Photograph by Michael Wolf

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOUR?
Reimagining Hong Kong's Collectivity through Housing

INSTRUCTOR
Simon HSU
hsu902@yahoo.com

Clover LEE
clover@plusclover.com

DESCRIPTION

"In the long arc, the city perhaps starts as a site of material exchange, then grows into a seat of knowledge and now positions itself as a nexus of experiences. The city is now understood as more than a collection of buildings and streets, as participatory world-building has shifted our sensibility and expectations from systems of control to frameworks of possibility."

John McMorrough, "Cities Read and Cities Written", *Another Kind – A Survey of the Possible City*

Hong Kong built over 2 million square meters in 2020, of which over 1.3million square meters is for domestic use, almost double the area for non-domestic use. Yet, the housing crisis continues. The government is addressing the shortage issue by re-appropriating land for housing projects in an attempt to solve the quantity problem; but what about the **quality** of the housing that has been built and that is being built in our city? Is the square footage that is built, spaces in which we want to live in? What is the architecture that defines us as a collective and have we, as architects, given up on imagining new possibilities?

The majority of the 1.3milion square meters of domestic use projects consist of large, single phase residential developments that rival the size of small towns. The majority of these projects are designed in two scales: the extra-large scale, where the tower and podium typology monopolizes the housing landscape; and the extra-small scale of the unit, where the unit layout plans are intricate puzzles that serve to maximize saleable area and minimize the imagination of habitation. Neither scales speak to the collectivity of the housing. As such, this studio seeks to mine the Medium scale in defining the collectivity of housing. This studio believes the medium scale is the central agent of change in exposing the values and ideals of us as a collective.

This year-long design research studio seeks to focus on seeing architecture as an active participant in shaping communal living. Instead of focusing on the individual housing units, this studio will focus on the communal aspects of housing. How do we live with each other? What are the spaces that defines us as a community? Not in a nostalgic lens, but embracing the scale of development that Hong Kong has expertise in building, but not designing. Instead of a profit driven model that focuses on quantifiable square footage of the units, we will focus on the qualitative aspects of the shared communal spaces. As such, this studio is optimistic — instead of focusing on housing as a means to solve a problem, it sees the design of housing as a means of imagining a better future.

PROCESS

The studio will consist of two parallel and simultaneous trajectories. The first trajectory involves intense **seeing**. Seeing through analysis, research and first person experiences. The second trajectory engages **iterative design** as a means to develop an architectural language that materializes the desired forms of collectivity. This studio will mine the Government's Lantau Tomorrow Vision, by using the proposed waters off Lantau Island as the site of the proposed collective housing. However, instead of assuming reclamation as the only means of generating new ground, this studio seeks new models of terra firma that will be an integral part of this new imagined collective.

Research (Module 1-3)

The first trajectory of **seeing** involves intense making, reading and living through different types of utopic and dystopic forms of collective housing and communities. This studio prioritizes the analyzing, reinterpreting and designing of historical precedence as part of the process of forming a narrative about collective living. This process of seeing is organized in pairs — pairs of topics with pairing modes of representation.
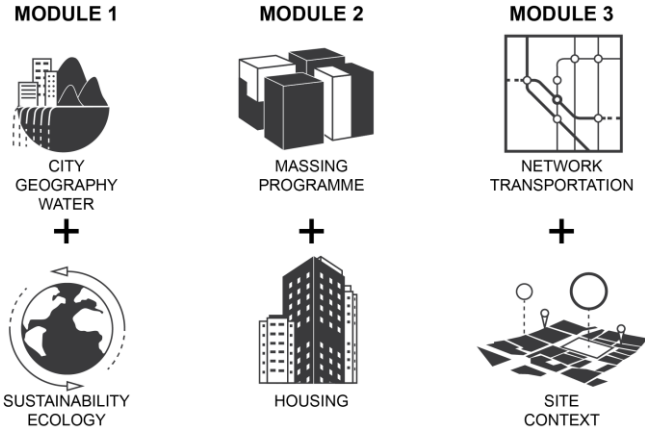
Design (Module 4-12)

The second trajectory involves the design and development of this urban narrative through **iterative design**, a design methodology based on a cyclical process of prototyping, testing, researching, analyzing and refining. The process and the design itself will be refined and changed through each iteration.
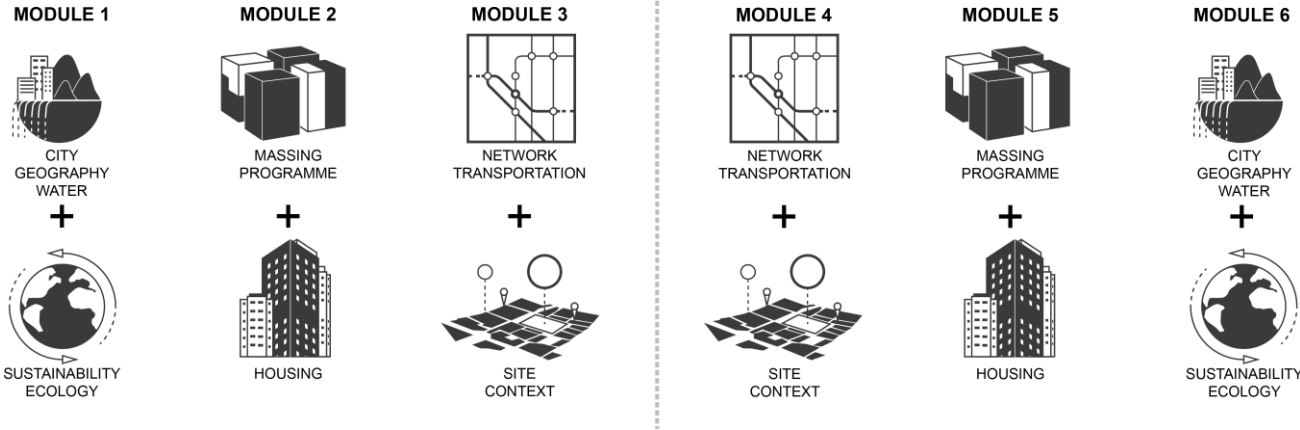
The notion of **scale** will be foregrounded throughout the design process. Taking on the problematics of large scale housing projects that challenges the traditional boundaries between architecture design and urban design, this studio will examine design opportunities that reside in the 'middle scale' by exploring the difference between *size* and *scale* – *volume* versus *vastness*, *capacity* versus *content*, *spread* versus *scope*. The studio will study the relationship between the scale of strategies and their methods of deployment in large-scale developments. We will address questions such as: Is there a one to one relationship between the scale of the diagram and the scale at which it is deployed? Can generative strategies be *scaleless* and deployed repetitively through out a large-scale project? What are the repercussions of scaling up versus repeating a strategy for a large-scale project?

Conversations

We will also be engaged in two parallel conversations. One is with Michelle Chang, Assistant Professor at Harvard Graduate School of Design. Michelle is working on a symposium and exhibition concerning Housing in Term 2 (Spring 2022). Our studio will provide a model of density and socio-economical context that is contrast to the American models of housing. The second conversation is with Albert Pope, Gus Wortham Professor at Rice University School of Architecture. Albert's research on emergent urban models have led him to the study of new towns of Hong Kong. He will be bringing his studio to Hong Kong in Term 2.

DELIVERABLES

This studio will focus on the design possibilities with the framework of physical models (versus digital ones) and axonometric drawings. The deliverables for the modules will follow this matrix:

		MODEL	**DRAWING**
Module 1-3	Research	Massing Utopias	Axonometric diagrams of Sustainable systems
		Massing Programme	Axonometric of Housing Geometries
		Massing City	Axonometric of Infrastructural Networks
Module 4-6	Concept	Site/Context Model	Transportation Connections
		Medium scale Geometry	Programme
		Matter and Materiality Model	Historical Narrative
Module 7-9	Design Iterations		

Final Requirements:
1. **Massing Models**
   Foam Massing models of specific scale TBD
   Photographs of models
2. **Physical Models**
   Sectional Models (Partial) at minimum 1:200
   Intersection models at minimum 1:100
3. **Axonometric Drawings**
   Analytical and Projective drawings and diagrams
   Various scales
4. **Utopian Visions**
   Capturing the qualitative aspects through exploring different modes of representation
5. **Performative Diagrams**
   Exploring quantifiable aspects such as sustainability, circulation, connectivity
6. **Drawings**
   Site minimum 1:1000
   Design minimum 1:200

*All 2D deliverables to be of the same format – A1 Landscape
*All 3D deliverables to be photographed

Project Book
Format:
1. InDesign Document
2. Bound hard copies

Content:
1. Position
2. Technology
3. Process

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 scal
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

"Arthur Erikson vs. The All Stars: The Battle for Bunker Hill"
Rem Koolhaas
Trace
Vol. 1 Issue 3 (July/Sept 1981), pp. 9-15

"Dialetical Utopias: On Santa Fe and Las Vegas"
Dave Hickey
Harvard Design Magazine
Winter Spring 1998, Number 4

The City of Tomorrow and Its Planning
Le Corbusier
Dover Publications, 1987

49 Cities
WORKac
Storefront for Art and Architecture, 2009

Resistant City: Histories, Maps and the Architecture of Development
Eunice Seng
World Scientific, 2020

Cities Without Ground
Adam Frampton, Jonathan Solomon, Clara Wong
ORO Editions, 2012

Occupy Housing
HKIA Journal Issue 72, 2016
https://www.hkia.net/uploads/en/publication/journal/HKIA_Journal_72.pdf

Occupy Commons
HKIA Journal Issue 73, 2017
https://www.hkia.net/uploads/en/publication/journal/HKIA_Journal_73.pdf

ARCH 5110_ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STUDIO I

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, 3-6 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		
16.09		Conversation with Eunice Seng, Author of "Resistant City: Histories, Maps And The Architecture Of Development"

WEEK 03		
20.09		
23.09		Hong Kong Foodie Tour

WEEK 04		
27.09		**Module 1 Presentation** Assign Module 2
30.09		

WEEK 05		
04.10		
07.10		Podium Walk 1

WEEK 06		
11.10		**Module 2 Presentation** Assign Module 3
14.10		Chung Yeung Festival

WEEK 07		
18.10		
21.10		Conversation with Jeroen van Ameijde

WEEK 08		
25.10 – 29.10		**MIDTERM REVIEW 1 (10%)** **Module 3 Presentation** Assign Module 4

WEEK 09		
01.11		
04.11		Podium Walk 2

WEEK 10		
08.11		**Module 4 Presentation** Assign Module 5
11.11		

	WEEK 11	
15.11		
18.11		Podium Walk 3

	WEEK 12	
22.11		**Module 5 Presentation** Assign Module 6
25.11		

	WEEK 13	
29.11		
02.12		

	WEEK 14	
06.12 – 10.12		**MIDTERM REVIEW 2 (10%)** **Module 6 Presentation** Assign Module 7

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

	WEEK 15 (2022)	
10.01		
13.01		

	WEEK 16	
17.01		
20.01		

	WEEK 17	
24.01		**Module 7 Presentation** Assign Module 8
27.01		

	WEEK 18	
31.01 – 05.02		**Lunar New Year Vacation**

WEEK 19		
07.02		
10.02		

WEEK 20		
14.02		**Module 8 Presentation** Assign Module 9
17.02		

WEEK 21		
21.02		
24.02		

WEEK 2**2**		
01.03 – 04.03		**MIDTERM REVIEW 3 (10%)** **Module 9 Presentation** Assign Module 10

WEEK 23		
07.03		
10.03		

WEEK 24		
14.03		
17.03		

WEEK 25		
21.03		**Module 10 Presentation** Assign Module 11
24.03		

WEEK 26		
28.03		
31.03		

ARCH 5110_ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STUDIO I

	WEEK 27	
04.04		**Module 11 Presentation** Final Production Starts
07.04		

	WEEK 28	
11.04		
14.04		

	WEEK 29	
18.04		**Easter Monday**

	WEEK 30	
25.04		
28.04		

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

	WEEK 32	
09.05		
13.05		**PROJECT BOOK (20%)**