for the success of a structure this size is its integration of architecture and engineering. Which is why it was vital to ensure the best building partners were in place. So when it came to sourcing materials, SOM and Depa Ltd., an interior finishing contractor, specified a number of USG products for the job.

Large projects are not new to USG, which has supplied products to many of the tallest buildings in the world, including the Petronas Towers, the Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower), the Jin Mao Tower and, now, the Burj Khalifa.

"USG has been involved in a lot of projects internationally. We can give you an entire system from one company. One that features some of the best products in the industry. Products that have been tested to meet or exceed standards, and that are backed by unparalleled support," said John Funes, Export Sales Specialist, USG International.

"We have a history of being involved in international projects because as a company we are known as having the infrastructure, products, support and relationships to get things done," added Bob Grupe, Director of Architectural Services, Building Systems, USG.

The Burj Khalifa achieves its record-breaking height with the USG Sheetrock® Brand Shaft Wall System, a fire-rated assembly consisting of gypsum board, steel and insulation that encloses elevator and mechanical shafts. In addition,

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the skyscraper uses nearly 100 percent USG gypsum wall panels and drywall ceilings, as well as USG Durock® Brand Cement Board, steel framing, insulation, sealants, tape and paper-faced corner bead and trim.

"USG was chosen for this prestigious project in large part because of its well-proven, high-quality products," said Lee Gardner, Director of Export Sales and Emerging Markets, USG International.

In total, USG shipped more than 1,000 40-foot ocean shipping containers—that adds up to almost eight miles of ocean containers.

However, products are just part of the story. As Derek Sanderson, International Sales and Market Support Manager, USG International noted: "It was our goal to act as a partner with SOM in every sense of the word." Working hand-in-hand with USG Middle East (USGME), a joint venture based in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, allowed USG to provide exceptional customer service and quickly meet product demand for this iconic construction project.

“USG and USGME worked together to make this high-profile project a success both locally and internationally.”

John Funes,
Export Sales Specialist,
USG International

"USG and USGME worked together to make this high-profile project a success both locally and internationally," said Funes. "Whether it was coordinating shipments from the U.S. or ordering materials overseas for production, the teamwork and dedication of the group made this successful world-renowned project possible."

In addition, a company-wide collaboration also made the project a success, with USG's Architectural Services, Customer Service and Logistics groups working together to ensure every detail was in place from start to finish. "Our groups consider themselves a consulting firm. We understand the architect's number-one concern is protecting their clients' interests, and our number-one concern is protecting that architect," said Grupe.

For more information on the USG products used to help build the Burj Khalifa, or to learn how USG can help you with projects around the world, contact your local Architectural Sales representative.



CB703/8-14

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