

**Letterhead of THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

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17 November 1999

Legislative Council Secretariat  
The People's Republic of China  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
3/F, Citibank Tower  
Central, Hong Kong.

Att: Miss Cecilia FOK  
Personal secretary

Dear Miss Fok

**Re: Consultation Paper on the Urban Renewal Authority Bill  
Comments on the Bill Prepared on behalf of the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects**

Thank you for inviting our Institute to review and provide comment on the Consultation Paper. Having reviewed the Paper we provide our comments below:

- Generally, the Bill offers little in terms of improving the overall quality of Hong Kong's urban fabric, beyond the packaging of sites for new building development. In particular there is no mention of how the new Authority might achieve improvements to the townscape environment for the general public. The authority should be seeking to set modern standards of urban design, through the sensitive architectural treatment of ground floor/podium deck facades that relate to the perspective of the man in the street, and the proper landscaping of street corridors and inclusion of publicly accessible amenity areas and open spaces.

Unless these ideals are embodied in the white paper they will inevitably become set side in the development process for the sake of financial or administrative expediency.

- The creation of this Authority should be an opportunity to begin a process of revitalisation of urban areas. The existing approach to the design of roads, footpaths, and other public areas in urban Hong Kong is in need of revitalisation. As the concept of urban renewal suggests a review and improvement of all those elements that make up our urban environment it would be reasonable to expect an Authority such as this to begin to accommodate these needs.

Once again, thank you for inviting us to comment of the Paper. We look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

(Craig Doubleday)  
for The Public Affairs Committee of the  
Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects.