

Evolution of the *Gate*

It has been over two decades since the *Gate*, the bronze sculpture by renowned sculptor Ju Ming, was installed on CUHK campus in 1987. Like all things exposed to the elements, it needs repair and maintenance from time to time.

The Beacon, the broad rectangular base on which the *Gate* is located, used to have ‘washed granolithic’ floor finishes like the University Mall. But such flooring is fragile and requires frequent repair. The steps and the platform of the Beacon were damaged so seriously that their ‘washed granolithic’ floor finishes were replaced with granite slabs in 1998 and 2006 respectively.

In the past there was a plaque on an inclined concrete base protruding from the steps of the Beacon. The origin of the *Gate* was inscribed on the plaque. When Mr. Ju came to the University to supervise the maintenance and repair work of the *Gate* in 2006, he heard that there had been a rumor that those students who walk through the *Gate* could not graduate. Mr. Ju wanted to make the students understand that it is safe to approach, touch and walk through the sculpture. After discussing with the University, he decided to rename the *Gate* to *Gate of Wisdom*, to give the sculpture a new life. He also wrote its new Chinese name in calligraphy.

The University designed a new plaque bearing Mr. Ju’s calligraphy and installed it on the platform of the Beacon in August 2007. If you walk up the steps of the Beacon now, you will be greeted by Mr. Ju’s calligraphy. You may also walk through the *Gate of Wisdom* and develop a bond with the sculpture. It may bring enlightenment when you do so.

Repair surface slab at Beacon – year 2006



BEFORE WORKS

Repair surface slab at Beacon – year 2006



Remove damaged and sagged slab

Repair surface slab at Beacon – year 2006



Remove wet soil and compact slab base

Repair surface slab at Beacon – year 2006



Compact sub-base and lay lean concrete for base course

Repair surface slab at Beacon – year 2006



Laying 600mm x 600mm panel for slab

Install new 'Gate' Plaque at Beacon - year 2007



仲門 朱銘·一九八七
GATE OF WISDOM
By Ju Ming 1987

Before Works

Install new 'Gate' Plaque at Beacon - year 2007



Place plaque on Site for Inspection

Install new 'Gate' Plaque at Beacon - year 2007



After Works