

二零一二年至二零一五年度

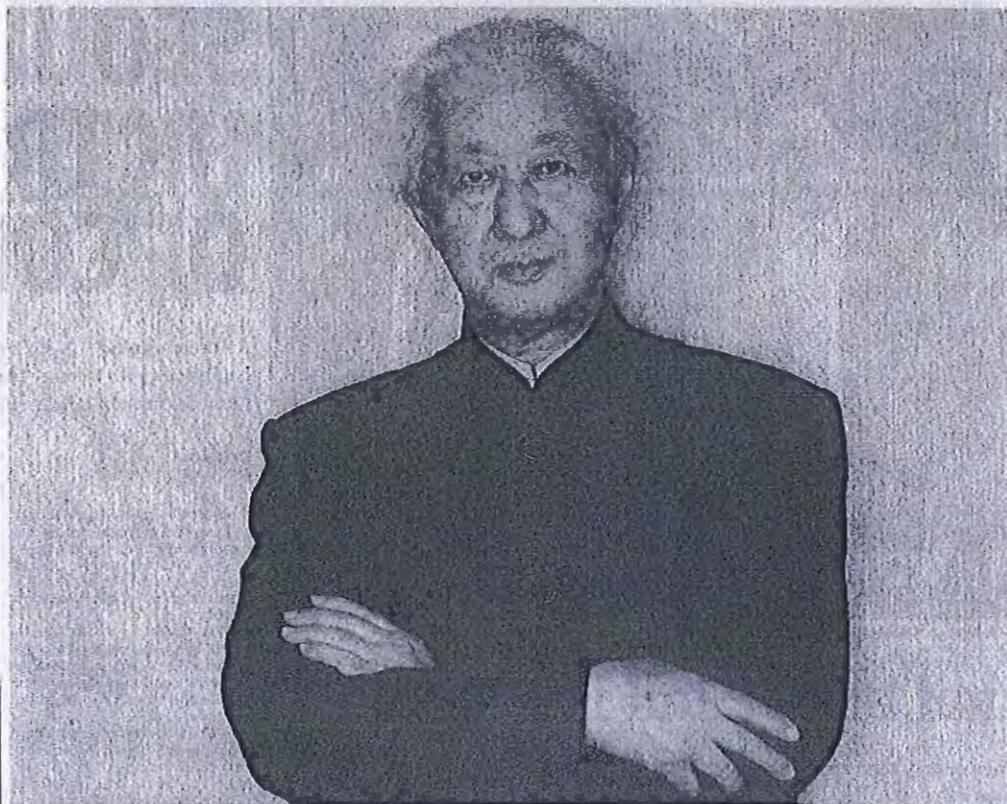
中西區區議會第五次會議 - 常設事項

「城中綠洲」項目

市區重建局的書面回覆：

「城中綠洲」項目的國際建築顧問磯崎・新先生於五月下旬到訪香港，與總建築設計團隊討論項目的建築哲學，務求在未來的設計能融入地區特色。其建築理念主要是利用新技術表達傳統建築精髓，使「城中綠洲」能「溫柔」地融入周邊環境。在訪港期間，磯崎・新先生亦就有關的建築哲學接受報章訪問；現隨函附上相關的剪報供各議員參閱。另外，市建局將在短期內更新罩幕，並將上述的建築理念融入罩幕的圖像設計，讓市民更了解「城中綠洲」項目的設計理念。

DESIGN



Japanese master architect Arata Isozaki co-designed the revitalisation of Central Market with Vincent Ng in the Bauhaus spirit. Photo: Hora Tam

Master's vision of practical beauty

Arata Isozaki, co-designer on the Central Market project, says city no longer needs iconic architecture

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Hong Kong has no need of iconic buildings but simply architecture that takes care of people's needs, says Japanese master architect Arata Isozaki, who is working with the Urban Renewal Authority to revitalise the historic Central Market.

Isozaki, 82, one of the world's most-sought after architects, recounted his changing impressions of the city over the past 50 years during a trip to Hong Kong last month.

When he first visited half a century ago, the hills around the city, even The Peak, were dotted with squatter huts, and the sea with boatpeople. He witnessed the rapid change in the cityscape on later visits in the 1960s.

"The HSBC building by Norman Foster was built. It represented a new

form of architecture in the world. I thought this city was a good testing ground for architecture," he said.

Thirty years on, Isozaki, having created influential projects around the world such as the Team Disney Building in Florida, the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha, and the Museum of Contemporary Art at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, is leaving a footprint at Central Market.

He said the city no longer needs iconic architecture as in the past, as the population and the built areas have rapidly increased.

"Hong Kong is different from Qatar. In Qatar, where I have projects, I never know whether anyone will be using the buildings I design. In Hong Kong, there's always life and energy and it's the other way round. You have to think what sort of architecture best suits people's needs."

Isozaki, who is working with local architect Vincent Ng Wing-shun on the new design for the four-storey Bauhaus building in Des Voeux Road Central, said he wanted to pay more attention to the everyday needs of people instead of just creating something eye-catching.

The original philosophy behind Bauhaus architecture was to create buildings that were simple but beautiful - typically cubic in shape with flat sides and a flat roof. In an article he wrote, Isozaki said he wanted to

preserve this spirit for the public. The project, dubbed Urban Floating Oasis (UFO), will add a glass box on top of the 73-year-old block, to create more space for leisure facilities.

"We will avoid a dazzling and visually protruding design for UFO," he said. "It is a simplified glass box that harmonises with the old building and surrounding commercial towers." The most advanced structural techniques and materials would be used to celebrate the new life of Bauhaus, he said.

The site will contain small shops, restaurants and open space. The Urban Renewal Authority will look for business operators this year.

However, the project is on hold due to a judicial review sought by a Hutchison Whampoa subsidiary over the use of its car park in the nearby Cheung Kong Center. The challenge has cast uncertainty on the overall zoning plan of Central, and the URA is reluctant to submit the project to the Town Planning Board for approval until the case is cleared.



There's life and energy. You have to think what sort of architecture suits people's needs

ARATA ISOZAKI, MASTER ARCHITECT

