

“NERI&HU ARRANGES HOUSE OF REMEMBRANCE
AROUND A CENTRAL MEMORIAL GARDEN”

dezeen; APR 2022

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Neri&Hu arranges House of Remembrance around a central memorial garden



Alyn Griffiths | 1 April 2022 | 11 comments

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Neri&Hu has completed a house in Singapore featuring living spaces arranged around a central garden that recalls the arrangement of traditional Chinese siheyuan buildings.

Shanghai-based studio Neri&Hu designed the property for three siblings who as adults had outgrown their shared house and wanted a new, larger property that recalls the distinctive pitched-roof form of their childhood home.



House of Remembrance is a home in Singapore that was designed by Neri&Hu

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The form of the home was informed by the structure it replaced

The building's shape references the previous house, which was built in the style of a British colonial bungalow and featured Victorian-style details combined with elements such as deep eaves borrowed from traditional Malay houses.

The prominent roof contains private areas including bedrooms on an additional upper floor, while from the outside the building retains the appearance of a single-storey hipped-roof bungalow.

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Neri&Hu used concrete throughout the interior

“Understanding the functional importance of the roof and the client’s emotional attachment to its form, we embraced the symbolic nature of the pitched roof and combined it with a reinterpretation of the courtyard house,” the architects added.

Overhanging eaves extend beyond both the inner and outer facades, providing sheltered circulation spaces around the courtyard and the building’s perimeter.

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Skylights punctuate the roof and funnel light into the interior

Near the house's entrance, the roof is punctured by a gable-shaped void that allows daylight to filter through the leaves of a tree planted on the paved terrace below.

The entrance passage extends through to the central courtyard, which contains a small garden dedicated to the siblings' late mother. This simple memorial gives the project its title, The House of Remembrance.

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Large glass walls lining the living room, study, and an open-plan kitchen and dining area enhance the sense of connection between these communal spaces and the central garden, as well as providing views through to planted areas along the site's edges.

Sliding doors can be opened to allow the breeze to ventilate the rooms naturally while providing direct access to the gardens.



The ground floor living spaces are organised around a remembrance garden

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Bedrooms on the upper level are accommodated within the roof's steep gables. Large openings carved into the roof provide bedroom balconies overlooking the perimeter gardens.

Double-height voids create a visual connection between the two levels, allowing communal spaces, including the kitchen and living area, to be viewed from corridors on the upper floor.



The home boasts a highly symmetrical design

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Passages connecting the different spaces on the ground floor form a circle surrounding the courtyard. These curved corridors create a continuous procession that emphasises the sacred nature of the central memorial.

“Since the circle has no edges or terminating vantage points, it allows one to always find a return to the centre both spiritually and physically,” Neri&Hu added.



It was informed by the arrangement of traditional Chinese siheyuan buildings

Architects Lyndon Neri and Rossana Hu founded their interdisciplinary architecture and design office in 2004. The practice has worked on projects across all scales and in many countries, adopting a research-led approach that produces inventive, context-driven solutions.

The firm’s previous projects include a stone-clad whisky distillery near Mount Emei in China’s Sichuan province and a restaurant in Paris featuring a cylindrical tiled volume inserted within the existing aged stone walls.

Photography is by Fabian Ong.