

Theme 2

Improving our cultural offer and celebrating great architecture



WIDE-ANGLE VIEW

architecture as social space in the Manplan series 1969-70

"Daring, controversial, irreverent, constructive - Manplan is the blueprint of the possible! Help us shake up, stir up, lead and inspire!"

In 1969, The Architectural Review magazine launched an ambitious and bold series. It aimed to analyse the state of architecture and urban planning in Britain and campaigned for an alternative and more holistic approach that would look at all basic human needs as a whole. This inspired the title, 'Manplan'

Manplan was the brainchild of Hubert de Cronin Hastings, long-time proprietor and part-time editor of The Architectural Review. For Hastings the late 1960s was a time of disillusionment: the optimism of the post-war period had been replaced by an awareness that modern architecture's promises to improve everyone's living conditions had often failed to materialise. Running from September 1969 to September 1970, each issue of the magazine was dedicated to an area of human activity affected by design and planning choices, analysing architecture's physical and social impact.

Under the supervision of series editor Tim Rock, each guest editor worked with a specially invited photographer from the world of photojournalism and street photography, rather than architectural photography. These photographers framed architecture as a backdrop for human activity, capturing the emotions and experiences of the people who used the buildings. The message the images conveyed, combined with the sparse, polemical text and the graphically powerful setting, was an uncompromising and highly critical comment on contemporary living conditions.

Many of the subjects addressed by Manplan still resonate with us today.

"Not only for architects - for anyone who cares about the quality of life"



We laid the foundations for the House of Architecture – our major investment programme. From bringing together our world-class collections and developing a virtual programme that will expand our digital reach and accessibility on a global scale, to the essential modernisation of our London landmark building – we made steady progress. We also continued to celebrate and showcase excellence through our globally standard-setting awards, talks and exhibitions.

253
%

increase in visitor numbers to our exhibitions and public programmes ↗



BO Hongtao

Shougang Chang'An Mills

Date: 2022

Location: Beijing



CHANG AN MILLS project is located in Shijingshan District, western Beijing, in the middle of the two lakes (Quinning Lake and Xuchi Lake) area of Shougang Park, with a total construction area of 223,753 square metres. It is well known at home and abroad for serving the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, where Gu Ailing and Su Yiming made history and achieved China's breakthrough in the aerial skiing event. The urban renewal of Shougang continues in the post-Olympic era. CHANG AN MILLS, as a comprehensive heritage reuse project integrating business, offices and leisure, has become a highly dynamic urban business and leisure destination in the west of Beijing, marking the development of Shougang's regeneration from "Sports+" to the brand-new stage of "City".

Spatial Contribution
The central green ridge of Shougang Park connects Quinning Lake on the south side and Xuchi on the north side, making it the most dominant ecological green lung of the park. The CHANG AN MILLS Sedimentation Pond, Time Pendulum Memory Park and Urban Vitality Park, which are integrated into the central green ridge of the park, enrich the exterior space of the shopping centre. The entrance plaza of the shopping centre, the family plaza in the former powder-making workshop, the west plaza of the accelerated clarification pond, the west plaza of the cooling tower, the east plaza of the May Day Theatre and the south plaza of the three blast furnaces on the north side, along with the east plaza of the winter training centre on the west side together link all the busy functional buildings of the area around the green ridges of the two lakes. The spatial layout of small neighbourhoods with a dense road network avoids excessive heaviness, makes the neighbourhoods pedestrian friendly and provides an effective vehicle for urban vitality.

Industrial Contribution
The Winter Training Center serves as an industrial anchor for Athletics+, a supporting service facility during the Olympic Games; the renovated CHANG AN MILLS provides an important urban support for industry+Life, becoming a source of urban vitality after the Olympic Games. CHANG AN MILLS is a new type of urban complex that brings together low-density modern creative office space, a complex commercial, multi-functional activity centre and green office space. The significant number of technology, creative and science-related industries moving into the site has built up a favourable industrial ecology. The flexibility of the open public space provides the possibility of hosting a large number of adaptable industries, allowing the park to form a rich, interesting and vibrant mix of high- and low-tech service industries.

Sustainability Contribution
Low carbon sustainability: the reuse of existing industrial relics to extend their life cycle and effectively reduce carbon consumption throughout their life cycle. The renewal of the second pumping station for KFC's first national small green store (near-zero energy consumption pilot store) provides a benchmark for the low-carbon renewal of historical buildings, which, combined with the overall building complex of the CHANG AN MILLS, which has achieved three steps for green construction, provides a good model for the low-carbon sustainable operation of the city.

Ecological sustainability: the remains of the existing railway line for industrial transportation and the industrial sedimentation ponds have been transformed into a north-south green ridge, which becomes an important ecological corridor linking the two lakes, and the groundwater circulation pipeline of the Yongling River - Quinning Lake - CHANG AN MILLS makes the area a complete system that co-exists with the urban ecology.

Employment sustainability: Many former industrial workers of the park are re-employed after training and transformed into staff for property, cultural tourism and technical and support services for the park, which will continue to contribute to its renewal and revival.

Humanistic Contribution
The remains of structures such as the 1940s Second Pumping Station, the 7000s Wind Turbine Room in the 1970s, and the Ninth Chief Substation in the CHANG AN MILLS Shopping Center project become witnesses to a history that is constantly in progress, and also carry a unique industrial memory, making CHANG AN MILLS Shopping Center a unique place that carries collective memory. The opening spaces on the periphery of the shopping centre (such as sedimentation ponds and cooling towers) have also been regenerated as the optimum spatial opportunity for attaching collective memories and laying a high-quality space for a variety of types of products (especially immersive, experiential, and social consumer products).

Contribution to Vitality
During the daytime, CHANG AN MILLS is energized by the presence of many technology, creative and science-related industries. At weekends and every evening, the urban green ridge linking the two water areas of Quinning Lake and Xuchi and all the plaza spaces opening to the green ridge become family centres then become a vibrant destination for leisure shopping and experiencing the landscape in the urban area. Promoted by the management team, many indoor and outdoor linked family, camping, dining and off-road activities are gathered here, as well as music festivals and creative fairs, to make the daily life of the local residents richer.

Thanks to the excellent networking effect after the renewal of CHANG AN MILLS, the park has been able to break away from the "traditional commercial underdevelopment zone" in the western part of Beijing and has gained a significant amount of commercial traffic and a regional clustering effect.

Operation Data
The cultivation and development of traditional business districts are generally promoted gradually along the geological edges of the city and rarely jump from the city. CHANG AN MILLS has the potential to develop across traditional business districts. With the convenience of online communication and the holding of conferences, tasting exhibitions and various group public events, it has become the "destination of the west of Beijing" at weekends and holidays.

Thanks to the excellent networking effect after the renewal of CHANG AN MILLS, the park has been able to break away from the "traditional commercial underdevelopment zone" in the western part of Beijing and has gained a lot of commercial traffic and regional clustering effect. In the second half of 2023, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Beijing did not dampen the enthusiasm of CHANG AN MILLS. During the Chinese New Year market from the 30th to the 5th day of the New Year, the total number of visitors during the special period reached 1.2 million. During the recent May Day holiday, CHANG AN MILLS launched a special promotion, attracting more than 122,000 visitors and RMB 16.97 million in higher year-on-year.



Our public programme, collections and awards

Public programme highlights included:

- ✓ Curating and hosting concurrent exhibitions in London (Wide-Angle View, Building Contemporary China, Office Chic, President's Medals, and displays for Disability Awareness and Saudi Arabia); in Manchester (Stirling Prize); in Newcastle (The Architect has Left the Building); and in Liverpool (Long Life Low Energy with Tate Liverpool).
- ✓ Loaning 52 items to galleries in Sheffield and Lincoln, and internationally to venues in Italy, Belgium, France and to the V&A touring exhibition in China.
- ✓ Hosting 43 talks and events, including the RIBA+VitrA series and the Ozolins and Grimshaw lectures.
- ✓ Securing a 253% increase in visitor numbers to our exhibitions and public programmes across all venues.

253%

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Collections highlights included:

- ✓ Enabling 4,323 researchers to access more than 14,000 items – an increase of 59% and 19% respectively.
- ✓ Acquiring 700 new books for the Library.
- ✓ Indexing more than 6,000 architecture articles from more than 140 journals and periodicals.
- ✓ Handling 5,340 specialist inquiries – an increase of 9%.
- ✓ Continuing critical work on two major long-term projects including the Complete Catalogue of Drawings by Andrea Palladio (1508–1580).
- ✓ Digitising more than 30,000 images and adding more than 7,000 to RIBAPix, meaning more than 130,000 images are now available to the public.
- ✓ Developing plans for co-locating RIBA's collections from five sites to one to enhance the curated and research offering at 66 Portland Place, and to transform access onsite, offsite and online. Immediate priorities have included planning for collections moves and developing the proposition around a combined home for the collections.

Awards highlights included:

- ✓ Securing 450 entries for the 2023 UK Awards programme.
- ✓ Recognising Yasmeen Lari as the 2023 Royal Gold Medallist with a series of events and an exhibition on her extraordinary contribution to architecture and to the least advantaged communities; and awarding 12 Honorary Fellowships.

59%

increase in researchers accessing more than 14,000 items

130k+

images are now available to the public



Royal Gold Medal 2023 recipient Yasmeen Lari in conversation with Alisha Morenike Fisher © Jackie King

