Basdban Coffee Shop

History of the project
The project is located on the first floor of a historical building in Shanghai that has lived through several renovations. The traces of history within the site were carefully selected and preserved to echo the ambient of the century-old street, Yuyuan Road, in the heart of Shanghai.

Why was stainless steel chosen?
Customized stainless steel was used as the major material for three main reasons: flexibility, durability and consistency. For a space that accommodate a range of activities, dongqi introduced a stainless-steel rail system with lighting and soft dividers that delineate space freely for different scenarios. The 6mm-thick stainless-steel plates run through the entire space, merging the new design with the historical building, creating a sense of consistency while being highly functional.

Category: Renovation
Location: No. 546 Yuyuan Road, Shanghai, China
Environment: urban
Use: Façade, main structure, bar counter, rail system, ceiling, curtains, stairs, benches
Material: Sheet, brushed mechanical finish with irregular pattern
Material thickness: 6 mm
Material quantity: about 4 tons
Architect: dongqi Design
Fabricator & Manufacturer: TAI Architecture & Decoration
Photographs: Raitt Liu, Zhou Pinglang
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Stainless Steels in Architectural Applications

Competing or alternative material(s)

Aluminium is another option, but it does not have the same strength as steel. Especially for the floating coffee bar counter, which was achieved by working closely with the steel structure engineers.

How did stainless steel contribute to the sustainability of the structure?

Stainless steel is highly durable with a long lifespan that requires relatively low level of maintenance. The ability to resist corrosion maintains the structural integrity and aesthetic appearance for extended periods. We are also able to preserve and celebrate the historical fabric of the building by using this light stainless-steel structure that can be recycled when it reaches its end of life.

Basdban Coffee Shop. Picture © Raitt Liu.