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PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition of four models for the Central Waterfront opens Four finalists compete in HK\$1mill design competition

Hong Kong, Friday, 26 October 2007 - The Directors of Designing Hong Kong opened the exhibition of four models for the Central Waterfront today.

The models were prepared by the four finalists in the HK\$1million Central Waterfront Design Competition. The opening today was officiated by the Directors of Designing Hong Kong, Christine Loh, Markus Shaw, Peter Wong and Paul Zimmerman, the organizers of the competition.

The schedule for the Central Waterfront Model Exhibition is:

26 – 31 October	Park Court, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway
1 – 7 November	HSBC, Ground Plaza
8 – 12 November	The Landmark, 2/F
13 November	Central Pier 7
14 – 19 November	One ifc, Main Concourse

The public is invited to vote and comment on their favorite designs at the exhibition or on-line at www.designinghongkong.com.

The jury will meet with the four finalists on 13 November. The results and prizes will be announced at the Award Ceremony. This event will be officiated by the Secretary for Development, Mrs. Carrie Lam and take place at the new Watermark Restaurant on Pier 7 on November 13 from 18:00 to 21:30.

For more information, please contact

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Summary details of the four finalists

501 “Amphibian Carpet” by Selah Au, Hins Cheung, Bart Chui, Lewis Chui, proposes human activities and natural habitat can coexist within the city. The scheme contains a vegetated carpet stretching into the city and connecting to the harbor front. Above the carpet is public open space, below is developable area. The harbor front is restored to a natural wetland park for environmental conservation and educational purposes. This proposal hopes to explore the balance point between urbanization and natural environment.

502 "Hong Kong Waterfront" by HEY!arch, Chris Hillyard (Scotland, Cambridge University, Princeton University) and Edward Yung (Canada, Columbia University, Princeton University) and Kipp Edick (USA, Columbia University), are proposing an urban structure which re-connects the waterfront to the city. The design re-establishes a physical connection between Hong Kong Peak and the waterfront with a new landscape weaving through the Central Business district down to the water. The vibrant waterfront itself is comprised by a series of urban plazas, commercial and public functions woven into this new park landscape.

503 Central Harbourfront Promenade – “Emerald Necklace” is a joint submission by RTKL International Ltd. in Shanghai and Urban Design & Planning Consultants Limited in Hong Kong Team - Gregory Yager, Chinyao Chen, Sujata Govada with Dick Groves of RDC • Retail Development Consultants, Chin Kim Meng of CKM Asia Limited (Traffic Advisor), Jason Kim, Bethy Zhang, Suvarna Apte, Kan Cheng, Elizabeth Lo, Yasmine Huang, Jarey Lu, Jenny Han, Jun Do, Ian Mak and Salina Mou. Central Harbourfront Promenade – envisions an "Emerald Necklace" that stretches from the Central Ferry Piers to the HKCEC linking four activity nodes: Gateway and Transport Cluster – Central Harbour Place; Heritage and Culture Cluster – Inner Harbour Esplanade; Government and Civic Cluster – Tamar Civic Plaza; Arts and Events Cluster – Eco-landscaped Marina Park. Each node incorporates several jewels such as the restored Star Ferry Clock Tower, Queen’s Pier, the Statue Square Esplanade and the Harbour Heritage Centre. The Emerald Necklace is a low density mixed use urban quarter featuring with well-distributed green spaces. The waterfront is connected to a network of multi level pedestrian linkages providing both east-west and north-south accessibility from the hinterland. Rail, tram and water transport and the Harbour Boulevard further improve the pedestrian experience and accessibility to and from the harbourfront. The waterfront promenade provides for 24/7 land and marine based leisure and recreational activities for the public to enjoy.

504 “Sky for Dragon, Earth for People” by Jack Sidener, Hawaii, and former professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, proposes that the majority of the site be developed as a low-rise urban district oriented to street life, with mixed-uses including residential. A continuous human scale open space lines the waterfront to allow more interaction with Victoria Harbour.

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Background of the Designing Hong Kong and the Central Waterfront Design Competition

The Central Waterfront competition seeks creativity to assist the government define the character and identity of the front door to Asia's World City. Competition submissions are expected to be innovative, yet practical and feasible, and are expected to challenge the existing land use and transport plans for the Central Waterfront. The site area for the competition runs from the Four Season's Hotel to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The competition supports the Central Reclamation Urban Design Study which is undertaken by the Planning Department of the Hong Kong Government. All designs will be submitted to the Government, the Town Planning Board, the Legislative Council, the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee and the community at large.

Four finalists have been selected from 82 entries by the jury and advisors:

- *Christine Bruckner, Architect and member of the American Institute of Architects' Hong Kong Chapter, will oversee the structure and proceeding of the competition.*
- *Fred Brown, Transport Engineer and Managing Director of MVA HK Ltd., Hung Wing-tat, Transport Engineer and Associate Professor of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Andrew Thomson, CEO of the Business Environment Council and Member of the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee will advise the jury on the compatibility of the proposals with infrastructure, transportation and committed developments.*
- *The jury members participating in their personal capacities are:*
 - *Peter Cookson-Smith, Planner, Author and Director of Urbis Ltd.;*
 - *Leslie Lu, Architect, and Associate Professor and Head, Department of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong*
 - *Essy Baniassad, HKIA, FAIA (HON), Professor, Department of Architecture, Chinese University of Hong Kong;*
 - *Raymond Fung, Artist and Architect, Vice Chairman of Hong Kong Designers Association;*
 - *Vincent Ng, Architect, and Convenor of Citizen Envisioning @ Harbour, member of the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (2004-2007);*
 - *Patrick Lau, Architect and Member of the Legislative Council;*
 - *Nicholas Brooke, Surveyor, and Chairman of Professional Property Services Ltd., member of the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (2004-2007);*
 - *Barry Cheung, Businessman and Chairman of the Urban Renewal Authority;*
 - *John Herbert, Consultant and Chairperson of the Hong Kong Sustainable Development Forum;*
 - *Xu Xi, Author (including 'The Unwalled City', 'Hong Kong Rose', and 'Overleaf Hong Kong'), Prose Faculty at Vermont College, Masters of Fine Arts in Writing; part-time writing professor at SPACE and the Department of English, University of Hong Kong.*

The competition is supported by the Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management and Department of Architecture of the Hong Kong University; the Department of Architecture of the Chinese University of Hong Kong; the Society for the Protection of the Harbour; the Harbour Business Forum; The Conservancy Association; Citizen Envisioning @ Harbour; the Hong Kong Sustainable Development Forum; the Hong Kong Designers Association; and Cities on Water in Venice Italy.

The model exhibition of the finalists in the Central Waterfront Design Competition has been facilitated by the Harbour Business Forum, Swire Properties, HSBC, HongkongLand, ifc mall and Star Ferry.

The fund for prize money is HK\$1,000,000 and is donated by The Society for Protection of the Harbour.

Designing Hong Kong is an alliance of four individuals: Ms. Christine Loh, former Legislative Councilor and CEO of the non-profit think-tank Civic Exchange; Mr. Peter H. Y. Wong, Chartered Accountant, Immediate Past Chairman of the Business and Professionals Federation of Hong Kong, and member of the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council and the Executive Committee of the Commission on Strategic Development; Mr. Markus Shaw, Chairman of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, Hong Kong, and member of the Advisory Council on the Environment; and Paul Zimmerman, Executive Director of Jebesen Travel, Convenor of Designing Hong Kong Harbour District and Vice-Chairman of the Coalition on Sustainable Tourism.