CREATE THE CITY WITH THE COMMUNITY

Hong Kong & Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture

HKU professors, staff and students were actively involved at the Biennale, the first cultural event of an international scale to be held at the future West Kowloon Cultural District site.

The 46,000-square metres exhibition, which ran from December 2009 to February 2010, showcased an open platform composed of inventive works and thought-provoking installations, experiments, workshops and performances that engaged the public in rethinking about the society of which we are an integral part.

‘Bring Your Own Biennale’ (BYOB) was the theme—a catchphrase, framework and approach envisioned to stimulate the audience’s collective role in the creation of an innovative Bi-City Biennale between Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, HKU and Chief Curator Marisa Yu 姚嘉琦 said that The Biennale is a co-operative cultural event shared by two cities under a Bi-City thematic. It was organised by the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Hong Kong Institute of Planners, the Hong Kong Designers Association with the principal sponsor the Home Affairs Bureau, HKSAR. The Hong Kong portion of the Biennale aimed at promoting education and public discussion around architecture, urbanism, design and culture in a dynamic exhibition that was free and open to the public.

The Curatorial Team:
Marisa Yu
Chief Curator
Alan Lo
Curator for Arts, City Integration and Events
Eric Schuldenfrei
Curator for Exhibition, Education, Film and Media
Frank Yu
Curator for Architecture, Urbanism and Landscape

“BYOB makes the process of cultural production transparent. It is at once contextual but also reflective; a unique opportunity to speculate on what our impact on the city could be through social capital and environmental sensitivity.”

Main Pavilion designed by Shigeru Ban Architects.
(Photograph: ESKY YU)
“We view the Biennale as a part of a larger process; one that leaves room for debate, room for uncertainty. As a result, the exhibition presented on the opening day will not be the same one as presented on the closing day. It will transform, develop, expand, and unfold further throughout the length of the Biennale... works produced in dialogue with society, as works of engagement.”

Mr Eric Schudlenfrei
Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, HKU
Curator for Exhibition, Education, Film and Media

“BYO Biennale is a wonderful concept that simply requires us to bring ourselves - bring your own body, bring your own brain, bring your own baggage. In a society in which culture is relegated to an acquirement, a mark of status or an ornament, such a concept explodes our comfortable patterns and forces us to truly participate and engage in culture.”

Professor Daniel Chua
Head, School of Humanities, HKU
Academic Committee Members of the Biennale

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“Through the mechanism of the Bi-City Biennale we can generate positive interactions between the architectural communities of Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland.”

Mr Tao Zhu
Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, HKU

Record and archive of the exhibits and events: [http://www.hkszbiennale.org](http://www.hkszbiennale.org)