

RECENT AND CURRENT PROJECTS

National Campus for the Archaeology of Israel (Jerusalem, Israel)

Free Library of Philadelphia (Philadelphia, PA, United States)

Sky Habitat Residential Development (Bishan, Singapore)

Habitat – Golden Dream Bay (Qinhuangdao, China)

Colombo Residential Development (Colombo, Sri Lanka)

Raffles City Chongqing (Chongqing, China)

Jewel at Changi Airport (Singapore)

El Gran Canal – Los Morros (Cartagena, Colombia)

National Campus for the Archaeology of Israel (Jerusalem, Israel)

Project Type: Academic

Client: Israel Antiquities Authority

Size: 350,000 sq ft

Anticipated Phase I Completion: 2016

The new National Campus for the Archaeology of Israel is centrally located on a steeply sloping site adjacent to the Israel and Bible Lands Museums, overlooking the Hebrew University campus, and with views of the city of Jerusalem beyond. The complex serves as the headquarters of the Israel

Antiquities Authority, and provides operational spaces such as conservation laboratories, archives, a library, offices, vaults and storage, as well as spaces to accommodate a public outreach program.

The design concept seeks to re-create the character of archaeological excavations with their customary protective shading tents. Three courtyards step down the slope and are contained by building wings housing the various program elements. One enters into the highest courtyard at the road level, from where the project descends, allowing all indoor space to be located below street level, and preserving views across the valley.

Two canopies, composed of a net of tensile cables with dark fritted glass panels, are suspended above the principal courtyard and the lower mosaic courtyard. The roof canopy features a central opening, through which rainfall is funneled down into the courtyard below. The inner courtyard-facing walls of the building are clad with glass curtain wall and silver metal panels, while at the outward-facing perimeter walls stone is used as a screening device to provide shading and to visually anchor the structure into the surrounding rocky hillside of golden Jerusalem limestone.

Free Library of Philadelphia (Philadelphia, PA, United States)

Project Type: Library

Client: Free Library of Philadelphia

Construction Start Date (Phase 3): June 2016

Anticipated Construction Completion (Phase 3): June 2017

The Free Library of Philadelphia, located on Logan Square along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, is a 90-year-old Beaux-Arts building for which Safdie Architects is overseeing a series of renovations. The project aims to restore the building to its original grandeur while simultaneously creating new public spaces for the library of the 21st century. The current Phase 3 project removes an original six-level prefabricated steel stacks structure, relocates 800,000 volumes of books to a retrievable offside location, and returns 30,000 square feet of previously secured space to the public realm.

The renovated stack space will house the new Business, Research and Innovation Center, Teen Library, and the Common—a space conceived as the new hub of the library, in an environment that encourages both collaborative and independent study. The Common will serve and support social and technological needs, and adapt to the evolving interests of the community. Anticipating the future addition of a new wing, the renovations of Phase 3 are intended to seamlessly connect the old and the new, and will eventually open onto a great Reading Room that juxtaposes the north facade of the existing building with a transparent glazed vault. The future new wing will also house an auditorium and children’s library. Maintaining the Library’s philosophy of servicing the community, the remainder of the site will be developed as a public park.

Sky Habitat Residential Development (Bishan, Singapore)

Project Type: Residential

Client: CapitaLand

Construction Completed: 2015

In Singapore, the 38-story Sky Habitat housing complex is representative of high-density, high-rise upper-middle-income urban housing, a typology that is in great demand in Singapore and other Asian cities. This new residential complex balances high-density living with humanistic considerations of community, landscape, gardens, and daylight. Breaking down the scale of typical singular tower residential development, Sky Habitat is a three-dimensional matrix of homes with private terraces, balconies, and common gardens, bringing landscape into each home and maintaining porosity on the skyline. The two stepping towers are linked by three bridging sky gardens, creating a series of interconnected streets, gardens, and terraces in the air that provide a variety of areas for common recreation and congregation. The strong stepping form provides for lush vertical greenery, multiple orientations relative to the sun, naturally ventilated units, and generous views, all without compromising spatial or structural efficiency. At the ground plane,

above a sunken parking podium, more than 70 percent of the site is developed into a series of lush gardens, with additional outdoor event areas, swimming pools, a tennis court, and walking paths.

Habitat – Golden Dream Bay (Qinhuangdao, China)

Project Type: Mixed-Use Residential

Client: Kerry Properties Ltd.

Anticipated Construction Completion: Phase I – 2015

Anticipated Public Opening: Phase I – September 2015

The design for Qinhuangdao Golden Dream Bay, a high-density beachfront residential community, utilizes a series of stacked vertical modules, creating a porous massing punctuated with terraces and gardens. Arranged in stepped patterns along the shore, the composition creates large urban windows, framing views and fostering a sense of openness. The complex is organized around a beachfront boardwalk running north to south, and an east-to-west bazaar-like spine that connects abutting communities with the beach. The crisscrossing of these two community spines links the city with the waterfront and provides for daytime and nighttime activities throughout all seasons. This stands in contrast to typical high-density development patterns that tend to segregate the city from the water's edge. Building upon Moshe Safdie's groundbreaking *Habitat*, the project offers a radical solution for quality, affordable housing in Qinhuangdao, a city of 2.8 million located 180 miles east of Beijing. The project consists of individual 15-story slab buildings that are connected and stacked vertically in two tiers for a total height of 30 stories. The building blocks are staggered and joined corner to corner between tiers, creating a mixture of units that offer a great variety of openness and views.

Colombo Residential Development (Colombo, Sri Lanka)

Project Type: Mixed-Use Residential

Client: Indocean Developers Private Ltd.

Size: 700,000 sq ft

Construction Start Date: December 2014

Continuing the exploration of high-density urban housing solutions, which is central to the Safdie Architects practice, the Colombo Residential Development is a new mixed-use project in the rapidly urbanizing city of Colombo and is part of a larger plan by Sri Lanka's urban development agency to create a lakefront promenade. The 69-story development is composed of two slender tower blocks and includes a 400-unit residential complex, which takes full advantage of the relatively small site with a highly rationalized structure that affords cross-ventilation and multiple exposures in every unit. The overall form tapers elegantly towards the sky, maintaining a delicacy on the skyline and maximizing views to the water.

At the ground level, an arcade of retail outlets on the west side facing Beira Lake sets the standard for future development along the planned pedestrian promenade. Restaurants on a mezzanine level overlook the promenade onto the lake. Expansive family and community amenities are realized, in part by community gardens and shared outdoor spaces within the upper levels of the building. Other common rooftop amenities at level five above the retail podium also express the guiding principles of "for everyone a garden."

Raffles City Chongqing (Chongqing, China)

Project Type: Mixed-Use

Client: CapitaLand Ltd / CapitaMalls Asia Ltd / Singbridge Holdings Pte. Ltd.

Size: 8,800,000 sq ft

Anticipated Phase I Completion: 2017

Located at the historically significant site at the confluence of the Yangtze and Jialing rivers, this nearly nine-million-square-foot mixed-use project is imbued with symbolic significance and will become a new landmark for Chongqing, China. The Chaotian Gate (or “gate to heaven”) is the foremost of Chongqing’s traditional city gates, a place where emperors carried out ceremonies of diplomatic greeting. As the city’s initial dock area on the Yangtze, it also represents the great tradition of the shipping highway, which has driven this inland city’s development since ancient times and continues to shape its modern evolution.

An ensemble of slender towers contains a mixture of office, residential, and hotel spaces. The towers, arranged in a prow-like arc, imply a great city surging forward. The outer curving glass facades, which face the water to the north, evoke an ancient sailing fleet. The south-facing facades of the interior towers center on the axis of Chaotianmen Plaza, forming stepped gardens that meet the ground. At the base of the towers, an expansive park knits together the greenery from the building facades with gardens, pools, and public circulation. This large landscaped park gently slopes to the north, offering dramatic tower-framed views of the water and more intimate views of the city to the south. Beneath the park level, a podium contains five levels of public space, including retail and cultural facilities as well as land and water transportation hubs. Bridging the four center towers at level 45 is a 330-yard-long enclosed glass conservatory, containing the hotel public areas and amenities, as well as a public observation deck. The conservatory serves as a distinct destination within the complex, and expands the enjoyment of public gathering spaces throughout all seasons of the year.

Jewel at Changi Airport (Singapore)

Project Type: Mixed-Use

Client: CapitaLand Ltd / Changi Airport

Size: 1.4 million sq ft

Anticipated Construction Completion: 2018

Strategically located at the heart of Changi Airport, Jewel is envisioned as a world-class lifestyle destination that will enable the Changi air hub to engage passengers and strongly boost Singapore's appeal as a stopover location. The new development will enhance Changi Airport's position as a major aviation hub, integrating airport facilities with shopping, entertainment, and leisure activity to create a public gathering space for Singaporeans and international travelers, and establish a new model for airports as discrete destinations.

The core of the program is a 24-hour layered garden attraction that offers many spatial and interactive experiences for visitors. Housed under a soaring glass dome, Jewel encompasses a total gross floor area of approximately 1.4 million square feet and features an expansive garden, cabin hotel, restaurants, retail, and attractions, in addition to its facilities for airport operations. The two centerpieces of the project are an indoor landscape of trees, palms, and ferns with walking trails, referred to as the Forest Valley, and the 40-meter-tall waterfall, which will cascade from an oculus at the top of the glass dome, titled the Rain Vortex.

El Gran Canal – Los Morros (Cartagena, Colombia)

Project Type: Urban Design/Planning

Client: Novus Civitas for Serena del Mar

Size: 346 acres—development area; 11 million sq ft GFA

Construction Start Date: January 2015

The El Gran Canal design project (part of our Los Morros master plan), on the east side of the highway that connects Cartagena, Colombia, and Baranquilla to the north, is conceived of as a vital seaside urban community. As such, it was organized around a major grand canal—similar in scale to Venice’s Grand Canal—that extends into a series of urban-development clusters around its edges. This results in a clear hierarchy and a powerful sense of place.

In addition to the grand canal, the project’s organization includes a boulevard/linear park, which also extends the entire length of the site. The boulevard—modeled on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston—is lined by residential buildings, and public buildings are placed within the park. Entry to the community, from the highway, is on the north end and leads across a causeway into the main civic area, which includes a piazza, one of two marinas, the hotel, a pedestrian retail street, and the hospital and related medical office buildings. The hospital and medical offices, a major attraction of the development, make up its northern anchor. They are bound by a freshwater lake and landscaped hills to the north, and by the piazza to the south. The community features a variety of housing types, with decked and terraced units along the grand canal and amid the stores in the central, pedestrian retail street area. On the eastern border, behind the boulevard/park, there will be six residential towers of between 15 and 20 stories each. Several pedestrian bridges will make the office and institutional buildings on the canal’s western bank accessible by foot for people going to work from all residential areas across the community to the east. The canal is navigable for recreational boats and water taxis.