

A free-form three-dimensional garden
How biodiversity can be designed into the center of the world's densest cities.

Green Heart
in Marina One
Gustafson Porter
+ Bowman
Marina Bay, Singapore
2018

The high-density, mixed-use complex lies in Singapore's new Marina Bay financial district. The outer faces of Marina One's four towers resemble numerous city buildings, their footprint adhering to the city grid. However, the inner space tells a different story. Maximized to incorporate soft landscapes into the fabric of the buildings, the facades are lush with vegetation at ground level, layered with green sky terraces and leafy public spaces on the rooftops. At the center of the inner space is the Green Heart, designed by landscape architects Gustafson Porter + Bowman. Retaining a human scale in what is essentially a skyscraper, a winding ramp allows visitors and residents to ascend from ground level surrounded by verdant flora. Openings between the high-rises, sky gardens, and elevated towers improve the airflow to create a comfortable microclimate within the multiple levels of the central garden. The Green Heart and the greater Marina One complex demonstrate a new form of urbanism, where vast green public spaces can bring a breath of fresh air into dense, humid cities.



Left: The geometry of the buildings combined with the gardens creates natural ventilation and pockets of sunlight.

Right: The architecture is inspired by the way the climate changes at different vertical levels in a rainforest.