

Library of the Tsinghua University, Beijing, P.R. China, 2008-2011

Project: 2008

Construction: 2009-2011

Client: Shanghai Real Estate (Group) Co. Ltd.

Shanghai Shentong Underground Railway Assets Managements CO. Ltd

Partner architect: Ecadi, East China Architectural Design & Research Institute Co., Ltd

Area: 20'000 m²

Area: 16'000 m² above ground

Volume: 70'000 m³ above ground

The library is composed of a rectilinear volume marked by a balanced sequence of large windows used to form the rhythmical composition of the façade. It is treated as a single, full-height body in which to insert the large circle of an overturned conical volume with recessed openings. The library features an inner central space - the core of the library - covered by a large skylight, forming a perspective toward the sky and a full-height courtyard faced by the three levels of the reading rooms, which are sheltered by a screen composed of wooden slats. The insulated masonry and the stone cover guarantee good energy performance throughout the year, adapting to the hot summers and the cold winters of Beijing, while all interior spaces feature linear and tempered materials to enhance a warm and essential atmosphere.