

Featuring a rooftop park, treehouses and elevated walkways in a “floating forest,” the **Huizhen High School** in Ningbo, Zhejiang province in eastern China, won the coveted title at the World Architecture Festival (WAF) in Singapore and has been named 2023’s World Building of the Year.

Designed by Approach Design Studio and the Zhejiang University of Technology Engineering Design Group, the serene campus’ communal areas are intended to blur the distinction between inside and out.

The building features an open-air lecture hall and tree-lined pathways, in addition to study facilities for the 30-class school’s students. Scattered tree houses provide students with temporary escapes from the burden of school. A ramp leads up to a gentle sloping roof, which doubles as an open-air lecture hall and a rooftop park with sporting facilities, usable by the public at the weekend – creating a new typology of architectural promenade.

