

The project is set on the Yunomori Onsen & Spa site in Bangkok, a unique location combining Japanese and Thai traditions. The architectural strategy is based on two main grids: one defines the interior functions, while the other adapts to the site's constraints, creating a gap between the building and the street. This in-between space becomes strategic, hosting a hidden garden as well as circulation and transition areas.

Ceramic tiles are used in three key locations: on the **floor**, within the first grid, to guide visitors; on the **façade**, in the adaptive gap, to recreate a protective and evocative screen; and on the **roof**, to connect and unify the entire structure while offering shade and shelter for the site.

The façade was initially designed in bamboo, with alternating open and solid sections. This rhythmic layering varies by function: the garden is fully screened to create a cocoon of calm, while the cafeteria façade is more porous, allowing light and views. This design mimics a forest, where layers of vegetation alternately reveal and conceal. However, due to bamboo's vulnerability to Bangkok's tropical climate, a ceramic cladding replaces it. The new material preserves the bamboo-inspired rhythm and opacity, while enhancing durability and thermal performance. The ceramic screen maintains privacy, modulates sunlight, and creates an immersive, forest-like atmosphere.

Inside, ceramic tiles on the floor guide users through the spatial journey of the onsen: from baths to massage rooms and relaxation zones. The tiles are redesigned in two dimensions to express movement through their shape and glazed texture. Their cool surface provides comfort in the tropical climate while reinforcing the spatial flow.

The ceramic roof unites the two structural grids, extending over the entire site and shading both interior and exterior spaces. It functions like a **pia**—a unifying canopy that shelters and connects all programmatic elements. The ceramic glaze of the roof reflects the life cycle of bamboo: from green at the base to yellow and reddish hues at the top, suggesting the natural aging process. Technically, the tiles are adapted to the roof's requirements, overlapping to create channels that guide rainwater flow.

Through this triple intervention—façade, floor, and roof—ceramics become the narrative and structural thread of the project. They replace bamboo not just as a material, but as a symbolic and environmental agent, providing shade, guiding movement, preserving privacy, and enhancing durability. The result is an immersive spatial experience rooted in tradition and adapted to the realities of the contemporary urban climate.