



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

6 March 2026

By Email: [budget@fstb.gov.hk](mailto:budget@fstb.gov.hk)

Mr. Paul Chan

the Financial Secretary,

Budget Consultation Support Team,

24/F, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar,

Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Chan,

### **Response of the Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design to the 2026-27 Budget**

The Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design welcomes the Hong Kong Government's Budget for the 2026-27 financial year. It is a prudent and well-considered budget that effectively promotes Hong Kong's urban and economic development despite the economy not having fully recovered. The Institute's views on the Budget are as follows:

#### **Paragraphs 7, 34-51, 230 (AI Industrialisation and Application)**

- (a) Supports the Government allocating resources to strengthen AI research and development, as well as talent training, to promote AI industrialisation and wide-ranging applications. In addition to the AI applications mentioned in the Budget for enhancing traffic management and providing early warnings for flooding or landslides, AI can also be used to improve the efficiency of urban design, development, management, and site safety supervision, which is beneficial for developing a smart city.
- (b) Supports the Census and Statistics Department in enhancing the functions of its online data interactive service platform, which facilitates the application of AI and big data.

#### **Paragraphs 28(5), 63-67, 210-214, 265-267 (Northern Metropolis Development)**

- (c) Supports the Government, amidst the incomplete economic recovery, in transferring part of the investment returns from the Exchange Fund and issuing bonds to finance the Northern Metropolis and other infrastructure developments as long-term investments for Hong Kong.
- (d) Also supports the Government in injecting capital into and establishing dedicated companies, as well as enacting dedicated legislation to focus on developing the San Tin Technopole, Hung Shui Kiu Industrial Park, and the Lok Ma Chau Loop Hong Kong Park within the Northern Metropolis, thereby enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness. Supports the Government's continued adoption of innovative thinking and flexible land disposal models to provide greater incentives for developers to participate in the

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- Northern Metropolis development alongside advanced technology enterprises, building a complete industrial ecosystem.
- (e) Recommends that the Government allocate resources to commence planning for public facilities within the Northern Metropolis, such as schools, recreational and cultural facilities, parks, clinics, and fire stations, to support its development. Also recommends early release of land for international schools to ensure that the education needs of international talent coming to Hong Kong can be addressed. The Institute has for many years recommended that the Government organise open urban and architectural design competitions for major public facilities to enhance the overall urban design and liveability of the Northern Metropolis.
- (f) In recent years, Hong Kong has seen a significant reduction in the volume of projects related to urban, architectural, and landscape design, with both private and government projects facing the same issue. The relevant consultant firms have been operating under great difficulty, leading to widespread layoffs, salary cuts, or mandatory unpaid leave, and many firms have even closed down successively. The government allocates over a hundred billion dollars annually to capital works expenditure, yet these consultancy firms are unable to benefit from it. It is recommended that the government prudently allocate the budget of over 128 billion dollars for the fiscal year 2026-27, ensuring that a reasonable percentage of the expenditure is used for urban, architectural, and landscape design projects, so that all consultancy firms can tide over the difficulties together with the government. Otherwise, the institute predicts that more consultant firms will close down in the coming year, and more professionals will become unemployed.

**Paragraphs 70-72 (Low-Altitude Economy)**

- (g) Supports the Government in expediting the improvement of relevant legislation and regulatory frameworks, formulating long-term standards for low-altitude economy development, and establishing related design guidelines for urban design and building design.

**Paragraphs 148-163, 194, 195 (Leveraging Hong Kong's International Advantages)**

- (h) Commends the Government for leveraging Hong Kong's international advantages (including its excellent international transport hub status, superior legal system, low tax rate, and status as a free financial and trading centre) and developing Hong Kong into a green maritime fuel bunkering and trading centre, an international smart logistics hub, an international legal hub, an international sports dispute resolution centre, the Hong Kong Professional Services GoGlobal Platform, an intellectual property trading centre, and an art trading hub, among others.
- (i) Many of Hong Kong's current ferries and kai-to (street ferries) are quite old vessels, emitting substantial black smoke during operation, which harms Hong Kong's tourism

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image. Recommends that the Government seize this opportunity to introduce preferential policies encouraging ferry and kai-to operating companies to procure modern, green-fuel vessel fleets to replace the old ones.

**Paragraphs 172, 176 (Construction Industry Talent, International Education Hub)**

- (j) Over 80% of annual graduates from the three universities (University of Hong Kong, Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong) whose Master of Urban Design programmes are accredited by the Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design enter careers related to urban development and the construction industry, such as urban design and planning, architecture and landscape design, and property management. This helps alleviate the professional manpower shortage the construction industry has faced in Hong Kong for many years. Recommends that the training places provided by the Government cover these graduates to ensure an adequate talent supply for the long-term development of Hong Kong's construction industry.
- (k) In the past 10 years, these three Master of Urban Design programmes have had approximately 850 graduates from Mainland China and overseas, already fulfilling the role of an international education hub. Recommends that government policies need to consider the needs of such competitive programmes.

**Paragraphs 188-190 (Urban-Rural Integration, Historic Building Revitalization, Waterfront Enhancement)**

- (l) Urban-rural integration, historic buildings revitalization, and waterfront enhancement are all indispensable elements of quality urban design. Supports the Government in providing resources to address these areas.
- (m) The Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design, in its representation at a Town Planning Board meeting in 2024, strongly recommended that the Government ensure urban-rural integration in the draft outline zoning plan for the San Tin Technopole. The Institute appreciates the Government's positive response in establishing the "Northern Metropolis Urban-Rural Integration Fund" pilot scheme to bring economic vitality to villages.

**Paragraphs 197-204 (Carbon Neutrality Target)**

- (n) Supports the Government in providing resources to achieve the carbon neutrality target, promote hydrogen energy development, and advance green finance.

**Paragraphs 218-221 (Housing Supply)**

- (o) The Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design commends the Government for completing 9,500 "Light Public Housing" units on schedule last year, enabling many families long troubled by substandard subdivided units to significantly improve their living conditions immediately. This is an excellent benevolent policy. Looks forward to the Government

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achieving its target of completing approximately 30,000 units by the 2027-28 financial year, continuing to benefit the public.

- (p) The Institute also commends the Government for implementing the "Basic Housing Units" regulatory regime, ensuring that citizens who still need to reside in subdivided flats have living environments meeting certain standards.
- (q) Both the Light Public Housing and the "Basic Housing Units" regulatory regime are benevolent policies demonstrating the Government's out-of-box thinking. However, they are only temporary measures to address citizens' urgent needs. In the long run, after the transition period, residents will need to move to public rental housing or private housing in a timely manner. The Government needs to allocate sufficient resources to ensure that site formation works for public or private housing developments, along with related infrastructure, are completed as scheduled for handover to the Housing Department for construction or to the Lands Department for sale via private treaty grants or auction.

**Paragraphs 233-235 (Supporting Work in the Aftermath of Wang Fuk Court Fire)**

- (r) The Institute commends the Government for reserving \$4 billion to support the aftermath of the Wang Fuk Court fire and for undertaking numerous follow-up actions less than three months after the incident, providing swift assistance to the affected residents in need.
- (s) Hopes the Urban Renewal Authority to promptly launch the enhanced "Invitation to Tender and Tender Evaluation Support Scheme," and expects the Independent Commission Against Corruption, together with the Competition Commission, to diligently combat illegal corruption and bid-rigging activities related to building maintenance. This will enable the public to carry out building maintenance work with peace of mind and at reasonable costs, ensuring urban safety in Hong Kong for the benefit of its citizens.

**Paragraph 280 (Encouraging Childbirth)**

- (t) Hong Kong's persistently very low birth rate over a long period is unhealthy and detrimental to its long-term development. The Government needs to be more aggressive in increasing the child allowance in salary tax, and introduce other measures to encourage childbirth, ensuring Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness.

Should further information be required, please kindly contact me or Ms. Cherry Lau, our Senior Administrative Officer at 2235 9057.

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Mr. Benny Chan  
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二零二六年三月六日

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財政預算案諮詢工作組

財政司司長陳茂波先生

尊敬的陳司長,

### 香港城市設計學會對「2026 至 27 財政預算案」的回應

香港城市設計學會歡迎香港政府 2026 至 27 財政年度政府財政預算案，這是一份審慎、周詳、在香港經濟還未完全復甦的情況之下，仍能有效推動香港的城市和經濟發展的預算案。以下是本會對財政預算案的意見：

#### 段數 7, 34-51, 230 (AI 產業化和應用)

- (a) 支持政府投入資源，強化 AI 的研發以及人才訓練，推動 AI 產業化以及廣泛應用。除了預算案提及的利用 AI 加強交通管理，以及水浸或山泥傾瀉預警之外，AI 也可以用於提升城市設計、發展、管理和監督地盤施工安全的效率，也有利於發展智慧城市。
- (b) 支持統計處加強網上數據互動服務平台的功能，這有利 AI 以及大數據的應用。

#### 段數 28(5), 63-67, 210-214, 265-267 (推動北部都會區發展)

- (c) 支持政府在經濟還未全面復甦的情況下，撥轉部份外匯基金的投資收益以及發債，支持北都以及其他基建發展，作為香港的長線投資。
- (d) 也支持政府注資及成立專屬公司，以及通過專屬法例聚焦發展北部都會區的新田科技城、洪水橋產業園以及河套香港園區，提升香港的競爭力。也支持政府繼續採用創新思維、靈活的批地模式，提供更大誘因吸引發展商聯同先進科技企業參與北都的建設，構建完整的產業生態圈。
- (e) 建議政府調配資源開始規劃北都內的公共設施，例如學校、文娛康樂設施、公園、診所、消防局等設施，以配合北都的發展，以及盡早推出供興建國際學校的土地，確保國際專才來港發展時可以解決子女的教育問題。學會多年來都建議政府為重要的公共設施舉辦公開的城市以及建築設計的比賽，提升北都的整體城市設計以及宜居水平。
- (f) 香港在過去數年，有關城市、建築以及園境設計的工程量大減，無論私人還是政府項目都面對同樣問題。相關的顧問公司的經營都非常困難，出現大量裁員、減薪或強制放無薪假的情況，不少事務所甚至相繼倒閉。政府每年投放一千多億元於基本工程開支，但這類顧問公司卻無法受惠。建議政府審慎分配 2026 至 27 年度的 1280 百多億元開支預算，確保合理的百分比開支用於城市、建築以及園境設計的項目，讓所有顧問

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公司都可以與政府共渡時艱，渡過難關。否則學會預計來年會有更多顧問公司結業，更多專業人士加入失業大軍。

#### 段數 70-72, (低空經濟)

- (g) 支持政府盡快完善相關法例與監管框架，制定低空經濟發展的長遠標準，以及城市設計以及建築設計上的相關設計指引。

#### 段數 148-163, 194, 195 (善用香港國際優勢)

- (h) 讚賞政府善用香港的國際化優勢（包括完善的國際交通樞紐、優秀的法律制度、低稅率以及自由的金融及貿易中心），銳意發展香港成為綠色船用燃料加注及貿易中心、國際智慧物流樞紐、國際法律樞紐、國際體育爭議解決中心、專業服務出海平台、知識產權貿易中心以及藝術品交易樞紐等等。
- (i) 香港現時的渡輪以及街渡，很多都是頗為老舊的船隻，行駛時排放大量黑煙，有損香港的旅遊形象。建議政府趁機會推出優惠政策，鼓勵香港的渡輪及街渡營運公司，採購現代化、使用綠色燃料的船隊，替代陳舊的船隊。

#### 段數 172, 176 (建造業人才、國際教育樞紐)

- (j) 獲得香港城市設計學會認證的三所大學（香港大學、香港中文大學、城市大學）的城市設計碩士課程，每年的畢業生超過八成都投身於城市發展以及建造業相關的工作，例如城市設計和規劃、建築以及園境設計、物業管理等等，有助舒緩過去多年香港面對的建造業專業人手短缺的問題。建議政府提供的培訓學額可以涵蓋這些畢業生，為香港的建造業的長遠發展提供足夠的人材。
- (k) 這三個城市設計碩士課程，過去 10 年約有 850 名畢業生是來自內地以及外國，已經發揮了國際教育樞紐的角色，建議政府的政策需要照顧到這類富競爭力的課程的需要。

#### 段數 188-190 (城鄉共融、歷史建築保育、優化海濱)

- (l) 城鄉共融、活化歷史建築以及優化海濱都是優質城市設計不可或缺的需要，支持政府提供資源照顧這數方面的需要。
- (m) 香港城市設計學會於 2024 年的城市規劃委員會的會議上陳辭，極力建議政府在新田科技城的分區大綱草圖上做好成鄉共融的工作。學會感謝政府的積極回應，成立「北都城鄉共融基金」先導計劃為鄉村帶來經濟活力。

#### 段數 197-204 (碳中和目標)

- (n) 支持政府提供資源落實碳中和的目標、促進氫能發展以及綠色金融。

#### 段數 218-221 (房屋供應)

- (o) 香港城市設計學會讚賞政府去年如期完成 9500 個「簡約公屋」單位，讓很多受劣質劏房困擾多年的家庭可以即時大幅改善居住質素，是很好的德政。期望政府如期達到在 2027-28 年度前完成約 30,000 個單位的目標，繼續做福市民。
- (p) 學會也讚賞政府實施「簡樸房」規管制度，讓仍然需要居住於劏房的市民的居住環境達到一定的標準。

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- (q) 簡約公屋與「簡樸房」規管制度都是德政，展現出政府的破格的思維。但都只是解決市民燃眉之急的臨時措施，長遠而言，在過渡期後居民需要適時搬遷到公共房屋或私人住宅。政府需要提供足夠資源，確保供興建公共房屋或私人住宅的土地的平整工程，以及相關的基建設施可以預期完成，然後移交房署施工，或地政處推出私人市場。

#### 段數 233-235 宏福苑火災後續工作

- (r) 學會讚賞政府預留 40 億元支持宏福苑火災的善後工作，以及於火災後不足三個月已經做了很多跟進工作，迅速支援徬徨的災民。
- (s) 期望市建局盡快推出加強版的「招標妥」，以及廉政公署聯同競爭委員會努力打擊牽涉大廈維修的非法的貪污和圍標勾檔，讓市民可以安心和以合理的價錢做好大廈維修的工作，確保香港的城市安全，造福市民。

#### 段數 280 (鼓勵生育)

- (t) 香港的出生率長期處於嚴重偏低的水平是不健康的，不利於香港的長遠發展。政府在增加子女免稅額方面需要更為進取，也需要推出其他鼓勵生育的措施，確保香港的長遠競爭力。

如有任何疑問，請聯絡我或我們的高級行政主任劉女士，電話：2235 9057。

陳澤斌先生

陳澤斌

會長  
香港城市設計學會  
2026年3月6日

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