

An international competition with nine preselected participants from China, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Japan and the United States of America. The task is to extend, with a second phase of construction, the existing library by 77.000m² in order to accommodate approximately 12 million books.

An important future oriented part of the extension of the existing library is the "Digital Library". Unparalleled in its historical and cultural significance, the "Si Ku Quan Shu" collection will also be housed in the new building.

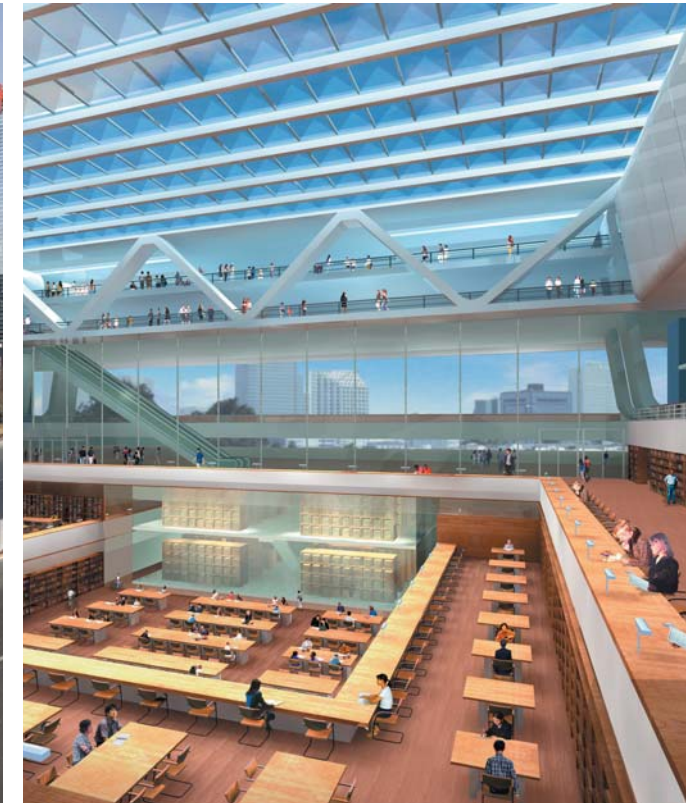
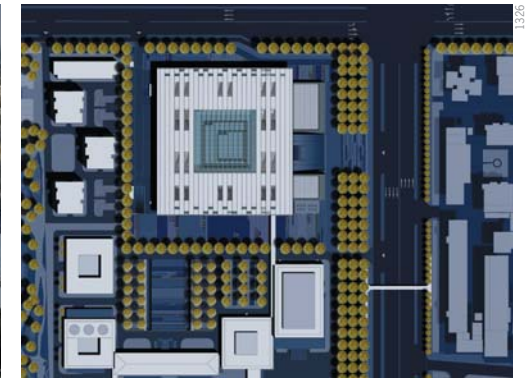
The design contribution of KSP Engel und Zimmermann is divided both architecturally as well as structurally into three main areas:

- the raised pedestal - the library in the classical sense with the historical "Si Ku Quan Shu" collection - the past
- the columns - a zone for interaction of the people with their historical heritage - the present
- the floating roof - the "Digital Library" - the future.

The three elements, the raised pedestal, the columns and the roof are also stylistic elements of the Chinese building history mainly reserved for official buildings. In this way, the design consciously takes up these elements in the form of a contemporary interpretation, placing the building formally and functionally in its appropriate historical context.

National Library of China

client	National Library of China
floor area	80,000m ²
competition	1 st prize
completion	09/2008



National Library of China, Beijing