



# *Wilkie Edge* A New Landmark in Bugis

Overall Evening View. Image: ©Patrick Bingham-Hall

Located near the junction of Wilkie Road and Selegie Road, Wilkie Edge is a new 12-storey mixed-use development comprising office, retail and food & beverage outlets and serviced residences. Designed by WOHA, it has a façade featuring a combination of high- and low-resolution LED display screens, a silver skin of perforated aluminium and a textured curtain wall in louvres and glass.

**W**ilkie Edge lies at the Bras Basah – Bugis district, an up and coming arts, culture, learning and entertainment hub. The area is now a major civic, arts and cultural centre of Singapore with the establishment of a few museums and increasing concentration of educational institutions within the vicinity. The new zoning allows media facades and advertisements, which are not allowed in the rest of the central district: the intent being to create night time buzz, like Tokyo's Shibuya.

The area has a diverse mix of buildings of different eras and scale. To the north-east is a conservation area of 3-storey shophouses. Mt Sophia, to the north, is in transition from old houses and institutional buildings to 12 storey residential apartments. To the west are large podium and tower buildings from the 1980s. On the east are brightly coloured public housing slab blocks. The existing building was a 1970s slab block and podium, at the end of its serviceable life. The brief was for a property development comprising office,



Wilkie Road view. Image: ©Patrick Bingham-Hall





Urban context. Image: ©Patrick Bingham-Hall



Sky garden. Image: ©Patrick Bingham-Hall



Skylight at retail atrium. Image: ©Patrick Bingham-Hall

retail and serviced apartments, to be part of the exciting arts, culture, learning and entertainment hub.

Urbanistically, WOHA wanted to address the disjunctions in scale, and contribute to the buzz of the neighbourhood.

The architect developed a finely textured skin that filled the planning envelope, and carved out volumes that created silhouettes that are in dialogue with the buildings around them. These volumes open up light and air to the form, and allowed multiple sky gardens and terraces to be created at different levels.

The carved out surfaces are aluminium sunshades and screens, which create a vertical proportion and texture relating to the historic shophouse facades. The silvery skin is a folded, perforated skin that changes with the light conditions, from silver solidity to a misty transparency. The aluminium façade was developed to save material during the commodities boom: thin metal cannot normally be used due to "oil canning" and warping, so the façade was pre-folded and intentionally out of alignment, resulting in aluminium panels of half the thickness being used. In

collaboration with Arup Façade Engineering, a simple "hook-on" system was adopted for the aluminium panels while semi-united system was developed to achieve the highly articulated façade on the tower blocks.

The masterplan designated the corner as an "illuminated node". Rather than a commercial screen, the architect convinced the clients to engage realities: united, a German firm specialising in communicative architecture, to combine art and commerce. Rather than a screen applied to the building, the media façade is integrated into the architecture. A unique LED projection system called A:Amp (Advertising Amplifier) was developed by realities:united which creates a soft light like watercolour on the façade. A commercial hi-res screen is in dialogue with the low-res screen; custom software takes the commercial content and plays with it in various algorithms. Late at night, in "dream mode" the hi-res screen plays images mixed from the day's commercial content.

The sustainable strategies include the



Overall day view. Image: ©Patrick Bingham-Hall

shading of the perforated aluminium façade, overhangs and louvers, the green plot ratio of the planted terraces, the naturally ventilated corridors of the serviced apartments and offices. Skylights bring natural light into the retail. The project is Green Mark certified by the Building and Construction Authority of Singapore.

Wilkie Edge is owned by CapitaCommercial Trust (CCT), the first and largest listed commercial real estate investment trust and managed by CapitaLand.