



BOOKS OVER THE CLOUDS

SHANGHAI · CHINA

At a towering 239 meters, this symbol-laden temple to design is the highest bookstore in China

The name of this bookstore is far from an exaggeration: Books over the Clouds looks out over a Chinese megacity from the 52nd floor of the Shanghai Tower. The Duoyun Books flagship store opened in mid-August 2019 and is already a firm fixture on the list of must-see sights for Shanghai locals and tourists alike. “On its first day, enthusiastic visitors had to wait for three hours before they could take the elevator of the tallest skyscraper in the country to reach the bookstore, 239 meters above the ground floor,” says Public Relations Manager He Xiaomin. The striking design is the work of the Shanghai-based firm of architects Wutopia Lab. “The sky and the city should be part of the design of the bookstore,” explains the team. Some 100 laborers toiled over the fittings for 60 days, →



RIGHT The architecture is defined by the broad arches that run through many areas of the bookstore.

OPPOSITE The Chinese supercity stretches from the Shanghai Tower all the way to the horizon.