

YTL Headquarters

Corporate Workplace

Role: Project Lead



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3,045 sqm, Kuala Lumpur, 2020

Role: Project Lead
Studio: Ministry of Design

YTL, a large family-run conglomerate in Malaysia, was finally bringing together over 2,000 staff across their different entities in downtown Kuala Lumpur, as a unified brand and testament to the career and spirit of the founding father. Understanding the client's background and vision for the headquarters, we designed the common spaces for the current and more importantly, future generation of the family business.

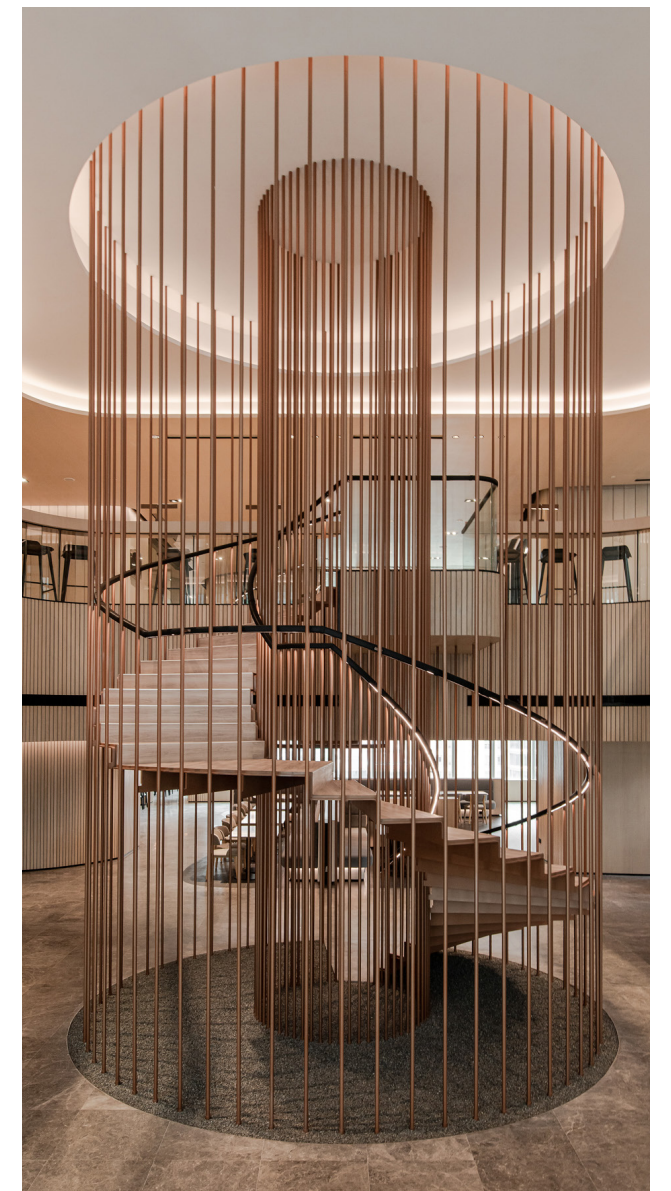
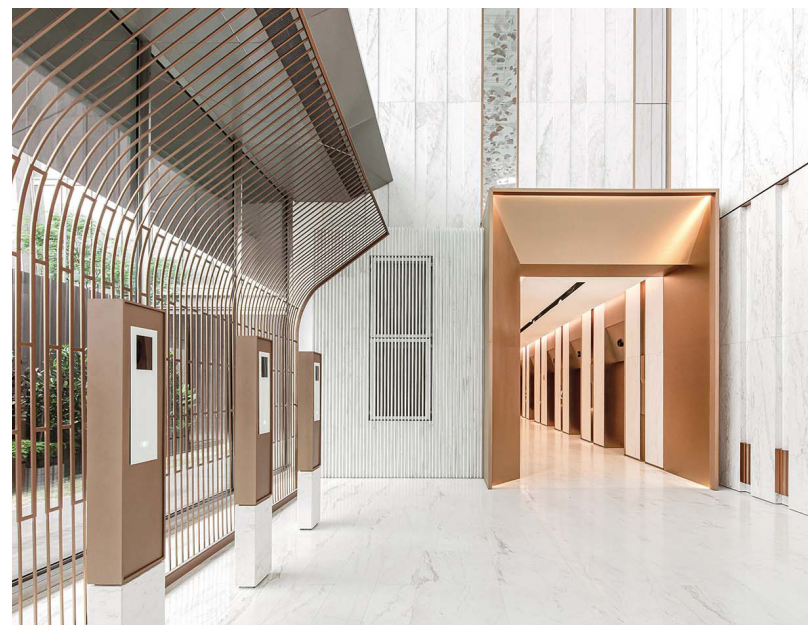
To appeal to the former and changing guard, rather than a staid corporate environment of the glassy skyscraper and typical cool tones, we wanted to introduce a luxury lifestyle driven programme and aesthetic to the project. We envisioned a workplace that people felt comfortable, warm, and engaged; a place that people would love to inhabit. Balancing luxurious materials with modern lines and elegant details, we wanted to create a grand and timeless design, leaving a lasting impression of corporate professionalism with the brand's legacy and prestige.

On the street level, the visitor is greeted with a soaring light-filled 20-metre high atrium. With a disciplined use of materials, and a rigorous study in proportion, the space evokes a liminal sense of awe. Art installation by STUDIO SAWADA hovers overhead with a series of bronze pavilions at the sides, which provide a sense of shelter and human scale in this vast space.

The meeting zones on levels 8 to 10 are designed for a variety of meetings needs with visitors as well as social spaces for internal staff. At the heart of the social areas, we created a large void with a spiral stair connecting the more casual meeting areas with a cafe to the more private rooms above.

In this project, I was Project Lead from Concept until Construction documentation stage.

Postscript:
This project has been featured in leading industry editorials such as [Interior Design](#), [Architonic](#) and [Dezeen](#).



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PROJECT INSIGHT:

Depending on the project, different approaches could be used to generate the main gestures of the design. For this project, the architectural shell presented awkward, and uncomfortable spaces in many areas. The spatial form for both the reception lobby and the Level 8 social and meeting areas were a direct response to the unique structure and architecture of the building.

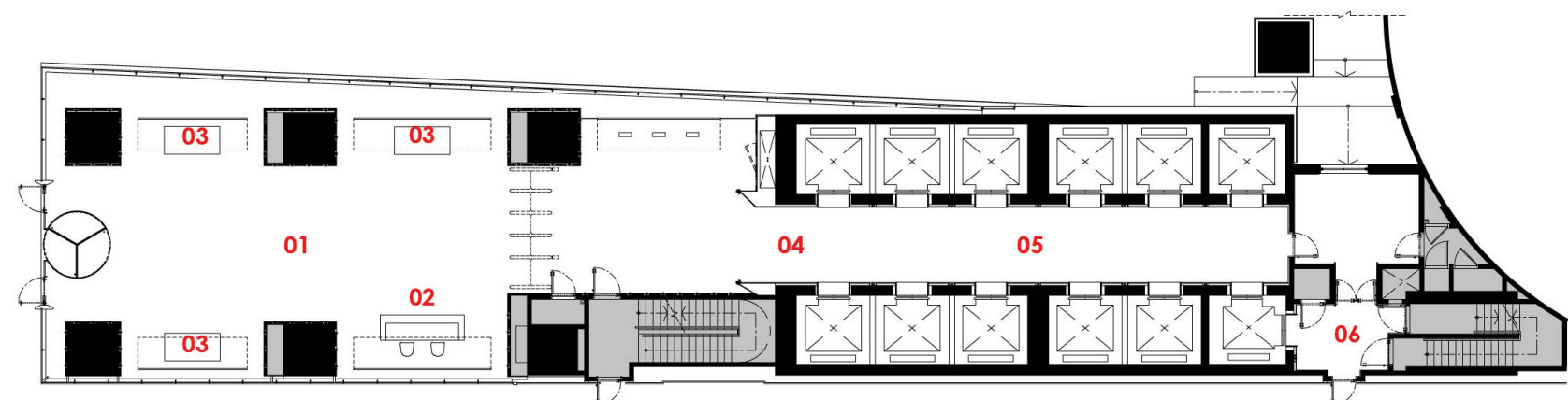
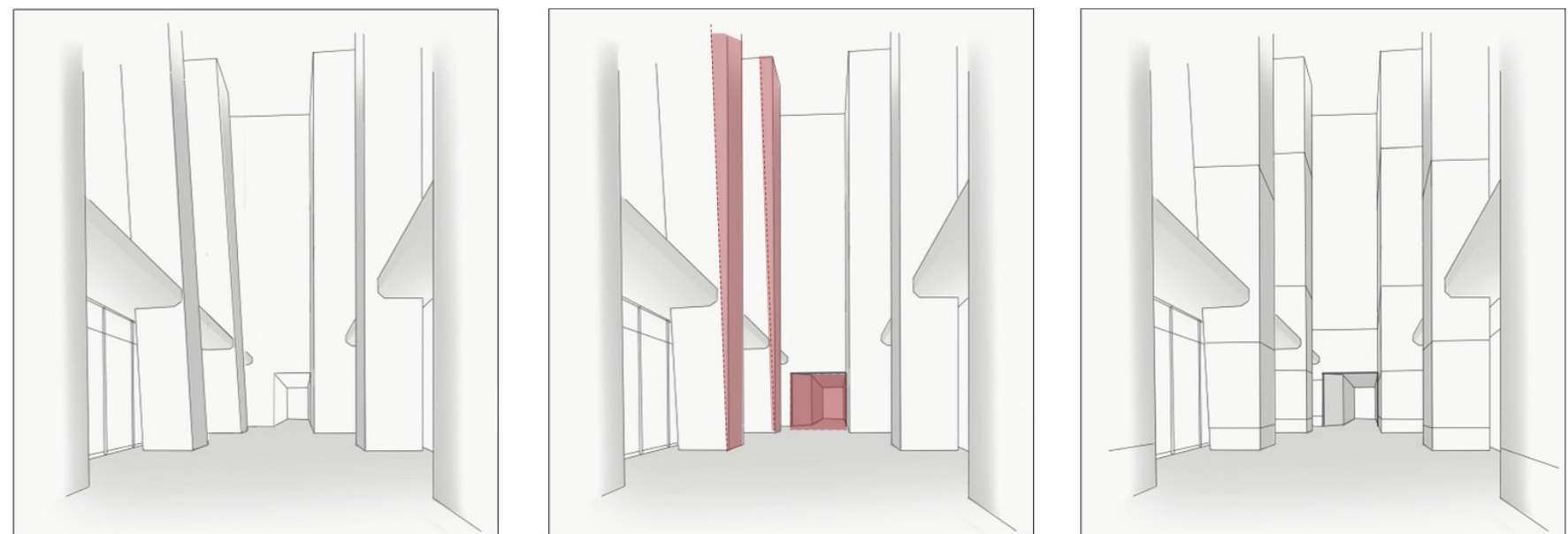
An example of this was the soaring seven storey lobby space. It was tall, grand and light filled, but it was also very narrow and imposing. The main structure of diagonal mega-braces created a tapering volume and an unsettling top heavy space.

How do we sculpt the space into something more comfortable to the human scale yet maintain the sense of grandeur that was inherent in the architecture?

We employed a variety of visual tricks, firstly to straighten the angled columns to create a nave-like experience. Secondly, we introduced a skewed entrance portal to the lift lobby to balance the off-centre entrance with a false symmetry. And at last, we introduced clearly defined horizontal breaks to humanize the scale with a hip-high datum line running through with the integrated feature bronze lamps.

Description (clockwise from top left):

1. Model showing the lobby's architectural mass
2. Introducing symmetry to the lobby
3. Breaking up the vertical scale
4. Layout plan of the ground floor lobby



- 01 LOBBY
大堂
- 02 RECEPTION
接待处
- 03 PAVILION NICHE SEATING AREA
座椅区
- 04 LIFT LOBBY PORTAL
电梯厅入口
- 05 LIFT LOBBY
电梯厅
- 06 VIP LIFT LOBBY
贵宾电梯厅

