

Campus Master Plan for The Chinese University of Hong Kong

A Vision for 2021: An Unified "Axis + Web" Campus

The new Campus Master Plan for CUHK provides an expanded and upgraded campus space, to meet the increased space demand of the new "3+3+4" curricular reform and to reinforce the status of the University as a world-famous comprehensive research university. Eight key design issues leading to the successful campus planning were identified and developed for the new CUHK Master Plan:

1. Axis + Web

The new CUHK Master Plan aims to create an ideal environment for scholarly pursuits by introducing a unified "Axis+ Web" concept. The Mall, which is a central learning Axis in the campus, is extended with improved environment. The Axis, as if a "Dragon returning to the Sea", strengthens the University's identity and adds dynamics to the campus. This Extension provides more learning facilities and in particular acts as a focal point of the campus. It also facilitates a pleasant and friendly walking experience as well as organization of various educational and social activities.

The Web, a holistic connection of individual spaces in the campus, is completed by various means of traffic connections to stress on the comprehensive linkage for the comfort of pedestrian to travel from one place to others.

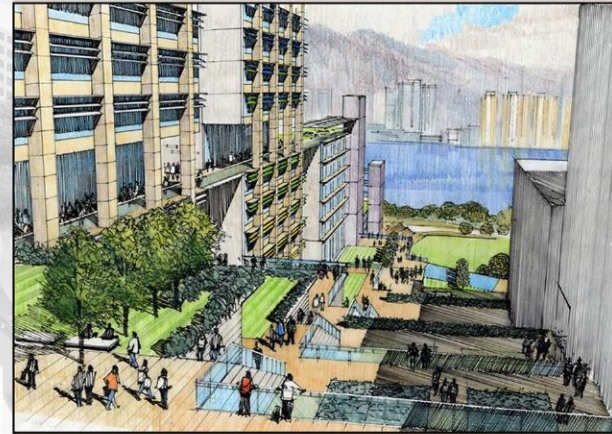
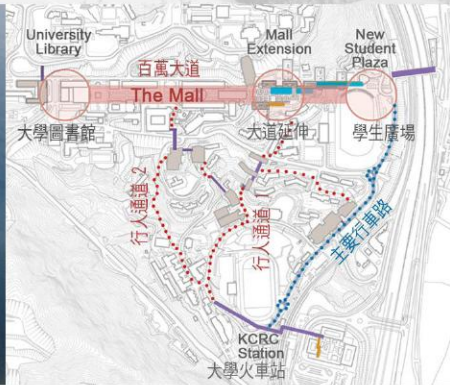
2. Pedestrian Friendly Campus

The idea of pedestrian friendly campus can be realized by the unified "Axis + Web" concept with different connection devices, which are, covered walkways, vertical transportation, cascading platforms and escalators. The cascading platforms with lift towers introduced in the Mall Extension demonstrate that they serve not only as enjoyable anchoring area but also a major circulation artery in the campus.

The "Web" concept enhances the access convenience and walking experience, besides trying to achieve reduction in use of vehicles. New shuttle bus routings are proposed to connect the University Station to Central Campus and other new developments for enhancing the traffic system. Design improvement for the shuttle bus stations will allow proper alight of passengers with more space for dispersal of passengers.



Master Plan of CUHK 2021



Exquisite Seaview of Tolo Harbour from The Mall

3. New Venues for Learning

The cascade planning of Mall Extension Teaching Complex frames the new Promenade, forms a new gateway to the Central Campus, and establishes a new spatial identity of CUHK.

Another new focal venue is the new research complex at Pak Shek Kok (Area 39) where a small community is developed by integrated planning of student amenities, hostels and teaching facilities.

The third key new development is a high density teaching complex next to KCR station, which is also used for promoting public interaction, pedestrian path interchange and meeting places.



Cascading development along natural landscape

4. Enhancement of University Life

College system signifies the social identity of students while the hostel life enriches the learning experience. In the new CUHK master plan, two new colleges for undergraduates and three new postgraduate hostels are carefully planned and sited so as to establish a network of colleges/ hostels with individual identities and territories. The proposed "college spine" well illustrates this idea of interlinking the colleges/ hostels. Public activity spaces are 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 are anchored in the design as intimate public spaces for various students' activities.

5. Landscape Design

CUHK is well known of having extensive natural landscape resources. These resources are preserved, improved and strengthened to highlight the advantage of the campus environment blending with the natural setting which attract resources and supports academic success of CUHK in the future.

Magnificent open space and impressed landscape design are proposed to suit the history and environment of a college for vividly bringing out its character and identity. Tree felling has been endeavored to be minimized.

6. Campus Heritage

College communities form part of the heritage of the University, and closely linked to the university image. As CUHK campus has been developed for almost five decades, buildings and colleges are accumulating historical value and planting collective memories onto the surroundings. In the new CUHK Master Plan, built or natural heritage have been identified and categorized for specific strategies of conservation with a logical methodology.

7. Green Campus

CUHK has always been striving for sustainable development. This master plan further reinforces the goal and unfolds more planning 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 have been considered and incorporated.

8. East Meets West

To explore an east / west cultural and educational junction globally, 'Design beyond East and West' is considered as a planning concept which aims to be realized through landscape design, architectural principles, new techniques and building uses.

With the implementation of the above, the new Master Plan echoes with the University's mission to 'combine tradition with modernity; and to bring together China and the West' and leads to a quality campus environment for excellence as the ultimate goal.



Pak Shek Kok campus planned with low density developments



More green space for gathering and resting throughout the campus



New Student Plaza next to University Sports Field

