

ARCHITECTURE | DESIGN | PEOPLE

PERSPECTIVE

MAY 2019

TRAVEL BY DESIGN

DESIRABLE DESTINATIONS
PLACES TO GO

FIVE-STAR AUTHENTICITY
HOSPITALITY IN STYLE

ARCHITECTURE'S GRAND MASTER
WINY MAAS' VISION



**INTERVIEWING HONG KONG'S DESIGN PRESIDENT'S
ISH: LATEST BATHROOM TRENDS**

HKD 60



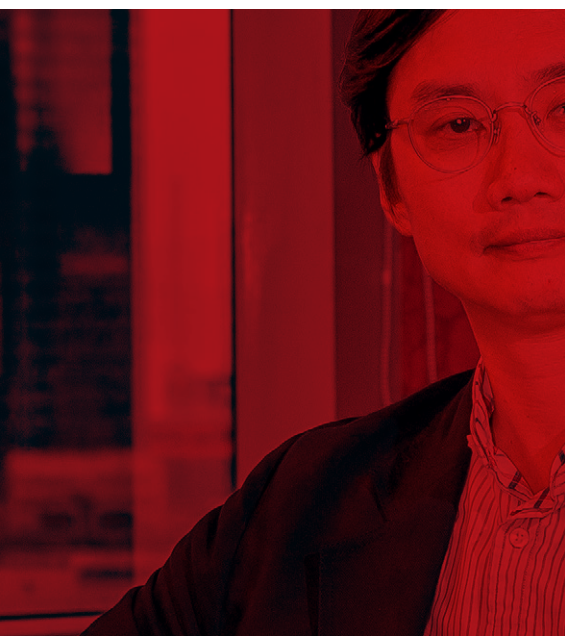
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PRESIDENTIAL LEGACIES

BY DENNIS LEE, HANNAH GROGAN AND KATE LOK
PORTRAITS BY DICKY LIU
SPECIAL THANKS TO THE EXECUTIVE CENTRE FOR PHOTOSHOOT LOCATIONS

There are numerous professional bodies and institutions for those in the architecture and design industry, from local associations to chapters of international organisations. To learn more, *Perspective* talked to the heads of seven Hong Kong-based professional bodies



A FAMILY AFFAIR

Kevin Lim is president of the American Institute of Architects Hong Kong Chapter (AIA Hong Kong), having been introduced by his father, William

How long has the chapter been operating and how did it come about?

AIA Hong Kong was established in 1997 and was the third overseas chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Several AIA-member architects in Hong Kong formed the chapter under the leadership of professor Nelson Chen, FAIA, the founding president. It now has nearly 400 professional and affiliate members, promoting public awareness of issues on the built environment in Hong Kong, China and Asia.

I was introduced to AIA HK by my father, William Lim, FAIA. He held the role of president; I had attended a number of events and thought, 'I'd like to be a part of this organisation'. As president, I hope to help grow our local component and provide more resources for fellow architects, to continue giving back to the community.

What is the main purpose of the Hong Kong Chapter?

In my opinion, the most important purpose is to provide a resource and hub for our members. We help facilitate these needs by offering a range of activities to our local members, and acting as a liaison to AIA Nationals.

We provide programmes for our members that include building tours, technical seminars, study sessions, educational seminars and social events. Most popular are the building tours, as they give us all the chance to walk through a significant project with the architects, contractors, and developers who brought it to life. We are also very proud of our annual Honors & Awards competition; it's a great opportunity to showcase the really exceptional works our members are putting out in the world.



'Co-Vitalize Our Heritage' launch ceremony in March

What frustrations are young members now encountering?

There are not enough outlets for rising talents and 'starchitects' to be discovered. Companies tend to be conservative, hiring experienced architects or larger firms rather than aspiring youngsters. Unlike overseas, there are virtually no design competitions for civil design projects here. And competitions do not always result in actual built projects. We are lobbying government officials to encourage them to get those projects built by young architects: it's important to give them a hand.

How do you communicate HKIA's message to society in general?

For industry and society, I'm prepared to embrace and be actively involved in new policies, for both government and professional bodies, in the early stages before it's too late. An example is the Greater Bay Area development. I'm also ready to drive public engagement to promote design excellence and the role of HKIA.

What about the institute and members? How do you plan to improve communication with them?

One thing I've learned is a completely different medium of communication, as the young are more smartphone-centric. That's why we've introduced Facebook live chat to create an open platform for them to ask questions or even complain. Another thing is a completely refreshed website, to be launched in the second quarter.

What do you hope to achieve during your two years of presidency?

Some [aims] are ongoing, such as how to build a liveable city, lobbying the government on major policies. The most important thing is to engage with members. I hope to do this sooner rather than later.

Government policies and new technologies are rolling out fast and we hope to know about them way ahead of them being implemented. I hope to answer this by restructuring our CPD programmes. It's also my goal to build a groundwork for the next term to tackle the decrease in fees, while ensuring the quality of work and public safety. We can create a new image for HKIA to avoid being too professional to the members and the public. It's good to be able to take risks.

How do you get a consensus for the voice of HKIA?

We try to target the member stakeholders. For issues such as building technologies, we speak to company members and get the right opinion. Our council members are all elected, so they are representative enough to speak for the institute. For major policies such as the Lantau development plan, we set up a task force that includes the voice of young members. The government may think we are the most independent-thinking professional body, as we will not take sides.

bkia.net



YOUNGER FOCUS

The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors' (HKIS) president Tony Leung reflects on the latest direction of the body and his mission to mentor the younger generation

What are your goals for 2019?

We are celebrating our 35th anniversary this year with a string of events (starting with a cocktail reception on April 26) and each of our [six] divisions will celebrate with its own events. Our task force is focused to plan a series of events under the theme of '35 Years of Surveying' including our first family-oriented 10km marathon.

We also unveiled our outline for the "One Belt, One Road" initiative earlier, where we see a lot of opportunities for youngsters in Hong Kong. We're going to speed up and strengthen communication with them.

How will you enhance engagement with your members, particularly the younger ones?

We have a Young Surveyors Group (for members, probationers and students below 40) that actively participates in many sporting activities such as dragon-boat races, football, basketball – there’s even a surveyors’ band. We also started a mentor system last year where our seniors volunteer to nurture young members at seminars, hoping to strengthen their cognition in surveying and sense of belonging. We also encourage them to join the task force to express their views on land and housing policies.

What is the role of HKIS in the public sphere?

As HKIS is the only professional association in the surveying sector governed by ordinance, we hope to play an advisory role to the government and give our professional opinion on major policies such as the Lantau initiative and Greater Bay Area development. We will be more active in advising, rather than ‘blindly supporting’, now that the government is more aggressive in policy implementation.

When our General Council has agreed on something, such as the government’s motion for funding to study the Lantau reclamation project, we immediately send the message to our members before sending a letter to the Development Bureau. We do not necessarily support the reclamation but hope the study will look at how to build a sustainable and liveable city.

What does HKIS do to educate the public about the surveying profession?

We are driven to increase public engagement. Last year we initiated a promotional campaign in Wan Chai and organised competitions in schools, teaching the public about our profession.

What is your mission for your tenure in 2019?

I pledge to nurture our young members and promote our institute to the next level. It’s important to pass on our inheritance to the next generation. Our task force is also working to organise an award that can represent HKIS as a whole next year.

hkis.org.hk



INSIDE JOB

Joey Ho, chairman of the Hong Kong Interior Designers Association (HKIDA), points to the increasing significance of the interior design industry and its popularity as a profession

What is HKIDA’s role?

As a professional body, HKIDA brings design and project talents together to benefit both businesses and consumers and develop long-term relationships between our members. We continue to develop and improve professional standards of designers, contractors and suppliers with an updated code of conduct, while keeping up standards of creativity, workmanship and technical innovation.

The association has always been active not only regionally, but also in the international arena, engaging in learning programmes and exchange sessions with international associations. At the same time, we also nurture young design talents by providing support and a platform to showcase their work.

How do you engage members?

Our members include a vibrant community of interior designers, contractors, suppliers, students and other professional practitioners in interior design. [We run] public events, such as conferences, exhibitions, and a series of workshops supported by government funds. We [have] an exhibition coming up in Bangkok in October. Every year, we have the “East Gathering”, with interior design

organisations in Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Singapore taking turn to host cross-cultural events and exhibitions. This year, it is Hong Kong’s turn.

We also have a yearly competition (Asia Pacific Interior Design Awards). There are not a lot of creative design awards hosted by associations and we are proud to be so recognisable within the region.

What are your plans for 2019?

Starting this year, HKIDA encourages members to achieve continuing professional development (CPD) every year. Local practitioners can update their professional knowledge and skills through participating in CPD courses, conferences and other professional activities in Hong Kong, China and overseas. We will continue to promote professional standards by the issuance of certificates for HKIDA-certified interior designers. Externally, we will continue enhancing our partnerships and collaborations with other international organisations.

Where do you think Hong Kong’s interior design industry is heading?

Interior design is getting more popular. The demand for Hong Kong’s high-end design services is rising in light of a flourishing China market. Recent research [estimates the] number of interior design firms will increase from 350 to 1,650 within the next four years.

What are the challenges?

There is a missing link between education and current practice in Hong Kong. Design education has to be updated and connected with what is happening right now, and prepare students for the new code of practice. That is why we encourage CPD among practising designers. We are glad the government is starting to notice what we are doing, and is providing more funding to support the growth of our industry.

Hong Kong’s design industry has always held a reputation for high standards. But the world of design is constantly shape-shifting and we have to learn to change our perspective. Who is your competition and where do you stand? We have to learn to see the bigger picture.

To a certain extent I think Hong Kong still has that flair, but I’ve noticed a tendency to take things for granted. I always tell young designers how when [the older generations of designers] started, we really worked like hell. That’s why we were able to earn this prestige – it’s a process of sweat and tears. Sometimes I think we’ve become too pampered. There’s something missing: it’s not talent, it’s the willingness to be dedicated and to persevere.

hkida.org



HKIS' 'Create Your District' 2018 ceremony