WATER TOWER PAVILION (RENOVATION)

Categories: Actar, High Density, META-Project, Middle Density, Project, Technology and fabrication, Total China

Tags: Architecture&art, Art, Beijing, Bricks, China, City dialogue, Industrial context, Modern urban Beijing, Natural dialogue, Natural metaphor, Project, Public conditions, Public stage, Renovation, Territorial Approach, Water tower
META-Project, a Beijing based research-design studio completed a renovation for VANKE China that infused new life into the dilapidated water tower in an exquisite way.
This water tower is located in the campus of a run down military factory, formerly known as the People’s Liberation Army No.1102 Factory, founded in 1959 during the Great Leap Forward. As used to be one of the most important heavy industrial production bases of China, the Tiexi District in Shenyang is now full of miscellaneous industrial relics from that period of time. Water towers scattered around the city became the unique symbols of the history of industrialization in this area, marking vaguely the anchor points in the ever-shifting reality. Since 2010, the transformation around this water tower began. VANKE China acquired the campus of the factory and initiated the Blue Mountains residential complex project. Along with the decisive construction of the surrounding cities, the water tower was well preserved - as the fragmented memory of the history of industrialization, and was expected to provide certain public function in the future.
For META-Project, the water tower, which is re-interpreted as a “Public Folly”, has provided deliberate clues: spatially, it is situated on the edge in-between the inherited industrial fabric of Tiexi District and an upcoming residential complex development; temporally, it is sitting on the dividing line, where Tiexi has deviated from the industrial past and accelerating towards a different future. Setting off from the precise positioning with the context, both physical and historical, we started to unfold the concept of the renovation along the continuation of space-time, instead of taking it as an isolated event. The renovated water tower, or the “water tower pavilion”, on the outside forms an artistic intervention in the urban landscape, and on the inside it offers a space for public activities for the surrounding communities, and even above the mundane usage, it could became a place for some sort of public spiritualization.
Exploded Axon Drawings
00 SITUACIÓN ACTUAL
Priorizar vehículos con ambiente controlado, accesibles y cómodos que se autocen.tarán con transporte. MP: Unidad de crecimiento de la arquitectura en el eje del metro.

01 MEMORIA
Emplazamiento de espacio público y/o vialismo para evitar interrupciones del agua del bosque que se bifica del ríos Mapocho y arribadas.

02 PAISAJE URBANO
Las esquinas de los edificios y el océano atípico se centran principalmente en la elaboración de jardines, usos versátiles de los espacios adyacentes al río central, urbanización de espacios y contribuyen a la conexión entre los ríos y el metro.

03 CORRIDOR EJE CENTRAL EFICIENTE
Organización del transporte vehicular a través de un corredor central de más de 10 mts. Unidades de edificios y edificios de servicios, en el centro, y a los lados, diferentes espacios y espacios compartidos en diferentes niveles.

04 MINIMIZAR CRUCES ENTRE VEHÍCULOS Y SUPERFICIE COMPARTIDA
El uso de pasarelas verticales para el paso de vehículos, permitiendo que la superficie de la calle se convierta en una vía de paso para peatones, permitiendo que el pasaje de peatones sea más cómodo y segura.

05 EDIFICIOS PATRIMONIALES Y SIGNIFICATIVOS
Uno de los criterios es que los edificios patrimoniales sean adaptados al uso actual, sin perder su identidad cultural, y a la vez, estar integrados en el espacio público.

06 ESTACIONES MULTIMODALES DE PASEO Y TRANSITABLES
Los accesos multimodales de pago serán objeto de estudio y se instalarán en los paseos de metro para conseguir una mayor intermodalidad. Son espacios abiertos y con espacios verdes en los que se encuentran los elementos de la arquitectura en el eje del metro.

07 FUTURO: OPTIMIZACIÓN DE RUTAS BRT
Unificación de recorridos de la línea para evitar el acoso de vías de circulación, aumentando su velocidad y eficiencia.

08 FUTURO: LÍNEA DE METRO
Para un mayor flujo, se pensó en aumentar la capacidad de la línea existente, con nuevas líneas de metro y con un mayor número de carriles que permitiría una mayor intermodalidad del espacio público en la ciudad.
Plans

6 H=+25.000
5 H=+15.200
4 H=+13.000
3 H=+9.000
2 H=+6.500
1 H=+2.000

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Sections

The cautions with which specific renovation measurements are made demonstrate circumspection. They are being examined on how to embed a new reality in a historical sample: it is not one that can be easily dismissed as conservative, and neither a jubilant welcoming of the new globalizing reality. The tower is specifically adapted to a local context, yet without turning into a pure replica of that context. On one hand, we want to keep the original water tower intact, only allowing necessary structural reinforcement and minor treatment on the existing window openings; on the other hand, the new installation – quite an exquisite device – was inserted into the interior tunnel of the tower. Two end-to-end funnels form the main part of the installation. While the smaller funnel on the top gathering daylight, the bigger one shapes the space in the middle with a seemingly endless depth, and is linked to many camera-lens-like window frames, which grow out of the tower body from every possible opening. On the bottom of the tower, theater steps are made to link the entrance and the view platform, which will become a “mini-theater” providing space for activities or projection for the local public. From there, the water tower becomes a simple sensory device of the external world, an ear, or a viewfinder...
The installation represents the new reality with steel and glass. Clear geometries as well as vibrant colors are implemented so as to make a strong tension with the old brick wall of the tower. Every night, as the heavy water tower gradually faded in the darkness, the bright light boxes will become distinct signals floating in the air. Symbolizing a quest to seek out the hidden corner of the history and archetypes of architecture. Through renovation of the water tower, META-Project posts the question again on how to look at the history and how to understand the changing reality?
Extract from coming-soon

Total China

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