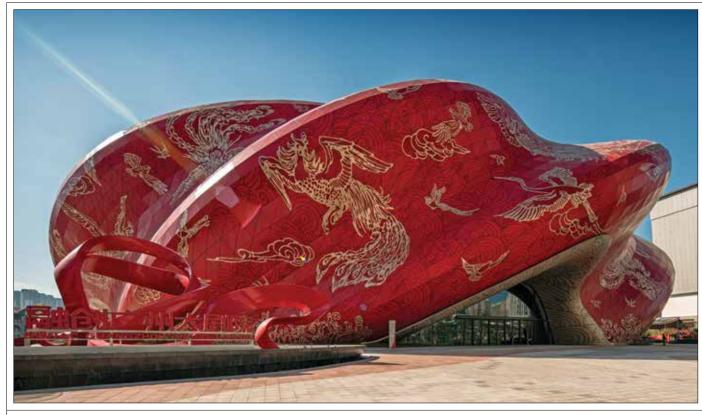
its decoration came to hold a special place in the heart of the city.

For thousands of years, the Chinese city of Guangzhou (once known in English as Canton) has been an internationally recognized center for the arts and culture. As the most prominent port along the ancient maritime Silk Road, the influx of sailors and merchants over the course of thousands of years led to a particularly rich cultural landscape, and the aesthetics of the silk itself and



All photos by Chong-Art Photography, courtesy of SCA|Steven Chilton Architects.

Huadu District. To say the building is striking is a gross Chinese tattoo motifs decorate a darker, lined base layer. understatement: It sits on the landscape like a giant red swirl with gold-line drawings by local artist Zhang Hongfei.

legends, myths, and scenes of nature.

The images in gold on the building's undulating facade are inspired by a beloved local myth of the "100 Birds images, visit www.sca.design.

ondon-based SCA | Steven Chilton Architects kept all Paying Homage to the Phoenix"—a story where the phoenix Lof this in mind when designing the Sunac Guangzhou is a symbol of virtue and grace, playing leader and mentor Grand Theatre, which opened last year in Guangzhou's for the other birds. Beneath the golden drawings, traditional

The theater is part of a mixed-use complex in an of soft-serve ice cream draped in flowing red silk, decorated otherwise underappreciated section of the city, and the eye-catching design is meant todraw attention and tourism to The way silk flows and folds was a primary source of the area. So far, according to SCA founder Steven inspiration for the building's overall form, which incorpo- Chilton, it has also inspired a renewed interest among locals rates a series of ten folds radiating from a central volume, in traditional Han Chinese culture, where symbols that twisting as they rise from the ground to the building's roof- are often fetishized by Western popular culture are being line. Equally influential was the traditional Chinese practice reclaimed and worn as a way of showing kinship with of using silk painting on clothing and tapestries to illustrate national identity. It is a fine example of architecture's power to influence culture.

For more information on the theatre and to see additional



