

— THE —
ADDITIONAL ELEMENT

The additional element, understood as a particle—in a scientific analogy, a bacillus— disrupting the regular functioning of things, is an element that destroys old ideas rooted in consciousness. It allows to present the proportions of things under a new prism.

Kazimir Malevich

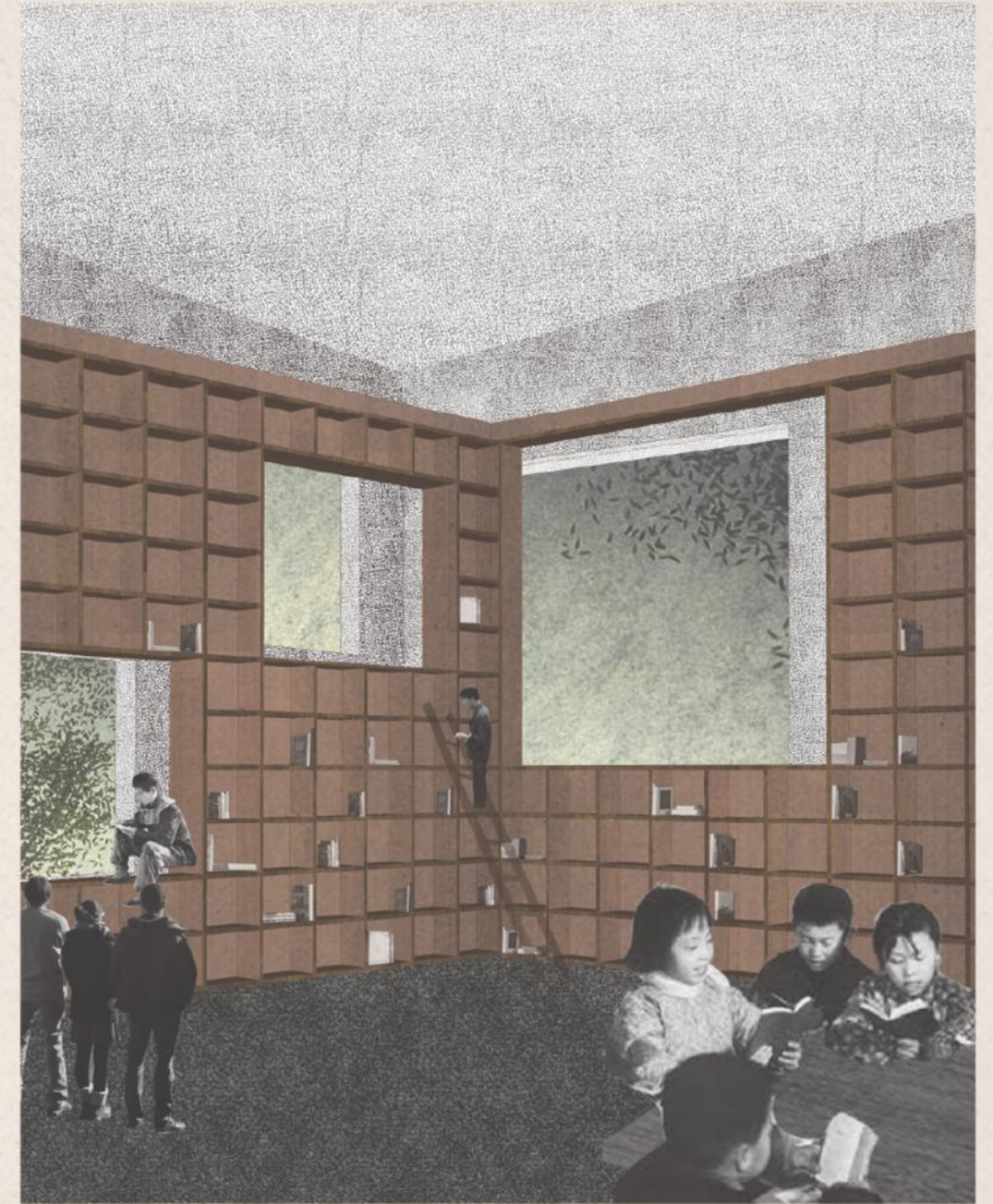
Is it possible to understand modernization as an infection to tradition? If we take a look to a regular school as an universal tipology, it responds to a modern way of educating children, bringing them into a globalized world where boundaries are less defined and local traditions are gradually replaced by more universal ways of seeing the world.

Under this point of view, the LiangMeng school complex, both educationally and architecturally, behaves as an infection that modifies the way the Bouyei people have been interacting between them and with their environment, spreading modernization inside the community.

Now, how can we battle this change? Introducing an additional element inside the modification, a chance to infect the infection. The library and canteen building will be the external element that we insert inside the school complex, intending to provoke through a foreign volume that scapes both the millennial tradition of this ethnic minority and the modernity that comes from the school tipology.



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The proposed building is a simple volume on the outside, to mark a difference with the surroundings, with a cubic void on the inside, flexible enough to host either library or canteen activities as requested. Both volumes are not aligned, a fact that added to a hard stony exterior and a warm wooden interior, creates a series of gaps between outside and inside, emphasizing the character of ambiguity of the foreign element.

In this intention of not being one or the other, we are trying to infect the school complex creating an in-between state that treasures both tradition and modernity, dialoguing through this building in a unique space shared with all the community.