

Press Release

Frankfurt/Main, 29/09/2022

Background Information Finalists

Vancouver House, Vancouver



Photo: Laurian Ghinițoiu / Westbank Corp / BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group

Architecture: BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group, Copenhagen, Denmark / New York NY, USA

Client: Westbank Corp.

Main use: Residential, retail

Height: 156 m

Completion: February 2020

Location: Vancouver, Canada

Vancouver House, an ensemble of mixed-use podium and slender residential tower, is located at the main entry point to downtown Vancouver, just off the freeway approach to Granville Bridge, forming a gateway to the city. The design aimed to preserve existing sightlines through the city at this location, while at the same time revitalizing the previously unattractive surroundings. The site area and the shape of the building were determined by two adjacent factors. First, the space-consuming highway overpass presented a particular limitation. The other component to be considered was the neighboring park. Shading of this park was to be kept to a minimum, which precluded any further development in a southerly direction. Consequently, the usable area was limited to a relatively small triangle that was considered almost impossible to build on.

These conditions explain the unusual shape of the residential tower, which is triangular at its base and widens into a rectangle at the top. As the tower gradually rises above the overpass, lost space is reclaimed. At the same time, a 30-meter distance radius from the highway bridge ensures that the windows and balconies of residents are not directly exposed to traffic noise. As the building shoots up, noise, exhaust fumes, and visual pollution disappear and residents are afforded an unobstructed view of the False Creek estuary and Vancouver's mountain landscape. The tower's curved silhouette, which widens upward, looks as if someone was pulling aside a

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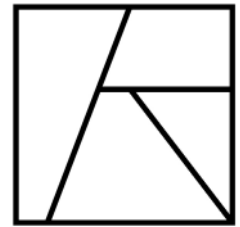


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curtain to welcome Vancouver's visitors. This movement transforms what was initially seen as an uneconomical triangular space into an optimal rectangular floor plan for the 502 residential units at the top, while leaving space for a public, mixed-use center below.

Trillple Towers, Vienna



Photo: Christian Pichlkastner

Architecture: Henke Schreieck Architekten, Vienna, Austria

Client: ARE Austrian Real Estate Development, Soravia Investment Holding

Main use: Residential, student accommodation

Height: 119 m, 115 m, 106 m

Completion: October 2021

Location: Vienna, Austria

Located in Vienna's 3rd district, directly on the Danube Canal, the high-rise ensemble consists of three residential towers in dialog with each other. In terms of zoning, the individual heights of the projections and recesses relate to the surrounding buildings. The towers are connected by a two-story podium that links the TownTown Business Park with the Danube Canal. The podium contains a wide range of communal areas, restaurants, stores, and a kindergarten, benefiting both residents and neighbors. In addition, a square cut out of the base creates the urban center of the new quarter.

The different geometries of the individual floor levels and the structural concept with bracing circulation cores and point-supported flat slabs mean that a wide variety of floor plans are possible. The floor areas are suitable for both diverse office organizations and various housing concepts (one of the three towers is used as a student dormitory). This flexible repurposing option is a sustainable response to changing lifestyles.

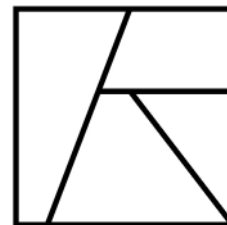
Moreover, the varying floor plans allow almost all apartments to be lit from two sides across the corner and thus offer unobstructed views of the green space of the Prater and the 1st district. All apartments feature loggias and balconies, floor-to-ceiling sliding doors and glazing that allow the interior and exterior spaces to merge seamlessly. The different building levels also create generous open spaces that are used as communal terraces. Inside the towers, flexibly usable communal areas promote neighborly communication and are intended to counteract the anonymity of residential tower blocks.

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The Bryant, New York



Photo: John Hill

Architecture: David Chipperfield Architects, London, UK

Client: HfZ Capital Group

Main use: Residential, hotel

Height: 115 m

Completion: June 2021

Location: New York NY, USA

Surrounded by historical neighbors such as the New York Public Library, the hotel and residential tower stands at the south west corner of Bryant Park in Midtown Manhattan, where it blends in with the buildings alternating in height along 40th Street.

The 33-story skyscraper follows the classic tripartite composition of the New York tower: base, middle section, and crown. The three separate sections contain stores at street level, a hotel all the way up to the 13th floor, and private apartments on the upper levels. The base occupies the full width of the site and accommodates a double-height ground floor as well as the first four levels of the hotel. Above this, an increased floor-to-ceiling height together with a decreased footprint mark the start of the middle section. A lounge and the hotel bar are located on this floor, as is an outdoor terrace that is accessible to both hotel guests and residents of the apartments. Above the uniform residential floors, two penthouses with double-height spaces define the crown.

The façade follows a strict grid of polished precast concrete slabs and columns. This distinguishes the tower from New York's new buildings with glass façades and simultaneously lends it a classical appearance. The concrete mix contains different aggregates such as marble and sandstone chips in various colors corresponding to the stone varieties used for the masonry façades of buildings in the immediate vicinity. Adhering to the requirements of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the façade relates to the historical buildings nearby, while offering a contemporary interpretation.

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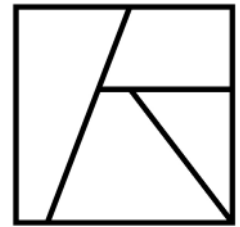
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Singapore State Courts, Singapore



Photo: Khoogj

Architecture: Serie Architects, London, UK + Multiply Architects, Singapore with CPG Consultants, Singapore

Client: State Courts Singapore

Main use: Courthouse

Height: 178 m

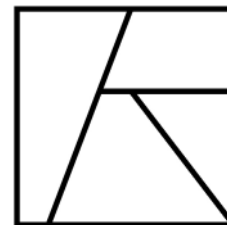
Completion: August 2019

Location: Singapore

The new Singapore State Courts complex is three times the size of the existing courts building from the 1970s. The preservation of the octagonal building and the relatively small site area made it necessary to stack the 53 courtrooms and 54 hearing rooms. To allow more daylight into the building, the complex was divided into two slender 35-story towers connected by glazed foot bridges up to twelve meters long.

Unlike conventional courthouses, which usually have a horizontal layout and are designed to be visually closed to the outside, the new State Courts were arranged vertically and conceived to be approachable, or symbolically open, to the public by omitting an exterior façade.

The front tower contains courtrooms of various sizes. These are inserted in the form of enclosed cubes into the building structure of open levels of varying ceiling heights. Instead of a glazed exterior façade, the rooms on the individual levels are surrounded by lush garden terraces. These open areas protect the courtrooms from the tropical sun, facilitate natural ventilation and daylighting, and offer unobstructed views of the city. The courtrooms themselves are clad in 5- to 12-meter-high pigmented precast panels that echo the color and texture of the terracotta-colored pitched roofs of adjacent historical commercial buildings in Chinatown. The intention was to combine two typical architectural forms of the immediate vicinity – namely the modern highrise and the colonial-era shophouses – so that something familiar and something new emerge simultaneously.



Quay Quarter Tower, Sydney



Photo: Adam Mork

Architecture: 3XN, Copenhagen, Denmark

Client: AMP Capital

Main use: Offices, retail

Height: 206 m

Completion: April 2022

Location: Sydney, Australia

The *Quay Quarter Tower* is an identity-generating part of the redevelopment of Sydney's central business district, the Circular Quay Area. It adjoins Sydney Cove, the bay behind the famous opera house.

The site was previously occupied by a classic office tower that no longer met today's requirements. Instead of demolishing the building, as was usually the case in the past, it was decided to integrate large parts of the existing supporting structure into a new high-rise building. In this way, two thirds of the beams, columns and floor slabs as well as almost the entire core built in the 1970s could be retained. These main aspects of the radical sustainability concept helped save almost 7500 tons of carbon dioxide compared to a complete demolition and conventional new construction.

The cantilevered modules on the façade, which wrap around the tower's five sections, reduce direct sunlight entering the *Quay Quarter Tower* by up to 30%. Among other things, this has eliminated the need for internal blinds while ensuring unparalleled views of the harbor. Moreover, the addition of new stories, the expansion of existing floors, and the new podium add 45,000 square meters of floor space, thus making much more efficient use of the site at this prominent location.

The formal silhouette of the high-rise building was derived from the surrounding context, taking into account lighting conditions, sightlines, and building code requirements. The building is divided into five volumes stacked on top of each other, thereby adapting the overall volume to the human scale. Towards the harbor, the floors within these five units are connected by multi-story atria.

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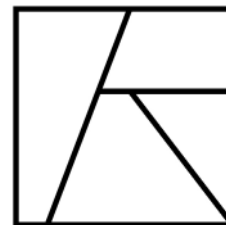
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Press contact:

Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM)

Hedderichstrasse 108-110, 60596 Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Brita Köhler

T +49 (0)69 212 36318

M +49 (0)151-50921704

brita.koehler@stadt-frankfurt.de

DekaBank

Mainzer Landstrasse 16, 60325 Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Dr. Daniela Gniss

T +49 (0)69 71 47 - 21 88

daniela.gniss@deka.de