

MIC Herald



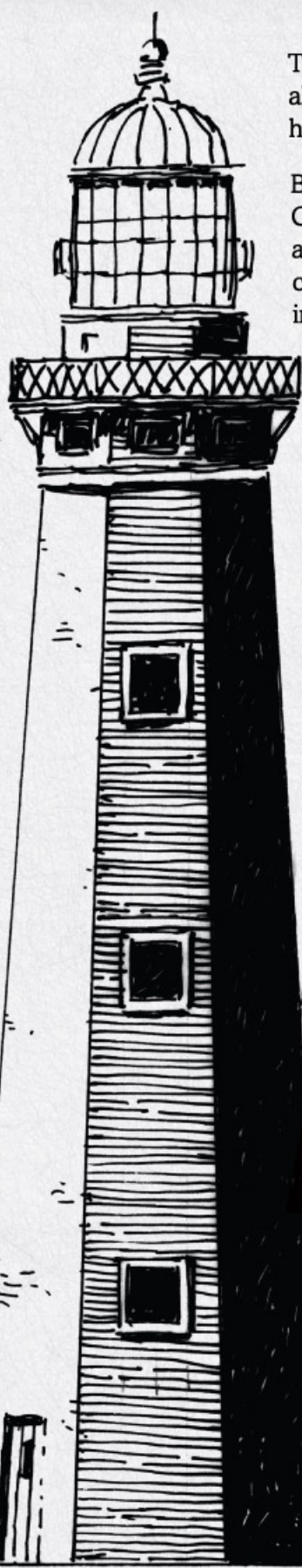
循道衛理聯合教會國際禮拜堂

Shaping the future for a Beacon Church

In embarking on the redevelopment we are of course erecting a building, but we are doing much more than that. The hours spent pouring over design proposals and building plans are shaping the future mission and ministry of MIC. We are in fact shaping a beacon church. It is not so much the building itself, but what it will enable which makes it a beacon shining the light of Jesus Christ to this community and beyond.

Hong Kong is a very special and strategic city where cultures meet, where freedoms are honoured and with access to many nations on our doorstep. It is a spring board for mission where we can proclaim God's grace and mercy, a place of creative thinking where we can give voice to issues of justice and peace, for a wider audience than just the Special Administrative Region. Of course there are things to put right here, but as the new church opens, I am thinking of the new MIC Hong Kong as a strategic place, a spiritual beacon which will have a platform far wider than HK.

I do not just mean that this beacon church will have the capacity to welcome people from all nations and offer worship in differing languages. That is already happening. It will be more than inspiring worship and thoughtful preaching. It will be wider in scope than a superb family friendly community with wonderful creative children's work and powerful youth ministry.



That is already true. The new building will enable us to develop all this further and with enough space and kitchens for proper hospitality.

Being beacon means that this church will become a focal point for Christian leaders across SE Asia to meet, confer and strategize about mission and ministry in this wider sense. I see international conferences and consultations taking place, a music ministry which impacts across the region, a preaching ministry which communicates to all kinds of communities in Putonghua, Tagalog, Ilocano and English. The new church will have a small communications centre capable of reaching far beyond anything we presently can imagine.



But the new MIC ministry will also be focused in Wanchai, involved in its vibrant community, offering hospitality for all. A place where people can find solitude for prayer and receive counsel; where marriages and memorial services may take place; where the sky-chapel will become focus of prayer for the nations.

We, in the Methodist Church, Hong Kong, are embarking on a creative journey together with an unfolding vision. It will not always be easy, it will demand much of all of us, but it will be worth it. And at some point in the future we shall together sing: To God be the Glory, great things He has done!

Grace and Peace

Howard Mellor



Introducing Rocco Yim



architect Rocco

Walk on any street in Hong Kong and it is easy to identify the owner, shop or business that occupies the building. However, it is normally much more difficult to know who the architect was. In this issue, we are honored to interview Mr. Rocco Yim, the architect of the Redevelopment Project of our Methodist International Church, so that we have the opportunity to know the designer of this new building and to understand more about his conceptual design. In future, when walking

along Queen's Road East and seeing this new church, you will remember the designer and his thoughts. This spontaneous feeling of familiarity will draw you in!

Mr. Yim grew up in Hong Kong. He received secondary education in St. Paul's Co-educational College and graduated from the Department of Architecture of The University of Hong Kong in 1974. Mr. Yim started his business with his friends in his twenties. They entered for the L'Opera de la Bastille international competition in 1983 and won the First Prize Award. Since then his works have won numerous architectural awards and outstanding design honors both locally and internationally. Mr. Yim's business in Hong Kong and in the China mainland also developed rapidly. His masterpieces include the International Finance Centre in Central, the HKSAR Government Headquarters at Tamar and the Guangdong Museum in Guangzhou. Virginia met Rocco and questioned him in conversation:

Q : What triggers your passion to be an architect?

A : I had an interest in arts since childhood. During my secondary school years, I loved to participate in art related activities and these were the seeds of my career. However, I was not certain that I wanted to be an architect by profession. Like other students I was not sure at

first whether to embark on a career as an engineer or an architect. It was only after detailed study that I gradually found my growing passion in architecture. I have to admit that, unlike the sculptor who can create an artwork from nothing, I am not an artist and never have the talent to do so. However, I am quite adept at dealing with problems from an artistic aspect. In school, I was never tired of doing thematic projects or contributing in year book, etc. I find that my personality fit well with what is required of an architect. Some architects like to think themselves as artists instead of problem-solvers, which I cannot agree. I see architecture as a rational, practical problem-solving art, and an architect is required to take care of the whole situation from a macro perspective. However, behind the practical reasoning, there should also be some kind of mission. Otherwise, the building will be lacking in spirit.

Q : In the rebuilding of the International Church, what aspiration do you have?

A : The greatest challenge of this project is the blending of many things under one roof. This poses difficulties to us especially when we need to create a certain atmosphere in our design. This phenomenon is common in Hong Kong, a cramped environment where space is a luxury. Even under these limitations, we expect to make the place filled with spirituality. The main design of the whole building is based on simplicity, with a tranquil and solemn atmosphere. I will draw in natural light, a high ceiling with ample space and divide the space according to different functions.

Q : What do you have in mind about the appearance of the new building?

A : Regarding the shape of the building, we will avoid using the commercial/residential style of a flat and straight block. We will also break away from the usual modern architectural language in the choice of material for the outer wall, such as not using glass curtain wall. Through these two innovative aspects, we aim at giving the building a novel outlook, making it an outstanding building.

Q : Do you have any favorite church building?

A : There are many unique churches in other countries, but I like St. John's Cathedral in Hong Kong. It has a gorgeous and elegant outlook, but it gives people a feeling that it is easily approachable and very human.

Q : Christmas is coming, what do you like to do?

A : My wife and I are Christians and we will go to midnight mass on Christmas Eve. In fact, I don't quite like Christmas that is overwhelmed by the commercialized atmosphere and things unrelated to Christmas at all.

Christmas around the World

Paul Lu from New York

Christmas in New York, the kids always pray for snow so it's snowing on Christmas day. On Christmas Eve we go to a service in the evening and we celebrate Christmas in the morning, the opening of gifts takes place. And then we would do a Christmas meal where it's turkey and ham and all kinds of goodies around the table, and we actually invite our friends and families to join us.



Sallie Cunan from Philippines

For us it all starts on the 24th of December, with our family gathering to get ready for evening mass. We also go to church on Christmas day, and after the service we will come back and open presents. Our children will go from house to house bowing their heads in respect to the homeowner, who in return will usually give the children a little money as a gift.

Sicy Mathew from India

We come from Kerala State on the south west coast of India, At Christmas time homes are decorated with Christmas trees and other decorations. Even if some houses do not have a Christmas tree, they are sure to have a star at the entrance of the house. Families mainly attend the Christmas Eve midnight service which in our church is for 2 hours. After the service we come back home to light firecrackers and sparklers and this goes on till the early morning. Everyone is in a very happy mood and then it is time to open presents. On Christmas Day, after breakfast, we go to the Christmas day service, Mum's do not go for the Christmas Day service but are busy preparing a sumptuous lunch for the family. Chicken or Duck are popular choices and are cooked as a curry rather than roasted.



Timeline of the redevelopment of MIC

24th May 2013

Rocco Design Architects Ltd was appointed as the Architect of the Redevelopment of MIC at the Representative Session of the Conference



8th & 15th Sept 2013

Fundraising Concert for the Redevelopment of MIC at Chinese Methodist Church, Wanchai

21st & 28th Sept 2013

Members of Coordination Committee, Construction Committee and User Committee visited different Church buildings in Hong Kong



2nd Jan 2014
Ground Investigation Site Works begins at the Courtyard of MIC



First Conceptual Design presented by the Architect
7th Sept 2013

First Issue of MIC Herald published
8th Sept 2013

Interim User Workshop held by the Architect
28th Sept 2013

Langdon & Seah Hong Kong Ltd was appointed as the Quantity Surveyor of the Redevelopment of MIC
4th Oct 2013

Second Conceptual Design presented by the Architect
26th Oct 2013

Pledge Giving
Advent 2013

Funding the redevelopment:

We affirm the comment of our President, Revd Tin Yau Yuen, **'If 10,000 Methodists all give \$10,000 in each of the next four years we will raise the \$400,000,000 which is needed.'**

We ask everyone to reflect and pray about your gift. For all of us it will be a sacrificial whether offered weekly, monthly or when special funds are available.

Offerings can be made by:

Crossed Cheque payable to 'Methodist International Church, Hong Kong' and send to 271 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Direct Deposit to 'Methodist International Church, Hong Kong', HSBC HK A/C #048-054605-001. Please forward the bank pay-in slip for our records.

Everyone shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which he has given you.

Deuteronomy 16:17

