

MAD Architects Reveals First Residential Project in US

MAD Architects reveals *8600 Wilshire*, a residential project located in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles. *8600 Wilshire* is MAD's first US project and demonstrates founder Ma Yansong's core design philosophy: to coalesce nature and community into a living environment among high-density cities.

Bringing the nature found on the adjacent foothills of Los Angeles into the city of Beverly Hills, *8600 Wilshire* mimics a small sinuous white hill boasting an 18-unit residential village atop commercial space. Clustered white glass villas and trees ascend upward to contour the Beverly Hills skyline and provide a distinctive streetscape on Wilshire Boulevard.

The "hillside village" offers a variety of housing types for city residents, including three townhouses, five villas, two studios and eight condominiums. The massing of the village cultivates community with the added benefit of individual balcony-patios to maintain independence and privacy. Villa residents experience a balance between public and private as the incandescent villas appear opaque from the street, yet reveal a transparent façade facing the private garden, townhouse and condominium units.

The village is wrapped in a water-efficient "living wall" of native, drought-tolerant succulents and vines. Undulating around perforated windows on the façade, this vertical garden extends interior space to the exterior balconies and provides a natural green-screen for condominium residents. Along Wilshire Boulevard, the living wall lifts off the ground to reveal glass storefronts at ground level. The resulting effect is a floating plinth that resembles local privacy hedges and conceals an elevated courtyard. Hidden away from the street is an elevated courtyard accented by a canopy of trees and native plantings. At the center of this secret garden is a water feature flowing gently to a secondary reflecting pool in the lobby below. As residents leave the everyday bustle of the city, they find solitude at *8600 Wilshire* in a garden valley—at home in nature.

In high-density cities, Modernist and Post-Modernist housing typically prioritized functions and formats over human relationships to the environment. For *8600 Wilshire*, MAD considers the possibility of a new model for West Coast vernacular amid the sprawling density of Los Angeles. MAD purposes a harmonious architectural space of human experience by placing residents in the spiritual landscape of nature.

8600 Wilshire is expected to break ground this October. The project is newly honored in the "design concept" category at the 45th Annual Los Angeles Architectural Awards, hosted by the Los Angeles Business Council.

8600 Wilshire

Location: Los Angeles, USA

Typology: Mixed-Use, Residential

Time: 2013-2016

Site Area: 25900 sq ft

Building Area: 48000 sq ft

Building Height: 60 ft

Team

Directors: Ma Yansong, Dang Qun, Yosuke Hayano

Associate Partner: LU Junliang(Dixon)

Design Team: LI Guangchong, Flora Lee, Cesar D Pena Del Rey, Jeffrey Miner, Joanna Tan, Chris Hung-Yu Chen

Client: Palisades Capital Partners LLC

Executive Architect: Gruen Associates

Landscape Architect: Gruen Associates

Interior Designer: Rottet Studio

Structural Engineer: John Labib & Associates

MEP Engineer: Breen Engineering Inc.

Civil Engineer: Breen Engineering Inc.

Environmental Engineer: Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.