



Date:
19/03/2026
(Thursday)

Time:
8:45am-5:00pm



SHAPING A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT CITY



HKIUD Urban Design Conference 2025

**Happiness and Well-being
in Urban Design**



Venue: Grand Ballroom, Kowloon Shangri-la



香港城市設計學會
Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design



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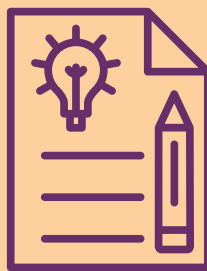
The Grand Ballroom, Kowloon Shangri-la (Hybrid)

19 March 2026



20

Invited Guest &
Speakers



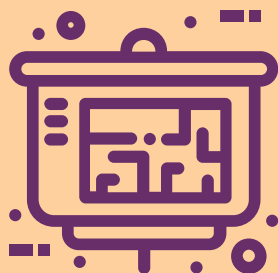
20

Topics in Major
Theme



512

Total
Participants



431

Local
Professionals



4.2/5

Overall
Satisfactory



Mr Benny Chan
President of HKIUD

It is my immense pleasure to welcome you to our 2025 Urban Design Conference, the flagship event celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design.

The theme we have chosen for this year's conference is both simple and profound: "Happiness and Well-being in Urban Design: Shaping A Healthy and Resilient City."

For too long in Hong Kong, success was measured primarily in quantitative terms: GDP, income, building volume, and the length of roads completed, etc. How about the ultimate goal of nurturing the well-being of people? According to the World Happiness Report, Hong Kong ranks 88th out of 147 countries and regions, while our GDP per capita ranks among the top 20 globally. This disparity is a clear call for us to reflect and act.

The promulgation of the Well-being Design Guide by the Housing Bureau and HK Housing Authority last year was a timely and crucial step for our city. This comprehensive, interdisciplinary guide addresses our quality of life by covering health, sustainability, age-friendliness, inclusiveness, community connection, and the preservation of our collective memory and urban identity, the precise areas that affect our well-being and are core to the practice of urban design.

One year after the guide's promulgation, we are honored to have the Secretary for Housing, Ms. Winnie Ho as the Guest of Honor and one of the Keynote Speakers today. Her speech would cast insights on the path forward for further improvement.

Of course, design is just one factor influencing our sense of well-being and happiness. Many other elements are equally critical. That is why alongside designers, we have invited a diverse group of local and international professionals—from academia, development, economics, social science, environmental psychology, and the arts—to share their expertise as speakers today.

歡迎各位蒞臨香港城市設計學會2025度城市設計論壇——慶祝香港城市設計學會成立十五週年的旗艦活動。

我們為本次論壇選擇的主題言簡意賅：“城市設計中的幸福與福祉：塑造建康韌性城市”。

香港慣常以量化指標衡量成就：GDP、收入、建築及道路建成總量等等。然而，培育人民福祉這一終極目標又如何？根據聯合國的《世界幸福報告》，香港在147個國家和地區中排名第88位，而人均GDP卻高居全球前20。這種差距無疑值得我們反思並採取行動。

房屋局與香港房屋委員會去年頒布的《幸福設計指引》是適時而關鍵的一步。這份綜合性的跨領域指南涵蓋健康、可持續性、長者友善、共融性、社區聯繫、集體記憶與城市特色保護等維度，精准切入影響市民福祉的核心領域，這些正是城市設計實踐的關鍵所在。

在指引頒布一年後的今天，我們榮幸邀請到房屋局局長何永賢女士擔任主禮嘉賓及主題演講者。她的演講可就持續改進的方向為我們提供啟示。

當然，設計僅是影響幸福感的要素之一。其他諸多因素同樣至關重要。因此，除設計師外，我們今日更匯聚來自本地與國際的專業人士——涵蓋學術界、發展商、經濟學、社會科學、環境心理學及藝術管理等領域——共同分享真知灼見。

Video Link 影片連結





Ms. Winnie HO, JP

Secretary for Housing,
The Government of
the Hong Kong Special
Administrative Region

Ms Ho is appointed the Secretary for Housing on 1 July 2022. Ms Ho joined the Government as Architect in 1992 and was promoted to Chief Architect in 2009, and to Government Architect in 2012. She was appointed the Director of Architectural Services in 2020. Apart from serving in the Architectural Services Department, Ms Ho had been posted to work as the Deputy Head of Energizing Kowloon East Office under the Development Bureau. During the out-break of COVID-19 in 2020 to 2022, she has actively participated in the construction of quarantine facilities, temporary hospitals and community isolation facilities at Penny's Bay, Kai Tak and many other locations by adoption of Modular Integrated Construction method.

Ms Ho graduated from the Faculty of Architecture of The University of Hong Kong. She also attended the Advanced Management Program of INSEAD in France. She is a member of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects and a Registered Architect.

Keep Smiling ... and Let it Spread!

The Well-Being Project, an initiative led by the Housing Bureau and Hong Kong Housing Authority, is redefining public housing in Hong Kong through a resident-centric approach. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and participatory design, the project has developed a comprehensive Well-Being Design Guide which promotes eight key well-being concepts across the individual, family, community, and societal domains.

The Guide is brought in life through initiatives like "Well-being Design Pretest", "HAPpy Family" and "HAPPY GREEN FAMILY". These programmes apply its principles to both new and existing estates, demonstrating how thoughtful and people-oriented design can enhance livability and strengthen community connections. The approach moves beyond architectural aesthetics of "lean and clean" design to actively foster health, inclusion and upward mobility. The Well-being initiative goes beyond long-term housing planning. The current government is also advancing innovative, swiftly implemented, and flexible policies through Transitional Housing and Light Public Housing projects. These initiatives aim to promptly assist individuals facing hardship by offering simple yet suitable homes that restore residents' dignity. While waiting for long-term public housing, families can enjoy a better living environment—one where they can live with peace of mind and where children can grow up with a smile.

This people-oriented housing approach promotes holistic well-being and is spreading smiles across the city. By building vibrant and supportive communities, Hong Kong offers a blueprint and an inspiring model of the "housing ladder" for cities worldwide.

Video Link 影片連結





**Prof.
Marketta KYTTÄ**

**Professor of Land Use
Planning, Department of
Built Environment, Aalto
University, Finland**

Marketta Kyttä, professor in Land use planning in Aalto University, Finland, has her background in environmental psychology and participatory planning. Her work integrates the fields of land use and transportation planning without forgetting the human focus. The research of her multidisciplinary team covers various topics: child-, and humanfriendly environments, environments that promote wellbeing and health, urban lifestyles, perceived safety and new methods for public participation. Currently the team concentrates on the place-based person-environment research with online public participation GIS methodology. The team has also worked with numerous real life public participation projects of cities in Finland and beyond.

Urban happiness - How to develop socially sustainable environments that promote health and wellbeing?

In an increasingly urbanized world, understanding the qualities of urban environments that foster happiness and create socially sustainable living conditions, along with their associated health outcomes, is essential. The physical attributes of socially sustainable urban areas can be explored using a place-based research approach. Employing an online public participation GIS (PPGIS) methodology enables the study of large groups by facilitating the creation of localized experiential knowledge through user-friendly applications. Collaboration with city officials has demonstrated that this place-sensitive research approach enhances the understanding of environmental health promotion processes, making it easier to apply research findings in urban planning. Globally, cities in 40 countries have employed the PPGIS methodology, originally developed at Aalto University, across over 14,000 projects as part of their public participation efforts. For instance, the Finnish city of Espoo gathered data from more than 6,500 residents, including 2,500 children and young people, thereby enabling extensive and impactful public engagement. The ultimate aim is to collaboratively discover solutions with residents that not only enhance individual happiness but also contribute to planetary healthan inspiring model of the "housing ladder" for cities worldwide.



Video Link 影片連結





Ms. Winnie WONG

**General Manager, Projects,
Hysan Development
Company Limited**

Ms. Winnie Wong is currently the General Manager of Projects Department of Hysan Development Co. Ltd.. She is a Registered Architect with extensive experience in architecture and real estate development. Her expertise encompasses master planning, design, and construction management for commercial, mixed-use, and residential projects across Hong Kong SAR and mainland China. As a core team member of Hysan's Lee Gardens Rejuvenation Project, launched in 2019, aims to transform Lee Gardens into "A Place for ALL" through reconnection, renovation, and redevelopment in the area, including the signature development of Lee Garden Eight.

Lee Gardens – A Place for ALL

Lee Gardens Rejuvenation and Lee Garden Eight exemplify Hysan's century-old legacy and forward-looking vision—where heritage and innovation converge. These initiatives reflect a strategic response to evolving societal needs, integrating award-winning sustainability standards, green infrastructure, people-centric placemaking, and advanced construction technologies. As a beacon of cultural vitality and community wellbeing, Lee Gardens demonstrates adaptability and aligns with global aspirations for sustainable development. It stands as a successful model of place-led urban transformation—connecting generations, empowering communities, and setting international benchmarks for inclusive, joyful, and future-ready urban design.



Video Link 影片連結





Mr. Marcial JESUS

Founder and CEO,
100architects

Marcial Jesús is the Founder and Creative Director of 100architects, a global architecture studio redefining public space through hyper-stimulating, playful, and immersive interventions. With offices in Shanghai, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Riyadh, he has led projects across Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America, creating iconic entertainment hubs, vibrant waterfronts, metropolitan promenades, and interventions ranging from street furniture to large-scale urban activations. Trained as an architect in Chile, Marcial worked at renowned practices including OMA in Rotterdam, Massimiliano Fuksas in Italy, and HASSELL and BENYO in China before founding 100architects in 2013. Beyond practice, he lectures internationally, sharing 100architects' vision of vibrant urban life and architecture as public experience.

Immersive, Outstanding, and Outrageous Public Spaces & Urban Activations

A journey through 100architects' philosophy and most remarkable projects, showcasing interventions at multiple scales and diverse typologies of clients. From playful street activations to metropolitan interventions, Marcial Jesús Hernández will share the studio's evolution, vision, and upcoming surprises in creating public spaces for entertainment, happiness, and well-being.



Video Link 影片連結





**Prof.
CHANG Yung Ho**

Dean of the Faculty of
Architecture and Chair
Professor of Architecture,
The University of
Hong Kong

Professor Yung Ho Chang is the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and the Chair Professor of Architecture of HKU. He is also an Emeritus Professor of MIT. Apart from these, Professor Chang is the Founding Partner and Principal Architect of Atelier Feichang Jianzhu (FCJZ).

Professor Chang has taught at various architecture schools in the US and China: he was Professor and Founding Head of the Graduate Center of Architecture at Peking University (1999-2005); Kenzo Tange Chair Professor at Harvard GSD (2002); Eliel Saarinen Chair Professor at University of Michigan (2004); and Head of the Architecture Department at MIT (2005-2010). He was also a Pritzker Prize Jury member (2012-2017).

Design for Life

Design is not decoration. Design is to make people live better. Thus, for urban design, the creation of public spaces for people to relax or exercise, to meet or gather, and to enjoy outdoor or nature is of paramount importance. I would like to share a number of projects from my practice FCJZ, completed in recent years, to demonstrate the diverse ways we have attempted to imagine the common spaces in the public domain.



Video Link 影片連結



Panel Response / Q&A Session

Topic: Well-being-Based Urban Design and Management: From Concept to Practice

All keynote speakers in morning session

Panel speaker:



Mr. Peter Lau

Chief Architect of ArchSD,
HKSAR Government



Mr. Max WONG

Assistant Director of Housing
Department, HKSAR Government



Dr. Louis NG

Director,
Hong Kong Palace of Museum



Mr. Anthony CHEUNG

Chairman,
Public Affairs Committee, HKIUD

Moderator:



Ar. M. Y. Ivan HO

Chairman of Harbourfront Commission,
Vice President of HKIUD (2014-2018)

Video Link 影片連結





Ar. Donald CHOI

**Managing Director, Urban
Renewal Authority**

Ar Donald Choi is a Registered Architect and Authorized Person. He joined the Urban Renewal Authority on 15 June 2025 as Managing Director and Deputy Chairman. He has over 40 years of management experience across real estate investment, property development, and worked as a professional architect globally. Ar Choi believes in the power of people-centric development and humane design to create economic value and enhance the quality of life for all.

Ar Choi served as the CEO of Chinachem Group from 2018 to August 2024 before his retirement. Prior to this, he was the Managing Director of the Nan Fung Group and a Director at Foster + Partners. He was the Authorized Person for the CLK HK International Airport, voted one of the Top 10 construction projects of the 20th Century. Ar Choi was awarded the Executive of the Year Award 2021 by DHL-SCMP and won the CEO of the Year Award 2022 given by Real Estate Asia.

Alongside his professional career, Ar Choi has held multiple leadership roles in NGOs and professional bodies that focus on design, innovation, shared value creation, and the community well-being, making him a leading figure in the architecture and development sector. He is currently a Trustee of Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), an Adjunct Professor at both the University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Professor of Practice at the School of Design. Ar Choi is an Advisor of Our Hong Kong Foundation, Urban Land Institute Asia Pacific Housing Council Member, a Member of the Antiquity Advisory Board, a member of the Hospital Governing Committee (HGC) of Hong Kong Eye Hospital & Kowloon Hospital and the Chairman of Sub-committee on Capital Works of the HGC of North District Hospital, and an Honorary Advisor of Hong Kong Workers' Health Centre. He was the Board Vice President of the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong, Honorary Advisor of the Hong Kong PropTech Association, a Member of the Council for Carbon Neutrality and Sustainable Development, Advisory Committee Member of the HKTDC Infrastructure Development, Advisory Committee Member of PolyU Jockey Club Design Institute for Social Innovation, Member of the HKU Campus Development and Planning Committee, Land and Development Advisory Committee, Chairman of Architects Registration Board, Past President of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design and the Hong Kong Institute of Real Estate Administrators. He had served as the Chairperson of the Construction Innovation and Technology Application Centre for six years and was a Board Member of Business Environment Council, Habitat of Humanity Hong Kong, Hong Kong Green Building Council, Hong Kong Design Centre and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation.

Ar Choi holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Architecture from RISD, a Bachelor of Science from the University of British Columbia, and a Master of Arts from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Additionally, he attained a joint Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Hong Kong, London Business School, and Columbia Business School.

Happiness and Well-being in Urban Design: Shaping A Healthy and Resilient City: Opportunities and Challenges in Urban Renewal

Shaping a joyful city requires our understanding of how we can share our lives together. Urban renewal is complicated and is not just about property development. If done correctly, it can make our city more inclusive and function as a common good. The Urban Renewal Authority (URA) has adopted a "people first, district-based, and public participatory" approach to 'humanize' urban renewal to improve people's quality of life. What are the opportunities and challenges of URA's 4-R strategies? Shall we follow the status quo or seek solutions to questions that no others have asked, especially in view of the uncertainties due to changing social practices and the accelerated advancement in technology? Donald's talk will share his approach to an urban renewal with heart for a joyful city.

Video Link 影片連結





Dr. Paty RIOS

**Senior Public Space
Stewardship Planne, City
of Vancouver**

Paty is an architect and urbanist with a PhD in humanistic studies and a background in social sciences, public policy, and community engagement. She has worked across Mexico, Canada, and Australia as a consultant, executive director, and public servant. Her focus: using collaborative city design to foster connection, wellbeing, and long-term happiness. Paty has developed innovative methods to co-design and activate public spaces, strengthen social ties in multi-unit housing, and human-centred tools for caring for city spaces through trustful relationships.

Building an inclusive and resilient city through community engagement and intersectoral collaboration

We are wired for connection. It's in the presence of others that we discover who we are, define our identities, and understand the unique value we bring to our communities. Human connection fosters wellbeing and resilience, whether it is to endure personal loss or to help us overcome collective challenges — from longstanding social issues to natural disasters.

In a world that often pulls us apart and amplifies polarization, our greatest opportunity lies in coming together — to foster dialogue, resolve conflict, and bridge the needs and expectations of diverse groups.

In this talk, I'll share how my professional and personal journey has shaped my belief in the transformative power of community engagement and intersectoral collaboration. We'll explore how creating safe spaces, choosing the right tools and processes, and cultivating a culture of empathy can lead to innovative, inclusive, and joyful cities. Together, we will reflect on:

- The importance of genuine human connection
- The power of collaboration across sectors
- Real-world examples of projects, programs, and policies that unite diverse voices

Most importantly, we'll look inward — at our shared responsibility. Whether we design, plan, legislate, or build, each of us holds the power to shape places that care, connect, and nurture wellbeing.





**Dr. Takehiko
NAGUMO**

**Professor at Keio
University and Kyoto
University
Representative Director at
Smart City Institute Japan**

Takehiko ("Tak") is Professor at Keio University Graduate School of Policy and Media Governance and Graduate School of System Design Management as well as Professor at Kyoto University Graduate School of Management. He concurrently serves as Representative Director at Smart City Institute Japan and Senior Managing Executive Officer at Mitsubishi UFJ Research & Consulting where he is dedicated to designing and implementing smart city policies at national and local levels. Tak has also contributed to government reform and innovation as a member of Regulatory Reform Promotion Council under the Cabinet Office of Japan, the Cross-Ministerial Strategic Innovation Promotion Program (SIP), and other key national councils.

Wellbeing-Based Urban Design and Management

Why do we need to focus on well-being of citizens before designing urban policies? Drawing on recent smart city experiences in Japan, Tak Nagumo explains how "Liveable Well-Being City Indicator (LWCI)" has been developed and applied across multiple Japanese cities. LWCI is an official, publicly available dashboard used to assess well-being and life satisfaction among citizens. Tak Nagumo is the creator of this tool.



Video Link 影片連結





**Dr. Shun WANG,
PHD**

**Senior Associate
Professor, International
Business School Suzhou
(IBSS)
Xi'an Jiaotong - Liverpool
University**

Dr. Shun Wang is a Senior Associate Professor at the International Business School Suzhou, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU). He joined XJTLU in 2022, having previously served as Professor at the KDI School of Public Policy and Management in Korea. He holds a Ph.D in Economics from the University of British Columbia, an M.A in Economics, and a B.A in Business Administration from Peking University. Dr. Wang's research is primarily concerned with subjective well-being and economic development. He currently serves as Associate Editor of the Journal of Happiness Studies and the World Happiness Report, and as Academic Editor of PLOS ONE.

Happiness in Cities: A Global Ranking and Analysis

This talk presents a new global ranking of city happiness, but with a key difference: we ranked cities based only on what their residents told us about their well-being. Instead of using statistics chosen by experts, we used a bottom-up approach that lets citizens define what matters most to their quality of life. The results are often consistent with other rankings—cities in Scandinavia and Australasia score high, while cities in war-torn regions score low. But some important differences show why it's so valuable to listen to people's own experiences. I'll also discuss what might explain these results, looking at the economic and social factors that could be shaping happiness.

Video Link 影片連結



Panel Response / Q&A Session

Topic: Happiness in Cities: Global Rankings, Metrics, and What Hong Kong Can Learn

All keynote speakers in morning session

Panel speaker:



Mr. Anthony LUK

Deputy Director of Planning/
Territorial, Planning Department,
HKSAR Government



Mr. Barry WILSON

Immediate Past President of
HKIUD



Dr. Sujata S. GOVADA

Chairperson, Programs and
Events Committee, HKIUD
CEO & Managing Director,
UDP International

Moderator:



Mr. Charles LI

Vice President (External Affairs) of
HKIUD

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**Prof.
Alain Chiaradia**

Vice President
(Professional
Development) of HKIUD

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HKIUD Annual Conference 2025
Happiness and Well-being in Urban Design:
Shaping A Healthy and Resilient City

Event Highlight



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Happiness and Well-being in Urban Design:

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