

Project name **Hua Wei Technologies Training Centre**

Location **Shenzhen, China**

Publication **Building Journal** January 2005





Hua Wei Technologies
Training Centre, Shenzhen

Training environment

by Tim Youngs

The Hua Wei Technologies Training Centre was developed as part of the large information technology and communications systems maker's Shenzhen factory base and is intended for use by both the company's own staff and its clients, many of whom visit from overseas.





Developed on a 15 hectare site, the project comprises 92,500 sq m of training, conference and administrative areas nestled within parkland buffers. The Training Centre's six two- to three-storey blocks were designed in accordance with the client's brief for a collegiate atmosphere and restrained architectural language — a relatively soothing environment compared with the suburbia that sits out of sight beyond the site's greenery.

Invited to design two projects in Hua Wei's growing factory base, Dennis Lau & Ng Chun Man Architects & Engineers (HK) Ltd (DLN) put forward an initial training centre plan that followed hi-tech architectural cues. While the first proposal took into consideration Hua Wei's projects and services, the design was soon superseded by an entirely different approach. Noting the Hua Wei CEO's preference for the natural finishes of timber and stone, as well as an appreciation of more robust forms, the



architects put forward a new design that was promptly given the green light.

According to DLN Chairman and Managing Director Dennis Lau, the development's large site offered chances to head away from norms in Hong Kong. "We had the chance to play around with the formulas that we like," Mr Lau explained. "We never have the chance in Hong Kong; we have all these building ordinances and all these plot ratio calculations. Here, we are free. We are free to play with massing, detailing, fitting out — we have all these opportunities because we have all this land."

Buildings within the development are clustered at the centre of the site, linked by paths and covered walkways. The differing functions of the buildings, ranging from modular lecture blocks through to classroom areas, are expressed on the exterior with forms such as large window expanses. Building finishes such









as rough granite blocks, earthen-hued ceramic tiles and grey interlocking roof tiles on pitched roofs create an appeal that is never ostentatious, and reflects the particular opportunities the project opened up to its design team. M&E provisions for the buildings are kept out of sight within basements.

Intra- and inter-block circulation within the campus converges on a main teaching building and its two main spaces: a garden cloister and a skylit two-level central atrium. The spaces are two among many on the campus where people attending training courses can relax outside classrooms and halls. On the suggestion of the architects, the project features wide corridors, alcoves, courtyards and











large bay windows that are conducive to casual interaction.

The casual meeting spaces extend into the parkland that rounds out the campus. The open space doubles as both a relaxing destination to head into between classes and a means to screen out views of nearby development. Terraces and slopes in the landscaped areas present gentle gradients descending 15 ft from the site perimeter and lowering the built-up areas at the centre.



Hua Wei Technologies
client

Dennis Lau & Ng Chun Man Architects & Engineers (HK) Ltd
architect and interior designer

Parsons Brinckerhoff Asia
m&e engineer

Levett & Bailey
quantity surveyor

Guangzhou Hip Kin Construction & Engineering Co Ltd
main contractor

