

Flexible Landscape—An Urban Natural Installation

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During the period of August 21st to September 10th in 2015, there was a series of public cultural activities named “Gravitational Field—interconnections between architecture and public culture” held in the Jing’an Temple Square, which is the most prosperous place in Shanghai. One both artistic and practical architectural installation called Flexible Landscape was created, which was designed by Wang Yan, Zhu Xudong, Huang Weile and Wang Yibo.

Jing’an Temple Square is relatively 7 meters lower than West Nanjing Road. The installation was understood to be a set of open landscape at this site. It emerged to the site naturally with its soft and exquisite profile, resembling a bonsai of the city. The different levels that the two arc-shaped ridges sat ingeniously corresponded to the open stage and the crowded metro exit, as if it was the mountains in a basin.

Due to the fact that the stone material of the ground at the site did not allow any damages, the entire installation could not have any basis or ground fixation. However, considering the possible damages a powerful typhoon could cause, 50 pieces of 20-meter long streamline wooden bamboo frames were eventually adopted to create a fluctuating structure. It not only emitted a visual effect of an abstract landscape, the installation was at the same time fulfilled with the spirit of the times.

The temperature was at a scorching point in August in Shanghai. This “arc-mountain” provided space for abundant public activities in the square with two shady areas. The mist sprays that were hidden in the gaps of the frames continued to cool the square. Meanwhile, mist-shrouded scene enhanced the visual impression of this urban landscape bonsai. A rainbow can be occasionally seen on top of the installation under the sunshine, making the entire atmosphere light and more relaxing for the general public.

In terms of the material used in the installation, wooden bamboo was chosen as the main structural element. Bamboo is a plant that has many characteristics related to China, hence is very much loved by Chinese people. Wooden bamboo is made of advanced fibers through hot gluing technology. It has the characteristics of high strength and high density, at the same time making people feel more natural and intimate, as well as having a sense of cultural belonging.

The installation itself was a work of art, as well as a space for various activities. A series of public events were carried out in this “Landscape Bonsai” one after another. It not only was an experimental field, but also a theater, an exhibition, a market, a playground and so much more. It inspired the vitality and creativity of the city at the time, displaying an open spirit that Shanghai has through an architectural way.



Flexible Landscape — An Urban Installation

Shanghai, Jing'an Temple, Shanghai, China

01 During the period of August 21st to September 10th in 2015, there was a series of public cultural activities named "Graduation Field" — "interconnection between architecture and public culture" held in the Jing'an Temple Square, which is the most prosperous place in Shanghai. One both artistic and practical architectural installation called Flexible Landscape was created, which was designed by Wang Yan, Zhu Xudong, Huang Wencui and Wang Yibo.

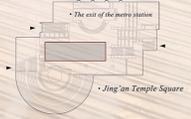
02 Jing'an Temple Square is relatively 7 meters lower than West Nanjing Road. The installation was understood to be a set of open landscape at this site. It was regarded as the site naturally with its soft and exquisite profile, resembling a boat of the city. The different levels that the two arc-shaped ridges scattered to be ingeniously corresponded to the open stage and the crowded atmosphere, as if it was the mountains in a basin.

03 Due to the fact that the stone material of the ground at the site did not allow any damages, the entire installation could not have any basis or ground fixation. However, considering the possible damages a powerful typhoon could cause, 30 pieces of 20-meter long streamline wooden bamboo frames were eventually adopted to create a fascinating structure. It not only omitted a visual effect of an abstract landscape, but also fulfilled with the spirit of the times.

04 The temperature was at a scorching point in August in Shanghai. This "arc-mountain" provided space for abundant public activities in the square with nobody ready. The misty rays that were hidden in the gaps of the frames continued to cool the square. Meanwhile, mist-shrouded scene enhanced the visual impression of this urban landscape boat. A rainbow can be occasionally seen on top of the installation under the sunlight, making the entire atmosphere light and more relaxing for the general public.

05 In terms of the material used in the installation, wooden bamboo was chosen as the main structural element. Bamboo is a plant that has many characteristics, called the "China's treasure" very much loved by Chinese people. Wooden bamboo is made of advanced fiber through hot gluing technology. It has the characteristics of high strength and high density, at the same time making people feel more natural and intimate, as well as having a sense of cultural belonging.

06 The installation itself was a work of art, as well as a space for various activities. A series of public events were carried out in this "Landscape Boat" one after another. It not only was an experiment field, but also a theater, an exhibition, a market, a playground and so much more. It inspired the vitality and creativity of the city at the time, displaying an open spirit that Shanghai has through an architectural way.



MATERIAL & PRODUCTION PROCESS



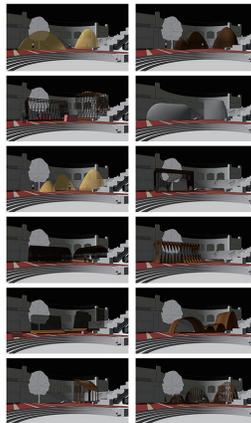
MODEL



PERSPECTIVES



DESIGN PROCESS



ACTIVITIES



CONSTRUCTION PROCESS & JOINTS

