

*Supporting information for*

## **Ag@Mg<sub>12</sub>@Ag<sub>20</sub>: A three-layer Matryoshka structure with S<sub>6</sub> symmetry**

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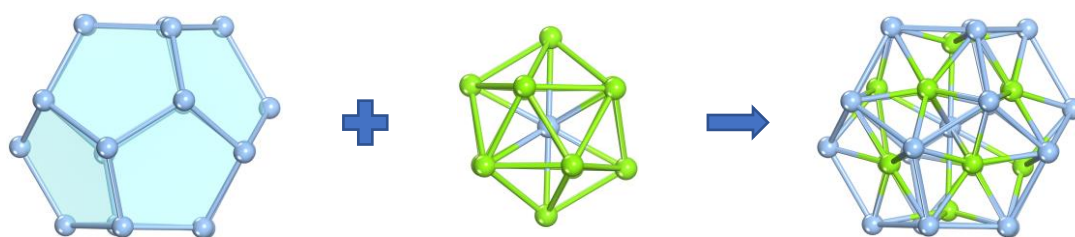


Figure S1. Detailed construction of core-shell Ag@Mg<sub>12</sub>@Ag<sub>20</sub>. The three-layer core-shell Ag@Mg<sub>12</sub>@Ag<sub>20</sub> structure is formed by encapsulating an Ag@Mg<sub>12</sub> icosahedron within the Ag<sub>20</sub> dodecahedron.

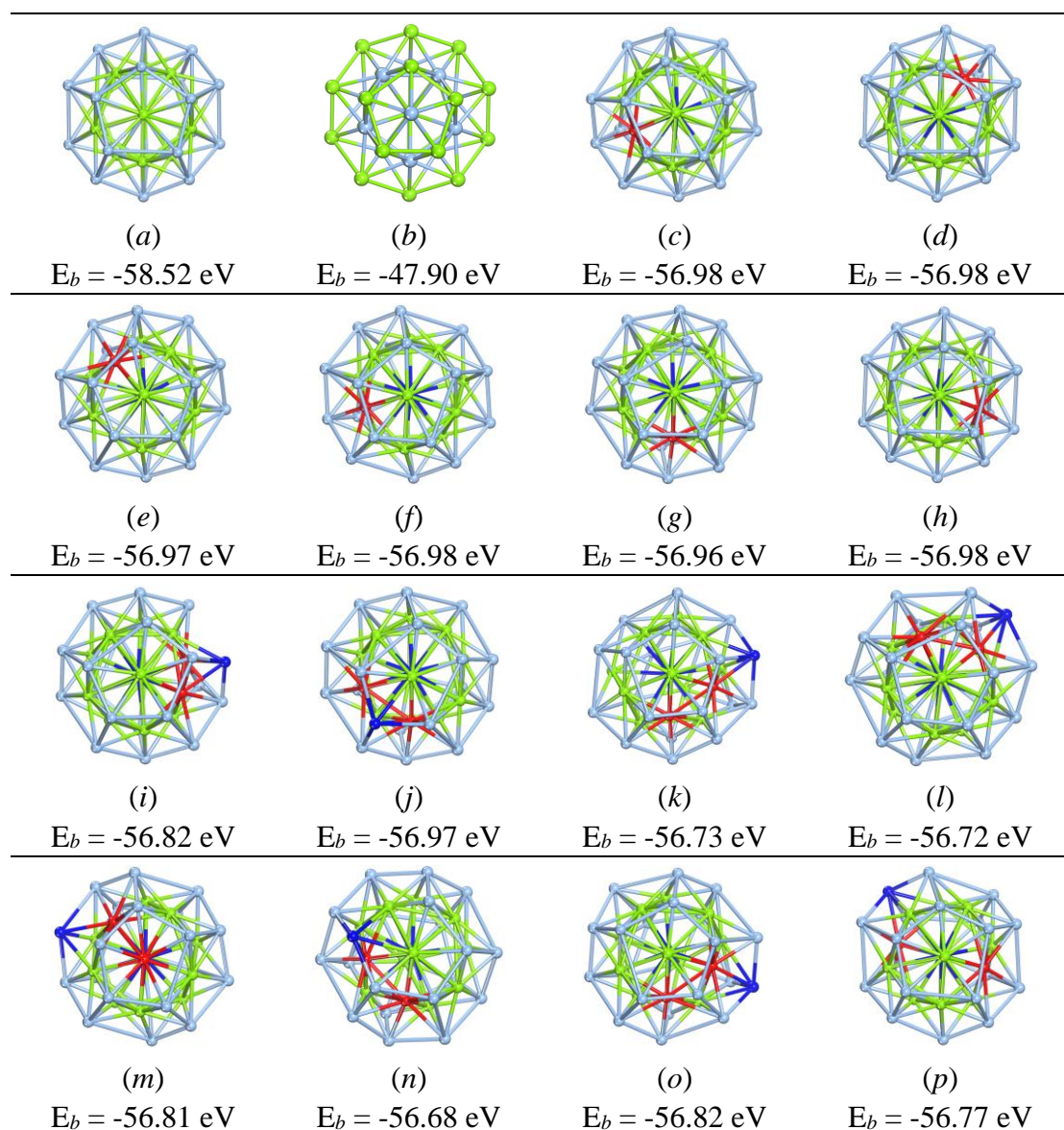


Figure S2. The proposed ideal Ag@Mg<sub>12</sub>@Ag<sub>20</sub> structure for part (a), and fifteen structures obtained by swaps of Ag-Mg pairs for part (b-p) with the binding energies ( $E_b$ ) listed below each configurations after energy minimizing. Part (b) shows the configuration of Mg@Ag<sub>12</sub>@Mg<sub>20</sub> obtained by conducting complete swap of Ag-Mg pairs; part (c-h) show the configurations of Mg@AgMg<sub>11</sub>@Ag<sub>20</sub> and part (i-p) show the configurations of Mg@Ag<sub>2</sub>Mg<sub>10</sub>@MgAg<sub>19</sub>, the swapped Mg and Ag atoms are colored in blue and red, respectively.

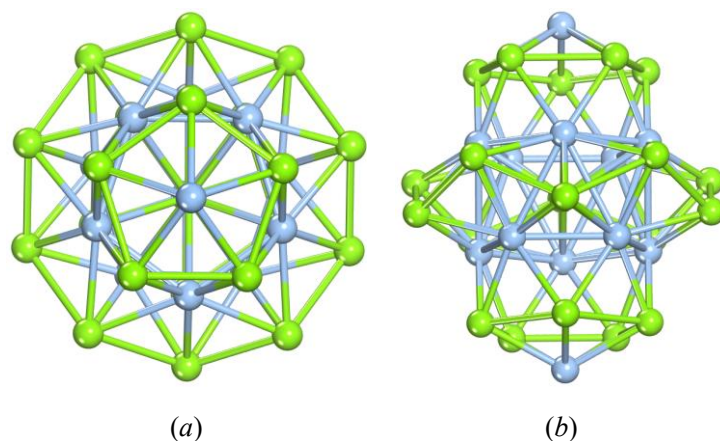


Figure S3. Top view (a) and side view (b) of the optimized  $\text{Mg@Ag}_{12}\text{@Mg}_{20}$ , which is obtained by conducting complete swap of Ag-Mg pairs in  $\text{Ag@Mg}_{12}\text{@Ag}_{20}$ .

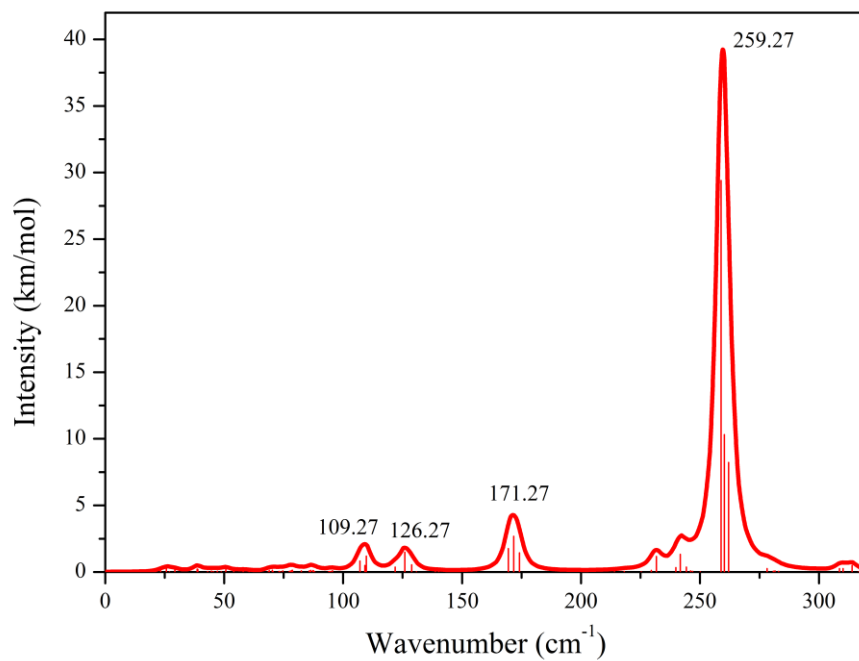


Figure S4. IR spectrum for the three-layer core-shell  $\text{Ag@Mg}_{12}\text{@Ag}_{20}$ .

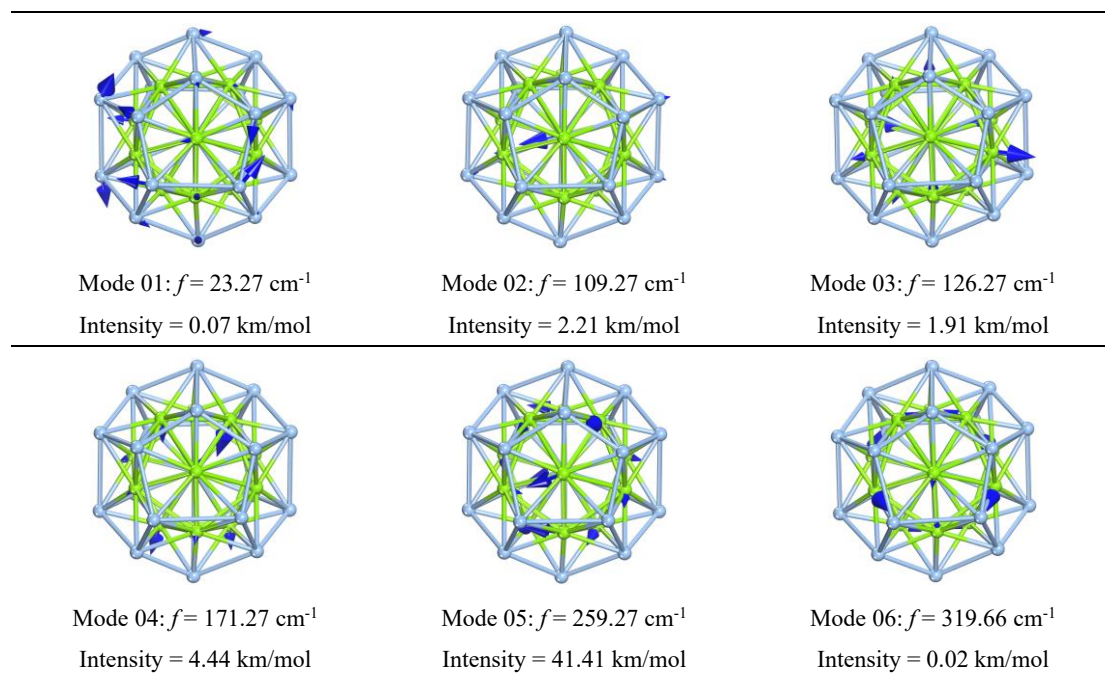


Figure S5. The lowest frequency mode (Mode 01) and the highest frequency mode (Mode 06) of the three-layer core-shell Ag@Mg<sub>12</sub>@Ag<sub>20</sub> are depicted. Additionally, several frequency modes exhibiting higher mode intensities are listed for reference.

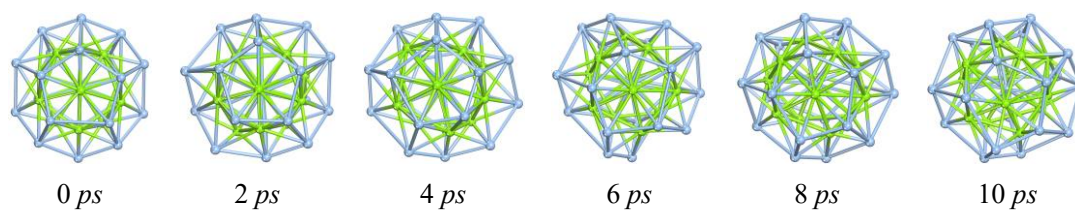


Figure S6. *Ab initio* molecular dynamics simulations for the three-layer Ag@Mg<sub>12</sub>@Ag<sub>20</sub> structure at 500 K, insets depicting snapshots at 0 ps, 2 ps, 4 ps, 6 ps, 8 ps, 10 ps.

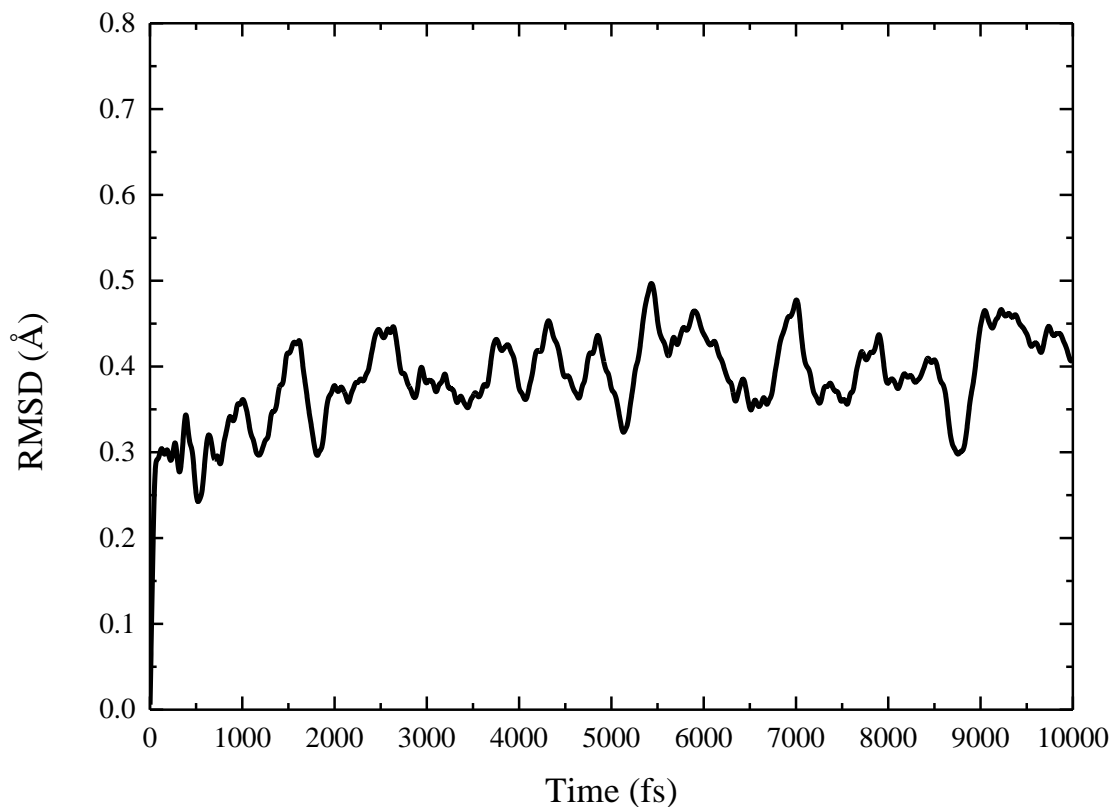


Figure S7 Coordinate root-mean-square deviation (RMSD) based on the molecular dynamics (MD) simulations at 500 K for the three-layer Ag@Mg<sub>12</sub>@Ag<sub>20</sub> structure. This plot illustrates the RMSD values over time, emphasizing the structural stability and deviations observed throughout the simulations.

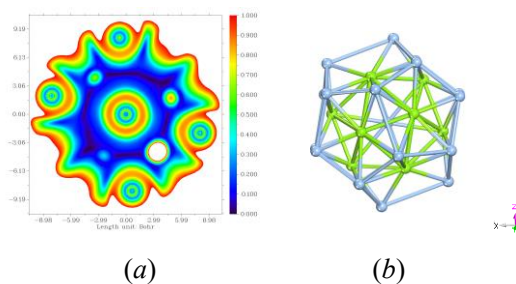


Figure S8. The reduced density gradient (RDG) for Ag@Mg<sub>12</sub>@Ag<sub>20</sub> sections along the XZ plane with the different values of RDG colored from dark blue to red for part (a), the corresponding view of Ag@Mg<sub>12</sub>@Ag<sub>20</sub> structure for part (b).

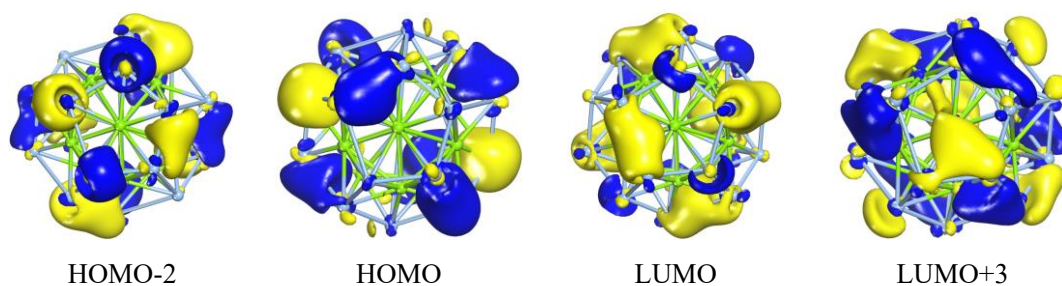


Figure S9. Selected representative frontier molecular orbitals for the three-layer core-shell Ag@Mg<sub>12</sub>@Ag<sub>20</sub> structure with the isosurface value of 0.02 e/Å<sup>3</sup>.

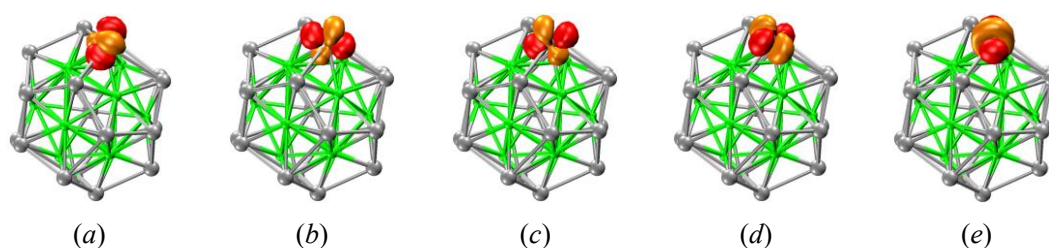


Figure S10. Five *d*-type lone pairs on one Ag atom in the Ag<sub>20</sub> dodecahedron.

Table S1. Natural population charge analysis (NPA) for the three-layer core-shell Ag@Mg<sub>12</sub>@Ag<sub>20</sub> structure.

| Number | Atom | Charge | Number | Atom | Charge | Number | Atom | Charge |
|--------|------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|------|--------|
| 1      | Mg   | -0.48  | 12     | Mg   | -0.46  | 23     | Ag   | 0.36   |
| 2      | Mg   | -0.47  | 13     | Ag   | -0.72  | 24     | Ag   | 0.36   |
| 3      | Mg   | -0.51  | 14     | Ag   | 0.21   | 25     | Ag   | 0.27   |
| 4      | Mg   | -0.49  | 15     | Ag   | 0.39   | 26     | Ag   | 0.27   |
| 5      | Mg   | -0.49  | 16     | Ag   | 0.26   | 27     | Ag   | 0.36   |
| 6      | Mg   | -0.51  | 17     | Ag   | 0.39   | 28     | Ag   | 0.36   |
| 7      | Mg   | -0.51  | 18     | Ag   | 0.39   | 29     | Ag   | 0.38   |
| 8      | Mg   | -0.51  | 19     | Ag   | 0.21   | 30     | Ag   | 0.39   |
| 9      | Mg   | -0.48  | 20     | Ag   | 0.39   | 31     | Ag   | 0.36   |
| 10     | Mg   | -0.48  | 21     | Ag   | 0.39   | 32     | Ag   | 0.27   |
| 11     | Mg   | -0.46  | 22     | Ag   | 0.27   | 33     | Ag   | 0.27   |