

The Butterfly and FBC (First Baptist Church complex)

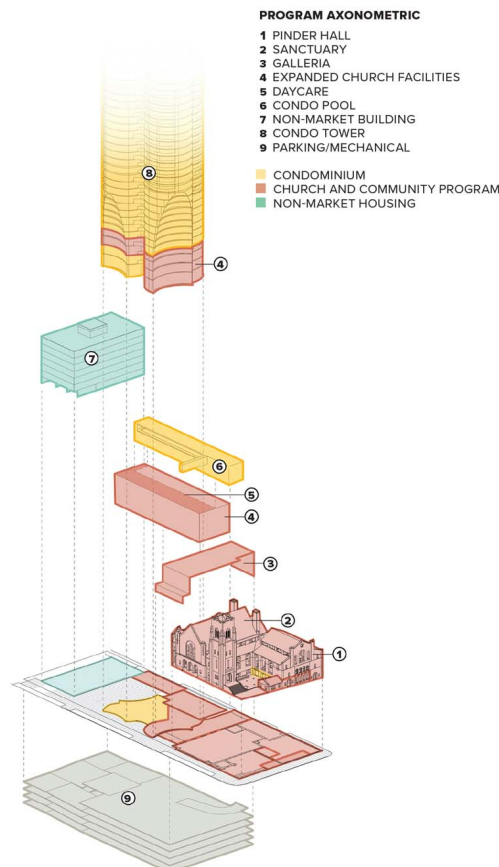
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How do we bring biophilic design into towers? This 57-storey building essentially eliminates interior corridor space, instead including an outdoor breezeway that extends vertically to a very tall height. This brings natural ventilation and a communal connection to the outdoors through the core of the building, and introduces the possibility of cross-ventilation at higher elevations. It's an innovative move that pushes the envelope of the tower typology. -Jury Comment



Old downtown churches and new luxury condominium towers may sound like strange bedfellows, but in this case, each has something to offer the other—and the community benefits as well. The Butterfly and First Baptist Church (FBC) development is the symbiotic union of a 1911 church on prime Vancouver real estate and a new 57-storey luxury residential tower.



An expanded podium level, landscaped areas, and galleria spaces are closely integrated with FBC's heritage building. Along with seismic and code upgrades, the restoration of its sanctuary interior and the rehabilitation of other parts of the church, what FBC gets out of the partnership is a new multi-level space for a 37-space daycare facility; community support spaces offering counselling, meals, emergency care and shelter programs; and café, administrative, and multi-purpose community spaces, including a new gymnasium. Additionally, FBC will operate a new seven-storey affordable rental/social housing building that will be incorporated into the development, doubling its previous rental capacity; it will include rooftop community gardens, an outdoor kitchen, and landscaped playgrounds.



Inspired by the shapes of clouds, the 57-storey Butterfly tower includes a weave of residential units, deep-set balconies, and outdoor sky gardens on each floor.

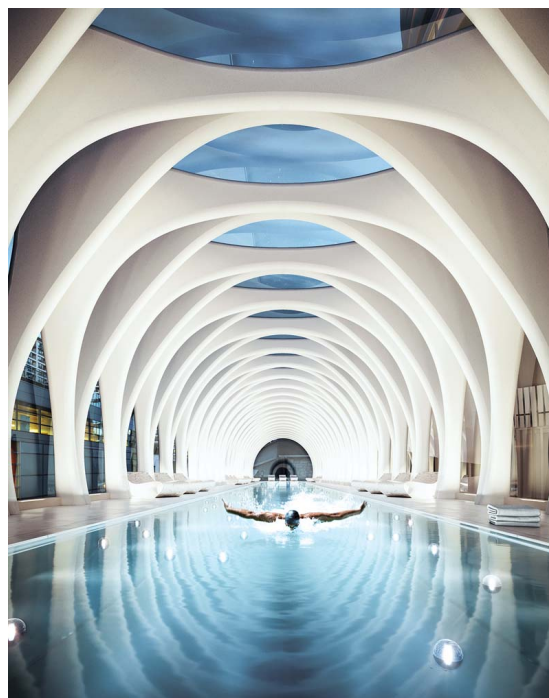
The architects state that the tower is named The Butterfly to reflect the spirit of transformation and to “celebrate the constant nature of change and the passage of time.” They add that the undulating forms of the façade’s insulated precast concrete panels are inspired by ephemeral clouds, while the fluted chamfers of the tower’s base carve out public realm space in shapes recalling the pipes of First Baptist Church’s historic organ.



The semi-private sky gardens invite residents to reconnect with nature high above the ground plane, and encourage neighbourliness and social interaction.

Outdoor sky gardens on each level of The Butterfly provide semi-private space where neighbours on each floor can socialize and connect with nature, without leaving the building. In addition to promoting neighbourliness in a building typology that typically functions more like a series of silos than a hive, these sky gardens improve opportunities for natural cooling, ventilation, and daylighting. In comparison with conventional enclosed corridors, they can reduce overall energy demands while enhancing occupant comfort.

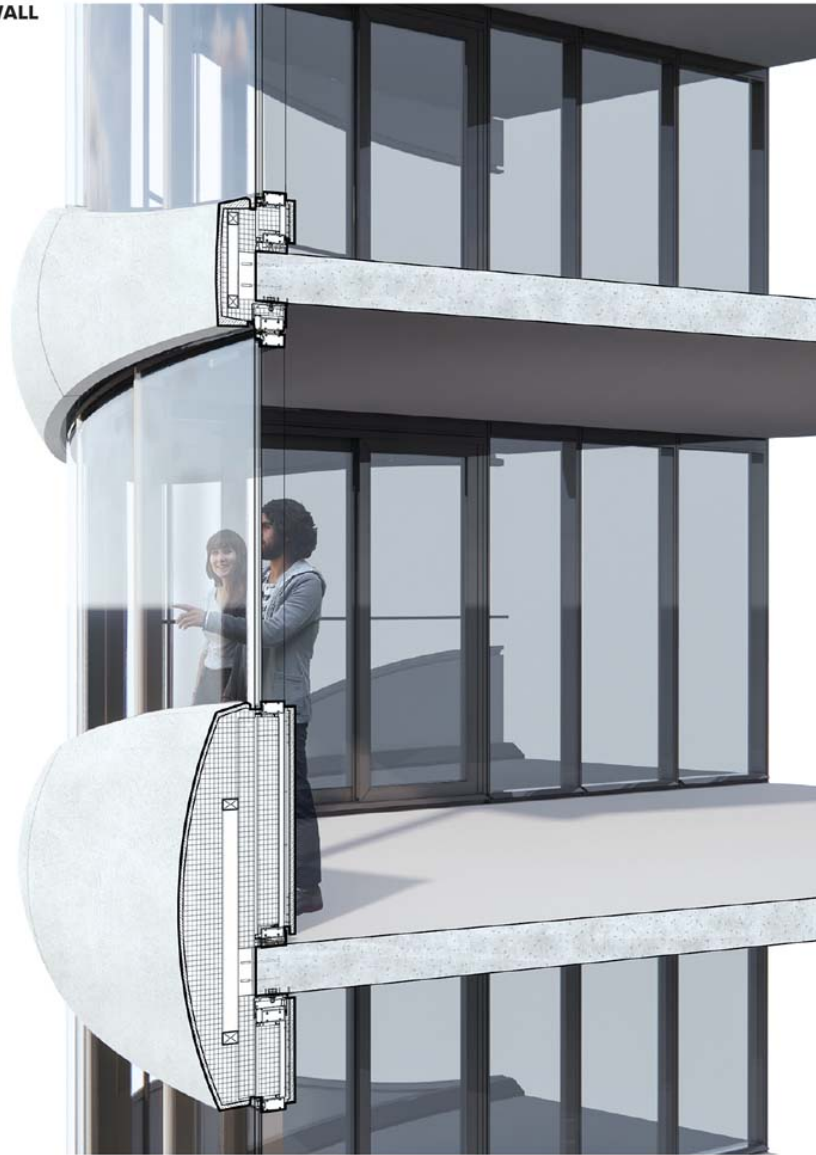
Inside the suites, spaces suitable for use as either second bedrooms or dens are enclosed with curtained, fully glazed partitions, offering flexible use while optimizing views and natural light within.



The Butterfly's Olympic-length pool is crowned by a sculptural arched roof, created from modular prefabricated structural ribs to reduce costs and construction time.

The show-stopping shared amenity for The Butterfly's residents is a two-lane, 50-metre-long pool that bridges the podium roof and the tower's main amenity space. The structural ribs of the pool's sculptural vault—made of modular prefabricated precast concrete—conceal mechanical and sprinkler services for air supply, condensation control, and fire protection.

**TYPICAL WALL
SECTION**



All new construction is designed to meet LEED Gold standards and the project will include an on-site low-carbon district energy plant. The Butterfly and FBC aims to meet or exceed City of Vancouver requirements for building and energy performance, sustainable site design, access to nature, green mobility, water efficiency and stormwater management, zero waste planning, and affordable housing.



TYPICAL 8-UNIT FLOOR PLAN



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