

## Sky Green Residential and Retail Tower - Taichung, Taiwan

By Joanne Lu

The Sky Green Residential and Retail Tower is 61000 square meters and designed by WOHA, located in Taichung, Taiwan. A densely populated area, WOHA was brought in to design a building that has low environmental impact but also provides a high quality of living for a densely populated area. The building consists of two twenty-six story towers that are filled with both residential and retail spaces. The balconies of the towers are filled with greenery for visual interest, but the greenery also acts as a building envelope for the residents as a shield between the inside and the outside. Along with the greenery, the towers include large terraces every five stories throughout the building. The combination of greenery and open terraces further solidifies the biophilic environment that residents are in. Residents of high-rise buildings are usually unable to have a close relationship with nature since it is not accessible, but residents of Sky Green are able to be surrounded by and connected to nature without having to leave their homes<sup>1</sup>. The government of Taichung wanted to construct buildings with low carbon emission and sustainable living. With densely populated cities, pollution and carbon emissions are a great concern. However, with these sustainable and green features in mind, "Sky Green will be influential in defining the new benchmark of sustainability and skysrise greenery for the city's future developments", and Taichung can expect to see more sustainable developments in the future<sup>2</sup>.

The towers also feature glass cladding and recessed windows in a staggered pattern. This pattern allows for the building to have a great amount of sun shading. The windows work in combination with the greenery to provide ample shade to the residential spaces, which is beneficial during the hot Taiwan summers. Another large consideration for the building was the structural integrity. Taiwan is prone to many natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons, so high-rise buildings have to be built with those potential disasters in mind. Buildings require great structural integrity and lateral stability, and the design of Sky Green was developed with the safety of the buildings and its residents in mind<sup>3</sup>.

WOHA, a Singaporean company, has developed many similar buildings in the past. They take many current problems such as climate change and population growth to create solutions that are beneficial to the world, but also take into account the design and the surrounding environment and cultural setting of the building. Using experience and research in sustainability, WOHA introduced Sky Green to Taiwan to show the possibilities of urban development with a low environmental impact that can be used to combat rising pollution and overpopulation throughout the world<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.floornature.com/blog/sky-green-green-tower-taichung-taiwan-woha-15152/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://worldarchitecture.org/article-links/eeeeeg/woha-releases-its-sky-green-tower-in-taichung-taiwan>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.archdaily.com/930892/sky-green-residential-and-retail-tower-woha>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.floornature.com/blog/sky-green-green-tower-taichung-taiwan-woha-15152/>