For Immediate Release
May 13, 2014

**Vanke Unveils “Shitang” Designed by Architect Daniel Libeskind For Expo 2015 in Milan**

*Chinese real estate giant makes its overseas Expo debut*

Milan, Italy—Studio Daniel Libeskind unveiled the design for the Vanke Pavilion for Milan Expo 2015. Mayor Giuliano Pisapia, and Liao Juhua, Consul General for China in Milan, join Vanke’s Chairman of the Board, Wang Shi and Expo Director Giuseppe Sala at the Palazzo Marino to present the design for Vanke’s first overseas pavilion for Expo 2015.

Designed by world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind (New York/Milan/Zurich), the pavilion will explore key issues related to the Expo theme of “Feeding the Planet” by reimagining a traditional Chinese Shitang (dining hall). The interior exhibition design is lead by Ralph Appelbaum (New York/Beijing) and graphic design by Han Jiaying (Beijing).

“The staggering rate of the cities’ growth does in fact put us in the condition of having to face the risk of social disintegration, where the principal of solidarity slowly fades away and individuals, prey to anonymity, survive in a crescendo of solitude. This is why Vanke chose “Shitang” as the theme for its pavilion, a traditional Chinese social structure that lives on today in contemporary society under various forms, representing a possibility to socialize in a healthy, tranquil environment,” said Wang Shi, the Vanke chairman.

The concept for the pavilion was inspired by traditional Chinese landscape painting—rock formations, rice fields, and prehistoric outcrops. The pavilion aims to tell the story of civilization, technology and the 21st Century as well as offer a space for reflection and celebration of different cultures.

“For the Vanke Pavilion, I wanted to create a jewel—a place where people could gather, explore and experience something very Chinese and modern,” said Daniel Libeskind. “I drew from a spectrum of sources for the design—from the ancient writings of Confucius and Lao Zi to works from the Renaissance—with the goal of creating connections between many cultures,” adds Libeskind.

Situated on the edge of the Lake Arena, 1000-square meter pavilion appears to rise from the east forming a dynamic vertical landscape. The design features a sinuous geometrical pattern that flows between inside
and outside. The red serpentine form carves an opening up the middle to a grand staircase clad in a white mosaic tile. A roof-top observation desk will provide stunning views of the lake and near-by Italian pavilion. The pavilion is clad in an innovative three-dimensional red metalized tile that Libeskind designed with the Italian company Casalgrande Padana, the geometric ceramic panels not only create an expressive pattern, but they possess highly sustainable self-cleaning and air purification properties.

Inside visitors encounter a constellation of more than 300 screens mounted on a matrix of bamboo armatures. Short films weave throughout the series of screens capturing a glimpse into the everyday life of ordinary Chinese citizens expressing the importance of the Shitang in their daily lives.

Each short film will loop at different intervals exploring the elements of Chinese culinary customs and everyday objects such as a cookbooks, table wear, and chopsticks. Chinese contemporary designer Han Jiaying gives these objects new life by rendering them in bold freehand brushstrokes and using folk handwriting to narrate the stories replayed in the films.

ABOUT VANKE

Founded in 1984, Vanke is China’s largest residential real estate company, listed on the Shenzen Stock Exchange. With a turnover worth 2.3 billion dollars at March 2014, Vanke provides over half a million housing units and management services to 1.5 million Chinese.

Vanke believes that the cornerstone of its success is the commitment to ethical business conduct and obtaining fair returns with professional competence. Devoted to a corporate culture featuring standardization and transparency and a development pattern featuring steadiness and focus, Vanke has grown into an enterprise most respected by the public and most popular among customers, investors, employees and partners. Thanks to its excellent performance in corporate governance and ethics, Vanke has been honored as one of “China’s Most Respected Companies” for eight consecutive times.

ABOUT DANIEL LIBESKIND

Daniel Libeskind established his architectural studio in Berlin, Germany, in 1989 after winning the competition to build the Jewish Museum in Berlin. In February 2003, Studio Daniel Libeskind moved its headquarters from Berlin to New York City when Daniel Libeskind was selected as the master planner for the World Trade Center redevelopment. Daniel Libeskind’s practice is involved in designing and realizing a diverse array of urban, cultural and commercial projects internationally. The Studio has completed buildings that range from museums and concert halls to convention centers, university buildings, hotels, shopping centers and residential towers. In addition to the New York headquarters, Studio Libeskind has European partner offices based in Zürich, Switzerland and Milan, Italy. For more information, visit www.daniel-libeskind.com

###