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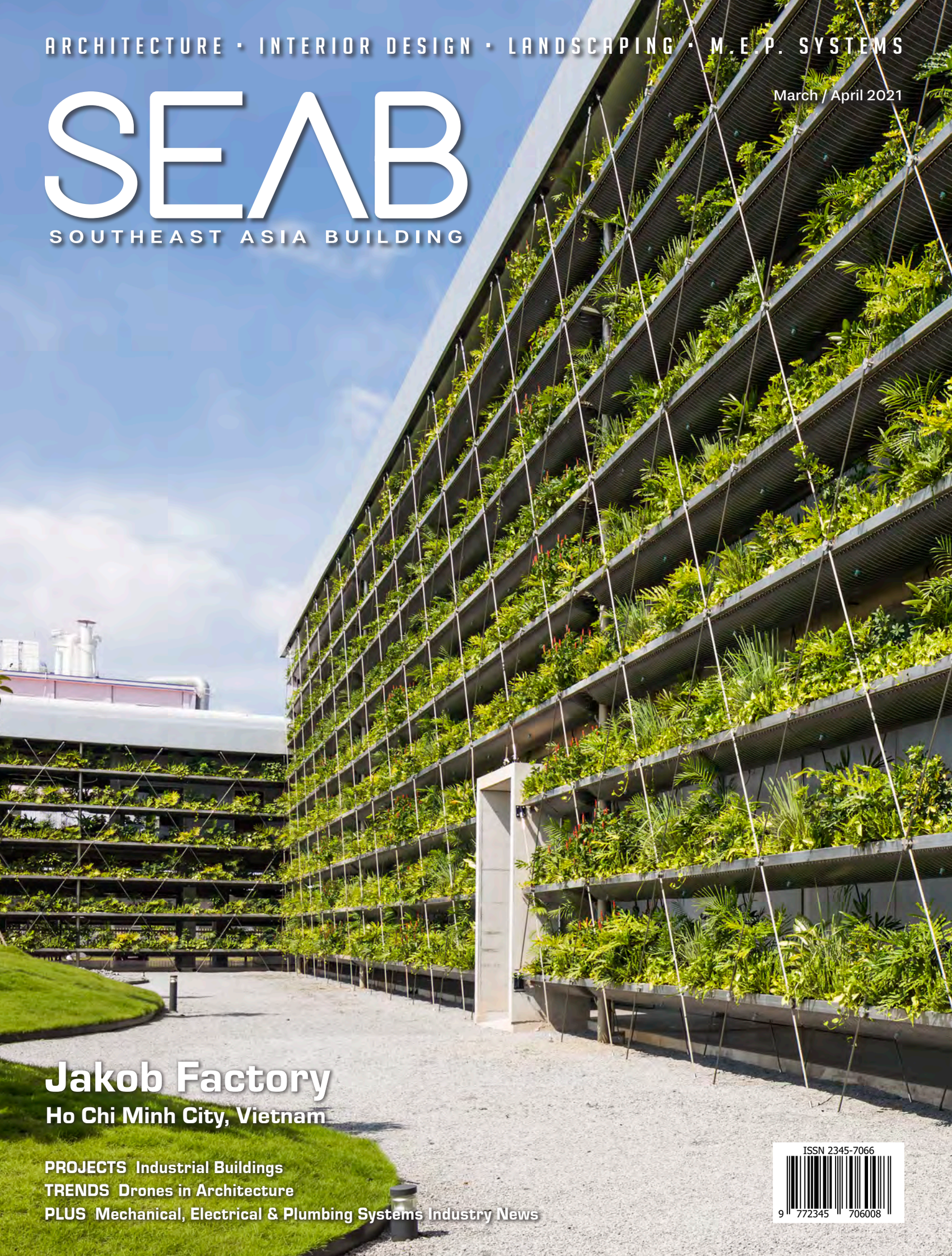
March / April 2021



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The Horizontal Skyscraper:
A New Solution to Urban Overcrowding

Text by Sandrine Demas. Photos courtesy of dormakaba.

Since the world's first modern skyscraper was built in Chicago in 1885, high-rise buildings of over 40 floors have become a norm for dense urban centres. Since then, these skyscrapers have become an iconic symbol of urban progress and architectural achievement. Since 2000, global skyscraper construction has risen by approximately 402 percent.

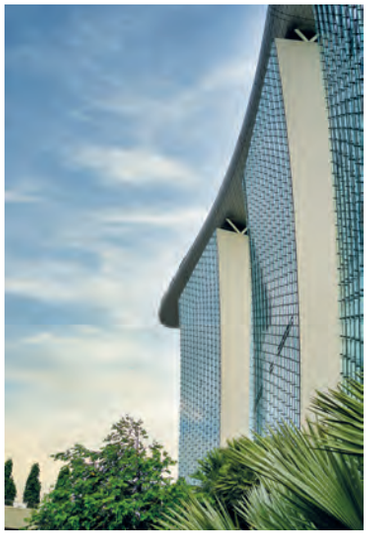
As the United Nations predicts the world population to reach almost 10 billion by 2050, the role of skyscrapers has to continue to evolve in its ability to serve growing real estate needs. However, what if there were novel ways to make skyscrapers a better fit for the evolving and expanding requirements of crowded modern cities?

Completed in 2020 following six years of construction, Raffles City Chongqing in Southwest China has managed precisely that, in a city with a population of over 30 million.

Horizontal Skyscraper Sets New Heights – and Widths

The world's first horizontal skyscraper reaches a height of 350 metres on a peninsula where the Yangtze and Jialing rivers meet. Enveloping a 270-degree view of both rivers, the 817,000 square-metre structure connects a staggering eight operational towers.

At nightfall, four looming towers of the skyscraper are seemingly connected by a glowing beam of light, aptly named the Crystal bridge. The 250-metre long Crystal bridge presents a spectacular unified image of the skyscrapers, creating emphasis on its horizontal development.



Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

The Crystal bridge is not like unlike Singapore's iconic Marina Bay Sands, in which three towering buildings are connected by a platform consisting of a SkyPark and infinity pool.

The gigantic complex is home to public and private quarters such as offices, residents, restaurants, a massive shopping mall – and of course, sky gardens and infinity pools overlooking the Yangtze and Jialing rivers.

Unorthodox Skyscraper Designs to Take Over Big Cities

It is noteworthy that both Marina Bay Sands and Raffles City Chongqing were designed by Israeli-Canadian architect Moshe Safdie. As a self-declared modernist, Safdie's bold use of dramatic curves and geometric patterns seamlessly delivers his vision of meaningful and inclusive spaces that bring people together.

Safdie expects to see new ways of building skyscrapers, especially as growing urban populations and limited space already forces architects to think outside the box.

Innovative architecture at a glance.

"Rather than just thinking of land as two-dimensional, zoning will start requiring people to connect between one property and another – first at ground level, then above ground," Safdie adds.

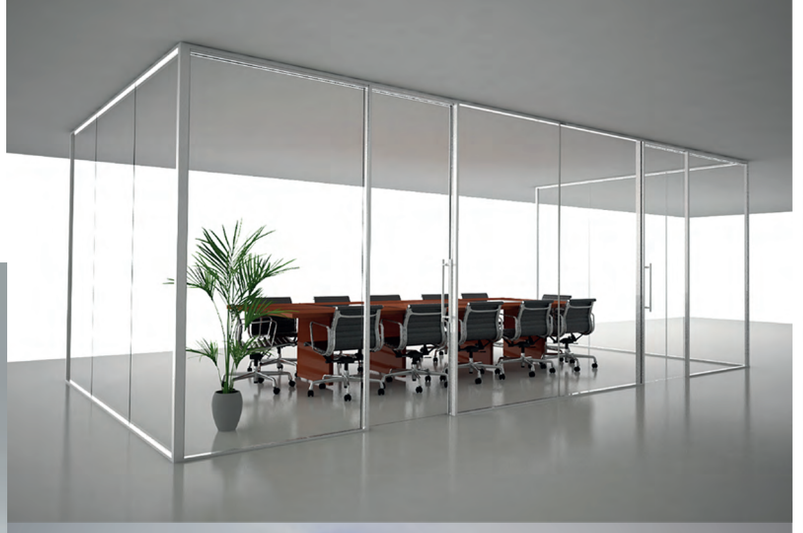
Envisioning innovative solutions is not only the job of the architect; without resources to support their ideas, the path to cities filled with creatively efficient buildings remains unclear. At dormakaba, our access solutions are created with not only the users, but the designer, in mind. At dormakaba, versatile and customisable solutions are specially curated to help architects realise their visionary designs. At dormakaba, our goal is to help you clear the path.

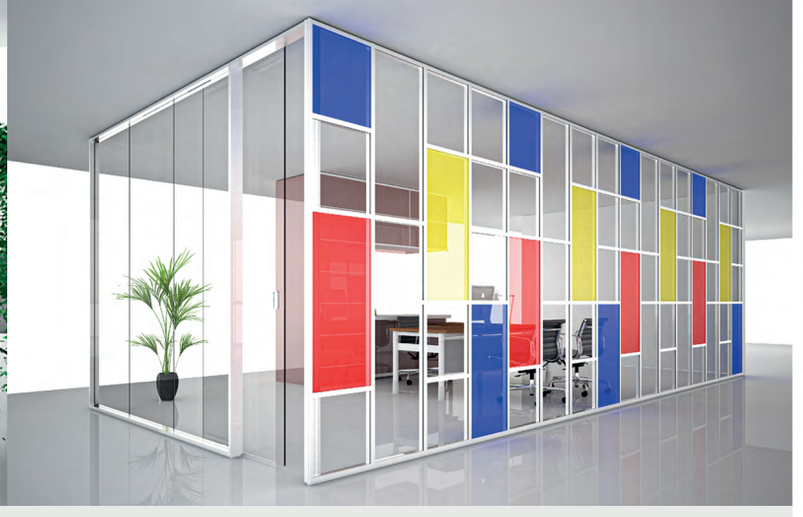
Creating stunning projects with dormakaba.

(Adapted from: https://blog.dormakaba.com/the-horizontal-skyscraper-a-new-solution-to-urban-overcrowding/)

ALTERRA

Demountable Partition Systems





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dormakaba's demountable partition system opens up new dimensions and creates smooth transitions between different functional areas in an interior space. It offers multiple customized swing and sliding solutions, which serves to seamlessly augment your interiors. ALTERRA creates room and transparency, while enhancing acoustics and positivity to boost productivity.

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