



An artist's impression of the mall project CPG Consultants will design in Inner Mongolia. It won the contest after being invited to take part when one of its Beijing designs caught the owner's attention. PHOTO: CPG CONSULTANTS

S'pore firm to design Inner Mongolian malls

BY CHERYL LIM

LOCAL architecture firm CPG Consultants has won a contest to design two shopping malls in the Inner Mongolian capital Hohhot.

The buildings will cost a total of about 2.5 billion yuan (\$488 million) to build and will feature retail and dining outlets, a family entertainment centre, an eight-theatre cinema multiplex and an ice skating rink.

Mr Tan Shao Yen, senior vice-president of architecture at CPG Consultants, said: "The project's

BEATING THE COLD

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design reflects the unique characteristics of the city while echoing the Hohhot's seasonal changes and beautiful forest scenery."

One challenge was building malls that could deal with Inner Mongolia's extreme climate.

Mr Tan said: "Half of the year, the city is freezing cold. We had to design the malls to be box-like to prevent heat loss and create an energy-efficient mall."

The malls will be owned by the Victory Group – the biggest retail and supermarket operator in north-central China – and are expected to be ready by early next year.

CPG was invited to participate in the competition after one of its designs in Beijing caught the attention of the Victory Group.

It already has a number of commercial projects in China, including a mall and a mixed-use development in Beijing.

China comprises around 10 per cent of CPG Consultants' business portfolio.

Mr Tan said the country will continue to remain one of the company's key overseas markets and there are plans to increase its market share there.

The firm has branch offices in Shanghai, Beijing, Tianjin and Guangzhou.

"We already have a base in North China and we are looking to explore other opportunities, not only in that area, but in other parts of China as well," said Mr Tan.

The firm has more than 20 offices across Asia with a project portfolio that spans over 20 countries, including China and India, as well as those in Asean and the Middle East.