

## South Korea's First Integrated Resort Breaks Ground

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WATG-designed Paradise City slated to debut in 2017



Work began last week on the first integrated resort in South Korea. Designed by WATG-Honolulu, Paradise City will feature seven zones and house hotel, casino and sky casino, conference and meeting rooms, a spa, an indoor pool, a restaurant and tea lounge, retail venues and a sports bar.

The firm, which served as the master planner for the resort and the design architect for the hotel and casino complex, says it aimed to showcase the country's cultural, social and commercial identity in the locale's design. "Inspired by this vision, we created smooth transitions between the different resort zones to offer a unique integrated resort experience ..." says Sean Sih-Young Jeon, vice president of WATG.

"The building architecture was designed to reflect a sense of timelessness, but with a modern energy vibe," says Robert Payan, senior vice president of WATG. "Our approach was to design the core of the buildings with a timeless modern classic influence, and then to introduce purely modern forms to give the structures a new vibrant energy."

"We have designed a stage set in the master plan for Paradise City to feel like a city fabric where guests will want to explore and lose their sense of time," Payan adds. "[This concept] is represented by a city built over time reflecting and recalling the past, present and future."

Set in the International Business Center near Incheon International Airport, the project is being developed by Korea-based casino operator, Paradise Group, and Japan-based entertainment group, Sega Sammy Holdings Inc.

WATG also served as the design architect for the Gallery Villa, which will be located outside the integrated resort complex. Over the past two decades, WATG's Honolulu office has designed several other Korean gaming resorts including Shilla, Hyatt and Lotte in Jeju and Kangwon Land, the country's only domestic casino.