Ring Around a Tree

RING AROUND A TREE

This is a building, which is clinging to the big Zelkova tree. The functions are English language classrooms and the waiting station for the school bus. The building has seven floor plates within 5meter building height. It means that most of the spaces between floor plates are less than 1.1meter, which is not quite enough height for the grown ups. This is a kingdom of children. This 1.1meter height is also determined as a maximum height which children can jump off. The floors are covered with rubber chips and provide soft floor. The Zelkova tree plays the principal role for the space. The columns and beams are smaller than the branches and they blend into the tree. If the tree dies, the meaning of the building will also die. A concrete slab foundation sits on carefully placed stakes avoiding the roots of the tree. The branches of the tree grow freely penetrating through the handrails and floors as they like. When they grow more, it is the building that gets adjusted not the branches of the tree. The light bulbs appear like a swarm of fireflies. Countless miniature light bulbs lit inside and outside of the building freely like floating clouds in the sky.