

Sheraton Dameisha Resort

Architect: Terry Farrell and Partners
Interior design: Hirsch Bedner and Associates





Location

In the early 1970's Shenzhen was a fishing village with a population of 20,000 residents. It's proximity to Hong Kong led to the establishment of the first Special Economic Zone within the Pearl River Delta and is one of China's most dynamic and rapidly evolving city with a population of over 6.0 million residents.

The Pearl River Delta economy has become the world's manufacturing base supported by shipping, with a 230 km coastline. On the eastern side of Shenzhen's coastline is Dapeng

Bay and Dameisha village with a white sandy beach with a topography that rises up sharply to form a ring of hills around the bay. It is along this coastline that the site for this hotel resort is located.

Commission

Commissioned by the Kingkey Group as the international design architect, Terry Farrell and Partner's objectives have been to design a hotel that is integrated and responds to the natural surroundings, challenges normal conventions



and to provide a resort hotel of contemporary modern design as a local iconic landmark.

The client's brief is for a destination luxury resort hotel development consisting of 368 guest rooms – each with spectacular ocean views, exhibition and conference facilities, restaurants, wellness spa facilities, fitness centre, swimming pools and two luxury private villas, whilst maximizing opportunities offered by the beach topography and magnificent scenery.

The hotel is located on the largest and closest public beach to Shenzhen, and is unique in that





it's the only site that is adjacent to the beach, allowing guests to walk from the hotel room through the lobby and garden and directly onto the beach. The resort hotel will be managed and operated as a five-star development by the Sheraton Hotel Group. Hirsch Bedner and Associates was commissioned by the Kingkey Group as the interior design of this project.

Geographic location

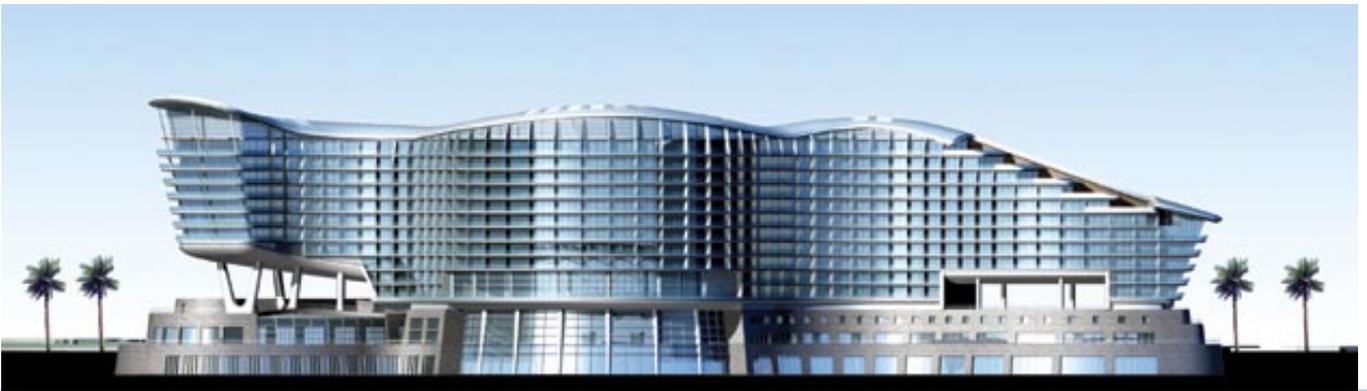
This site has favourable natural geographic qualities which include due South orientation, a secluded 2.5 km stretch of pristine beach front on six hectares of land, 400 m of

unobstructed beach frontage, open ocean views, white sand beach, clean water quality, adjacent waterfront ecological park and dramatic mountain range background.

This is the first luxury five star resort hotel located solely on beachfront property in the region, and is approximately 25 km from downtown Shenzhen and the Lo Wu border crossing, and 38 km from Hong Kong's Central district with a total travel distance of 63 km.

Removed from the frantic pace of construction and development throughout Shenzhen, Dameisha is an oasis of peace, calm and tranquility surrounded by mountains which





protect Dameisha and its immediate surroundings from urban sprawl, preserving its unique holiday village atmosphere and appeal.

The surrounding district has been planned as a vibrant resort and convention destination with a mixed balance of hotels, restaurants, luxury residential homes and leisure zones, making it a tourist-dominated area focused on lifestyle.

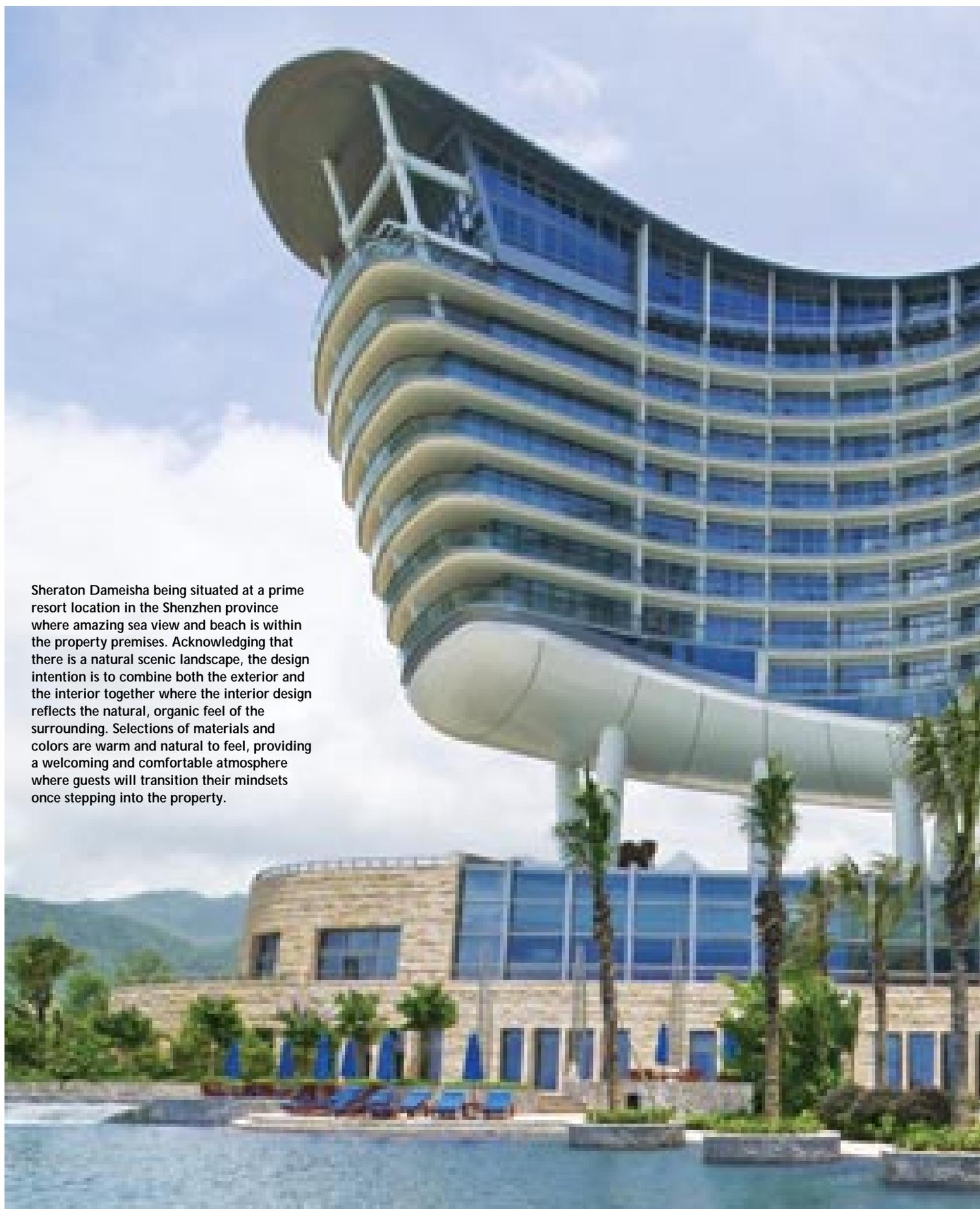
Design concept — “Aura”

The inspiration for the hotel design is derived from the “aura” which is the perceived invisible force surrounding the site, the concept is

embodied in the natural and ephemeral qualities of the surrounding geographic and environmental elements which generates a distinctive atmosphere and unique “spirit” and sense of place, referred to in roman mythology as the protective spirit of a place known as “genius loci”.

The natural characteristics of the Dameisha “aura” of the ocean, waves, winds and surrounding mountains act as a framework and are embodied in a building form that has a distinct spirit, a dynamic form, organic shape and a sense of movement, that responds to the client brief, site and in harmony with the natural elements.





Sheraton Dameisha being situated at a prime resort location in the Shenzhen province where amazing sea view and beach is within the property premises. Acknowledging that there is a natural scenic landscape, the design intention is to combine both the exterior and the interior together where the interior design reflects the natural, organic feel of the surrounding. Selections of materials and colors are warm and natural to feel, providing a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere where guests will transition their mindsets once stepping into the property.





The Design Approach

Planning arrangement

The planning of the hotel is the result of a thoughtful rigorous creative design process based on a single loaded, single aspect building approach aligned in the East-West orientation with the long axis of the site to maximize ocean views and the southerly aspects. The public corridor is on the mountain side whilst the hotel rooms are on the ocean side.

The constraints of the site boundary, set-backs and height limit meant that a straight building mass with single aspects was too long for the site. This created an opportunity for a curved plan shape, which conforms to the site set-backs and maximizes the beach frontage with all rooms having ocean views.

The building form, planning and massing



follows a sinuous and fluid flowing shape there are no right angles everything is set out radially with curves which creates numerous twists and turns with different vistas and views that is reminiscent of a billowing sail, waves, a sine curve and the silhouette of the mountains.



As guests enter into the hotel, a parabolic shaped skylight encased the lobby area, where a tangerine colored blown glass chandelier has been provided in the centre, surrounding it with tall natural lush green bamboo trees and water stream to create the drama in the space. Towards adjacent sides of the lobby, front desk and concierge desk with a decorative coral colored hand plaster finish framed as the back drop of the lobby space. Looking beyond the lobby space, lobby lounge is positioned at a prime location where full clear glass windows are allowed for direct view to the beaches and exterior landscapes.



Ballroom staircase

The landscape is an extension of the architecture and is fluid and loose an existing wetland park adjacent to the site complements the order and arrangement of the landscape, and the hotel's wave shape integrates into the surroundings to create a symbiotic relationship and sense of place.

Client brief — Luxury 5 star rooms

The unconventional curved radial arrangement of the building plan is very complex and the setting out geometry is composed of various radii which was a major design challenge and

extremely considered. It was a great achievement to simplify the arrangement such that there were only 5 different room types of standard guest rooms, which are either concave or convex in plan shape.

The client brief required a minimum clear frontage of 5 m at the outer glass face, unobstructed ocean views, a 2 m wide balcony, luxury five fixture bathrooms and no over looking. The 45 sq m guest rooms are larger than the standard requirement for luxury 5 star resort hotel which are flexible and large enough to accommodate a mix of occupancy layouts, the challenge was to make them efficient whilst maximizing the number of rooms.

Ballroom



Sectional treatment

The elevation and massing of the building is a creative response to the pragmatic and practical considerations of the client's brief, functional programme requirements, and are conceived as two separate building forms, a free flowing organic podium base containing the semi-public facilities (conference facilities, restaurants, spa and fitness) and an elevated tower which sits on top of the podium as a long fluid serpentine plan form which contains the private, quiet zones for the hotel guest rooms, integrated within a loose landscape.



Lobby lounge



Lift lobby



Suite living area

Massing

Whilst the plan shape appears organic and free flowing the hotel functions are organized and ordered with a distinctive and readily identifiable head, body, and tail, corresponding to the West, Middle and East.

The desire to create a more dynamic building mass and form incorporating a sense of movement led us to modify and vary the height of the tower roof by elevating and angling the building mass at the head, it is lifted higher as a cantilevered structure creating a void area underneath which makes it a more prominent and prestigious feature, containing the executive and presidential suites.

Different scenarios were considered to



King room



Club executive lounge

investigate how the cantilever structure could be supported by various structural solutions, which ranged from a singular massive super-column to leaning tapering columns. From a structural point of view this was complex and a major challenge, in the end three V-shape columns were used to support the 30 m cantilever curving structure.

The roof form and mass undulates, with the highest point at the head followed by the body which accommodates the more regular standard hotel rooms, a void was introduced into the body of the building as a covered outdoor space that allows permeability and air movement through the site, and the tail angles

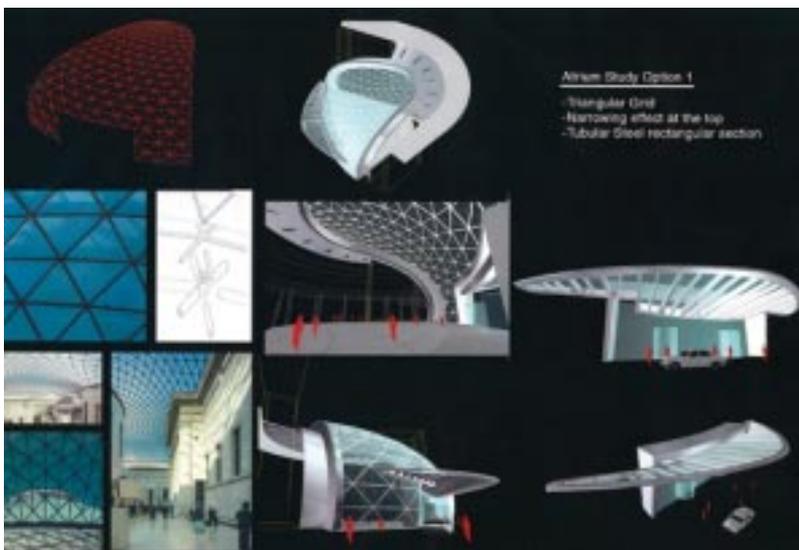
downwards to create a tapering form containing executive rooms with outdoor garden terraces.

The arrival and experience

The hotel experience begins at the entry to the site with a relaxed meandering journey along a single lane road lined with palm trees which reveals glimpses of the building's unfolding and undulating form. The guests approach the porte-cochere and enter the atrium lobby entrance which is a grand spatial volume that makes the single greatest impact upon the guest, visitors know they have arrived and the expansive view of the ocean beyond adds to the wow factor.

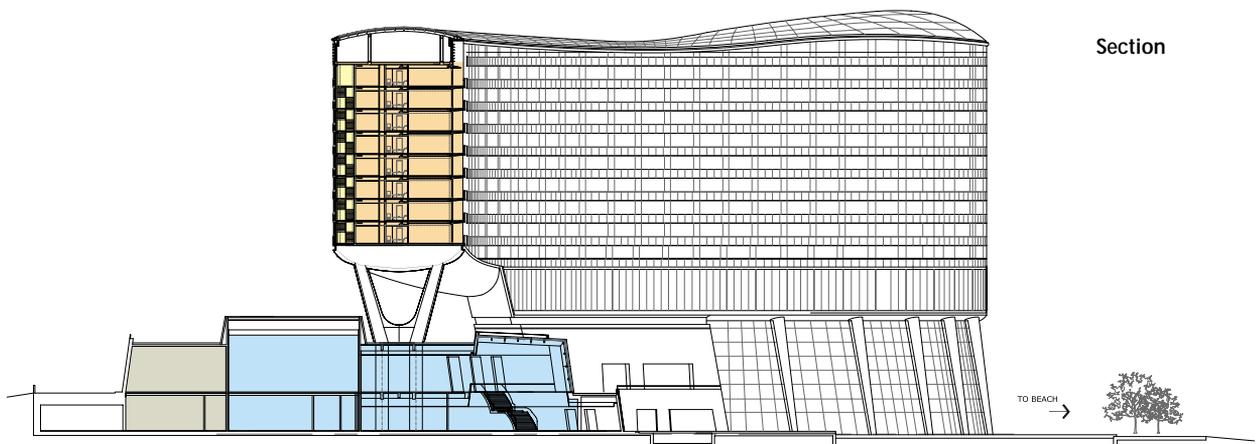
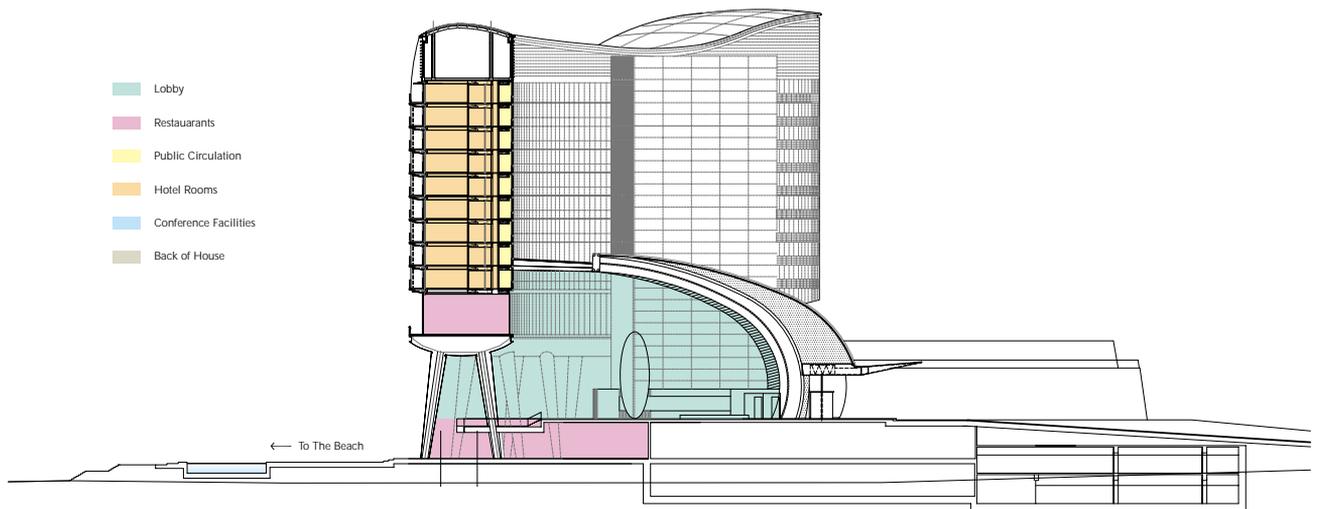
The atrium lobby entrance is the central heart and marks the arrival point of the hotel, it is a non-linear geometric shell structure supported by the circulation cores and the ground, with a 50 m span and height of 35 m. Although the geometry of the structure is asymmetric, it is based on a geodesic dome shape that allows a self-supporting structure without the need for internal columns.

The inspiration for the Sheraton Dameisha Resort has been the local "aura", which has been embodied architecturally in a building form with a distinct spirit and expressive dynamic form whose energy and movement have been captured and frozen in time as the "fertile moment", whilst providing special moments and experiences for guests in a relaxed atmosphere reflective of its surrounding "aura".

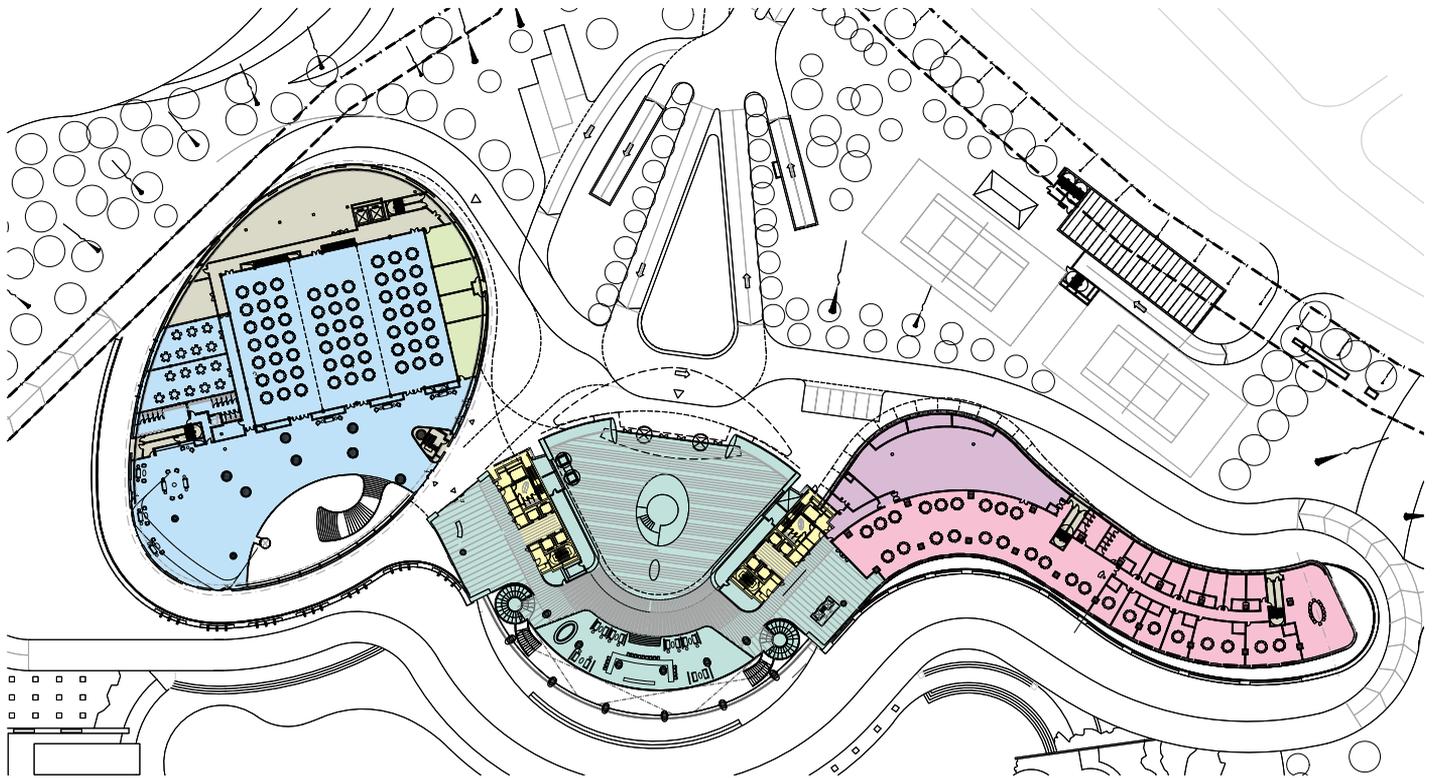




Site plan

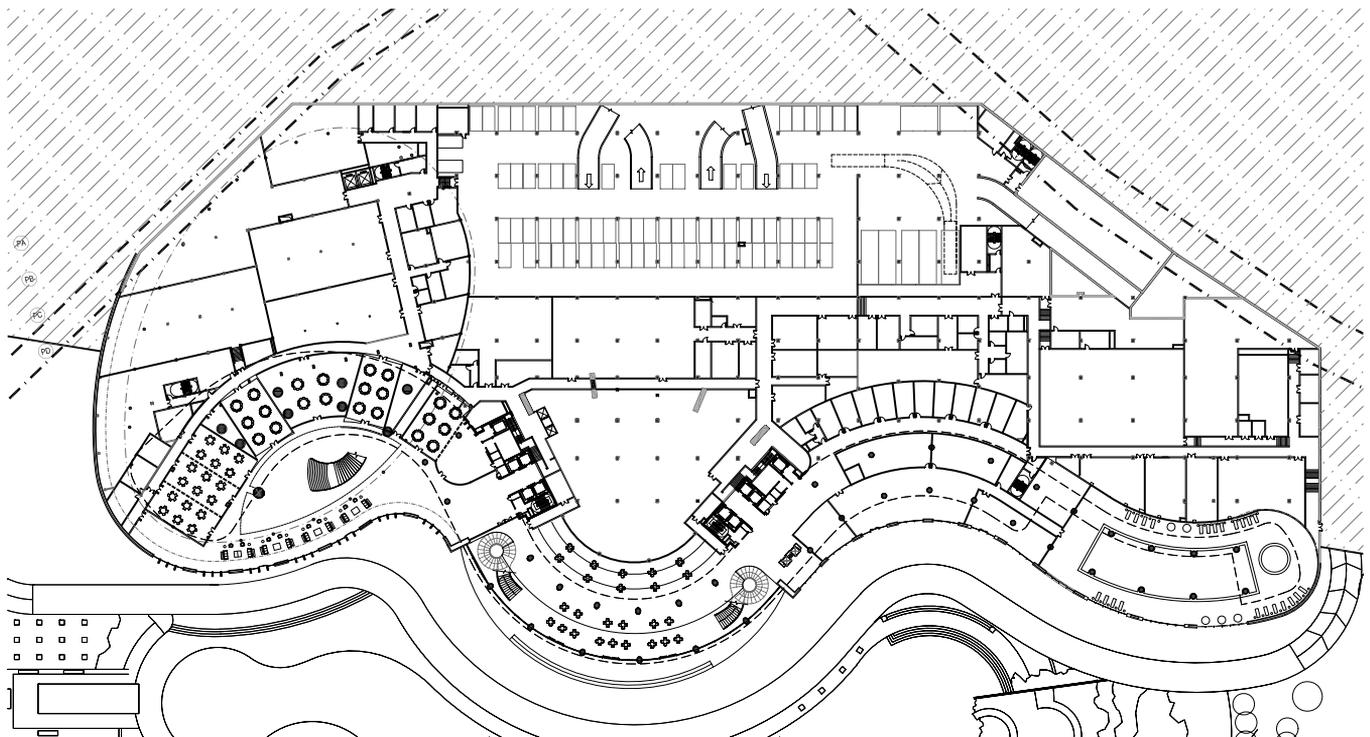


Section

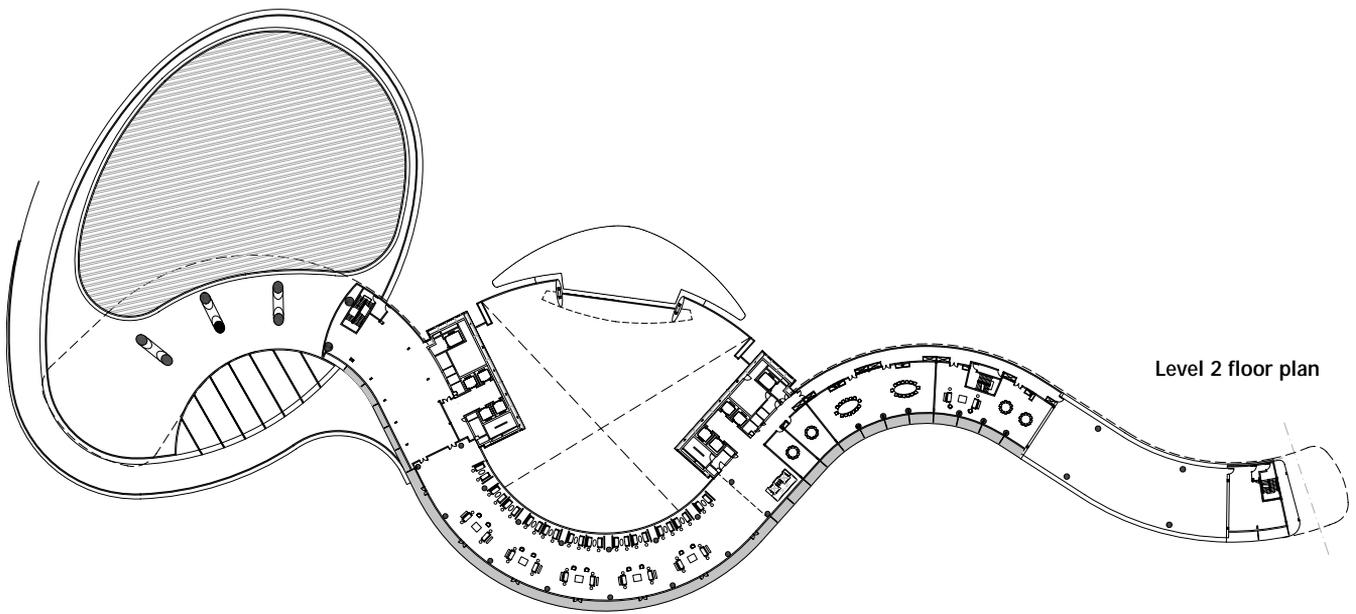
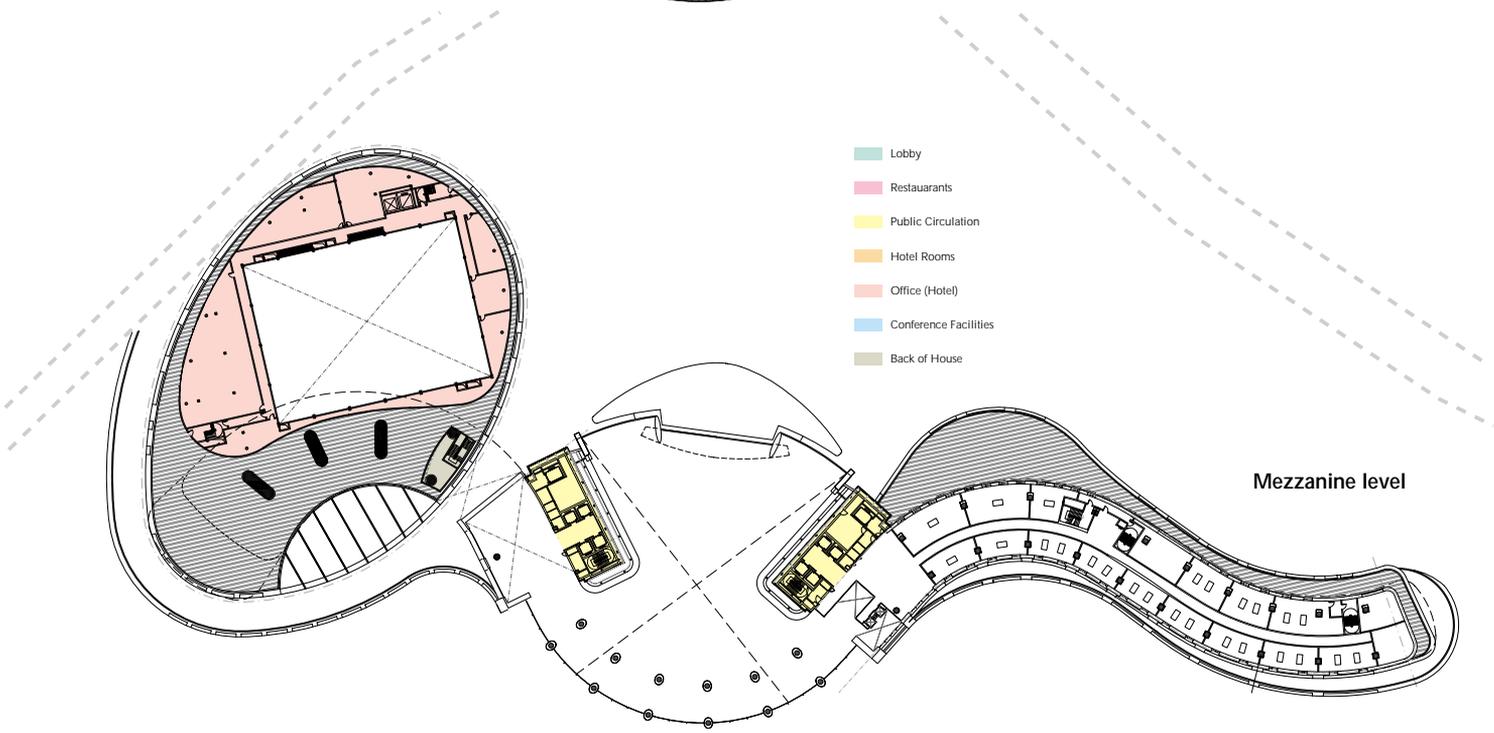
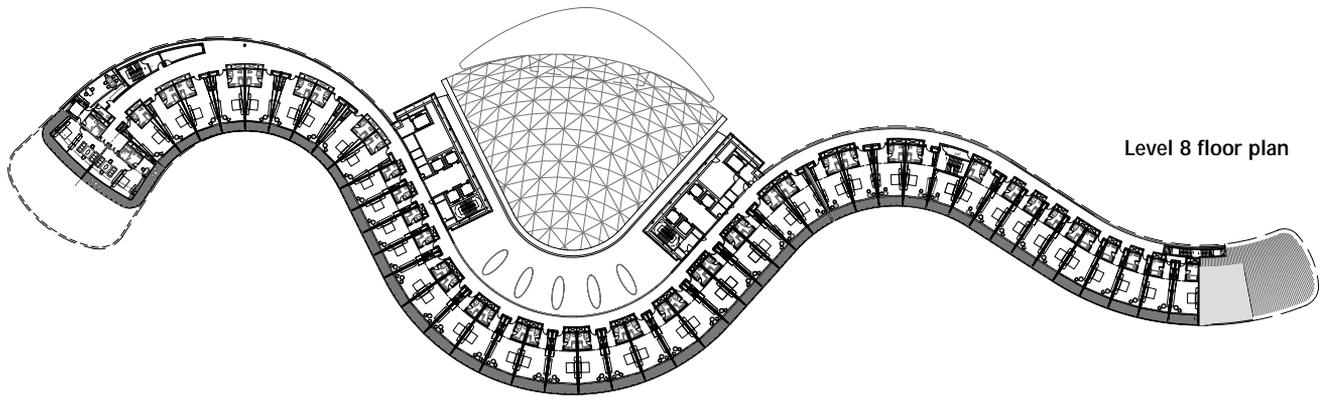


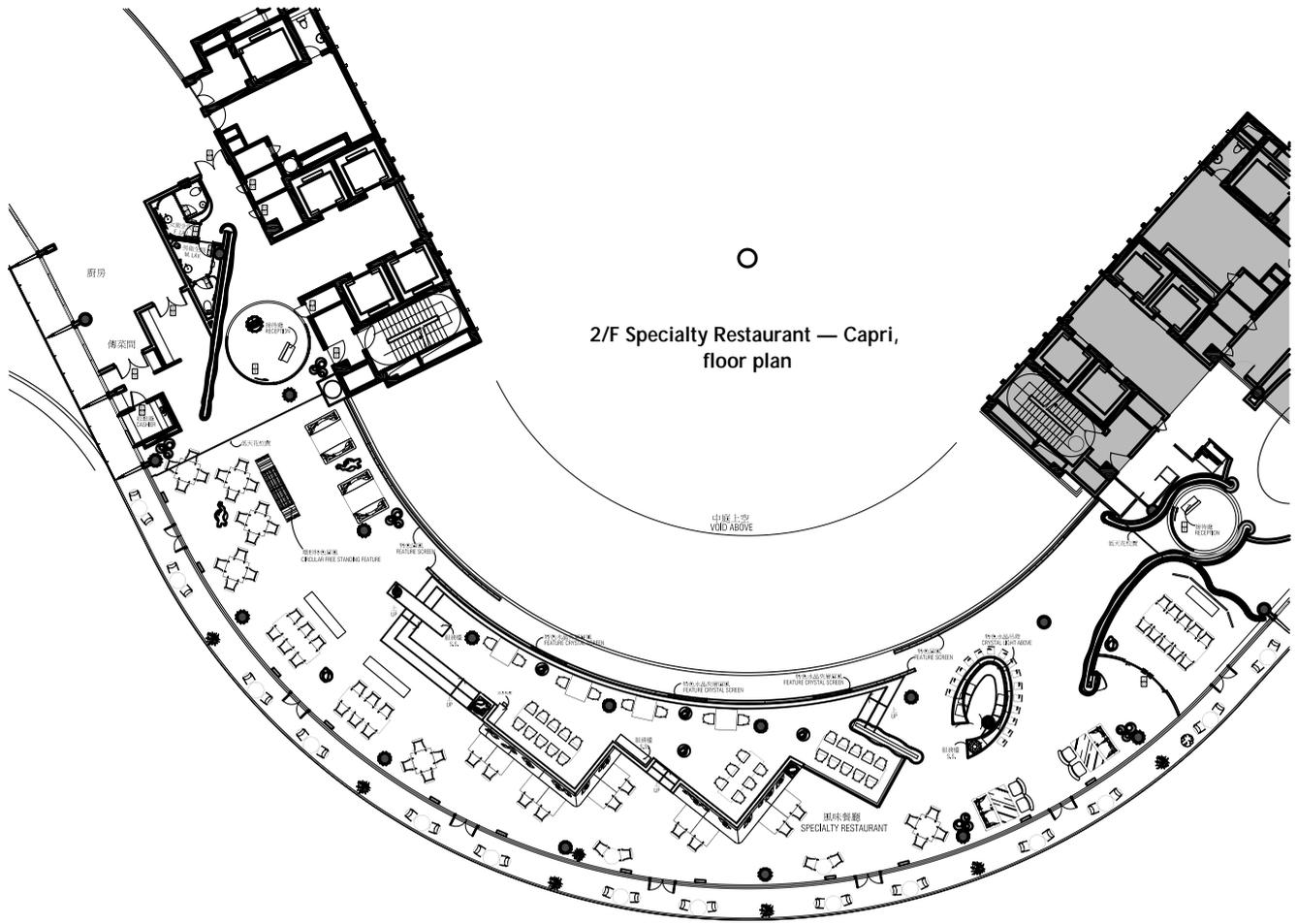
Upper ground floor plan

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| ■ Lobby | ■ Public Circulation | ■ Conference Facilities | ■ Staff Support |
| ■ Restaurants | ■ Hotel Rooms | ■ Back of House | ■ Restaurant BOH |

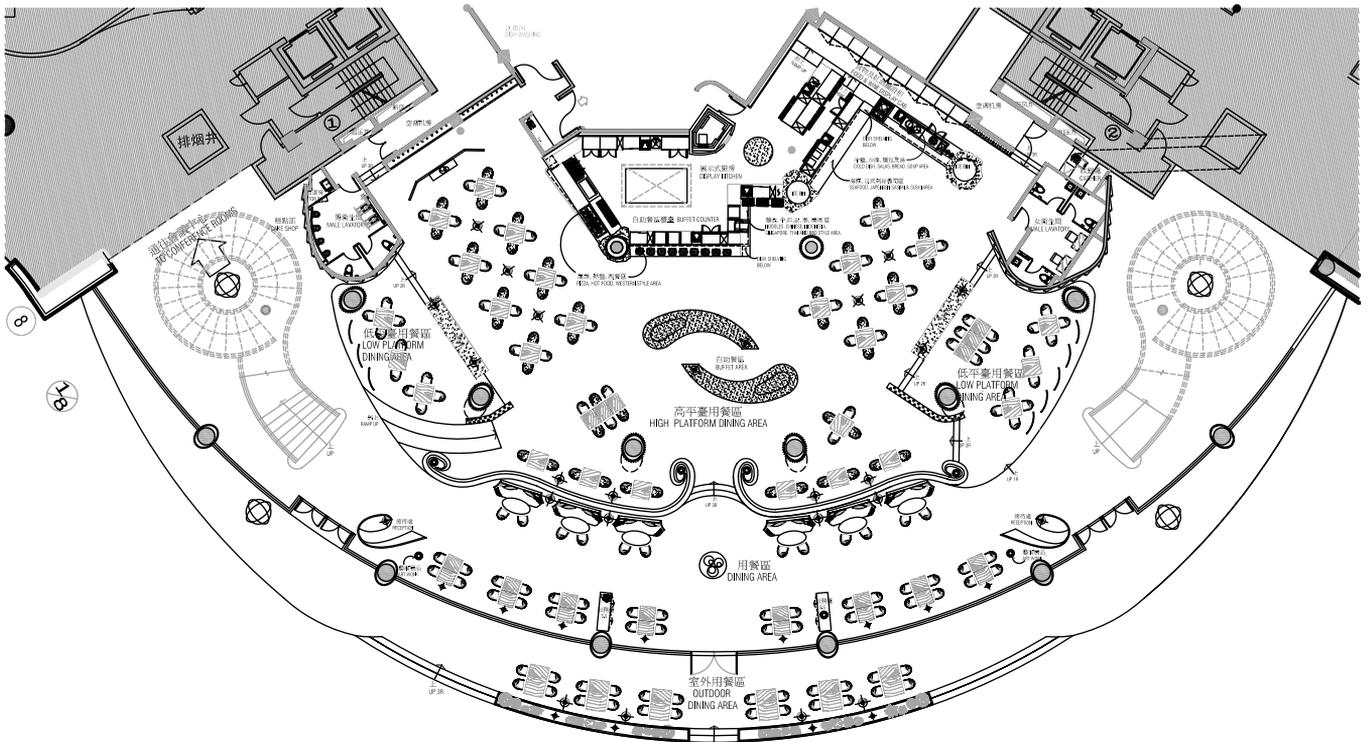


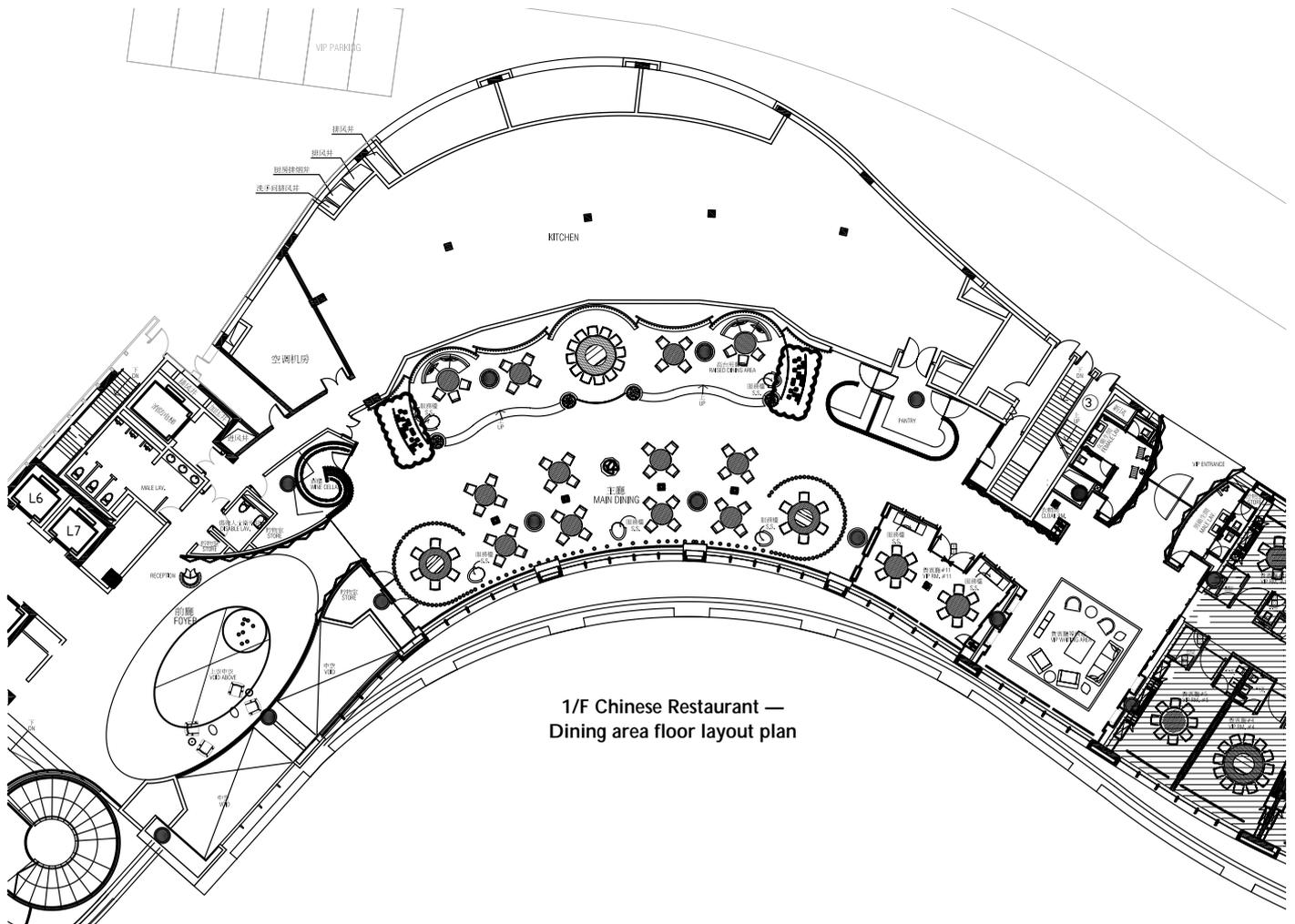
Lower ground floor plan





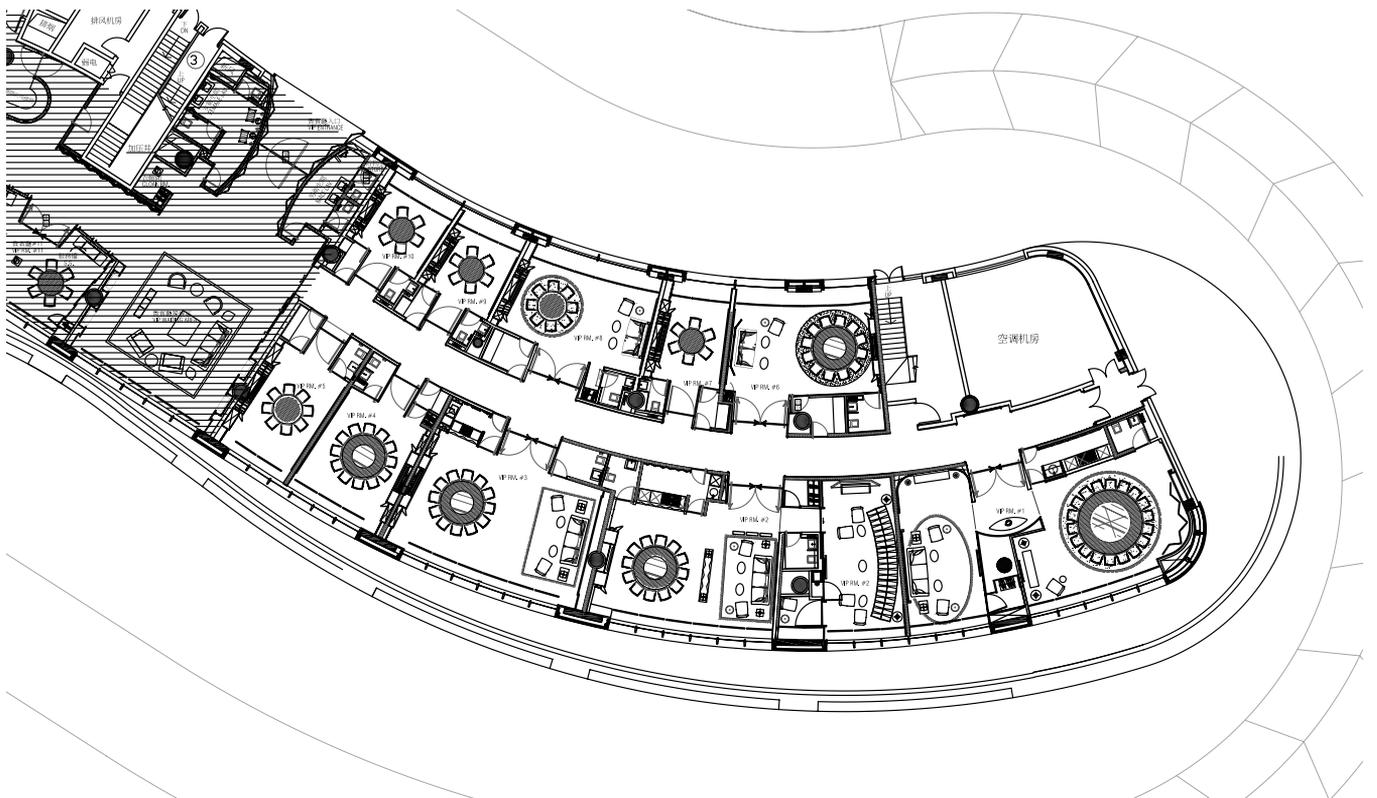
B1 — coffee shop floor layout plan





1/F Chinese Restaurant —
Dining area floor layout plan

Level 1 floor plan





Interior design of F&B outlets



Capri — the specialty restaurant from the Idea of *full moon*

With stunning views of the South China Sea, Sheraton Dameisha Hotel offers a choice of three restaurants and two bars for dining and entertainment pleasure. AB Concept Ltd was appointed as the interior designer for three major F&B outlets.

Mr Ed Ng, Director of AB Concept Ltd explained that, Sheraton Dameisha Hotel is a *city resort hotel* which integrates and responds to the natural surroundings. Unlike ordinary business hotels, this luxury hotel development in Shenzhen is also inspired by its characteristics of holiday resort atmosphere. A major challenge in the designing process was the curved linear footprint of the hotel along the beachfront. The unusual footprint sets certain extent of limitation to the layout of the restaurants. Mr Ng added that such constraint, on the other hand, has motivated the design team to explore feasible approaches to cope with it.

The three major F&B outlets, namely Capri, Feast and Dragon Court, are all being conceived under the theme of nature. Capturing the dynamic curvy linear form of the architecture and softened by a touch of poetry elegance, the perception of *spring rain* fell into the signature Chinese restaurant; while *gentle breeze* and *full moon* whirled into the all-day dining cafe and the specialty restaurant for Mediterranean cuisine.

Located on the first floor is the Chinese restaurant, Dragon Court, which occupies a





floor area of 2,700 sq m. The restaurant offers patrons panoramic vista of the ocean. With settings resembling a domestic courtyard, dining areas and VIP rooms are elegantly decorated to provide ultimate spaciousness and comfort. To enhance the impact of the curved linear floor plan, a transition of wall patterns and silhouette, a vision of art, is harmoniously displayed along the curved feature walls.



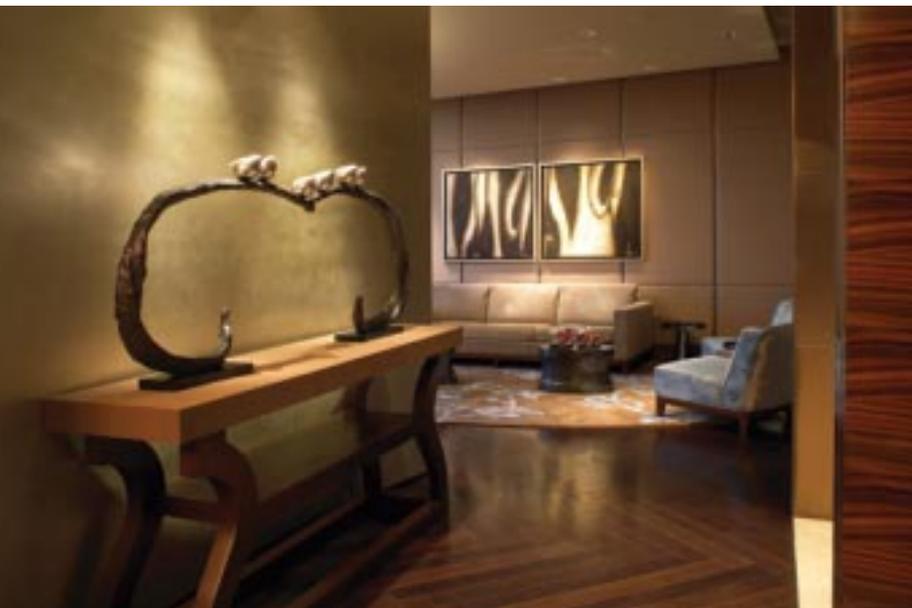
The inspiration of *gentle breeze* — Feast





The perception of *spring rain* fell into the signature Chinese restaurant — Dragon Court





Dragon Court

Setting along the beachfront is the 1,700-sq m all-day restaurant, Feast, which offers a vibrant, interactive dining experience catering to a diverse clientele. The inspiration of *gentle breeze* is unfolded by the warm, delightful atmosphere and further embellished with crystal screens and round shape freestanding artifacts. To facilitate casual diners, an exit to the swimming pool is provided for easy accessibility.

With a floor area of 1,650 sq m, the specialty restaurant, Capri, serves classic and contemporary Italian fare with Japanese elements. The design approach of this specialty restaurant is derived from the idea of *full moon*. Special elements such as round shape work of art and the feature signature corridor on the second floor are all in tune with the *cool* environment as envisaged by the designer.

Landscape design

The project combines a 400-bed five-star resort hotel and villas situated on 6.0 ha of absolute beachfront on the southern coast of Shenzhen City. A resort garden set in the brilliant white sands and clean water of Pearl Bay - a prime holiday destination for mainland China and Hong Kong.

The hotel is an ultra modern sculptural form designed by Terry Farrell & Partners presents exciting architecture based on the concept of 'Aura' — "The perceived invisible force surrounding an object or person" — the resulting building forming a water dragon leaping towards the ocean.

Responding to the architects' concept PLACE Design Group workshopped landscape forms and resort component theming based on 'Patterns in Nature' — the flow of landscape form responding to the perceived energy in the building. The preliminary concept work book explored pattern in nature as a landscape theme: Particularly referring to 'Nature & Architecture' by Paolo Portoghesi and 'The Garden of Cosmic Speculation' by Charles Jencks.

Landscape concept

This landscape design further explores and applies this concept to elements listed below.

Master plan



- 1 External Entry Gardens
- 2 Grand Drive
- 3 Entry Water Feature
- 4 Porte- Cochere
- 5 Topographic striped Enclosing Mound
- 6 Valet/Coach Park
- 7 Truck Entry & basement level Air Chiller
- 8 Tennis Court
- 9 Buffer Feature Trees
- 10 Villa Entry
- 11 Villas
- 12 EVA Ramp
- 13 Sunset Garden Buffet
- 14 Leaf Harbour
- 15 Amphitheatre Steps
- 16 Function Lawn
- 17 Informal Alfresco Dining
- 18 Pool Bar
- 19 Convention Precinct
- 20 Sun Pool
- 21 Submerged sun beds
- 22 Infinity Pool
- 23 Vista Pool
- 24 Palm Bridges
- 25 Water wall
- 26 Restaurant Breakout
- 27 Activity Pool Fitness Precinct
- 28 Spa jets
- 29 Juice Bar
- 30 Sea Dragon Water Slides
- 31 Fitness station
- 32 Family Play Area
- 33 Jungle Playground
- 34 Children's Pools
- 35 Maze Hill
- 36 Folly
- 37 Leaf Themed Family Sundeck
- 38 Beach BBQ
- 39 Beach

Seashells:

The liveliness of the architecture has been described by its parallel horizontal levels.

In elevation, the landscape continues this description by expressing the topographic lines through undulating landform seemingly created by writhing of the building. In plan, concentric bands of brown and sandstone colour paving create a series of Promenades flowing around the building. Drawing upon the markings of a seashell to create a thematic language.

Leaves:

Sculptural lantern forms act as vertical punctuations and way markers. A hierarchy from tall focal points, sculptural groupings, to medium way markers and small lanterns. A progression from architectural form, through Brancusi-like sculptures, to natural leaf forms.

Sea Dragon:

The architecture theme offers a playful thematic element for the waterslide garden.

The resulting design features sculptured landforms, flowing paths with bold stripes that compliment the curving building and lanterns, fountains and arbours that explore unfolding monstera leaves.

A cascading entry lake features giant rocks set in a lush tropical garden, with water and mist jets under the rocks to provide an interesting 'rock floating in the air' effect.

While the street frontage rises as rolling mounding, the resort garden's close proximity to the ocean beach with its changing ocean levels created unique design constraints - resulting in the use of a continuous level through the pool areas with terracing and water walls fronting the beach.

The hotel features a 4,000 sq m pool comprising three areas divided by palms and sculptured bridges - Sun pool with pool bar, central Vista Pool designed for unbroken ocean views and Activity pool linked to a lush waterslide garden.

A secure family pool area creates a safe environment for young children while their parents rest on leaf shaped sun lounges. Seen from the distance the play pool appears to be a



Entry area



Activity pool area



Sun pool and terraced gardens area

giant cascading water feature.

Peaceful areas are created by a Salas village set above a lotus pond and a circular tension edged Infinity pool offering calm romantic views of the ocean.

Sheraton Dameisha also features exhibition/conference facilities with shaded breakout areas, alfresco dining and function lawns.

The beach is served by a sophisticated lounge deck and beach activity rental facilities.



Project consultant team

client	Kingkey Group
architect	Terry Farrell and Partners
structural engineer	China Merchants Architects & Engineer
services engineer	China Merchants Architects & Engineer
structural engineer to lobby	ARUP
interior design	Hirsch Bedner and Associates
F&B design	AB Concept
landscape design (concept)	Adrian L. Norman
landscape design	Place Design Group
lighting design	Lightsource International (Asia)
kitchen consultant	Trillion Food Services Planner
spa consultant	Spa Resources Asia
AV consultant	Shen Milsom and Wilke
signage and graphics	Watermark
hotel operator	Starwood — Sheraton Group
main contractor	Wu Chuan Construction Corporation Limited

Fast Facts

site area	60,000 sq m
plot ratio	1.0
site coverage ratio	21 per cent (30 per cent maximum)
landscape coverage	45 per cent
total CFA	85,200 sq m
total GFA	60,000 sq m
building footprint area	12,830 sq m
number of storeys	12
number of guestrooms	368
number of car-parking spaces	383
building height	55 m
ground breaking ceremony	8 August 2005
completion date	1 July 2007

Time schedule

design, documentation	11 months
construction	23 months

Area breakdown

accountable GFA	Hotel facilities & amenities	21,535 sq m
	Guest rooms	34,215 sq m
	Villa (x 2)	4,250 sq m
non-accountable GFA	(E&M plant / basement car-parking)	25,210 sq m
	aggregate total	85,200 sq m