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Zhongshan OCT Harbour, Zhongshan, China



# Designing The Next Sustainable Communities

LWK + PARTNERS are a leading architecture and design practice headquartered in Hong Kong. With over 35 years of growth, the company today operates with a team of over 1,100 creative minds who collaborate across a network of 12 offices around the globe delivering world-class solutions to the built environment.

For the past decade or so, LWK + PARTNERS have been operating on an increasingly agile and resilient model that is both vertically and horizontally integrated to deliver holistic results with efficiency. This model has allowed them to continue growing during a much disrupted 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Vertically, they have experts from planning and design through to execution and operations, supported by a Design Research Unit that provides insights on sustainable design, net zero and technology, whilst their integrated digital delivery capabilities are highly appreciated by their clients. Horizontally, they continue to embrace multidisciplinary teams and inter-office collaborations across their 12 studios located in China, Southeast Asia and MENA to ensure they combine good local understanding and world vision while staying readily accessible to clients.

Its work in the retail and leisure sector has seen them launch Zijing Paradise Walk, which opened last year in Hangzhou, China. With culture and wellness as its central themes, this community shopping centre rests next to the Wulitang River in West Lake district. It offers diverse leisure and wellness facilities spread across interlocking spaces which are well integrated with the key essence of ancient Hangzhou's Hui-style architecture, embodying a sense of simplicity, elegance and preserved heritage.

A major upcoming project by the company is the MixC Dongguan Songshan Lake District Mixed Use Development in Dongguan, China which is being designed as a catalyst of urban transformation from suburban industrial landscape to a robust lifestyle and cultural hub.

Outside of these sectors, LWK + PARTNERS have completed

work on Aoti Vanke Centre, an innovative working hub in Hangzhou, China and this scheme opened its doors last year. Comprised of two office towers and a ring-shaped podium, the complex reinterprets the podium-tower typology with each level of its elevated podium rotated by a different degree to create a myriad of walking spaces for people's enjoyment.

Their Interior Design Team designed the Radisson Collection Resort in Nanjing, a low-rise resort with 151 deluxe guest rooms in 2020. The interior spaces of the project takes inspiration from the time-honoured local silk craftsmanship called Yunjin, a UNESCO-listed intangible cultural heritage. A subdued approach to aesthetics was adopted to highlight a raw sense of tactility and bespoke craftsmanship.

The practice also completed the Hengqin Port Mixed-use Development in Zhuhai, China. With transit-oriented development (TOD) seen as China's prevailing urban development model in today's world, this project enjoys a prime location with direct access to the port and commercial facilities at the border of Hengqin and Macau, and consists of offices, a hotel, commercial area and serviced apartments.

Meanwhile at the start of this year, the company announced winning designs of the shopping mall and apartments of Zhongshan OCT Harbour, a large-scale cultural-tourism project on the west coast of China's Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The mall serves as the primary commercial draw for the whole development, while the sea wave-inspired apartment blocks mark the site's overall skyline.

The business stays closely connected with its clients and partners

Hengqin Port Mixed-use Development, Zhuhai, China



via two important channels. The first is through its global studio network in 12 cities and secondly their project designs and progresses are well documented on BIM-based project management platforms, facilitating cross-border communications and sharing of records. This kind of BIM-based project management is becoming the global norm and LWK + PARTNERS are among the more experienced adopters of this approach in their operating regions.

Whilst China has traditionally been their main market, they see Southeast Asia as a key growth market moving forward which will remain a hub of urban growth and activities. Outside of Asia, they have launched a second office in the MENA region in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia after first launching in Dubai, UAE. The firm's existing networks, experience in Asia and multidisciplinary expertise have given clients across the world immense confidence in their design and delivery. As a result of this, their portfolio has expanded in breadth and diversity during the past three years, covering high-end residences, retail, sports facilities and public infrastructure.

The team at LWK + PARTNERS feel social media has powerfully changed how people perceive, experience and remember their surroundings. They feel that the built environment has always been social spaces and the company sees social media as an extension and evolution of that shared experience. Their ultimate design intention

MixC Dongguan Songshan Lake District Mixed Use Development, Dongguan, China



Zijing Paradise Walk, Hangzhou, China



is always to create spaces that inspire. Placemaking is in every project they do, to encourage users to express themselves and interact with the space and other people, both physically and online.

With many of their operations being in China, they are encouraged by the fact the market is recovering fast, and they feel the building industry across Southeast Asia and the MENA region will continue to adjust in the coming 12 months as recovery is well underway.

In the future they will remain focused on building resilience for communities as a whole, and addressing holistic issues like health, work-life balance, cultural heritage, conservation and environmental protection.

LWK + PARTNERS recognise the role of architects and the building industry in general, in helping the planet combat climate change and achieve a low-carbon future. Backed by research and experience, they incorporate a range of sustainable design features in their projects and promote the use of greener construction approaches like Modular Integrated Construction in the industry. They also share insights and exchange views with the international community on net carbon zero, biophilic design, zero energy, ecocities and other ways to harmonise with the environment.