

## IHA 2010 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Frankfurt/Main, 5 November 2010

## WOHA ARCHITECTS

Architects 'The Met' - Laureate of the International Highrise Award 2010



WOHA Architects – Richard Hassell (links) und Wong Mun Summ | Foto: © WOHA

Wong Mun Summ and Richard Hassell are the founding directors of the Singapore-based WOHA, one of Southeast Asia's best known and most awarded architectural practices.

Wong Mun Summ was born in 1962, and graduated with Honours with a Distinction in Architecture and Urban Design from the National University of Singapore in 1989. He is a member of the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA), and served on the board of Singapore's Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) from 1999 to 2005.

Richard Hassell was born in 1966, and graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1989. He was awarded a Master of Architecture degree from the RMIT University, Melbourne, in 2002. He is currently a board member of both the Design Singapore Council and the Building and Construction Authority of Singapore. He has lectured at universities in Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, the USA, and the UK, and was an adjunct professor at the University of Technology, Sydney, from 2006 to 2009.

WOHA's architecture is notable for its constant evolution: no two buildings adopt the same 'style'. The architecture demonstrates a profound awareness of local context and tradition, as well as an ongoing exploration of contemporary architectural forms and ideas, thus creating a unique fusion of practicality and invention. Environmental principles have always been fundamental to WOHA's designs.

WOHA's projects are located throughout Asia, and range from private houses to apartment towers, luxury resorts, mass-transit stations, and large-scale public buildings, among them are the Moulmein Rise apartments, the Newton Suites apartments, the Crowne Plaza Changi Airport, Bras Basah MRT Station and the Stadium MRT Station in Singapore, as well as the Alila Villas Uluwatu resort in Bali, and 'The Met' apartments in Bangkok.

WOHA began as a partnership in 1994. Since then, the ever-expanding practice has won a large number of local and international awards, among them The Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2007, the World Architecture Festival in 2009 in two categories and two awards in the RIBA International Awards of 2010.

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### **PEBBLE BAY (THAILAND) CO. LTD. / HOTEL PROPERTIES LTD.** Client 'The Met' - Laureate of the International Highrise Award 2010

With over 30 years of experience and headquartered in Singapore, HPL Hotels & Resorts is a hospitality management company, operated and wholly-owned by a Singapore main-board listed organization, Hotel Properties Limited (HPL). HPL is both an operator of its own hotels and the partner of leading brands, including COMO Hotels and Resorts, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, Hilton and Le Meridien.

As an international company HPL is recognized globally for its extensive portfolio of luxurious hotels and condominiums, shopping centres, office buildings, F&B, retail, leisure and tourism-related businesses that span 10 countries.

The HPL Group employs over 6200 staff and has a collection of 21 resorts in eight countries with a total capacity of over 2800 rooms. The Group's extensive hospitality expertise ranges from bustling airport hotels, themed resorts, beach hideaways to luxurious mountain retreats. Through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, HPL Hotels & Resorts Pte Ltd and Concorde Hotels and Resorts (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, the Group also provides hotel management services to a number of hotels in the region.

In addition, the HPL Group is a developer of prime, luxurious residential properties including Four Seasons Park, Nassim Jade, Scotts 28, Cuscaden Residences and Robertson Blue. The Group is also a developer of 'The Met' in Bangkok, Thailand, through another subsidiary, Pebble Bay (Thailand) Co. Ltd.

Furthermore the Group introduced Singapore to one of the leading premium frozen desserts, Haagen-Dazs.

The Group also holds seven Hard Rock Cafe franchises in Asia, including Singapore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Bali, Beijing and Manila.

The Group also has rental and sales operations on completed residential properties and commercial units. The properties currently held for investment purposes include Forum The Shopping Mall and shop units at the Concorde Shopping Mall in Singapore. Through a joint venture company, the HPL Group also owns a mixed portfolio of property in Kensington, London.

## **'THE MET' BANGKOK / THAILAND**

Winner of the International Highrise Award 2010



Architects: WOHA Architects, Singapore  
Associated architects: Tandem Architects, Bangkok  
Developer: Pebble Bay (Thailand) Co. Ltd, Singapore

Height: 231 meters  
Storeys: 69  
Commissioning: 2009  
Use: Apartments

'The Met', Bangkok/ Thailand | Photo: © Kirsten Bucher

The slender, 230-meter high building by the name of 'The Met', which is located in the inner-city Bangkok district of Sathorn, represents a tropical high-rise. In particular, planning was geared to the all-year tropical climate, with monsoon winds and high humidity. The outer design is determined by a specifically Thai formal and material language.

The residential building, which boasts 370 apartments on 66 floors develops a location-specific approach to living in the midst of a densely populated major city that is characterized by high pollution and little open space. The familiar configuration of inside and outside spaces that was developed for moderate climates was turned round: Spacious open areas are located not just on the balconies in front of the apartments, but were also cut transversely into the building's volume. The entire edifice comes across as being heavily perforated and permeable, and as such is characterized by being particularly penetrable. All the two to four-room apartments have cross ventilation to the north and south. Given their position facing both outwards and towards the open areas on the inside, the residential units are lit and ventilated from all sides, which enables particularly sustained living without air conditioning.

The design of the façade which features large ceramic tiles, fabrics, and wooden panels, was inspired by Thai temple tiles and the woodwork on traditional Thai homes.

Private living space is also connected to municipal areas distributed throughout the entire building. Their diversity (terraces with barbecue facilities, a library, a spa area, and the roof garden) create an attractive blend of ways to use them.

With its expressive façade 'The Met' stands out clearly in the Bangkok skyline. When soon the greenery in the gardens and on the façade covers the entire building it will be a successful example of a green high-rise in a tropical climate.

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### STATUETTE - INTERNATIONAL HIGHRISE AWARD 2010



The International Highrise Award 2010 statuette  
Titanium and granit, 35 x 15 x 12 cm

Artist: Thomas Demand | Photo: Friedemann  
Steinhausen

On behalf of DekaBank Thomas Demand crafted a prize statuette for the International Highrise Award. The symbol of the International Highrise Award consists of paper-thin layers of titanium, which, with the help of electron beam melting (EBM), can be layered in almost any shape. The process, which is primarily used in the manufacture of medical implants, as well as the aerospace and automotive industries, is currently regarded as the most innovative production technique in rapid manufacturing.

A building consists first and foremost of thoughts and ideas, which at the design stage manifest themselves in the form of concepts, plans, data and presentations, and later as contracts, lists of faults, agreements etc – a tower of documents. “And even after it has been finished,” Thomas Demand says, describing his work, “as a result of various tenants, visitors, uses, opinions, and congregations being stacked one on top of the other, a high-rise can be interpreted as a tower that represents different conditions, intentions, movements, changes, and deposits.”

The internationally renowned artist Thomas Demand studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, the Düsseldorf Academy of Art and at Goldsmiths’ College in London. In recent years his works have been displayed in numerous solo exhibitions, including in the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2005), the Fondazione Prada, Venice (2007), the Center for Contemporary Art, Kitakyushu (2008), the Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin (2009), and Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, in Rotterdam. Demand lives in Berlin.

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## **EXHIBITION**

### **BEST HIGHRISES - INTERNATIONAL HIGHRISE AWARD 2010**

DAM EXHIBITS in Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt

6 November 2010 – 16 January 2011, Asian Collection

Museum für Angewandte Kunst Frankfurt, Asian Collection

Schaumainkai 17, 60594 Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Opening times: Tues, Thurs-Sun 10.00 - 17.00 \ Wed 10.00 - 21.00

#### **About the exhibition**

For the competition for the International Highrise Award (IHA), Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM) nominated over 27 high-rises from 16 countries, all of which were built throughout the world in the last two years. In the exhibition "Best HighRises" which is being showcased in the premises of Museum für Angewandte Kunst in Frankfurt/Main, DAM which due to conversion work is still closed, presents all the projects, and in doing so reveals the current spectrum of contemporary high-rise construction. The 2010 prize winner, the residential high-rise by the name of 'The Met' in Bangkok, by WOHA Architects from Singapore and the four other short-listed projects are documented in detail on accessible information islands. The 2010 finalists are the Aqua Tower in Chicago by Studio Gang, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai by SOM, the Tokyo Mode Gakuen Cocoon Tower in Tokyo by Tange Associates, and the Shanghai World Financial Center in Shanghai, by KPF. What is currently the world's tallest high-rise, the 827-meter high Burj Dubai, received a special commendation for technological innovation in the building construction and elevator technology.

Based on plans, load-bearing structures and technical finesses are portrayed. The facades and Interiors can be experienced in numerous photographs, while models of the skyscrapers make it easier for visitors to appreciate the building as a whole. Furthermore, videos enable a virtual tour of individual buildings or show interviews with the architects and their clients.

Staging the exhibition in the Asian Department of the Museum für Angewandte Kunst does justice to the fact that four of the five competition finalists come from Asia. In honor of the prize winner a special presentation of Thai art from the collection of the Museum für Angewandte Kunst has been compiled: a group of outstanding Buddhist bronze sculptures and three pieces of Thepanom porcelain – precious items made in China for the Thai market and finished with typical local décor, probably applied in Thailand.

#### **Exhibition catalog**

An accompanying catalog entitled "Best High-Rises. Internationaler Hochhaus Preis 2010/ International Highrise Award 2010" has been published by Jovis-Verlag in Berlin. Edited by Michaela Busenkell and Peter Cachola Schmal, it documents in detail all 27 projects and features articles by Antony Wood, Wong Mun Summ and Richard Hassel, Michaela Busenkell and Michael Stöneberg.

German - English, 120 pages, 100 illustrations, ISBN 978-3-86859-089-0.

Retail price: EUR 25

## **PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL HIGHRISE AWARD**

### **City of Frankfurt/Main**

Frankfurt/Main is the dynamic financial and trade fair city with Germany's most striking skyline. A stone's throw from the high-rises there are cozy "Ebbelwoi" (cider) taverns and historical attractions such as the Imperial Cathedral (Kaiserdom) and the Paulskirche, the cradle of German democracy. As the focal point of the Rhine-Main region, Frankfurt is one of the leading European corporate centers. Its central location, the excellent infrastructure with the largest continental airport, the concentration of future-oriented companies and its international flair give the city a top ranking. Measured by the size of Frankfurt, its cultural pickings are formidable. The curtain rises on a performance over one hundred times a week. Frankfurt has the *Museumsufer* and well-known institutions, for example Kunsthalle Schirn, the Städel, Deutsches Architekturmuseum, and the Museum für Moderne Kunst (MMK).

### **Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM), Frankfurt/Main**

When it opened in 1984, DAM was the first architecture museum in Europe. It organizes temporary exhibitions addressing national and international architectural and urban planning themes. As a center for the discussion of current questions it stages a series of conferences and workshops, issues numerous publications and is represented on national and international juries. The architecture of the Museum, which is located on the *Museumsufer* in Frankfurt, is the work of the renowned Cologne architect Oswald Mathias Ungers. An abstract "house-within-a-house", which, using its own basic architectural means, makes architecture its theme, was incorporated in the historical *gründerzeit* villa.

### **DekaBank Deutsche Girozentrale, Frankfurt/Main**

DekaBank is the main asset manager of the Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe. It bundles its activities in three areas of business. Asset Management Immobilien (AMI), for example, embraces the worldwide real estate activities of the DekaBank Group. Its core task is to offer private and institutional investors attractive products based on investments in real estate or the financing of real estate. The two investment companies Deka Immobilien Investment GmbH and WestInvest Gesellschaft für Investmentfonds mbH are responsible for fund management. Their sister company, Deka Immobilien GmbH is, among other things, responsible for the purchase and sale of real estate worldwide, as well as the management of, at the moment, around major pieces of real estate in 24 countries. International real estate financing rounds out the range of services.

DekaBank is committed to society in a variety of ways. Focal points are the promotion of culture, science, social affairs, and sport. Particular importance is placed on continuity. The bank embarks on long-term partnerships with renowned institutions. In terms of the concept, the support is geared to drawing to the attention of a wider public ideas and developments that would not be possible without financial security.

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**For further information and photos for downloading please visit:**

[www.international-highrise-award.com](http://www.international-highrise-award.com)  
[www.dam-online.de](http://www.dam-online.de) and [www.dekabank.de](http://www.dekabank.de)

Coordination of the IHA 2010 | Exhibition curator  
Michaela Busenkell | Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM)

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