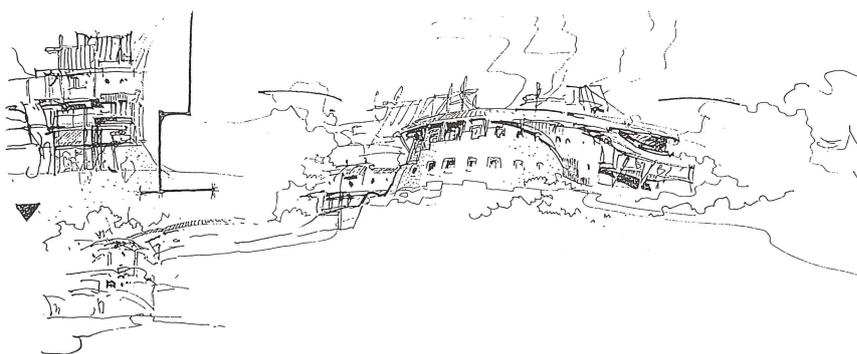


YU LU HOTEL FUJIAN PROVINCE

Zhou Ming



Project Data

Location: Wu Yi Mountains, Fujian Province, People's Republic of China.

Architect: Zhou Ming (design).

Site Architect: Cheng Zhong Qing (execution).

Built Area: 16,900 square metres.

Completion: 1990: currently under construction.

The following account was submitted by Zhou Ming, who conceived the hotel Yu Lu as a result of a final project for her degree at Nanjing University.

Located along the Jiuqu River in Fujian province of south-eastern China, the site faces Da Wang, the highest peak in the Wu Yi mountains. It is a luminous, picturesque landscape with fabulous scenery. The local vernacular buildings were the starting point for my study.

Research focussed on five main points: respect for the geographic and human environment; the local cultural heritage and its symbols; investigation of the complex functions of a hotel; the creation of new kinds of spaces; and the practical issues involved in resolving these.

The first priority was that the new hotel respect the landscape, taking into account the three small hills and surrounding countryside in order to formulate a unified composition. It was necessary to follow the curve of the adjoining river to provide access to the hotel without first levelling the topographical qualities of the

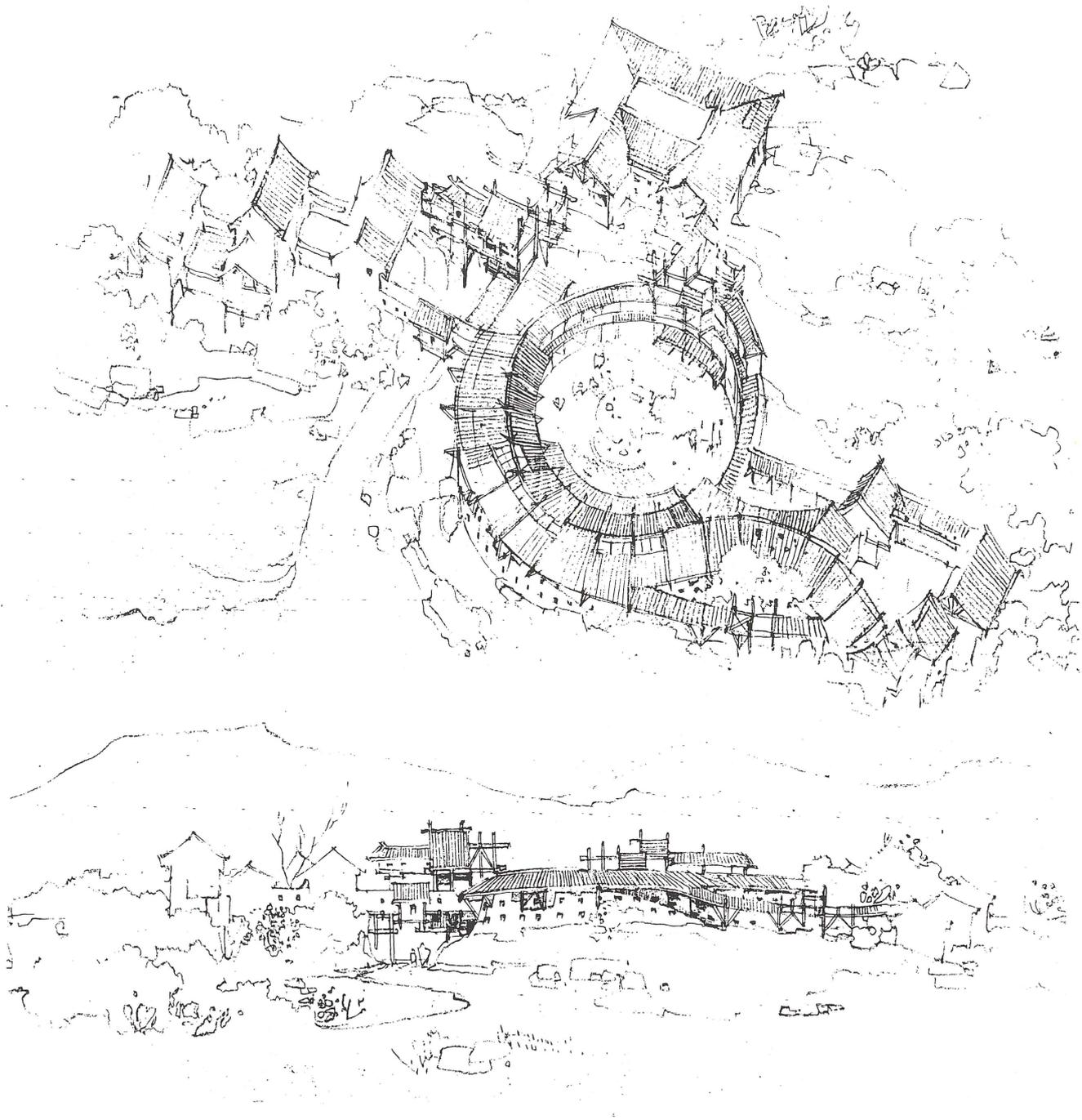


site. Spaces for diverse activities straddle the small valley, forming a focal point for the whole complex. Hotel rooms are arranged around a curved courtyard which is open to the most beautiful, panoramic view.

A second concern was that the new structure be sympathetic to the architectural traditions of the local culture in Fujian. Having visited a great many towns and villages of the region, I discovered that the domestic and urban spaces fused quite subtly yet completely with the natural environment. Even those dwellings located in the most isolated corners of the mountainous landscape

were striking by their elegance. It was some of these profound qualities that I attempted to incorporate into my project.

The complexity of the programme for the hotel, which is to cater for both Chinese and foreign guests, provided the ultimate challenge. In addition, such problems as dealing with the peculiarities of the present Chinese economy; and of attaining certain standards in materials and workmanship on a rural site offered an immense amount of practical experience for an architect just beginning a career. Part of the complex has been completed and the rest is under construction.

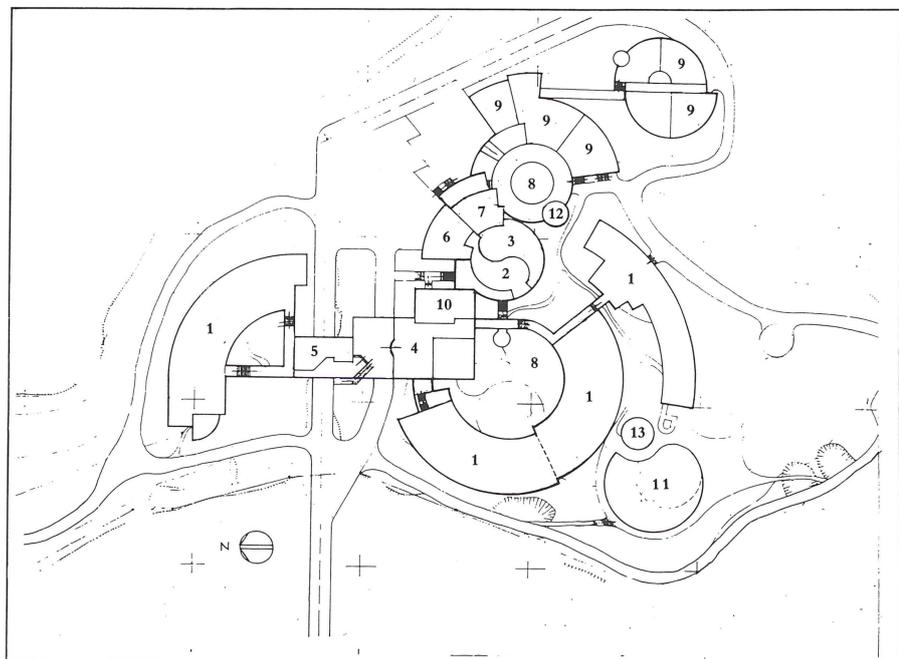


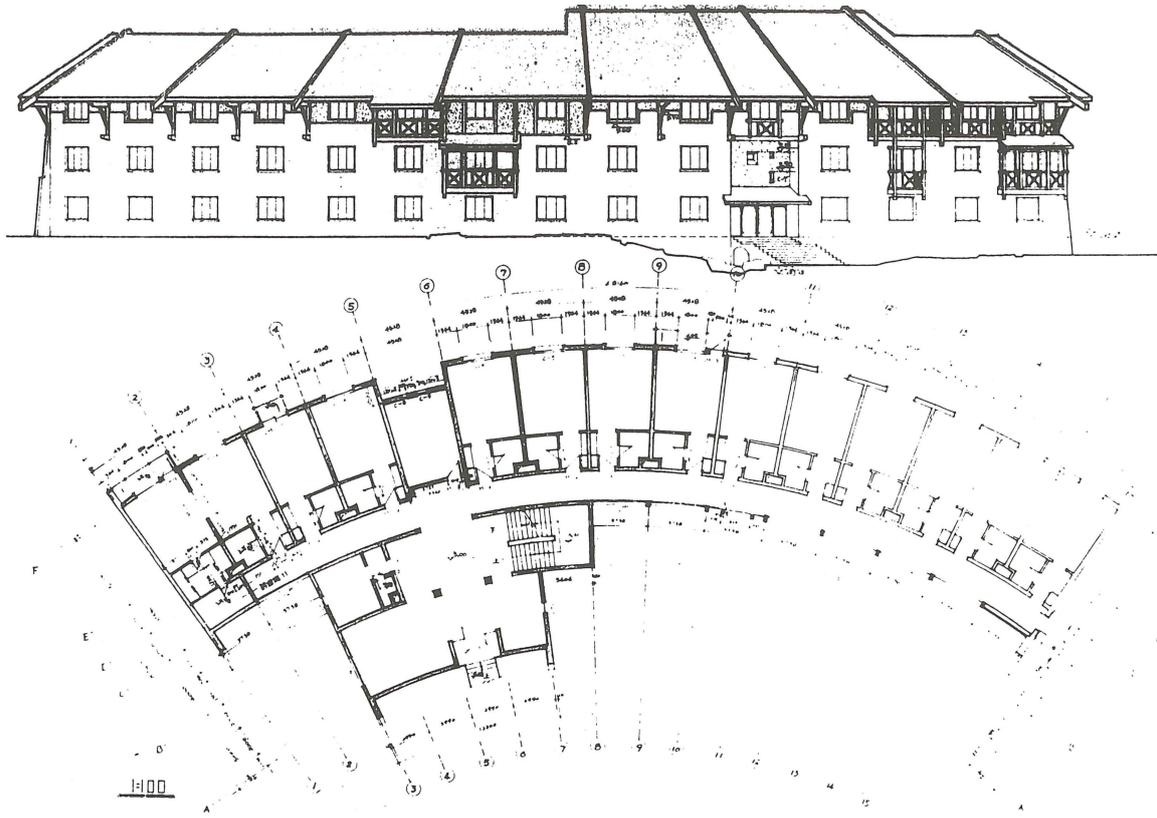
Opposite centre: The final project presented by the architect is shown in this coloured drawing. It was this stage which was shown to the client and accepted by him as a basis for further elaboration.

Top: A bird's eye view of an early stage of the hotel project. The portion containing guest rooms to the left of the small valley initially included several courtyards later transformed into a single one.

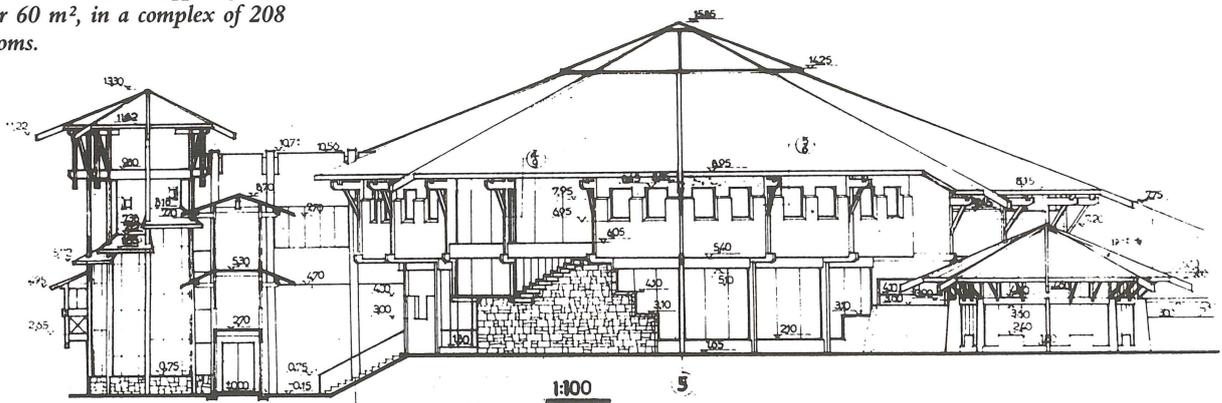
Above: Study sketch for the hotel.

Right: The site plan which was developed for actual construction contains: (1) guest-rooms (2) Chinese restaurant (3) Western restaurant (4) hall (5) storage (6) Chinese kitchen (7) Western kitchen (8) court (9) service (10) reception (11) swimming pool (12) greenhouse (13) cloakroom.



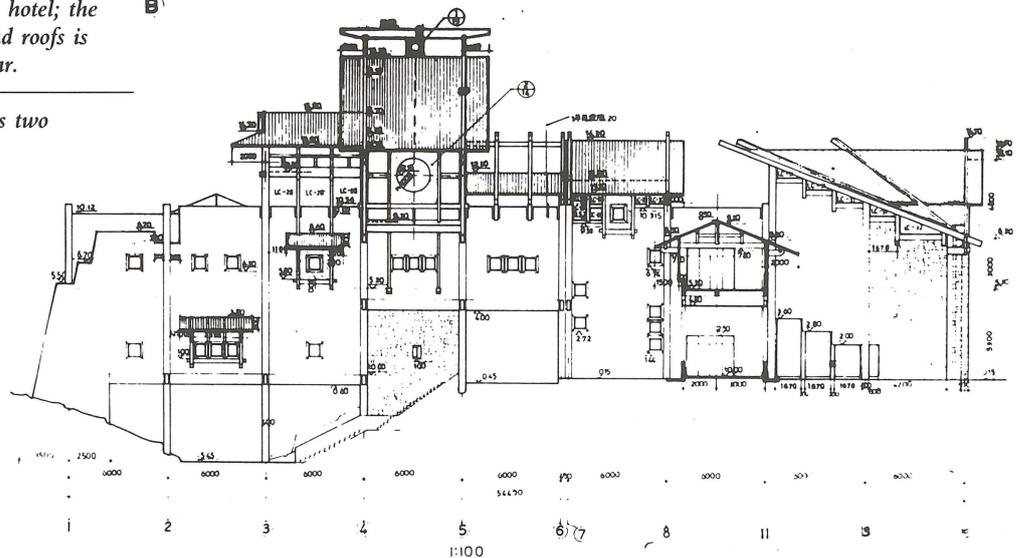


Plans and elevations of a wing of the Yu Lu hotel. There are two types of room, 28 m² or 60 m², in a complex of 208 guest rooms.



Elevation of a segment of the hotel; the regularity of built volumes and roofs is evocative of the local vernacular.

Elevation of one of the hotel's two restaurants.



ZHOU MING STUDIED ARCHITECTURE AT NANJING UNIVERSITY. SHE CAME TO FRANCE IN 1989, AND IS NOW STUDYING AT THE ECOLE PARIS-BELLEVILLE (ARCHITECTURE FACULTY). 