

### XI'an

The city of Xi'an is, like Rome, Athens and Cairo, an old city rich in historical and cultural heritage. It is famous for its long history and its generous culture, such as Terracotta Warriors in Qing Dynasty, Chang'an city in Tang Dynasty, city wall in Ming Dynasty etc.

This great cultural heritage makes Xi'an city one of the most attractive tourist destinations. More and more tourists travel to Xi'an to experience the ancient Chinese history.

Meanwhile, due to the rapid urbanization in today's China, Xi'an is undergoing an explosive increase in population, traffic and built-up area. This is the cause for a series of problems such as traffic congestion, air pollution, and a total deterioration of environmental conditions etc. Mass tourism and modern urbanization problems are in this way seriously threatening the condition of Xi'an's historical cultural heritage.



### **City Wall**

In ancient times every

Chinese city had its city-walls. The city wall represents the form and structure of the traditional Chinese city. Very few of them have been preserved and today the Xi'an city wall is the largest one left. It is 13.7 kilometers long, and the area is 10.8 square kilometers. An obvious difference between the city wall and other remaining architectural monuments is its large urban scale. The city wall encloses Xi'an inner city and introduces the ring structure to the rest of the urban fabric. A belt of park and infrastructure frames the city wall from the outside. The three components create a kind of meeting place between the ancient inner city and the raging urban development

impinging from outside the city wall. The site represents in this way at one and the same time both ancient Xi'an and the new China, and is faced with traffic as well as spatial urban problems.



### **Challenges**

The process of urbanization has added great pressure to the city-wall and to the inner city centre. This stress situation is created by the heavy traffic, the floating of population, the high inner city density and the continuous construction of new buildings. Modernization has at the same time introduced a new trend in China - leisure and travel are becoming popular activities and mass tourism has put great pressure on public facilities and the cultural heritage, including the city of Xi'an. One of the main challenges for the city management will

be to find a sustainable way of dealing with this mass tourism. The many tourists will demand large numbers of facilities for places to stay, places to eat, unique experiences etc. The city will at the same time have to cope with the demands of its inhabitants as well as combating pollution and improving living conditions in Xi'an.

How to save Chinese culture in the time of modernization? How to deal with mass tourism?

How to deal with the problems of an endlessly expanding city? How to deal with the high density within the city centre? How to solve the great traffic problems that have puzzled us for a long time? How to deal with the still worsening environmental pollution?

### **Vision**

Finding the 3rd sustainable way.

By creating an urban strategy for incorporating mass tourism into historical Xi'an both effectively and in a sustainable way. The proposed mega-structure

provides the basic urban needs for tourists and inhabitants - utilizing the extreme forces of mass tourism to benefit both residents and visitors.



### **Equator Principles**

a) Assessment of the baseline environmental and social

The main focus is social and is the creation of open space and the improvement of the city's

b) Requirements under host country laws and regulations.

Meeting the China Agenda 21 - 'The White Paper'. Principles larger scale.

c) Sustainable development The plan is for the future. Attention is given to sustainable culture, land reuse and the enhancement of the city's

d) Protection of human health, cultural properties, and biodiversity, including endangered species and sensitive

The reduction of air pollution for the benefit of public health and improvement of the quality of human life. The protection of the city-wall itself, together with the establishment of harmoni relationship between people and the city-wall.

e) Use of dangerous substances? Closure of the first ring road and the addition of light rail instead. All the construction will be ecologically sustainable and

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will not employ or contain any dangerous substances.

- f) Major hazards?
  The ambience of the city-wall area is being seriously destroyed by the adjacent high-rise buildings.
  Mass tourism will also place more pressure on the city-wall.
- g) Occupational health and safety? New functions in terms of services associated with tourism, providing job opportunities for citizens.
- h) Fire prevention and life safety? Closure of the ring road can protect the population's safety. New buildings will be kept at a distance from the city-wall, so as at not to have an impact on it.
- i) Socioeconomic impacts?

  Mass tourism can serve as a means to increase people's income, as well as a means for financing the construction of more public space for the city's inhabitants. The city-wall area will be a place where both citizens and visitors can experience the importance of the cultural heritage.
- j) Land acquisition and land use?
  No new land will be is acquired
  or taken into use, rather the land
  taken into use comes from the
  closure of the ring road.
- The site has no resettlement?
  The site has no resettlement function. However consideration can be given to the resettlement of people moving out of the inner city in accordance with the plan to reduce the density within the confines of the city-wall.
- I) Impacts on indigenous peoples

and communities(including indigenous peoples)?
The creation of more public space for all visitors and citizens, that all people are welcome to use freely.

- m) Cumulative impacts of existing projects, the proposed project, and anticipated future projects?

  The creation and improvement of the value of the city. This is based on the new city-wall which will develop over the years. It is long term.
- n) Participation of affected parties in the design, review and implementation of the project? It is a global plan, which calls for the participation of government, experts, professors, as well as citizens.
- o) Consideration of feasible environmentally and socially preferable alternatives?
  The creation of a better environment. Visitors are offered good views of the city and its culture heritage? The city also gets a good ecological environment.
- p) Efficient production delivery and use of energy?
   This dense well structured well

This dense, well structured, well positioned and well illuminated city-wall is a highly effective and compact organization of the large mass of tourist facilities. It saves space, infrastructure, energy, light, etc......

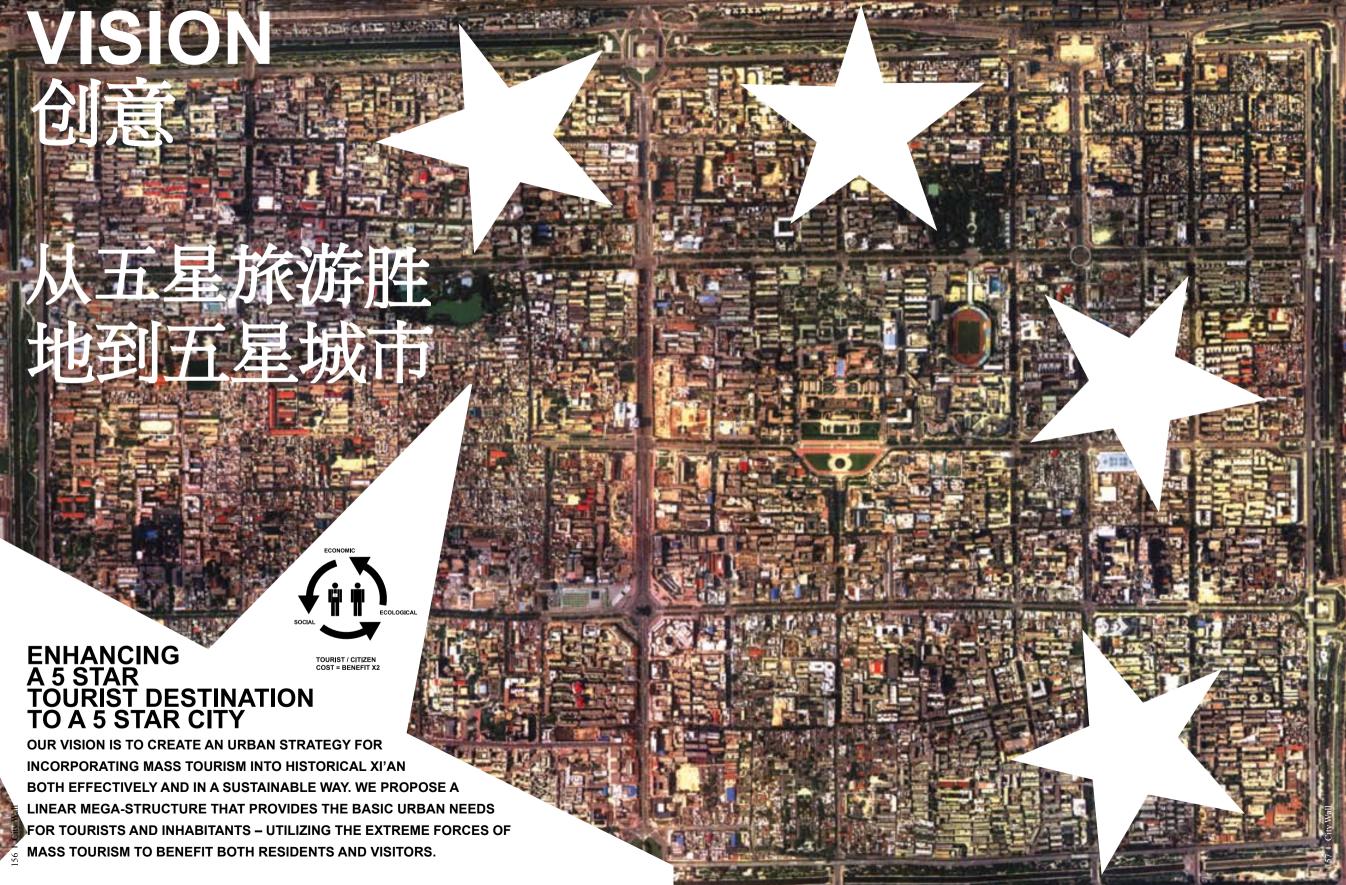
q) Pollution prevention and waste minimization, pollution controls (liquid effluents and air emissions) and solid and chemical waste management? Employment of sustainable means and systems of construction and the pursuit of energy saving solutions that contribute to the protection of the environment and raise the awareness of government.

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# WE PROPOSE THE BUILDING OF A NEW CITYWALL

A 14 KM BELT OF URBAN VIGOUR, A CONTINUOUS STRIP OF URBAN FUNCTIONS, FACILITATING QUALITY FOR BOTH THE CITY'S INHABITANTS AND THE VISITING MASSES. THE NEW CITYWALL WILL BE A TOURIST FACILITY WITH A PUBLIC QUALITY, PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION, BETTER ACCESS, ACCOMMODATION, RECREATION, INFORMATION AS WELL AS GENUINE PUBLIC SPACE AND MONUMENTAL ARCHITECTURE.

THE CITYWALL IS A HYPERMODERN CIRCUM-CENTRAL CITYSCAPE TIGHTLY RELATED TO THE ANCIENT CULTURAL ARTIFACTS IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA.

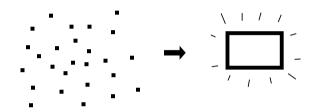


# SUSTAINABILITY

Sustaining the rich cultural heritage is the greatest challenge in modern Xian. How to combine new and old in meaningful relations? How to avoid the naive reproduction of ancient forms or thoughtless adoption of the latest fashion from the western world?

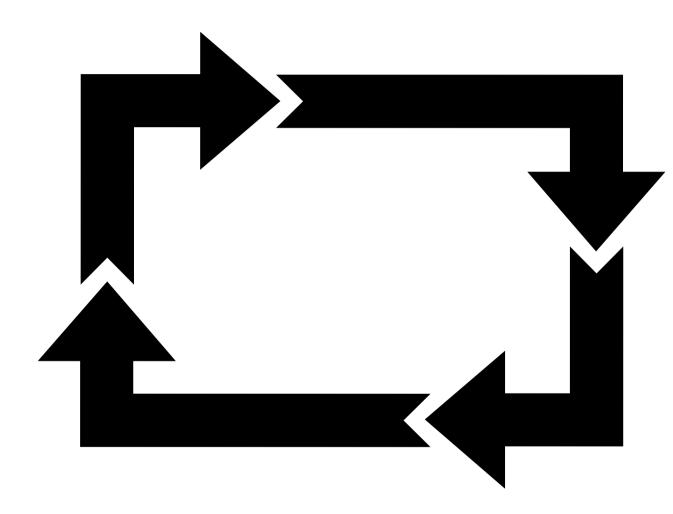
### IS THERE A POSITION IN BETWEEN? A POSSIBLE 3RD WAY? A REFLECTION OF THE PAST AS A GATE TO THE FUTURE?

By combining and relating all new tourist facilities – we can create a new coherent urban line – 14 km long - that both respects and engages the historic city wall and the modern parts of Xi'an.

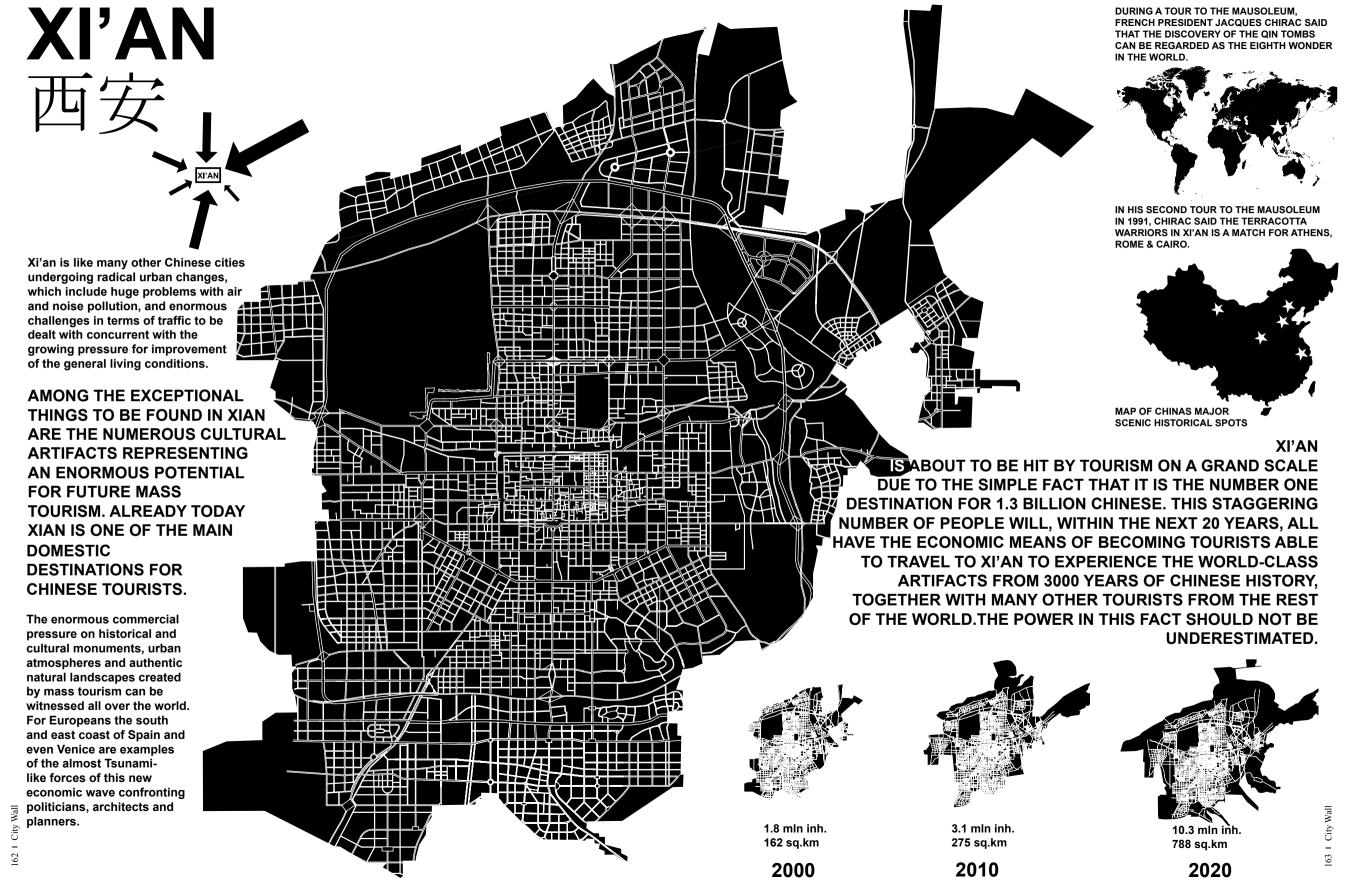


THE NEW WALL IS AN OFFSET OF THE EXISTING FORTIFICATION WALL FROM THE 15TH CENTURY, AND IS IN THAT RESPECT RECYCLING URBAN SHAPE, URBAN SPACE AND URBAN SYMBOLS, CREATING A SYMBIOTIC SITUATION WHERE BOTH THE TOURISTS AND THE INHABITANTS CAN GAIN A STRONGER AND RICHER RELATIONSHIP TO THIS AREA, THAT WHILE CENTRALLY PLACED, STILL TODAY HAS ONLY LITTLE TOURIST APPEAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUE.

This dense, well-structured, carefully positioned CITYWALL is a highly effective and compact organization of the mass tourism facilities. It is integrated into the modern infrastructure, it is part of a energy saving collective transport system, and it provides light, public spaces, entertainment, views and a new identity for the historic remnants of Xi'an. This new infrastructure will minimize travel time and distance and replace the thousands of taxis now flooding the inner city - creating both noise and smog. This new system will sustain the image of a dense inner city - but reduce the problems of noise and pollution connected with it today. THIS NEW URBAN STRUCTURE IS CLEAR-CUT; IT IS WELL ORGANIZED AND THEREBY GUIDES THE TOURIST DIRECTLY TO THE MANY DESTINATIONS - LOCALLY AS WELL AS REGIONALLY. THE CITY WILL BE ABLE TO HOST AND FACILITATE THE MILLIONS OF TOURISTS THAT WILL FLOOD CENTRAL XI'AN IN THE FUTURE, AND WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE SCALE AND STRUCTURE OF THE PLACE – THE VERY THING PEOPLE ARE TRAVELING TO SEE.



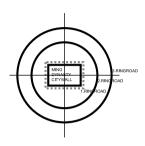






# INFRASTRUCTURE

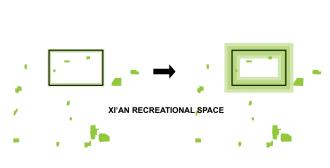
# 基础设施

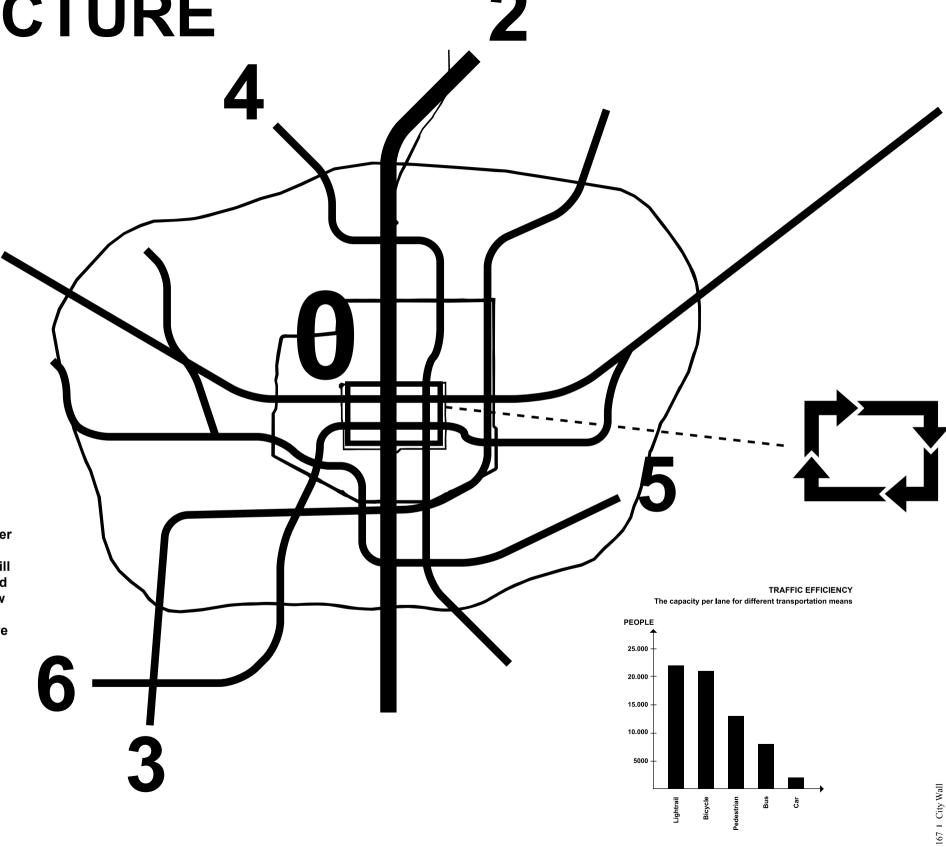


Xi'an has a distinct and ancient urban form – a combination of 2 ideals: a grid structure combined with a ring - the ancient city wall with the 3 succeeding ring roads. This historical, beautiful and effective structure should be kept and enhanced, also in the new urban situation. Our project for a modern CITYWALL is just a kind of prolongation of this system that will enhance the symbolic functionality and obvious spatial quality of this thousand year old image - melding new and old into one picture – creating monumental space AND human scale qualities for the visitors to and for the inhabitants of modern Xi'an.

By eliminating individual car traffic from the ancient inner city, and replacing it with a public system of light rail trains – the spatial feeling and flow of Inner City Xi'an will dramatically improve – to the benefit of both tourists and the Xi'an population. It can be the starting point of a new structure for this historic site.

At the same time the new ring will complete the intensive subway system that is about to be completed in Xi'an.







By combining and relating the very "self-conscious" appearance of this new tourist facility to the old celebrated configuration, it is possible to form a coherent and distinct belt of building mass, that – placed rightly – can inform and underline the extraordinary situation around the historic city wall.

THIS NEW INSISTING, ANTI-AGGRESSIVE STRUCTURE WILL FRAME AND ENHANCE THE OLD PROTECTIVE WALL AS A KIND OF STRUCTURAL RICOCHET AND AT THE SAME TIME HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF BECOMING AN INDEPENDENT CONTEMPORARY MONUMENT IN ITSELF.

The masses of invading tourists will have the opportunity to become more self-conscious of their own roles – in a new and more informed dialogue with and understanding of the old monument.

The new belt will be a present-day insertion into ancient Xian – but "recycling" the urban shape, urban space and urban symbols as an architectural inversion of the historical stage. Following the ancient city wall – the oldest existing city wall in China – a 14 km belt of new facilities will emphasize the 500 year old monument – and at the same time relate to the flow and functions of the modern city outside the CITYWALL.

THIS DISTINCT SITE WILL CREATE
A NEW MONUMENT IN CLOSE
CONTACT WITH THE OLD, CREATING
A SETTING WHERE THEY MUTUALLY
ENHANCE ONE ANOTHER AND FORM
CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE PAST
AND FUTURE.

# **PROGRAM**

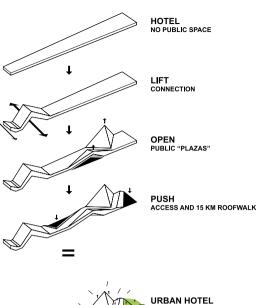
# 方案特点

This new CITYWALL is perfectly suited for the incorporation of the large scale of the many kinds of tourist programs, which in the future will move to Xi'an. Instead of destroying the small-scale of inner-city Xi'an, these programs can take the different shapes of the modern monuments and indulge them in a strong and contemporary dialogue with the historic monuments of Xi'an. By working on a large scale - the belt will be able to incorporate a substantial part of the tourist related urban development for the benefit of both the existing inner city as well as the urban area as a whole.

BY COMBINING FACILITIES FOR TOURISTS AND INHABITANTS- A FUNCTIONAL OPTIMIZATION AND CROSS-FERTILIZATION IS CREATED, AND AN EFFECTIVE ALL-YEAR AROUND SITUATION CAN EXIST INSIDE THIS NEW BELT OF **FACILITIES.** 

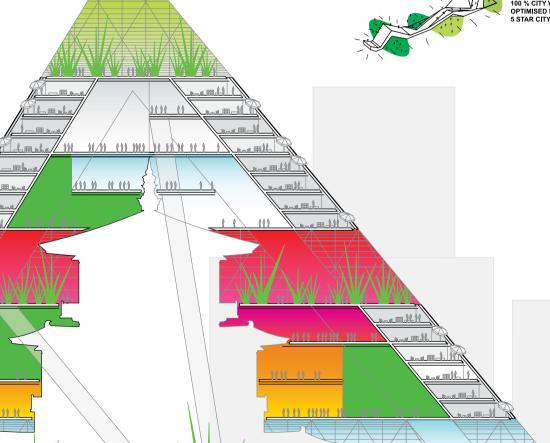
At the same time this structure resists the typical tendencies to create tourist-resorts that are effectively excluded from their urban setting. This structure will combine new and old, resident and guest, in a both programmatic and spatial concept.

### **BUILDING DESIGN PARAMETRES**





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# **SPACE**

By literally shaping tourism functions with public facilities we can create a synergetic effect - the local public merges with the tourists. Hereby the new monument can be an exchange of interests: The tourist facility, the hotel is the constant, the core of the structure while the public represents the urban variations.

Creating an icon for the city – a new identity connecting the ancient with the new, a brilliant reflection of the past mirroring the future.

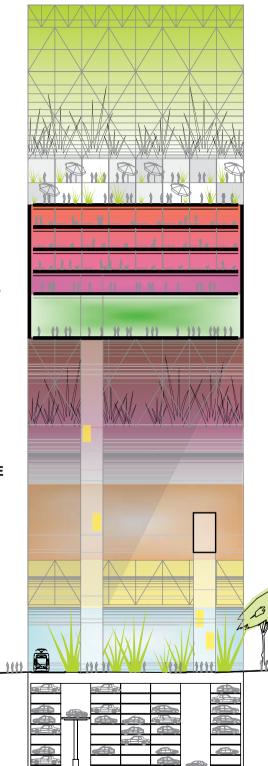
THE STRUCTURE WILL BE THE LARGEST HOTEL - A CONTINUOUS STRUCTURE WITH A PERFECT SCENIC LOCATION - A **HOTEL WITH ONLY "SUITES" 100.000** ROOMS. ALL AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS BUT ALL OF THEM WITH A VIEW TO THE PAST.

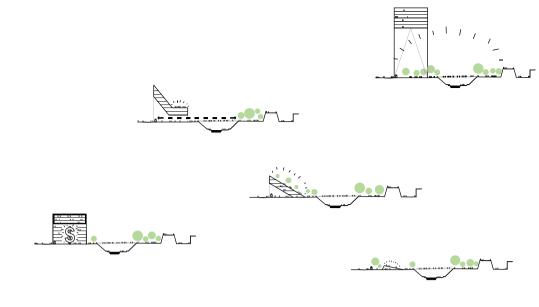
LIFTING, PUSHING, PULLING, AND BENDING, WILL BE THE WAYS OF ORGANIZING THE WHOLE.

BY LIFTING THE TOURIST FACILITIES WE ALLOW THE TRAFFIC AND FLOW TO PASS.

BY PUSHING DOWN THE STRUCTURE WE CAN CREATE SPECIAL PLAZAS AND URBAN SQUARES, PUBLIC SPOTS FOR EVERY INHABITANT AS WELL AS FOR-TOURISTS.

BY PULLING THE FAÇADE BACK AND FORTH IT IS POSSIBLE TO CREATE INTIMATE AND INTENSE URBAN SPACES THAT ARE RICH IN ACTIVITY, WITH ් NICE SHADOW SPACE AND SPECIAL E QUALITIES.





RECYCLING URBAN SHAPE, URBAN SPACE AND URBAN SYMBOLS, FORMED BY THE PROGRAM OF PUBLIC NEEDS, A STRUCTURE OF ANCIENT CHINA WILL BE IN THE FOREGROUND OF THE NEW CHINA SKYLINE. MADE AS A MODERN STRUCTURE IN MATERIALS AND IN KEEPING WITH BUILDING STANDARDS THAT SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE URBAN STRATEGIES.

