

***PRESS RELEASE***

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SYDNESS ARCHITECTS WINS SECOND MAJOR DESIGN COMPETITION

Sydness Architects of New York has recently won a second major design competition within the past year in Shanghai, China. The invited international competition for the five-star Hong Ta Hotel resulted in Sydness Architects being selected over Arquitectonica of Miami and two other architectural firms from Hong Kong. The firm's previous competition-winning design, for the Lujiazui-Itochu Headquarters building in Shanghai, is currently under construction.

The 38-story, 385-room Hong Ta Hotel will be located in the Pudong area of Shanghai. A 24-meter high (76-foot) podium will contain the essential hotel functions including a three-story high lobby, ballroom, five restaurants, fitness center and conference facilities.

The slender tower will be clad in red granite expressed in a grid that responds to the guest room module and the story height. The gently curving peaks at the top of the tower are set at different heights, and point in opposite directions while a glass-enclosed central corridor, sandwiched between the stone-clad slabs, rises up and allows expansive views of the city from a restaurant and lounge located at the top.

Construction will begin in late 1998 and the hotel is scheduled to open in mid 2000.

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