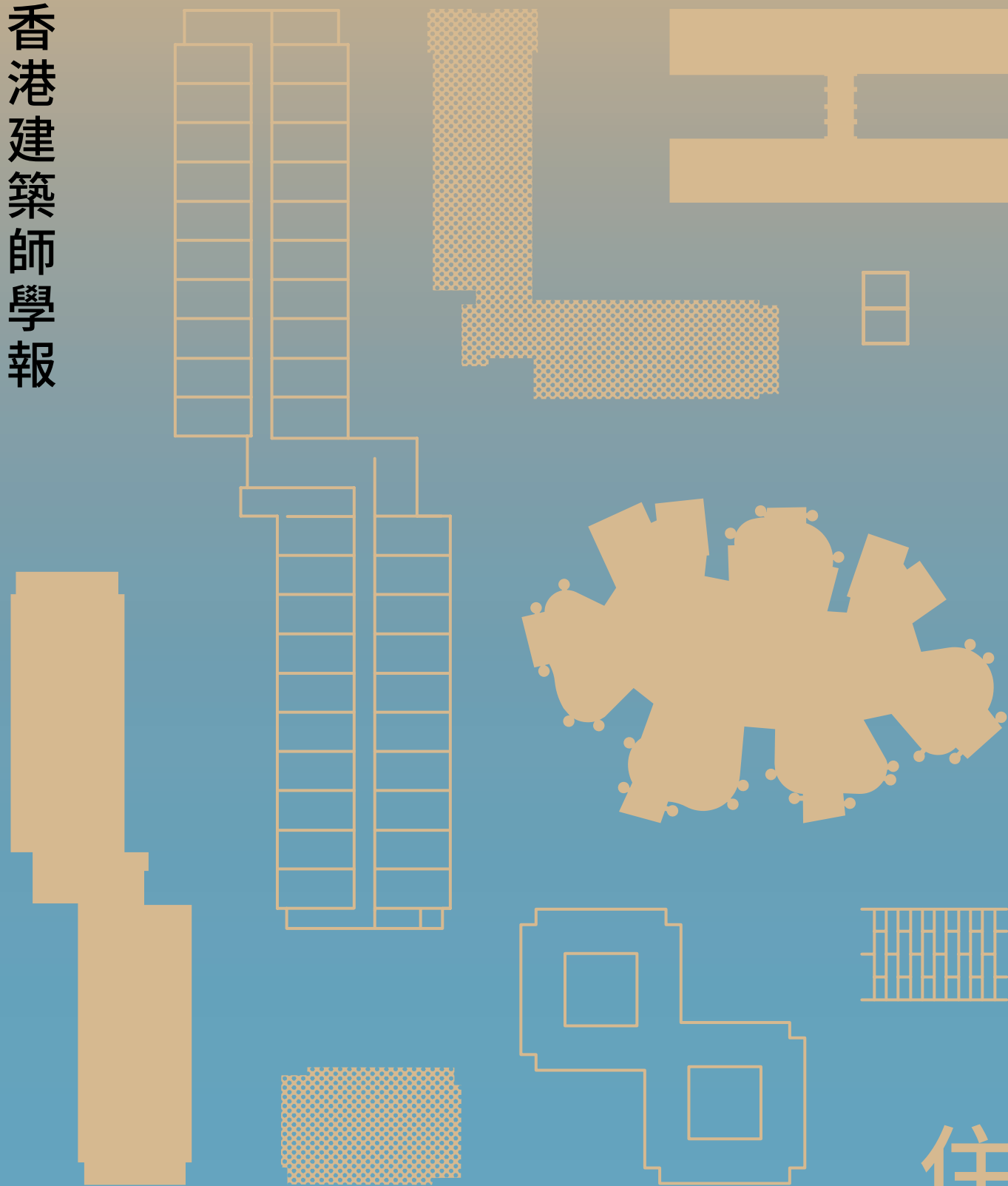




香港
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學報



Occupy Housing

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Dear HKIA

For the past 60 years, HKIA, whilst experiencing ups and downs together with Hong Kong, has been growing steadily as the city continuously developed. Thanks to my predecessors, our Past Presidents had unfailingly led the Institute with missions in upholding professional integrity and promoting architectural excellence.

During the term of my presidency 2015 – 2016, the Council has put substantial weight to motivate and mobilize members, especially the younger generation to explore abundant exciting opportunities in Hong Kong and beyond, which in turn help to sharpen our competitive edge. These initiatives include:

- HKIA Debut Exhibition in Taiwan – “Past. Present. Future – Tracking Hong Kong Architecture” (September – October 2015)
- Hong Kong Exhibition “Stratagems in Architecture: Hong Kong in Venice” as a Collateral Event of 15th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia (June – November 2016)
- HKIA REVEAL 2 Exhibition – For the City. For the Community (September 2016)
- Innovative Youth Housing Design Competition and Construction (July – December 2016)

The theme of this issue is **Occupy Housing**. You would be given a gist of the winning projects of Innovative Youth Housing Design Competition and Construction in this issue. On top of this, an Editorial Board led by Professor Weijen Wang and supported by two co-Chief Editors Thomas Tsang and Thomas Chung would give you a bird's-eye view on **Housing** development in Hong Kong.

Architects are sterling contributors to develop housing into a healthy, low-carbon, resource-efficient and smart metropolis that is in harmony with nature. In recent decades, we have been facing increasing expectation from clients, end-users, members and society. New values have emerged in the remit of heritage conservation, urban design, and sustainable environments. Our members are progressively contributing to our housing development by unleashing their creativities, initiatives and ambitions.

On behalf of the Institute, I would like to express sincere thanks to Editorial Director Professor Wang Weijen and his team for producing and delivering this wonderful journal.

I hope you will enjoy reading it.

With best wishes for the New Year!
Vincent NG Wing-shun, JP

HKIA President 2015 – 16

Index

President's Message / Vincent Ng
會長 / 吳永順

Editorial: Occupy Housing 3
Thomas Chung / Thomas Tsang
Weijen Wang
編輯: 香港住宅 / 鍾宏亮 曾慶豪 王維仁

Forum: Hong Kong Housing Room For Architecture? 12
論壇: 香港住宅還有建築嗎?

Modern 現代

A Conversation with Donald Liao 26
與廖本懷對話
Wah Fu Estate 34
Han Man / Thomas Chung
華富邨 韓曼 / 鍾宏亮

A Conversation with James Kinoshita 36
與木下一對話
Sui Wo Court / Han Man 39
穗禾苑 / 韓曼

Modern Estates in Hong Kong / Han Man
香港現代公屋 / 韓曼
Choi Hung 彩虹邨 42
North Point 北角邨 44
So Uk 蘇屋邨 46

Affordability as the Inspiration of Design for Public Housing 48
Gu Daqing 經濟適用原則:
香港現代公共住宅的設計理念 / 顧大慶

Contemporary 當代

Home for All: Interview with Rosman Wai on Public Housing 62
給所有人的家: 衛翠芷談香港公屋

Housing Projects in Hong Kong:
香港住宅:
The Tanner Hill 丹拿山 65
6A Bowen Road 6A 寶雲道 66
Hollywood Terrace 荷李活華庭 67
Eight Kwai Fong 8 桂芳街 68

Mega-Housing Urban Form in New Towns of Hong Kong 70
Ryo Fujimori / Weijen Wang
香港新市鎮巨構住宅的城市形態 / 藤森亮 王維仁

Reflections 思考

Can NGOs still provide affordable Homes to Hong Kong? 76
Carmen Tsui
非政府組織能否繼續為香港提供公屋? / 徐頌雯

A Call for Housing beyond Uniformity 80
Tihamer Salij / The Why Factory
超越單調性的住宅

Keeping it grounded / Phoebe Kung 86
維持在地性 / 龔棋樂

Spaces of Capital / Keith Hui 89
資本的空間 / 許鍵鋒

Cities of Repetition 92
Christian J. Lange / Jason F. Carlow
重複的城市

Home Modification for low-income families in Hong Kong / DOMAT 94
改良香港低收入家居 / 多磨建社

A User-led In-Situ Housing Upgrade Approach / Sam Cheng 96
用戶主導的住宅升級 / 鄭兆泰

Beyond Hong Kong's Podium-tower model? 98
Weijen Wang / Thomas Chung
超越香港的塔樓群樓模式? 王維仁 / 鍾宏亮

Mailen Apartment 美倫服務公寓 100
PopMOMA 101
Tulou Collective Housing 土樓公舍 102
Linked Hybrid 103

The Pinnacle @ Duxton 104
SkyVille @ Dawson 105
SkyTerrace @ Dawson 106

Made in Taiwan or Home in Taiwan / JUT Foundation 107
Thomas Tsang 台灣製造或台灣住宅
忠泰文化基金會 / 曾慶豪

Platform 平台

HKIA Innovative Youth Housing Design Competition and Construction 110
香港建築師學會創意青年住屋設計比賽

Book Review: Hong Kong Architecture 1945—2015 by Charlie Xue / Sun Cong 116
書評: 香港建築: 1945—2015 薛求理著 / 孫聰

HKIA 60th Anniversary 118
香港建築師學會60週年 Events 活動

Occupy Housing

香港住宅

A new journal from Hong Kong by the Institute of Architects situates itself within the city's complex landscape of densities, intensities and contrasts. Each issue addresses a single topic, documenting its trajectory as well as gathering contemporary narratives and practices from its home city. Engaging fundamental architectural issues from which to consider the cultural, economic, technological and socio-political changes we are confronting, **Occupy** seeks multiple perspectives and critical reflections in order to propagate architectural zeitgeists for the region. Aspiring to inaugurate a collective discourse on architecture for Hong Kong, **Occupy** strives to make room for posing vigilant questions on architecture and urbanism to the world.

Occupy Housing

The first issue of **Occupy** is dedicated to housing. Architecture plays many essential roles in the fabric of the built environment, but with expanding populations and chronic shortages in affordable housing facing every global city, it is the perennial inadequacy of equitable provision of shelter for all that is arguably the discipline's ultimate exigency in the 21st century urban reality. Hong Kong has once been held up as a remarkable exemplar in tackling such issues with significant efforts; yet if housing is to retain its key influence and relevance in addressing our city's rising discontent and increasingly polarized social tensions, it is high time to reflect on what have we achieved, and contemplate what we can envision for the betterment of Hong Kong's architecture and urbanism through housing design.

Occupy Housing 2016 began by hosting a forum with fellow architects that asked, "Is there still room for architecture in Hong Kong's housing?" Recognizing Hong Kong's early accomplishments in modern housing provision, we interviewed Donald Liao and James Kinoshita, while through Gu Daqing's research at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, we reviewed the significant architectural contribution of public housing projects of in the city's "early modern" era. Foregrounding the condition of Hong Kong's contemporary housing, we spoke with Rosman Wai who shared her views on current public housing strategies, while also outlining relatively recent award-winning private projects working with the city's dense urban fabric.

In the subsequent essays of reflection, we not only posed questions through institutional and social-economical perspectives, we also intended to ask ourselves: in addition to innovative practices of urban infill or furniture installations, beyond the podium-tower typology and tactics of uniform extrusion and modular assemblage, do we still have room for architectural design in large scale housing? Why are there still opportunities for architecture in housing for places like Singapore and China, and why developers in Taipei are still making an effort to "imagine homes" through housing design in the near future? Between the hegemony of capital and bureaucratic management, how can we continue to foster more inclusive design in Hong Kong's housing?

When it comes to discussing housing, opinion often separates into two distinct camps. One is to highlight the good intentions of architectural strategies that try to provide adequate, measurable solutions while not raising one's head above the parapet of ideology. The other is to lay the blame on wider socio-political and economic conditions as the core of problem and not architecture itself. Which side should we take? How can we comply with the myriad constraints in current housing practice demanded from developers and the authorities, while still being able to effectively strategize housing as a vehicle for an equitable urban commons through design? We continue in our search for modes of practice that clear away obstacles in the way of architects implementing thoughtful designs, because without architectural imagination, housing would cease to occupy its proactive role in offering enduring dwelling in the city.