



**THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
(HKIA)**

**REPORT FOR ARCASIA COMMITTEE  
FOR ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION (ACAE)  
MEETING 2011  
in DA NANG, VIETNAM**

**16 August 2011**

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# THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

## REPORT FOR ACAE MEETING 2011

### 1. Architectural School Program

Architectural education in Hong Kong began in 1950 following the establishment of the Faculty of Architecture in the University of Hong Kong. The first degree of Bachelor of Architecture was awarded in 1955. Since then, there are other universities and post-secondary education institutions in Hong Kong providing architectural or architectural-related courses.

However, at present only the professional architectural degree programmes offered by The University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong are accredited and recognized by the Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) as the appropriate academic qualification for admission to the HKIA and for registration as an architect in Hong Kong.

#### a) The University of Hong Kong

Being the first to offer architectural degree course in Hong Kong, the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Hong Kong has now expanded to include 3 departments and 1 division:

- Department of Architecture
- Department of Real Estate and Construction
- Department of Urban Planning and Design
- Division of Landscape Architecture

The Department of Architecture is now offering the following degrees in architectural programmes:

- Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies [BA(AS)]
- Master of Architecture (MArch)
- Master of Science in Conservation
- Post-graduate diploma in Conservation

MPhil and PhD Programmes in Architecture are also offered by the Department.

The 3-year BA(AS) degree course is a pre-professional undergraduate programme while the 2-year MArch degree course is the professional degree programme. Together the degree programmes have been accredited by the HKIA. Last revalidation of the program was held in November 2007 and the recognition of the both degrees was granted for a further period of five years.

The tentative number of graduates awarded the MArch degree in 2011 is 69 (subject to re-examination in late August).

b) The Chinese University of Hong Kong

In 1991, the Chinese University of Hong Kong established the Department of Architecture under the Faculty of Social Science. It offers a 3-year Bachelor of Social Science in Architectural Studies pre-professional undergraduate course followed by a 2-year Master of Architecture professional degree course. The first Master of Architecture degree was awarded in 1997.

The Department has been renamed as the School of Architecture since 1 August 2009.

The School is now offering the following degree programmes:

- Bachelor of Social Science in Architectural Studies [BSSc(AS)]
- Master of Architecture (MArch)
- Master of Science in Sustainable and Environmental Design

MPhil and PhD Programmes are also offered by the School.

The BSSc(AS) degree together with the MArch degree programme have been accredited by the HKIA. Last revalidation of the programmes was held in April 2010 and the recognition of the both degrees be granted for a further period of five years.

The number of graduates awarded the MArch degree in 2011 is 32.

c) The City University of Hong Kong

In 1988, the City Polytechnic of Hong Kong started to offer a 3-year Higher Diploma in Architectural Studies (HDAS). The Institution was renamed as the City University of Hong Kong in 1994.

In 2002, the HDAS was restructured to a 2-year Associate Degree in Architectural Studies. Since 2005, the Department of Building and Construction together with the Division of Building Science and Technology jointly offered a 3-year degree program leading to Bachelor of Science (Architectural Studies) with an emphasis on the technological aspect of architectural design and construction.

The first cohort of Bachelor of Science (Architectural Studies) graduated in 2007.

d) The Chu Hai College of Higher Education

The Department of Architecture of this private post-secondary institution was established back in 1964 offering a 4-year course in Bachelor of Science in Architecture. However, Chu Hai was only given the degree awarding status by the Hong Kong Government

in 2004. A 5-year Bachelor of Architecture and a 4-year Bachelor of Science Degree in Architecture had subsequently been accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications in 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Chu Hai is now seeking HKIA's accreditation of the Bachelor of Architecture programme.

- e) HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPACE)  
The Architectural Studies Subject Group of the College of Humanities and Law started the 3-year full-time mode of Professional Diploma of Architectural Studies in 2000.

The program offers a multiple-entry and multiple-exit mode as follows:

	<b>Award</b>
Completion of Year 1	Certificate in Architectural Studies (CAS)
Completion of Year 2	Advanced Certificate in Architectural Studies (ACAS)
Completion of Year 3	Professional Diploma in Architectural Studies (PDAS)

The HKU SPACE, in collaboration with the Curtin University of Technology in Australia, offers a top-up degree for PDAS holders who are eligible for direct admission to the final year of the Bachelor of Applied Science (Architectural Science) at the Curtin University of Technology.

- f) The Institute of Vocational Education (IVE)  
The Department of Construction of the IVE started to offer the Higher Diploma in Architectural Design and Technology in 2005 and the first cohort of students graduated in 2009.

## 2. Key Issues in Architectural Education

The HKIA is a body corporate responsible for

- raising the standard of architecture in Hong Kong, and
- establishing the standards of professional architectural services offered by the members of the HKIA.

Through its Board of Educational Affairs, the HKIA oversees matters relating to architectural education, accreditation of architectural programmes, recognition of non-local architectural and related education systems and professional qualifications.

## 2.1 Education reform

With the '3+3+4' education reform in place in Hong Kong, the local secondary education will be changed from 7 years to 6 years (3-year preliminary secondary education and 3-year higher secondary education) while the normal undergraduate degree programme will be changed from 3 years to 4 years.

The first intake for the undergraduate degree programmes in the universities under the new '3+3+4' education system will be in September 2012. Architectural undergraduate programmes in 2012 will have to be extended to 4 years as well.

The HKIA has been liaising closely with the universities for smooth transition while upholding the aspired education objectives and standards.

## 2.2 Accreditation of architectural programmes

Regarding the accreditation of local professional architectural programmes, the HKIA is in close liaison with the Architects Registration Board (ARB).

The ARB is the statutory body enacted under the Architects Registration Ordinance to oversee the registration of architect in Hong Kong. Majority of the ARB Members are appointed by the HKIA Council.

Since 1999, the HKIA and the ARB had jointly established criteria and procedures for accreditation of architectural programmes in local universities. This accreditation establishes the academic standards appropriate for admission to the HKIA and for registration as an architect in Hong Kong by the ARB.

In 2011, a new edition of the HKIA/ARB Accreditation Document has been introduced.

The Chu Hai College has applied to HKIA/ARB for accreditation of its 5-year Bachelor of Architecture degree programme. The validation visit is scheduled for June 2012.

Revalidation of Bachelor of Arts (Architectural Studies) and Master of Architecture degree programme of the University of Hong Kong will also be held in 2012.

## 2.3 Educating the Public

To enhance the general understanding of architecture by the public, a series of structured public education programmes are launched by the HKIA.

The HKIA has, from time to time, participated in career events organized by secondary schools. The objective is to enhance secondary school students' general understanding of architecture and for them to envision building a professional career in architecture. The Architecture Talks to secondary schools is one of the HKIA's efforts in public education, through which students were introduced to architecture and the roles of architects.

An Architecture Week was organized in October 2010 with the target audience being high school students and the general public who are interested in architecture. During the Architecture Week, there were exhibitions, visits to the HKIA Premises and architectural practices, tours to architectural schools and seminars on architecture.

In November 2011, the 55<sup>th</sup> HKIA Anniversary Conference "Megalopolis and Architecture" will be organized together with the Architecture Week to promote architecture excellence to the public.

Other than the above exhibitions and conferences, the HKIA organizes Annual Award Exhibition annually after the presentation of the HKIA Annual Award. Projects that received awards in the year were displayed at the exhibition. There are also other public education programmes organised around October's World Day of Architecture every year since 1998.

### 3. Continuing Professional Development Program

To continuously enhance members' knowledge and skills as professional architects, the HKIA started implementing a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme for the HKIA members in 1994 on a voluntary basis.

It became mandatory since 1 January 2003.

Starting from 1 January 2011, fulfilment of mandatory CPD requirement for a minimum of 25 hours a year is a pre-requisite for the renewal and reinstatement of the HKIA membership.

In 2010, the HKIA organized 45 CPD events and supported over 70 courses organized by other organizations. Programme activities included talks, lectures, conferences, seminars, site visits, self-structure reading, etc.

Details of the CPD policy framework and the scheme, as well as the events held during 2010-2011 are available on the HKIA's website at [www.hkia.net](http://www.hkia.net)

For 2011, CPD events include :

3.1 Lecture & Seminar Series – HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment

The HKIA organize an annual series of lectures and seminars to prepare the candidates for the Professional Assessment for admission to the HKIA. The 28-session series covered seminars on building design application subjects, statutory controls for building works, planning regulations, building contracts, and professional ethics.

3.2 Site Safety Training Seminars

In response to government legislation and requirement, the HKIA organize Site Safety Training Seminars and self-study course materials to raise members' safety awareness and compliance with the legislation.

3.3 Venice Biennale Response Exhibition

“Quotidian Architectures Venice Biennale Response Exhibition” was held on 30 April – 25 June 2011 and was participated by around 12,000 visitors.

3.4 Site Visits to awarded buildings

The HKIA organized visits to the following buildings which were awarded with the HKIA Annual Award or the Quality Building Award:

- One LaSalle, Kowloon Tong
- Garden City Cyber Port, Shenzhen
- SCAD Hong Kong (former North Kowloon Magistracy)

3.5 Overseas visit / tours

The HKIA also organize excursion tours and overseas visits as below :

- Guangzhou Buildings Excursion Tour (2-3 April 2011)
- Factory Visit to Guangzhou Nippon Paint (16 April 2011)
- Green Visit to Singapore (9 – 12 May 2011)
- Shanghai Kerry City Visit (6 Aug 2011)
- Factory Visit to Shenzhen Shui Wo (10 Sept 2011)
- Excursion tour to India's Mumbai-Pune-Ahmedabad (29 Sep – 9 Oct 2011)
- Green Tour Baltic Region (Sweden, Germany, Finland, Denmark) (7 – 17 Oct 2011)

4. Registration and License Requirement

4.1 HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment

Under the Architects Registration Ordinance, a HKIA Member, with adequate local experience required, shall be deemed to be accepted as a registered architect in Hong Kong upon application to the Architects Registration Board ( ARB).

Since 2003, the HKIA has launched a new Professional Assessment System, to replace the previous HKIA Examination started in 1996, for admission to the HKIA.

This HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment (HKIA/ARB PA), is also monitored and recognized by the ARB.

The objectives of the HKIA/ARB PA are to ensure that the candidates have reached an acceptable standard in academic knowledge, local practical experience and professional competence required for the HKIA membership and for registration as an architect in Hong Kong..

In order to sit for the HKIA/ARB PA, the candidate must fulfil the following requirements :

- a) A recognized professional degree in architecture
- b) A minimum of 24 months recognized practical experience of which no less than 12 months of post-professional-degree experience in a local practice working on local projects under direct supervision of an Office Supervisor

The HKIA/ARB PA is held once a year and consists of the following papers;

- Paper 1 – Statutory Controls in Building Works
- Paper 2 – Building Contracts, Professional Practice, Professional Conduct, Conditions of Agreement & Scale of Charges
- Paper 3 – Building Structures
- Paper 4 – Building Services and Environmental Controls
- Paper 5 – Building Materials and Technology
- Paper 6 – Site Design
- Paper 7 – Building Design, Construction Details & Documentation
- Paper 8 – Case Study
- Paper 9 – Professional Interview

The candidates have to pass all the written papers before being eligible for the Professional Interview.

In order to qualify for the admission to the HKIA as members and eligible for registration with the ARB, the candidates have to pass all papers. With effect from PA 2011, the validity of passes of Paper 1 to Paper 8 has been extended from five successive years to eight successive years. The structure of the HKIA/ARB PA System, as documented in the PA Handbook, is available on the HKIA website at [www.hkia.net](http://www.hkia.net) .

The HKIA/ARB PA is organized essentially on the HKIA's own resources and the voluntary input from members, with technical advice and support from the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority.

To improve the HKIA/ARB PA, the HKIA Council has set up a PA Review Task Group to review the current PA system in 2011. A number of changes had been endorsed and will be implemented starting PA in 2012 to make the PA more effective and user-friendly while upholding the standard and quality of the PA..

#### 4.2 Admission for overseas graduates as HKIA Member

The HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment also admit candidates graduated from overseas universities outside Hong Kong.

Schools accredited or recognized by NBAA, CAA, NAAB or any others accepted by the HKIA will be considered as recognized schools. Graduates from these recognized schools can enrol for the HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment.

#### 4.3 Alternative admission route for non-local professionals

Non-local professionals but with HKIA recognized professional qualification / registration with a minimum number of post-professional qualification / registration professional experience can apply to the HKIA and the ARB for admission via a Professional Induction Workshop and the Professional Interview.

### 5. Potential for Student Exchange Program

The HKIA regularly makes sponsorship for students to join exchange programs such as UIA Student Jamboree and HKIA Excursion Tours. This year, the HKIA will sponsor 2 students to join the UIA2011 Tokyo Youth Jamboree and also offer 4 travel scholarships to students from the local schools of architecture for attending the HKIA Green Tour Baltic Region 2011 to Finland and the surrounding countries and to participate in the World Sustainable Building Conference in October 2011.

### 6. Accreditation Body and Status, Name and email address of all Accredited Schools

#### 6.1 Accreditation body

Accreditation of professional architectural programmes in Hong Kong, in the context of Architects Registration Ordinance, is carried out jointly by.

- a) the Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA)
- b) the Architects Registration Board (ARB)

## 6.2 Accredited Schools

- a) The University of Hong Kong  
Department of Architecture  
Email : [dept@arch.hku.hk](mailto:dept@arch.hku.hk)
  
- b) The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
School of Architecture  
Email : [architecture@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:architecture@cuhk.edu.hk)

## 7. Student Internship Program Condition

Currently, it is not a mandatory condition for students to gain internship experience after the completion of the pre-professional undergraduate degree in Hong Kong.

However, the internship gained during the 'year-out' period before taking the professional degree programme, can be counted towards the practical experience required for sitting the HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment up to a maximum of 12 months.

## 8. University/Institution and Contact List

- a) The University of Hong Kong  
Department of Architecture,  
Acting Head of Department : Mr. Jonathan Solomon  
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Website : <http://fac.arch.hku.hk>
  
- b) The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
School of Architecture,  
Director of School : Prof. Ho Puay Peng  
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- c) The Chu Hai College of Higher Education  
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- d) The City University of Hong Kong
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Website : <http://hkuspace.hku.hk/>

9. Future Plans

In line with general trend of the world, the future development of our profession will be verging on internationalization. The HKIA has been taking a proactive approach in this regard. Reciprocity of accreditation is being pursued with the accreditation bodies outside Hong Kong.

The HKIA has signed the reciprocity agreement with

- a) the National Board of Architectural Accreditation (NBAA) of Mainland China in early 2000,
- b) the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) in November 2001, and
- c) the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia in December 2010,

achieving mutual recognition of accreditation systems with Mainland, overseas counterparts and Australia.

Continuous liaison is being made with other overseas professional bodies in search of mutual recognition opportunities.