

創建 Designing HongKong 香港 .com

MEDIA RELEASE – 20 September 2007

Announcement of Finalists for the Central Waterfront Design Competition

The jury has announced its selection of the finalists who will prepare models to compete in round two of the International Urban Planning & Design Competition for the Central Waterfront organized by Designing Hong Kong.

Chairman of the Jury, Essy Baniassad, HKIA, FAIA (HON), Architect and Chair Professor, and Chairman of the Department of Architecture, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the **Vice-chairman of the Jury**, Leslie Lu, Architect, and Associate Professor and Head, Chairman for the Department of Architecture, The Hong Kong University of Hong Kong, today announced the four finalists and one honorable mention.

FOUR FINALISTS

Submission 77 “Hong Kong Waterfront” by Edward Yung, Chris Hillyard, Kipp Eddick, USA

The jury described submission #77 as being “the most successful in working with connectivity”. The strength of the design was seen as “the way in which it addressed the connection between the harbor and the older part of Hong Kong, thereby giving an opportunity for the vitality of the interior of the city to be brought to the waterfront.” The use of courtyards was recognized by the jury as being both a dynamic design concept as well as a good way to introduce needed ventilation. As this submission goes forward to the next stage of the competition, the jurors would like the designers to address several issues including: geometry, materials, lower level daylight penetration, tower massing resolution and the potential introduction of a more vegetative approach including the incorporation of trees on the raised green areas where possible. The jury found this submission to have a good blend of external & internal spaces and looks forward to seeing the design taken to the next level of development.

Submission 145 “Amphibian Carpet” by - Lewis Chui, Bart Chui, Hins Cheung, Selah Au, USA

The jury found submission #145 to be “a very strong concept which made a good overall impact”. The submission was described as “good and clear” and the “green carpet” was seen as “a provocative idea” which was “well integrated with the existing buildings”. Some members of the jury described this scheme as a “Central Park of Hong Kong” and supported the idea of an open, green ‘park on the water’s edge’ - a place for residents to come and relax. This visionary green scheme was selected as a finalist for further development. The jurors would like to see some ‘diversity of environments, diversity of nature, diversity of uses’ and a balance between a park at the waterfront and Hong Kong’s urban identity. They would also like to know more about how this ‘large green canopy is structured and ventilated’, ‘how the program criteria are put underground’, and how the ‘program elements like P2 are resolved below with respect to daylight, ventilation, harbor views and feasibility’.

創建 Designing HongKong 香港 .com

Submission 230 “Sky for Dragon, Earth for People” by Jack Sidener, USA

The jury found this submission to be a “real delight” which offered a “simple and clear idea and acknowledged the fundamentals of urbanism”. They saw it as “nostalgic” - harking back to old Hong Kong. The scheme was seen as taking a ‘typical, older Hong Kong urban development fabric’ and ‘tucking it into a high-rise environment’ thereby renewing a ‘sense of heritage’ while creating an ‘opportunity for an active, vibrant, human scale community’. The jurors recognized the designer’s clear intention to create vibrancy and diversity and were encouraged by the scheme’s potential. This submission was selected as a finalist. The jurors would like to see further development of this strong basic idea and some would like to reduce the percentage of built site coverage in favor of a bit more greenery and open space. The jury saw the potential for this human scale, urban fabric to create an active waterfront community. They look forward to its further resolution.

Submission 247 The “Golden Crescent” – Envisioning a Grand Promenade Along Hong Kong’s Central Waterfront” by RTKL/Urban Design & Planning Consultants Ltd., China, Hong Kong

The jurors felt this scheme “met the criteria very well” and created a potentially “wonderful, vibrant & diversified waterfront for Hong Kong”. It was described as having “nice urban design structure with appropriate scale; a suitable amount, diversity & distribution of open space; great connections & linkage to the city and a very inviting and usable waterfront promenade defined by active community uses.” The design was seen as being a “very serious attempt to meet a vast number of critical considerations”. Some felt that “the more you looked at the scheme, the more you could see the realistic quality and great potential within”. Many members of the jury appreciated that in this scheme, “the Queen’s Pier had been placed in its proper location with water on the correct side” toward the harbor. Some jurors wondered if site coverage could be reduced, others thought it was appropriate. This submission was seen as being at the right scale for Hong Kong with an interesting esplanade & inviting waterfront. Many felt it offered a very good platform which could “really be worked up”, and as this scheme is further developed for the next stage of the competition, the jurors look forward to seeing its continued resolution.

ONE HONORABLE MENTION

Submission 120 “Coastal Play – An intervention between city and waterfront” by Jan Lai Kwok-yin, Kenny Koo Gin, Jim Chan Tsin-ching, Grace Ng Ming-shan, Hong Kong

The jury found submission #120 to describe “a very interesting experience of the waterfront promenade”. They described the scheme as having “a nice integration of different spaces with diverse sizes and characters”. They also commented that the links to Central, Hong Kong were good and that there was a “poetic focus on Tamar which allowed spaces to flow in to each other nicely”. The jury felt the submission needed more development & resolution, but recognized the submission by awarding it an Honorable Mention.

創建 Designing HongKong 香港 .com

SIGNIFICANCE OF FIRST ROUND OF COMPETITION

Four projects each with a different concept and approach to creating vibrancy and dynamism along the waterfront were selected for further shaping and development. These projects have all achieved the “innovative yet feasible” requirement and have succeeded in bringing forward ideas and solutions to be strongly considered and reviewed further by the Hong Kong community.

These four “innovative yet feasible” driving concepts are

- Subterranean development with extensive parkland cover
- Ground floor courtyards and building space with permeable roof top gardens and public spaces
- Fine scale and active mixed use development
- Large gardens with mixed development incorporating community aspirations

SECOND ROUND OF COMPETITION

The finalists are required to produce a 1:1,000 model and supporting materials to arrive in Hong Kong on 25 October 2007 for the second round of the competition. The competing teams are given the non-compliance and jury report, and further guidance with respect to feasibility (minimizing conflicts with existing and committed developments and infrastructure) and the need for sustainability in social, economic, environmental terms including air ventilation and energy consumption.

For more information, please contact:

Natalie Ng - natalie.ng@mfjebesen.com at (852) 3180-3663

Angel Tam - angeltam@designinghongkong.com at (852) 2923-7199

For visuals of the designs:

All high resolution images can be downloaded from the our website, www.designinghongkong.com