

# Rockbund Project & Rockbund Art Museum

Shanghai, China 2006–2011

Following the establishment of international trading relations in the nineteenth century, Shanghai became a commercial and cultural centre of East Asia and home to a large number of European commercial offices and consulates. Examples of Shanghai's Art Deco style – European building styles combined with Asian elements, characteristic of the city's early twentieth century architecture, are strung along the Bund, Shanghai's boulevard on the west bank of the Huangpu river.

An ensemble of historic buildings, now called the Rockbund Project, reflects the diversity of the colonial architecture and forms the Northern part of the Bund. By restoring the existing buildings and planning new ones, a team of international architects is helping to revitalise the Rockbund Project, which will accommodate office complexes, hotels, retail and apartments. David Chipperfield Architects has been commissioned with the restoration and conversion of eleven buildings<sup>1</sup>.

The aim of the restoration concept was to present buildings that have aged with dignity and style: The façades were carefully cleaned and repaired without destroying the original fabric. Subsequent conversions were removed and the buildings returned to their original state as much as possible. Existing structures within the roof area of some buildings were expanded in reaction to contemporary changes in usage. The expansion of the Andrews & George Building to create Rockbund 6 will see its historic fabric being combined with contemporary architecture: The listed three-storey façade of the existing building that marks the southern edge of the planning area will be renovated and eleven storeys added in the form of a stacked construction.

The extensions to the National Industrial Bank (N.I.B.) and the Royal Asiatic Society (R.A.S.) Building are visible from Museum Square, the inner courtyard located in the south-west of the block. The new façades have been rendered using 'Shanghai Plaster' of the same quality as that used on the adjoining buildings. The former R.A.S. Building, once China's first public museum, now houses the Rockbund Art Museum – a museum of contemporary art. Inside the Art Deco style building, the newly created flexible areas enable a range of different presentation concepts and the volumes of the upper floors have been spatially linked through the creation of a new atrium. The whole Rockbund Project will be accomplished with the completion of Rockbund 6. The restoration works on the façades of the historic buildings were completed in 2011. The Rockbund Art Museum was opened in 2010.

<sup>1</sup> Royal Asiatic Society (R.A.S.) Building (1932), National Industrial Bank (N.I.B.) (1928), Andrews & George Building (1897), Ampire & Co. Building (1907), Yuan Ming Yuan Apartment (1904), YWCA Building (1927–1933), Somekh Apartment (1927), Associate Mission Building (1923), Lyceum Building (1927), China Baptist Publication (1932) and Christian Literature Society Building (1932)

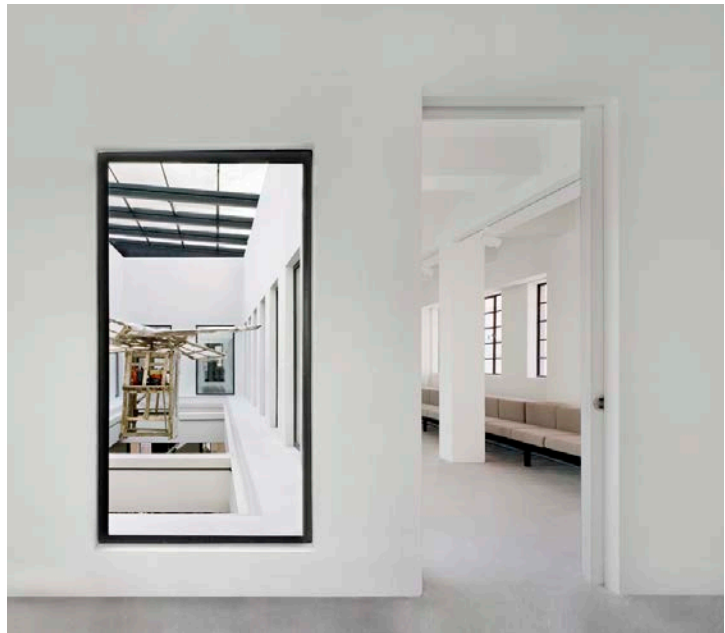
Project start	2006
Completion	2011
Gross floor area	35,500 m <sup>2</sup> historic buildings, 2,300 m <sup>2</sup> Rockbund Art Museum
Client	Shanghai Bund de Rockefeller Group Master Development Co. Ltd.
Architect	David Chipperfield Architects Berlin & Rep. office Shanghai



25 m



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# David Chipperfield Architects

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Architect	David Chipperfield Architects Berlin & Rep. office Shanghai
Partner / Director	David Chipperfield, Mark Randel (Design lead)
Main representative	Libin Chen
Project architects	Lutz Schütter (Preparation and brief, Concept design), Thomas Spranger (Developed design, Design intent details, Site design supervision), Chuxiao Li and Thomas Benk (Site design supervision)
Project team	Markus Bauer, Kamlesh Bava, Mirjam von Busch, Belinda Chan, Andrea García Crespo, Maryla Duleba, Maik Engler, Dirk Gschwind, Michael Haverland, Frithjof Kahl, Fabian Körner, Nicolas Kulemeyer, Maoxue Li, Dahlia Liksaite, Fernando Gomez Martinez, Adrian Peach, Ilona Priwitzer, Martin Reichert, Mariska Rohde, Franziska Rusch, Gunda Schulz, Lijun Shen, Daniel Sommer, Daniela Voss, Jiaying Wang, Boris Wolf, Liping Xu, Jiacong Yang <i>In collaboration with</i>
Local design institute	China Construction Design International, Shenzhen (New buildings) Shanghai Zhang Ming Architectural Design Firm (Historic buildings) (Technical design to Construction supervision)
Lighting consultant	Brandston Partnership Inc., Shanghai Schlothfeldt Lichtplaner, Berlin (Rockbund Art Museum)
Landscape architect	Levin Monsigny Landschaftsarchitekten, Berlin