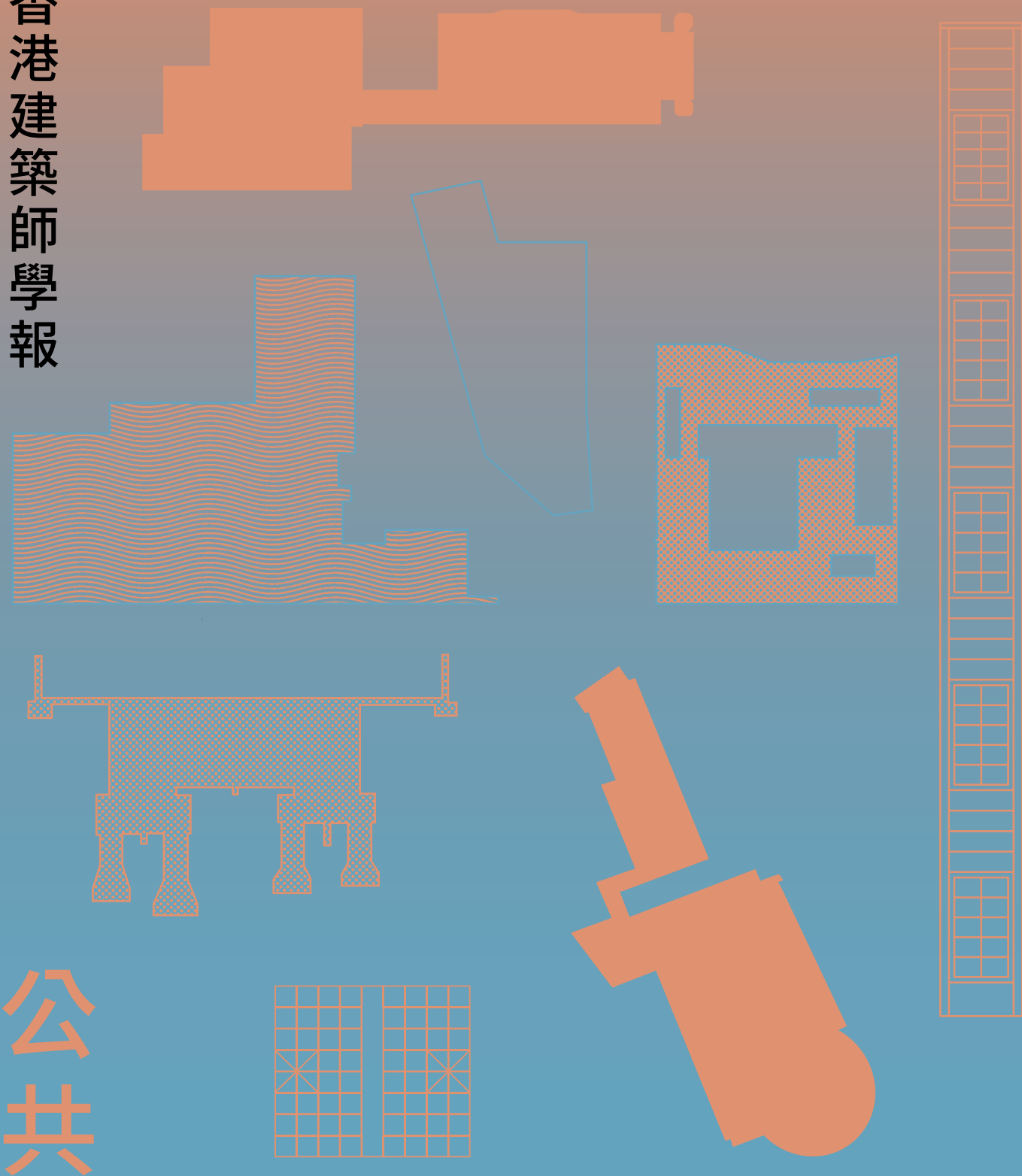




香港
建築師
學報



公共

Occupy Commons

President's Message

How time flies! The past 10 months were busy yet fruitful. The Institute covered a basket of events to advance architectural excellence, to promote the strength and services of our members as well as to connect, to communicate and to advocate for the common good of the profession and the community.

Riding on the success of REVEAL 2 exhibition at ArtisTree last year, we continue with a rolling thematic exhibition by HKIA members as 'PLAY to CHANGE' at the Oi! North Point, from February to November this year.

Furthermore the Venice Biennale 2016 Hong Kong Response Exhibition, which showcased the creativity of our young architects, was held at the same heritage venue in May.

In June, over 300 professionals and students from cities across the strait participated in the biennial HKIA Cross Strait Architectural Design Award and Symposium, to share the latest architectural development in the region.

In July, we welcome 140 new Members joining the HKIA family at the New Members Certificate Presentation Ceremony, the highest number ever through our Professional Assessment in a single year.

This year also sees a great advancement for HKIA in the international arena.

Upon invitation, I attended the first ever International Presidents Roundtable at RIBA London in July. Apart from enlightening exchanges on the latest global development of the architectural profession and the best practice, this direct dialogue among presidents of major architectural professional institutions opened up further opportunities for closer international collaboration in Accreditation and Mutual Recognition.

Together with the ARCASIA Conference in Jaipur, India in May and the UIA Assembly in Seoul, Korea in September, these three visits helped to strengthen connections with the regional as well as international professionals.

Encouraging progress has also been made on mainland issues.

I was invited by the Chief Executive as one of the Hong Kong official delegates for the International 'Belt and Road Initiatives' Forum in Beijing in May. The close involvement in this outward bound policy, and in parallel the 'Big Bay Area' development strategies, was significant for planning the way forward for our profession.

Subsequently in July the Council made a visit to the related Ministries and State organizations in Beijing. We were received by the Deputy Minister of MOHURD and had comprehensive exchanges with senior officials, for enhanced communication and mutual understanding.

Locally, the Institute had also proactively responded and met the leaders of various bureaux under the new government administration, in order to reflect our concerns and suggestions on relevant policy issues.

A Special General Meeting was convened in August to pass four motions in order to update the Rules of the Institute, Codes of Professional Conducts and Agreement between Client and Architect, in response to the latest professional practice.

With the continual support from the Editorial Team, led by Professor Wang Weijen and supported by Thomas Chung and Thomas Tsang, our HKIA Journal is thriving. This issue, themed as 'COMMONS', features articles on various commons, in and outside Hong Kong, and their uses, from different point of views. Through these exploratory endeavours, we look forward to extensive and comprehensive discussions on the provision of commons in society, thus spaces and buildings that could be enjoyed by all in Hong Kong.

I hope you enjoy reading.

With best wishes,
Marvin Chen 陳沐文

President The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

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Occupy Commons

公共香港

The second issue of **Occupy** explores Hong Kong's most tangible forms of Commons, its public space and public buildings. 'Commons' is a term that traces back to medieval England — as part of an estate, land open to the surrounding community for their enjoyment. By extension, commons denotes shared societal resources, or a common ground that celebrates our pride and accommodates the ordinary while allowing negotiation and reconciliation of different interests. It is the public realm that enables citizens to exchange ideas as well as to connect with one another and build meaningful civic relationships. In Hong Kong, this discussion also includes how we can conceive our everyday life beyond the dominance of the market and development-driven logic. More importantly, the idea of an “architecture of the Commons” promises to embody our collective action and aspirations to build a more inclusive, equitable and shared city.

Occupy Commons began with a fruitful forum with panellists representing private and public, professional and academic fields who appreciated our existing commons, lamented on what has been lost and considered what future we can envision for the profession and our city's emerging commons. Experiences and views on ingrained problems of institutional bureaucracy and technocratic expediency that plague the planning and production of our public spaces and buildings were aired, and bold alternative remedies tabled. In-depth discussions on topical issues and pertinent cases such as the planning of Central's 'Site 3' and the Yuen Long Footbridge in the New Territories helped to structure the contents of this issue.

Remaking Central and Bridging Locales are the two major sections reviewing critical issues and projects of our spatial commons. For **Central**, we revision its global impact while recognizing its historical and socio-political significance of both its colonial and postcolonial contexts. For 'local' districts, we identify prominent cases and typologies that support everyday life in different urban settings. We show how infrastructure, urban space and heritage have been deployed, appropriated and contested in the inventive making and remaking of public places at different scales – from streets, sky-bridges, escalators and public piers, to civic and municipal buildings and cultural projects.

Both sections also feature design projects as well as interviews with leading practitioners, including Rocco Yim, Raymond Fung and Stephen Tang who elaborate on their substantial involvement in major public architecture and urban projects of our city. In **Reflections**, Chung Wah Nan shares with us his thoughts on Hong Kong identity, design and tradition, while Chris Law muses on action research and contemporary practice. Other voices touch on public space provision, ownership and design guidelines, spatial politics and public art. **Platform** gathers initiatives and events campaigning for better public space and liveability.

Ultimately, 'Commons' is as much about shared material resources as it is the process of making, participating, sharing and renewing. We hope that this issue will open up a space within our discipline to interrogate established paradigms, and to be at once sensible and visionary, respectful of both context and connectivity, balancing accessibility with efficiency when it comes to creating meaningful architecture and common spaces for the utility and enjoyment of Hong Kong's 'commoners'.