Back to stone and wood

A Pritzker Prize-winning Chinese architect and his wife are fighting to preserve the country’s traditional building style through the use of artisanal techniques and natural materials

Wang Shu, an architect from Hangzhou, and his wife Lu Wenyi, use traditional materials like stone and wood to maintain the authenticity of their work. The couple, who are known for their innovative designs, believe in using traditional techniques to build sustainable and culturally significant structures.

“We want to recover different ways of building, and re-establish the relationship between buildings and nature,” says Wang Shu. “Our buildings are like old trees, and the materials we use are like the soil. Our work is like a dialogue with nature.”

The couple has won numerous awards for their work, including the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2012. Their projects have been featured in major exhibitions and publications worldwide, and they have become leaders in the revival of traditional Chinese architecture.

“Stone and wood are the most authentic materials,” says Lu Wenyi. “They are both strong and flexible, and they can adapt to the changing needs of society.”

Wang Shu and Lu Wenyi are committed to preserving the traditional building style of China, and they believe that it is important to maintain the cultural heritage of the country. They are also involved in educational initiatives to teach young people about the importance of traditional materials and techniques.

“Our goal is to create a balanced and sustainable future for China’s architecture,” says Wang Shu. “We want to create buildings that are harmonious with nature and that will last for centuries.”

The couple’s work is characterized by a deep respect for the environment and a commitment to social responsibility. They believe that architecture can have a positive impact on society and that it can be a powerful tool for social change.

“Architecture is not just about building,” says Lu Wenyi. “It is about creating a better world for people.”

Wang Shu and Lu Wenyi are examples of how traditional materials and techniques can be used to create beautiful, sustainable, and culturally significant buildings. Their work is an inspiration to architects and designers around the world, and it demonstrates the power of traditional building methods in the face of modern challenges.