The largest planetarium in the world opens in Shanghai with a space-time continuum structure

Noemi Pen, 3.4.21

The largest planetarium in the world. A mega dome dedicated to the history of Asian astronomy and the future ambitions of the Chinese space exploration program will open in June in the Lingang Science and Technology Museum, in the Pudong New Area, 70 kilometers from Shanghai.

With its 38 thousand square meters in total, it will cover the size of almost 4 football fields and will house a 24-meter solar telescope, an Imax cinema, an observatory, an educational center for children and a research center. The New York studio Ennead designed it in a close symbiosis between architecture and astronomy, for which it has already received a special mention at the Cultural-Unbuilt Cultural, Architizer A+ Awards.

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The structure draws inspiration from the principles of astronomy, metaphorically reconstructing the space-time continuum and the orbital motion of the planets. The elliptical curves are reminiscent of orbits while the internal elements represent the Oculus (such as that of the Pantheon in Rome), the Inverted Dome, around which the spiral walkway develops through which visitors can access the
panoramic roof, and the Sphere, a geodesic dome that contains the planetarium screen of 18 meters in diameter.

The exhibition already boasts a highly respected collection, with around 70 specimens of meteorites and rocks from the Moon, Mars and the asteroid Vesta, as well as artifacts from over 120 collections, including original works by Newton, Galileo Galilei and Kepler, as well as ultra-technological installations based on augmented reality, virtual reality, biometrics and artificial intelligence.