

SPARK: Thought leadership panel discussion

Session Title: **Urban Repurposing: Re-imagining and revitalising the city**
Date & Time: 20 January 2019, Sunday, 10.15 – 11.45
Venue: Laundry Steps, Tai Kwun

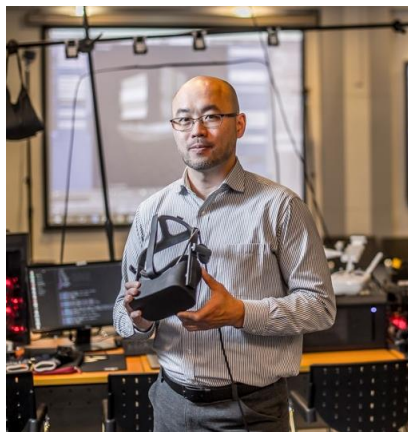
Summary / Description:

Urban environments hold many unexploited possibilities.

The space, land, structures and systems that constitute our cities have the potential to do so much more for their inhabitants. Achieving this so that our cities are more inclusive, functional and pleasant places to live in is perhaps one of the greatest challenges we face and there are no easy solutions.


This panel aims to explore the opportunities and challenges presented by repurposing buildings and conserving the built environment heritage as a way to revitalise our cities. What impact does this have on the fabric of the city? How does it change the way in which citizens relate to the urban environment? And how economical is this approach? This panel will explore these issues citing examples from Hong Kong and other cities around the world where existing, traditional infrastructure is being redesigned, repurposed, and reimagined to better serve citizens in the 21st century.

Panel Speakers



Professor Eugene Ch'ng
Director, NVIDIA Joint-Lab on Mixed Reality, NVIDIA Technology Centre
Professor of Cultural Computing,
University of Nottingham Ningbo China

Professor Eugene Ch'ng graduated with a best PhD from the Electronics, Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Birmingham in 2007. He has 20 years of interdisciplinary background and formal training in Art & Design, built environment, computational sciences and Humanities research. He is founding director of the NVIDIA Joint-Lab on Mixed Reality. He presently serves as co-editor-in-chief for MIT Press' Presence journal, the longest established journal on VR research. Prof. Ch'ng has been twice invited to the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition, and was organiser and speaker at the Royal Society Theo Murphy Scientific meeting in 2017, and has exhibited at British Science Festivals, Orkney International Science Festival, and Darwin's Bicentenary Exhibition. His research

	<p>has been featured in National Geographic Television and Channel Four's Time Team Special. He has also served as global consultant for the V&A's UNESCO endorsed ReACH Programme on digital heritage.</p> <p><i>Eugene will discuss the following:</i> <i>Virtual Spaces within Built Environments</i> 21st century urban spaces with its magnificent structures and glorious designs can often belie the fact that visible, physical spaces are not spaces in which communities naturally settle. There are spaces within such spaces created by individuals and communities at the cultural, socio-political and personal levels. In contemporary societies, such spaces are often mediated by digital devices. In exploring opportunities and challenges in the repurposing of buildings and conserving the built environment heritage in order to revitalise our cities, the idea of virtual and mediated spaces must be considered. The concept of a virtual space mediated by digital technologies for the reproduction, storage, and sharing of cultural heritage is increasingly important, for they provide a means to record and share memories by individuals and institutions.</p>
	<p>David Hills, Partner, Purcell, Hong Kong</p> <p>David Hills, BA (Hons) GradDiplCons(AA)dist RIBA AABC, is a conservation architect, educator and partner at Purcell, working on numerous listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments and world heritage sites in the UK and internationally. Acting as architect, master planner and heritage consultant, David is equally at home with design and technical issues and heritage reporting. Previous clients include the Parliamentary Estate, English Heritage, National Gallery (London), Battersea Power Station, City of London, and Hong Kong government. Graduate and former Year Master of the Architectural Association building conservation course, David lectures regularly on aspects of building conservation, and is a regular contributor to various journals, national newspapers, television and radio programmes.</p>

David will discuss the following:

When Jane Jacobs wrote in 1961 that “new ideas need old buildings” she was identifying the need for continuity in our urban fabric, celebrating heritage not only as a means of looking back to the past, but of leveraging history to deliver a better future.

The talk will look at historic uses of buildings and the wider city, ideas of zoning and their subversion, cycles of prosperity and decline and how this can provide fertile territory for new uses, occupying the fringes of the city, the gaps and spaces in-between; where there are gaps there lies energy and opportunity.

Using examples from Purcell’s international practice, we will explore the effect that this has on how people relate to the city, as well as the physical impact on the buildings and neighbourhoods that we work in with our unique opportunity to communicate a place’s past, present and future.



Professor Edward Sweeney, Professor of Logistics, and Director of the Aston Logistics & Systems Institute, Aston University

Professor Edward Sweeney is Professor of Logistics and Systems at Aston University in Birmingham, UK and Director of the Aston Logistics & Systems Institute. He is an experienced researcher with over 200 publications in the form of books, book chapters, journal papers and articles to his name. He also sits on the editorial boards of several leading academic journals and currently chairs the Logistics Research Network (LRN), the UK’s leading network of scholars in the supply chain field. Edward has worked and lectured in over 50 countries and collaborated with many of the world’s leading companies. His current work focusses on the development of sustainable and resilient logistics architectures, particularly in the context of urban repurposing.

Edward’s contribution will focus on two facets: logistics and systems. Efficient and effective urban **logistics** lies at the centre of the emerging

smart cities paradigm. It is central to the quality of life of citizens, particularly in the context of changing consumer behaviour and rapid developments in technology (particularly information and communications technology (ICT)). There is significant evidence that the development of smart cities has been hindered by the adoption of fragmented approaches to their design, planning and implementation. Cities are complex entities with a wide variety of interacting and interrelated components. Their redesign, repurposing and reimagining needs to be carried out in a logical and systematic way. “The **systems** approach to city redesign” has some key principles upon which it needs to be based, principally the aspiration that city environments behave like systems, i.e. they operate in a methodical and coordinated way with the primary objective of serving their inhabitants.




Professor Hendrik Tieben, Associate Professor, School of Architecture, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Hendrik TIEBEN is an Associate Professor at the School of Architecture of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). At CUHK, he serves as Director of the MSc in Urban Design programme and teaches courses in urban design, history and theory. In his research, Prof. Tieben investigates the transformation of urban forms and public space in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta. Since 2013 he developed the project "Magic Carpet – Re-envisioning Community Space", which engages residents in the co-creation of community spaces. Hendrik Tieben’s research was published in a range of professional and academic journals. He is a Founding Member of the Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design and a registered architect in Germany.

Hendrik will discuss the following:
Urban Repurposing the City by Citizen Driven Placemaking

Many cities in Asia currently face densification, a degradation of their public spaces and urban fabric, as well as identity loss and social

	<p>polarization. Urban design and placemaking can help to address these issues and revitalize our cities. Despite the lack of space, these cities have many under-used spaces, offering latent opportunities for residents and communities. By referring to experiences with projects in Hong Kong, this contribution presents potential ways how to unlock these opportunities in three key steps: (1) Re-imagining, (2) Capacity Building, and (3) Up-scaling. The presentation highlights the important role, which citizens can play in the process of re-imagining their city and how they could be supported by tactical interventions, co-design approaches and new policy frameworks.</p>
	<p>Moderator and Lead: Anne Kerr, Global Head Cities, Mott MacDonald</p> <p>Dr Kerr leads Mott MacDonald’s Global Strategic Initiative for Cities providing expertise in visioning, master-planning and delivery of developments at local, national and cross boundary. She has been involved in developing roadmaps, development strategies as well as detailed plans for (and delivery of) integrated developments (both new and redevelopment/regeneration) for communities, land use and transportation, innovative technologies, and resource management in more than 30 countries. She advises governments, developments and agencies on policy matters and strategies to deliver integrated solutions for the built environment – always putting people first. Has provided advisory services to a number of eco-city and smart city developments, mixed use communities, transit oriented developments and entertainment districts and for various other master-planning developments around the world, and provides inputs to Regional goals in support of sustainable development goals and particularly SDG 11.</p> <p><i>Anne will discuss the following:</i> Today, we live in a world where the possibilities and drivers for cities are endless. Liveability, vibrancy and digitally enabled solutions need to be balanced by a city’s unique aspects and its</p>

	<p>cultural context. Hong Kong's urban environment presents a vast number of opportunities to be drawn on, to do more for its inhabitants. The city's high-rise nature allows for building retrofit and enhancement of efficiencies, the density of infrastructure allows for the development of a holistic and all-encompassing Internet of Things, and the culture and heritage deep-rooted in its history allows for the shaping of values, beliefs and aspirations. These evolving aspirations, in turn, will continue to influence the direction of our city's repurposing and revitalisation. So take a minute, and think about your aspirations and hopes for Hong Kong.</p>
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