CIVIC INCUBATOR
共享空間放題

A PROCESS THAT ENGAGE CITIZENS 與市民對話的過程

Our design centres around the opportunity to create ownership and choices for citizens of our city. Not only about the process to engage and influence the outcome, but also an opportunity to co-create and co-manage what comes out of it. The new central waterfront should be a place to house a diversity of civic spaces for all kinds of citizens in our city for all kinds of activities.

How might we turn this as an opportunity to cultivate citizenship and reconnect people together as a city?

Our suggested design process for the project:

我们建議的設計流程：

**Awareness**
公眾認知

**Participation**
公眾參與

**Co-management**
共同管理

**Co-Lead**
共同引領

**Positioning the “Civic Incubator” as a place to connect the past, present and future of the city as an ongoing dialogue. We use civic spaces to bring the awareness of citizens on what is the ‘civic face’ for the city.**

我們將「共享空間放題」連結城市的過去、現在和未來。我們透過共享空間讓市民知道，什麼是城市的「公民面向」。

**Include a period of public consultation of what does civic spaces and program mean to them and reflect them in the development of the project, including leasing strategy and the provision of specific civic programs.**

我們透過公開諮詢程序了解共享空間和共享活對市民的意義，並將其反映在項目的發展中，包括租賃策略和特定共享活的定位。

**Select particular civic programs to engage important stakeholders as co-manage participants. For example, how might we include minority groups; allow for their ideas to come to fruition in some ways to show that participation does result in tangible outcome.**

選擇特定的共享活來吸引重要持者作為共同管理空間的參與者，例如如何讓少數族群融入，讓他們的想法在共享空間實現，展示他們的參與會帶來切實的成果。

**Build in a prototype period as a way to co-lead such development of new ideas. Create feedback loops as dialogues and discussions with co-leadership of important community stakeholders.**

建立一個原型階段，作為共同引領和思維與經緯的工具，與社區持者共同建立共享空間的反饋，作為對話和討論的途徑。
Q1: Idea & Theme
What is your idea and how does it engage with one of the three themes described above? (300 words)

Our idea is titled “Civic incubator”: to focus on our exploration on how might we build up more inclusive civic public spaces along dCentral Waterfront and for Hong Kong. Civic space is often a luxury for Hong Kong residents, and it probably means something different for everyone.

Our idea is to introduce a variety of public spaces catered for a variety of audiences. How might we cultivate the awareness that civic spaces are for citizens and by citizens? How might we use this opportunity to create the processes that would incubate and nurture this culture? How might we catalyse for actions that include all kinds of citizens to involve and participate in shaping not only the design but also the ongoing program and utilization for our public spaces?

Our design created a variety of public spaces of all kinds of shapes and sizes: a buffet of public spaces if you may. Formally, it would include: connectors, deck, plaza, street, void and blocks; programmatic wise, it would also be categorized into cultural & heritage, leisure & active, and viewing. Based on these two categories, the design is a vibrant mix of public spaces that responds to different needs for all kinds of people.

These spaces allow citizens to cross, mix and get to know each other. We would like to become the matchmaker for unlikely meetings, to create opportunities for citizens to become friendly neighbours in this city. If civic spaces can become a starting point to alleviate and help with citizens in the neighbourhood or city that has sometimes become isolated and siloed, that is our intent and our wish with this proposal.

Q2: Public Benefit
How does your idea benefit the Hong Kong public? (100-200 words)

We are not only making public spaces as blueprints for a variety of users and audiences; we also want to create a new mechanism of how we may listen, understand, and ideate on new ways of using and testing public spaces.
By embodying the principles of design thinking and placemaking, we want to bring the spirit of experimentalism together with citizens for this important public space for Hong Kong.

Q3: Connection
How does your idea connect with existing public spaces, cultural resources and the environment at Site 3? (100–200 words)

In the masterplan, we strengthen the access from the Central CBD to the waterfront, providing multiple levels of access through our site. We pushed all the building massing towards the west side and reserved the east side of the site as a civic landscape. We have kept important heritage elements such as the General Post Office and Star Ferry clock-tower for adaptive reuse, connecting heritage to new kinds of functions. We would also extend the waterfront promenade into this civic landscape, allowing for a continuation of the public spaces. On weekends, we would also like to convert the adjacent streets into pedestrianized zones, to blur the boundaries of the site and to activate them into an even bigger civic landscape.

We have separated our site into 3 zones, each of them would form a contextual relationship with the different adjacencies of the site:

1. Cultural and heritage at the back: the public spaces would be in the form of squares and plazas, referencing different historic and cultural landmarks, including the General Post Office, and the City Hall complex.
2. Leisurely and active in the middle: to generate inclusive play for all kinds of citizens by introducing all kinds of play-functions such as basketball courts, running tracks, etc.
3. Viewing deck in the front by the harbour front: to give back the amazing view of the city skyline as an asset for the public, and a community living deck to allow for opportunities to leverage the open view

Q4: Broader Applicability
How might the government evaluate proposals—such as yours—that claim to offer public value? How could Hong Kong draw on your design principles to apply beyond Site 3? (100–200 words)
We think that the design proposals should address elements that extend beyond just the elements for Site 3. How can these elements and dialogue around the design and planning continue and contribute to different kinds of parks across Hong Kong?

For design, we provided a taxonomy of ingredients of public spaces for different kinds of users, we believe that this is a very important aspect that would allow for the unlikely mix of people that are intergenerational and intercultural.

For the process, we also provided the framework of how citizens can start to engage the design, and also to involve in participating and co-managing programs on the site, and prototyping new ways of using public spaces. This process would not only be applicable to Site 3, but to other sites, regardless new or old, in our city.

For the masterplan, we devised a few zones that would be important for other kinds of sites to consider as well: the respect of heritage and culture, the respect and appreciation of the natural environment, and promoting intergenerational play and active living for citizens.

**Team Background**

One paragraph about yourself, your firm and/or your team. We encourage multi-disciplinary teams!

We are Architecture Commons, we believe in creating architecture and ideas that can bring cohesion to a diversity of audience. We have done various projects that link research, community engagement, design prototypes, to building implementation that reflects the participation process. Our team is composed of architects, urban designers, design thinkers, business professionals, storytellers, and many more. We aim at connecting research, design thinking, placemaking, into designs that can be implemented across multiple scales.