

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Conceptual Plan, Campus Master Plan

Consultation Pamphlet

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Introduction

The Chinese University of Hong Kong seeks to create an enhanced framework for teaching, learning, research and non-formal education that is conducive to the all-round development of every member of our community, especially our students. Anticipating future challenges, the University has seen the need to formulate a Campus Master Plan (CMP) which embraces the needs of an increased undergraduate population from 2012 onwards, and the growing sophistication of the different academic disciplines through 2021 and beyond. We seek to develop a visionary blueprint for the campus that takes account of past development and looks to future needs and opportunities.

A CMP Consultant Team was engaged in February 2008 and immediately following this appointment, the Stage 1 Stakeholder Engagement activities were conducted from March to May to gather the views and concerns of members of the University community. This Conceptual Plan, formulated by the team, takes account of these views and concerns as well as the team's in-depth studies of the CUHK campus, and presents recommendations and proposals on 6 key planning issues.

Members of the University community contributed substantially to the fruitfulness of the Stage 1 activities. We now invite your participation in the Stage 2 Stakeholder Engagement events and look forward to hearing your valuable views, which are essential to the development of the detailed and final proposals in Stage 3 and Stage 4 of the CMP process.

Our Vision for 2021

Our university is blessed with a natural site as stunning and varied as one could imagine for a seat of learning anywhere in the world. Panoramic views of distant mountains, hills of green overlooking the sea, rushing streams and quiet pathways all combine to form a setting that has inspired the love, loyalty, and imaginations of students and scholars for close to five decades.

The broadening of the University's role in China and the world now presents new opportunities for service to society and the world of learning, while advances in the tools and practice of teaching and research are bringing new ideas about discovery, exchange, and application of knowledge. Teaching and learning can now occur in a variety of settings and locations, not just the library and lecture hall.

To maintain our campus as an ideal place for scholarly pursuits and to build on opportunities to enhance the quality of life of our entire community, we seek to enhance our campus by allowing for a closer integration of learning, working, living, and social interaction. We seek to create a close sense of neighbourhoods that will strengthen our overall sense of community and identity while accommodating new possibilities. Above all, we seek a planning framework that will allow the campus of 2021 to evolve in a way that balances the need for future growth with the preservation of the lush, green, and serene setting so beloved by the students and scholars fortunate to sojourn here.

The Consultants' Conceptual Plan

Planning Challenges and Opportunities

The University's unique campus setting presents both challenges and opportunities for creative long-range planning. A holistic and integrated planning approach can address challenges such as the steep topography and dispersal of buildings found on the campus, while allowing for the provision of additional academic facilities and a pedestrian-friendly campus.

CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
<p>Dispersed Campus Buildings</p> <p>Since its founding in 1963, the evolution of the campus has been determined in part by its unique topographical setting. Development has been concentrated on three levels. The low-level precinct, the site of Chung Chi College, was the first area to be developed. Its proximity to the railway station made it one of the major entrances to the University. The mid-level precinct, known today as the Central Campus, was leveled to give a formal monumental space symbolizing the University's identity and to accommodate major teaching and administrative facilities. The high-level precinct was developed into New Asia College, United College, and, later, Shaw College.</p> <p>As the University has continued to grow over the past four decades, additional buildings and facilities have come to occupy the diminishing available land, blurring the distinctions among these three precincts.</p>	<p>Creating a Sense of Community</p> <p>The Conceptual Plan recommends an integrated planning approach to define clusters of development with the distinct characters of specific disciplines, activities or uses. This integrated cluster approach would avoid developing a piecemeal campus without focus, and would further enhance the 3-level precinct campus setting. It would also support effective sharing of facilities, a stronger sense of identity for particular areas, easier navigation, and shorter travel distances within the neighborhood, all of which would help to promote a pedestrian-friendly campus.</p>
<p>Hilly Campus with Segregation of Facilities</p> <p>The original plan for the University of a Central Campus consisting of a library, lecture rooms and administration buildings surrounded and supported by the colleges, is based on a model better suited to a flat site where communication between constituent elements is accommodated by comfortable walking distances. The steep slopes in the CUHK campus pose challenges to students and faculty moving through the campus each day.</p>	<p>Connecting the Parts into a Unified Campus</p> <p>An issue which the Conceptual Plan addresses is the need for a pedestrian-friendly campus which will mitigate the negative effects that vertical travel distances have on University life, including excessive reliance on buses for internal campus circulation, the loss of chances for casual exchange, the sacrifice of teaching time to allow travel between teaching venues, and the disruptive segregation of facilities throughout the campus.</p>
<p>Lack of Communal Open Space</p> <p>Steep topography provides little open space conducive to social interaction and casual exchange in the campus.</p>	<p>Enhancing Social Interaction</p> <p>The Conceptual Plan aims to address this aspect of the learning environment by identifying further potential spaces within the campus for social interaction.</p>

Key Planning Issues

Six key planning issues have been identified for inclusion in campus master planning:

1. Enhancement of College Life

One of the treasures of the University is its unique college system. The colleges play an indispensable role in providing whole-person education and pastoral care, thus enriching the experience of all undergraduates. The Conceptual Plan seeks not only to maintain but to further enhance the existing intimate and congenial college setting, which in turn will help to further strengthen each college's distinct identity.

Chung Chi College

Weiyuan Lake, Lingnan Stadium and Athletic Field have long been the central focus and icons of the College. They will continue to be major open spaces of the College conducive to students' leisure activities and social gatherings.

To further strengthen its sense of identity, the College may wish to consider a series of cascading landscape features which would provide both physical and visual links between the hostels and Weiyuan Lake, and consider an open plaza in front of the new Student Amenity Centre to create a focus for the College.

New Asia College

New Asia College is characterized by its monastic quality and the open space embraced by a cluster of buildings of coherent style. Unique features such as the New Asia Concourse, the New Asia Pavilion and the water tower have great symbolic significance to the College's identity. To provide an anchor point for student gatherings and interaction, the Conceptual Plan explores the possibility of transforming the area in front of the Statue of Confucius into a central courtyard that would act as a new focus for the College.

United College

The views collected in the Stage 1 Stakeholder Engagement process identified the unique courtyard setting and the lawn as treasures of United College. The Conceptual Plan recommends maintaining the best qualities of these areas with no further development pursued so as to avoid destroying this unique setting. If additional accommodations are required by the College, the Conceptual Plan recommends that the slope area to the west of Chan Chun Ha Hostel be considered.

Shaw College

The Shaw Terrace marking the entrance to Shaw College is an icon of the College. However, the terrace is not large enough for college activities and it is isolated by the roundabout. To enhance this unique setting and to provide a place for students to gather, it is recommended that the existing roundabout and parking bays be transformed into a pedestrian zone with improved streetscape to harmonize with the Shaw Terrace into an integrated plaza. The College may also wish to consider converting Ya Qun Lodge into a student amenity building, with another new development for re-provision of parking and for staff and scholar's use.

New Colleges

To strengthen the unique collegiate system and accommodate the increased intake of undergraduates after the reversion to a four-year curriculum, 5 new colleges have been established. To realize the University's vision for 2021 of an integrated campus and to encourage closer interaction among students, it is proposed that the new and existing colleges be organized into several "neighbourhoods" or clusters throughout the campus.

Morningside College and S. H. Ho College could form a cluster with Chung Chi College at the low-level precinct, while Lee Woo Sing College and the other two new colleges could potentially form another cluster with New Asia College, United College and Shaw College at the high-level precinct.

The possibility of integrating the University Guest House (SCR Club House) as part of the latter cluster could also be explored.

2. Venues for Academic & Recreational Activities

The Conceptual Plan envisions a clearly defined campus setting characterized by **a group of communities each accommodating facilities of similar uses and disciplines.**

The **Central Campus** has remained largely unchanged since its establishment as the principal focus of the University's central core. In the Conceptual Plan, it remains as the heart of the University's major teaching and administration facilities.

The **area near University Station** has also been established into another major zone for teaching facilities due to the adjacent rail and road transport connections.

Research facilities, on the other hand, can be placed further away from the Central Campus. The **Eastern Campus** will maintain its function as a research complex, while the vacant flat land at **Area 39**, which the University is trying to acquire, has considerable potential as a research hub to facilitate the increasing need for research facilities and associated amenities.

To strengthen the recreational and sports community, the Conceptual Plan recommends grouping **new recreational facilities around the Sir Philip Haddon Cave Sports Field.**

To achieve physical proximity and obtain the benefit of interdisciplinary collaboration, a **clustering approach of Faculties** is proposed.

Given the current location of facilities for the various academic disciplines, it is proposed that several communities be formed on campus. The Faculty of Business Administration, Faculty of Social Science and Faculty of Education could be concentrated at the low-level precinct near University Station; the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Science could be concentrated at the middle and eastern area of Central Campus; and the Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Law could form an "Arts & Humanities Hub" at the western corner of the mid-level precinct.

Potential Development Areas

A consensus was reached in the Stage 1 Stakeholder Engagement exercise to support development of certain areas in the campus to accommodate the further growth of the University. Within the context of the overall planning framework, the following potential areas are recommended not merely to meet current needs but to harmonize with and even strengthen the existing campus setting to form a coherent and integrated campus.

- Area 39 (Site A)

The vacant flat land is proposed as the site of a research complex with new postgraduate hostels. Strategic planning to minimize noise impact from the adjacent highway is recommended. Human-scaled open spaces, such as courtyards, could be explored to promote interaction among scholars and research students and to create a better microclimate in the area.

- Vacant Site next to University Station (Site B)

This site is proposed for the extension of the Faculty of Business Administration, including facilities for continuing education and community events. The Conceptual Plan recommends integrated planning of this site with the University entrance next to University Station to establish a more pleasant and welcoming connection between the campus and the station, the public transport interchange, and the adjacent new teaching building and hotel.

- Open car park outside John Fulton Centre (Site C)

It is recommended that the existing open car park be developed to create new amenity and administrative facilities. This area would form a community of university activity facilities together

with the existing John Fulton Centre and Benjamin Franklin Centre. This community could feature a new plaza, as an extension of the existing Culture Plaza and the Library Boulevard, to provide a new gathering focal point for facilitating the exchange of ideas and interaction among University members.

- Academic Building 1 (Site D)

The Conceptual Plan suggests redeveloping the Academic Building 1 and integrating it as a harmonious group with the existing engineering / science buildings. A landscaped court and roof garden are recommended.

- Village Path (Site E)

The Conceptual Plan suggests possible redevelopment of the Village Path as an extension of the Faculty of Science or Faculty of Medicine. To blend new development with topography, a cascade of stepped terraces could follow the natural slope of the hill down to a new plaza on Clinic Road, leading to a belvedere overlooking Tolo Harbour. The University Health Centre and Yali Guest House could be converted to provide amenity spaces to help enliven the plaza, providing a new social gathering space at the eastern extreme of the Central Mall. Such an eastern extension would further enhance the role of the Central Mall as a nexus of the University and a symbol of the University's identity. This Conceptual Plan would include the relocation of the clinic to a site near University Station.

- Romney Stores (Nissan Huts) (Site F)

The Conceptual Plan presents for consideration the possible redevelopment of the existing Romney Stores (Nissan Huts) into an Indoor Sports Complex. This complex would reinforce the area around Sir Philip Haddon Cave Sports Field as a community of sports and recreational facilities.

The above suggestions provide a framework for the University's consideration when additional spaces are needed. The realization of any capital works will depend on the pace of development of the University.

3. Creating a Pedestrian-Friendly Campus

One of the key objectives of the Conceptual Plan is to promote a pedestrian-friendly campus. This is a special priority given the site constraints in the existing road network and the University's aspiration to create a sustainable and environmentally friendly campus. Recommendations to improve the pedestrian circulation and vehicular traffic are included in the Conceptual Plan.

The Conceptual Plan presents for consideration by the University community the possibility of creating major new pedestrian links, giving consideration not only to the existing buildings, but also to ongoing, planned, and potential projects. On the eastern end of the campus, new routes are proposed from Pond Crescent through the Two Integrated Teaching Buildings or the new Student Amenity Building to connect with the Mall. This pedestrian route could also be explored with a better connection to the University Station by creating a new exit at the northern edge of the University station platform. Another proposed improvement would be to connect Shaw College and the new colleges to the Central Campus through a series of vertical linkages.

Cycling at the low-level precinct to Area 39 and Eastern Campus is encouraged in the Conceptual Plan to reduce dependence on buses, enliven the north campus circuit, and promote environmentally friendly forms of transport. Provision of bicycle parking, clear signage and implementation of vehicular speed restrictions are recommended.

The Conceptual Plan suggests also a review of the vehicular circulation to give priority to pedestrians and their safety. Centralised car parking areas on the fringe of the campus are promoted to reduce private car movements within the campus. The Conceptual Plan promotes this idea by providing more parking spaces in the development of Site A, Site B, and Site C.

To provide better shuttle bus service, the existing bus routes and schedule could be reconfigured; service could also be extended to Area 39. It is anticipated that the number of bus routes could be

decreased to reduce duplication with more flexible operating hours. Environmentally friendly buses, either electric-powered or hybrid-electric, equipped with flexible features for the disabled, are also encouraged.

Detailed recommendations and consultations on existing vehicular circulation and a shuttle bus service road network will be presented in Stage 3, integrating the findings of a traffic survey conducted in September 2008.

4. Campus Landscape

The unique beauty and luxuriant landscape of the CUHK campus is a treasured asset that it is essential to maintain, protect and enhance. To promote an even greener campus, a network of landscaped open spaces linked with the major pedestrian routes is recommended. Convenient access will promote use of these pleasant venues by the University community and thus enhance the sense of neighbourhood. In addition to major pedestrian routes, the Conceptual Plan also promotes a natural trail connecting Shaw College and Area 39 which gives University members a chance to enjoy beautiful scenery while nurturing a pedestrian culture.

Landscape improvement is proposed to further enhance the campus not merely as a luxuriant environment, but also one with plenty of attractive gathering spaces for social interaction and exchange among University members. The areas recommended for improvement include the Mall, the existing courtyard at Lady Shaw Building, the area in front of the Statue of Confucius, and the University entrance at the MTR station. In order to add vibrancy to the campus and enhance the sense of place, thematic plantings can be introduced for campus communities.

5. A Sustainable Campus

The University has identified sustainability as a top priority and has established various environmental initiatives on campus. A Campus Sustainable Development Structure has been established that includes policy-making and implementation, including the Campus Tree Preservation Policy, Guidelines for Contractors, Energy Conservation Programme and Recycling.

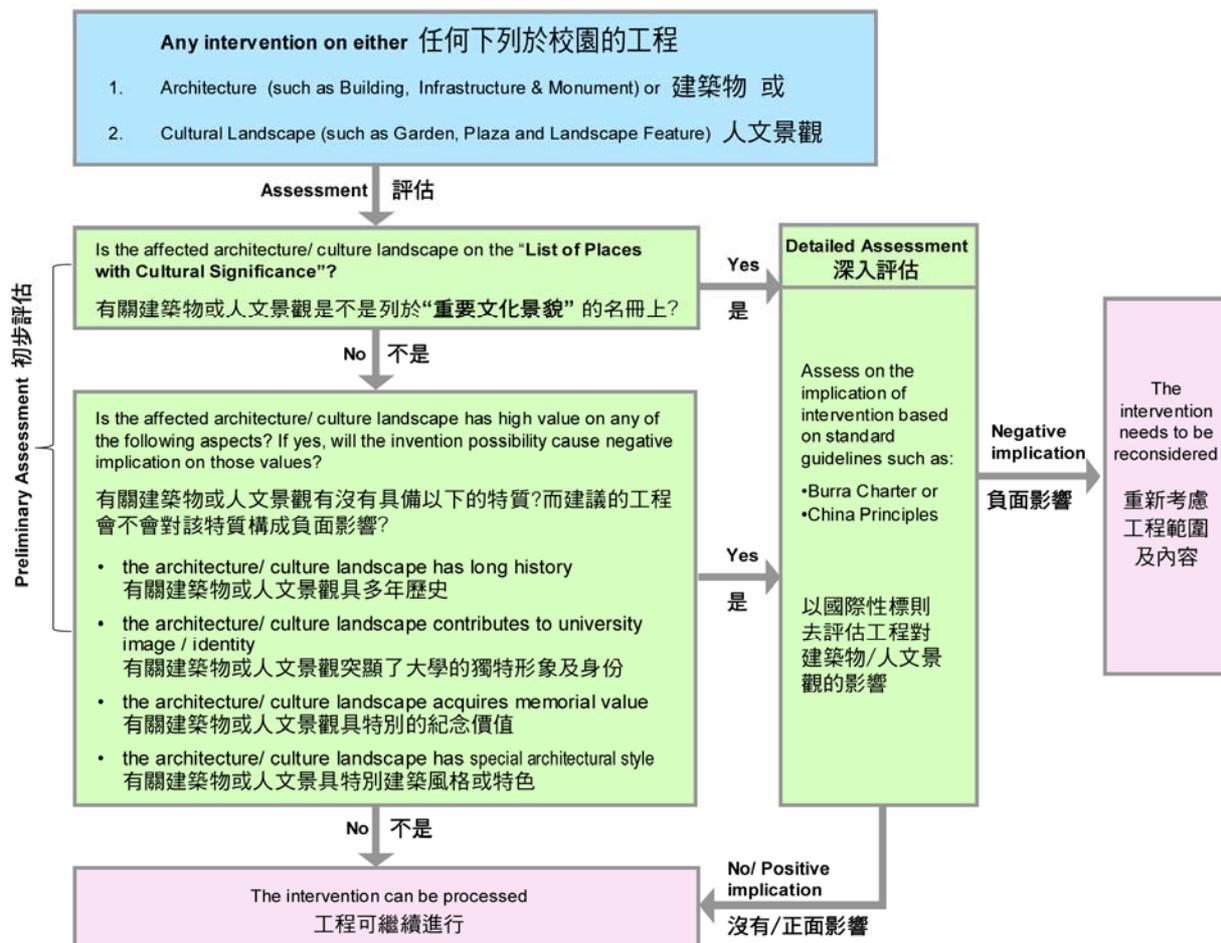
Apart from current policies and guidelines, the Conceptual Plan aims to reduce the impact of new structures and exploit the developing beauty of the campus landscape. Land being a precious resource, the 'ecological footprint' of the new buildings should seek to use sites efficiently to sustain human activities, conserve natural ecologies, flora and fauna, and create natural spaces to enhance human well-being.

The Conceptual Plan recommends additional policies on the reduction of greenhouse gas and reduction of energy consumption. In considering the impact of new development on the campus, it is also recommended that additional guidelines be established on sustainable building design for new development.

6. Conservation of Places with Cultural Significance

Campus communities form part of the University legacy and are closely linked to both our heritage and our identity. As the University campus has grown over more than four decades, buildings and landscapes have developed cultural and historical value. Places with cultural significance were suggested by various stakeholders in Stage 1 Engagement, including the Mall, Weiyuan Lake and the water towers.

An assessment procedure as shown below is proposed for all interventions to ensure that places with cultural and historical significance will be respected and conserved as part of the long-term development of the campus.



Your Views

Both the consultation process and the view expressed by stakeholders are important to the University in the formulation of a sustainable Campus Master Plan. We encourage all members of the University community to actively participate in this project. We look forward to hearing your views and suggestions at the Stage 2 Engagement events, which will be valuable to us for the formulation of the Stage 3 Specific Campus Master Plan.

Please give your comments by

- participating in the Stage 2 Engagement events. Registration can be made through www.cuhk.edu.hk/cmp
- completing and returning the on-line (www.cuhk.edu.hk/cmp) View Collection Form during the period from 1 October to 31 October 2008
- sending your written comments to cmp@cuhk.edu.hk

APPENDIX: The Campus Plan 2021

