# HKILA Accreditation for Arboricultural Practitioners

*- Paul Chan*

HKILA
THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
香港園境師學會

Tree protection – (ETWB TCW 3/2006)

Trees on unleased Government land are protected under Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96)

Trees on pleasure grounds, public cemeteries and gardens of remembrance are protected under Public Health & Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132)

Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200)

Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210)

Country Parks and Special Areas under
Country Park Ordinance (Cap. 208)

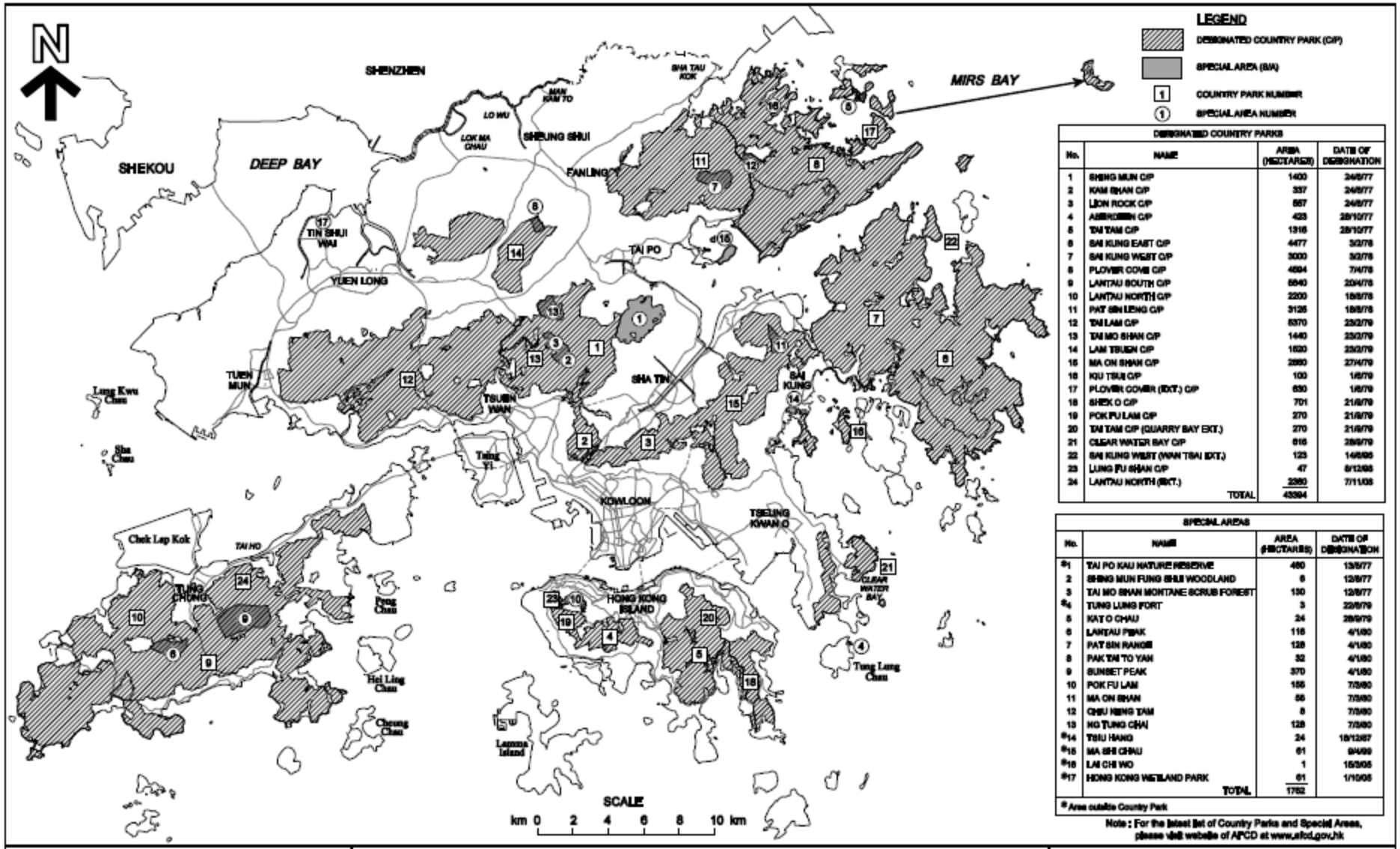
Marine Parks and Marine Reserve under
Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476)

Restricted Areas under
Wild Animals Ordinance (Cap. 170)

Site of Special Scientific Interest under
Statutory and non-statutory plans

Major Conservation Zone on statutory plans –
CP/CPA/SSSI/GB/CA

Designated Projects under
Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499)




**DESIGNATED COUNTRY PARKS**

| No. | NAME | AREA (HECTARES) | DATE OF DESIGNATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | SHING MUN C/P | 1400 | 24/5/77 |
| 2 | KAM SHAN C/P | 337 | 24/5/77 |
| 3 | LION ROCK C/P | 557 | 24/5/77 |
| 4 | ABERDEEN C/P | 423 | 28/10/77 |
| 5 | TAI TAM C/P | 1316 | 28/10/77 |
| 6 | SAI KUNG EAST C/P | 4477 | 3/2/78 |
| 7 | SAI KUNG WEST C/P | 3000 | 3/2/78 |
| 8 | PLOVER COVE C/P | 4694 | 7/4/78 |
| 9 | LANTAU SOUTH C/P | 5640 | 20/4/78 |
| 10 | LANTAU NORTH C/P | 2200 | 18/8/78 |
| 11 | PAT SIN LENG C/P | 3126 | 18/8/78 |
| 12 | TAI LAM C/P | 5370 | 23/2/79 |
| 13 | TAI MO SHAN C/P | 1440 | 23/2/79 |
| 14 | LAM TSUEN C/P | 1620 | 23/2/79 |
| 15 | MA ON SHAN C/P | 2880 | 27/4/79 |
| 16 | KU TSUI C/P | 100 | 1/6/79 |
| 17 | PLOVER COVER (EXT.) C/P | 630 | 1/6/79 |
| 18 | SHEK O C/P | 701 | 21/6/79 |
| 19 | POK FU LAM C/P | 270 | 21/6/79 |
| 20 | TAI TAM C/P (QUARRY BAY EXT.) | 270 | 21/6/79 |
| 21 | CLEAR WATER BAY C/P | 616 | 28/9/79 |
| 22 | SAI KUNG WEST (WAN TSAI EXT.) | 123 | 14/6/85 |
| 23 | LUNG FU SHAN C/P | 47 | 6/12/85 |
| 24 | LANTAU NORTH (EXT.) | 2360 | 7/11/05 |
| | TOTAL | 43394 | |

**SPECIAL AREAS**

| No. | NAME | AREA (HECTARES) | DATE OF DESIGNATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) | TAI PO KAU NATURE RESERVE | 480 | 13/5/77 |
| 2 | SHING MUN FUNG SHUI WOODLAND | 6 | 12/8/77 |
| 3 | TAI MO SHAN MONTANE SCRUB FOREST | 130 | 12/8/77 |
| (4) | TUNG LUNG FORT | 3 | 22/6/79 |
| 5 | KAT O CHAU | 24 | 28/9/79 |
| 6 | LANTAU PEAK | 116 | 4/1/80 |
| 7 | PAT SIN RANGE | 128 | 4/1/80 |
| 8 | PAK TAI TO YAN | 32 | 4/1/80 |
| 9 | SUNSET PEAK | 370 | 4/1/80 |
| 10 | POK FU LAM | 155 | 7/3/80 |
| 11 | MA ON SHAN | 55 | 7/3/80 |
| 12 | CHIU KENG TAM | 8 | 7/3/80 |
| 13 | HO TUNG CHAI | 128 | 7/3/80 |
| (14) | TSIU HANG | 24 | 18/12/87 |
| (15) | MA SHI CHAU | 61 | 9/4/99 |
| (16) | LAI CHI WO | 1 | 15/3/05 |
| (17) | HONG KONG WETLAND PARK | 61 | 1/10/05 |
| | TOTAL | 1702 | |

(#) Area outside Country Park

Note : For the latest list of Country Parks and Special Areas, please visit website of AFCD at www.afcd.gov.hk

**SOURCES**

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT (COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY)

# COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

PLAN REF. No. M / SP / 09 / 63

FILE REF. No. SS/C/PSSC/1001

DATE 8/10

FIGURE 1

Country Parks and Special Areas under
Country Park Ordinance (Cap. 208)

Marine Parks and Marine Reserve under
Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476)

Restricted Areas under
Wild Animals Ordinance (Cap. 170)

Site of Special Scientific Interest under
Statutory and non-statutory plans

Major Conservation Zone on statutory plans –
CP/CPA/SSSI/GB/CA

Designated Projects under
Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499)

Tree protection – Private Land

Government Lease (Lands Department)

Town Planning Ordinance (Planning Department)

Buildings Ordinance (Buildings Department)

Lease –
Tree Preservation Clause
(allocated Government Land & Private Land)

Tree of Particular Value

Landscape Clause/ LMP Clause

| | |
|---|---|
| Preservation of trees | (11) No tree growing on the lot or adjacent thereto shall be removed or interfered with without the prior written consent of the Director who may, in granting consent, impose such conditions as to transplanting, compensatory landscaping or replanting as he may deem appropriate. |

Lease –
Tree Preservation Clause
(allocated Government Land & Private Land)

Tree of Particular Value

Landscape Clause/ LMP Clause

| | |
|---|---|
| Landscape Master Plan | (12) (a) The Purchaser shall submit or cause to be submitted to the Director for his approval a landscape master plan indicating the landscaping proposals for the lot.<br><br>(b) The landscape master plan shall be at a scale of 1:500 and shall contain information on the landscaping proposals including a survey and treatment of existing trees, site layout and formation levels, conceptual form of building development, illustrative layout of hard and soft landscaping areas and such other information as the Director may require. No site formation works shall be commenced on the lot or any part thereof until consent, if required, has been granted under Special Condition No. (11) hereof. No superstructure works or any other works including site formation works but excluding the demolition and removal works referred to in Special Condition No. (2) hereof shall be commenced on the lot or any part thereof until the relevant submission has been approved in writing by the Director. |

Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131)

Outline Zoning Plan
(Plan, Notes, S. of Use, ES)

Section 16 Application
(column 2 uses or development parameters)

Planning Condition –
LMP and Tree Removal Application

Pan | Zoom In | Zoom Out | Full Extent | Previous Map | Refresh Map | Overview Map | Details | Display Manager | Legend | Print | Save

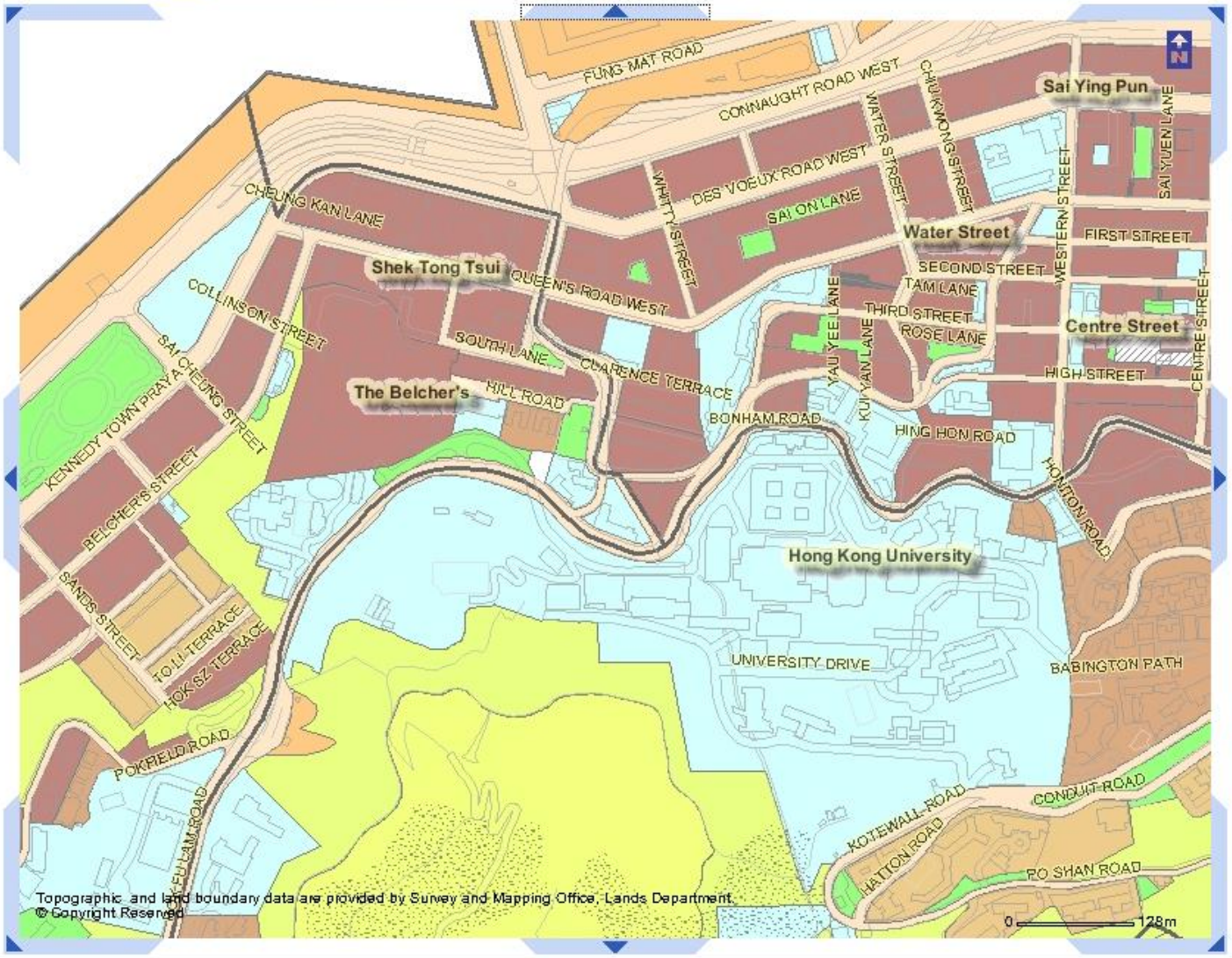
## Legend

**Basemap***

- Building Block
- Road
- MTR Railway
- Light Rail
- Swamp
- Agriculture

**OZP Zoning**

- CP — Country Park
- G/IC — Government / Institution / Community
- GB — Green Belt
- Pedestrian Precinct / Street
- O — Open Space
- OU — Other Specified Uses
- R(A) — Residential (Group A)
- R(B) — Residential (Group B)
- R(C) — Residential (Group C)
- Land Development Corporation / Urban Renewal Authority Development Scheme Plan Area




Zoom In | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Zoom Out



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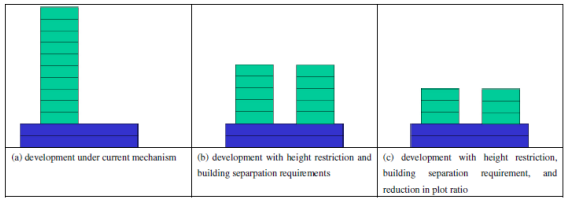
same situation would continue even with imposition of height restriction, reduction in plot ratio, or separation between buildings; as illustrated in figure 2. Please also see Figure 4 for details of current regulation regarding plot ratio, site coverage of non-domestic and domestic portion of a development.



(a) development under current mechanism | (b) development with height restriction and building separation requirements | (c) development with height restriction, building separation requirement, and reduction in plot ratio

Figure 2 – Changes in development potential with height restriction, building separation, and reduction in plot ratio (notice that the non-domestic portion is not affect in all 3 cases)

Large site coverage and gigantic non-domestic portion of developments resulting in limited street vibrancy | Lack of planning in old areas, resulting in congested road and limited greening

Figure 3

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**Response Document**
Building Design to Foster a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment

## Introduction

Given the population density, it is perhaps fair to say that that Hong Kong has evolved naturally into a compact ci and as a result we enjoy the efficiency of land-use and transportation. However, when it gets to a point where ou quality of life and public health are being affected, we must seek to achieve balance to our built environment t cater for the city's future development, which forms the reason for this review of current policy with the emphas on *quality* and *sustainability*.

In the invitation for response document 2009 published by the Council for Sustainable Development (hereafte called "the Document"); it pinpoints some of the most important issues of the current policy and provide proposals for public discussions. It focuses on the design of buildings within their own site boundary instead of c a city and district planning level[1]. Since our urban fabric is generally a result of the statutory framework ar mechanism related to land development control, issues mentioned in the Document are important to the furth development of the city as a whole.

Amongst the wide range of issues affecting our built environment, the Document focused on three areas, listed a follows[2], and provides hypothetical solutions for discussion:

1. Sustainable building design (building separation, setback from narrow street, and greenery)
2. Balancing provision of certain building features against the resultant increase in building height and bulk
3. Energy efficient building design

We must stress that, given the vision of fostering a quality and sustainable built environment; it needs a mo comprehensive review on the current mechanism and to form an overall strategy at planning level. It is clear insufficient to focus only on the design of buildings within their own site boundary. Nevertheless the Docume provides valuable information and proposals that warrants public discussion and we shall provide herewith ou views and concerns in response to some of the areas raised in the document.

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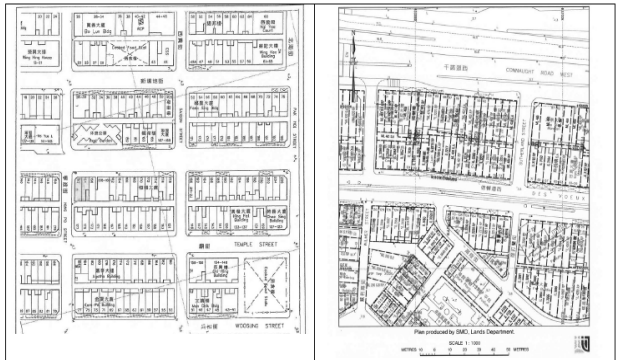
rule, it may be the assumption that greenery could hardly be provided for small lots. However, according to schedule 1 of B(P)R (Figure 4) it is statutory requirement to provide one-quarter to one-half of the roof area as open space, and there is no reason why those open spaces could not be planted. Alternatively, we may adjust the exact percentage of greenery and greenery at grade/ ground level in correlation to parameters of the development potential such as the class of site as determined in the Building (Planning) Regulation, such that the provision of greenery is proportional to the density of the development.



Lot Index Plan for area in Mong Kok District | Lot Index Plan for area in Sheung Wan District

Figure 4 – Sourced from Lands Department, Hong Kong Government

## GFA Concession Policy

In the Document the three words, namely height, bulk and density, are frequently used together. They carry different definitions and should not be mixed up. As illustrated in Figure 1, height of developments would be reduced by imposing height restriction, but without a change in plot ratio the development would be just as dense. Rather, given the same plot ratio, taller buildings increase the space in between and therefore reduce the building footprint on plan. If plot ratio is reduced without height restriction, developments may be just as bulky because the headroom for each floor may be higher. Therefore these three terms are correlated in hybrid and could not be looked at individually.

Bonus GFA for surrender of land (including setback) at ground level, as aforesaid, should be given consideration to the environment and character of the surroundings. Very often such surrender ended up having more roads or wider pavement but without any increase in greenery or amenity value on it. We therefore need to look into two things, one being the justification of the bonus GFA in terms of the surroundings (rather than the one simple formula given in section 22 of the B(P)R); and the other being the design for the dedicated area at ground level. In the long run we propose to introduce code for road design incorporating utility free planting zone at pavement and road median wide enough for bigger trees for highways (please refer to figure 6 for reference example of road at Singapore) The building setback proposal shown in figure 11 of the Document could be considered as a minimum requirement, but again, it should not be applied to all circumstances. As proposed earlier on, setback requirements and parameters such as utility free planting zone specifically to certain area or streets could be incorporated as amendment to the OZP.

Stipulates minimum planting zone for road side and road median

Buildings Ordinance

JPN No. 1 & No. 2 – Sky Garden & Podium Garden

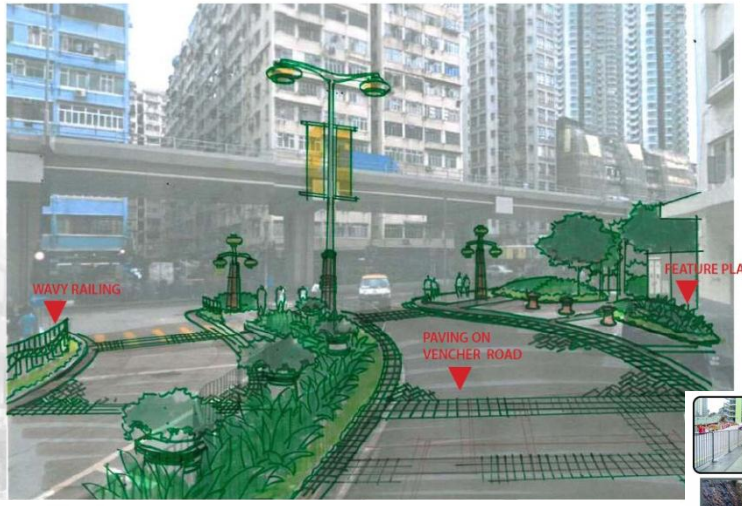
PNAP APP-151 and APP-152 (Green coverage requirement)

**Site Coverage of Greenery**

18. In order to improve the environmental quality of the urban space, particularly at the pedestrian level and to mitigate the heat island effect, new building developments with site areas of 1,000 $m^2$ or more, shall be provided with greenery areas[10] at the pedestrian zone, communal podium roof / flat roof / main roof, slope and retaining structure, where appropriate, to meet the minimum site coverage of greenery as specified in Table 2 below.

| Site Area (A) | Minimum Site Coverage of Greenery (i.e. percentage of greenery area over site area) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Pedestrian zone | Other locations | Total greenery areas |
| 1,000 $m^2 \leq A <$ 20,000 $m^2$ | 10% | no limit | 20% |
| $A \geq$ 20,000 $m^2$ | 15% | no limit | 30% |

Table 2 Site coverage of greenery requirement




S:

A tree planted in nutrient soil in the middle of a paved area needs a minimum of a 4 x 4 planting bed. Structural soil composed of large rock infill and irrigation piping is part of the planting area.

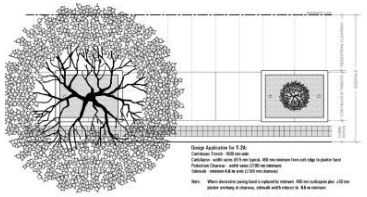
Photo courtesy of A DYE DESIGN

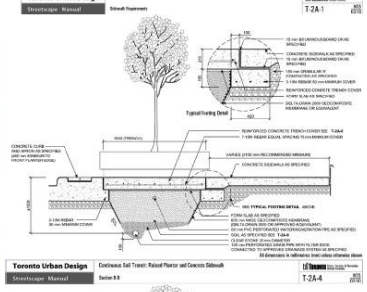
This planting area is framed with a concrete curb below the level of the paver surface on which a metal grate is placed.

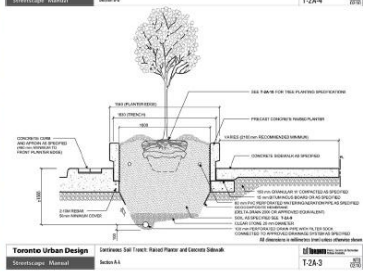
PROJECT AT

Windy, wet, dark and cold downtown Chicago is a harsh place for a tree. ??The designers of the Hyatt Project solved many growing pains by creating a long planting bed using this structural steel and cast iron tree grate system.

Photo courtesy of IRONSMITH










**TREE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE**

Agreement No: PDA/0955,Landscape Tuns/2009-02
Landscape Master Plan Submission based on an Approved Scheme (Application No. A/K1/370 r1)
Proposed Comprehensive Residential & Commerical Development with Government, Institution and Community Facilities & Public Open Space,
Three Sites of Urban Renewal Authority Development Scheme (K18) at Pool Street/ Graham Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

Drawing No.: TS-003
Surveyed by: Ecotrees Ltd.
Date: 13-Aug-09

| Tree | Species | | Size | | | Health Condition | | | | Tree Form | | | | Amenity value | | | Anticipated survival rate after transplanting | | | Recommendation | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. | Botanical Name | Chinese Name | Height (m) | Crown Spread (m) | Trunk Diameter (m) | Good | Fair | Poor | Remarks | Good | Fair | Poor | Remarks | High | Medium | Low | High | Medium | Low | | |
| T1 | Broussonetia papyrifera | 構樹 | 12 | 8 | 0.37 | | * | | | | | * | Crooked trunk | | * | | | | * | Retain | Growing near concrete |
| T2 | Broussonetia papyrifera | 構樹 | 12 | 10 | 0.40 | | * | | Many watersprouts on 1 main branch. | | * | | | | * | | | | * | Retain | Growing near concrete |
| T3 | Broussonetia papyrifera | 構樹 | 12 | 7 | 0.35 | | * | | | | | * | Leaning. Crooked trunk. | | * | | | | * | Retain | Growing near concrete |
| T4 | Broussonetia papyrifera | 構樹 | 12 | 6 | 0.25 | | | * | Heavy growth of watersprouts on trunk. Partial trunk decay. | | | * | Multi-trunk. One living (0.15m), plus two dead trunks (0.12m + 0.1m). | | | * | | | * | Fell | Growing near concrete |
| T5 | Broussonetia papyrifera | 構樹 | 12 | 6 | 0.15 | | | * | | | | * | Slightly leaning. | | | * | | | * | Fell | Growing near concrete |
| T6 | Broussonetia papyrifera | 構樹 | 7 | 2.5 | 0.10 | | * | | Shaded. | | | * | Leaning. Slender form. | | * | | | | * | Fell | Growing near concrete |
| T7 | Broussonetia papyrifera | 構樹 | 11 | 8 | 0.28 | | * | | Small amount of dead branches. | | * | | Twin stems (0.18m + 0.21m) | | * | | | | * | Retain | Growing near concrete |
| T8 | Broussonetia papyrifera | 構樹 | 6 | 2.5 | 0.10 | | * | | Shaded. | | * | | Slender form. | | * | | | | * | Fell | Growing near concrete |
| T9 | Dead tree | - | 6 | 2 | 0.12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Fell | Dead tree |
| T9A | Ficus virens var. sublanceolata | 高雅榕 | 5 | 5 | 0.25 | | * | | | | * | | Multi-trunk. Leaning away from wall behind. | | * | | | | * | Fell | Growing from concrete crevice |
| T9B | Celtis sinensis | 朴樹 | 7 | 5 | 0.15 | | * | | Small amount of dead branches. | | * | | Forked. | | * | | | | * | Fell | Growing from concrete crevice |












**Announcement**
**"HKILA Accredited List of Arboricultural Practitioners"**
**(園境師學會認可樹藝從業員)**

The HKILA shall accredit and keep a registrar of Arboricultural Practitioners.

There is an increasing public concern on urban trees, both in terms of their improper felling, pruning or interference, and their failure resulting in damage to persons or property. While our society has the general consensus to the benefits of urban greening, proper supervision, implementation and long term maintenance by qualified staff are of vital importance to our professional works and to meet the public expectation.

Recently, we see different requirements on appointment of 'tree experts' in government contracts in taking up the supervision, reporting or endorsement of reports for tree related works. A number of different terminologies is used for such appointment, such as 'qualified arborist', 'horticulturist', 'tree specialist', 'tree works supervisor' etc. It is indeed confusing for the public (even for our fellow professionals in the construction industry) to understand and to verify whether an individual is qualified for the position they are looking for.

In view of the need from the government, the construction industry, and also the general public, the Institute is obliged to keep an accredited list of Arboricultural Practitioners, which shall be readily available to the public, and be updated annually. More importantly, the Institute anticipates better collaboration between landscape architects and arborists. A person on the accredited list is deemed to have sufficient knowledge and experience to supervise tree related works on site in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements, government standards and contractual provisions.

The Practice Committee and Public Affairs Committee of the HKILA have jointly formed an Arboricultural Practitioners Accreditation Work Group in October 2010. This work group will form the subsequent Arboricultural Practitioners Accreditation Committee to administer and implement the accreditation system, which will tentatively be in place in September 2011. With advice from the Education Committee, this Committee will also carry out yearly review on the requirements for inclusion to the accredited list as well as the renewal of the accreditation. There may be CPD requirements for the yearly renewal of accreditation. The Arboricultural Practitioners Accreditation Committee will submit to the Council for approval on its recommended inclusion to the accredited list and the annual renewal of accreditation.

Arboricultural Practitioners accredited by the HKILA will automatically be eligible to become an Affiliate Member of the institute. However it is their choice whether or not to join the institute as a member, which would not affect their inclusion to the accredited list or renewal to their accreditation status.

For a start, the HKILA shall keep the accredited list of Arboricultural Practitioners based on certification by other established institutes/ organization plus referral by professional/ fellow members of HKILA (Referral Scheme). We anticipate the Referral Scheme will operate for about a year and within this period the institute would establish its own assessment system or entrust other organizations in the assessment of the Arboricultural Practitioners to be included in the accredited list.

As HKILA members, please encourage practicing arborists meeting the requirements of the accreditation that you personally know of to apply for admission to the HKILA Accredited List of Arboricultural Practitioners. For detailed information, please refer to the application form for **Admission to the HKILA Accredited List of Arboricultural Practitioners** and the **Code of Ethics and Conduct for Arboricultural Practitioners**.



Proposed additional paragraphs to by-law:

4.5.5 Jointly with the Practice Committee, to assist in administering the Arboricultural Practitioners Accreditation Committee in implementing the accreditation of Arboricultural Practitioners.

4.7.7 Jointly with the Public Affairs Committee, to assist in administering the Arboricultural Practitioners Accreditation Committee

Proposed replacement of the existing paragraph 2.5 of the by-law by the followings

2.5 Arboricultural Practitioners Accreditation Fee
Application fee and annual subscription fee for Arboricultural Practitioners Accreditation shall be fixed by the Council.

The original paragraphs 2.5 of the by-law shall be re-named as 2.6.

Proposed replacement of the existing paragraphs 4.9, 4.9.1, 4.9.2 of the by-law by the followings:

4.9 Arboricultural Practitioners Accreditation Committee
Its Terms of Reference shall be:

4.9.1 To retain and update an Accredited List of Arboricultural Practitioners

4.9.2 To vet applications, and to organize and conduct assessment process as necessary, from individuals for inclusion to the accredited list based on the criteria approved by Council.

4.9.3 To represent the views of the institute as well as the Arboricultural Practitioners on matters relating to the arboricultural practice to both the government and to the public

**Code of Ethics and Conduct for Arboricultural Practitioners under the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects Accredited List**

The object of this Code is to promote the standard of conduct and self-discipline required by Arboricultural Practitioner (ArbP) listed under the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects (HKILA). The establishment of the Accreditation List is for the advancement of the arboricultural practice as well as the promotion of research and education therein; and the maintenance of a high standard of qualification. Members of the Accredited List shall conduct themselves in such a manner as will not prejudice these objectives.

Code of Ethics

1. An ArbP appointed shall uphold the integrity of arboricultural practice
2. An ArbP shall strive for increasing an objective knowledge of trees and of arboriculture in all their context and apply this knowledge to the benefit of society
3. An ArbP shall endeavour to promote public understanding of trees and arboriculture
4. An ArbP shall practise with due regard to sound ecological, social, economic and environmental principles to the advantage of present and future generations
5. An ArbP shall perform only those services that are within his/ her competence

| 1st BATCH (HKILA Member Referral Only with Application Deadline) | | |
|---|---|---|
| 28-Oct-11 | Tue | The Secretary shall email all members the Accredited Arboricultural Practioner's application package. Deadline of the 1st batch application shall be 29/11/2011(Tue). The President and Vice-presidents shall kick off the amendment process of HKILA Bylaw. |
| 8-Nov-11 | Thu | The Practice Committee shall meet, review the progress, propose a change of schedule if needed, and start reviewing some applications to see if there is any potential problem. |
| 18-Nov-11 | Fri | HKILA President shall announce the accreditation system during Annual Dinner. |
| 29-Nov-11 | Thu | Deadline of 1st batch application. |
| 6-Dec-11 | Tue | The Practice Committee shall meet and review all of the applications. |
| 13-Dec-11 | Tue | The Practice Committee shall meet and consolidate a list of successful candidates for the Council's endorsement. |
| 19-Dec-11 | Mon | The HKILA By law amendment shall complete on or before this day. |
| 20-Dec-11 | Tue | The Council shall confirm and instruct the Secretary to notify all successful candidates by email, followed by post. |
| | | |

| 2nd BATCH (Open Application with Application Deadline) | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10-Jan-12 | Thu | The Secretary shall email all members the Accreditated Arboricultural Practioner's package again. The package shall also be available for downloading in HKILA web site. Deadline of the 2nd batch application shall be 28/02/2012(Tue). |
| 11-Jan-12 | Tue | The Public Affair Committee shall approach or possibly meet the media and announce the accrediation system. |
| 17-Jan-12 | Tue | The Practice Committee shall start reviewing some applications to see if there is any potential problem. |
| 2-Feb-12 | Thu | The Practice Committee shall meet and review some of the applications. |
| 28-Feb-12 | Tue | Deadline of 2nd batch application. |
| 1-Mar-12 | Thu | The Practice Committee shall meet and review remaining applications. |
| 15-Mar-12 | Thu | The Practice Committee shall meet and consolidate a list of successful candidates to be proposed for the Council's endorsement. |
| 29-Mar-12 | Thu | The Council shall confirm and instruct the Secretary to notify all successful candidates by email, followed by post. |
| | | |
| 3rd BATCH (Open Application without Application Deadline) | | |

# Thank You

HKILA
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