

Coralarium

Sirru Fen Fuchi, Maldives

Artist and environmental sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor has just completed his most remarkable work to date. The installation is situated in a large coral lagoon on the island resort of Fairmont Sirru Fen Fushi, in the Maldives. To reach this extraordinary structure visitors must snorkel or swim around 500 ft (150 m) following an underwater coral pavement that is sea-scaped with planted corals.

The structure itself is a 20-ft-tall (6 m) stainless steel cube weighing about 200 tons, with the median tide sitting around 10 ft (3 m) up the façade. The building is accessed via a submerged staircase that arises above the water line to a dry elevated viewing platform.

The entire installation is designed to operate across three tiers, with some sculptures sitting on top of the cube, and others sitting well below the water line. "It exists in three different elements," says Taylor, explaining the work's multifaceted approach. "A set of sculptures that interact with the sky and the atmosphere. There's a set of works that are in the tidal area. They live both above the water and below the water. And then there a set of submerged works. The idea is that it's about taking all the elements of our planet and showing that everything is connected."

This unique and ambitious project took around nine months to develop and the complex structural

formation utilized high-grade marine stainless steel and pH-neutral cement. The cube's walls reference coral patterns while also being engineered to allow currents and marine life to pass through it.



Picture courtesy of Jason de Caires Taylor



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Environment:	ocean
Use:	main structure
Material:	316L
Artist:	Jason de Caires Taylor
Photographs:	Jason de Caires Taylor
More information:	jasondecairestaylor.com



Picture courtesy of Jason de Caires Taylor