

# An 80-year-old library rejuvenated by renovation and extension

By Zhang Weiwei

After years of being left unused, an over-80-year-old library, formerly known as the Shanghai Library, on Heishan Road of Yangpu District is going to be rejuvenated by being returned to the look it once was envisioned and renamed as "Yangpu Library." The first phase of the renovation and extension is now about to be finished. On December 8, the 30th anniversary of Shanghai being named "National Historical and Cultural City," a meeting about how to conserve and reuse the library was hosted at the Library.

Libraries are the guardians of humans' thoughts and wisdom, and the beacons of spirit in cities. When they are getting old, a question presents: to continue as the way it was or to reform, to inherit the old or to create something new. As the old saying goes, "there is no new without breaking the old." The renovation and extension of the old library is a combination of the old and the new, presenting the library with a brand new look, while preserving the historical relics in their wholeness.

It's worth noting that the new Yangpu Library will bring to life the part that was never realized in the original design, that is, the "two

wings" at the rear end of the construction, which was aborted at that time due to expenses and schedules and many other reasons. This will be an extension to the original construction based on the design manuscript of Dong Dayou, in tandem with the renovation.

The new Yangpu Library will be a comprehensive public library that provide services such as reading, literature sharing, and e-cultural content for public benefits, and digital reading experience that could be accessed anytime at anywhere via cloud computing platform and cloud library, combining multiple screens and networks into one.

As the project manager Wu Youwei of Shanghai Building Decoration Group recalled, when they were first getting inside the library, one of the core buildings of the "Greater Shanghai Plan," they saw a construction that was already falling apart. Though with four walls, it was overgrown with weeds and all covered up by climbing plants. The leaking inside was pretty serious, and the roof was decaying. Those bright yellow glazed tiles, once a spectacular sight, were basically breaking into pieces. "Repairing it as the way it was requires us to dig into the old memories of the library," said Wu Youwei.



From classicism to modernism, it's not a sudden change or a quick leap. During the times of the Republic of China, the styles of the constructions were actually in-between. They were modern in forms, yet classic in decorations.

According to the project team, the renovation is much more difficult than the extension. There were about

2000m2 of painted plafond that needs to be repaired, which had taken six months for a dozen of artisans to use traditional color painting techniques with pigments such as oyster shell powder and ore to restore them to their original images, just like they were drawing Thangka.

The renovation and extension has maintained the principle of "re-

pairing the old as the way it was" and used a great number of techniques that demonstrate what craftsmanship is, and could not be replaced by machines. As an essential display of and agreement with the development of Shanghai in 100 years, the new Yangpu Library will continue to regain the flavor of the time it was first built.

## SUFE to build the first museum of commerce in China

By Mao Xinhui

University museum is an important symbol of a university's long and rich academic and cultural history. Recently, it's been told that Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFE), a financial university with long history, is actively preparing to build a museum of commerce to celebrate the 100 anniversary of the University's establishment. The museum, if established, will be the first of its kind in China, filling a blank in our country's museum building area.

SUFE is formerly known as the Shanghai University of Commerce, which began as a business program at Nanjing Advanced Normal University in 1917, and then was relocated to Shanghai in 1921 after the program was expanded. It's established with seven major programs, including general business, accounting, business administration, international business, insurance, and transportation, thus making it the oldest financial university in China.

According to Jin Xing, the Deputy Head of the Preparation Office of the 100 anniversary celebration of SUFE, the planned museum of commerce is located inside Yuheng Building, and the name of the museum was inscribed by Li Lanqing, the former member of the Standing Committee of CPC Politburo and the former Vice-premier of the State Council. The museum is currently in the advanced stage of design and prepara-

tion for construction, which is expected to be open to the public on September 17, 2017, the 100th anniversary of the University's founding.

According to the plan, the museum of commerce consists of a central exhibition area, four theme exhibition pavilions displaying items related to insurance, taxation and receipts, calculation tools and currencies, and a mobile exhibition pavilion.

The central exhibition area is for commercial studies, mainly the development of higher education of commerce in China. It spans 100 years from the beginning of commerce education in China to its current state, singing praises to the culture around commerce studies. The museum will represent the teaching scene at Tongwen Guan, the earliest modern school founded in China, and the student practicing scene at the Business School of National Central University in the time of the Republic of China, as well as the scene of registration for the National Higher Education Entrance Examination when it was resumed in 1977.

As SUFE was the first university in China establishing an insurance department, the insurance exhibition pavilion will display how the modern insurance was introduced from the West into China, how our national insurance industry was emerging and developing, and how the insurance industry has been developed after the People's Republic of China was founded. The items displayed

include insurance policies, calendar posters, badges, placards, books and journals, as well as pictures. "Among these, the insurance policy of Renhe Insurance Company of Qing Dynasty, the seal of Lv Yuequan, the pioneer of Chinese life insurance, and the badge of Shanghai Insurance Industry Association - the witness to insured insurance - are all very valuable things," added Jin Xing.

As another highlight, the taxation and receipts exhibition pavilion is dedicated to all kinds of tax receipts and related items since ancient China. Against the background of taxation reforms in both ancient and modern China, the pavilion has set up five sections based on the types of taxes and the features of the collection: tax history, agricultural tax, commodity tax, stamp tax, and the others. "Only three tax receipt collections of our country have been awarded Gold Medal by the International Stamp Exhibition ever, and one of them is right here in our collections, and it's also the only collection about commodity tax receipts." According to Jin Xing, the items of importance displayed include the red title deed of 1518, the record of grains of a taxpayer who lived between the times of Qianlong Emperor and Guangxu Emperor, the template of the stamp tax receipt at the end of the Qing Dynasty, and a tax receipt collection which had won the golden award at the International Stamp Exhibition.

## An AFL Regular Game will be played in Yangpu next May

By Zhang Weiwei

News from the press conference said that a regular game of Australian Football League (AFL) will be played at Shanghai Jiangwan Stadium on May 14 next year - the Port Adelaide Power against the Gold Coast Suns, which will be the first time that an AFL regular game is played in China.

For over 100 years, AFL has always been the most beloved sport and entertainment activity in Australia, with widespread audience even in the world. Recently, it has made its move to the overseas market. With Port Adelaide Football Club, the oldest and most successful club in South Australia founded in

1870, as a strong link between AFL and China, it pioneers the sport's introduction into Chinese market and the cooperation and communications that goes with it. In 2016, Port Adelaide Football Club has reached an agreement with CCTV that the weekly AFL game will be on Chinese audience's screens; and the next year's regular game will be a significant landmark in the Club's history, for it will give Chinese audience a closer look to the national sport of Australia. According to Mr. Tang Qisi, CEO of Port Adelaide Football Club, that the regular game will be played in China is a significant success for Australian football, which will be a great contributor to China and Australia's bilateral relationship.

## Shanghai German and French Schools breaking ground

By Liu Yi

To build an international community that provides multi-cultural and diversified education for international students, Yangpu District has initiated a "Shanghai Yangpu German and French Schools" program in New Jiangwan Town, which will offer quality education resources to international students in Yangpu District and the surrounding areas by establishing "an international school at their doors." On the

morning of December 3, Shanghai Yangpu German School and Shanghai Yangpu French School broke the ground.

The schools will be open on September 1, 2018, providing education from kindergarten to high school for international students, and planning to recruit 2,000 students. During the first phase, a 35,000 m2 campus will be built, in which the two schools have their own teaching buildings and share public facilities such as library and gym.