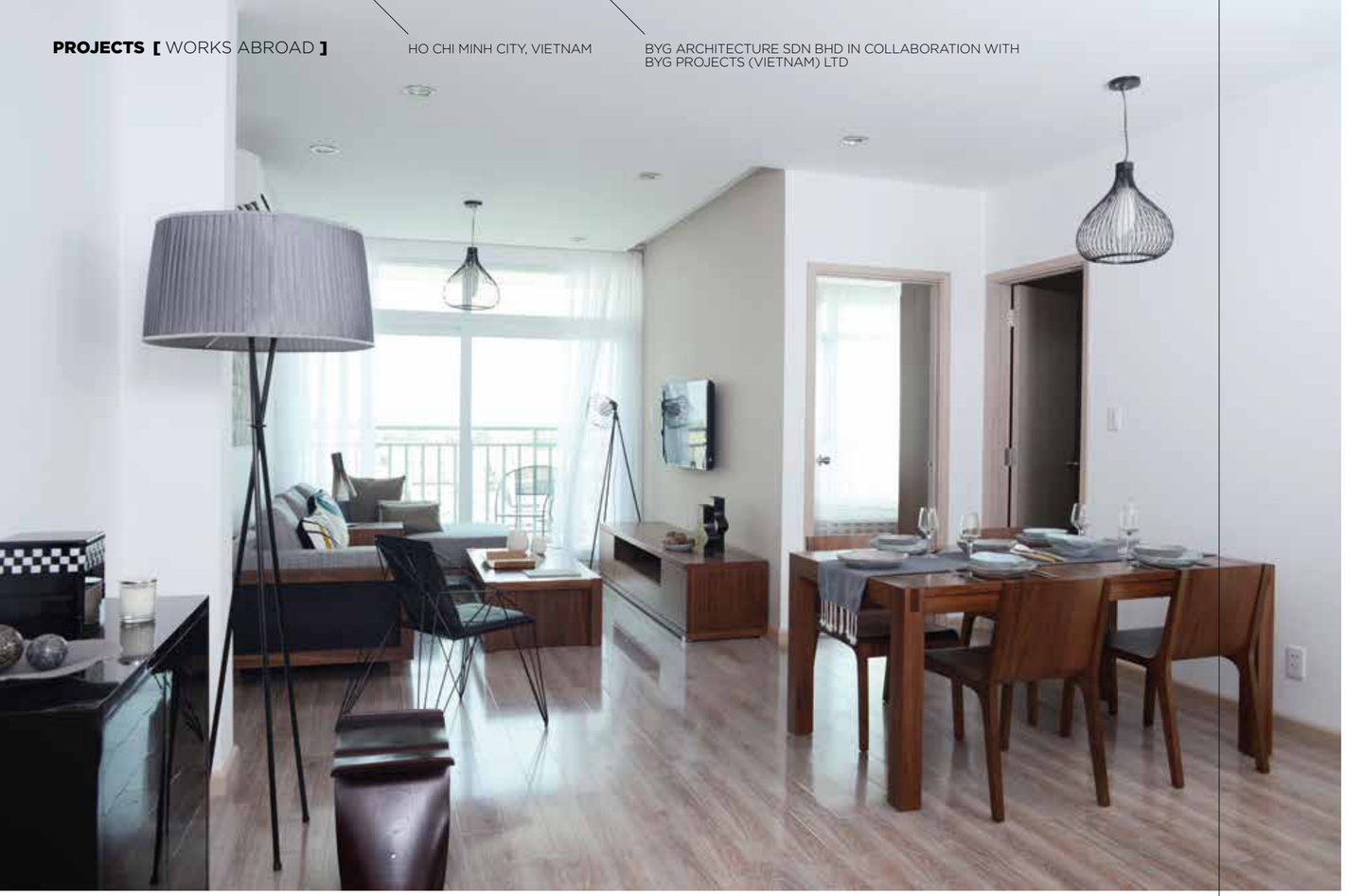
HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

BYG ARCHITECTURE SDN BHD IN COLLABORATION WITH
BYG PROJECTS (VIETNAM) LTD



S.E.M RESIDENCE

How does one design a modern contemporary apartment building that is sited among a mass of structures designed with classical features? The design of the S.E.M Residence approaches this by subtly integrating elements from both typologies.

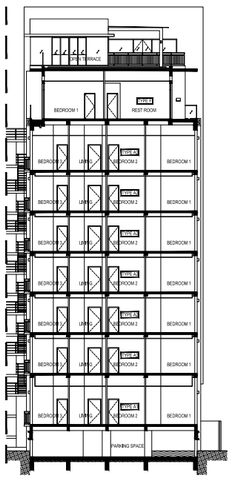
View towards the living and dining area of Type A unit

Located in Thao Dien, District 2, Ho Chi Minh City, this contemporary serviced apartment serves as an extension to an existing condominium, the Hang Frank Condominium, and serves to provide the comforts of home living for short and long-term visitors. Ironically, the existing Hang Frank Condo is a modern classical building replete with a marble-clad façade and round columns arches, which is a far cry from contemporary architecture.

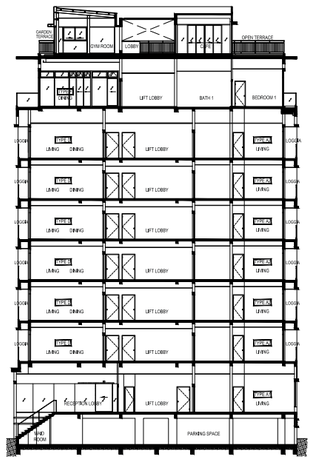
S.E.M Residence was designed with modern and spacious family suites that are complete with common facilities, and immediately draws one's attention away from the general overall mass of the buildings within its vicinity. However, some classical architectural elements of the Hang Frank Condo were deliberately yet subtly integrated into S.E.M Residence, thus creating complementary rather than a contradictory and total separation between the two different architectural typologies.

The S.E.M Residence consists of 9 floors with a sub-basement and has a total built-up area of 3,250 sqm. Facilities include a convenience shop and a launderette at the ground floor while the café, outdoor café and gym room are placed on the rooftop. The 27 apartments are designed as 6 different unit types; Type A with 3 bedrooms with a total area of 100 sqm; Type B with 2 bedrooms with a total area of 70 sqm; Type C with only one bedroom with a total area of 61 sqm; Type D also with one bedroom with a total area of 60 sqm; Type E also with one bedroom with a slightly bigger total area of 68 sqm, and the penthouse on the top floor with a total area of 302 sqm. There are 7 units of Type A, 6 units each for Type B, C and D, one unit of Type E and one penthouse.

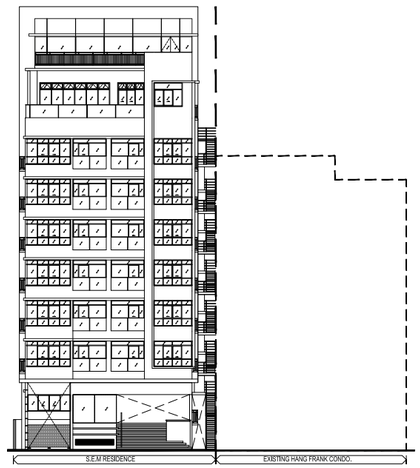
The colours of the Hang Frank Condo are also introduced to S.E.M Residence, apart from new toned-down colours such as beige and



SECTION X-X



SECTION Y-Y



FRONT ELEVATION

0m 5m 10m

CLIENTS
MAI LONG PHUOC CO LTD

LOCATION
HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

YEAR COMPLETED
FEBRUARY 2013

ARCHITECT
BYG ARCHITECTURE SDN BHD IN COLLABORATION WITH BYG PROJECTS (VIETNAM) LTD

PROJECT PRINCIPAL
Ar BEN YEOH GUAN BENG, Ar MICHAEL ONG CHIN KEONG AND Ar TEO CHU KHWAI

PROJECT TEAM
Ar BEN YEOH GUAN BENG, Ar MICHAEL ONG CHIN KEONG, ANG TOK MENG, HUYNH NGUYEN XUAN VI, DENNIS YEOH

SITE AREA
433 SQM

BUILT-UP AREA
3,250 SQM

C&S ENGINEER
CHAN PHUONG ENGINEERING JOINT STOCK COMPANY

M&E ENGINEERS
CHAN PHUONG ENGINEERING JOINT STOCK COMPANY

QUANTITY SURVEYOR
CHAN PHUONG ENGINEERING JOINT STOCK COMPANY

INTERIOR DESIGNER
BYG ARCHITECTURE SDN BHD IN COLLABORATION WITH BYG PROJECTS (VIETNAM) LTD

CONTRACTOR
TRAVICO LTD CO (TRAN VIET CONSTRUCTION LIMITED COMPANY)

PHOTOGRAPHER
ANG TOK MENG, HUYNH NGUYEN XUAN VI, DANG NHAT LINH, NGUYEN HOA HUNG

The architeture of S.E.M Residence is compatible in scale with the design of the older adjacent Hang Frank Condo

ABOVE: Bedroom in Type A unit; BELOW: The gym room is served with garden terrace and a dynamic view of the Ho Chi Minh City

white with dramatic touches of dark brown to accentuate the 2 'L' shape feature walls. In essence, the two structures of the Hang Frank Condo and S.E.M Residence, whilst set apart by contrasting colours, are easily distinguished as one. Pure and clean lines characterize the general façade of the serviced apartment, whilst large openings provide natural light to the interior spaces, also allowing residents a commanding view towards Ho Chi Minh City or Saigon River. With daylight, the richness and warmth of the interior spaces are enhanced to create a cosy, welcoming and inviting effect.

The constraints of height and space limitations made the project challenging for the architects, but the eventual results proved satisfying, with the typical layout plan achieving a high level of space efficiency without compromising the comfort of usable spaces. ▪

ABOVE: Living area in Type C and D units; BELOW: Soft and hard landscaping complement the entrance