

Press release

04 March 2011

**Foster + Partners selected to design masterplan for West Kowloon Cultural District, Hong Kong**

Foster + Partners has been selected for the design of the 40-hectare masterplan for West Kowloon Cultural District. City Park will be a major cultural centre for music, performing and visual arts, incorporating public spaces and spaces for Chinese culture, living, working, galleries and studios on a dramatic harbour-front site in the heart of Hong Kong. The announcement was made today by Henry Tang, Hong Kongs chief secretary and chairman of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, following the results of the international competition including a year-long public consultation. The project is considered to be the largest cultural initiative in the world today.

The proposal sets the cultural buildings as the jewels in a new urban quarter alongside a magnificent 23-hectare public park. Foster + Partners brings its understanding of urban design and knowledge of Hong Kong to a carbon neutral masterplan that captures the unique character that makes it such a great city.

The city has great significance for our practice, as well as personal significance in 1979, I moved to Hong Kong with my wife, setting up our office to work on the Hongkong Bank. We are greatly looking forward to fulfilling Hong Kongs ambitions to be one of the great cultural cities in the world.

"This is fantastic news. I have been travelling to Hong Kong for more than 32 years, since the Hongkong Bank first brought us here. This project offers an extraordinary opportunity it is unprecedented in its scale, scope and vision. City Park will be the catalyst to transform the city locally and regionally, as well as on the world stage. Our design is rooted in Hong Kongs urban DNA, the distinctive character that makes it such a dynamic city. There really is no other project like it!"

**Lord Foster, Founder and Executive Chairman**

"We are honoured to be designing the masterplan for WKCD. As the selected team, we understand the great expectations that the public and stakeholders have of the project. We have come a long way together over the past 10 years and look forward to continuing our work on Hong Kongs cultural heart. I have happy memories of my seven years living in Hong Kong working on Chek Lap Kok Airport."

**For further information**  
please contact Katy Harris at  
Foster + Partners,  
T +44 (0)20 7738 0455  
F +44 (0)20 7738 1107  
E [press@fosterandpartners.com](mailto:press@fosterandpartners.com)

**Mouzhan Majidi, Senior Partner and Chief Executive**

"We are thrilled with the result and the positive reaction of the people of Hong Kong to our proposal."

**Spencer de Grey, Senior Partner and Head of Design**

Notes to editors:

The competition was announced by West Kowloon Cultural District Authority in 2008.

From 109 firms from all over the world originally considered, 12 were invited to compete. Three of these firms were shortlisted and asked to produce detailed masterplan proposals: Office for Metropolitan Architecture, Rocco Design Architects Limited and Foster + Partners. These proposals formed the basis for a public consultation exercise.

[Link to WKCDA press release](#)

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please contact Katy Harris at  
Foster + Partners,

T +44 (0)20 7738 0455

F +44 (0)20 7738 1107

E [press@fosterandpartners.com](mailto:press@fosterandpartners.com)