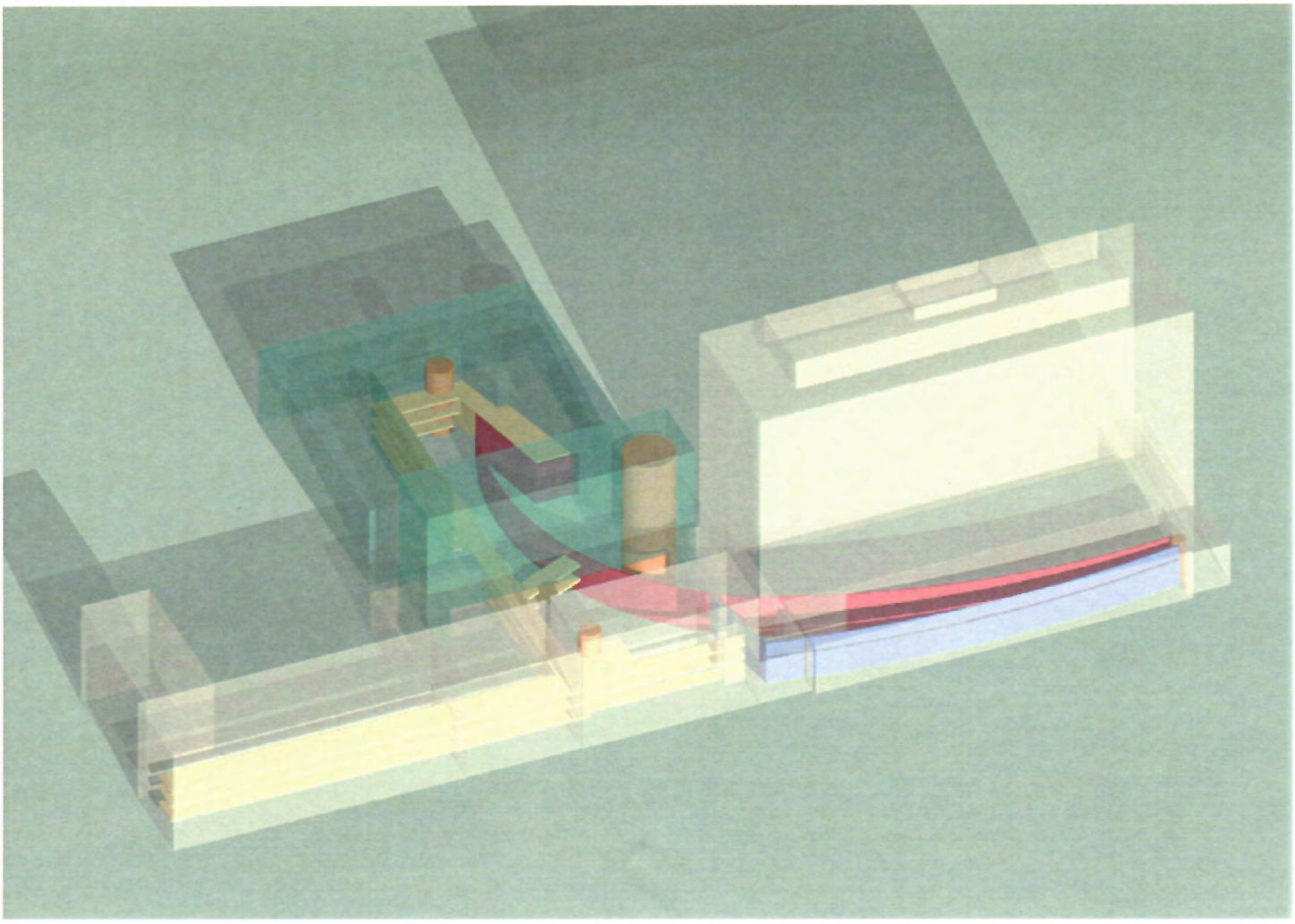


As the winner of an international design competition, NBBJ's design creates a new, identifiable circulation system connecting the Beijing Hotel's three historic buildings with new additions. The solution involves creating a circulation system which conveniently separates the actual hotel guests from casual visitors and those using the public retail areas on the lower levels.

The curved, "red swoop" of the new circulation sweeps through the buildings, delineating the floor plate and walls, thus orienting the hotel guest within these quarter-mile long joined buildings. The circulation also directs the retail and casual users to the new Entertainment Center designed for the last phase. NBBJ is also charged with bringing the hotel up to international five-star status.

The exteriors of the historic buildings will be upgraded and refurbished, and will also be updated to incorporate the new addition behind the primary facade on Chang An Avenue. Working with the original Chinese architect of the East Building, NBBJ has managed to evoke a contemporary spirit while retaining the original design intent. The other two buildings will be restored to their historic character. By so doing, the Beijing Hotel will retain its position as the capital's preeminent hotel.



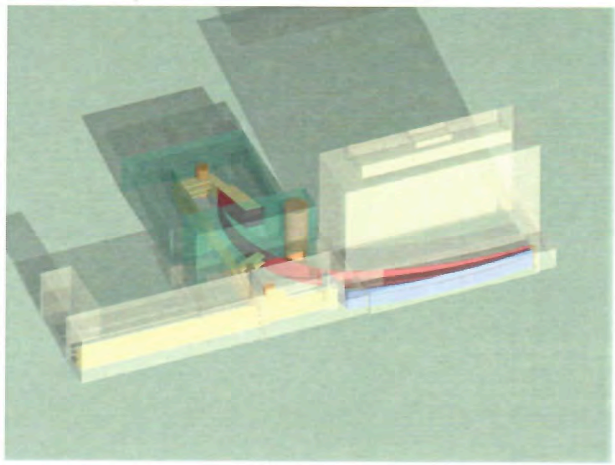
The Beijing Hotel Revitilization
Beijing, China

NBBJ



As the Hub of the revitalized Beijing Hotel, a new addition behind the French Building centers the "red swoop" into a multi-storied focal point leading to meeting, restaurant, and entertainment venues. Covered by a new skylight that mirrors the "red swoop" on the floor, the addition physically joins the East and French Buildings. The grand stair covered in metal mesh and the Dappled Curtain Water Feature become the Hub's focus, and is accessed by all four floors of the New Middle Building to the north, joining those floors to the existing French Building to the south as well.

With the skylight creating an interior space, the French Building's exterior wall becomes an interior wall. This wall is screened but not hidden by an airy metal mesh, thus establishing its connection to the adjacent contemporary addition. The Dappled Curtain Water Feature not only terminates the visual corridor through the Hub, but also serves to add "white sound" to the space, muffling and softening the hustle and bustle through this important circulation node.

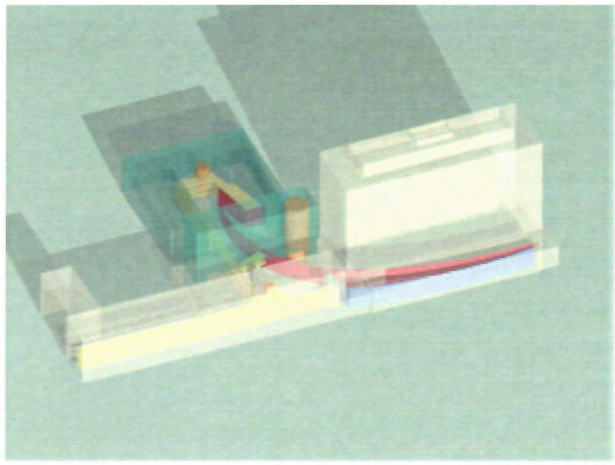


The Beijing Hotel Revitilization
Beijing, China

NBBJ

The Middle Building was the original hotel built by the French for the diplomatic corps. Over the years, following additions to the west and the east, the original vaulting and grand open spaces had been modified for myriad different uses, eventually losing their spirit and identity. NBBJ's plan to restore the vaulting, to add stone cladding to the columns, and to upgrade all finishes will result in reestablishing the hotel to its former preeminence as the top hotel in Beijing.

Interpreting the client's mandate to retain a French character, NBBJ has designed an evocation of a French hotel, not copying any one design époque, but rather to design the lobby to be contemporary, fresh, and elegant.



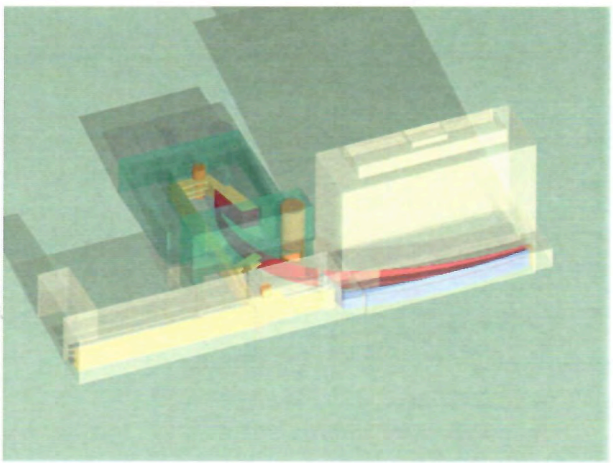
The Beijing Hotel Revitilization
Beijing, China

NBBJ



The West Building, also known as the Chinese Building, was to reflect the emerging nationalism following the exile of the Ching Emperor. The hotel rooms in this building were originally accessed from the adjacent French Building; thus a new lobby is being added to serve group business guests and to maintain a thematic connection to the purely Chinese Grand Banquet Hall.

This new Lobby evokes traditional Chinese patterns and colors, but in an updated, contemporary spirit. The bright gold leaf covering of the columns that frame the registration desk, lifts the act of guest registration to a higher level of hospitality and elegance. The stone floor, taking its design cue from the adjacent prefunction space, creates continuity between the old and the new.



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