

A French touch on Lisboa Palace

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From its offices in the United States of America, design firm WATG will manage the exterior design scheme of the Lisboa Palace – SJM’s first project in the Cotai Strip. Mrs Sharmila Tankha, the lead architect of the development and Associate Vice-President of WATG, told the Times that the architectural composition is inspired by royal French buildings such as the Louvre and the Opera Garnier.

Replying to the Times via email, the architect said that although the design will

be inspired by French royal houses dating back to between the 17th and 19th centuries, the Lisboa Palace design “does not imitate or replicate them.”

The team will focus on the development of the exterior design of the casino and all three hotel towers: the Lisboa Palace Hotel, the Palazzo Versace and another fashion-branded hotel yet to be announced. The firm is also responsible for the design scheme of the layout of all guest areas’ interior spaces.

“The design vision for this development was to create a magnificent, palatial setting for the guests of Lisboa Palace to enjoy, reflecting the Western cultures that have touched Macau’s history over the centuries,” Mrs Sharmila Tankha revealed, adding that behind these features lie “auspicious symbols of good fortune, longevity and well-being used in the Chinese culture.” Carved pediments, decorative grills over windows, and embellished entryways will be used to represent the Chinese culture in a “Chinoiserie” style.

Mrs Sharmila Tankha said she could not disclose any details on the interior designs, but mentioned that the exterior of the palazzo versace would feature design details of the dragon paired with chrysanthemum; the second fashion-branded hotel will pair the phoenix with the peony; and the Lisboa Palace will feature the crane and peach blossom.

The lead architect on the project added that distinctive decorative motifs were intended to give “each hotel its own identity.”

As the design architect of the project, the company is coordinating with consultants and experts, such as landscape architects and lighting designers. They will also be working with mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineers, as well as code consultants, in charge of liaising with Macau’s government department on planning.

Hong Kong-based Urbis will design the surrounding gardens. According to Mrs Sharmila Tankha, these will also be influenced by royal French gardens, “integrated with the Chinese symbols (...) represented in fountains and pavement patterns.”

As for the interior of the Lisboa Palace Hotel, WATG’s design group, Wimberley Interiors, will be in charge of its design.

The Lisboa Palace design was unveiled earlier this month in a ground-breaking ceremony. The development ensures that SJM (Sociedade de Jogos de Macau) is one step closer to expanding its footprint in the Cotai Strip.

Lisboa Palace involves an investment of HKD30 billion – HKD5 billion more than initially planned. Having already unveiled the project model, SJM revealed that the Palace would initially be built on a 70,500-square-meter block of land. The first part of the model, however, will only be developed during a later stage, possibly on a neighboring plot belonging to SJM's executive director, Mrs Angela Leong.