Panda-Watching
Historic village reconstruction, Xueshan, China

Main author
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Summary by the jury
The design proposes a post-earthquake reconstruction of Xueshan, Sichuan, a historic village known as the hometown of the panda in China. Focusing on the unique local characteristics of the site, the project uses bamboo as the main building material and revives traditional construction techniques. Approximately 50 houses will be rebuilt and a small number of new structures erected, including a hotel, panda museum, memorial hall and raised platforms for panda watching.

Appraisal by the jury
Is history a construct? What measures must be taken when dealing with historic preservation? To what degree can contemporary architecture refer to the past? These are some of the questions posed by the project, both conceptually as well as through design. The proposal aims at a subtle balance between “the old” and “the new”, at times adhering to pure historic reconstruction based on the study of archival material, while at other moments taking greater liberties when interpreting vernacular form. The jury praises the clarity and beauty of the submitted drawings which intelligently refer to the tradition of classical Chinese painting, while acknowledging the present.

Project data
Context Landscape, urban design and infrastructure
Client Baoxing County government
Background Public commission
Planned start September 2013

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Image 3: Analysis of the income of locals.

Image 4: New traditional residences.

Image 5: Modular façade system.

Image 6: Panda-watching program and route arrangement.

Image 7: Panda study and history museum.

Image 8: The study and reinterpretation of ancient garden design.

Image 9: Bamboo production and bamboo structure.