

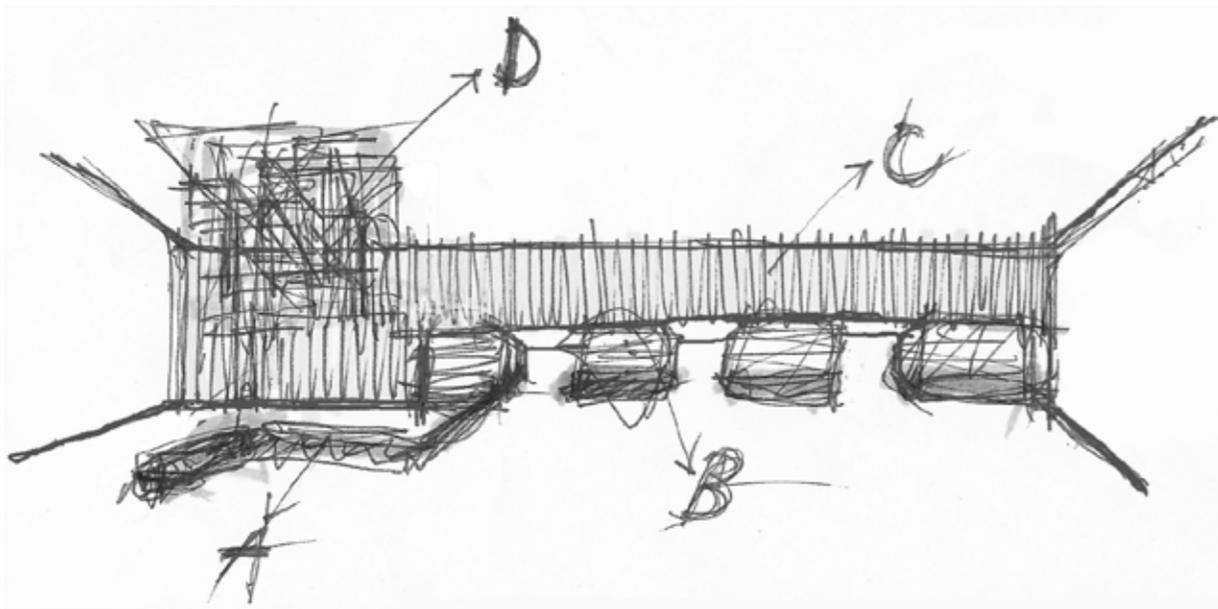
HNA TOWER  
*a design path*

*Methods*

DRAFTARCH



## 1 HNA Tower: balancing design



Leading elements in the main lobby.

The project consists in the design of common areas in an office tower in Haikou, the capital city of Hainan Island, a province in the South of China. Hainan is located in Southeast Asia, a region characterised by tropical climate, bright light, strong colour contrasts and warm hues ranging from ochre yellow to dark shades of brown.

The areas which we were asked to contribute to are the main hall and lift lobby on the ground floor and the lift lobby, corridors and bathrooms on the typical floor.

Our project approach is based on the search for balance between two extremely important elements: on the



one hand, refined work on surfaces and their tactile and material rendering; on the other, the idea that walls and ceilings must be treated as volumes that can be expanded, reduced or dug into in order to improve the perception of space.

The perfect balance between these two elements can be found in the main entrance hall, where volumes and surfaces interact. The flooring and pillars coated with rosewood marble, together with the white, uniform ceiling, create a neutral frame which was used to enhance the back wall.

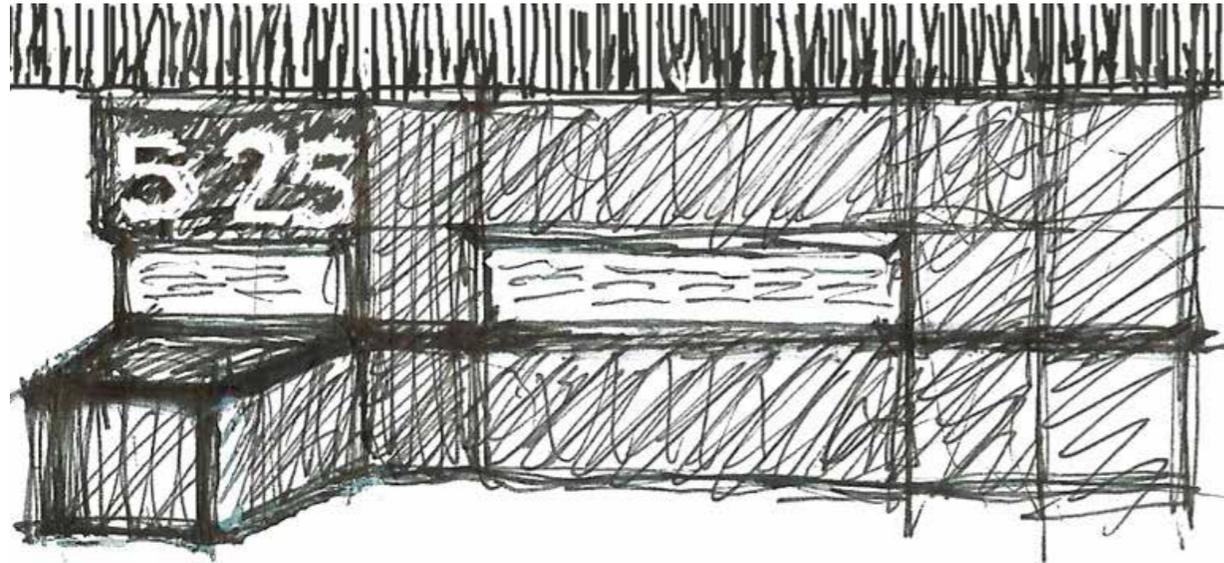
The latter consists in vertical elements made of Jura stone alternated with embedded dark wooden strips which emphasise the chiaroscuro effects; the lift lobbies are marked in the main hall by amani marble surfaces which continue inside the lobby itself. The stereometry of the reception desk, made of amani marble, and the suspended sculpture composed of wooden panels of various sizes play a major role: their free ar-

angement in space disrupts the symmetry and compression created by the long and narrow architectural structure and, at the same time, turns them into means of visual orientation for those visiting the tower.

This allowed us to study in depth the dialectical relationship between two elements of a different nature: on the one hand, the desk and sculpture, arranged freely thereby recalling stereometric elements, and on the other, the back wall, where measure and geometry prevail.

The lift lobby is marked in the main hall by amani marble surfaces which continue inside the lobby itself and is characterised by a series of lightboxes on the ceiling reducing or expanding space. The overall view involves strong colour contrasts: the dark, rich, continuous hue characterising the amani marble and the white ceiling surface. A few, simple metal details with a practical function help visitors to orientate in space.

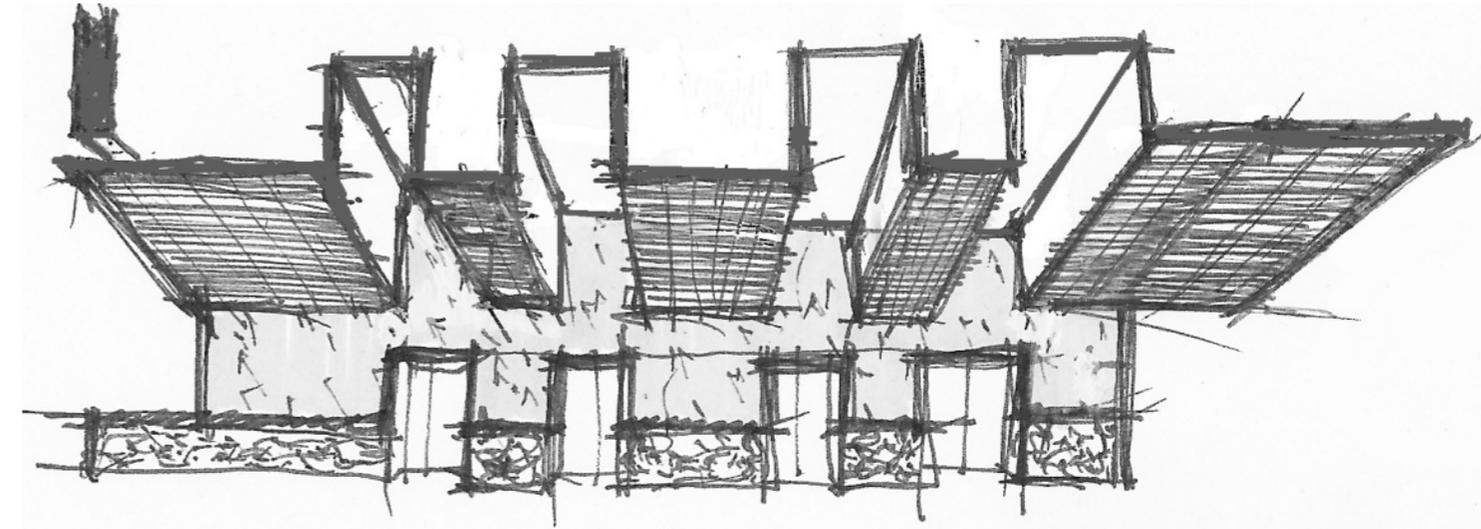
Common areas on the typical floor are consistent with the main hall. Here the increased wall thickness allows



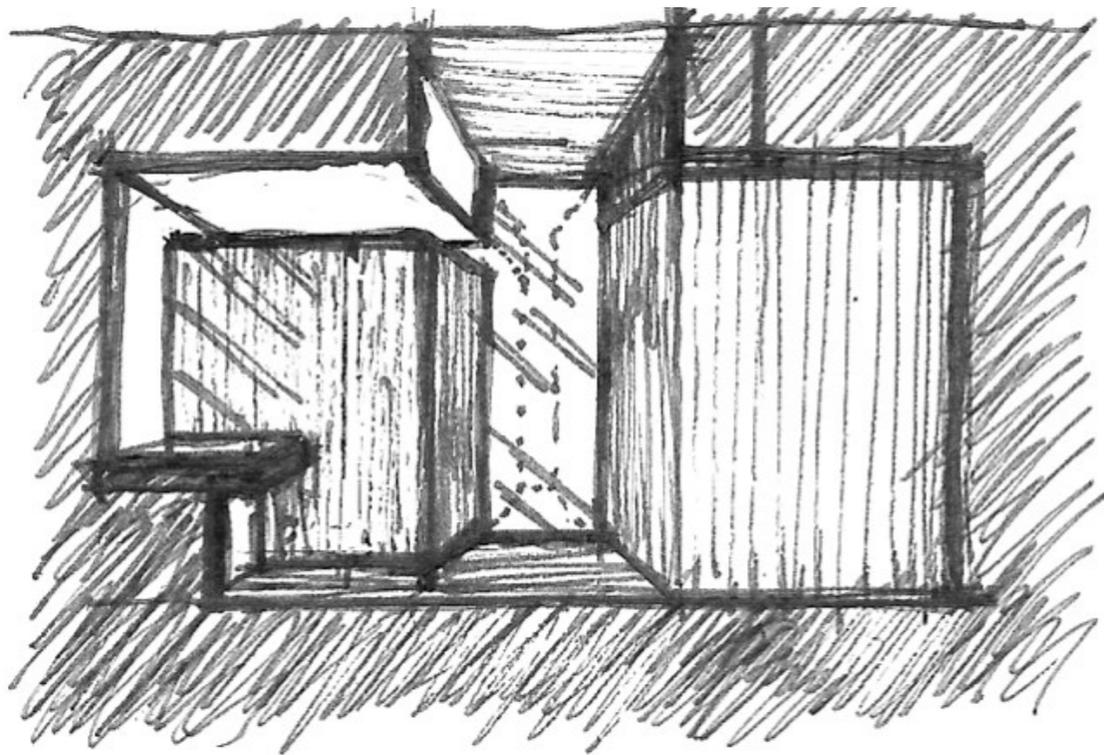
Sketch of the main lobby elevation.

*On the right*

The volumes of the lobby lift ceiling on the first floor.



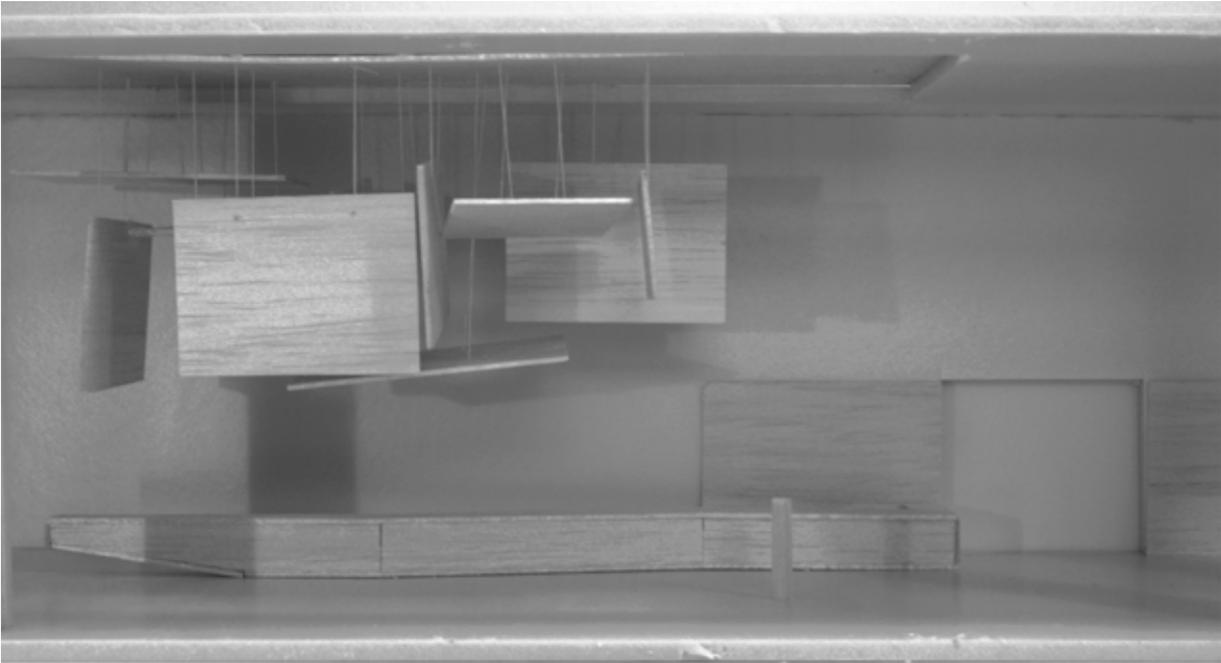
floor numbers, lights and lift buttons to be engraved directly on the wall surface, playing a functional role and at the same time creating an accurate volume effect. Although the materials used are less noble compared to the ones on the ground floor, we aimed at using a consistent range of materials with a strong tactile sense: the lift plant cores coated with yellow, fibre-cement, full-height panels and the white plaster corridor walls and ceilings are in contrast with the large-size, dark stoneware floor tiles.



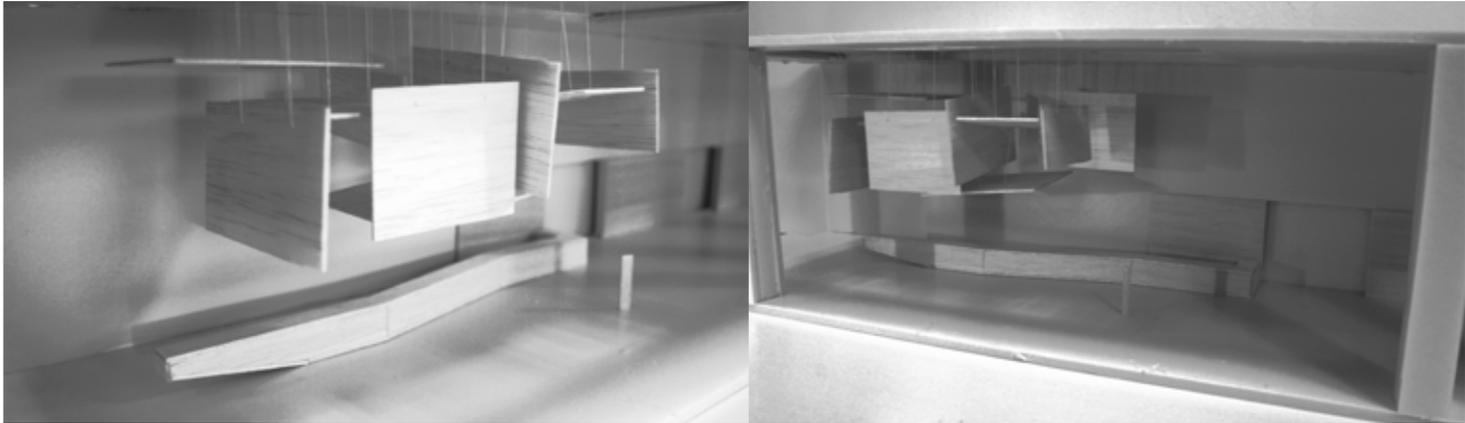
Sketch of the bathroom on the standard floor.



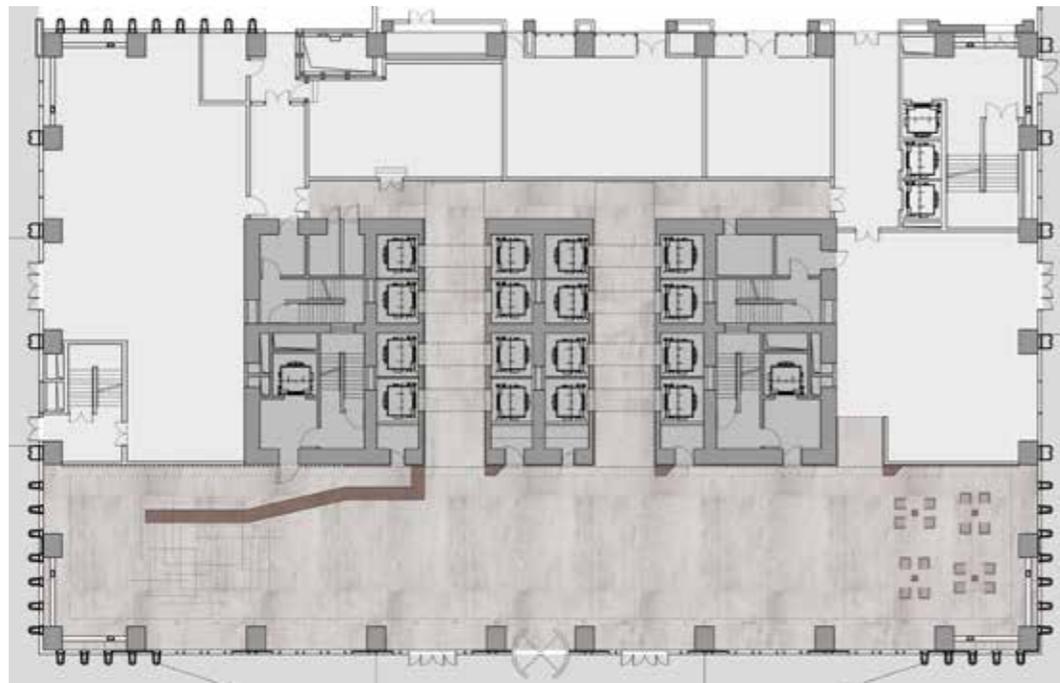
## 2 Main lobby spatial composition



Massing and spatial composition in the main lobby: relation between the hanging sculpture and the desk.



### 3 Design deepening



Main lobby floorplan and elevation.

*On the right*

View of the main lobby from the reception desk.

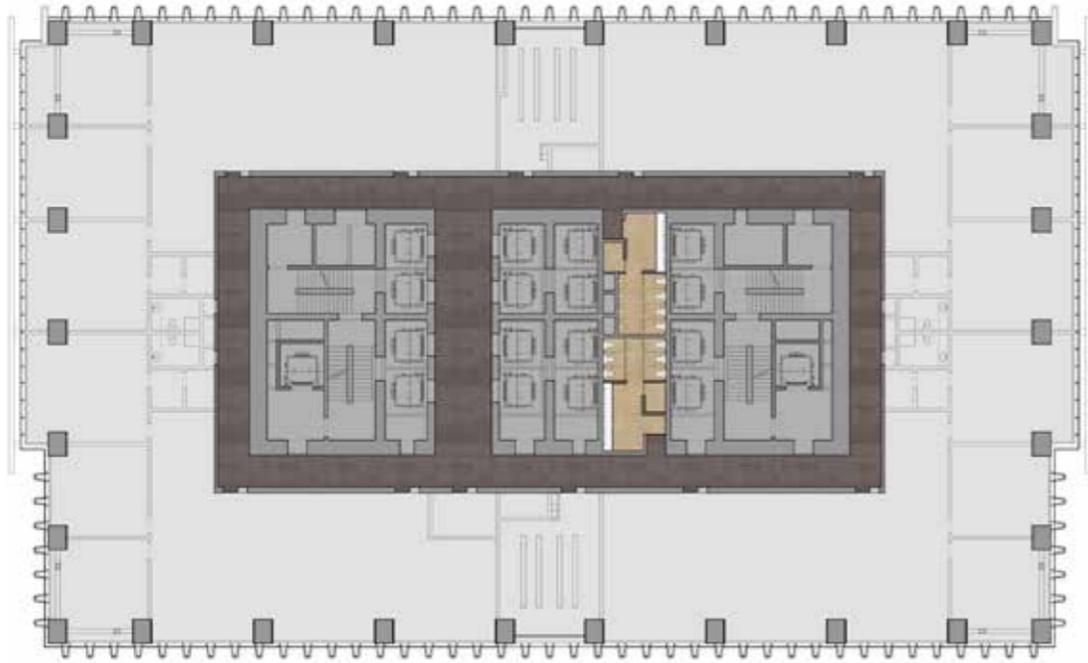




First floor lobby lift.

*On the left*

Relation between main lobby and lobby lift.



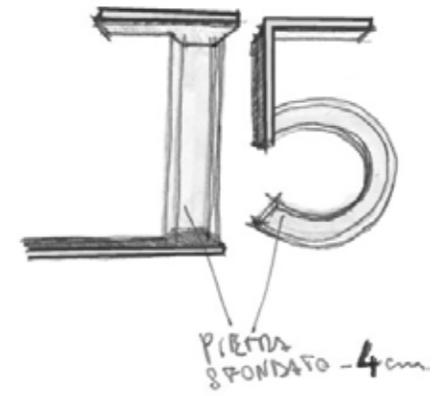
Standard floor plan,  
lift lobby and corridor  
elevations.



*On the right*

View of the lift lobby  
on the standard floor.



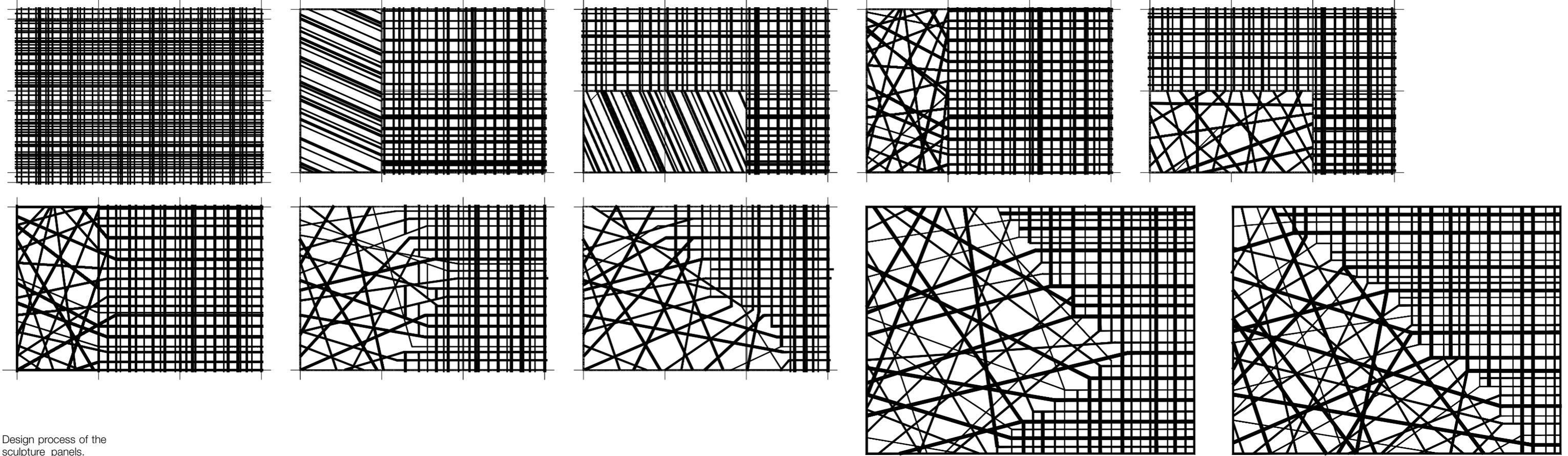


Detail of the numbering on the standard floor.

*On the left*

View of the corridors on the standard floor.





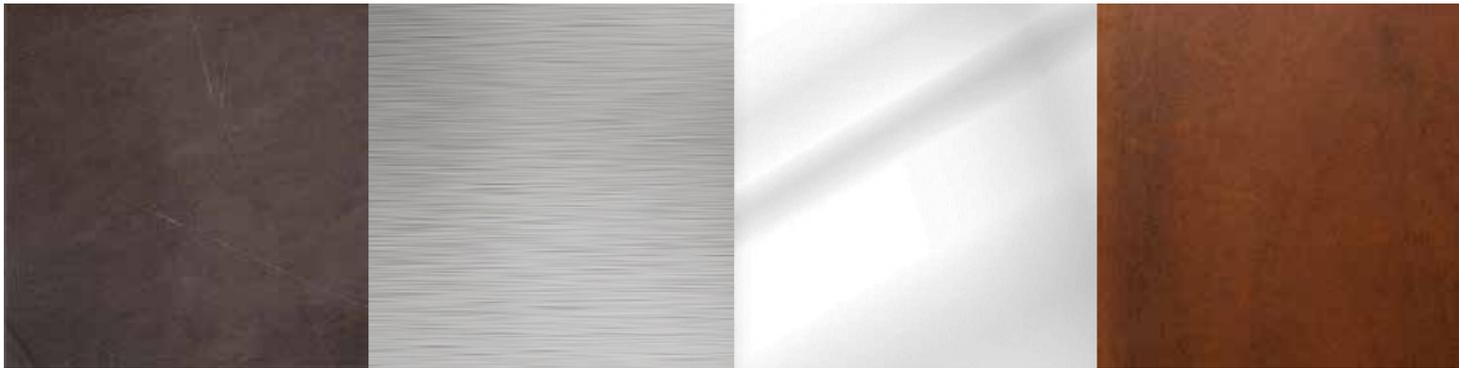
Design process of the sculpture panels.

5 The construction



The tower under construction: structure, main lobby and standard floor.

## 6 The materials



The bold contrasts of the material palette.

### Project data

*Location:* Haikou, Hainan Island, China.

*Area:* 21.400 sqm.

*Program:* main hall and lift lobby on the first floor; lift lobby, corridors and bathrooms on the typical floor.

*Client:* HNA Group.

*Year:* 2014 –



