

Ministry of Design creates shared office spaces in Kuala Lumpur skyscraper



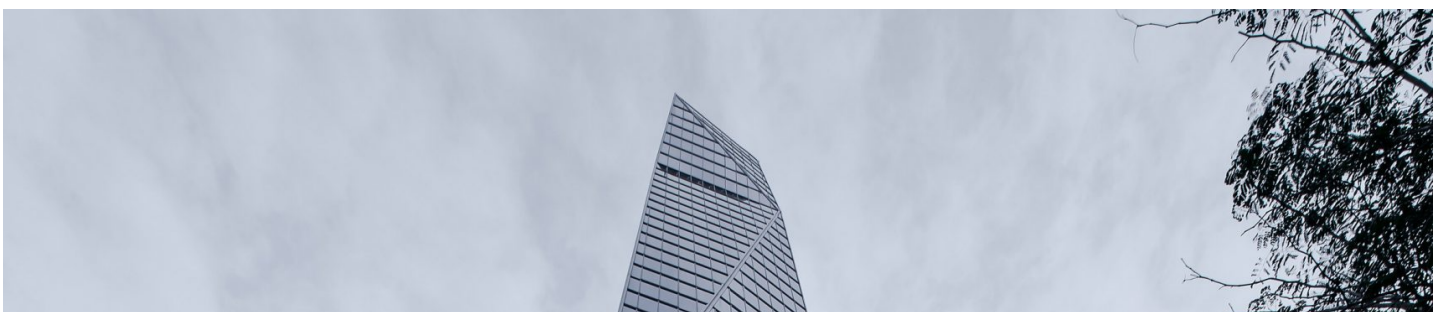
Lizzie Crook | 20 November 2020

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Marble-clad columns and bronze detailing line the soaring entrance lobby that [Ministry of Design](#) has created for the YTL Headquarters in [Kuala Lumpur](#), Malaysia.

It is one of several shared areas created by [Ministry of Design](#) in the Malaysian construction company [YTL](#)'s new office skyscraper by [Kohn Pedersen Fox](#), which combines all of its staff departments in one place for the first time.

Alongside the giant entrance area, the studio has created an oak-lined cafe and three storeys of varied meeting spaces shared by 1,000 YTL employees.





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Above: the YTL Headquarters skyscraper. Top image: the office's entrance lobby





Marble-clad columns and cushioned benches line the entrance lobby

The YTL Headquarters' entrance lobby is positioned at ground level and measures 25 metres in height.

Ministry of Design's goal was to enhance the "majestic" quality of this vast space while ensuring it was welcoming and human in scale.



The marble is offset by bronze accents throughout

To achieve this, the studio developed a restrained material palette, dominated by the soaring, white columns clad in Bugatsa marble that run the length of the lobby.

Floor-to-ceiling windows are positioned behind the columns to illuminate them and maximise natural light throughout the day, while making the space "glow like a lantern in the evening".





To obscure the height of the columns, each one is punctured by rectangular insets and bronze accents, while a cloud-like installation hangs between them.

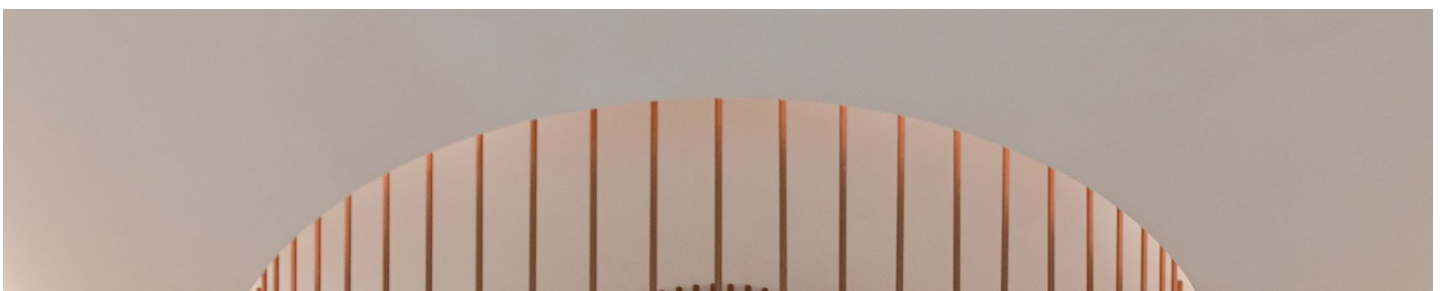
Cushioned benches that mimic Mies van der Rohe's Barcelona chairs have also been slotted between the columns at floor level, framed by tall, gridded structures made from bronze.



The cafe features a rough grey-granite counter

The lobby is complete with a deliberately symmetrical lift area at its rear, accessed through turnstiles and framed by a statement bronze doorway.

This provides private access to YTL Headquarter's upper levels, including the office cafe, various meeting spaces and a function room by Ministry of Design.





A central spiral staircase is enclosed by slatted bronze



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Oak has also been used to line the walls and ceilings of the meeting spaces, which cater for small and large, private to non-private gatherings.

Ministry of Design achieved this through the combination of communal tables and open areas, alongside enclosed meeting rooms and acoustically-private spaces.



The staircase connects the cafe to the office spaces

In the open, shared meeting areas, the oak walls form a backdrop to black powder-coated lighting fixtures and seating upholstered with neutral Saum & Viebahn textiles.

Silver milk marble flooring lines the floor, while black Nero Marquina and elegant white Calacatta marble are used across the tabletops.





Oak lines the walls of the shared meeting spaces

The private meeting areas are complete with softer furnishings and finishes, including brown-leather chairs, carpet floors and timber tables.

The meeting spaces are complete with a statement spiral stair at their heart, which connects them to the cafe. It is lined with leather handrails that are enveloped by slats of powder-coated bronze and positioned on top of a bed of black gravel.



The private meeting spaces feature softer furnishings and carpeted floors

Ministry of Design is an architecture and interior design studio that was founded in 2004 by Colin Seah. Its headquarters are in Singapore, and it has two more offices in Beijing and Kuala Lumpur.

Other recent projects by the firm include an [all-white co-living space called Canvas House](#), a futuristic [sports store in Singapore Airport](#) and a [robot training facility](#) lined with metal and tube lights.

Photography is by [David Yeow](#).

Project credits:

Ministry of Design team: Colin Seah, Joyce Low, Ruth Chong, Kevin Leong, Damien Saive, Namrata Mehta, Fai Suvisith, Justin Lu, Zhang Hang, Maggie Lek, Kaye Mojica, Richard Herman, Rais Rahman, Tasminah Ali



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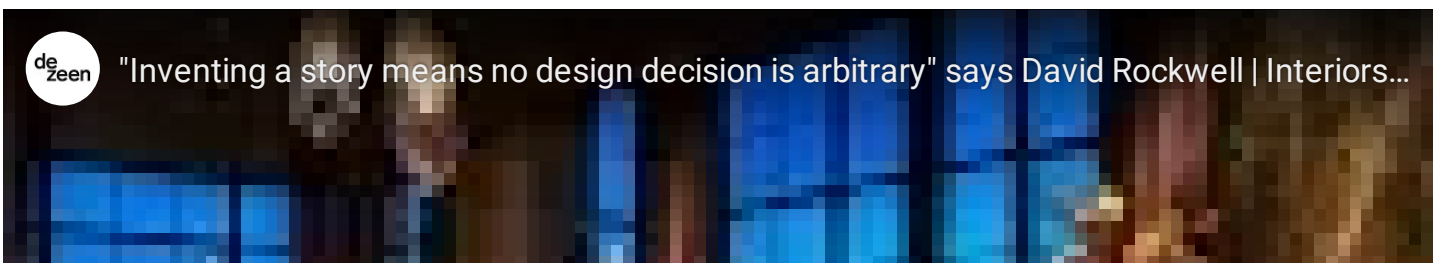


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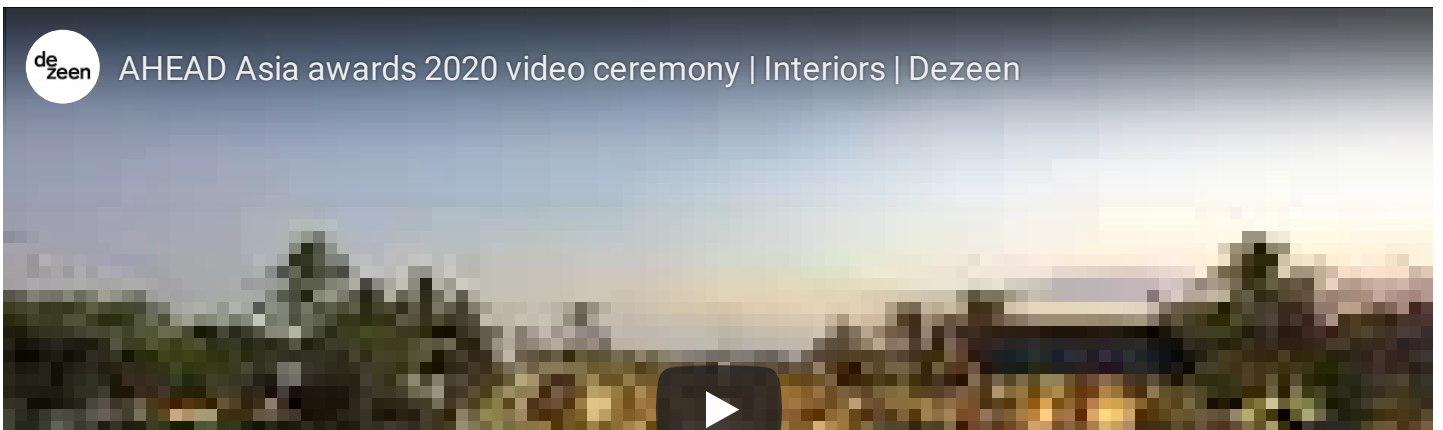
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Richard Waples • 4 days ago • edited

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Leo • 6 days ago • edited

Nice touch of the grey-granite counter. The elevator lobby seems quite narrow.

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