**Project title:** Light, Revitalization

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**School:** Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

**Teachers:** Zhang Xin, Zhou Rong

**Jury comments**

The network of hutongs in Beijing used to stretch into the neighborhoods close to the Forbidden City. The original neighborhoods are now transforming into more homogeneous areas and contact to nature is being lost. The project´s idea is to reconnect to nature and the 24 solar terms that used to be agricultural guidelines in ancient times when people could define time and season by the position of the sun. 24 stages in the hutongs are selected to recall the relationship between light and time, becoming the gathering point of daily life and light.

The first prize winner did everything the jury was looking for; the graphic communication was beautiful, the students really understood how light moves through seasons and times of the day, considering how light can be captured and manipulated and even frozen at certain points and places.

It is a very mature project and the students have managed to create something entirely plausible and feasible, tying together old Chinese traditions and new ways of looking at these traditions. The scheme demonstrates a deep understanding of the role of daylight on a city scale, on a social scale and on a cultural scale.

**Student quotes**

All team members were undergraduate students at the Tsinghua University in Beijing while they designed the project.

”Light, Revitalization” is the title of their project, and the overall idea behind the project is to evoke modern people’s memory of light and nature.

*“Modern people consider light as simple as running water. They have forgotten that light exists just like they tend to forget that nature exists. Realizing this, we wanted to evoke people’s memory of light and nature. This action of revitalization can be seen as a connection between light and daily life”*, says Du Dikang, the captain of the team.

When preparing their project, the team took their starting point in Beijing, regarding location as a fundamental aspect of architecture.

*“Nowadays Beijing has become a testing ground of new architecture. At a time when most architects focus on the new possibilities and the creativity of the city, we decided to search for the valuable things we should preserve from the past”*, explains the team captain.

Their investigations of the Light of Tomorrow brought the team deep into fundamental contemplations of life and light.

“To us the light of tomorrow means an emphasis on the more spiritual beauty of life. We did not only discuss better usage of light in the future. We searched for a new definition of light. In our project, light serves as a stage, leading us to rethink the deeper values of daily life”, says Du Dikang.

The four team members started working on the project in March. Initially they exchanged stories and scenes with light in a common brainstorm. After several discussions, they chose ‘light’, ‘time’ and ‘daily life’ as the key words of their project. From there, the project evolved.

*“Discussions and exchange of ideas formed an important part of our work process. The continuous dialogue has helped us express our thoughts thoroughly and concisely in the project”*, says Du Dikang.

Being part of one of the prize winning teams of the International VELUX Award has inspired all of the team members and they feel that the Award has brought them one step closer to the next move in their further studies in China and abroad.

