

Ant Farm House

xrange, 2006

No public address

Tianmu, Shilin District

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Along both long sides of an existing rectangular residential building made of granite in the 1950s, the architects of *xrange* office added a new layer, a sort of steel skeleton embracing the existing structure. Together with the original building, this 80-to-180-centimetre-deep extension creates a seven-metre-tall living room, turning the residence into an "extreme house with incredible proportions" (*xrange*). The added rooms are narrow, vertical spaces that wade through the structure like new paths "in an ant colony", say the architects. The new office, only 1.5 times three metres in size, is accessed through a seven-metre-tall door. The bathroom, 80 centimetres wide but five metres deep, features a shower for guests, into which another shower and a bath tub have been built. A bar, a kitchen and a library are also housed in the addition. All existing windows and wall openings remained, but were re-interpreted as external or internal windows, doors or display cabinets. The resulting floor area of 500 square metres is complemented by another 330 square metres of terraces. The addition has grey glass façades that seem to blend into the existing residence.



