Monumental Mangrove

The first five-star integrated resort in the Philippines takes root, with a dramatic centrepiece that bridges the natural world and the built environment.

Often seeking to enhance a guest's wellbeing, urban hotels are increasingly looking to nature for inspiration, their interiors designed as a calming tropical oasis that offers respite from the hustle and bustle of the city. And while leafy palms and trailing vines typically set the scene, Solaire Resort North in Metropolitan Manila is taking an entirely different approach, installing a dramatic sculpture that bridges the natural world and the built environment.

Designed to mimic sprouting mangroves, the towering centrepiece – thought to be the world's largest glass sculpture – stands at the heart of the five-star integrated resort, and is something of a marvel, both visually and structurally. Measuring 28.1m long, 35.4m wide and 26.7m tall, Mangrove is the result of an interdisciplinary collaboration that combines the vision of Samantha Drummond of Habitus Design Group, the craftsmanship of glass artist Nikolas Weinstein, and the engineering know-how of Arup.

In total, the masterpiece comprises 16,385 glass tubes, each individually cut to a bespoke length and arc, that have been handwoven into a 'textile' using 11.3km of borosilicate tubing and 25km of steel wire. The result is an awe-inspiring installation that branches upwards through the atrium, filtering light to kaleidoscopic effect. "Mangrove is truly the focal point of the entire Solaire Resort North development," Drummond summarises. "This collaborative project embodies the spirit of innovation and artistry that defines Solaire, drawing guests into an immersive encounter with the beauty of nature in an urban setting."



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