

Singapore architect takes bite of the Big Apple

新加坡建筑师来纽约大展身手

SCDA Architects founder making a name for himself in New York

SCDA建筑设计事务所创始人纽约一举成名

By JOYCE LIM

撰文：JOYCE LIM

SCDA Architects design director Chan Soo Khian, who has four projects under way in New York this year alone, says he is still “actively looking for more work”. ST PHOTO: MARK CHEONG

SCDA建筑设计事务所的设计总监Chan Soo Khian先生，仅今年就有四个位于纽约的在建项目。他说，他仍在“积极寻找更多项目”。ST摄影：MARK CHEONG

Mr Chan's projects in New York include Soori Highline, a 31-unit condo being developed by Siras Oriel Development. The \$175-million project unveiled last year made headlines with its “resort living in the city” theme. PHOTO: CHAN SOO KHIAN

Chan先生在纽约的项目之一是Soori High Line，拥有31间公寓，由Siras Oriel公司开发建造。这个价值1.75亿新加坡币的项目于去年揭幕，并以“都市中的度假生活”这一主题登上头条。图片人物：Chan Soo Khian

SINGAPOREAN architect Chan Soo Khian is fast making the Big Apple his main hunting ground, with four projects under his belt in New York this year alone.

As well as two condominiums in the west side – one that probably sets a record for the most number of indoor pools – he is designing a luxury condo in 59th Street and a hotel in Tribeca in Lower Manhattan.

Even with four projects under way at the same time, Mr Chan, 53, says he is still “actively looking for more work”.

新加坡建筑师Chan Soo Khian先生在迅速地把“大苹果城（Big Apple，即纽约）”变成他的主要猎场，仅今年就有四个位于纽约的在建项目。

除了西区的两栋公寓楼外（其中一个可能会创造拥有最多室内泳池的记录），他还在设计59街上的一所高级公寓，以及位于下曼哈顿Tribeca区的一家酒店。

即便有四个项目同时在建，53岁的Chan先生说他在“积极寻找更多项目。”

It is likely that some of that work will be in New York, given his long love affair with the city.

Mr Chan recently told The Straits Times from his office in a shophouse off Keong Saik Road in Chinatown that he had “spent some time” in New York after obtaining his Master of Architecture degree at Yale University in 1987.

Even though he is a registered architect in the United States and Singapore, he “never really practised” in New York, although it remained an ambition.

考虑到他对这个城市的热爱，这些新项目很有可能还会在纽约。

Chan先生最近在位于其新加坡中国城恭锡路的办公室中告诉《海峡时报》，他在1987年获得耶鲁大学建筑硕士学位之后，曾于纽约“呆了一段时间”。

尽管他是美国和新加坡两地的注册建筑师，但是他至今“没有在纽约真正实践过”。不过，他的这一野心从未停止。

His career took hold here, eventually leading him to found SCDA Architects, where he is the design director. He has also done work in cities such as Shanghai and Dubai.

New York remained a lure, however. He visited the city in 2009 “looking for opportunities”, but the economic crisis put paid to that.

Then in 2012, when he returned to New York, he visited what is now called the High Line, an elevated park developed from disused railyards.

He was immediately charmed by the area and its potential.

他的事业在新加坡起步腾飞，最终他建立了SCDA建筑设计事务所，并担任设计总监。在上海和迪拜等地区也有他的一些项目。

然而，纽约始终令他魂牵梦绕。2009年，他去纽约访问，并“寻找机会”，但是当时的经济危机让这次尝试不了了之。

2012年，他再次造访纽约，参观了由废弃铁轨开发而成的高架公园，也就是现在的“高线”。

他当即被这个区域的魅力和潜力所吸引。

“I could see the signs of it coming... The High Line is an elevated park in a high-density area like New York. It's a connector that is dedicated to pedestrians and surrounded by

very interesting neighbourhoods like West Chelsea, which is kind of the art capital of the world.

“The whole area of West Chelsea is very well located. You can go to downtown and midtown very quickly (because) you are in the 20s (streets).”

“我可以看到它的良好前景.....在纽约这样高密度的地区，高线公园凌空架起。它专为行人设计，并被有趣的街道环绕，其中不乏西切尔西这样的世界艺术据点。

“整个西切尔西区的地理位置都非常好。身处二十几街，去市区或中区都十分快捷。”

His enthusiasm helped him finally get his foothold in the American market – the 31-unit condo Soori Highline.

The building is being developed by Siras Oriel Development, a joint venture between Oriel Development founded by Mr Chan and New York-based luxury real estate developer Siras Development.

It has received many good reviews, said Mr Chan.

他的热情最终帮助他在美国市场站稳脚跟——拥有31间公寓的Soori High Line。

这座楼由Siras Oriel公司开发，是Chan先生创立的Oriel开发集团和纽约高端房地产开发集团Siras的合资公司。

Chan先生说，项目已经获得了很多好评。

When the US\$130 million (S\$175 million) project was unveiled in New York last year, it made headlines with its “resort living in the city” theme. More than half of the units would come with a private pool.

Mr Chan said about one-third of the apartments, priced between US\$3.7 million and US\$22 million, have been sold through his office in Singapore. Two of the units were bought by Singaporeans.

Construction started last May and a sales launch is planned in the United States next year, once construction has progressed.

这个1.3亿美金（1.75亿新加坡币）的项目于去年在纽约揭开面纱并以“都市中的度假生活”这一主题登上头条。过半的公寓将拥有私人泳池。

Chan先生介绍，约三分之一价格在370万至2200万美金之间的公寓已经通过他的新加坡办公室售出，其中的两间被新加坡人买走。

施工于去年五月开始。明年，在工程有所进展后，美国的销售会即时开启。

It is very much Mr Chan's baby: He designed the building, the interiors, the furniture that comes with the units, and even the sales brochures.

"It has to be one that stands out because New York is a very important city," said Mr Chan, who does most of his design work in Singapore.

这个项目好似Chan先生的孩子一般：他设计了建筑的外观、室内空间、内部家具甚至销售手册。

“这个项目必须要非常亮眼，因为纽约这个城市实在太重要了，”主要在新加坡做设计的Chan先生说道。

The "good reviews" about Soori Highline led him to his second project – 515 Highline – an 11-storey condo development with an art wall facing the High Line. Construction for the project, being developed by Bau-house Group of New York, also began last year.

"A lot of what I do in New York is also what I have done in Singapore," said Mr Chan.

Soori High Line得到的“好评”给他带来了纽约的第二个项目——515 Highline，一栋11层高的公寓楼。它的一面艺术墙直面“高线”。项目由纽约Bau-house集团开发，也于去年动工。

“我在纽约做的很多事情，都是在新加坡已经做过的。”Chan先生说。

New commissions followed, including a commission for him to design a hotel in Tribeca.

And in New York last month, he was named the architect for 118 East 59th Street, a 38-storey luxury condo in midtown Manhattan.

His design for the 29-unit development will have each unit occupying at least an entire floor, with marble finishes for kitchens and baths.

新的项目提议尾随而至，其中包括了翠贝卡区一个酒店的设计委托。

上个月在纽约，他又被指定为一座38层豪华公寓的建筑师。该公寓楼位于曼哈顿中城区59街东118号。

根据他的设计，所有29间公寓将至少各占据一整层楼，并配备铺有大理石饰面的厨房和卫生间。