



HKIUD Conference 2012

Urban Design on Public Policy

Public Policy Conducive to Urban Design in Hong Kong

31 March 2012

Presentation by Mrs Carrie Lam
Secretary for Development
Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



- 
- Urban design is the **art** of creating and shaping cities and towns
 - Urban design **blends** architecture, landscape architecture, and city planning together to make urban areas **functional** and **attractive**
 - Urban design is about **making connections** between people and places
 - Urban design creates a sense of **place**, a sense of **belonging**, a sense of **pride**

- Urban design is how we translate **social**, **cultural** and **political** aspirations of people into built form in cities



Public policies conducive to urban design

- Progressive Development and emphasis on quality city, quality life

“By ‘*Progressive Development*’ I mean overall progress rather than economic development alone. Apart from economic benefits, we should strive for benefits to culture, the society and the environment... sustainable, balanced and diversified development.”

(The Chief Executive’s 2007-08 Policy Address in October 2007)



Mr Donald Tsang
The Chief Executive of HKSAR



Public policies conducive to urban design

(Cont'd)

- Institutional Improvements
 - City planning and Infrastructure under one roof
 - Mission-driven agencies :
 - Commissioner for Heritage's Office
 - Harbour Unit
 - Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section
 - Kai Tak Office
 - Energising Kowloon East Office

Public policies conducive to urban design

(Cont'd)

- Heritage Conservation made an integral part of city development



Central Police Station Compound



Tai Yuen Street Bazaar



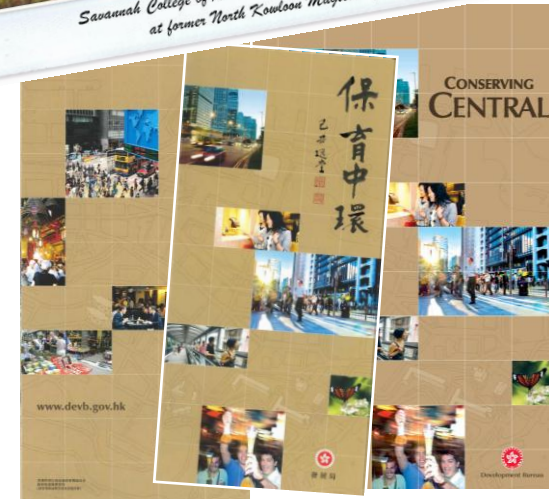
*Savannah College of Art and Design Hong Kong Campus
at former North Kowloon Magistracy*



Central Market



Tai O Heritage Hotel



Public policies conducive to urban design

(Cont'd)

- Harbourfront Enhancement :
accessibility and design meeting peoples' aspirations



Harbour protection group vows to take reclamation fight all the way

Activists say they are prepared to go to the Court of Final Appeal to stop the plan

2003.1.15 SCMP

Harbour reclamation 'will create Victoria River'

2003.4.8 Standard

Hundreds turn out for harbour protest

Organisers decide to continue campaign despite the government's backdown

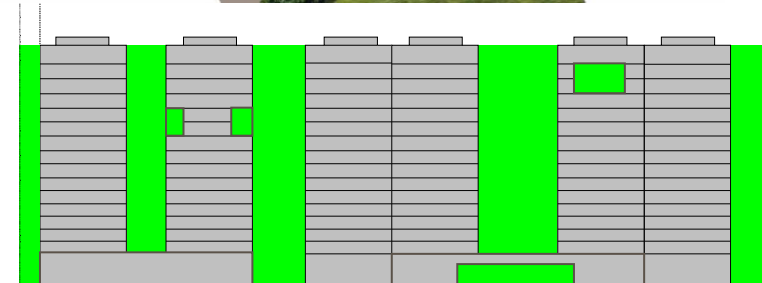
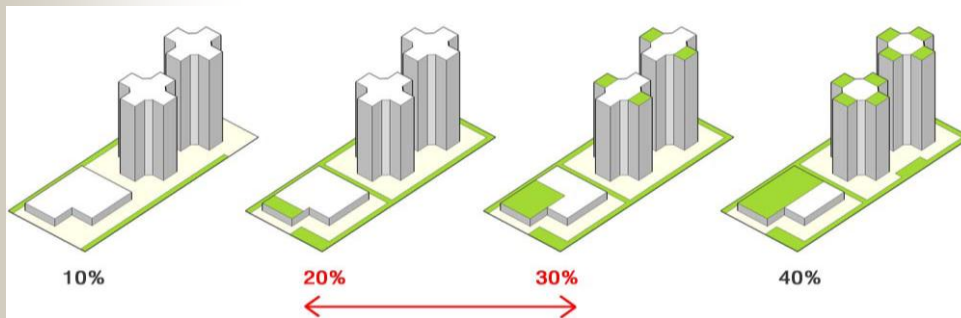
2003.9.29 SCMP

Public policies conducive to urban design

(Cont'd)

■ Sustainable and Quality Built Environment Policy implemented since April 2011

- Building separation
- Building setback
- Green coverage
- GFA concession

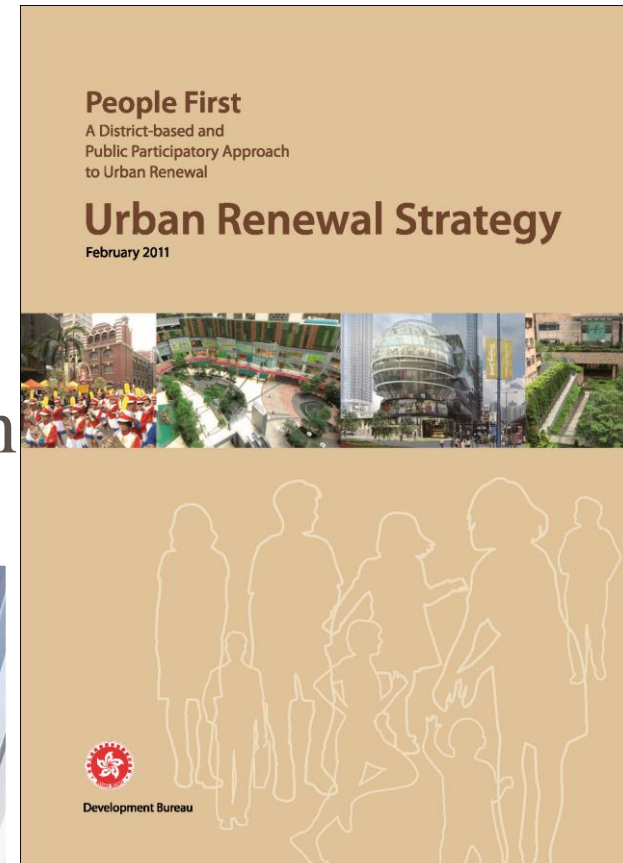
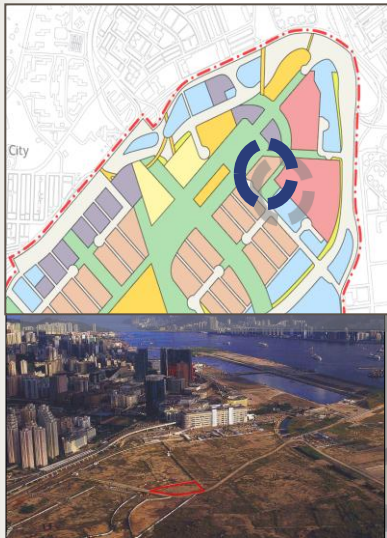


Green parts represent acceptable building separation / permeable elements

Public policies conducive to urban design

(Cont'd)

- New Urban Renewal Strategy adopted since Feb 2011
 - Bottom-up, district-based approach in urban regeneration – District Urban Renewal Forums



Public policies conducive to urban design

(Cont'd)

- Public open space in private developments
 - New design guidelines
 - New management guidelines
 - Preserve room and flexibility for private sector involvement



Public policies conducive to urban design

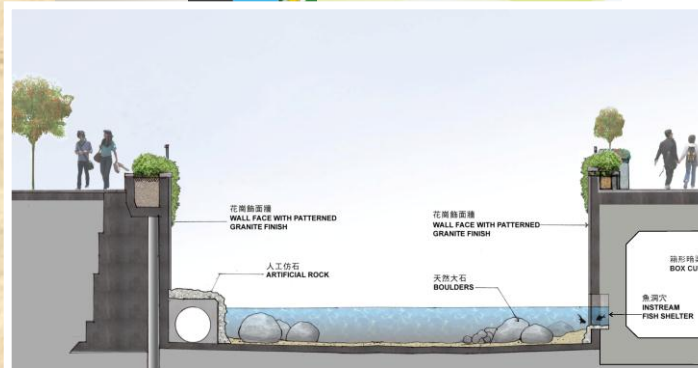
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Public engagement and civic education



Examples of urban design driving planning changes and infrastructural changes

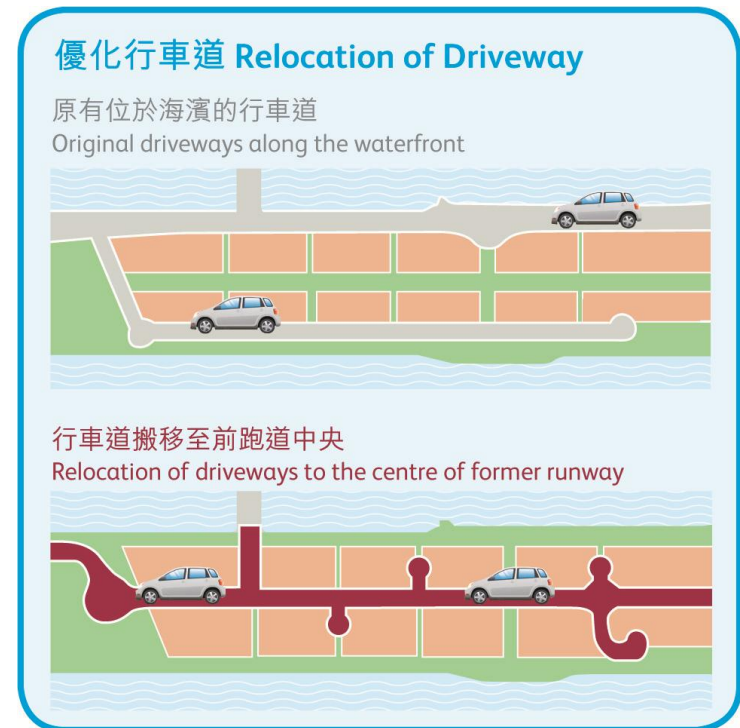
■ Kai Tak River



Artist's Impression – Typical Section of Reconstructed and Rehabilitated Kai Tak River (Upstream Section)

Examples of urban design driving planning changes and infrastructural changes

- Preservation of Lung Tsun Stone Bridge Remnants and re-alignment of roads at waterfront



Examples of urban design driving planning changes and infrastructural changes

- Sheung Wan Floodwater Pumping Station at former Sheung Wan Gala Point

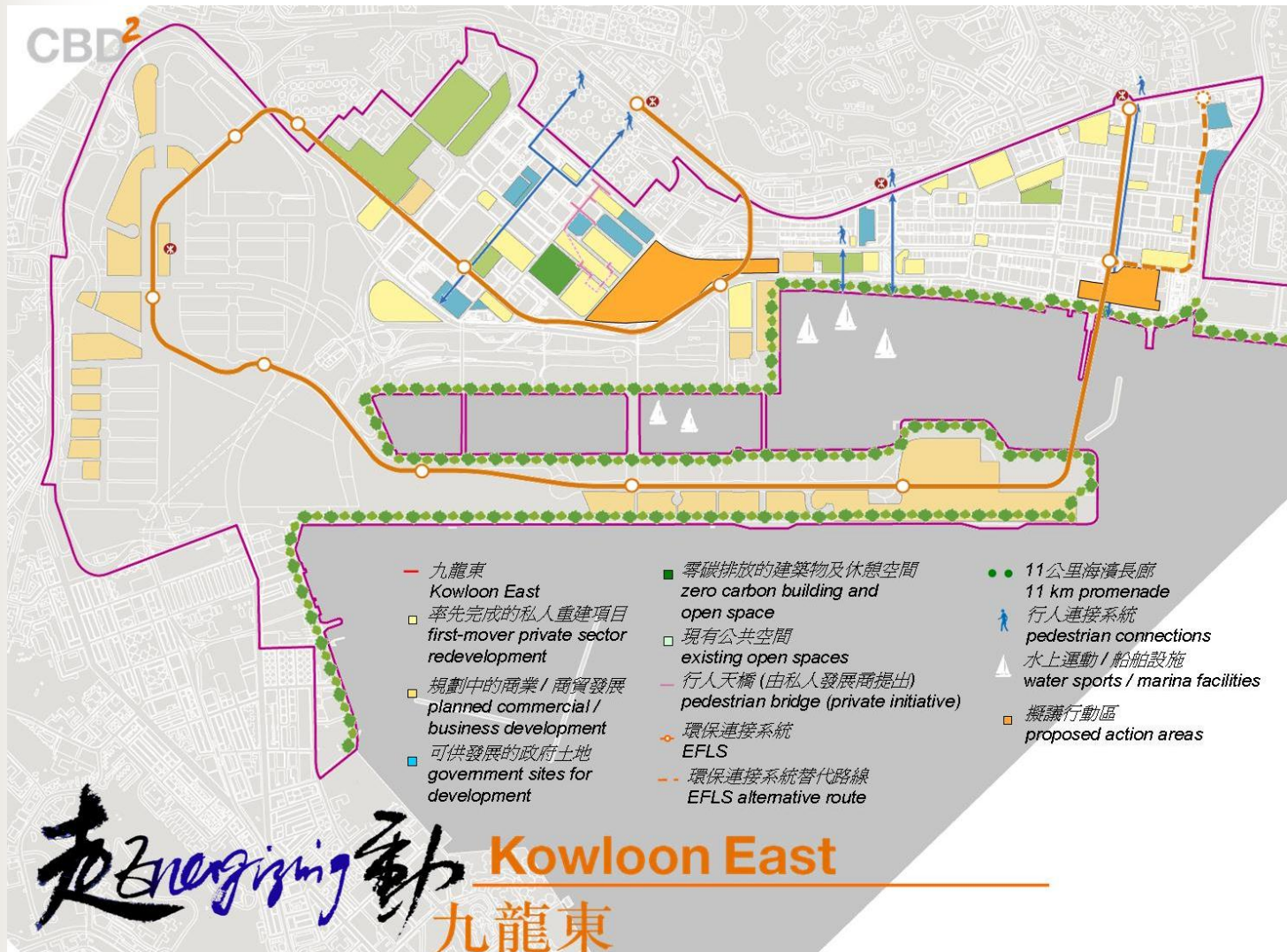


Examples of urban design driving planning changes and infrastructural changes

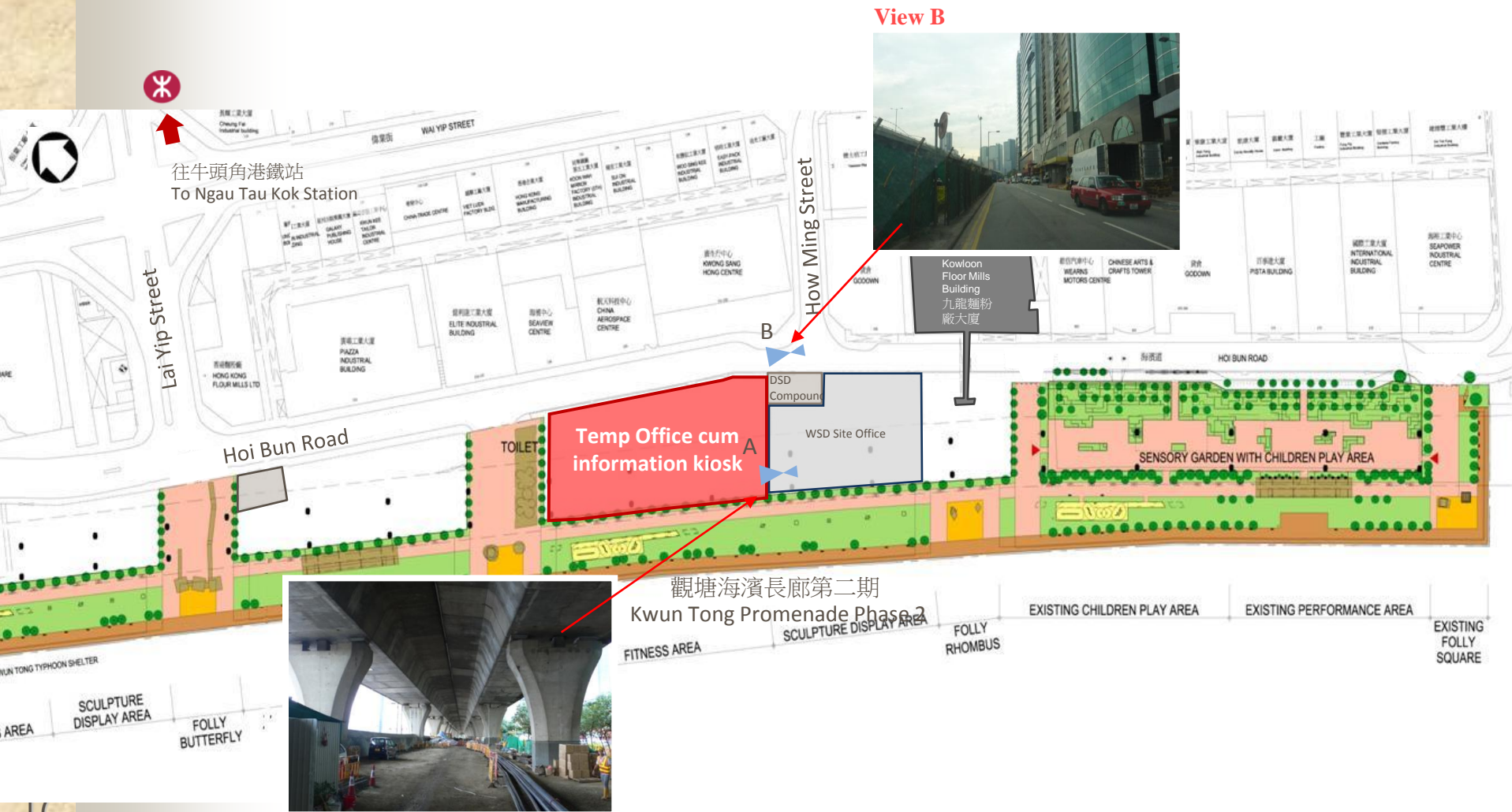
- Blue House : Retention of Both Premises and Tenants (留屋留人) approach



Urban design will drive “Energising Kowloon East”



This is first illustrated by the EKE office





Conclusion

- Don't put professional dimension above societal dimension
- Don't design for the city, but design for the people
- Don't push for target-based urban design, but adopt process-driven urban design
- Don't under-estimate the value, impact and power of small urban design



Thank You

