

“A RELAXATION OASIS. SANYA WELLNESS RETREAT BY NERI&HU”

metalocus; OCT 2023

<https://www.metalocus.es/en/news/a-relaxation-oasis-sanya-wellness-retreat-nerihu>

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Architecture studio **Neri & Hu** has been commissioned to build a new hotel in Haitang Bay in the south of the Chinese island of Hainan. The construction site belongs to a tourist destination with a large mass of hotels.

The architects have carried out the project based on the idea of replicating the ancient Chinese walled cities, elevated on a heavy pedestal, and generally surrounded by water for protection.

The project is divided into two very different parts, the first is the masonry base that contains all the open public spaces, and above it is located the "housing" part built of wood that includes the rooms.



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The proposal for the Wellness Retreat in Sanya by the architecture studio **Neri & Hu** is generated from two "L"-shaped volumes, which join to form a water patio, which articulates all the public uses of the hotel. The project takes advantage of all the opportunities that the place offers as a reinterpretation of the *genius loci* of Hainan, which allows the architects to combine elements of the collective memory, culture, and natural characteristics of the island.

The lobby becomes a garden landscape creating a lantern-like space floating above that allows soft light to filter in. At the same time, the ceilings here are lowered and suppressed to simultaneously frame views towards the blue seas beyond.

The rhythmic form between solid and void, the angled walls, and the expression of the textured material, contribute to building a dynamic façade activated by an interesting play of light and shadow. The hallways between the bedrooms become an urban landscape, an alley where people can walk and enjoy casual encounters.



Sanya Wellness Retreat by Neri & Hu. Photography by Chen Hao.