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為未來而建的理想

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堅守可持續發展理念的建築師 – Florent Nédélec

| Text : Elizabeth Kerr | Photo : Florent Nédélec Architecture |



Modern architecture has reached a point where nothing is beyond realisation. The oddest curves, the sharpest edges and the most extreme degrees can be taken from drafting paper to physical building these days. And woven glass. Architect Florent Nédélec is fond of woven glass.

Raised in France, educated in the United States and now based in Hong Kong Nédélec is the kind of identity-based architect that seems to be in such high demand now. No developer — be it commercial or residential — wants their building to be the non-descript block that no one pays attention to. Nédélec's approach leans to simple, but sophisticated, design that fits into its environment but also stands out for having a personality. "In Hong Kong, everything is so dense that the only way to be creative is to work on the façade," he notes. A look at any of Nédélec's work supports that ideal.



After working with Ateliers Jean Nouvel in Paris (Mercer Residences, Manhattan, Barcelona's Torre Agbar), Pei Cobb Freed & Partners (formerly known as IM Pei & Partners) and Frank Williams & Partners (50 Connaught Road, Hong Kong, Dubai's Burj Residences) where he was a principal, he founded Florent Nédélec Architecture, and has been jetting around the globe ever since. One of the reasons for setting up shop here is a familiar one: work initially brought him to town. "I had a client in New York who was doing some boutique hotels and we started

to talk about doing one [in Hong Kong] and I got hired to do four," he recalls. In addition to offices and some residential projects, Nédélec is just completed The Jervois and a Hainan resort, and is finishing up work on the new Whitfield serviced apartment and hotel in North Point (opening this spring), Yong Ye Huan residences in Taipei (currently under construction) and The Queen's in Central, scheduled for completion in 2014. "I like to work on hospitality projects. I find that more interesting. When you do a hotel it has to be 'magical' but you also need to feel at home."



現代建築的技術已達至一個沒有什麼是不可能實現的地步，不規則的曲線、銳利的邊緣以至最極端程度 - 從起草文件至物理建設等。以及建築師Florent Nédélec最偏愛的機織玻璃。Nédélec在法國長大並在美國接受教育，現在則定居於香港，而他正是市場中需求量極大的那類「具有個性及地位」的建築師，不論是住宅或商業地產發展商均希望她們擁有令全城嘩然的偉大設計。Nédélec的做法傾向於簡單但精密，以及具有個性但與環境配合的設計。他說：「香港的樓宇是如此的密集，要創新的唯一途徑便是在外牆上發揮創意。」觀乎Nédélec的設計項目足以證明他的理想。

在巴黎Ateliers Jean Nouvel（曾負責項目：Mercer Residences，曼哈頓，巴塞羅那Torre Agbar），Pei Cobb Freed & Partners（原名IM Pei & Partners）及Frank Williams & Partners（曾負責項目：香港干諾道50號，迪拜Burj Residences）工作後，他創辦了Florent Nédélec Architecture並迅速享譽全球。在這裡開設自家建築師樓的原因之一，是由於他曾在香港工作的日子。他回憶說：「曾有一名紐約精品酒店的客戶，聘請我做來港為她負責四間酒店項目。」除了辦公室及住宅項目之外，Nédélec剛剛完成了The Jervois、海南度假村、Whitfield服務式住宅及位於北角的酒店項目（剛於今年春天開

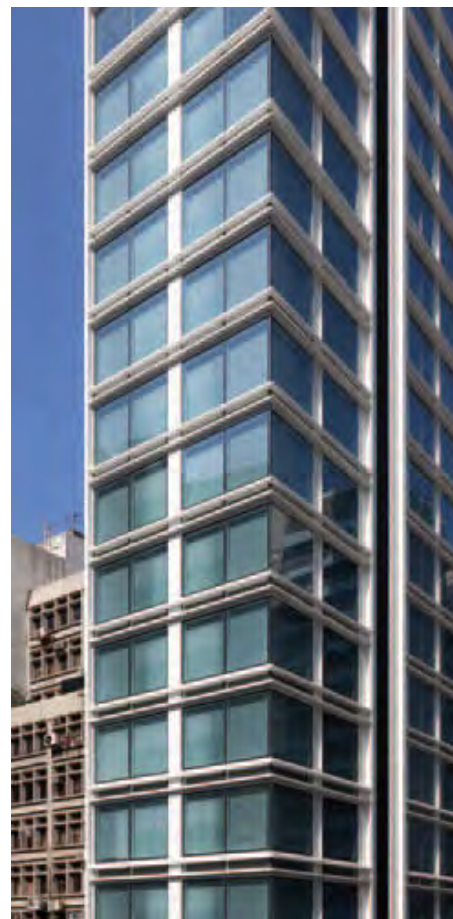


Working in Hong Kong has its own set of standards and practices that can sometimes be frustrating, and sometimes be an exciting challenge. “Well in every country you have to maximise your square footage. It’s a rule you find everywhere,” he begins with a laugh. And he’ll admit that the idea of preservation and sustainability — oddly symbiotic concepts — is still in its infancy in Asia. “[Government and developers] are starting to look at history and respect for space, and they’re starting to realise it’s worth keeping. Look at 1881 and the Hollywood Road Police Station,” he points out, adding, “The first rule of sustainability in architecture is to make the building last.”

Breaking the cycle of demolition and construction that defines development in Asia is the first step in truly sustainable construction according to Nédélec. “From a carbon footprint point of view building every 20 years is bad. You can put all the solar cells and wind turbines on top of a building you like. It’s cosmetic. The first step to sustainability is to have them last.” Nédélec’s structures are not trendy; they’re not designed to get boring in five years and get torn down. And for Nédélec, any move toward sustainability is a good move, be it passive (Nédélec is a huge

幕)，正在建設中的項目工程則包括了台北的住宅項目 – Yong Ye Huan及於2014年竣工的中環The Queen’s。他說：「我很喜歡從事酒店業的項目，它令我感覺很有趣。建設酒店項目必需要有很神奇的做法，但您還需要營造出賓至如歸的感覺與氛圍。」

在香港工作有其一套的標準和規例，儘管有時令人感到沮喪，但有些時候卻是一項令人興奮的挑戰。Nédélec笑說：「在每一個國家，您都必須盡量提高面積至最大的限度，這是她們的規則。」他承認保育及可持續發展的理念在亞洲區仍處於起步階段。「政府及發展商開始注重和尊重歷史與空間，並開始意識到它們是值得保留的，看看尖沙咀的1881及荷李活道警署便是其中的例子。而可持續性建築的首要規則便是讓建築持久不倒。」根據Nédélec稱，打破遷拆和建設的循環，代表亞洲的建築業開始踏入真正的可持續發展建設的第一步。「從碳耗用量的角度來說，建築物於每20年便會出現很多問題。您可把太陽能電池和風力渦輪機設於建築物的頂部作裝飾。可持續發展的第一步是讓它們耐用持久。」Nédélec設計的建築結構並不流於時尚，他不會將設計變得容易令人納悶並在五年內被拆除，任





fan of creative insulation) or active buildings — structures that minimise energy waste and ones that create their own energy on site respectively. “Doing the best you can with a passive building ... that’s a good way to go.”

Ask Nédélec about the bizarre penchant for commercial buildings to be non-intuitive and poorly designed for real use (anyone who’s searched for a shopping mall restroom can attest to this) and he can cite a handful of reasons it’s so common. Why can’t buildings in Hong Kong be smarter? “I understand your point. It has to do with the designer as well as building code. But that kind of thing happens in every profession,” he argues. “Look at computers... Some designers are able to do things that are more ‘clever.’ Look at subway systems. Some are nuts but Hong Kong has

one of the best in the world. It doesn’t take more effort to build. It takes more effort to think about.” There’s no way London ever envisioned having to add so many lines and stations to its Underground. Is Hong Kong benefitting from past architectural “mistakes” in the way it could build an efficiently expandable metro from minute one? “That’s how the world works. We build from experience and as we move forward in time we build things that are more sophisticated.”

So what would Nédélec like to take a crack at here in Hong Kong? “I’d like to do a villa. Or a resort. Or a villa resort. I’ve always worked in the city so I’d like to work with nature, to fit in with it,” he comments. Then he pauses, considering the likelihood of finding enough space like that in the SAR. “If you find a site, let me know.” 📍

何趨向可持續發展的舉動都是很好的進度，不管它是被動（Nédélec是創意絕緣的追捧者）或活動建築物，結構必須最大限度地減少能源消耗，或是自身製造能源以供建築使用。

問到Nédélec有關港式商業建築物的不當設計，他回應道：「這是非常普遍的，為什麼香港樓宇的設計不能做得精明一點？我明白這需要設計師與建築標準的配合，但這種事情在任何行業都會出現。看看電腦產品，有些設計師能夠把它設計得更為精明。再看看地鐵系統，香港的港鐵系統是全球最優秀之一的。它並不需要花費更多的努力去建立，只是需要花多一些的精力去思考。我們憑藉經驗及時間的歷程，令建築技術進步以及更加精細。」那麼Nédélec希望在香港能有什麼的發揮？「我希望建造一所別墅或是度假屋，更甚至是度假村。我一直都在城市裡工作，所以我希望能參與跟大自然有關的工作。」 📍

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