Hotel ICON

ASIA'S LARGEST INDOOR VERTICAL GARDEN TO BE IRRIGATED BY FOOD WASTE

First in Asia to adopt the ORCA technology that turns food waste into water, and will treat and re-use the water to irrigate its vertical garden



Eco-pioneer Hotel ICON is the first in Asia to champion the ORCA (Organic Refuse Conversion Alternative) technology that turns food waste into water, which will be recycled as environmentally safe water for its vertical garden.

The state-of-the-art vertical garden, designed by renowned French botanist and artist Patrick Blanc, comprises 8,603 plants of 71 species. The hotel's engineering team will be working closely with Blanc on the water purification process. By mid-2018, parts of the garden will potentially receive all its water and nutrients from the output of the ORCA machine.

"At Hotel ICON, corporate social responsibility (CSR) is never business, it's always personal – we first educate ourselves about the latest green technology and then improvise it to meet our needs," said Richard Hatter, General Manager of Hotel ICON and adjunct associate professor at the School of Hotel and Tourism Management. "We don't shy from CSR, we thrive on it. No one has attempted to use food waste for vertical garden irrigation. We are proud to be the first."

"With ORCA, we can divert 285 tonnes of food waste per year from landfills, recycle 135,000 litres of water per year, and reduce garbage truck diesel fuel usage and its CO2 emissions. Starting from 2019, it will also save us about $140k a year in municipal solid waste charge," the professor says. As Asia's largest indoor vertical garden, measuring 18 metres in height and covering 230 square metres, the garden serves as the most natural and eco-friendly way to circulate fresh and pure oxygen and helps reducing energy consumption from the heating and cooling systems.

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Always looking to reduce its carbon footprint, Hotel ICON also runs a fully electric transportation fleet, consisting of Hong Kong's first electric hotel shuttle buses, three Tesla Model S and a BMW i3.

"Sustainable business planning starts the day before, executes yesterday, benefits today," Hatter said.



How ORCA works?

The sustainable technology is housed in a stainless-steel container, with a door on the top which employees open to throw food waste inside. Within the container, the ORCA's proprietary, natural Microorganism solution works with water and recycled plastic Bio Chips to quickly break down the waste. Through a process called "aerobic digestion", the ORCA technology constantly churns all this material, adding oxygen that accelerates the time it takes to transform the food waste disposal into earth-friendly water.

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About Hotel ICON

Unlike any other, Hotel ICON is an upscale Hong Kong hotel in the heart of Tsim Sha Tsui East. Standing as a testament to Hong Kong's creative energy and vibrant arts scene, Hotel ICON showcases work from the city's celebrated designers and the world's most acclaimed architects. Offering the ultimate in comfort and committed to service excellence, Hotel ICON's 262 stylish guestrooms comprise seductive extras, including complimentary wired and Wi-Fi internet connections, smartphone with unlimited mobile data and an ultra-slim 40" Ultra High Definition LED TV. Located on level 9, Hotel ICON's Angsana Spa is a tranquil oasis while the harbour-facing outdoor swimming pool and fitness centre allow guests to exercise while enjoying views of Hong Kong Island's spectacular skyline. With a maximum capacity of 580 persons, Hotel ICON's grand Silverbox ballroom is the ideal venue for a celebration or theatre-style conference. Hotel ICON houses three restaurants: Above & Beyond, The Market and GREEN, providing guests with exceptional quality of the food and impeccable service. wallpaper* magazine included Hotel ICON in its 2011 list of the world's Best Business Hotels and DestinAsian included the hotel in its Luxe List 2011. The premier hotel has also won in 2 categories including the Top 25 Hotels in Asia in the 2017 TripAdvisor Traveler's Choice Awards.

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