



Group photo with Dr.Jia from HKU.

UTM Global Outreach Program

Hong Kong & Macau

Expedition and

Architectural Workshop

During 19th -26th of February 2012, 15 students and 1 lecturer from Department of Architecture had made their architectural exploration in 2200km away from UTM Skudai Campus.

It was a Global Outreach Program (GOP) to Hong Kong and Macau.

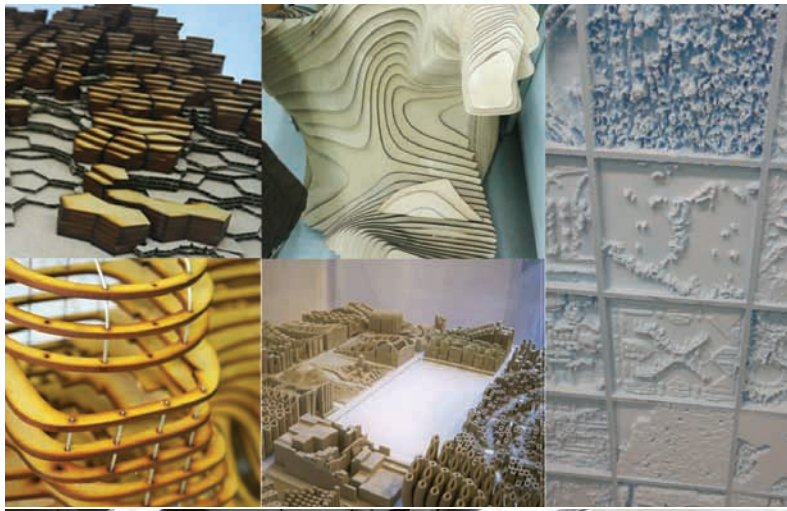
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Global Outreach Program is an international program designed to develop UTM's students to be global ready graduate. It is an initiative to encourage the mobility of UTM students and to provide the opportunity for UTM students to experience the extraordinary environment of other educational institutes' academics, resources, and residential life.

Hong Kong & Macau Expedition and Architectural Workshop is a collaboration project with the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Representative from Department of Architecture of HKU, Dr.Jia Beisi, used to be our school formal Thesis Design Studio Panel, and he also given several talk during his visit to UTM architecture school. This program will further strengthen

the ties between UTM and HKU, by exchanging ideas, experience and academic knowledge, we believe this Hong Kong and Macau GOP program has successful to bring our architecture undergraduate students into a new level.

During our visit to HKU, Dr.Jia toured us around the architecture department, the studio and other facilities. HKU architecture school is a well equipped school, with adequate technologies competencies. Besides basic facilities like computer labs, their school also provides numbers of model making machines, such as laser cutter, 3d printing machines, etc. Dr.Jia also showed us some of their students' works, which amazed us a lot.

After the tour, Dr.Jia gave us a talk on "Open Building Concept". From the lecture, we shared thinking and opinions on architectural issues, especially in the context of Hong Kong. The unique hyper density living in Hong Kong strikes our perceptions towards urban, high-rise buildings and their interrelations.



from top to bottom:

1. Student works of HKU
2. Studios in HKU
3. Housing in South Horizon
4. Group photo with the house owner.



Mass Housing Case Study

Besides a short workshop with HKU, we also studied the mass housing projects in Hong Kong, particularly in Housing Estate in South Horizon. Through the help of Dr. Tareef (trip advisor lecturer), we got a chance to visit one of the housing unit, which is currently owned by his friend. Although the apartment unit only around 1100 sqm, but efficient use of spaces make us feel that the house is quite big. The house owner not only utilized the ceiling space for storage, they also utilized spaces like under-bed, spaces between bed and wardrobes, and other negative spaces that we seldom make use of. Spaces are precious in the land of Hong Kong.





top left: presentation by Leaf Lam, sharing their design process.
top right: spaces in the design firm. Bottom: Group photo with key person in EDGE Design Institute Ltd.

EDGE Design Institute Ltd

a visit to famous architecture firm

One of our most important part in this trip is visit to EDGE Design Institute, which is run by international acknowledged Architect, Gary Chang. Although we missed the chance to meet Mr. Gary Chang in person, his colleague have gives us the best hospitality. They presented and explained their design philosophy and projects, and toured us around their office.

Another must mentioned is heritage trial studies in suburban areas in Kowloon. Many might think Hong Kong is filled with tall, modern and glossy looking skyscrapers, but Hong Kong also has places with low rise buildings and historical buildings. By walked

though the heritage trail, we traced back the lifestyle of the 'old Hong Kong', and they have very interesting housing typologies named "walled city" where all the houses are closely packed together and compounded by tall "fortress-like" walls.

As a conclusion, Hong Kong Expedition and Architectural Workshop was a fruitful experience. Special credits and thanks to UTM Global Outreach Program who sponsored and gives us this precious opportunity, and University of Hong Kong, EDGE Design Institute, for the collaborations.