

Project: Hangzhou Alibaba DAMO Nanhu Industry Park

Design Team: Aedas

Size: 500000 m²

Location: Hangzhou, CHINA



Feature:

Project - Aedas has completed the new South Lake Campus for Alibaba's DAMO Academy, an ambitious research institute merging Eastern philosophy with cutting-edge technology. Designed by Ken Wai, the sprawling 500,000 sq m complex comprises smart offices, labs, a visitor centre and amenities arranged like a floating 'Bodhi leaf' on the waters of Hangzhou's South Lake.

The crystalline buildings radiate outwards forming layered courtyards evocative of traditional Chinese architecture. Finger-like office blocks run east-to-west, bridged by landscaped walkways and centering on a public plaza with dining. Following the veined patterns of a leaf, pedestrian routes branch organically through the semi-enclosed garden spaces.

The workspaces blend open collaborative areas with private meeting rooms based on a 'work cluster' concept. The modular office floors span 500-4,000 sq m and avoid sight lines between blocks through angled glass facades. Roof gardens promote connection with nature.

"We've created a microcity fusing Eastern thought with advanced technology in architectural form and function," said Ken Wai. "The buildings merge with the surroundings sustainably, pioneering a new paradigm for future workplaces."

Design Team - Founded in 2002 by Welsh architect Keith Griffiths, Aedas is a global architecture and design powerhouse driven by international practice and local expertise. Led today by Griffiths and a team of highly accomplished directors like Ken Wai, the firm's

1,100 creative minds span 11 offices worldwide.

Aedas specializes in producing world-class architectural, interior, urban design and masterplanning solutions tailored to the unique social and cultural contexts of the communities they serve. The firm is a pioneering force in the new urbanization movement, facilitating sustainable and innovative design responses to greater density, connectivity and efficiency demands.

With a diverse global team well-versed in the latest innovations, Aedas consistently pushes boundaries and applies cutting-edge technical expertise across its broad portfolio. From large-scale mixed-use commercial hubs and transportation megaprojects to cultural institutions and urban regeneration initiatives, Aedas creates contextually grounded yet forward-thinking designs of the highest quality.