



香港建築師學會
The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Ref.HKIA/BLA/WSD/CC/LC/HK/20220510

10 May 2022

By Post and By Email
kelvinlo@wsd.gov.hk

Mr. LO Kwok Wah, Kelvin, JP
Director of Water Supplies Department
Water Supplies Department
Kowloon West Regional Building,
2 Lai Hong St,
Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon

Dear Mr. LO,

**Informal Meeting with HKIA on Conservation and Revitalization of Bishop Hill
Underground Cistern**

We thank you for your time in meeting with us concerning the captioned on 22 December 2021. We take this opportunity to thank Ar. Winnie HO, Director of Architectural Services for her presence and effort in arranging this causal exchange with the undersigned, Honorary Treasurer Ar. Corrin CHAN, HKIA Competition Committee Chair Ar. Lucia CHEUNG, HKIA Heritage and Conservation Committee Chair Ar. Nicky WONG.

In the past years, the Institute has been diligent in promoting excellence in our city's architecture, urban design, planning and heritage conservation. We hope that our professional knowledge can be a contribution to our city, and together we build a better place.

For the Bishop Hill Underground Cistern, we are pleased that WSD has made an understanding decision of preserving it, instead of its total demolition. Indeed, the cistern has captured the precious history of our city and convey to us our stories in the past through its presence. We are especially encouraged by the Director's vision of conserving this valuable heritage and transforming it into an urban place that is to be enjoyed by the public.

We understand that the present structure built over the reservoir is only of temporary purpose. A more permanent design will be developed in the future. The beauty of the cistern is reflected in its structural integrity and design. We envision that the future changes will also be a continuation of this legacy.



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Support from the Institute

From the discussion, we realize that WSD, in order to accomplish the vision, will need an innovative approach. We understand that there is the initial idea of integrating performing art programmes in the space. Some years ago, the Drainage Services Department together with the Hong Kong Arts Development Council successfully launched an interactive art installation titled "After the Deluge" by the artist Kingsley Ng inside the Tai Hang Tung Storm water Storage Tank. It was a highly successful programme that was well received by the public. The Institute fully supports this direction, and if there is any chance for us to assist, we would be delighted to offer our support, with our past experience in curating exhibitions locally and overseas for the government.

Design Competition

Bishop Hill Underground Cistern is both an important heritage and community urban space in Hong Kong. The hill itself has grown into a favorite community outdoor sports arena, a breathing space for the densely packed living neighbourhoods. Our recent Young Architect Award 2020 also featured the theme "Revitalization of Bishop Hill Underground Cistern" to showcase how heritage site could be re-examined (ref. to winning entries: - <https://www.hkia.net/en/awards-competition.html?id=8&news=140>). HKIA believes that well-managed design competition is a good tool to bring forth excellent design ideas from the professionals and the public. The Public Toilet Design Competition organized by ASD with stages of public engagement has proved to be a success. It was a well conducted design competition that brings forth sustainable and innovative solutions that are engaging to the community. It is also an opportunity to uncover the hidden design talents in us. With ample experience in conducting design competitions, the Institute trusts that Revitalization of Bishop Hill Underground Cistern Design Competition would be another success. HKIA is in support of this germinating idea and would be prepared to offer our support if needed.

We thank you again for meeting with us, and the fruitful exchange. Please be assured that you will have our full support in this challenging endeavor of the precious heritage site of ours.

We look forward to our future collaborations.

Yours sincerely,

Donald CHOI Wun Hing, FHKIA, R.A.
President
Competition Committee Ex-Chair
The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Cc: Winnie HO, JP, Director of Architectural Services, Architectural Services Department, HKSARG
Corrin CHAN, HKIA Hon. Treasurer
Lucia CHEUNG, Chair of HKIA Competition Committee
Nicky WONG, Chair of HKIA Heritage and Conservation Committee

Patron: The Honourable Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, Chief Executive, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
A Member of The International Union of Architects (UIA), Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA), Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Architect Project