MK GALLERY, MILTON KEYNES
6a Architects’ shining steel tribute to Milton Keynes keeps a simple connection with the landscape

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GOLDSUN HEADQUARTERS, TAIWAN
FOSTER + PARTNERS

Foster + Partners have revealed the design for Goldsun Group’s new headquarters in Taipei, following a successful ‘Urban Design Approval’. Part of the Nangang urban regeneration project, the project seeks to introduce a new mixed-use typology to the area. The complex, which contains office spaces alongside residential and retail areas, is arranged around a central courtyard. Nature played a key role in the design, with skygardens located on various levels. The skygardens will encourage naturally daylit and ventilated spaces throughout the buildings. With rooftop photovoltaic panels and other sustainable measures, the project targets a LEED Gold rating. The building blocks are supported by six cores that combine structure and services. The glazed “floating volumes” are suspended between each of the solid cores using steel mega-trusses forming an “expressed structural system,” creating flexible, large-span floorplates.

CASA CELINA, NEW YORK CITY
MAGNUSSON

Magnusson Architecture + Planning (MAP) are working on their design for 100 per cent affordable senior housing in the Bronx, New York City. Casa Celina will be a 16-storey building comprising 200 senior units. Amenities will include an exercise/fitness room, laundry room, lounge areas, a ground floor community space, and a landscaped rooftop terrace. The north/south orientation of the site and building provides an opportunity for energy generation through a large solar array. The angled recesses of the windows and articulation of the facade were then added to shade the east/west facing units and mitigate heat gain. The building includes sustainability and resiliency measures intended to achieve LEED Gold Certification, among other standards.

SHANGHAI NATURE PRESERVE, CHINA
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS

Ennead Architects has been announced winner of an international design competition for the Shanghai Yangtze River Estuary Chinese Sturgeon Nature Preserve. Led by Ennead Design partner Thomas Wong, in partnership with Andropogon Landscape Architects, the project is an ambitious plan to rescue critically endangered species and restore biodiversity to a habitat beset by pollution and the impact of previous construction. The proposed design features dramatic forms that “take cues from the rippling surface of the river and the landscape of the Upper Yangtze while also evoking biomorphic anatomy and an ark.”
Magnusson Architecture + Planning (MAP) has completed MLK Plaza, a 13-storey, 167-unit, affordable residential building in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. MLK Plaza is one of the first developments to use the new Zoning for Quality Affordability regulation, which allowed for a "rezoning" of the property from manufacturing to residential. MLK Plaza's exterior design embraces the neighbourhood's industrial identity with dark grey brick and metal panels. The gold colour of the panels, however, "provides a bright counterpoint to that aesthetic and reflects both the material quality of this housing and the value of its mission," said the architects. The gold swath at the seventh floor also aligns visually with the adjacent six-storey buildings.

UNStudio has designed the "urban vision" for ‘The Smartest Neighbourhood in the World’, which is currently being developed in Helmond’s Brandevoort District in Helmond. Over the next 10 years the ‘Brainport Smart District’ will develop 1,500 new homes and 12 hectares of business premises. The development will be characterised by the application of the latest technologies and knowledge in order to achieve a sustainable, circular and socially cohesive neighbourhood that benefits from joint energy generation, food production, water management, joint digital data management and revolutionary transport systems. The district "aims to develop a new relationship between buildings and landscape, whereby both strengthen each other qualitatively," said the architects.

MVRDV has broken ground on a new wholesale market for fruit and vegetables in Tainan, Taiwan. With its terraced accessible green roof, the open-air market is an important hub for Tainan’s food supply chain. The Xinhua Market "takes an often prosaic part of the food industry and elevates it into a place for the public to experience food and appreciate views of the landscape," said the architects. The design comprises a simple, open structure with high undulating ceilings that allow for plenty of natural ventilation, with an undulating terraced green roof that is accessible from its eastern corner, where the terraces step down to ground level. The terraces will house the different products of the area. On one side, a simple four-storey volume punctures the main structure, providing a secondary access to the landscaped roof, the terraces of the roof will each grow a different crop.