With the Patronage of EXPO MILANO 2015 FEEDING THE PLANET ENERGY FOR LIFE

DESIGN IDEAS COMPETITION
ITAHK - L'ITALIA AD ORIENTE
Architettura Italiana ad Hong Kong
New ideas of a sustainable district

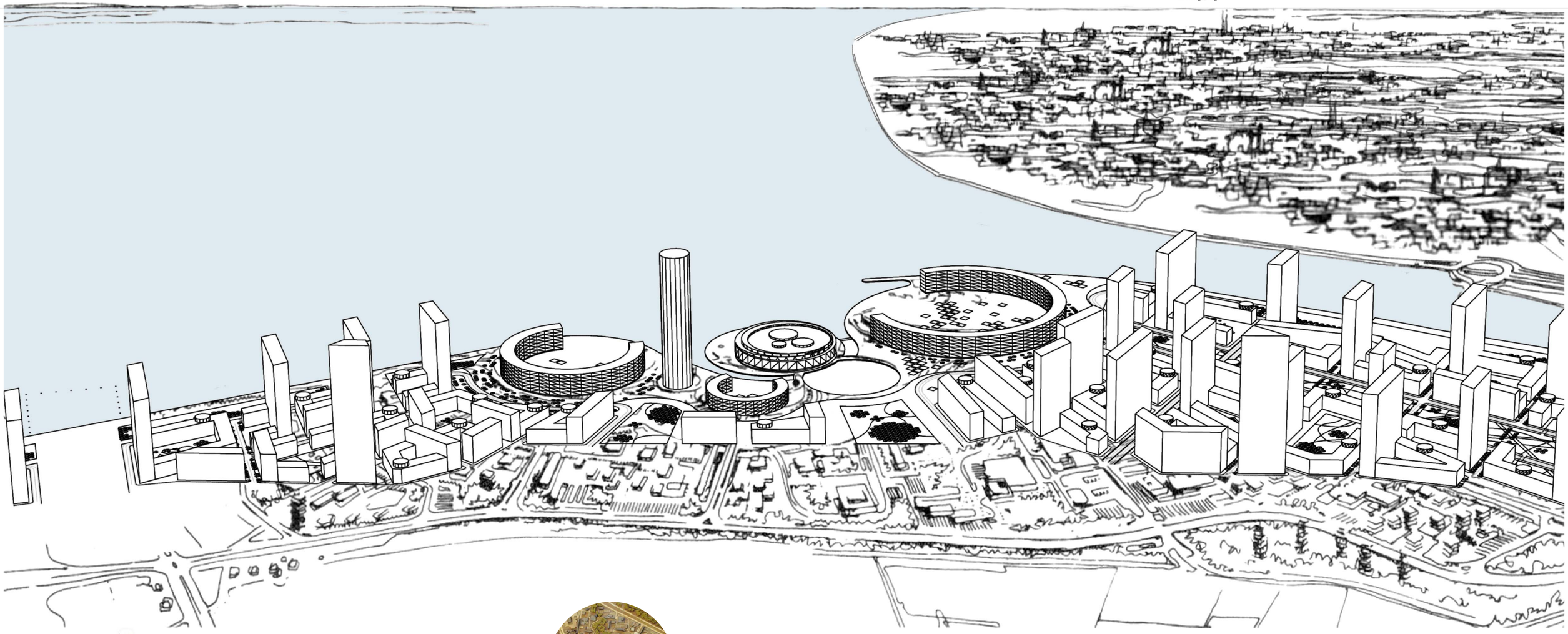
Organizers: LOA laboratorio oltre l'architettura

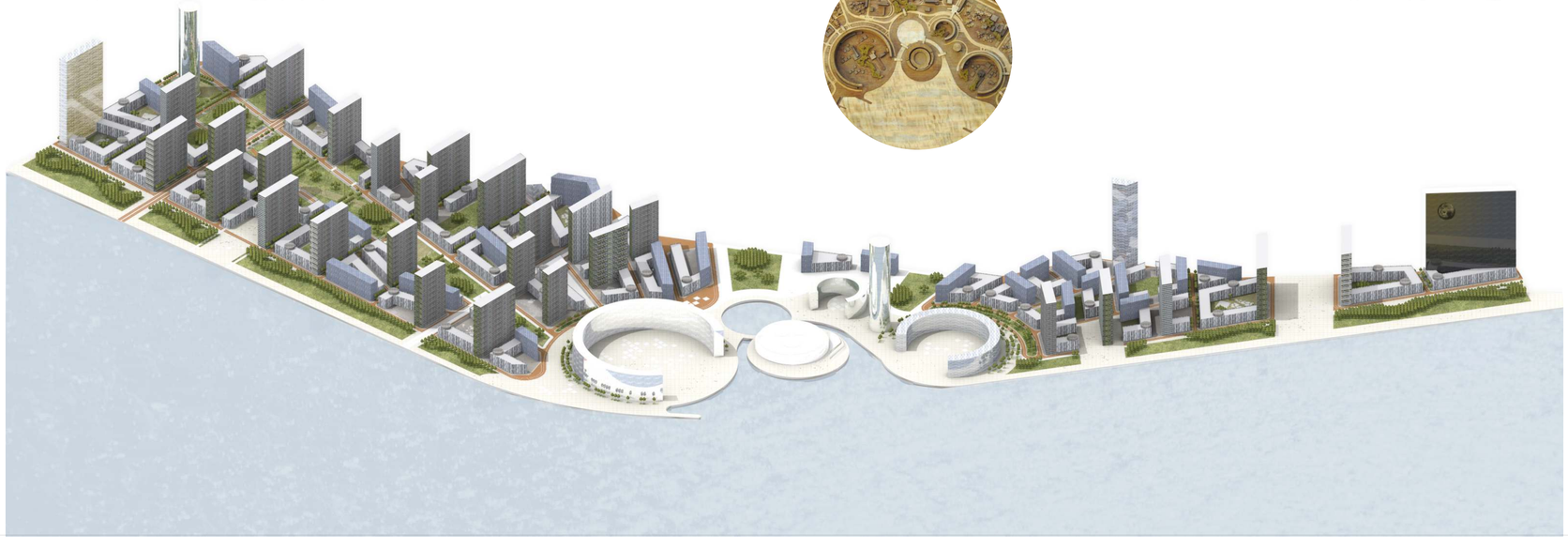
In partnership with: CNAPPC Consiglio Nazionale degli Architetti Pianificatori Paesaggisti e Conservatori; AIA HK Hong Kong Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

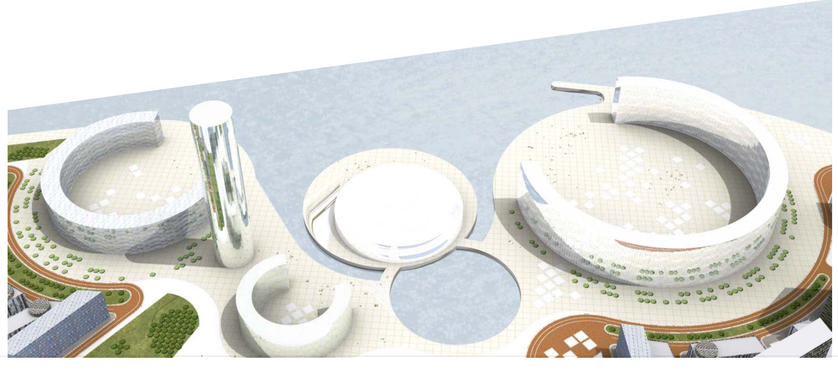
Institutional support: School of Architecture, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Ministero degli Affari Esteri; Consulate General of Italy in Hong Kong; Italian Cultural Institute Hong Kong

Supporting organizations: HKIUD Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design; inarch

Media partner: archilovers the architecture and design professional network







VIVRE ENSEMBLE

A development of the size of Ma Liu Shui needs clarity: a clear urban structure with lively focal points, which is easy to find your way around.
A strong architectural intervention defines a new centre, a centre not only for Ma Liu Shui but for the area from Tai Po to the University and its surroundings. Three crescents interact three-dimensionally with the water to create a recognizable place open to the sea. The C-shaped public and mixed-use buildings create an articulated sequence of public spaces. The main cultural centre, surrounded by the water, is the pivot of the whole system and a high quality iconic building.

A green waterfront is the binding element of the whole plan while a more urban central park connects the racecourse with the new cultural centre offering both recreational and ecological areas. A rough continuous three-dimensional natural landscape along the waterfront and a series of highly used public park spaces with playground and urban furniture along the central park.

A more quiet ecological environment next to the water and lively recreational areas in the middle of the mixed use buildings. Both elements – the public parkland and the natural landscape – are shaped and designed according to the proximity of the neighbourhoods, centres, facilities and routes.

Mixed-use open courtyards neighbourhoods create specific and unique living environment. To deliver a wide choice of homes, the perimeter block is used in a variety of forms. Each block is made of both high-desity/low-rise, villas and high rise blades arranged to guarantee sunlight and open view to everyone. The inner courtyards give a specific character to the neighbourhood adding spaces for sports, elderly, kids playgrounds complementing residents' private space with shared areas for recreation and relaxation and create a transition from public to private spaces. The main concern of the plan is the quality and character of the whole environment. The size and shape is defined by the nature of the site and by parameters set by services, public transport and the proposed housing mix and density spread. Each neighbourhood offers tranquillity, intimacy, individuality ans security in a wide variety of forms fostering with the human relationships of the vivre ensemble. Each residential unit should include some external private space, whether patios, balconies, roof terraces or private gardens.

The site is located in the middle of a very popular holiday cycling route from Tai Po to Sha Tin along the waterfront that will interact with the landscape of the green rough waterfront. Currently the area is quite remote, far away from MTR station and only bus or private vehicles access, therefore the new light railway running along the central park will connect the racecourse area with the new cultural centre and the Science Park on the north, bringing people together and offering new services to those already living the area.

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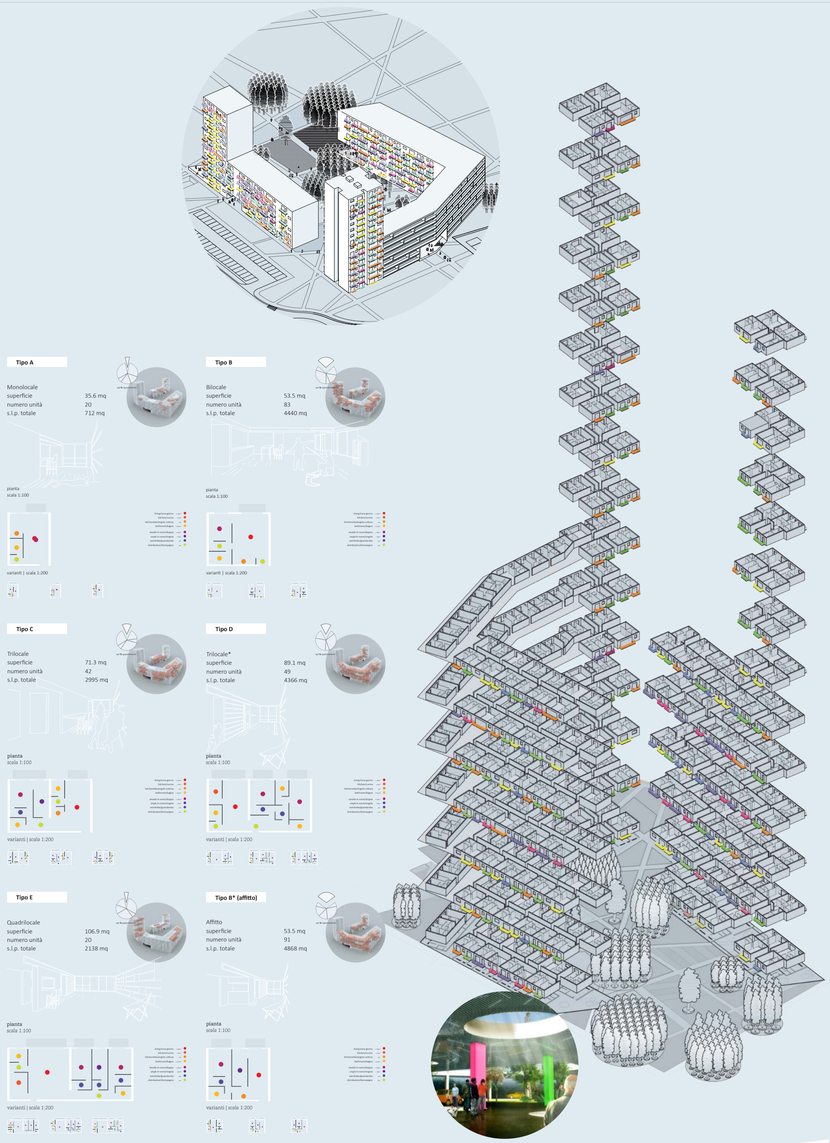

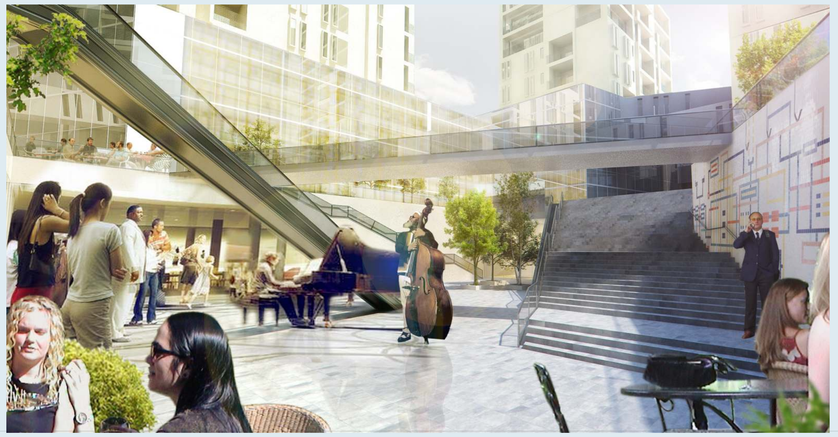

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