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CAZA's City Center Tower Opens in the Philippines

By Will Speros • December 19, 2016



A departure from commonplace office structures, the building includes a series of concentric circles across the horizontal axes of each level. All images courtesy of Frank Callaghan/CAZA Architects.

Brooklyn-based Carlos Arnaiz Architects (CAZA) has announced the launch of its City Center Tower in downtown Manila in the Philippines. Ascending 27 stories, the mixed-use structure houses three floors of commercial retail as well as various corporate offices. Tenants include American human resources firm Wallace, Google's Filipino headquarters, and Globe Telecom, the largest telecommunications syndicate in the Philippines.

CAZA's design provides users with new experiences through its unique geometries, demonstrating a departure from more commonplace office structures. A series of concentric circles extend across the horizontal axes

of each level, marrying the facade's structured cube shape with a freeform, organic wave pattern.



Images courtesy of Frank Callaghan/CAZA Architects.

“In the last fifteen years, office development in the Philippines has experienced an unthinkable explosion due to the arrival of the BPO industry,” said Principal and Founder Carlos Arnaiz. “As architects, we are searching for an expression of this new sociocultural paradigm. The City Center Tower could be one of the first projects in the Philippines that represents the changing nature of the workplace, where nature and offices interact in this 24-hour cycle—accentuating the reality of how the BPO office environment operates.”

The double-height lobby welcomes visitors, circumscribed by two floors of retail that convey the vivacity of the environment. Elevated parking areas are situated above these public sections, while a lofted fifth-floor restaurant rests atop the parking area, overlooking the building's adjacent park via an expansive balcony outfitted with hammocks, lounge spaces, and an urban beach.



Image courtesy of Frank Callaghan/CAZA Architects.

Offices are located above the public facilities, with each floor designed with a concentric pattern layered to compose the building's wave-like exterior. Bulging metallic balconies are included as well as lush greenery that welcomes employees to reorient themselves within the metropolitan setting.