The Monument to the People's Heroes of Shanghai is located on the Bund at the confluence of the Huangpu River and the Suzhou River. With a construction area of 16,000 square meters, the building was completed in 1993 to commemorate the revolutionary martyrs who gave their lives for the liberation of Shanghai since 1840.

In 1987, according to the proposal of the Sixth Session of the Eighth Shanghai Municipal People's Congress, the Shanghai Municipal Government decided to build The Monument to the People's Heroes of Shanghai. From more than 100 design schemes, we finally choose the scheme designed by Shanghai Tongji University and Shanghai Municipal Design Institute. Ground was broken in November 1988, and the first pile was laid in January 1991. The monument was completed and opened to the public in 1994 on the 45th anniversary of the liberation of Shanghai.

The Monument to the People's Heroes of Shanghai is a **cone-shaped monument** with a simple, clear, stable and straight body, **pointing straight to the sky.** The shape of the monument is three "spears" together, and these three "spears" are each 60 meters high. With the form of spears, people think of the power and delight when they saw the People's Liberation Army come into the bustling Shanghai. This history has left a very deep impression on the Shanghai people. When emancipating Shanghai from kuo ming tang, these heroes didn’t use any weapon that may damage the buildings of Shanghai and the innocent people here. This added more injuries. However, the liberation army didn’t complain. They still fight for Shanghai.

This tower sits in the Huangpu Park, and it had a **sad history behind that.** When part of Shanghai became a foreign concession of western centuries, the Huangpu Park was to be built. The western constructors and Chinese raised money for the construction of this park. However, after construction, Chinese people are banned from visiting this park. **Here** is the typical sign with this written: "No dogs and Chinese allowed.” This stirred Chinese people’s determination to fight back and for liberation and emancipation. That was a big shame of China.

**Here is the inscription:** In the great revolutionary war, martyrs who sacrificed will be all but forgotten. In the heroic people's revolutionary struggle since the great May 4th Movement, the people's heroes who died in Shanghai will be all but forgotten. Since the Opium War in 1840, in order to fight against internal and external enemies, to fight for national independence and liberation, and to strive for the freedom and happiness of the people, the people's heroes who died in all the struggles in Shanghai will be all but forgotten.

When we are walking towards the sunken plaza, we can see the sculpture on the wall of the plaza. These figures are in the sunken plaza, also a place for people to owe and respect the monument. The sculptures have most of the main events and characters carved, and from the numbers of people you can see how many people were involved in the emancipation of Shanghai in 20th century. In the sunken plaza, you are completely blocked from the hustles and bustles of Shanghai because what you can see is only these sculptures. **The plaza forms a circle,** making people feel they are surrounded by these great people. Standing at the center of the plaza and looking at the sculptures, people feel that these great people are **talking to them, mobilizing**
them, and they become part of the movement. When they re-collect their thoughts, they will find how great the movement was and respect these people more and more. Seeing this sculptures, people are guided to a quick journey to the big events that happened in Shanghai, and feel the raging blood when they are planning to emancipate Shanghai and bring happiness to people.

The building is composed of 3 sky-high spears. Each spear stands for one major campaign. One for the opium war, one for the May 4th movement, one for the War of liberation. The three spear-shaped towers of the People's Heroes Monument symbolize the immortality of the martyrs who died in glory since the Opium War, the May 4th Movement and the Liberation War. The three towering pillars, like silent monuments, commemorate the revolutionary pioneers who died for the liberation of Shanghai from 1840 to 1949. Standing under the stout and majestic tower, people would look up at the top of the tower, and see three straight lines vertically upward, people's thoughts will be lifted to the sky, to the infinity, so that people have a lofty respect. These spears are like the bodies of giants, these giants protected us and paved the road of freedom for us.

When you are under the tower, you will feel the sense of safety and proud. These spears act as a break of the chain. Previous people and heroes used their life to end the humiliation of Chinese people at that time. When we place the tower here, it reminds me of the painstaking days the martyrs experienced. People then realize how lucky they are to born in an age like this.

Near this tower, you can actually see the police. They are waiting here every day, in case some people do anything disrespectful or harmful. You can see how important the monument is for this city.

If I say during the daytime people feel the greatness and the momentum of these great people and the liberation army, in the night, we feel this monument in a totally different way. This is a picture of the tower during the night. Unlike the momentum you feel during the day, you can actually see that the red is bloody red. The color is kind of muted, soft, not exaggerating itself as the neon lights of the buildings in the background do. This represents the blood the liberation army sacrificed to emancipate Shanghai. During daytime, people who visit this monument will feel excitement about the great people and heroes who emancipated Shanghai, and applause for their courage. But at night, people will think of the potential injuries that are inevitable when emancipating Shanghai. Many people must have died, and their family must be broken since then. Only at this time, people realize the stressful history of the past. Fortunately, we born in this peaceful age. We remember this struggle, and we will continue their spirit. The bloody spears in the night can be seen from a distance, and urges people to respect the previous heroes and value the life they have now, and to protect this life.