

CONSTRUCTION+

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An illustration of a diverse group of people walking on a light-colored grid floor. The people are shown from a top-down perspective, casting shadows. They are dressed in various casual and professional attire, representing a multicultural and multi-generational workforce. The grid lines are light gray and form a consistent pattern across the background.

EMBRACING THE CHALLENGES OF COVID-19

SPECIAL FOCUS – IMAGING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AFTER COVID-19

INTERVIEW WITH ELLIE TANG - HEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY AT

NEW WORLD DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

PROJECT FOCUS - K. WAH: INSPIRATION & INNOVATION

INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS 2020 PROJECTS FEATURING





Inspired by the ancient city, the masterplan is north-south oriented with buildings orthogonally arranged along the central axis

HEBEI GRAND HOTEL, ANYUE

Hebei Grand Hotel, Anyue, designed by LWK + PARTNERS, is an exciting new leisure destination, offering 200 guestrooms within the hotel towers plus 60 low-rise executive villas and extensive hotel facilities including a grand ballroom, boutique tea house, business meeting rooms and specialties restaurants for guests and the public.

It is client's aspiration to create a new distinctive, yet historically rich luxurious hotel in Zhengding, a new Central Business District of Shijiazhuang; within the fast-growing Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei metropolitan region. Hebei Grand Hotel, Anyue aims to accommodate especially business travellers from afar and adjacent convention centre. Drawing inspiration from the ancient city of Zhengding that dates back 1600 years, the hotel synthesises elements from classic Chinese architecture with the needs of modern society to create a new urban getaway, immersing guests in an exquisite natural setting. It is part of the Zhengding Li Mixed-use Development, a retail-led precinct also designed by LWK + PARTNERS.

Celebrating a mix of heritage, nature, and style, the design looks back to the vestige of ancient civilisation for a new way to express comfort through design and architecture, signifying also a return to the simple pleasures of staying close to nature.

PHYSICAL SETTING

The project is set to resolve the tension between the new and old, historic and modern, and the contrast of architectural scales and its languages. It synthesises the presence and the values of the past with the potentials and realities of the contemporary to accommodate commercial demands.

With a masterplan inspired by the ancient city, the hotel is north-south oriented with all the buildings orthogonally arranged along the central axis. The towers are designed with single-loaded corridors to maximise river views for the suites. The tower facades and roofs of the ancillary building are made of terracotta, resonating the historical surroundings and offering a sense of nature.

SOCIAL SETTING

The resort-style villas are a modern interpretation of Chinese courtyards, arranged in a cluster along the peripheral landscape

paving, where double-storey slender blocks open out towards the central garden. By treatments of shifting and staggering the villas, secluded pocket spaces are created for guests to relax in privacy. Villas are connected by a smooth flow of courtyard gardens and covered walkways to provide a seamless landscaped exterior and form an unobstructed spatial experience where guests can swiftly move between a private retreat and open spaces for a shared community.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Nature is part of the experience at Hebei Grand Hotel, Anyue, in addition to extensive facilities. The whole development is brimmed with verdant landscaping and green roofs are placed on pitched roof clusters as a landscape design element, which also efficiently reduces interior heat gain and, consequently, energy consumption. PV panels are installed at the south-facing pitched roofs to further maximise energy efficiency.

The placement of glazing façade on hotel towers and villas are north-south oriented to absorb sunlight in order to warm the building during winter, while overhung pitched roofs keep the buildings cool in the summertime.

Wastewater is purified and rainwater is stored for irrigation. Certain outdoor areas are fixed with water sprinklers to produce a cooling effect in the summertime. Various water features are also incorporated throughout the development to minimise heat island effect and reduce indoor mechanical loading.

Building a large hotel project normally increases the burden of the public draining system. In the context of this, LWK + PARTNERS applied permeable paving all over the site, in order to allow water to penetrate the ground surface and retain in the soil. The sponge city design helps to reduce pressure significantly in the public draining system.

Aiming to be an exceptional, culturally embedded new hotel in Zhengding, traditional architectural elements were extracted and incorporated into the design.

For the overall masterplan design, the scheme took reference from the Zhengding Ancient City. The design makes well-considered connections with the past by extracting architectural elements like pitched roofs and iconic pillars, unifying the overall architectural form, and establishing a relationship with the local neighbourhood.

Inspired from the Old City, the hotel complex is north-south oriented and orthogonally arranged along the central axis where twin towers are located at the north, with low-rise villas at the south. Hotel tower typical floor features a single loaded corridor, configured to maximise river view for all suites.



Traditional architectural elements are reinterpreted and incorporated throughout the hotel



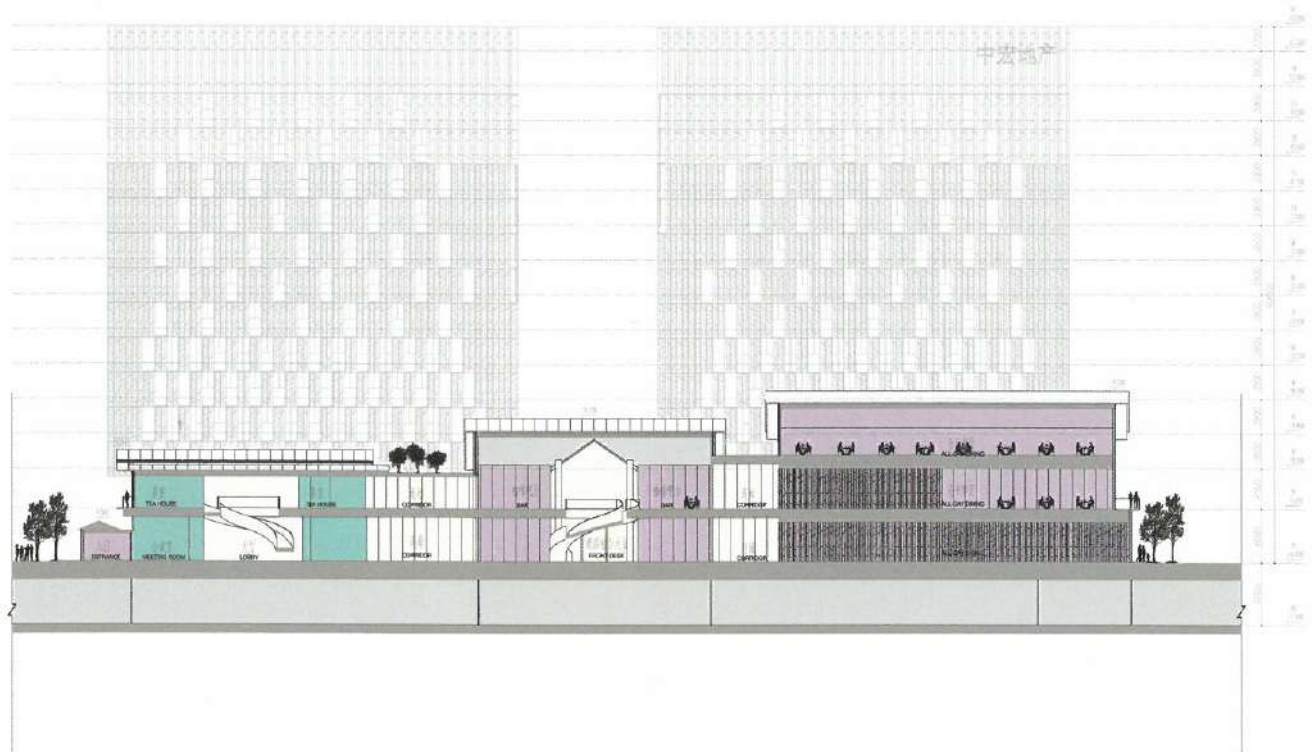
Extensive facilities include a grand ballroom, boutique tea house, business meeting rooms and specialty restaurants



Lighting of the hotel traces the silhouette of pitched roofs, recapturing the beauty of morning haze over the mountains and giving a serene yet intriguing ambience




Various water features minimise heat island effect



Architectural design of villas

The project embraces a typical courtyard house design, with a sequence of courtyards garden bordered by two medium-rise towers; a series of tea house, dining, and banquet pavilions with iconic pillars are introduced, connected with a covered promenade to provide the guest with a personalised and measured experience at the hotel.

Local material and local manufacturing processes were used to greatly reduce carbon footprint during construction and lower energy consumption due to long haul transportation. The tower facades and roofs of the ancillary building are made of terracotta, resonating the historical surroundings and offering a sense of nature.

In addition to architecture and landscape design, LWK + PARTNERS is also responsible for the lighting design. The lighting of the hotel traces the silhouette of pitched roofs, recapturing the beauty of morning haze over the mountains and giving a serene yet intriguing ambience throughout the hotel. 

PROJECT DATA

Project Name
Hebei Grand Hotel

Location
Shijiazhuang, China

Status of Construction
Completed

Completion Date
2019

Site Area
47,246 square metres

Gross Floor Area
80,386 square metres

Building Height
Hotel towers: 60 m;
Villas: 18.3 m

Clients
Hebei Zhonghong Real Estate
Development Co., Ltd.

Architecture Firm
LWK + PARTNERS

Lighting Consultant
LWK + PARTNERS

Landscape Architect
LWK + PARTNERS

Images
LWK + PARTNERS



The tone of the interior space is more moody, intended to evoke the calming experience of meandering through a mountain shrine



The entrance passage terminates at a modern space interpreting the most traditional of Japanese elements – the torii gate

KEI CUISINE

LWK + PARTNERS successfully married Japanese and Chinese cultures to create an elegant ambiance for Kei Cuisine, a luxury Cantonese restaurant located in one of Hong Kong's core retail areas. Out of the client's passion for Japanese culture, the team took inspiration from the Yoshida Fire Festival, a ritual that has taken place annually at the base of Mount Fuji for over 400 years.

Kei Cuisine celebrates the craftsmanship and finesse of Japanese design. Elements of the Yoshida festival permeate every detail from the grand entrance to the fire-red velvet wall, washrooms, and small things like wall scones – all serving to immerse guests in the sacred festival for an elevated dining experience.

Location in Hong Kong's competitive shopping district means that the design must stand out to draw customers. The entrance of Kei Cuisine features a refined, innovative show kitchen with an eye-catching grill counter that resembles the iconic tapering form of Mount Fuji – a landscape always in sight during the festival. The real-flame

grill counter is specifically tailored to showcase the cooking of Kei Cuisine's signature dish Roasted Suckling Pig – a Cantonese classic. This not only serves to display the chef's professional skills but also draws the attention of passers-by and promotes interaction with visiting patrons.

After walking through the main entrance and show kitchen, guests are then guided down a moody corridor enriched with split-faced stone walls recalling the texture of the Japanese shrine, an important element of the Yoshida festival. The passage terminates at a modern, interior interpretation of torii gates, which form a symmetrical view across the main area.

The dining area offers two distinct but connected experiences, leading guests from an enthusiastic and delightful main dining area to three private dining rooms with serenity. The visitor's attention would be captured by a gorgeous lantern-shaped chandelier above an exclusive banquette seat with plush seating. The area is surrounded by wall details reinterpreting the pattern, materiality, and

vibrancy of the Yoshida festival and a giant red velvet wall at the end invokes the spectacular scene of the festival.

To maximise the use of space, private dining rooms are designed with multi-functional flexibility. Their operable partitions allow them to merge with the main hall into an open space in the daytime and revert to private use in the evening. They can also be joined together to form a connected banquette area.

To further facilitate the client's operation needs, storage is allocated at the end for keeping the tables since the table setting will be changed day and night. The tables are also customised by LWK + PARTNERS and furniture professionals, in order to be easily transformed and operated.

For such a high-end project, the time frame is relatively short that the design and construction were completed over a span of just three months. LWK + PARTNERS played the lead consultant role to closely coordinate and communicate with the client, contractors, suppliers and other consultants to ensure efficiency.

Japanese style is the client's favourite style, posing a challenge to the design team given that the space is a Cantonese restaurant. Design team decided to focus on Japanese architectural features and ambiance as design elements. The final design of Kei Cuisine is oriented by the Yoshida Fire Festival in Japan. Without the direct application of Japanese graphical symbols, LWK + PARTNERS rendered the space a subtle Japanese touch with careful considerations for form, materials and spatial transitions.

As a high-end restaurant, there are certain requirements for operation. The client would need to display dried fish maw, the ingredient of the signature Fish Tripe dish. The ingredient itself does not look nice, and the client has concerns about showing Kei Cuisine as a food store rather than a restaurant. By further developing from the Yoshida festival concept, a display wall has been created from the form of Japanese 'ema'. The entire wall is decorated entirely by ema-like panels and niches. The Fish Tripe is contained in a gift box and laid into niches elegantly.

The images of fire and the Yoshida festival are strong and powerful throughout the design, extending from the grill counter for cooking the signature Chinese Grill Pork to the decoration details invoking fire-lit torches symbolic of the festival. Special tiles with flame motifs at the shop front further enhance the design. This red feature wall connects the entrance and show kitchen while the column in between serves as an eye-catching signage.

The selection of materials for the show kitchen and its



The finishing material, colourway, millwork, furniture detail, ambiance, lighting, graphics and artwork are all well planned and organised

design details are particularly concerned. Show kitchen has to be clean and easy to maintain hygiene, while the materials selected have to be suitable in the high-heat area and in line with government regulations. Not only did the LWK + PARTNERS team spend much effort in testing and sourcing, but also consolidate the advice from related professions to make this show kitchen successful.

Kei Cuisine is also well known for selling fish maws. In this connection, it is meticulously designed to function as a showroom for their star product. LWK + PARTNERS reinvented the Japanese ema rack out of the sidewall, where brightly lit niches act as showcases of fish maws. Niches are highlighted by uplights and wall grazing, with a high level of colour rendering to give a raw, natural touch. **C**



The Japanese ema rack is reinvented out of the side wall, where brightly lit niches act as showcases of fish maws



Exclusive banquette seat with plush seating



The shape of the grill counter at the entrance show kitchen was inspired by Mount Fuji, which is in the background of the fire festival

PROJECT DATA

Project Name
Kei Cuisine
Location
Hong Kong
Completion Date
2019
Gross Floor Area
427 square metres
Client/Owner
The Food Story
Interior Design Firm
LWK + PARTNERS
Lighting Consultant
LWK + PARTNERS
Images
LWK + PARTNERS