



world's tallest TV tower opens its doors

Canton Tower

After 6 years of design and building works, on September 29th 2010 the Canton Tower will open its doors to the public. The Amsterdam firm, Information Based Architecture, designers of the tower, are pleased to announce that world's tallest TV and Sightseeing tower is now a fact. The Canton Tower is Guangzhou's most important new building and will represent the 10 million inhabitants counting metropolis as a cool, progressive and exciting city. Guangzhou is now ready to host the Asian Games that will take place in November 2010. The world's tallest TV tower - reaching 600m in height, is bypassing Toronto's CN tower, and is hoped to attract 10 000 visitors daily.

Supermodel

Mark Hemel, IBA architect and director, comments, " Where most skyscrapers bear 'male' features; being introvert, strong, straight, rectangular, and based on repetition, we wanted to create a 'female' tower, being complex, transparent, curvy, gracious and sexy. Our aim was to design a free-form tower with a rich and human-like identity that would represent Guangzhou as a dynamic and exciting city." The result is a tower, very slender and tall, that bears similarities with the figure of a female, the very reason that earned the nickname: 'super-model'."

Twisting

The idea of the tower is simple. The form, volume and structure is generated by two ellipses, one at foundation level and the other at a horizontal plane at 450 metres. These two ellipses are rotated relative to another. The tightening caused by the rotation between the two ellipses forms a 'waist' and a densification of material.

Organic Concept

The structure consist of a open lattice-structure, built up from 1100 nodes and the same amount of connecting ring- and bracing pieces. Basically the tower can be seen as a giant 3 dimensional puzzle of which all 3300 pieces are totally unique. Architect Mark Hemel comments: "Recent State of the Art fabrication and computerized analysis techniques allow designers to create much more complex structures then ever before.

The Competition

The international competition was held in 2004 for the design of the tower, a 17.9ha park at its base and the master-plan for the surrounding 56.6ha which includes an elevated Plaza, pagoda-park, retail facilities, offices, television centre and hotel.

Programme

The Canton Tower consists of 37 floors of programme including exhibition spaces, a conference centre, a cinema, 2 revolving restaurants and one VIP-restaurant, various cafés and observation levels. A deck at the base of the tower hides the giant building's infrastructural workings. Public transport connections including a metro and bus station are met underground. These levels support other facilities as well, including exhibition spaces, a food court, extensive commercial space, a 600-vehicle parking and tourist coaches. Panoramic double-decker lifts serve both entrance levels.

Sky-walk

Between level +170 meter and level +350 meter there is a "skywalk"; an open-air staircase will lead the public all the way up through the narrow waist of the building.

Outdoor Observation square

From the upper observation levels it is possible to ascend even higher, via a further set of the stairs, to a terraced observation square at +460m, rising well above the tower's top ring, one can have a panoramic view over the booming city of Guangzhou. A set of capsules circumvent the perimeter of the top ring, offering visitors breathtaking views over the very edge of the building.

Future Entertainment

Various other forms of entertainment are still under development among which the potential for a Spiderman-like sky-jump of the top of the tower all the way down to ground level 450 meter below.

Progress

Since the initial winning of the scheme, the design has been developed over several years. Many tests were done to check the safety and strength of the structure among which wind tunnel, fire- and load tests. The groundbreaking ceremony took place in November 2005 after which the foundation and piling were constructed. The steel structure of the main building was completed in November 2008. The building was finally topped out in May 2009. The Canton tower now opens its doors, in order to be fully operational for the 2010 Asian Games.

High Resolution Images available on request:
For more info on the Canton Tower, please go to:

photos@gzvtower.info
www.gzvtower.info

www.cantontower.info

Facts:

April 2004	Invited International Competition, and start of design work
November 2005	Ground breaking ceremony
Completion date	October 2010
Gross Floor Area:	114.000sqm
Height:	600m

Client: Guangzhou Municipal Construction Commission

Architect: Mark Hemel & Barbara Kuit - Information Based Architecture

Engineer: Arup
LDI: Guangzhou Design Institute

Information Based Architecture

Information Based Architecture (IBA) was set up in London in 1998 as a partnership between architects Mark Hemel and Barbara Kuit. Currently based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, with a subsidiary in Hong Kong, IBA continues its work on both large and small projects in Europe, Africa and Asia. The work includes urban master-planning, architecture, landscaping

Mark Hemel has taught at the Architectural Association in London where he has been Unit-master since 1999. Before setting up practice, Barbara Kuit worked as a local architect on projects of Philippe Starck in London; the Sanderson and St Martin's Lane hotels, and subsequently worked at the office of Zaha Hadid for several years on many projects among which; the Mind Zone in the Millennium Dome, the Contemporary Arts Center in Rome and Wolfsburg Science Center.

For more information, please go to: www.iba-bv.com

Indication of Program:

+459.2	outdoor viewing deck
+454	cubicles / gravity mach
+448.8	dampner
+443.6	dampner
+438.4	sightseeing deck
+433.2	sightseeing deck
+428	revolving New York room
+417.6	revolve buffet restaurant
+412.4	private room / kitchen
+407.2	VIP restaurant

+402	transmission room
+396.8	transmission room
+391.6	transmission room
+386.4	transformer room
+381.2	microwave transmitter
+376	microwave control room

+355.2	podium garden
+350	refuse floor
+344.8	wine bar
+339.6	wine bar
+334.4	services room

from +173.2 to +334.4 skywalk

+173.2	podium garden
+168	viewing deck
+162.8	viewing deck
+157.6	retail & snacks
+152.4	white tea house
+147.2	services room

+121.2	podium
+116	podium garden / refuse

+110.8	4D cinema
+105.6	4D cinema
+100.4	4D cinema
+95.2	4D cinema
+90.0	4D cinema
+84.8	services / 4D cinema

+32.8	refuse floor
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+27.6	large function room
+22.4	conference centre / meeting rooms
+17.2	river café exhibition hall
+7.2	entrance / ceremony hall / public plaza
-0.0	entrance / taxi drop off exhibition hall / retail / coach station
-5.0	600 car parking / link to Metro / link to Light railway
-10	basement

