

THE
15-MINUTE
OFFICE

RURAL
RETAIL

THE
RESILIENT
CITY

FRAME
AWARDS '21
WINNERS

MAD
ARCHITECTS



HONORARY AWARDS

Lyndon Neri and Rosanna Hu
have contributed greatly to
changing 'Chinese design'.



Jiwei Yang and Zhu Zhe

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Chen Hao

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2021

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

NERI&HU

They may be only mid-career, but Neri&Hu nabbed the top Honorary Award at the 2021 Frame Awards. The Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates the entire body of work of a person (or studio) who has been truly inspirational for their peers and has pushed the boundaries of spatial design throughout their career. ‘Consider it an encouragement,’ said *Frame* editor in chief Robert Thiemann when sharing the news of the accolade with Lyndon Neri and Rosanna Hu, ‘to continue on the path that you’re on.’

The pair set up their studio in Shanghai in 2004 and delivered their first project, a yoga studio, with a shoestring budget. They appeared on our radar in 2007 when they were shortlisted for Interior Design Firm of the Year at our Great Indoors Awards, a forerunner of the Frame Awards. ‘When we came to China, relatively young, there were a lot of things that were quite alarming,’ said Neri when accepting the award. ‘Things were being demolished at an unprecedented rate. We were appalled at the attitude behind preservation and demolition, let alone sustainability.’

Since then they’ve been consistently building an international, cross-sector portfolio of great quality, showing a deep understanding of context, history and contemporary culture. ‘As diasporic Chinese, we arguably take Chinese tradition even more seriously because there’s an added need to preserve our identity. Is it a particular style? A visual cue? That’s not what we’re interested in because that’s rather superficial. We’re trying to understand the essence. With this kind of conviction, we try to find meaning and purpose in what we do within the context we are practising.’

Whether they design furniture, interiors or buildings, their work is always user-centric, layered and open to multiple interpretations. From their first international media exposure to their first Lifetime Achievement Award: Neri&Hu has come full circle with *Frame*. And, to educate the next generation, they’ve started teaching, too. ‘Hopefully this generation will care and have the intensity and initiative to bring about change when it’s needed.’

neriandhu.com

One of Neri&Hu’s newest projects is a distillery and home for Pernod Ricard’s first whisky in China, for which the duo played with the Chinese notion of the duality of the world’s natural elements.

‘Some call Neri&Hu an institution or a movement, but we’re not that visionary’

Lyndon Neri