



AIA Hong Kong

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

AIA Hong Kong 2009 Design Awards Juror Comments 15 October 2009

Jury

Douglas A. Benson, AIA, NWPR AIA Director, Jury Chair

George Kunihiro, FAIA

Anna Kwong, HKIA President

Chang Qing, Hon. FAIA

Overview

The jury was impressed with the overall quality, range of project type and size and presentation of the entries. In particular the range of project type and size created a forum for a lively discussion about a variety of issues from the question of appropriate human scale in large urban design projects to the materials used in small scale interiors work. Members of the Hong Kong AIA should continue to submit projects of all types and sizes as the means to ensure opportunities for all firms and to engender discussion and debate about the full range of the built environment.

Project Awards

Merit Awards for Architecture

Beijing South Station

A powerful building whose primary spaces speak to the experience of rail travel while alluding to historic Chinese building forms. The material palette is simple and supports the overall impression of a light and airy roof floating over the human and machine activity below. Truly a "Temple" to the rail experience.

C. Y. Tung Maritime Museum

This project represents the skillful use of conservation techniques while effectively repurposing the buildings for new use as a museum. The insertion of an atrium within what was an outdoor court is handled sensitively and discreetly with the overall result being a lighter feel for the complex.

Evian Town (Phase II)

Yanlord Peninsula

Each of these two projects had strong but different advocates in the early discussions by the jury. The differing opinions centered on how the support buildings and public spaces were handled with everyone in agreement on the strength of the housing components in both projects. In the end we decided to award both out of respect for each others passionate and informed opinions.

Both projects achieve a lively rhythm in the housing facades that results in a wide variety of public/private outdoor spaces at each unit. The relationship of the housing to the canals recalls without mimicking the traditional patterns of the region. Both projects show a confident hand and skillful resolution of complex forms and carefully balanced proportions.

Project Awards

Honor Award for Interior Architecture

Lake Dragon Residential Development Sales Office

The design has an elegant quality that sets an appropriate mood for its purpose. The design is sophisticated and spare, yet rich in detail. The furniture selection supports and enhances the architecture in a rich textural way. It appears that the design could easily be converted to use as a clubhouse for the development in the future. The jurors all noted the project's clear debt to Mies van der Rohe.

Merit Awards for Interior Architecture

Ogilvy & Mather, Kuala Lumpur

The overall concept is skillfully and fully developed throughout. The crescent shaped flow of the plan is enhanced by the furniture placement and the play of solid and void. There is a humorous interplay of crisp, modern detailing with playful moments of traditional detail or accessorizing that suggests the creative collaboration that takes place within.

Vanke Shenzhen Head Office

Within the crisp, spare all white volume two powerful but different atrium spaces have been introduced that dynamically link the entire four floors together. The reductive palette is nevertheless richly detailed and used to create a layered environment that focuses on movement and human interaction to provide contrast and color.

V Causeway Bay

This project evidences a strong concept that is more of a furniture solution than an architectural intervention. The project illustrates an experimental approach for intervention and flexibility. The small area is not allowed to be a constraint on the designer's imagination.

Honor Award for Urban Design / Sustainability in Design Award

Jiading Beijiao Wetland Master Plan

This is a powerful and appropriate idea placed sensitively into its context. The size and scope are a breath of fresh air in a region that has experienced tremendous urban growth. The project is well presented and documented and illustrates a clear and simple organizational unity for the separate and diverse elements of the plan. Of particular strength is the way in which traditional land uses, patterns of community and land forms have been respected and integrated as a key component of the overall approach to sustainability. The message is that sustainability is as much about the form of the community as it is about the technologies of land use. In that regard the project truly goes "all out".

Merit Awards for Urban Design

Tianjin COFCO Master Plan

Of the many large scale master plans submitted this one stood out for its clear presentation and awareness of the role of a master plan in setting a strong framework for future development patterns while allowing flexibility for the final form of those future improvements. The plan works well within the larger context of the surrounding community and illustrates how its approach to open space and pedestrian scale can be extended to future adjacent development. The architectural expression of the plan is suitably ordered and scaled without appearing overly exuberant.

Longchi Town Detail Master Plan

The project is seen as having an appropriate scale while providing for the residents, dislocated by an earthquake, to return to an enhanced town. The scale recalls the original town while the improvements enhance the community's relationship to the river and the surrounding landscape. There is a good use of local materials and a respect for the original scale of the town. Concern was expressed that the enhancements would not lead to an "upscaling" of the town and it would remain a place for local residents rather than a weekend transient population.

Unbuilt Designs

No awards were given in this category