



Hong Kong, Wu Guanzhong 1990

HOW TO BUILD FOR HONG KONG?

A CHARTER FOR A SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE IN HONG KONG

INSTRUCTOR

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DESCRIPTION

The Design Studio aims to formulate and develop a specific and sustainable architecture for Hong Kong.

The studio will investigate architecture as an extension of a locale – Hong Kong. We will design architecture that is specific to the place where it belongs, in response to the challenges of its climate, history, economy, social landscape etc.

Today Hong Kong's public realm is scarce, harsh, overheated, polluted and nature is absent. Minuscule flats and outdated workspaces with noisy aircons force people into alienating shopping malls.

We believe it is urgent to redefine a relevant architecture for Hong Kong, and hopefully influence builders and policy makers in the city. The agenda for **a sustainable future for Hong Kong** should be to strive for:

- **a specific architecture** that nurtures the uniqueness of its culture;
- **a subtropical architecture** that creates comfort and wellbeing by passive means;
- **a green architecture** that brings nature back into the heart of our city; and
- **an engaged architecture** that gives back to the city and addresses social challenges.

The methodology of the Studio is both research-based and in perpetual pursuit of the Poetry of Space.

In the **first semester**, the students (in 4 groups of 3) will debate and craft a Charter for Hong Kong by studying and drawing relevant architectures relating to the 4 agendas. Local conditions and international references will be studied in parallel. Lectures and workshops will be organized around the topics. The research will be documented as “**Portraits for Hong Kong**”.

Based on the research, the students will collectively design an “**Ideal Hong Kong**” on a site at the seafront of East Kowloon. We will test and improve the Charter in the process. The goal is to arrive at a Charter for a new Hong Kong Architecture and a comprehensive pilot design.

In the second semester, students will work individually on their chosen programs and site (from a list of suggestions by the instructors) while applying the Charter. We will innovate with hybridity of programs. We will also encourage students to deal with the challenges of Hong Kong with tangible building designs set in intricate urban contexts.

The Charter will set the foundation of each project to design with purpose and complexity. Each project will generate its own narrative in responsive to the context, functional requirements, and aspirational vision.

The exercise is in no way intended to force a uniform architecture upon Hong Kong. We are just likeminded architects working on a shared agenda but telling our own stories – stories made of space, materiality and light. This array of projects will combine into “**Hong Kong Stories**”; a collection of case studies to showcase a sustainable future for the city.

To form a strong group statement, the drawing and representation aesthetics throughout the year will be aligned for all the students.

PROCESS

The step-by-step progression of the studio aims to prepare future architects in Hong Kong with a vision and with skills. We ask for critical thinking when processing research. We also focus to produce precise plans, sectional drawings, graphical 3D collages and models with a shared aesthetic.

In the **first semester**, students will follow a rigorous schedule of **6 modules**. We will ask students to work individually and as groups. These exercises involve design through thinking, seeing, drawing and making.

In the **second semester**, students will develop their own **Thesis Project** in Hong Kong based on the Charter and representation techniques developed in first semester.

Throughout the semester, a series of **events/activities** are planned in parallel:

- **Lectures** by international guest speakers will be organized in relation to the 4 agenda of the studio.
- There will be **Local Field Trips** to visit a few new buildings in Hong Kong. Students will have the chance to talk directly with the designers.
- In **Round Table**, we will discuss and debate for the Charter. Active participation from students is expected.
- **Design Charettes** will be arranged at major project milestones. In each Charette, architects of Henning Larsen will join for a full day of sketching, modeling, and debating.
- **Technical Workshops** are tutorial classes assisted by architects from Henning Larsen. Students will be introduced to different 2D and 3D computational tools and techniques. Presentation skills (oral and written) will also be emphasized throughout the year.
- We will invite consultants to provide **Multi-disciplinary External Advisory** to students on their thesis project. Consultants are from the field of structure, façade, sustainability, landscape etc.

The studio is organized into 3 parts:

1. Portraits for Hong Kong

Module 1: Case Studies (in group of 3)

Students will study 12 influential buildings that are relevant to our 4 agendas. Each group will analyze and draw the buildings with rigorously aligned graphics. Based on the research, we will draft the Charter together.

12 Buildings: Mahatma Gaudhi Memorial, Charles Correa
 Viettel Academy, VTN
 Moradas Infantis de Cannana, Aleph Zero
 Kampung Admiralty, WOHA
 Kandalama Hotel, Geoffrey Bawa
 Bosco Verticale, Stefano Boeri
 Xiangshan Campus of China Academy of Art, Wang Shu
 Museum of Islamic Art, IM Pei
 Manifesto City, Lacaton & Vassal
 Sao Paulo Museum of Art, Lina Bo Bardi
 (list to be developed)

Module 2: Hong Kong Imagery (in group of 3)

Students will capture their impression of Hong Kong by photography. Urban fabric, texture, color... of the city would be captured under the lenses. These will inform us what are the “ingredients” for Hong Kong’s imagery.

Module 3: Hong Kong in Representation (individual)

Each student will place a simple structure (Tower of Shadows by Le Corbusier, TBC) in Hong Kong and produce a 3D collage of it. The representation should capture Hong Kong’s characteristics and mood. This exercise will prepare the path for subsequent representations.

2. Ideal Hong Kong

Module 4: Masterplan (whole studio and in group of 3)

We will test out the Charter on a prominent seafront site in East Kowloon. An initial master planning exercise will define the vision of the public realm and determine the plots with programs. We will design the masterplan together in a Design Charette. Each group of students will contribute to different elements of the masterplan. After the Charette, the groups will work together to complete the masterplan with drawings, physical models and design guidelines (Charter).



East Kowloon Site

Module 5: Architectural Concept Design (individual)

Each student will design a building for a given plot in the masterplan. Elementary geometric figures will be privileged in order to focus on responding to the Charter. Students are encouraged to have dialogues to each other in the design process especially if they are neighbors in the masterplan.

Module 6: Charter for Hong Kong (whole studio and in group of 3)

The projects in Module 5 will be represented as a collective design where 2D and 3D documents will combine into large, shared drawings and model representing this utopia of an ideal Hong Kong. We will also finalize the Charter for Hong Kong.

3. Hong Kong Stories

12 projects and 12 narratives for Hong Kong.

Students will work individually for the whole 2nd semester on their Thesis, with own chosen programs and site. Each project should adopt the Charter. Each project should use the representation techniques developed in first semester.

With the agenda and the representation techniques considered beforehand, students will be able to concentrate on the user experience, the emotional narrative of their designs and on the quality of space, of daylight and materiality.

Technical workshops will be arranged to help students to advance at computational techniques.

Multidisciplinary external advisors (structure, façade, sustainability, landscape...) will be invited to provide spin doctor consulting to students.

DELIVERABLES

The studio will focus to produce effective and impactful representations to communicate design ideas. These will be in form of drawings, photographs, renders, collages, and physical models. A shared aesthetic will be developed in the first semester. Design output format will be aligned across the studio.

As a group, the studio will produce **3 booklets** that collectively promote future proofing and forwards thinking architecture in Hong Kong – **Portrait for Hong Kong**, **Ideal Hong Kong**, and **Hong Kong Stories**. It will send a strong message of how architecture could make a difference to the city and our everyday lives.

LEARNING OUTCOME

1. Ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements.
2. Adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences.
3. Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design.
4. Understanding of the relationship between people and buildings, and between buildings and their environment, and the need to relate buildings and the spaces between them to human needs and scale
5. Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project.
6. Ability to generate complex design proposals showing understanding of current architectural issues, originality in the application of subject knowledge and, where appropriate, to test new hypotheses and speculations.
7. Ability to evaluate and apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to test, analyse, critically appraise and explain design proposals.
8. Awareness of the theories and methods of inquiry that seek to show the relationship between human behaviour and the physical environment.

9. Understanding of the basic principles of sustainable development and architects' responsibilities with respect to the social, economic and environmental sustainability in architecture and urban design.
10. Understanding of the principles of structural behaviour in withstanding gravity and lateral forces, and the range and appropriate applications of contemporary structural system.
11. Ability to assemble a comprehensive programme for an architecture project, including:
12. Ability to respond to natural and built site characteristics in the development of a programme and design of a project.
13. Ability to work cooperatively with others in a team setting. Ability to discuss architectural ideas with non-architects, to listen objectively to their opinions and to consider those opinions in designing.
14. Ability to speak and write effectively on subject matters contained in the professional curriculum in English.
15. Ability to use appropriate representational media, such as drawings, models, diagrams, charts, including computer technology, to convey essential design information at each stage of the programming and design process.

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

1_Midterm Reviews (30%)

1. Midterm Review 1, October (10%)
2. Midterm Review 2, December (10%)
3. Midterm Review 3, March (10%)

2_Final Review (50%)

1. Final Project Presentation, May (50%)

3_Project Book (20%)

1. Project Book to have three parts: Position/ Technology / Process
2. To be started at the beginning of the year and reviewed throughout.

COURSE FORMAT

1_Group Work

1. Students are allowed to work in groups only the first semester.
2. The second semester will be all individual projects.

2_Teaching Days

1. The Design Studio will be taught two days a week Monday and Thursday 13:30 to 18:00

3_Studio Spaces

1. Each Studio will have their own space, accommodating a desk for each student
2. Layouts will be issued at the start of the academic year

FIELD TRIP

At present all foreign trips are suspended until further notice. If the COVID-19 situation improves, the school will inform the Design Studio tutors.

REQUIRED READINGS

Books:

The Singular Objects of Architecture, Jean Baudrillard, Jean Nouvel

Constructing a New Agenda – Architectural Theory 1993-2009, A. Krista Sykes, Editor

Reyner Banham – Historian of the Immediate Future, Nigel Whiteley

Towards a New Architecture, Le Corbusier

Critical Regionalism, Kenneth Frampton

The poetics of space, Gaston Bachelard

Films:

Dogme Films www.Dogme95.dk

IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENTS

Attendance

Class attendance is required in all courses. For an excused absence, the instructor must be notified and presented with documentation of illness or personal matter. Please note: **Three (3)** or more unexcused absences may result in a failing grade for the course.

Academic Honesty

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students may be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

Student Work

Submission of studio documentation must be complete and correctly formatted. Missing or incomplete submission of the documentation folder will result in the grade for the course being withheld. This will prevent registration for the following term or delay graduation. In addition, a grade deduction of *one letter grade* will be made.

SCHEDULE

Important Dates

SEMESTER 1

1_Midterm Reviews (30%)

Midterm Review 1, 25-29 October 2021 (10%)

Midterm Review 2, 06-10 December 2021(10%)

SEMESTER 2

Midterm Review 3, 01-04 March 2022 (10%)

2_Final Review (50%)

Final Project Presentation, 03-06 May 2022 (50%)

3_Project Book (20%)

Project Book to have three parts: Position/ Technology / Process, 13 May 2022 (20%)

Term 1: 6 September 2021 (Mon) – 4 December 2021 (Sat)

WEEK 01		
06.09	INTRODUCTION	STUDIO SELECTION
09.09		Results Announced Assign Module 1
WEEK 02		
13.09	Portraits for Hong Kong	Lecture #1: By Claude Godefroy & Elva Tang
16.09		Pin-up/Desk Crit
WEEK 03		
20.09		Lecture #2: Green Architecture in Singapore by Jelle Therry (TBC)
23.09		Module 1 Review Round Table: Drafting the Charter Assign Module 2
WEEK 04		
27.09		Lecture #3: Hong Kong Imagery by Kris Provoost (TBC)
30.09		Module 2 Review Assign Module 3
WEEK 05		
04.10		Lecture #4: Sustainability and Innovation by Jakob Strømmand-Andersen (TBC)
07.10		Module 3 Review Assign Module 4 + Site Visit

WEEK 06		
11.10	Ideal Hong Kong	Design Charette with Henning Larsen Architects
14.10		Chung Yeung Festival
WEEK 07		
18.10		Pin-up
21.10		Module 4 Review + Midterm Review Mock-up
WEEK 08		
25.10 – 29.10		MIDTERM REVIEW 1 (10%) Module 1-4
		Assign Module 5
WEEK 09		
01.11		Field Trip – French International School TKO
04.11		Pin-up/Desk Crit
WEEK 10		
08.11		Field Trip – Tai Po Hostel (TBC)
11.11		Pin-up/Desk Crit
WEEK 11		
15.11		Pin-up/Desk Crit
18.11		Module 5 Review Assign Module 6
WEEK 12		
22.11		Pin-up/Desk Crit
25.11		Pin-up/Desk Crit
WEEK 13		
29.11		Round Table: Finalizing the Charter
02.12		Module 6 Review + Midterm Review Mock-up

WEEK 14		
06.12 – 10.12		MIDTERM REVIEW 2 (10%) Module 4-6
		Assign Thesis Project

Term 2: 10 January 2022 (Mon) – 23 April 2022 (Sat)

WEEK 15 (2022)		
10.01	HK Stories	Pin-up: Presentation of Site, Program and Scenario
13.01		Pin-up/Desk Crit

WEEK 16		
17.01		Technical Workshop #1 (TBC)
20.01		Pin-up/Desk Crit

WEEK 17		
24.01		Technical Workshop #2 (TBC)
27.01		Pin-up/Desk Crit

WEEK 18		
31.01 – 05.02		Lunar New Year Vacation

WEEK 19		
07.02		Technical Workshop #3 (TBC)
10.02		Design Charette

WEEK 20		
14.02		Field Trip – Shaw Auditorium HKUST (TBC)
17.02		Pin-up/Desk Crit

WEEK 21		
21.02		Technical Workshop #4 (TBC)
24.02		Midterm Review Mock-up

WEEK 22		
01.03 – 04.03		MIDTERM REVIEW 3 (10%)
WEEK 23		
07.03		Pin-up/Desk Crit
10.03		Multidisciplinary external advisory #1 (TBC)
WEEK 24		
14.03		Pin-up/Desk Crit
17.03		Multidisciplinary external advisory #2 (TBC)
WEEK 25		
21.03		Pin-up/Desk Crit
24.03		Design Charette with Henning Larsen Architects
WEEK 26		
28.03		Pin-up/Desk Crit
31.03		Pin-up/Desk Crit
WEEK 27		
04.04		Pin-up/Desk Crit
07.04		Pin-up/Desk Crit
WEEK 28		
11.04		Pin-up/Desk Crit
14.04		Pin-up/Desk Crit
WEEK 29		
18.04		Easter Monday
WEEK 30		
25.04		Final Review Mock-up
28.04		Final Review Mock-up

WEEK 31		
02.05		The day following Labor Day
03.05-06.05		FINAL REVIEW (50%)

WEEK 32		
09.05		
13.05		PROJECT BOOK (20%)
		Project Book to have three parts: Position/ Technology / Process