

# SIZE MATTERS



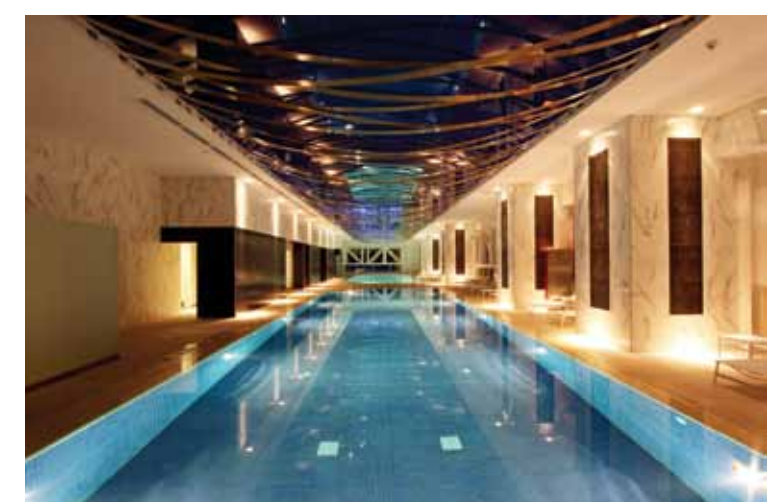
Mina Kavcar goes in search of high-rise luxury living at the immense Kempinski Doha.



>>> For most of us traipsing around West Bay during the past year, there was one ambiguous tower that kept us wondering what it was and what it would one day house. Would it be an office tower? A hotel? A residence? The jury was out. Amidst all the questions one thing was sure - it was huge! In fact, the sheer size of this particular tower made us gasp in awe every time we went by, as it continually grew a few storeys more. Now that it's all finished, we can proudly report that the gleaming tower that dwarfs both its W Hotel and Somerset Tower neighbours will bear the iconic Kempinski name as it succeeds in both delighting and dominating the denizens of Doha. Measuring in at 62 floors, this behemoth of a tower truly does soar above them all. As the tallest building in Doha, you can be sure that no one will miss this giant when gazing over West Bay's skyline and, with the veil of secrecy finally lifted, we could not wait to take a peek inside Doha's newest residential flagship.

In the words of Italian architect and interior designer Giampiero Peia, who also designed the Oyster Pavilion at the Pearl and Spa Chakra at Alfardan Towers, "You can find the same 'international style' hotel or residence in any part of the world. To save the tradition you have to reinterpret it with a contemporary vision." That's exactly what was done at the Kempinski here in Doha. In fact, we were more than delighted to see a modern and contemporary tower that didn't give you that "I could be anywhere in the world right now" feeling. Rather than incorporating only contemporary, sleek touches, both Peia and Ibrahim Jaidah, who managed the architectural arm of the project, made sure to give Doha's tallest building a Qatari feel. From classic Arabic woven screens that feature Peia's original laser cut design, to white lines flanked by a traditional Middle Eastern rug, the Kempinski is a tale of two cultures.

Residences and suites invite you, with sleek touches and crisp lines, making you feel at home even when you're miles away from it. Peia wanted to keep frills to a minimum, giving each suite a fresh feeling through light colours and his very own use of "greige" – a combination of grey and beige. When referring to the simplicity, he merely quoted fellow Italian, Giorgio Armani, in saying, "Why is this room so simple? Because the richness has to be discovered in other things." We couldn't agree more. Said richness doesn't just stop at the impeccably designed suites, it is also taken through the rest of the Kempinski and the many amenities that guests and residents can enjoy. When Charné Coetzer PR & Marketing Assistant said, "You



have everything at the Kempinski," she wasn't kidding. The tower offers everything from a leisure & fitness centre to fine drinks and dining and even a children's area to entertain, or as Coetzer put it, "edutain" your tots. Your day can begin with breakfast at Aroma, where bakery chef Abbas whips up the best croissants that have ever graced our once Parisian palate. You can delight in other menu favourites or make your way to the leisure & fitness area, where you can either take a refreshing dip in one of the pools or put the brand new gym equipment through a major workout. If you're feeling less than exercise-stellar and merely want to relax and unwind, then simply delight in spa treatments, steam and sauna rooms, or sip on a freshly made, fruitful smoothie of your choice. Yes, the Kempinski Residences & Suites in Doha truly caters to your every whim. "It's like staying in a vertical town," Peia rather aptly noted.

Having taken a whiff of what's available, you may wonder what more there could be to Doha's tallest tower? Well, we've kept the best for last. With 370 suites, there are two standout abodes that, quite bluntly, took our breath away and had us speechless for a good ten minutes. The top floor of the Kempinski Residences & Suites, Doha houses two premium Duplex Sky Villas. Imagine the tallest building in Doha, imagine you're at the top of it, and now imagine that you're standing in a massive room with floor to ceiling windows that gaze over the entire city. "Astounding," "overwhelming" and "remarkable" do no justice to what you see before your eyes. With a massive living area, six bedrooms, as well as a bar and kitchen area all sprawled out over two floors, this truly is a dream come true. Our favourite part is most definitely the bathroom, though. It's such a girly thing to say, but with a spa tub on a marble hill overlooking the city, you will no doubt be inclined to do "girly" things more often. So there you have it: Doha's newest landmark, done in immaculate Kempinski style. Be prepared to be mesmerised.

To see more designs from Giampiero, go to [www.peiaassociati.it](http://www.peiaassociati.it), and to learn about how you can find your place at the top of the world, visit [www.kempinski.com/en/doha](http://www.kempinski.com/en/doha)

