



A Vision for 2021

Planning and Design Concepts

As a comprehensive research university, CUHK must have facilities in place to meet teaching and research demands. With the reversion to a four-year normative curriculum in 2012 and the adoption of a Strategic Plan which lays down the strategic directions for development in the next decade, the University needs a visionary Campus Master Plan for the years leading up to 2021 and beyond. The new Campus Master Plan will enhance the University tradition and will support the mission of the University to "combine tradition with modernity; and to bring together China and the West".

The planning principles for the new CUHK Campus Master Plan will aim at preserving the heritage and 'green' character of the campus, enhancing the unique identity and tradition of the College system, and strengthening the connectivities within the campus in terms of both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. It is the intention to introduce a unified concept to create an ideal environment for scholarly pursuits and to promote dynamic learning experience on campus. Six preliminary key design considerations for campus planning are identified and will be developed for the new CUHK Master Plan:

1. Sustainability

CUHK has always strived for environmental friendly and sustainable development. The new Master Plan will further reinforce the goals and unfold more planning and design possibilities by considering implication of building forms, orientation, material and landscape to the micro-climate. Various ideas of green architecture, such as shaded courts and breezeways, maximizing natural light penetration, green roof, and double skin facade will be considered and proposed. Guidelines for building and grounds standard design including building parameters, suggested materials, and sustainable design measures shall be developed. Tapping into the advance research in sustainability on campus, the new Master Plan will adopt the latest thinking in energy efficiency, carbon audit, and sustainable development.

2. Landscape Design

The lush landscape of CUHK campus is an invaluable resource. The green campus will need to be preserved, improved and strengthened to highlight the advantage of the campus environment, achieving a harmonious blending of the natural setting with architectural development. This will attract resources and support academic success of CUHK in the future.



The existing landscaping and tree cover will be studied carefully and policy that has already been devised will be fine-tuned. Lively open space and pleasing landscape design will be proposed to suit the history and environment of the campus for vividly bringing out its character and identity.



3. Conservation of Heritage Buildings

College communities form part of the heritage of the University, and closely linked to the University image. As CUHK campus has been undergoing development for last 45 years, buildings and colleges are imbued with historical value and are subject to collective memories onto the surroundings. In the new CUHK Master Plan, built or natural heritage will be identified and categorized for specific strategies of conservation with an acceptable methodology.



4. Enhancement of University Life

In the new CUHK master plan, sites for new colleges for undergraduates and new postgraduate hostels will be studied so as to establish a network of colleges/hostels with individual spirit, identities and characters. Connections between colleges will need to be provided to enhance inter-college communications.

Public activity spaces will need to be coherently planned among the developments of new colleges/postgraduate hostels so that students will find the greatest convenience to arrange and participate in activities and gathering. Courtyards could be anchored in the design as intimate public spaces for various students' activities.

5. Pedestrian Friendly Campus

The idea of pedestrian friendly campus is an important consideration, and will be explored through the integration of different connection devices into the new Campus Master Plan.

The aim is to enhance the access convenience and walking experience, besides trying to achieve a reduction in vehicles. New shuttle bus routings will be reviewed to enhance connection between the University Station and Central Campus as well as other building clusters for enhancing the traffic system. Design improvement for the shuttle bus stations should allow proper alight of passengers with more space for dispersal of passengers.

6. New Venues for Learning

New venues for teaching facilities will need to be proposed in the new Campus Master Plan. Apart from the Mall, a new focal venue to be studied is the new research complex at Pak Shek Kok (Area 39) where a small community can be developed by the integration of the planning of research-focused and postgraduate-centered facilities.

Another possible key development is a teaching complex located on the other side of the University Station with urban character, which can be also used for promoting public interactions, pedestrian path interchange and meeting places. The development will strengthen the University Station as one of the main entrance gateways and principal point of campus community.

