

For discussion on
21 November 2017

Legislative Council
Panel on Development and Panel on Home Affairs
Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the
West Kowloon Cultural District Project

Update on the Development of Hong Kong Palace Museum
and Other Hardware Development
of the West Kowloon Cultural District

PURPOSE

This paper serves to update Members on the progress of the development of Hong Kong Palace Museum (HKPM) and other hardware development in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD).

BACKGROUND

2. The past year saw the WKCD project gradually moving from the planning phase to the operation phase. Visible changes in the physical landscape of WKCD can be seen in its eastern and western parts, as the project moves forward on all aspects of design and construction. The M+ Pavilion was completed and opened to the public in 2016. Currently, there are five ongoing construction projects under the management of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) – the Xiqu Centre, M+ building, Art Park (including Freespace), Lyric Theatre Complex (LTC) and the Integrated Basement (IB), and public infrastructure works (PIW). A schematic plan of major WKCD facilities is at Annex 1. Detailed updates on the development of cultural software will be submitted to the Legislative Council Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the WKCD project (Joint Subcommittee) at a future meeting.

HONG KONG PALACE MUSEUM

3. HKPM will be a dedicated museum that showcases the exquisite art and cultural collections of the Palace Museum to the Hong Kong public and overseas tourists on a long-term basis and in a more comprehensive and in-depth manner. After the conclusion of the eight-week public consultation exercise on the proposed HKPM project in March 2017 and publication of the report for the public consultation exercise in May 2017, WKCDA signed a Collaborative Agreement on the development of HKPM with the Palace Museum on 29 June 2017. (A copy of the Collaborative Agreement has been circulated to the Joint Subcommittee for Members' reference on 30 June 2017.) Since then, WKCDA has been working closely with the design consultant, Rocco Design Architects Limited (RDA), on the scheme design which was approved by the WKCDA Board in September 2017.

Public engagement

4. Upon the WKCDA Board's approval, WKCDA conducted public engagement from October to November 2017 to update the general public on the progress of the design of HKPM. Key engagement activities include a media roundtable where Rocco Yim, representative of RDA, walked participants through the scheme design and key features of HKPM; three pop-up exhibitions held over three weekends at the China Hong Kong City, Hong Kong Maritime Museum and Sha Tin Town Hall respectively; and a public lecture on the scheme design and key features of HKPM. The WKCDA Consultation Panel and the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing of the Harbourfront Commission were briefed on the scheme design at their meeting on 3 November 2017 and 10 November 2017 respectively.

Design features

5. The HKPM building comprises three main zones: an education centre on the lower ground floor; exhibition galleries occupying the main bulk of the building; and supporting facilities and offices at the top of the building. There will also be dining facilities facing the waterfront promenade and Victoria Harbour,

and within the building on the fourth floor, as well as bookshop/souvenir shop for cultural merchandise. A preliminary schedule of accommodation is at [Annex 2](#).

6. The design seeks to present HKPM as a contemporary expression of traditional Chinese visual culture, traditional Chinese spatial culture and contemporary Hong Kong urban culture. The design concept of the HKPM makes reference to the masterplan of the Forbidden City in Beijing, adopting its traditional courtyard progression as a basis for re-interpretation. Successive courtyards are transformed into stacked atria on successive floors. Each atrium is designed to provide circulation space as well as having a specific function or to frame a view –

- the grand atrium at ground floor serves not only as the functional museum foyer but an occasional event space;
- the middle atrium is rotated to face south, enjoying the spectacular view of the Victoria Harbour with the Art Park in the foreground; and
- the third atrium occupies the topmost floor and is rotated to face west where visitors can enjoy the scenery of the setting sun and the distant Lantau Island silhouette.

7. The design of HKPM capitalises on the excellent site setting to foster interaction between the museum building and its surrounding environs, and to bring about further enhancement of public space network at the same time. The HKPM will be accessible on foot along the central Avenue that links the Xiqu Centre at the eastern end, as well as by vehicle via the drop-off point on lower ground level. The scheme design is shown at [Annex 3](#). The tender for the foundation works of HKPM was issued in October 2017 with piling work scheduled to commence by April 2018. It is anticipated that the main superstructure works will be commenced in mid-2019 upon completion of the foundation works. It is planned for opening in 2022.

Governance matters

8. Apart from developing the detailed design, WKCD is now taking the HKPM project to the next stage of development on

three fronts: establishing HKPM Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary company of WKCDA; setting up the HKPM Board; and building a professional team to support the planning and operation of HKPM. According to the Collaborative Agreement signed with the Palace Museum, the Board of HKPM Limited will be appointed by the WKCDA Board and comprise a Chairman, a Vice-chairman, up to ten members (including WKCDA Board members and persons with relevant expertise and valuable experience in museum collection, management and curatorial matters in relation to Chinese art, history and cultural heritage), two members nominated by the Secretary for Home Affairs, one member nominated by the Palace Museum, and the Chief Executive Officer of WKCDA. The Authority will announce the appointment of members to the HKPM Board after completing the relevant procedures.

TEMPORARY NURSERY PARK

9. In order for the public to enjoy partial access to WKCD throughout the construction period, the temporary Nursery Park was opened to visitors in July 2015. WKCDA has experimented with various forms of artistic programming, and it has also tested out an open, welcoming, accessible approach to managing the Nursery Park in a bid to set new standards as well as to promote a new park and outdoor culture for the future Art Park.

10. Currently, there are 937 trees in the Nursery Park, 512 of which were selected for the permanent Art Park. It is planned that trees from the Nursery Park will start to be transferred to the permanent Art Park towards the end of this year. In the meantime, around 700 trees were selected from tree nurseries in Mainland China for the Art Park. Trees not selected for the Art Park will be reorganised at the North of the Nursery Park while those with unrecoverable damage and poor condition would be disposed of.

XIQU CENTRE

11. The Xiqu Centre is designed to be a world-class platform for the conservation, promotion and development of Cantonese opera and other genres of xiqu (Chinese traditional theatre). It will house a range of facilities for performances, developing new repertory, research, education, training and exchange, and offer

professional development programmes to help nurture young talents and support the development of new creations. The main superstructure works commenced in December 2014 and the building structure was substantially completed at the end of April 2017.

12. Works on the 1 050-seat Grand Theatre, Atrium, 200-seat Tea House Theatre and 120-seat Seminar Hall are well underway, with the building services installation and interior fitting-out works in good progress. The façade of the building is in the final stage of installation. Statutory building inspections are underway, and plans are in hand for a soft opening in late 2018.

13. There will be road works to modify the existing footpath along Canton Road and Austin Road West near the Xiqu Centre and to provide amenity areas. These road works aim to provide a better walking environment surrounding the Xiqu Centre and better connection with the major pedestrian routes from the West Kowloon Terminus of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, MTR Austin Station, Austin Road West subway and any other areas of WKCD. The entrance to the Avenue of WKCD from Canton Road will be further enhanced after the relocation of the existing transformer building by the Fire Services Department.

14. To enhance connectivity of WKCD and relieve the anticipated congestion of the existing pedestrian subway at the junction of Austin Road and Canton Road after the phased opening of the WKCD facilities, a direct and convenient pedestrian linkage system between the MTR Austin Station and the Xiqu Centre, i.e. Austin Road Pedestrian Linkage System (APLS), is proposed. The proposal will be discussed under another agenda item for the Joint Subcommittee meeting on 21 November 2017. Pending funding approval by Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council, construction of APLS is targeted to commence in the first quarter of 2018.

ART PARK

15. The Art Park will be the green heart of WKCD and feature a rich variety of trees and green planting as well as open lawn spaces for leisure and relaxation. The Park will provide a vibrant venue for open-air performances of music, dance and theatre as

well as art exhibitions and other cultural events. It will also provide space for large-scale outdoor sculptures and installations curated by M+.

16. Construction works on the Art Park commenced in July 2016 and is on track with the completion of Phase 1 expected by end of this year. It is planned that Phase 1 of the Park will be open for visitors in the second quarter of 2018. Phase 2 including the retail/dining/entertainment (RDE) buildings is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2018 while the final phase with Freespace by end of 2018. Prototypes has been made to test design solutions for the construction works, including exposed fair-faced concrete façade on the Freespace building and waterfront features such as footpaths and street furniture. The waterfront promenade in front of the Art Park and M+ will be open in phases starting from 2018.

FREESPACE

17. Situated in the centre of the Art Park, Freespace invites visitors to freely explore, encounter and be inspired by new artistic experiences through innovative programming across all genres. The black box theatre in the Park will provide a flexible performance space with an audience capacity of 450 if seated or 900 if standing. There is also a foyer where local live music will be presented in a bar/ café environment and a multi-purpose function hall. Freespace sits next to the Art Park's great lawn, where an outdoor stage can be set up for large-scale events and festivals for up to 10 000 people (standing capacity). Freespace was officially topped out in July 2017 while works continue inside the building for its planned opening in 2019.

M+

18. Encompassing 20th- and 21st-century art, design, architecture and moving image from Hong Kong, China, Asia and beyond, M+ will be one of the largest museums of modern and contemporary visual culture in the world. Located adjacent to the Art Park on the waterfront, the M+ building is scheduled to complete in 2019.

19. Commenced in December 2015, the M+ main works is progressing in full swing. Since the M+ building is built above the bundle of tunnels for the Airport Express and the MTR Tung Chung Line, the building needs five mega trusses to distribute its massive weight safely over the tunnels. The construction and load transfer of these mega trusses was recently completed, achieving a major milestone in the development of the project and following which works on the superstructure – the horizontal podium deck and the vertical tower can move on safely. As of now, construction of the 16-storey vertical tower has reached the seventh floor. There is also significant progress in the production and testing of the ceramic tiles and precast façade system.

20. The M+ construction contract also covers the construction of the associated nine-storey Conservation and Storage Facility (CSF) and the adjoining 16-storey building accommodating RDE, other arts and cultural facilities (OACF) as well as the future home and head office of WKCDA. The work also includes the adjacent two-storey underground interfacing car park beneath the Art Park, the structure of which was recently completed. Both the CSF and RDE/OACF buildings are gradually emerging from the ground and have reached the third floor. It is expected that both the CSF and RDE/OACF buildings will top-out in mid-2018, with completion in mid-2019, to coincide with the completion of the M+ building.

LYRIC THEATRE COMPLEX

21. Sitting alongside the M+ building and being accessed via Artist Square and the waterfront promenade, the LTC will be a centre of excellence showcasing the best of Hong Kong and international dance and theatre productions, both large- and small-scale. The LTC includes a 1 450-seat dance-focused Lyric Theatre with installation of digital projection equipment for film screenings, a 600-seat theatre-focused Medium Theatre and a 270-seat theatre-focused Studio Theatre. The Resident Company Centre housed at the northern side of the LTC will include eight dance rehearsal studios and a rehearsal hall.

22. The Foundation works for the LTC and the Zone 3B of the IB commenced in January 2016 and is now completed. The

next construction phase of the Zone 3B of the IB will commence in the first quarter of 2018, subject to funding approval by FC for the Works Package L1 comprising the remaining Excavation and Lateral Supports works (Stage 2), pile caps and the IB substructure and superstructure to receive the LTC (L2). Tender assessment for L1 contract has been completed. Upon the funding approval by FC, the L1 construction works will be awarded. Tender for Works Package LTC (L2) mainly includes the construction of the LTC, promenade, open space at the Artist Square, district cooling system, integrated basement, underground road and other public infrastructure works is planned to be issued at the end of 2017.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS

23. The PIW entrusted to WKCD by the Government consists mainly of the U-shaped road at the entrance to the Artist Square Development Area, the sewage pumping station and associated utilities under the Art Park, the public underground road underneath M+ and the foundation works of Zone 3B of the IB, all of which are progressing well or nearing completion.

24. The funding proposal for the Artist Square Bridge (ASB) was discussed at the Joint Subcommittee meeting on 21 April 2017. The Joint Subcommittee expressed concern about the design and estimated cost of the proposed ASB project. Work is now in hand to redesign the structure to reduce the cost. Members will be given an update when the revised ASB design is available.

ADVICE SOUGHT

25. Members are invited to note the latest development of HKPM as well other hardware development in WKCD.

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
November 2017

西九文化區主要設施示意圖
Schematic plan of major WKCD facilities



暫定的設施面積分配列表

Preliminary Schedule of Accommodation

<u>設施</u> <u>Facilities</u>	<u>淨作業樓面面積(平方米)</u> <u>Net Operating Floor Area (m²)</u>
展覽廳 Exhibition galleries	7 600
教育活動室 Activities rooms	750
演講廳 (400 座位) Lecture theatre (400 seats)	500
入口大堂 Entrance lobbies	1 340
書店／紀念品店 Bookshop/Souvenir shop	360
餐廳 Restaurant	800 (包括廚房) (including kitchen)
辦公室 Office	650
適應室 Acclimatisation room	100
展覽預備室 Exhibition preparation rooms	300
工作坊 Workshops	300

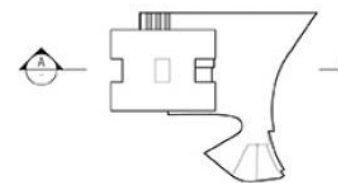
<p style="text-align: center;">設施 <u>Facilities</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">淨作業樓面面積(平方米) <u>Net Operating Floor Area (m²)</u></p>
<p>主要儲存設施 Main storage</p>	1 000
<p>其他儲存設施 Other storage areas</p>	1 200
<p>零售／餐飲／消閒設施 Retail/Dining/Entertainment facilities</p>	250
<p>主要設施總計 Main facilities total</p>	15 150
<p>其他輔助設施（包括洗手間、更衣室、茶水間、中庭空間等） Ancillary facilities (e.g. toilets, changing room, pantry, atria spaces etc.)</p>	<p>3 000</p> <p>（不包括所有機電設施空間） (excluding all electrical and mechanical space)</p>

香港故宮文化博物館的數碼繪圖－西北方的外觀

Digital rendering of Hong Kong Palace Museum – View from North West



香港故宮文化博物館的分層透視圖
Sectional perspective of Hong Kong Palace Museum

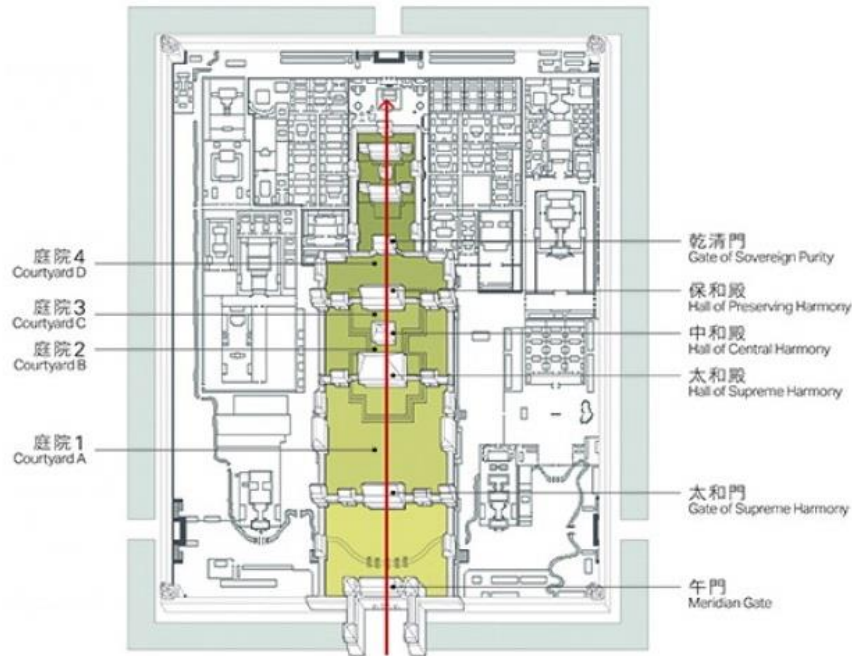


香港故宮文化博物館的設計概念

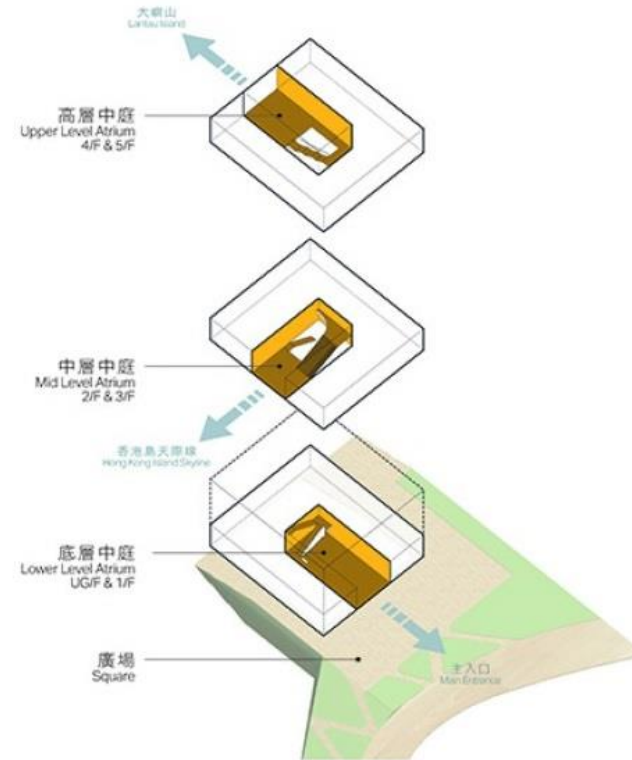
Design Concept of Hong Kong Palace Museum

設計概念

Design Concept



北京紫禁城 - 中軸空間平面遞進
Horizontal Spatial Sequence of Courtyards



香港故宮文化博物館 - 中庭空間垂直遞進
Vertical Spatial Sequence of Atria

優化公共空間網絡

Enhancing public space network

