



Jeddah Aquarium, Saudi Arabia's first public aquarium: An invitation to a submarine tour

By: Jerome Cuchet, Project Manager

Institution: Groupe Coutant

Saudi Arabia is about to open its first public aquarium in Jeddah on the Red Sea coast. Group Coutant designed and executed all aquariological aspects and Alter ego, the design branch of Coutant Aquariums, has developed the interior scenography.

The objective of this Aquarium is to help the local population, which is generally unfamiliar with aquatic environments, to discover, appreciate, understand and protect the submarine beauty of the Red Sea, which is preserved along the Saudi coastline. Children and scholars will be sensitised to the fragility of coral reefs through interactive programmes, educational programmes, movies and classrooms.

The project proposes mixing diverse tools and effects to create a modern, hyper-realistic visitor route. 3D digital submarine movies will be projected in coral reef reproductions to act like virtual aquariums. All architectural element (floors, partitions, ceiling, stairs) have been used to create a special atmosphere that will bring visitors deep under water.