



*For Immediate Release*

## **Asymptote Architecture Wins Competition to Build the World Business Center Solomon Tower in South Korea**

**Busan, South Korea**—Asymptote Architecture, the New York-based architecture practice led by principals Hani Rashid and Lise Anne Couture, has been commissioned to build the World Business Center Solomon Tower through an international design competition. The competition was organized by the Busan International Architectural Culture Festival (BIACF) and sponsored by the Municipality of Busan City and the Solomon Group, a private Korean developer. The official announcement was made in Busan on January 25, 2007 after a unanimous decision by the jury members to select Asymptote's groundbreaking design of three separate, tapered towers rising out of a robust and powerful base building. The Solomon Group intends to begin construction on the tower in 2009; at 560m, the building will be among the tallest in Asia.

Asymptote's design for the World Business Center Solomon Tower, a single building comprising three distinct towers, effectively questions older notions of singularity and autonomy in tall building design. The composition was inspired by Busan's dramatic situation as a modern skyline set against a striking backdrop of mountains and sea. The fifty-story base building negotiates both the site and city, transporting visitors upward to a sky lobby and gardens with awe-inspiring views of the surrounding city and expansive natural vistas. It is from this vantage point that the three slender towers rise even higher, gracefully tapering upwards surrounding a spectacular central voided space and the sky gardens. The tallest tower expresses the inherent structural elegance of the scheme as a whole, and through the entire building's elegant, formal and sculptural manifestation, the project provides Busan and Korea with a unique, symbolic and unparalleled architectural expression for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **About Asymptote: Hani Rashid + Lise Anne Couture**

Hani Rashid and Lise Anne Couture are leading architectural practitioners of their generation whose innovative work and academic contributions have received international acclaim. Since Asymptote's founding in 1989, the firm has been at the forefront of technological innovation in the field of architecture and design and garnered praise for visionary building designs, large-scale master plans, innovative interiors, art installations, virtual reality environments and object design.

In addition to the Azzano-San Paolo Master Plan Asymptote is currently working on a broad range of commissions at sites in the United States, Europe and Asia including the World Business Center Solomon Tower in Busan, South Korea, a skyscraper that will be among the tallest in Asia at 560m; a luxury residential building in New York city that is near completion; two contemporary art pavilions commissioned by The Guggenheim Foundation for the Cultural District of Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi; and The Yas Hotel, a luxury hotel integral to the new Formula 1 raceway circuit in Abu Dhabi that opened October 2009. In 2000 Hani Rashid represented the United States at the Venice Biennale of Architecture and in 2004 Hani Rashid and Lise Anne Couture were awarded the Frederick Kiesler Prize for Architecture and the Arts given in recognition of exceptional contributions to the progress and merging of the fields and disciplines of art and architecture.

*For further information contact:*

Eamon Tobin, Asymptote Architecture  
press@asymptote.net  
Phone: 212.343.7333  
www.asymptote.net  
twitter@ASYmptote\_