## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Message from the Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty KE Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KE Funding Impact Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Message from the Dean

Exchanging knowledge with society is at the heart of all we do in the Faculty of Architecture. Each of the Faculty's five main subject groups is intrinsically applied and our education programmes are all vocational. There is no such thing as pure urban theory, pure building physics or pure landscape science. In this booklet we present examples of our activities that illustrate a range of engagements and it is not an exhaustive record.

In the Faculty, we make a distinction between community engagement and research impact. They may coincide but are not the same. Most projects covered in these pages are community engagements. They are projects that bring architecture, landscape, conservation and urbanism to the public and projects in which the University works with the community to help solve community problems. The Faculty excels in this as many of our design teachers operate teaching studios and their own boutique design offices as a purposeful counterfoil to the style of design conducted in large commercial practices. The full picture of the Faculty of Architecture’s knowledge exchange activities would therefore include work from those offices and studios. Studio work is documented in year books and for individual studios. Architectural teachers’ own professional community design work is recorded in documentation of awards and prizes won and in articles published about these projects in architectural journals and professional magazines. Were all of these to be included, the annual KE booklet would be very much thicker.

Chris Webster
Dean
Faculty of Architecture
Introduction

Knowledge Exchange (KE), together with Teaching and Research, form the three pillars that underpin all the activities of The University of Hong Kong (HKU). KE is defined by HKU as “the process of engaging, for mutual benefit, with business, government or the public to generate, acquire, apply and make accessible the knowledge needed to enhance material, human, social, cultural and environmental well-being.” KE is a two-way process, and it not only includes technology transfer but also encompasses all disciplines, including the arts and humanities and the social sciences.

The University has a long tradition of contributing to the community, and staff has been engaging in a wide range of knowledge exchange activities through, inter alia, applied research, technology transfer, delivery of professional and continuing education courses, public lectures, and expertise sharing through professional bodies and media. KE, being a natural consequence of research and teaching, is at the heart of the wide range of activities that staff members undertake with the non-academic sectors of our society.

The Faculty of Architecture at HKU is a comprehensive school of architecture, renowned for its teaching, research and community engagement. The Faculty introduces students to the life-long process of learning through the lens of professional concerns specific to the education of architects and surveying professionals, while simultaneously extending those areas of knowledge represented within the Faculty into a range of other disciplines. It comprises of three Departments and two Divisions – these are the Department of Architecture, the Department of Real Estate and Construction, the Department of Urban Planning and Design, the Division of Landscape Architecture, and the Division of Architectural Conservation Programmes. These three departments and two divisions cover the traditional areas of knowledge necessary for designers to practice in the areas of building design, conservation, landscape design, urban planning and design, surveying in relation to the management of land, and real estate and construction.
The Faculty KE Awards were introduced in 2011. This is an annual exercise and funding awards are made by the KE Executive Group from the UGC's earmarked grant for KE, which is allocated to institutions on an annual basis for the 2009-12 and 2012-15 triennia. These awards aim to recognise each Faculty's outstanding KE accomplishments that has made demonstrable economic, social or cultural impacts to benefit the community, business/industry, or partner organisations. The awards are open to:
a) individual full-time staff members on Terms of Service I under Faculties; and
b) teams led by a full-time member on Terms of Service I under a Faculty, which may comprise staff of any grades and/or students.

Each Faculty KE Award carries a monetary award for further KE work.
Award 2013

ArtAlive@Park2010, ArtAlive@Park2012
Mr Jason Carlow, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture

For the 2013 KE Award Scheme, six staff members submitted their nominations out of which this project was selected as the unanimous winner by the members of the Faculty Selection Committee which comprised of following members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name(s)</th>
<th>Title/ Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor David P.Y. Lung</td>
<td>Dean and Professor, Faculty of Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Roger C.K. Chan</td>
<td>Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor John H. Bacon-Shone</td>
<td>Associate Director, Knowledge Exchange Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Ada Y.S. Fung</td>
<td>President, The Hong Kong Institute of Architects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of Evaluation by the Selection Committee:

- The quality of Knowledge Exchange and information is high. The evidence of KE impact is clearly observed from the media output and contribution to the community.
- The KE impact is evident from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department’s recent decision to further promote the event.
- The project benefitted all sectors of the community and showed high quality of knowledge sharing with various stakeholders.
Interlocking panels of reflective acrylic, *Reflective Perspectives* installation, 2011
ArtAlive@Park 2010 was organised by the Hong Kong SAR Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Art Promotion Office, aimed at providing a platform for students to showcase their art work in various public parks in Hong Kong. Under the leadership of Assistant Professor Jason Carlow, a group of energetic architectural students designed and built four full-scale art installations which were displayed at Tuen Mun Park.

ArtAlive@Park 2012 was designed to have students investigating and challenging the use and perception of public spaces, exploring the nature of materials and construction, new modes of fabrication and digital design media. Four temporary installations were designed and built by 14 Master of Architecture students from University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Architecture at Tsim Sha Tsui East Waterfront Podium Garden. These installations were the final results of a semester-long research project, led by Mr Jason Carlow.

This project has allowed participating students to explore the role of architecture in creating, defining and enlivening public space in the contemporary city. There were two 3-month long exhibitions of several site-specific pavilions built in public spaces of Hong Kong.
Mapping Modern Architecture
in Hong Kong

Central Market Oasis Gallery
14 - 26 July 2013

DOCOMOMO is the International Committee for Documentation and Preservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement.

This exhibition is the first effort by DOCOMOMO Hong Kong chapter founding members to identify several key buildings, neighbourhoods, and sites that collectively show the influence of the Modern Movement on the built environment of Hong Kong.

http://docomomo.hk/
Award 2014

Mapping Modern Architecture in Hong Kong
Leader: Dr Cole Roskam, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture
Team members: Ms Melissa Christ, Dr Cecilia Chu, Professor Lynne DiStefano, Mr Nicholas Karklins, Dr Ho Yin Lee, Dr Eunice Seng and Mr Koon Wee

For the 2014 KE Award Scheme, seven staff members submitted their nominations out of which this project was selected as the unanimous winner by the members of the Faculty Selection Committee which comprised of following members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name(s)</th>
<th>Title/ Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor Chris Webster</td>
<td>Dean and Professor, Faculty of Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Steve Rowlinson</td>
<td>Professor, Department of Real Estate and Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor John H. Bacon-Shone</td>
<td>Associate Director, Knowledge Exchange Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Bernard Lim</td>
<td>Principal, AD+RG Architecture Design &amp; Research Group Ltd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of Evaluation by the Selection Committee:

- The project is an excellent example that showcases KE within the elements of Teaching and Learning.
- The KE impact is evident as the project involves the local community. One of the members of the Ad Hoc Committee who visited the exhibition organised in the Central Market Oasis Gallery saw very good attendance from the public. The exhibition was highly regarded and very visible with a high level of engagement. In addition, more than 2,000 independent visitors visited the bilingual website. So there is compelling evidence that the project had a high level of impact.
- The project is fostered by Docomomo Hong Kong which comprises of members from several major academic and public institutions in Hong Kong. This partnership engagement is important and signifies a long term impact of the project.
- As the project is based on high quality knowledge, it has a distinct advantage.
The main objective of “Mapping Modern Architecture in Hong Kong” was to expand and deepen the general public’s knowledge of the Modern Movement, an important era in Hong Kong’s architectural and cultural heritage. Docomomo Hong Kong was organised by a group of committed academics and local residents to identify, catalogue and map major examples of modern architecture in Hong Kong. This project also encourages The University of Hong Kong (HKU) students to explore the history of Hong Kong’s built environment and their urban contexts. The group has worked to identify, catalogue, and map major examples of modern architecture in Hong Kong so as to create a channel for knowledge exchange between the project team members and the greater Hong Kong community through the study of modern movement while raising public awareness with respect to Hong Kong’s architectural heritage. Encouraging HKU students to begin to explore the history of Hong Kong’s built environment and their urban contexts too is a major project objective.
Through the launching of a public exhibition, website, and student outreach programme, the project has also endeavored to raise residents’ and visitors’ awareness concerning the significance of modern architecture to Hong Kong’s built environment and cultural heritage. It also constitutes a valuable tool in introducing the public into the key concepts behind modern architecture and the global connections it reveals between Hong Kong and the world.

In 2011, debate was heating up in Hong Kong over plans to redevelop the Central Government Offices (CGO), which were built in the 1950s. To architecture aficionados, they represented a fine example of the modern movement that influenced much of 20th century design. But to some in the community, they were eyesores. How could the doubters be won over?

This question was pondered by a group of scholars from HKU, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education (HKU SPACE) as well as concerned residents, who decided to launch a Hong Kong chapter of the international organisation Docomomo (which stands for the Documentation and Conservation of the Modern Movement) to raise awareness about surviving examples of architectural modernism in Hong Kong.
The University Grants Committee provides special funding for Knowledge Exchange to UGC-funded institutions to support staff members to undertake impact projects that have the potential to create social, economic, environmental or cultural impacts for industry, business or the community by building on expertise or knowledge in the University; and projects designed to collect evidence for corroboration and evaluation of impacts arising from a research project or KE project. Based on this, the University invites academic staff to submit proposals for the University to provide funding for the Impact Projects.

KE funding for Impact Project proposals is awarded on project basis rather than Faculty basis. There is no limit on the number of Impact Project proposals submitted by a Faculty and all proposals are considered on a competitive basis. The maximum bid for each project is HK$100,000. Proposed projects may be technology-based or non-technology related. Joint proposals for interdisciplinary, collaborative projects among Faculties or between Faculties and non-Faculty-based units are strongly encouraged.
KE Funding Impact Projects
2013-14

For the academic year 2013-2014, following 4 Impact Project Proposals of the Faculty were awarded KE Funding:

Exploring Architecture Workshops with HK Secondary Schools
Ms Tris Kee, Assistant Professor,
Department of Architecture

Architecture is a valuable and interesting subject for students embracing art, science and technology aspects. The appreciation of architecture will promote better comprehension of the making of quality buildings and the way of living for people in the built environment. The project aims to engage local secondary school teachers and students from Form 3-6 to better understand concepts related to topics such as Architecture, Urban Planning, Conservation, Urban Sustainability and Landscape Architecture. The project aims to exchange knowledge with school groups through interactive seminars and design workshops to explore through playing and learning.

Top: Students at a model making session at HKU
Bottom: Through an interactive process, students explored 3D thinking in an urban design scheme
The project aims to raise public awareness about the possible alternative planning solutions to the top-down approach of the HKSAR’s “North East New Territories New Development”, by illustrating student design works that are based on relatively grass- root and organic approaches to new town developments, through a public exhibition and publicity programmes such as guided tours, lectures/forums, and community workshops.
Top: Exhibition Concept Diagram
Bottom: Visitor sharing his thoughts with Project PI (Ms Vincci Mak) at the Exhibition Opening
Enhancing and Understanding of Urban Edge — 
An Architectural Engagement
Ms Tris Kee, Assistant Professor,
Department of Architecture

Many recent rapid urban developments in Hong Kong have marginalised local peripheral districts. This project aimed to engage with some local non-profit organisations, district councilors, rural groups and interest groups to explore the phenomenon of “urban edge” and to establish a knowledge sharing platform to explore how peripheral spaces of Hong Kong, fringe groups and marginal lifestyles can contribute back to our urban diversity. This project entails a series of public engagement sessions and an architectural installation to display findings from the engagement sessions.
Community Exhibition on Sustainable Design Practices
Ms Tris Kee, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture

Community Exhibition on Sustainable Design Practices aimed to exchange knowledge on sustainable design practices through a public exhibition. Sustainable design practice should be something understood as having a two-way effect to the society: it is a discipline that is shaped by sustainable practices and a practice shaped by the social, political and environmental sustainability. Therefore, while engaging members from different disciplines, district stakeholders, institutions, outside consultants and interest groups, the project will broaden the public’s knowledge on sustainable design practices that can benefit all sectors of the community.

Above: Division of Landscape students participated in some of the community events organized by Hong Kong Value Farm

Above: The project involved a number of community events, including seed planting prior to the exhibition opening

Above: The project is a design and build project exploring possibilities of using architectural interventions to promote ecological sustainability of roof top farming
KE Funding Impact Projects
2014-15

For the academic year 2014-2015, following 3 Impact Project Proposals of the Faculty were awarded KE Funding:

THE WARP: Rest Area and Roadside Market
Mr Olivier Ottevaere, Assistant Professor,
Mr John Lin, Associate Professor,
Department of Architecture

THE WARP is a rest area and roadside market built as part of a post-earthquake reconstruction in Ludian town, Yunnan, China. Situated in an ethnically diverse region with a Muslim majority population, the project serves as a meeting point and look out along the main entry road to this mountain village. The project provides three key spaces, stepped seating area for selling fruit and produce, a wooden deck for viewing and a covered resting and eating area. Formally, the deck extends toward the scenic valley, transforming from a straight line into a sine curve. Its peaks and valleys mimic the landscape while providing two mirrored spaces (above and below) for viewing and resting.

This is the third and final instalment in a series of timber projects for Yunnan Province: THE PINCH, THE SWEEP AND THE WARP. It is an exploration of low-cost timber construction in collaboration with a local timber workshop. Each project responds directly to its given site, trying to make best use of a single small structure to provide a maximum of community functions. Collectively the series explores the activities of buying and selling, bridging, resting, viewing, eating, reading, and playing.

THE WARP was built with the help of first year architecture students at The University of Hong Kong and funded through a Knowledge Exchange Grant and the Gallant Ho Experiential Learning Fund.
Historical construction works in Hong Kong
Dr Sun Wah Poon, Associate Professor,
Department of Real Estate and Construction

Whether to preserve and how to preserve the recently unearthed construction works, believed to have been built in Sung Dynasty, in the old Kai Tak Airport has been a hot topic in the Hong Kong community.

The project aims to provide a platform for knowledge exchange of our enriched construction heritage in Hong Kong among the construction professionals, history researchers and the general public with the provision of multiple channels of knowledge exchange such as leaflets, discussions, forums, seminars and guided tours on the captioned programme.
Charity School Prototype – Building Community Architecture in Cambodia
Ms Tris Kee, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture

This project utilises architectural knowledge to build charity school prototypes, study models and student workshops to exchange knowledge with both non-architectural and architectural students. The objective is to generate a series of analysis and prototype models to benefit a poverty stricken rural area in Takeo Province in Cambodia.

This is a project in progress in Thnouh Village in Takeo, Cambodia. The school design prototype will be equipped with 2 classrooms, kindergarten, library and playground, accommodating 200 students from the village. The school project is administered and carried out in collaboration with a student charity, Project Little Dream.
Thnouch School English class

University volunteers from Hong Kong join hands with Khmer volunteers

Help from university volunteers at library construction
Key Projects

A significant number of academic staff are actively involved in professional services, including the designing of, and planning for, community projects in China, Hong Kong, and Macau. Some of the key projects by staff members are as below:

The Pinch
Mr John Lin, Associate Professor,
Mr Olivier Ottevaere, Assistant Professor,
Department of Architecture

THE PINCH, a project by Faculty of Architecture staff members, Mr John Lin and Mr Olivier Ottevaere in Shuanghe Yunnan China, aimed at building a library and community centre in the village which was damaged in an earthquake.

The project won the “Best of the Best” award at the A&D Trophy Awards 2014 and the prestigious “Small Project of the Year 2014” award at the World Architecture Festival which is an annual festival and awards competition dedicated to celebrating and sharing architectural excellence from across the globe. The project was funded by The University of Hong Kong (HKU) Knowledge Exchange Fund in 2011/12.

As part of the government-led reconstruction work following the 2012 Yunnan earthquake in China, the team collaborated with a local timber factory and built a community library in a village damaged by the earthquake. The library and the surrounding plaza offer public space for villagers to meet and children to read and play.
The interior is a library where a hanging bookshelf is suspended from above.
The roof surface doubles as a play space and connection to the main plaza.

The interior is a library where a hanging bookshelf is suspended from above.
THE PINCH is a library and community center in Shuanghe Village, Yunnan Province, China. Owing to the earthquake, majority of the village houses were destroyed, leaving the residents living in tents for up to one year. After the earthquake the government has sponsored new concrete and brick houses and a large central plaza. During the first site visit, the houses remained incomplete and the plaza was a large empty site.

The University decided to sponsor the design and implementation of a new library building. Located in the new but empty public plaza, it would serve to activate the community and provide a physical memorial for the event. The site of the library is against a 4 meter high retaining wall. The design spans across this level difference and acts as a bridge between the rebuilt village and the new memorial plaza. Emphasising its location in a remote mountain valley, the design responds visually to the space of the valley, offering stunning views across a dramatic double curved roof. The structure itself rises to a peak, a monument to the earthquake and rebuilding effort.

As a Knowledge Exchange Project, the construction involves collaboration with a local timber manufacturing factory. The process resulted in the development of a surprisingly diverse form through simple means. A series of trusses is anchored between the upper road level and lower plaza level. The form of each truss changes to create both a gradual incline (to bring people down) and then a sharp upward pitch (to elevate the roof). The trusses were covered in an aluminum waterproofing layer and timber decking. On the interior, the trusses extend downward to support a floating bookshelf. Simple traditional school benches are used as chairs. The polycarbonate doors can open to create a completely open space extending out to the plaza. Rather than submitting to the abandonment of wood construction (as with the houses after the earthquake), the project reasserts the ability to build contemporary timber structures in remote areas of China.
Western Gateway - A New Landmark for Hong Kong
Professor Anthony Yeh, Chair Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Design

The Planning Team led by Professor Anthony Yeh has recently completed the Western Harbourfront Conceptual Master Plan (the Plan) for the Central and Western District Council. Western District has a long history of development. It is the oldest district in Hong Kong. The Master Plan aims to provide a short, medium and long term plan to regenerate the past glamour of the Western Harbourfront. It will make the Western Harbourfront to be an attractive, vibrant and accessible water front by improving its public open space and converting it into a Western Gateway – a new landmark of Hong Kong. The Plan involves a total of six hectares western harbourfront area with a length of about 2,400 meters.
The Western Harbourfront consists of the stretch of waterfront area in the Western District that includes the Western Wholesale Food Market, the Western District Public Cargo Working Area and the temporary Kennedy Town Bus Terminus at Shing Sai Street. This is one of the few remaining unplanned and underutilised prime waterfront sites in the Victoria Harbour which has tremendous potential for meeting local as well as strategic needs of Hong Kong. HKU’s Department of Urban Planning and Design has submitted the Plan that outlines a vision and strategy for revitalising the area for public uses and at the same time transforming it into a new iconic Western Gateway of Hong Kong to the Central and Western District Council for consultation and relevant government departments for consideration.
Through placemaking, the Plan will achieve a number of planning objectives including revitalising and transforming the Western Harbourfront to become the Western Gateway and new tourist attraction of Hong Kong, enhancing visual and physical access to the waterfront, increasing local and district open space provisions; and conserving and revitalising cultural and historical heritage.

The planning and design concept of the Plan is represented by “Three Scales” (i.e. Regional, City and Local) and “Three Concepts” (i.e. Beacon, Front and Join). This is manifested in three main subareas – the Piers, the Inner Harbour and the New Praya.

The Piers will be a territorial icon and marketplace themed on heritage, cultural and culinary arts. The water fountain garden and the iconic observation tower will enable visitors to enjoy the scenery of the Victoria Harbour and welcome visitors in the cruises entering and exiting the western side of the harbour, forming a new landmark of the Western Gateway of the Victoria Harbour. For the Inner Harbour, the waterfront fringe will be used to facilitate the public a close encounter with the water body. Amphitheatre will be set up for the public to watch performance staging at the floating stage and to enjoy the stunning sunset view. The Inner Harbour will become the performing and event hub for the city and gateway to the waterfront. For the New Praya, its design will cope with the existing development pattern of the existing waterfront. As land in this sub-area will be resumed for open space in stages, it is recommended that this continuous “space” to be reserved for public use. Besides traditional sports facilities like basketball court and cycling track, distinctive facilities such as Infiltration Garden and Urban Beach Plaza could also be set up to meet different needs of the citizens and visitors.

The Plan also adopts an Access Strategy which addresses the issue of constrained accessibility, with major proposals including a waterfront promenade that provides a continuous and much needed linkage with the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park at the east to form a continuous Central and Western waterfront promenade of Victoria Harbour. The Plan also proposes enhanced connections with the inland district with emphasis on pedestrian access. A bicycle path is also recommended in respond to desires of local community as revealed from various public consultations in the Western District.
Top: Existing Western Harbourfront (day time)
Middle: Existing Western Harbourfront (night time)
Bottom: New Praya
Edible Roof
Mr Matthew Pryor, Head and Assistant Professor,
Division of Landscape Architecture

Edible Roof is a manual for building and operating a productive roof garden in Hong Kong. Many city dwellers have a strong desire to grow their own vegetables and contribute to a more sustainable urban lifestyle, but lack the space to do so. At the same time, the city appears (from above) to be a mass of grey roof spaces.

Edible Roof gardens provide unique opportunities to activate underutilised roof spaces to farm within the physical constraints of the city, allowing people to reconnect with nature, enjoy a healthier lifestyle, promote social interaction, and give identity to their high rise communities. Edible roof gardens can increase the value and attractiveness of a property, address the requirement for green site coverage in new buildings, and contribute to green building certification.

Growing plants on a roof can be very different from ground level urban farming, so the Division of Landscape Architecture has run a two-year KE project to research and address the unique environmental and technical challenges of gardening on a roof, and to develop a comprehensive guide for interested individuals and community groups in Hong Kong to create and operate sustainable edible gardens on their building roofs, with minimal effort and expense.

The guide is based on the HKU Edible Roof that was constructed on the Runme Shaw Building in 2013 by a team from the Division of Landscape Architecture, and is now operated under the HKU Urban Farming initiative. The guide is due to be published in September 2015. The information generated has already been used to help a number of commercial and institutional organisations develop their own Edible Roofs, and has spun off into recent upcycle:recycle events and an experimental urban street farming exercise.
GROW AN EDIBLE ROOF
A manual on for planning, building and operating your own productive roof garden in Hong Kong

Published by
Division of Landscape Architecture
Faculty of Architecture
The University of Hong Kong

Cover of the Edible Roof book
Above pictures: Companion planting
Edible Roof is a simple idea but with the potential for creating many small scale projects which together can have very significant impact in Hong Kong and all high rise cities. More than just the presentation of existing disciplinary knowledge to the public, project has actively brought together disparate knowledge and ideas on green roofs, urban farming and community action and added new research to create a concise, practical body of knowledge that is empowering different communities to appropriate their roof spaces and use them to promote healthy living and a more sustainable urban environment.

The experiential learning from the Landscape Practicum which was core to the demonstration HKU Edible Roof project had a very positive impact on the students involved, giving practical expression to their technical studies.
Cost Escalation Study Report  
Professor Steve Rowlinson, Professor,  
Department of Real Estate and Construction

Professor Steve Rowlinson has been commissioned by the Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA) to study the reasons behind construction cost escalation in Hong Kong. The study aims to identify the sources and explain the causes of cost escalation in the construction industry in recent times. The study has culminated with the production of a “Cost Escalation Report” by Professor Rowlinson and a press conference organised by the HKCA on 1 Sep 2014. In the press conference, Dr Koh, with the authorisation from Professor Rowlinson, had presented the findings of the study to a group of HKCA senior committee members and media reporters including the reporters from the South China Morning Post, Ming Pao, Apple Daily, Oriental Daily ews, Ta Kung Pao, and The Sun. The study had also been presented to the HKCA’s Senior Management Committee Members and ordinary members in earlier occasions.

Construction cost concerns everyone, and the society pays the price for any escalation in construction cost. One consequence of rising construction cost is that Hong Kong is ranked as No 1 for ‘most unaffordable’ housing (South China Morning Post, 22 January 2014).

The findings provide a comprehensive picture of the causes behind the ever-increasing construction cost in Hong Kong. Therefore, the recommendations tackle not only symptoms but also root causes of construction cost escalation.

Research discloses the underlying sources and causes of construction cost escalation Hong Kong, and the findings and recommendations have been presented to the industry, and the society as a whole.

Findings reported by local news media, accepted by the industry and noticed at the legislative level. In a question concerning the rising construction cost, the Hon Abraham Shek cited the research findings in the Legislative Council on 20 November 2014. Recommendations are being considered by the industry in developing countermeasures.
Developers’ terms ‘pushing up building costs’

Industry boss says onerous demands and labour shortage make life tough

Hong Kong builders say increasingly onerous demands and "unfair" contractual terms imposed by developers have contributed to a sharp rise in cases that have helped make the city the most expensive place in the world for construction.

Seizing wages and strong demand due to massive public building projects had long been blamed for pushing up costs, but Thomas Fran, president of the Construction Association, said the industry was also suffering as developers shifted responsibilities to their contractors.

He said some developers demanded exceptionally long warranties — six cases as much as 50 years — and insisted maintenance services be provided for 10 or over 24 years, rather than the usual 20.

Some also demanded that contractors bear the risks and costs of delays, without any option to seek compensation from developers.

More worryingly, he said, some developers were passing more design-related work on to contractors, an activity some building companies were unqualified with.

"This will increase the risks borne by the contractors and will lead to higher costs. These risks should be shared by various parties," he said.

A survey by British consulting firm EC Harris last year found that Hong Kong had surpassed Switzerland and Denmark to have the world's highest construction costs, with registered civil engineers particularly hard-hit.

The association found rising costs — boosted by massive government infrastructure projects and public and private-sector homebuilding had driven the sector in the long run.

Labour costs rose 8% per cent in the past three years while material costs rose 5% per cent, an analysis commissioned for the association in June showed.

The study, by the University of Hong Kong, real estate and construction expert Professor Steve Rowlinson, showed that labour typically accounted for 20 to 35 per cent of the cost of construction, against 40 to 45 per cent for materials. The rest goes on management, insurance, overheads, risk contingencies and statutory requirements.

He repeated the association's warning that the industry faced a serious and mounting labour shortage, leaving it short of at least 10,000 workers. The industry has sought on easing of the visa on recruiting workers from overseas, which he described as too restrictive and inflexible to deal with sudden demand.

He said workers with experience dealing with construction and seen their pay increase by as much as 70 per cent in the last three years.

He said the government should return the US$1.3 billion per year it receives from the industry in reminding levies in the form of subsidies that would allow new employees to receive on-the-job training, instead of paying for three-year courses in construction.
Hong Kong Value Farm
Ms Tris Kee, Faculty of Architecture, Community Project Workshop
Mr Thomas Chung (CUHK)

Hong Kong Value Farm, by Assistant Professor Ms Tris Kee (HKU) and Mr Thomas Chung (CUHK), has been awarded the Academic Committee Award by the UABB (SZ) Academic Committee (including team members Terrence Riley and Professor Yung Ho Chang).
The idea of HK Value Farm evolved out of the intense curatorial dialogue between the Creative Director Ole Bouman and the architects’ interpretation to conceive Hong Kong’s contribution in the Shenzhen Architecture Biennale. The former Guangdong Float Glass Factory in Shekou was a platform to reproduce design “culture” within the city. The team reworked a piece of open ground within the factory premises to produce “nature”. Instead of designing “landscape” as an aestheticised “viewing of the land”, HK Value Farm as an exhibition is a living entity. For the local media, HK Value Farm was dubbed the “Little Hong Kong” in Shenzhen by manifesting Hong Kong spirit and the productive reworking of the site.

MTR West Island Line Mobile Application
Professor Lynne DiStefano, Adjunct Professor,
Dr Ho Yin Lee, Associate Professor,
Dr Cole Roskam, Assistant Professor,
Ms Tris Kee, Assistant Professor,
Department of Architecture
Ms Christina Lo, Lecturer,
Department of Urban Planning and Design

In collaboration with Faculty of Architecture at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) as one of the community stakeholders of the West Island Line, Mass Transit Railway Corporation (MTRC) implemented a series of public engagement programmes. MTRC joined hands with academics, students and community groups to go into the local areas to introduce the three new stations: Sai Ying Pun, HKU, and Kennedy Town. These new MTR stations will be equipped with new facilities and new artwork to inform the general public of the district’s historical heritage and art aspirations. A three-stage engagement programme has been undertaken to 1) nurture a group of university student ambassadors to assist the local districts to better understand the stations and their facilities; 2) to create a historical trail that will explain how the new stations are integrated into the local heritage; and 3) a public architecture exhibition which will display 3D installations featuring the evolution of MTR, and how our urban landscape changed over the years, balancing both new and old urban elements.
The “MTR West Island Line (WIL) Youth Ambassador Programme” was kicked off on 7 April 2014 at HKU. More than 50 HKU Students were officially appointed as youth ambassadors. Over the next few months, these energetic and enthusiastic youth ambassadors conducted visits to schools, elderly homes, residential buildings and community centres in Western District to promote the new features and station facilities of WIL. Before embarking on their mission, the students had undergone comprehensive training provided by MTRC.
A Study on Accommodation Requirements for Kindergartens
Professor Weijen Wang, Head and Professor,
Ms Tris Kee, Assistant Professor
Department of Architecture

The Committee on Free Kindergarten Education was set up to study and make recommendations to the Education Bureau on how to implement free kindergarten education practically. They sought consultants to research the optimal accommodation requirements for kindergartens in order to enhance the quality of kindergarten education through the provision of a more conducive physical environment for children’s learning and development.

The Community Project Workshop was commissioned to conduct the study in collaboration with the University of Hong Kong and Barrie Ho Architecture Interiors. The consultancy aims to propose options for accommodation requirements for future kindergartens.
Top: Spatial analysis
Bottom: Design proposal
The introduction of vertical transportation in historic buildings is one of the essential and unavoidable issues that has to be tackled by the field of conservation. There are projects of adaptive reuse being completed year after year. Commissioned by the Heritage Unit of the Architectural Services Department, the Community Project Workshop teamed up with LWK & Partners and BSA Consultants to carry out a technical study on the provision of vertical transportation in historic buildings.

The study irons out the considerations for vertical circulation, in compliance with conservation requirements as well as integrating different statutory, regulatory, and functional needs. Through comprehensive consultation exercises and detailed research, the study also aims to collect and share the qualities that bring about positive results and the innovations that successfully tackle constraints and restrictions. The final section of the study proposes a set of recommendations and guidelines summarising the findings in the form of a report.

Consultation exercises helped in the understanding of community and stakeholder concerns when tackling the conservation of historic buildings.
Site visit to new barrier free facilities
At the heart of Kwun Tong Commercial Area, Tsun Yip Street Playground is ideal for community participation and civic exchange. Under the initiative of Energizing Kowloon East by the HKSAR Government, Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay Industrial Area will be transformed into the second CBD of Hong Kong. The Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) initiated a series of studies and projects to look at how industrial heritage in the area would help inform the urban transformation process, recognising Tsun Yip Street Playground as an important open and public urban space that gives identity to the district by showcasing installations of public art.
Industrial heritage refers to both tangible and intangible things inherited from the past that shapes the present and the future. It implies a temporal and spatial continuity that helps stakeholders today. With the help of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, particularly in the museum and public art services, EKEO formed a team led by the Community Project Workshop of the Faculty of Architecture at HKU to oversee the curatorial planning of this installation project. Based on the information gathered in the Industrial Heritage Study, we curated the exhibition with a ‘timeline’ concept which is both informative, visually-pleasing and fun to play with. The timeline charted the development of the industries, the old brands that originates in Kwun Tong, the growth of the community and the evolution of Kwun Tong as one of the first satellite towns of Hong Kong.
A Comprehensive Study on Housing in an Ageing Community
Professor Rebecca Chiu, Head and Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Design

Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) commissioned the Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning (CUSUP) to conduct a study during July 2013 to March 2015 on housing in ageing communities with particular reference to Hong Kong. An interdisciplinary research team was formed and led by Professor Rebecca Chiu. The study aims to identify housing trends and needs of ageing communities and their implications, particularly on elderly housing provision and the future housing development trends of Hong Kong. It also examines housing and accommodation models arisen in ageing communities and recommend initiatives for Hong Kong to cope with housing and related needs arising from its ageing process.

In addition to collecting primary data by conducting survey, focus group discussion and interviews, and secondary data by researching into government records and the relevant literature, an international advisory panel was formed to gain deeper understanding and fuller interpretation of the housing development trends of foreign countries.

Altogether, the study proposes 34 recommendations to the government, the private sector and NGOs in general, and the Hong Kong Housing Society in particular. The research outcomes were used by the Hong Kong Housing Society in 2015 as a basis for formulating its medium term development strategy. The Summary Report has also been sent to various government bureaus and departments, and presentations will be made to organisations such as the Elderly Commission.
The Research Team:

Principal Investigator
Prof Rebecca L.H. Chiu  Professor  
Head, Dept. of Urban Planning and Design  
Director, Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning  
The University of Hong Kong

Co-investigators
Dr Ernest W.T. Chui  Associate Professor  
Dept. of Social Work and Social Administration  
The University of Hong Kong

Ms Tris Y.C. Kee  Director, Community Project Workshop  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Architecture  
The University of Hong Kong

Dr Terry Y. Lum  Director, Sau Po Center on Aging  
Associate Professor, Dept. of Social Work and Social Administration  
The University of Hong Kong

Prof Bo Sin Tang  Professor  
Dept. of Urban Planning and Design  
The University of Hong Kong

Ms Jacqueline K.H. Tse  Senior Research Assistant  
Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning  
The University of Hong Kong

Left: source: Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR  
Right: source: Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR
The Hong Kong Institute of Housing 25th Anniversary, Our Members Profiles and Credentials
Professor Rebecca Chiu, Head and Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Design

The Hong Kong Institute of Housing (HKIH) collaborated with the Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning (CUSUP) to study its members’ profiles and credentials during June to October 2013. Within CUSUP, the study was conducted by Professor Rebecca Chiu (Principal Investigator) and Dr Mandy Lau (Co-Investigator), both specialise in housing management and housing policy issues. The aims of the study were to ascertain the professional credentials of practicing property managers in Hong Kong for providing a basis for the future development of the property management profession and to identify the factors contributing to career development in the property management profession.

With the help of HKIH, a questionnaire consisted of 16 questions were distributed to all members through email.

(a) Professional/career status, notably work portfolios and experiences;
(b) Academic/professional qualifications; and
(c) Personal particulars including income.

The report gathered crucial data of the property management industry and practitioners. It helps to facilitate HKIH’s provision of comments and suggestions to the Home Affairs Department (HAD) on the licensing issues related to property management practitioners or the industry.
The Hong Kong Institute of Housing 25th Anniversary

Our Members Profiles and Credentials
Public Lectures

The Faculty organises regular public lectures which cover a broad range of topics. Distinguished academics and private practitioners are invited to share their expertise and knowledge with our students. These lectures provide great educational value as they complement classroom teaching by creating a link between theory and practice. Since the lectures are open not only to the HKU community but also the public, they provide a platform for sharing of knowledge and intellectual exchange. More than 110 public lectures were held over the past two years.

Conferences and Symposia

The Faculty’s 3 departments and 2 divisions participate in and organise conferences and symposia to present and discuss a wide range of topics with researchers and companies in the industry. Over 34 conferences and symposia were recorded up to May 2015.

Exhibitions

Apart from participating in exhibitions and symposia, the Faculty holds exhibitions and Degree shows over the course of the academic year. In the past years over 10 public exhibitions have been organised by various departments.

Media Exposures

Members from the media are always welcome to contact experts in our Faulty for expert opinions on issues that are of interest to the public. We believe this kind of sharing is an effective two-way flow of knowledge between the Faculty and the community. Over the last two years, there have been about 200 media reports.

For detail information, please visit www.arch.hku.hk/knowledge-exchange/