

Press release

20 March 2014

Foster + Partners exhibition to open in Bangkok

'Foster + Partners: The Art of Architecture' will be staged at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC) from 4 April to 29 June 2014. The touring exhibition is the first survey of the practice's work in Thailand and follows critically acclaimed shows in China and Malaysia.

Arranged around the themes of infrastructure, high-rise, urban design, history and culture – all within the context of a sustainable agenda – the works on display highlight the incredible diversity of the practice's work. The exhibition is also an opportunity to learn more about projects around the world, from the Millau Viaduct in France, one of the world's tallest road bridges and London's ecological skyscraper, 30 St Mary Axe, the so-called 'Gherkin', to Beijing International Airport, one of the world's largest buildings.

Visitors can learn more about the integrated design process, in which architects, engineers and specialist in-house teams work closely alongside each other; the principles of sustainability that underpin every project; as well as the use of different tools and technology. While the computer has revolutionised the way designers work, the language of drawing and model making still play an important role. Through sketches, models, films, animations and a special exhibit exploring the process from first client meeting to completed building and post-occupancy studies, *'Foster + Partners: the Art of Architecture'* will offer a unique insight into the workings of the studio.

"Sustainability has always been a central theme of our work. We believe that the best architecture comes from finding a balance between old and new, whether that means retrofitting existing cities or creating sustainable new communities," said David Nelson, Senior Partner and Head of Design, Foster + Partners. "The projects on display demonstrate how the international scope of our work has widened over the past forty years. But regardless of the changing nature of architectural practice, the same set of values underpins every design, in spite of its size or type. Everything is driven by the same pursuit of quality," added David. "The exhibition explores how the different teams in our studio work together – and how, when it comes to design and innovation, this integrated thinking sets Foster + Partners apart."

A series of accompanying educational events have been planned during the exhibition period, organised by Foster + Partners and Magnolia in association with the BACC, British Council and Architectural Schools from various Universities. These include a special lecture by David Nelson, Senior Partner and Head of Design at Foster + Partners and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, who will share his insights on 'Integrated Design'. Other architecture experts to give special lectures are Toby Blunt, an architect and partner at Foster + Partners, who will speak on 'Sustainable Design', and Sunphol Sorakul, an architect and associate at Foster + Partners, whose topic will be 'Design a Better

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Notes to Editors

Major Partners:

Magnolia

Permasteelisa

Partners:

ERCO

Emeco

Tecno

Walter Knoll

Lumina

Supported by:

British High Commission - UKTI

British Council

Exhibition team credits:

Spencer de Grey

Katy Harris

Philip Morris

Sunphol Sorakul

Neil Vandersteen

Sarah Simpkin

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About Foster + Partners

Foster + Partners, one of the most innovative architectural practices in the world today, led by Founder and Chairman Norman Foster, is based in London with project offices worldwide. Over the past four decades the practice has pioneered a sustainable approach to architecture and ecology through a strikingly wide range of work, from urban masterplans, public infrastructure, airports, civic and cultural buildings, offices and workplaces to private houses and product design. The studio has established an international reputation with buildings such as the world's largest airport terminal at Beijing, Swiss Re's London Headquarters, Hearst Headquarters in New York, Wembley National Stadium in London, Millau Viaduct in France, the German Parliament in the Reichstag, Berlin, The Great Court at London's British Museum, Headquarters' for HSBC in Hong Kong and London, and Commerzbank Headquarters in

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Frankfurt. There is also a strong interest in city planning and infrastructure. The practice has received over 630 awards for excellence and won over 100 national and international competitions since its inception in 1967.

www.fosterandpartners.com

About BACC

The Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC) is a new mid-town facility for the contemporary arts. Programmes for art, music, theatre, film, design, and cultural/educational events take place in a friendly and recreational atmosphere - with cafe, restaurants, bookshops, and an art library being part of the facility. The BACC aims to create a meeting place for artists, to provide cultural programmes for the community giving importance to cultural continuity from past to contemporary. It aims to open new grounds for cultural dialogue, networking, and create new cultural resources from both the public and the private sectors. It is intended as a venue for cultural exchange in terms of content, curatorial and cultural management, giving Bangkok an operational base on the international art scene.

www.bacc.or.th/

About Magnolia

Magnolia Quality Development Corporation Limited, one of the DT Group of Companies, is a property developer specialising in luxury residences with a focus on innovation and design. Reinforcing its position as a leading luxury property developer, Magnolia Quality Development Corporation builds luxury detached houses and condominiums with a focus on research and development to offer innovations and designs with its philosophy, "think and create for human sustainability".

About Permasteelisa

Permasteelisa Group is a worldwide leading Contractor in engineering, project management, manufacturing and installation of architectural envelopes and interior systems. The Group brings its know-how and expertise to all projects, in particular when dealing with Special Features Buildings, beginning with the design development phases all the way to the successful completion, achieving the customer's expectations. The mission of the Permasteelisa Group is to design and build innovative and avant-garde architectural works alongside the world's greatest in contemporary architecture, by using advanced technologies and eco-sustainable solutions.

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