

## Burj Al Souq

Located in Al Rowdat, Sharjah, this eight-story mixed-use building redefines urban design by integrating commercial and office spaces with nature, prioritizing sustainability and climate responsiveness. The design leverages Mashrabiyas with breezeblock patterns for natural ventilation, complemented by fans to enhance airflow. Lush greenery from the surrounding park extends into the building, with an elevated pond serving as a skylight to naturally illuminate and cool underground spaces. The office levels feature a hybrid cooling system, where foldable windows,

inspired by the flissade concept, create balconies during cooler months, inviting fresh air, and revert to their original positions in summer for efficient air conditioning. This system balances energy use across seasons. The building's dynamic terracotta curtain facade adapts to seasonal changes with rotating fins that optimize sunlight. The fluid design language is expressed through filleted edges on balconies, breezeblocks, and walls, while the uppermost floors are visually unified, emphasizing volumetric elegance. The surrounding park enhances connectivity with terracotta pathways carved into the terrain, featuring retaining walls that double as shaded seating. These spaces are cooled using beehive-inspired methods, where recycled water runs over clay pots for natural evaporative cooling. This creates a comfortable, sustainable environment for public interaction. The project embodies a harmonious integration of architecture and greenery, positioning itself as a sustainable landmark in Al Rowdat, Sharjah, where built form and nature thrive together.