

INTRODUCTION

Macau, known in the beginning of this new millennium as a “paradise” city of new entertainment made by casinos and seen as the “Las Vegas” of the Asia, have a lot more to re-discover and feel.

The discovery of this peninsula in the southeastern China by the Portuguese in the 16th century, provided the first links between China and Europe, meaning an interchange at every level, including trading benefits and goods, but most important changing the life style, in a way that even today we can find it easily in many corners of this city, where we cross. As a singular frontier city and having an unusual status of extra-territory, it reveals, definitively, the success of the encounters between peoples and cultures. The fusion of the sensations and life-styles of an independent culture, as the Macau one is, mixed with the foreigner cultures, brought to this city (from the historic past of it) interesting and rich contrasts, which represents a developed and an unique place in the whole of the far east, that should be visited and known by all the people of all the parts of the world.

CONCEPT

The origin of the word Macau arise some controversy, but the most common theory used is related with the Chinese word *A-Ma-Nga*¹ meaning temple of the goddess *A-Ma*, queen of the heavens and goddess of the seafarer, since it was a small fishing village. This temple was the location area where the Portuguese arrived, and from that time on, Macau was the chosen name. Situated in the Pearl River Delta, was full of ports and as it is explicit on the river name, it was rich of oysters². The reflection from the luminosity of the sun in the water and of the oysters themselves created for so long a wonderful shiny mirror, reason why, besides the common used name of “Port Door” (*Ou-Mun*³), Macau is also well known as Oyster Mirror⁴ among the Chinese people, and less by the foreigners.

Macau and Oyster Mirror words were the base of the concept for the purposed project of the Macau Pavilion for the Shanghai World Expo 2010. Showing an oyster shell shape like it was been taken from the water, with a new design of simple forms, was an interesting challenge. It represents at the same time the development of this city - the necessary need to grow and being in the front of the line, regarding always the traditions and the essence of its own culture. Although is a stylized shape, the waves layers of the shell were maintained to relate it with the sea and the fisherman's and also to represent the unsleeping and non-stop city that can be find it here. This waves work in a very interesting way, to both interior and exterior with the natural light in the day-time and the artificial light in the night-time, visual sensation caused by the big glass windows that are in different places of the building.

CHALLENGE OF THE PROJECT

An important concerning was taken relatively to the materials. Since this is an temporary pavilion, we consider recycling materials so that the protection of the environment wasn't forgotten: recycled zinc rectangular shingle strips in polished finish to form the waves layers and the roof top of the shell, recycled black lava stone walls in matt finish, and recycled glass sheet for the internal floors. Reflection as a mirror is the purpose of the chosen materials to make a reference to the shells, the reflection of the sea.

The Zinc rectangular shingle strips in polished finish are pre-assembled elements which are easily to notched and edged in uniform dimensions, allowing a weather-proof construction and bringing an economic advantage to the roof design. Lava stone rain screen facade is a material taken directly from the quarry, cut into slabs, processed and glazed, getting the resistance after being fired at more than 1000°C. A 100% recycled glass, made with a combination of the characteristics of glass and natural stone, results in a material that can have an opacity of the natural stones and having a hammered finish, is ideal for a non-slip flooring.

Regarding the limited areas of the construction site and its surface, the *GLITTER* pavilion have a total Showroom area (including internal and external exhibition) of 1,015 square meters, which 775 square meters are internal. The other areas for the customers, as the VIP Rooms, Lounge and Souvenir Shop, and also the services areas (workstation, control room and storage) combined together have an approximate area of 185

¹ 馬交;

² 蠔;

³ 澳門;

⁴ 蠔鏡;

square meters. To take advantage of the space and to create a comfortable place to visit, at the same time, the pavilion have a total of four floors (including the Ground Floor), with a total height of 18 meters, leaving 2 meters for the last layers of the roof top. The four floors consists in the Ground Floor, Mezzanine Floor, First and Second floors. The biggest head-room is located on the Ground Floor with an height of 7 meters until the 1st F; the Mezzanine works has an intermediate level in some areas only (to give dynamic to the pavilion), with a head-room of 3.5 meters high; and the other floors have 5.5 meters of headroom.

The walking circulation is made by one way only, i.e., enter to the pavilion, going up while visiting the exhibition and going out, without turning back through the same way. Even though is not current to a visitor go back to some moment of the seen exhibition, the pavilion is prepared for it: people can reach and use the lift in all the floors and go to any floor. The exhibition can be seen entirely by the disable people, since the lift works as a connection "core" between all the floors.

One of the intentions, concerning with the circulations, was to increase the character of the interaction of the exhibition in a way that visitors could see the exhibition from various perspectives - reason why the stairs are not in the same place between each floor, and even the return stairs that leads to the exit have a window to review the 1st floor.

Starting the explanation of the internal organization, as soon as we get inside the *GLITTER* pavilion passing by one big wave of the shell first layer, we can find a counter where we can get some flyers containing the information and a map with the route of the exhibition that should be followed, by everyone, and also a staff to help in case anyone need it. This counter works, also, as a cover to the entrance of the staff into the workstation, control room and storage. Before entering in the biggest part of the exhibition in the Ground Floor, visitors can look up and see that people is crossing a "bridge" and that exists a Mezzanine floor. The VIP Room is located after crossing the bridge from below, and is raised a step to provide a singular and restricted area. In the mid point of the first exhibition area, we can find three small and comfortable sofas, where people can sit for a while, looking toward the ceiling and see more carefully a digitalized film with the location map of Macau and the territory map itself, projected in a semi-sphere surface that belongs to the bottom of the main core of the building located in the first floor. This semi-sphere is related with the pearl, inside the shell.

While visitors are going up through the stairs to the next level (Mezzanine Floor) they can review the Ground Floor exhibition. Once in the Mezzanine, they will have the opportunity to see closer the digital map, and to continue to see the exhibition.

Arriving to the 1st Floor, we finally find the main core of the building that extends to the 2nd Floor. After getting inside to discover what it is, visitors can feel with almost all senses an unique experience of visiting and exploring Macau, like they were walking in the city, through the time: past, present and future. Is a 360° big screen that reveals the life-style in the morning and night-time, made from the traditions, culture and development of the daily life of this singular and extraordinary people, at the same time as it has a projection of the floors of Macau in the floor to be more realistic, and as it plays some sounds (birds in the gardens, people talking, markets, traffic, construction, traditional fire works, slot machines, people laughing, etc.) to complete the experience. This space can be seen by everybody of all ages and disable people also.

The 2nd Floor, as it is the last one, after seeing the internal exhibition, the visitors have the chance to go outside and, while they see the external exhibition, they can view the landscape of the Shanghai Expo 2010, as well. It have a canopy made from one of the layers of the shell and as it follows the wave shape, it provides some areas protected against the rain and some others uncovered for who likes the sun. This outdoor route leads to the access to the return way, that means the passage through the exit stairs to the 1st Floor. Between both floors, there's a window in the third landing, so that people can review once again, and from another perspective, the internal exhibition of the 1st Floor.

In the 1st Floor, the visitor can find once more an external exhibition, with a Lounge/Cafe relating in a certain way to the *Dai Pai Doung*⁵, a food stall, where can rest and eat some of the traditional Macau delicacies (milk tea, pork chop bread, egg tart, milk and egg pudding, etc.) while they can keep seeing the outdoor exhibition.

A Souvenir shop is located on the Mezzanine floor, where the visitors can buy some t-shirts, arts & crafts, traditional tidbits (as almond biscuits, egg-tarts, dry meats, etc.) and much more.

Returned to the Ground Floor, here is possible to find a "memory book" where people can sign and give opinions of the seen exhibition, and receive a souvenir from the Macau Pavilion, before exiting. Here located the toilets that are suitable also for the disable people. The exit is an independent door and unconnected with the entrance door, which offers a free circulation for the people who finished the visit.

EXHIBITION THEMES

⁵ 大排檔;

GLITTER pavilion will reflect all the important historical moments of Macau, and expressing consequently the life-styles, culture, traditions, of the resident people (both Chinese and immigrants), and also the sensations felt by the tourists that visit the city.

First of all, and for a better understanding for the visitors that never heard or don't know exactly where Macau is located, in the entrance and inside the 1st exhibition's big area, people will find an introduction of the exhibition itself, a geography map, and the beginning of the history past of Macau, which will represent the 400 years of an harmonized intermingled culture (not only with the Portuguese but also with the most varied Asian people) and the exceptional result of it, that includes the most meaningful historical moments, the most known figures, the traditional festivals, the interesting and different religious ceremonies (Chinese and Portuguese, for ex: Feast of the Drunken Dragon and the Procession of the Passion of Our Lord, the God Jesus), the most seen activities (ex: Macau Grand Prix), the life-styles of the people and the delightful various kinds of food (the taste of an unique cuisine combined by the Portuguese, Chinese, Indian and Malay cooking), and finally the handling of the sovereignty of Macau assumed by the Chinese government on 20th December 1999. Since these themes are extensive they will appear from the Ground Floor until the 1st Floor. In this 1st Floor, it can be seen the urban area of the Historic Centre of Macau through images, movies and scaled models of the buildings that were inscribed as a World Heritage Site by the World Heritage Committee hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on July 15th, 2005, as one special and grateful "offer" to this city after the handover. The 360° screen with the movie of the Macau past, present and future, will be like an instant screenplay shoot of 5 minutes showing the non-stopping life and the most important things to see, walk, do, experience, so that people can feel 99.9% of being in this city. This screenplay will make a connection and an introduction, as well, of the exhibit themes that can be found on the 1st and 2nd Floors: Present + Development + Future. These themes will express the recent "Boom" of Macau in every aspects, presenting the new and constant changing of the skyline and physiognomy of the city (with the Resorts & Hotels Casinos, bridges, embankments, etc.), the growing immigration factor and the settlement of famous business companies (meaning an enormous interesting in the commercial trade and investments that even required a place to have the Macau International Trade and Investment Fair), the improvement of the life-style of the local people and at last, the future construction of the Macau Light Rapid Transit System (a railway with a raised structure, and a distant of 22 km with 26 stops, that attends to help the traffic problems) and the Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macau bridge that is going to connect these three locations, with series of bridges and tunnels reaching a length of 29 km long.

註解 [1]:

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CONCLUSION

The Shanghai World Expo 2010, is a very precious opportunity to show Macau, for other nations knowing this city and some others re-visiting it.

The Expo and Macau Pavilion themes "Better City, Better Life" and "Macao - Spirit of Cultures, Essence of Harmony", respectively, were fundamental for the *GLITTER* pavilion project concept. The pavilion building, in his whole, is almost a sculpture piece, that express a pleasant effect which represent the harmony as the waves of the sea and as a result of the mingled culture between Chinese and other cultures, not excluding the essential point of the development which is presented by this stylized shape and the contemporary recycled materials used in it. Concerning the difficult round shapes of the building, the interiors also follow that shape in a way that the exhibition areas and circulations are easy to be seen and flow, without forgetting the disable people, with comfortable head-rooms and spaces. Although visitors can have a good understanding of the exhibition, they have also the chance to live an unique experience of visiting Macau during the screenplay in the main core of the building.

Visitors will be attracted to this shining *GLITTER* pavilion and realize how Macau city is a place to explore...