Facade Design Approaches
BART TOF Building
Lake Merritt BART Plaza
Oakland

September 2017
The TOF Building will have a largely closed facade on the upper portion due to its function. We suggest creating an architectural design that plays with the quality of open versus closed facade elements. The textures, material, and details will work to refine the closed facade portion, so it becomes an interesting asset to the surrounding urban space.

Examples of buildings with transparent base and closed upper portions:

Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel
Preston Scott Cohen Architects

Université Paris Descartes, Lecture Hall,
Paris, France
AZI Architects
Wood Siding, Glass

Archive of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bavaria, Nuremberg, Germany
Gerkan, Marg & Partners Architects
Copper Siding, Glass, Sandstone

The following pages are examples for alternative options to include cultural content, materials and textures for the upper portion of the TOF building facades.
texture, materiality, light

Greyder Shoe Factory, Ankara, Turkey
Cirakoglu Architects

Gymnasium, Asnières-sur-Seine, France
Ateliers D-S Architects

Design for Guggenheim Museum, Helsinki, Finland
Malcom Reading
Brick is one of the building materials that is most widely used in traditional Chinese architecture. It continues to be used in contemporary construction in innovative ways, while referencing China’s rich brick building traditions rich in texture and patterns.
cultural reference / traditional material - brick
rich textures
images & patterns
There are over 500 different species of bamboo in China. Bamboo is at the heart of many traditions and customs and is traditionally used as a building material in both permanent and temporary construction.

“Fortunately [the teachers at Ming Quong] had taught us the suppleness of “bamboo mentality”. We knew how “to compromise, to yield, but to move forward unbroken,” ...”

Hostel Buildings, Bamboo Biennial, Baoxi, China
Anna Heringer

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, Temporary Scaffolding
texture

Kantha Bopha Conference Center, Siem Reap, Cambodia
Asma Architects

Bamboo Facade, Brasil
texture, transparency, light
texture, transparency, space

Community Green Station, Hong Kong
Hong Kong Architectural Services Department
Chinatown’s population includes immigrants from various Asian communities. One Japanese American tradition that is practiced in the community is origami paper folding (i.e. origami classes are taught at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center).

Folded Paper Flowers:
CACA (Chinese American Citizens Alliance) was selling paper flowers for support of China during WWII, which speaks to the fact that paper folding was also part of the Chinese community. We have so far not been able to find images of these flowers for reference.

Fortune cookies appeared in the United States in the 1900s. This was not a tradition imported from China. The cookie’s origin is believed to be Japanese, yet it has become synonymous with Chinese American cuisine.

Fortune Cookie Factories in Oakland Chinatown:
- Fortune Cookie Factory, 261 12th St
- Kar Mee, 221 7th St [closed]
- Tom’s Bakery Fortune Cookies, 295 9th St
- Inventor of Fortune Cookie Folding Machine: Oakland resident Shuck Yee, 1973
folding & facets - metal

Dalian International Conference Center, Dalian, China
Coop Himmelblau

Museum Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland
MLzd Architects
folding & facets – precast concrete

Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas, TX
Morphosis Architects

Sun Devil Energy Center at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Machado and Silvetti Associates
Calligraphy is a beautiful art form still practiced in the community. Seal Script – one of the script styles practiced – is more stylized, and less legible to most Chinese, and is often used in decorative engravings and seals. Its graphic appearance lends itself to decorative applications.
pattern & texture - perforated metal
Fung Yue - aviation pioneer:
1906 opened an airplane manufacturing shop “Guangdong Air Vehicle Company” @ 359 E 9th St
First flight on the West Coast [take off from Laney College field] 09/22/1909
Moved back to China in 1911 and became the “Father of Chinese Aviation”