

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and  
Environmental Hygiene  
**Review of Columbarium Policy**

Views of  
**Hong Kong Institute of Architects**  
20 September 2010

## Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities

- It is obvious that there are immediate needs for quick actions for provisioning of more columbarium facilities

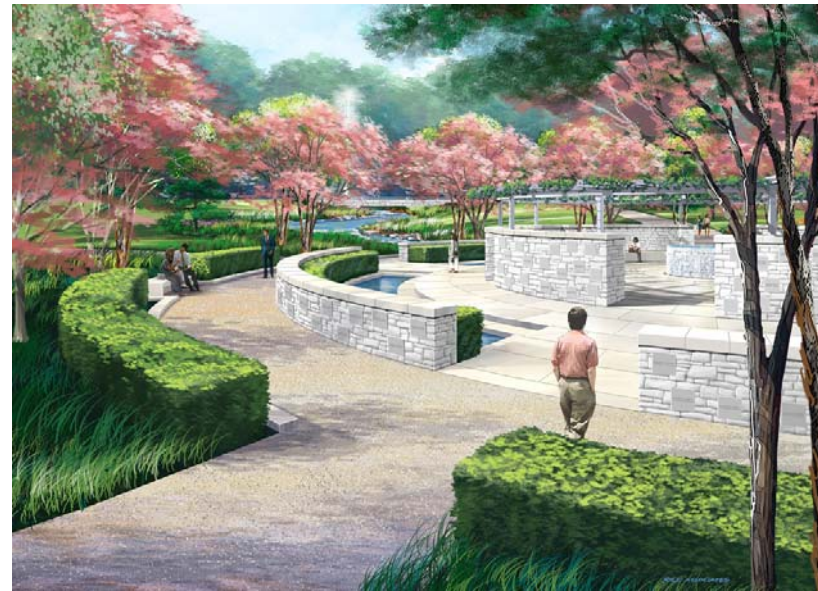
## Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities

- Columbarium/Cemeteries facilities are basically housing for the deceased & the gov't should make provision for a certain % for the public. – i.e.  
[Affordable “Niches” for the Poor](#)
- By doing nothing, it will encourage private sectors to build illegal or unauthorized niches which only the rich can afford
- When the poor cannot, they have to try and break the bank to buy one; this would make the gov't look uncaring

## Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities

- Alternatives but legal means of provisioning of columbarium facilities in the urban areas should be explored
  - Small columbaria annexed to parks or even country parks
  - Underground columbaria
  - Defunct air-raid shelters
  - Rock Cravens
  - Abandoned land fills(P.S. transportation to these sites usually is not a problem)

# Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities



## Columbarium in a park setting

Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis, MO, USA

[pictures from Bellefontaine website]

# Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities



Underground columbarium in a park setting  
Church of St. Mary of the Angels, Singapore



# Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities



More Innovative designs for columbarium  
Greenwood Mausoleum, Brooklyn, NY, USA

# Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities

**港府認為岩洞構思七個開發項目**

「地下空間用途研究」  
對七個岩洞開發項目費用的估計

項目	地點	建築費(百萬元)
政府物料倉庫	柴灣	230
垃圾轉運站	摩星嶺	150
污水處理廠	摩星嶺	1,330
石油及石油氣儲存庫	青衣西南	400
貨櫃運輸站/倉庫	青衣中南	1,200
貨櫃拖車和拖架停放處	青衣中南	1,000
商業及康樂設施	鯉魚涌	2,100

港府認為岩洞構思七個開發項目總投資64億元

港府的研究，認為七個岩洞總值六十四億元，可作多種用途，包括貨倉、政府貨倉、水處理、垃圾轉運站、貨櫃運輸站和貯藏石油和石油氣。

首席政府城市規劃師布萊斯表示，港府進行「都會計劃」和「機場港口發展策略」研究時，發覺傳統利用填海或開山取地的方法，將不能應付預計發展快速的港口需求。當時，香港向成爲一個繁榮的港口，需要更多的污水處理廠和垃圾轉運站，把這些設施安置在岩洞內，對環境和視覺均有好處，當局因而進行「地下空間開發發展引入注目」。

布萊斯指出，三個關於政府設施的計劃(污水廠、垃圾轉運站、貨倉)將會進一步研究，但其餘由私人承辦的計劃則要視乎商人的興趣。私人機構亦可申請他們認為可行的計劃則要視乎港府將會在明年發表一份守則擬稿，作爲審批私人發展商在岩洞發展計劃的標準。當局會就該份守則擬稿諮詢公眾意見。

岩洞發展計劃的標準，當局會就該份守則擬稿諮詢公眾意見。

Columbaria inside cravens?



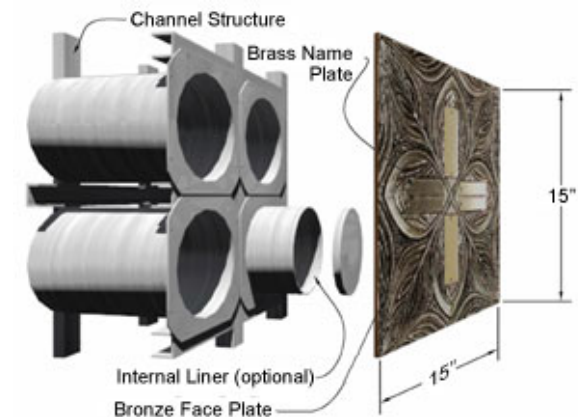
## Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities

- More columbarium facilities at existing cemetery facilities should be encouraged but scientific analysis on **sufficiency of infrastructure and transport facilities** during peak seasons should be studied to justify the anticipated increase

## Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities

- It is quite common to have columbaria situated within religious compounds in China and other parts of the world, considerations should be given to allowing certain amount of niches as ancillary facilities (i.e. no need for OZP or lease modifications) to religious compounds
- However, limits shall be set on no. of niches allowed (according to site area or GFA)

# Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities



Simple & Non-intrusive design for Niches  
within religious compounds

[photos from the Armento Collumbarium website]

## Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities

- Other possible means of increasing columbarium supply:
  - Allowing **highrise buildings** for storage of urns is supported
  - Conversion of **industrial buildings** into columbarium facilities is supported

## Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities

- Other possible means of increasing columbarium supply:
  - For best use of available columbarium sites, consideration shall be given to having **central urn storage facilities**; urns could be hand or mechanically delivered to small ceremonial halls for bereavers to pay tributes to the deceased upon advance bookings



# Increasing the Supply of Columbarium Facilities

- Quick & immediate actions on the last remaining zoned piece of land for large scale columbarium facilities, i.e. Tuen Mun Planning Area 46



[photos from HKSAR gov't]

## Promoting more Environmentally-friendly and Sustainable Means of Handling Cremains

- Construction of more GoRs is supported
- Time-limited lease and incentive scheme for the return of niches is supported

## Promoting more Environmentally-friendly and Sustainable Means of Handling Cremains

- New columbaria in remote areas not encouraged as this will induce damages to the environment, waste of energies on transportation & inconvenience to the public
- Columbaria in remote areas are only acceptable provided the problems on means of transportation during peak seasons can be resolved (e.g. on outlying islands & supported by ferries during peak seasons)

## Consumer Protection

- Operators shall make available approved plans, future expansion plans, OZP and relevant lease conditions for customer's inspection (similar to purchasing a flat)

## Existing Regulations on Private Columbarium Development

- LandsD and PlanD shall strictly enforce cases of lease and OZP violations respectively (government shall however have contingency plans for accommodation of remains of the deceased after enforcement)



## Existing Regulations on Private Columbarium Development

- On licensing of columbarium facilities, beside strict compliance to Building Regulations, **greening, maximum no. of niches, air pollution abatement measures, infrastructure capacity** shall all be taken into considerations (smaller facilities, e.g. ancillary to religious compounds, can be exempted)
- Consider setting up of a **licensing authority** to coordinate different departmental concerns

## Good Design for Columbaria

- Consider holding **design** competitions for soliciting innovative ideas on locations/designs of columbaria at each of the 18 districts
- We believe beautiful columbaria will make them **more acceptable to the public**

Columbaria can be beautiful, too.



A Presentation by HKIA

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