Neri&Hu’s latest adaptation hinges on confections and theory

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Neri&Hu, brainchild of cofounders Lyndon Neri and Rosanna Hu, are no strangers to adaptive reuse. Since 2004, the firm has been focused on “the adaptation of found artifacts seen as fragments in time.” That focus has morphed in recent years and elevated to new levels of design intervention, as the typology has become more environmentally imperative and aesthetically popular with architects and clients alike. Their latest project, Recast, a former textile warehouse turned corporate headquarters and concept store for the Lao Ding Feng pastry company, emblematizes this new design thinking.

“The basis for adaptive reuse, and even some seemingly ground-up projects, are actually non-romantic relics from the past,” says the firm. “These remnants pose important questions to architects in terms of sustainability and construction waste management, as well as deeper philosophical questions regarding originality and authorship.”

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