

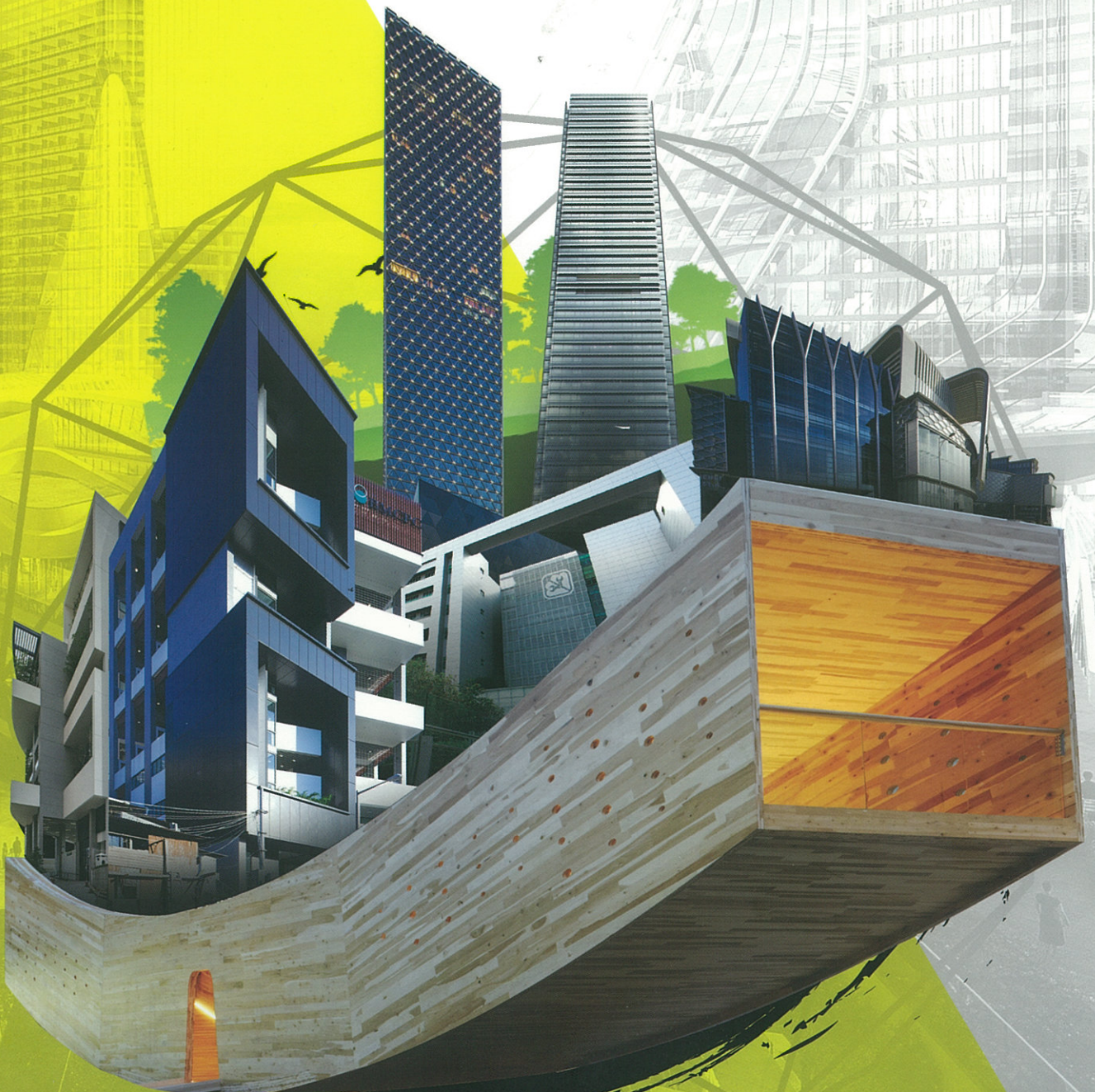
CONSTRUCTION+

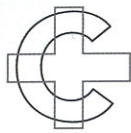
Bringing The Building And Design Industry To You

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**COMMENTARY: NEW RATING TOOL FOR URBAN SUSTAINABILITY
IN THE SPOTLIGHT: MARY CHAN
SPECIAL FOCUS: AIA DESIGN AWARDS 2016**





THE PARK LANE HONG KONG, A PULLMAN HOTEL

By CL3 Architects Ltd.
Merit Award for Interior Architecture

A hotel built in 1974 with 800 rooms, The Park Lane recently came under the Pullman management. A total re-branding requires the designer to reinvent the arrival experience including the *porte cochère*, entrance, lobby and lobby lounge. The design results in a young, open and welcoming experience by blending these zones into one visually open environment. Consistent column treatment of internally lit glass columns coupled with new external glazing tie the outside to the inside. Exposed ceiling, mood lighting, designer furniture and a lobby lounge with a bar/pantry focus give an energetic and spacious ambience. The reception, which handles 800 guests daily on average, is clustered into five check in/out islands. Wall treatments in the form of stacked luggages dramatise the space. The bar lounge with various furniture groupings is an interactive social place.

The jurors admired the skills and control of the architect for transforming this old business hotel lobby into an upscale, elegant and hip space. They felt that the design redefines the idea of a contemporary hotel entry for Hong Kong. It explores how the entry sequence and spaces can be redefined using various materials and techniques, and sets a high standard for future hotels.



GTB SHANGHAI OFFICE

By M Moser Associates Ltd.
Merit Award for Interior Architecture

The hallmarks of nature and healthy living inspire creativity and collaboration in this distinctive new office for GTB in Shanghai. Much of the design's impetus came from its location away from GTB's previous office in central Shanghai. With retaining existing creative staff and recruiting new members a priority, GTB was determined to create a work environment that supported a healthy lifestyle and work-life balance. WELL certification for the design would underline its focus on 'human sustainability'.

Obvious manifestations of this approach include the lush green wall in the staff bistro, a generously sized space that can be opened up to flow directly into an adjoining 'flex room'. The result is a larger venue for regular staff social gatherings (kicked off every Friday by sounding a horn), events or town hall meetings.

Elements of the bistro, including the green wall and wood flooring, reappear elsewhere to give even work areas a touch of the outdoors. The work areas are wrapped against the glass curtain wall, giving them sweeping outside views and natural light during the day. Every few rows of benches are served by a 'backyard'—an open break-out zone that serves as a natural venue for brainstorming, ad hoc discussions, or away-from-the-desk work.

Between the open work areas and the building core—itsself 'wrapped' with enclosed meeting spaces—is a corridor loop whose 2.4-metre width and contrasting floor colour give it something of a running track feel. It is a design that 'walks the talk' of staff wellness.

The jurors appreciated the clarity and effectiveness of presenting the project's ideas. They felt the space have been defined with creative elements that were more than decorative. The design explores a new paradigm for office organisation, using interweaving zones, collaborative spaces, and blurring boundaries between work and play.