

Taichung Smart Centre – “The Path”



LOCATION

Taichung, Taiwan

CLIENT

Taichung City Government

SIZE

89,800m²

PROJECT TEAM

MTA:

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Located at the centre of Taichung's Shuinan Economic and Trade Park, the PATH is a mixed-use tower that sets a precedent for a sustainable city model. A cross section of Taichung spanning from the Taiwan Straits to the Central Mountain is laid out and represented in a continuous spiraling pedestrian passage. This path starts at the podium and ascends to the very top with a special water feature reflecting city and sky. This interpretive journey allows everyone to traverse through elements of Taiwan's rich and diverse geography, vegetation, culture and industry. The vision for the site is inspired by the importance of integrating generous park space and quality gathering spaces in the public realm. Public space is expanded by extending an intensive green roof over the podium, weaving it with the adjacent park, and inserting a winding pedestrian green belt into the tower itself.

The ground level is dedicated for public use and includes a digital cultural space, theater, shops and dining facility. A dramatic triple story atrium space with a sculpted wood trellis serves as the main public space for the cultural centre. Two ground level plazas work to enhance and animate the pedestrian experience. The south west Plaza features a large sculptural wood trellis canopy, a water feature around the base of which will be used to harvest rain water and cool the plaza. The plaza between the podium and cinema centre has a more intimate feel with edges defined by cultural and community programs and unique landscape elements.

The second level houses the Intelligence Operations Centre (IOC), which manages Taichung's infrastructure and safety. IOC operates as a separate entity within the complex with a dedicated secure entry. The third floor will be dedicated to the more focused programs of the digital cultural centre including research, showroom, exhibition and management spaces.

The continuous gardens become an integral part of the work environment and connect all levels in the building. All levels of the gardens will be accessible to the public as it ascends to the roof top, culminating in a panoramic public viewing floor. A dramatic sculptural canopy provides a protective environment and visually connects visitors to the upper restaurant and lounge areas.