



DESIGNER	Atelier tao+c
PROJECT	Capsule Hotel and Bookstore
LOCATION	Qinglongwu Village, Tonglu, Zhejiang Province



A Dual-Purpose Development Evolves from Building within a Building

Nestled in the ancient village of Qinglongwu, against the mountainous green backdrop of Huaxi Forest Park, this capsule hotel and bookstore is the creative work of Shanghai-based architects Atelier tao+c. “Creative” is the right word, for almost the only thing that remains of the original structure is the timber-framed shell and its mud walls. Even then, the entire gable wall at the eastern end of the building has been replaced with a transparent structure of wooden frames and corrugated polycarbonate panels to maximize views of the verdant landscape. Inside the building, Atelier tao+c removed the original floors and partition walls and remodeled the space to house two independent floating volumes inside it. Each of these volumes—one for men and one for women—contains 10 identical capsule bedrooms and a shared bathroom. There is a neat balance between the privacy of the accommodation and the openness of the surrounding public spaces. At 4.4 feet (1.35 meters) tall, the ceiling height of the sleeping accommodation only allows guests to sit or to lie down but frees up space to split the rest of the space into three floors with staggered walkways and mezzanines. The result is a collection of public spaces with an intriguing mix of triple- and double-height areas connected by thin metal staircases. Zigzagging routes echo mountain paths, and offer spots for meandering, ascending, resting, reading, or simply taking in the view. ■