

INTERNATIONAL

d3

# Objekt



In recent years China's countryside has undergone rapid changes. A large number of boutique hotels, B&Bs, tourist centers, Instagram-able café's, bookstores were erected amidst the beautiful scenery of China's suburbs. These tourism-driven projects have recently become the typical model of rural rejuvenation in China. Contrary to this model, House G is an atypical rural intervention.

It was designed for a local family based on the fundamental needs of users and their living experiences. It should reflect the daily domestic lives and activities of the family, as opposed to being a spectacle inserted in the suburban landscape. It was created by Interval Architects, a Shanghai-based architecture design practice co-founded by Oscar Ko and Gu Yunduan.

House G is located in a village two hours away from Shanghai. The client is an older couple with children living in downtown Shanghai. They occasionally come to visit. The village has a set of regulations governing the design of the houses in terms of areas, height, orientation, etc. As a response to local customs, cultural traditions and beliefs, the house was sculptured in an elegant and humble way blending in into the landscape.

The first level of the house was designed to reflect the living habits of the house owners. Contrary to a residence in the city or a weekend house of urban dwellers, a vernacular house in the village does not only have to fulfill the needs to live there but also the need to interact with neighbors.

The yard on the South end of the house is the most public area. It is the official entrance and a place of interaction. Part of the yard is reserved for growing of crops and locally grown vegetables.

Another part has become the extension of domestic life from the interior outwards. Benches and outdoor washing sinks are placed at the periphery of the court. The extended balcony on the second level provides shading and protection from rain and defines an area for neighbors to gather. It is derived from the traditional vernacular architecture in Southern China.

The foyer of the house is the daily entrance and a leisure space for the house owners to play Majong with the neighbors. The living room performs not only as a space of gathering for the family but also is a religious space to worship the ancestors. The second level of the house is the private domain and a place for mental retreat. The small courtyard on the mezzanine level is the most private area of the house and is only used by the family.

photos: Zhi Geng







Looking out on La Fontaine Park in Montréal, Canada, the home, with its high level of contrast and impressive scenery, is inspired by the architecture of early-century mansions. The classic influence predominates in the overall design of the house, with regard to both space organization and the choice of atmosphere, materials, and furniture. It was designed by La Shed architecture.

# MAISON DU PARC



Located at the heart of the home, the staircase winds its way through the three floors, bridging the gap between the various spaces.

Atop is an immense skylight, which illuminates and highlights the staircase's curves.

The living room is at the front of the house and has a marble fireplace. The room is organized in the conventional manner of mansions, with centred, symmetrical perspectives created by the double windows looking out at the park and the narrow double doors leading to the kitchen.

With an entire wall of windows facing the backyard, the kitchen and dining room take advantage of both the abundant natural light and direct contact with the outdoors.

The kitchen is organized around a large white marble island with matte black cabinet. Integrated concealed doors offer the possibility of hiding or revealing a second countertop, which can be accessed on both sides.

Designed with guests in mind, the basement bathroom was inspired by bathrooms in the finest restaurants. The cylindrical basin was installed on the floor in front of a partition mirror, in a space with a theatrical feel that opens onto the staircase and faces the illuminated wine cellar.

The carefully restored facade facing the street rivals the elegance of the back facade, which is entirely made up of windows and opens onto the backyard. These facades reflect the interior of the home and provide continuity, both in terms of the materials and the graphic effects.

La Shed architecture was established by Sébastien Parent, Yannick Laurin and Renée Mailhot in the Canadian city of Montreal.

photos: Maxime Brouillet