

PRESERVATION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE SITE

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3 Attachments



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Chairman and Members of the Antiquities Advisory Board,

Please see the attached documents relating to the need to preserve the Central Government Office Site and to ensure that property developers do not destroy Hong Kong's claim to be a world city.

Feel free to let me know if you have any questions,

Roger Uren

TO:

The Chairman & Members
Antiquities Advisory Board
C/- AAB Secretariat
136 Nathan Road
Tsim Sha Tsui
Kowloon
Hong Kong

I SUPPORT the Antiquities Advisory Board confirming Heritage Grade 1 on the Central Government Offices site and all its buildings and that the Board recommends Monument Status to the Antiquities Authority.

BECAUSE, among many reasons:

1. This heritage site has been Hong Kong's seat of governance since the 1840s and deserves the highest respect and grading from our heritage protection legislation and administrative criteria.
2. The present Main, East and West Wings of the Central Government Offices were designed and built as a "harmonious, integral cluster" and all three wings must be preserved intact and thus treated as of equal architectural importance.
3. The three wings of the Central Government Offices are unique and a significant example of modernist, functional architectural design that is the precursor of many similar buildings built in the 1950s and 1960s.
4. As a place of governance and public administration this site and these buildings witnessed an unprecedented range of historic legislative, administrative and public decision-making and interaction with the public.

Other comments:

The Central Government Office site is a very attractive area for people to walk by. It is distinctive and provides an extremely attractive backdrop to the Hong Kong Park area. The buildings are distinctive in themselves and also represent the location where many important decisions shaping Hong Kong were taken in the past. They thus help people recall history, think about what has happened in the past, and how Hong Kong should be taken into the future.

Hong Kong claims to be Asia's world city, and in doing so it should recognize that maintaining a sense of history is a very important component of a world city. World cities are not dominated by property developers, who lack any aesthetic sense or feeling for history and are

prepared to destroy the most beautiful and intellectually stimulating heritage buildings in order to enlarge their already very large personal bank accounts.

The time has come for the Hong Kong government to recognise the nature of a world city and protect traditional buildings and locations in order to be able to demonstrate that Hong Kong has a history and a culture that can be compared with the other world cities, ranging from Washington, London and Moscow to Sydney, Melbourne and Singapore.

Name of person making this comment:

Roger Uren,

Signature



Date: 30 August 2012

Contact (telephone or email):