HKIA Annual Awards 2007

President's Message

In the last few years when new projects in Hong Kong were scarce, architects in Hong Kong had to resolve to seek new markets in Macau with the growth of the gaming industry, the vast markets in the Mainland China with its large scale projects, Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

The submissions this year will reflect the diversity of projects in various countries as our Architects applied their design skills abroad.

I would like to congratulate the winners and all those who submitted their projects for this prestigious award.

Much effort has been made by the organizers and the adjudicators who have devoted long hours and had to make tough decisions given the quality of the submissions.

I hope you will enjoy sharing with me the pleasure of the excellent works.

Dr Ronald LU, FHKIA
President
The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Jury Panel

Lay Juror
Mr Alan CHAN Yau-kin
Director, Alan Chan Design Co

Overseas Juror
Ms Christine HAWLEY AADipl, RIBA, FRSA
Dean of the Faculty of the Built Environment at the University College London in UK
Director, Christine Hawley Architects

HKIA Member
Mr Donald CHOI
Managing Director, Nan Fung Group

HKIA Member
Mr CHEN Shi-min
Director, Chen Shi Min Architects Ltd

Representative from Young Architects
Mr Paul CHU Hoi-shan
Young Architects Award Recipient 2002

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Annual Awards are given out every year to highlight outstanding architecture designed by members of the organisation. The programme began in 1965 and is the most important architectural award in Hong Kong.

To help promote Hong Kong architecture internationally as well as to stimulate its further development, in 2007 a new award mechanism was established by which members may submit projects from outside Hong Kong for a Medal of the Year. Since then, Medal of the Year awards have been in two categories: HKIA Medal of the Year of Hong Kong, and HKIA Medal of the Year Outside Hong Kong. Both are bestowed to architect(s) of selected buildings which show outstanding achievement. Similarly, architect(s) of other buildings of distinction may receive an HKIA Merit Award of Hong Kong or an HKIA Merit Award Outside Hong Kong. All entries are divided into the following categories for assessment: Commercial Buildings, Community Buildings, Residential Buildings, and Industrial/ Transport/ Utility Buildings.

The President's Prize is awarded for smaller projects with construction costs below HK$20 million. Established in 2001, the Special Architectural Award acknowledges members whose work and/ or research has made an outstanding contribution to a particular facet of architecture, including Heritage, Sustainable Design, Architectural Research, Architectural Interior, Accessibility, Urban Design and Technological Innovation.

Number of nominations

HKIA Medal of the Year of Hong Kong / HKIA Merit Award of Hong Kong	32
Medal of the Year Outside Hong Kong / HKIA Merit Award Outside Hong Kong	20
President's Prize	7
Special Architectural Award	18
Total Number of Nominations	77

Medal of the Year of Hong Kong

10, 12, 16 & 18 Pollock's Path

Design concept

Located at Pollock's Path No.10, 12, 16 & 18 on Mount Gough, the Peak, Skyhigh is comprising 4 detached family houses ranging in saleable area from 540 sq m to 620 sq m complete with private terraces, sundecks and swimming pools.

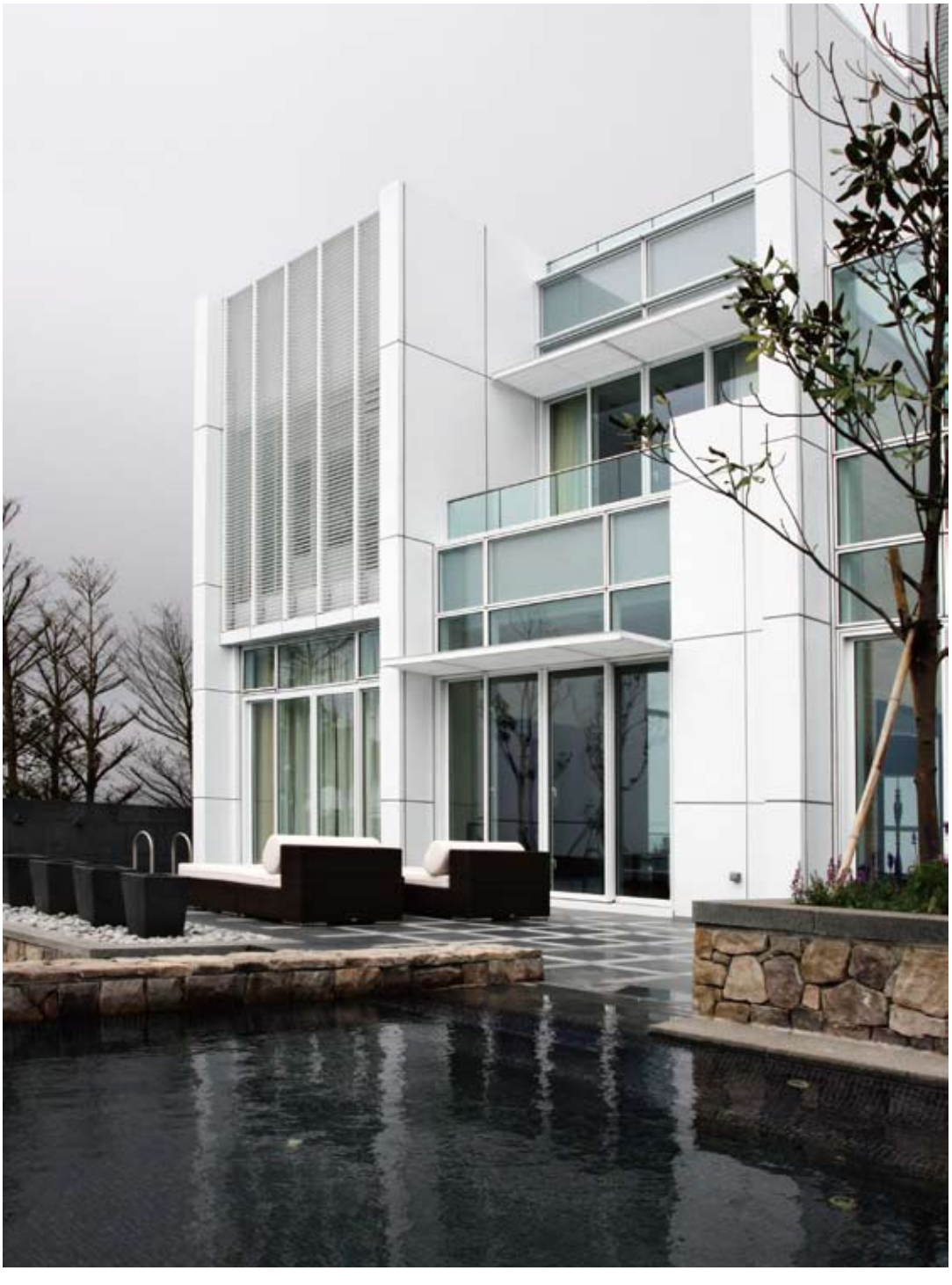
Site constraints

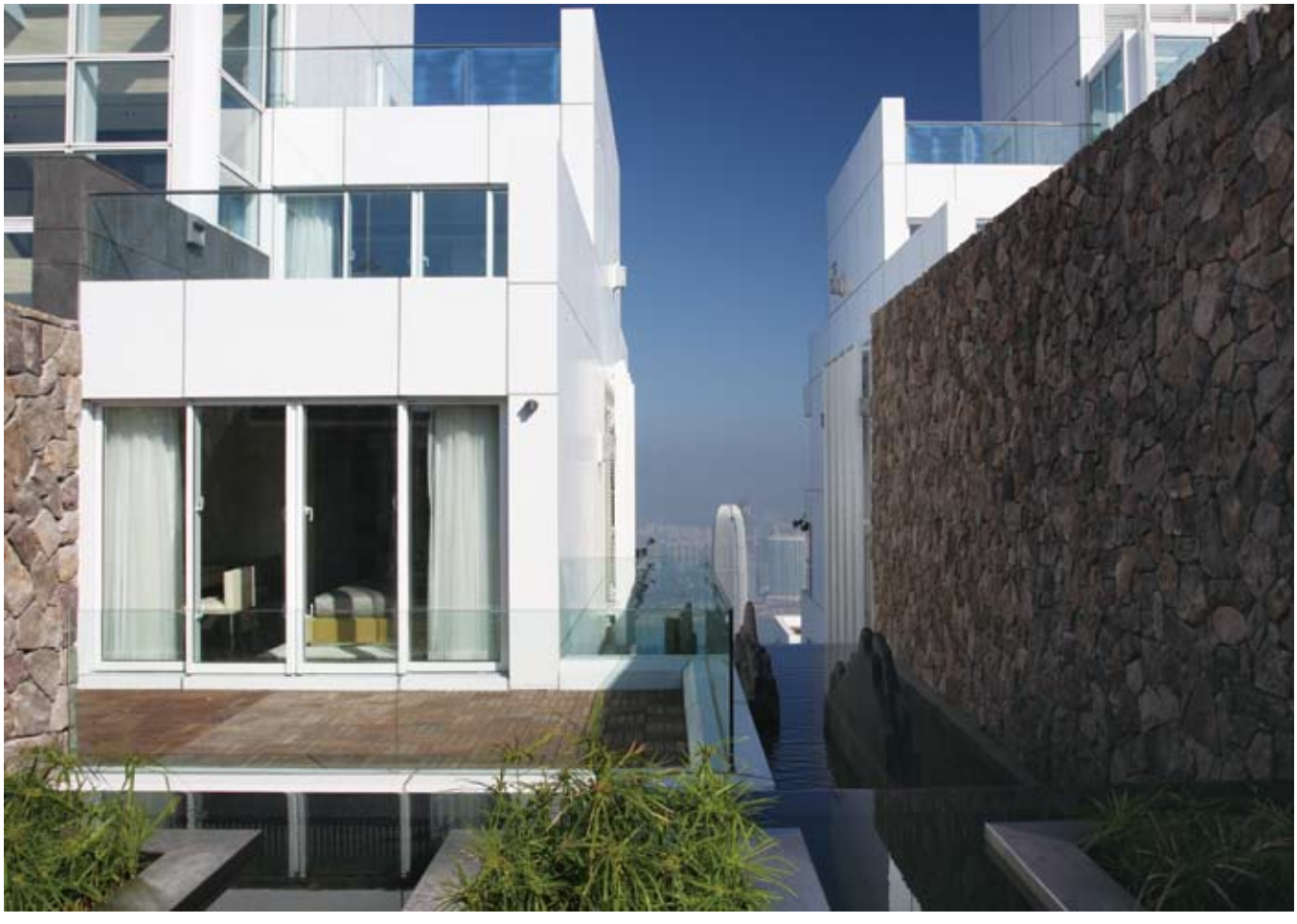
Taking advantage of the naturally steep topography and an opportunity of two access roads to the site, the development is generally divided into an upper and a lower portion. The two larger houses on the higher platform are approached by a private road whereas the lower platform abuts Pollock's Path. While generally facing towards North with great vistas of the Victoria Harbour, the top houses also enjoy unobstructed views in direction of the South of Hong Kong Island.

Site planning

The challenge of the difficult terrain calls for a design concept which reflects the site's topography and naturally allows the four houses to develop in a series of terraces tucked against the slope at different levels. Appropriate landscaping elements such as the central water feature separate the houses further into individual settings and thus enhance this concept.

architect:	P&T Architects and Engineers Ltd
location:	No. 10, 12, 16 & 18 Pollock's Path, The Peak, Hong Kong
site area:	4,071 sq m
contract sum:	HK$92,707,177
client:	The Star Royale Ltd
completion date:	28 May 2007
development content:	Residential





Architecture design

The internal plan of the houses is based on a clear arrangement of functional parts, namely the living quarters, the sleeping quarters and the service quarters. Each part is strategically planned for views and privacy. This allows for variations of spatial flow within the four houses since, due of the site's unique topography, the living and dining rooms are placed on different levels to capture the best views. Each house plan thus differs slightly according to the site condition. Sleeping quarters are generally placed on the upper levels with the master bedroom on the top floor and the service quarters and big kitchens are placed on the lower levels next to the dining and family rooms for ease of service.

Each house is entered through a grand two storey high foyer having a private lift serving all five levels. Different rooms open out to different landing levels, resulting in higher ceiling height for the larger rooms and most rooms either open out to its own terrace or garden with private swimming pool and jacuzzi.

Materials used throughout the project are environmentally friendly based. Natural stones, aluminum cladding and bris-soleil, wood decking and double low-e glass are chosen for ease of maintenance and energy efficiency.

Jury report

The site is located at the Peak and epitomes the most prestigious residential address in Hong Kong which resulted in a generous budget to ensure there is no compromise of quality due to insufficient budget. At the same time the steep site and narrow access present some of most difficult design and construction constraints. While there are panoramic spectacular views to the city below, such views may be obscured during the foggy weather and demands special design attention. Four houses have been built on site.

The master plan shows the architect's mastery over the sloped site by the creation of various different platforms and terraces to take advantage of the steep topography and maximize the frontage of each house for viewing out. Skillful deposition of buildings on the site incorporates the change of

platform levels to create interesting volume of interior spaces in the building ranging from multi-story entrance hall and living area to single story bedroom all united by the vertical circulation core.

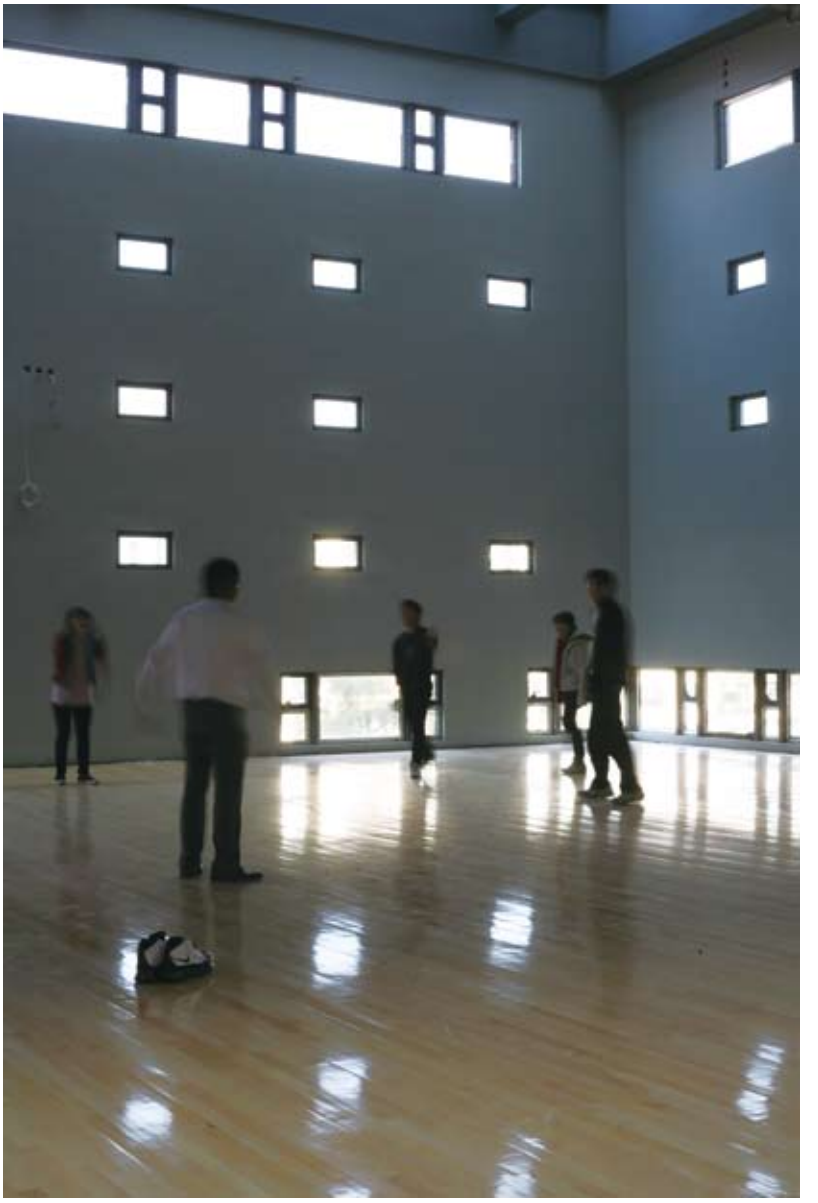
The well proportioned spaces provide a modern yet humanistic and warm living environment to the inhabitants. Intimate outdoor spaces and courtyards are attached to most of the rooms by making use of the different terraced platforms thus providing not only a framed view to the city below but also a controlled garden setting for secluded relaxation and viewing enjoyment during foggy weather. The artful design and crafty use of level changes provide privacy and security to individual unit without the use of high enclosing fences thus maintaining the overall cohesiveness and openness of the site. The whole site is further connected by the placement of various water features, small streams, ponds, etc., blending the landscape and buildings into a tranquil living environment for the privileged few.

The jurors are impressed by the architect's quality control of the building construction work which has been reflected in the high standard of workmanship achieved. Despite the generous budget the architect should be praised for exercising constraint and had not been ostentatious in the architecture. It is with regret to note that the interior design inside the houses were not all done under the architect's design control. In one circumstance where the interior decoration works were done by another designer without the architect, design schizophrenia between the architecture and interior decoration has lessen the spatial clarity from the original design experience.

Medal of the Year of Hong Kong

Dormitory & Sports Facilities at Diocesan Boys' School

architect:	Thomas Chow Architects Ltd
location:	131 Argyle Street, Mongkok, Kowloon, Hong Kong
site area:	4,100 sq m
contract sum:	HK$110 million
client:	Diocesan Boys' School
completion date:	December 2007
development content:	Dormitory and Sports Facilities



Design concept

The building is built on a slope of a school campus which is located at the heart of the high density Mongkok urban area.

A dormitory for 200 students, a multi-purpose gymnasium and an indoor swimming pool are stacked on top of each other in order to preserve the landscape and the existing historical steps on the slope built in 1938. The challenge is to adapt the architecture to the topography without any retaining or basement structures since construction budget is tight.

Dormitory units are located at the top and are organized as a cloister to form a centre courtyard for quiet accommodation, learning and social interaction.

A gymnasium is designed at the middle and the play of light and view is the theme of this space which is simple and brightly illuminated.

The swimming pool on the lower level is fully glazed and the surrounding trees provide a strong connection to the green nature.

Jury report

The architect was given the choice to select the building site on the school campus. The selected site is on a sloped site at the far end of the campus abutting a historical significant stairs pathway that connects the school with the city from the very early days of the school establishment and continue to play an important role in today's school life. Locating the building at such important junction, both physically and in the school tradition, shows the architect's commitment and belief in the power of architecture to enhance daily experience. The jurors praise the architect's courage for the site selection despite the challenges from the need to preserve the historical stairs pathway, the difficult site topography and the very limited budget allocated to construction.

The tight budget is apparent in the building design: spartan finishes throughout the building with few superfluous elements; for example most services are exposed without concealment and the toilets are striped

down to the minimum functional provision. However, the lack of embellishment does not take away the poetic spatial experience created by the architect. By careful placement of circulation paths, courtyards, gathering nodes, etc, the communal spirit of the place has been celebrated. Enlarged corridor surrounding a central courtyard outside the dormitory quarter acts as an outdoor living room and provides a place for the students to linger. It also serves as a gallery and viewing platform to the central landscaped garden and affords a peep into the sport hall below via the skylight placed in the courtyard.

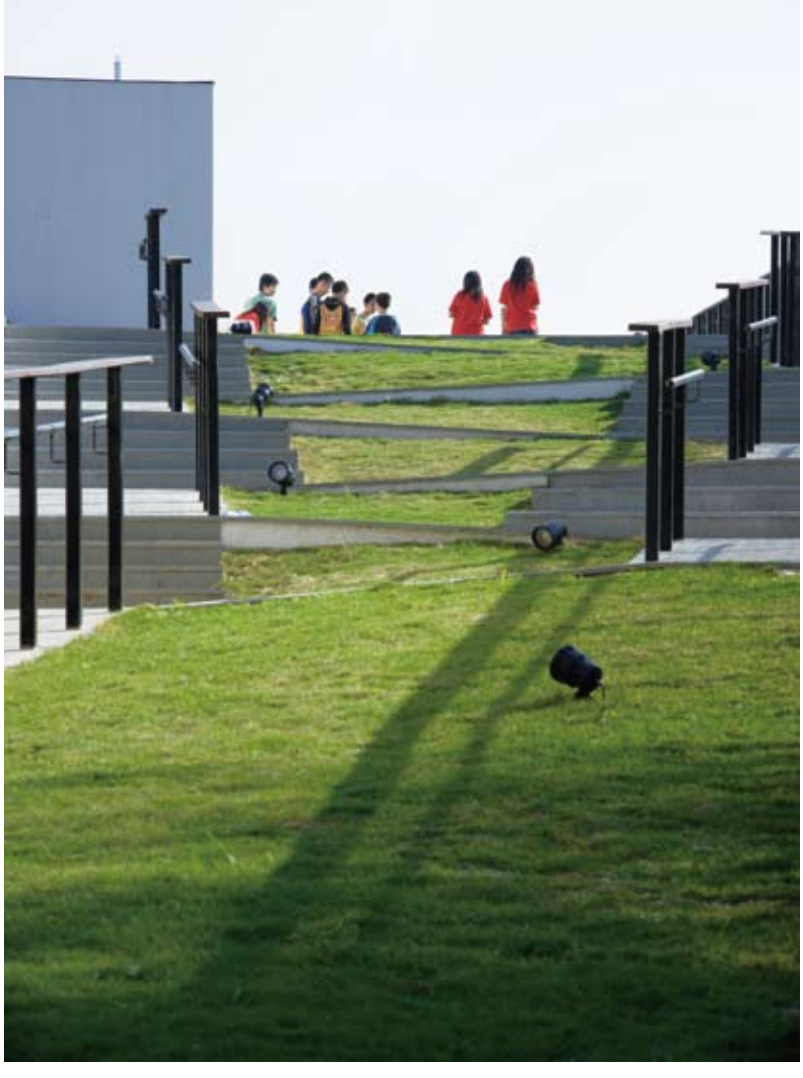
The language of architecture is modern and there are reminiscences of the design approach of heroic masters like Le Corbusier and Mies in the building treatment. Passing through the building reveals the architect's sensitivity to control the intrusion of the hectic city life into the campus by directing vista and framing the view out to create a placid environment for learning. The windows placement according to the desired picture frame adds further interest to the facade articulation. A minor imperfection for such placement is that in some cases it might go against the functional requirement of the room which is the case in the sport hall where strong light from some windows may prevent certain competitive sport games to take place inside the hall. However, it is a problem that can be easily solved by the addition of blind when the budget is available. Furthermore, since the hall will likely serve many other functions in addition to a sport hall, the introduction of natural lighting into the huge indoor space is considered a plus.

Overall the architect, a school alumnus, has successfully empowered the school with this building which provides a humanistic environment for students to grow and fully integrate into the school life. The jurors believe this project has demonstrated the important role of architecture in everyday life, in this case how school life can be enhanced by good design and an effective use of a tight construction budget. It is an exemplary case showing good architecture can be produced without a lavish cost budget if the architect has the commitment and sensitive design skill.

HKIA Merit Award of Hong Kong

HKYWCA Conference Centre and Guesthouse

architect:	Ronald Lu & Partners (Hong Kong) Ltd
location:	San Shek Wan, Lantau, Hong Kong
site area:	10,800 sq m
contract sum:	HK$42 million
client:	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association
completion date:	August 2007
development content:	Community Building



Design concept

Located on a scenic site on Lantau Island, this project involved the redevelopment of a 30-year-old campsite in support of the HKYWCA's expanded programme. It consists of four major components: outdoor activity areas, dormitories, function rooms/ canteen; and staff/utility facilities. Functional and sustainable, the architecture meets and exceeds the user's requirements for practical green strategies.

In response to the client's vision to expand the training programme and the natural topological features of the site, the design aims to create multiple 'playgrounds' for training and recreation. A linear approach ties each platform together into a series of distinctive-but-interconnected activity areas, with a climbing wall at one end providing a playful vertical link between levels.

Rather than dictating the use to each area, the architecture takes its cues from the flow of the terrain to generate a universally accessible loop. At the same time, this approach minimized the amount of cut-and-fill needed during construction. Integral to the design is a green roof that creates an extra layer of activity space for the campsite, as well as giving superior thermal insulation for the dormitories and capturing the sea view.

Jury report

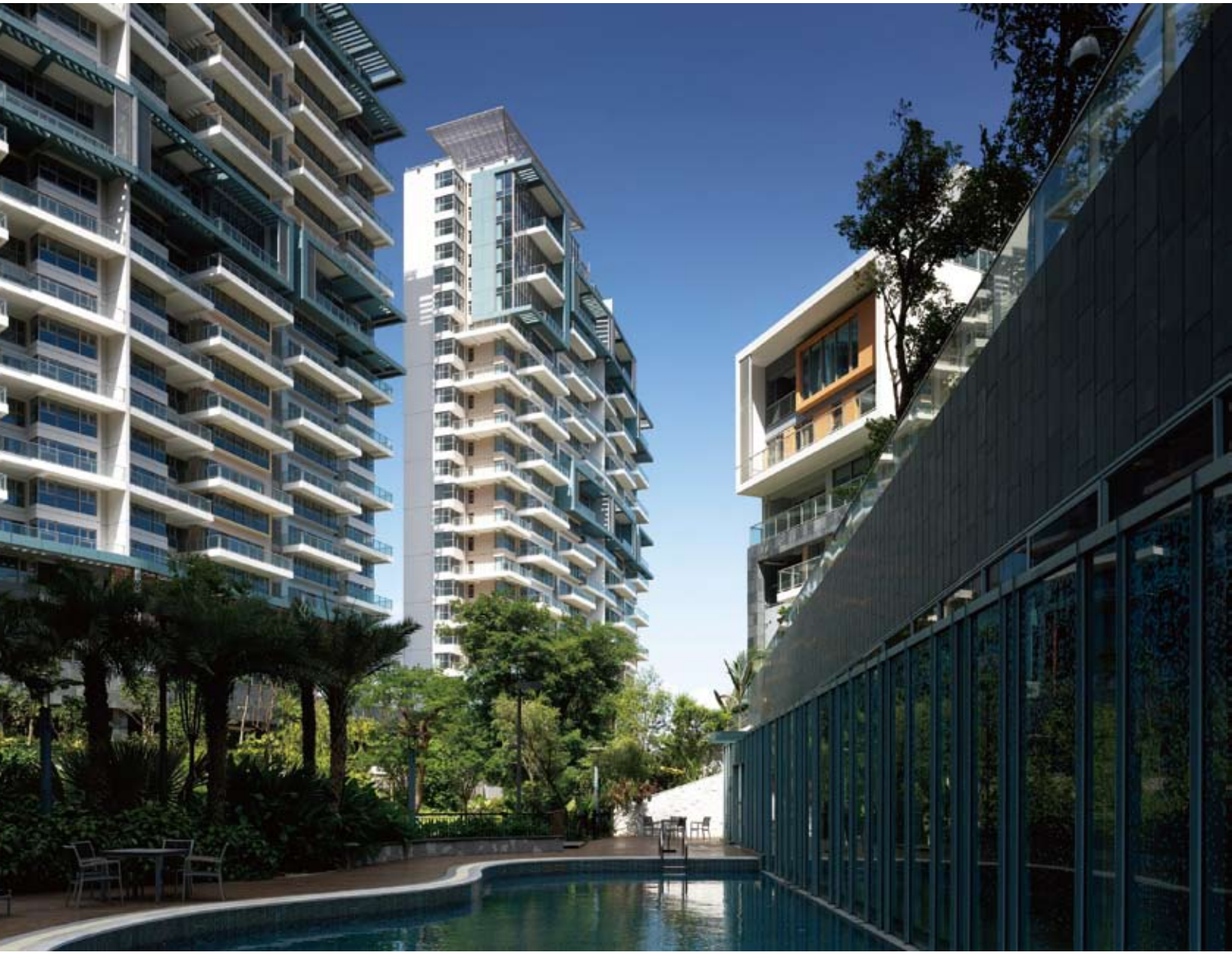
The building has two wings which are separated by a communal open space for youth activities. The design of a continuous landscape with access to the green roof ensures the development merge with the natural surrounding. Overhead bridge connection between the two wings serves as a viewing platform to the outdoor room below with indoor and outdoor boundaries deliberately blurred to provide the operational flexibility as well as to integrate the facilities into the landscape setting.

The jurors are impressed by the architect's thoroughness in understanding the end user's requirement before the commencement of building design by participating in some of the activities organized for the youth by the Centre. Such care is reflected in the finished building with the emphasis on the well-scale communal open space and its associated human activities rather than on the creation of a grand architecture. It is a pleasing example of how a humane building can add to the end user's enjoyment and create a memorable experience. While it was the client's request to paint the corporate blue color on the building face, the jurors believe by leaving the concrete wall unpainted would be more harmonious with its natural surrounding and design approach.

Medal of the Year Outside Hong Kong

Mont Orchid Riverlet Phase II

architect:	RMJM Hong Kong Ltd
location:	Mid-levels, Shekou, Shenzhen, China
site area:	46,860.8 sq m
contract sum:	RMB380 million
client:	China Merchants Real Estate (Shenzhen) Co Ltd
completion date:	June 28, 2007
development content:	Residential

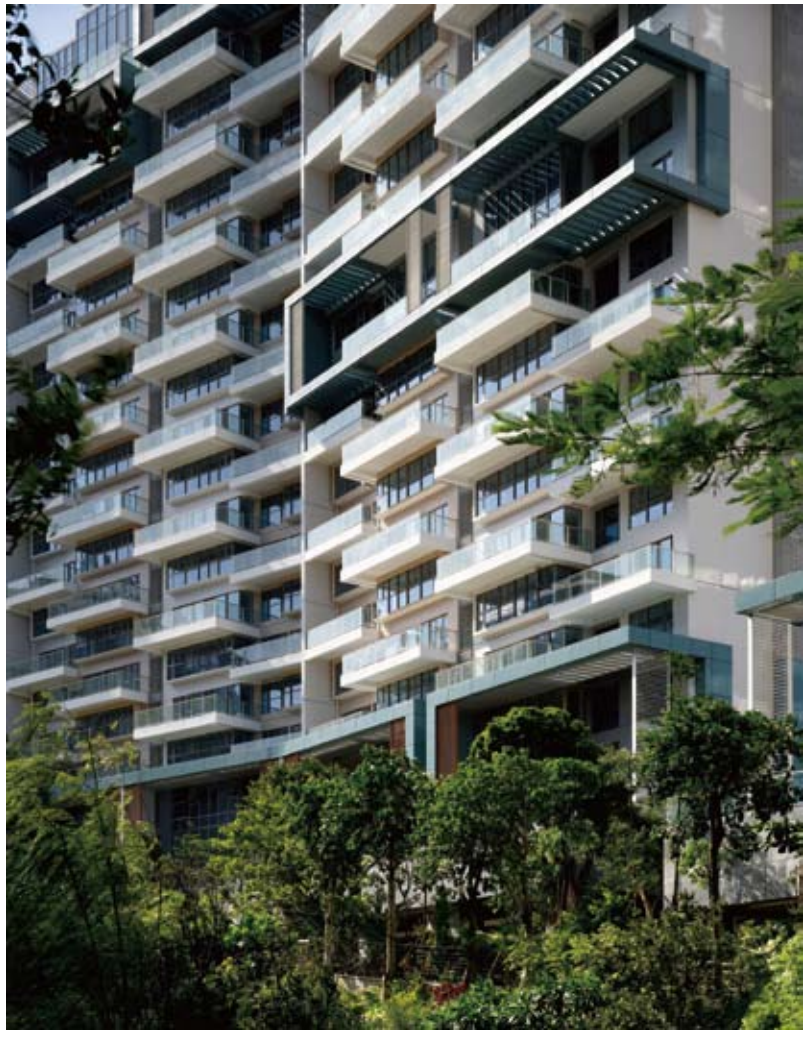


Design concept

Mont Orchid Riverlet (Phase II) is a high-density development which succeeds in retaining the existing green belt and the open space feel of lower density residential areas by creating a vertical neighbourhood.

The 13 luxury apartment towers and three sets of interlocked and stacked townhouses make use of multiple plan types and careful orientation, maximizing vertical opportunities facing open views. Also, to break down repetitiveness, elevation treatment varies by alternating balcony locations, introducing townhouses at lower levels to face the central landscape and duplex apartments at mid and highest levels to enjoy surrounding sea views.

Additionally, vehicular traffic and drop-off points are directed to the basement while a minimal number of structural elements reach the ground. Both efforts allowed green areas to cover over 50 per cent of the site. Finally, light reflecting from the roofs mimics the ever-changing clouds, creating a dynamic relationship between indoor living and the natural environment.

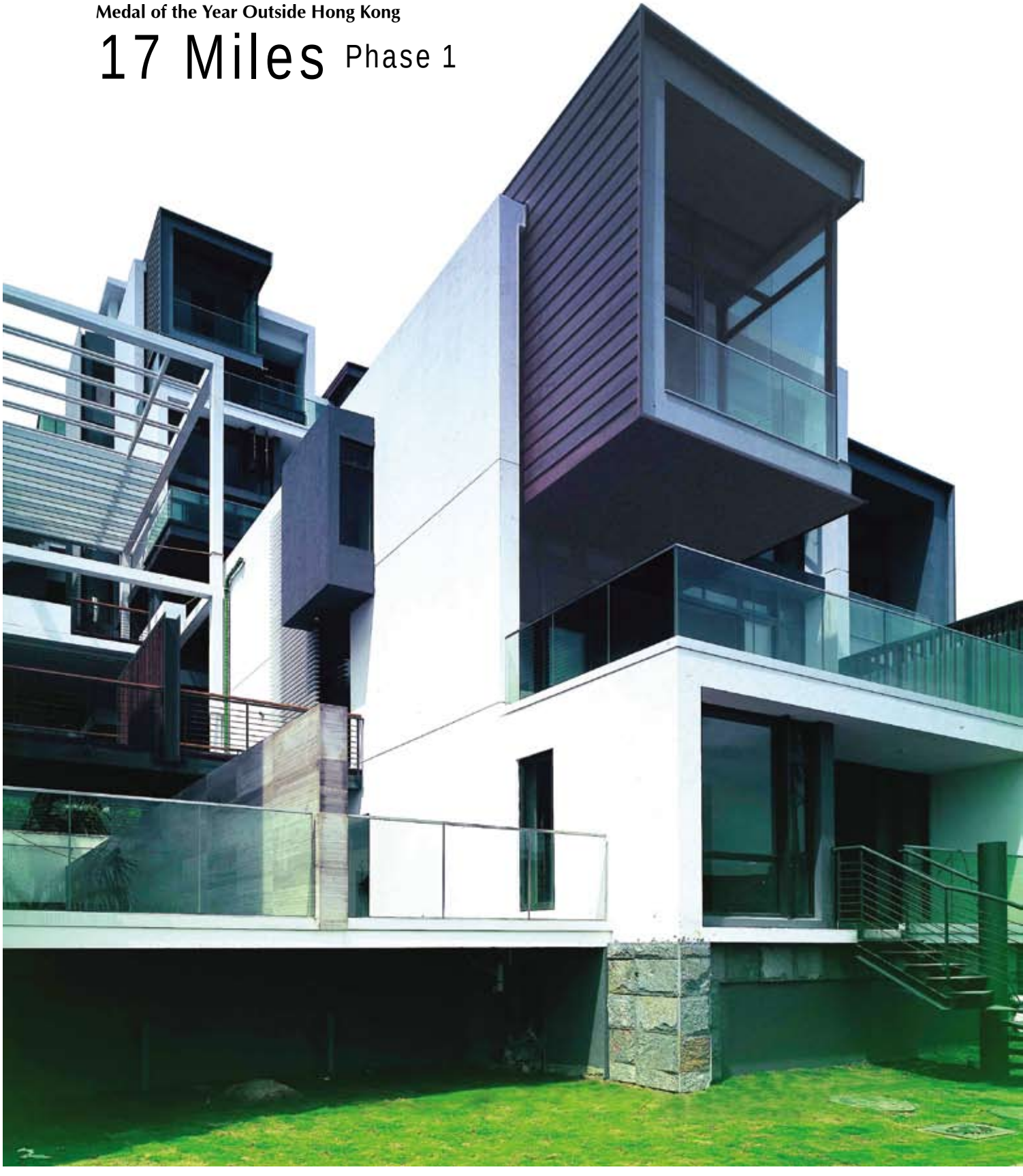


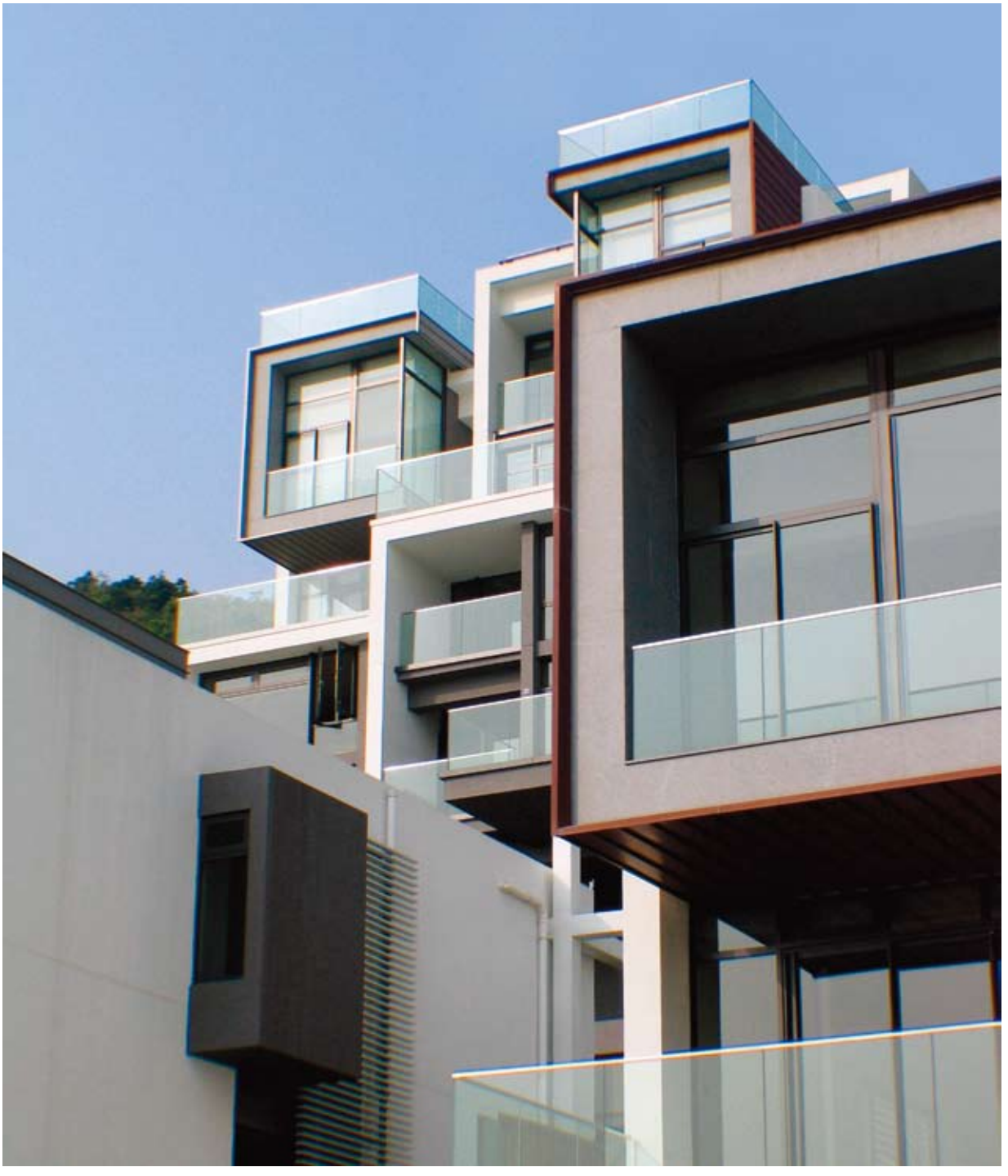
Jury report

The project presents a successful example of how variety can be achieved in a high-density high-rise development; in this case, by means of different combinations of repeated design modules and elevation units in a natural setting. Placed against a mountainous backdrop, the lower portion of the structure contains triplexes with individual swimming pools, while the upper levels contain house apartments. Individual identity is expressed by clean and well-detailed elevations which create interesting facade compositions. Double-sided windows promote cross-ventilation for individual units. The strategy of raising the lower residential level allows for the man-made landscape to be received on the ground plane, making the lower portion an integrated whole. As such, this complex represents a fresh approach to high-rise residential development that is seldom seen in Hong Kong.

Medal of the Year Outside Hong Kong

17 Miles Phase 1





architect:	Rocco Design Architects Ltd
location:	Xi Chong, Shenzhen, PRC
site area:	67,500 sq m
contract sum:	HK$150 million
client:	Shenzhen Vanke Real Estate Co Ltd
completion date:	April 2005
development content:	Residential

Design concept

Located at Xi Chong, '17 Miles' is a contemporary town anchored to a hillside on the eastern coast of Shenzhen.

Offering a panoramic sea view, the development consists of a number of white cubes stacked across a steep slope like a series of white steps ascending from the coast. The arrangement is punctuated with boxes of varying colours and materials, conveying a sense of identity for each dwelling and creating an animated, other-worldly ambience.

Interconnecting hillside walkways, small plazas, gardens and landscaped pools establish a multilayered network of communal spaces and viewing decks, creating a new variety of seaside lifestyle.

The development comprises villas, row-houses and medium-rise apartments, all carefully related and dovetailed. Transparent-versus-opaque facades are strategically positioned in order to give every dwelling a dramatic view of South China Sea whilst ensuring optimum privacy and intimacy.

Jury report

This project is sited on a sloping site with a prominent sea view. A most impressive feature of the development is its careful site planning strategy, which skillfully positions three types of holiday houses in such a way that site formation work was reduced to the greatest degree possible. Similarly, the disposition of functions within individual houses was determined in response to climatic conditions and site topography. The design gives a feeling of resort living or that of a second home. However, jurors have some reservations about security issues stemming from the relatively easy access to the open spaces surrounding the houses which requires attentive building management control.

HKIA Merit Award Outside Hong Kong

Xiamen International Cruise Terminal

architect:	Aedas Ltd
location:	Dongdu Road, Xiamen, PRC
site area:	27,123 sq m
contract sum:	HK$390 million
client:	Xiamen Ports Group Co Ltd
completion date:	May 2007
development content:	Cruise terminal, customs & retail

Design concept

The terminal building marks the crossroads of Xiamen's seaborne travel activities. With its close proximity to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea, it is at the forefront of a new era of sea travel.

Essentially, the building's design concept draws inspiration from oceanic waveforms. Thus, the overlapping roof planes of the terminal concourse become the structure's distinctive feature. The feature also allows for natural lighting and ventilation in the concourse, enhancing its energy efficiency. Although the terminal has an iconic roof, its overall massing has been deliberately kept low to ensure that docked cruise ships can be clearly seen from the city.

Both departure and arrival halls and all essential functions like immigration and customs are located on the same level for ease of operation. Retail and restaurant facilities on the mezzanine floor above provide commercial value and returns to the terminal building's owner.

The main traffic approach to the terminal is via a viaduct leading from Dongdu road into the site. Pedestrians can also access the restaurant and cafés on the upper level via external stairways and escalators on both sides of the terminal building. As the west elevation of the terminal faces the sea, a public promenade was created on the concourse's upper level to provide panoramic views of the Lujia Straits and the docked cruise ships. The site connects to and represents the final destination of Eco Park to the south. It also provides a sunset backdrop for the terminal building at the end of a busy day.

Jury report

The project brief called for an iconic building located at a strategic location in Xiamen. The resultant international cruise terminal presents a clean and modern image for Xiamen waterfront, and boasts the functional advantage of a simple, effective plan for handling passengers. Notably, the vertical supporting structural elements are relatively large in view of the light weight roof. The jurors note the facilities appear to be very generous for the present volume of cruise traffic and the operation efficiency should be studied, particularly in terms of environmental and climate control.

President's Prize

All-weather Swimming Pool for China Holiness Church Living Spirit College

architect:	Eric Design Architect Ltd
location:	1 Tung Leung Lane, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong
site area:	600 sq m
contract sum:	HK$6.5 million
client:	China Holiness Church Living Spirit College
completion date:	30 July 2007
development content:	Swimming pool for students' aquatic training

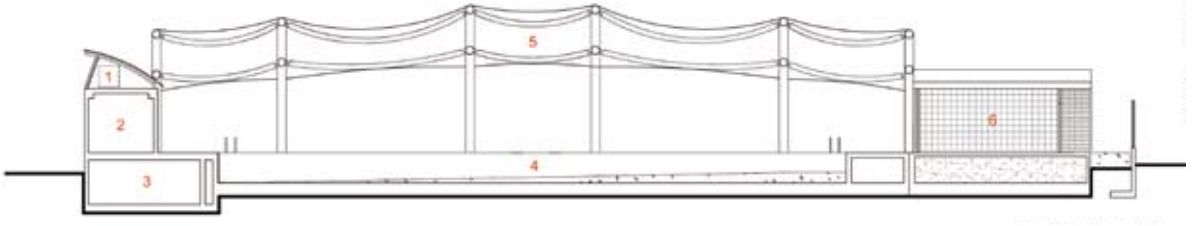
Design concept

The architect started with the basics and bare essentials when designing the all-weather swimming pool for students' aquatic training, given the substantial limitations of the land areas and a tight budget of HK$6.5 million. 'Light & Air' for the pool is maximized to achieve a cheerful and energetic atmosphere. Natural lighting and natural ventilation are the prime design elements. The key architectural expressions are *Light* and *Lightness*. The translucent and reflective properties of fabrics are fully explored. With the water reflection, the fabric shelter 'glows and floats' over the pool. Low cost and environmental friendly materials are used, and their characteristics are all self expressed, invoking openness and dissolving boundaries between indoor and outdoor. The structure for the shelter is in the form of *Skin & Bones*. *Skin* is the lightweight PVC fabric which can withstand very high tensile force. 'Bones' is the main structure made of steel arches providing a stable and efficient structure.

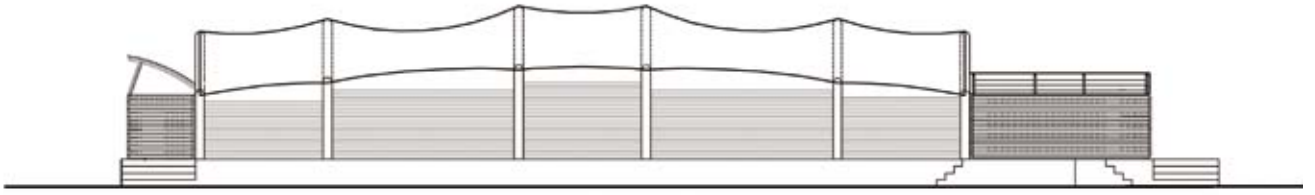
Jury report

This small swimming pool project was undertaken within the constraints of a very tight budget: HK$6.5 million. The design consists of a lightweight structure with modular steel construction and fabric cover. The end-result is unpretentious and pleasingly functional - an encouraging start for a relatively young Hong Kong-based architectural firm.

1 heat
2 filtration plant room
3 underground filtration plant room
4 swimming pool
5 fabric shelter
6 changing room

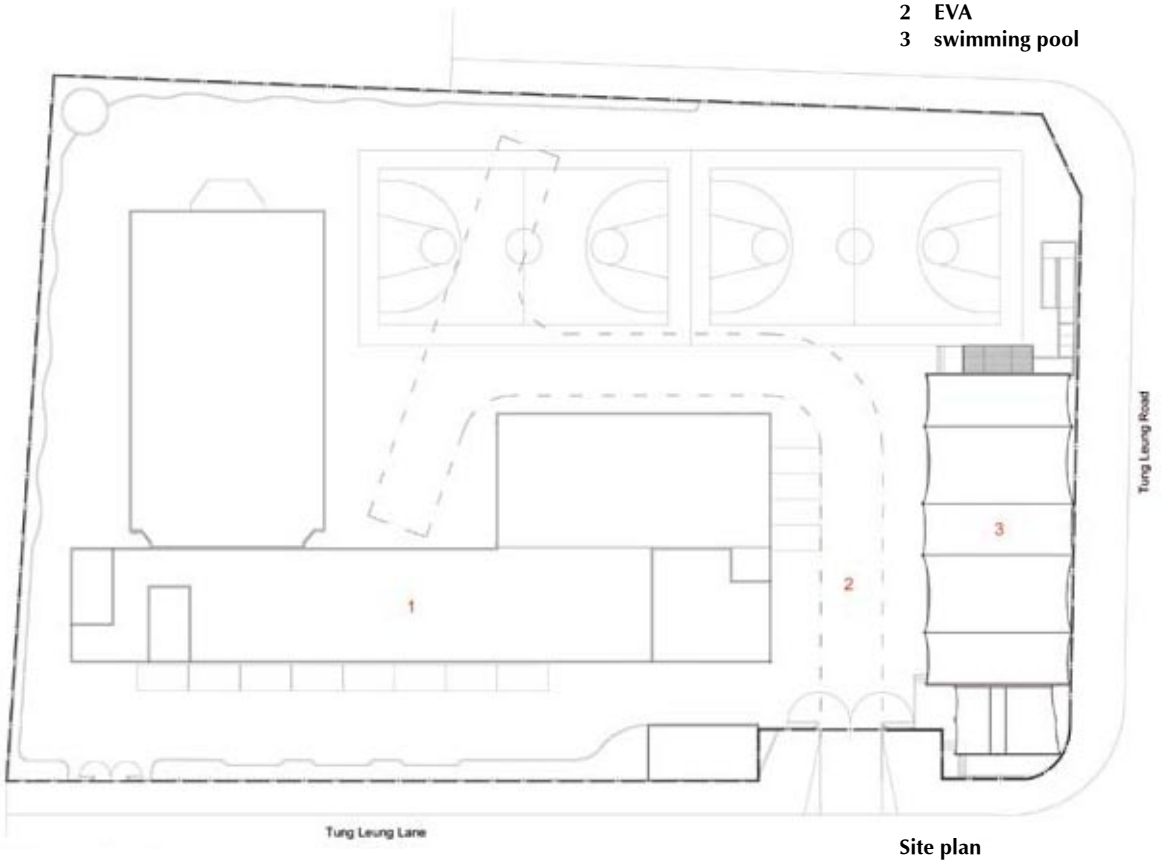


East/west section



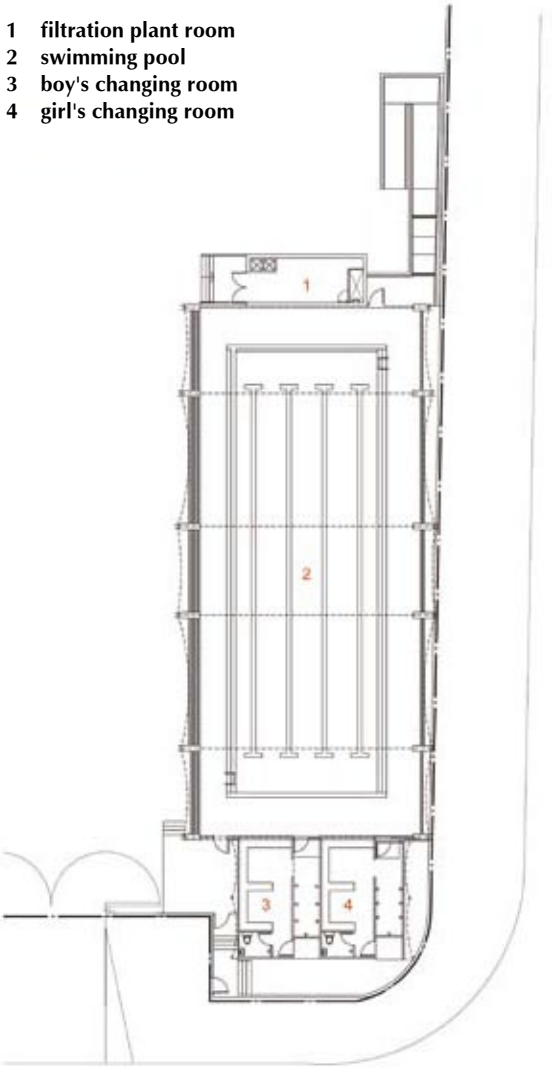
South elevation

1 existing school building
2 EVA
3 swimming pool

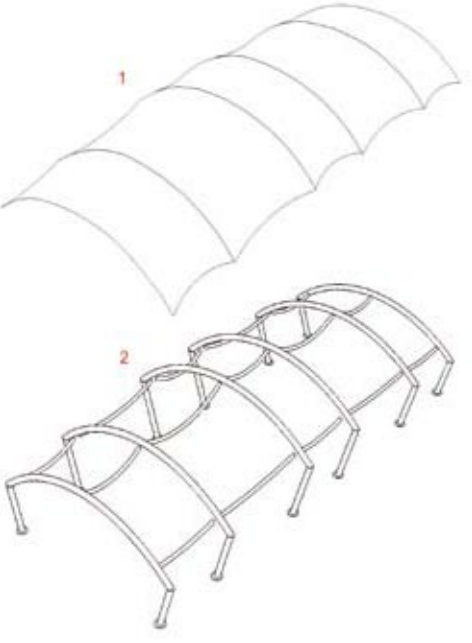


Site plan

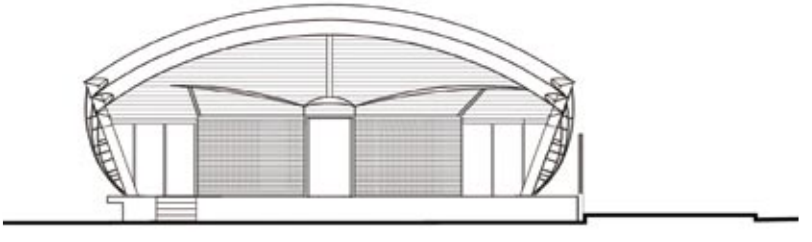
1 filtration plant room
2 swimming pool
3 boy's changing room
4 girl's changing room



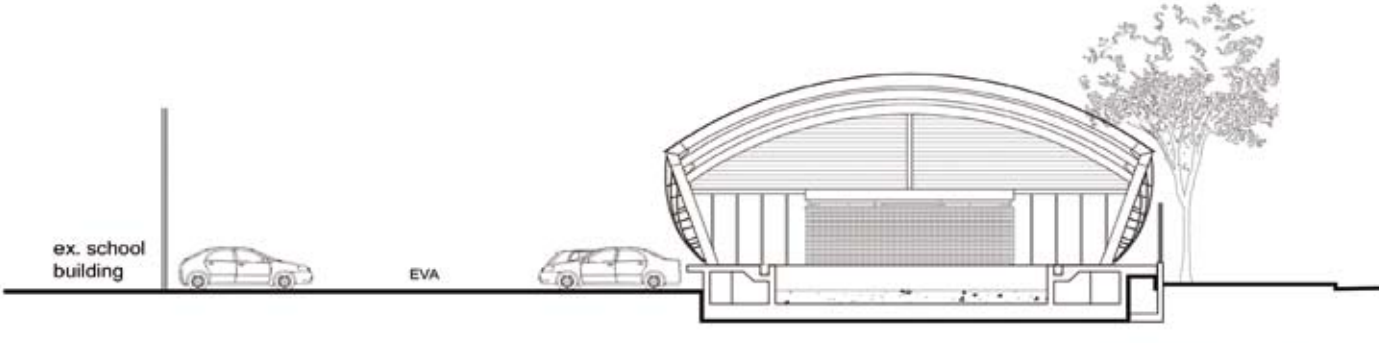
Plan



1 titanium dioxide coated PVC fabric
2 structural steel frames



East elevation



North/south section

Special Architectural Award — Architectural Interior

megARTstore

architect:	Meta4 Design Forum Ltd
location:	Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Shatin, Hong Kong
client:	Hong Kong Heritage Museum
completion date:	Nov 2006
development content:	Theme Exhibition

Design concept

'megARTstore' is a themed exhibition which attempts to investigate the blurred distinction between merchandise and (mass-)art in a materialistic world. While merchandise is being repackaged as artwork, 'real' art on the other hand is explored only by the few who look beyond the veil of materialistic society. The curators of the exhibition turn this phenomenon upside-down and repackage artworks into pseudo-merchandise, thus luring everyday consumers into the world of art and self-exploration.

Jury report

Central to this temporary exhibition project was the concept of repackaging merchandise as artwork, and accordingly displaying it in a 'supermarket' setting. The resultant ambience was innovative and tasteful, with a simple but striking spatial quality.