PORTFOLIO

Huanpeng Li's Portfolio
2022-2023
SELECTED WORKS
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1. THE EXPECTED UNEXPECTED_ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL 2. THE NEUTRAL ZONE_GOVERNMENT BUILDING 3. BEYOND THE TRUCK_TRUCK STOP 4. ULTRAREAL_SPACE CITY 5. ARCHITECTURE APROPOS ART 6. RETHINKING BIM
THE EXPECTED UNEXPECTED _ ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL

Instructor: Bernard Tschumi
Location: IRT powerhouse, N.Y.; Site Size: 118’ x 190’; Time: Fall 2022
Cooperative Academic Work _ Huanpeng Li, Nan Wei, Que Zhang
Intention:
“T he School as an intentional repetitive grid generating unexpected effects. A series of spaces unique to the architecture school.”

In 1963, Michel Foucault in a series of writings posited that modern professions are systems. Yet he argued that far from being sealed and self-determining, professions have an ambivalent nature: they are conceptual, rooted in ideals and constructions of the mind, but also contextual, triggered by circumstances and new forms of knowledge. This project begins with the hypothesis that one could argue the same about architecture. Like other professions, architecture lingers between two opposites. The Studio as space emerged in the 19th century. Today, we know it as the place we share, educationally and professionally, which also defines and questions architectural practice by delimiting and expanding its boundaries and concerns. It is dynamic, conceptually and contextually, and emerges from the architect in the same way the architect emerges from it.

Ambivalent as well, the studio is simultaneously a space and an activity, both constantly in the making, especially in our 21st century.
CONCEPT AND INTENTION

In aspect of creating unique experience of architecture school. We conceived a series strategy of the expected to activate unexpected movement and activities of education.

CONTEXT_PRESERVATION AND INSERTION

The site is located in the IRT powerhouse, a historic building occupying a typical NYC block. IRT powerhouse is located between VIA 57 West Apartments and 21 West End Apartments. It joins the park on the north side. We chose the westernmost part of it as the site for the school of architecture.

The interior of the north and south sides of the IRT powerhouse has distinct spatial properties. To the south are a tightly structured coal mine storage area, transport pipes, and structures, while to the north is an open space for large equipment such as boilers. There are great possibilities to learning from the existing structures and new schools interacting with the existing part unexpectedly.

Old drawing of IRT powerhouse

Coal mine storage & coal chute on the south side
PROGRAMSELF EXPLORATION, MIX, AND ADAPTABILITY

The architectural education relies on self-exploration. Every student will have unexpected development in this procedure. As for typical program, the programs are mixed unexpectedly; different combinations of program can activate diversity of student's ideas. As for emerging program, a flexible and sizeable experimental lab bring the proportion and perspective of the human body back to architectural education. Students will therefore gain understanding and enlightenment by directing seeing and touching.
As for the typology of typical program, the expected rules are constituted by a series of grids, arranged the studios as a 3D matrix. In each block, the stepping typology allow programs to share the same space and interact directly with the studio and the education.

Each cube will be a microcosm of the entire traditional program. The process of self-exploration is reflected from the bottom to the top. Cubic space will be divided into three different typology: Room, Platform, and Corridor. Providing exhibition, discussion, social, while keeping individual and private.
As for the emerging program, we decided to use sphere as the carrier of adept space. And treat it as a flexible rubik's sphere. It was setting the gala system and displayer to provide multiple functions. At the same time, bring mechanics and body scale return to the architecture education. The original structure of the site was retained to support the spheres to represent gravity, while the new structure was created above to pull the spheres that showed tension. Ultimately, they intertwine each other, and creating endless possibilities for students' futures.
The typology of repetitive grid created a complex of floors within the matrix. By giving vertical access, the unexpected movements encourage different activities of education simultaneously.

1. A series of joints between blocks to engage the grids to be an inseparable whole. 2. A Ribbon connects the sphere to the in-between space of the matrix.
We encourage students to build a strong relationship with the structure by touching and working around it. The wood and metal structure will unexpectedly intersect the space in different ways and influence the student’s activities and movements. As for the north part, translucent glass walls and concrete floors define the boundary of half-open studios, while wooden trusses and floors symbolize the human movement which binds those studios together. On the south part, the materiality responds to the mutual relationship between the preserved and new structure. The activities surrounding this space will perceive the connection and confrontation between old and new material.
The sphere and cube are integrated with each other; sharing the same tight structural system; materials and spaces stimulate students' interest and perception in an unexpected way.

Project changes according to the site, environment, original space, and structure. Based on the different spatial properties of the site, two distinct blocks were created for the project to serve the traditional and emerging.
THE NEUTRAL ZONE  GOVERNMENT BUILDING

Instructor: Eric Bunge

Location: United Nation, N.Y; Site Size: 150’ x 450’; Time: Summer 2022

Cooperative Academic Work: Huanpeng Li, Junzhi Deng, Yangxi Liu

Intention:

“Enrich the foundation of the original UNHQ, secure its flexibility for the future, and enhance the cross-department conversation.”

“A world capital, or a temple of peace... It is too soon to use such fine phrases, non? The UN simply does not exist yet. The nations are not united. The UN is not proved. It is simply a poste de combat.” - Le Corbusier, 1947.

Seventy years later, the UNHQ exists; however, was the UNHQ ever completed? As with the environment or geopolitics, everything in the world is constantly changing, and so is the UN. As the UN’s mission and inner workings become more complex, we propose that it will require a compact and effective space that hosts conversations between different departments. This new project will facilitate/encourage cross-departmental conversations and bring the UN closer to the public, accommodating temporary visits and stationing of overseas UN agencies and a multifunctional chamber/common hall.
ISSUE: THE UNHQ HAS NEVER BEEN UNITED

What are possible architectures of international dialogue? At a time when the United Nations is arguably more necessary than at any time since its founding, it is also potentially more disempowered and fragile.

Across the globe, there are over 15 different agencies scattered in the corners of the world, with the lack of contact and cultural exchange between each other, the UNHQ is under tremendous pressure from the movement of employees and office. At the same time, since the renovation of the United Nations Secretariat Building in 2010, many agencies, such as the DFO, moved out of it, the UNHQ has ceased to represent the unity.
BEHAVIOR AND TYPOLOGY RESEARCH

We researched the 15 United Nations agencies worldwide. By learning their chamber type and typology, we can summarize the behavior mode and habit how people use the space. No matter semicircle, round table, square, or U shape space will appear in all corners of the project to provide different types of opportunities for meeting, enhance the cross-department conversation, and finally build the neutral zone.

GRIDS AND VOLUMES

The original conception of the project was based on armature and frameworks such as Archigram, metabolists, and Pompidou. But the generic does not always mean a neutral frame, let alone with an encyclopedic variety of forms suspended within it. After studying the behavior and typology of different agencies and parliaments, we treat grid/frame as a linear circulation/movement; Think of volumes as a cluster; An armature of voids, rather than objects. Vertically, with the grid and volumes, the character and voids of the space change.
SITE AND SECTION

Our project, The Neutral Zone, connects the original UNHQ to the northern part of the site to a new ar- mature for inter-agency discussions and collaboration. There are two different entrances for staff and visitors. Visitors will enter the site directly via Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza to the west. Employees can use a secluded and private underpass or an outdoor corridor along the east coast of the site.
**MIDDLE LEVEL, THE NEUTRAL ZONE**

Within the neutral zone, the entire middle level is to enhance staff bonding and cross-departmental conversation. Different size groups from all departments meet on this floor, conversation, and take a rest.
In order to reflect the original Un's Master Plan, using its landscape design to form a semicircle facing south. This semicircle will serve as the gift exhibition and entrance for public.

Top level is organized as a square grid of paths connecting various chambers and a common hall, hinted at when people look up from the ground level.
**BEYOND THE TRUCK** TRUCK STOP

Instructor: Michael J. Bell

Time: Spring 2023; Cooperative Academic Work Huanpeng Li & Tianyi Wang

Intention:

“The new truck stop, rethinking the duration, role and relationship of human and machine, use a series of strategies to change the view of driver and truck.”

Using familiar elements to construct unfamiliar spaces to question people: what else can a driver be besides their profession? What about bus stops?

Whether the architecture itself is the same. The column may cut through the ceiling and becomes a monument rather than a simple support. Program may not be limited to one function.

Decades later, while the truck no longer exists, the driver left the building and the artist inhabit within.

Maybe the space is still working, maybe the artist and the driver are the same person.
We set the project after 2027 or 2030. The truck will be fully autonomous. In this context, we still believe that humans exist within the system as distinct different roles.

1. The data within the truck and AI is a kind of habit memory, like a child, with a pure, fast, and uncomplicated perception of different situations.

2. The driver or human has the image memory and emotion that the AI does not. This part enables people to make multiple judgments and choices in the face of unknown situations. This is the ability to project people's own experiences and memories onto surroundings.
BLANK TIME
A time that does not exist yet, with no purpose, no role, and truly belongs to the drivers.
TYPOLOGY_THREE LEVEL AND SITE

From the different layers of time and self identity, we discover the system of three layers, that each layer will have unique qualities and architecture language. A slow transition from the natural curve of the first layer to a straight line that fully represents order in the last layer. These three layers will have natural materials: like grass, soil, stone, trees. Processed natural materials: like plywood, tiles, or stone pave. Synthetic materials: like steel, plastic, concrete, or circuit board. Each geometry form will also follow the transition from non-machine natural, to non-human atmosphere.
OTHER WORK  OTHER PROJECTS RESULTS REPRESENTATION

1. Project: Ultrareal Space city; Time: Fall 2022; Instructor: Phillip Crupi
   Huanpeng Li, Yuntian Zhang & Junzhi Deng

2. Project: Architecture Apropos Art; Time: Fall 2022; Instructor: Steven Holl + Dimitra Tsachrelia
   Individual Academic Work

3. Project: Rethinking BIM; Time: Spring 2023; Instructor: Joseph A. Brennan
   Huanpeng Li, Yuntian Zhang, Wentao Liu, Lingfan Jiang & Nan Wei
Diagram: Corridor and Repetition Elements

Diagram: Rising and gathering
The essence of architecture is about ‘people.’ And in that story, ‘people’ appear first and then wear appropriate clothes in the different places. Then, characters inhabiting the landscape and architecture are injected into the story.

All my dreams start with a moment, and all the efforts are for the same goal. I always expect the day when I can set foot in my own architecture design. I will tear up and kiss the warm ground. Thank you so much for reading my work carefully, it shows that the journey has begun, although the dream is still far away.