



## **Morpheus Hotel in Macau, the “World’s First Free-Form High-rise Exoskeleton” by Zaha Hadid Architects**

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### **Abstract**

This paper presents the Morpheus hotel in Macau, China, designed by Zaha Hadid Architects, which opened on 15 June 2018. It is characterized by three holes that punctuate the twisting geometric facade. According to Zaha Hadid Architects, the building is the "world's first free-form high-rise exoskeleton", with its structural geometric grid negating the need for internal walls or columns that would clutter the hotel's interior. On 26th February 2019, we went to Macau and met Dr. Nuno Saures, the Director of CURB - Center for Architecture and Urbanism. He gave us a lot of useful information about the Morpheus Hotel. According to the Zaha Hadid Architects, the project's distinctive appearance is informed by the fluid forms found within China's rich jade carving traditions. Conceived as a vertical extrusion of its rectangular footprint, a series of voids is carved through the building's center. This creates what the architects describe as an 'urban window', a void designed to connect the hotel's interior communal spaces with the city.

**Keywords:** *Free-form high-rise, exoskeleton, fluid forms, urban window, jade carving traditions, parametric design*

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