

THAILAND
**ARCHITECTURE
IN STEEL** 4





GUANYIN PAVILION

STUDIOMAKE

The design process began by focusing on the construction material, in this case bricks. Thai bricks are red, while Chinese bricks are grey. This is due to the nature of the soil. Since this building represents the academic and cultural exchange between Thailand and China, the owners wanted to use grey bricks. However, producing bricks in China and shipping them to Thailand was not a practical solution. Research revealed a factory experimenting with double-firing bricks. The process, of double-firing in a special heat setting, turns the color of bricks from red to grey. The owners and architects were delighted by the idea that the soil used for the bricks would be Thai, but the color would be Chinese.

The original plan called for a classically symmetrical building. However, the entrance would be at the rear in order to choreograph and purposely delay the arrival of visitors. There would be two sections, under a single roof. They would be unified in material but differentiated in detail. The same bricks were used in two different ways; to create both solid and perforated walls. Horizontally, the bricks form a solid wall. The orientation of the brick allows the peaks to be aligned in certain areas creating a crisp shadow line, while offset in other areas creating a heavy, almost turbulent texture. Vertically, they stack to form tightly-spaced columns that function as a screen.

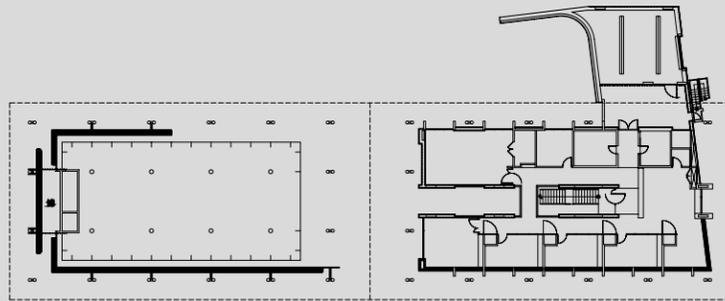
The building is comprised of two masses identical in footprint and volume. To the west is a glass-enclosed exhibition hall. To the east are administrative offices, meeting rooms, a classroom, and a café. The open air central courtyard connects the two structures. The entire building is covered in a single, sweeping post-tensioned concrete roof with generous overhangs. The client conceived of the building as a 'pavilion' and wanted it to sit in a body of water, so the building is placed in the center of a natural water pond on the far side of the campus.

Location
Lak-Hok,
Pathum Thani

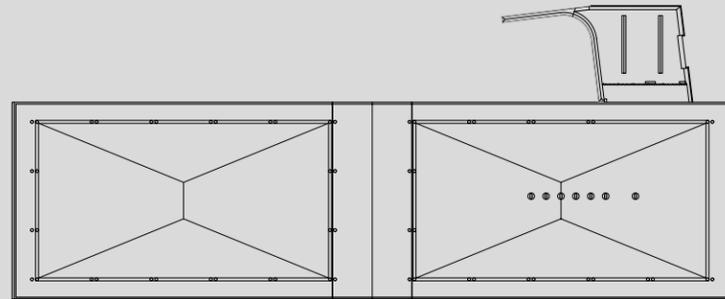
Client
Rangsit University

Structural Engineer
Borvornbhun Vonganan
and Adinnun
Teeranupatana

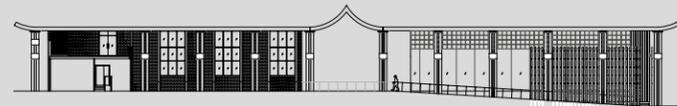
Area
2,000 sq.m.
Year
2015



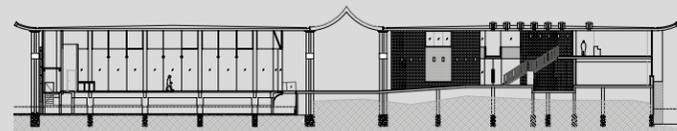
Second Floor Plan



Roof Plan



Elevation



Section

