

Guoco Midtown to create 30 thematic gardens in Singapore's CBD

The greenery will span 3.8 hectares of the mixed-use mega-development on Beach Road

By Vivienne Tay
vtay@sph.com.sg
@VivienneTayBT

Singapore

GUOCOLAND is weaving 30 gardens into a patch of Singapore's concrete jungle, as more developers take up the challenge to embed "green" features into their projects.

Through its second flagship integrated mixed-use development Guoco Midtown, the property developer looks to create the most extensive privately-developed collection of gardens in the central business district (CBD), it said on Sunday in a press statement.

The gardens and public spaces will span 3.8 hectares from the ground floor to the rooftops of the towers. Ten out of the 30 thematic gardens will be publicly accessible, GuocoLand said. The gardens will also feature more than 350 species of plants, including several rare and endangered native species.

Among the thematic gardens is a Native Garden, which houses native plants and orchids; Midtown Market has a hanging garden over a public space; Forest Giants Walk has tropical forest trees; Water Garden features waterside plants; as well as Eucalyptus Plaza which is for people and cyclists to rest.

Slated for completion in phases starting from 2022, Guoco Midtown is a 3.2-hectare mixed-use mega-development on Beach Road and Tan Quee Lan Street. It is directly connected to Bugis MRT interchange station, which is served by both the East-West Line and Downtown Line.

The development comprises a



Left: Located next to Midtown Market is the Water Garden which features freshwater waterside plants. **Below:** Midtown Modern's Spring Wood has a tea pavilion and a lily pond. Ten out of the 30 thematic gardens will be publicly accessible. **PHOTOS:** GUOCOLAND

30-storey office tower with 770,000 square feet of Grade A office space, three retail clusters, two condominiums with more than 700 luxury apartments – Midtown Bay and Midtown Modern – and a five-storey Network Hub building, a purpose-built business and social networking club.

Guoco Midtown's office tower will have a sanctuary garden for relaxing, a bamboo grove with a jogging track and event space, as well as a Sky Garden on the top floor.

Residents of luxury apartment Midtown Modern will have access to more than 10 private and thematic gardens comprising almost 200 species of trees and flora, spread over one hectare. One such garden is the Grand Lawn, which features tree specimens and The Spring Wood, which has a tea pavilion and lily pond.

Owners of business homes at Midtown Bay will be able to access the Pool Gardens on level seven and the Sky Terrace on level 25.

GuocoLand Singapore group managing director Cheng Hsing Yao said the biophilic design of Guoco



Midtown also demonstrates how the private sector can play a role in a whole-of-nation effort to contribute to the Singapore Green Plan 2030.

The property developer will adopt technologies to conserve water and

energy, including a fully automated water-efficient irrigation system which will meet 20 per cent of Guoco Midtown's irrigation needs through rainwater harvesting and sub-soil dripping.

"Guoco Midtown's city-in-nature concept is built upon these principles to make our city greener, more livable and promote a sustainable lifestyle with green transportation and green buildings," he added.