Landscape Design for Boao Forum for Asia International Convention Center and Sofitel Boao

Location: Dongyu Island, Boao, Hainan
Client: COSCO Salim Group Co., Ltd.
Design/Completion: 2001/2003
Project Size: Site Area 69.32 ha
Landscape Area 15 ha

This project is the largest architectural complex on Dongyu Island. The Convention Center and Hotel are the heart of the Boao Forum for Asia. The landscape design integrates new plants into the existing beautiful, lush tropical natural scenery, helping fashion this into a high-end resort landscape. The project elements include: a conference center, lodging, entertainment venues, shopping district, and tourist facilities. Chinese traditional landscape elements provide a soothing contrast to the modern architecture of the Asia Forum complex. The design fully respects the natural environment by introducing an ambitiously conceived nature reserve that protects the ecologically unique and sensitive coastal zone vegetation. The planting plan uses tropical plants as the landscape motif.

The entrance feature includes waterfalls framed by special hard scape design elements at the terminus of the main island road. The sound of splashing water and the fluttering of the flags of twenty-three nations provide visitors with an inviting arrival experience. The shrubs and flowers planted in the 20-meter wide landscaped area in front of the convention center add quiet dignity. Surrounding the center, arbor provide shade, soften the effects of the building mass, and effectively screen elements of the nearby environment.

The lobby on the second floor of the Hotel leads guests to dramatic views of the landscape. The hotel is surrounded by an intricate system of pools, lagoons, waterfalls, lily ponds, and tidal bays that are visually seamless creating inspiring views. The natural and interesting outdoor artworks highlight Hainan’s unique waterfront heritage. Swimming pools outside the guest rooms on the first floor are designed on an intimate scale for comfort and privacy, being enclosed and screened by dense tropical plants. The hotel features an infinity edge pool with ocean view and swim-up pool bar. An atrium pathway flowing through the indoor and outdoor spaces allows guests to stay out of the sun. Dining room, bar, and children’s pool are carefully and artistically laid out so that guests of all ages can enjoy the water activities.
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Top: Main Entrance of the Boao Forum for Asia International Convention Center