

URBAN DESIGN STUDIO I

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL CITY

RE-VISIONING TO KWA WAN, HONG KONG

2016-17 1st Term

Mondays & Thursdays 1:30 pm – 6:15 p.m., Venue: AIT Zone A Instructor:
Casey Wang (CHEN Yong Ming – Teaching Assistant)



Study Background

In the Chief Executive's policy address in 2016, the government unveiled a raft of initiatives to boost Hong Kong's innovation, technology, and creative sectors. As a result the Hong Kong Productivity Council pledged to support industrial upgrading and transformation, thereby helping companies embrace re-industrialisation and move towards high value-added production.

While the city has witnessed an influx of young talents setting up start-ups in newly developed projects and areas such as Science Park, InnoCentre, and Cyber Port, these often lack connectivity with public transportation and more crucially with vibrant, contemporary urban life. In contrast, historically To Kwa Wan has been a hub of small scale local business, resulting in a distinctive entrepreneurial atmosphere that for decades has been known for its car repair industry, small factories, food production such as shrimp roe noddle making, *cha chaan tengs*, handicrafts shops, miscellaneous workshops, and more.

Adjacent to the old Kai Tai Airport, and Energising Kowloon East Office's (EKO) master plan for a second CBD, To Kwa Wan is characterised by unique urban fabrics and morphologies such as the "13 Streets and 5 Streets" area. This area consists of several highly individualised, parallel, and private short streets, bordered by Kowloon City Road (West), To Kwa Wan Road (East), Mok Cheong Street (North), and Ma Tau Kok Road (South). Comprised of 83 buildings, constructed between 1958 and 1960, the "13 Streets" area contains a total of about 2,500 residential flats with 418 shops at the street level, and numerous illegal rooftop structures and dwellings.¹ The district is also known as an "Arrival City" for mainly Indians, and Pakistanis who provide the diversity of culture, religion, business and lifestyle into the neighbourhood. Initially attracted by lower rents, To Kwa Wan became the first place where South Asians come to HK, settle down and develop the community around this area.

As the scale of streets and buildings, deep sense of community, and history of home-grown industry, To Ka Wan has tremendous potential to develop into a hub for nurturing small local businesses, supported by the transformation of the existing building stock into workshops, labs, and studios to support various types of entrepreneurs, and create an integrated community culturally and ethnically among Chinese, Hong Kong, South Asians, in different generations.

Design Studio

The studio will initiate with research into the current context of the To Kwa Wan Area. Building on specific site selection and investigation by student groups, the studio will learn from the particular character of the district and its existing local small scale enterprises, transport infrastructure, sustainability, urban fabric, density and public spaces, heritage, socio-economic factors, migration and demographic (age, gender, ethnic, income level...etc) diversity.

The second exercise will examine and document multiple case studies of entrepreneurial cities globally. As group work, students will further define what are the crucial drivers to foster small independent business, and what type of space for shops, office, living units, and outdoor areas is most appropriate.

Finally utilising prior research data, culture mapping results, and an understanding of the local social and business context; students will focus on the "13 Streets" area to develop a program and phasing strategy to transform the area while maintaining the culture, social characters of the district and build up a vibrant, culturally diverse yet integrated, affordable, and flexible space promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable life. Further they will be tasked with the reorganization of the traffic system, improving public space, and reconceptualising ground floor functions and typologies.

This studio is co-organized with the MArch design studio to explore in parallel these topics and site to tackle issues at both the urban and architectural scale with similar strategic approaches.

Objectives of The Design Studio

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/13_Streets

- Students working in groups (4-5 people in one group) will understand, map and interpret the urban morphology of the older urban district, and analyse the industries, social lives, and existing programs of newly established and small independent business;
- Students to understand the cultural and historical background of the area, by mapping and interviewing the demographic features of the site;
- Experiment the potential of transforming outdoor open space (Magic Carpet Event on 15-16 September)
- Design a sustainable mixed used district, with focus on increasing living quality, social interaction, economic vitality, and welcoming environment for new arrivals.
- Create a comprehensive urban design strategy to integrate the new intervention into the existing community.

Student Learning Outcome

Upon completing the studio, students will be able to:

- Understand mapping, its uses and derived benefits, develop skills and methodologies for collection and management of cultural data
- Understand To Kwan Wan district's unique characters, urban fabrics, demographics, community, and its existing programs.
- Understand how urban forms are generated by different urban rules and processes
- Create a comprehensive urban design strategy by learning to work in different scales in the fields of architecture, urban design and city planning.
- Understand and address contemporary urban issues with particular focus on develop advanced urban design, presentation and communication skills while addressing key issues and developing context sensitive strategies and designs
- Develop concepts how urban design can foster and support healthy living.

Studio Output

Students develop individual strategies and designs for the improvement of urban integration including public spaces and street level building interfaces based on prior identified issues and opportunities. Drawings and models in various scale 1:2500/1:1000/1:500, plus detail studies, montages and perspectives showing the intended qualities of urban transformation and integration of public spaces usable in various seasons and times of the day. Statements of addressed issues and design intentions should be formulated in text and drawings. With progression of the design project these should be revised and updated. Research findings and projects will be gathered in a joint studio booklet. All students will be required to submit digital documentation.

Deliverables

- Group studies according to defined topics as culture mapping exercises.
- Site model (scale TBC)
- Written description of addressed issues and design intentions (500 words)
- Group drawings and models with strategic propositions (scale TBC)
- Phasing plan of proposed development strategies
- Urban integration, public space/building design drawings, and models (scale 1:500)
- Detailed study of urban integration incl. mixed development, and public spaces
- Photo montages, Rhino models, visualizations and perspectives studies of urban integration
- Joint studio booklet

(Digital documentation of group and individual work is compulsory after final review)

Assessment Scheme

- Group Research 20%
- Overall Group Strategy 20%
- Individual Design Work 50%
- Participation 10%

Course Format

The course is organized in a research part (group work), overall and group strategy and individual design. The re- search encompasses mapping exercise, precedent studies as basis of design strategies.

Required Readings

- Alex Lehnerer, *Grand Urban rules* (Rotterdam: 010 Publishers, 2009)
- Jan Gehl, *Life Between Buildings: using public space* (Van Nostrand Reinhold New York, 1987)
- Jan Gehl, *Cities for People* (Island Press, 2010)
- Stefan Al, Paul Chu Hoi Shan, Alexander Giarlis, Claudia Juhre, Casey Wang, eds, *Factory Towns of South China: An Illustrated Guidebook*, Hong Kong University Press (2012)
- Stefan Al, Paul Chu Hoi Shan, Claudia Juhre, Ivan Valin, Casey Wang, eds, *Villages in the City: A Guide to South China's Informal Settlements*, Hong Kong University Press (2014)
- Chase, G.L., Crawford. M, and J. Kaliski, eds. (2008), *Everyday urbanism*, New York: Monacelli Press, 2008.
- Doug Saunders, *Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Reshaping Our World* (Vintage, 2012).

Recommended Readings

Mapping and infographics

- Edward R. Tufte, *Envisioning Information*, Graphics Press; 1st edition (1990)
- Jacques Bertin, *Semiology of Graphics: Diagrams, Networks, Maps*, Esri Press (2010)

Site and Situation

- http://www.hkmemory.hk/collections/oral_history/feature_OH/story05/story5_rec/index.html
- Burdett Ricky. (ed) LSE Cities. Hong Kong: Cities, Health and Well-being. Available at: <http://lsecities.net/ua/conferences/2011-hongkong/>
- Edward Ng. *Designing high-density cities for social and environmental sustainability*. (London; Sterling, VA : Earthscan, 2010.)
- Stefan Canhem and Rufina Wu, *Portrait from Above, Hong Kong's informal rooftop communities* (Peperoni Books / Mccm, 2010).
- Shelton, Barrie, Karakiewicz, Justyna & Kvan, Thomas, *The Making of Hong Kong: From Vertical to Volumetric* (Taylor & Francis, 2010).

City and Citizens

- Anne Mikoleit and Moritz Purckhauer, *Urban code: 100 Lessons for Understanding the City* (Cambridge, MIT Press 2011)
- Gordon Cullen, *The Concise Townscape* (Oxfrd: Architectural Press, 1996)
- Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (New York, Random House, 1961)
- Magda Anglès, *In Favor of Public Space. Ten years of the European Prize for Urban Public Space* (Barcelona: Actar, 2010)
- Albert Ferré, *Total Housing: Alternatives to Urban Sprawl* (Barcelona: Actar, 2010)
- Kim Dovey and Elek Pafka, "The urban density assemblage: Modeling multiple measures", in *Urban Design International* 19.1 (Spring 2014): 66-76.

Sustainability

- Mohsen Mostafavi and Gareth Doherty, *Ecological Urbanism* (Baden: Lars Muller Publishers, 2010)

Urban visions and experimental massing

- R. Klanten and L. Feireiss, *Utopia Forever: Vision of Architecture and Urbanism* (Gestalten, 2011) Winy Maas, *Visionary Cities* (Rotterdam: NAI Publishers, 2010)
- Winy Maas, *Hong Kong Fantasies* (Rotterdam: NAI Publishers, 2012)
- Aurora Fernández and Javier Arpa, *Density Projects* (Vitoria-Gasteiz: a+t ediciones, 2008)

Government guideline:

[Planning Department – Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines](#)

Schedule

	MscUD Studio
Aug. 29- Sept. 2	Pre-term workshop
Sat Sept. 3	Bus Tour in HK and KL (Itinerary TBC) + City Gallery visit
Mon Sept. 5	Studio Introduction

Thu Sept. 8	Exercise 1: Site explorations & Readings
Sat Sept. 10	World Urban Challenges event
Mon Sept. 12	Site Model making, mapping
Thu Sept. 15	Site Model making, mapping <i>(Magic Carpet Event) (Community Survey)</i>
Mon Sept. 19	Presentation: Site analysis and summary of readings <i>(Sept. 19 - Sept. 26: walkability exercises) (Community Survey reflection)</i>
Thu Sept. 22	Desk critiques
Mon Sept. 26	Presentation of Exercise 2
Thu Sept. 29	Joint Workshop (with MArch)
Fri Sept. 30	Joint Workshop (with MArch) site studies on urban fabrics and typologies
Sat Oct. 1	Public Holidays
Mon Oct. 3	Reflections workshop
Thu Oct. 6	Desk critiques start of exercise 3: Urban Design Scenarios
Mon Oct. 10	Public Holiday
Thu Oct. 13	Start individual project
Mon Oct. 17	Desk critiques
Thu Oct. 20	Desk critiques
Mon Oct. 24	Desk critiques
Thu Oct. 27	Desk critiques
Mon Oct. 31	Desk critiques
Thu Nov. 4	Design-review
Mon Nov. 7	Desk critiques <i>(Nov. 6: Community Event with Urban Process course)</i>
Thu Nov. 10	Desk critiques
Mon Nov. 14	Desk critiques
Thu Nov. 17	No Class (Master Degree Congregation)
Mon Nov. 21	Pre-final review
Thu Nov. 24	Desk critiques
Mon Nov. 28	Desk critiques
Thu Dec. 1	Desk critiques
Mon Dec. 5	Hand-in documentation
Thu Dec. 8	Final review