

Shanghai Bund Financial Centre

Shanghai, China

The Bund has been Shanghai's most prestigious stretch of waterfront since the nineteenth century and the design of the Shanghai Bund Financial Center has been created as a symbolic connection between the old part of Shanghai and the new financial district. The master plan for the site was created by Heatherwick Studio and Foster & Partners and includes offices, a boutique hotel, luxury retail space and restaurants around a plaza. At the core of the scheme is an Arts and Cultural center. The development's construction began in 2010 and was completed in 2016.

15,000 square meters of PVD stainless steel in Rose Gold were used across the development for façades, cladding, glazing bars, panelling and of course the extraordinary veil of bamboo tubes which drapes around the Arts and Cultural Centre. The 420,000 square meter site had been unoccupied for some years but now has become a fitting landmark representing the long-standing prosperity of the Bund.

The style of architecture within the Financial Centre is a departure from the "show off" architecture so often deployed in China's grand schemes – the often seen towers of glittering glass and with smooth, anodyne exteriors and a non-colour palette. The Bund's square buildings are stepped, tapered and layered to create not an intimidating urban backdrop

but one that embraces – despite the admittedly very tall anchoring pair of towers at the south end. This style creates an exciting and unusual architecture that has its own way of being impressive. It certainly provides an opportunity to showcase the materials used on this development – Rose Gold PVD stainless steel and bronze granite.

Windows have irregular criss-crossings of bars of the PVD stainless steel creating a grille reminiscent of a Chinese screen. In concordance with the motif of the tapering towers the gaps between the horizontal bars decrease as they advance upwards. Picking up on the emblem of the irregular rectilinear shapes some windows are "blanked out" completely with, instead, panels of PVD stainless steel in Rose Gold with square indentations. These panels appear almost as external works of abstract art. The buildings directed towards the embankment echo the proportions and spacing of the grand and prosperous nineteenth century buildings which are found along on the Bund. The Plaza is meant to be enjoyed at night and the buildings take on a golden glow as light is reflected from the Rose Gold PVD used extensively on the buildings' exteriors.

Environment:	urban
Material:	316 PVD-coloured (rose gold vibration) stainless steel
Manufacturer:	Double Stone Steel & John Desmond Ltd.
Architects:	Foster + Partner
Photographs:	John Desmond Ltd.
More information:	doublestonesteel.com



