



The four-storey resort will have 338 rooms and a rooftop garden where guests can go on self-guided nature trails. Guests can opt for family rooms or elevated tree houses which are designed to resemble tree pods and can accommodate up to two people.

PHOTO: MANDAI PARK HOLDINGS

# Mandai eco-resort will feature tree houses

Flora and fauna conservation will take centre stage at the resort, which will also offer guided nature walks and recycling workshops

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## Singapore

SINGAPORE-BASED architectural firm WOW Architects will spearhead the design of Mandai Park Holdings' (MPH) much feted eco-resort, which will open its doors in 2023.

Wong Chiu Man, the managing director of WOW Architects, shared about the resort's eco-conscious design features at a media conference on Thursday.

These features would fulfil three principles jointly determined by MPH and WOW Architects, which envision the resort becoming one with the landscape, being in harmony with nature, and with sustainability weaved into its design.

The resort, which aims to be Singapore's first super low energy (SLE) accommodation, will feature smart cooling systems, solar panels and natural ventilation.

The SLE programme is a certifica-

tion awarded by the Building and Construction Authority for buildings that achieve at least 40 per cent annual energy savings.

More than half of the trees on the 4.6 ha site will be retained, of which 40 per cent are of conservation value. The building is designed to respect the existing vegetation, allowing wildlife to move with ease across the site.

In this vein, the resort's maximum height will not exceed 21 m, so that the building does not cross the upper canopy line. Wherever possible, the resort will be elevated several metres above the forest floor.

Mr Wong took this biophilic approach based on what he described as the "innate tendency for humans to want to connect with nature and to other living things".

The four-storey resort will have 338 rooms and a rooftop garden where guests can go on self-guided nature trails.

Guests can opt for family rooms or stay in one of 24 elevated tree houses

which are designed to resemble tree pods and can accommodate up to two people.

Flora and fauna conservation take centre stage at the resort, which will offer guided nature walks and recycling workshops.

"I think guests will leave as excited as we are about wildlife and as determined as we are to protect animals in the wild," said MPH Group chief executive Mike Barclay.

The resort will be operated by hospitality group Banyan Tree Holdings and developed by MPH.

Although Banyan Tree operates 47 hotels and resorts in 23 countries, this eco resort will be its first hotel on home soil.

Both Banyan Tree and the Night Safari, which is part of MPH's stable of wildlife parks, will celebrate their 25th anniversaries this year.

Guests staying at the resort can also look forward to visiting the relocated Jurong Bird Park and a new Rainforest Park.