

BANGKOK REPORT (Part I)

OCTOBER 2010

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Hotel Éclat

Project Overview

Newly opened boutique Hotel Éclat is the first new luxury hotel to open in Taipei for many years. The French word “Éclat” literally means “glorious accomplishment and honor”, a reference to the eclectic, avant-garde style in which the hotel has been decorated. The Hotel calls itself an “art hotel” and throughout the property art pieces and sculptures by contemporary artists such as Salvador Dali, Andy Warhol, Yin Jun, LI Shan and Gao Xiao Wu can be found. Much of these art pieces, as well as a furniture collection featured in the hotel, belong to George Wong, the Hong Kong entrepreneur who conceived the hotel.

The hotel was designed by Charles Robertson of LKF designers Limited, whose work includes projects such as Le Meridien Cyberport Hotel in Hong Kong, Starworld Hotel & Casino in Macau and Four Seasons Shanghai.

Project Details

1. **Type of Business:** Boutique hotel
2. **Open Date:** March 2010
3. **Location:** Taipei, Taiwan
4. **Concept:** Art hotel
5. **Number of rooms:** 60
6. **Room Rate:** Starting at around US\$ 170.
7. **Designer:** Charles Robertson of LRF designers Limited; www.lrfdesign.com
8. **Developer/Owner:** Hong Kong entrepreneur George Wong
9. **Website:** www.eclathotels.com

Location Map



The hotel is in the heart of the fashionable Da-An district close to world-famous landmark tower Taipei 101, the Tun Hua South Road luxury shopping district and popular nightspots such as the Anhe Road bar street.

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Entrance to Hotel Éclat.



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The lobby's eclectic décor contains original art pieces and paintings – among others by Salvador Dali – many of which are part of the personal collection of owner George Wong.

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The vast glass / crystal chandelier.

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Reception area, decorated with a plush velvet sofa, drapes and vast glass hanging light sculptures in various shades of purple by noted Czech glass artist Jitka Skuhrová Lasvit.

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One of the three glass / crystal chandeliers in the lobby area.

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Original paintings by famous artists adorn the walls.

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The George Bar. Warm browns and orange give the interior an elegant and cozy feel.

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The dining area.

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The dining area. The décor is quite eclectic and perhaps not to everyone's taste!

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Above and below: The Éclat Lounge features two original Salvador Dali sculptures worth over several million US\$ each.

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All 60 guest rooms are luxuriously equipped with Philippe Starck desk chairs, Riedel glassware and Salvatore Ferragamo toiletries.

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A glass wall divides the walk in rainforest shower from the living area and can be frosted or defrosted at the touch of a switch. Every room also features an original work by Chinese contemporary artist Tang Yuen Hei.

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Above and below: The signature Éclat Suite includes a lighted marble dining table, Swarovski chandeliers, Murano glass sculptures and a Hasten bed from Sweden costing US\$48,000.

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The lighted marble dining table.

Hotel Soul (Suzhou, China)

Project Overview

This hip, avant-garde hotel is nestled in the beautiful historic city of Suzhou. Suzhou is one of China's last ancient cities, famous for its many ponds and streams and often described as the 'Oriental Venice'. With its modernist exterior, the hotel has been designed to blend into the traditional neighborhood of Ping Jiang. Guest rooms offer the usual range of luxury amenities. Also on the premises are 3 meeting rooms, a French brasserie (Brasserie 101) and a charming Suzhou-style rooftop garden.

Project Details

1. **Type of Business:** *Boutique hotel.*
2. **Open Date:** *April 2010*
3. **Location:** *Suzhou, China.*
4. **Concept:** *Futuristically designed and trendy-chic.*
5. **Number of rooms:** *225*
6. **Room Rate:** *Starting at around US\$ 100.*
7. **Developer:** *GR8 Leisure Concept Ltd. Based in Hong Kong, the company specializes in the investment, development and management of hotel, leisure and entertainment enterprises; www.gr8.com.hk*
8. **Website:** www.hotelsoul.com.cn

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Location Map



At only 120 km west of Shanghai, Suzhou is one of China's fastest growing destinations for business visitors. Hotel Soul Suzhou is located in the Ping Jiang District, within two kilometers south of Suzhou railway station. There are direct trains from Shanghai railway station to Suzhou, which take around 30 minutes.

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Artist's rendering of hotel exterior.

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Hotel entrance.



Hotel lobby.

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Soul Bar.

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The bar area.



PRE-FUNCTION AREA

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Gym area.



MEETING ROOM

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The Egg Office Building (Mumbai)

Project Overview

This eye-catching piece of architecture is an office building currently under construction in Mumbai, India. When completed, the 32,000 sqm egg-shaped structure will accommodate 13 floors of offices.

By using this egg shape, compared to a conventional building, the structure has approximately 10-20% less surface area, therefore reducing temperature loss-gain. Within the building, an innovative structure derived from the skin of the egg creates up to 30m spans of columnless floors. The architecture is sleek and computer designed, with engineering that creates a building of high quality and geometric sophistication. It is hoped this building will become an iconic landmark for the new Central Business District of Mumbai.

Design Concept

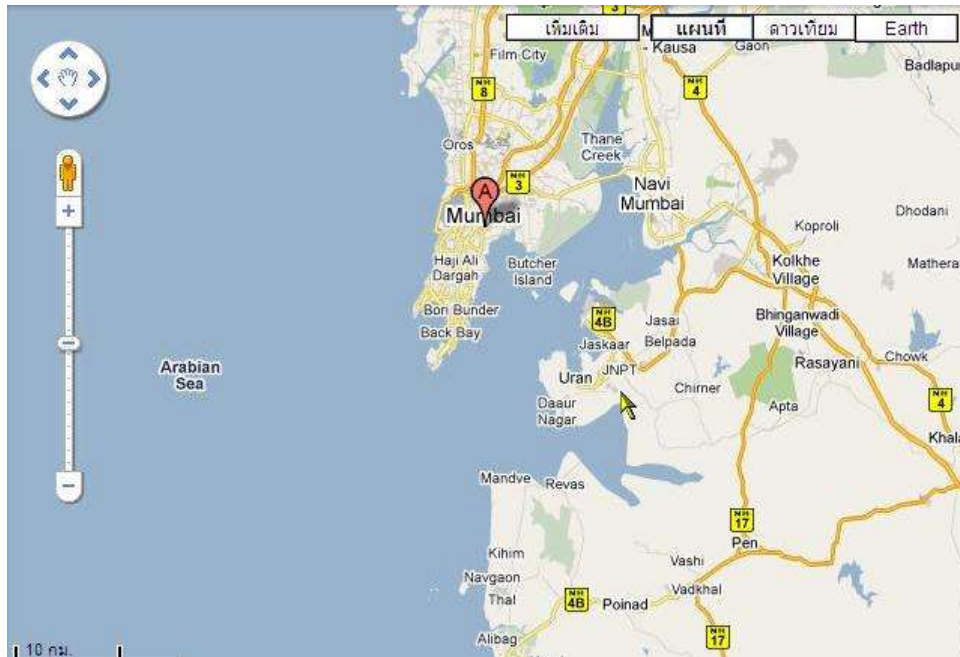
An egg is the symbol of birth, life and imminent development, and it has been used here as the basis to create a revolutionary Indian office environment. The concept was inspired by considering the world as an ecosystem allowing life to evolve. Technology and the working environment are united in the use of 'cybertecture reality' which allows the user to customize his favorite view and have real time scenery all around the world instead of the view he currently has.

Project Details

1. **Type of Business:** Office building
2. **Completion Date:** End of 2010
3. **Location:** Mumbai, India
4. **Concept:** The world as an ecosystem in which life evolves.
5. **Size:** 32,000 sqm
6. **Number of floors:** 13
7. **Architect:** James Law, Cybertecture International; www.jameslawcybertecture.com
8. **Developer:** The Wadhwa Group; www.thewadhwagroup.com

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Location Map



The structure is located in the business district of Mumbai, India.

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The egg itself is orientated and skewed at an angle to create both a strong visual impact and to alleviate the solar gain of the building.

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PV panels will be installed on top of the building and a wind turbine on the sky gardens will generate electricity. A water filtration system will also be incorporated into the building to recycle grey water for flushing and irrigation purpose.



"In the 21st Century, buildings will be different from 20th Century. They are no longer about concrete, steel and glass, but also the new intangible materials of technology, multimedia, intelligence and interactivity. Only recognizing this will bring a new form of architecture to light, namely a Cybertecture," says the architect.



The sky garden on the top of building performs thermolysis (the dissipation of heat from the surface).

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The world as an eco-system.