



DESIGNER	Amateur Architecture Studio
PROJECT	Ningbo Historic Museum
LOCATION	Ningbo



A Legacy-Defining Museum Made with Reclaimed Materials

Just to the north of Yinzhou Park in the city of Ningbo, the Ningbo Historic Museum occupies space in a massive plaza landscaped with fountains and newly planted trees. Inspired by a mountain landscape rather than the urban one it serves, the three-story building is an enormous hulking form with impressive outward-sloping walls. The mountain motif is emphasized by a number of courtyards at various levels within the complex, which can be interpreted as valleys, crevices, and caves. The random placement and varied size of the windows add to the effect. The creation of Wang Shu and Lu Wenyu, the founders of Amateur Architecture Studio, the museum exemplifies the studio's approach to architecture. Despite its resolutely contemporary design, the building utilizes waste material from local demolitions. Rather than contribute to the ever-growing number of anonymous steel-and-glass structures of the modern age, it is Amateur Architecture Studio's desire to forge a link with history and tradition in their designs, often in the fabric of the buildings themselves. Here, for example, the facades incorporate irregular patches of old terra-cotta and clay tiles and rough gray stone. It was just such an approach that earned the practice's co-founder Wang Shu praise from the Pritzker Architecture Prize jury in their search for designs that anchor works in tradition while looking firmly toward the future. ■