

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Third Quarterly General Meeting
23 September 2022

President's Report

Dear Members,

Thank you for attending the Third Quarterly General Meeting (QGM) of The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) in 2022.

I am glad this QGM provides an occasion for some of us to meet in person under the subsiding COVID situation. While business is not 100% back to normal yet, the Institute has never slowed down its pace in providing services to our members and the profession.

The third quarter of a year marks the period of Council Election. It also signifies the term of my Presidency and the current Council is approaching the end. Despite this, the Council and I have stayed enthusiastic and continued trying our best to serve all members, the profession and the community, so as to build a better Hong Kong.

Services to our Members

Office renovation

To provide a more updated office environment for members to enjoy, the Office Renovation Task Force led by Honorary Secretary Allen was formed early last year. EOIs were sent out to seek members' interest, and at the end seven proposals were received. After serious consideration, we have selected the renovation proposal prepared by Thomas Chow Architects Limited & Aravia Design Limited. Renovation work has commenced on 1 September and is expected to finish by early December. We are planning to organize a housewarming party in December and I hope to welcome you all at the renovated premises.

Engagement with registered practices

In view of the tough and competitive working environment for our practices, the Office Bearers together with BP Chair Paul Mui initiated a series of breakfast meetings with our Band 1, 2 and 3 practices. During these breakfast meetings, we had a frank and open discussion on issues affecting the livelihoods of our profession, suggested changes in government rules, regulations and procedures, and areas where HKIA

might be able to help our practices. Overall, participants all agreed that such breakfast meetings provide a good platform for HKIA leadership to engage practices, and we would consider organizing these meetings on a more regular basis.

Ensuring our Voices are Heard

Engagement with senior government officials

To echo the Chief Executive the Honorable John Lee's motto, we are eager to submit our views and suggestion for the Government to pursue a better Hong Kong together with the profession. The Council has been organizing dialogue sessions with bureau secretaries, including Winnie Ho, Secretary for Housing and Bernadette Linn, Secretary for Development. During such sessions, views on major concerns of the industry and profession as well as government's policy initiatives and measures were exchanged. We are looking forward to maintaining such sessions so that senior government officials and the Council could have better understanding of the other side's thoughts and logics behind major policy directions and important industry issues.

Liaison with government departments and statutory organisations

The Institute also keeps engaging in non-stop dialogue with different government departments and statutory organisations on specific project-related issues, including:

- Yau Ma Tei Mong Kok Old District Renewal
- Conservation and Revitalisation of Bishop Hill Underground Cistern
- Proposed amendments to the noise control regulations and the revision of construction works designated areas
- Lantau Tomorrow Vision: Study on the Artificial Island in the Central Waters

Expanding our representation

The Institute continues sending representatives to sit on external consultation committees and organizations to enhance our professional influence in the community and provide timely and constructive inputs on various issues:

- Mr. CHOW Ka Wing Rachel and Mr. Ho Lik Chi Nicholas will represent the Institute at *Steering Committee on Construction Innovation and Technology Fund* for 2 years.
- Mr. MUI Kui Chuen Paul will represent the Institute at *Property and Works Committee of Po Leung Kuk* for the coming 1 year, as well as the *Task Group on Publicity and Promotion of the Construction Industry of Construction Industry Council*.
- Ms. Yiu Shuk Yin Crystal will represent the Institute at the *Technical Committee on the Code of Practice for Structural Use of Glass of the Buildings Department* for 3 years.

- Mr. Chan Chung Yee Albert and Mr. Ho Man Yiu Ivan will represent the Institute at the *FSD/AP Liaison Meeting of the Fire Services Department*.
- Mr. Chan Chak Bun Benny, Mr. Cheong Kong Yeung Thomas & Mr. Poon Ho Lun Allen will represent the Institute to serve as jurors of the *Best Landscape Award for Private Property Development 2022*.

Upholding Professional Standards

Guidelines for promoters on Architectural Competitions

Architectural competition is well known as an effective way to deliver projects by a quality-based and solution-oriented selection procedure for architectural services, compared to the traditional approach of emphasising tender price. It is observed that the market has increasingly adopted architectural competitions to develop building projects, be it a community facility or private development. The HKIA Competition Committee has therefore developed a set of guidelines for various parties to take reference to when running a competition on their own.

We will host a sharing session and a forum on architectural competitions in October to collect feedbacks from stakeholders on the recent competitions held by the Institute for further improvements, and to share examples of competition under different context in the international arena. We will also conduct a case sharing session on a successful competition held by the Institute.

HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment

HKIA/ARB Professional Interview was held on 11 June 2022 and attended by some 200 candidates. After an intense day of interview sessions, 169 candidates successfully passed the last paper of the Professional Assessment and will soon begin their professional architect career.

In July, 296 candidates sat for Paper 3, 4 & 5 examinations, with three of them passing all the papers and getting themselves ready for the professional interview. May I congratulate the candidates for taking a step closer to becoming an architect and wish them every success on the road of the Professional Assessment.

Revalidation of architectural curricula of local tertiary institutions

Nurturing new blood is of utmost importance to the architectural profession. The Institute has conducted revalidation visits to HKU on the architectural curricula of two of their existing programmes, and an initial validation visit to HKU on a new programme.

Reports and recommendations are being consolidated. Please stay tuned for updates and results.

HKIA 65th Anniversary Celebration – Architecture for People

Projects of our 65th Anniversary are in full swing in the second half of 2022. Let's join hands to celebrate by participating in the following programmes:

HKIA 65th Exhibition, Gala Night and Commemorative Publication

A team of young members was appointed to curate the Exhibition, Gala Night and Commemorative Publication. Exhibition will be staged at the Central Market from 1 to 11 November 2022. The Celebration will scale to the heights at the Gala Night on 4 November 2022, with members and VIPs sharing an enjoyable evening, going through the achievements of our members, the Institute and the profession in the past 65 years. We shall call for your participation soon.

Open House – UIA World Architecture Day

As a member institute of the International Union of Architects (UIA), the Institute will launch a 3-day campaign to celebrate their signature day, which is the UIA World Architecture Day. A series of guided tour to local landmark architectures and visits to our architectural practices will be organized for the public and secondary school students, to connect ourselves to the community.

Promoting Architectural Excellence

HKIA Gold Medal 2021 Prize Presentation Ceremony

To honour and acknowledge the recipient of HKIA Gold Medal 2021 Prof. Patrick Lau, a simple but solemn Award Presentation Ceremony was held on 17 August 2022, in spite of the heavy afternoon rain which stopped just an hour before start of the Ceremony. The Ceremony was attended by over 80 guests. Prof. Lau shared his every memorable moment from his childhood to career and community achievements.

The Gold Medal Scholarship, which aims to promote the pursuance of architectural excellence like the Gold Medal awardees, was first launched at the Award Presentation Ceremony. The Scholarship will be granted annual to support selected students in local tertiary architectural schools. We appeal to members' donation to the Scholarship, as a way to support nurturing our younger generation.

HKIA Urbanism and Architecture Exhibitions for Excellence

After months of preparation, the HKIA Urbanism and Architecture Exhibitions for Excellence themed “**Beyond, Made, Make, Making**” was launched at its Hangzhou Exhibition from 29 August to 10 September 2022. The 4-stop exhibition series celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) with financial support by multiple departments of the HKSAR Government. The next stop is being held in Beijing from now till 5 October 2022. We look forward to outreaching abroad to New York at the third stop from 10 to 25 October 2022 to introduce our architectural talent and Hong Kong’s architecture to US audience. May I invite you all to reserve time to join our activities of this stop which concludes the project?

2022 Hong Kong Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Hong Kong)

Continuing the Institute’s participation in the biennial architectural exhibition over a decade, the UABB 2022 themed “Seeds of Resilience” was unveiled with a press conference on 4 August 2022. The architectural exhibition consists of 3 stops, namely Central Market, North Point (East) Ferry Pier and Star Ferry Piers (Central & Tsim Sha Tsui) from 27 August to 26 November 2022. Shenzhen’s exhibition is organized simultaneously at the GDH City · Jinpi (Kingway Brewery Industrial Heritage).

Enhancing global connection

ARCASIA Forum 21

Our Vice President Thomas Cheung and HKIA ARCASIA Committee member Tony Wong attended ARCASIA Forum 21 and ARCASIA Emergency Architects meeting in Ulaanbaatar on 4-9 September 2022, on HKIA’s behalf. Meetings of sub-committee on various issues were held concurrently in hybrid mode. HKIA was widely represented by members at these meetings to ensure our participation in the international arena.

Showing talents at ARCASIA arena

HKIA members’ excellent works were registered as finalists in several ARCASIA competitions:

- ARCASIA Student’s Architectural Design Competition 2022
 - Design “*Quarresort – New Form of local tourism experience*”, by Mr. Owen Wushan (The City University of Hong Kong)

- Design “*Reliving Lost Industry*”, by Ms. Nicole Wong and Ms. Alicia Harjono (The University of Hong Kong)
- Thesis of the Year 2022
 - Project “*Rethinking about URBAN BLOCK – the 6th Generation Urban Block in the ultra density city*”, by Mr. Louie Lo (Chu Hai College of Higher Education)
- ARCASIA Green AsiARCH 2022
 - Project “*On Tai Estate*” by Hong Kong Housing Authority
 - Project “*InnoCell*” by Leigh & Orange

International Union of Architects (UIA)

HKIA members participated in various UIA meetings on different issues to voice out our views during the past 3 months. Two Members’ projects were also winners of the UIA 2030 Award:

- SDG11, Target 11.1 – Adequate, Safe & Affordable Housing
Winner: Project “*Home Modification for Low-income Families in Hong Kong China*”, by Domat
- SDG11, Target 11.C – Utilising Local Materials
Winner: Project “*House of Dreams in Zhoushan Village, China*”, by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

Looking Forward

Before closing my report, may I thank all the members of Council, Boards and Committees for your every effort in making HKIA’s endeavours great success in these 2 years despite the COVID pandemic. Your wisdom and efforts together have helped lead us to operate efficiently and effectively during such tough times. We see that Hong Kong is gradually emerging out of the epidemic and recovering towards a brighter tomorrow. You would agree with me that this is an opportune time for us to strengthen ourselves and prepare for the soon-to-come full recovery. You bet the Institute will be working hard along with you towards achieving this same goal.

The Council Election 2023-2024 received a total of 19 nominations for the 15 vacancies of 6 posts. I appreciate all the candidates for your heart to serve. This is what we need to unite the profession and build a better Hong Kong. The election results will be announced soon in this meeting. On behalf of the other Council Members, we will strive our best to serve members in the remaining of this term, and we will work with the new Council on its plan for the next two years. Last but not least, I invite all of you to join us at the housewarming party scheduled to be held in December.

Donald CHOI Wun Hing, *FHKIA, R.A*
President
21 September 2022