

香港中文大學
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The new Department of Architecture at The Chinese University of Hong Kong was formally inaugurated yesterday. The Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Graham Barnes officiated at the inauguration ceremony attended by government officials, academics and professionals from the architectural field together with the first batch of 52 architecture students.

The Department of Architecture will provide both undergraduate and professional degrees in architecture that will meet the requirements of professional institutes in Hong Kong, UK and the USA. Prof Charles K Kao, Vice-Chancellor of the University said in yesterday's ceremony, "There will be new and more complex problems of function, structure, energy efficiency, cultural growth and environmental protection". To enable students to face these and other problems in the 21st century, the undergraduate degree will offer a broad general education, with courses in architectural design, history, human factors, technology and practice, whereas students of the professional degree will have the option to specialize in one of the three professional areas: design, technology and management.

According to Prof Tunney Lee, the Head of the new Department, "The basic task of the professional architect is to design buildings and environments that help people to enjoy more fulfilling lives and to work more productively." With this philosophy, the research objective of the new Department is to benefit the people and environment of Hong Kong and the region. The planned research projects include "Ritual, Opera and Bamboo Structures", "Hong Kong's Housing Types: A Study of the Influences and Form Determinants of Modern and Historical Housing", "Interpretations of Chinese Architecture" and "Design for Comfort: Highrise Building Envelope Design in Sub-tropical Cities".

The Architecture Department is temporarily located in the Chung Chi College Library Building. There is a large studio with individual work stations, classrooms, a computer laboratory and a faculty office area. A new home for the Department with a floor area of 2,800 square metres is scheduled for completion in 1993. It will include an architecture library, studios, offices, computer and multi-media laboratories, meeting rooms, workshops and environmental laboratories.

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