

Community

**Project
Workshop**

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG 香港大學
faculty of architecture 建築學院

Introduction

The Faculty of Architecture at The University of Hong Kong is a comprehensive school of architecture, renowned for its teaching, research and community engagement. A significant number of academic staff are actively involved in professional services, including the designing of, and planning for, community projects. They are also engaged in a broad range of community-based projects in China, Hong Kong, and Macau. A recent example of the Faculty's involvement in a community project is the Sichuan-Hanwang Memorial Site Vision Plan, prepared in partnership with Beijing Normal University. This plan served as the catalyst for the establishment of the Community Project Workshop (CPW) - 香港大學建築學院社區項目工作坊.

The CPW provides design and consultancy services to government and non-government organizations, and undertakes other non-commercial projects requiring interdisciplinary expertise drawn from all the disciplines of the Faculty: Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Real Estate and Construction; and Urban Planning and Design. We also reach out to other faculties within the University and external consultants, as required.

The CPW has developed consultant teams that critically evaluate, analyze, and synthesize the problems in a 'real-life' project context. The teams are comprised of academic staff members from the Faculty, outside professionals, university students and community representatives. These community projects undertaken by the CPW are aimed to cope with the pressing and changing community's needs in our society. CPW teams consider the rationale behind the current design and planning concepts of each community project, generating sensitive and practical design ideas. We adopt an interactive / participatory approach in order to meet the specific objectives of the community, leading to a continuous process of discussion and feedback in order to determine a community's aspirations and needs.

Community Project Workshop

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CPW Objectives

1. To provide design and consultancy services to government and non-governmental organizations;
2. To undertake other non-commercial projects that require the expertise of the Faculty of Architecture;
3. To foster the development of core competencies in applied research and development in relation to the Faculty of Architecture at The University of Hong Kong;
4. To engage in projects targeted at serving community needs;
5. To carry out research and design in planning and built projects;
6. To organize and conduct conferences, seminars, exhibitions, training courses and overseas missions relating to any aspect of the Faculty of Architecture.

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Project Aspiration

The CPW serves as an independent entity, ensuring quick and efficient communication with local organizations, such as the District Boards. Furthermore, under the centralized entity of CPW, management and resource allocation is agile and effective.

Every project undertaken includes a complete project team comprised of academic staff from the University, including planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers, conservationists, building surveyors, and urban designers. The team brings a highly professional and multi-disciplinary approach to the complex issues of site interpretation and sustainable reconstruction and is dedicated to working together with the government or relevant parties to develop the projects in a sustainable, yet visionary manner.

Services Offered

- Feasibility Study
- Vision Plan
- Design Inception Plan
- Outline Schematic Proposal
- Master Plan
- Architectural Schematic Design
- Landscape Schematic Design
- Environmental Engineering Review
- Cost Analysis
- Analytical Report
- Model Study
- Geological Study
- Historical / Conservation Study
- Environmental Study
- Coordination with local Design Institutes
- Government / Public Consultation
- Government / Public Presentation
- Seminar
- Exhibition

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Selected Recent Community Projects by the Faculty of Architecture

Faculty of Architecture at The University of Hong Kong has extensive experience in projects which are community-based. Some of the recent projects undertaken by the staff of the Faculty are highlighted below:

The Sichuan - Hanwang Memorial Site Vision Plan

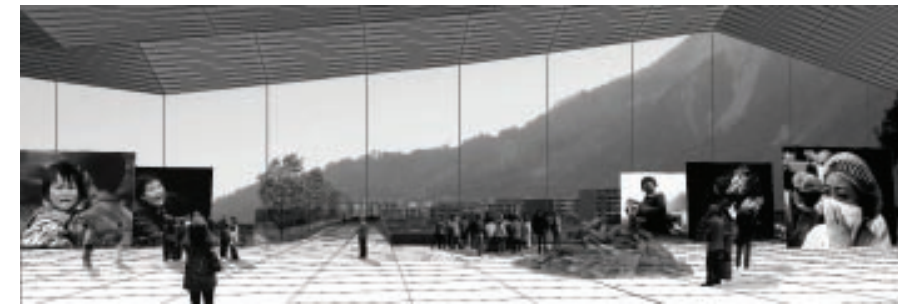
The Sichuan-Hanwang Memorial Site Vision Plan is an initiative for the creation of a dignified living monument on the site of the Township of Hanwang. It is being carried out by the Faculty of Architecture at The University of Hong Kong in partnership with Beijing Normal University. Our approach to the project is comprehensive, interdisciplinary and involves renowned experts in architecture, conservation, construction, landscape architecture, real estate, and urban planning.

The Three Elements of the Vision Plan are: a Memorial Park incorporating the devastated areas of the City; an Interpretive Centre for visitors – fully integrated with a Data Repository and Resource Centre for the 512 earthquake; and an International Rescue Training Facility utilizing the ruins of the city in its programs.

These three Elements will each play a pivotal role in the overall design objective for the site – which is ‘time-based’ and represents the future of the site as a national and international destination. The Memorial Park is dedicated to remembrance, and learning from the past; the Interpretive Centre strives to create meaning for the overall site relevant to the present; and the International Rescue Training Facility will help to ensure that society is always ready for unforeseen events.

The Vision Plan's overarching concept is the creation of a permanent Commemorative Landscape – a landscape capable of revealing the mosaic of unfolding human stories set in motion on 512. This will be achieved by crafting the character of the spaces that will commemorate this shattering tragedy. The Memorial Park, which is the heart of the Commemorative Landscape, respects and frames the surrounding natural landscape in a new and dignified manner, and establishes a renewed harmony between society and nature - one built upon the tragedy of 512.

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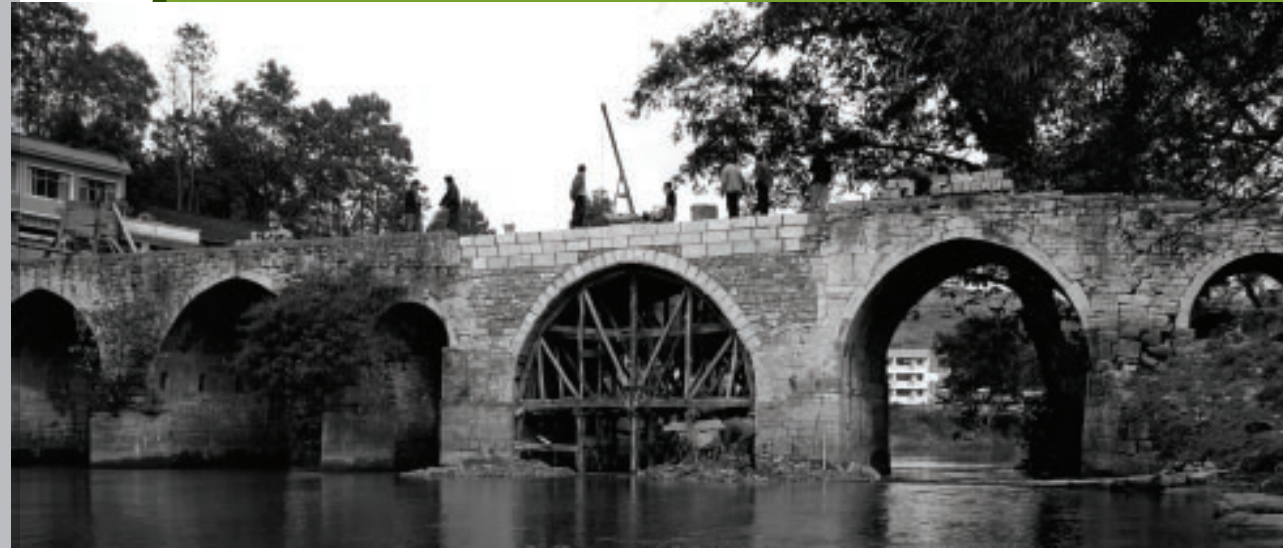
Tai Ping Old Bridge Project

The Tai Ping Old Bridge Project concerns the renovation of a 200-year-old bridge in the province of Guizhou, China. This Project involves a team of students from the Faculty of Architecture led by Assistant Professor John Lin, in a collaborative effort with the Wu Zhi Qiao Foundation of Hong Kong. Together they have worked with students of Architecture and Civil Engineering professors from Chongqing University to rebuild one span of the masonry bridge by pre-cast concrete blocks.

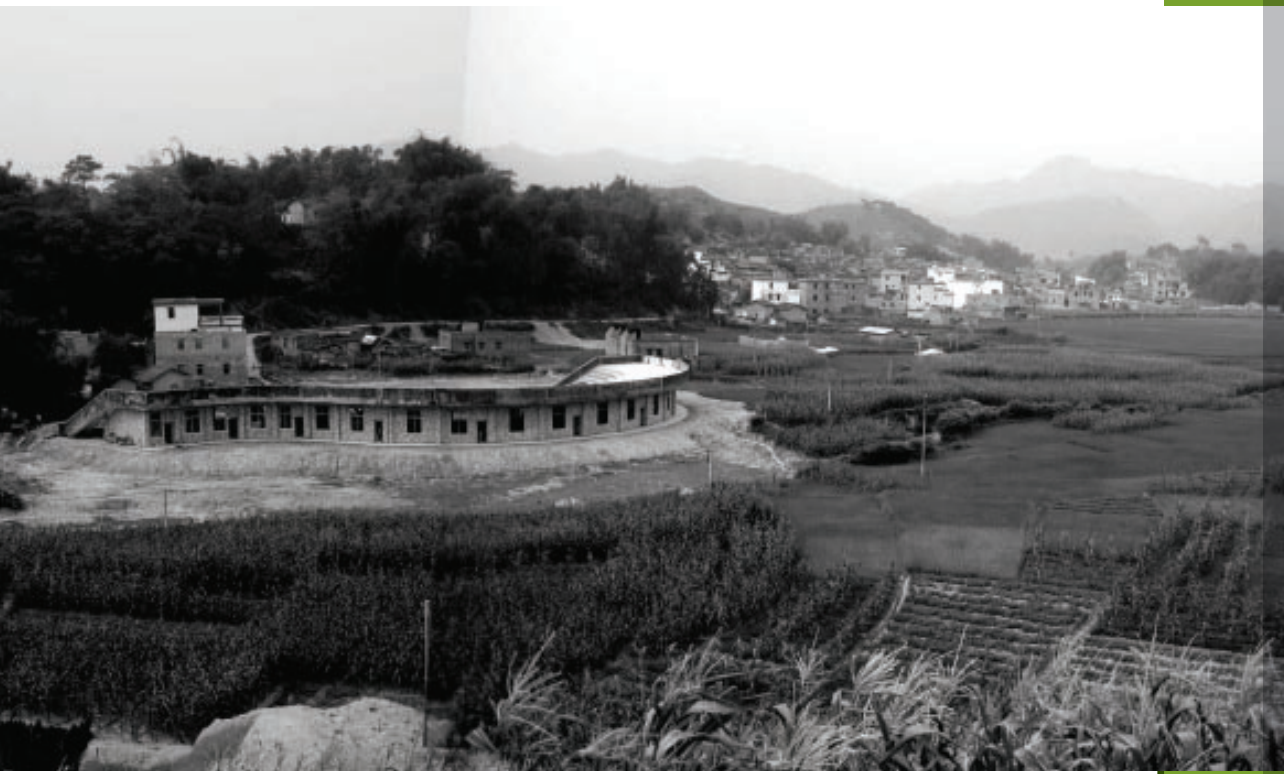
The later stages of this Project will involve the design and manufacture of various concrete blocks which provide not only ground paving, but also seating and planting areas for the surface of the bridge. The surface renovation was completed in July 2009 by a team of volunteer students from The University of Hong Kong.



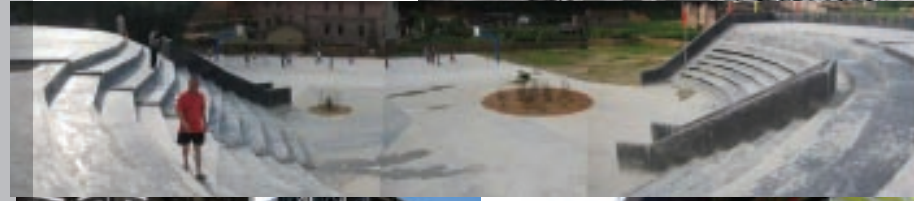
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Qinmo Village School Project

Initiated in 2006 as part of a design workshop to re-think the standard three-storey concrete buildings which are typically donated as schools in rural areas of China, Assistant Professor John Lin has designed the Qinmo Village School Project which is nearing completion with the recent construction of the library interior. The emphasis of the design is on sustainability and ecological responsibility. Today, the full scope of this Project involves seven different projects which are funded individually by charitable organizations from Hong Kong. Every building project is coupled with a program initiative that emphasizes the education of villagers, whether it is through a school roof garden as an alternative teaching facility or the demonstration eco-household farm.

03



School Campus Rebuilding Projects in Taiwan

A devastating earthquake struck central Taiwan on 20 September 1999. The earthquake resulted in massive destruction to property and loss of life, causing billions of dollars in damages. The Ministry of Education of Taiwan invited designs for rebuilding campuses that were left in ruins after this earthquake.

A competition was held to adjudge the best designs – these award-winning designs were then commissioned and built. All the buildings that were constructed subsequent to the earthquake were more closely monitored to ensure that future earthquakes would not cause such large-scale destruction and loss of life. One of the most severely damaged schools was the Gungfu Junior High School. Today this junior school is the site of the National Museum of Natural Science's 921 Earthquake Museum of Taiwan.

Mr. Weijen Wang, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Architecture at The University of Hong Kong won awards for his submitted designs which were subsequently built. In 2002, all these designs were exhibited in the Far East Architecture Award Exhibition for Ten Architects, Taipei Museum of Modern Art, Taiwan.

04

Chongken Primary School, Taichung

The design was awarded 1st place in the competition. It also won the Merit Award, Far East Architecture Award, Taiwan in 2001.

Fuming Primary School, Taichung

This design was awarded 1st place in the competition and was awarded the Far East Architecture Award, Taiwan in 2003.

Guanglong Primary School, Taichung

Apart from being awarded 1st place in the main competition, it also won the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Merit Design Award

The designs took six to nine months, while the actual construction was completed in one year. Funding for the project came from the Taiwan Government, Red Cross, and donations from the industry and corporate firms.

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Beichuan Middle School Building in Sichuan

05

After the 512 earthquake in Sichuan, rehabilitation of derelict buildings is being carried out. Mr. Weijen Wang, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Architecture at The University of Hong Kong has conducted a design studio to rebuild the Beichuan Middle School. This studio work is being carried out by students of the Faculty of Architecture jointly with MIT students as part of their Architecture and Urban Design Project.



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Heritage Conservation Expertise

Conservation is now recognized worldwide as an important component of sustainable development, particularly in cities undergoing rapid development. There is increasing demand and scope for research and practice in conservation as cities around the world recognize the need for more rigorous professional requirements based on international best-practice standards specified in international charters and conventions.

The Architectural Conservation Program (ACP) was established in 2000 as a self-funded postgraduate program in the Faculty of Architecture to meet the growing professional need for integrating the discipline of conservation in the fields of architecture, construction management, facilities management, landscape architecture, real estate management, surveying, and urban planning and design.

ACP has become internationally recognized as a leading academic program for training professionals in conservation through its active research and educational collaborations with universities, government agencies, and intergovernmental organizations that set international standards in conservation best practice, such as UNESCO, ICOMOS and ICCROM. The program receives students from both the private practice and the civil service in Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas. Students and staff participate in a number of conservation projects and research worldwide.



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