Suzhou Zhongnan Center

Facts

Official Name: Suzhou Zhongnan Center
Name of Complex: Century Plaza
Other Names: Century Plaza South Tower, Suzhou Hungnam Centre, Jin Ji Tower
Structure Type: Building
Status: On Hold
Country: China
City: Suzhou
Street Address & Map: Suhui Road
Building Function: hotel / residential / office
Structural Material: composite
Proposed: 2011
Construction Start: 2014

Companies Involved

Developer: Zhongnan Group
Architect:
- Design: Gensler
- Architect of Record: East China Architectural Design & Research Institute
Structural Engineer:
- Design: Thornton Tomasetti
- Engineer of Record: East China Architectural Design & Research Institute
- Peer Review: Tongji Architectural Design (Group) Co., Ltd.
MEP Engineer:
- Design: Parsons Brinckerhoff Consultants Private Limited
- Peer Review: China Team Engineering Consultants Ltd.
Main Contractor:
- China Construction Third Engineering Bureau Co., Ltd.; Jiangsu Zhongnan Construction Group Co., Ltd.
Other Consultant:
- Cost: Rider Levett Bucknall
- Façade: ALT Limited
- Façade Maintenance: Lerch Bates
- Fire: Rolf Jensen & Associates
- Interiors: DDA International Hotel Consulting
- Lighting: Brandston Partnership, Inc.
- Property Management: Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc.
- Sustainability: Environmental Market Solutions, Inc.
- Vertical Transportation: Edgert Williams Consulting Group Inc.; Parsons Brinckerhoff Consultants Private Limited
- Wind: China Academy of Building Research
**About Suzhou Zhongnan Center**

At 729 meters, the Suzhou Zhongnan Center is positioned to be the tallest building in China, and the third tallest in the world when it is completed in 2020. On a site to the west of Lake Jinji, close to the "pants-like" Gate to the East, the tower will dominate the skyline of Shanghai’s sister city of Suzhou. The development of this tower coincides with the rise of the city itself. With a growing population of more than 10 million, the city’s canals, gardens, and emerging technology and financial districts are transforming it into a world-class city that accommodates residents and tourists alike. The tower will incorporate hotel, residential, and office uses, some of which will be dedicated to SOHO (Small Office/Home Office) spaces, very small business environments that cater to firms of one to four people.

The design of the tower was inspired by Jiangnan culture, referencing its pointed pagodas and local artesian wells. At the base, the podium lifts upward to resemble a flying lantern, establishing a public plaza at ground level. As one enters the tower and moves inward, the interior geometry alters to indicate a transition from public to private space. The isolated podium attaches to the tower via a translucent façade, lit by fritted glass along the exterior. Unlike other buildings designed at this height, the tower is four-sided and features a consistently smooth facade. The consistent appearance is only broken by the louver systems at mechanical floors.

The tower gently tapers as it rises, forming a pointed crown that caps the precipice. In addition to providing an aesthetically appealing terminus for the tower’s form, the crown also plays a critical role in the building’s structural performance. In a remarkable feat of engineering, it will contain both a 750-ton tuned mass damper (TMD) and a tuned sloshing damper (TSD). The tuned sloshing damper serves a double purpose as a container for emergency sprinkler water.

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