

# taipei performing arts center

nl architects



Behind the ingenuity of the Taipei Performing Arts Center, architects by the name Pieter Bannenberg, Walter van Dijk and Kamiel Klaasse are shadowed by a small team of designers that form NL Architects. Based in Amsterdam, NL Architects manifests the reference “Wow! What? Wow!”, which influences their way of creating architectural properties. The first component to this motto is the “Wow! What?” which accounts for the visual aesthetics that captivates the audience. The latter part, “What? Wow!” describes the content of the building, the significances it should communicate and the values it’s been crafted to uphold.

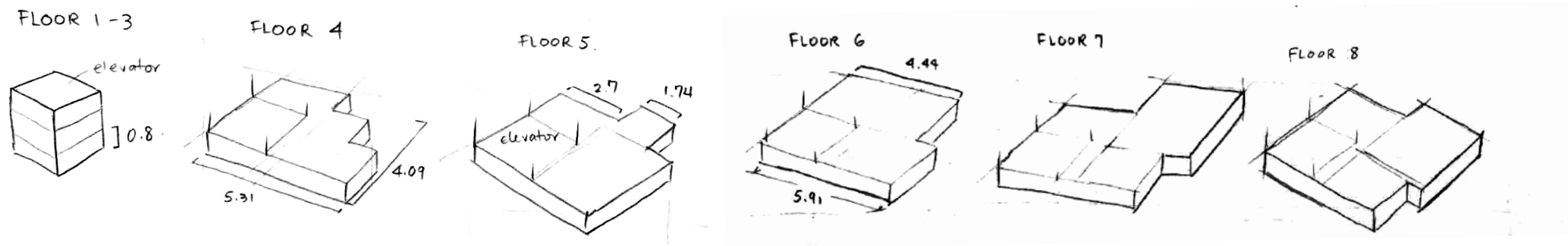
NL Architects look to commonplace aspects of reality for reasons to design. Through their research and understanding of the unexplored potential among the spaces and objects that lie around us, they synthesize new ideas by expanding, reconstructing and transforming

what already exists. Klaasse goes on to mention that their “projects are shaped by logic – sometimes fuzzy logic, sometimes hard-core logic, sometimes amplified logic, sometimes logic pushed too far”; and the Dutch based company reflects on inspecting the surrounding environment, commenting that “the main thing for us was that the building establishes a relationship with its surroundings”. Blending a building seamlessly with the environment creates a presence that is nondisruptive to the existing surroundings. Instead of disrupting the preceding setting, it is understood by NL Architects to take this into consideration.

Given such revelations, we are reminded by the core values we proposed for the designs of NL Architects. Their designs are communicative of the logic they carefully embedded within their work. Their buildings are a reconfiguration of reality that blend and improve concepts progressively. Most importantly, Klaasse’s final insight reveals the way their work strives to be integrated within society as an ecosystem, where their designs work in balance with its surroundings to maintain form and beauty. By peering into the minds of the architects, we discover a part of the processes they work effortlessly to enforce, and by looking at their rendition of the Taipei Performing Arts Center, we can visually piece together the values and notions that NL Architects exhibit throughout.



# begin by sketching



NL Architects' designs all integrate a communicative aspect, in which logic and form help create structures that bring out the dominant ideas of the project. In the process of designing architecture, they are particularly interested in how form and shapes relay meaning, and how their ideas reveal beauty and the hidden potentials of ordinary spaces. The Taipei Performing Arts Centre reflects this core value through the design of rigid shapes that create a form of a shared, grandiose space. While their interest is in the form of architecture, the idea remains dominant and communicates the structure reflects the original concept.

NL Architects work by investigating the common elements of everyday life to find peculiar traits that are underappreciated and neglected. Through their research, these investigations bring them "existing fragments of reality" that contribute to their process of "revealing and reconfiguring the wonderful complexities of the world we live in". Their methods of shaping, morphing and dismantling pre-existing ideologies of the architectural language aid their goals in bringing beauty by exemplifying the undiscovered potential of every day aspects. NL Architects describe their process of understanding contemporary culture as a Remix of Realities.

The Taipei Performing Arts Centre personifies their value of remixing realities through the seamless way it is integrated within society as a social structure. By combining the physicality of voids and masses, NL Architects explores and reconfigures the opportunities where people may come together through social events. The Taipei Performing Arts Centre also incorporates a design of an elevated plateau, thus providing people with a panoramic view of the city and its surrounding environments.

The expansive void of the structure creates an accessible area embedded in the structure, and this brings a sense of a public yet private space. This design reflects their ability to exercise their core value of remixing realities, ultimately exemplifying the introduction of other core values such as sharing spaces.

The final core value NL Architects' designs are centered around is Sharing Spaces. The logic behind this idea stems from the fact that when designing architecture, multiple parties have the opportunity to use the spaces at various times. To the team at NL Architects, all their work revolves around redefining what "public space" means. Designing with the project brief in mind, they always strive to think about how

other people would use their space. Despite their design constraints, whether personal or provided by contractors and investors, NL Architects are influenced by the thoughts of how others will find multiple uses for the spaces they create.

The Taipei Performing Arts Center, as designed by NL Architects, was intended to be a large, looming structure with a shared public space in the center. The aspirations for this design was so that everyone could enter and use the space created by the building. Because the public space is created by the outer walls of the building, it's seemingly open and detached - but still within the confines of the building.

