Steven Holl Architects’ Horizontal Skyscraper (Vanke Center) Wins 2011 AIA Institute Honor Award

New York City, January 10th, 2011 – Steven Holl Architects has been awarded a 2011 AIA Institute Honor Award for Architecture for the Horizontal Skyscraper in Shenzhen, China.

“This project skips along from mound to mound and manipulates the landscape – it builds it up and shapes it into a powerful form above the land with inventive manipulation. The building is shading the landscape and letting it breath – integrated sustainability. A reinvented building type with the building floating over the landscape – dancing on the landscape.” – AIA Jury

The Horizontal Skyscraper is an innovative example of the large-scale, hybrid use building, which challenges the usual developer typologies. The building hovers above a
tropical landscape, freeing it for public use and for a unique scheme of ecosystem restoration. People in the surrounding community have already begun inhabiting this new type of public space for leisure. By lifting the building off the ground, the project is both a building and a landscape, a delicate intertwining of sophisticated engineering and the natural environment.

Suspended on eight cores, as far as 50 meters apart, the building’s structure is a combination of cable-stay bridge technology merged with a high-strength concrete frame. The first structure of its type, it has tension cables carrying a record load of 3280 tons.

The project employs some of the most forward-thinking sustainable design strategies. It utilizes greywater recycling, rain water harvesting, green roofs, dynamically controlled operable louvers, and high-performing glass. 1400 square meter of photovoltaic panels installed on the roof of the building provide 12.5 percent of the total electric energy demand for Vanke Headquarters. Renewable materials are used throughout the Vanke Headquarters for doors, floors, and furniture.

The Horizontal Skyscraper has been honored with several other prestigious awards including the AIA NY Architecture Honor Award, the Green Good Design Award, and was named Best Green Project in the Good Design Is Good Business Awards.

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**Steven Holl Architects** has realized cultural, civic, academic and residential projects both in the United States and internationally. Steven Holl Architects (SHA) is a 45 person architecture and urban design office founded in 1976, and working globally as one office from two locations: New York City and Beijing. Steven Holl leads the office with partners Chris McVoy (New York) and Li Hu (Beijing). Most recently completed are the Linked Hybrid mixed-use complex (Beijing, China), named 2009 Best Tall Building Overall by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH); the Knut Hamsun Center (Hamarøy, Norway), the Herning Museum of Contemporary Art (Herning, Denmark); and the Horizontal Skyscraper-Vanke Center (Shenzhen, China). Currently in construction are the Nanjing Museum of Art and Architecture (Nanjing, China), Beirut Marina (Beirut, Lebanon), Cité de l’Océan et du Surf with Solange Fabião (Biarritz, France), the Daeyang House and Gallery (Seoul, Korea); and the large mixed-use complex in Chengdu, China: the Sliced Porosity Block.

For more information on the work of Steven Holl Architects, please visit [www.stevenholl.com](http://www.stevenholl.com) or contact press@stevenholl.com.


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