URBAN ORNAMENT - a new traffic hub for Renmin Square Shanghai

In a special area like Renmin Square, with all its different urban layers, it is impossible to find new and efficient architectural solutions by just following a linear design process. Analysis and design method, the two main focal points of this thesis, are intimately intertwined and cannot be dealt with separately. Ideas, perceptions and failures from one process, automatically influence the other. Working in a team allowed us to focus simultaneously on these important processes and to constantly discuss and redevelop them.
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The high human density in the subway areas, the special sociological meaning of Renmin Park for the entire city, the mixture of special functions within the site and the cultural and touristic influences of the surrounding environment, create a high grade of complexity and made it necessary to start by understanding every single layer of the system before being able to discover its main architectural problems. For the specific site analysis we put special emphasis on 2D and 3D diagrams which formed the basis of and provided essential knowledge for the further project development.

In our opinion, methods are not necessarily defining the architectural form. Based on the site parameters, they are describing the abstract skeleton behind the design. Design methods represent theories which help to overcome architectural problems. Buildable architecture arises from interpreting the method’s output in relation to the specific future needs of the site. In our case, the Voronoi algorithm provided us with a new theoretical arrangement of occupied and circulation space, which is still related to the site’s original geometry. By combining this data with a strong design metaphor, we were able to create architecture, which solves the site’s main problems and optimizes the important relationship between the subway system and the park areas.

Abb. 13828-006
3D diagram - connectivity above ground

Abb. 13828-007
Improvement of the structural connections

Abb. 13828-008
perspective view - Renmin Park
Abb. 13828-009
perspective night view - south