



WATER TOWER PAVILION (RENOVATION)

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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.



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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 Shen Yang 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.

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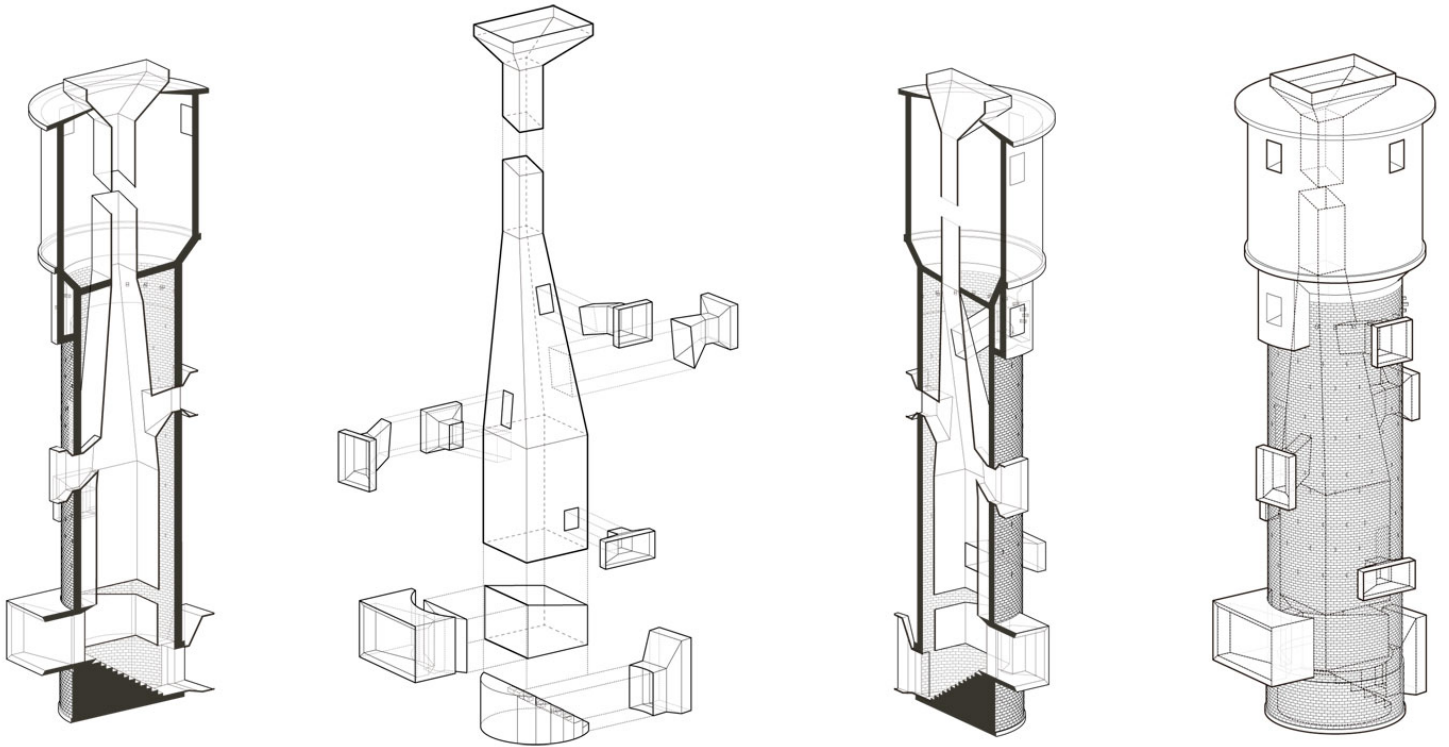


For META-Project, the water tower, which is re-interpreted as a “Public Folly”, has provided deliberate clues: spatially, it is situated on the edge in-between the inherited industrial fabric of Tiexi District and an upcoming residential complex development; temporally, it is sitting on the dividing 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 become a place for some sort of public spiritualization.

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Exploded Axon Drawings

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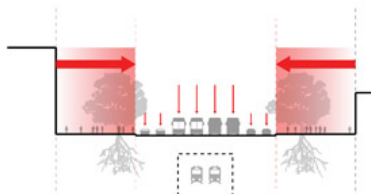
00 SITUACIÓN ACTUAL
 Prioridad vehicular con alameda central poco accesible y cruces vehiculares que ralentizan el transporte. Dificultad de crecimiento de los árboles en el eje del metro.



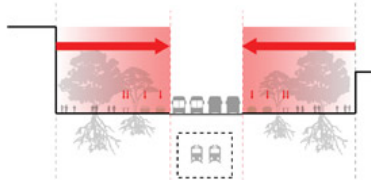
01 MEMORIA
 Entendiendo su condición de espacio público y su diseño paisajístico de canalizaciones de agua del brazo que se bifurca del Río Mapocho y arboledas.



02 PAISAJE URBANO
 Las copas de los árboles y el drenaje urbano sustentable recuperan el microclima histórico de la alameda absorbiendo contaminación. Las raíces de los árboles alejados del eje central, evitan la zona de metro y contribuyen al tratamiento de las aguas de limpieza. El agua reciclada sirve como infraestructura de mantenimiento y construye una nueva identidad reinterpretada de la Alameda.



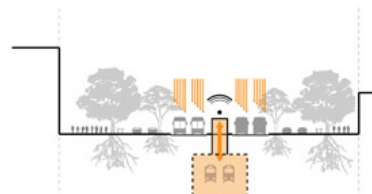
03 CORREDOR EJE CENTRAL EFICIENTE
 Organización del transporte urbano a través de un corredor central de micros BRT, manteniendo las rutas de autobuses actuales. Permite la expansión del espacio peatonal ligado a los programas existentes.



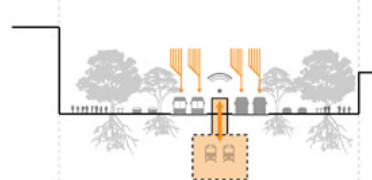
04 MINIMIZAR CRUCES ENTRE VEHÍCULOS Y SUPERFICIE COMPARTIDA
 El pavimento continuo peatonal se extiende como superficie compartida a las bicicletas y vehículos privados, permitiendo disminuir la velocidad de los vehículos y expandir el espacio peatonal. El trazado continuo del carril bici contribuye al confort y seguridad de los usuarios y a una circulación eficaz sin interrupciones.



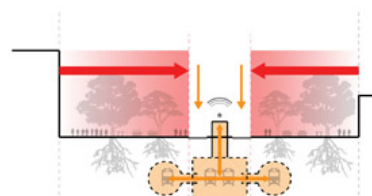
05 EDIFICIOS PATRIMONIALES Y SIGNIFICATIVOS
 Privilegio del espacio urbano especialmente en áreas frente a edificios significativos donde se expande el espacio peatonal, se introducen elementos icónicos de agua y como elemento identificativo se usa la palma chilena.



06 ESTACIONES MULTIMODALES EPEV, GPS
 Las estaciones multimodales de pago extravehicular se instalan en las paradas de metro para conseguir flujos de pasajeros más eficientes y con sistemas informativos en tiempo real para informar a los 25.000 usuarios y regular frecuencias de modo gradual. El diseño icónico de las estaciones contribuirá a su fácil identificación para los usuarios y a la nueva imagen de la Alameda.



07 FUTURO: OPTIMIZACIÓN DE RUTAS BRT
 Unificación de tramos en ruta alameda para acelerar el tránsito de autobuses, asumiendo una demanda creciente de pasajeros en el futuro.

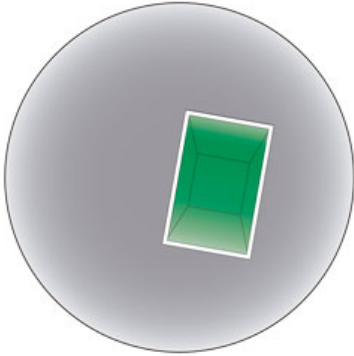


08 FUTURO: LRT O LÍNEA DE METRO
 Para una mayor demanda, se propone estudiar la posibilidad de transformar el corredor con una línea adicional de metro subterráneo o tren ligero que permitirá también ampliar el espacio público destinado a peatones.

Concept Diagram

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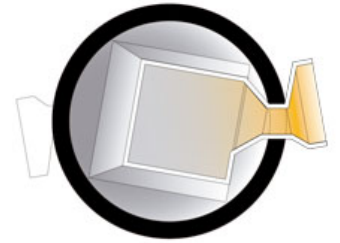
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6 H=+25.000



5 H=+15.200



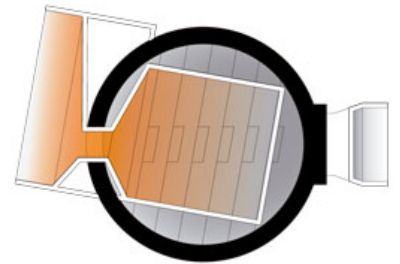
4 H=+13.000



3 H=+9.000



2 H=+6.500



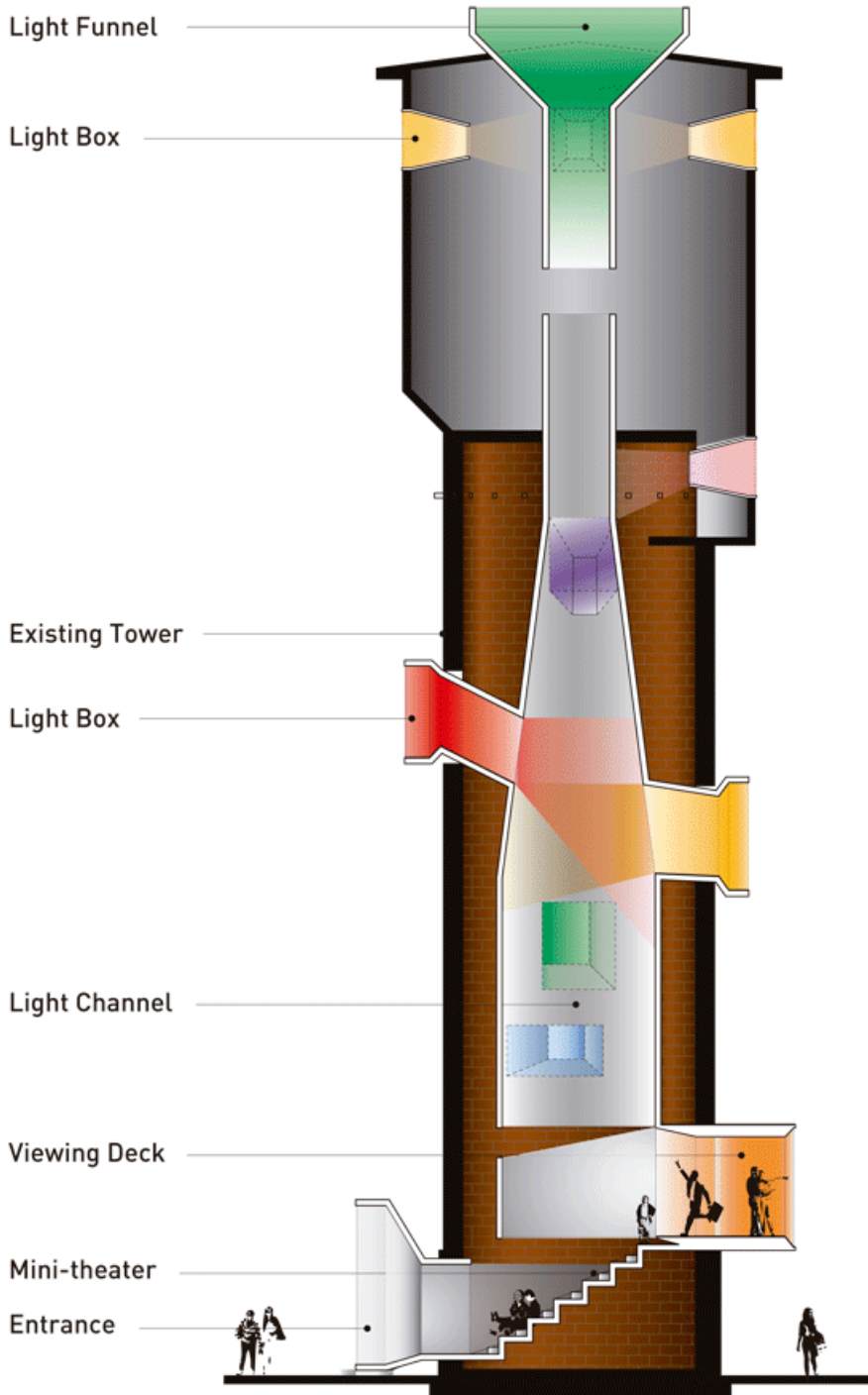
1 H=+2.000

Plans

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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...

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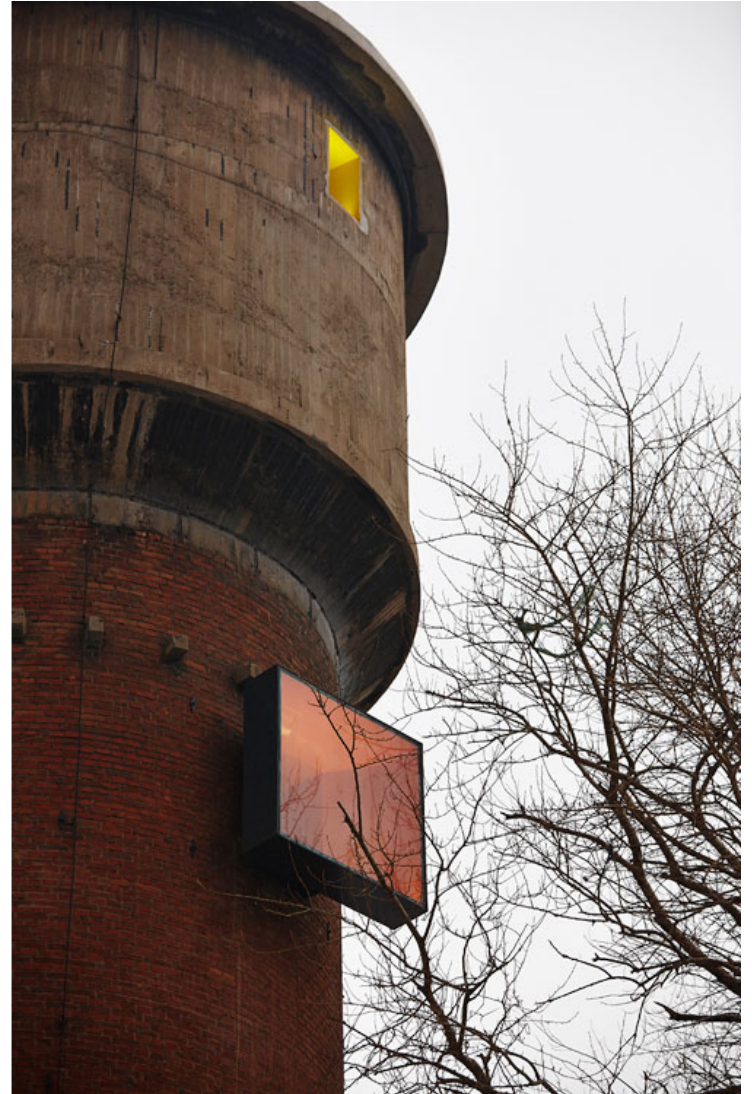


The installation represents the new reality with steel and glass. Clear geometries as well as vibrant colors are implemented so as to make a strong tension with the old brick wall of the tower. Every night, as the heavy water tower gradually faded in the darkness, the bright light boxes will become distinct 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?

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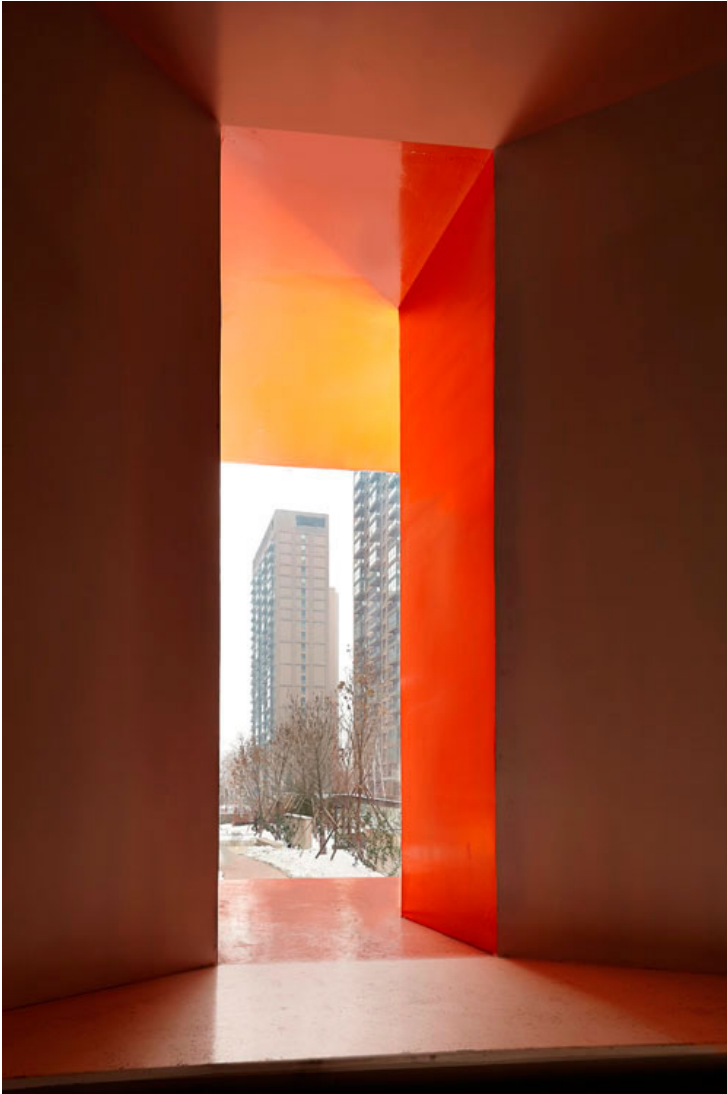
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