

Bangkok Skyline – Concept Phase

Bangkok, Thailand



An innovative urban connectivity and placemaking concept for an elevated public walkway above congested streets in the heart of Ratchaprasong, Bangkok's central shopping district.

BEFORE

- Ratchaprasong's Ratchadamri Road is lined for a half mile by department stores, shopping malls, hotels, transit stations, and CentralWorld Square, the city's New Years' celebration gathering place.
- The very wide road is often choked with vehicles and sidewalks are impassably crowded with foot traffic and unlicensed vendors.
- Despite heavy pedestrian use, sidewalks are unshaded in intense sun, unsheltered in heavy rains, and are littered with pavement hazards.
- Buildings share little in frontage treatment or architectural expression, resulting in a weak place identity that belies costly real estate and Bangkok's prominence among Asian cities.



Existing roadway and sidewalk congestion on Ratchadamri Road, the latter in large part due to the persistence of unlicensed sidewalk vendor stalls.

ASSIGNMENTS

- Work with a consortium of property owners and authorities to develop a pedestrian "skyline" structure to connect destinations and bring about an improved walking experience much faster than the city administration could.
- Develop a signature district placemaking design with individual frontage treatments that still addresses ground-level pedestrian sidewalk access.
- Connect with the BTS Skytrain station to the south, span over Ratchadamri Road's 7 lanes at midpoint, and cross the historic Sansaeb canal and connect to the ferry boat station to the north.
- Add opportunities for elevated walkway seating, plazas, eating areas, stairways, grand entries and landscaping to create a lively public realm and not just an elevated "chute" for pedestrians (often found elsewhere in Bangkok).

OUTCOMES

Concepts presented to owners and government agencies.

- Refined design concepts, budget estimates and schedules were presented to owners, the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority, and the Bangkok Mass Transit System (BTS Skytrain).

CLIENT: Gaysorn Land Asset Management, Crown Properties, S.P.T. Management, and other consortium owners

IN COLLABORATION WITH: Dr. Peeradorn Keawlai, Architects 49 International, KCS & Associates Co., Ltd., KPK QS (Thailand) Co., Ltd., Optimum Consultants, Projects Asia, Ltd.



Aerial perspective of the concept for the Bangkok Skyline (shown with paving in yellow and roofing in aqua), consisting of a half-mile sequence of public-use elevated walkways, plazas and pedestrian bridges extending between the Ploenchit BTS station (at right) and the Klong Sansaeb (at left) ferry stop, and connecting entrances of major of Ratchaprasong District shopping malls, hotels, department stores and entertainment venues.



Above Left: Concept for the Skyline elevated walkway with a landmark pavilion tower structure and plaza along a future commercial development site and public park.

Below Left: Concept for a Skyline pedestrian bridge across Ratchadamri Road, including a landmark tower.

Right: A canal-side segment of the Skyline along Klong Sansaeb, attached to the frontage of a multistory shopping mall. The profile lines of the roof and columns are inspired by a Thai mythological bird.



The Skyline concept looking north on Ratchadamri Road. Connecting buildings would open upper-level entrances to the Skyline as well as maintaining their existing ground level doors. While the Skyline maintains a consistent colonnade of white posts along its entire length, the architecture of each segment varies with that of each building frontage.