

Dubai to open HOTEL WITH RAINFOREST

Architects in Dubai are building the world's first hotel with its own rainforest.

Set to open in 2018, the Rosemont Hotel and Residences will boast over 2 million square feet of hotel, residential, and leisure space, an artificial beach and a glass-bottom pool suspended above the streets of Dubai.

The hotel, designed by ZAS Architects, will be accommodated by a 47-storey tower that neighbours a twin tower of the same height housing 280 residential properties.

All entertainment facilities — including the 75,000 square feet rainforest — will be located in the podium at the base of the two towers.

As a city made famous by artificial islands and record-breaking architecture, Dubai will no doubt welcome the \$550m (£424m)



Sprawling across 7,000 square meters, the outdoor rainforest will feature adventure trails, a sand-less beach, a splash pool, waterfalls, streams, a rainforest cafe and an artificial rain room (pictured).

development project with open arms as it continues to redefine luxury.

Arriving at the hotel is an experience in itself. These artist's renderings show guests being immediately greeted by dynamic 3D

projections which will transform the drop-off point into a rainforest or a huge aquarium.

Once they head into the main foyer, visitors will be greeted by robotic luggage handlers.

Guests and residents can use the on-site bowling alley, trampoline park, or laser tag arena. The hotel will be operated by Hilton Worldwide under its Curio brand.

Sitting atop the five-storey podium at the base of the two towers is the development's main attraction — a 75,000-square foot jungle complete with waterfalls, streams, and a sensory rain system which mimics the rainforest climate.

Also found in the man-made jungle is a prehistoric Jurassic-inspired marsh, a splash pool, a sandless beach, and a rainforest café.

It makes for a pretty spectacular sight.

If you get tired of exploring the rainforest, you can head to the 25th floor and go for a dip in the glass-bottom infinity pool, which offers panoramic views of the city's ever-changing skyline.

The bottom of the pool is also coated in starry lighting.

Connected to the Skypool is an ultra-luxury spa and health club. (*independent.co.uk*)

Arriving at the hotel will be pretty spectacular. The drop-off area will be lit by animated projections inspired by the natural world.



The facade of the hotel tower's (pictured left) is inspired by a flowing river, and will feature lighting animations. The serviced apartment tower (right) is designed to resemble a shell and a pearl.

US Senate votes to end government shutdown



Protesters rally against the shutdown in New York

Washington

The three-day government shutdown is over, as Donald Trump signed a short-term spending bill that would provide a temporary respite from the crisis until 8 February.

The official end to the shutdown came on Monday night after Senate Democrats voted to fund the government for three weeks in exchange for a promise of a future Senate vote on immigration. The compromise broke the standoff

over the fate of Dreamers, undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer announced earlier that his party would support the legislation — which funds the government through 8 February, while extending for six years a popular health insurance program, Chip, that provides coverage to 9 million children.

Democrats yielded after Senate majority leader Mitch

McConnell promised to put an immigration bill on the floor in February to address the status of Dreamers, if no bipartisan deal could be reached by then.

The bill passed 81-18. Sixteen Democrats and two libertarian-minded Republicans voted against it. Among them were a number of potential Democratic presidential candidates in 2020 including Cory Booker, Kirsten Gillibrand, Kamala Harris, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

The bill then went to the House which quickly passed it a vote of 266-150. A total of 45 Democrats voted in favour and six Republicans voted against. It must now be signed by Donald Trump before federal employees can go back to work.

Trump said on Monday afternoon that Democrats "have come to their senses", and said he was open to an immigration deal only if it was "good for our country". (*theguardian*)