

Apple Marina Bay Sands

Posted on

A new gemstone on the Singapore waterfront and a celebration of light



Apple Marina Bay Sands creates a new distinctive presence on Singapore Bay. The 30-meter-diameter structure is a fully glazed dome with a black glass base, complementing the sister pavilions through its scale and materiality.

Words Foster + Partners. | Photographs Finbarr Fallon.



The mesmeric structure floats on the Singapore Bay.



Custom sunshade rings lining the interior glass create a magical effect.

The design is the result of a close collaboration between Apple's design teams and the integrated engineering and design team at Foster + Partners. David Summerfield, Foster + Partners said, "Apple Marina Bay Sands is all about the delicate interplay between transparency and shade. The structure dissolves the boundary between the inside and outside, creating a minimal platform that floats gently in the water, looking out over the bay and the spectacular Singapore skyline."

Structurally, the dome acts as a hybrid steel and glass shell, where the grid of steel sections support the weight of the glass and shading, and the curved structural glass panels restrain the steel elements laterally and stiffen the overall form against lateral loads. Integrated solar shading devices keep the interior cool. Each of the 114 panels of glass is carefully selected to meet glazing indices as prescribed by BCA Green Mark, Singapore's own sustainability rating system.

Each of the multifunctional concentric light sunshade rings reduce in size as they progress towards the top of the building, providing acoustic absorption for the store. More importantly, they diffuse and reflect daylight to the baffle above, creating a magical effect and dematerializing the structure.

At the top a semi-opaque oculus provides a dramatic shaft of light that travels through the space, reminiscent of the famous Pantheon in Rome. Stefan Behling, Foster + Partners said, “The dome appears ephemeral. The effect is very calming, and the changing intensity and color of the light is mesmerizing. It is not only a celebration of Apple’s incredible products, but a celebration of light.”

The garden city ideal of Singapore flows from the promenade into the interior spaces, with ten trees placed along the perimeter providing additional shading and soft shadows through the foliage. Set within leathertopped planters, they also provide comfortable places to sit and enjoy the ambiance of the store and the fantastic views of the marina.



The unique landmark floats reflecting a celebration of light.



Visitors can engulf in stunning vistas of the Marina.



At the top, a semi-opaque oculus provides a ray of light that livens up the entire space.



Escalators take visitors on a ‘kaleidoscopic’ journey to the heart of the spectacular domed space.



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Apple Marina Bay against Singapore's dazzling skyline.