



Ching Fu Group Headquarters

Kaohsiung



Place
Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Date
2005-2007

Client
Ching Fu shipbuilding Co.
Ltd
WeeLee International Co.
Ltd
WeeLee International
Tourism Management Co.
Ltd

Cost
£20 million

Building Area
25,178m²

Site Area
7,123m²

Architect
Rogers Stirk Harbour +
Partners

Co-Architect
HOYA Architects &
Associates

Structural Engineer
Supertech Consultants
International

Services Engineer
Co-Young Engineering
Consultants, Inc

Façade Engineering
Bright Curtain Metal Co.
Ltd

Lighting Design
CWI Lighting Design

Contractor
Fu Tsu Construction Co.
Ltd

RSHP has provided a spectacular building in a prominent position. The use of eye-catching colours not only helps to express the system of building elements but also acknowledges the corporate brand of the Ching Fu Group

Steve Wei-Lang Chen, Vice-General Manager,
Ching Fu Group

Following a competition in early 2005, Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners designed a new headquarters for Taiwan's largest private shipbuilder aimed at uniting all the various activities of the group in one building.

The site for the new headquarter building is close to the edge of Kaohsiung Bay, separated from the water by a small park. The brief called for a building which offers generous views across the harbour and which sits on a north/south axis to maximise frontage to the sea. The site of the Ching Fu Group Headquarters building is located in a new science and business park, and adjacent to a proposed exhibition centre. The design is based on a series of repeated 8.5m x 8.5m orthogonal grids, with a core located at either end of the structure.

The ground- and first-floor levels incorporate the atrium, as well as an exhibition/display area and a 100 seat auditorium. The remaining eight storeys contain company offices. Because of planning regulations relating to the massing of buildings, the upper three storeys (floors 8 – 10) have been set back from the façade. As a result, a large terrace has been provided for staff. An observation deck – for staff and visitor use – has been created along the southern side of the building above the louvers and a smaller, private observation deck is also included on the northern side.

One of the key features of the design of the Ching Fu building is the 'boxes'. These are extensions of the office space at different levels which appear to 'float' beyond the façades to provide meeting rooms and private office areas. The upper levels of each box are decked to provide external balconies.

Kaohsiung is located along the Tropic of Cancer and is subject to long hot summers as well as periods of intense monsoon activity. As a result, the roof is made up of louvres which serve to reduce heat gain on the building envelope and create a distinctive finish to the building. A series of horizontal louvres at each level of the building's façade also help to reduce heat gain and louvres fitted to the southwest facing windows adjacent to the 'box' voids are designed to deliver reflected natural light into the office space.

Exposed columns and large extractor funnels in vivid primary colours (red, blue and yellow) express the system of building elements and also – in part – acknowledge the corporate brand of the Ching Fu Group of companies.