



Maldives Male International Airport designed by IDA

The new terminal for Male International Airport in Maldives is designed to handle 3mppa (4mppa in 2035) at 55,000 sq m terminal area on two fully segregated levels for arriving and departing passengers.

Designed by Hong Kong based architectural firm Integrated Design Associates (IDA), the architecture of the new terminal draws its inspiration from forms created by the forces of Nature. The basic roof form is aerodynamically shaped. When arranged in series they overlap each other to create a rhythm of progression, like crest of waves. The design of the terminal pays homage to the natural beauty of

Maldives. Major parts of the terminal sit on water landscape. With lush local floras and trees sprouting from the reflective pool, the overall effect of these lofty waves from roofs supported by tall, slender columns standing over water and with reflections, the overall visual effect is a "pavilion suspended on water", much like many designs of world-renowned resorts already built around the country.





The simple planning principle ensures the new terminal is extremely user-friendly and convenient for the passengers. The architectural openness provides an inherently high degree of clarity to the direction of flows that aid passengers' orientation. The most important sensual experience any terminal building can give to passengers is calmness.

The design of the terminal takes energy conservation very seriously. In harvesting natural light for the interior spaces the planning and design of the Terminal takes into consideration the solar path, prevailing wind, and sea in order to optimize the consumption of energy used for rejecting heat, cooling and ventilation.

The geographical location of the Male International Airport and the orientation of the building mean skylights facing north to north east is ideal for obtaining maximum daylight without direct sun exposure.

Extensive overhang from the curved roof provides effective solar shading to the east and west facades; openings to the east and west elevations of the facade in the landscape atria provide through air flow to remove remnants of trapped heat within the inner spaces; the use of water landscape instead of concrete surfaces surrounding the ground level gate lounges reduces reflected radiant heat along the east and west elevations.

Additionally, the design will explore the use of innovative green technologies for servicing, such as geo-thermal/deep-sea cooling, photovoltaic energy generation, rain-water harvesting, etc.

Male International Airport is developed by Male Airport Corporation Ltd (GMR/Malaysian Airport Authority JV). IDA provides concept design, scheme, detail design and construction supervision services for the project.

