

Construction progresses at OUB Tower 2, designed by Kenzo Tange's son

With completion due next year, construction of the 38 storey addition to the Overseas Union Bank Centre in Singapore is well underway. The original and now landmark 280 m OUB Tower was designed by Japanese Architect Kenzo Tange, and much celebrated upon its completion in 1988 as the tallest building outside of the United States. Now the bank is extending its building portfolio and the task was passed to Kenzo's son, Paul Tange, to design OUB Tower 2. Upon completion of the new 205 m tower, the whole complex will be renamed One Raffles Place.

Providing approximately 350,000 sq ft of prime office space in Singapore's CBD, the new tower is designed as a smaller unique tower which complements the original with its crystalline features. The father and son partnership is clear in the design of the tower. Stood very closely side by side, the new tower is smaller and its transparency provides a fresher, more youthful appearance.

Each floor of Tower 2 has approximately 11,000 sq ft of floorspace, freed up in part by the column-less floorplate design. Showing the progression of building design since Kenzo Tange's tower was completed, the new tower will also meet tough environmental criteria, being Green Mark certified. Full height glazing to a tapering point and diagonal exterior columns complete the prismic design.

Talking to journalists when the tower broke ground in 2008 Paul Tange said: "This is a special project for me as my father, Kenzo Tange, designed the original OUB Centre tower more than two decades ago. It was one of his first skyscrapers and is still considered by architectural experts to be one of the top 100 skyscrapers in the world.

"The new tower is very faithful to the proportions of the original tower. The diagonal planes of the new building relate directly to the spacing of the windows in the original OUB Centre, while the triangular peak is exactly the same height as the lower level of the original tower."

