

- 1 An opaque stairway flanked by blackened steel panel railings imposes a heavy presence into the interior's airy environs.
- 2 The stacked spaces function as workspaces, with the monolithic concrete benches softened with minimal leather cushions.



Pedro Pegenaute

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B+ AUTOMOBILE

NERI&HU expresses industrial era allure in the office for an automobile service centre

BEIJING – Caused by seven million vehicles and 26 million inhabitants, Beijing's atrocious traffic patterns could potentially dampen the enjoyment of driving. Through its design for the workspaces of an automobile service centre, Neri&Hu aimed to reignite the attraction of the industrial era by theatrically-staging an idyllic vision of it from the heyday of driving.

Opened in July 2016, the centre has a brick exterior that is punctured with black metal-framed fenestration. Mirrored glass fills the windows, concealing the number of internal levels from view of passers-by. With the majority of the former missile manufacturing factory's exterior masonry walls left in place, a weightless white volume within the interior is inset with steel framework

aspects, concrete flooring and metallic details. The triad of architectural elements produces a raw yet refined atmosphere. The metal substructure formulates three open-air levels occupied by the centre's café, car lift and offices.

Accessed via a heavy black metal stairway, the successive storeys – and intermittent floating walkways – are enshrouded either with sheet metal railings or mesh walls. The 2680 m² interior offers a combination of working areas for employees, including open mezzanine workstations and glass-walled offices with vistas of a spatial swirl of cars on the lower levels. A raw, industrial air is maintained with old-style desks and metallic tube detailing running through all the zones.



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The former missile manufacturing factory has an industrial air, inset with a steel framework



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3 Bespoke tubular lamps in brushed bronze extend from desks of walnut wood planks.

4 A series of circular brass tables and textile furnishings are supported by brass bases in a matching geometric motif.



- 1 Various working zones are cleanly delineated in an office of natural hues and volumetric forms.
- 2 Containing a recording studio and conference rooms, the middle floor has an enclosed stairway for improved acoustical performance.

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BLOOMBERG

A space encouraging employees to forge intricate networks is served-up by NERI&HU

HONG KONG – Neri&Hu's 2015 office design for American publisher Bloomberg started with imagining the invisible matrix of relationships generated between employees within the architectural elements. The firm then conceived an intervention to introduce additional landings, platforms and seating areas to increase the chances for employee interaction.

An enormous wooden box appears to have been set into the centre of Bloomberg's 270 m² office space, which is spread across three levels. The mass of ash wood is carved to form floating passageways, perimeter openings and portals. Employees pass through the well-orchestrated intersection in whatever way suits their momentary needs. Panels integrated into

the millwork conceal charging stations and handrails, and reveal functional ledges.

Upon entering reception, visitors encounter an aperture which frames a vista of the harbour in the distance. Marking the office's lowest level, it plays host to the public with an event space, informal meeting areas and seating niches chiselled from the wood-surfaced block.

To insulate the intermediary floor's quieter areas from the stairway's flurry of activity, the wooden construct is split into two halves to encase a space for passing gatherings. The pinnacle level with perimeter seating fully opens to the panoramic city views, while one breakout space daringly cantilevers into the three-storey-tall atrium.



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- 3 The wooden volume has carved seating niches on the exterior, with glass partitions offering glimpses into the interior rooms and work areas.
- 4 Forming a three-storey-tall atrium, the wood-line interior is punctured with passageways and portals.

3

Floating passageways, perimeter openings and portals offer opportunities for well-orchestrated encounters



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