contents

04 from the editor 編輯室
06 from the president 會長訊息
08 diary & events 日記與活動
18 project news 建築簡訊
  • Creative Media Centre, City University of Hong Kong
20 community & social issue 社區
  • Architecture for All - Part I
    Accessibility and Universal Design
    Joseph Kwan
    The Trail to Universal Accessibility
    Chan Hoi Ming
    What Appears Trivial Can Make or Break Universal Design
    Rosman C. C. Wai
    Universal Design - Innovative Care for the Independent Elderly in Hong Kong
    Carmen Wong
36 awards 建築奬
  • HKIA Annual Awards 2004
46 interview 專訪
  • 100 Years of Architecture - Oral History Interviews II
    百年建築 - 專訪建築師之二
    Chung Wan Nan - Sensitivity and Sensible...Wine and Tea
    Chan Hoi Ming
    何惠天 - 建築師是一種無國界的工作
    葉永龍
    費瑞達 - 承先啟後
    黃紹基
    吳煜民 - Keep Your Eyes Open and Equip Yourselves
    梁華賢
58 beyond architecture 建築之外
  • On Happiness
    Chung Wan Nan

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from the editor

In July this year, the XXII UIA World Congress will be held in Istanbul (what a Choice!) at which delegates will present reports and discuss the latest progress and status of accessibility achieved at different parts of the world.

To mark this forthcoming meaningful event, some of the local participants/supporters of this Work Programme on “Architecture for All” have submitted six articles all together for publication in the HKIA Journal. In the July edition, we would present Part I of this Special Feature on “Architecture for All”. We begin with an overview of “Accessibility and Universal Design” by Mr Joseph Kwan, who certainly is an authoritative writer on this subject. With the more significant progress made on accessibility design in Hong Kong over the recent years, it is easy for people to forget the struggles, efforts and contributions made by various concerned groups and commissions in the past many years. Here, Mr Kwan has not only given us a detailed account of the history and background, but also a good summary on the latest trends and some insightful thoughts for future directions on accessibility and universal design.

Ms H. M. Chan then leads us onto “The Trail to Universal Accessibility”. Ms Rosman C. C. Wai further proves that “What appears Trivial Can Make or Break Universal Design”. Lastly, Ms Carmen Wong introduces us to the “Universal Design - Innovative Care for the Independent Elderly in Hong Kong”. The remaining two articles will be presented in the next edition. One is written by co-authors Yan Ki Lee, T. Jachna and Prof. R. Coleman (on “A Participatory Design Approach”) and a final one is from Mr Victor Tai (on “An Accessible and Inclusive Community Below the Lion Rock: The Lok Fu - Wong Tai Hom Area”).

A further highlight in this edition is a report on the HKIA Annual Awards 2004. The recipient of the HKIA Medal of the Year is Thomas Chow Architects Ltd. As the nice photo on the cover page suggests, Mr Thomas Chow and his team indeed have done a great job in creating a very pleasant school environment for the students. Another big winner is the Architectural Services Department, which has swept four awards in total. For the details of all award winners, please turn to the section Awards. Meanwhile, it is encouraging to see that some stimulating projects are coming up in the near future, including the striking new Creative Media Centre for the City University of Hong Kong designed by the world renowned Studio Daniel Libeskind (New York) (under the section Project News).

For those readers who have been following the tremendous project on 100 Years of Architecture in Hong Kong, we are pleased to present the Part II of the Oral History Interviews - this time with Mr Chung Wah Nan, Mr Edward Ho, Prof. David Lung and Mr Ng Yook Man. Our Interviewing team has done a great job again to depict the unique backgrounds and flair of these four very colourful and nice fellows in our profession, while vividly reflecting their passions and beliefs on and beyond architecture along the lines.

It is often joked that most architects certainly are not the happiest batch of people on earth, who have to bear so much pain from design inception to the last detailing; as well as to worry in most time about fees and possible lawsuits with clients and contractors, etc. In the new section Beyond Architecture, our dear Mr Chung Wah Nan (man of much wisdom) shares with us his “home-cooked” philosophy on Happiness to help our fellow architects to become happier persons. However, just can’t guarantee that it will work on you!

Chris Liu
Editor
from the president

HKIA’s Initiatives to Collaborate with Government and Partners (10 March 2005)

As response to the resignation by the Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa, I attach HKIA’s press statement for your information; traditionally the CE or former Governor has been the Patron of our Institute, and we thank him for the support to the Institute. We wish that his successor will place emphasis on the sustainability of our city development, pursue quality physical planning or support architectural excellence in Hong Kong.

We have the honour of Mr Ma Fung Kwok, JP, the new Chairman of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to be our Special Guest Speaker at our forthcoming First QGM on Wednesday, 23 March 2005 - please register to come and discuss arts development initiatives, which HKIA would be pleased to make greater contribution.

With the AIA (HK Chapter), we collaborate to host in the evening of 17 March a public talk by the internationally famed architect Cesar Pelli at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre - do register immediately with our Registrar as we have very limited seats. With the Central & Western District Council and the Conservancy Association, we are now inviting submissions from you, other professionals and university students for the Idea Design Competition for the Central Police Station Compound for innovative ideas to conserve the valuable historic site. This Sunday afternoon, a design Charrette is to be held on the site.

In the last month, Council Members and I attended numerous spring reception events with the Chief Secretary for Administration, Liaison Office of The Central People’s Government, Home Affairs Bureau, District Councils, allied professional institutes, Hong Kong Council of Social Services, various business federations or chambers, … etc. (list uploaded monthly on our web) and these are some of Council’s works to make further collaborative efforts with more partners.

Architects Broadening Connection (7 April 2005)

Next Monday, 11 April at 6:45pm we shall have our Annual Awards 2004 Prize Presentation and Exhibition Reception at the Park Court, Pacific Place. The Hon Donald Tsang, GMB, JP will meet us all and officiate the ceremony - do come and celebrate with the winners and exhibiting members.

On 11 April at 5:30pm with HKIS and HKICM we shall launch “Standard Form of Contract 2005” on Level 5, Vinson Room, Pacific Place Conference Centre, with The Hon Henry Tang Ying-yen, GBS, JP as officiating guest.

Thanks to the efforts by Hon Patrick Lau, SBS, JP and HKIA Taskforce on Constitutional Development Review, on Saturday, 9 April at 2:30pm we shall have Mr Stephen Lam Sui Ling, JP, Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Hon Lee Wing Tat, Hon Tam Yiu Chung, GBS, JP, Hon Ronny Tong Ka Wah, SC at HKIA to discuss with us the coming CE Election and Constitutional Review issues.

As part of the new Council’s aims to broaden our connection, a Team of 18 visited Beijing from 3-5 April - the Ministry of Construction, The Architectural Society of China, Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Ministry of Commerce, Beijing Municipal Commission of Construction, Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, United Front Work Department of the CPC Central Committee. We raised our suggestions for the setting up of
architectural practices in the Mainland after CEPA and made preliminary invitation to our friends in Beijing to join HKIA 50th Anniversary celebration next year.

I am particularly pleased to meet about ten Members in Beijing accepting our lunch invitation - including eight mainland architects who took part in our Reciprocity Recognition Arrangement last year.

Council representatives also met with URA Managing Director Mr Billy Lam and his team on 1 April, and we expressed our wish to collaborate with URA to promote excellent architectural design in urban renewal projects in future.

Architects’ Connection (28 April 2005)

In the evening of Friday, 29 April at 6:30pm we shall have our Members’ Forum - HKIA and the Profession, the Community and our Members. Do come and provide your views to our Council colleagues including the Chairs or Members of our Boards to plan for our Year 2005-06. The Council’s Vision Statement will also be available for discussion with you.

We have recently “soft-launch” our new web www.hkia.net for trial purpose - it is still undergoing the “built-up” process and do let us know any views for improvements. Ms Carolin Fong, Chair of the Board of Internal Affairs, and Mr Rex Chan Chi Sing, Chair of Media Resources & Publication Committee, would be very very pleased to obtain your suggestions.

HKIA Strengthens Mainland Connection (9 May 2005)

It is our Council’s vision to further strengthen our Mainland’s connection.

In June, over two weekends - 18/19 June (in Shanghai) and 25/26 June (in Hong Kong), Shanghai Association of Architects (上海市建築學會) and HKIA will co-organize in each city major conferences and site tours on “Urban Renewal and Heritage Conservation” (舊區重建及舊建築保護). Key officials, agencies, designers or experts from both cities will present and exchange experience on the issues. You are invited to join as conference or tour participants, or further, to become a member of our Organizing Committee - to receive our guests from Shanghai, organize cocktail reception, exhibition and publicity - next meeting at 12:45pm on Friday, 13 May (please contact Sarah Ho, Assistant Registrar or Mr Marvin Chen, Chair of Conference, O.C.).

Our activities with Mainland have been growing, and some recent examples (refer HKIA web for details) include:
- On 23 - 26 May, the 2nd Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Seminar/Test 2005 (中港兩地建築師資格互認 2005 年度培訓及測試與面試) will be held in Guangzhou.
- On 29 April, we were visited by a delegation from Shanghai Association of Architects.
- On 20 April, HKIA representatives joined “ETWB Secondment Plan Signing Ceremony” in Shenzhen (深圳市建設局及深圳市建築工程師與環境物業及工務局 - 建築及土木工程見習生的內地短期培訓計劃).
- On 8 and 19 April, we were invited by Trade Development Council to meet industry stakeholders from Fushan and Shanghai.

The Council has set up a new Mainland Affairs Committee this year chaired by Past President Edward Shen, and we invite you to join its Committees to receive visitors from different parts of the Mainland, organize exchange activities in various cities, promote our Members’ works. You are invited to let our Secretariat know if you are interested to join.

Prof. Bernard V. LIM, FHKIA
President
### January 2005
- 12/1: Council Meeting
- 21/1: Architects Registration Board Meeting
- 24/1: Board of Local Affairs Meeting
- 25/1: Board of Internal Affairs Meeting

### February 2005
- 02/2: Board of Educational Affairs Meeting
- 03/2: Board of External Affairs Meeting
- 04/2: Board of Practices Meeting
- 16/2: Council Meeting

### March 2005
- 01/3: Board of Internal Affairs Meeting
- 07/3: Board of Local Affairs Meeting
- 09/3: Board of Educational Affairs Meeting
- 10/3: Board of External Affairs Meeting
- 11/3: Board of Practices Meeting
- 16/3: Council Meeting
- 18/3: Architects Registration Board Meeting
- 23/3: 1st Quarterly General Meeting

### April 2005
- 06/4: Board of Educational Affairs Meeting
- 13/4: Council Meeting
- 15/4: Board of Practices Meeting
- 21/4: Board of External Affairs Meeting
- 22/4: Architects Registration Board Meeting
- 25/4: Board of Local Affairs Meeting
- 26/4: Board of Internal Affairs Meeting

### May 2005
- 11/5: Council Meeting
- 26/5: Board of External Affairs Meeting
- 27/5: Board of Practices Meeting
- 31/5: Board of Internal Affairs Meeting

### June 2005
- 01/6: Board of Educational Affairs Meeting
- 06/6: Board of Local Affairs Meeting
- 08/6: Council Meeting
- 15/6: 2nd Quarterly General Meeting
- 17/6: Architects Registration Board Meeting
- 28/6: Board of Internal Affairs Meeting

### July 2005
- 06/7: Board of Educational Affairs Meeting
- 08/7: Board of Practices Meeting
- 13/7: Council Meeting
- 14/7: Board of External Affairs Meeting
- 18/7: Board of Local Affairs Meeting
- 29/7: Architects Registration Board Meeting

### August 2005
- 23/8: Board of Internal Affairs Meeting
- 26/8: Board of Practices Meeting

### September 2005
- 01/9: Board of External Affairs Meeting
- 07/9: Council Meeting
- 14/9: 3rd Quarterly General Meeting

### October 2005
- 04/10: Council Meeting
- 07/10: Board of Practices Meeting
- 13/10: Board of External Affairs Meeting
- 24/10: Board of Local Affairs Meeting
- 26/10: Board of Educational Affairs Meeting
- 28/10: Architects Registration Board Meeting

### November 2005
- 15/11: Council Meeting
- 21/11: Board of Local Affairs Meeting
- 22/11: Board of Internal Affairs Meeting
- 24/11: Board of External Affairs Meeting
- 25/11: Board of Practices Meeting
- 30/11: Board of Educational Affairs Meeting

### December 2005
- 02/12: Architects Registration Board Meeting
- 13/12: Council Meeting
- 19/12: Board of Local Affairs Meeting
- 21/12: Annual General Meeting

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**1st HKIA Annual Ball 2005 Committee Meeting**

**AGENDA**

- **Date:** 15-March-2005 (Tuesday)
- **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Venue:** HKIA Premises

**The Agenda**

1. Apologies for Absence / Welcome
2. Matters Arising
   2.1 Debriefing of HKIA Annual Ball 2004
   2.2 Cancellation of HKIA Annual Ball 2005
3. A.O.B.
4. Date of Next Meeting - 19-April-2005 (Tuesday)

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...more details at hkia.net in late June 2005

HKIA今年決定取消周年聚會？！欲知最新消息，請留意六月下旬 hkia.net
Creative Media Centre
City University of Hong Kong

City University of Hong Kong is to seize a world leading position in creative media education with the construction of a striking new Creative Media Centre. The Centre will be built on Cornwall Street, Kowloon Tong, and will form an extension to the University’s Tat Chee Avenue campus. The photo shows the front view of the Centre.

Developer City University of Hong Kong
Architect Studio Daniel Libeskind (New York) with Leigh & Orange (Hong Kong)
Main contractor TBA
Structural consultant Arup (London & Hong Kong)
IT & Communications consultant Arup (Hong Kong)
Audio Visual consultant Arup (Hong Kong)
Acoustics consultant Arup (Hong Kong)
Location Cornwall Street, Shek Kip Mei, Kowloon
Usage Academic
Site area 7,674 square metres
Gross floor area Circa 26,000 square metres
No. of floors 8 storeys
Completion date 2008
The new Creative Media Centre at City University of Hong Kong is to become a "lighthouse" for Asia's burgeoning creative industries.

The objectives for the Creative Media Centre are educational, social, economic and architectural. The Centre, which will include the School of Creative Media and other related academic departments, is planned to grow new talent, and inspire fresh ideas and ground-breaking initiatives. It is also envisaged as a testing ground for the creative and digital production companies that provide jobs and are forming a new engine of growth in Hong Kong's knowledge-based economy.

The international design team, led by Studio Daniel Libeskind, includes Hong Kong architects, engineers, town planners, landscape architects and other specialists selected following a worldwide invitation and rigorous selection process. Daniel Libeskind describes the building as a "crystalline" form designed as "a number of interesting volumes that interact with, and rely on, each other for support and stability". Architecturally bold, functionally ingenious and highly efficient, the design is intended to foster creative interaction and the stimulation of new ideas.

The educational facilities include sound studios, screening theatres, lecture and classroom facilities, laboratories, specialist project laboratories, study areas, and cafés. The IT facilities, critical to both the School of Creative Media and other users, have been planned in from the outset to provide flexibility and adaptability for change and growth.

The scheme design stage is complete and Town Planning Board approval has been obtained.
Architecture for All - Part I

Accessibility and Universal Design

Joseph Kwan

History and Background

The concept of accessibility to facilitate access for people with disabilities is not new, with the movement beginning in the Nordic Countries such as Sweden over three decades ago. The influence filtered down through Europe where the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands took similar initiatives to promote accessibility within their own countries by establishing committees and interest groups on access, developing codes and guidelines on the improvement of their built environment to facilitate access for people with disabilities.

In the 1970s, as a result of the Indo-China conflict North America was confronted with a sudden growth of people with disabilities as a result of injuries received from a protracted war. Likewise, in the poorer economy, Vietnam suffered similar fate but with much less economic resources to deal with such situations.

In the late 1980s President George Bush (Sen.) inaugurated in the Signing Ceremony of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), with the subsequent publication of the ADA Handbook published by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice in October 1992. This became the tour-de-force for the U.S. with many equal rights and disability groups leading to eliminate inequalities including physical barriers in the built environment. Short, medium and long term programmes were established with the U.S. Government taking the initiative to incorporate barrier-free access and features in their new buildings and construction; but more importantly, to implement Actions Plans whereby existing buildings, infrastructures, and services must incorporate accessibility by retrofitting programmes that accommodate access features within a period of 5, 10, or 20 years. Infrastructures such as heavy rail and airlines, for example, must be retrofitted to be fully accessible to people with disabilities within a period of 20 years.

Europe also began to develop similar comprehensive handbooks, and in the mid 1990s, drafted the "European Manual" for their European Union partners to adopt. At the same time, the Asia Pacific Region continued with the same fervour for the Far East with the Declaration of the Decade for the Disabled - Asia Pacific Campaign 1993-2002 inaugurated during the Rehabilitation Conference in Beijing in 1990.

The Campaign for the Second Decade for the Disabled in the Asia Pacific Region was declared in 2002 during the Osaka Conference marking the end of the first Decade, with the subsequent establishment of the APDF (Asia Pacific Disability Forum) in Singapore in 2003 to implement the Action Plans adopted by the UN-ESCAP (United Nations- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific).
The disability movement worldwide has reached critical mass in the 21st century and is anticipated to continue having its presence felt in all continents assisted largely by use of modern communication technology that facilitate networking, the exchange of knowledge and information, thus empowering each and every person with disabilities.

**Architecture and Accessibility**

The enthusiasm of the disability movement took longer to reach the architectural profession, with little interest shown by the individual practitioners except for small interest groups practising in the U.S., U.K., Sweden, Netherlands, Japan, Hong Kong and Australia.

In September 1990, witnessed the beginning of Asia and North America international exchange with the **International Accessibility Mini-Summit** co-sponsored by the Centre for Accessible Housing of North Carolina State University and the World Rehabilitation Fund's International Exchange of Experts and Information in Rehabilitation (IEETR) being held in Raleigh, North Carolina. (The Author was honoured to be invited as one of the Keynote Speakers at this 3-day Mini-Summit.)

In terms of mainstream architecture, the full momentum of access for the disabled was not formalized until 1999, during the XX UIA World Congress of Architecture held in Beijing when the UIA President, Vassilis Sgoutos initiated the first ever **UIA Work Programme** entitled "**Architecture for the Disabled**". Member Section Hong Kong Institute of Architects was assigned to lead this Work Programme (WP) for Region IV, (the Asia Pacific Region) with 16 Member Sections (Institutes of Architects) participating.

Since its inauguration in 1999, the Region IV WP directed under a HKIA Member and with the associated support of the HKIA has been instrumental in organizing educational Seminars and Workshops in association with ARCASIA (Architects Regional Council of Asia) within Region IV on topics relating to Universal Accessibility for All, including the elderly and people with disabilities. These Seminars and Workshops were held in Singapore, in association with the Singapore Institute of Architects (2001); in Dhaka, in association with the Institute of Architects of Bangladesh (2003), and recently in Macau, in association with the Association of Architects of Macau (2004).

In 2002, the Work Programme with the support of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects also organized a Seminar on "**Architecture for All**" during the XXI UIA World Congress of Architecture held in Berlin. In addition, Seminar and Workshop Proceedings have been produced for these Events.

Within UIA itself, this Work Programme "**Architecture for the Disabled**" recently renamed as "**Architecture for All**" has proliferated to other world Regions, with the establishment of similar WPs in:

- Region I directed from the Netherlands
- Region II directed from Poland
- Region III directed from Mexico
- Region IV directed from Hong Kong
- Region V directed from Tunisia

The forthcoming XXII UIA World Congress of Architecture to be held in Istanbul in July 2005 will receive WP Reports from the five Regions, where it would be interesting to note the progress and status of accessibility from different parts of the world.
Legislations and Commissions

Laws, Legislations and Commissions are necessary interventions in some economies to promote equality, equal rights and participation for certain minority groups.

Civil rights and human rights movement was a major force in the United States as early as the 1960s, which also provided catalyst for people with disabilities to seek equality for access, housing, education, employment and communication.

More recently, both Britain and Australia enacted Disability Discrimination Acts with the establishment of Equal Opportunities Commission and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission respectively.

In Hong Kong, both the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO) and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) was respectively enacted and established in 1996. It can be regarded that both these instruments made significant contributions towards facilitating access in Hong Kong in terms of access to the built environment, transportation, accommodation, education, employment, services, etc.

Rules and Regulations

Codes, Rules and Regulations are the minimum requirements that prescribed the basic standard to be adopted. These Codes and Regulations are sometimes erroneously mistaken or taken as the optimal or the best practice standards. Therefore, a balance should be reached to develop such regulations to be performance-based and not prescriptively-based. Only then will designers and architects be facilitated with the freedom to develop and initiate better and improved design solutions to fit the needs of a larger sector of the community.

Having well written regulations easily accepted, adopted and practiced by architects, developers and various user groups is an important beginning towards implementing accessibility in any country; but if these regulatory conditions are too stringent and inflexible, any well meaning concept would have difficulties to implement.

Enforcement is the other importance aspect in the implementation of any regulations.

The Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 (Accessibility Law) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations first published by the Official Gazette in 1984 by the National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons of the Philippines is a comprehensive document; however, enforcement was a major issue from the inception of the Law, and today very few of the concepts implied in the Accessibility Law is actually translated into reality.

Codes, Rules and Regulations, and Design Manuals and Guidelines relating to accessibility and barrier-free designs are being recently reviewed, revised, updated and implemented in Asia Pacific Countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, and Hong Kong.

Publications

The ADA Handbook and Guidelines was a significant milestone in the history of barrier-free design. Other documents followed that introduced similar concepts of “design for access” or “design for the disabled”. In the 1990s, academics, professionals, practitioners, government organizations and major public bodies published significant publications. These titles include: