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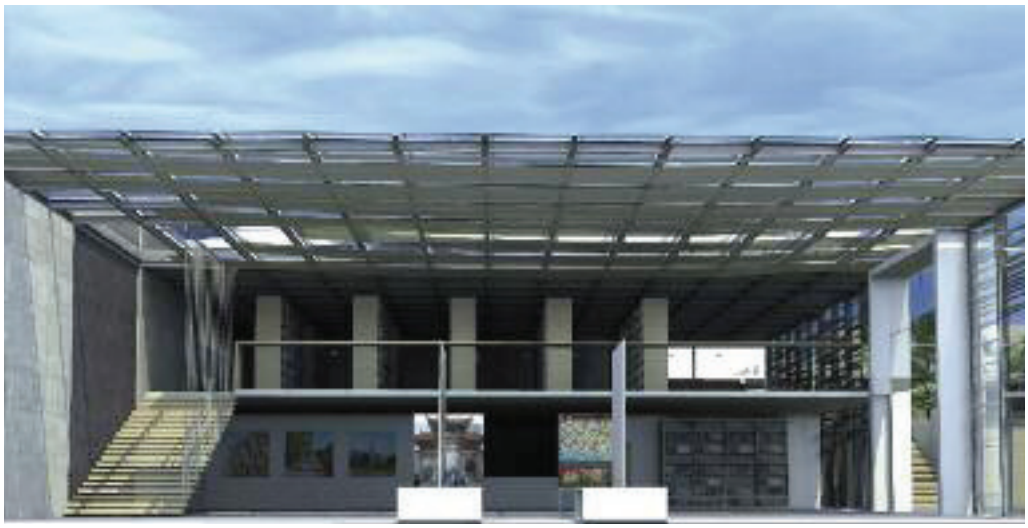
MICHAEL ALLEN

In Kunming, the dilution of China's cultural identity due to globalisation is becoming more apparent, as is the opposing insistence that individuals hold on to their cultural integrity and pride. The strategy for design in this context is based upon the metaphor of the old and new existing side by side. A recurring theme of the site is the combination of transparency and permeability. Reduced palettes of both colour and material emphasise the variety of inside and outside spaces. Newly introduced axes in the scheme have added a new width to the existing temple complex. The dominant design of the façade comes from a physical representation of DNA, alluding to the theme of identity.