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王澍 WANG SHU QUIETLY TAKES COMMAND

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YONG HE YUAN RESIDENCES – TAIPEI, TAIWAN



Yong He Yuan is a 27-storey residential development designed by Florent Nedelec Architecture. The complex comprises two towers offering a total of 152 apartments spread over 27,000sq m. The project's unique design incorporates a woven pattern throughout the facades, evoking an image of bamboo fences commonly used for construction in Asia. Large square windows have been recessed in between the interlaced horizontal and vertical elements of the pattern to offer respite from sunlight. The luxury property will house everything from landscaped terraces to retail outlets. Set to be completed in 2013, the apartments currently have the highest per-sq-ft sale price in Taipei's Yonghe District.

NEW MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING – BOSTON, USA



US architects Sasaki Associates and Dutch studio Mecanoo are leading the design of a new municipal office in Dudley Square, Boston. The 17,000sq m office and retail complex is part of the Dudley Square Vision Project, which seeks to revitalise the once-thriving urban neighbourhood of Roxbury. The US\$115 million project includes a striking six-storey headquarters for the Boston Public Schools Administration as well as public parks and community spaces for art exhibits and other events. Unlike the city's other municipal buildings, the new facility will include several retail spaces that officials hope to fill with a mix of shops and restaurants. "It's almost like a little city," says Francine Houben, Creative Director of Mecanoo. "We are trying to bring more coherence and atmosphere to the property." The area will also get wider sidewalks for outdoor cafes, along with improved landscaping. Construction is targeted for completion by 2014.