

Quarry Garden

Shanghai, China

Once a dangerous and inaccessible quarry, the Quarry Garden in the Shanghai Chen Mountain Botanical Garden, which is found in the Songjiang district of Shanghai, China, was transformed into an attractive public garden that undoes some of the ecological damage. Landscape architects at Beijing Tsinghua Urban Planning & Design Institute (THUPDI) and Tsinghua University were faced with repairing the ecologically-degraded industrial site that had little remaining vegetation. The quarry, which offers scenic views of the botanical garden, had been abandoned and the central pool had been fenced off from people for more than twenty years.

The design team spend more than six years reconstructing the landscape to be a multi-level park that highlights its past as a quarry. Many of the rock surfaces were left alone in order to retain the quality of the surfaces that had no human contact for more than 20 years.

At the entrance to Quarry Garden, a rocky area was transformed into Mirror Lake, which reflects the mountainous peaks above. The land surrounding the lake was reshaped and gardens were added around its edges. From Mirror Lake, visitors can descend a CorTen-steel staircase into the highlight of the park: the deep pool.

The Deep Pool, which covers the bottom of the quarry, is about 2.5 acres. The designers created a sight-seeing route around the pool. Wood and CorTen steel pathways and stairwells make the pool more accessible.

Quarry Garden educates visitors about the history of the Chinese mining industry and its destructive environmental impact. But Quarry Garden also embraces the landscape's history. The landscape architects used steel as the principal materials throughout the site, so that the site would maintain

an industrial smell, rather than masking the site in a fragrant one.

The vision of a destroyed natural environment returned back to nature in a new way invites visitors to contemplate the scars of industrialization and the forgiveness of nature.

Project Resources

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

THUPDI

Department of Landscape Architecture, School of Architecture, Tsinghua University
Research Center of Landscape vs Design Study
Beijing Tsinghua Urban Planning & Design Institute

ENGINEERING DESIGN GROUP

Beijing Zhongyuan

Engineering Design and Consult Co.

SENIOR STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Xiaohong He

WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE ENGINEER

Aijun Cui

CLIENT

Construction headquarter of Shanghai Botanical Garden

Guiping Peng