



主辦 Presenter:

進念·二十面體 ZUNI ICOSAHEDRON

ARCHITECTURE IS ART FESTIVAL 09

1 / 9 — 18 / 10 / 2009

香港文化中心 Hong Kong Cultural Centre

建築是藝術節是一個以建築為主題的藝術節。
讓我們以生活和藝術的角度, 認識建築, 理解建築, 學習建築。

Architecture is Art Festival is an art festival with architecture as the central topic.



香港文化中心 20周年誌慶節目
Programme commemorating the
20th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre

進念·二十面體由香港特別行政區政府資助
Zuni Icosahedron is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
進念·二十面體為香港文化中心場地伙伴
Zuni Icosahedron is the Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre

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Press Release

29 - 7 - 09

Presented and Produced by Zuni Icosahedron

Architecture is Art Festival

1 / 9 – 18 / 10 / 2009, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Programme commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre

A first-ever art festival on architecture in China

The “Architecture is Art Festival” is an art festival encompassing the broad topic of architecture which will be held for seven weeks starting September 1. The Festival, divided into four parts by four questions, explores the broader philosophical aspects of architecture and examines the specific contexts of China and Hong Kong, in order to understand, make sense of and learn from architecture through art and our everyday living.

What is Architecture?

*Representing the architectural theory and esthetics
of three great master-builders of our time,
in search of the essence of architecture*

What is Chinese Architecture?

*Starting from the Forbidden City, an
experience of the national arts and history.*

What is City Odyssey?

Odyssey in four cities, exploring cultural space and development.

What is West Kowloon?

*Deconstructing the West Kowloon Cultural District by a celebrated Comedy;
Rethinking our Cultural Waterfront*

Architecture is art...is life...is creativity

Mathias Woo, the Artistic Director of Architecture is Art Festival, once said in an interview: “If everyone has some fundamental understanding of architecture and knows how to improve our quality of life with architecture, the standard of our living will have some substantial improvement. Every day we get in and out of all kinds of architecture. Yet we know so little about the history, theories and modes of architecture. I hope this Festival will enable us to understand what it is between architecture and living.”

The Festival is pioneering and extensive in nature composed of diversified events such as multi-media theatre performances, exhibitions, conferences, public seminars, lectures and workshops. Consisting of more than 40 sessions, “Architecture is Art Festival” will explore architecture as an art form and its relationship with design and daily living.

A gathering of experts from Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, discovering Art and Architecture

Over 50 participants from different disciplines will join together in the making of the Festival exploring the potential of architecture as a pluralistic art form. These participants include Hong Kong showbiz artists Anthony Wong, Kam Kwok Leung and Kerena Lam who will take part in theatre performances and exhibition projects. Amongst many renowned architects, scholars and ecotourism experts from mainland China and Taipei are Liu Jiakun (Chengdu), Wang Shu (Hangzhou), Zhang Lei (Nanjing), Jiang Jun (Beijing), Chen Xujun (Guangzhou) who will engage audiences in public seminars and lectures. Hong Kong visual artists Stanley Wong (a.k.a. another mountain man), Lai Tat-Tat Wing, Li Chi Tat, and digital artist Tobias Gremmler from Munich will contribute their expertise in visual creation and take part in exhibition projects. Electronic musicians from Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei and Shenzhen will have a musical concert on the topic of “Architecture and City”. Other artists from mainland China include the top-notch traditional operatic Kunqu artists Shi Xiaomei, Li Hongliang and Zhang Hong. The Festival will include input from a team of advisors from academic and cultural institutions, including Prof. Ho Puay-peng from Department of Architecture, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Prof. Desmond Hui from Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Dr. Kan Tai-keung from Cheung Kong School of Art and Design of Shantou University, Prof. Hang Jian from Academy of Art and Design of Tsinghua University, and Mr Chiu Kwong Chiu from Design and Cultural Studies Workshop.

Appreciating architecture from the West to the East.

From traditional to modern

The Festival consists of 7 theatre performances and 3 exhibitions.

Theatre programmes, the “Multimedia Architecture Music Theatre” series “*Looking For Mies*” and “*CORBU and KAHN*”, dedicated to the three great master-builders of our time, present the theories and aesthetics of architecture. The multimedia music performance “*The Forbidden City*” and Kunqu Opera “*A Tale of the Forbidden City*”, centred along the largest ancient palatial structure in the world with one performance being contemporary and experimental, and the other traditional, expound on the beauty of Chinese architecture through these two performing art forms. Performances “*Architecture is... Discourse with Music*” and “*City Odyssey*” combine the forms of concert and sharing (talk show) together. The sharing part, conducted by multimedia musicians and guest speakers from mainland China, Taipei and Hong Kong, will be on art and architecture, as well as cities and their images. Performance *East Wing West Wing 8 – West Kowloon Dragon Balls* focuses on the latest development of the West Kowloon Cultural District and unlocks the mystery behind land use and planning failures in Hong Kong.

The exhibition “The Forbidden City” is the focal point of the Festival. Together with a series of education programmes sponsored by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department including *Public Seminar: The Conservation, presentation and Significance of the Forbidden City* and *Lecture Series: Aesthetics of Chinese Architecture*, the Festival provides a chance for public education on the Chinese way of living and its wisdom starting from the basics of Chinese architecture, and against the wider backdrop of the 60th anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China this year. The opening ceremony of the theme exhibition of “*The Forbidden City*” will be held on September 18, with Mr. Tsang Tak-sing, JP, the Secretary for Home Affairs, HKSAR, as the Guest of Honor. Two more exhibitions “*My Modern Architects*” and “*Rethinking the Cultural Waterfront*” will be held at the Foyer of Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

The Annual “*City-to-City Cultural Exchange Conference*” will mark the finale of the Festival. A group of scholars, practitioners, critics, corporate executives and policy makers from Shanghai, Shenzhen, Taipei and Hong Kong will gather together to explore the issue of “*Cultural Space and Cultural Development*” and the way forward. This annual conference has been held since 1997 with a varied theme each time and the location rotating between the four cities. Such a dialogue has provided frontline cultural workers of these cities with the latest local cultural developments, allowing them to share the challenges faced collectively and individually, as well as to further explore cultural issues of mutual concern.

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