

URA 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Urban renewal is a lengthy process. Yet, the URA, in just 20 years' time since its establishment in May 2001, has not only commenced over 70 urban renewal projects improving the living environment of families in dilapidated areas, providing financial and technical assistance to owners for building maintenance works, preserving and revitalising historical buildings for public enjoyment, but has also taken up tasks assigned by the Government to benefit wider community groups, while at the same time developed strategic future direction for taking urban renewal to the next level.



Photo Exhibition to Recollect Moments of Urban Regeneration

Themed 'Community and Me', the 'URA's Got Talent Exhibition' showcased photography and multi-media artworks created by the URA staff and their family members, presenting a timeline with various milestones over the past 20 years and the achievements in urban renewal work.



20th Anniversary Video Series to Showcase URA's Community Partnership

A 20th Anniversary TV series titled 'Building Community beyond Urban Renewal', a video series was launched in collaborations with TVB News and Information Division. The series, comprising 10 episodes, showcased the URA's good work over the past 20 years in enhancing the built environment of old districts and the living standard of the people through different human-interest stories.



Celebrating the 20 Years of Success

URA celebrated its two decades of growth at the 20th Anniversary Commemoration held at the revitalised Central Market. Officiated by the then Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam, the event saw over 100 guests from various sectors joining the celebration.



Celebrating the Milestones of Kwun Tong Town Centre Project

The Opening Ceremony of Kwun Tong Yue Man Square cum URA 20th Anniversary Celebration took place to mark the completion of the residential project; the opening of the shopping mall of Yue Man Square and its public facilities at Development Areas 2 & 3 of the Kwun Tong Town Centre Redevelopment Project, the largest single project of the URA.



The 20th Incense Tree Planted in URA Project

Since 2017, the URA has started planting Incense Tree in its urban renewal projects, so as to encourage people to appreciate the beauty of Incense Trees and enjoy the harmonious ambience of the community. As of today, a total of 20 incense trees have been planted at our eight redevelopment and revitalisation projects, spanning rejuvenated urban districts including Central and Western districts, Tsuen Wan, Mong Kok, Kowloon City, Kai Tak and Kwun Tong.



20 YEARS OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Over the past 20 years, the URA strives to realise the vision of creating a sustainable and liveable smart city with its holistic '5Rs' regeneration strategy (Redevelopment, Rehabilitation, pReservation, Revitalisation and Retrofitting) amid various challenges and constraints, making the impossible into possible. Nonetheless, the team's unwavering dedication and perseverance has seen remarkable achievements on multiple fronts of businesses, alongside increasing public recognition and community support to the work of the URA.

2001 2005

Priorities were given to implementing Land Development Corporation (LDC) projects to deal with dilapidated and dangerous buildings, alongside the launch of pilot schemes to offer subsidy and loan for building rehabilitation and materials to help improve the living environment of residents.



2001 ► URA established in May under the Urban Renewal Authority Ordinance.

2002 ► Announced the first batch of redevelopment projects (Cherry Street in Tai Kok Tsui, Fuk Wing Street/Fuk Wa Street in Sham Shui Po and Johnston Road in Wan Chai).



2004 ► Launched the **Building Rehabilitation Materials Subsidy Scheme** and **Building Rehabilitation Loan Scheme** to encourage building owners to carry out building rehabilitation.

2005 ► Completion of **Langham Place** (Argyle Street/Shanghai Street Project), which has become a landmark for driving transformation of urban landscape in the vicinity.

2006 2010

Implementation of the '4Rs' urban renewal holistic strategies on multiple fronts covering Redevelopment, Rehabilitation, pReservation and Revitalisation, with an aim to bring greater social and planning benefits to the community.

2006 ► Launched the largest single redevelopment project of **Kwun Tong Town Centre Project** with the adoption of the pioneering 'district-based' planning approach.



2008 ► A revitalised heritage of **The Pawn** standing in harmony with the new development in the neighbourhood.

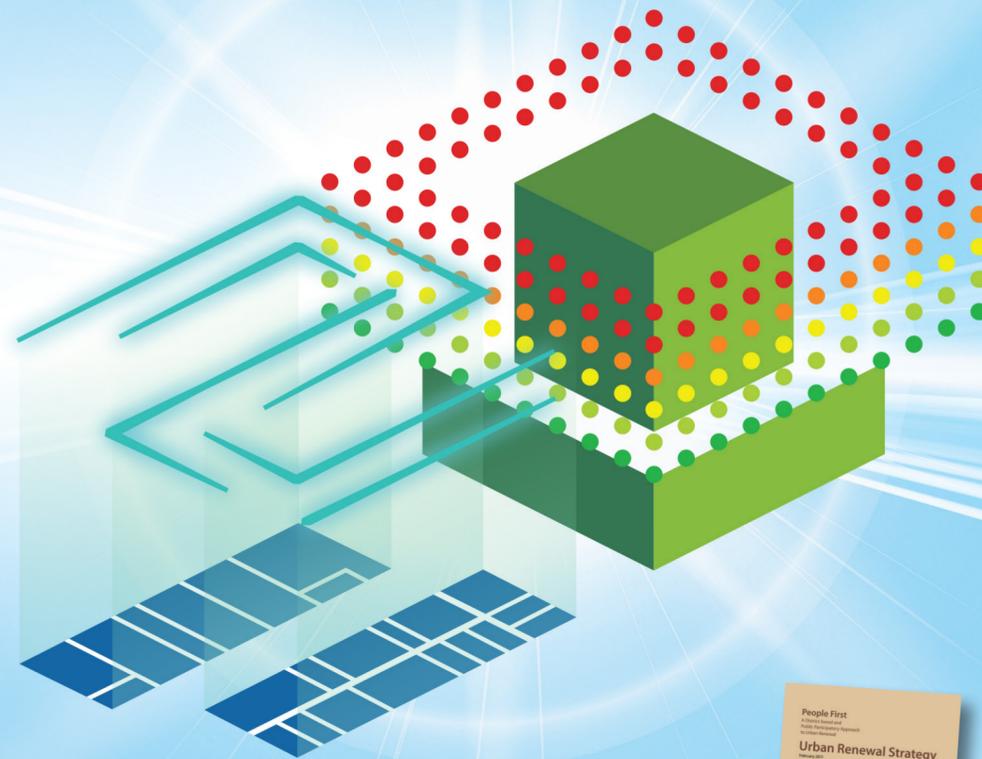


2009 ► **Operation Building Bright** was launched to provide subsidies and one-stop technical support to encourage owners to carry out building rehabilitation.

2010 ► Completed the **Tsuen Wan Town Centre Project**, of which the Citywalk possesses a piazza of 40,000 square feet and a Vertical Garden of 8,000 square feet. It is one of the largest green shopping malls in Hong Kong.

Commenced the **Ma Tau Wai Road/Chun Tin Street Project**, which involved the redevelopment of a tenement building collapsed in January along with two groups of neighbouring buildings with over 50 years of age, so as to ensure public safety and address the accommodation needs of the residents.

URA proactively proposed to conserve the tenement buildings at **10-12 Wing Lee Street**, which were built in the 1950s, to maintain the terrace ambience.



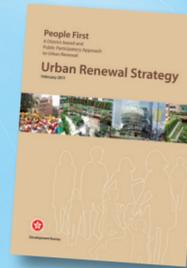
2011 2015

The start of a new blueprint of urban renewal following the promulgation of the new Urban Renewal Strategy. The URA adopted a comprehensive and holistic approach by ways of its two core businesses of redevelopment and rehabilitation, as well as preservation and revitalisation, for creating a quality living environment for the people of Hong Kong.

2013 ► Launched the Comic Home Base at the revitalised **Mallory Street**, providing space for creative industries development.



Gradually took over the administration of building rehabilitation schemes from Hong Kong Housing Society and launched the **Integrated Building Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (IBRAS)** later covering all districts in Hong Kong.



2011 ► The new **Urban Renewal Strategy (URS)** announced by the Government, stressed that the implementation of the URS should be undertaken by the URA and all other stakeholders so as to achieve a better balance and coordination among the '4Rs' work.

Demand-led redevelopment and facilitation services started to receive applications to help property owners improve their living environment through joint sales or redevelopment.

2015 ► Allocated 338 residential units in the Kai Tak Development to be sold as **subsidised sale flats** for meeting housing needs of the public.



2016 2020

Progressing towards a more holistic and forward looking approach to urban generation, meanwhile stepping up the efforts in promoting building rehabilitation to tackle the accelerating pace of urban decay and ageing buildings.

2016 ► Adopted the '**District-based Approach**', enabling a more holistic and comprehensive planning strategy in implementing the projects in Kowloon City projects, bringing greater planning gains and benefits to the community.



Launched the '**Smart Tender**' Building Rehabilitation Facilitating Services which aimed to provide technical services to Owners' Corporations of private buildings and reduce the risk of tender rigging at work procurement stage.

2017 ► Commenced **three strategic studies** to tackle the rapid urban decay in a more effective and sustainable manner, which guide the future trajectory of the URA's urban renewal initiatives.

2019 ► In response to the Government's invitation to provide **Starter Homes (SH)**, the URA has assigned eResidence as the SH pilot project, allocating 450 units sold as SH.



Applied **Building Information Modelling (BIM)** technology for the first time throughout the entire building cycle of 618 Shanghai Street, significantly enhancing works efficiency and project management.

2020 ► Provided multiple rounds of **rent relief** to its residential tenants and commercial tenants since April, to tide over with Hong Kong people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beyond 2021

Applying technology to build Hong Kong into a sustainable smart city.



2021 ► Self-developed **Urban Renewal Information System (URIS)** enhanced URA's capabilities of processing and analysing planning and geospatial data.

Kwun Tong Town Centre Project achieved major milestones with the official opening of its residential development, the Yue Man Square shopping mall and Hong Kong's largest indoor public transport interchange at Kwun Tong Town Centre.



The **Central Market**, the Grade III Historic Building, opened its doors for public enjoyment. Built in 1939, the Market is characterised by the Streamline Moderne Style and simple geometry. The URA adopted an innovative approach by integrating elements of preservation and revitalisation into the design to preserve its uniqueness.

Submitted **Yau Mong District Study** to the Government and Legislative Council, with recommendations of adopting new planning tools to overcome various constraints of urban renewal, with an aim to tackle the aggravated and pressing problem of urban decay more effectively.

Beyond 2021 ► Forging ahead, the URA will continue its efforts in enhancing the city's liveability on all fronts, with the holistic adoption of the '5Rs' strategies complemented by the building up of Planning Reserve, Project Reserve and Financial Reserve. A sound financial plan must be in place to ensure sufficient resources are available to meet the substantial costs incurred in the redevelopment projects. To this end, we have commissioned a financial study on funding arrangement. Meanwhile, we will continue to be bold and innovative in implementing urban renewal work and focus on taking up sizeable challenging projects which have the potential of creating greater benefits to the community, as well as promoting building rehabilitation and preventive maintenance amongst property owners.