

Explain your interest in Architecture in 200 words or less. Please be sure to upload ONLY the Final draft of your essay here (PDF preferred).

“The water waves shone in aqua, the light pours down through the traditional-style railings...” It was a model we built with recycled materials for a complex on our campus. The waves were tailored from discarded Sprite bottles, and the buildings were made of used cardboard.

The complex was designed by a disciple of Ieoh Ming Pei. Inspiration coming from classical Chinese gardens, it not only reserves the slanting roofs and enclosed courtyards but also what I call “mooring in space.”

During my childhood, I liked to wander around Suzhou’s historic gardens. There’s one with a pond and a bridge at one end. While viewed from a certain angle, the pond extends beyond the bridge and into the bamboo forest. Everything then builds upon one another visually. When I look through a floral window or walk along an ambulatory, it gives a sense of infinity for the path winding into jungles.

I’d liken these multi-dimensional garden architectures to the polytopes I learned in mathematics - objects travel in four-dimension. Each part of the garden seems to be distinct and separate, but when viewed from the right angle, they become such a vibrant entirety. The parts travel, tangle, and scatter around. They interact in such a way that even the most advanced mathematical theory could hardly interpret. This architectural art goes far beyond the logic, turning mathematics from the rational to the perceptual, from the regular to the non-linear.