

Woods Bagot celebrates 25 years in Asia



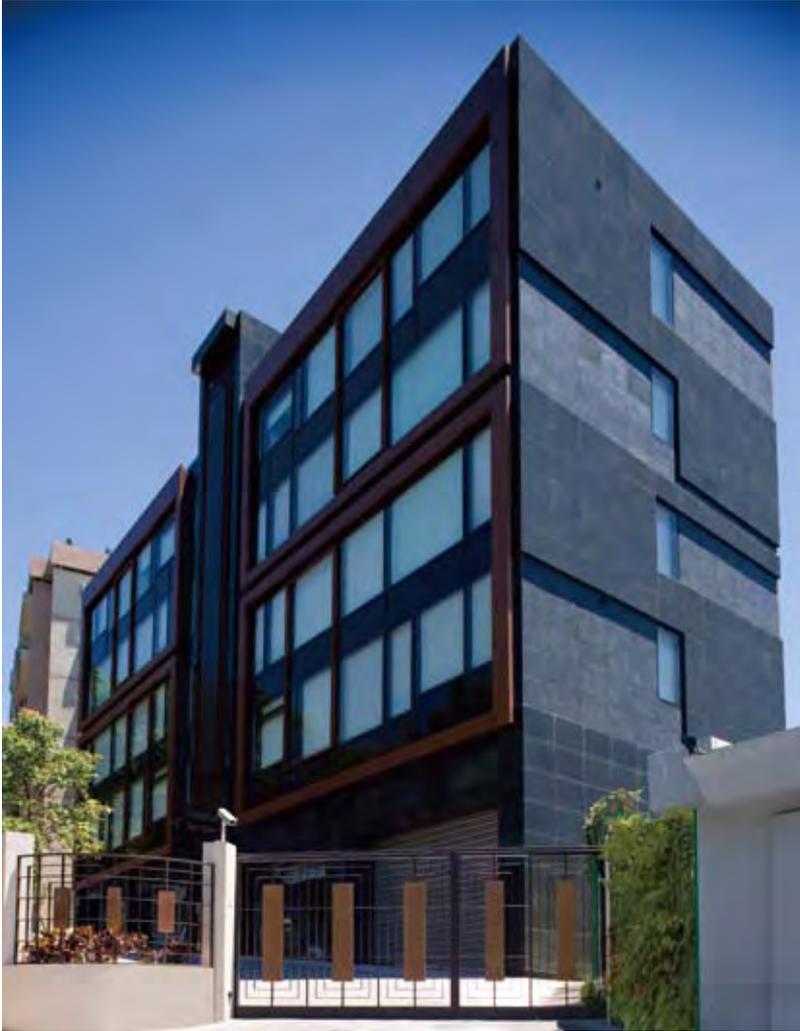
International architectural firm, Woods Bagot is celebrating 25 years in Asia. Since its first entry into the Asia region, Woods Bagot has vastly diversified its expertise in response to growing market trends.

With more than 140 years of history, Woods Bagot specializes in architecture, design and consulting across three sectors – Lifestyle, Workplace and Education & Science. The firm operates on a 'One Global Studio' concept, enabled by global technology solutions and a commitment to working without boundaries, which allows its clients to benefit from Woods Bagot's team of Global specialists who are supported by an established local studio that understands the regional context.

In China, Woods Bagot has been actively involved in shaping China's fast-developing cities, with over 60 development projects across many Chinese cities. Its involvement

in high profile developments include Zero Emissions Design (ZERO-E) in Chongqing; China-EU International Forum Masterplan project in Tianjin; Langfang Eco-Smart City in Hebei Province; Shijiazhuang International Exhibition & Convention Centre; Hong Kong University of Science & Technology; Baker & McKenzie Corporate Interior Design in Central; and the newly completed Cubus in Hong Kong.

In this issue of *BUILDING JOURNAL*, we featured the Cubus and some of the major projects undertaken by Woods Bagot in Hong Kong and mainland China. More selected projects by the firm will be covered in the coming issues.



The Apex House, Hong Kong



The Apex House located at 16 Mount Austin Road, The Peak. The Woods Bagot design team took two years to complete due to the many challenges which Managing Principal Asia, Stephen Jones says has only made the completion of the project more satisfying.

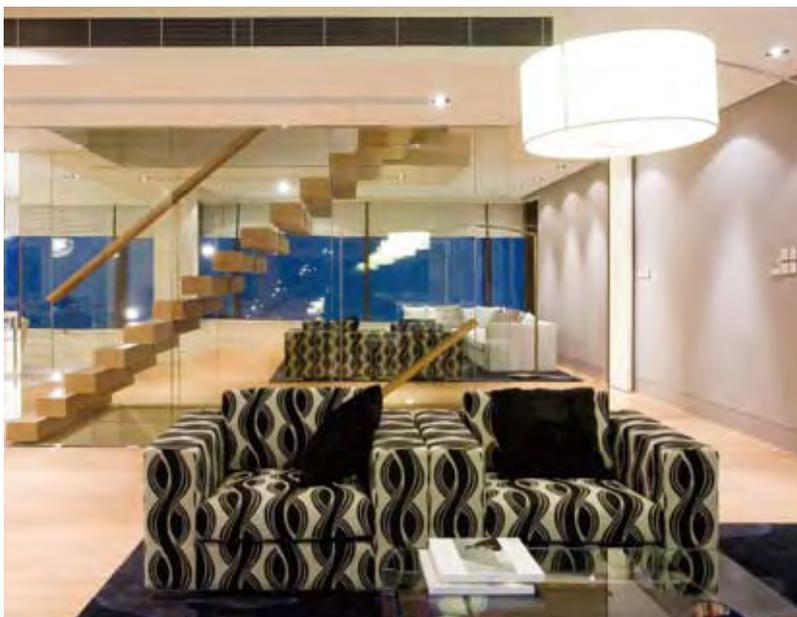
“This was a very unique project for us as we had to work within the existing ‘skeleton’ of the building yet create a totally new sensation unexpected for The Peak. We took a design cue from Mondrian-inspired grid-based paintings, a series of layered ‘frames’ that provide a richness and scale to the architecture referenced by the crisp charcoal and

copper coloured curtain wall. We wanted to showcase the superb views and make this the ‘hero’, which is why the interior design is controlled and minimal to allow for the views to cast their own spell,” said Jones.

As part of the brief, the client required Woods Bagot to reconfigure the units to create four duplexes, resulting in four generously sized luxury apartments of around 4,000 square foot, all of which were designed to showcase the awesome views from The Peak over Tsimshatsui, Victoria Harbour and Central on the East; Lamma Island and Aberdeen to the West.

Apartments A & B include a expansive privately accessed rooftop that has been created as an idyllic oasis including a servery area to prepare dinner and drinks for soirees on the roof. The fully furnished show suite (unit A) is decked out with a giant-sized Jacuzzi, Dedon outdoor furniture and Burma Teak flooring.

High quality materials, products and finishes from manufacturers such as Villeroy & Bosch, Vola, Boffi and Cosmic, reinforce the impression of luxury throughout. Solid Boen oak timber flooring is used in the apartment which boasts 270-degree views.





Fortuna Plaza, Shenyang

Commissioned by the South China Group, Fortuna Plaza was planned for a 22,000 sq m plot known as the 'Golden Site', close to the Imperial Palace at the heart of Shenyang. The Woods Bagot Asia team strove to design a mall that would not only meet strict building height guidelines, but also remain in sympathy with the city's historical icon and express its aspirations for the future. Shenyang's relatively cold average

temperatures would also be a factor in the design.

The end-result is a striking fusion of classicism and unalloyed futurism. The structure's rear facade is a stripped-down interpretation of traditional Chinese architecture, with colonnades, monolithic forms and natural brown brick surfaces creating a sympathetic, balanced response to the nearby Palace. These materials and design cues gradually 'bleed' toward the front of the structure, eventually giving way to a concave front façade clad in sparkling perforated-and-textured bronze. Centrepiece of the composition is a trio of angled 'lollipop' canopies over the mall's main entranceway. Each is held aloft by a trio of slender, inclined columns, and boasts a metal mesh underside onto which images can be projected.

As a practical measure to keep Shenyang's sometimes harsh climate at bay, exterior glazing was kept to a relative minimum. Inside, the mall's 20,000 sq m GFA is distributed among four above-ground storeys and three basement levels. An expansive rooftop 'garden' area variously serves as a park, sports venue and a skating rink according to need and season.

The project will be completed early 2011.







Tianjin Waterfront Development

The development is situated along a one kilometre waterfront site at East Port, a 33 sq km newly reclaimed land adjacent to Tianjin's Port area. The expansion project of the area, which has been designated by China's Central Government as a free trade Port, gives Woods Bagot the

opportunity to create a completely new waterfront concept. Designed as a first-class seaside conference and tourist destination, the development consists of a 630 room 5-star hotel, a yacht club and marina, seaside restaurants, retail mall, villas and a promenade.

The hotel architecture is characterised by two 'wings' which were developed to maximize the number of rooms with sea views. The wings are connected through an 8 storey high central atrium enveloping a floating cocoon form that houses the hotel executive lounge space and a special event venue.

Inspired by the sea views, waves and nautical boating forms, the marina club has a dynamic shape that opens up to the sea on the East, shelters the building from the western sun and twists up to form a visible beacon. The retail mall is the key element that connects the hotel and marina club together providing all weather access in this cold climate. The retail loop can be inside the mall in winter or include a promenade beside the restaurants along the seaside in the warmer months.

The hotel's seaside café picks up the curvilinear forms of the hotel and its soaring roof opens the space to the sea views. The



The design of the marina club, inspired by waves and nautical boating forms, is both distinctive and functional; offering wide sea views while providing protection from the western sun



The design of the 5-star hotel is defined by two wings to offer maximum views of the sea from the hotel

interior design of the café was based on a theme of bubbles using curved shapes to reinforce the architectural aesthetic. The seaside café was designed and constructed first to provide a test case for the construction team and to allow a key launch party for the local government.

“One key challenge was creating an architectural response that supports the client’s desire for an iconic destination development whilst being cost effective and buildable in the China market,” comments Managing Principal Asia, Stephen Jones.

The project is developed by Rainbow Land Holdings.

