



Grading of CGO Complex

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2012/08/31 下午 11:17

From: Mary M
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Dear Chairman & Members of the Antiquities Advisory Board

I fully support the Antiquities Advisory Board confirming Heritage Grade 1 on the Central Government Offices site and all its three wings. Furthermore I urge the Board to recommend Monument Status to the Antiquities Authority.

A wealth of information has been provided on the history, social and cultural context of Government Hill and the buildings thereon so I will not take up space by repeating these facts.

The indisputable facts are that it was the seat of governance for 170 years since the launching of the then colony as one of the most important trading ports in the East. All important decisions leading to the development of Hong Kong into a major commercial and financial centre were discussed and implemented from the government offices on the hill. Its presence is testament to both the success and stability of our city.

Conclusive proof has been provided that the three wing, Main, East and West Wings of the Central Government Offices were designed and built as a "harmonious, integral cluster" and are of equal architectural importance. They are of equal significance and importance. With the destruction of so many buildings of their era, the cluster is now the only extant example of modernist, functional architectural design.

We are guardians of our heritage and have an obligation to ensure that we protect and pass down to future generations physical reminders of their past and testaments to the ingenuity of previous generations. The other heritage sites of significance in the district have all been tampered with. Central Police Station compound has had some of the most interesting buildings bulldozed, including the laundry. A prison without a laundry is like a pub with no beer. The Hollywood Road Married Police Quarters will have a cube inserted between the two main blocks. The Sheng Kung Hei Compound will soon fall victim to the wreckers ball and who knows what damage has been done to the outer walls of Central Market by the panels erected around it. The granting of Grade 1 status to CGO and the three wings will ensure that one unadulterated heritage site is passed down. The experts report confirm that all three blocks are in excellent condition. In fact, having been to the new Tamar offices today where signs of structural deficiencies are already visible there is no doubt they will out last the new government offices.

All people benefit from a sense of belonging, to their families, their culture and their community. Familiar landmarks and buildings are part of that experience and foster the human urge for an identity, an anchor to ones roots and the feeling of security created by continuity. Our most fundamental sense of well-being is derived from the conscious experience of belonging.

In a world with an uncertain future, Hong Kong people in coming years will certainly have great need of a glimpse of those few remaining monuments to the ingenuity and resilience of the community. AAB must recognise its duty to protect our heritage and the unique spirit of Hong Kong.

Mary Melville