

Vanke Sales Gallery of the New City Center

Location: Jiangsu, China

Architect: SPARK Architects

Photographer: Shu He

Year: 2014

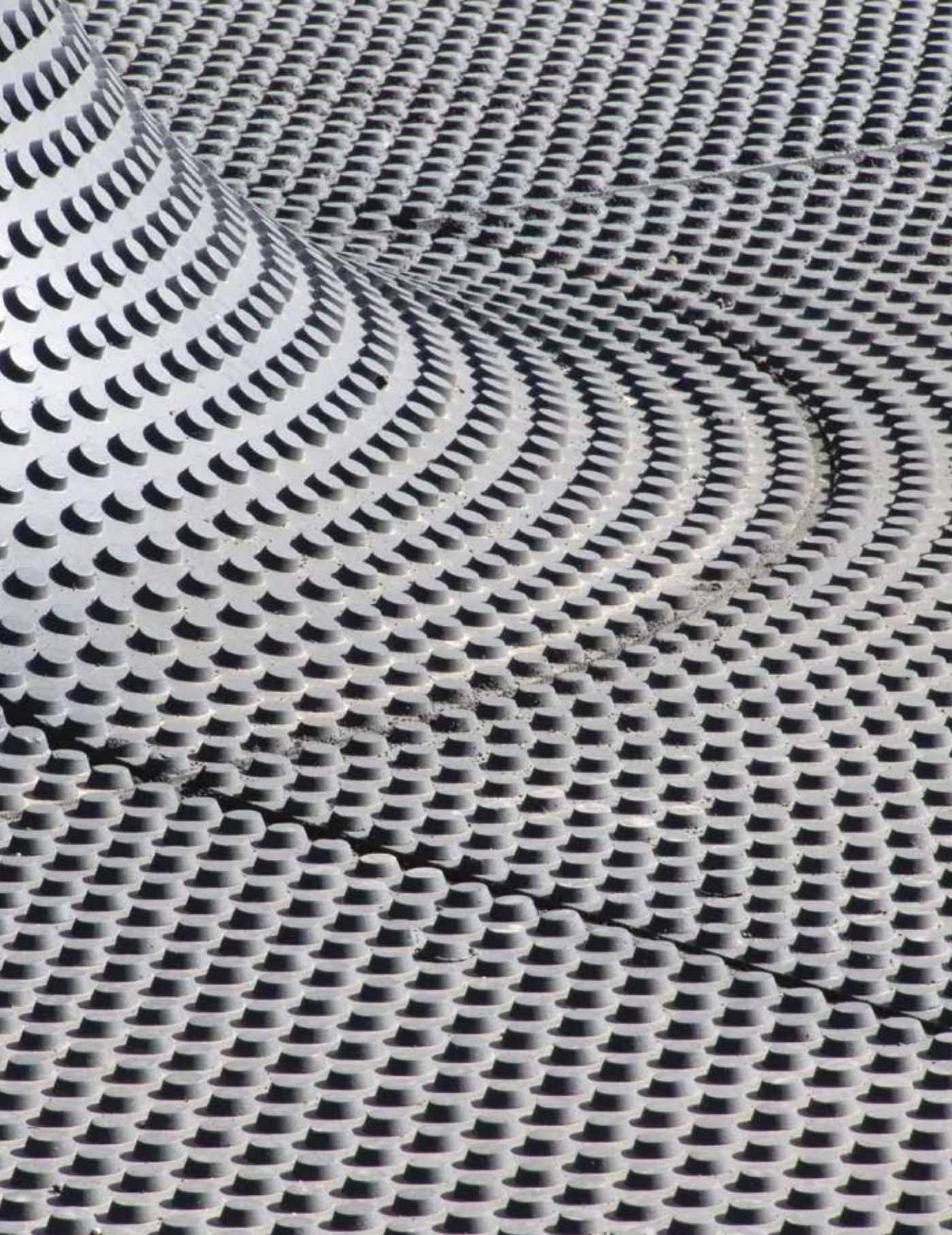


Essentially a temporary structure extolling the residential and commercial spaces which will be available for lease or purchase at the Vanke Company's New City Center mixed-use development in the Chinese city of Nanjing, the Sales Gallery was designed by Spark (who also designed the main project) as a conceptual structure highlighting its environment.

Located adjacent to the city's South Railway Station, the two-storey structure was, according to the architects, 'conceived as an abstracted reflection of railway track geometry'. Easily identified from afar by its large, multi-angular

LED display, the structure boasts myriad volumetric perspectives based on perspective, and strongly geometric folded façade lines that create an impression of largesse and movement. The façade itself is formed from two skins of perforated aluminium, whose abscesses diffuse light in such a way as to create a moiré surface, particularly in the evening, when it is lit both from atop and within.

Dramatically indicative of the architectural goals of the broader development project that it, in its way, is advertising, the New City Center Sales Gallery is a thoroughly contemporary example of temporary purpose-driven architecture.



RATP Bus Center in Thiais

Location: Thiais, France

Architect: ECDM

Photographer: Benoit Fougeirol (left and below),
Philippe Ruault (below right)

Year: 2008



Situated in the southern Parisian exurbs, the RATP Bus Centre is a public transportation storage and maintenance hub, housing 300+ public buses, as well as administrative, security, and maintenance staffs.

ECDM's challenge was to reconcile functionality with integration, and design a relay-type building which blends into the scenery while at the same time forming a modern and attractive focal point. Shaped like an elevated plateau, the building looks as though it is rising out of the road or growing out of, and fusing with, a landscape of unbroken minerality.

The walls, roof, and ground surrounding the administrative centre are covered with Ductal, a high performance concrete with a raised texture, which resembles a sort-of homemade Lego. This elegant concrete 'skin' runs along the edge of the building before rising up so that the building (including the roof) and road merge into a single coherent structure.

The primary colours surrounding the building's apertures are intended to reflect the bright graphics of surrounding warehouses and industrial buildings.



RMIT Design Hub

Location: Melbourne, Australia

Architect: Sean Godsell Architects

Photographer: Earl Carter

Year: 2012

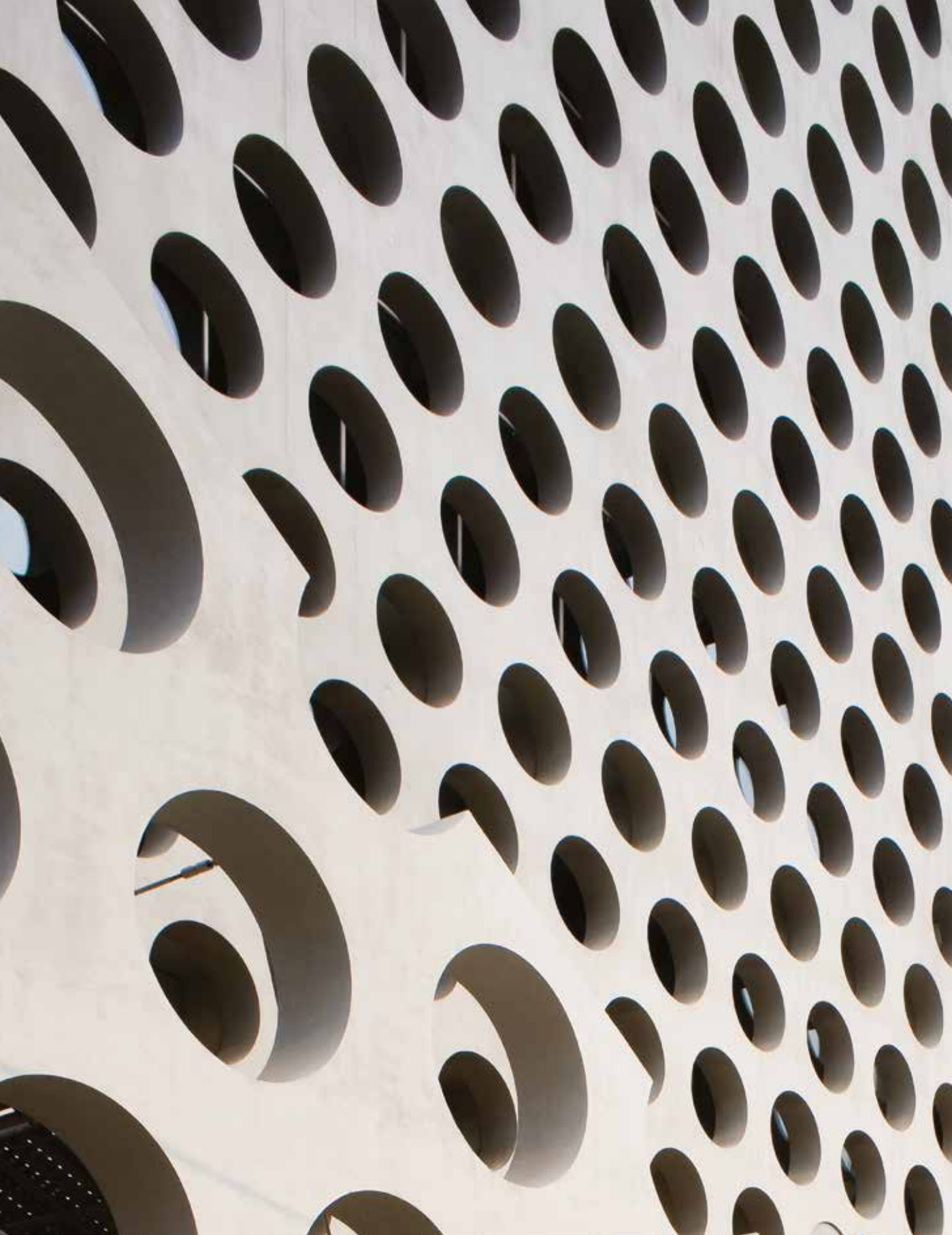


The RMIT Design Hub was conceived to provide accommodation for a diverse range of design research and post graduate education, in fields such as fashion design, architecture, aeronautical engineering, industrial design, landscape architecture, urban design, and so on.

Unsurprisingly, considering the building's mandate, the entire project, and the façade in particular, needed to be more than simply attractive - it needed to be demonstrative of new technology and aware of the continuing advancements to come. As such, the outer skin of the Hub incorporates automated sunshading that includes photovoltaic cells. The cells

have been designed so that they can be easily replaced as research into solar energy results in improved technology, and a portion of the northern façade is dedicated to ongoing research into solar cells to be conducted jointly by industry and RMIT.

The façade comprises a double-glazed inner skin, and an automated operable second skin shading device. The second skin shading device surrounds the entire building, from the ground floor to the roof plant level. It is made up of 600mm diameter sandblasted glass disks, which are fixed to either a horizontal or vertical aluminium axle.



Urban Hive

Location: Seoul, South Korea

Architect: ARCHIUM

Photographer: Park Young-chaе

Year: 2009



A rectangular slab of matte white with circular 'punctures' located in Seoul's now famous area of Gangnam (thanks to a silly song from a few years back), the simplicity of Archium's monolithic structure is a gesture to a perceived atmosphere of a floating city. The round holes are not intended as a purely aesthetic entity, but rather as a mechanical settlement of structural walls, which are then exposed through a double skin.

Archium discusses, in their project notes, their opinion that 'in architecture, a building's structure and skin have been treated as a separate subject', a question with which the ba-

sis of this book is founded. Irrespective of your agreement with that point, the façade of this building is stunning, and calls to mind the later Broad Museum in Los Angeles, by Diller, Scofidio + Renfro.

The Urban Hive's exterior however, manifests as a 'Structural Skin', whereby the surface of the building acts as the structure, and vice versa. It unifies the skin and the structure into one cohesive entity, and has been designed to maximize the flexibility of the space by excluding structural elements, other than the core, from the users' space.



Ravel Residence

Location: Amsterdam, Netherlands

Architect: OZ Architecture

Photographer: Student Experience (left),
agb photography (below),

Ronald Tilleman (following spread)

Year: 2015



The Ravel Residence is a versatile, sustainable campus for 800 students, designed by architect OZ from Amsterdam to have a positive impact on the urban environment. The building itself was conceived from the beginning as a temporary site, to be used for 12 years, with a specific mandate of giving Ravel, a business district in the south of Amsterdam, a new urban identity, with a better connection to the urban and cultural climate of the city.

A mix of functions provides a viable and enjoyable living and working space within a green urban environment. The

Ravel Residence is a durable, recyclable building shaped by detailed attention to flexibility.

Stacked modular constructions often evoke images of container-like housings, which radiate timeliness. This building, in specific, boasts an unorthodox composite and glass façade that is simultaneously reminiscent of 1960s modernism and thoroughly contemporary.



