

HKA * PARTNERS

Brown TIA D5



BROWN COFFEE



With the inauguration of Cambodia's Techo International Airport, a new era of connectivity and cultural representation begins. Positioned as one of Southeast Asia's most ambitious infrastructure developments, the airport merges cutting-edge aviation design with deep-rooted Khmer heritage—serving as both a transportation hub and a cultural landmark.

Within this context, Brown Coffee has opened a flagship location on the second floor of the Head House in the departure hall. More than just a café, the space is a curated experience that bridges traditional craftsmanship and contemporary design, offering travelers a moment of calm surrounded by Cambodian identity.

Designed by Hok Kang + Partners, in collaboration with Brown Coffee and renowned Cambodian artist Sopheap Pich, the project reimagines commercial architecture with a narrative approach. The interior embraces natural materials, warm tones, and textures that echo the country's artistic legacy, while maintaining the functionality and openness suited to an international airport environment.

A key feature of the space is a sculptural installation by Sopheap Pich, integrated seamlessly into the design. It elevates the café from a retail space to an artistic statement, showcasing contemporary Khmer art to a global audience.

Informed by the airport's architectural language—modern, expansive, and symbolic—the design of Brown Coffee respects its monumental context while introducing intimacy and local character. The result is a sophisticated and inviting environment that encapsulates Cambodian pride and presents it to the world in a refined, modern form.

This project not only enhances the passenger experience but also positions Cambodian design and art at the heart of its newest global gateway.



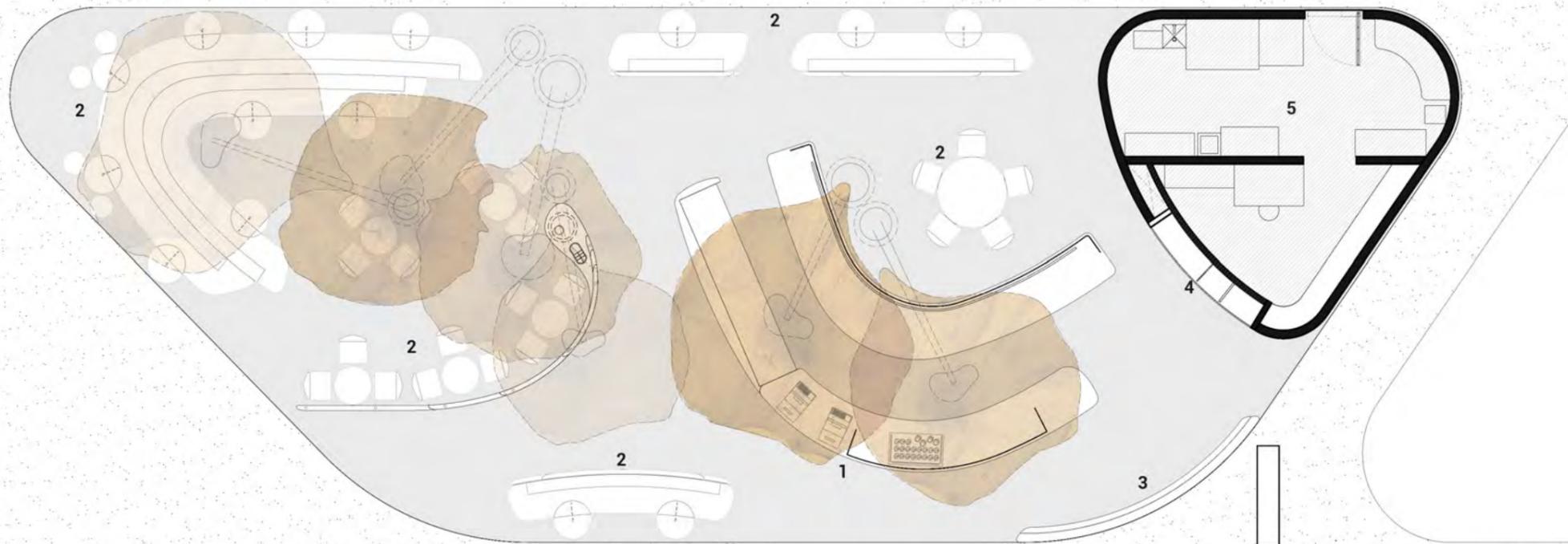
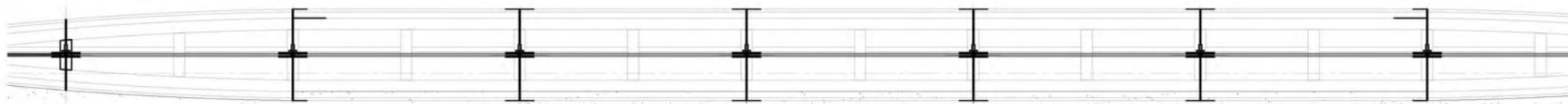


“As serene as sitting in the hush beneath leafy shade”

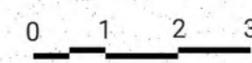
Suspended overhead, Sopheap Pich’s sculptural work *Birds Fly by Flapping Their Wings*—crafted from bamboo, metal, and enamel—anchors the space with symbolic lightness and motion, embodying the spirit of flight and cultural memory.

Inspired from the theme of travel, expressed through flowing curves, natural materials, and a warm, earthy palette. Rounded furnishings and soft, organic pathways mirror the sweeping form of the airport’s curved ceiling, creating a seamless visual language that guides passengers gently through the space.

This project unfolds as a quiet dialogue between architecture and art, offering a moment of stillness, a grounded yet elevated experience, a place where passengers momentarily settle, reflect, and prepare for their journey ahead.



- 1/ COUNTER AREA
- 2/ SEATING AREA
- 3/ WAITING AREA
- 4/ MERCHANDISE
- 5/ BOH



“The Dialogue of Shadow, Space, and Journey”



This interplay of light and shadow transforms Brown into more than just a functional space; it becomes an ephemeral landscape. As the shadows shift with the artificial or natural light source, they introduce a kinetic layer into the architecture, creating a temporal experience differently from moment to moment, like the journeys of the travelers passing through.



SOPHEAP PICH

Birds Fly by Flapping Their Wings

2025

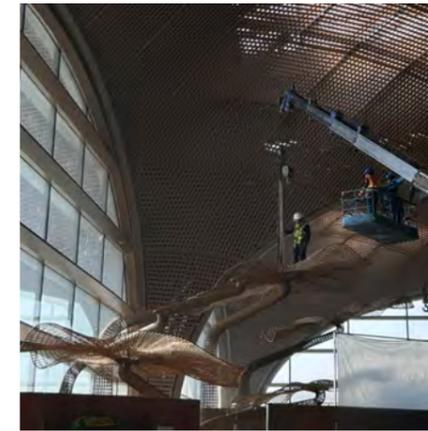
Bamboo, metal and enamel

Variable dimensions

Birds Fly by Flapping Their Wings is inspired by the seedpod of a tropical tree called 'thnong' in Cambodia. Thnong (*Pterocarpus macrocarpus*) grows naturally across Southeast Asia, and produces luxury timber used for fine furniture, musical instruments and home architecture, among other purposes. One of the faster-growing rosewoods, it is sought after and cultivated for domestic use and export in the region.

The thnong seed is surrounded by a round, thin and undulating wing allowing it to float freely when it falls off the tree's branches. In nature, they travel from their mother tree by wind or water, dispersing and propagating the species in far-flung places. Their journey from flower to fruit to mature seed can be seen as a metaphor for travel, growth, patience, resilience and rebirth.

For thousands of years, seeds have crossed oceans and continents in every possible direction. They leave their traces wherever they settle, providing beauty and sustenance all over the planet. As they depart their natural habitats, they must adapt to new ones, growing and thriving when they reach an ideal environment. To learn about seeds is to appreciate the mysterious power of nature in its most elemental and essential form. A seed is a container of life itself.



“Rooted in Local Tradition, Crafted with Pride”



BROWN TIA D5

Client: Brown Coffee

Location: Techo International Airport, Kandal, Cambodia

Site area: 181sqm

Year Completion: 2025