

ELECTRIC FLORA



WHY FLORA?

In the harsh desert climate, palms, trees, and vines harness the power of the sun and provide energy, comfort, and beauty to the people of Abu Dhabi.

Electric Flora draws on these characteristics in three desert plants to create a landscape that is similarly comfortable, beautiful, and entirely electric.



THE PALM PODS

Easy to overlook due to its regional commonplace, the palm tree warrants another glance to better appreciate its role in UAE culture.

A workhorse for the nations' citizens for millennia, the Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) allows residents to establish oases under its fronds and cultivate staple food crops.

The palms hanging seed pods symbolize fertility and offer a unique shape for the garden structures. The Palm Pods protect the people and plants inside—a 21st century, energy-generating oasis.



THE MANGROVE BRIDGE

Sprawling, lush and burly, the Grey Mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) proliferates in almost unbearably salty water. While these conditions are intolerable for most flora, the mangrove's roots leap and dance in the brine—sturdy and solid, yet nimble and light.

This graceful foundation extends to its canopy flower—a simple form that is plain, but beautiful.

The roots offer the form and structure for the pedestrian Mangrove Bridge across the GRT. The four-petaled flower provides the perfect photovoltaic fenestration—protecting pedestrians from the sun as they stroll across the bridge.



THE PAPER TOWER

While not a native to UAE, the Paper Flower (*Bougainvillea glabra*) flourishes in the dry, exposed conditions—producing brilliant, delicate flowers from only sand and sun.

These jewel-like flowers provide the form for the paper-thin, shimmering, and intricate solar facade of the Paper Tower. Additionally, the adaptability of *Bougainvillea glabra* parallels Abu Dhabi's shift towards the arts, culture, and technology.

This new era is highlighted in the art gallery inside of the Flower Tower—bathed in dappled, diffused light from the solar facade above.

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

The glossy, petaled facade of the Paper Tower generates clean energy year-round, allowing a local Masdar City resident to enjoy his morning jog.

