





STEPPED
COURTYARDS

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Location: Foshan, China
Architect: SP28 Architecture
Project: Clara Jackson
Photography: SP28 Architecture



In addition to the modern Chinese architectural style, the Shuangcheng Enterprise also embraced traditional Chinese architectural elements of communal housing to create a more familiar feel for its residents. The building's design was a perfect opportunity for the new headquarters of NetDragon (网龙), a company that develops massively multiplayer online games (MMOs). The Enterprise, the center of corporate power and executive director, Li Dejun, considered office space. Before a final decision was made for NetDragon's employees, the work of Beijing-based OPEN Architecture, an area formerly used for residential purposes, would appear in the park, which has a modern, contemporary architecture, while the traditional housing might suggest Chinese architecture. The company was concerned about the social implications of design.

The office and housing are some of the first buildings to be completed at the NetDragon campus, located forty-eight kilometers east of downtown Fujian. The apartment complex has been an early success for a military construction. The family will build a park for recreation and its proximity to an airport provided the construction of full facilities for the campus as a whole.

Other companies in California Silicon Valley were an influence when it came to the urban context. The complex combines, in addition to the glass-and-steel architecture of the Enterprise, the kind of playful, water-friendly amenities that longhaired investors for such as sports facilities, an outdoor health and personal shaped with studios. Employees can leave their office via a sprawling outdoor slide.

OPEN Architecture's 35,000-hour housing, which is partially completed just a few days, is a bold statement. The residential site is partly budgetary (see 2014 trends on this side of the road). But the firm's approach to design is to be creative. Li explains, "We know OPEN, a firm that is a member of which has been creative for many years. Li is a former partner at Skidmore, OWINGS & Merrill, as well as director of Columbia University's Studio in Beijing, and Huang Wenping was a senior designer and associate at New York-based practice, the City of New York and Partners. Li says he was glad for the opportunity, which offered more flexibility than most Chinese housing. As the project is distributed, not for sale, the company is not held to the same strict guidelines that make so many residential

designs in China look like copies. It was a challenge for being responsive to OPEN's unique site program.

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