

For Immediate Release

Asia Society Hong Kong Center Congratulates Tod Williams and Billie Tsien on being picked as lead architects for the Obama Presidential Center

Hong Kong (July 4, 2016) – Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) is delighted that **Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects | Partners (TWBTA)**, our longstanding partner in architectural and design matters, was selected by the Obama Foundation to lead the design team for the **Obama Presidential Center** in Chicago.

According to the Obama Foundation, the pair stood out because of their commitment to explore the best ways in creating an innovative place for action that inspires communities and individuals to take on our biggest challenges.

“On behalf of ASHK, I would like to congratulate Tod Williams and Billie Tsien for their selection in such a high-profile project,” said S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center.

The award-winning pair previously designed ASHK, which saw the successful transformation of a colonial-era explosives magazine compound into a dynamic educational hub. The pair not only respected the history of the site but also made a bold statement in a vertical city by creating new horizontal structures, and preserving its natural greenery.

The transformation of the ASHK site continued in 2016, when TWBTA was invited to reimagine the Hong Kong Jockey Club Hall and outdoor spaces of the site for ASHK’s first pop-up exhibition, *Shen Wei: Dance Stroke*, to reflect the multifaceted and experiential nature of Shen’s work as a painter and choreographer.

Earlier this year, the pair received the **American Institute of Architects (AIA) Honor Awards** for excellence in architecture, interior architecture, and urban design for its work at ASHK. In selecting Asia Society Hong Kong Center, the jury commented that the pair’s vision was “subtle and beautiful,” and that the project “capitalized on the setting, rather than building over.” Of note is that ASHK was the first Hong Kong site honored by the AIA through the Institute Honor Awards for Architecture program.

“What Tod and Billie have accomplished for us at ASHK, in designing and transforming an historical site into a contemporary oasis of tranquility, has enabled us to build our programs and fulfill our mission of promoting dialogue and understanding among different communities, both globally and locally,” added Mong.

For more information of the site, please download the pdf from the link below:

<https://asiasociety.box.com/v/twbt2016>

For more information, visit the ASHK website:

www.asiasociety.org/hong-kong

Connect with ASHK on social media:

Facebook: [Asiasocietyhongkong](https://www.facebook.com/asiasocietyhongkong)

Twitter: [@AsiaSocietyHK](https://twitter.com/AsiaSocietyHK)

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About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is a leading non-governmental organization and intellectual hub that fosters cross-cultural understanding and promotes dialogue and better understanding of Asia by Asians. The Center provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a brighter shared future across the fields of arts and culture, business and policy, and education.

About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III in New York, and with a worldwide network of 12 centers, Asia Society is a key educational institution dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context.

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