

UABBHK 2013

2013 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Hong Kong)
"Urban Edge"

Curatorial statement.

Beyond the urban edge: "The ideal city?"

Beyond the edge of the city we know lies the city we dream of, the city we long for but never reach, the "ideal city".

At the edge, the old rules of the city loose their hold, allowing it to reinvent itself, redefine its values and create new forms. The edge is never far away: the city of our dreams might be here and now, close to us, nesting within the familiar confines of our towns, transforming them from the inside, a city within the city, the boundary between the known and the unknown being conceptual rather than physical. What do we most desire from our cities and from their architecture? What are our current interpretations of the ideal city? Is the question still relevant? Is Hong Kong an ideal city? If not, what would it take to become one? And for whom?

We are inviting a wide variety of exhibitors to respond to these questions. Their diverse observations and proposals will form the substance of the Biennale. The participants will include architects, urbanists, philosophers, artists, film makers, musicians, choreographers, theatre directors, writers, critics, poets, scientists... A wide range of media will be used: texts, drawings, models, photographic images, film, installations, full-scale pavilions, etc.

Our proposal for the Hong Kong side of the Biennale will be grounded in its polarity with Shenzhen, within the broader contexts of the PRD and mainland China, but it will be international in its scope: it will be informed by the singularity of Hong Kong but it will not be primarily about Hong Kong, just as the Venice Biennale is not about Venice: it will be about the cities of the world, making use of the unique bi-city setting of the Biennale as a platform to address global issues in a visionary and critical way. It will be site-specific, with a pivotal physical presence in Hong Kong, and transcend this specificity by establishing its presence in virtual space. It will be here and everywhere, topic and u-topic, manifested through publications, radio, television, web sites, blogs and various social media, drawing inputs from a broad spectrum of participants and aiming to reach a wide audience.

Colin Fournier

Chief Curator

Joshua Lau & Allen Poon (TETRA) / Tat Lam & Travis Bunt (URBANUS)

Executive Curators

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