

“NERI&HU MAKES A PRICELESS CHINESE ARTEFACT INHABITABLE”

FRAME; JUNE 2021

<https://www.frameweb.com/article/neri-hu-makes-a-priceless-chinese-artefact-inhabitable>

FRAME

FRAME



SUBMIT PROJECT

INSIGHTS SPACES PRODUCTS AWARDS

MAGAZINE EVENTS STORE

22 JUN 2021 • HOSPITALITY

NERI&HU MAKES A PRICELESS CHINESE ARTEFACT INHABITABLE



Design

Neri&Hu

Location

No. 95 Long Ting Lu, Fuzhou Shi, Fujian Sheng, China

With The Relic Shelter – a teahouse in Fuzhou, China – Neri&Hu proves that history doesn't have to be preserved behind glass.

Key features

You wouldn't know it from the outside, but sitting in The Relic Shelter – a Fuzhou teahouse designed by **Neri&Hu** – is a priceless national artefact: the remains of a Qing dynasty official's residence. An example of Hui-style architecture, the wooden structure was brought from Anhui to Fuzhou, where teahouse visitors can not only admire it but inhabit it.

“NERI&HU MAKES A PRICELESS CHINESE ARTEFACT INHABITABLE”

FRAME; JUNE 2021

<https://www.frameweb.com/article/neri-hu-makes-a-priceless-chinese-artefact-inhabitable>

FRAME

Neri&Hu imagined the teahouse as a home perched on a rock. The concept is realized as a rammed concrete base – a nod to the UNESCO World Heritage earthen buildings in Fujian province, of which Fuzhou is the capital – topped with a series of gabled copper roofs that echo the form of the enveloped artefact.

The relic can be found in the building’s grand hall, illuminated by skylights. By ascending the stairs and reaching the mezzanine level above, visitors can get a closer look at the structure’s ornamental carvings and intricate joinery.

Frame’s take

Over the years we’ve spoken to many designers in China who are frustrated by the lack of preservation in their homeland. The pace of construction is so fast that traditional architecture is often torn down to make way for new builds, erasing history in the process. Here, Neri&Hu shows that the two can be respectfully intertwined. We particularly appreciate that the historical space can be *used*, too, rather than being encased behind impenetrable museum glass or plastered with ‘do not touch’ signs.

WORDS TRACEY INGRAM PHOTOS HAO CHEN