



香港建築師學會
The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Public Statement on the Issue of Queen's Pier and Edinburgh Place

The Institute understands that the government is planning to demolish the existing Queen's Pier in Central to make way for the Central Bypass and related buildings and structures, as part of the current Central and Wan Chai Reclamation Scheme. The public currently calls for a critical review on this previous decision. In response, the Institute reiterates our grave concern over the possible loss of this site of historical significance and a significant component of urban design in the centre of our city. We urge the Government to seriously re-consider alternative solutions before it is too late and we further urge that the Antiquities Advisory Board again reviews this issue with the greatest urgency. Among others, the value of Queen's Pier can be seen from its own historical significance, its integration with adjacent sites and the wider heritage context in Central.

There are three vital issues that we wish to *stress as well* as give direction on the proper way forward to resolve the situation:

1. Queen's Pier is a Site of Great Historical Significance that Encapsulates the Essence of Hong Kong as a Unique City of China

Queen's Pier is the place where past governors used to arrive to hold inaugural ceremonies and also where the last governor Chris Patten and Prince Charles departed following the Handover in 1997. Such historical events not only represent a conclusion to a century and a half of colonial administration, but also brings to a full circle an aspect of the recent history of China. The irreplaceable position of Hong Kong lies in its unique history of bridging the cultures of East and West. Queen's Pier, being the site of these events, encapsulates the essence of Hong Kong as being a unique city of China and thus should be conserved in-situ to inspire the future direction of Hong Kong.

2. Queen's Pier is an Inseparable Part of Edinburgh Place and City Hall

Queen's Pier was constructed in 1961 for both public and official use. It, together with the Memorial Garden of City Hall and the Rostrum in Edinburgh Place, represents a public face of the former colonial government. Queen's Pier is purposely positioned to be aligned with the City Hall Low Block entrance to accentuate a ceremonial axis. The open structure of the Pier as seen from the harbour also acts as the gateway to the City Hall ensemble. While we acknowledge that the coastline will be changed as a result of the reclamation, we believe that the site of the Pier, Edinburgh Place and City Hall should be designated as an inseparable group, together with the provision of appropriate urban landscape design and probably water feature, to maintain the integrity of the spatial relationship and thus the significant historical meaning.

Patron: The Honourable Donald Tsang Yam-Kuen, Chief Executive, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
A Member of The International Union of Architects (UIA), Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) and Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA)

19th Floor, One Hysan Avenue, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong. P.O. Box 20334 Hennessy Road Post Office Tel: 2511 6323 Fax: 2519 6011, 2519 3364
Website: <http://www.hkia.net> E-mail: hkiasec@hkia.org.hk

香港銅鑼灣希慎道1號19樓



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3. Preservation of Queen's Pier is Technically Feasible without Major Disruption to the Planned Infrastructure

We, as a professional institute, believe that the urged protection of Star Ferry Clock Tower and Queen's Pier did not at all need to be an obstruction to the ongoing Central Reclamation and the Central Bypass projects. With minor structural adaptation of the proposed tunnel and minor re-alignment of the road, the infrastructural works could incorporate the existing Queen's Pier structure as part of an enhanced public open space without major adverse contractual, financial or time implications. We strongly urge the Government to explore alternative technical solutions to achieve both the conservation and the development objectives.

We would also like to point out several wider issues raised by this current concern of Queen's Pier.

A. The Built Heritage in Central should be Valued as a Whole

Central is a particularly unique place in the world which has recorded urban development and the interaction of East and West since the first part of the 19th century, through her development from the beginnings of the City of Victoria to the contemporary CBD of a World City. Built heritage in Central that bears witness to this proud process and thus should be valued, include financial institutes, religious buildings, government buildings, civic spaces, ceremonial places, and cultural landscape. Queen's Pier / Edinburgh Place / City Hall contribute strongly to such valued heritage and thus should be protected.

B. Criteria for Determination of Heritage Value should not be Limited to Age Alone

The current system of declaring monuments for protection under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance limits the scope of protection to pre-war monuments. However, international legal frameworks for the protection of heritage sites have already expanded to modern and near-modern architecture, if they can be demonstrated to be of special value in line with the customary aspiration or traditional association of the *society concerned*. For example, the criteria for Listing in England now includes not only age, but also rarity, aesthetic merit, historical association (related to significant events important to the community), and selectivity (whether this is a good representative example of the similar type and quality that survives). If such criteria were adopted in Hong Kong, the entire City Hall complex with the adjacent Memorial Garden, extending to Edinburgh Place and Queen's Pier should be warranted for legal protection.

Similarly, clause 2.2 of the National Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Relics 1982 covers "near modern commemorate buildings associated significant historic events, ... or have important meanings, educational values or historical values." (*)

Such principle, if applied here, would clearly grant City Hall and Queen's Pier preservation status. Hence the current view of the Government that modern post-war buildings, like City Hall or Queen's Pier, do not possess a long enough history to deserve consideration for protection obviously falls short of both international and Mainland standards.



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C. Conservation should include Protection of Ensembles & Control of Urban Design in Sensitive Zones

Heritage protection policy in most places in the world is not limited to declaring individual buildings or structures in isolation as monuments, but is extended to protect ensembles or urban groups. Systems to manage development within a wider context like the designation of conservation streets or zones with special design control should be set up. The Institute strongly believes that authentic values of heritage buildings or areas include architectural and planning characteristics such as usage, density, heights, views, dispositions, routes, open space, proportions, buffer zones and street life, which can only be dealt with by control of urban design criteria with conservation of heritage characteristics in mind.

D. Heritage Conservation is an Inspiration to Future Generations through Respecting Our History

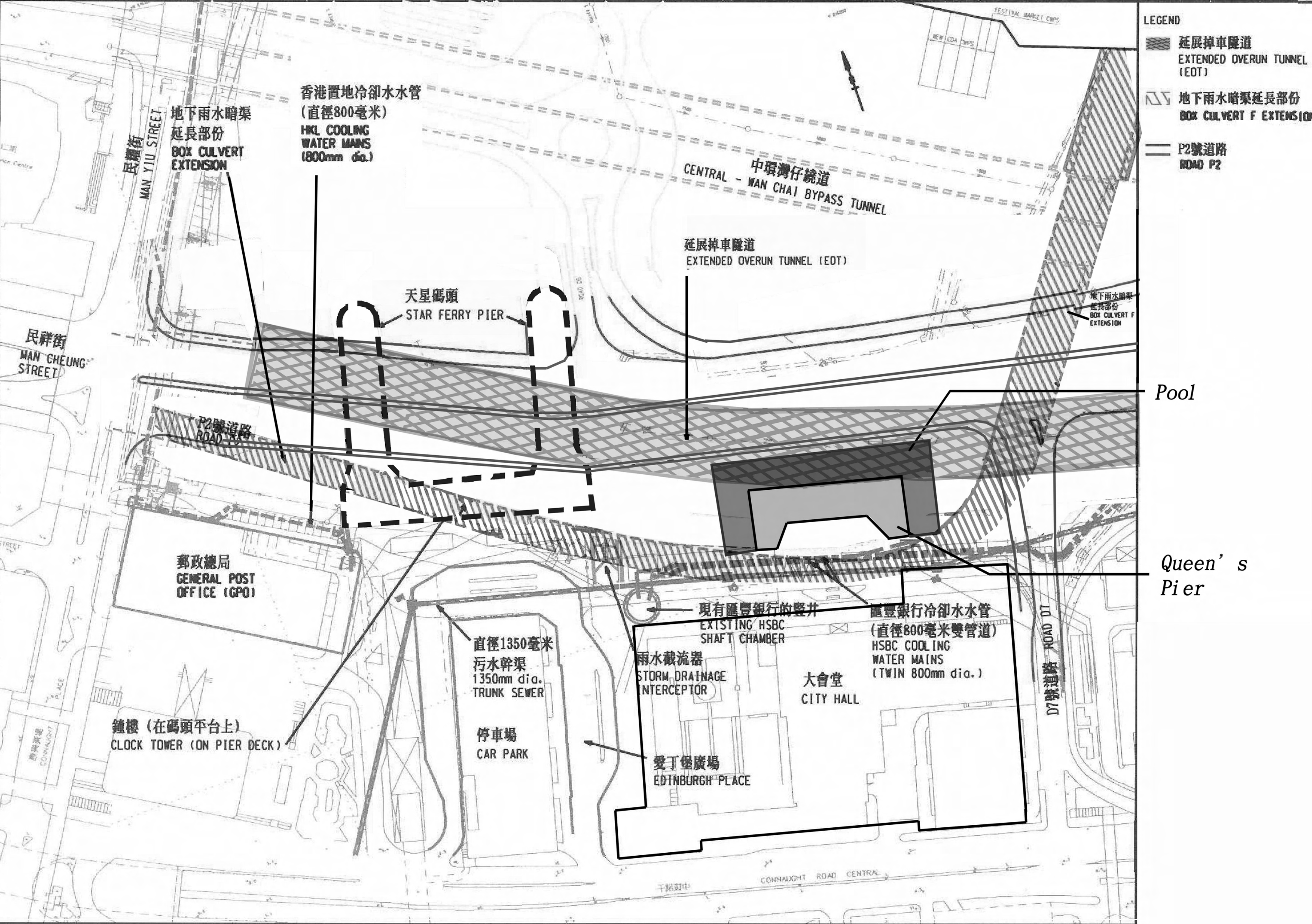
The situation now in Hong Kong can be compared to the scene in 1968 in New York when the plans to demolish Central Station to make way for commercial re-development was suddenly revealed by the owner, and the general public awakened to the fact that they have always loved this seemingly utilitarian, but actually memorable building. The public fight to save the building is best summarized by the well-known statement by Jacqueline Kennedy then:

“Is it not cruel to let our city die by degrees, stripped of all her proud monuments, until there will be nothing left of all her history and beauty to inspire our children? If they are not inspired by the past of our city, where will they find the strength to fight for her future? ... for short term gain they ignore it and tear down everything that matters. Maybe ... this is the time to take a stand, to reverse the tide, so that we won't all end up in a uniform world of steel and glass boxes.”

We believe that we are not alone in Hong Kong now who share similar sentiments about the possible demolition of Queen's Pier.

* 中华人民共和国文物保护法 第一章第二条：

在中华人民共和国境内，下列文物受国家保护：（二）与重大历史事件、革命运动或者著名人物有关的以及具有重要纪念意义、教育意义或者史料意义的近代现代重要史迹、实物、代表性建筑。



LEGEND

- ▨ 延展掉車隧道
EXTENDED OVERUN TUNNEL (EOT)
- - - 地下雨水暗渠延長部份
BOX CULVERT F EXTENSION
- == P2號道路
ROAD P2

香港置地冷卻水水管
(直徑800毫米)
HKL COOLING
WATER MAINS
(800mm dia.)

地下雨水暗渠
延長部份
BOX CULVERT
EXTENSION

中環灣仔繞道
CENTRAL - WAN CHAI BYPASS TUNNEL

延展掉車隧道
EXTENDED OVERUN TUNNEL (EOT)

天星碼頭
STAR FERRY PIER

地下雨水暗渠
延長部份
BOX CULVERT F
EXTENSION

Pool

Queen's
Pier

郵政總局
GENERAL POST
OFFICE (GPO)

直徑1350毫米
污水幹渠
1350mm dia.
TRUNK SEWER

停車場
CAR PARK

鐘樓 (在碼頭平台上)
CLOCK TOWER (ON PIER DECK)

現有匯豐銀行的豎井
EXISTING HSBC
SHAFT CHAMBER

雨水截流器
STORM DRAINAGE
INTERCEPTOR

匯豐銀行冷卻水水管
(直徑800毫米雙管道)
HSBC COOLING
WATER MAINS
(TWIN 800mm dia.)

大會堂
CITY HALL

愛丁堡廣場
EDINBURGH PLACE

干諾道中
CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL

D7號道路
ROAD D7