

INTERNATIONALER DESIGN WORKSHOP HK 1: The Hong Kong Botanical Commons – Ecological communities reclaiming public space

International Design Workshop 2017

Master of Arts in Design in collaboration with Connecting Spaces Hong Kong and local designers, entrepreneurs, artists, scientists.

Angebot für

Bisheriges Studienmodell > Design > Master Design > Design interdisziplinär > 2. Semester

Nummer und Typ	MDE-MDE-Workshop-2000.17H.001 / Moduldurchführung
Modul	Minor Internationaler Workshop 2.Semester
Veranstalter	Departement Design
Leitung	Prof. Michael Krohn, Karin Zindel - Michael Leung
Zeit	Mo 11. September 2017 bis Fr 22. September 2017
Anzahl Teilnehmende	maximal 14
ECTS	2 Credits
Voraussetzungen	keine
Lehrform	Three different workshops with Hong Kong based designers, entrepreneurs, artists, scientists.
Zielgruppen	2. Semester Studierende Master of Arts in Design
Lernziele / Kompetenzen	-Experience how city and nature interact -Learn to design objects, services, events or systems that use the potential of city and nature -Explore creative strategies and new technologies that enables or transmit the experience of city and nature -Use methods how the obtained knowledge and results can be presented
Inhalte	<p>Michael Leung is designer, urban farmer and visiting lecturer. His work ranges from conceptual objects for the dead to urban agriculture projects such as The HK FARMers' Almanac (2014-2015) and HK Salt. Leung is a visiting lecturer at Hong Kong Baptist University and at the Intercommon Institute, where he teaches socially engaged art (MA) and social design, respectively. www.studioleung.com / Instagram: studio_leung</p> <p>In Hong Kong, a city populated with over seven million people with a sunset lost to towering buildings, it can be difficult to imagine such a city becoming reacquainted with nature again. Fortunately, a short roller coaster minibus ride can take you to the countryside, coastal villages and to ports with boats going to outlying islands. But for those who live and are rooted in the urban environment, where can encounters with nature happen on a daily basis?</p> <p>In the past few years I have spent less time on the rooftop and have become more focused on urban farming and guerrilla gardening on the ground level. I believe that such efforts in public and urban spaces repairs communities and bring</p>

biodiversity back into the city. This workshop brings us to such spaces: security gardeners who turn building entrances into small but thriving gardens; people growing medicinal herbs on small mountains next to elevated highways; mobile gardens on metal carts brought out during the day; planters that are elevated and attached to metal street signs; a 39-year fabric market hidden and surrounded by trees; a convenience shop grounded by a large tree; Chinese banyan trees growing in the crevices of a 1960's building rooftop; grandma gardeners who share knowledge when they buy their daily groceries; and Mango King, a homeless guerrilla farmer who practices permaculture on an unused 6,000-square foot (560-square metre) public space in Kowloon.

The coexistence of nature in Hong Kong's urban environment is also supported by neighbourhood concern groups, community spaces, environmental activists and even bird feeders, such as a lady dressed only in black who unboxes a nutritious dinner for urban birds at precisely 5pm every day, and the middle-aged man who carries a ladder and feeds around 70 cats at 7pm every night.

How do such practices and environments relate back to a creative, multidisciplinary and explorative workshop? Such green heterotopias and sensitivity towards nature offer new encounters and knowledge exchange in a hostile neo-liberal capitalist era. In increasingly controlled and regulated public spaces, what approaches exist in Hong Kong, and can be developed further, using design as a tool, to inspire new opportunities for open and shared green spaces – our ecological commons?

Cooperative housing in Zurich

Visiting places in Hong Kong that organise from the bottom-up and building on examples in Zurich such as Stadion Brache Hardturm and cooperative neighbourhoods like Das Dreieck and 5im5i, workshop participants will create multidisciplinary works that envision what an ecological commons platform would look like, under the project title 'The Hong Kong Botanical Commons'. How can we document bottom-up practices («legal and illegal»? What tools and strategies are people using when gardening/farming in public and hostile environments? How can insights into one person's life inspire many other people? How do cultures, textures and interactions inform design processes? How and where do we share our experiences so that they become part of the commons?

Field work, intercultural encounters, participatory action research and creative collaborations will introduce new opportunities to the Hong Kong urban landscape, and turn them into case studies, projects, (new) objects and exhibits for a Hong Kong Botanical Commons – an open and expansive platform that grows out of the institution, roots itself in the community and supports a balanced urban environment in Hong Kong.

Notes to students:

1. Please visit Stadion Brache Hardturm for a community lunch on Monday. Please don't tell too many people so as to not overwhelm them (kindly advised by one of the gardeners).
2. Please visit the squat and their back garden behind Notschlafstelle Rosengartenstrasse 30, 8037 Zurich. Politely ask if you can enter.

Bibliographie / Literatur

- www.tinyurl.com/ZHHKdirectory
- Ideology of Design, ISBN-13: 978-1570272097, p.277
- Rebel Cities by David Harvey
- Common Space: The City as Commons by Stavros C. Stavrides
- Anything from these books: www.paidong.tumblr.com/search/theory or www.paidong.tumblr.com/library
- The Moneylessman by Mark Boyle, p.112-114
- On Guerrilla Gardening by Richard Reynolds
- www.designingtheurbancommons.org

- www.e-flux.com/journal/17/67351/on-the-commons-a-public-interview-with-massimo-de-angelis-and-stavros-stavrides
- www.o500.org
- www.o500.org/books/pm_power_of_neighborhood.pdf
- www.insurrectionaryam.tumblr.com
- www.cohstra.org
- www.wochenklausur.at
- My 10 mins presentation at ZHdK in June 2017: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B03bQwscdnJkeDNxc1dQSjJGMjQ>

Leistungsnachweis / Testatanforderung	Anwesenheit, Abgabe des Resultates
Termine	Duration: September 11th to 22rd 2017, Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm Start: Monday Sept. 11th from 9am to 11am, introduction guest lecturers and each workshop-session End: Friday Sept 22rd from 6pm to 8pm, public presentation & discussion
Dauer	2 Weeks
Bewertungsform	bestanden / nicht bestanden
Bemerkung	Englisch als Kurssprache