The Invisible Tower

A critical design: The monument tower competition for EXPO 2010, Shanghai, China

The site is located in the center of the coming EXPO 2010 site, Shanghai. The competition aimed to select a design of a 200m monument tower for the EXPO.

There are more than 8,000 high-rises in Shanghai, nearly 700 of which are higher than 100 meters. What on earth can a 200m non-function tower really do for its people in a forest of landmarks? To memorialize the unsustainable ‘pursuit of the height’?

The city’s endless pursuit of height hadn’t benefited any functional development of architecture. The capacity on top of the tower is especially low, while the visual field is anyway limited. Building cost grows with height, and constructional ability is facing great challenges.

For the past thousand years, we sustained the dignity of significant human civilization through continual completion of new skyscrapers. They grow, show up, become world tallest but soon the second.

The new era, in which we google everything, we extend the life of creatures and articles and spread information with not great physical movement but hi-tech, is appealing to the break of higher construction. It’s high time we observed the world not again in a new height, but in a new way!

In the Invisible Tower, GIS Panorama photography, digital multimedia and other new technologies are applied to screen cities inside the shell: sky above and earth underneath. Construction will be an easy task while the view is unlimited and changeable. Simple commands lead you to a different city. You can switch to Shanghai seconds after New York. The ‘tower’ is compressed, but view expands.

At the same time, the problems about energy-saving and post-EXPO-use are also positively concerned and answered.

We Target at:
- Ethical standards and social equity
- Ecological quality and energy conservation
- Quantum change and transferability

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