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A 'Super-Green' Woods Bagot Win: Xixi Wetland International Tourism Region Masterplan, Hangzhou China

Having opened its fifteenth global studio in Shanghai, China late last year, Woods Bagot has strengthened its reputation across Asia with a 36km² 'Super-Green' urban design and masterplan scheme in Hangzhou that will transform the city into an international eco-tourism centre.



Caption: Xixi Wetland International Tourism Region Masterplan, Hangzhou China (Credit: Woods Bagot)

Engaged by the Hangzhou Planning Bureau, the stunning region of rural parkland, located within the heart of Hangzhou and close to the famous Westlake, will be adapted into an epicentre for cultural and eco tourism; and is set to include hospitality facilities, public space and a vast expanse of wetlands. In staying with the innate character of the historic region, the development will preserve the cultural characteristics and natural beauty of the territory while setting a new international standard for ecological landscaping and urban design.

“Our priority in the planning for the Xixi Wetland International Tourism region first and foremost is the preservation of what’s already spectacularly unique about the region, its intrinsic beauty, elevating Xixi’s profile to that of Hangzhou’s premiere destination, Westlake. The landscape design for the new development is complimentary of the Hangzhou wetlands, immersing it within what is already present,” said Woods Bagot Senior Associate Ian Hau.

Recognised by the Bureau as the most innovative scheme for the regional development, Woods Bagot’s Super-Green design features will contribute to the creation of a low carbon community with revolutionary standards for ecological efficiency.

“This project will be another significant breakthrough in terms of ecological design, but its development is also pivotal to the rejuvenation of Hangzhou itself. Combining local traditional culture with innovative green

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design elements, this is a venture that will not only create jobs but make the city an exciting place to live or visit," added Hau.

A major factor in the creation of Xixi's low carbon community will be the introduction of a major sustainable transportation system. An extensive network for walking and cycling across the district allows for a significant reduction in the use of heavily carbon-emitting forms of transport. This green infrastructure will combine with major renewal sites and wetland ecology schemes to lower water demands and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

With a total site area of just over 35km², the Xixi Wetland International Tourism region will be dominated by 13km² of wetlands. The area planned by Woods Bagot comprises over 7km² of residential space and nearly 5km² of public and civil facilities, supported by a sophisticated network of roads.

With sustained investment in the city's infrastructure and green industries promoting Hangzhou's financial growth, it is set to become a major player in the global economy. The development of the Xixi Wetland International Tourism Region has the opportunity to be a catalyst for the regeneration of the city, further amplifying its appeal as an exceptional tourist destination.

"This is a major project win for Woods Bagot. Our involvement in high profile developments like the Xixi Wetland International Tourism Region demonstrates our reputation as an industry leader and our ability to work on projects of a grand scale in mainland China," said Woods Bagot's Regional Managing Principal, Stephen Jones.

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PROJECT SUMMARY: Xixi Wetland International Tourism Region Masterplan, Hangzhou China

After a competition stage for the high profile project, the Hangzhou Planning Bureau selected the Woods Bagot scheme. The Xixi Park Region is the heart of the development precinct. The vision for the project put forward a plan of repositioning the Xixi Park Region to be a tourist magnet like Hangzhou's Westlake. The masterplan introduced four key character districts with carefully balancing urbanisation and the ecology of the wetland. In supporting over 2 million m² visitor accommodation, several key catalysts for development were introduced; global cultural activities, local culture, heritage, entertainment and destination retail.

ABOUT WOODS BAGOT

Woods Bagot's commitment to global excellence has resulted in a workforce of 500 staff based in five regions, in cities such as Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Sydney, Beijing, Hong Kong, London and most recently San Francisco, New York and Shanghai. Woods Bagot has also announced planning permission for what will be one of the world's most luxurious hotels at 10 Trinity Square, London and unveiled plans for the Middle East's tallest tower – at more than 1km high – in Dubai.

Woods Bagot's Australian studios have recently completed several award-winning flagship projects, including ivy, Sydney (with collaborative partners HP&G and Merivale), Qantas International First Lounges (with collaborative partners Marc Newson and Sebastien Segers) and the University of Western Australia Business School, Perth. Recently unveiled by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Premier Mike Rann, Woods Bagot Adelaide has also designed the new \$200 million South Australian Health & Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI).

For all further information, interview requests or more images please contact:

Anika McLaren
Woods Bagot (Australia)
+61 2 9249 2579
anika.mclaren@woodsbagot.com

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