A Quiet Architecture

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Abstract

I believe architecture is a product of construction and will. The building either conforms to the environment or is set against it. Architecture manifests its existence from the differentiation between the environment it creates and the one that exists. However it is not necessary to articulate the existence of architecture by intrusive acts. This thesis proposes a building of formal simplicity standing autonomously but not arrogantly amidst a larger setting. It is important to create spaces that evoke a quiet emotional response.

Programmatically the project is a public library located in Nanjing, China. It also serves as community space for the area. It is a place intended for people reading, meeting others, and various cultural activities.
Contents

Chapter 1: A quiet place
Chapter 2: Space and light
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CHAPTER 1  A QUIET PLACE

Plan rationally to construct a quiet external condition.
Site analysis

This site is located in one busy district, surrounding by three streets. The street mainly lying to the west of the site is the main street, where the main flow comes from the south to the north.

Right Topographic site drawing at 6ft interval
The main idea of this scheme is to create a quiet and peaceful central courtyard by having barrier walls and buildings wrapping around as well as descending to it. The spaces created between walls are served as transitional zones connecting the less quiet outside space and quiet courtyard.

The site plan follows some basic techniques to reduce the noise.

a. Creating lands to increase the distance between street and building.

b. Build sound-absorbing barrier wall/buildings parallel to the noise source and receiver.

The image on the right shows the accoustical site analysis, and the other images depict the second and third scheme concept and study models.
Right Third floor plan
Right  Northern facade of main courtyard
Right  Long section E–E
CHAPTER 2  SPACE AND LIGHT

The room is the place of the mind.  Louis I. Kahn
The entrance

Right  Perspective view of the back entrance to the courtyard.

The long walk to the back entrance quiets down and narrows the crowd coming from the secondary courtyard to the main courtyard.
The atrium

Top Left img1 Views taken from the back entrance of the main building. Photo, summer, cloudy.

Bottom Left img2 Back entrance seen from inside the building. Rendering.

Right img3 Translucent glass wall transmits light as well as shadows which brings interaction between interior and exterior. Photo, summer, cloudy.
The first floor

Right  Perspective view of interior reading hall
Left img1  Photo. Summer afternoon, sunny.
Right img2  Photo. Summer morning, cloudy.
The light well

Right  Perspective view of the reading hall illustrating a shear central light
The second/third floor

Right  Perspective drawing of the second floor
**Top Left**  img1 Photo. Summer morning, cloudy.

**Top Right**  img2 Photo. Summer afternoon, sunny.

**Bottom Left**  img3 Photo. Summer afternoon, sunny.

**Bottom Right**  img4 Sketch drawing.
From Left to Right
img1  Summer, Cloudy
img2  Summer, Cloudy
img3  Summer, Sunny
The courtyard

**Top Left**  img1 Photo, Summer afternoon, cloudy.

**Top Right**  img2 Perspective view from the reading hall to courtyard. Rendering, Summer afternoon, sunny.

**Bottom Left**  img3 Perspective view of the eastern corner. Rendering, Winter afternoon, sunny.

**Bottom Right**  img4 Perspective view of the corridor. Rendering, Summer afternoon, sunny.
APPENDIX FROM BEGINNING TO END