

SAMSUNG JONG-NO TOWER

Seoul, South Korea



April 2016

Dissatisfied with the design of its 20-story tower being built in Seoul, Korea, Samsung Corporation halted construction and launched a limited design competition in 1994, hoping to salvage the 17 stories of steel frame and concrete floor slabs that had already been erected. Rafael Viñoly Architects won by rethinking the program and creating three unique, but linked, building volumes. The resulting design is a mixed-use facility incorporating offices, entertainment, and an iconic restaurant volume suspended at the top, making the tower an instantly recognizable city landmark.

The 12-story ground-floor volume, built from the preexisting floor slabs, faces the city center with a convex structural glass curtain wall and contains open-plan offices. Rooftop terraces on this volume provide tenants with an expansive view of the city. Separated from the lower offices by two floors of mechanical space, Rafael Viñoly Architects designed an eight-story rectangular volume that houses further office areas, but is distinguished from the lower structure. A circular, tube-like stair and elevator core rises at each of the three corners of the roughly triangle-shaped building, extending above the office blocks to support the “cloud,” a double-height restaurant, which floats above the city skyline for 360-degree views.

RAFAEL VIÑOLY ARCHITECTS

FACTS + FIGURES

Completion

1999

Size

55,740 gsm

Awards

Special Merit, Benedictus Award, DuPont, 2000

Media Coverage

INSIDE JoongAng Daily,
“Samsung Jong-no Tower,” March 2003

Client

Samsung Corporation

Consultants

MEP Engineer
WSP

Structural Engineer

Dewhurst Macfarlane & Partners
Structural Design Group

Structural Engineer of Record

Samoo Architects & Engineers

Landscape Architect

Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company, LLC

Acoustics / AV / Security Consultant

Shen Milsom & Wilke, Inc.

Retail Architect

CallisonRTKL

Lighting Designer

Hillman Dibernardo &
Associates Inc.

Specifications Writer

Robert Schwartz & Associates

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