



# urban indulgence

Convenience was at odds with privacy; access was at odds with a view. But all this has changed. Gabriel Leong considers Singapore's newest luxury city spaces and discovers that one really can have it all





St Regis Residences interior



Interior and pool at The Marq



St Regis Residences

When my mother returned from a Tokyo holiday about a year ago, it wasn't the shopping at Omotesando Hills, nor Meiji Shrine, nor the eclectic dressers at fashionable Harajuku that got her excited. She had been staying at my cousin's serviced apartment, and was all too eager to share how impressed she was with the luxurious apartment.

After numerous details about the prime location (in Roppongi Hills), the complimentary breakfast buffet served each morning (an assortment of pastries delivered fresh from a bakery nearby), the magnificent view (you could see the iridescent Tokyo Tower if you leaned over the balcony far enough), she finally had enough of my feigned interest and fired her final salvo: "Louis Vuitton is right next door to the apartment." I flipped.

For most, the hallmark of a luxury apartment could be designer furnishings, excellent amenities, exclusive privacy, or a killer view of the city skyline. For me, nothing screams luxury like couture at your doorstep.

When City Developments Limited made headlines by selling its St Regis apartments at astonishing prices exceeding S\$3,000 per square foot in the middle of last year, the masses finally caught on to what industry observers had already foreseen. As SC Global's CEO Simon Cheong says, "The Singapore government has taken major steps to get us to be a global city. With that, you're looking at global pricing."

So just what does global pricing get you at St Regis? Your own private lifts, butler services from the adjoining St Regis Hotel, an air-conditioned imported gourmet kitchen, and penthouses that come with their own lap pools on the roof decks. And that's just the tip of the iceberg, not forgetting, of course, high-end fashion brands no more than a brisk walk away.

St Regis doesn't just claim to be global. It is global. St Regis properties in New York, Bali, Aspen and Anguilla set the six-star exclusive luxury standard for the rest of the world. Now, Singapore has its very own. Extravagant features and fittings abound, the residences displaying a rich combination



Mid-level view of Hilltops

of sensual textures, colours and finishes. But the biggest drawcard is the butler service available to the St Regis residences, at your service day and night.

If colonial houses captivate you with their rich historical allure and charming structures, then Draycott Eight will be positively divine. Located on an elevated site along Draycott Drive just a few minutes away from Orchard Road, the Wing Tai-helmed project houses a 17,000 sq ft, two-storey colonial style house under conservation. This huge colonial house has been transformed into an exclusive clubhouse for the upscale residential property. The pristine building emerged a winner in the 2006 URA's Architectural Heritage award and is, to date, the largest clubhouse provided for a single condominium property. Besides recreational activities at the mahjong room or billiard rooms, there is an exclusive

residents' wine cellar, a cigar terrace and a Japanese onsen room for residents to sit back and unwind in after a long stressful day. If the sprawling 150,000 sq ft condominium's facilities aren't sufficient, there's always The Tanglin Club and The American Club, which are but a stone's throw away from Draycott Eight.

SC Global won accolades for its luxury offerings, The Ladyhill and The Boulevard Residence, but the group has not been resting on its laurels. It has announced two majestic new projects - The Marq and Hilltops - which will likely raise the bar for all luxury residences from hereon in.

Spread over 117,000 sq ft of prime freehold land at the peak of Cairnhill Circle, the 20-storey Hilltops rests on the highest vantage point of Cairnhill, overlooking the surrounding Orchard Road but serenely

enclaved from the hustle and bustle. Once the site of a thriving nutmeg plantation in the mid-19th century, Cairnhill was also the residence of some of Singapore's wealthiest and most prominent members of society. The new Hilltops looks determined to carry on this eminent tradition.

With lush landscapes such as cascading waterfalls, luxuriant gardens and three sky terraces, residents will never run out of halcyon spots in this resort-like botanic haven. Built to pamper, Hilltops is also the first luxury development in Singapore to have a resort-style steam spa room in every apartment. And for those who truly require total privacy, the sole super penthouse available will have its own dedicated private lift solely for the use of the owner.

Over at Paterson Hill, the Marq will appeal to buyers looking for the best of both worlds - the luxury of space from a landed property, along with all the attributes of a deluxe condominium. Featuring high rise views, concierge services and premium fixtures, the Marq will have two 24-storey towers of spacious homes from 4,800 sq ft of pure living space occupying an entire floor, to a one-of-a-kind 11,000 sq ft super penthouse.

The Marq, like Hilltops, features a tower in which every apartment on every floor has its own 15 metre lap pool. Each pool will be cantilevered outside of the building, providing residents with a water view against a backdrop of the Orchard Road skyline from within the living area.

Combining the refined luxury of The Ladyhill and definitive sophistication of The Boulevard Residence, the spectacularly exquisite Marq, fittingly described as "Mansions in the Sky," will undoubtedly win more awards for SC Global in the global arena.

Whether it is a touch of history, a private spa, or a lap pool within diving distance from the living room, there seems very little that modern city living cannot offer.