

Citi Wealth Hub

Retail | Corporate Workplace

Role: Project lead



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2,725 sqm, Singapore, 2021

Role: Project Lead

Studio: Ministry of Design

Spread across four floors on prestigious Orchard Road, the project consists of retail spaces for high net-worth private banking and offices for support staff. In a winning international pitch, the studio proposed a “Banking Conservatory” inspired by the site’s soaring glass atrium.

Intending to reinterpret the notions of luxury and privacy beyond the typical richly ornamented spaces and stuffy meeting rooms, the design team crafted bright and open lifestyle-driven experiences with feature bar counters for gourmet coffees, and waiting lounges nestled between lush greenery.

A series of Garden Pods are nestled amongst the meandering planters and create alternative discussion environments to the conventional meeting room with large windows out to the conservatory.

Harnessing the power of greenery to inspire, improve moods and increase productivity, biophilic design is also brought into the office areas creating a more seamless experience for the relationship managers as they flit through the different floors within the site.

This LEED gold certified project sets a bold new standard to the banking industry for providing value to customers beyond just monetary returns.

My role as Project Lead in this project started after the studio won the pitch, starting from Concept stage all the way to Construction administration and snagging within the Defects Liability Period. Besides being involved in the design process, I was responsible for ensuring the team met all the milestones, controlled quality of all deliverables, and managing client, consultant and contractor coordination.

Postscript:

This project is the recipient of the Design of the Year from [SIA Design Awards 2021](#) and has been featured in leading industry editorials such as [Interior Design](#) and [Dezeen](#).



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PROJECT INSIGHT:

Some of the main challenges of this project was the coordination between the many parties and consultants above and beyond a typical retail project, being a LEED certified project and to fulfill the needs of a secure bank environment with a host of preferred vendors.

The most technically challenging part of the space was the design of the conservatory area with two separate and complicated aspects that hinged on each other: the undulating planters and the pods nestled within them.

The design and layout had to be modularised as much as possible yet achieve a sense of fluid organic flow to minimise the number of unique fibre glass planters and keep construction cost down.

Imperative to the success of the landscaping design was to create rich layers of planting of different heights that undulate around the pods. Hence each planter had to be modelled to check for the scale and fluidity of the planting mass around the conservatory and coordinated with the landscape architect for the plant massing and scale.

As for the pods, we had to design with the many requirements and constraints for AV performance, acoustic privacy, ventilation and fire safety, all fit into a compact and curvy design.

Description (clockwise from top to bottom left, top to bottom right):

1. Review process on the Landscape Architect's planting plan
2. Sectional study of the relationship between planting to the ID fascia
3. Sketch of plant massing over 3D views
4. Render incorporating coordinated Interior and Landscape Design
5. Assembly of the planting on-site

