

Millennium Mitsui Garden Hotel lands international Design Award

Singapore, 20 April 2015 – Millennium & Copthorne Hotels' flagship hotel in Japan, the Millennium Mitsui Garden Hotel has won the Silver Award for interior design by US-based International Design Awards (IDA).

IDA's annual awards recognise, celebrate and promote outstanding designs and talent in Architecture, Interior, Product, Graphic and Fashion Design around the world. M&C is believed to be among the first Singapore-controlled hotel company to clinch the award for overseas hotels.

The accolade for the recently-opened hotel located in the heart of Tokyo's famous Ginza district is an early reward for the hard work and attention paid by M&C Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng during the hotel's planning and building phases.

He had worked closely with the hotel's operator Mitsui Fudosan, studying various architects and designers then working closely with designers on concepts up to the finished product. "Having secured a dream site I had to make sure the hotel lived up to the expectations of our guests," added Mr Kwek.

The design approach was Asian Minimalism with the aim to create a private garden in the heart of the city, like a Japanese Zen garden. Lighting, touch, texture, comfort, art and the environment, are all considered carefully in the development of the design concept.

Landscape stairs connect the lobby to the restaurant in the lower ground level, where a relaxed library with an atmosphere of a greenhouse creates a comfortable dining experience in the city. The typical guestroom measuring 200-square feet is spacious and efficiently designed for comfort. Rooms come with full amenities that include a four-piece bathroom and an independent toilet space. Large mural artwork and special carpet design complete the idea of the private garden in the guestrooms.

These designs put into place by CL3 Architects Limited Hong Kong, gained the judges' nod. Located in the heart of Tokyo's Ginza 4-Chome District, directly opposite Mitsukoshi department store, the 329-room hotel sports a striking "Bottega-inspired" façade like the weave of a basket.

"Our Hotel was designed with the modern traveller in mind and in keeping with the Japanese traditions and culture of Ginza history. This award shows we have attained our aims," said Mr Kwek.

M&C had been trying to gain a presence in Tokyo since the mid-1990s. Securing a presence in the shopping and entertainment district of Ginza had been virtually impossible before it clinched the site in 2011. Construction of the hotel started soon after. "Mitsui Fudosan, our long time business associate, has given us invaluable help in this project," said Mr Kwek.

The IDA annual awards, now in its 8th year, will be held on 4 May 2015 at the Harmony Gold Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles (LA). This event will witness a culmination of interior, fashion, product and graphic designers, architects, and design fans from around the world celebrating the best of design theory and practice.

M&C will be sending a representative to the event in LA.

IDA said the winners were screened by a panel of 25 judges and industry experts. They include editors of established American design and architectural publications such as Alice Blackwood (Editor, Design Quarterly), Lise Courier (Editor-in-Chief, Trends & Living), Hans Fonk (Editor-in-Chief, OBJEKT International), William Menking (Editor-in-Chief, The Architect's Newspaper), Aaron Kenedi (Editor-in-Chief, Print), and Newell Turner (Style Director, House Beautiful).

Other members on the jury include David Hertz, Founder and Principal of AIA Architects, and US television host Kahi Lee of HGTV's "Design on a Dime" and Style Network's "My Celebrity Home", both home and design programmes on American cable and digital network.

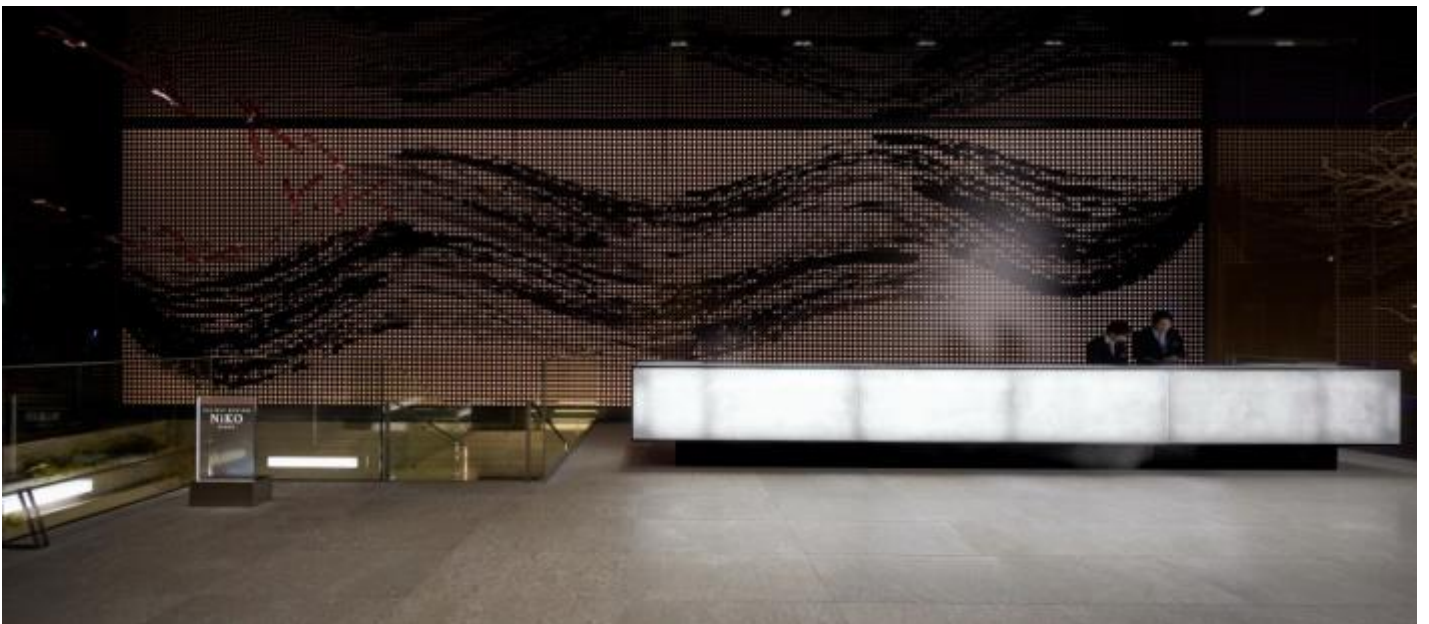
M&C is the London-listed subsidiary of property giant City Developments Limited (CDL). Both CDL and M&C are members of the Hong Leong Group of companies.

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Photos from competition (Part 1)



Caption for above two images: The panel behind the reception changes colours intermittently to enhance the “zen” atmosphere of the hotel lobby.

Photos from competition (Part 2)



Caption: The design concept of Asian Minimalism continues the hotel reception where lighting, touch, texture and comfort are all carefully considered in the development of the concept.



Caption: Large mural artwork and special carpet design complete the idea of the private garden throughout the hotel (above left photo) while landscape stairs connect the lobby to the restaurant in the lower ground level (above right photo).