



MAIKE METALS GROUP

A luminous office by HALLUCINATE DESIGN OFFICE meditates on a company's future aspirations

XIAN – Characterised by lengths of extruded aluminium and back-lit graphics, the workplace of industrial enterprise Maike Metals Group, realised by Hallucinate Design Office, is a substantial 326,200 m² of interior space described as 'its own town'. A glass curtain wall shrouds the facade, but the internal surfaces are clad in a sympathetic combination of materials from Corian and mineral wood, to artificial stone and white-sprayed aluminium. The contoured forms exude a luminous quality that reflects into the core building space. Airy and light – an ironic contrast to the heavy, metal-trading nature of the business that it houses – the overwhelming whiteness of the design feels sleek and modern without

appearing sterile.

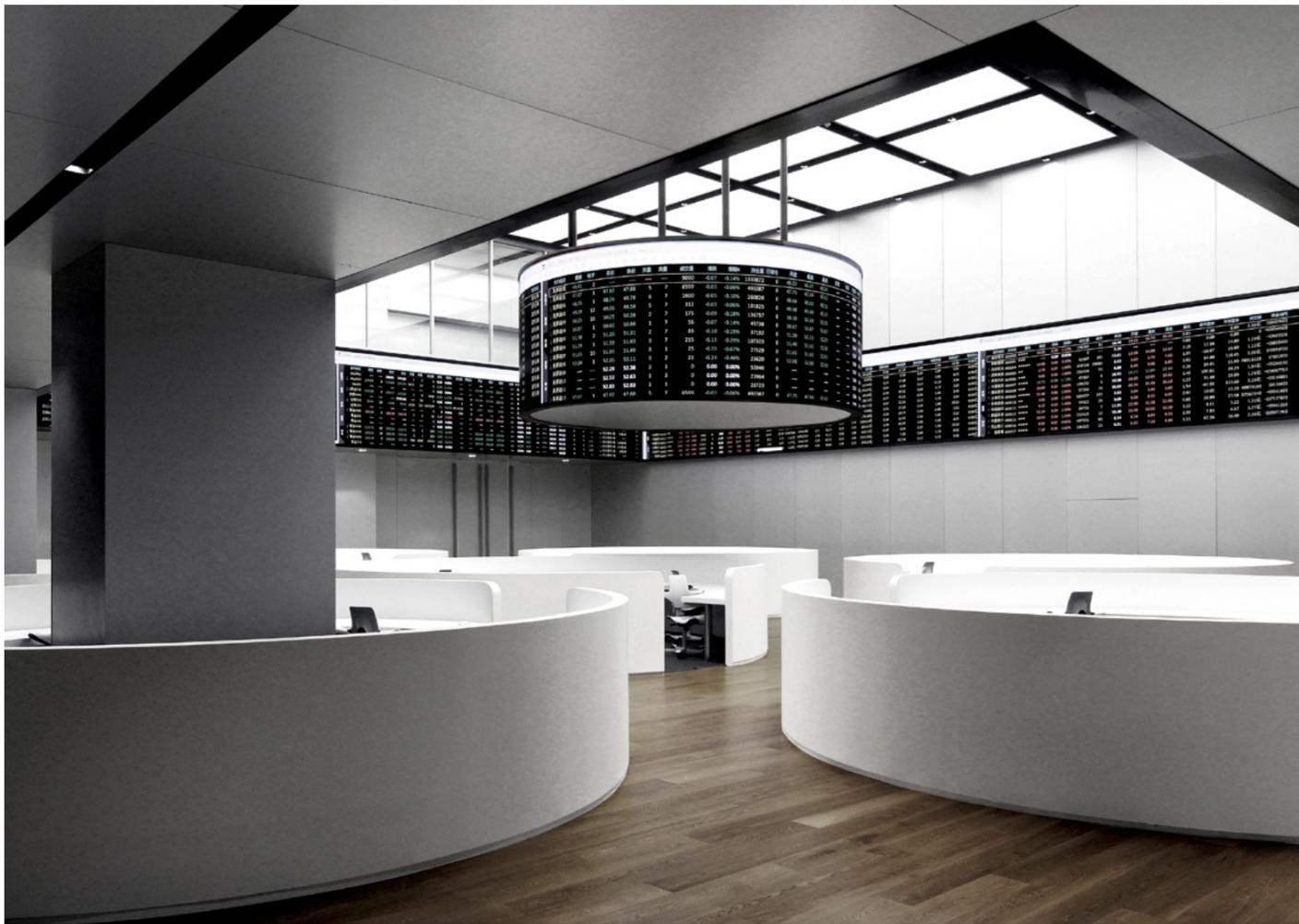
Throughout the project, there is an affinity with organic shapes and irregular curves. This is followed through from the main, open space into the auditorium, a timber-clad tiered theatre, where the ceiling 'comes in the shape of folded paper to reduce sound reflection and avoid excessive light onto the presentation screen.'

The cool, futuristic aesthetic is a push towards the commodity trader's corporate value of 'pursuing a better future'. This approach culminates in an illuminated, monochrome scheme which 'blurs the boundaries between reality and imagination, modern technology and the architecture itself.'

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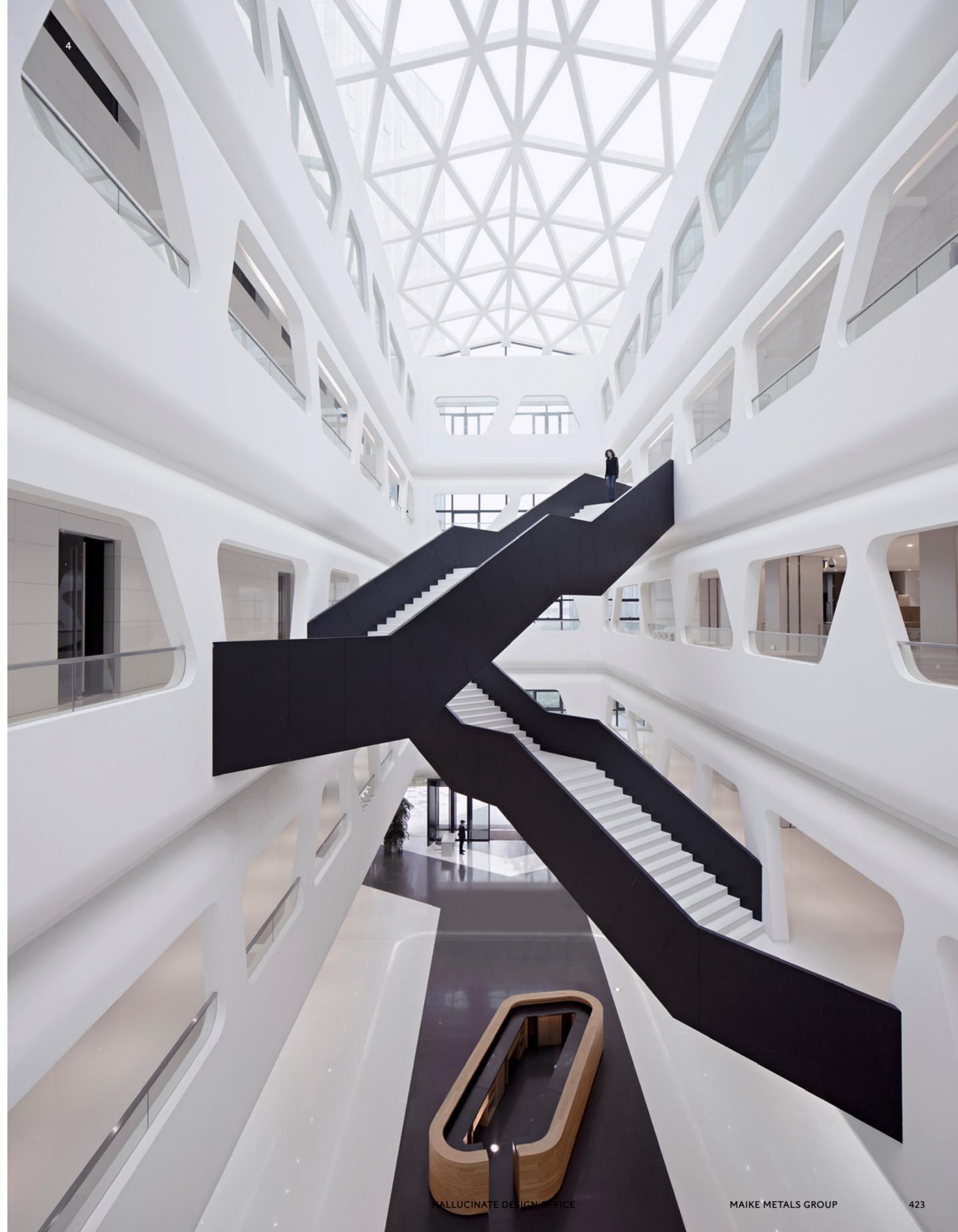
Javier Callejas Sevilla



- 1 After measuring the angle of sunlight at noon in Xian, the architects modified the structure of the 27-m-high glass ceiling, so that the building's key space is drenched with natural light, but not overwhelmed by it.
- 2 XXX
- 3 The design solution embodies a modern and minimalist aesthetic by making sophisticated use of materials, lighting and furniture.
- 4 Two angular staircases of black steel stand out from the white surroundings, criss-crossing across the central atrium to connect two towers.

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Airy and light the design presents an ironic contrast to the nature of metal-trading business that it houses



'DuPont Corian solid surface materials are used for the core structure, seamlessly integrating the whole like a single-piece product to offer an exquisite and magnificent impression,' the designers say.

