**Purple Jade Riverside Resort**

**Statement of the Problem**

The challenge was to channel the growing development of China’s tourism economy in a particularly compelling corner of the country’s far northeast.

The task: To create a resort destination of quiet luxury derived from a profound connection to its pristine natural setting, qualified by an architecture of clarity and simplicity.

**Site and Environs**

Purple Jade Riverside Resort lies along a pristine mountain stream at the edge of the vast forest wilderness surrounding China’s storied Changbai Mountain. The irregularly-shaped site is nestled in the valley bottom on both sides of the stream, flanked on the west and north by steep hillsides, and on the east by the main road to Changbai Mountain.

This is a four-season setting, ever changing from lush summer green to snowy winter white. The resort is both a year-round spa destination and a gateway to hiking, skiing and other tourism opportunities in the region.

**Design Intentions and Distinguishing Factors**

The design reinforces the intimacy of its natural setting by placing the arrival lobby and conference center along the road. These public functions give way to the more secluded parts of the resort, including the spa and private villas on the far side of the river.

The project is nestled into the verdant landscape, conserving and protecting timeless natural systems. The buildings are fragmented and twisted, strategically shaped to bring the outdoors inside; maximizing views in, out and through the resort.

Primary building volumes are rendered in locally-quarried stone, angled and inflected, conceived as natural outcroppings rising in the landscape. The main restaurant, by contrast, floats over the river, clad entirely in glass, its angular form softening and dissolving in the reflections of sky and water.

The restaurant bridge offers spectacular views of distant mountains, and of the stream below. The irregular building forms recede into the surrounding woods, with paths and terraces meandering over and around them in a seamlessly integrated sequence.

Architecturally assertive and environmentally respectful, Purple Jade Riverside Resort is a memorable place of harmony and equilibrium.