

# neri & hu

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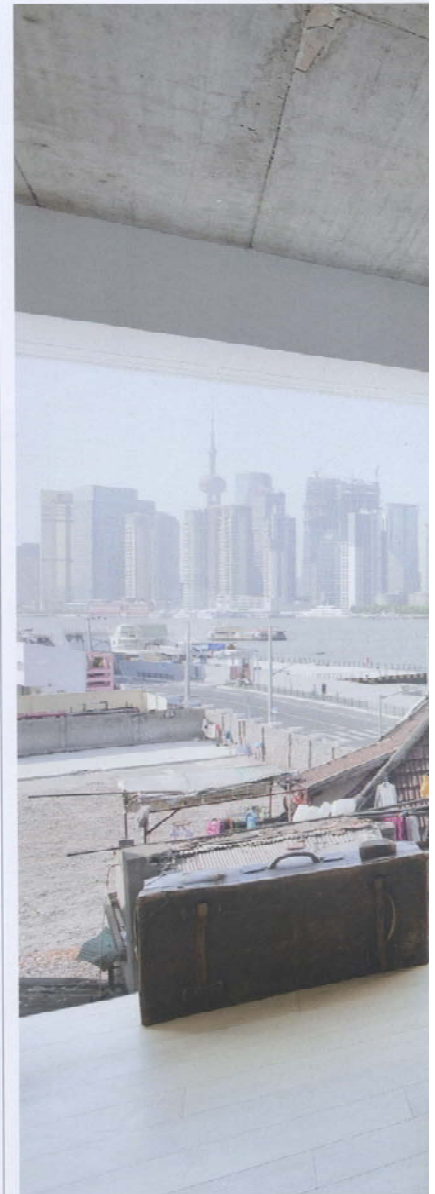


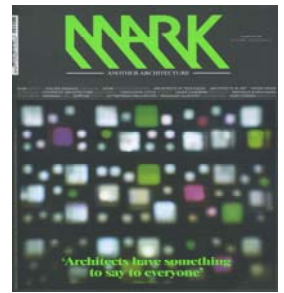
Lyndon Neri and Rossana Hu not only have an architecture firm in Shanghai, they also have a furniture shop called Design Republic in the same city. 'Furniture, shop' is perhaps not quite the right word; at first sight the space looks more like a gallery for applied art, with all the furniture-designing architects represented: Breuer, Prouvé, Gehry and the other usual suspects.

Furniture also plays an important role in the design of their most recent project, hotel The Waterhouse at South Bund with its mere 19 rooms in Shanghai. Many pieces come from the Dutch label Moooi. The Paper Chandelier from Studio Job is the eye-catcher at reception and in the rooms there are sofas called 'Boulique, which are not fitted with the usual covers so the name Moooi is prominently on display. Apparently, Neri & Hu are not afraid of a little brand endorsement.

And there is nothing wrong with that, when it takes place with this amount of persuasiveness. The background of rough concrete and other industrial elements does perfect justice to the pieces. Neri & Hu left the existing building as it was – a Japanese Army headquarters from the 1930s – but added a new storey on top clad with Corten steel, so the difference between old and new is clearly visible. The steel 'reflects the industrial past of this working dock on the Huangpu River,' according to the architects, 'and resonates with the industrial nature of the ships that pass on the river, providing an analogous contextual link to both history and local culture.'

[www.neriandhu.com](http://www.neriandhu.com)





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