Design Description - Terrain | Contemporary (大寨 • 梯田 • 当代)

The Dazhai terraced field is magnificent on site. Its agricultural purpose and architectural relationship with Happy Ancient Village also inspire us a lot while designing the pan-museum for the site.

First, the site is surrounded by beautiful mountain scenaries. Architecturally, we think the terrain of the site should be beautified and more people could enjoy, so we enlarge four plates by extending out the existing contour lines of the terrain. In order to respect the nature and make the architectural gesture as light as possible, we simply add four pieces of wall on site which largely borrows the form of western Sichuan roofscape to define the new exterior landscapes and different scales of the exhibition spaces inside. For the façade design, we try to borrow the surrounding mountain scenaries as the ingredients and use parametric program to transform the image data into a façade design. Traditional Chinese roof tiles are used but connected vertically by mullions. It rotates from 0 to 90 degrees based on the pixelized data which creates different interesting openings for the exhibition space.

Other than tiles, local materials from western Sichuan architecture are used but in new form. For example, rammed earth walling is used to form different curvatures of open, semi-open and closed cylinder spaces in the building based on different functions requirements. Bamboo is used for all the interior furniture and brick is used to form the grand steps. We believe by sourcing the local materials would definitely lower the construction cost significantly and also make the building more green and sustainable. Based on all the considerations above, the architecture is formed specific to the site at Happy Ancient Village.