

AUGUST 2016 ₹ 200

ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN

A N I N D I A N J O U R N A L O F A R C H I T E C T U R E

Grohi Presents
SPECIAL PULLOUT ON
Bathrooms & Kitchens

ARCHITECTURE
THERAPY FOR
RECREATION





A blend of science fiction with philosophical ideas...

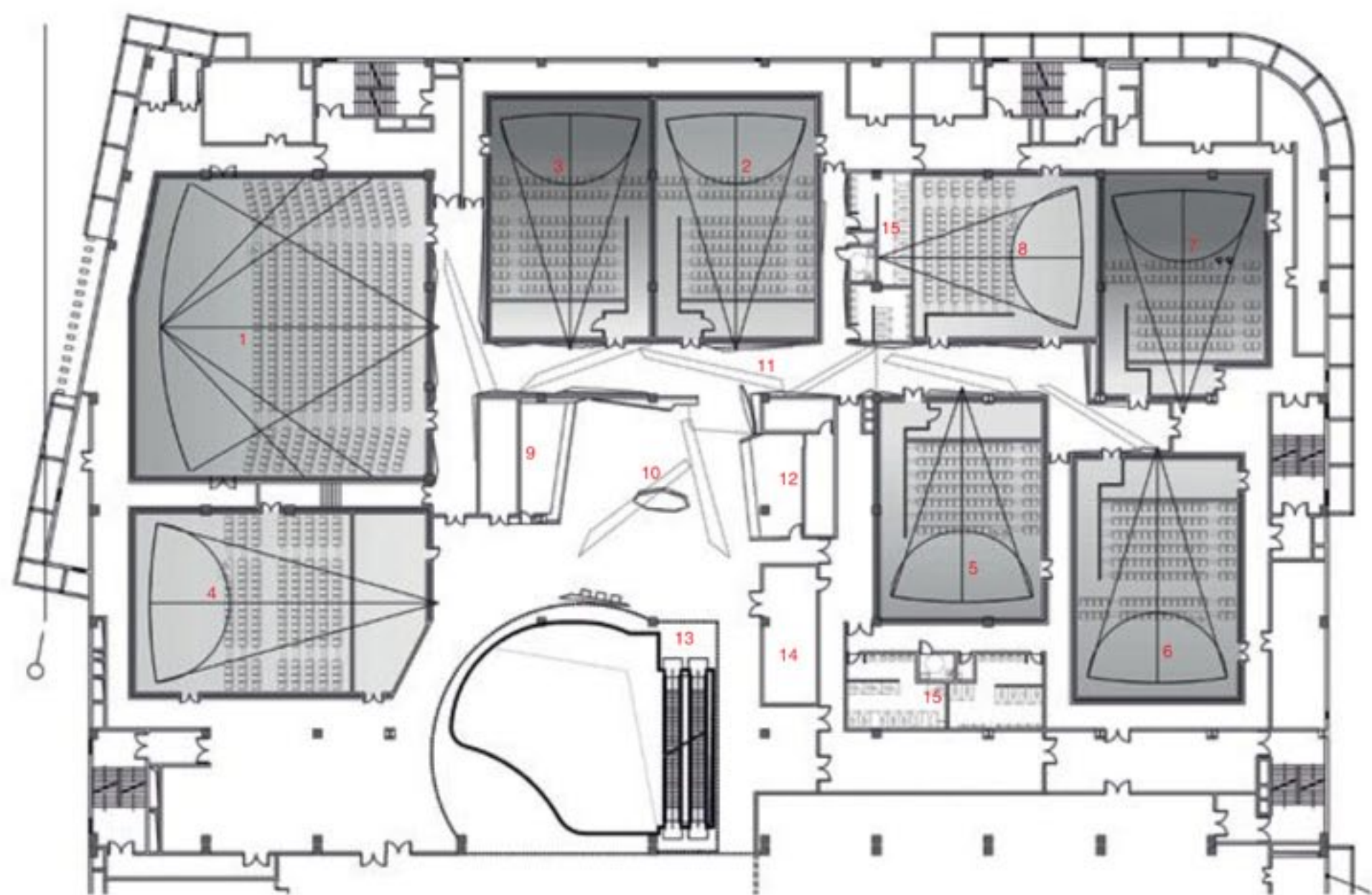
Project: Beyond Future, Wuhan, China
Architects: Alexander Wong Architects, China

“The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious.
It is the source of all true art and science.”

– Albert Einstein

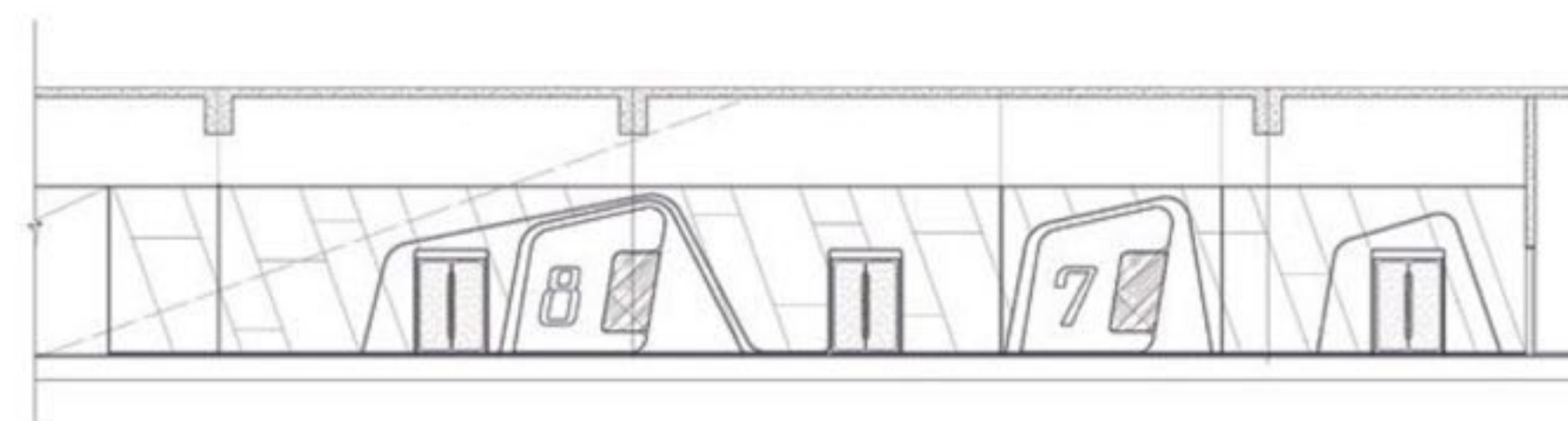
At the brand new AEON Mall in the heart of the technologically-advanced Wuhan, China, the firm has designed their ground-breaking cineplex “Beyond Future” for China Film Cinema to become a new landmark of futurism and intellectual lifestyle with cultural

significance that truly represents Wuhan. Wuhan is one of the most dynamic cities in China with a great history in culture and also known for its interest and passion for science and technology. In fact, Wuhan ranks third in China in overall strength of science and technology.

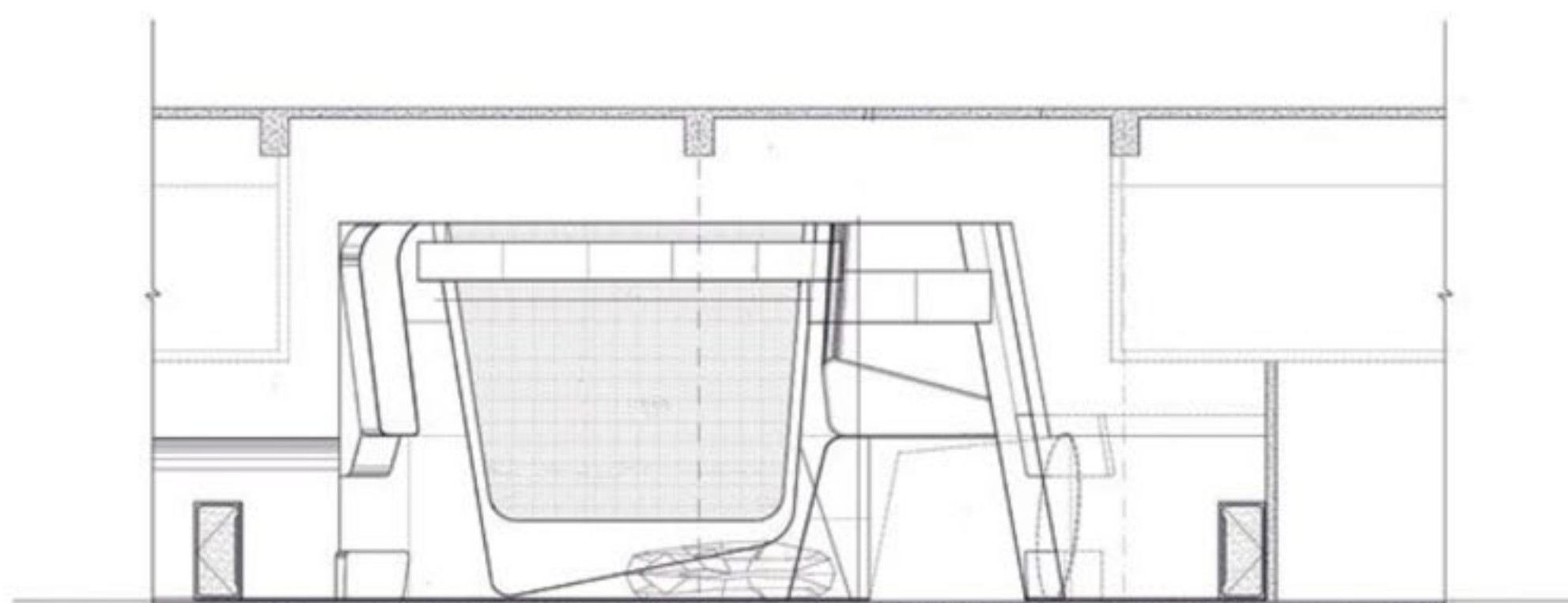


LAYOUT PLAN

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|
| 1. 3D GIANT SCREEN HOUSE (350 SEATS) | 6. HOUSE OF TRANSCENDENCE 6 (125 SEATS) | 11. TUNNEL ORIGIN |
| 2. HOUSE OF TRANSCENDENCE 1 (152 SEATS) | 7. HOUSE OF TRANSCENDENCE 7 (95 SEATS) | 12. BAR BEYOND |
| 3. HOUSE OF TRANSCENDENCE 2 (152 SEATS) | 8. HOUSE OF TRANSCENDENCE 8 (162 SEATS) | 13. BEYOND PORTAL |
| 4. HOUSE OF TRANSCENDENCE 4 (264 SEATS) | 9. SUPREME BOX OFFICE | 14. VIP ROOM |
| 5. HOUSE OF TRANSCENDENCE 5 (159 SEATS) | 10. LOBBY SUPREME | 15. TOILETS |



ELEVATION



LOBBY SUPREME - ELEVATION

Inspired by the dynamic philosophies of Russian Constructivism and Concepts from Einstein's Theory of Relativity, the aim is to create a totally unique and visionary kind of cineplex never experienced before, a cinema city of the future that travels beyond space and time. The theme is called "Beyond Future" with original ideas derived from science fiction films filled with deeper meanings including profound philosophical ideas.

Einstein's "Theory of Relativity" was one of the starting points. The project has no reference point of any kind and

the walls, floors, ceilings and furniture are all floating freely as if there is no gravitational pull.

In this gravity free space, all objects are transposed to another dimension where they become truly "Elemental" once again. In line with ideas from Russian Suprematism and fundamental beliefs of physicists on our universe, everything we perceive are mere abstracted reflections of mostly preconceived ideas within the human mind. All this and more, we have superimposed these ideas with another brooding layer on top directly addressing the rather



threatening but inevitable arrival of transcendence (or singularity) in our current world of science.

*Beyond Future is about the mystery of our universe;
Beyond Future is about the mystery of human
consciousness; and
Beyond Future is about the mystery of the origin
of intelligence.*

It posits the profound question "Was there silicon-based entity with intelligence (e.g. our so-called computers) prior to the existence of hydrocarbon-based entities (our so-called living organisms or life on earth) with self-consciousness and intelligence?"

Perhaps there is no such thing as "artificial" or "natural" even.

Beyond Future is beyond space and beyond time where tunnel-like corridors lead to another dimension of human consciousness where there is no future, past or present.

Burnt Norton (T S Eliot)

*"Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time future,
And time future contained in time past.
If all time is eternally present
All time is unredeemable."*

The architect puts, "Beyond Future is also a major turning point with respect to the design directions in our office. Here, doing less may be doing more and we attempt to realise profound concepts into spatial reality by means of implications and not blatantly stating the obvious or even the subtleties. After all, either on a conscious or subconscious level, it is the viewer's free will to experience the space and connect the dots to fully understand the true narrative of Beyond Future." ✚

Factfile

Client: China Film Group Corporation

Design team: Alexander Wong Architects Limited

Consultants: Radio Film & Television Design & Research Institute

Contractors: China Film Cinema Contracting Firm

Built-up area: 5,000sq m

Cost of project: USD 2.66 million

Year of completion: 2016