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EXPO PLACE












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Expo Place

Shanghai, China

The Expo Place complex transforms a once-disjointed portion of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo grounds into a vibrant, mixed-use urban district. Following the Expo—an event that welcomed 73 million visitors and announced China's global emergence—the site was left with a patchwork of temporary pavilions, abandoned infrastructure and limited long-term vision. Early attempts to convert the area into a massive single-use hotel zone proved unsuccessful, leaving half-built foundations and a prime development opportunity without a consistent draw.

The project reimagines this zone within the former Expo site as a connected, human-scaled neighborhood that considers the site's past while enabling meaningful future growth. Existing below-grade structures and caissons were carefully studied, retained and adaptively reused. This strategy not only minimized waste but also provided a foundation for a new mixed-use program. Above ground, a fully integrated urban center is composed of twin Class A office towers, boutique office villas, layered retail and two hotels—including Asia's first Thompson-branded property and a Mumian hotel. Below ground are direct connections to active retail space.

A central design goal was to create a contemporary town center where daily life naturally unfolds. The architecture avoids a monolithic mega-development aesthetic; instead, each building adopts its own character. Activated pedestrian streets, sunken plazas and multilevel indoor-outdoor connections mirror the intimate scale of old Shanghai alleyways while accommodating modern circulation needs.

Natural landscape weaves through the project, from ground-level public spaces to lush rooftop gardens and outdoor dining terraces. Vehicular circulation is pushed to the perimeter and separated across multiple levels, creating a protected pedestrian realm and seamless links to mass transit. The result is a lively, day-to-night urban town center where living, working and leisure activities coexist in a highly walkable setting.

Project Data

SIZE

2,021,900 sf total

1,011,800 sf office
762,500 sf hotel
247,600 sf retail

FEATURES

254-key Thompson hotel
332-key Mumian hotel

CLIENT

China Resources Land Limited (CR Land)

Recognition & News

RECOGNITION

2026 Award of Excellence, Urban Habitat – Council on Vertical Urbanism China

2026 Award of Excellence, Best Hotel Building, Thompson Shanghai Expo – Council on Vertical Urbanism China

2026 Gold Award, Office Building, Comprehensive Commercial Project – China Real Estate & Design Award (CREDAWARD)

NEWS

Expo Place Completion Marks a New Chapter for Shanghai's Former World Expo Grounds