

Interdisciplinary DEC Student Project collaborated with the Industry: Project Development of Arts Pavilion for the Elderly in Hong Kong

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Abstract:

The associate degree programmes currently offered by the Division of Building Science and Technology (BST) cover most disciplines of the building industry –building services engineering (BSE), construction engineering and management (CEM), civil and structural engineering (CVSE), surveying (SURV), and architectural studies (AS). This provides an excellent opportunity for students of these programmes to come together to practice the development of a building project from its initial design stage to construction planning. The joint development work calls for students’ creativity, innovation, drive, discipline, teamwork and presentation skills which are all necessary in pursuing their future career in the building industry, the basic elemental requirements of DEC.

The aim of the Interdisciplinary DEC Student Project (The Project) is to provide BST students with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to develop a building project, as initiated by a client, from its preliminary design phase to construction planning through teamwork with students of other disciplines. In undertaking the Project, the students will be able to demonstrate their capability of interpreting the client’s requirements and transforming them into a feasible solution. The students will also develop and demonstrate their abilities to apply skills and techniques in their respective disciplines, contribute to the accomplishment of the requirements of the project client (through Elderly Home visit). In addition, the students will also develop skills to communicate with their teammates, to comprehend how problems of different disciplines are resolved, and to report and present their work as a part of the integrated building project outcome. In order to catch up with the DEC and the motive to discovery for the project, our Team has chosen a new and special topic: to design an Arts Pavilion for the Elderly people in HK...

In Hong Kong, the proportion of people aged 65 and above increased from 11% in 2001 to 13% in 2011. The corresponding number of people aged 65 and above increased from 747 052 in 2001 to 941 312 in February 2011. The ageing trend of Hong Kong population is expected to be more apparent in the years ahead. According to the projections made by the Census and Statistics Department, the proportion of people aged 65 and above is forecast to rise from 13% in 2011 to 30% in 2041, accounting for one out of every three Hong Kong people.

Our Team believes that, regardless of our age, it is our right to participate in the artistic and cultural life in Hong Kong in whatever way we may choose. The form of participation will be different for each individual. For some, it will be an opportunity to engage directly with an art form: to learn techniques, explore ideas and create new work. For others, it will be an opportunity to engage with the work of



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others: to watch, listen, enjoy and be challenged by new perspectives and modes of expression. For some honing of artistic skills and satisfaction that derives from finished work will be the most important elements of the experience; while for others, it will be the personal journey undertaken during the creative process, with no product at all. Whatever mode of participation is chosen, the arts experience on offer should be meaningful and of highest possible quality.

Our Team believes that we can all benefit from the greater inclusion of older voices and perspectives in the arts, and that the benefits for participants include personal fulfilment, the creation of meaning, an opportunity for life-long learning, social linkages, celebration, communication, dignity and self-esteem, empowerment and maintaining and improving health. We need a place for them...