

# PARKROYAL on Pickering / WOHA

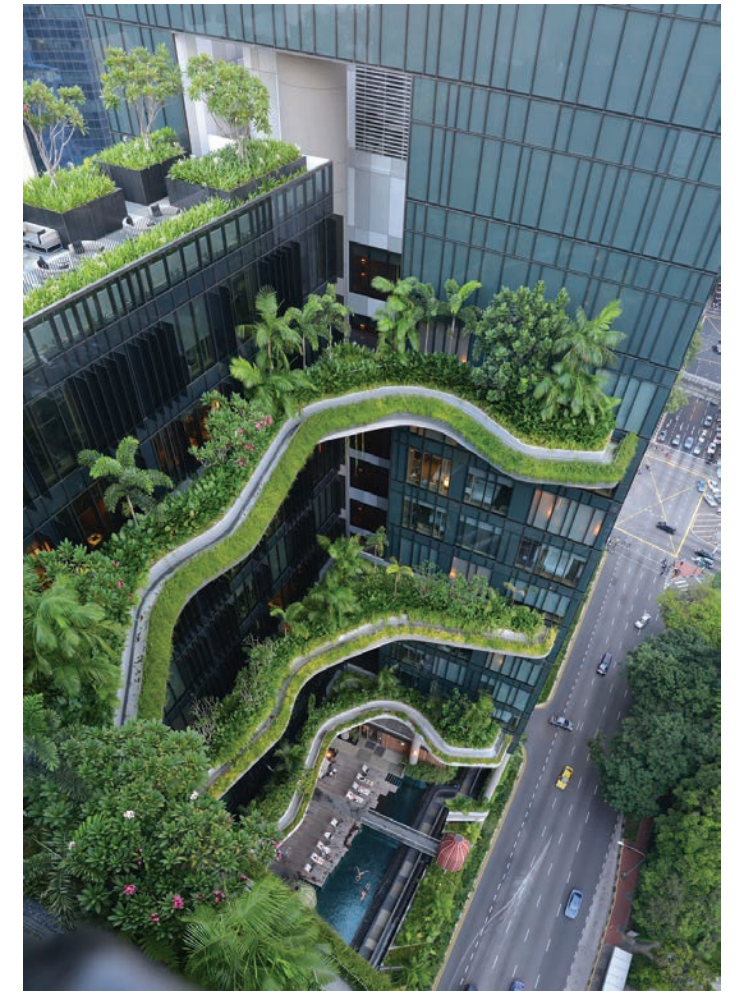
## VISION

PARKROYAL is hotel and office building in Singapore within a garden. The project is an attempt to preserve vegetation in a dense urban center with many high-rise buildings, and do so in a striking, sustainable, and integrated manner. Greenery is prevalent throughout the building, both inside and out, and is incorporated in an architecturally pleasing manner. The concept for the project is a “building-as-garden for an idealized green city.”

## FROM THE ARCHITECT:

“A contoured podium responds to the street scale and is sculpted to form dramatic outdoor plazas, gardens and terraces which flow seamlessly into the interiors. Greenery from the park is drawn up the building in the form of lushly planted openings, crevasses, gullies and waterfalls, which also conceal above ground car-parking, thus creating an attractive urban element. The crisp and streamlined tower blocks harmonize with surrounding high-rise office buildings.”

“We wanted to recreate an urban street scale, so that people walking and driving could pick up interesting details. And we wanted to work with the building’s mass and appearance, so we could avoid the usual city scale of building-as-silhouette, and so we could implement a garden-themed aesthetic.”



## RESPONDING/ADAPTING TO NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The building is located at the edge of Singapore’s central business district at the edge of a park, and between Chinatown and the historic shophouse district. Thus, the building had an opportunity to be a focal point of the urban fabric as well as providing public connections between these areas. The bottom floors of the hotel are highly public spaces, featuring a restaurant. The floors above (hotel) are private.

In designing the building, the architects wanted to create a feeling of community among the bland skyscrapers in the surrounding business district. Many of these skyscrapers are so generic that they do not give any indication of their location. They could be in any climate and culture. WOHA diverged from this trend by creating an expressive building that reinterprets and reinvigorates its location.

## SOURCES

“PARKROYAL on Pickering, Singapore.” WOHA. Web. 2 Oct. 2015.

“PARKROYAL on Pickering / WOHA.” *ArchDaily*. 23 Apr. 2015. Web. 02 Oct. 2015.

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## RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE: SUN, VIEWS, & VEGETATION

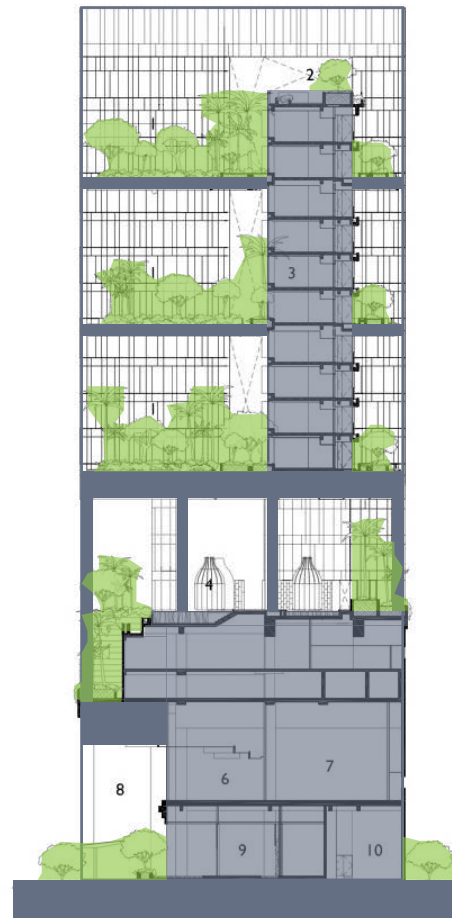
Obviously, the building has a strong connection with vegetation. WOHA have been advocates of the ultimate 'green city' favoring as much vegetation as possible. In fact, PARKROYAL doubled the growth potential of the site. The skygardens are "zero energy" being watered through rainwater via a drip system powered by solar energy. Inside the building, thermostats can only be lowered to 22 degrees Celcius. Additionally, each hotel room has its own recycling bin.

The 12 story building has an E-shaped plan. It was designed this way so that all guest rooms overlook the park to the north and/or into the sky gardens. The shape of the building and projecting sky gardens allows the building to be 'self-shaded.' This allowed the hotel rooms to be fully glazed without the need for external screening devices.



(ABOVE) Plan diagram showing skygardens and hotel rooms.

(RIGHT) Section diagram showing skygardens as well as other vegetative planting elsewhere on the building.



(TOP) One of the most celebrated spaces of PARKROYAL is the skypark on the fifth floor. It features a number of amenities such as an infinity pool, gym, running track and wooden pavillions that serve as party rooms and appear to float on the pool.

(BOTTOM) The drop-off for the hotel is located underneath a two-story parking lot, which happens to be located on the third and fourth floors of the building. Doing this saved money on digging and as a result, the car park is completely naturally ventilated.

