

# Ching Fu Group Headquarters



Place/Date  
**Kaohsiung, Taiwan 2005–2007**

Client  
**Ching Fu shipbuilding Co. Ltd**  
**WeeLee International Co. Ltd**  
**WeeLee International Tourism Management Co. Ltd**

Building Area  
**25,178m<sup>2</sup>**

Site Area  
**7,123m<sup>2</sup>**

Architect  
**Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners**

Co-Architect  
**HOYA Architects & Associates**

Structural Engineer  
**Supertech Consultants International**

Service Engineer  
**Co-Young Engineering Consultants, Inc**

Façade Engineering  
**Bright Curtain Metal Co. Ltd**

Lighting Design  
**CWI Lighting Design**

Contractor  
**Fu Tsu Construction Co. Ltd**



Following a design competition in early 2005, Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners designed a new headquarters for Taiwan's largest private shipbuilder aimed at uniting all the various activities of the group in one building.

The site for the new headquarter building is close to the edge of Kaohsiung Bay, separated from the water by a small park. The brief called for a building which offers generous views across the harbour and which sits on a north/south axis to maximise frontage to the sea. The site of the Ching Fu Group Headquarters building is located in a new science and business park which is currently under development, and adjacent to a proposed exhibition centre. It is also close to Kaohsiung's tallest tower, the 378m high '85 Skytower'.

The design is based on a series of repeated 8.5m x 8.5m orthogonal grids, with a core located at either end of the structure.

The ground- and first-floor levels incorporate the atrium, as well as an exhibition/display area and an auditorium which seats approximately 100 people. The remaining eight storeys contain company offices. Because of planning regulations relating to the massing of buildings, the upper three storeys (floors 8 – 10) have been set back from the façade. As a result, a large terrace has been provided for staff.

An observation deck – for staff and visitor use – has been created along the southern side of the building above the louvres. This deck is served by lifts as well as by a spiral staircase. A smaller observation deck for

restricted use has also been included on the northern side.

One of the key features of the design of the Ching Fu building are the 'boxes'. These are extensions of the office space at different levels which appear to 'float' beyond the façades to provide meeting rooms and private office areas. The upper levels of each box are decked to provide external balconies.

Kaohsiung is located along the Tropic of Cancer and is subject to long hot summers as well as periods of intense monsoon activity. As a result, the roof is made up of louvres which serve to reduce heat gain on the building envelope and creating a distinctive finish to the building. The louver fins are tilted perpendicular towards the south. A series of horizontal louvres at each level of the building's façade also help

to reduce heat gain. Louvres fitted to the southwest facing windows adjacent to the 'box' voids are designed to deliver reflected natural light into the office space.

Exposed columns and large extractor funnels in vivid primary colours (red, blue and yellow) express the system of building elements and also – in part – acknowledge the corporate brand of the Ching Fu Group of companies.

The observation decks and meeting 'boxes' provide views across Kaohsiung Bay, connecting the shipping headquarters with the docks.

