

THAILAND
ARCHITECTURE
IN STEEL 8



Location: **Mae Chan, Chiang Rai**
 Client: **Shanya Wanasphitaksakul**
 Structural Engineer: **Chaiyot Pinitjitrsumut**
 System Engineer: **Eakachai Hamhomovong**
 and **Panot Kuakoolwong**
 Area: **1,330 sq.m.**
 Year: **2019**

Since the inauguration of the first Choui Fong Tea Café in 2015, Choui Fong plantation has gained vast popularity and become one of the most famous tourist attractions in Chiang Rai. Therefore, Choui Fong Tea Café 2 was built to accommodate the overflow from the first branch. This new phase offers a dining area for 250 seats, a large souvenir shop and an exhibition area where the history is told and the process of tea making is demonstrated. One particular concern for this project is the emphasis on the universal design as suggested from the main customers of the first café that are families who need special facilities for their elders.

The principal design concept is to have visitors enjoy an extensive view of the plantation amidst the natural surroundings without causing any inconvenience for the disabled. To widen the scenery in the slope area, the dining space is split into several steps following the land contour. This allows customers from every table to see the view in different eye levels. To prevent the dining area from heavy rain, moreover, there is an in-between space with extended eaves covering the area. Under the eaves, ramps are also provided throughout the area to facilitate customers on the wheelchairs.

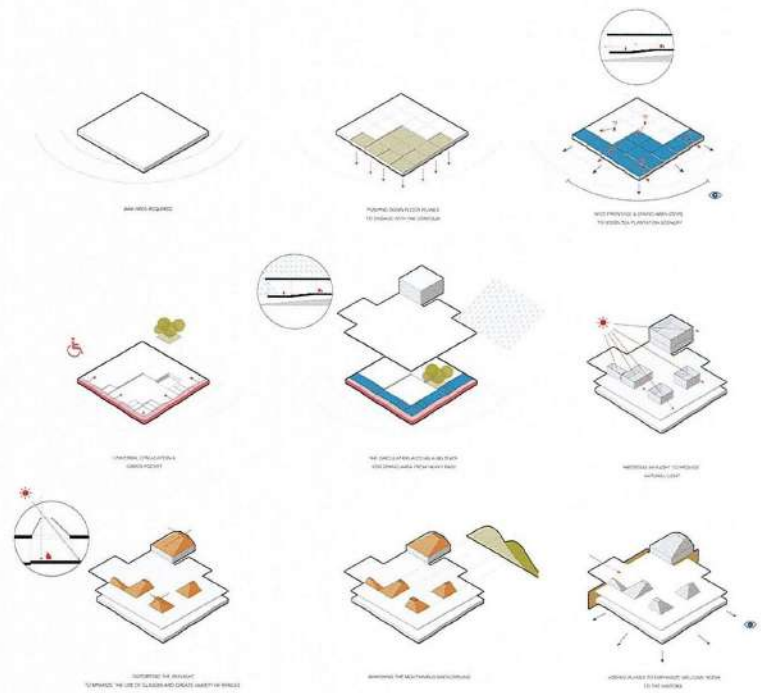
The building's footprint covers an enormous size of the land, thus the lack of light inside the building is unavoidable and needs to be handled by letting in as much light as possible. Another problem is the difficulty in protecting the building from the rain. As a result, specially designed skylights were chosen as a feature to cover several spots of the roof. Instead of covering the openings with huge glass planes that have many joint structures, each glass plane is extruded and differently distorted to form a cone-like shape. Thus only small pieces of glass plane were used without unsightly joints. This design did not only reduce the construction cost, but the cone-like openings also help diffuse light to cover the entire area and create various patterns in each time and each spot. Furthermore, the volume of these openings is so immense that trees can be planted underneath them and these skylights are arranged to harmoniously blend into the mountainous surrounding.

Along the stone wall at the entrance, only one void is left for visitors to enter and it acts like a wind tunnel that the visitors may face the blow of wind as a welcome greeting. While walking through this tunnel, the dim atmosphere is gradually brightened along the way to the dining area. The choices of materials for this project which include pinewood, steel, glass and mountain stone are intentionally matched with the first cafe to represent Choui Fong's philosophy of being organic.

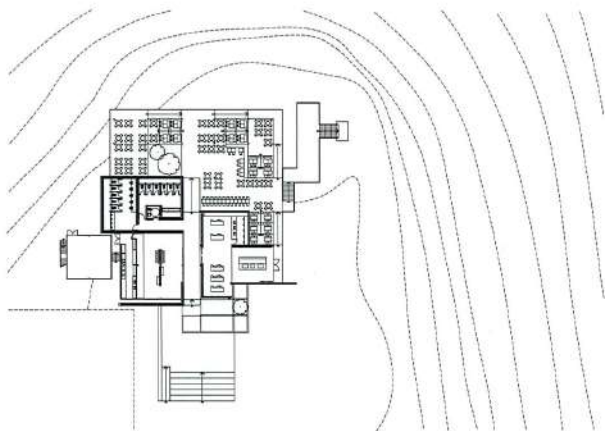




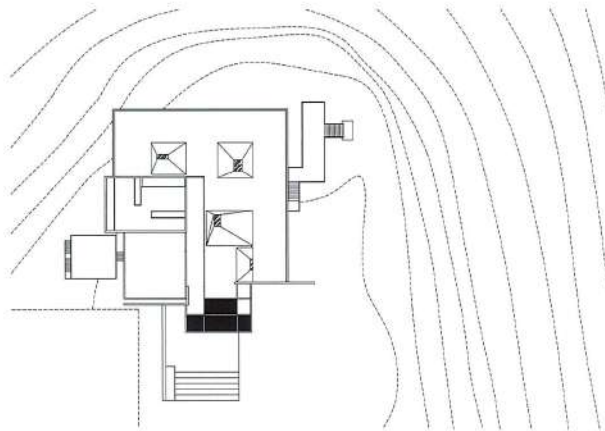
Mountainous-like roof mimicking the natural mountain range background.



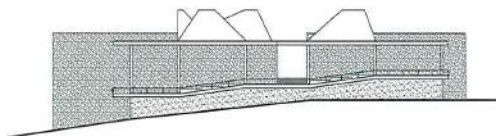
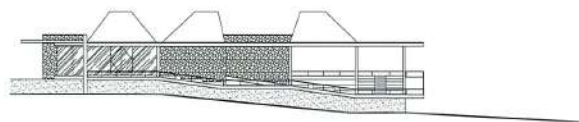
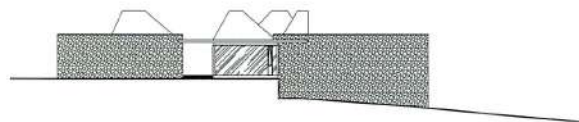
Main entrance which lvs wall was made from mountain stone



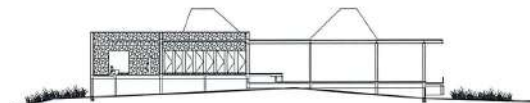
Site Plan



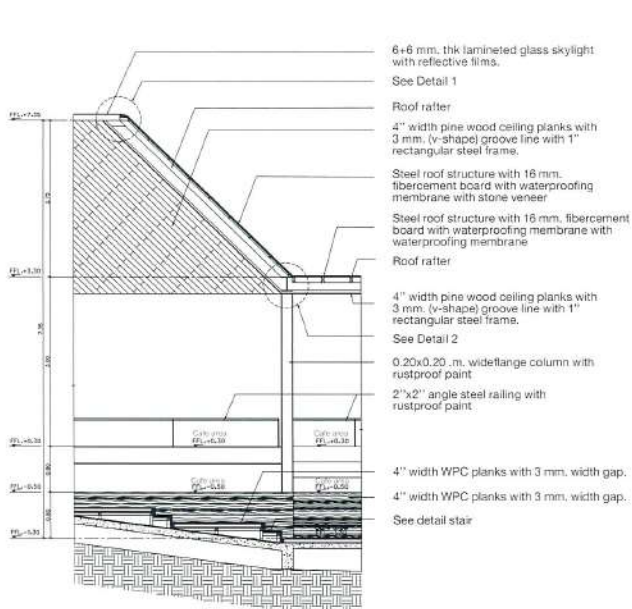
Roof Plan



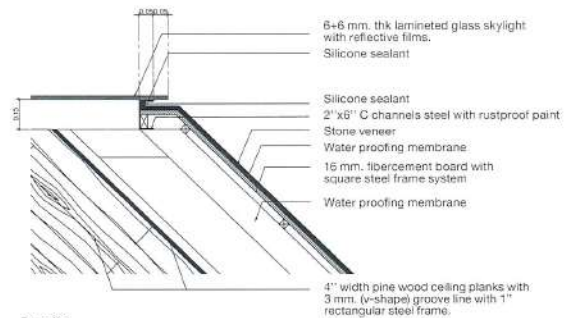
Elevation



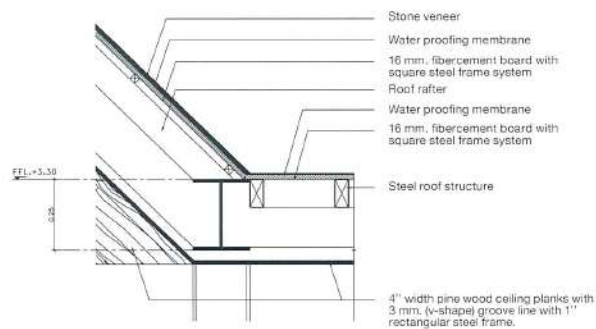
Section



Wall Section

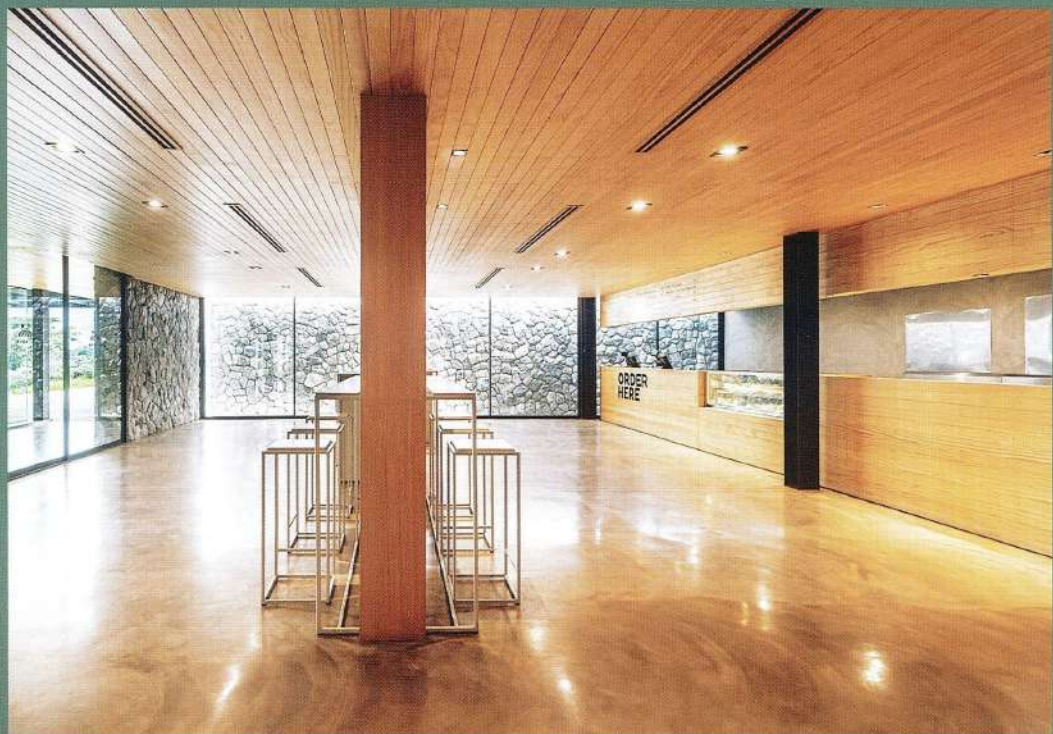


Detail 1



Detail 2









CINQUE FORME TELA

In 1977, the Italian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale was the first to introduce the concept of a "living" pavilion, one that could change its form and function over time. The pavilion was designed by the architect and designer Ettore Sottsass, who created a series of modular units that could be rearranged to create different spaces and functions. The pavilion was a landmark in the history of modern architecture, and it inspired many other architects to create similar structures.

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Top: Each step of platform can perceive the panoramic view of tea plantation.
Bottom: Planting plants in the court under the distorted skylight.

