

Speakers and Abstracts

Mr Stefan KRUMMECK, MHKIUD

Director, Farrells



Stefan Krummeck, Director of Farrells, is an architect and urban designer with more than 25 years of experience designing award-winning buildings and master plans that have shaped towns and cities throughout the world. As a long-time proponent of transit-oriented development, Stefan believes in the complementary relationship between walkability and public transport, and that vibrant, people-friendly streetscapes play an integral role in city sustainability and the success of urban master plans.

His firm's recent work includes Kennedy Town Station, noted for its people-oriented design, as well as the iconic Kennedy Town Swimming Pool. The upcoming M+ museum, located at the crux between a new park and a new urban plaza, will serve as a highly-recognisable beacon for the West Kowloon Cultural District, a new arts district being built under a Development Plan produced by Farrells.

Walkability, Transport and Active Ageing

Hong Kong now boasts one of the longest average life expectancies on earth. Hong Kongers' longevity, coupled with declining birth rates, means that our population is ageing fast – with the number of Hong Kong seniors expected to double to 2.37 million within the next two decades.

As a high-intensity, high-energy city, Hong Kong is far from the sleepy rural idyll typically envisaged as the perfect retirement destination. Urban design plays an important role in contributing to quality of life for all ages, but urban conditions can have a much stronger bearing on seniors, who face greater challenges getting around, and who have particular needs regarding the design of public space and parks.

Our infrastructure-driven, engineering-led city is built largely to serve the economy and the needs of the labour force. However, Hong Kong's unique urban model also holds opportunities to improve quality of life for older people. A compact, mixed-use urban form can enhance walkability, thereby improving seniors' access to daily needs as well as opportunities for socialisation and personal growth. The high-quality public transport system can help seniors traverse the city. Access to green space, a product of Hong Kong's limited urban sprawl, can provide benefits to physical and mental health and wellbeing.

This talk will explore some questions relevant to urban designers working in Hong Kong and similar Asian cities, for instance: how does the scale and design of streetscapes and pedestrian networks impact walkability for seniors in particular? How can we ensure older people are empowered by, rather than alienated by, the public transport network? How do we address the needs of seniors within the scope of the massive infrastructure projects that often define modern city-making in Hong Kong and mainland China?