

Results of HK's first Public Space Awards are out.

Stanley Waterfront claims the title,
while a public cargo handling area comes as a surprise.

【PRESS RELEASE】

[12 Jan 2014] The city's first ever **Hong Kong Public Space Awards 2013**, co-organized by Hong Kong Public Space Initiative (HKPSI), RFP Magazine and Designing Hong Kong, have come to an end. A prize presentation ceremony was held at Tong Chong Street, Taikoo Place on 12 Jan 2014. Representatives of the winning public spaces were invited to attend the ceremony and share about their thoughts.

Through the Awards, the organizers wish to raise awareness of public space and recognize stakeholders of outstanding public spaces for their contribution. Almost 50 nominations were received in July 2013 (**full nomination list** available in the appendix). After public voting in October/November 2013 and professional evaluation, **Stanley Promenade & Piazza of Stanley Plaza** has been jointly named the overall winner of the Awards. A total of 9 public spaces have been chosen as winners under the following categories, while 1 public space is given the "Spoof Award" for its least desirable quality.

Category	Prize	Public Space	Jury Comments
Waterfront Area	Winner	Stanley Promenade / Piazza of Stanley Plaza	Successful public-private integration with great variety of activities and users
	Honorable Mention	Sai Kung Waterfront Park	Diversity of uses
Urban Park	Winner	Cornwall Street Park (Kowloon Tong)	Unconventional seating design
Urban Plaza	Winner	Tai Ming Lane Square (Tai Po)	Successful neighborhood node
	Honorable Mention	Plaza of Citygate Outlets (Tung Chung)	Great accessibility with attractive water features
Large-scale Green Park	Winner	Inspirational Lake Recreation Centre (Penny's Bay)	Classic park design for great weekend getaway
	Honorable Mention	Jordan Valley Park (Kwun Tong)	Rare large green lawn in urban area
Street	Winner	Tong Chong Street, Taikoo Place (Quarry Bay)	Flexibility with multiple uses
People Space	Winner	Western District Public Cargo Handling Area (Sai Wan)	High degree of freedom
Spoof Award		Yan Oi Court Garden (Kwun Tong)	Cage-like environment

* Introduction and jury comments of each winner are included in the appendix.

Stanley Waterfront claims the title

The Stanley Promenade and Piazza of Stanley Plaza have been combined in this joint win. The fact that the judges did not separate them is part of the reason for their win. **An outstanding space should not be limited by its ownership.** The waterfront area demonstrates the very successful integration of different elements required for a vibrant public space, including sky, water, street, food etc. The area serves a **significant local component and unusually wide variety of users**, supporting both programmed activities in the piazza and unscripted activities such as wedding photo taking and climbing the rock outcrops near water.

People have redefined the Western District Public Cargo Handling Area

The special category “people space” is to recognize how the general public has redefined a space with a bottom-up approach, giving new meanings to a space. The award winner Western District Public Cargo Handling Area might sound unfamiliar to many Hong Kongers, who may not even consider it a public space. However, the nominator pointed out that the cargo handling area has not been “promenade-ized.” Although this is basically just an empty space without many facilities, it provides users with a high degree of freedom and a great sea view as the backdrop, supporting a variety of activities. The flexibility promised in the space is the biggest reason for its success.

Cage-like park is the least desirable public space

The Yan Oi Court Garden in Kwun Tong is given the Spoof Award, because it is surrounded by gates. Being inside feels like being in a jail or a cage. The jury hopes that this can remind other designers and managers that a restrictive environment must be avoided in a public space.

PHOTOS

Photos of all winning public spaces are available at this link:

<http://www.sendspace.com/file/iqy8d9>

Jury Advisor

Dr. Christine Bruckner President, American Institute of Architects (International Region)

Jury Members

Mr. Karl Chan	Co-chairperson, Hong Kong Public Space Initiative
Mr. Christian Low	President, American Institute of Architects (Hong Kong Chapter)
Mr. Matthew Pryor	Head of Division of Landscape Architecture, HKU
Ms. Claire Saeki	Managing Director, RFP Magazine
Mr. P.Y. Tam	Past President, Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Mr. Paul Zimmerman	CEO, Designing Hong Kong

REPRESENTATIVES OF WINNERS

Public Space	Representative(s)
Stanley Promenade / Piazza of Stanley Plaza	Ms. Margrit Li Assistant Director (Leisure Services)1 of Leisure & Cultural Services Dept. Mr. Dick Leung Director (Project & Asset Development) of The Link REIT
Sai Kung Waterfront Park	Ms. Margrit Li Assistant Director (Leisure Services)1 of Leisure & Cultural Services Dept.
Cornwall Street Park	
Tai Ming Lane Square	
Plaza of Citygate Outlets	Mr. James Fan Senior Development Manager of Newfoundworld Holdings Ltd.
Inspiration Lake	Ms. Cecilia Ho Hotel Operations General Manager of Hong Kong Disneyland Resort.
Jordan Valley Park	Ms. Sylvia Tang Chief Leisure Manager (Kowloon) of Leisure & Cultural Services Department
Yan Oi Court Garden	
Tong Chong Street	Ms. Bobby Fung Head of Office Marketing of Swire Properties Ltd.
Western District Public Cargo Handling Area	Mr. Sampson Wong Nominator (on behalf of all users of the space)

ENQUIRIES

Karl Chan 9280 9688 / karl.chan@hkpsi.org
Danica Chan 6031 5808 / danica.chan@hkpsi.org

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

Hong Kong Public Space Initiative (HKPSI)

HKPSI is a non-profit organization founded in 2011 by a group of passionate young professionals. HKPSI aims to raise awareness of public space through education, research and community engagement. In the past few years we have organized a series of seminars, school visits, student contests, street campaigns and a photo contest.

RFP Magazine

Established in 2003 RFP Magazine is a regional resource for people belonging to or interested in the industries making up the built environment. With comprehensive coverage of important areas like green buildings, commercial real estate and design, urban infrastructure as well as industry news and careers advice.

Designing Hong Kong

Designing Hong Kong is a not-for-profit organization which promotes interventions wherever it sees bad planning – at a territorial or district level, and wherever it sees that policies, processes or institutions are not working the way they should. The aim of Designing Hong Kong is to increase public awareness and to improve Hong Kong's collective ability to plan and deliver a sustainable and a 'beautiful' city. It advocates the adoption of sustainability, quality of life and good design as core values in planning and development.

APPENDIX 1: WINNING PUBLIC SPACE INFORMATION & JURY COMMENTS

Overall Winner & Waterfront Area Winner

1. Stanley Promenade & Piazza of Stanley Plaza

Stanley, Southern District



Address:

Stanley Main Street, Stanley (Stanley Promenade)

Stanley Plaza, 23 Carmel Road, Stanley, Hong Kong (Piazza of Stanley Plaza)

Ownership & Management:

Leisure & Cultural Services Department (Stanley Promenade)

The Link Real Estate Investment Trust (Piazza of Stanley Plaza)

Architect:

Architectural Services Department (Stanley Promenade)

CYS Associate Ltd. (Piazza of Stanley Plaza)

Opening Hours:

24 hours (Stanley Promenade)

8am – 11pm (Piazza of Stanley Plaza)

Official Descriptions from the Management Party:

Stanley Promenade

As part of the “Stanley Waterfront Improvement Project”, the promenade refurbishment was completed in 2007. The improvement project won three Architectural Awards in 2008, namely Silver Medal of HKILA Award 2008, Special Architectural Award (Urban Design) of HKIA Annual Awards 2008 and Special Architectural Award (Urban Design) of ArchSD Annual Award 2008. Moreover, the market stalls along the promenade are managed by Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

Piazza of Stanley Plaza

Renovation of Stanley Plaza was completed in 2011, revitalizing the silent corner of the busy Stanley Main Street to develop a lifestyle destination for residents and tourists. The 3,000 sq.m piazza combines a glass amphitheatre with seating and misting system, a Chinese junk-shaped children’s play area and an open air landscaping outdoor seating areas. The large banyan trees are preserved in the piazza area to offer shading. It is also a dog-friendly and family-friendly plaza, making it a favorite destination for family, kids and dog lovers.

Jury Comments:

- The promenade and piazza have been combined in this joint win. The fact that the judges did not separate them is part of the reason for their win. **An outstanding space should not be limited by its ownership.**
- The waterfront area demonstrates the very **successful integration of different elements required for a vibrant public space** (waterfront / street / piazza / open sky / sea / public appropriation with diversity of uses and users)
- The area serves a **significant local component and unusually wide variety of users**. The promenade and piazza are used throughout the week at all times by all walks of people, typically starting with tai chi elderly groups, fishermen, breakfast/exercise and swim groups; The space daily supports such various users such as school children, tourists, local businesses, as well as myriad unscripted activities like wedding photo taking and dog walking. A successful point is the **adaptability of the combined venues**, as well as **the transformation of users and uses throughout the day**.
- Time plays a role here. Government designs for Stanley began over three decades ago and have continued to improve slowly and steadily. The development is integrated with the public and private sectors to slowly emerge and meet diverse and developing needs. The relocated pier & Murray House, the preserved accessible rock outcrops which public is still allowed to climb, multiple temples, the natural park with attention to accessibility for the disabled, the closing of the street for weekend al fresco dining, festivals and push-cars and rip-sticks, and the frequent weekend festivals and events make it a vibrant and diverse place where private and public areas work together. **Time and integration have achieved something that a single phase design would struggle to achieve.**

Waterfront Area – Honorary Mention

2. Sai Kung Promenade

Sai Kung, Sai Kung District



Address:

Wai Man Road, Sai Kung

Ownership & Management:

Leisure & Cultural Services Department

Architect:

Architectural Services Department

Other Important Stakeholders:

Tourism Commission / Agricultural, Fisheries & Conservation Department

Opening Hours:

24 hours

Official Descriptions from the Management Party:

The last refurbishment was initiated by Tourism Commission in 2003. The project removed unnecessary structures and strategically revitalized existing structures to link up the spaces, answering the needs of the public. At the same time, the design reflects the unique characters and the long forgotten history of Sai Kung. Moreover, the Park which is located adjacent to the waterfront walkway serves as a hub to gather people around to visit the famous scenic/touring spots in Sai Kung Area. The project “Improvement to Sai Kung Promenade” was awarded the President Prize of the Hong Institute of Architects Annual Awards 2003. Furthermore, the Hong Kong Global Geopark Volcano Discovery Centre by AFCD inside the Sai Kung Waterfront Park will soon be opened.

Jury Comments:

- Wide range of uses and public initiated activities
- It is the informal uses (e.g. fish hawkers) that give the place its character
- Located in the heart of Sai Kung Town Centre in between major transport nodes. Such convenience makes the waterfront area an ideal place for local residents and visitors to rest, jog, walk their dogs and exercise etc.

Urban Park – Winner

3. Cornwall Street Park

Kowloon Tong, Kowloon City District



Address:

17 Cornwall Street, Kowloon Tong

Ownership & Management:

Leisure & Cultural Services Department

Architect:

Architectural Services Department

Opening Hours:

24 hours

Official Descriptions from the Management Party:

The latest refurbishment work was developed in 2012 under a project “Park Déco” by LCSD and was assisted by Architectural Services Department in the implementation. The LCSD invited Hong Kong Design Centre as design collaborator and engaged Thomas Chow Architects Ltd. as curator to work with a number of HK designers to provide a conceptual design for the whole park for refurbishment as well as to install artistic and creative furniture and signage for the Park. LCSD renovated the Cornwall Street Park with 3 sets of creative furniture and the brand new design of signage to encourage visitors to explore the park’s natural environment by watching, feeling and sharing. Though it is not a large park, its refreshing design theme of ‘Inspirational Flow’ is inviting.

Jury Comments:

- The use of newer paving types means a barrier free transition between paving and grass areas
- The flexible and unconventional seating as well as the incorporation of art into the space presents a vast improvement over other parks in Hong Kong
- The park is not merely a destination but a thoroughfare and the combination of hard and soft surfaces supports its dual use.
- Solar powered lighting is well received by judges and the maintenance has been well considered in the design.
- It is a great example of a conversion and should be viewed as a great starting point for future parks in Hong Kong, where they should learn from this example.

Urban Plaza - Winner

4. Tai Ming Lane Square

Tai Po, Tai Po District



Address:

Tai Ming Lane, Tai Po

Ownership & Management:

Leisure & Cultural Services Department

Architect:

Architectural Services Department

Openings Hours:

24 hours

Official Descriptions from the Management Party:

Tai Ming Lane Square is located in town centre of Tai Po. The water fountain at central of square can be transformed to become a stage where organizations hold performances, exhibitions and carnivals etc. During 2013, over 30 events were held at the square. Tai Ming Lane Square provides both active and passive facilities, such as children play equipment, walking trail and chess table. Venue is also provided Barrier Free Access for persons with disabilities.

Jury Comments:

- The judges were impressed by its function of uniting the community. The vibrancy that this space exudes is created by the convergence of four market-style pedestrianized streets. Such setting is similar to that of the piazzas in European cities (which is very rare in Hong Kong).
- It is not the park facilities that stand out, rather it is the central setting that connects the four lanes, high accessibility, and high degree of uses that make it an outstanding public space.
- Its success is also attributed by the surrounding various commercial, recreational and institutional uses, such as restaurants, grocery stores, household goods shops, banks, tutorial centres, NGO offices and medical centres.
- The vibrancy and sense of neighborhood is rarely found in other new towns such as Tseung Kwan O. The judges hope that this setting can set a role model for planning of future new towns.



Urban Plaza – Honorable Mention

5. Plaza of Citygate Outlets

Tung Chung, Islands District



Address:

20 Tat Tung Road, Tung Chung

Ownership:

Newfoundworld Limited

Opening Hours:

24 hours

Jury Comments:

- The space has very high accessibility and serves as a node between transport links (including MTR, bus and cable car). Its openness and high visibility can help gather people.
- Judges understood that the water fountain is costly to maintain, and praised the owner for bearing the costs. It is a very successful feature that can encourage social interactions. It is especially popular among children.
- The plaza is a great setting for community bonding in the local neighborhood with its very convenient location with supporting services.

Large-scale Green Park - Winner

6. Inspiration Lake Recreation Center

Penny's Bay, Islands District



Address:

Inspiration Lake, Penny's Bay

Management:

Hong Kong Disneyland Resorts

Opening Hours:

9am to 7pm

Official Descriptions from the Management Party:

Inspiration Lake Recreation Centre is located north of Hong Kong Disneyland Park. It was constructed by the HKSAR Government and managed by Disney, providing free access to the public. The public may enjoy a lakefront walk or pedal out into the calm, soothing waters of Inspiration Lake for a relaxing experience that will both relax and invigorate; spread your blanket for a family picnic or keep in shape with a run through this woody, park-like area, and pick up a quick snack or refresh yourself with a beverage from the convenience store in the recreation centre.

Jury Comments:

- Beautiful space and calming.
- The park may not be readily accessible, requiring most Hong Kongers some effort to get there. That said, it is accessible using public transport and visitors feel the travel is worth the effort.
- It is one of the only examples of what people may consider a “real” or “classic” style park in Hong Kong.
- Its large green lawn, water features and boat pedal boat and surrey bike rental services make it a perfect weekend getaway for the busy Hong Kongers.

Large-scale Green Park – Honorable Mention

7. Jordan Valley Park

Kwun Tong, Kwun Tong District



Address:

No. 71, New Clear Water Bay Road, Kwun Tong

Ownership & Management:

Leisure & Cultural Services Department

Architect:

Architectural Services Department

Opening Hours:

5am to 11pm

Official Descriptions from the Management Party:

Jordan Valley Park is located on a restored landfill. A key attraction of the Park is the Radio-controlled Model Car Circuit, which meets the international standards and suitable for holding major model car racing events. The Park also has a central lawn of 10,000 square metres. Though the provision of car-parking spaces has been increased after adjusting line-marking of the car parking spaces, the car park is always fully occupied during weekends and holidays. The public is highly recommended to use public transports to come to the park.

Jury Comments:

- A very popular park that is hampered less by accessibility concerns (as it is not right next to major transport nodes). That said, it provides a very rare large piece of green lawn in the urban area, providing a great weekend destination for residents, especially those in Kowloon.
- The variety of uses and activities was highly praised. Picnic and children running around are very common. Its very high usage during weekends also proves its popularity.

Street - Winner

8. Tong Chong Street, Taikoo Place

Quarry Bay, Eastern District



Address:

Tong Chong Street, Quarry Bay

Ownership & Management:

Swire Properties Limited

Opening Hours:

24 hours

Official Descriptions from the Management Party:

With a literal translation as "Sugar Factory Street" in Chinese, Tong Chong Street was where the Taikoo Sugar Refinery was established in 1881. It now marks the site of TaiKoo Place, Hong Kong's largest privately owned business district. Over 1,300 diverse arts and cultural events were held in the last 10 years in Island East. Two signature events were recently held in Tong Chong Street - "White Christmas Street Fair" was a two-day festive affair attended by over 13,000 people and raised close to half a million donations. Island East Markets held on Sundays was a green and arts initiative which promoted small Hong Kong businesses, local organic farmers, musicians and artists. It provided an opportunity to showcase their seasonal produce, local designs and craftsmanship, as well as live performances to the community. Tong Chong Street is also special as it introduced an "al fresco" dining experience to Hong Kong, creating a new type of streetscape being part of the Island East vibrant community. The pleasant social interaction which flows from eating out of doors enhances the ambience and experience in the area.

Jury Comments:

- Most successful combination of design and management of a streetscape.
- Alfresco dining and one-level pedestrian traffic management especially commendable.
- Interaction between traffic and pedestrians should serve as a paradigm of multi-use street that supports a wide range of uses (e.g. Island East Markets ensures the space is still busy in weekends).
- Different functions are observed at different times- as a car road, as a pedestrian walkway and as the venue for various activities and markets. Its high degree of flexibility demonstrates the fact that streets are not single-use spaces as passageways; it could be much more diverse and multi-use.

People Space - Winner

9. Western District Public Cargo Handling Area

Sai Wan, Central & Western District



Address:

Junction of Hill Road at Connaught Road, Western District

Ownership & Management:

Marine Department

Opening Hours:

24 hours

Jury Comments:

- The space was nominated twice, and received the most public votes in our poll, representing a protest vote.
- The space stood out due to its complete lack of restrictions on use. The fact that it is not a government sanctioned public space works in its favor due to the lack of railings etc. People entering the space understand they are responsible for their own actions.
- Surrounded by water and with an open sky above; it is a unique space in Hong Kong.
- The degree of freedom and flexibility demonstrated in this space should make all of us reflect on the role of management and rules in making a successful public space.

Spoof Award - Recipient

10. Yan Oi Court Garden

Kwun Tong, Kwun Tong District



Address:

Yan Oi Court, Kwun Tong

Ownership & Management:

Leisure & Cultural Services Department

Opening Hours:

24 hours

Official Descriptions from the Management Party:

Yan Oi Court Garden has been built over 30 years. The venue is about 150 square meters and provided with garden benches and planter box facilities. The periphery of the Garden is always gathered with hawkers. In addition, there was the operation of restaurants at side lanes of the venue in the past. In order to prevent illegal occupation, the wire fencing was built to separate illegal occupations for securing the public enjoyment of this open space. Following the redevelopment of Kwun Tong Town Centre, the Urban Renewal Authority plans to demolish the Yan Oi Court Garden in Mid 2014. The open space now occupied by this garden will be re-provisioned by redeveloping Yue Man Square Rest Garden into a larger open space which is targeted to be completed in 2020.

Jury Comments:

- The garden looks as if it is a “cage park” where people feel like “being in a jail” when resting inside.
- This space was chosen for its unattractiveness and “unfriendliness”. However, the judges also noted that some other public spaces are as restrictive as this one. This space simply serves as a reminder that restrictive design should be highly discouraged in public space.

Appendix II

附錄 2

List of Nominations

提名名單

Western District

Public Cargo Working Area

西區公眾貨物裝卸區



Piazza outside the

Hong Kong Cultural Centre

香港文化中心露天廣場



Yau Ma Tei Community Centre

Rest Garden

油麻地社區中心休憩花園 (榕樹頭)



Un Chau Estate

元州邨



Ma On Shan Promenade

馬鞍山海濱長廊



Cornwall Street Park

歌和老街公園



Comix Home Base Open Space

動漫基地



The Lane Square, Tai Po

大埔墟四里



Inspiration Lake
迪欣湖



Tap Mun (Grass Island), Sai Kung
西貢塔門



Jordan Valley Park
佐敦谷公園



Stanley Promenade
赤柱海濱長廊



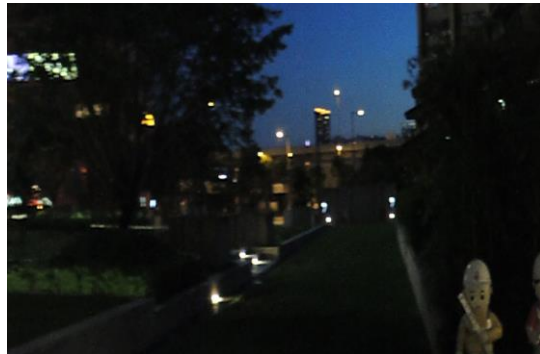
Accessible Grass Roof at
Wetland Park
香港濕地公園綠化屋頂



Shek Kip Mei Estate
Children Play Area
石硤尾邨兒童遊樂場



Zero Carbon Building
零碳天地



Sai Kung Waterfront Promenade
西貢海濱長廊



Wong Tai Sin Fung Tak Park
黃大仙鳳德公園



Hong Kong Central Library Entrance
香港中央圖書館入口



Source: <http://www.geolocation.ws/v/P/72801539/hong-kong-central-library/en>

Grand Millennium Plaza
上環新紀元廣場



Roof Garden at IFC
IFC 平台花園



Plaza outside Citygate Outlets
東薈城廣場



Cyberport Waterfront Park
數碼港海濱長廊



Streets near Pei Ho Street Market
北河街街市附近的街道



Entrance of HK Arts Centre
香港藝術中心入口



Lo Peng Street, Peng Chau
坪洲露坪街



Mongkok Pedestrian Area
旺角行人專用區



Fly the Flyover 01,
Energizing Kowloon East
起動九龍東反轉天橋底一號場



Flower Market
花墟



Roundabout at Sassoon Road Residence,
HKU
香港大學沙宣道學生宿舍迴旋處



Tong Chong Street, Taikoo Place
太古坊糖廠街



Castle Peak Road (Tai Lam to Ting Kau
Section)
青山公路(大欖至汀九段)

Kau U Fong
九如坊

Taxi stand of Metroplaza
葵芳新都會廣場的士站



Nominations for Spoof Award 最需改善公共空間提名名單

Public Space of the Center
中環中心公共空間



Yan Oi Court Garden
仁愛閣休憩花園



Sitting-out Area in Admiralty
金鐘休憩處(介乎金鐘道與正義道)



Rooftop of China HK Ferry Terminal
中港碼頭天台



Yen Chow Street Hawker Market
欽州街小販市場



Kowloon Station Podium Garden
九龍站上蓋空中花園



New Town Plaza Phase 1,
Podium on 3/F, 5/F and 9/F
新城市廣場一期 3 樓、5 樓及 9 樓平台



Queen's Road East /
Swatow Street Sitting-out Area
皇后大道東/汕頭街休憩處



Hong Kong International Airport
香港國際機場

Ching Wah Street Sitting-out Area
清華街休憩處

Hoi Bun Road
海濱道