

Computing Centre of the Agricultural Bank of China in Shanghai

press kit

February 2009

AREP communication

Media Relations: Judith Thépot

Tel: +33 (0)1 56 99 94 90 judith.thepot@arep.fr

The Bank of Agriculture, the third largest bank of China, wanted a prestigious and secure building for its computing centre. This centre that is most unusual will certainly become the most important in Asia, or even in the world.

Located north-east of Shanghai, in a district undergoing a fast change, this 115,000 m² building displays deliberately two contrasted images:

- an organisation around a large inner garden, luxuriant and quiet,
- large mineral and monumental external facades expressing a permanent protection.

These two notions come from the will to create, an introverted place offering a quality working space on five levels for thousands of people and a refined building that expresses the identity of one of the largest banks of China.

The whole rectangular building is setting the site limits and protects the inner space dedicated to the garden.

As in an imposing Chinese palace, the rectangle seems, on first view, to be regular. And like an imposing Chinese palace, it is not really ; its composition is enriched with the treatment of different part of the program such as :

- the doubling of the north wing,
- the slight set back of the east wing enhanced by a reception building at the south east corner of the site.

Visitor will enter the site by the south east; employees arriving by car will benefit from a direct access to the parking areas situated beneath each building. The set back of the reception building, the highest one, leaves a free space for a square from where the garden can be glimpsed.

The large interior garden constitutes the heart of the project. All of the office platforms look out onto the garden. It can be crossed easily wether outside or inside: two large pedestrian transversal galleries at garden level allow an internal communication between the various buildings. This garden is a place «away

from the world» where ones can get relaxed during lunch or break time.

In addition to the computing center, the programme mainly includes offices, a training centre, an hotel (200 bedrooms), an amphitheatre (400 seats), leisure complexes, parkings...

Client: Shanghai Longhand processing center (a subsidiary of the Agricultural bank of China)

Project management: AREP, SMAD (Shanghai modern architecture design)

End of works: 2008

Surface : 115 650 m²

The computing center international competition has been won by AREP in october 2003



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Computing Centre of the Agricultural Bank of China



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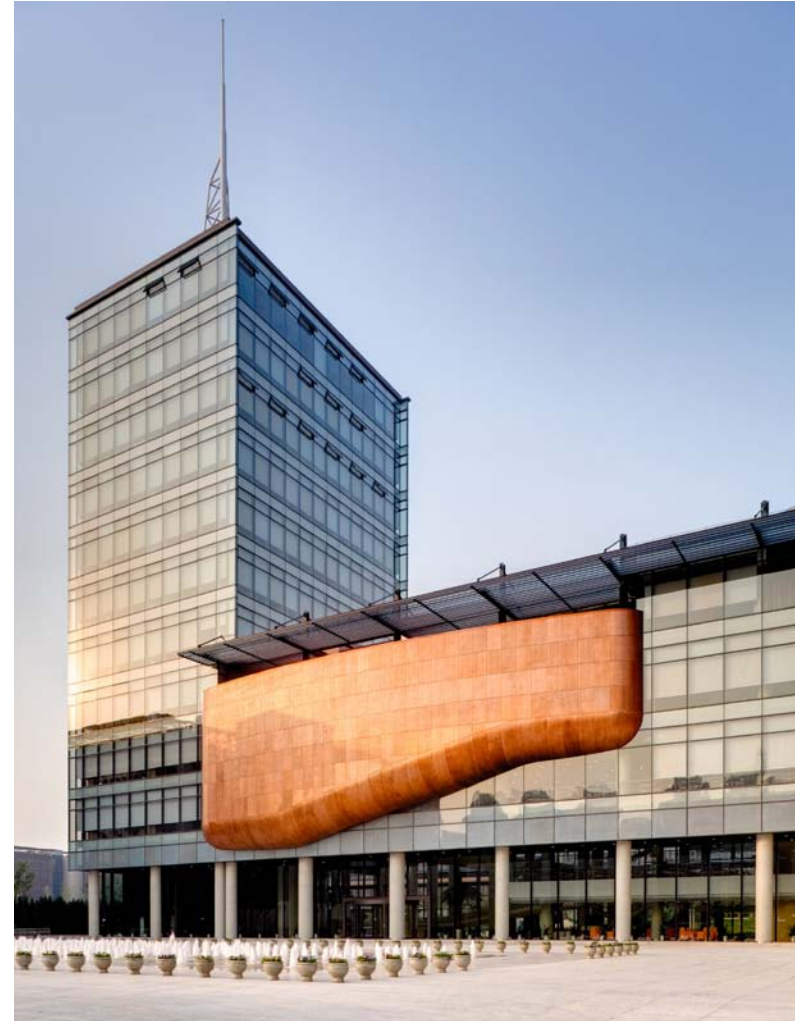
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