

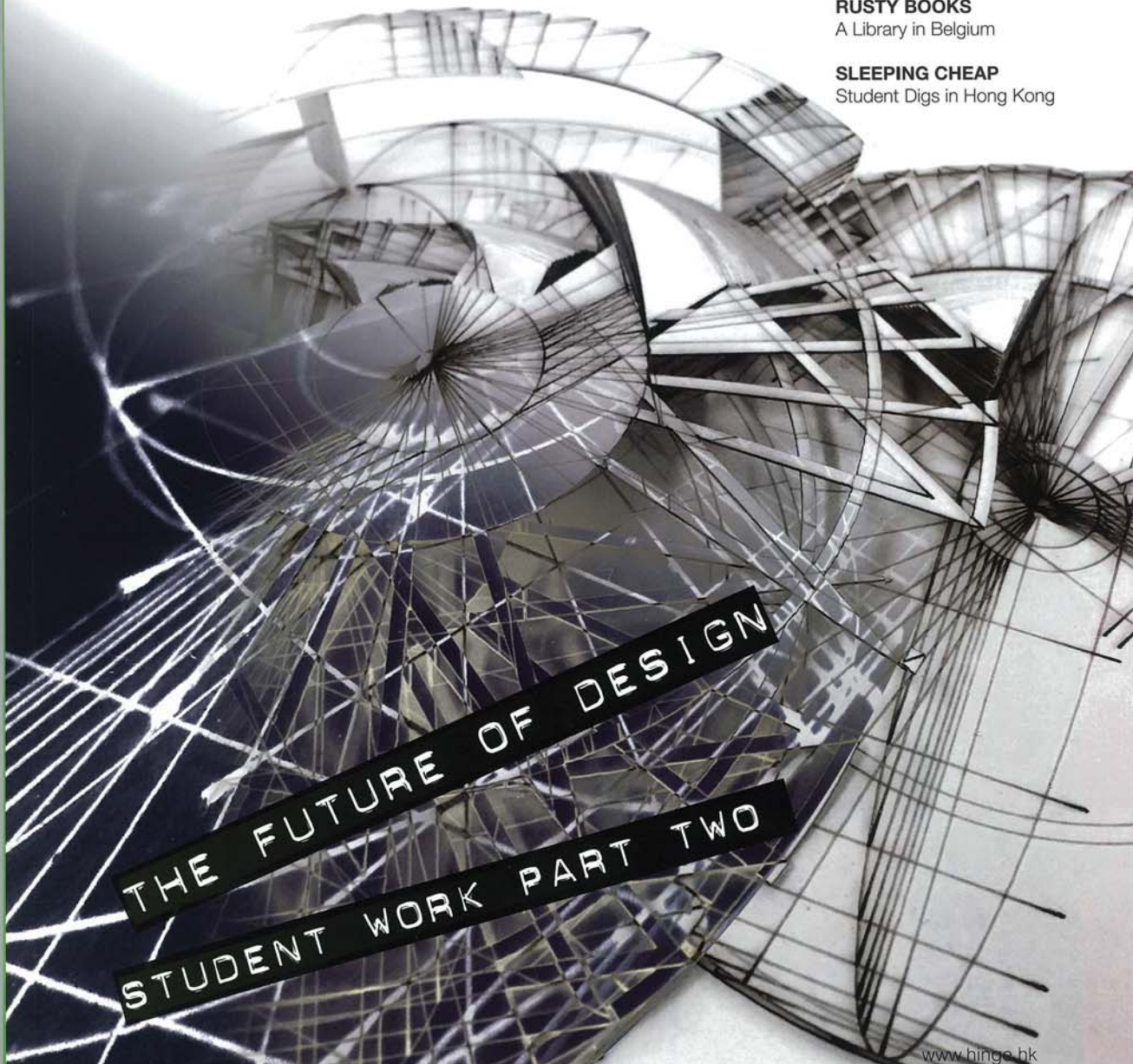
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STAYING IN

Taikoo Place Apartments

Hong Kong
Richardson Sadeki

Comprising Taikoo Place's latest addition is this tower of serviced apartments, designed by Richardson Sadeki. With a top-notch client like Swire, compromise is not in the vocabulary, so the facility boasts all the inevitable modern conveniences, from a clubhouse and spa, to a communal dining area. And since Taikoo is not the most 'homey' spot in Hong Kong – the area is really a kind of 'business island' within the island of Hong Kong – an emphasis on warm welcome was important to these flats.

The mood is set at the entrance, which is designed very much like a gallery space, or a semi-public club lobby. A major chandelier overhangs the somewhat serious, masculine colour tones of the lobby; this features over 300 separate pieces of blown glass, and spans much of the area, ensuring that things don't appear too casual. The upscale standards are thus already set. A wall of four large glass doors looks onto the sidewalk adjacent, implying that the gallery-like space could open onto the public realm anytime it wanted – or anytime Hong Kong's steamy weather actually allowed. The true purpose is to produce a sense of movement and feed off some of the dynamic energy of passersby. It works.

In fact, the whole three-level corner podium of the building is articulated as a more public component, and is clad entirely in glass, some of it fritted. As the tower above is set back from the corner by slicing the angle, the base reads as a pavilion, particularly in the tight confines of street-level Taikoo Place. The flats themselves are compact and efficiently designed, with cool colour tones and maximum use made of the glass curtain wall – there are even peekaboo views of the harbour from some units. This is obviously aimed at an urban, business clientele, rather than families with kids. After all, Taikoo is not a hangout for infants or grandparents. The Taikoo Apartments will appeal to those in town for some hyper-efficient business matters; they will have every necessary convenience right at hand. As Swire expands its experience in the hospitality sphere, this tower bridges the gap between hotel, residential and office sectors. All boxes ticked.



