Foster + Partners designs luxury retail plaza overlooking Istanbul’s Golden Horn estuary

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Words and **Photography** Foster + Partners.

Golden Horn Plaza is an integral part of the transformative masterplan for Istanbul’s waterfront.

Designs have been revealed for a luxury retail plaza on the north bank of Istanbul’s Golden Horn estuary. The development is being designed by Foster + Partners and forms part of the wider Tersane masterplan, which will transform 1.6 kilometers of unused waterfront into an accessible public promenade, with a mixture of retail,

residential, hospitality, cultural buildings, and green landscaping. The plaza is within walking distance of some of the city’s most notable historic landmarks and celebrates the site’s rich heritage.

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Nigel Dancey, Head of Studio, Foster + Partners, said: “Golden Horn Plaza is an integral part of the transformative masterplan for Istanbul’s waterfront. The scale and proportions of the development reflect the city’s maritime industrial heritage – ensuring it is in keeping with the layered historic surroundings. Architecture and landscaping work in harmony with one another to create a year-round cultural and lifestyle destination.”

Designed to house the world’s most luxury brands, the plaza offers an exclusive retail experience that embodies artisanal craftsmanship and commitment to excellence. The plaza’s interconnected pavilions can be tailored for brands’ specific requirements – with cohesive yet adjustable storefronts and flexible interiors for long-term adaptability. The development is completely walkable – with a network of shaded streets between the pavilions. Covered terraces on the upper levels and a spectacular cantilevered restaurant offer panoramic views across the water.

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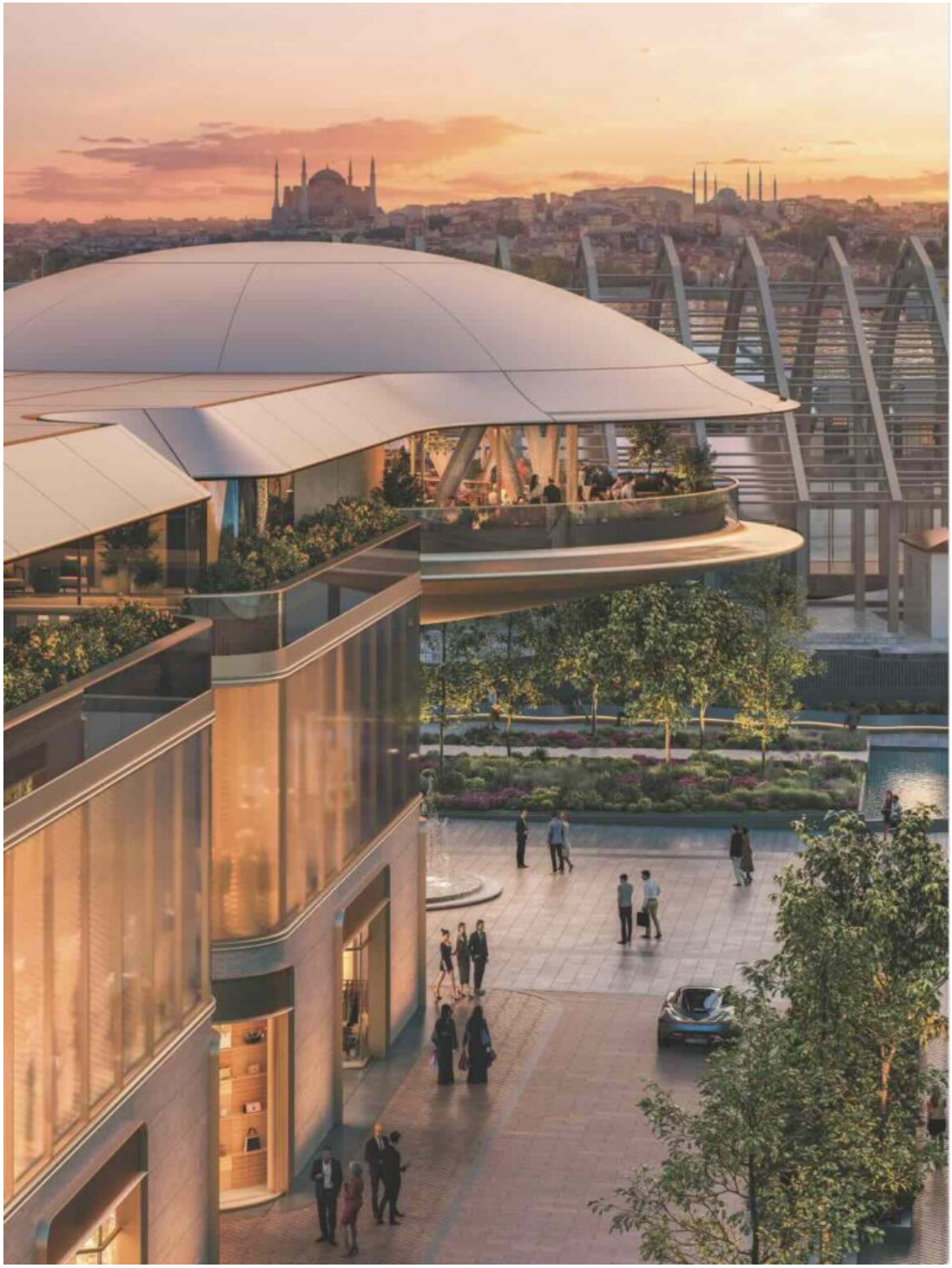

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A canopy of trees shades the plaza and mitigates the heat island effect – while buffering the development from wind. Fountains and water features are integrated into the landscape to offer evaporative cooling and enhance thermal comfort. The landscape palette is inspired by the historic gardens of Istanbul and creates a healthy and pleasant environment. An additional green square between the plaza and the waterfront is a new public space for the city – with a year-round cultural program to attract visitors. Nicola Scaranaro, Partner, Foster + Partners, added: “We are delighted to be working on this project, which will breathe new life into Istanbul’s waterfront with a spectacular luxury retail offering and a range of vibrant public spaces.”