

### Finnish sensibility to China

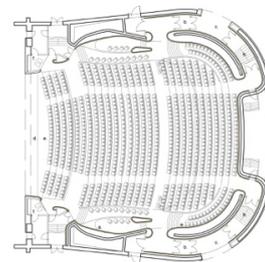
Helsinki and Shanghai based studio, PES-Architects, have completed their seventh project in China: the Fuzhou Strait Culture and Art Centre. Fuzhou is the capital and one of the largest cities in Fujian Province. It has been ranked one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the world. In 2013, the Fuzhou Government hosted an international invited competition for the Strait Culture and Art Centre with the goal of strengthening the cultural image of the city and the Mawei New Town development area.

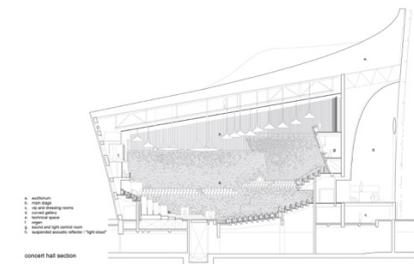


PES-Architects' winning proposal takes inspiration from the petals of a jasmine blossom, the city flower of Fuzhou. The flower is manifested in the formal language and colour of the architecture takes inspiration from the petals of a jasmine blossom, the city flower of Fuzhou. The five jasmine petal venues — opera house (1600 seats), concert hall (1000 seats), multi-functional theatre, art exhibition hall and cinema centre — are linked by a Cultural Concourse and a large roof terrace with public services and commercial and leisure facilities. The roof terrace is accessible via two ramps from the Jasmine Gardens as well as from the Central Jasmine Plaza, providing a seamless connection from the complex to the riverfront of the Minjiang River. On the underground level, a promenade-like route along the Liangcuo flood river connects the landscape to the interiors, as well as providing a connection between the metro station and the Centre.

*Images on this page are of the opera hall*

1 opera hall covering double covered GPC pavilion  
 2 concert hall  
 3 multi-functional theatre  
 4 stage  
 5 exhibition hall temporary seating  
 6 promenade with integrated spaces and lighting  
 opera auditorium plan, main stalls

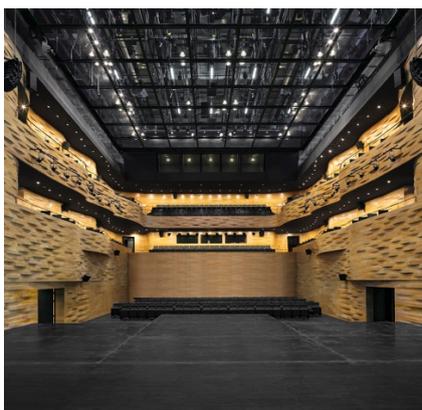




### Ceramics

Ceramic is used as the project's main material due to its significance in the historical context of the maritime Silk Road trade connection between China and the rest of the world. PES-Architects worked with Taiwanese ceramic artist Samuel Hsuan-yu Shih to design the artistic ceramic interior for two main auditoriums according to acoustical demands, using the legendary "China White" material and new technology. All façades are clad with white ceramic tiles and louvres, while both the opera hall and concert hall showcase this cultural material in innovative and creative ways in the acoustic wall surface.

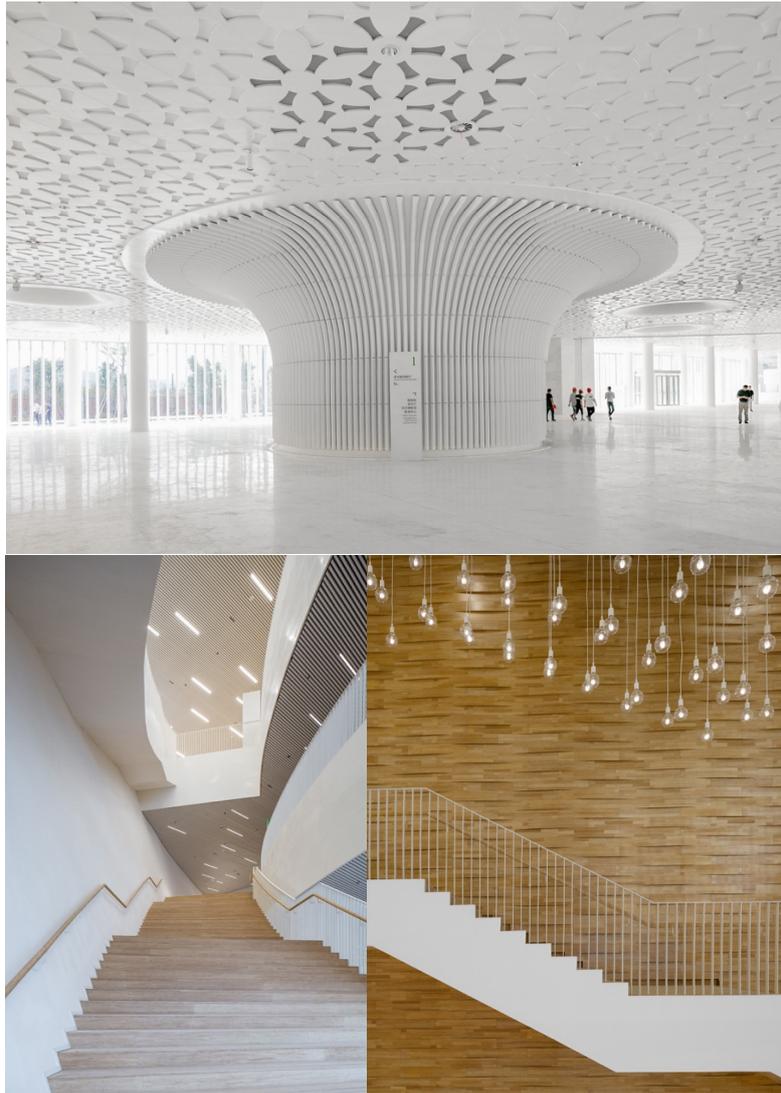
The interior surfaces of the opera hall (previous page) and concert hall (this page photos and section above) are clad with topographical ceramic panels. Based on extensive studies carried out with the acousticians, two types of acoustic panels were developed: an engraved panel and a mosaic tile panel. Both panels are adaptable to the topographical surfaces that are required to achieve high quality acoustics, as well as the visual language of the design.



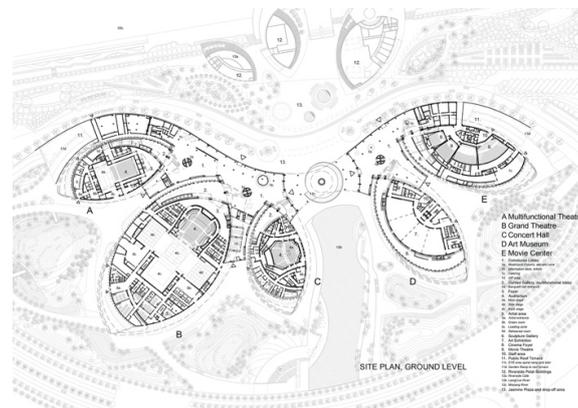
### Bamboo

The Multipurpose Hall (left) is designed for a 700 seat audience. The walls are clad with solid CNC cut bamboo blocks, shaped according to the acoustic needs. The roof is equipped with a flexible cable net ceiling to enable a flexible usage of lighting and other technical equipment.





*The main entrance Concourse Lobby is an open space to be used for cultural activities. The "Mushroom Columns" host elevators and ventilation equipment. "Sky Blossoms" in the lobby ceiling introduce daylight and create a connection between the ground level and the roof terrace above.*



*Dividing the large complex into smaller units gives the Centre a more human scale and makes it easy for users to navigate both indoors and outdoors. Each building has a core area — a semi-public, curved gallery that follows the curvature of the main façade — that integrates the public interior space with the landscape of the Jasmine Gardens around the building and further with the Mahangzhou island natural reserve in front of the Centre.*



First concept model for competition



Exterior

*The main façade ceramic louvre section is lens-shaped, relating to the form used in the massing of the buildings. This also maximizes the shading capacity of the vast glass façade. The distance and angle of the louvres has also been studied with the help of complex scripting in order to achieve the optimal angle and distance between the louvres.*

**Client:** Fuzhou New Town Development Investment Group Co., Ltd.  
**Location:** Mawei New Town, Fuzhou, China  
**Status:** Opening Ceremony October 2018

Construction began 2015  
 Design began 2014

**Area:** Gross area 153,000 sq. m.

**Programme:** Opera House (1,600 seats)  
 Concert Hall (1,000 seats)  
 Multi-functional Theatre (700 seats)  
 Art Exhibition Hall, Cinema Centre

**Height:** 62 metres

**Principal Materials:** Steel, concrete, bamboo and custom-developed ceramic

**PES-Architects Team:**

**Lead architects and designers**

Pekka Salminen (chief designer), Martin Lukasczyk (project architect), Samuel Hsuan-yu Shih (ceramic artist), Lai Linli (project manager)

**Main design team**

Li Wei (project coordinator), Guang Xiaojing (project manager), Yizhou Zhao, Masahide Nakane, Matti Kankkunen, Anna Blomqvist, Clara Juan, Uros Kostic, Antonio Barquinha, Martin Genet, Dou Jian

**Local architect**

Xu Zhongwu, CCEDGC Co. Ltd.

## About PES-Architects

PES-Architects' Shanghai studio was established in 2010, although the architects have been working in China since 2003. During this period, the practice has won 1<sup>st</sup> prizes in nine Chinese architectural competitions and worked in just under twenty different cities in the country. The Wuxi Grand Theatre was completed in 2012 and the Icon Yunduan Tower in Chengdu in 2017.

The practice was originally founded in Finland in 1968 by Pekka Salminen, with 2018 marking its 50th anniversary. Today, the Helsinki office employs over 70 staff and continues to work towards an architecture that embraces a cross-disciplinary approach. The practice is well-known in Finland for its often complex and wide-ranging building types. Important projects include: Helsinki Airport terminals; West Terminal 2 ferry terminal in Helsinki; Ring Rail Train Stations in Vantaa, Finland; and the Marienkirche Concert Hall in Germany.

