

“MUSEUM ENTRANCE IN XI’AN BY NERI&HU

DETAIL; JUL 2023

https://www.detail.de/de_en/museumseingang-in-xi-an-von-neri-hu

DETAIL



The entrance to the subterranean Qujiang Museum of Fine Arts, © Studio Fang

For the subterranean Qujiang Museum of Fine Arts, Neri & Hu have created an entrance structure of red natural stone whose striking shape conceals a rather complex suite of spaces.



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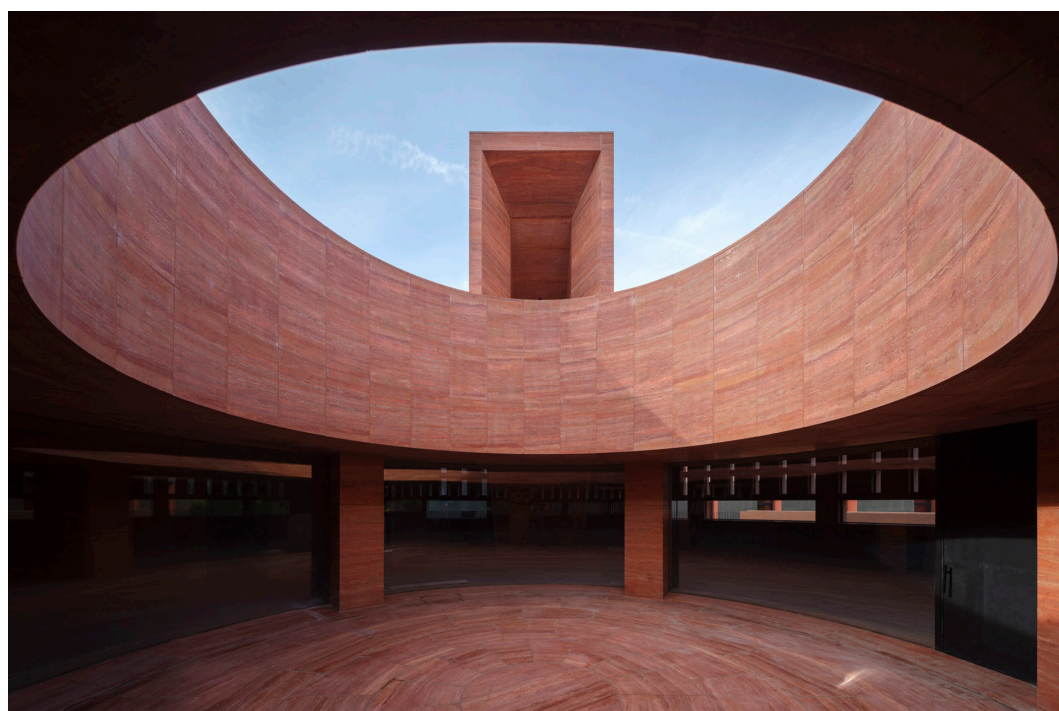
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The small museum in Xi’an is part of a larger hotel and shopping complex at the foot of the historical Giant Wild Goose Pagoda, which was erected nearly 1500 years ago by the Emperor Gaozong and is now a Unesco World Heritage site. The surrounding commercial district, on the other hand, is characterized primarily by its tedium.

In this setting the client, a hotel operator, wanted to increase the museum's visibility. The structure lies two levels below the road and is accessed via escalators that Neri & Hu have covered with a sculptural shell. At the bottom of the escalators, a three-storey atrium opens heavenward with skylights. The architects have remodelled the storey above this as a shopping level with public toilets.



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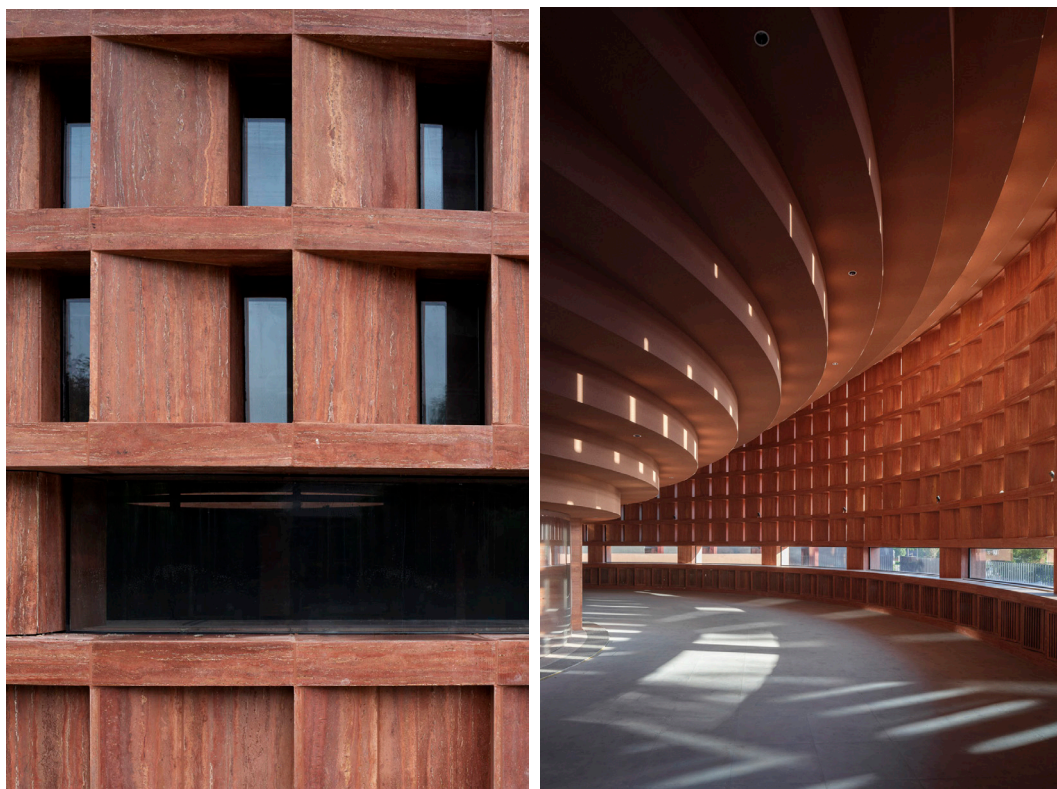
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A little culture, a lot of commerce

While the two lower levels are located in a massive plinth structure of concrete the ground level, which is set somewhat lower than the road, opens to the outdoors with floor-to-ceiling glazing. This level serves as retail space as well. Rather like a large table, a dramatically jutting red roof in exposed concrete spreads over this level. In its turn, it forms the base for the striking cylinder of red travertine that acts as an advertising pillar for the cultural institution found beneath the earth.



The pellucid container is home to a bar lounge; above this, there is a rooftop terrace in the shape of an amphitheatre. A round skylight connects the two levels, which form a single unit in terms of function as well. According to the architects, the rooftop terrace can be used either as additional space for the bar or for private events and fashion shows.