

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION WINNER STARTS NEW FIRM

Sydness Architects, a newly launched New York-based architecture firm, has recently been commissioned to design the headquarters building for two large companies in Shanghai, China. Jeff Sydness, principal, was previously a partner of John Burgee with Philip Johnson. The Lujiazui-Itochu Development Building commission is the result of an international design competition with four firms invited to design schemes for the one half million square foot, twenty-five story tower. One architect each from Germany, Japan, Great Britain and the U.S. was included in the competition that resulted in two finalists; Britain's Norman Foster Associates and Sydness Architects, who made presentations to the owners for final selection. The owners are a Japanese multi-national company, Itochu, and the Lujiazui Development Company of Shanghai. They will both occupy the building, which is at the heart of the Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone in the Pudong area of Shanghai.

The building is a response to the configuration of the site and to its location on a prominent corner. The plan is two semi-circles that are shifted along the diameter to fit snugly within the property lines. The building is modified in deference to standard office modules and building products and has a serrated edge on a shifting 1.2-meter module. The undulating perimeter curtain wall of flamed and polished granite is accented by granite vertical ribs that rise up the tower to a stepped top that echoes the plan against the sky. The lower floors are clad with horizontal stone mullions and gray vision and spandrel glass. A large plaza facing southwest leads to a recessed circular glazed entry.

Construction will begin in late 1997 and occupancy is expected in 1999.

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