

6.2.2 Copy the functionality

Dawei Yang did not only help Cheng Guo, he had his own two storeys to make. As for his part he said, 'I am interested in the data of an object, and searching for the different methods to export the data.' In his previous work, he built a digital generator which transfers the data of Chinese traditional paintings into 3D-printed ceramic objects. Because of the Public Domain Dedication Copyrights of the Tulip Pyramids in the Rijksmuseum, I can go to the museum and scan a photo of it without explicit permission. I collected the data of the pyramids for him in the museum in Amsterdam. The whole process was much easier than I expected, so in theory everyone can share the 3D data of one object with others by using a camera and software.

With the 3D model of the Tulip Pyramid, Dawei Yang analysed the principle behind the forms. Later, by studying the evolution of the Tulip Pyramid, he noticed that Dutch potters gave a new function to the upturned eaves when they copied the form of the pagoda — by turning them into an opening of a vase. Dutch potters got more freedom to look at the form of the pagoda without having the Chinese cultural and aesthetic knowledge, and limitations. 'Dutch potters gave functions to the upturned eaves of the pagoda. So my design is about 'the flowing eaves.' So he wanted to copy this principle where every connecting point in the structure has the potential to be given a new function. [fig. 32-34](#)



[fig.32.1-3](#)

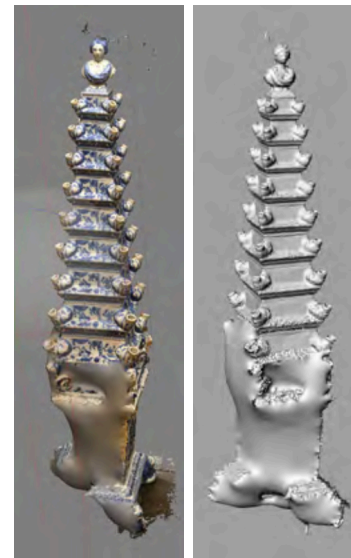
Left: The upturned eaves in traditional Chinese architecture.

Middle: Detail of an illustration of the Porcelain Tower of Paolinxi where bells hanging on the upturned eaves of the pagoda.

Right: From these three images, we can see the transformation of the upturned eaves in the pagoda to serve as a vase.

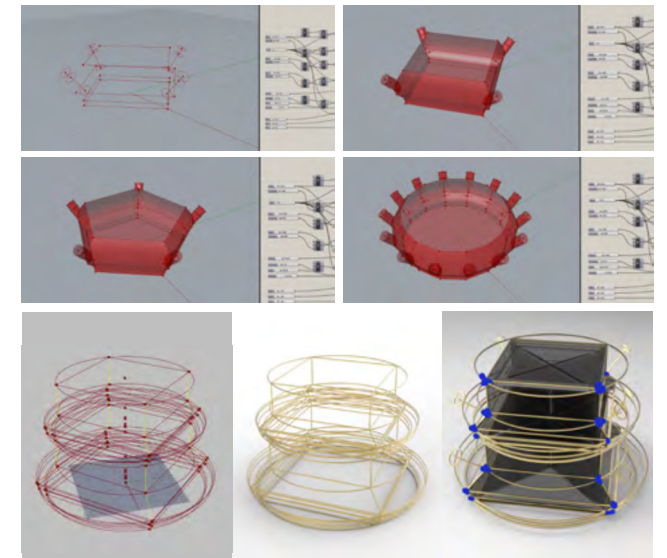


Previous works of Dawei Yang

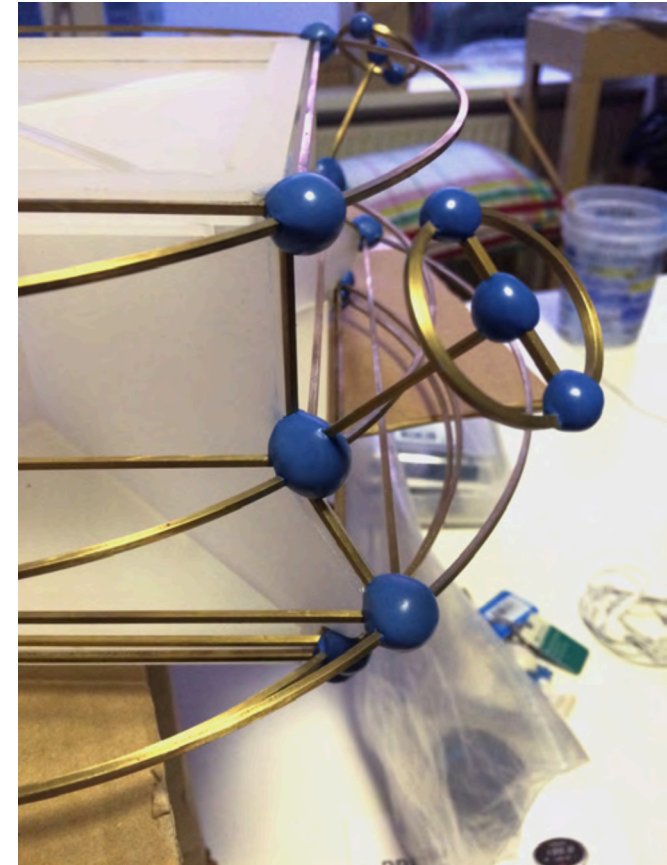


[fig.33](#)

The 3D model generated from the photos I took in the museum.



[fig.34.1](#)



[fig.34.1-2](#)

Dawei Yang analysed the structure of the Tulip Pyramid.