



In the process of making.

Drawing is easy, while building is always difficult. For example, the team for 'Sketching light' made 80 silver and hollowed hexagons and connected them with hinges. They tried different patterns on the hexagon so that the inside tin paper could reflect its light. Inspired by Lego bricks, the team for 'Sprout out of box' wanted to compose units with identical size and achieved a contrast between solid and void. The students first made the unit in cardboard, and found that the cardboard could not cantilever to a desired distance. The material was then changed to plywood. The size they first used was 10 cm x 10 cm. It was found to be too small onsite. They had to change to 15 cm x 15 cm. The teams sawed and nailed 150 small boxes of 15 cm x 15 cm in a week and then randomly connected the structure onsite by glue and nail.

In a period of seven weeks, students experienced the process of schematic design, site investigation, making, construction and operation. It was an unforgettable lesson for the architectural students. The exhibition started on March 3, 2013. After a month, some cardboard works might have absorbed too much humidity, and appeared to be collapsing. The wood and bamboo materials were more durable. Three works will continue to stand until May 2014, and one work has been moved to our main library. Peers and students in Hong Kong are welcomed to visit these works at the AC-3 building of City University of Hong Kong. We would love to hear your comments.

Note: 'ArtAlive@Park, the design work 'Grasping Light' was supervised by Joseph Wong, Charlie Xue, John Cheng et al. The making of installation was directed by Atul Kansara, Joshua Roberts and Joseph Wong. The installations at CityU campus were directed by Charlie Xue and John Cheng. The author heartily thanks the English editing of this article by Ivan Ip.



'DUO', by Jacky Tsui, Molly Yip, Lo Chi Hang and Lan Shung Man



'Rod Tower', by Cheung Hau Man Ivy, Cheung Yue Sum Natalie, Lau Chi Ho and Ku Man Hung.



'Lantern of discovery', by Frankie Chan, Jackie Lee, YeungHiu Tung, Lai Wing Sze and MarziaKhatun.



'Sketching light', by Lai Pui Yi Iris, Ip Chue Chun Antonia, Tam Ka Lee Kylie and Lam Yip Wa Jason.



'Light cube', by Magenta Kietkhajornsiri, Terry Tsui, Homan Ho and Ivan Wong.



'Sprout out of box', by Lam Sai Chin, Chan Kwang Chun, Alice Ng and Natalie Lam.



'Visual puzzles', by Lam Pui Lai, Lo Pik Yan, SuenHou Yee and Yim Po Fung



'Convergence', by Wong SzeKan, Leung Chi Sum, Shing Tak Kuen and Fung Lok Hang.



From parts to whole.



Future Architects

Patrick Lau



Hong Kong Architect Arnold Luntz with Gus da Roza



Gus da Roza speaking at the gathering

Education in Architecture

The last (1969, 1970 and 1971) graduates of the University of Manitoba Bachelor of Architecture degree met in Baker Creek near Lake Louise in Alberta for a re-union in April 2013 to discuss issues facing current architectural education.

Gustavo da Roza, former Professor and Head of the Department of Architecture, University of Manitoba recently spoke at a forum in his Alma Mata, the University of Hong Kong :-

'The role and responsibilities of an architect have greatly changed as well as the public perception of our profession. Other than develop clients and their team of project managers, the public still thinks of us as artists drawing pretty pictures that engineers and contractors build. Therefore, they greatly underpay us for what we do and what we have to be legally as well as professionally. An architect today can no longer count on the sound financial income for our time spent and costs we spent in years to learn and gain our experience. This reflects majority of our urban and built environment has so much unsightly projects and with problems.

Architectural schools all over the world are partly to blame.....

As academia's decision to hire staff without practiced skills and experience, architectural schools lost role models for the unfortunate students.

Schools should provide our budding architects with a knowledge and understanding of our role, the duties and responsibilities we will face, the discipline management of private practice, and experience in working with site, climate and environmental constraints in their architectural design exercises.'

Our concern for the future graduates are echoed by Stanley Britton FRAIC, organizer of the gathering: 'The Manitoba School's apparent drift away from serving the profession,

hence, society at large; since the passing of visionary Dean John Russell in 1966 for reasons that Gustavo da Roza has well articulated. By way of evidence the current Dean recently acknowledged (1) the complete absence of tenured architect practitioners – himself being without building portfolio and (2) inconsolable tensions between himself and departmental faculties.' Discussions continue with suggestions to improve university education systems, relationship with local architectural institution i.e. the Manitoba Architects Association etc.

Perhaps it is necessary to discuss issues facing future architects and the changes immediately surrounding them in their practices to formulate proposals.

Social Responsibility

Nowadays, the world is considered being flat, globalization is here to stay. Many places are affected by this change, everywhere are McDonalds and Starbucks. Without changes and growth in our society, there will be no demand for architects. However, society needs different forms of shelter, there will be the continuing need for our profession. The problem is that in the past we are always concerned more with our immediate environment, we pay special attention to local climate and building controls. Today, architects work across regional boundaries but without the social responsibility to understand the local culture and problems. Star architects are asked to put their signature pieces in different cities sometimes without any reference to the place. Therefore, it is important for us to have a better understanding of the world and be responsible for their architecture which is after all a social art.

Integrity

In another area, too much 'Architecture' has become big business; there are many temptations for architects to be businessmen rather than professionals. We need to understand that we are not just tools of the developers or clients; we must have integrity towards our community and



Tribal Affair Group Photo
Gus da Roza, Patrick Lau, Arnold Luntz,
George Strome & Orlando Chan from Hong Kong



Snow capped mountains at Banff, Alberta

our environment. And most important, we need to uphold professional conduct and standards. It is sad to see young people changing their careers for better prospects and financial gains; our profession has to fight hard to gain respect and fair remuneration as a whole to counter this balance.

Professional knowledge

A lot of emphasis has now been geared towards 'sustainability'. In order for architects to be sustainable we have to upgrade our knowledge in all directions. This will include design creativity, environmental protection, professional and business practices, modern technology, construction techniques, contract administration and above all the need for architects to be the team leaders of our projects.

In the past, architects focused in general practice. Nowadays, many need to become specialist and for more complex projects there are many divisions of manpower and talents required. There will be opportunities for different people with variety of experiences; therefore, the co-ordination of this team of professionals will be vital for success. The new trend in project management may undermine the role of the architect; However, it is the 'master-mind' that is essential for sustainable development and 'ARCHITECT' is still the word we use for this role. Future architects will need to regain confidence in the building team for us to maintain as the true leader.

A sustainable society is not just for the present, but it is also for our future generations. The responsibility of future architects will be much more diversified. There are many potential areas waiting for future architects to explore. The goal of our profession is to create a better world towards the future. We need to have a futuristic outlook, but at the same time we need to understand our own history. Without knowing the past, we will not understand the present and predict the future. There are many problems right now in Hong Kong, inadequate public and private housing, associated facilities, recreational and amenities, commercial offices and hotels,

conservations of nature and historical heritage, harbour front development, just to name a few. These will require land supply, urban renewal opportunities, and planning studies in various districts. As public engagement becomes the buzz word, architect will need to be more creative and search for the right solution to meet all these challenges.

There are 5 Cs which are perhaps fundamental principles of what architectural schools should provide to their students:-

- Comprehension – discovery and understanding of basic theory, form and space for design
- Conceptualization – ability to find solutions to resolve architectural problems
- Creativity – formulation of original ideas developed through analysis and synthesis
- Competency – meeting professional standards in both design and technical knowledge
- Competition - working and participating with excellence in individual and team performance

Gus further concluded:-

'To meet these demanding challenge, architects need to learn to participate with technical and scientific colleagues searching for design and visual solutions contributing to society.

Architectural schools should develop, invent and create courses to nurture our young and future architects and designers to work and strive for appropriate ideas and solutions. Our coming generation of young Hong Kong architects can work anywhere in the world and should also know how to pursue a thorough understanding of climate and environment and how to exploit this new challenge in creating the physical structures and places they and all of us can live, play and work in comfortably, be environmental responsible and with good health.'

New Towns for the New Generation

Alex Lui



After half a century, the development of new towns in New Territories has changed the life style for many people. In the 60's and 70's, government's policy was to locate industries in the new towns and develop mainly low cost housing for the work force to support them. It has only been marginally successful, for many people commuted back to the city to work. Since 80's and 90's, the manufacturing industry has migrated to China, and Hong Kong has become an international center for finance and business services. The CBD and other urban centers



continue to play the roles of principal job centers. New towns have become dormitory towns for city workers. Gradually, the demography has changed, since living in the countryside has many attractions not available in the city, even for the more affluent and educated families. Life in new towns has become quite desirable with more amenities and an efficient public transportation network connecting to the city. The two sketches show Tseung Kwan O, one of 2nd generation new towns and Tai Po Bay Shore Park, a very pleasant place for Tai Po residents.

Alex Lui

He studied architecture at University of Hong Kong and city planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As a hobby, he likes to sketch about cities, the countryside and people. He thinks pictures can express thoughts and convey messages in ways not possible to match in words. He finds drawing an enjoyable experience and feels happy when a drawing is done and shared with others.

Preservation of the Clock Tower Kowloon-Canton Railway Terminal

CHUNG Wah Nan

Before I forget or say farewell to this world I would like to take this opportunity to inform HKIA that the fact we could still enjoy the sight of the Tsim Sha Tsui Clock Tower was due to the joint effort of three persons:

- David Russell : a bearded British architect teaching in HKU
- William Meacham : a bearded American anthropologist teaching in HKU
- Chung Wah Nan : a bearded local architect in private practice

I cannot remember the time, place and date of the meeting but I am sure one can check with the Urban Council Archive.

The three of us met a Mr. X Wilson (cannot remember full name), Secretary to the Urban Council to persuade the UC to preserve the cast iron structure – the above mentioned Terminus. A marathon discussion and debate ensued. As I sensed that we were losing the battle I said to Mr. Wilson (the following are only general recollection, or words to this effect):

"I am Chinese. We Chinese do not abandon our parents because they are getting old and sick, and are expensive to support as their health is dilapidating. We also understand your argument that the Hong Kong community needs a new cultural centre. But surely the future cultural centre would not need that small tiny piece of land, now occupied by the Clock Tower!"

Mr. Wilson replied (general recollection):

"Your argument of sick parents is not a fare analogy. I cannot make any promise but I will present your Clock Tower preservation request to the next meeting of the Urban Council."