

A Ribbon Runs Through It

A curved wall winds through the award-winning offices of Keppel Energy in Singapore, linking functions, stimulating interaction and energizing business





M Moser Associates is an interior architecture firm specializing in the design and delivery of corporate offices and work support facilities.

With more than 300 staff comprised of architects, designers, engineers, technology specialists and construction managers, the firm serves a distinguished group of clients from nine offices in Asia, the U.K. and the U.S.A.

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M Moser's award-winning design for Keppel Energy's new offices in Singapore is inspirational *and* functional.

At the beginning, a firm goal was set - to create a work environment that matches Keppel Energy's dynamic vision and stimulates staff to perform with passion, motivation and focus. "The interior had to personify energy, respond to a fantastic location and actively engage people", notes Charles Corley, who heads M Moser's Singapore office.

The approach is twofold: (1) to relate the internal and external environments using organic forms, framed views and natural materials; and (2) to employ contrasting geometries that invigorate the office and set minds in motion.

A curved, winding wall is the primary design element. Beginning at the entry, it leads visitors and staff into and through the space. It serves as an orientation mechanism that links the functional spaces, namely the reception, the breakout area, the meeting rooms and the general workspace. It also gestures beyond the building perimeter, towards the surrounding landscape and Sentosa Island in the distance.

The breakout space is a strategically located 'oasis' and the nexus of work-related activities in the office. A counterpoint to Sentosa, it can be approached from all sides and is intended for use by staff and visitors alike.

"The focus on amenities reflects Keppel Energy's desire to provide staff with ample opportunities to interact spontaneously and share knowledge", says Corley. This openness is apparent - visitors gain an immediate cue regarding Keppel Energy's progressive identity and values.

Within the office, people circulate between rectilinear external walls and

curvilinear internal elements. Judging from the heightened level of activity, these contrasting geometries put people in a creative mood. "The interplay of elements forms a dynamic field for business activity," observes Corley.

The layout of the general work areas is also open, with appealing outward views. Workstations are arranged in small clusters to economize space and maximize work area per staff member. "Our approach is comprehensive", continues Corley. "The design of every space corresponds with the specific needs of its users, just as the overall concept is a response to the client's unique business goals."

Opposite: *The break-out area is a gravitational center in the office; it is an interactive locus that can be approached from all sides.*

Below series: *Contrasting geometries support a dynamic work environment, while hovering walls and recessed ceiling panels create the experience of continuous space.*

Below center: *Located along a curved wall, the reception features exciting external views and is a launching point into the office.*



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