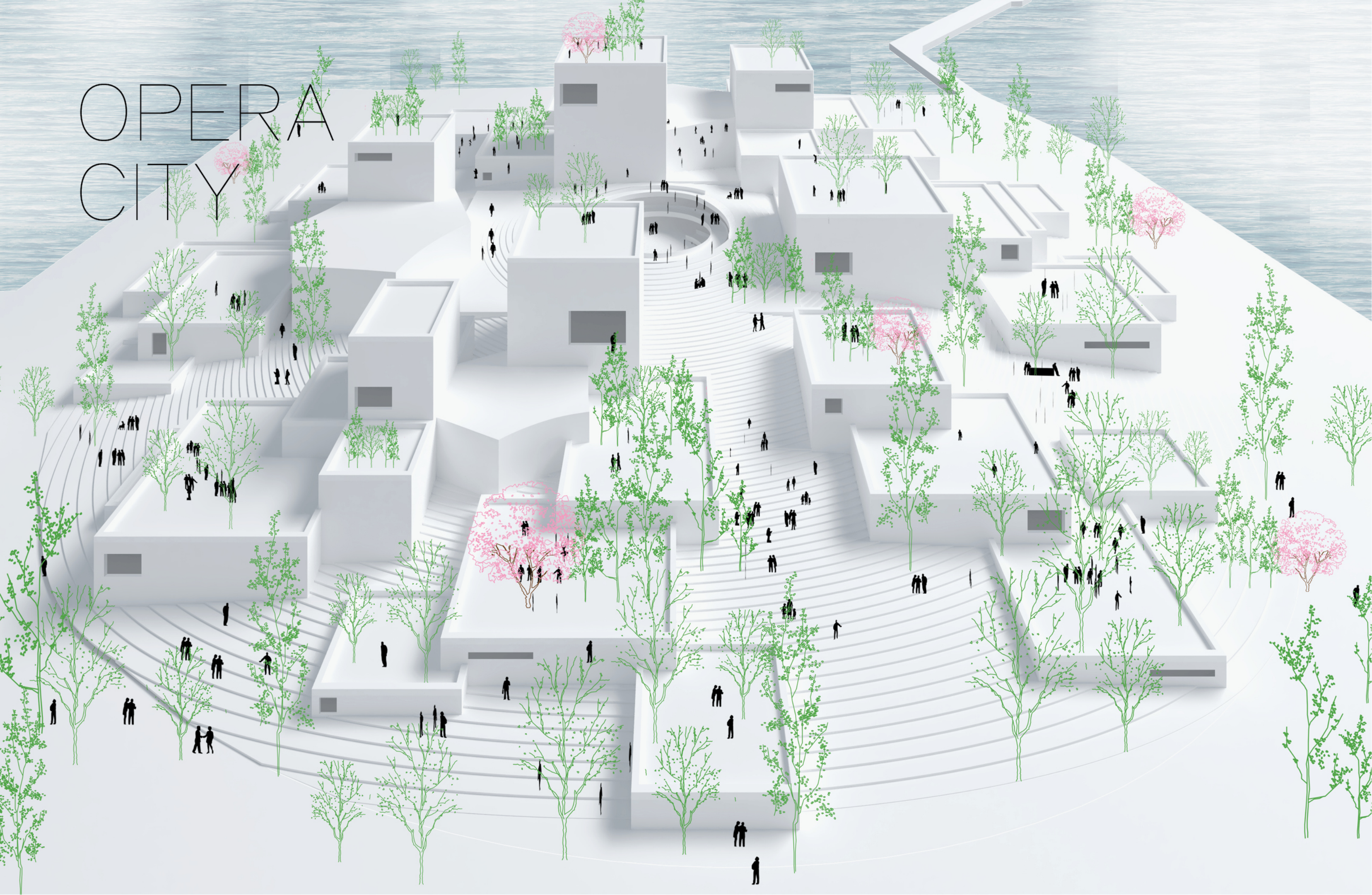


OPERA CITY



OPERA CITY

It is a contemporary paradox that the theatric space where opera is consumed—the auditorium—is frequently engulfed by a proliferation of supporting rooms—the workshop—required to produce the performance.

Like layers of sedimentation, this accretion of supporting rooms buries in plan and in section any plausible connection between the theatric space of the auditorium and the communal space of the city. Only by liberating the auditorium into a singular form from the onslaught of supporting rooms can the performing arts and opera be open for all people.

In contrast, our proposal rejects this proliferation, by insisting on a strict separation—between auditorium and workshop—and by embracing an important connection—between auditorium and city. The functional contents of

the brief are emptied into two spatial entities stacked in section; below, the workshop that includes the entire inventory of supporting rooms: rehearsal, assembly, offices, stage, and back of house facilities; and above, the collective spaces of performance that include: auditoria, foyers, public service and cultural areas. In between these two zones, a continuous urban plane is created by lifting and dispersing the auditoria above a warped plinth of supporting rooms. This continuous urban plane connects the social space of the city to the theatric space of the stage. At the apex of this stepped urban plaza, an exterior courtyard is excavated, carving a grand spiral entrance to the shared lobby of the auditoria. Towards the perimeter of this continuous urban plane, a series of pavilions puncture above and below, confronting the labyrinth of supporting rooms below ground to the collective spaces of performance above.

PROJECT
Opera house, auditorium, multifunctional theater, office, cafe, exhibition, apartment, urban art hall

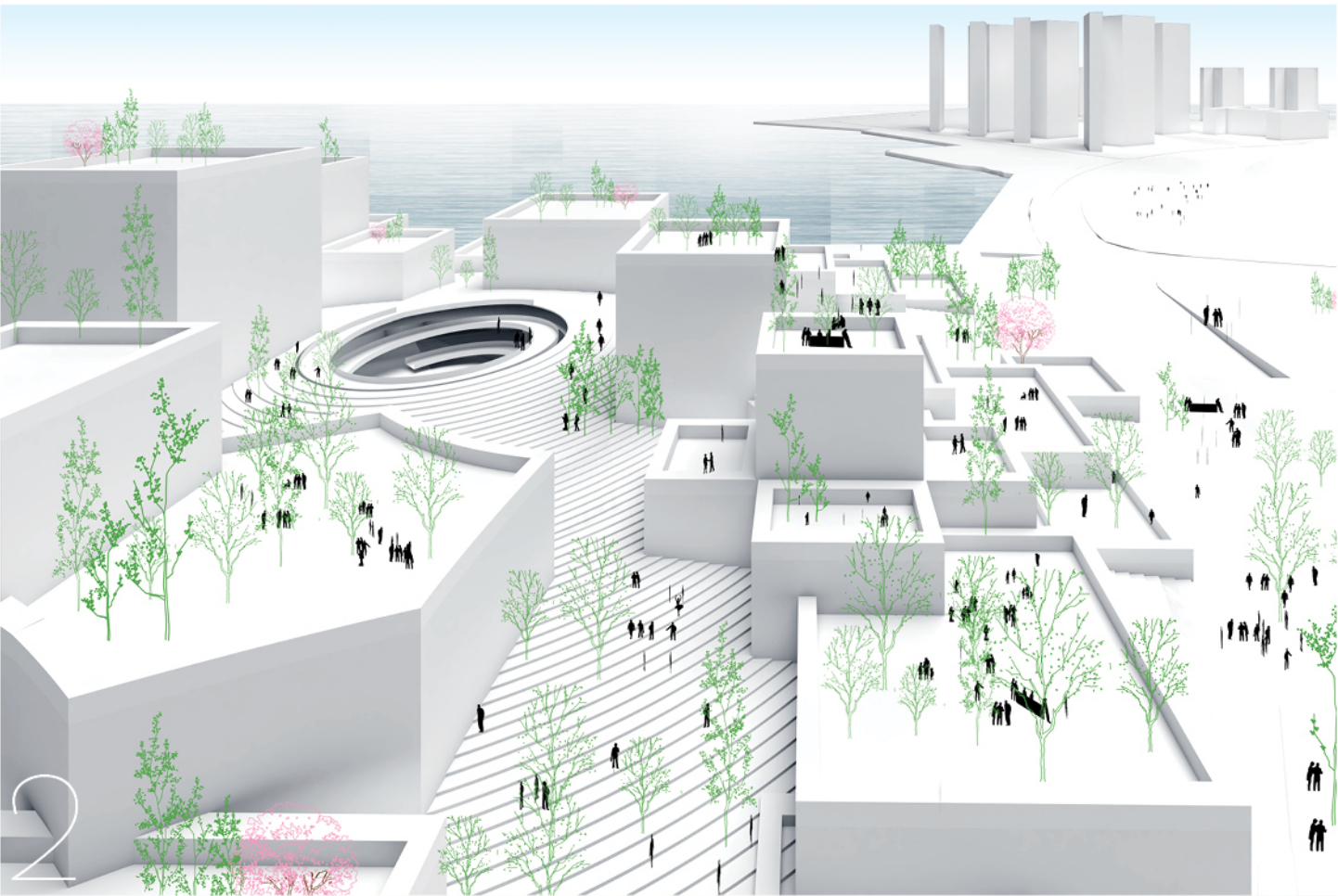
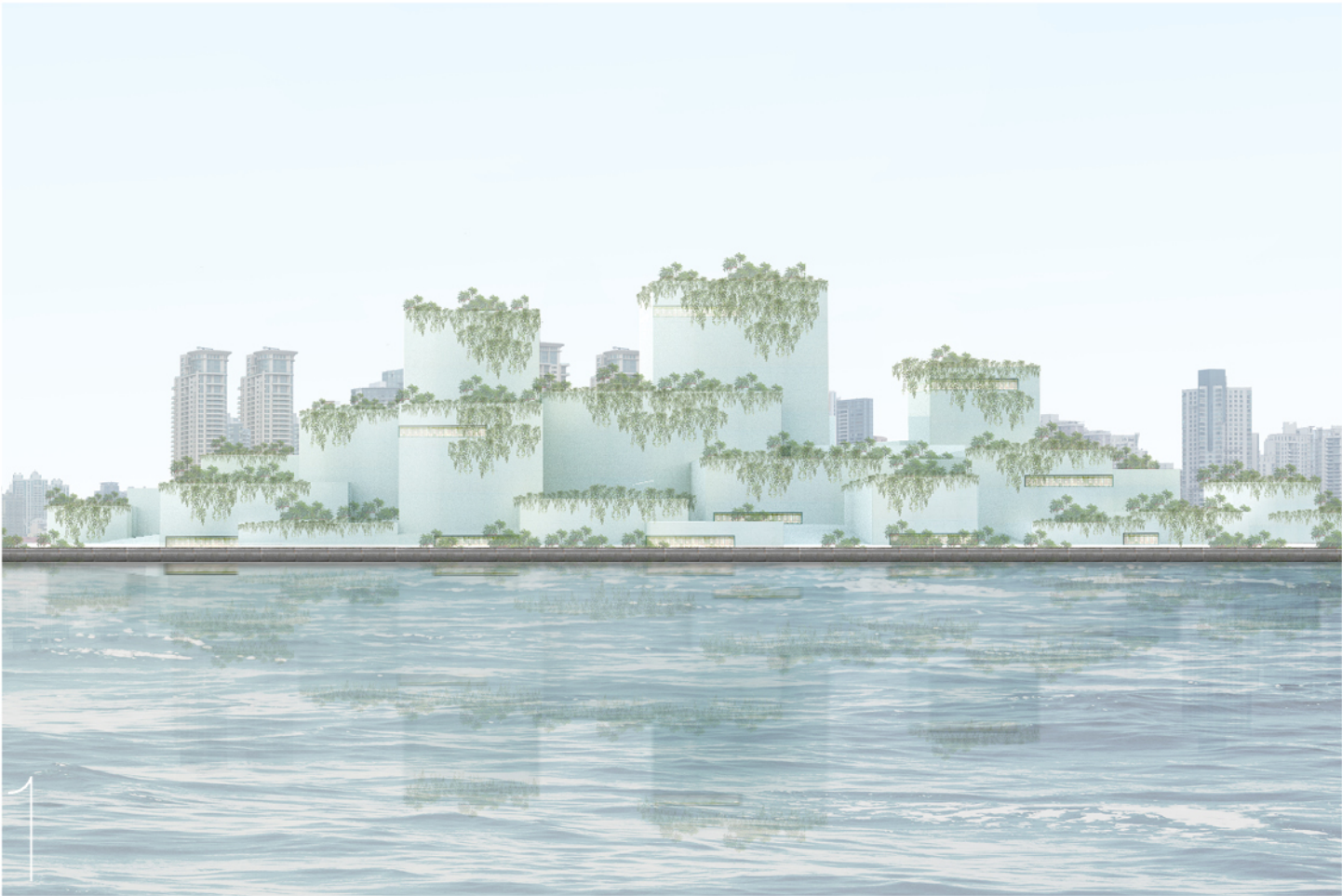
SIZE
219,909 m² (2,376,081 ft²)

CLIENT
Bureau of Public Works of Shenzhen Municipality

LOCATION
Shenzhen, China

STATUS
Competition, concept, unbuilt

KEY PERSON
Andrew Heid, Junwei Li, Christopher Purpura, Guangyu Wang



1. View from bay. 2. Aerial view. 3. Terrace view.

IMAGE: NO ARCHITECTURE