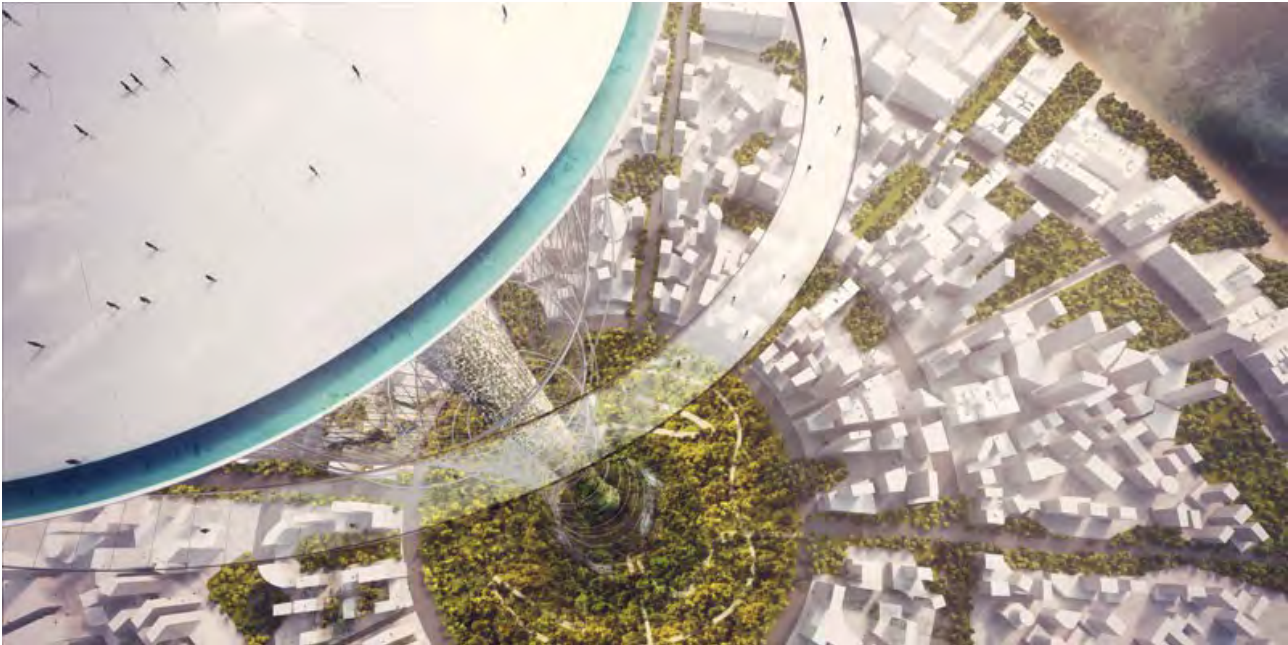


# The Mile

## The world's highest vertical park and observation deck

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Images and drawings are available on request: [pr@carloratti.com](mailto:pr@carloratti.com)



**The Mile**, a design for a **one-mile high vertical park and observation deck**, will be presented by CRA at **Cannes' MIPIM on March 16th, 2016**. The Mile has been developed by international design and innovation office Carlo Ratti Associati together with German engineering firm Schlaich Bergermann und Partner, and British digital design studio Atmos.

At a proposed height of one mile (1609 meters) topped by a **publicly-accessible observation deck**, The Mile will be **the world's highest man-made construction** - around twice the height of today's tallest building. From base to apex, **the structure will offer a natural ecosystem, covered by plants and greenery**, inhabited by hundreds of animal species, and criss-crossed with a delicate latticework of transportation lines. *"Imagine you take New York's Central Park, turn it vertical, roll it and twirl it"*, says **Professor Carlo Ratti, founder of the design office CRA and Director of the MIT Senseable City Lab**.

To achieve The Mile's exceptional height, an engineering study led by Schlaich Bergermann und Partner, one of the world's leading engineering firm, was developed to implement a **groundbreaking lightweight structure**, based on a structural, 20-meter-wide shaft, kept in compression and secured through a net of pre-stressed cables. All around the shaft, a series of **orbiting capsules will allow visitors to gradually ascend to the top**, enjoying the spectacular panorama at different speeds and approaches.

*“Following the example of the **1972 Munich Olympic complex**, engineered by **Joerg Schlaich and Rudolf Bergermann**, which pushed the boundaries of the possible and became a milestone in architectural history, the structural concept for The Mile is technically feasible because of its **consequent and uncompromised light-weight approach**”, says **Boris Reyher, Associate and team leader at Schlaich Bergermann und Partner**: “The architectural form and the spatial equilibrium of forces become one and the same thing. On the one hand, this leads to an **optimized usage of high-grade materials**. On the other hand, the structural form and load paths become **intuitively comprehensible by every spectator**”.*

The Mile concept was originally developed by CRA, Schlaich Bergermann und Partner and Atmos for an undisclosed client. The project will be **officially presented to the public for the first time at MIPIM 2016**, the world’s leading real estate fair **in Cannes on March 16th, 2016**.

**The Mile’s financial model is based on** the examples of successful structures such as Paris’ Tour Eiffel, or The London Eye, both **earning tens of millions of dollars in profits each year**. The general concept of a one-mile vertical park, featuring an extraordinary constellation of Sky decks, forecasts **substantial profits, especially for cities that draw large numbers of tourists**.

The visitor’s experience of the Vertical Park will be varied and engaging. The ascent to the observation decks will utilise **orbiting sculptural capsules, which can host meetings, dinners, concerts**, or even pools - allowing people to inhabit the sky in unprecedented ways. The capsules will be equipped with **open-air Virtual Reality screens, permitting an interaction with the 360-degree view over the landscape**. Aloft in the sky, visitors can see the city as is - or could be, unencumbered by headsets that typically accompany VR.

*“In order to change an existing paradigm you do not struggle to try and change the problematic model. You create a new model and make the old one obsolete”,* the great 20th-century American author and thinker **Richard Buckminster Fuller** once said. Inspired by his visions, the Mile not only addresses mankind’s timeless quest for vertical elevation; it also tackles our need to **look at the world from different perspectives**.

## CREDITS

The Mile: a concept design by Carlo Ratti Associati (Carlo Ratti, Giovanni de Niederhäusern, Emma Greer, Saverio Panata, Alberto Bottero, Gary di Silvio, Andrea Galli, Pietro Leoni, Monica Löve), Schlaich Bergermann und Partner (Joerg Schlaich, founding partner; Mike Schlaich, managing partner; Boris Reyher, associate and Berlin office manager), Atmos (Alex Haw)

### About Carlo Ratti Associati

Carlo Ratti Associati is a design and innovation practice based in Turin, Italy, with branches in Boston and London. Drawing on Carlo Ratti's research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the office is currently involved in many projects across the globe. Embracing every scale of intervention - from city masterplans to furniture design - the work of the practice focuses on innovation in our built environment and daily lives. Noteworthy achievements at the urban and architectural scale include the masterplan for a creative hub in the City of Guadalajara, the Future Food District at Expo Milano 2015, and the Digital Water Pavilion at Expo Zaragoza - named Best Invention of the Year in 2008 by Time Magazine. Design projects range from experimental furniture for Cassina to light installations for Artemide. In 2014, Carlo Ratti Associati also launched a newco, Makr Shakr, producer of the world's first robotic bar system, to be installed on a total of four Royal Caribbean cruise ships by summer 2016. [www.carloratti.com](http://www.carloratti.com)

### About Schlaich Bergermann und Partner

Schlaich Bergermann und Partner, founded in 1980 by Joerg Schlaich and Rudolf Bergermann, is one of the world's leading structural engineering offices with rich experience and creative know-how in the fields of long-span roof structures, rail and road bridges as well as footbridges. Through creativity paired with curiosity and confidence, structural concepts are developed in each new project in close cooperation with the architects and clients aiming at the unity of form and structural function. Besides structural engineering, Schlaich Bergermann und Partner are committed to sustainability and ecology by developing innovative solar thermal energy collectors for more than 30 years. [www.sbp.de](http://www.sbp.de)

### About Atmos

Atmos is an award-winning multidisciplinary art+architecture+design practice (est. 2007) that works internationally across scales and media - from small-scale product-design to large-scale master-plans, with core expertise in public installations and bespoke residential environments. Their work centres on innovative sculptural designs that often incorporate cutting-edge digital fabrication and data mapping. They create work addressing all the senses, with projects that reward close inspection yet abide in the memory, merging meaning and sensuality. They have exhibited widely and been widely published on TV (BBC, Channel 4), in national newspapers (Financial Times, Sunday Times, Telegraph, Guardian, Independent, etc.) and international design magazines (Icon, Dezeen, Wallpaper, WIRED, Blueprint etc.). Director Alex Haw writes and lectures widely, and runs a weekly exploration of world food (Latitudinal Cuisine). [www.atmosstudio.com](http://www.atmosstudio.com)