Mediated Urban Civic Space : Info Deck of the Hong Kong SAR Government Info-tainment Headquarters

by

Tak-Wing Louie

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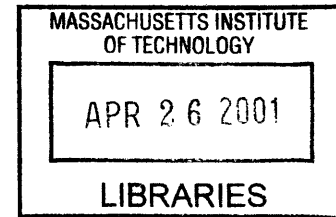
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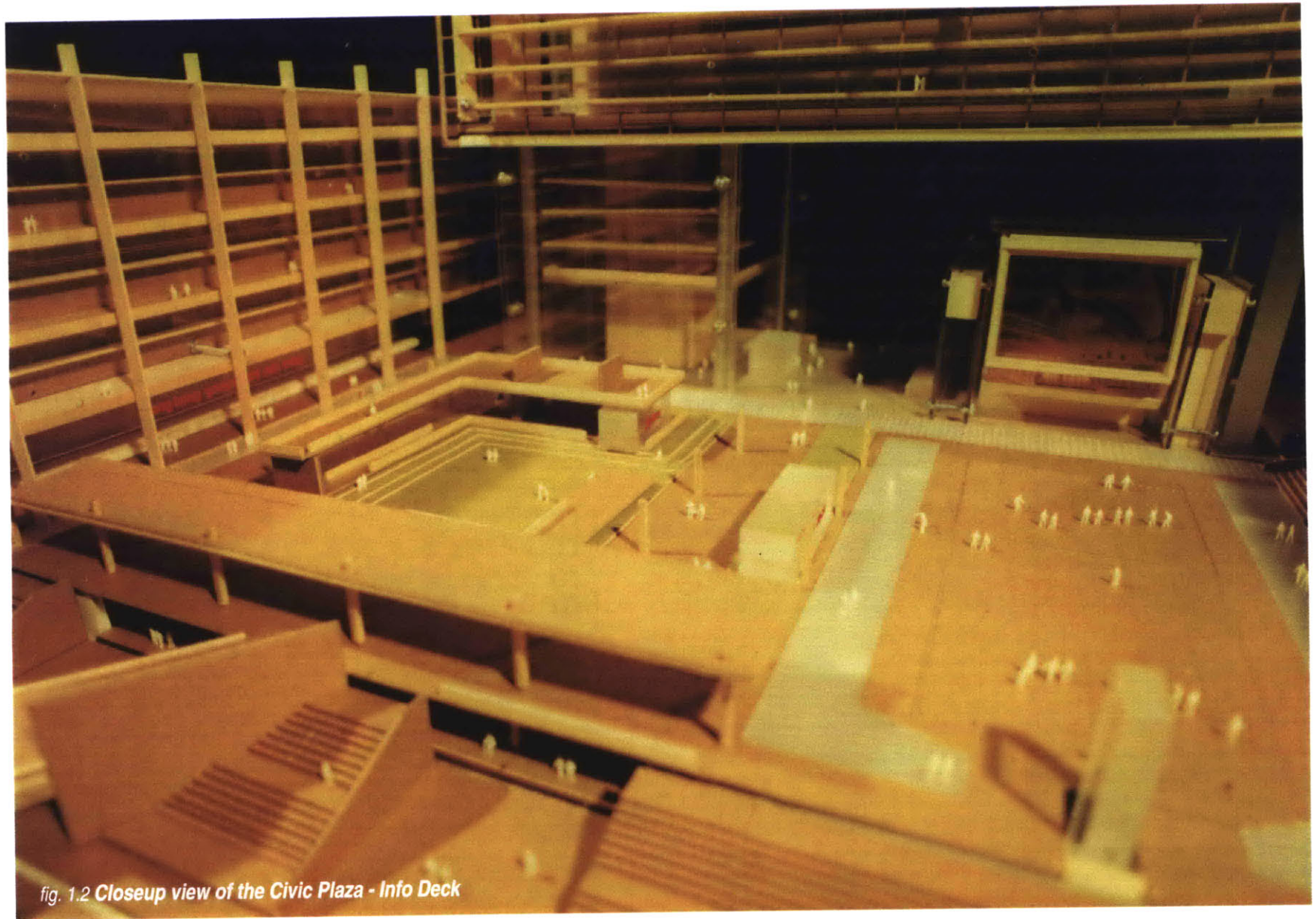Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT

fig. 1.1 Thesis Committee

fig. 1.2 *Closeup view of the Civic Plaza - Info Deck*

Abstract

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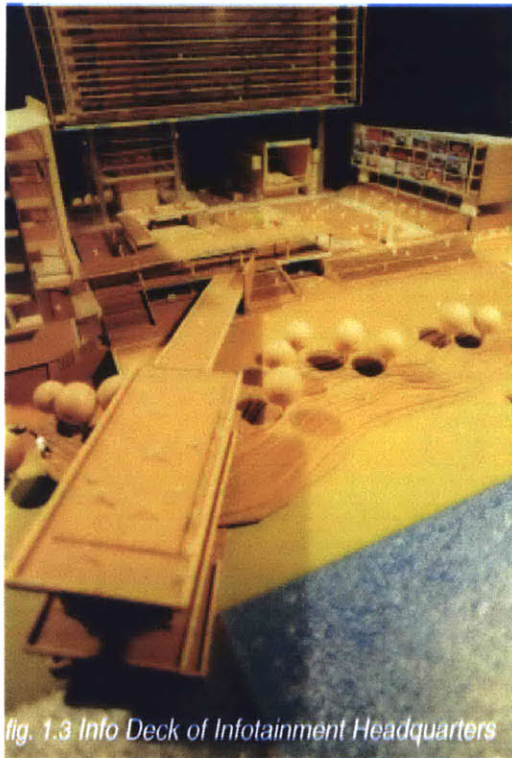for the Degree of Master of Architecture

fig. 1.3 Info Deck of Infotainment Headquarters

After being a British colony for more than hundred years, Hong Kong's final handover back to China took place 1st July 1997. There are tremendous demands on the new government to reflect her status during this critical transition. The mission of designing a new government headquarters to represent her new identity, present order and future vision is vital for all parties involved - China, HK and mostly importantly her citizens.

This thesis will address both the urban and architectural design of the New Government Info-tainment Headquarters by way of a unique synergy of contemporary media and government in program and technology. The focus will be the mediated interface of the information spaces and communicative facades in shaping the civic plaza – the Info Deck - along the harbour waterfront. This high tech communication, media intensive mixed-use civic complex aims to enhance both participatory and representative Democracy. Its prominence functions as a true forum that provides multiple communication channels and enhance dialogue in an open society. It serves as information symbol or media icon of the representation, communication and interaction between HK government and her citizens.

In this proposal, government sponsored political and educational media is strategically juxtaposed and overlaid with privatized independent political media, entertainment and educational media to increase transparency and accessibility of government programs and operations. This framework suggests the activation of the plaza during the day as well as at night with different activities. This design seeks not only to transform the government's mental image perceptually, but also the actual physical appearance of the complex and its plaza. Its synthesis will challenge the conservative concept of the traditional political domain, information territory and institutional building typology using both traditional media and contemporary multi-media in this information era.

fig. 1.4

This thesis is dedicated in loving memory of my **MOM** and **DAD**.
They are always in my heart and love me forever.

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Christopher Dewart   for helping me a lot in the woodshop for the construction of my model base
and site models.

fig. 1.5

and all my friends ...

Luke Yeung
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Preface

First of all, I would like to thank MIT and Marvin E. Goody Award for all the opportunities to travel and initiate my interests in this thesis topic. Three years ago, I was lucky to be able to participate in the Summer Beijing Urban Design Workshop led by Dennis Frenchman and Jan Wampler. It was my first urban design class and also the most important class that I have taken at MIT. I became so interested in urban design and finally focused my degree concentration in this direction. During this five week travel workshop, I visited two of the most important cities in China - Beijing and Shanghai. At that time, these two government districts had similar ideas of building a new contemporary civic opera house. In Shanghai, the city had already constructed one right next to its formal national monuments in the government district. While in Beijing, there was a contemporary opera house design competition at that time. The site is in a prominent location close to the civic square, in front of the Forbidden City. Both projects share many similarities in the use of urban design strategy and social vision to energize the urban civic place during the day and at night. Cultural activities softened the formality and sternness of these municipal architecture and made the government district more lively and friendly.

Later, I had another great opportunity to join the Dresden Urban Design Workshop and Studio with Michael Dennis and Mark Jarzombek. On this trip, I was amazed by the European civic monuments such as the major municipal buildings, congress center, opera house and city museum. It was my first time to Europe. At that time, I was surprised that official government monuments and civic public buildings were built using similar approaches in urban and architectural design. Some were even located right next to each other. May be they were both usually constructed by the same authority and intended for similar groups of users. For example, they were both located in prominent locations in the city, usually next to a major open plaza and took on some of its architectural vocabulary, such as the facade treatment and the spatial organization. I was confused and very curious as to why they shared similar typology and had this interesting identity of sharing the same iconic image.

Two years ago, I had the opportunity to travel to Tokyo and Seoul during the summer. This was the first time I visited other Asian capitals besides China. I was totally stunned by what I saw. These observations initiated the issues which I explored in my thesis. First of all, is the relationship between Media and Urbanism. In Japan, media screens and advertising billboards were actually part of the building facades. With all these flashing digitized screens and blinking neon signage, the streetscapes were totally animated with both visual and acoustical projections. These bring audio and visual excitement to the city. They absolutely changed the entire perception of the scenery during the daytime and night time. These kind of mediated streetscapes and animated skylines were common phenomena in most Asian cities. It certainly reflected a part of our Eastern culture and identity in the urban design of a city.

fig.1.6 Mediated Building Envelope in Seoul: Building facade is entirely covered up by media and information.

There are two government districts in Tokyo, the old and the new. The old government center is best represented by the National Diet. Within that district, there are a lot of historic government offices still functioning nowadays. Besides, there are a lot of foreign ambassies and consulates located there. The Tokyo Governor's House is located in the core of this government district. The district is mostly dead at night because of these singular uses and the security requirements. In the new distinct, the area is best represented by the tallest tower in Japan, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government building complex by Kenzo Tange. It is located at the center of financial and new government district. Surprisingly, the new government center is right next to several famous chain hotels. At night, the district has exactly the same problem as the old one.

Seoul, the capital of Korea also has the similar situation. One interesting discovery on that trip was the old capital palace, was surrounded by a lot of modern government offices. Surprisingly, there were a lot of newspaper headquarters around the major government offices. Most of these news company towers had huge media advertising screens to broadcast daily news headlines. While the National Congress Center, was surrounded by a lot of television and radio news stations. Huge satellite dishes can be seen everywhere, especially on roof tops. Independent media companies and government offices were in very close physical proximity. They were close together but not yet really integrated functionally and politically. Media organizations wanted to be close to the government complexes to get first hand information from the government. They censored and monitored the government media and other operations more conveniently and effectively. On the contrary, the government could also take advantage of the mass media as an advertising tool to publicize their information to the public. In this manner, both parties shared a lot of convenience in this kind of mutually beneficial relationship.

Finally, through my travel experiences and observations, I thought it would be interesting to investigate how contemporary media and government civic space and programs could come together programmatically, functionally and socially. It was the initial thought that led to my interest in this topic. My concentration is to explore the potentials and opportunities for the media programs and technologies to mediate the character and meaning of the urban civic space. These kinds of visionary urban narratives are the scenarios I speculate. They are absolutely foreseeable in the future. This thesis will investigate how information technologies and telecommunicative surfaces will transform the experience and perception of the contemporary government and urban civic space. Integration of the information spaces, communicative facades and media tectonics will be the key focus to achieve this vision urbanistically and architecturally.
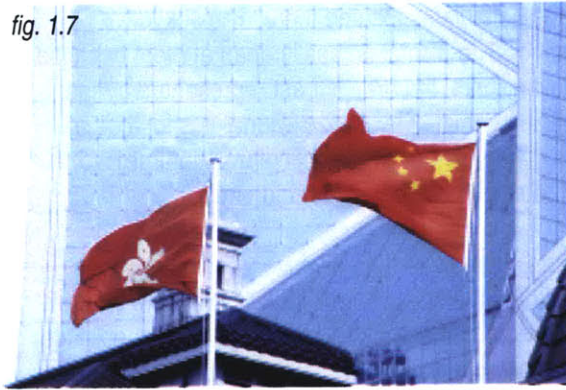
fig. 1.7

fig. 1.8

fig. 1.9

Introduction

After being a British colony for more than hundred years, Hong Kong's final handover back to China took place on 1st July 1997. It was definitely a historic moment for both mainland China to resume her sovereignty and Hong Kong to have a new identity as Special Administrative Region. Hong Kong SAR has plans to build a New Government Headquarters for the Office of Chief Executive and entire team of civil servants. It will also be the permanent seat of the Legislative Council Chamber, which will uphold and challenge the new Constitutional Order – Basic Law.

The New Headquarters complex obviously will be frequently referred to as a symbol. But a symbol of what ? Of the new transition era under the identity of HKSAR ? Of the termination / downfall of the British Colonial Legacy ? Of the new relationship with mainland China ? Or of the new Constitutional Order - Basic Law, which is "One Country, Two System" as proposed by Chinese past leader Mr. Deng ?

Should it be an architectural landmark of its time? Absolutely, the New Legislative Council and new HKSAR Government Headquarters will become a symbol for many unresolved issues of a divided China and the imposed new constitution. This new political "capital" has to accommodate both participatory democracy and representative democracy. Otherwise, it will not be a true forum to achieve real democratic Constitution.

On the other hand, Contemporary Media and Government are getting closer and closer to each other that they can no longer be separated. They are mutually dependent and beneficial in this synergy. Government needs media ideologically and technologically to publicize. On the other side, privatized media wants closer proximity politically and physically to the government. But there is also simultaneously tension and confrontation between the two since they monitor and censor each other. From this perspective, it should be an information symbol, a symbolic architectural icon and also a civic urban narrative to both Hong Kong Citizens and China in which democracy, peace, personal liberty and social justice can exist side by side.
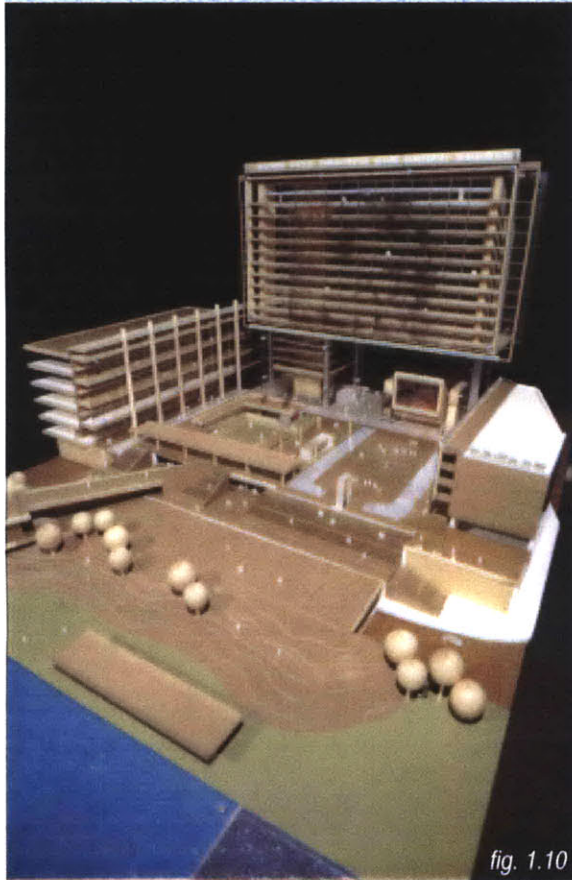
fig. 1.10

**View of the Final Presentation Model of
Hong Kong Government Info-tainment Headquarters**

The fruitful interconnection of Media and Government is emerging and entirely evident in both politics and contemporary civic architecture and municipal plaza. This thesis is based on the concept of integrating different Media (Government Media, Privatized Political Media and Privatized Entertainment / Educational Media) into Civic Architecture to aim for a more democratic institution both operationally and perceptually. Besides, media is used to vitalize the civic square and transform its image to that of a more active and lively plaza . Its synthesis will challenge the conservative concept of traditional political domain, information territory and architectural instutitional building typology. It reflects Hong Kong and its government's history, its present and its future through urban strategies, architectural means and media technologies.

Of course, the new Headquarters is a Symbol. But it is an ambiguous and controversial one. It is a symbol of all the ambivalence and ambiguity of Hong Kong's history and her future in this information era and telecommunication age and unique political climate.

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fig. 2.2 Tokyo Metropolitian Government Complex by Kenzo Tange

Government, Civic Architecture and Municipal Open Space
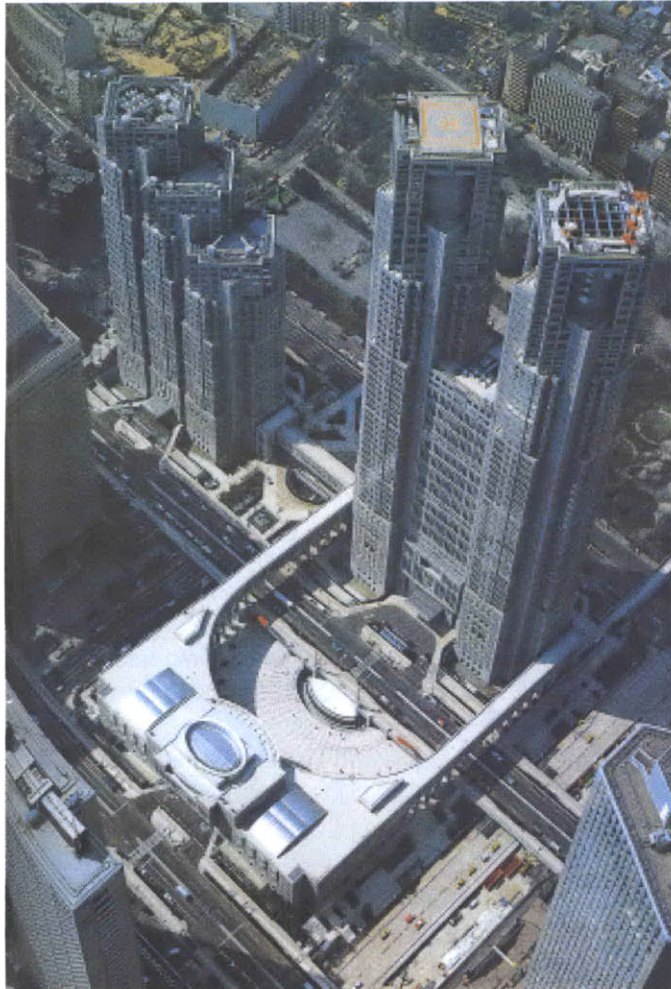
Civic Architectural Institutional Typology

Traditionally, governments manipulate architecture to represent their ideology, order and system of the society and universe and through the construction of symbolic architecture or the projection of the images of these government headquarters, municipal buildings, city halls and national congress chambers. The hierarchical organization of the government is emphasized through the programming and architectural expression. These symbolic icons form a distinctive institutionalized building typology in terms of their prime purpose, special program and requirements, unique spatial organization and architectural characteristics.

Institutional architecture typology began to evolve around 18 century. Governmental architecture and municipal buildings shared similarities that differentiated them from other building typologies.

1. They are owned and constructed by the governing authority. They are mainly occupied and used by the authority. For the administration and executive functions, these kinds of architectural settings serves as a political stage for politicians and governors to see and to be seen. For symbolic purposes, these buildings acts as distinctive icons to convey messages and historic associations effectively.

2. Security is high and public access is limited or even totally restricted. They are not truly functioning as civic public buildings in terms of provision of public gathering   spaces and support of social and civic activities.

3. They are usually located in prominent locations in cities such as downtown cores and urban centers. These buildings are usually located within the same district neighbourhood to form a civic image of a government district center.
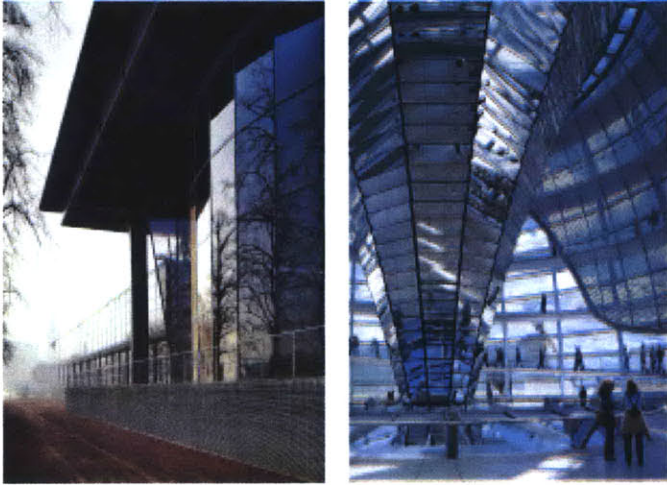
Facade treatment : Transparent glazing surface of national parliament buildigs in Germany
fig. 2.3 New National Parliament in Dresden (left)
fig. 2.4 New German Parliament, Reichstag (right)

4. The selection of an architectural language is important for representation of the society and the government. The style and vocabulary certainly reflects their belief and associated cultural heritage. Typical examples are the construction of domes and the provision of adjacent civic open spaces for the assembly of citizens.

5. National government building programs are often similar in nature. They usually embody administrative or executive functions. In addition, most of them are singular in use without any joint programs with government educational programs or with the private sector.

Architectural Transparency and Government Democracy

More recently, architectural transparency in contemporary civic architecture has taken on symbolic quality with strong associations to government democracy, a contrast to the traditional image of the historic monument and the past civic architectural icon. Historic civic monuments convey their importance and physical presence through the construction of monumental scale, massive buildings with solid materials.

Modern civic architecture and national government buildings break away from that traditional approach, using transparency to symbolically represent the democracy of government. The focus has shifted away from the simple emphasis on its physical presence. Lightweight construction and transparent facades are chosen in this approach. In this manner, government reveals its operations, civic events, activities and political participants through the mass media to the citizens more effectively. From the citizen's perspective, they can literally see through these civic facades which used to be completely opaque. The transparency of these building facades works both symbolically and physically as a visual connection between the governing authority and the public.

fig. 2.5 New Australian Parliament Complex, Canberra

Public Accessibility Vs Security and Safety

Security and safety requirements are probably the most challenging in the design of civic architecture and municipal plaza as compared to other building typologies. Because of national security and public safety reasons, most users and visitors to these buildings have to go through a series of personal identity checks and physical X-ray sensors to guard against terrorism before they can actually enter. These stringent requirements often make these buildings less sociable and accessible to the public. These kinds of settings do not allow these government places, to be social civic places simultaneously.

In the U.S. capital, Washington DC, all government public buildings, as required by recent state laws, have to fulfill new special requirements - the ground floor of government buildings have to be public spaces and used for public programs. This means the entire ground floor has to be easily accessible to the public. This decision imposes great design challenges to overcome the security requirements and to restrict accessibility for safety purposes. The intent of this new regulation aims to ensure ease of access and to transform the architecture into real social civic places.

Regular Office Hours and Limited Activities Programming

Opening hours of civic architecture and open spaces are usually limited to regular office hours. Most of them totally shut down in the evening and on weekends, leaving these open spaces empty and under utilized at night. In addition, civic plazas are used only for occasional ritual performances, civic activities and political functions. Different variety of communal activities and new programming of both public and private functions are needed to effectively utilize and energize a civic plaza as an active outdoor urban arena.
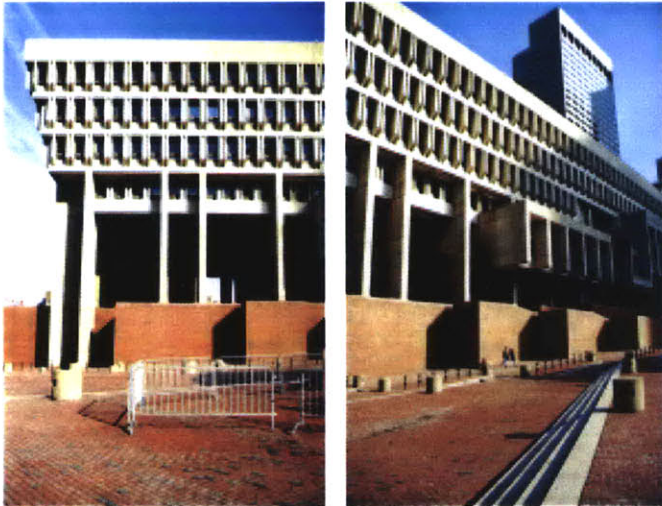
fig. 2.6 & 2.7 Boston City Hall Plaza

Civic Open Space

Goverment can also implement their symbolic ideas and representational gesture beyond the architectural scale. Modern civic architecture often includes adjacent open spaces dedicated public assembly. Occassionally, these places function as the official venue for government rituals and ceremonies. Decorative imperial gardens and municipal civic plazas are the most activated civic open spaces.

Imperial Gardens and Municipal Plaza

National government architecture usually has adjacent large scale of open spaces and landscaping which further reinforce the symbolic representation of the nation. These peripheral open spaces also function as secondary buffer zones for additional security and privacy. Imperial gardens are more formal and decorative in compostion and expression. They are usually composed of clear geometry and abstract symbolic patterns. In addition, they are more private and designed for more formal official activities such as receiving political leaders and international guests. Municipal plazas, are more socially and locally oriented. They are strategically located around the administrative offices for civil servants and citizens to use and congregate. These open spaces sometimes are used for different kinds of civic and entertainment activites. Most of them have hard surfaces for easy maintenance and flexibility to different forms of activities.

fig. 2.8

fig. 2.9

fig. 2.10

fig. 2.11

fig. 2.12

Different types of generic information space with media screen installation as the backdrop

fig. 2.8   Control room of Heaquarters   fig. 2.9 Conference Center
fig. 2.10 Disco, Video Acrade   fig.2.11 Stock market Studio
fig. 2.12 News station live broadcasting studio

Traditional and Multi-Media Implication on Information Architecture

Generic Spatial Configuration of Information Space
General Accommodation of Traditional Media with Visual and Audio Projections

Traditional media has had significant influence on the architectural design of information spaces. Its application has been greatly limited to two-dimensional usage and mostly considered as media installations of projection appliances. Traditional media requires specific. Design issues such as sightlines, sight distance, seating arrangement, projection mechanism (angle and distance) are important and have resulted on standardized solutions. Another fundamental requirement is the specific control of interior lighting conditions. Most of these presentation and exhibition spaces are usually kept dim for enough contrast for effective media projection and visibility. Typical examples of such spaces include conference rooms, exhibition galleries, auditoriums, lecture halls, theaters, cinemas...

New Emerging Mediated Building Typology
Interactive Information Space and Communicative Facades
with Integration of both Traditional and Contemporary Multi-Media

Recently, advancements in computational interface, information infrastructure and telecommunication technology have provided numerous inspirations on the rapid transformation of these information spaces. Media screens can be installed on a building's interior and exterior. The scale of these media screens and digitized surfaces have been getting taller and wider. Improvements greatly increase the visibility of these screens from a distance under various conditions and ultimately can get more attention from audiences. These screens can be part of the exterior building envelope in full view of the street and open spaces. They are usually applied as an add-on layer of installation rather than as an integral part of the building envelope.

fig. 2.13

Nasdaq Stock Exchange Museum In New York
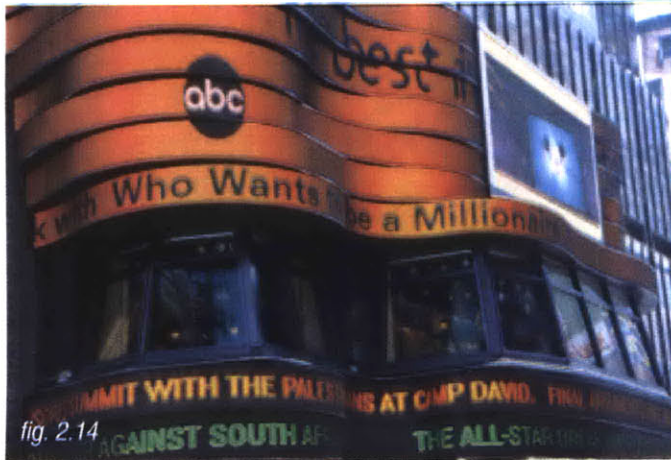- largest curve LED wall installation in the world

ABC Studio in New York Times Square
- LED screen facade with on-line information

Video Games Center in New York Times Square
- Interior panel surface with media projections from behind

These interactive computerized screens and new telecommunication techniques encourage interactive dialogue and spontaneous conversations can take place rather than just a pure presentation and broadcasting show. Instant feedback is possible between the environment and the user. With the new emerging presentation techniques and communication technologies, there is still a lot of conceptual and architectural potential and opportunity with these "media intensive" communication settings.

Variety of Spatial Qualities and Materialistic Appearance

New high-tech communication settings provide exciting settings with instantaneous feedback and dynamic responses for audiences to experience. There is a tremendous amount of modification and transformation of the envelope of these information spaces. Architecture is used to spatialize media and information three dimensionally. They are no longer just an blank opaque surfaces for media projections. Basic architectural surfaces for these information display and interactive communication includes mainly display surface and telecommunication surface. Display surface can only operate as an presentation media while digitized surface can function as an interactive media to allow feedbacks and responses from the audience and users. These mechanism will definitely change modes of perception of our environment and the modes of interaction between " human and human " and " human and environment ". For the specification of these information surface medium, there is lot of different variety. Basically, they can be divided simply into two major categories : the projection surface and digitized surface with computerized interface and platforms.
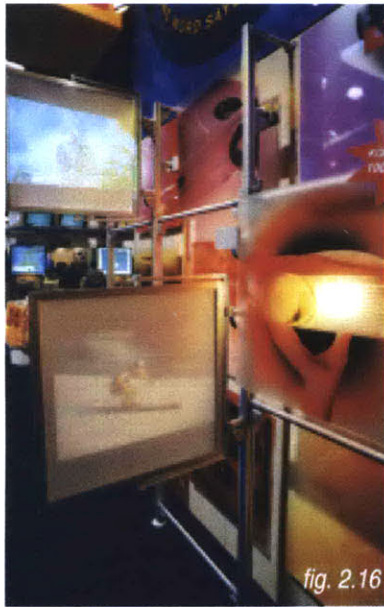
fig. 2.16

fig. 2.17

fig. 2.18

fig. 2.19

Media Screen Application and Development
Projection, Digitizied, Display Surfaces

Simple Projection Mechanism *(fig. 2.16 & 2.17)*
with Translucent Surfaces and Projector
- limited size of projection
- lower resolution as projection distance increases

Front Projection
- dimmer lighting conditions in audience space

Rear Projection
- relatively brighter lighting conditions in audience space as compared to projection room

Holopro Projection Screen *(fig. 2.18 & 2.19)*
Transparent Projection Surfaces by Rear Projection
- media projection can be projected from one side and the other side of the glazing can still be apparently transparent.

Properties and Characteristics
- apparently transparent glazing (see through with media projection)
- applicable on eastern, western and northern orientation
- up to minimum 1% light reflection to avoid glare
- mainly used in interior setting with small scale installation
- light weight panel assembly
   with hanging tension steel cable(seamless joints between panels)
- non structural / no bearing capacity

fig. 2.20
Televison / Monitior Surfaces with Flat Panel Display System
Video Wall Installation
- assembly of TV or computer monitors
- interior application only

Horizontal Floor Installation with Flat Panel Digitized Surface

fig. 2.21

fig. 2.22

Light Emitting Diode (LED Screens)

- full colour spectrum achieved
  with the invention of the blue LED
- opaque surfaces and panels
  (circuit boards and ventilation shaft)
- interior and exterior installations
- modular panel configuration
  and unlimited dimensions
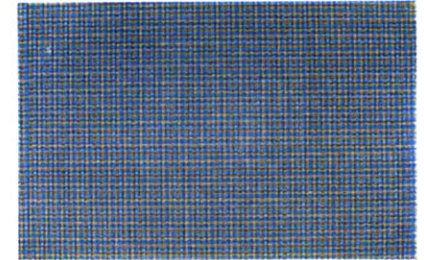
fig. 2.23
Close up view of LED screen panel
- Different possible configuration,
arrangement and density of the
red, blue and green colour LEDs.

LED screen wall assembly : Modular LED panels & Triangulated steel truss

fig. 2.24
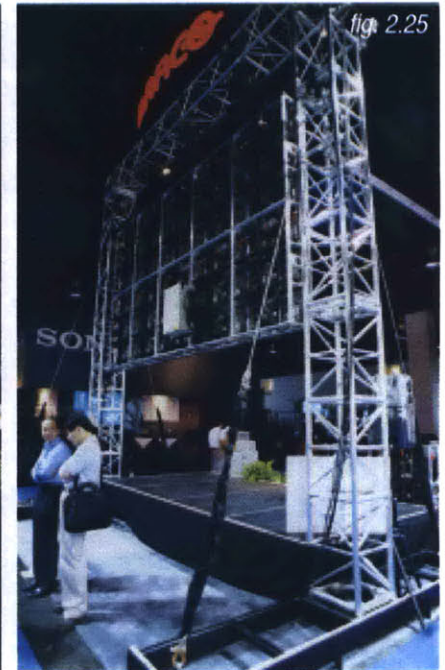
fig. 2.25

Mediated Architectural Surfaces and Animinated Building Facades

fig. 2.26 Advertising billboards covering the entire exterior building surface of a tower.
fig. 2.27 Media panel installation - exterior structural framework with exterior spotlight fixtures.
fig. 2.28 Different layers of exterior building envelope
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     - LED panel facade strip mounted on building exterior
     - Silk printing graphics on synthetic fabric
fig. 2.29 & 2.30 Mega posters with neon signage fixtures

fig. 2.28

fig. 2.26

fig. 2.27

fig. 2.29

fig. 2.30

Evolution of Architecture and Media Application on Government Representation & Communication

1. Symbolic Architecture

2. Functional Architecture usingTraditional Media
  - Television, Radio and Press
  - Government media
  - Privatized independent media

3. E-Government : Virtual Presence and Tele-presence
  - Virtual Government using Multi-media

4. Future Vision :
  - Synergy of Multi-media and Architecture

Modern Government and Contemporary Media

Changing Mechanism and Medium of Government Representation & Communication

The evolution of the medium for government representation and communication with the public can be classified into 3 main periods in history. In ancient times, architecture was manipulated to convey symbolic messages of the government and authority to the citizens. In the second period, the government relied on more and more on traditional media to facilitate communication with the public and establish a government civic image through different traditional media. The last stage is the existing state, where government has begun to use both multi-media in addition to traditional media to communicate with the public and represent authority by physical and virtual means simultaneously. In the last two phases, the importance of the role of architecture as an official media for symbolic representation and civic communication is decreasing rapidly. It seems modern governments increasingly rely on media as a effect tool to publize government policies, market new campaigns and collect information from citizens. Architecture has become less symbolic and has less associations and connotations with history and tradition. Nowadays, civic architecture is often neglected and no longer considered an appropriate means for representation and communication.

Public Media : Broadcasting Communication Tool

Media has become a vital daily necessity for both citizens and government. Government first tried to set up their owned controlled political media. This kind of public media becomes an important communication channel between them. With these kind of government media, citizens can get updated information and government news on a daily basis through television and radio news channels. The public can stay informed without being physically present in government buildings. They stay in touch through televised news casts and radio reports. Even though this is only a one-way communication rather than two-way dialogue. In addition, government can simply filter the information they have and present what they want or what they can to the public. In many cases, government has absolute control and power of censorship.

Tension and Confrontation
Relationship between the Official Public Media and Privatized Independent Media

As privatized independent news media began developing, the scenario changed. Growth in private media was rapid in terms of communication power and audience coverage. There was an increasing tension and confrontation between public and private mass media. Government media and privatized independent political media were in obvious competition, trying to attract audiences and build the public's faith and trust.

Both public and private media tries to be independent from each other as much as possible. This is true both in terms of their physical adjacency of their offices and headquarters or the operational independence and executive management. In many aspects, they are mutually censoring and monitoring each other since both are powerful in this information society. Government does not want privatized political media to become too popular and more dominant that its own media. But they cannot impose too many restrictions and regulations on their development or broadcasting because of the public's expectation. Competition between the two parties are keen and becomes the major force pushing them towards reform, producing better programs to secure their audiences.

Reformation of Media Typology
Blurring of Political Domain and Information Territory

As government educational media and privatized entertainment media starts developing and have more audiences than the political media, reformation and restructuring of different media groups is essential. Audiences are no longer purely interested in politics but perhaps more stimulated by entertainment and educational media. Different media groups start to fuse, emerging with better organization and utilization of resources. For example, government political media integration with government educational media. Meanwhile, there have been more joint media events held by government and the private media. All different media can no longer can clearly differentiate themselves from each other.

Media and Democracy
Participatory and Representative Democracy

Nowadays, it is more believable that media has the ability to both mediate civic public spaces and make government more democratic and liberal. With the new inventions of media tectonics, media certainly can animate civic open spaces, giving them a new image and appearance. They can provide different perspectives for the daytime and night time urban narratives of these civic spaces. Relatively, it is more difficult to manipulate media political and functionally to achieve democracy. Modern media technologies can provide enough hardware to achieve this vision. This can be achieved by increasing the number of different communication channels and providing a variety of conversation platforms.

With good strategy for the synergy of the modern architecture and contemporary media, their integration certainly has tremendous potential for transforming government politics and achieving democracy through interactive mediated civic spaces for dialogue and symbolic representation between government and her citizens.

Collective Role of Media and Government in Making Mediated Urban Civic Space
New Typology of Representation and Communication between Government, Citizens and the City

1. Municipal Architecture and Civic Plaza
  - Civic Monument (Information Symbol and Media Icon) and Public Open Space

2. Media Programs and Information Space
  - Cooperation of Private and Public Media / Fusion of Political, Educational and Entertainment Media

3. Media Tectonics and Communicative Facades
  - Projection Mechanism and Mediated Interface

4. Government Institutions and Politics

fig. 3.1

Hong Kong Government

BEFORE 1997

Hong Kong, British Colony of the United Kingdom of Great Britian

AFTER 1997

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People Republic of China

- New Identity, Present Order and Future System

One Country, Two Systems, Hong Kong People Govern Hong Kong People
New Constitutional Order and Legal System : Basic Law

- Vigorous Political Reform and Social Changes

Critical Transition, Uncertainty and Instability
Tension and Anxiety, Challenges and Confrontations
Civic Consciousness and Political Awareness
E-Government and On Line Services

- New Vision and Mission

Symbolic Representation and Interactive Communication
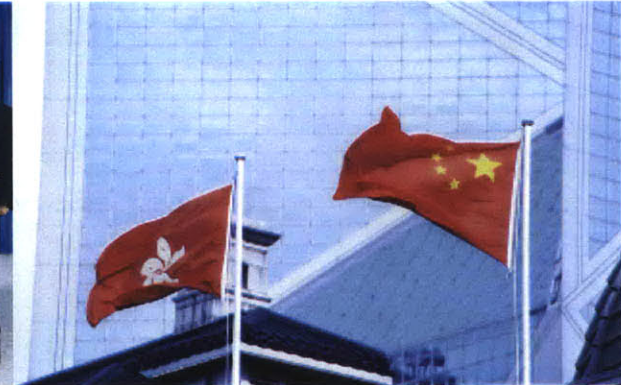*Physical Setting and Virtual Interface*
E-Government

fig. 3.2

fig. 3.3

fig. 3.4

Before 1997 : British Colonial Government

Hong Kong has been a British colony for more than 100 years. Before the handover, all the past governors are appointed by United Kingdom. The organizational structure and hierarchical system of the government are similar to the British one. Besides, the Legal System and the Constitution Order are the adapted version of the British system. Both English and Chinese are the official language.

The Born of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

July 1st of 1997 was a historic moment for both Hong Kong and China. The resumption of the Chinese Sovereignty from the British colonial government ruler ship was a critical and meaningful moment for her and her citizens. Hong Kong finally terminated the relationship with United Kingdom and become Hong Kong Administrative Region (HKSAR). On the date, hundreds of officials, representatives and country leaders from all over the world, especially from China and UK, came to Hong Kong to witness this transition. The ceremony was held in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center and attracted many media attention.

New Identity, Present Order and Future System

HKSAR, as a new born government has faced a lot of challenges and difficulties during this transition. According to the promises from China, Hong Kong will be unchanged for at least 50 years and keep on growing as a capitalistic metropolitan. " One Country, Two Systems (Communalism and Capitalism)" , " Hong Kong people govern Hong Kong People" and " Enjoy a high degree of autonomy and independency " are the promises.

Change of Signs and Symbols
fig. 3.5 (top) Previous Sign of the Hong Kong British colonial government in gate of City Hall, Central.
fig. 3.6 (middle) Staff removing the statue in front of the Hong Kong Central Government Office.
fig. 3.7 (bottom) New Signs from People Republic of China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

fig. 3.8

fig. 3.9

fig. 3.10

Handover Ceremony in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center.
fig. 3.11 (above) Officials and government representatives from China and United Kingdom.
fig. 3.12 (below) Invited guests and journalists from all over the world witnessed the historic moment of the handover ceremony.

Political Reforms and Social Changes

After the handover, all the official names of the government departments had been changed to mark the beginning of the new form of state. New regional flag and emblem had been assigned to represent this new identity. All the civil servants can continue to serve the new government during this transition. Chief Executive and the Executive Council are still on the dominant side to make final decision of critical issues than the Legislative Council. The importance of the Legislative Council are dramatically increasing as a medium for communication and understanding between the authority and the public. For the election of the Chief Executive, the first Chief Executive was appointed by China without any open democratic election by HK citizens. But the election method and the appointment system of both Chief Executive and the Legislative Council will gradually become more transparent and democratic in the future.

Participation and Engagement

Because of the new constitution order and legal system, Basic Law, there is a lot conflicts and tension developed. Hong Kong people are gradually arousing their political awareness and civic consciousness because of the uncertainty and instability of the volatile political climate especially after the handover. There are much more political parties and civic organizations established in the last three years in order to form more channels to communicate and have interactive dialogues with the government. As a result, there are more petitions, hunger strikes, political demonstrations, political forum, different kinds of gatherings and parades to express their feelings. They will voice out their opinions and express their anxiety and unsatisfaction through these activities on government plaza outside the administrative office buildings. This kind of activities certainly will bring more direct confrontations and usual challenges as well as mutual understanding between the government and the citizens.

fig. 3.13 Prime Minister of China present the opening speech at the Handover Ceremony. (top)
fig. 3.14 Chief Executive and the new cabinet memebers of the HKSAR government. (middle)
fig. 3.15 New regional emblem of the HKSAR (bottom)

The Regional Emblem of the HKSAR

New Vision and Mission : Symbolic Representation and Interactive Communication

Conclusively, both new physical setting and new media channels are needed to construct the new identity of the Hong Kong government especially for the aspect of representation and communication. The quest for a new vivid image and a new place of the new headquarters are fundamental to convey this message and as a representative icon to capture the essence and the spirit of the new political reform vision. This new symbolic and functional complex is a prominent medium to reveal the new order, glory and future relationship with China.

E-Government

Hong Kong Government has already launched a lot of government on-line services for the daily transaction, application and enquires. It is generally welcomed by the public and government have decided to expand this kind of E-government for different services. HK citizens can have new platforms and search engines to research about the government and the services provided. Both the virtual performance of these on-line services and the physical accessibility of these government information spaces are important factors to establish an new civic image of the HK Government. The success of creating the tele-presence of the mediated government-citizen interface and the physical presence of the government headquarters will be crucial to make this civic plaza as real social civic space for Hong Kong citizens.

fig. 3.16   Hong Kong city flower : Bauhinia (top)
fig. 3.17   Official Reunification Animinal Feature, endangered white dolphin (middle)
fig. 3.18 "Celebrate HK Handover Back to China 3rd Anniversary" signs on facade of Liberation   Army
          Headquarters (bottom)

fig. 4.1

Hong Kong Civic Architecture and Municipal Plaza

- British and Chinese Agencies and Representatives

- Institutional Building Typology

- Security and Accessibility
Political Domain and Information Territory

- Transparency
Operational and Visual Transparency

- Symbolic Icon and Image
Symbolic & Cultural Vs Commercial & Corporate

- Municipal Open Space and Civic Plaza
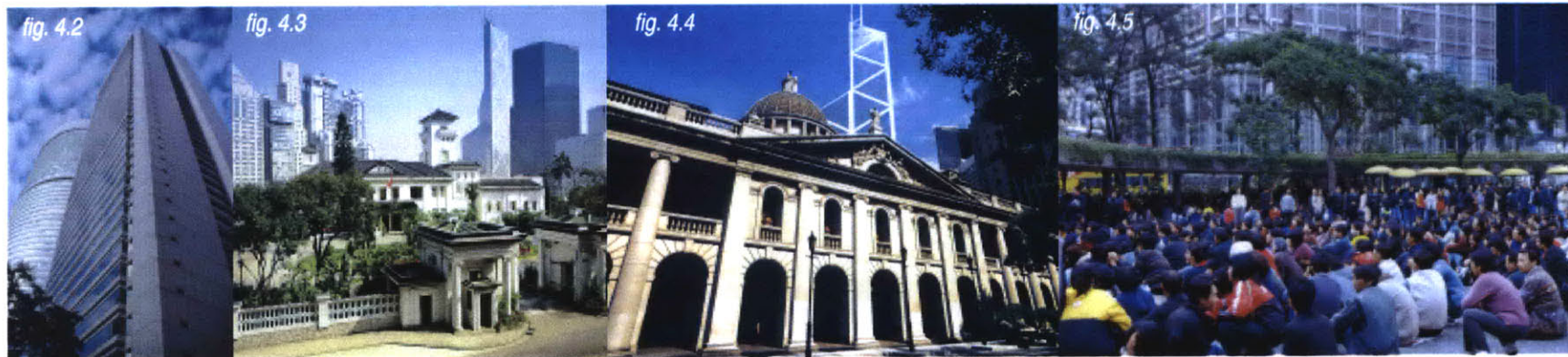*Daytime Usage Only and Secondary Buffer Zone*

fig. 4.2   fig. 4.3   fig. 4.4   fig. 4.5

fig. 4.6

fig. 4.9

fig. 4.7

fig. 4.8

fig. 4.10

China and British Representation

Historic British Colonial Architecture

Legislative Council and the Hong Kong Guest House are the most distinctive examples. This kind of western architectural language is selected and imposed on the civic architecture in the past by the British HK Governors. The former Governor House is no longer used as the official residence since it does not fulfill the original purpose anymore. The former High Court, now accommodating the Legislative Council Chamber, is still functioning even after HK had been handover for three years.

Modern British Architecture

UK has recently reconstructed a new complex accommodating both the British Consulate and the British Council. This programming mix tries to make it more friendly and approachable. Unfortunately, it does not work in reality because of the security required and the limited accessibility.

Chinese Representation

Before the handover, there is no official Chinese organization or department established in Hong Kong because of the British colonial governance. But, China do have several representative agencies set up their offices in Hong Kong for mutual communication and direct contacts between China and HK. These buildings are all typical modern high-rise offices which do not represent China symbolically or culturally.

fig. 4.6 British Consulate and British Council
fig. 4.7 Hong Kong Guest House, former Governor's Residence
fig. 4.8 Legislative Council Chamber, former High Court
fig.4.9 & 4.10 Chinese Official Representative Agencies in Hong

Security and Accessibility

As a building typology, one of the most stringent requirement is the security requirement especially for the information space with national highly confidential information. The higher security it has to achieve to protect the information, the more difficulties to be more accessible by the public. For example, the Central Government Office, the headquarters are all secured and isolated from the outside physically by metal fence wall all the way around the property. In addition, it has installed numerous surveillance cameras on all major spaces and closely monitored by close circuit TV system. Besides, it has security guard in control stations next to all access gates and patrolling the complex 24 hours a day. This kind of setting does not constitute real social civic space simply because of the limited accessibility and the serious atmosphere.

Mediated / Televised Presentation Vs Symbolic Architectural Representation

In C.G.O., there is no real direct contact or social interaction between the civil authority and the public citizens through face to face dialogues and conversations. So far, the government and the officials heavily rely on the media mostly to present, represent and broadcast in a one way, singular direction. Therefore, the audiences, HK citizens are only informed and updated by the latest news of the government by mass media. On the other hand, there is only limited channels for the citizens to inform the government or the government simply is not interested in their opinions and suggestions on government issues and policies.

fig. 4.11 Security fence is installed along the perophery of C.G.O and isolates itself from the public.
fig. 4.12 Control Station with Security Guards in the main entrance.
fig. 4.13 Armed uniformed police are on duty in front of the reception lobby of the C.G.O.
Surveillance Unit also has police staff with video camera to shoot and record the petitioners' activities in the plaza for monitioring and documentation purposes.
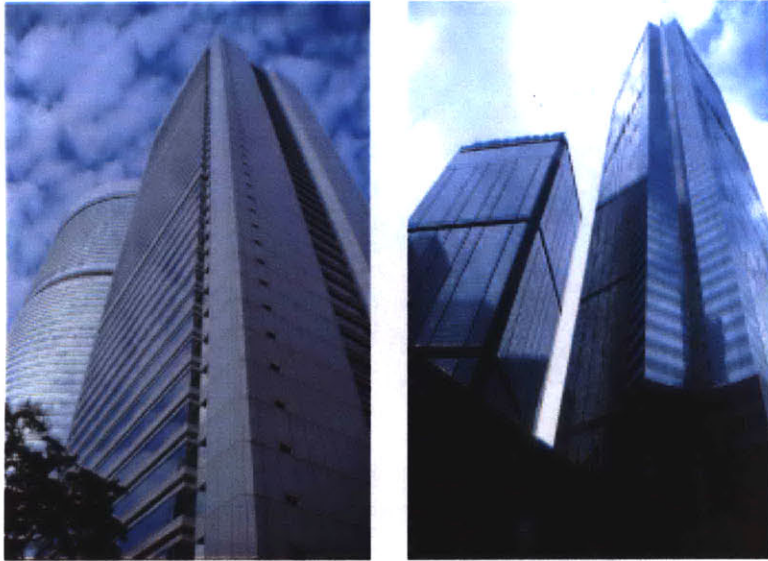
Corporate outlook skyscraper with reflective curtain wall glazaing facade treatment

fig. 4.14 The outlook of Admirality Government Complex (on the right) is similar to the hotel complex tower behind
fig. 4.15 Wan Chai Civic Complex facade treatment is similar to the commercial office tower, Central Plaza.

Symbolic Image and Icon

The existing modern government administrative buildings are usually next to commercial skyscrapers since they are located in the Central Business District. By the external appearance, geometry and profile, there is no difference at all among them. It is difficult to differentiate them purely by the exterior elevation or facade treatment. The only difference may be the plaza for people assembly. HK does not have a distinct civic image of government buildings or civic open spaces that can represent its present order or future vision.

Existing Civic and Political Icons :
- political portraits of HK political leaders and politicians
- symbolic signs and icons like the HK city flower
- civic opens places in Central for political gathering and civic activities

Existing Hong Kong Icon and Representative Images :
- HK urban panoramic elevation along Victoria Harbour waterfront
- Mediated Streetscapes and animinated building facades
- Architectural icon of modern skyscrapers

Physical Face to Face Confrontation

Legislative Council and C.G.O. becomes the new venues for political demonstration and petitions. Most of the time, these kind of gathering and strikes are in peaceful manner and order. The Charter Garden right next to the Legislative Council becomes the official area assigned by the government for petitioners to held these kinds of activities.

Physical Presence of the HK citizens and Political Petitioners Vs Telepresence / Virtural Presence of Chief Executive and Politicians

fig. 4.16 (below) HK journalists and interview with political figures
fig. 4.17 (far below) Chief Executive Media Press Conference with HK urban elevation   as the backdrop

fig. 4.18 (below) Political demonstrations and physcial confrontation between the HK Government and the citizens in front of the Central Government Office
fig. 4.19 (far below) Petitions and hunger strikes by public in front of the Legislative

fig. 4.20

fig. 4.21

fig. 4.22

fig. 4.23

fig. 4.24

Municipal Open Space and Civic Plaza

Central district is one of the two districts in HK that does not have enough open space and green area for the district neighbourhood. For the government office complexes within that district, most of the open spaces are not well designed and under utilized. They are not really perceived by the public as social civic place. It turns to absolutely silence after normal office hours and during entire weekends. This is because there is no constant programming of political gathering or civic activities to activate these open spaces. Some of these places are even treated by the government as the secondary buffer zones for increased security and limited accessibility.

Different Views of the civic open spaces and government plaza

fig. 4.20 Under utilized government plaza in front of Wan Chai
        Government Civic Complex
fig. 4.21 Left over open spaces in front of the High Court
fig. 4.22 Road block of the main roads in the Central district during the
                weekends - Provision of additional spaces for social activities
fig. 4.23 Communal civic plaza in front of the Hong Kong Bank
fig. 4.24 Political rally gathering in the Charted Garden
        - Starting and ending point of the Petition Route to different
        government departments within the district

fig. 5.1

Hong Kong Media

- Information Infrastructure and Telecommunication Technologies
Smart City in Information Society and Telecommunication Era

- Age of Communication in Hong Kong
Interesting facts of Public and Private Media

- Government Media
Independency

- Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Press

- Media Typology and Interrelationship
Public and Private Media
Political Media, Entertainment Media and Educational Media

- Mediated Daytime and Night Time Scenery

fig. 5.2   fig. 5.3   fig. 5.4   fig. 5.5

Night Scenery of Hong Kong
fig. 5.6 Aerial View from Hong Kong Peak
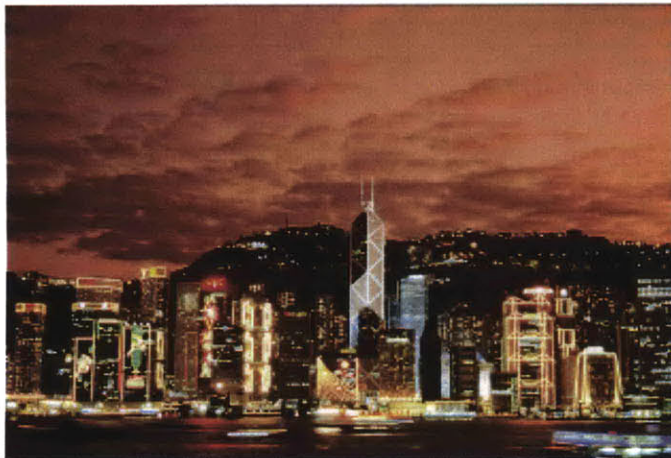*fig. 5.7Waterfront Panoramic Elevation from Kowloon*

Information Society in Telecommunication Era

Hong Kong is one of the most telecommunicative city in the world. She is well-known and valued as the most advanced city in Asia in terms of the Information and tele-communication technologies. As an international financial center and leading global trade market in the world, being updated with the current news and effectively exchange first hand information is crucial to its success. Physical proximity and adjacency among different activities spaces are also important as the virtual broadband connectivity with computer access.

Hong Kong is a bilingual city in which Chinese and English are both the official language. This unique situation symbolizes that HK is the meeting place of eastern and western culture.

Government Media

Before the handover, Hong Kong government seldom concerned about the communication between the governing authority and the public. Citizen opinions were often neglected or even ignored by the government officials and HK Governor. The official government media agencies only responsible for the censorship, filtering and distribution of government information to the public. They are not interested in setting up dialogues and conversations with the public. Besides, government political media were not open to the public at all in terms of their physical accessibility, management hierarchy or executive policies. They are totally separated from the government educational media. Therefore, most of the HK citizens are lack of civic education about their civil rights and the role of the government. They are not interested in government politics and reforms. One successful improvement after the handover is improvement in this aspect. There is more co-operation among the government political media, government educational media and the privatized media in different kinds of media events. In this manner, government can reach larger number of citizens. In this way, it will be easier to establish the liberal image of the political institution.

Age of Communication in Hong Kong

Telephones and Cellular Phones
- World's highest per capita users of cellular phones and radio pagers.
- World first digital cellular mobile telephone network operative in an underground railway system.
- Asia highest per capita telephone density.

Fax
- Second highest rate of fax usage in the world.
- Hong Kong has 350,000 facsimile telephones lines carrying the world's second highest rate of fax penetration..

Telecommunication Network
- First city in the world to have a fully digitized telecommunication network
- First city in the world to achieve full number portability in fixed telecommunication services using an Intelligent Network System.
- HK has the world's most comprehensive optical fiber telecommunication networks.

Library
- HK public library is one of the world's highest per capita readerships.
- HK Urban Councils launched one of the world's largest computerized library systems with Chinese and English capabilities.
- Infants grow up in HK with one of the world's highest literacy rates.

Main and Speedpost Post Office
- HK Post handles one of the world's largest volume of Speedposts.
- The world first daily Braille newspaper, Braille Post, were developed by South China Morning Post.
- HK post office, HK Post was the first in the world to install high-tech optical character recognition and video recording designed to soil mail without postal codes.

Television, Song Album and Film Industry
- home base of the world's third most productive film industry.
- TV City, US $51 million headquarters of HK Television Broadcast Limited, forms the world's largest TV production center of its kind in Asia and one of the largest in the world. TVB also is the largest producers of Chinese language programming in the world.
- probably has the world's highest per capita TV viewership ratio, as well as one of the world's highest per household TV set ownership ratio.
- HK bases Star TV was the first pan-Asian satellite broadcaster.
- two of the HK super star Sam Hui and Pauline Tsui have probably achieved the world's largest live audience for the world's largest live audience for the world's longest series of concerts 37 days for 621,481.

Consulates
- HK has one of the highest number of number of consulates in the world, with a total of 91.

Neon Advertising Sign
- A six storey sign in HK is the world's largest neon advertising sign, weighing 80 tons, the signs measures 365 feet by 62 feet, contains 8 miles of neon tubes and took 6 months to erect.

Freedom of Press and Speech

After the handover, Hong Kong politics and her political climate changes a lot. There is a lot of misunderstanding and conflicts within the society especially the communication among all the parties concerned. HK Government, HK citizens and mainland China needs to put more efforts to improve the present situation. HK Government is trying to increase different channels and media to have more direct conversations and interactive dialogues with both the Hong Kong citizens and the mainland China government officials.

Besides, HK Government also actively emphasizes the importance of the freedom of speech and freedom of press in a healthy atmosphere. Before the handover, many private media organizations and HK citizens worried about the censorship and interference brought by the political and media suppression from China. They were afraid that both HK government and privatized media will have self censorship in order to avoid any troubles and confrontations with mainland China. On the contrary, most of the HK citizens have increased their political and civic consciousness. They are more willing to criticize their government and voice out their opinions. There is more and more political gatherings in civic spaces to express their feelings. Political demonstrations, petitions and hunger strikes become daily topics in the news headlines. Surprisingly, most of these activities and confrontations can move on smoothly in a peaceful and orderly manner. Government interference is not needed in most situation. Government is trying to listen from the public and learn more about the citizens' expectation. Government is also willing to accept positive criticisms and constructive comments.

Successful Co-operation with Privatized Media

Compared with the government media, HK people are more interested in the privatized media functions and activities than those held by government. This is one of the main reasons why the Hong Kong government starts to shift the policies and focuses and to work with the privatized media. There are more and more joint functions in order to increase the popularity and publicity of these activities.

fig. 5.8 & 5.9 Televised Interviews by political journalists and news reporters in Hong Kong

Mediated Daytime Scenery

fig. 5.10,11,& 12 Different Views of the mediated streetscapes and animinated plaza in HK.
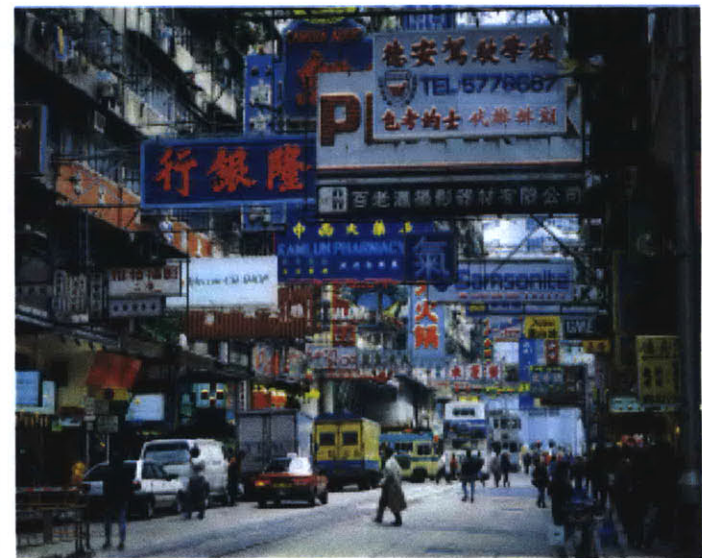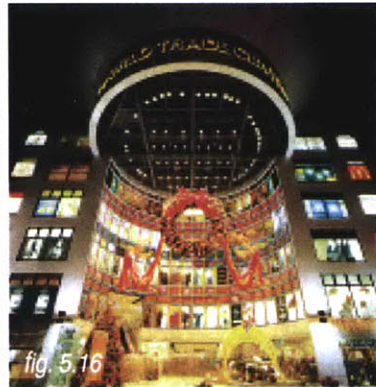*Transformation of Scale and Physical Appearance of Public Space.*

fig. 5.13

Mediated Daytime Scenery

fig. 5.13 & 14 Different Views of the mediated streetscapes and animinated plaza in Hong Kong.

Transformation of Scale and Physical Appearance of Public Space.

fig. 5.14

fig. 5.15

fig. 5.16
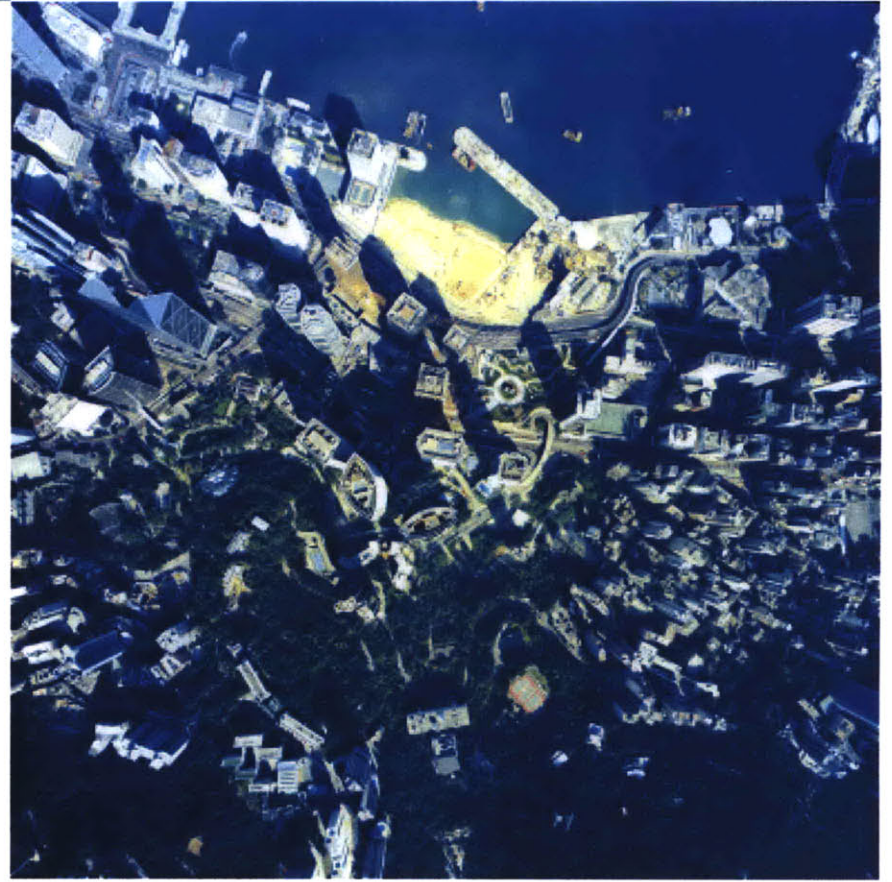
fig. 5.17

fig. 5.18

fig. 5.19

fig. 5.20

Mediated Night time Scenery

fig. 5.15 ~20 Different Views of the Mediated Streetscapes and Animinated Facades in Hong Kong
- Neon signage installations

fig. 6.1

fig. 6.2

Site Marco Characteristics : District Context

- Prominent Site Location
Urban Harbour Waterfront

- Central Government District and Government District Juxtaposition
Financial Corporate Image and Mixing Identities

- Fragmented Urban Fabric
Successive Layers of Reclamation and Segregation by Urban Vehicular Highway

- Podium Tower Typology
Object Oriented Building

- Iconic Image of Modern Skyscraper

- Segregation of Vehicular Traffic and Pedestrian Movement
Creation of Extensive Network of Upper Level Pedestrian Footbridges and Skypass Connection with Podium

- Urban Panaromic Elevation along the Harbour Waterfront
Dramatic Nighttime Presences and Unique Urban Identity

fig. 6.3

Site Macro Context : Characterists of the Central Business District and the Government District

fig. 6.4 Aerial photograph showing the profile of Hong Kong

fig. 6.5 Aerial photograph showing the Victoria Harbour in between Kowloon Penisular and Hong Kong Island

Prominent Site Location along the City Urban Panoramic Elevation

The official proposed site which is selected by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is located along the harbour front. It is the new reclamation lot of the Tamar Basin (former HMS Tamar) which was reclamated two years ago before the handover. The Hong Kong SAR Government has decided to relocate its existing Central Government Office (C.G.O.) headquarters to this site purely because of financial aspects. The land value of the existing headquarters is much higher than this available vacant lot. This becomes the main reason of the relocation decision. Because of this geographical waterfront location in between the Central and Wan Chai districts, the new complex has tremendous opportunity to represent the new government HKSAR to all of the parties concerned locally, nationally and internationally. The remaining chapter will address several prominent characters of the districts which will be key crucial factors influencing the final proposal scheme.

Central Business District and Government District Juxtaposition

The new government headquarters site is located right in the international financial core districts of HK, in which the Central Business District (C.B.D.) and the Government District interwoven together. It is a symbolic center of power, information gathering and exchanging venue. There is a lot of government administrative offices scattering around the districts. Unfortunately, they do not project the image of a civic centre or government district collectively. On the other hand, there are many famous skyscrapers built within the last two decades to further build up the financial corporate image and status of HK as a prominent player in the market. Because of this unique zoning pattern, the districts are very active during the day time and absolutely silent at night. These two programming uses reinforce the phenomena that during weekdays after office hours and during the entire weekends, the neighbourhood district will become no-man land and mostly vacant.

Kowloon Pennisular

Victoria Harbour

Hong Kong Island

New HKSAR
Government
Headquarters
Site Location

fig. 6.6 Map showing the Kowloon Pennsiular, Hong Kong Island and the location of the official site for HKSAR government Headquarters

fig. 6.7 & 6.8
Aerial photograph showing the Tamar Basin before the reclamation,
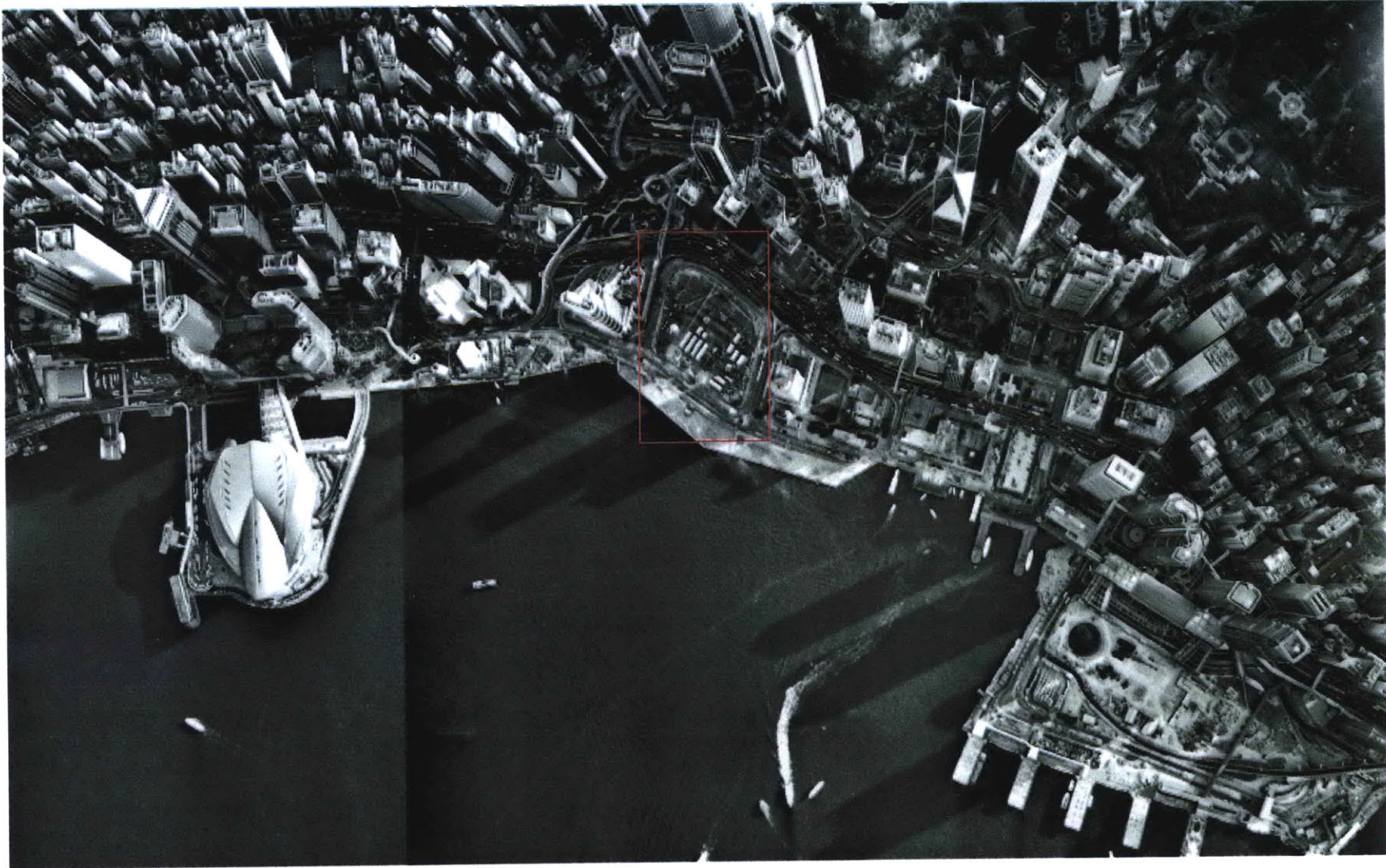with the unique backdrop of the office towers and the mountain landscape .

fig. 6.9 Aerial photograph showing the location of the official site for HKSAR government headquarters, urban massing of the districts and the profile of the harbourfront water edge.

中環
CENTRAL DISTRICT

Fragmented Urban Fabrics and Different Layers of Movement
- *Increasing Block Sizes and Scale of Development towards harbour*
- *Increasing Width of the Vehicular Oriented Highway*
- *Increasing number and Scale of the Upper Level Pedestrian Footbridges*

Diagrams showing the urban fabric and vehicular traffic patterns of the districts.

60 | marco district context

Fragmented Urban Fabric (Block size and scale)

Another prominent character of the districts is the successive layers of the reclamation along the harbour waterfront. The differences between the block size and the scale of these infill development are obviously shown. Different periods of the infill developments are also distinctly separated by three different highways running parallel to the water edge.

The older fabric, which is closer the mountatin, are more residential oriented and smaller in terms of block size and building footprint. These kind of development are mostly fabric oriented and contributed to form pedestrian oriented streets within the area. They are more sensitive to surrounding landscape and the human scale.

As the city runs out of available land for further development, the government decided to infill more and more land along the harbour waterfront. Block sizes and building footprint of the new urban fabrics are getting larger and larger while tower development are getting higher and higher. Podium tower typology becomes the dominant approach and physically become the visual icons of these progressions. The width of these highways are getting wider and wider as they towards the harbour waterfront. The dimension of these highway ranging from 100 to 150 feet. Obviously, these roads are functionally traffic oriented and there is not much public life on the two sides of these roads.

Along these highways, screen wall of skyscrapers with curtain wall glazing facade are created on both sides. Verticality becomes the prominent axis of the development while the horizontality and continuity are totally undermined. As a result, because of all these aspects, these highways impose tremendous difficulties to access to the waterfront from the city side. This disconnection is a great loss and new linkage is needed to re-establish the access.
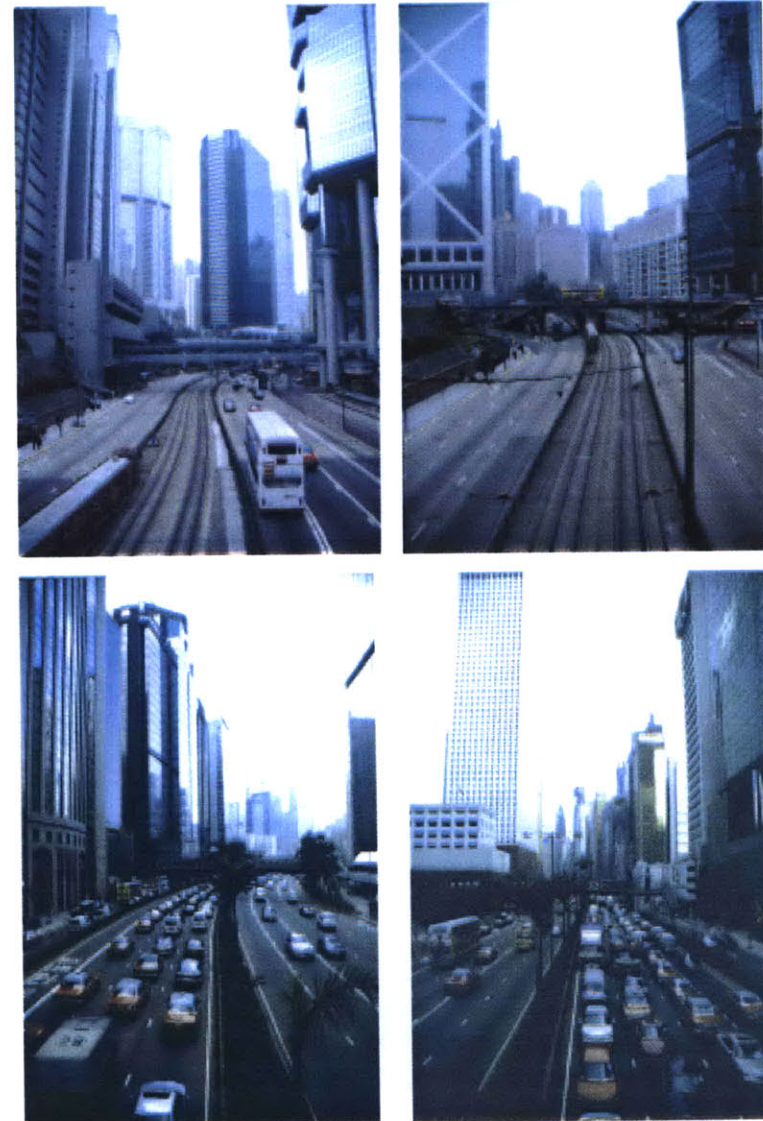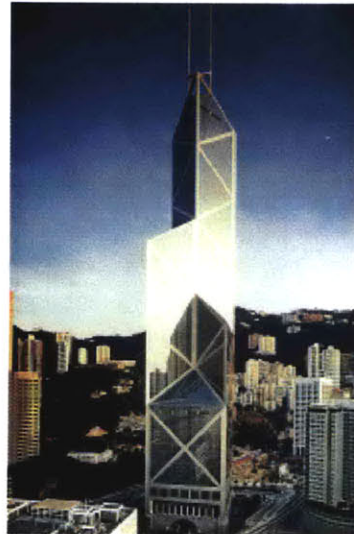

fig. 6.11-14 *Different views of the district showing the urban vehicular arteries and upper level pedestrian footbridges connecting building towers' podium.*

Podium Tower Typology

Within the C.B.D, most of the private development will try to maximize their development potential and tends to take the podium tower typology because of the extreme high land value. This approach becomes the major trend of the urban massing typology within that district. Most towers become object oriented building and try to express their power and identity through their dominant height or articulated facade treatment and crown design. These skyscrapers will try to become the new icons of the city and reinforce their power, authority and image by different methods of differentiation. Extraordinary height is the most common solution. Besides, the tower crown design and exterior building envelope treatment are also highly articulated in order to be outstanding from surrounding context. Because of this approach, a lot of in between space are left over and under utilized because of this modern capitalistic approach.

Iconic image
Skyscraper and Urban Panoramic Elevation

Several famous architecture signature skyscrapers are built within the districts in the last two decades in that district. HK Bank by Norman Foster, China Bank by I.M. Pei, Bond Center by Paul Rudolph and the tallest reinforced concrete building, Central Plaza and lastly the newly built HK Convention and Exhibition Center. The images of these office buildings become the dominant visual icon of HK and even printed in the money note. Many administrative government offices are also typical skyscrapers. Most of them are just typical skyscrapers with repetitive floors and modular bay of curtain wall glazing panels. In terms of the image, the new headquarters should not be just another government machine and no different from any corporate offices at all. How to differentiate the new headquarters from this backdrop will be crucial aspects for this new symbolic monument.

Fig. 6.15-18 Different Signature Towers as the Visual Icons of Hong Kong. Bond Center, China Bank, Hong Kong Bank and Central Plaza.

fig. 6.19 & 6.20 Photographs showing the upper level pedestrian
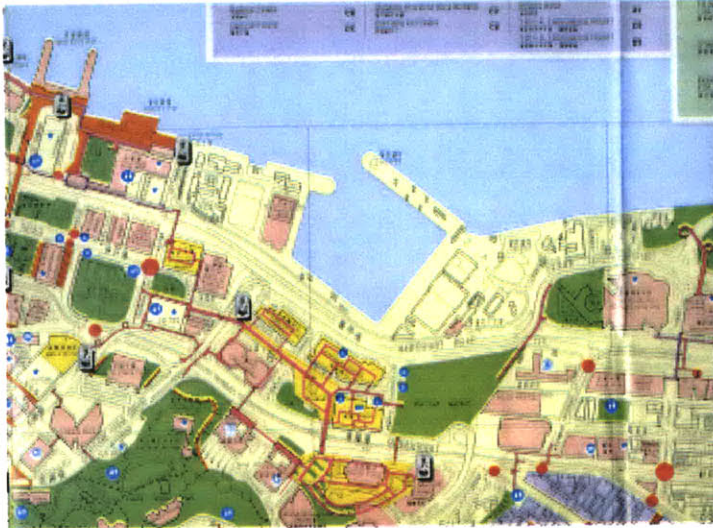footbridge connecting individual's tower podium structures.

fig. 6.21 Diagram showing the extenisve network of the upper level pedestrian
footbridging connecting individual's tower podium structures.

Upper Level Pedestrian Footbridge Network

Because of the wider and wider urban arteries and the fragmented urban fabric, the present passive remedy solution is the creation of an extensive network of the pedestrian bridge system linking all the podium structures. It creates a complex system of different layers of movement within the districts.

As shown in this diagram, the bridges are stretching longer and longer to connect different podium structures. Some of them are enormous urban infrastructure to keep the continuous flow of both vehicular and pedestrian movement. Some of the recently constructed bridges are wider than 50 feet and longer than 600 feet to ensure smooth traffic. The public life physically exists on these bridges which usually has transportation interchange terminals, office tower lobby and shopping malls as their anchors. These bridges have extremely high carrying capacity of movement. For example, one of the bridges connecting to the Wan Chai Government Complex has the flow capacity of 13,000 people in the peak hour during lunchtime.

The distinct segregation of the vehicular traffic on the ground level and the pedestrian traffic on the upper level is an unique urban scenario. It is the only possible path connection to have access to the harbour waterfront from the city side. All these aspects are influential forces to create an urban decking as an urban strategy how to approach the site and provide easy access to the waterfront.
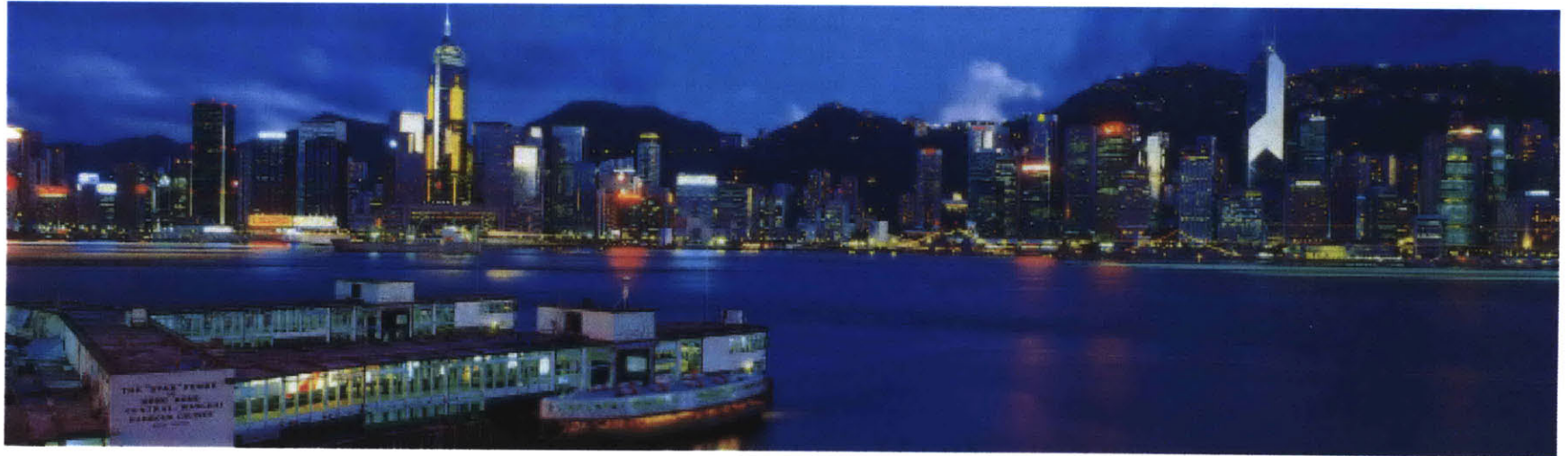
fig. 6.22 & 6.23 Daytime and nighttime urban panaromic elevation : Dramatic change of the city scenery and perception.

fig. 6.24 - 6.26 Urban panaromic elevation and views towards the site from Kowloon waterfront promenade.

Urban Panoramic Elevation along the Harbour Waterfront

Urban panoramic elevation along the harbour waterfront is a unique identity of Hong Kong. The mountain natural scenery with the modern skyscrapers forms a unique perspective of the city. Dramatic nighttime presence with the media screen and neon billboards advertising size is wonderful media to reveal the night life style and urbanity of this metropolitan. With the removal of the old airport in the city, it opens new opportunity and potential how to transform this urban panoramic elevation in terms of building height and media and lighting installations on the exterior building envelope. Flashing lighting fixture and blinking exteriors spotlights have been installed on newly constructed skyscrapers in Central. They are definitely become the new icons and symbols of the city.

fig. 6.26

Prominent View of the HK Island from HK Cultural Center
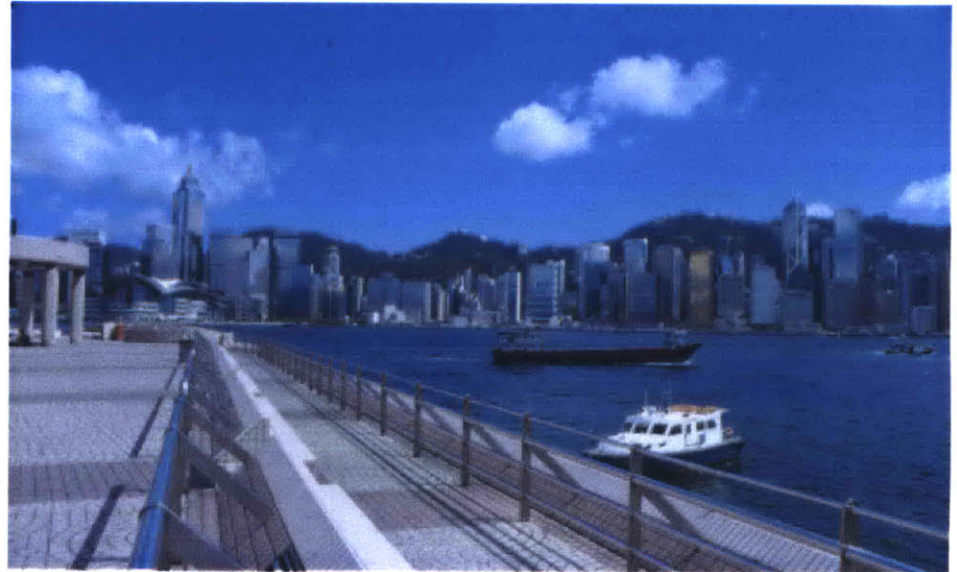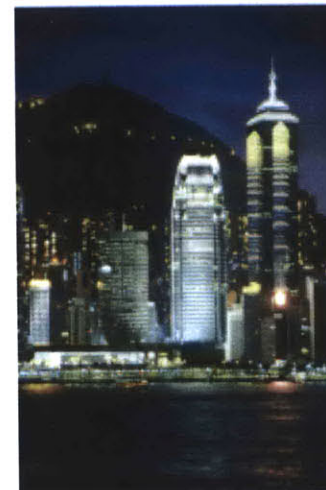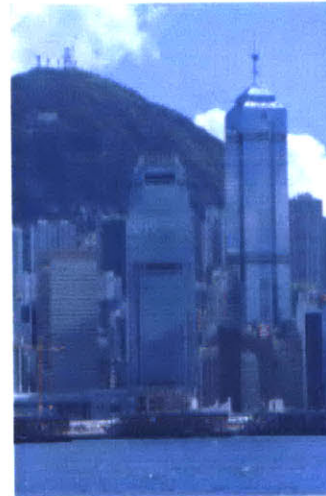
- Viewing Deck of the Waterfront Promenade

fig. 6.27

Night View of the Central Plaza and the
HK Convention and Exhibition Center

- Neon advertising signage installation and exterior spot lighting

Daytime and Night time View Comparison
fig. 6.28-30 Victoria Harbour Waterfront Panoramic Elevation
fig. 6.31-33 Curtain Glazing Surface of Modern Skyscrapers in Central

Site Micro Characteristics : Site Context

- Historic Background of the Official Site
Tamar Basin and British Handover Ceremony Venue

- Site Specification
Size, Dimension and Plot Ratio

- Surrounding Neighbourhood
Prince of Wales Building
Government Administrative Office
Central Government Office
British Colonial Architecture
Commercial Architecture

- Pedestrian Footbridge Connection

- Transparency and Reflectivity
Curtain Wall Glazing Surfaces of Adjacent Commercial Skyscrapers
Corporate Image of the Central Business District

fig. 7.1

- Site Analysis Diagram
Vehicular Highway and Pedestrian Footbridge Network
Urban Massing in relationship with Vehicular Infrastructure and Harbour Waterfront
Figure Ground : Built and Unbuilt
Podium Tower, Extruded Tower and Object Building

fig. 7.2 View of the Former Tamar Basin and the Prince of Wales building

fig. 7.3 View of the Prince of Wales building
and the commercial Citic Tower at the back

Former Tamar Basin

The official site for the government new headquarters was actually the former British Barracks and the British Government Naval Base Headquarters. It includes the reclamation lot of theTamar Basin (Former HMS Tamar) and the future waterfront. The site is reclamated two years before the Handover. It is an available land owned by the government.

Historical Background

The Tamar area was the place of Victorian Barracks under the British Colonial Governance and later converted gradually to commercial development along the harbour waterfront. Up till July 1st 1997, the HMS Tamar housed the British Forces symbolizing the control of United Kingdom upon Hong Kong. On the last day of the British colonial history over Hong Kong, the Prince of Wales building and the Tamar Basin was the official venue where the British Forces retreated from Hong Kong and ultimately terminated the colonial legacy with UK.

On the night of June 30 1997, official handover rituals and farewell ceremony was held on that infill lot with the attendance of the government officials and representatives from Mainland China and UK. This was the historic moment where the last British appointed HK governor Chris Patten and Prince Charles retreated. Then, the site was taken over by the launching of the People's Liberation Army. British Flag was lowered down from the post and officially marked the end of the British colonial governance. Followed by the raising of the new Chinese Hong Kong flag and the national song of China, HK will have another chapter of history and new relationship with China. The site chosen was a heavily political charged environment before and will retain this character in the future too if the foundation stone of the new government headquarters will be laid there. The historical references of its past definitely will cast shadows on the new setting and development.

fig. 7.4

fig. 7.6

fig. 7.5

fig. 7.4 View of the Prince of Wales building from the pedestrian footbridge
fig. 7.5 View of the official site from the deck of the ferry
fig. 7.6 View of the official site for the Hong Kong new government headquarters
- a existing vacant lot used for temporary parking lot.

Site Specification

The dimension of the site is approximately 650 feet by 650 feet. It is about 422,500 square feet. The plot ratio of the area along the waterfront is about 10.0 to 15.0. For the existing programs that the government has to be relocated, it is approximately around 12 including future possible expansion.

Surrounding Neighourhood

A) Governmental Architecture

The existing government architecture in HK is usually functionally oriented, introvert and enclosed from the surrounding and the public. It does not really focus on the aspects of the symbolic representation of the government nor open up to public to become more transparent or accessible. They can be divided into 2 main categories. First one is the typical commercial skyscraper. Most of them are outdated in terms using the information infrastructure and telecommunication technologies architecturally to represent the government and communicate with the citizens. The other category is the British colonial architecture, such as the Legislative Council and the Final Appeal Court. Both of them are still operating and certainly represent the past identity for the British colonial Legacy rather than the new identity of the HKSAR and the new constitutional order Basic Law.

Prince of Wales Building

It is the British Former Naval Base and post occupied by the People Republic of China Liberation Army after the handover on 1st of July, 1997. It is a highly secured complex with 15 feet high fence wall all around the boundary with only two main entrances with armed security guards and control stations. One interesting thing is that the tapering design, the inverted pyramid is intended to increase security control by preventing outsiders to climb up and get into the building. Also, this geometry can minimize the structural damage under attack from terrorists.

Boundary of the site defined by vehicular highway

fig. 7.7 (top) The site is totally detached from the city by this 150 feet highway at the back of the site, all the way connecting from Wan Chai, Central and Sheung Wan Districts.
fig. 7.8 (bottom) Prince of Wales Building and the 120 feet highway at the front of the site, which separates the site from the harbour waterfront.

It is a controversial decision that the Hong Kong Government selects this vacant lot as the official site for the future HKSAR government headquarters. HKSAR Government is highly independent from China except on two issues : military defense and foreign affairs. For these issues, China absolutely has the final control and decisions on these matters. Therefore, this official site for the new government headquarters, right next to the headquarters of the China's Liberation Army, has created a lot of tension and worries.

Government Administrative Offices

Within the site, there are several government offices such as the Wan Chai Government Complex, Admiralty Government Complex, Wan Chai Police Station Headquarters and Law Court. These offices are all scattered within the districts and they do not collectively to project an image of civic district by architectural means or urban design strategies. These modern skyscrapers are functionally oriented and to accommodate programs and handle daily transactions and enquires with citizens. In terms of image, most of the elevations are high repetitive module bay with curtain wall glazing. The facade treatment does not differentiate from typical commercial offices and cannot reveal the civic identity effectively.

Views of Several Government Offices in Central District
fig. 7.9   High Court (top left)   *fig. 7.10 Wan Chai District Police Headquarters (top right)*
fig. 7.11 Admirality Gov't Complex (bottom left) fig. 7.12 Wan Chai District Government Complex (bottom right)

Central Government Office : Hong Kong Government Headquarters

The existing Central Government Office (C.G.O.) was built in the 1950's and it is still operating as the HKSAR Government Headquarters. It is located in the Central and right below the Governor's House. At that time, It is functionally oriented and designed for inter-department adjacency and effective in internal communication and administration. At present, this headquarters are either functionally undated nor symbolically appropriate for the new identity of the HKSAR.

Besides, this complex is not really intended open for the public to communicate or even visit at all. The property boundary is all surrounded by high metal fence, under surveillance by security cameras. It is monitored and guarded by police officers in the control stations. Programmatically, it houses the Chief Executive Office, the conference room for the Executive Council meeting and other higher rank administrative offices. As usual, the Chief Executive and the Executive Council members will meet the press in the lobby right after their regular executive meetings. They will be interviewed or answered the enquires from the journalists and news reporters. Public seldom visits this headquarters and usually get in touch with the current news and issues through the televised scenes and news casts of the interior lobby.

After the handover, nothing has been changed or modified for the new government except the Logo of the China and Hong Kong on the drop off canopy and reception lobby of the building complex. The courtyard defined by the east and west wing becomes the new public battle ground for political demonstration, hunger strike and petitions. Tons of political activists and petitioners will have to get permission before they can petition.

Different Views of Central Government Office
fig. 7.13 ~14 Exterior look of the Government Headquarters   (top left & right)
fig. 7.15 Entrances are highed guarded by Police (bottom left) fig. 7.16 Petitioners with their signs outside fence (bottom right)

Different Views of Central Government Office

fig. 7.17 Main entrance is highed secured by uniformed and armed police with gates (top left)

fig. 7.19 Petitioners with their flags & signs marching along the fence of headquarters (bottom left)

fig.7.18 Security control station next to the main gate (top right)

fig. 7.20 Entire headquarters is isloated & secured by the metal fence installed

British Colonial Architecture

Final Appeal Court

This Final Appeal Court is the highest legal authority institution in Hong Kong. It is located right down below the Central Government Office.

Legislative Council

The existing Legislative Council was the Former High Court. It is still operating as the Chamber for Legislative Council after the handover. This chamber is open used twice a week for half a year. Public can enter the building at the upper balcony level and attend the Legislative Council meeting. It is still one of the most distinct architectural icon and government symbol even it is in the British colonial style.

Hong Kong Guest House

It was the Former Governor's House for all the past Hong Kong Governors appointed by UK. It was located right above the Central Government Office. It is both the official residence and the guest welcoming house of the governor. After the handover, the first Chief Executive decided not to move in and the Legislative Council agreed to change its name to Hong Kong Guest House. The complex will open for the public visits four times annually to let the citizens have a better look and understanding of this house.

Different Views of British colonial government architecture in Central district
fig. 7.21 Final Appeal Court (top left)   fig. 7.22 Hong Kong Guest House, former Governor's Residence (top right)
fig. 7.23~24 Legislative Council Chamber, former High Court (bottom left & right)
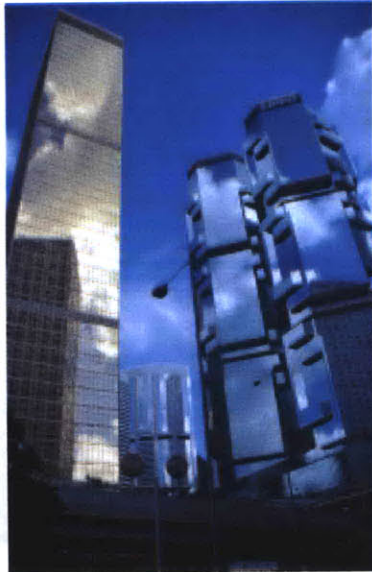
Commercial Architecture

Bond Center and Far East Center
Skyscrapers built around the transportation terminal of the subway, bus terminal and taxi stand. All the podium are interconnected by linking pedestrian footbridge. Far East Center is an modern icon with its unique gold curtain wall facade.

Citic Tower
Circular facade office tower built in the 90's and connect to the city side through the highway by a footbridge.

Admiralty Center and Bank of America

Different Views of commercial skyscrapers in around the site
fig. 7.25 Bank of America (top left)
fig. 7.27 Admirality Center Complex (bottom left)
fig.7.26 Bond Center and Far East Center (top right)
fig.7.28 Citic Commercial Tower (bottom right)

Upper Level Pedestrian Footbridge Connection
- Exterior and Interior Views of Pedestrian Decking

Different exterior views of upper level pedestrian footbridges
fig. 7.29 Bank of America (top left)   fig. 7.30 Bond Center and Far East Center (top right)
fig. 7.31 Admirality Center Complex (bottom left) fig. 7.32 Citic Commercial Tower (bottom right)

Different views of upper level pedestrian footbridges
fig. 7.33 Outdoor open bridge (top)
fig. 7.34 Indoor enclosed bridge (bottom)

Curtain Wall Glazing Surfaces of Commercial Skyscrapers
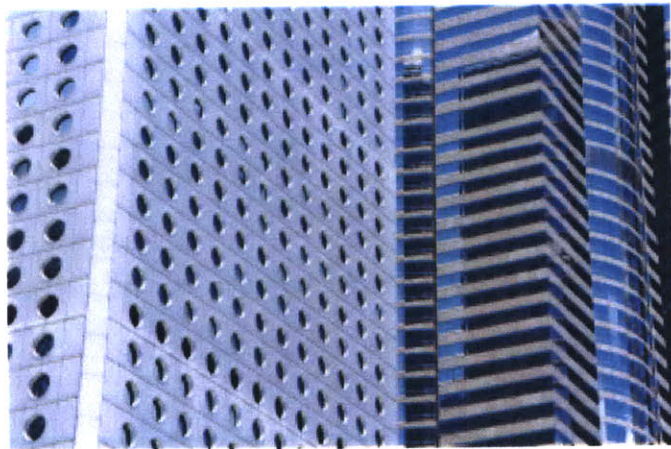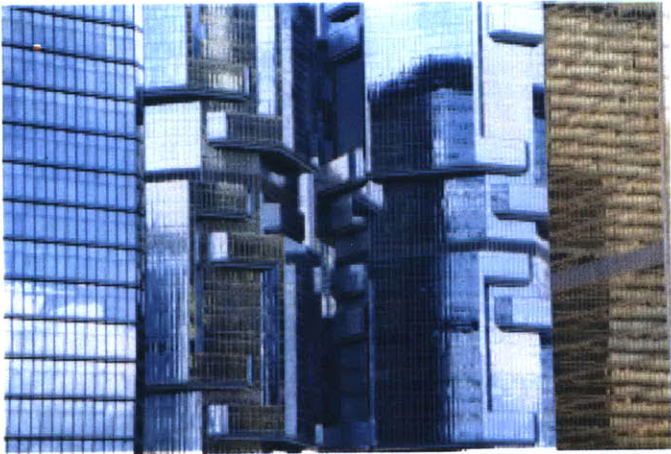**Corporate Image of the Central Business District**

fig.7.35-36 *Reflective glazing and shiny appearance of the curtain wall panel.*
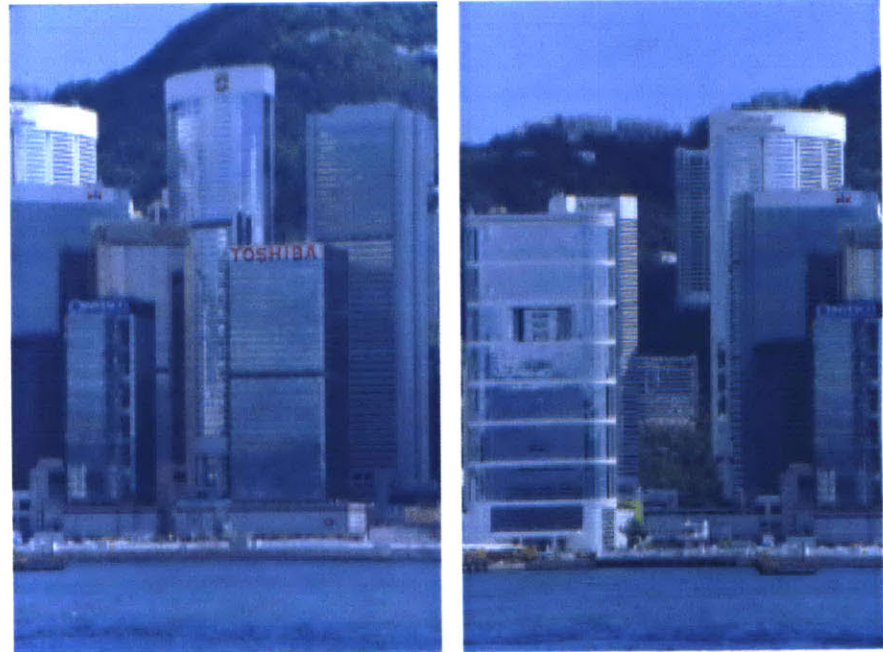

fig. 7.37-38 Neon Advertising Sign and skyscarper principal elelvations facing harbour.

fig. 7.39

Vehicular Highway and Pedestrian Footbridge Network System

fig. 7.40

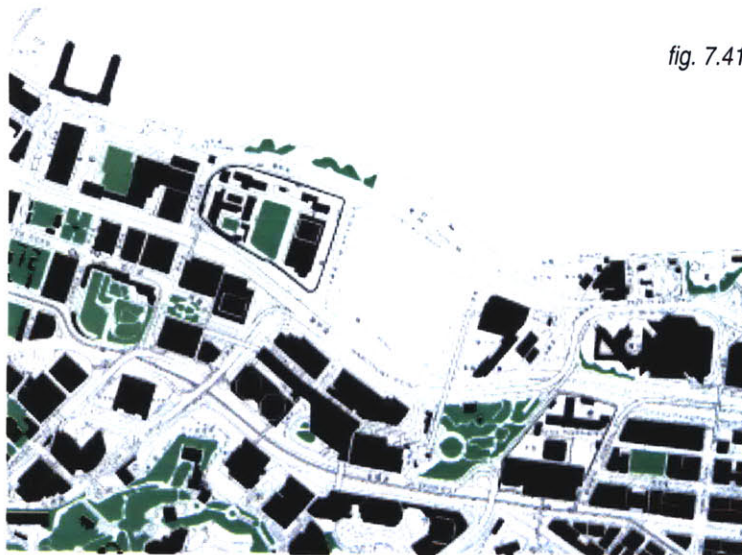**Urban Massing in relationship with Vehicular Infrastructure**

fig. 7.41

Figure Ground Diagram : Built vs Unbuilt

Site Diagrams Analysis

1. Urban arteries are more linear and parallel to the coastal line and it becomes more curvilinear as it approaches the mountain.
2. The width of the highway are getting wider and wider towards harbour waterfront and increase the difficulties to access to the waterfront on ground level.
3. Extensive pedestrian footbridge structures are constructed to cross highways. They are stretching longer and longer as it is closer to the harbour.
4. Complete segregation of the movement: lower level vehicular traffic and the upper level of the pedestrian movement.
5. Under utilized harbour waterfront, not much open space and green areas are developed.
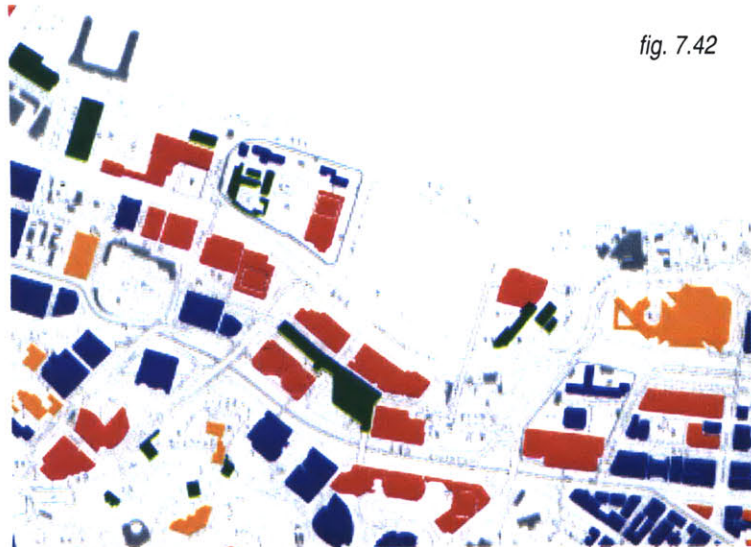
fig. 7.42

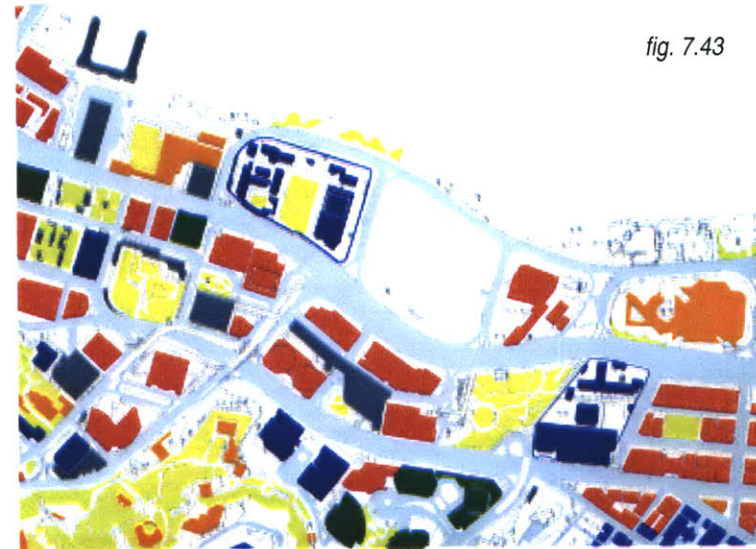**Podium Tower, Extruded Tower and Object Building**
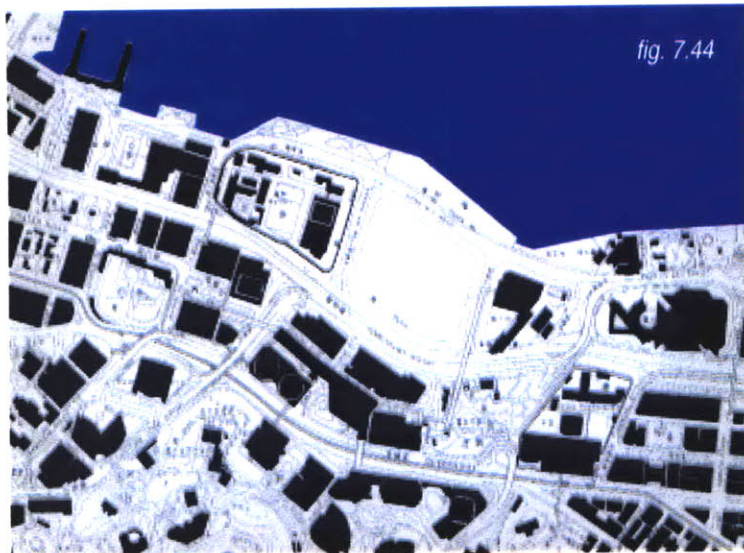

fig. 7.43

Programming and Zoning

fig. 7.44

Urban Massing in relationship with Harbour Waterfront / Coastal Edge

Site Diagrams Analysis

1. Major uses within the districts are high-end commercial offices with retails on the podium level and five star chain hotels.

2. Liberation Army Headquarters & Wan Chai Police Station Headquarters are isolated mega government complex from the surrounding neighbourhood.

3. Cultural Facilities such as HK Performing Arts Center and the Central District City Hall are located along the waterfront. But most of them are internalized and designed as object building. They miss the opportunity to address harbour waterfront.

Design Issues and Concerns

- Design Issues and Concerns
- Ideas of the Building and Image of the Place

Programming and Design Concept

- Vision of the Government
- Mission of the Media
- Hardware of the Proposal - Urban Design Approach
- Software of the Proposal - Programming Strategy
  Media Tectonics

Design Issues and Concerns :

Can / should government and media comes together in making urban civic spaces? If yes, how this kind of special synergy should be formulated?
What is the new role of the government, government civic architecture, municipal plaza and media in shaping the urban civic space in the future?

Should modern government rely on traditional media and multi-media, architecture or both to represent itself in the future?

What kind of programs and conversation dialogues that HK government want to romance itself in this headquarters?
What kind of activities and facilities that HK citizens will be excited and want to fantasize about their government and this civic plaza?
What kind of settings and images that the mainland China will be accepted?

How to resolve the tension of the site and re-establish the connection between the city and the harbour waterfront?
How to express the tension of the programs, relationship between "media and government" and "government and citizens"?
How to address those crossing and interchange of these borders and territory?

How can we successfully balance the power of the government, citizens and mass media simultaneously?

How to create a place where citizens can research the government and vice versa?
How to develop the new image and character of this civic place for collective pride and identity?
How to shape the mediated experiences of these information spaces for individuals?

How to provide three dimensional architectural forms and urban massing for this kind of information spaces and communicative facades?
How can we spatialize media and information? How should we create media landscape to achieve democracy?
How to materialize these virtual interfaces and electronic communications of the E-government?

How the new HKSAR government can be understood by the public and China?
How should the new identity and present order be represented through this new government headquarters? What other things should be reflected and projected through this complex and plaza?

What is it all about the new HKSAR government? How should we house this new government?
What is it all about HK media and its relationship with HK government and HK citizens?
What makes Hong Kong "Hong Kong"?

What is the essence and spirit of this civic place?

What kind of programs the government can offer and perform well that private sectors cannot replace?
What kind of facilities that private sectors can provide and operate that government cannot compete?
What kinds of programs and activities that the government and private sectors are interested to participate in a joint venture development of these civic complex and functions well?

What kinds of vision want to achieve through the design of this headquarters? What are the urban design and architectural strategies to achieve this mission? What are the messages to be projected through architecture and media? What kind of images want to be established and presented? What should be the new medium for communication and interaction between the new government and the citizens?

What is contemporary government all about as a modern institution and governing authority?
What are the new meanings and functions of these contemporary urban civic spaces?

How should political order and organization hierarchy can be visualized? How these can be achieved?
How can we manipulate the physical appearance of the government headquarters and urban civic space to influence the citizens' perception of the new government and image of this place?

What are the rules of this government institutionalized typology I want to break and reinterpret?
What are the new changing expectation of the future government headquarters and civic spaces functionally, programmatically and socially?
What are the criteria for developing this new vision?

How the new government and citizens position themselves in these conversation, dialogues and confrontations?
What should be the name of this headquarters and this place to reflect its identity and character?

How the architectural tectonics and media tectonics can comes together as an new government - citizen interface?
How can we mediate the tension between face to face real confrontations and screen to screen communication in these dialogues?

What should be the Mask of this Government Headquarters? What should be the Stage of this Civic Space?
How they should be Controlled, Accessed and Monitored? How should they functions and works for both government and citizens?

What kind of mediated activities I want to encourage? What kind of physical settings of the place to support?
What kind of virtual settings of the mediated interfaces to facilitate?

Ideas of the Building and Image of the Place

Modern Government

- Uncertainty, Instability and Mobility
- Privacy, Security and Safety vs Accessibility
- Political Domain : Hierarchy and bureaucracy

Visions
- Civic Monument : Physical Presence and Telepresence of Government
- Stage and Mask - Political and Media Playground
- Integration of Physical Settings / Stage and Virtual Interface / Platform
- Government-Citizen Interface
- Info-tainment Headquarters (Information and Entertainment)
- Think Tank, Decision Processor, Information Emitter, E-Government
- HongKongness and Chineseness Characteristics
- Financial Image and Corporate Feel
- Urban Narratives and City Forum

Reformations
- Image Consciousness, Political Consciousness and Civic Awareness
- Institutionalized Organization, Deinstitutionalized Image and Settings
- Decentralization of Power

Civic Open Space and Plaza Typology
- Religious, Civic Forum, Cultural, Commercial,
- Traditional Square   : Assemblage of People and Citizens
                             Recognition of Facial Expression and Human Gestures
- Contemporary Plaza : Assemblage of Images and information
                             Visualization of Facade and Audio & Video Projections

Image and Perception
- Daytime & Nighttime uses and Daytime and Nighttime Images
- Civic Image, Political Atmosphere, Entertainment Mood
- Style of Representations
- Identity - Style and Architectural Vocabulary

Contemporary Media
- Information Infrastructure & Telecommunication Technology
- Traditional Media and Multi-Media
- Media, Transparency and Democracy
- Image, Language and Vocabulary

Mediated and Animated Environment
- Mediascape, Datascape
- Information Symbol and Media Icon

Mediated Interfaces and Infotexture (Information Texture)
- Occupiable, Habitable Information Space,
- Communicative Facades
- Physical Boundary and Edge Treatment
- Volumes and Surfaces of Information Spaces
- Censorship and Filtering
- Presenting and Projecting

Screen and Facade
- Mask, Barrier, Face, Interface, Skin, Envelope, Glazing, Panel,
- Black box with opqque surface
- Blue box with projection screens
- Transparent box with clear glazing

Media Typology
- Public and Private Media
- Political Media | Educational Media | Entertainment Media
- Projection, Display, Digitized and Computerized Surfaces

Media Containment
- Accommodation and Spatialization of Media
- Centralization of Media

Overall Urban and Architectural Design Strategy
Hong Kong SAR Government Info-tainment Headquarters

- Personal Experiences vs Collective Pride, Sense of Belonging
- Individual Consumption of Media vs Collection Perception and Interaction

Emerging Typology
- Government and Media,
- Media, Architecture and Civic Plaza
- Information Civic Spaces and Communicative Facades

- Political Icons, Cultural Geometry, Mediated Environment & Symbolic Architecture
- Decentralization of Power and Centralization of Media
- Deinstitutioalized Image and Settings
- Different Dialogues,Conversations and Confrontations

Symbolic Representation and Interactive Communication
- Representation and Communication through Both Architecture & Media
- Reconfiguration of Political Domain and Information Territory

Interfaces
- Virtual Screen to Screen Dialogue and Conversation
- Physical Face to Face Confrontations
- Physical Settings of the Place and Virtual technologies of Telecommunication
- Transparency and Reflectivity of Media Tectonics

Projection Mechanism and Interaction / Presentation Medium
- Architectural Tectonics and Media Tectonics

Mediated Activities
- Political Demonstrations, Petitions, Debates, Elections, Interviews,
  Teleconferences, News Reports,
- Entertainment Concert, Outdoor Cinema, Interactive Exhibitions, Shopping

Hong Kong Government Civic Plaza
Info Deck - Media Plaza and Constitution Plaza

Hardware : Urban Deck and Architectural Facade as the Physical
Platform : Stage for representation and communication

Software : Info - Collective Identity, Activities Programming and
Character of the place

Imaging of the Civic Place - Media Intensive and High Tech

Tension

Site - Crossing of Highways and Fragmented Urban Fabric
Programs - Crossing of Media and Government

Duality / Coexistence / Synergy
Dual Face of the Scheme

Users	- Citizens and Government Officials
Coexistence	- Public and Private Media
Uses	- Day and Night Activities
Images	- Institutional, Mediated & Unanimated
Orientation	- Vertical of City and Horizontality of Harbour
Language	- Chinese and English
Culture	- Chinese and Western
Setting	- Interior and Outdoor Activities
Strategy	- Physical and Virtual Environment
Order	- One Country, Two Systems
System	- Capitalism and Communalism

fig. 8.1 Photo of the Final Design Proposal of
New HK Government Infotainment Headquart

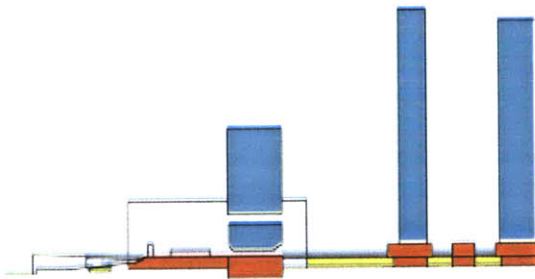# Design Concept and Strategy : Methodology and Approach
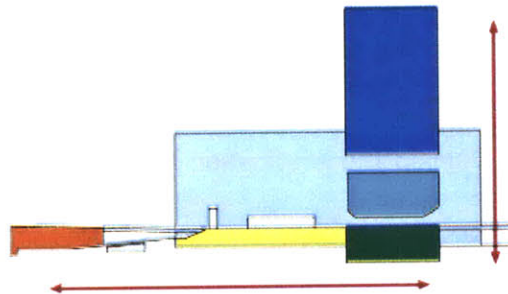

fig. 8.2

fig. 8.3

fig. 8.4

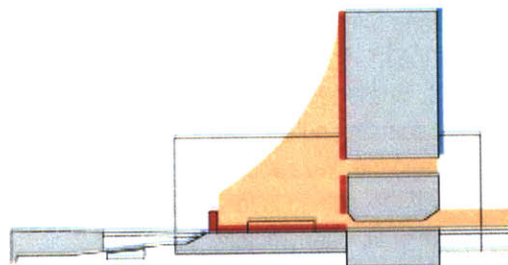### - Vision of the Government

Think Tank and Decision Making Unit
Physical Presence and Tele-presence : Physical Setting with Virtual Interface
Physical and Virtual Accessibility
Government Political Media Coexisting with Privatized Independent News Media
Educational and Entertainment Media Energizing the Plaza during Daytime and Night time

- Mission of the Media

Media and Urbanism
Integration of Information Spaces and Communicative Facades
Reconfiguration of the Traditional Political Domain and Information Territory
Media Icon and Information Symbol
Participatory and Representative Democracy : Representation and Communication
Centralization of Media

Hardware of the Proposal - Urban Design Approach

Stage : Urban Deck : Massing and Geometry Configuration
Two Public Faces : Institutional Facade and Animinated Facades
Mask : Principal Facade and Urban Elevation
Gathering Plaza between Ferry Terminal

Software of the Proposal - Programming Strategy

Public and Private
Government and Media
Administrative, Executive, Informative, Educational and Entertainment

Media Tectonics

Transformation of the Boundary and the Edge : Mediated Interface
Dual Interfaces : Government and Citizens Dialogue Medium
Interactivity : Presentation Medium and Delivery Mechanism
Projection, Display, Digitized and Telecommunication Surfaces

fig. 8.5

Conceptual " Mask and Stage" Sectional Diagram
- Verticality of the City vs Horizontality of the Harbour
Micro : Legislative Council Screen & Constitution Square
Macro : Principal facade & Info Deck

Vison of the Government

Think Tank and Decision Making Unit

The image of a modern government is no longer about bureaucracy and hierarchy of its organization or simply the architectural transparency of its headquarters. This proposal suggests that a scheme projecting the contemporary Hong Kong government as the "Think Tank" of the city. A new symbolic icon is urgently needed to represent her new identity, present order and future vision. Symbolically and functionally, this place is the most important decision-making unit of the city. This thesis will explore how to reveal the "processes" by which government could handle information internally within the departmental organization and externally with HK citizens, China and the rest of the world. Revealing these kinds of activities with information and data is the focus for the programming and zoning of the scheme.

Conceptual Vision : Information Processor
Blurring the Boundary of the Poltical Domain and Information Territory

The headquarters complex is an information processor, it collects raw data from citizens, different departments and the rest of the world. The next step is to screen through the resources, interpret the data and finally reorganize and synthesize them into useful and meaningful information. Then, it will either store the information or output the information to final users. Finally, it will censor and filter the information before it will present and project the messages to the targeted audience. Traditionally, these processes are not entirely revealed to the public. Citizens could only partially understand part of the whole processes or information. In this scheme, programming and zoning of the media and information related programs and departments is an important strategy to challenge the traditional concept of a government headquarters as an isolated political domain and secured information territory. The physical setting of these information spaces and the plaza will be animinated by these virtual, digitized communicative facades.The aim of this setting is to enhance different kinds of dialogues and conversations, to be a true forum in an open society.

Physical and Telepresence : Physical Setting with Virtual Interface

Recently, the Hong Kong government established and conducted different on-line services allowing citizens to conduct certain kinds of transactions and services without commute to government offices. Government Information Systems have launched numerous official web sites for different departments. Citizens simply logon to a wonderful platform with search engines to research and navigate through the government organization. They can download or even upload information to and from different departments. They can also conduct different kinds of administrative transactions and file applications through on-line services. E-government has become a popular trend and demand continues to grow. Virtual government will definitely become a prominent direction for the future interaction between the government and citizens. As a result, the tele-presence of the E-government on the internet has become more appealing and interactive than the physical presence and existence of the headquarters.

Since typical daily transactions, administration and enquiries can now be conducted through the telephone, mail or internet services, this proposal suggests that the new Hong Kong government headquarters should have other special programs, unique services and facilities that can raise the public awareness and citizen interest in visiting and gathering for different functions. The physical setting should become a place that citizens can visit and have a good time. Meanwhile, visitors can also research government and gain a better understanding through different settings, perspectives and presentation medium. The civic plaza and the government headquarters should be a venue that fosters a sense of pride in belonging to Hong Kong. The actual physical presence of the citizens in this civic plaza is the essence of this government civic space. This is one important way to establish and develop the identity of the government and its civic headquarters.

Both the physical settings with the information spaces and the mediated virtual interfaces by the communicative facades are crucial to bringing HK citizens there and enhancing communication and interaction between government and citizens. Both aspects are complementary to each other and can reinforce the linkage and enhance better understanding and accessibility between the governing authority and the public.

fig. 8.6

Political Media Zoning Scheme (Public vs Private)
Plan Diagram
- Face to Face Conversation
- Screen to Screen Confrontation

■ Media & information related government departments

■ Legislative Council & Media Press Chamber

■ Privatized Independent News Organization
News Stations, Live Broadcast Studios and
Conference Center

Coexistence of Government Political Media & Privatized Independent News Media

One of the controversial agendas this scheme proposes is the coexistence of privatized independent news media with governmental political media within the HK government headquarters. Traditionally, both of them have been separated distinct political domains, avoiding proximity in order to project the image of independence. Given their sometimes opposing opinions, attitudes and agendas, they are resistant to overlapping physically and also in terms of operations and management level, these by diluting their own image. Both are influential media in their own right, able to affect public perception and interests and also capable of manipulating citizens.

Media and Democracy

With this unconventional framework, the conceptual arrangement works on two levels - both symbolically and functionally. The proposal tries to achieve a more democratic government organization by way of revealing the workings of government. In addition, it can help to project a more democratic image of the government to the citizens by the coexistence of the public and private sectors in the same complex.

1) Independent news organizations can directly confront the government and its own media more effectively and frequently.

2) Government media can work with privatized news media to publicize their new policies and promote their campaigns to the citizens.

3) Both parties can have more instantaneous communication and interaction to promote operational transparency between the government and the news organizations.

4) They can mutually censor and monitor each other, balancing their power and control of the public and privatized media.
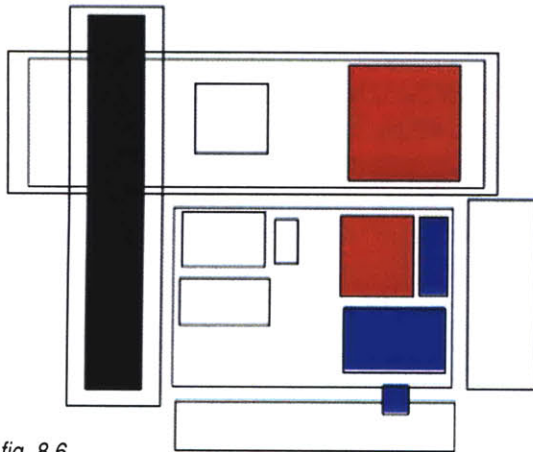
Government Political Media Program includes :

- Government Informative Department Division : Info Wing Division
  (News Department, Statistics Department, Public Relation Department, Information
    Technology and Broadcasting Department)
- Legislative Council Chamber for voting and debating new policy, law and campaigns.
- Chief Executive Media Press Chamber for press conference, teleconference and live
   broadcasts
- Legislative Council Members' Offices and conference rooms for meeting with citizens

Privatized Independent News Media Program includes :

- News Stations and Recording Studios for TV and Radio Channels
- Conference Center
- Journalists' Gallery (Political Comics and News Photography Exhibition)

Mediated Communication and Representation Activities

- Mediated presentation and interactive exhibition
- Long distance direct line and teleconference
- Mediated political demonstration and petitions
- Mediated voting and debate in Legislative Council
- Mediated press conference and televised live news broadcast
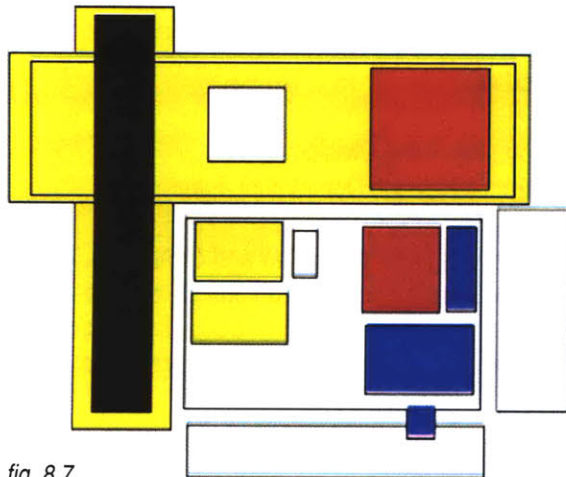- Mediated election, census and questionnaire

fig. 8.7

Daytime Program Distribution Plan
- **Political functions and Civic activities**
- **Executive, Administrative and Educational**

Media & information related government departments

Legislative Council & Media Press Chamber

Privatized Independent News Organization
News Stations, Live Broadcast Studios and
Conference Center

Government executive and administrative offices
Government Library
Government Museums

**Activation of the Urban Civic Plaza by
Integration of Government Educational Media & Privatized Entertainment Media**

**Activation of the Civic Plaza during Daytime by
Government Political and Educational Media**

During the daytime, the plaza will be activated mainly by civic functions and political activities. HK government's 8000 civil servants working in the complex and the public will be the main users. This will reinforce the civic presence of the new government and project the civic identity and image of the place during the daytime. The political programs are the administrative and executive offices of different departments. Additionally, government educational programs inform the public on what is happening in the city and educates them on HK's history and heritage. These programs will help to place more lively and sociable.

a) Political Programs includes :

- Government Administrative Offices and Executive Offices
- Government Informative Offices - Info Wing
- Legislative Council Chamber (Voting and Debating) & Government Media Press Gallery
- Legislative Council Members' Office, Meeting Hall and Conference Rooms
- Privatized Independent News Stations, Studios and Conference Center

b) Educational Programs includes :

- Government Museums located at the museum deck
  (HK history, HK government & democratic movement and HK media)
- Government library (historic records and archives) located underneath the Info Wing
- Government Publication Center and Government Information Center
- Journalists' Gallery (Political Comics and News Photography Exhibition)
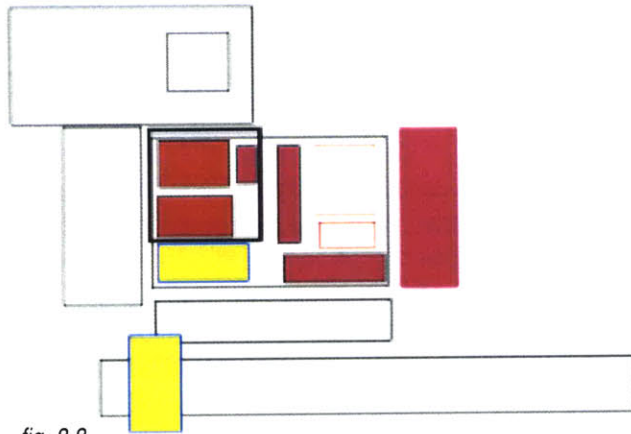- Hong Kong Tourist Association Offices

fig. 8.8

Night time Program Distribution Plan
- **Entertainment**
- **Shopping**

Media Market / Entertainment Studio

Multi-purpose Cineplex

Harbour view restaurants and Media Mall Foodcourt

Activation of the Plaza during Nighttime by Privatized Entertainment Media

At night, the plaza becomes an urban entertainment center energized by different entertainment activities. This will entirely transform the civic atmosphere and the political image of the place from the daytime both by the programming of entertainment activities and mediated interfaces of these information spaces. These characteristics also give a distinct night presence to the civic plaza and adds to the night life and urbanity of Hong Kong.

Entertainment and Retail programs includes :

- E Studio (Entertainment Studio for TV and Radio, On-line Web Casting)
- Outdoor Cinema Theater and Outdoor Concert Venue

- Cineplex (shared with Museum cinema and Library Theatre)
- Virtual Reality and Simulation Ride
- Video Game Arcade
- Karaoke Studios, Disco and Pubs

- Media Market (Computational Software and Hardware)
- E-Commerce Products Display Booths
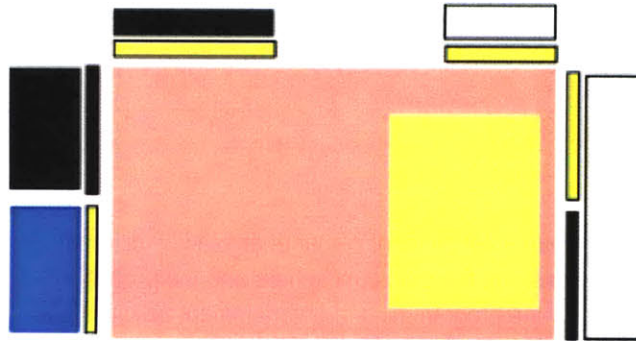- Telecommunication Products Showrooms

fig. 8.9

Conceptual Plan Diagram of Mediated Square

Scale and Dimensional Difference between :
a) Traditional Square
- 60 -120' wide for users to see and been seen
(recognition of facial expression and body gesture)

b) Animinated Plaza
- up to 1000' for the viewing distance of the Mega
digitized and projection building surfaces

Civic Plaza - Info Deck

Black Box Programs with consealed interior setting
Cinema / Conference Room

Blue Box Programs with broadcasting functions
Live cast News studio, Legislative Council Chamber
and Chief Executive Media Press Chamber

Transparent Box Programs with clear transparent
glazing surface

Communicative Facades and Digitized Surfaces

Mission of the Contemporary Media

Media, Architecture and Urbanism

Media and architecture interact not only on aspects of authority representation and civic communication, but also on the urban design scale. Media has been externally applied on the exterior envelope of buildings or as interior screen in the concealed environment. In most of these settings, the architectural application of media remains two-dimensional. These architectural surfaces are literally covered or projected with media and information. Media does not occupy space from an urban design perspective. From an architectural point of view, media does not have three dimensional forms to accommodate media and information spatially. In fact, media has great architectural and urban design implications on city scale, like the mediated building facades and animinated streetscapes in Tokyo and Hong Kong. Media can also transform the personal experiences and collective perception of a place.

Spatial Containment of Media

In most cases, media is superficially applied to the exterior skin facade of buildings. They are constantly projecting graphics, images, text, information and even voices to the public. These buildings are often treated as an information emitter or advertising billboard. The delivery mechanism is singular in direction and it is simply executed by projection only. In this proposal, the scheme suggests the manipulation of the media related programs and information spaces to achieve better dialogue. Media and urban design have a very interactive relationship in shaping the character and the identity of the urban civic open spaces. Imaging of the place is greatly enhanced by the architectural and media tectonics, especially for the distinct night presence of the place. The information spaces and the communicative facades will define the spatial qualities and the physical appearance of both the open plaza and the building complex. Media is confined within this civic plaza and literally, users and visitors will be engulfed by media and information. The lively atmosphere and high tech, media-intensive character make it an exciting place and hot spot of the city in Hong Kong's night life.

fig. 8.10

Macro Urban scale of Decentralization of Media Urban Streetscape of Media Billboard & Control Rm

- Media screen as physical barrier (non permeable)
- Projecting media outward in one direction
- Remote control and access : Detached relationship
- Hidden sources of information
- Unrevealed delivery mechanism
- Inaccessible from exterior

fig. 8.11

Mirco Interior Scale Compartmentatization of Media Black Box Setting

- interior consealed setting
- darken lighting environment
- projecting media inward in an confined environment
- Invisible from exterior

Integration of Information Spaces and Communicative Facades
Mediated Interface between Architecture and Urban Design

As mentioned previously, media is applied to the building interiors as well as exterior surfaces. The transition from the " inside out " and " outside in " is not yet fully achieved. The integration of the information space and communicative facade is not vigorously explored. These conventional approaches raise the problems of the decentralization of the media and the black box problems. For example, the programmable digitized LED display advertising panels are commonly installed on the exterior envelope of buildings. These panels can present whatever kind of information and messages they want. The control room may be very far away from the installation but they can still download the information they want to project easily for the cable network or wireless connections. Audiences will have no clues where are the sources of the information and the accuracy too. The delivery mechanisms are totally hidden and will not have to be revealed at all. Audiences are more educated now and becoming more concerned about such issues.

The second scenario is exactly the opposite and is applied within an interior of concealed environment. Media is projected or presented in a confined setting where audiences are not able to orient themselves. This is the typical problems of the black box cinema or interior conference setting. The main issue of these two scenarios is the notion of transparency. The former case is the transparency of the operations and delivery mechanism. While the latter is the visual transparency of the physical setting.

Centralization of Media

In this proposal, both public and private media, are centralized geographically in order to clarify the sources of information delivery. Audiences can interact with the delivery mechanisms and reveal their opinions and comments directly to the media, increasing the reliability and accuracy of the media projected and information presented. Public and private media can build trust and gain faith from the public by this concept. And it will be implemented in the proposal architecturally and programmatically.
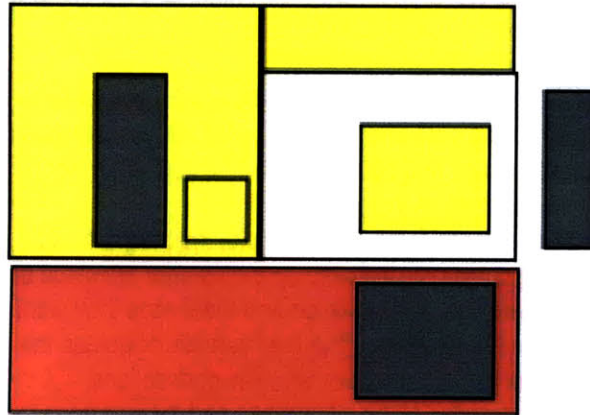
fig. 8.12

Mask and Stage Conceptual Diagram

Horizontal Citizen Stage
Horizontal Info Deck of the Government Civic Plaza

Vertical Government Mask
Vertical Principal Facade of Government
Executive and Administration Wing

Hong Kong SAR's new government needs a new civic image and icon to represent its new identity. In this scheme, the media will add another layer of image to this civic monument in terms of mental perception of government and the visual appearance of the physical headquarters complex and the adjacent plaza. The concept starts with the idea of an architectural icon that merges with the motif of a contemporary information symbol. A new media icon will be a distinctive image to represent both the participatory and representative democracy of the government order and vision.

Visual transparency has been a common architectural strategy to symbolize the openness of government institutions and transparency of its operations and decisions. Many government buildings emphasize the notion of transparency especially through the design of the principal elevation, but in most of these cases, security requirements is still the top priority and therefore public accessibility and visual transparency have been greatly limited. Hence, visual transparency is the only remaining effective illusion to let the public perceive the headquarters in an open and transparent setting.

In this scheme, I propose to make the government headquarters more open both in terms of physical accessibility and visual transparency. The urban and architectural design of this scheme will try to accomplish that vision. This is achieved by strategic zoning and allocation of government and privatized media programs. This kind of reconfiguration will challenge the traditional concept of the political domain and information territory. It will blur the physical boundaries of different kinds of information space. Information spaces such as media press galleries, legislative council chambers, executive council conference rooms, cinematic theaters, lecture halls, exhibition galleries and museums are all the same. The aim of the setting is to present information and provide a venue for discussion and entertainment. These settings will be furthered reinforced architecturally by the media tectonics, the design of the mediated interface and communicative facades for interactive conservation and communication.

Civic Mask : The Northern Principal Facade
Urban Panoramic Elevation

      The biggest concern of the composition of the frontal principal elevation is how to fit the image of the headquarters into the urban panoramic elevation, while standing out from its surroundings. In order to distinguish it from the background of the urban skyscrapers, this scheme takes a horizontal slab bar parallel to the waterfront instead of a podium tower. There would then be more exterior building surfaces and program spaces on the lower level visible, viewable and accessible from the deck level of the civic plaza. The central plaza is the focus of the scheme and will shape the character of that space and the experience of visitors. The negative open space will be the key focus and datum for the design of the whole government complex.
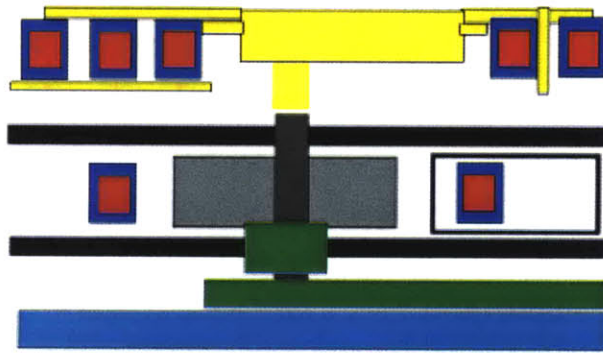
fig. 8.13

Site Context Plan Diagram : Tension of the Site

■ Commercial Skyscrapers Offices

■ Podium structures connected with extensive network of pedestrian footbridge system

■ Existing vehicular highways after successive layers of reclamation

■ Waterfront green strip open space and the structural landscape decking above the sunken tunnel

■ Transportation Interchange Terminal

■ Victoria Harbour

Hardware of the Scheme
The Creation of the Urban Deck
as the Stage to look at both the Government and the City

Urban Massing   Configuration
Re-Connection between the City and the Harbour Waterfront Open Spaces

The main issue for the design configuration of the urban massing is how to provide convenient access and strong physical linkage between the city and the harbour waterfront through different highways. The proposal of the urban deck is an urban design approach trying to link the city center to the harbour waterfront through this urban civic plaza. With the existing extensive network system of the upper level pedestrian footbridge linking individual tower podium bases and transportation interchange, the plaza acts as mega deck, an extension of these bridges and finally merges with the landscape deck of the green strip open spaces along the harbour waterfront. The deck is the stage for both the government and citizens to represent and interact on a daily basis. It is a mediated platform for the citizens and the public to engage and have maximum exposure to view the government complex and the city.

Info Bridge and Government Gateway

The Info Bridge will be one of the major pedestrian access points to the complex from the city side. The 600 foot long bridge is anchored down between the podium of the transportation interchange and the museum deck of the headquarters. This axial approach through the bridge, framing of the harbour beyond this monumental gateway, is a grand gesture and bold statement of the symbolic importance of this headquarters.

Landscape Deck and Waterfront Open Space

A landscape structural deck is used to cover the front highway and to link the upper civic deck level to the ground level waterfront open green spaces. This will ensure smooth physical access and pedestrian movement between these two different levels. Also, it provides a better transition from the hard landscape of the deck to the soft landscape of the waterfront greenery.
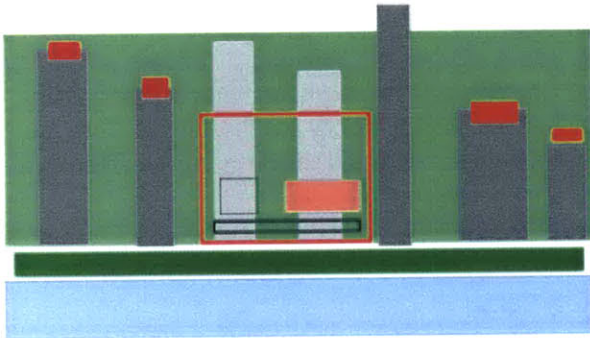
fig. 8.14

Picture Frame Composition of the Urban Elevation

■ Media Advertising Billboards on the crown of towers

■ Commercial Skyscraper : podium tower typology

■ Mountain Landscape as the Backcrop

■ Victoria harbour waterfront

Software of the Scheme

Zoning of Programs
Emphasis of Public Accessibility and Visibility

The key concern is the strategic allocation of public and private programs within the complex. This scheme locates the information departments and symbolic programs of the government closer to the deck level, making it more accessible, approachable and visible to the public. The government main lobby, Info Wing and the Legislative Council Chamber are all specifically located on the deck level. They are all distinct object pieces within the complex, but they still have their major facades facing the civic deck. In this way, they define the civic character and shape the appearance of the deck collectively. The educational programs, such as the government museums and the library are all located underneath the deck for easy convenient access.

Government Programs on the Top and Privatized Programs on the Bottom

The other strategy employed allocates programs still open at night on the lower portion of the complex in order to activate the plaza level effectively during the night. Government departments and public programs with normal office hours are located on the upper portion of the complex. Privatized programs are mainly placed at the lower portion of the headquarters and mainly within the deck. This pattern can ensure optimum balance in proximity between the government and privatized programs since they have very different privacy and security requirements.

Collective Media above the Deck and Individual Media Below the Deck

The programs and the media to be projected above the deck are mainly government information, civic interests and collective issues of the city to enhance the place as an ideal setting for civic activities and political functions. This will reinforce the civic image of the place. While underneath the deck, the media projected is mostly for individual consumption of information and entertainment.
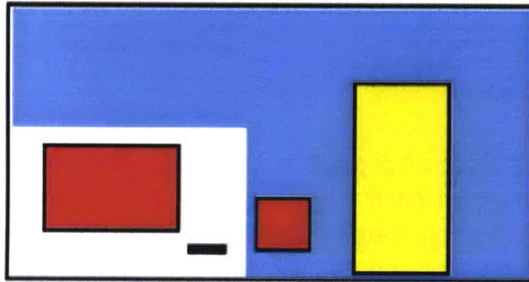
fig. 8.15

Architectural Tectonics on the Southern Facade

- Mounmental scale Info Gateway
- Hierachical order and axial orientation
- Formal composition
- Curtain wall glazing with reflective surfaces
- Modular repetitive bay panel
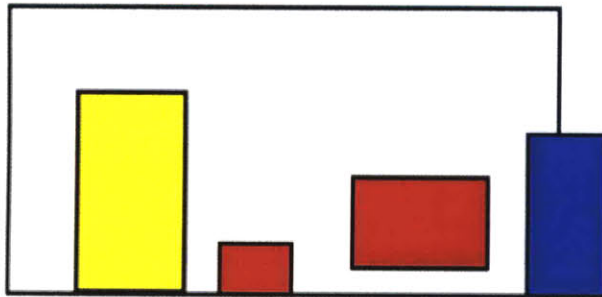- Screen shading device from southern sun

fig. 8.16

Media Tectonics on the Northern Principal Facade

- Eastern, western and northern orientation for best contrast of   viewing mediated screen during daytime
- U-shaped configuration open plaza towards harbour

Composition of the Two Public Faces

In this proposal, the government headquarters will have two major principal public faces to address the special location of the site between the city and the harbour. They are the institutional facade facing the city center and the mediated facade facing the urban civic plaza and opening up towards the natural harbour waterfront.

a) Institutional Facades Facing the City Center

When people approach the headquarters through the pedestrian footbridge link to the Transportation Terminal, they see the formal elevation of the complex. The government executive and administrative programs are on the top slab and will constitute the major southern facade. The major design issue for this face is more environmental and architectural tectonics oriented as a shading screen to protect from the southern sun. Underneath the central slab bar is the Info Gateway of the complex framed by the Legislative Council Chamber on the left and the government headquarters lobby shared with museums down below on the right. The Info Wing division of the government interlocks with the principal facade by punching through it and projecting outward.

b) Mediated Facades facing the Civic Plaza and the Panoramic View of the Harbour

The principal facade is the northern elevation which is appropriately and ideologically facing mainland China. The civic plaza with the principal northern facade is a backdrop, symbolically faces the principal elevation of the Imperial Palace and its civic square in Beijing. With the other two facades of the Info Wing and Entertainment Studio complex, these facades wrap around the open space and define the civic deck. These faces, in U-shape configuration, define the geometry and orientation of the civic deck. With the communicative facades and media screen installations, these elevations shape the character of the civic plaza and experiences of the visitors there.
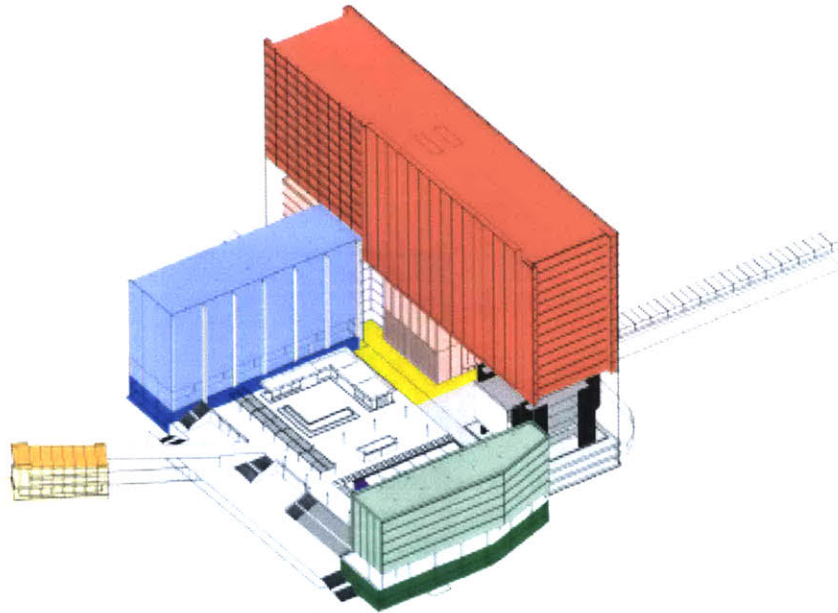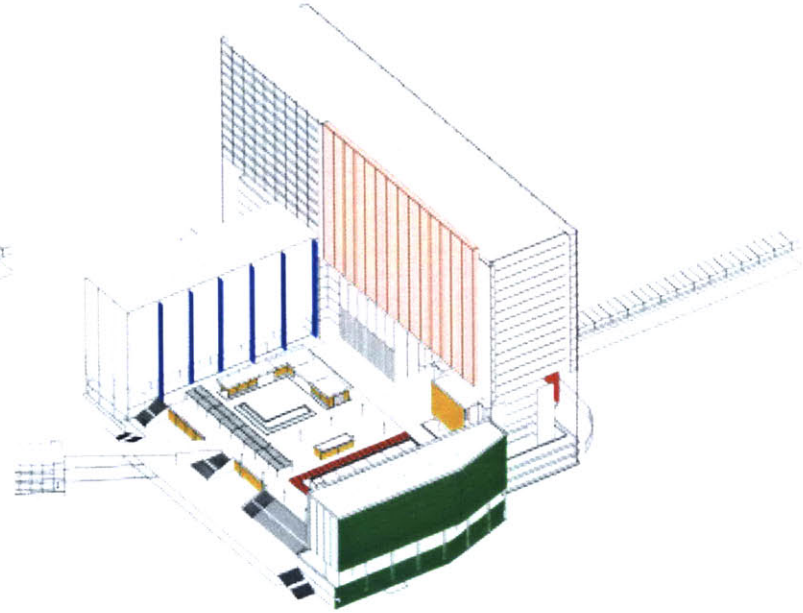
fig. 8.17

Information Space : Programming Allocations

fig. 8.18

Communicative Facade : Information Display Surfaces
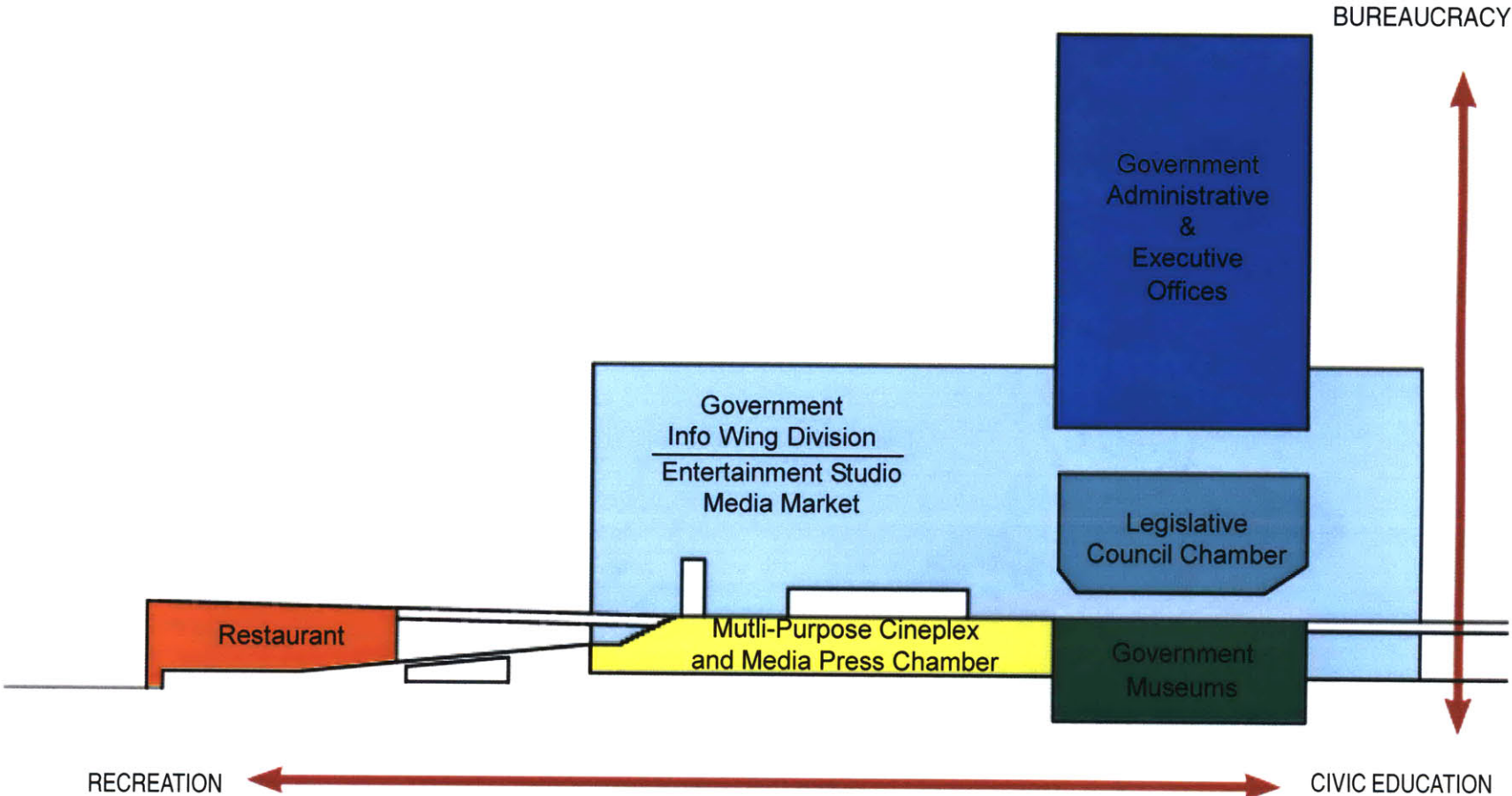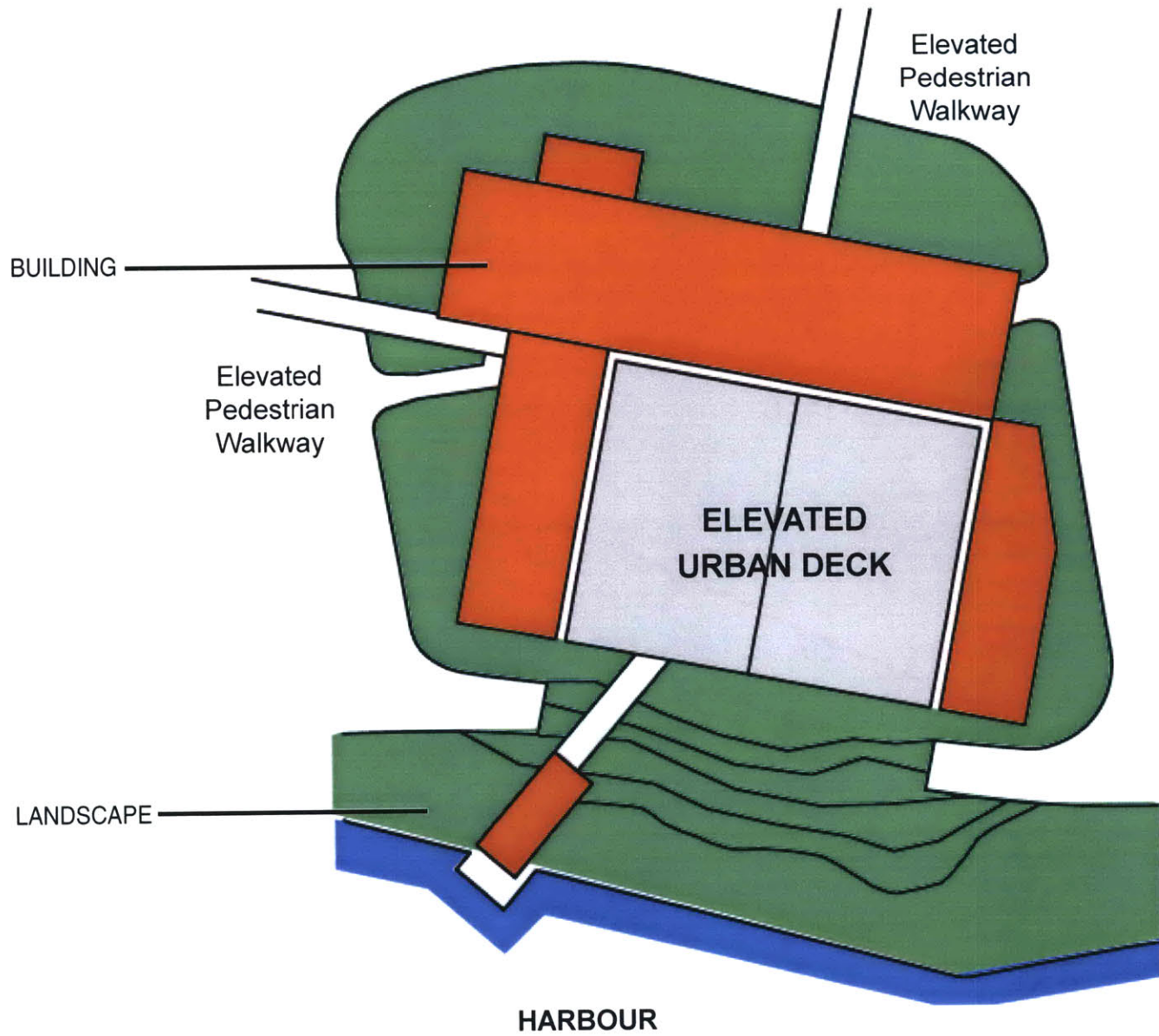
Spatial Organization

BUREAUCRACY

Government
Administrative
&
Executive
Offices

Government
Info Wing Division
Entertainment Studio
Media Market

Legislative
Council Chamber

Mutli-Purpose Cineplex
and Media Press Chamber

Restaurant

Government
Museums

RECREATION

CIVIC EDUCATION

fig. 8.19

Urban Massing

Elevated
Pedestrian
Walkway

BUILDING

Elevated
Pedestrian
Walkway

ELEVATED
URBAN DECK

LANDSCAPE

HARBOUR

fig. 8.20

Information Display

Urban Design and Architectural Strategy

Traditional
High-Rise
Podium Tower

Iconic
Roof
Form

Building
Height &
Surface
Treatment

MEDIA SCREEN

Info-tainment
Headquarters

Kowloon   Victoria Harbour   Hong Kong Island

fig. 8.21

Mediated Square

Institutional Facade

Institutioinal Facade

Information Space

Information Space

CommunicativeFacade

Media Facade

MEDIATED SQUARE

Media Facade

Information Space

MEDIA FACADE

INSTITUTIONAL FACADE

Information Space

Media Facade

MEDIATED SQUARE

Information Space

Media Info Deck

Information Space

fig. 8.22

Circulation Pattern

Elevated
Pedestrian
Walkway

Elevated
Pedestrian
Walkway
connected
to existing
footbridge

Civil Servants
Vehicualr Entry

Chief Executive Secured
Vehicular Drop-Off Entry

Public Transportation
Drop-Off Zone

Harbour

Vehicular Entry

Pedestrian Entry

Vehicular Circulation

Urban Deck Level
Pedestrian Circulation

Ground Level
Pedestrian Circulation

fig. 8.23

Zoning Pattern

■ Private Zone

■ Public Zone

□ Pedestrian Zone

□ Vehicular Zone

Extended Urban Deck

Elevated
Walkway

Podium
Base

Harbour

Tunnel

Road

Road

Road
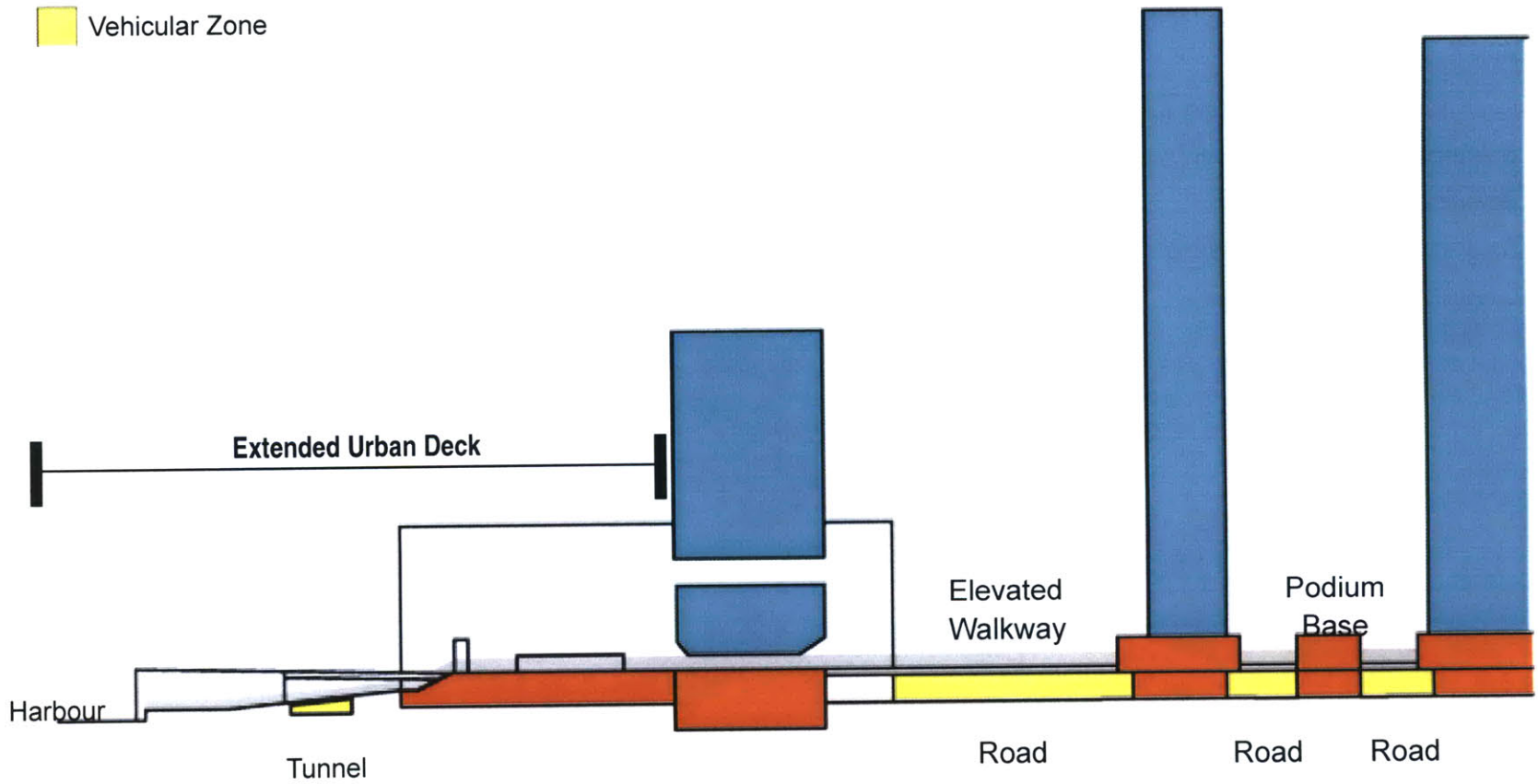
fig. 8.24

Public and Private Programmatic Uses

- Government Executive / Administrative Offices
- Government Main Entrance Lobby shared with Museums
- Harbour View Observation Deck / Viewing Platform
- Waterfront Restaurant / Food Court
- Privatized Entertainment Studio / News Stations
- Privatized Media Market
- Legislative Council Chamber / Offices & Conference Rooms
- Government Library / Publication Center
- Government Info Wing Division
- Government Educational Museums
- Government Media Press Gallery / Conference Center
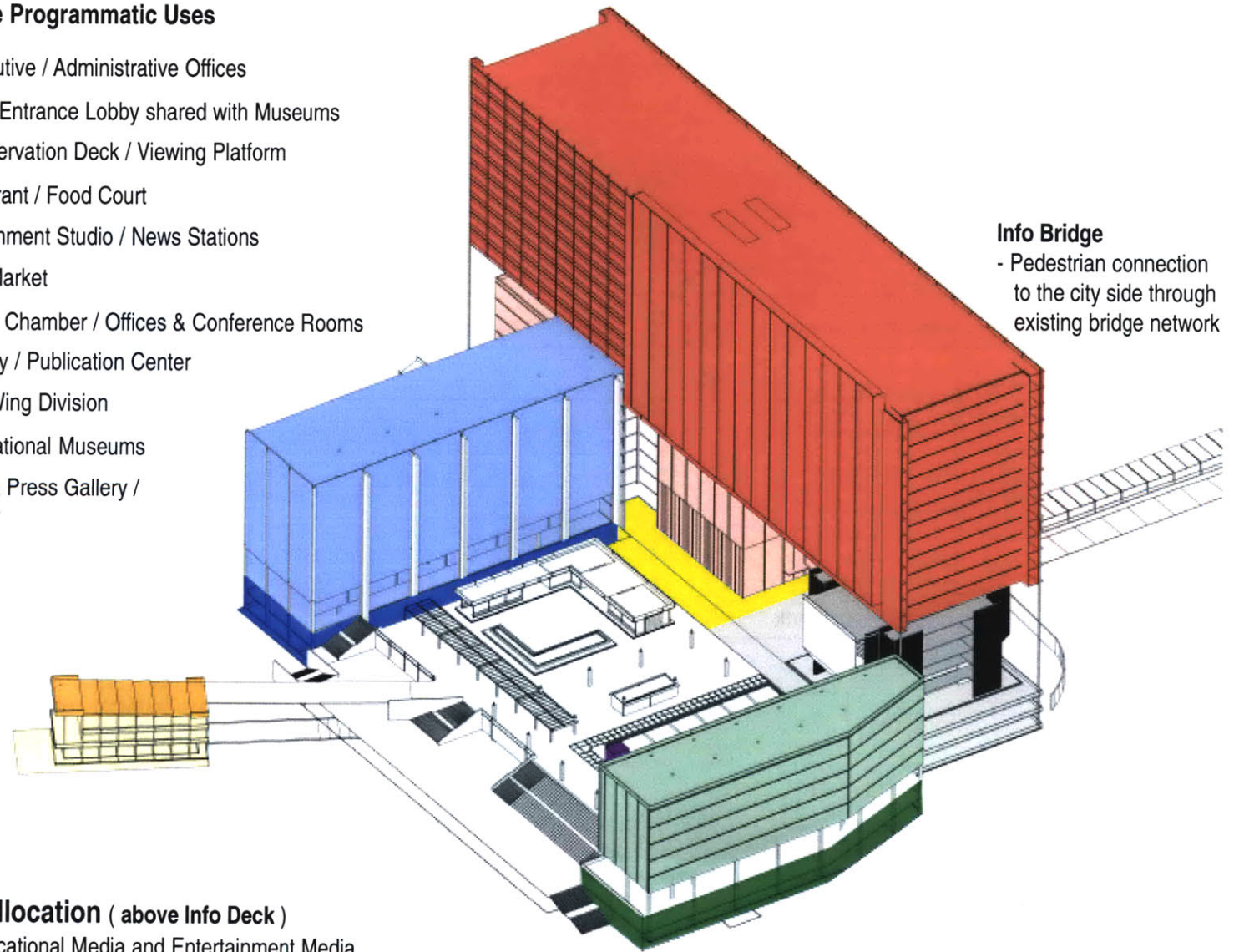
Info Bridge
- Pedestrian connection to the city side through existing bridge network

fig. 8.25

Programming Allocation (above Info Deck)
- Political Media, Educational Media and Entertainment Media

Ground Floor Level Vehicular Access Point

1. Chief executive and high rank officers
   Formal entrance / drop-off and parking entrance
2. Civil servants parking entrance - weekdays
   Public parking entrance - weekdays
3. Public transportation drop-off point
   Tourist bus, bus and taxi
4. Sunken waterfront vehicular highway
   under structural landscape deck

Land and City
- Vehicular Highways

Water and Harbour
- Vehicular Highways
- Green Strip Open Space

fig. 8.26

Green Landscape
A. Inner outdoor cafe and museum garden
   landscaping bounded by acoustic wall
B. Structural landscape deck and terraces
   with seating areas overlooking the harbour

Programming Allocation (below Info Deck)
- Political Media, Educational Media and Entertainment Media
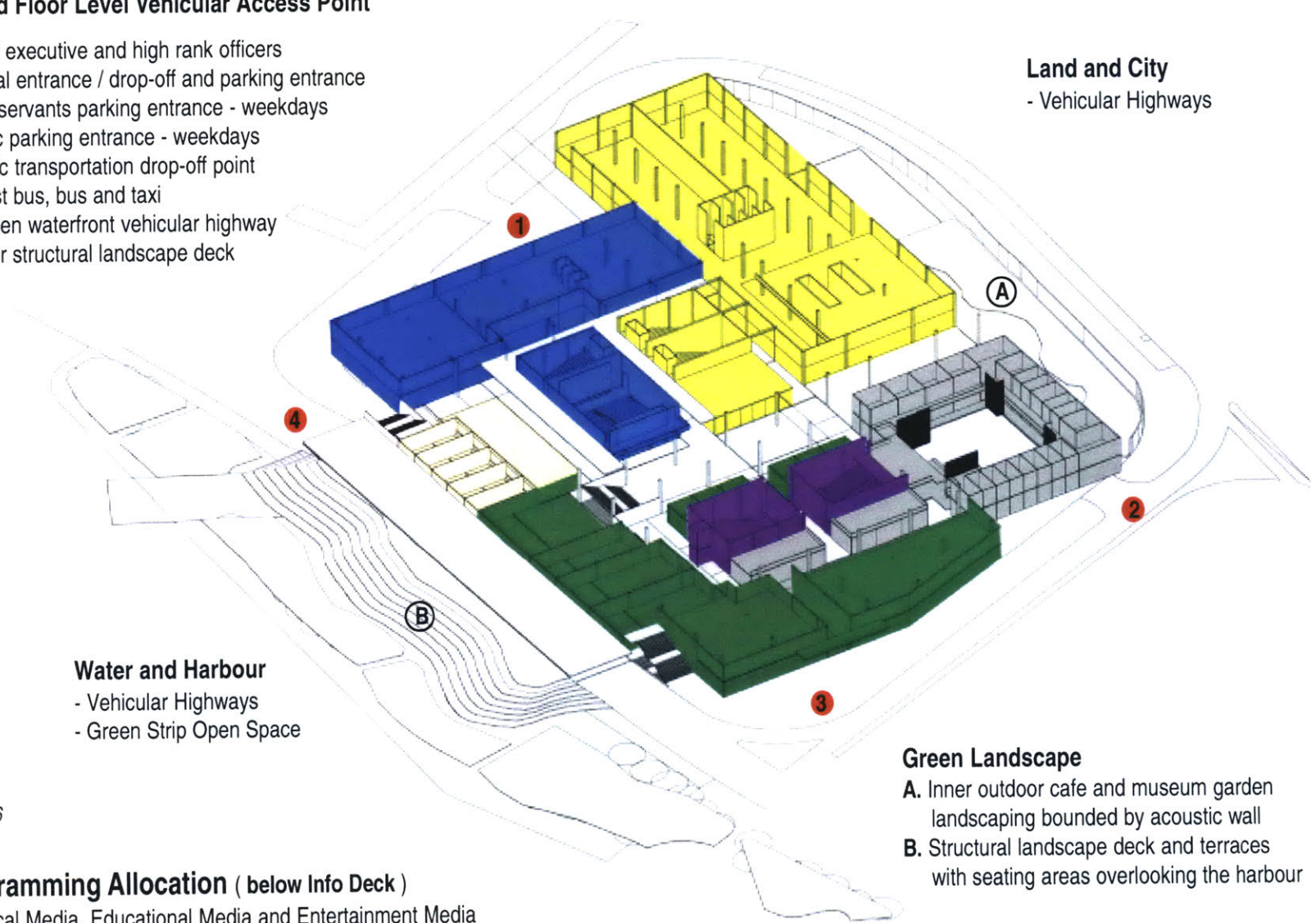
Different Surfaces of Communicative Facades

Ambient room lighting fixture / changable blinds with patterns
Projected cantlivered egg-crate applied screen facade
Programmable spot lighting and ambient lighting

Rollable / rotatable advertising billboards / silk printing fabric
Neon sign light panel installation

Overhead rear or front projection display screen
Digitized or translucent glazing surface panels
LED / LCD / Holopro Installation panels

West facing structural vertical fins
with 5' wide surface mounted opaque LED panels

Computerized Floor Surface Panels
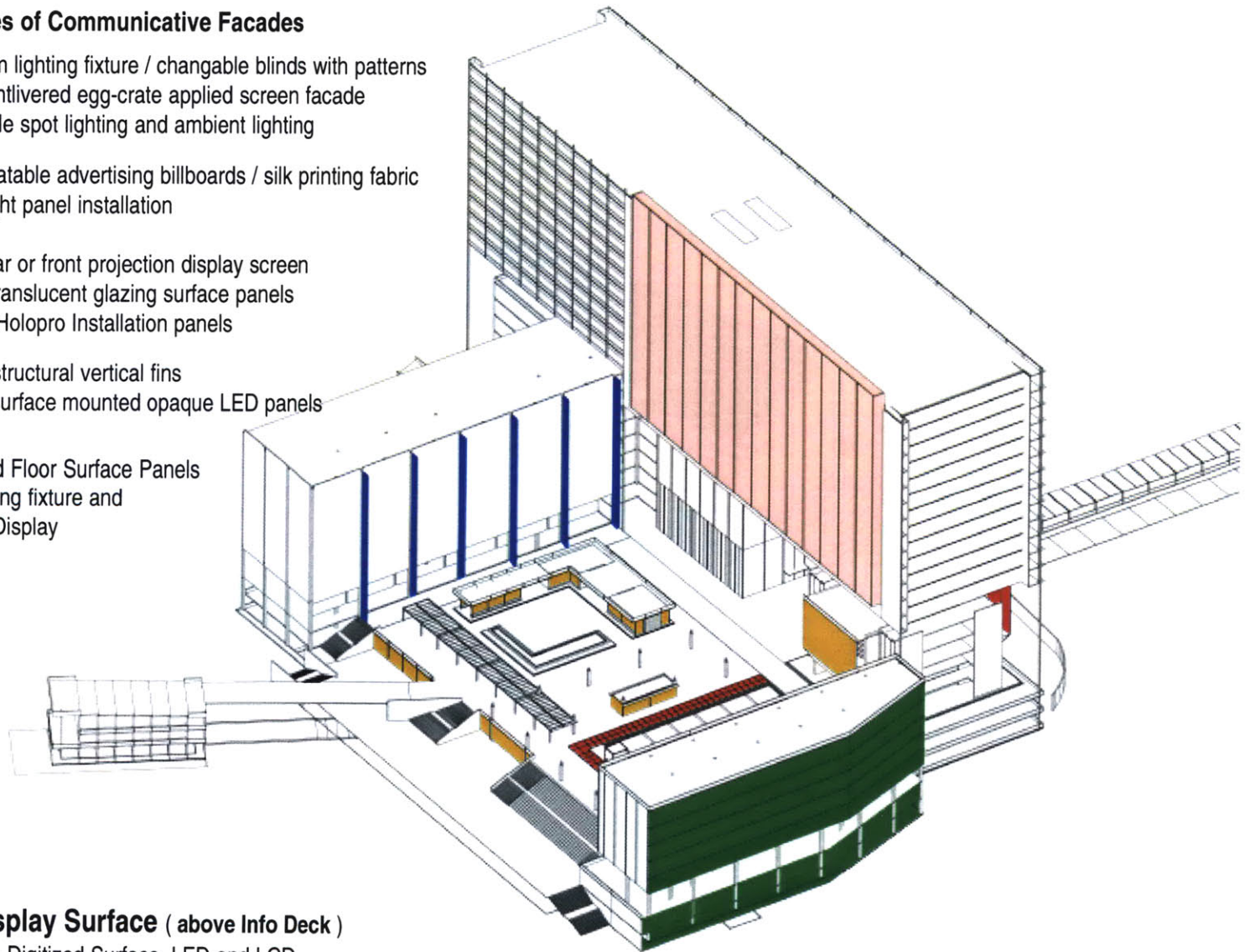Outdoor lighting fixture and
Information Display

fig. 8.27

Information Display Surface (above Info Deck)
- Projection, Display, Digitized Surface, LED and LCD

Ground Floor Level Vehicular Access Point

1. Info Deck Main Entrance Lobby with
   horizontal mediated walkable floor surface
   Transparent glazing with computerized
   projectors installed below

2. Advertising panel installations
   along the sunken tunnel surfaces

Acoustic Boundary Wall with Exterior Media Panel
- protect the inner cafe and museum garden landscaping
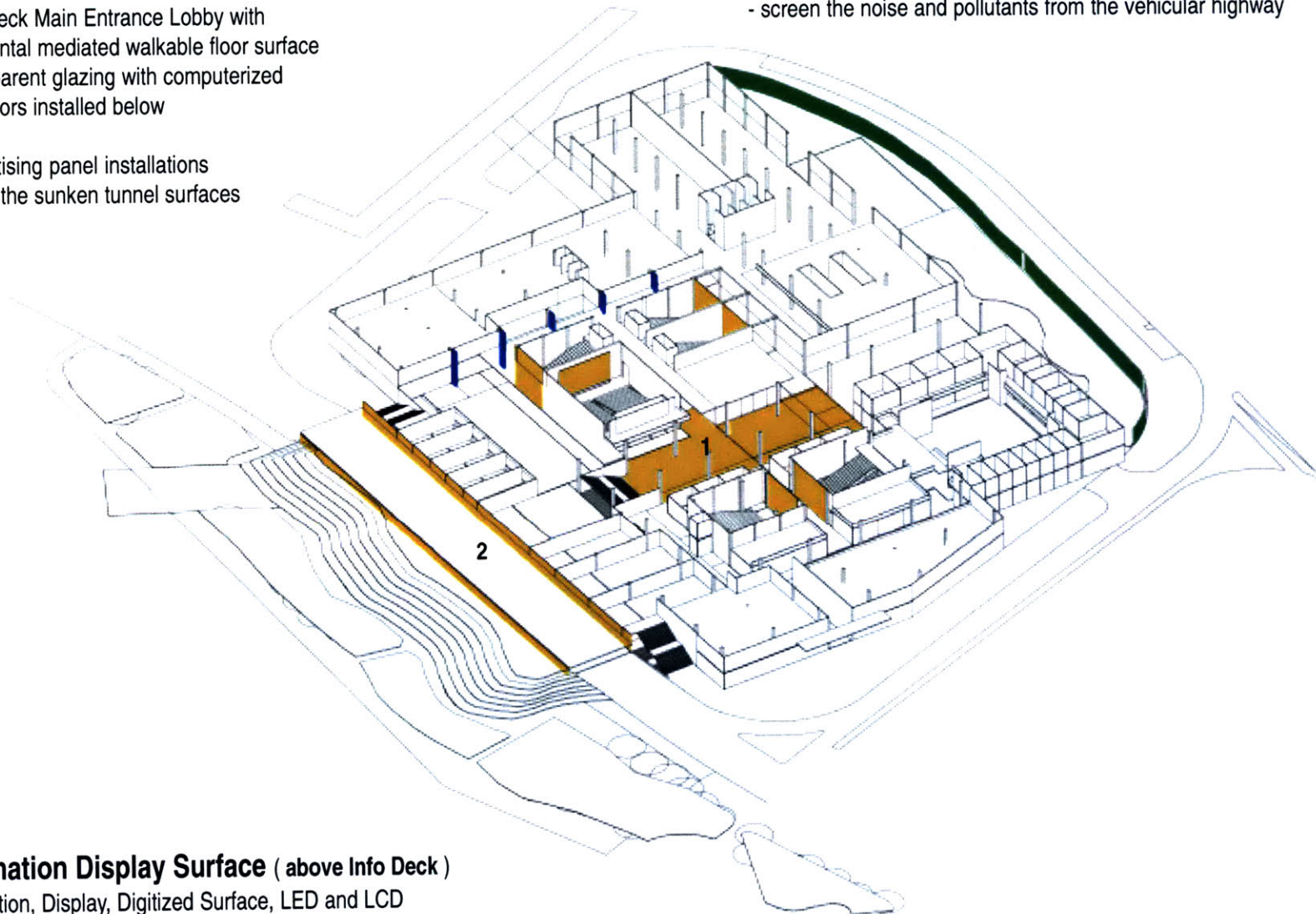- screen the noise and pollutants from the vehicular highway

fig. 8.28

Information Display Surface (above Info Deck)
- Projection, Display, Digitized Surface, LED and LCD

fig. 9.1

fig. 9.2

fig. 9.3

Final Presentation

- Master Plan and Site Plan
Urban Harbour Waterfront

- Building Plans and Axonometric Diagrams
Info Deck Level with adjacent Context
Programming Distribution and Architectural Surface Treatment of Information Display Surface

- Building Sections with Site Context
across the Legislative Council Chamber and the Political News Media Mounment
across the Government Main Lobby and the Waterfront Harbour View Restaurant
across the Info Wing and Entertainment Studio

- Perspective Collages of Mediated Scenarios and Animinated Setting
Mediated Legislative Council Session: Presentation, Discussion, Debate, Voting and Teleconferencing
Mediated Civic Actions : Political Demonstrations and Petitions by Citizens
Pedestrian Connection between the City and Harbour through the Info Bridge and the Info Gateway
Pedestrian Connection between the Info Deck Level and the Harbour Waterfront through the Structural Landscape Deck
Mediated Urban Entertainment and Outdoor Cinematic Performance
Animinated Civic Colonnade underneath Info Wing

- Presentation Models
1:50'   Overall Urban Massing Site Model
1:16'   Architectural Building Model with Info Deck

- Computer Renderings
Aerial Views of Daytime and Night time Scenery
Closeup Perspectives of the Civic Plaza Info Deck

fig. 9.4

Mediated Urban Civic Space
Info Deck of the New Hong Kong SAR Government Headquarters

After being a British colony for more than hundred years, Hong Kong was finally handover back to China on 1st July 1997. It was definitely a historic moment for both mainland China to resume her Sovereignty and Hong Kong to have a new identity as Special Administrative Region. Hong Kong SAR has determined to build a New Government Headquarters for the Office of Chief Executive and entire team of civil servants. It will also be the permanent seat of the Legislative Council Chamber, which will uphold and challenge the new Constitutional Order - Basic Law.

The New Headquarters complex obviously will be frequently referred as a symbol. But a symbol of what ? Of the new transition era under the identity of HKSAR? Of the termination / downfall of the British Colonial Legacy? Of the new relationship with mainland China? Or of the new Constitutional Order - Basic Law, which is "One Country, Two System" as proposed by Chinese past leader Mr. Deng? Isn't it should be an architectural landmark of its time? Absolutely, the New Legislative Council and new HKSAR Government Headquarters will become a symbol for many unresolved issues of a divided China nation and the imposed new constitution. This new political 'capital' has to accommodate both participatory democracy and representative democracy. Otherwise, it will not be a true forum to achieve real democratic Constitution.
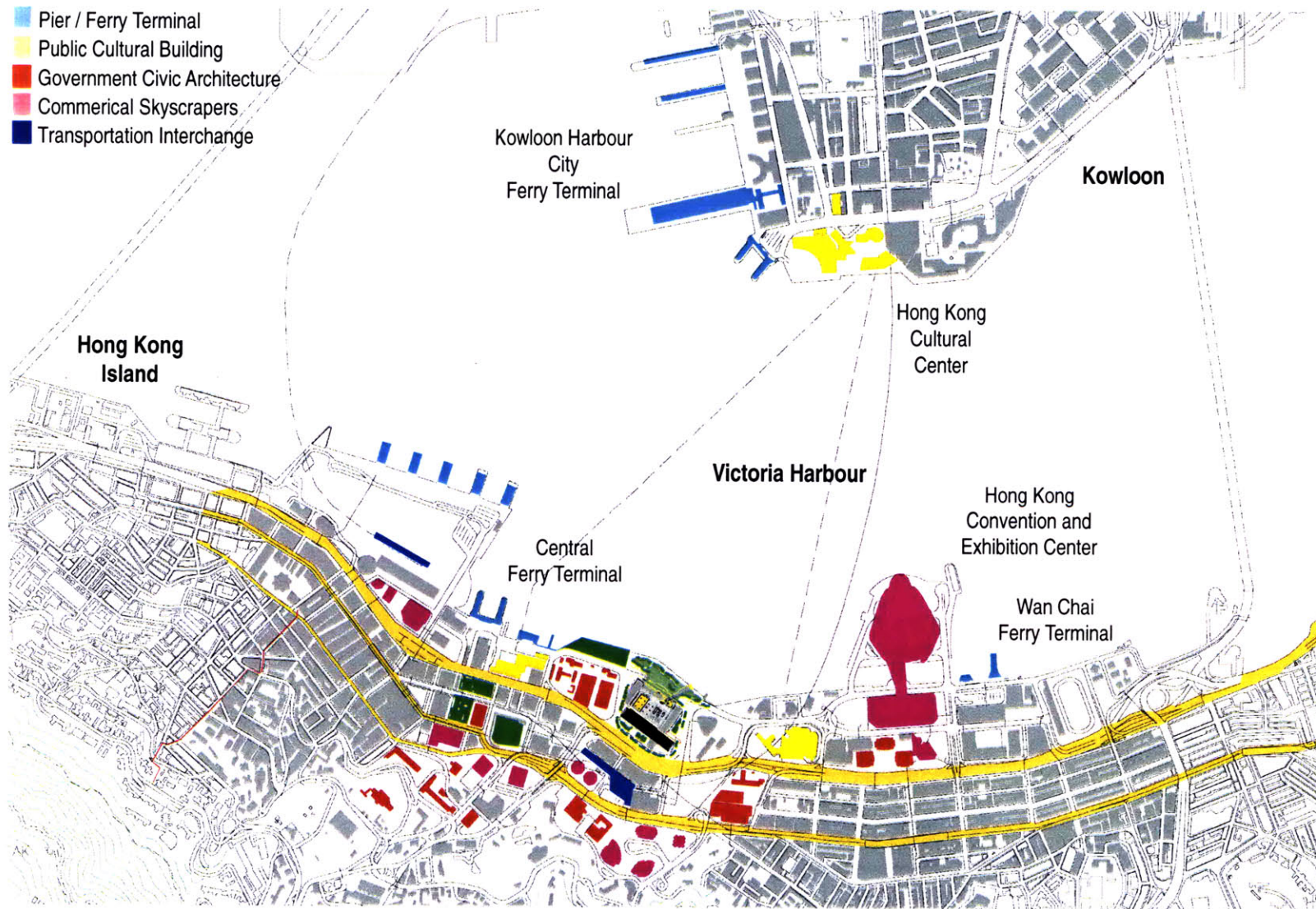
On the other hand, Contemporary Media and Government are getting closer and closer to each other that they can no longer be separated. They are mutually dependent and beneficial in this synergy. Government needs media ideologically and technologically to publicize. On the other side, privatized media want to have closer proximity politically and physically to the government. But there is also simultaneously tension and confrontation among themselves since they are also monitoring and censoring each other. From this perspective, it should be an information symbol, a symbolic architectural icon and also a civic urban narrative to both Hong Kong Citizens and China in which democracy, peace, personal liberty and social justice would be able to exist side by side.

The Fruitful interconnection of the Media and Government is particular emerging and entirely evident in both politics and contemporary civic architecture and municipal plaza. The thesis is based on the concept of integrating different Media (Government Media, Privatized Political Media and Privatized Entertainment / Educational Media) into Civic Architecture to aim for a more democratic institution both operationally and perceptually. Besides, media will revitalize the civic square and transform its image to be a more active and lively plaza. Its synthesis will challenge the conservative concept of traditional political domain, information territory and architectural institutional building typology. It reflects the Hong Kong and its government history, its present and its future will urban strategies, architectural means and media technologies.

Of course, the new Headquarters is a Symbol. But it is an ambiguous and controversial one. It is a symbol for all the ambivalence and ambiguity of Hong Kong History and her Future in this information era and telecommunication dynasty and unique political climate.

fig. 9.5

Pier / Ferry Terminal
Public Cultural Building
Government Civic Architecture
Commerical Skyscrapers
Transportation Interchange

Kowloon Harbour
City
Ferry Terminal

Kowloon

Hong Kong
Cultural
Center

Hong Kong
Island

Victoria Harbour

Hong Kong
Convention and
Exhibition Center

Central
Ferry Terminal

Wan Chai
Ferry Terminal

Overall Master Plan of Hong Kong : Prominent Waterfront Site Location
- Vertical Mask and Horizontal Stage of the Hong Kong Government Headquarters for Symbolic Representation and Interactive Communication

fig. 9.6

fig. 9.7

Master Site Plan of Design Proposal in Central and Wan Chai Waterfront
Overlaying of Different Site Operating Systems :
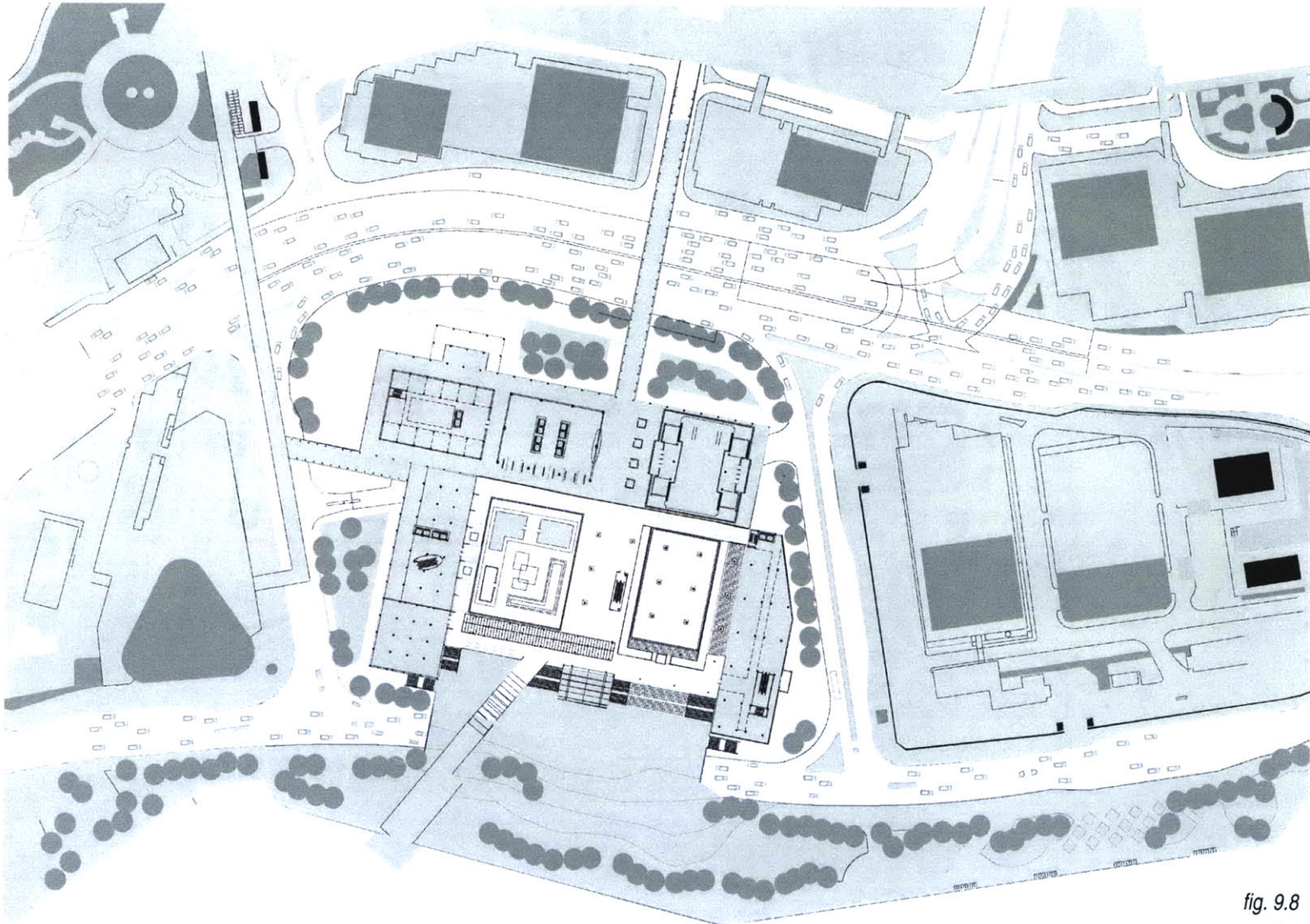Urban massing pattern, open space distribution, pedestrian network system and the vehicular highway

fig. 9.8

Overall Site Plan of the Government Civic Plaza - Info Deck Level (+ 32')
- Central focus of the Info Deck is defined by surrounding government information spaces and communicative facades
- Connection of the Civic Plaza with the pedestrian footbridge system and the waterfront green strip open space landscape
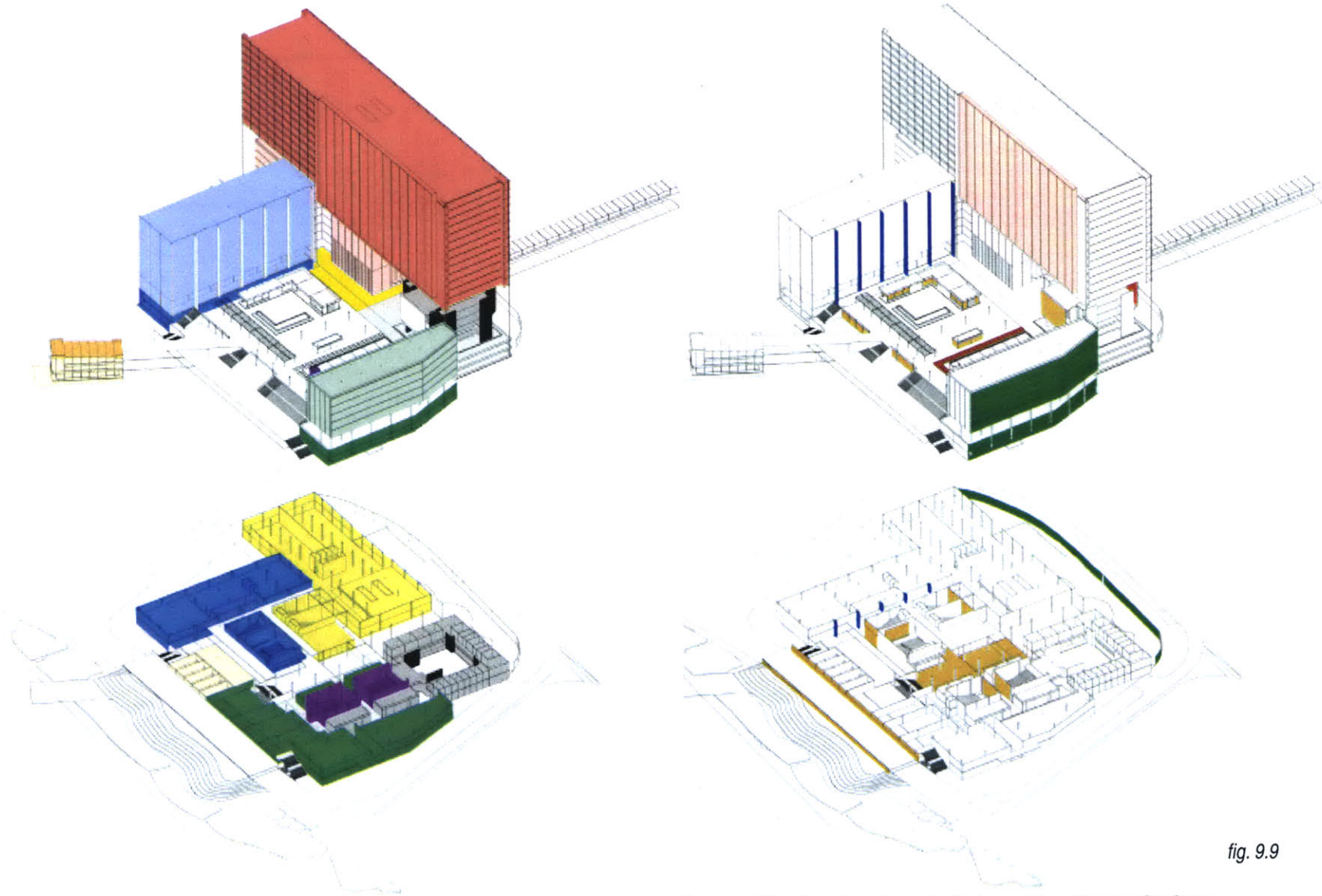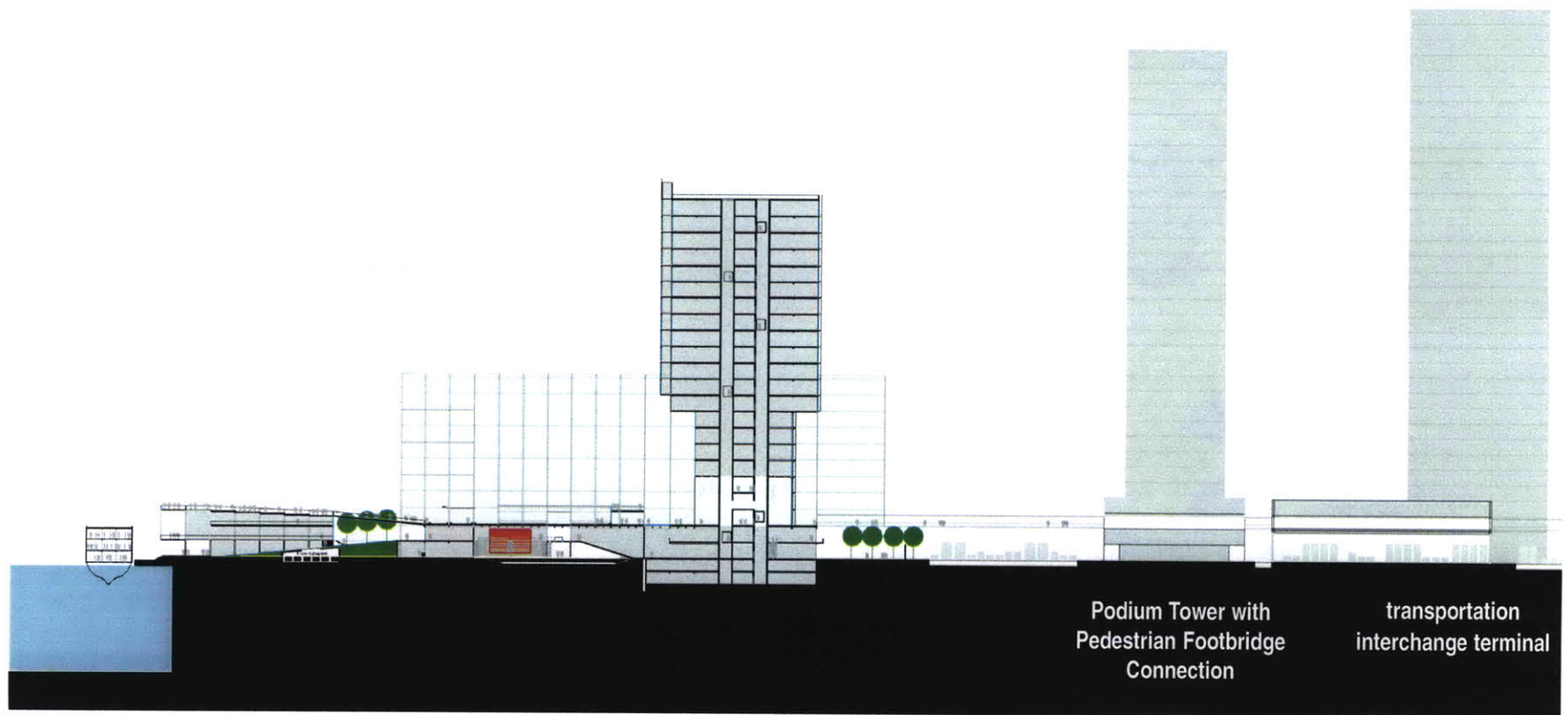
fig. 9.9

Axonometric Diagrams of the Programming Distributiion and Architectural Surface Treatment of Information Display Surface

Podium Tower with Pedestrian Footbridge Connection

transportation interchange terminal

Overall Site Section across the Government Main Lobby shared with educational museums down below

- Extension of the Info Deck to the Waterfront through the observation deck, harbour view restaurant and the landscape terraces
- Interlocking relationship of the horizontal bar Info Wing and the vertical screen of the government executive and administrative offices
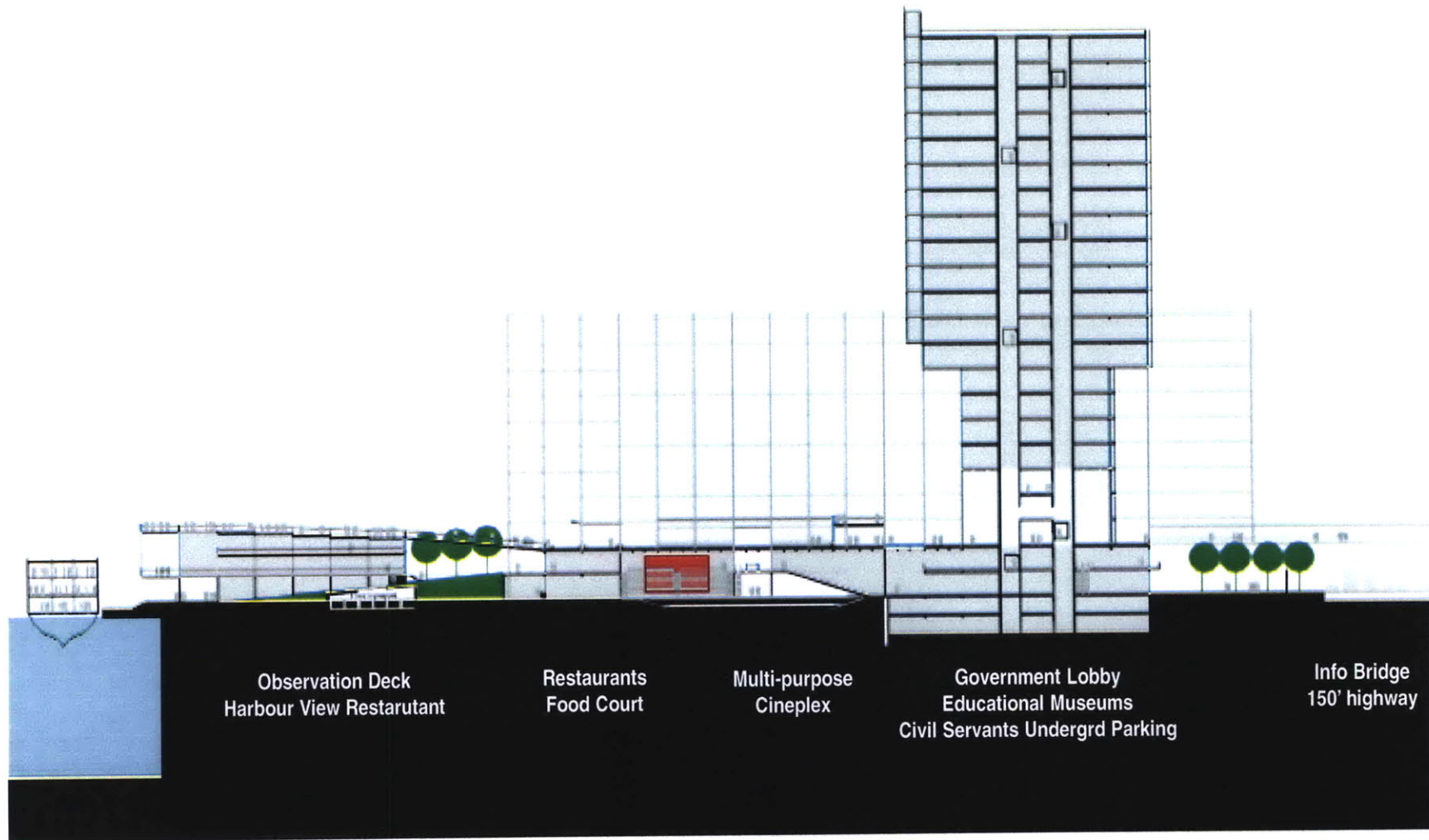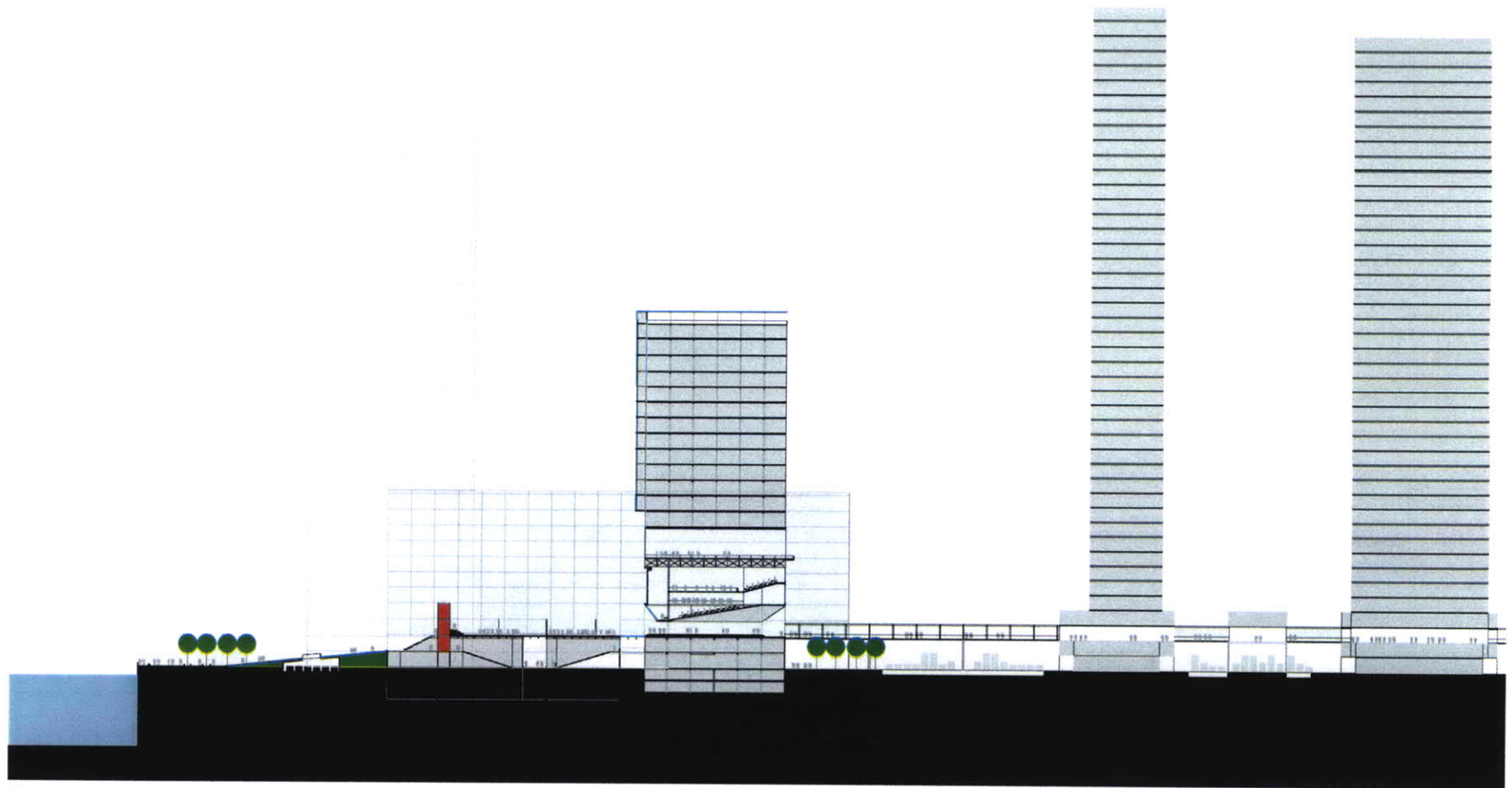
fig. 9.10

122 | final design

Observation Deck
Harbour View Restarutant

Restaurants
Food Court

Multi-purpose
Cineplex

Government Lobby
Educational Museums
Civil Servants Undergrd Parking

Info Bridge
150' highway

fig. 9.11

Building Section across the Government Main Lobby and Harbour waterfront restaurant
- Multi-purpose Cineplex underneath the Info Deck : Daytime educational museum theater, government library lecture hall and nighttime cinema

Overall Site Section across the Legislative Council Chamber and the Media Monument
- Gateway of the Government Headquarters: Extension of the Info Bridge from the Transportation Interchange Terminal

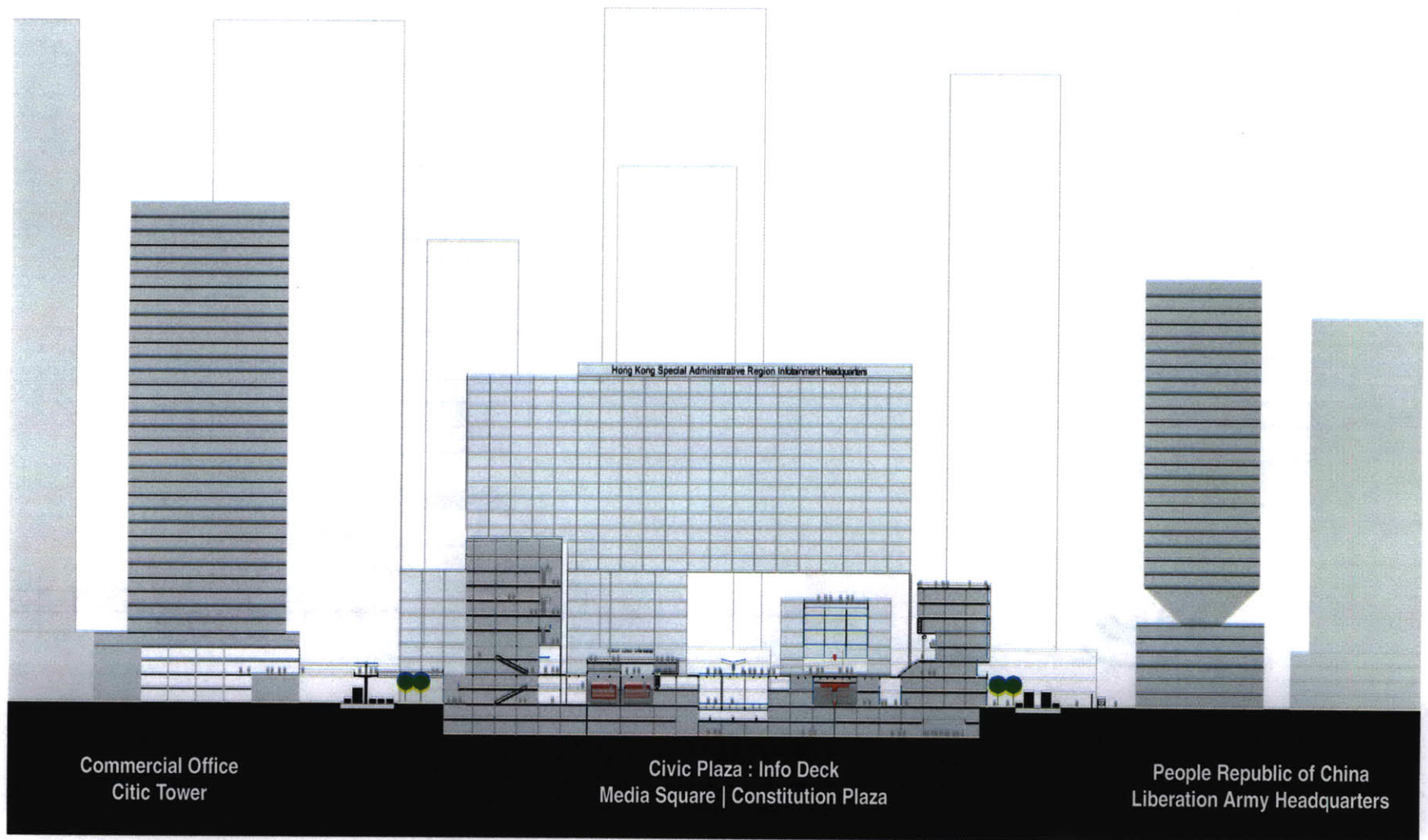*fig. 9.12*
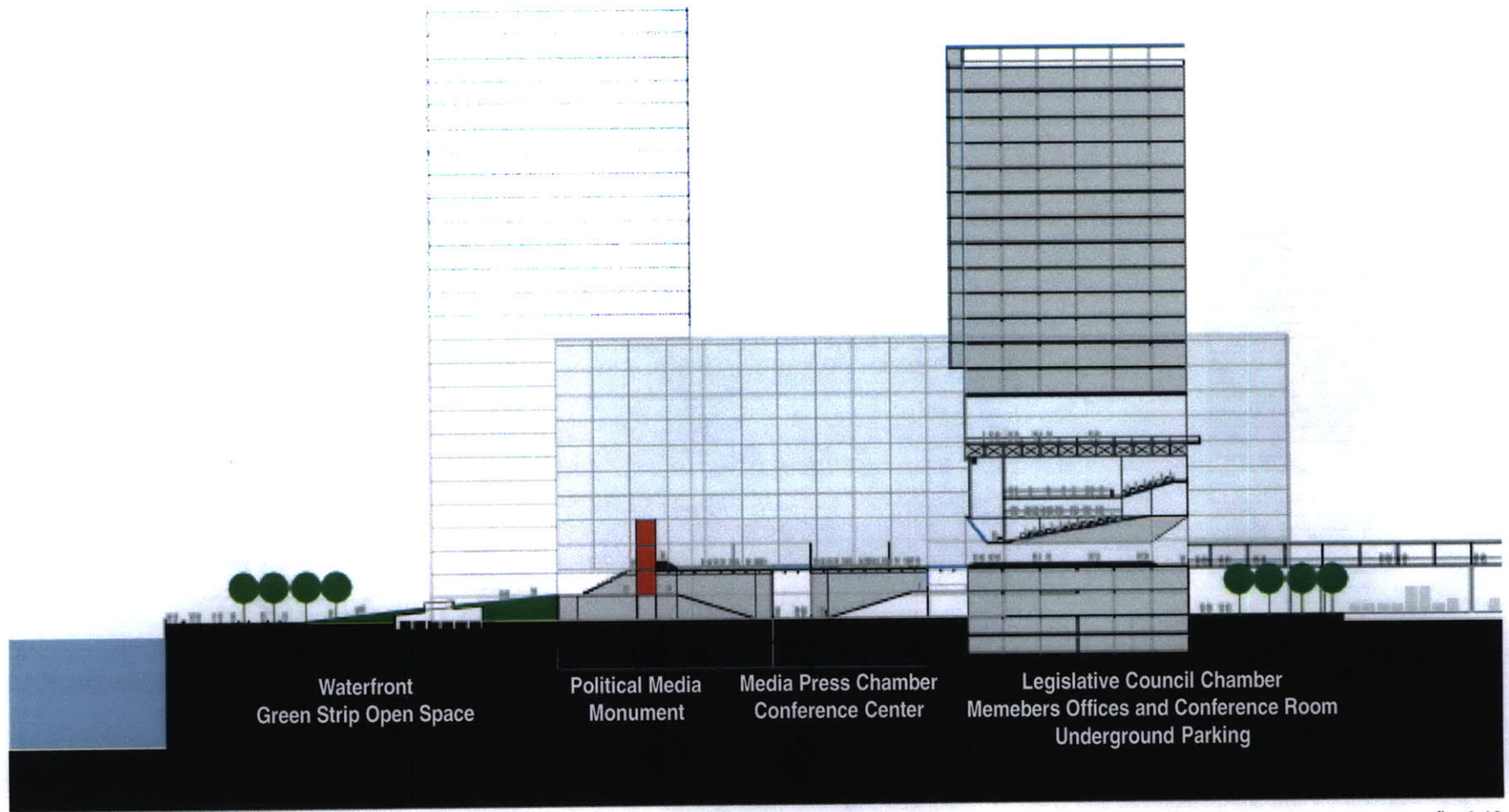
Waterfront
Green Strip Open Space

Political Media
Monument

Media Press Chamber
Conference Center

Legislative Council Chamber
Memebers Offices and Conference Room
Underground Parking

fig. 9.13

Building Section across the Legislative Council Chamber, Media Press Chamber and the Political Media Mounment

Overall Site Section across the Government Info Wing and Entertainment Studio
- Composition of the government headquarters principal facade with the backdrop of the commercial skyscrapers behind
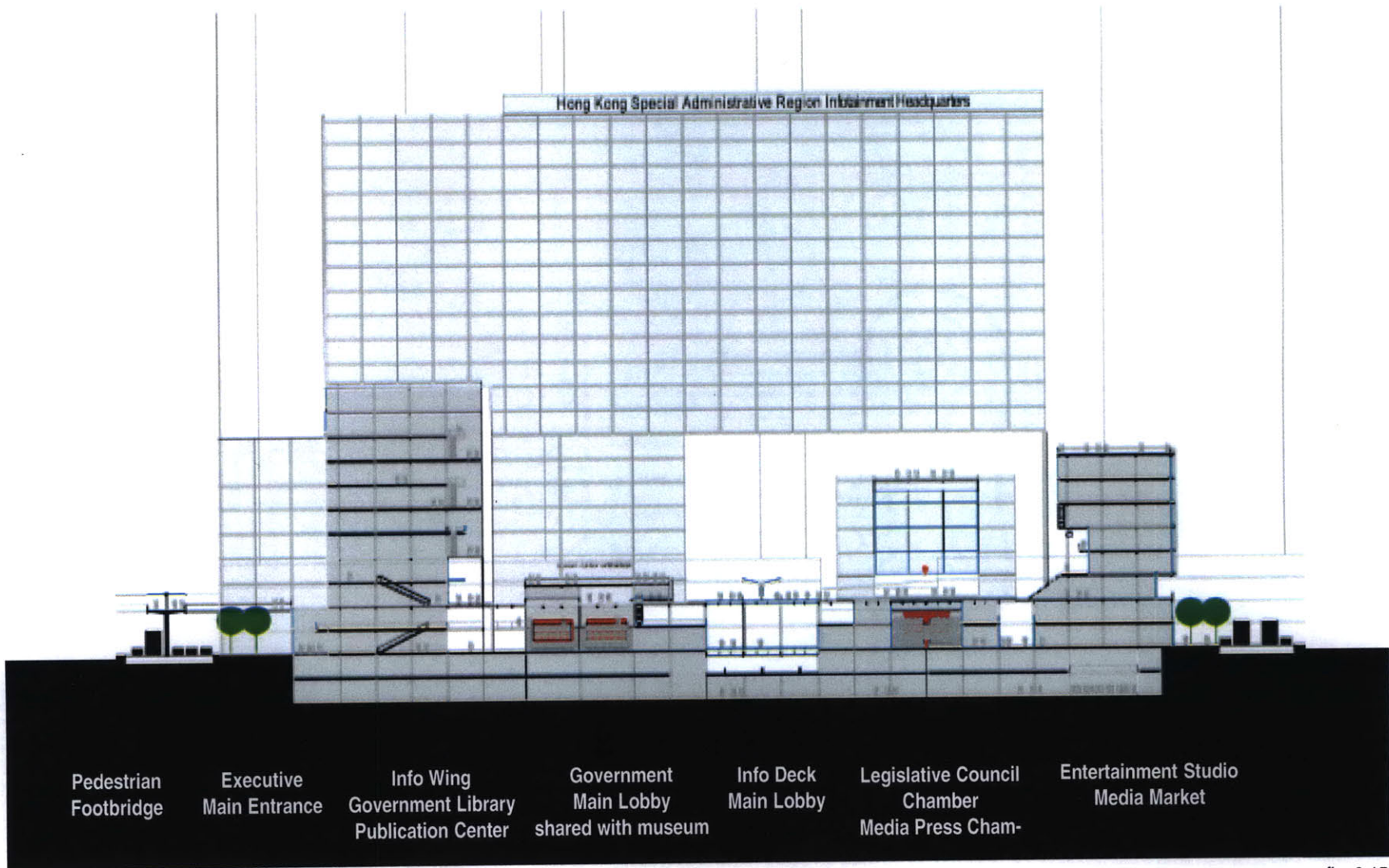- Horizontal picture frame composition as part of the urban panoramic elevation along the harbour waterfront

fig. 9.14

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Infotainment Headquarters

| Pedestrian Footbridge | Executive Main Entrance | Info Wing Government Library Publication Center | Government Main Lobby shared with museum | Info Deck Main Lobby | Legislative Council Chamber Media Press Cham- | Entertainment Studio Media Market |

fig. 9.15

Building Section across the Info Wing and Entertainment Studio
- Civic Plaza Info Deck has three side of mediated facades with one side opens up towards the unanimated harbour waterfront natural scenery
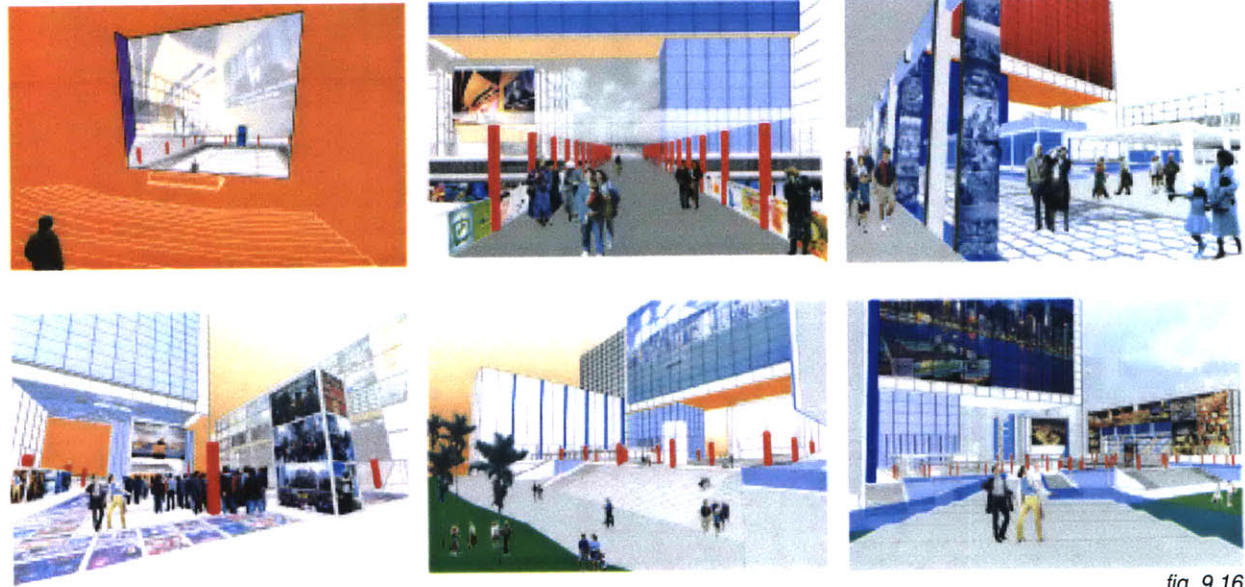
fig. 9.16

Mediated Urban Civic Space - Info Deck of the Hong Kong Government Headquarters
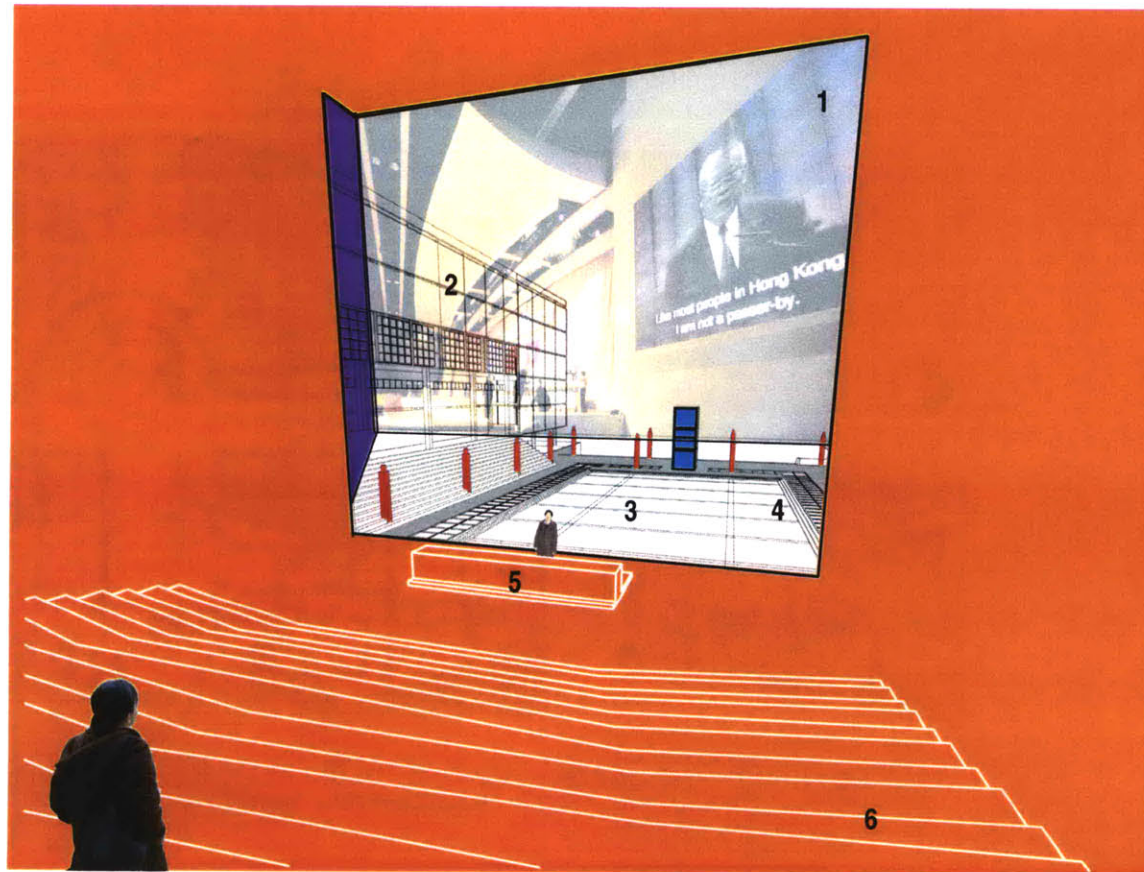M.Arch Thesis 2001   Tak-Wing Louie

fig. 9.17

Mediated Legislative Council Session: Presentation, Discussion, Debate, Voting and Teleconferencing
Perspective view from the interior of Legislative Council Chamber looking down towards the Constitution Square of the Info Deck through the digitized projection screen and the tilted transparent glazing.

1. HoloPro digitized projection transparent screen for debate and voting
2. Entertainment Studios for TV, radio and internet (live / recording)
3. Constitutional Square for political civic functions and entertainment activities
4. Tilted Transparent Glazing for visual connection between legislative council members and citizens on the Info Deck
5. Chief Executive and Council Chairman Desk
6. Legislative Council Chamber members' seating area

fig. 9.18

Mediated Civic Actions : Political Demonstrations and Petitions by Citizens

Perspective view from the Constitution Square of the Info Deck looking back towards the Legislative Council Chamber

1. Legislative Council Chamber with live broadcast of the interior setting

2. Independent Media Mounment : Media booth for political news and civic information

3. Digitized panel surfaces with public terminal access points for citizens to plug in laptop and logon. (downloading & uploading information)

4. Info Deck main entrance pavilion, leading to the multi-purpose cineplex down below, with cineplex marquee installation

5. Info Gateway connecting to the Info Bridge beyond

6. Info Column for suspending tension cables for fabric shelter installation and outdoor lighting fixtures
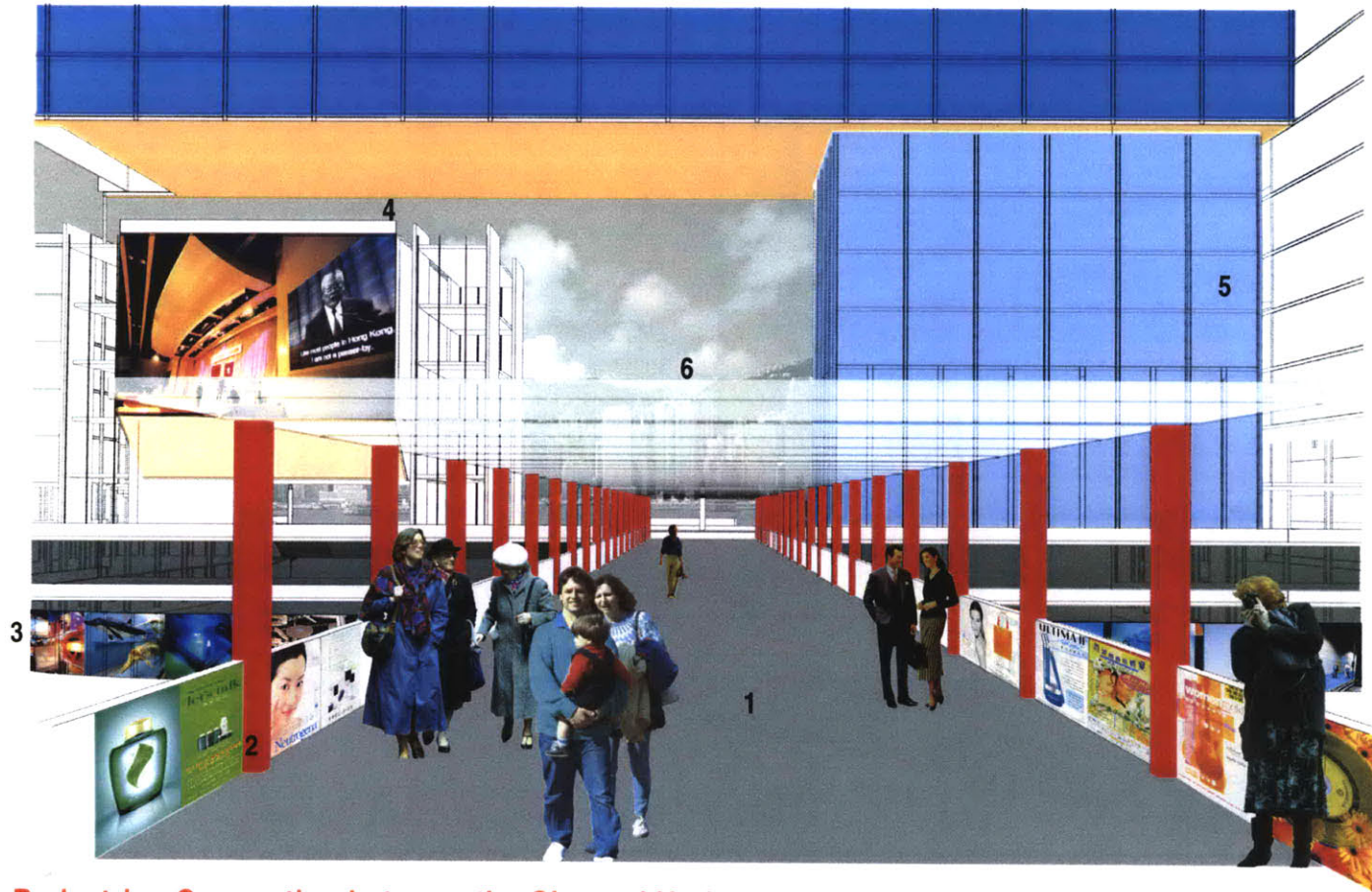
fig. 9.19

Pedestrian Connection between the City and Harbour through the Info Bridge and the Info Gateway

Perspective view from pedestrian footbridge looking towards the harbour through the opening framed by
the Legislative Council Chamer and the Government Lobby shared with Educational Museums

1. Pedestrian bridge extension from the transportation interchange
   terminal to the museum deck, right above the highway
2. Changable installation : Mountable advertizing panels
3. Acoustic boundary wall with museum advertising panels for highway
   vehicular traffic

4. Legislative Council Chamber (Back Elevation)
5. Government Main Lobby shared with museums and Info Wing
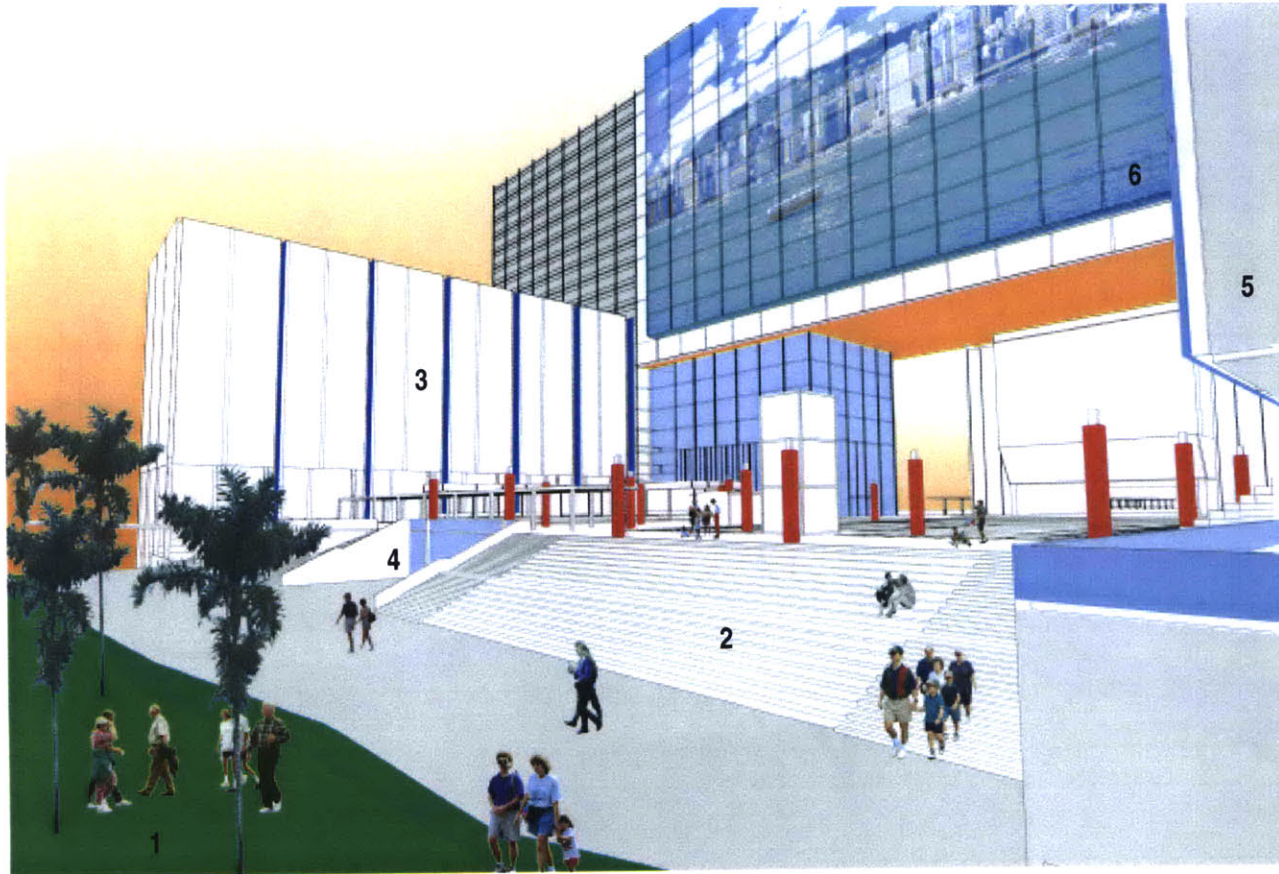6. Victoria Harbour and Kowloon wateredge

fig. 9.20

Pedestrian Connection between the Upper Info Deck Level and the Lower Harbour Waterfront through the Structural Landscape Deck

Perspective view from the waterfront green landscape looking at the principal facade
and the step seating terrace leading to the Info Deck level

1. Structural landscape deck above the highway sunken tunnel
2. Step seating areas overlooking the Victoria Harbour
3. Info Wing Division (News, Statistics, Public Relationship, Information Technology and Broadcasting Department)

4. Main entrance to the Media Mall and Cineplex under Info Deck
5. Entertainment Studios for TV, radio and internet channels
6. Cantilevered Government Headquarters projected facade with programmable interior lighting fixtures and changable blinds / curtains
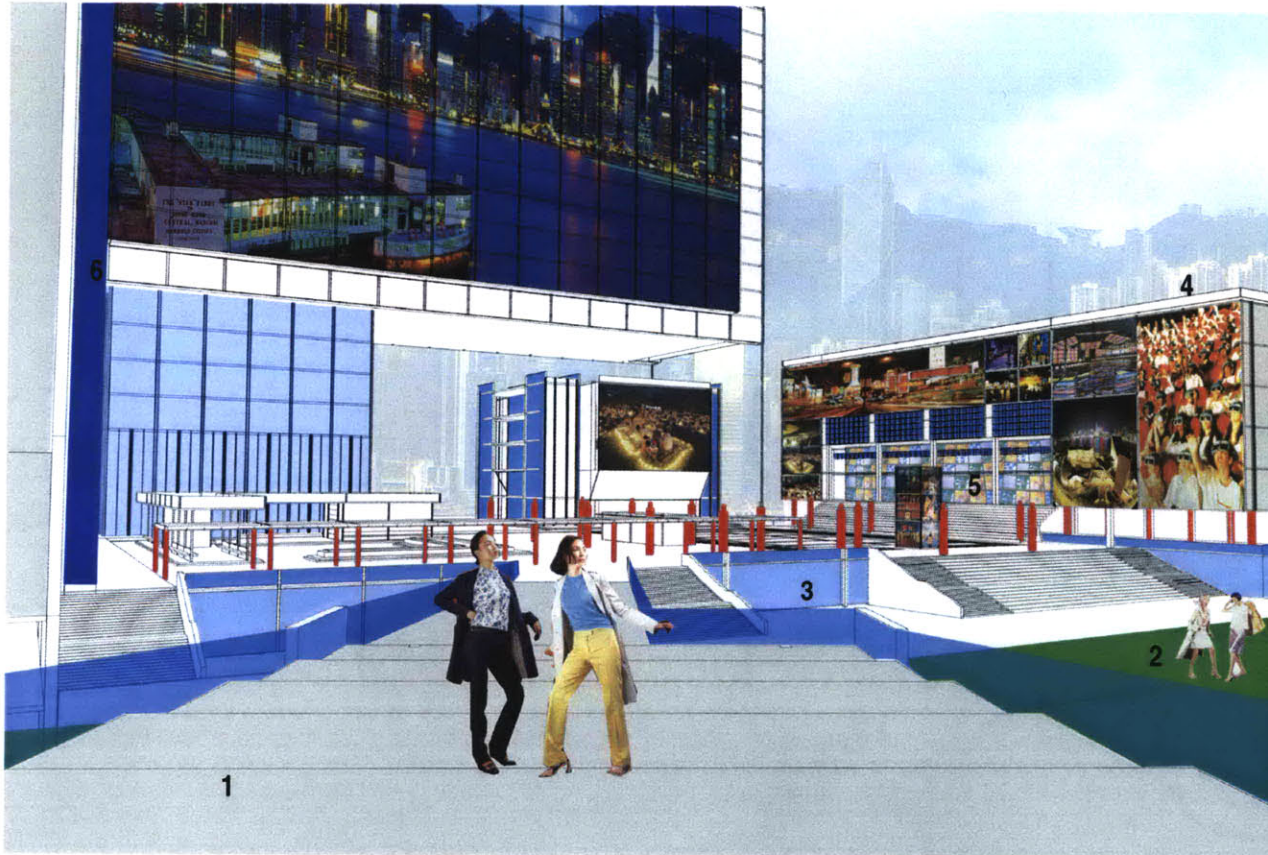
fig. 9.21

Mediated Urban Entertainment and Outdoor Cinematic Performance
**Perspective view from the observation deck and viewing platform above the harbour view restaurant
looking back towards the Info Deck and Entertainment Studio**

1. Extension walkway and viewing deck above harbour view restaurant
2. Structural landscape deck above the tunnel of the highway
3. Main entrance to the Info Deck and Media Mall from the landscape deck

4. Entertainment Studio with the Mega Advertising Billboards
5. Studio Main Entrance with TV video wall and hanging TV installations
6. Info Wing LED vertical fin installations all the way down to government library and cineplex down below the deck

fig. 9.22
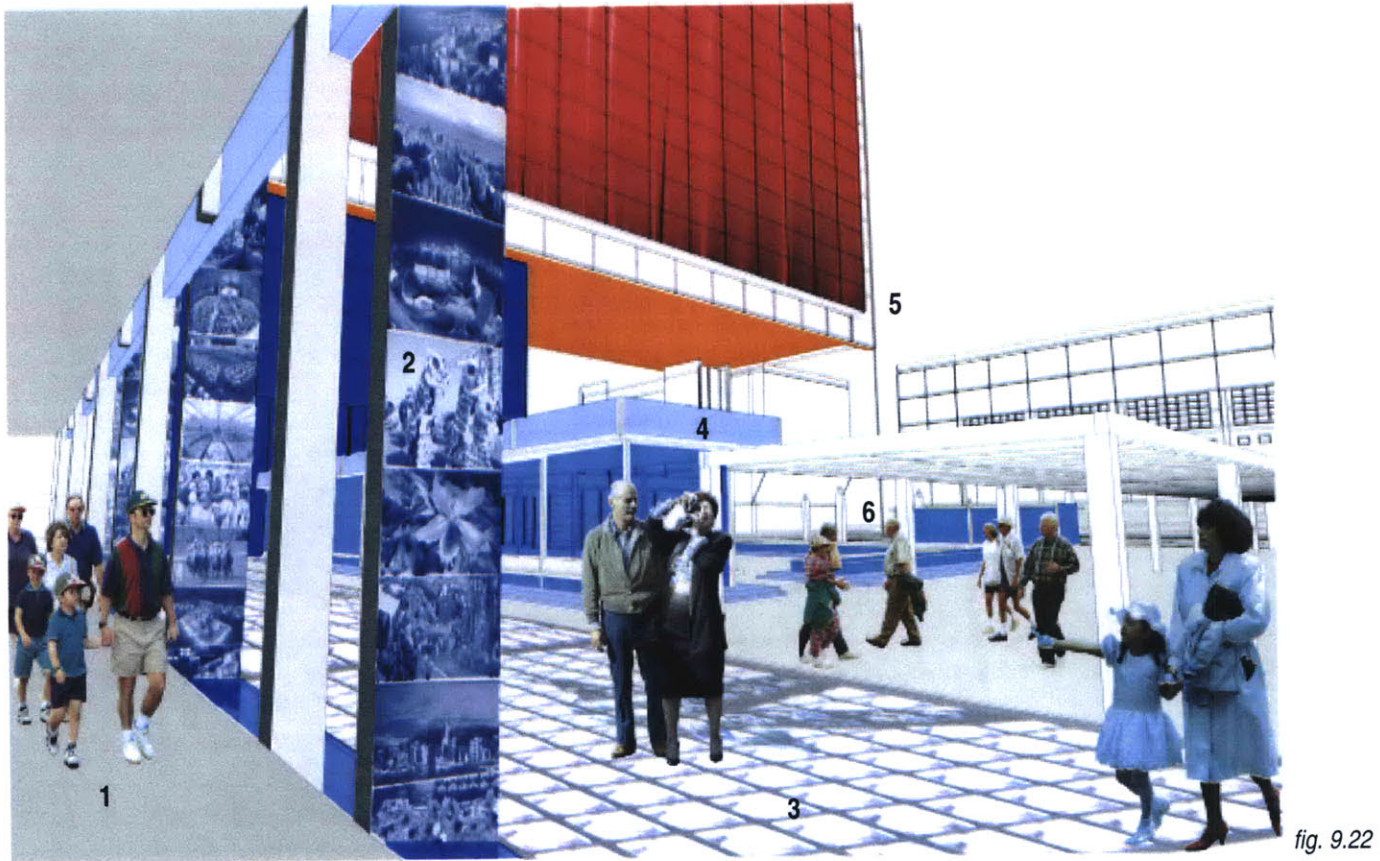
Animinated Civic Colonnade underneath Info Wing

**Perspective view along the viewing corridor underneath the Info Wing
looking at the media pavilion and the shading trellis seating area overlooking the harbour.**

1. Civic colonnade underneath the Info Wing

2. LED vertical fins installation with moving texts and blinking images for displaying civic activities calendar and interesting statistics about HK

3. Translucent deck surface allows natural daylight get into the circulation corridor between the library and cineplex down below

4. Upper level seating area of the media pavilion with kiosk, cinema and museum ticket booth and escalators

5. Principal facade with different special curtains / blinds patterns for different holidays and celebrations

6. Seating areas with water fountain and shading canopy trellis
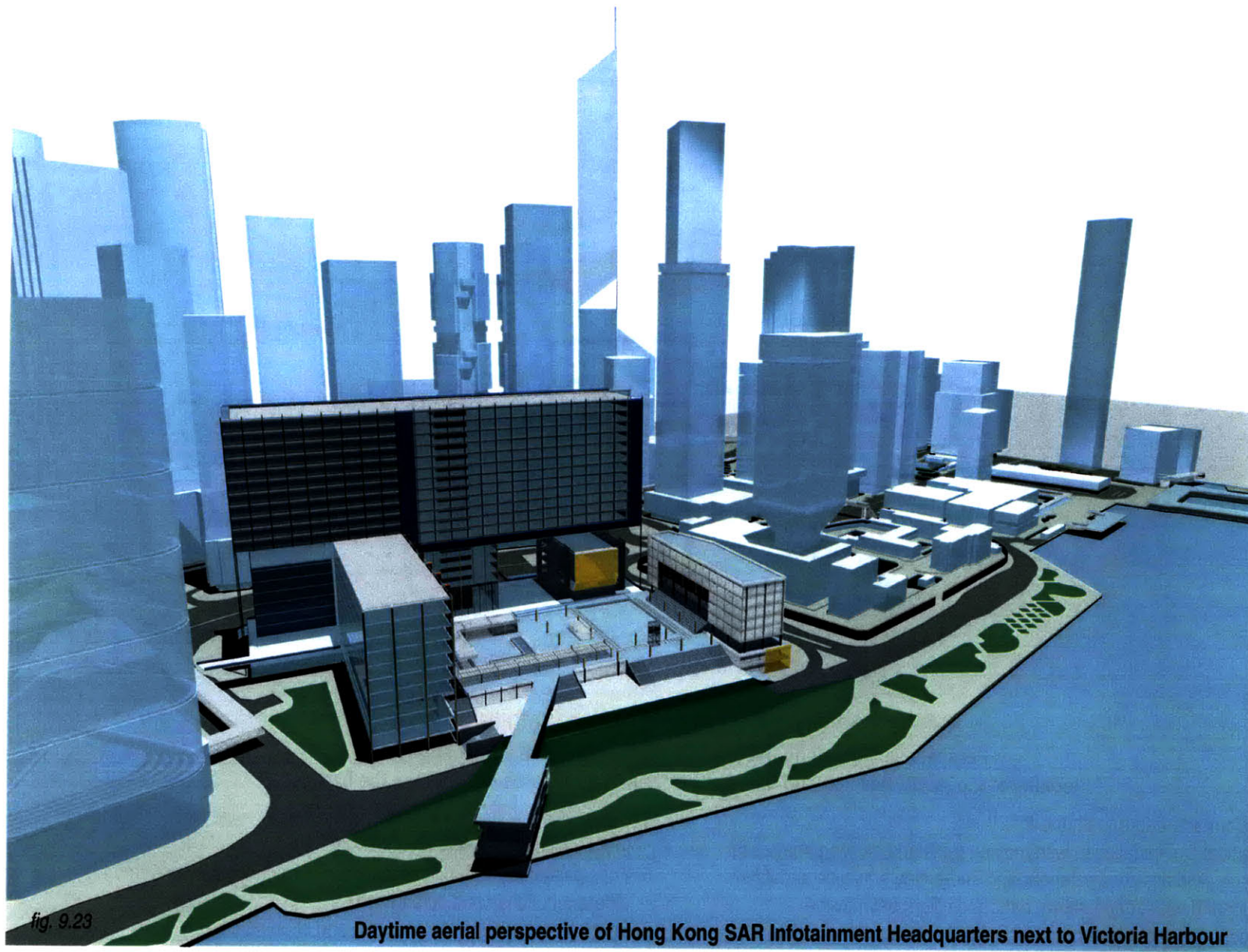
fig. 9.23   **Daytime aerial perspective of Hong Kong SAR Infotainment Headquarters next to Victoria Harbour**
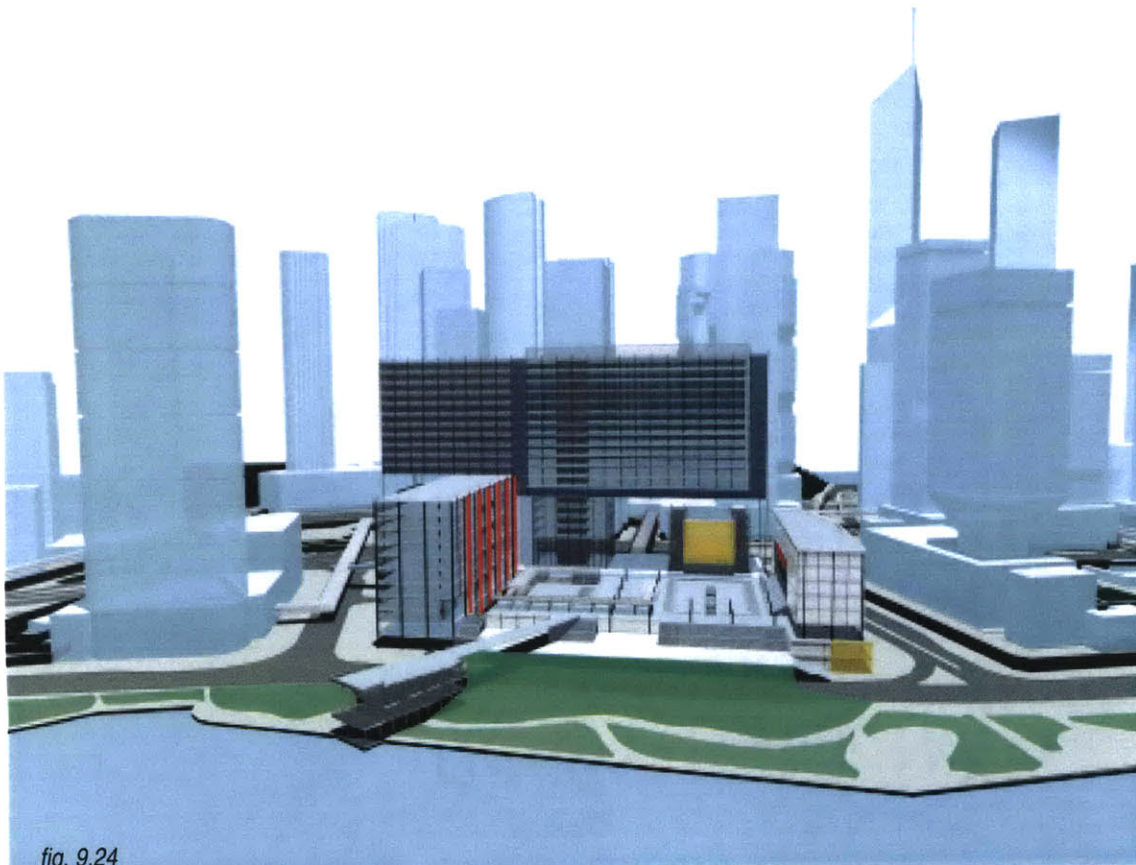
fig. 9.24
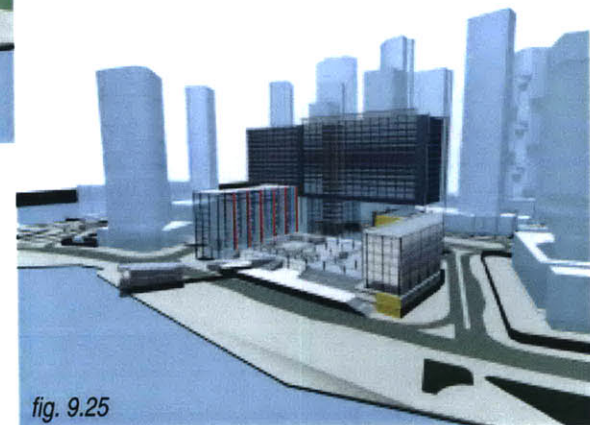
fig. 9.25

Front and side aerial perspective of the Northern Principal Elevation of the Hong Kong SAR Government Info-tainment Headquarters

fig. 9.26
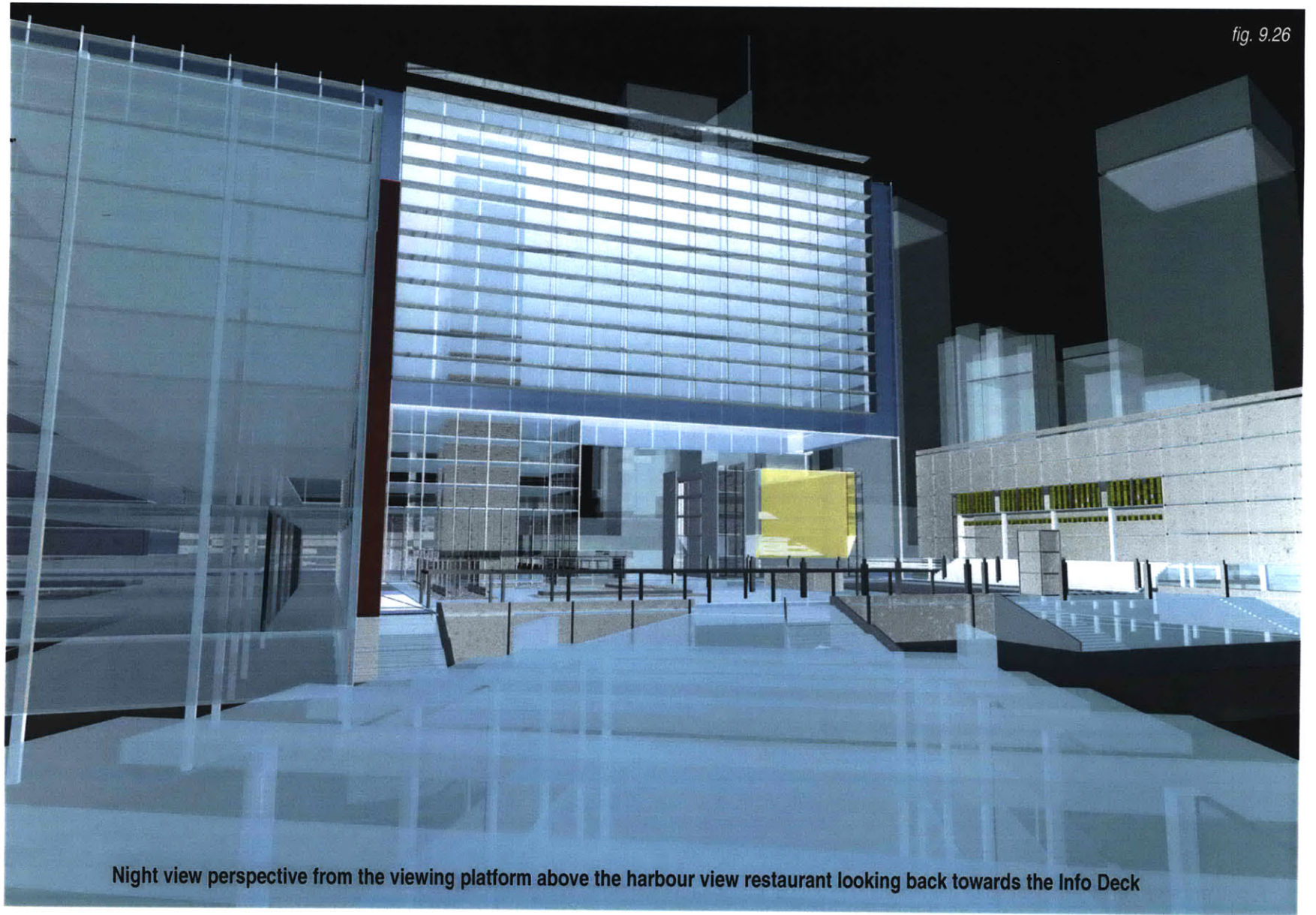
Night view perspective from the viewing platform above the harbour view restaurant looking back towards the Info Deck
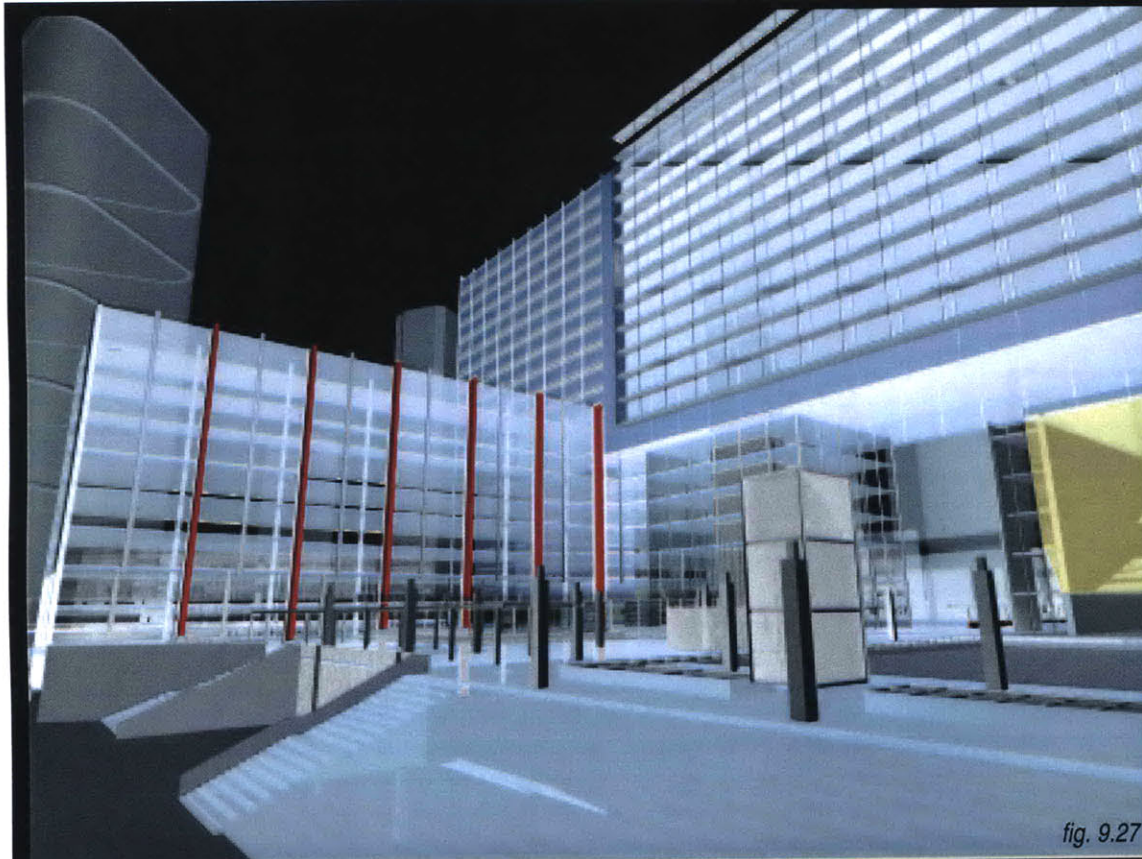
fig. 9.27

Night time perspective view looking back towards the Info Deck and the Info Wing
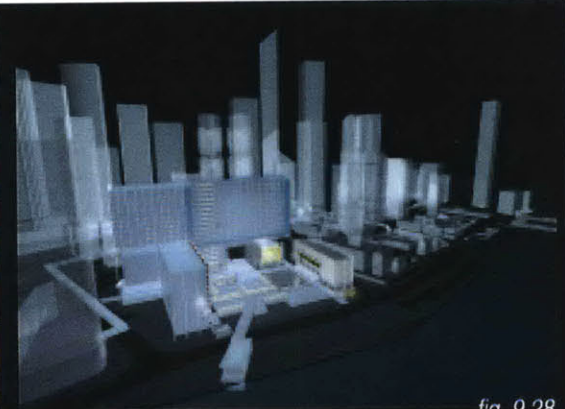
fig. 9.28
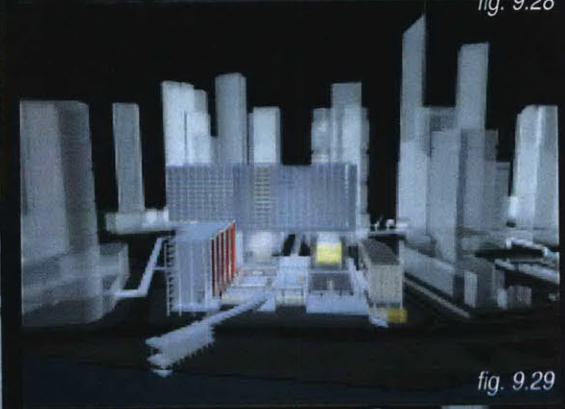
fig. 9.29
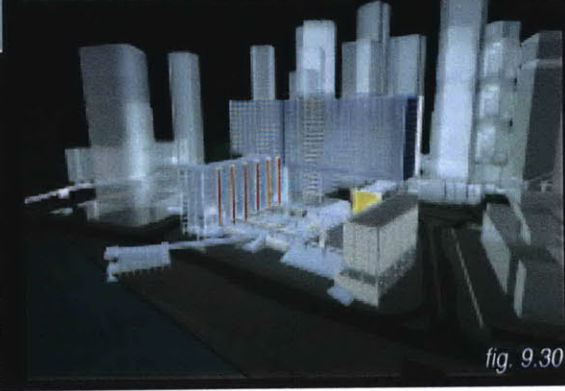
fig. 9.30

Distinct Night Presence of the Civic Place :
Different night time aerial perspective view of the
Hong Kong SAR Government Info-tainment Headquarters

fig. 9.31

Aerial perspective looking at the proposal for the new Hong Kong SAR Government Infotainment Headquarters with surrounding skyscrapers in Central and Wan Chai District
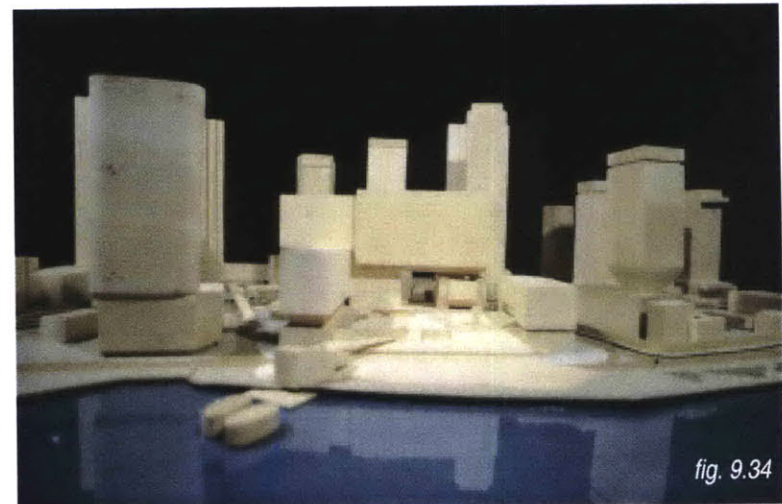
Different aerial perspectives looking at the proposal of the new Hong Kong SAR Government Infotainment Headquarters

fig. 9.32 from the city side looking at the southern institutional facade, the Info Bridge connection, the interlocking of the executive block with the Info Wing.

fig. 9.33 directly from the top looking at the civic headquarters with commercial Citic Tower (left) and the Prince of Wales building (right) next to it.

fig. 9.34 from the ferry at waterfront level looking directly towards the nothern principal elevation as foreground with the backdrop of the skyscrapers behind
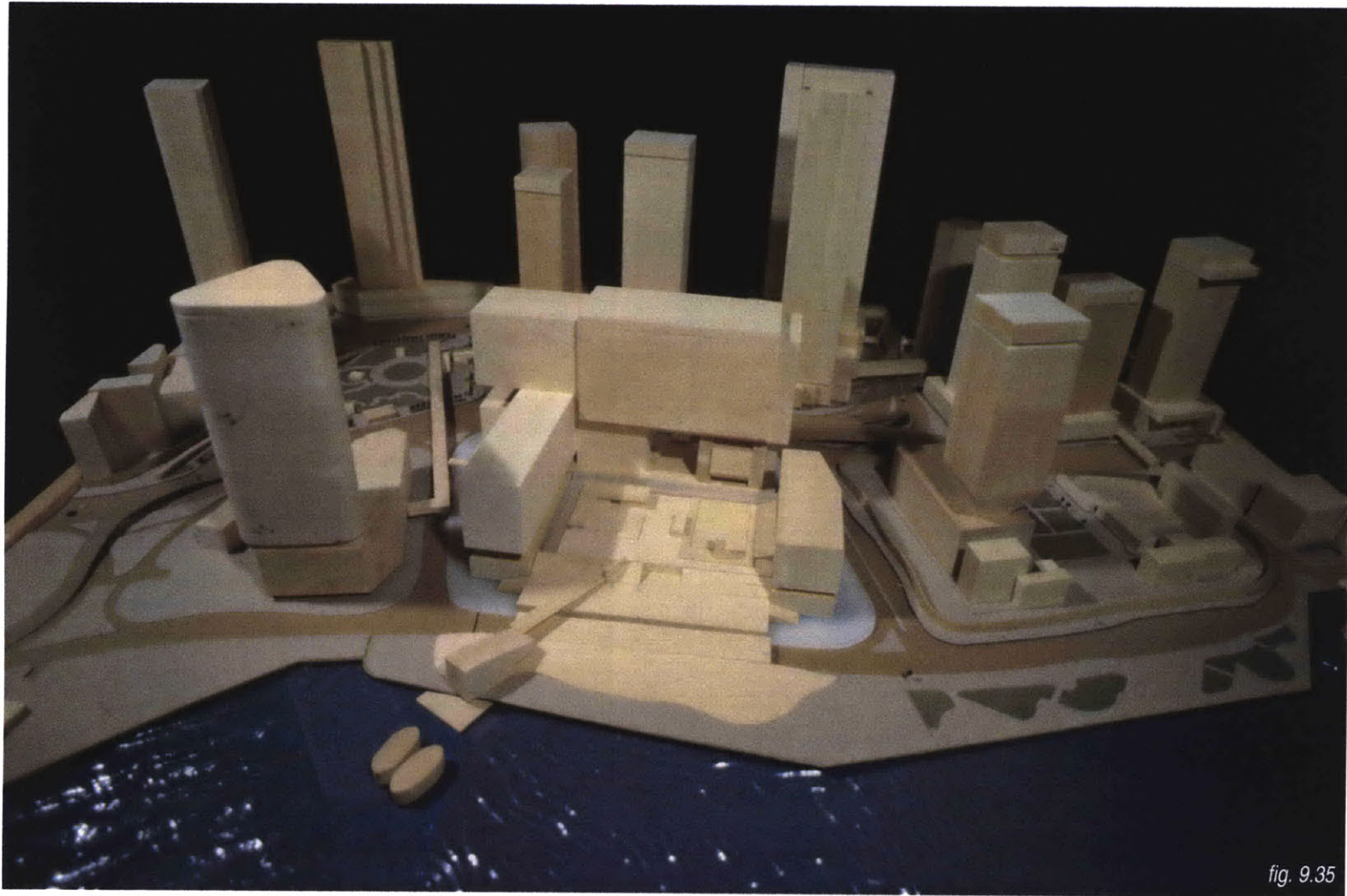
Aerial perspective looking at the northern principal facade of the Headquarters as the backdrop of the Civic Plaza, Info Deck and the Harbour Waterfront Green Open Spaces
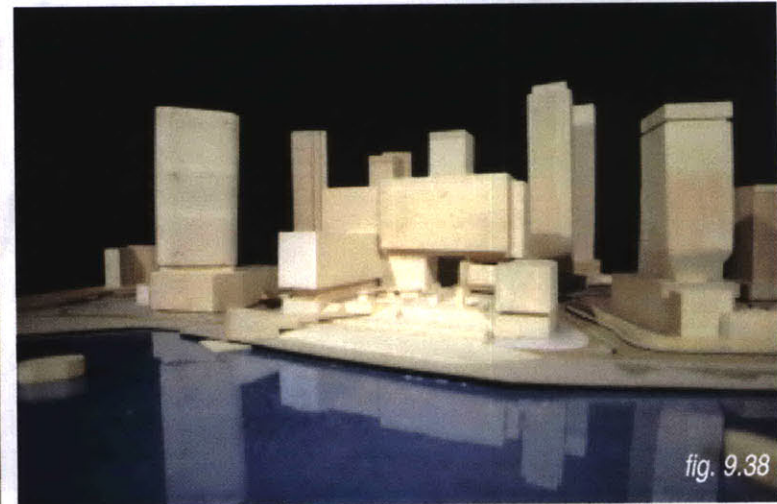
Different aerial perspectives looking at the proposal of the new Hong Kong SAR Government Infotainment Headquarters

fig. 9.36 foreground : Prince of Wales building and the harbour waterfront green strip open spaces.

fig. 9.37 screen wall of curtain wall glazing commercial skyscrapers along the highway

fig. 9.38 from the ferry looking directly towards the nothern principal elevation as foreground with the backdrop of the skyscrapers behind.
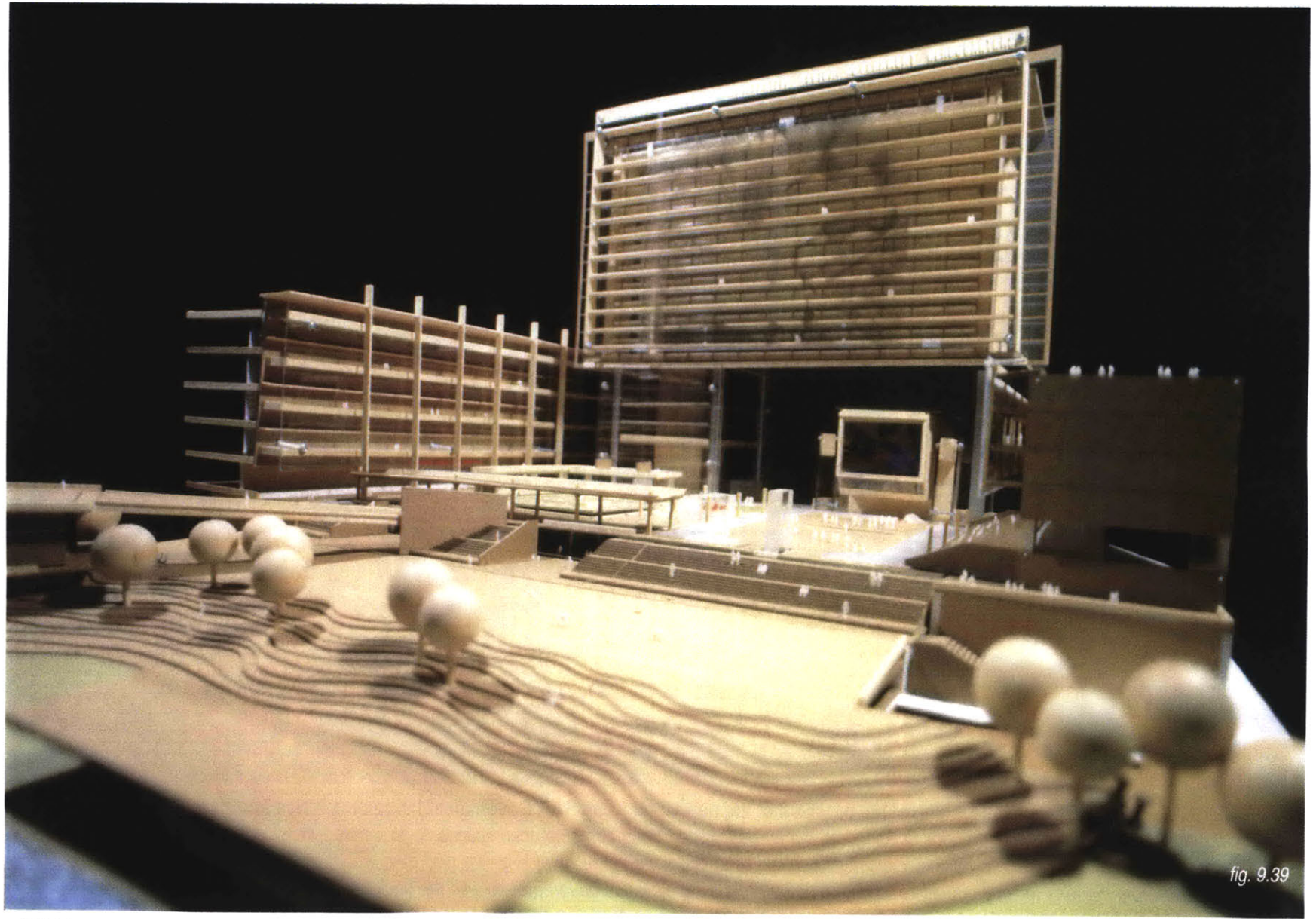
fig. 9.39

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of
People's Republic of China

HKSAR Government
Info-tainment Headquarters
and
the Civic Plaza
Info Deck
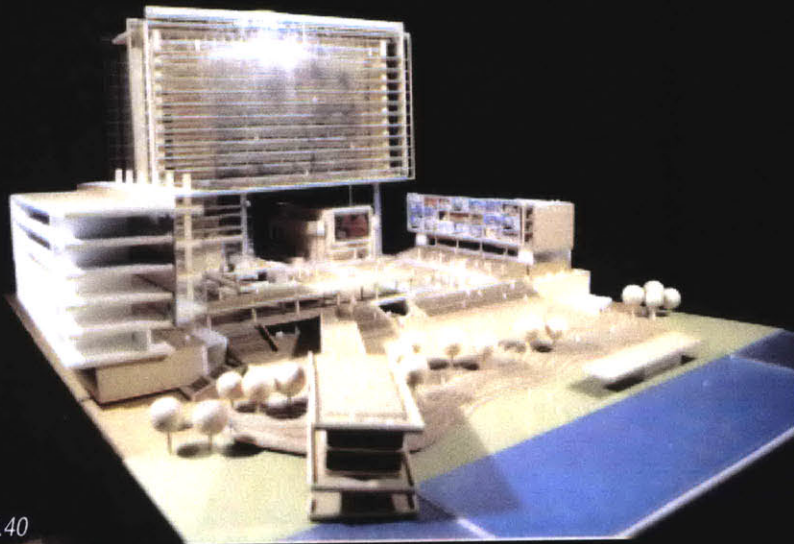
fig. 9.40
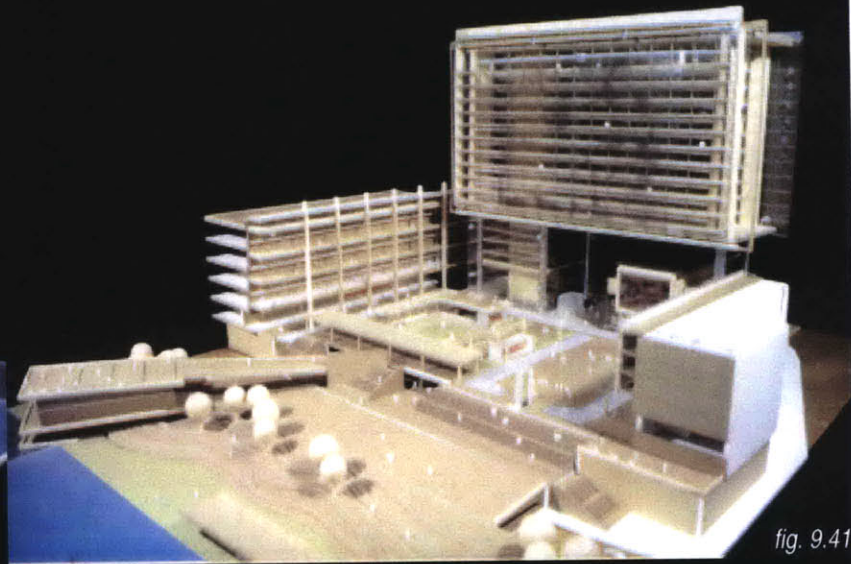
fig. 9.41
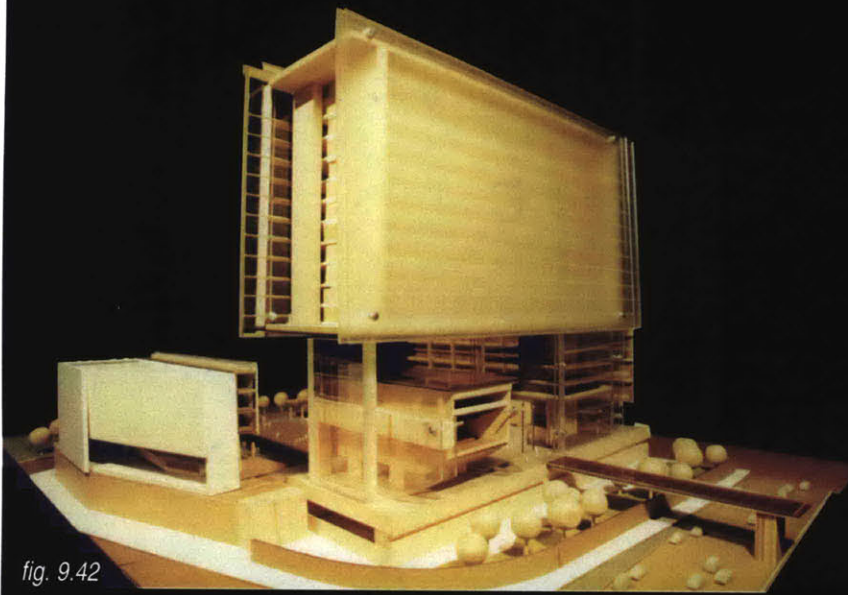
fig. 9.42

fig. 9.43

Entertainment Studio and the Legislative Council Chamber on the left side of the Info Bridge across highway
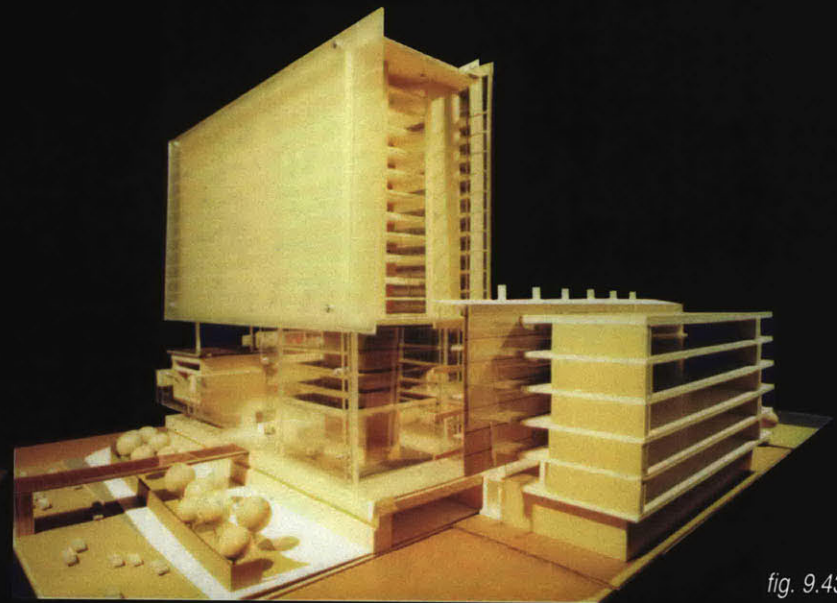
Info Wing division and the Government main lobby shared with educational museums on the right side of the gateway

fig. 9.44
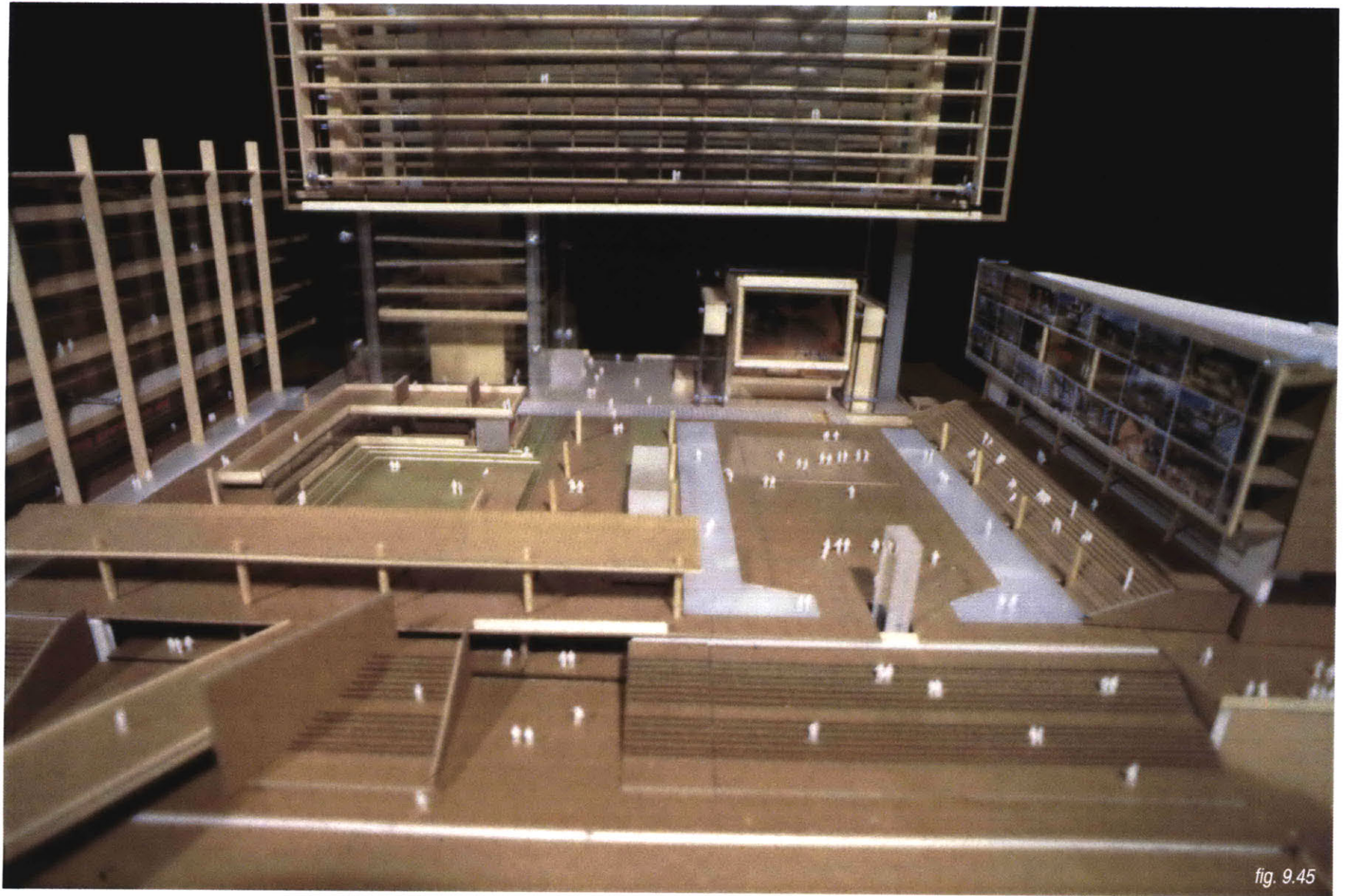
Close up aerial view of the Civic Plaza - Info Deck : Media Square (left) and Constitution Plaza (right)
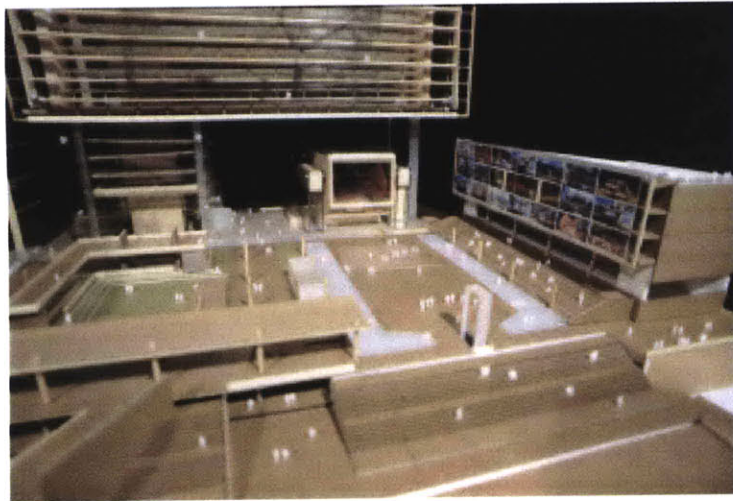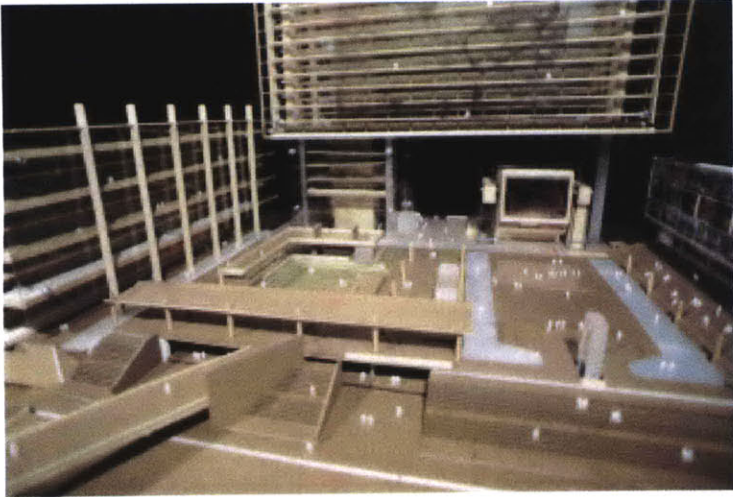
fig. 9.48

fig. 9.46 Info Wing, Government Main Lobby and Info Deck
        lower level main entrance from the landscape deck (top)
fig. 9.47 Legislative Council Chamber, Entertainment Studio and
        Independent Political Media Monument (bottom)

Media Square (top) and Constitution Plaza (bottom)
defined by the Info Wing, Government Main Lobby shared
with museums down below, Legislative Council Chamber
and Entertainment Studio.
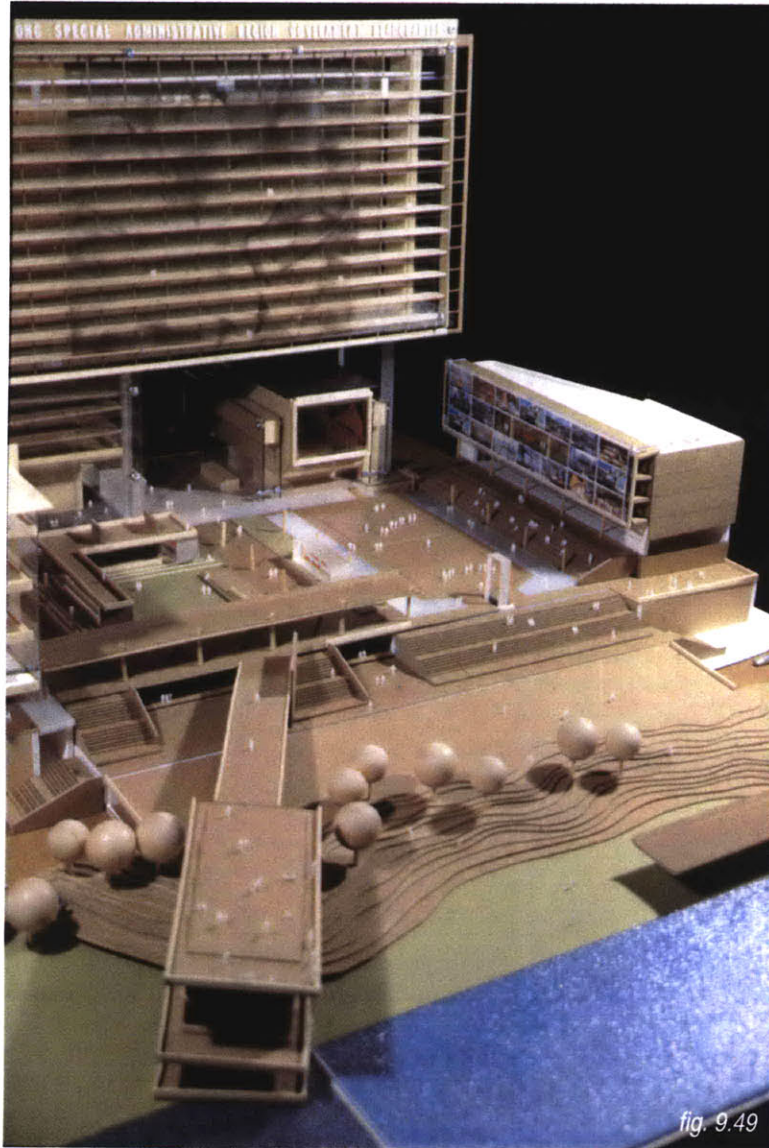
Aerial view of the Info Deck and the harbour view restaurant
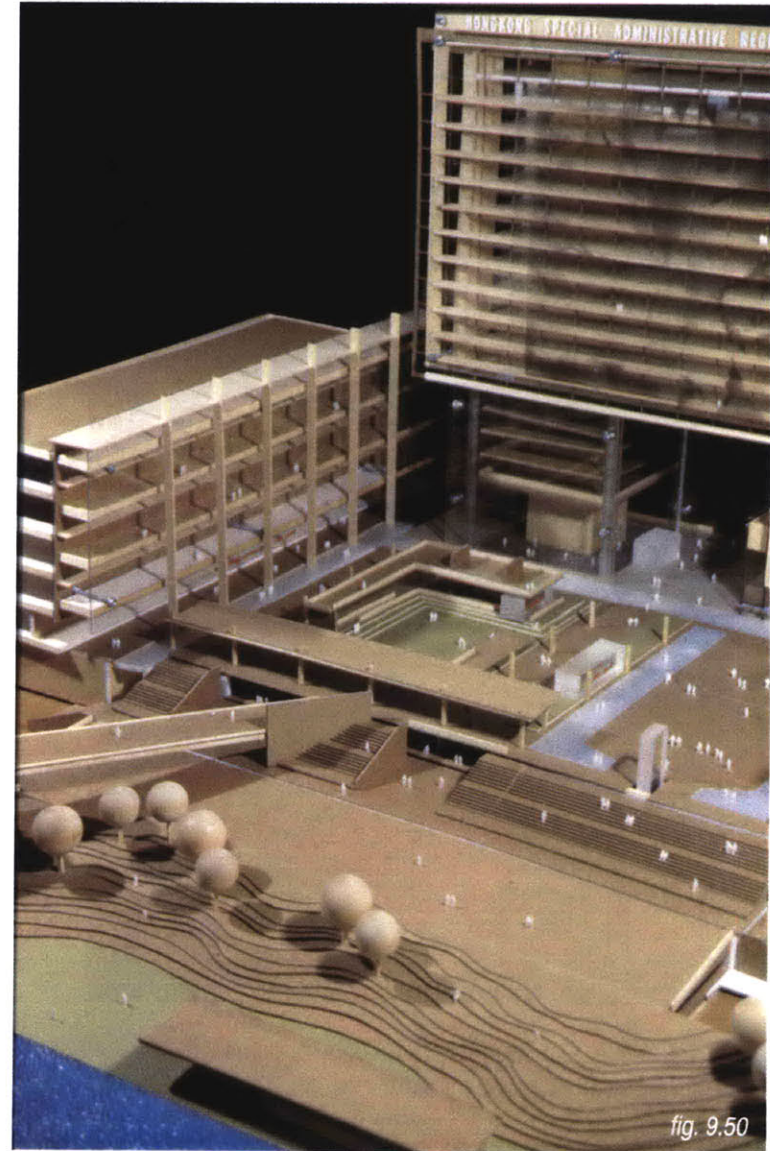
Aerial view of the media pavilion and waterfront landscaping
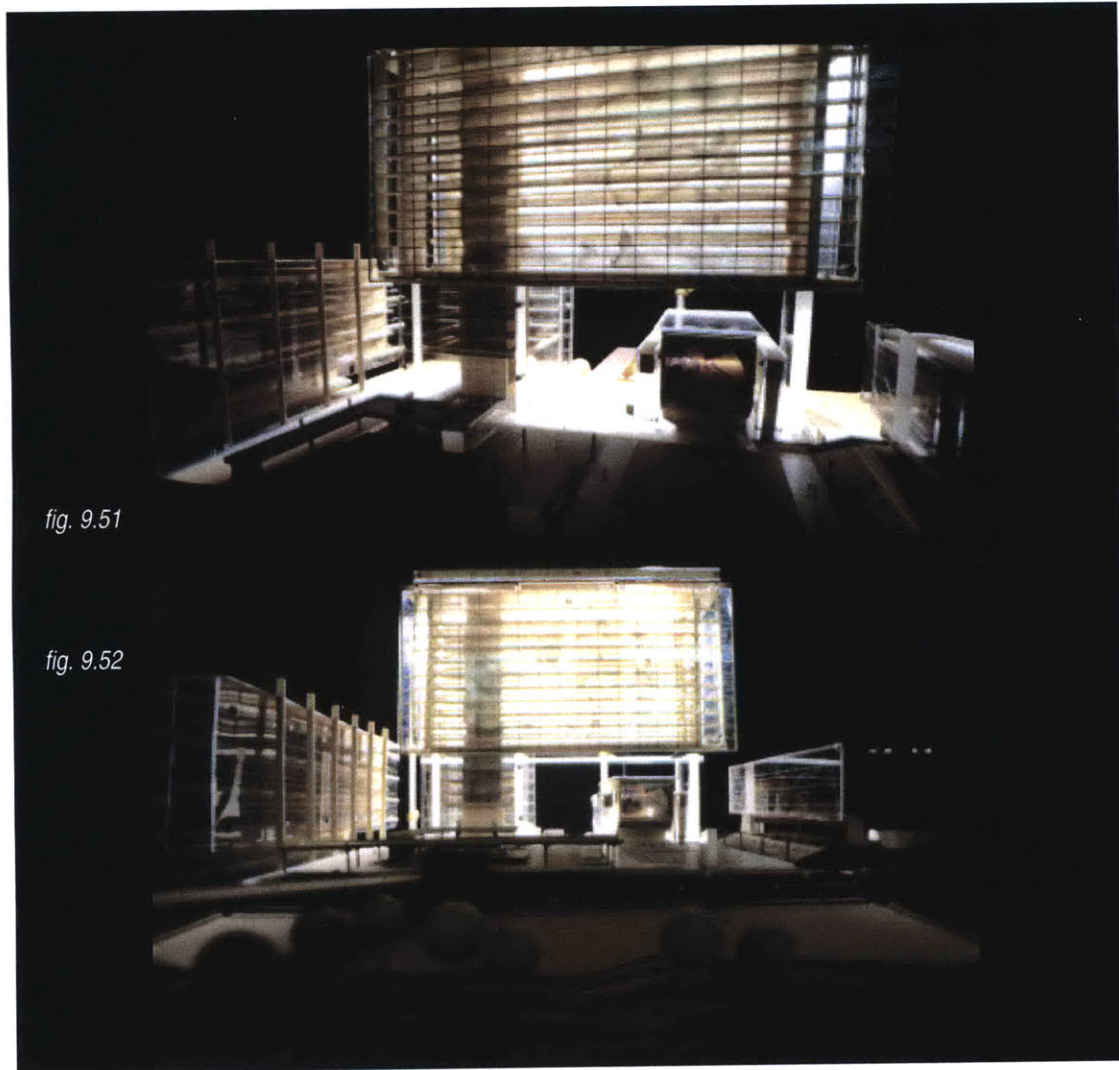
fig. 9.51

fig. 9.52

fig. 9.53

fig. 9.54

fig. 9.55

fig. 9.51-52   Night views of the principal facade of the executive and administrative offices.
fig. 9.53   View of the Legislative Council & main lobby from the pedestrian bridge above vehicular highway.
fig. 9.54   View of the media pavilion in front of Info Wing, waterfront harbour view restaurant and observation deck.
fig. 9.55   View of the government complex from the tower of China Liberation Army Headquarters.
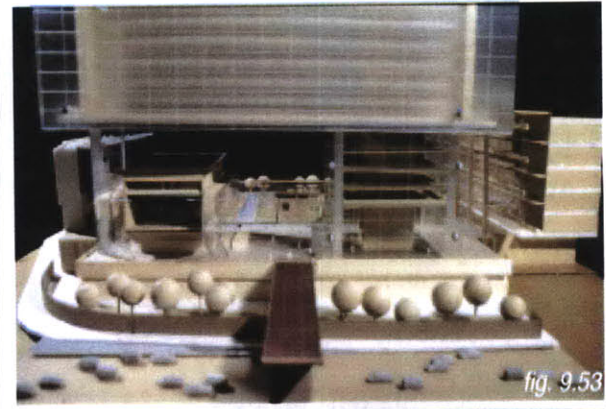
Final Thesis Review

M.Arch Thesis Final Presentation

10:45 a.m. to Noon. 15th December, 2000
AVT

Internal Faculty

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Head, Program in Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology

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Chair, Department of Architecture, University of Michigan

Blanca Leo
Architect, Madrid

Amadeo Petrilli
Architect, Milan

Jarmo Suominen
Architect, Helsinki

fig. 10.1

fig. 10.2

fig. 10.3

fig. 10.8

fig. 10.4

fig. 10.5
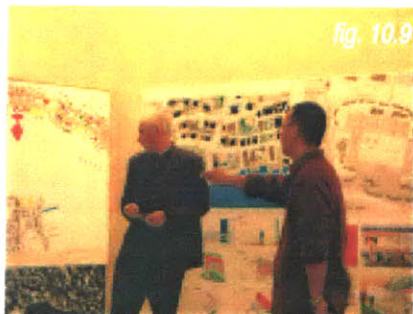
fig. 10.9

fig. 10.10

fig. 10.11

fig. 10.12

fig. 10.13

fig. 10.6

fig. 10.7

fig. 10.14

fig. 10.15

fig. 10.16

fig. 10.17
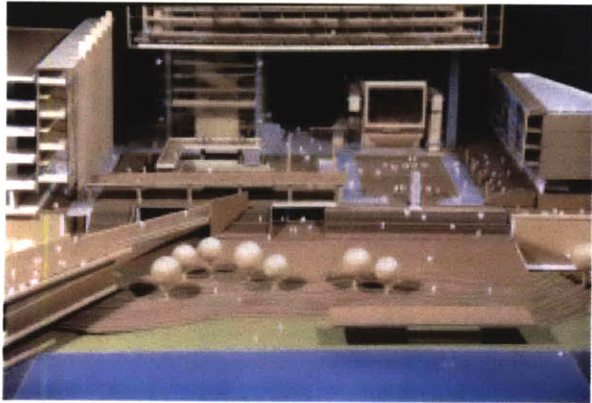
Final Conclusion
Future Visons and Design Approach
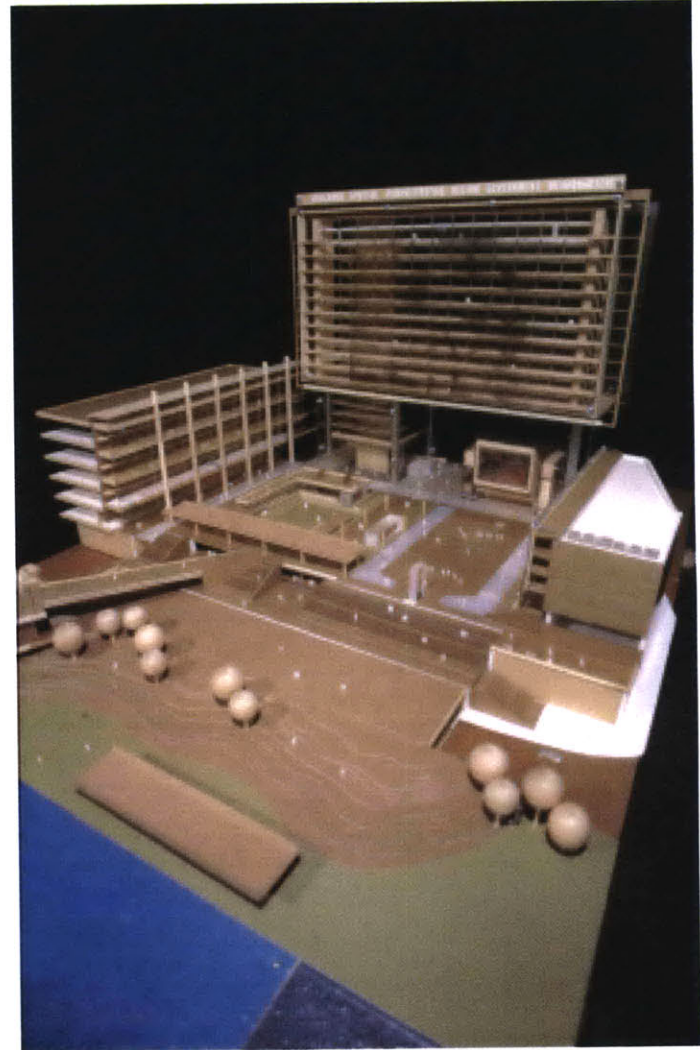
Mediated Urban Civic Space
Synergy of modern government and Contemporary media in making mediated urban civic space

With the vision of "Mediated Urban Civic Space" as the true forum for the future democratic government in our information age and open society, government architecture and civic plaza will continue to be an important institutionalized building typology. These government information spaces and civic public assembly places are still an important medium of the future government how they communicate and interact with its citizens as well as how they want their ideology and identity to be represented architecturally and socially. Besides, government architecture and civic plaza should provide interactive and lively settings of social places for different kinds of activities and functions. Within this conceptual framework, the roles of both the modern government and contemporary media are very important to achieve this mission. From my perspective, the synergy of media and government will be an effective transformation of these political domains and information territory in making real social civic spaces. It will definitely change the image and perception of the government mentally as well as the physical appearance of the government buildings and civic plaza. In addition, the manipulation of the media and information related programs will be an important strategy to achieve this scenario. Cooperation of the public and government media are the key to mission of this transformation.

Image of the Government

Both the image of the government and its civic architecture are very important from the governing authority perspectives to project their symbolic messages to its citizens. It is a prominent aspect of the representation and communication between the citizens and government. These visual icons and image of the government architecture greatly contribute to the character and identity of the government. They greatly affect the presented image of the government perceived by its citizens. Civic architecture may be the most image consciousness buildings among other building typologies. The stylistic importance of the architectural vocabulary and government motif are crucial to its image and character especially for the façade treatment of the headquarters. In addition, the spatial characteristics of the civic open spaces, the dominant hierarchical organization of the government programs and facilities, and the elevation and composition of the main principal facades are all major crucial issues in the design of government architecture. Style, language and vocabulary of these symbolic monuments are very prominent aspects for cultural heritage and historic associations. Both architectural tectonics and media tectonics will integrate in the design of the public faces of civic architecture. The theme of the information symbol and the media icon will continue to emerge with the civic monument in this information age.

Transparency and Democracy

Architectural transparency and public accessibility recently has become new symbolic aspects and functional requirements in the design of civic architecture. Emphasis on the visual transparency of the civic faces are warmly accepted and favoured by the public. This will become the popular treatment of the government building facades. Citizens can have the impression that they can literally see through the government architecture and all the government operations and administrations, civic activities and participants inside these buildings. All events and activities are fully exposed to the public visually and symbolically. These visual connections are important especially if public accessibility to these government headquarters is greatly limited or even totally prohibited. These can create an illusion to represent the openness and transparency of the political institution. Therefore, the accessibility and security issues of the government architecture will still be the most challenging design concerns and will determine whether they can be truly activated as real social civic places for public assembly.

Media and Architecture

Nowadays the image of the government not only has been established or projected through the architectural design of its national headquarters or municipal buildings, but also through traditional and multimedia in recent decades. The role of civic architecture as the dominant representation and communication media between government and citizens is declining gradually. On the contrary, mass media becomes an increasing popular mean as the government interface for symbolic representation and interactive communication. Physical setting and civic architecture are totally disconnected from the virtual platform and contemporary media. Government is still manipulating both physical and virtual settings for representation and communication. They are not yet fully explored to integrate together politically, architectural and urbanistically.

Information Spaces and Communicative Facades
Government – Citizen Interface : Communication and Representation
Mask of the Stage as the Mediated Setting and Dialogue Interface

Government definitely needs an interface to represent and communicate with its citizens. It can take the forms of a vertical mask or horizontal stage. Both forms are powerful architectural setting to change the image of the government. Centralization of media will be an important strategy to decentralize the power of the future government authority as well as to deinstitutionalize its traditional static monotonous image. Future government is no longer about hierarchy or bureaucracy of its organization or authority. Information will be the keys aspects how to transform this setting. Media can be applied and challenge the traditional concept of the political domain and information territory. The success of this evolution depends on the treatment of the boundary and edge of the government-citizen interface.

In order to achieve a more democratic government, only through the increased visual transparency and public accessibility are not good enough even though they are crucial to the improvement of achieving both participatory and representative democracy. Contemporary media opens up tremendous amount of channels and medium to achieve democracy in the society. Media can definitely help the communication and interaction between government and citizens in different scenarios. Different media groups have been emerged and the major ones includes the government political media, government educational media, privatized political media and privatized entertainment media. Different media group have different target audiences and their boundary are not so distinct and clear as compared to previous period. This transition will induce an healthy environment for different media to compete with other and eventually can lead the political body to be a more democratic institution. Citizens can research more about their government through the political media organizations from the government or privatized independent news organizations. On the other hand, government can collect more information about its citizens through their physical presence and participation of civic activities and political functions in the government architecture and civic plaza. Decentralization of power from the governmental authority can be achieved through effective use of mass media. Media will be an significant tool to achieve democracy in the present time and will continue to contribute in the future.

As a conclusion, government will continue to facilitate better communication and representation to its citizens through both the civic architecture as the physical setting and media technologies as the virtual interface. Architectural design of the complex and the civic plaza can contribute a physical sense of place for collective identity of the HK government and citizens that media cannot replace. While, media technology can transform the actual visual appearance of these government architecture and civic plaza and enhance more mediated and interactive experiences that traditional architecture cannot afford. Besides depending on the physical architectural design of the government architecture and the urban design of the civic plaza, the success of these mediated scenario also heavily relies on politics, media programming and the citizens desire. Only through synergy of modern government and contemporary media, civic architecture and plaza will successfully be activated as urban civic spaces and gives a new perspectives of its future vision.

Appendices

- Marvin E. Goody Award Application

- Illustration Credits and Bibliography

Marvin E. Goody Award
Applicant's Statement

Innovative Synthesis: Integrated Mesh

This thesis is an investigation into the architectural design applications specifically related to the advanced lighting systems (fixtures and glazing) and the communication media (installations and digitized screens) applied to the design of building surfaces, both exterior building envelope and the interior partitions of media architecture and information space. A critical need is emerging for innovations in display and lighting strategies that link man and machine through our sense of sight.

Synthesis will be the key aspects for the success of future system integration for the management of transmission of both light and information. The future relationship between the lighting system and the communication system will be inseparable and will greatly effect the design of information space functionally, technically and perceptually. The permeability of these physical boundaries and the design of the interface between interior and exterior settings will be dramatically transformed. Both systems have different typological surfaces and mechanisms, but they also share similar notions of enclosure, panel cladding and specific lighting control. The main goal in this research is to accomplish a creative architectural interface that integrates lighting with communication as a unified supportive and interactive system for information spaces and display settings. The design and construction of these composite natured surfaces with dual functions and directions pose a significant technical challenge, which will be the main focus of this project. Deeper interface which can accommodate these multi-functions will enable a narrative environment to be more adaptive and interactive.

As performance requirements of these information spaces become more complex and more demanding in their flexibility of the spatial configurations, spaces enclosed by these surfaces will search for higher adaptability. These separate surfaces, either glazing or digitized screens such as LED and LCD panels, have to evolve and accommodate multi-functions. Aiming to achieve an integrated and effective strategy, there is a great opportunity to formulate one set of manufactured products and technologies to achieve both functions, rather than implementing two isolated strategies for two different systems in conventional practices .

The hybridization of these different design issues and manufacturing processes will raise interesting questions of how these surfaces are conceived, designed, constructed, manipulated and finally integrated as one homogenous structure with heterogeneous properties. The future architectural environments have to be more interactive between the physical settings and the occupants as integrate the inside and outside environment. Cross-disciplinary explorations are necessary to merge these two systems into one unique interface to push the architectural boundaries to be interactive and flexible. These explorations are dedicated to improve people's lives and physical environment through the use of advanced technologies. A commitment to innovation, quality, value and design in our future information space and mediated building typological surfaces is vital for the success of this transformation. It will be vital to achieve the mission by merging these two industries and therefore developing new approaches and technologies for an imaginative vision of our future.

An Emerging Interactive Building Envelope
Mask of the Stage - Info-tainment Government Headquarters

MIT Master of Architecture Candidate
Thesis Research Proposal

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Information Space and Communicative / Interactive Surfaces
An emerging building envelope of Telecommunication & Lighting Technologies
Typology of building surfaces – Integrated mesh of glass glazing & digitized screen panel
Research Focus : Innovative Synthesis - Dynamic Interactive Building Facades

This thesis is an investigation into the architectural design applications specifically related to the advanced lighting systems (fixtures and glazing) and the communication media (installations and digitized screens) applied to the design of building surfaces, both exterior building envelope and the interior partitions of media architecture and information space. A critical need is emerging for innovations in display and lighting strategies that link man and machine through our sense of sight.

Synthesis will be the key aspects for the success of future system integration for the management of transmission of both light and information. The future relationship between the lighting system and the communication system will be inseparable and will greatly effect the design of information space functionally, technically and perceptually. The permeability of these physical boundaries and the design of the interface between interior and exterior settings will be dramatically transformed. Both systems have different typological surfaces and mechanisms, but they also share similar notions of enclosure, panel cladding and specific lighting control. The main goal in this research is to accomplish a creative architectural interface that integrates lighting with communication as a unified supportive and interactive system for information spaces and display settings. The design and construction of these composite natured surfaces with dual functions and directions pose a significant technical challenge, which will be the main focus of this project. Deeper interface which can accommodate these multi-functions will enable a narrative environment to be more adaptive and interactive.

The final design component of this experimental investigation is an architectural design of a mediated government headquarters and its municipal plaza in the context of contemporary information-oriented society. Its conceptual design, programming, and architectural details are the direct inspiration and integration of both lighting technologies and communication technologies. Special emphasis will focus on the infrastructure and technical requirements of programs related to information spaces such as publicity center, press gallery, spectator gallery, legislative chamber and civic auditorium. The design approach

will focus primarily on investigating how these new industrial technologies and products can enhance the architectural quality of interior civic spaces and exterior plaza through the materialization of these building surfaces (integrated mesh of curtain wall and the media screens).

Lighting System
Internal Separate Strategies - Day lighting system handled by exterior glazing development and Artificial Lighting Systems by interior lighting fixtures

In recent decades, illumination technologies and glazing materials have had great improvements with regard to energy efficiency and the manipulation of both day lighting and artificial lighting in our controlled environment. Tremendous emphasis has been put on the design of new lighting fixtures, composite glazing materials (laminations and substrates) and the assembly of the cladding systems. Lighting designers usually treat lighting as an independent building system and try to integrate only the day lighting and artificial lighting as a unified system. As a result, the glazing is designed as a static defensive barrier to fulfill the lighting requirements rather than an experiential permeable surface to interact inside and outside of the environment. In addition, the installation of these glazing panels is mainly applied to the exterior skin of the building such as skylight, atrium enclosure, and the curtain wall facade construction. As a result, it does not utilize it's full potential to emerge with the interior oriented digitized display surfaces.

Information and Communication System
Media System Installation (projection mechanism) and Digitized Surfaces Development
Integrated Audio and Video Systems

Information infrastructures and telecommunication technologies have advanced rapidly and have influenced the interior settings of architectural environments. Different mechanisms of video and audio projection technologies and variety of display surfaces have been explored and manufactured. Surprisingly, most information display system applications are still limited on two-dimensional presentation mechanisms. These display interfaces are flat and do not enhance the three dimensional spatial quality for lively communication. This kind of system setting has great constraints on being constructed to operate within an enclosed interior space in a dark environment.

System Integration: Flexibility and Adaptability
One Surfaces (digitized and glazing), Two Systems (lighting and communication)

Because of the separate strategic zones of architectural implementations and different performance requirements of these two unique systems, not much effort has been given to these two systems regarding architectural integration and design opportunities. The intrinsic transparent nature of the glazing surfaces to admit daylight and the inherent opacity of the display surfaces for projections makes it even more complex to accommodate these extreme properties within a single surface simultaneously. As a result, both fields tend to remain as independent research disciplines due to distinctive traditional practices of industries and separate marketing strategies.

But as performance requirements of these information spaces become more complex and more demanding in their flexibility of the spatial configurations, spaces enclosed by these surfaces will search for higher adaptability. These separate surfaces, either glazing or digitized screens such as LED and LCD panels, have to evolve and accommodate multi-functions. Aiming to achieve an integrated and effective strategy, there is a great opportunity to formulate one set of manufactured products and technologies to achieve both functions, rather than implementing two isolated strategies for two different systems in conventional practices.

Some industries have been developing both technologies and trying to merge them together. New advancement such as the invention of the blue light emitting diode to complete the full colour spectrum RGB and the thin film transistor Liquid Crystal Display devices will provide tremendous opportunities for further architectural exploration of these display surfaces. For example, Flat Panel Display Technology is possible only with the advanced technological development of glass material and its manufacturing techniques (lamination techniques and substrates/films development). Brightness Enhancing Films, Anti-Reflective Films, Photosensitive Polymers, Electrochrome Glass, Holographic Optical Components, are all invented or further developed by the electronics display industries, also have great applications in glazing panel manufacturing. In fact, both media display screens and glazing surfaces try to achieve similar Photoimageable, Photopatternable and Photosensitive properties. These qualities and performances will be the driving forces for their emergence as one system - one media. Fiber optics and Holograms (communication display in glazed facades) are excellent explorations in this direction.

Future Direction and Exploration for Architectural Implications

The hybridization of these different design issues and manufacturing processes will raise interesting questions of how these surfaces are conceived, designed, constructed, manipulated and finally integrated as one homogenous structure with heterogeneous properties. The future architectural environments have to be more interactive between the physical settings and the occupants as integrate the inside and outside environment. Cross-disciplinary explorations are necessary to merge these two systems into one unique interface to push the architectural boundaries to be interactive and flexible. These explorations are dedicated to improve people's lives and physical environment through the use of advanced technologies. A commitment to innovation, quality, value and design in our future information space and mediated building typological surfaces is vital for the success of this transformation. It will be vital to achieve the mission by merging these two industries and therefore developing new approaches and technologies for an imaginative vision of our future.

An essential part of this thesis research is the study of these new promising glazing materials and the information display technologies. Funding provided from this research grant would be primarily spent on the travel expense (Infocomm International 2000 exhibition and potential company visits of these industries (tentative schedule below) and optimum scale installation study of panel assembly. After an intense hands-on investigation of these industries (LED, LCD and glazing panels), it will strengthen my understanding of the scientific capabilities and experiential qualities enhanced by these products and technologies. Furthermore, new innovative spatial and lighting qualities brought by these inventions will inform my thesis exploration regarding the architectural framework to accommodate building systems with these technologies. Full-scale samples of these products will be developed during this design exploration. Full documentation of the company visits and new findings of these manufacturing products, fabrication processes and technologies will be included in the thesis publication.

Legend:
- Reseach Focus Area
- Existing Boundary & Division
- Cross -Disciplinary Relationship

**Strong Division
Clear Distinction
Boundary**

Limitation of Architectural Zones of Application
- Interior Setting
- Exterior Setting
- Interior Setting

Different Industrial Products
- Lighting Fixtures
- Glazing Panels — 2 Dimensional Planar Surface — Transparency & Translucency required for daylight transmission
- similar notion of panel assembly, enclosure and specific lighting control
- TENSION of BEING ONE INTERACTIVE INTERFACE
- different intrinsic performance requirements
- Light Emitting Diodes (LED)Panels Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) Panels — 2 Dimensional Planar Surface — Opacity required for projections

Independent Building System and Separate Industry
- Lighting System
- Information Display System & Telecommunication System

fig. a1

Existing Building Systems with Separate Industry Products and Technologies

Interior Zone of Architectural Setting

New interface inbetween interior & exterior environment

Exterior Zone of Outside Environmrent

Expansion of Zones of Enclosure and Partition Installations

Lighting indsutry Products
Glass Glazing

New Integrated Surfaces having both Products' characteristics & performances

Telecommunication industry Products : **Digitized Screens LCD and LED Panels**

New Manufactured Products

Research Focus

New Communicative Building Facade Interactive Interface
to merge
Architecture & Urban Design

Lighting System
Day Lighting Division

New Integrated Building System with Composite Surfaces / Layers fibre optics, holographic optical elements

Information System
Telecommunication Display Division

New Unified Building System

Day Time Usage

New Interfaces and Surfaces for Display Projection during day time & night time

Night Time Usage

Expanison of Times of Applications

fig. a2

Investigation Model : New Building System with integrated Industry Products and Technologies

Daylight Sun Rays

Darker
Interior Chamber of
Information Space

Brighter
Exterior Plaza defined by
the Integrated Mesh
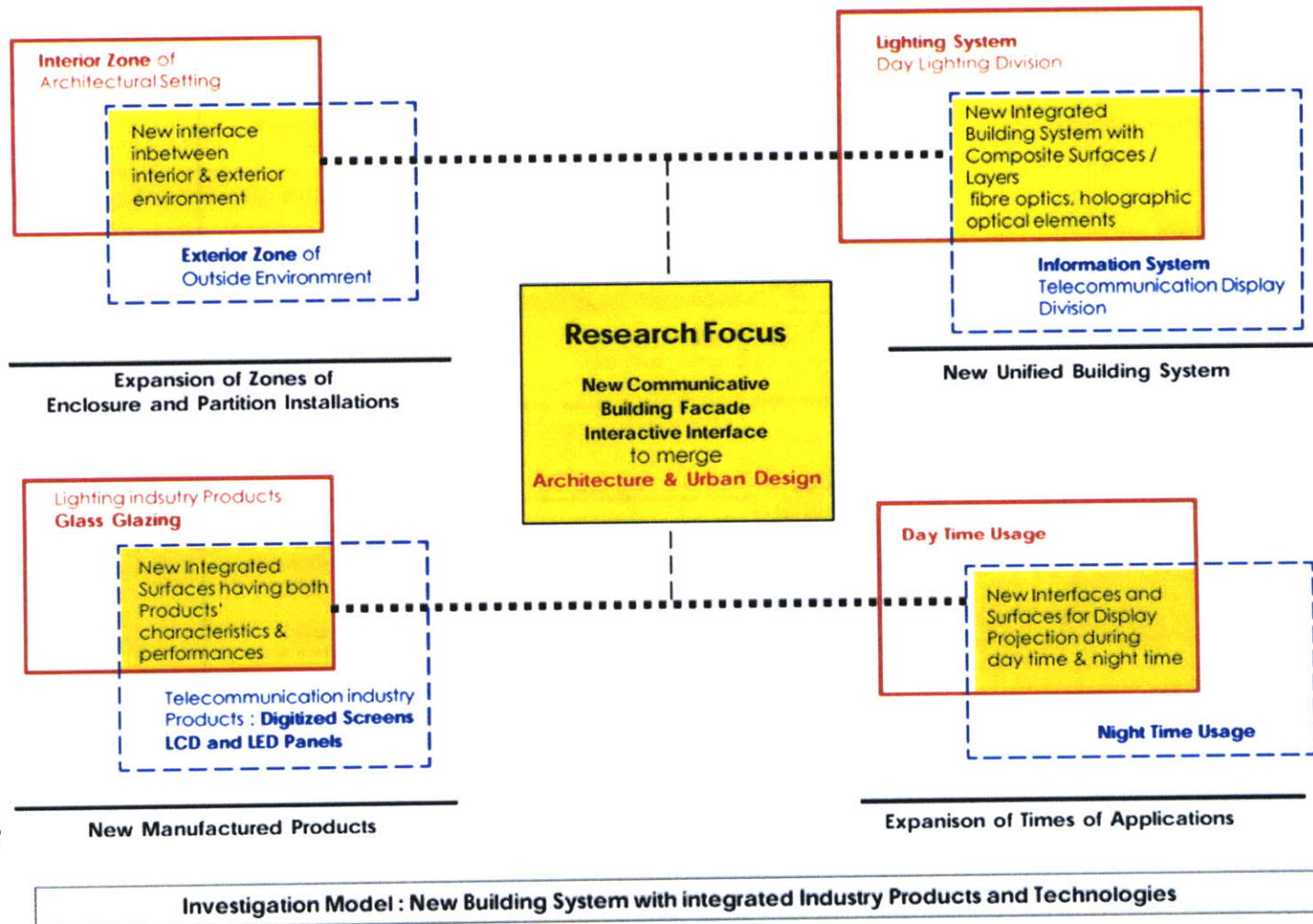Single Interface

Daylight
passing through the interface
from exterior to interior

**One Single Interface with
Interior and Exterior surfaces**
Multi-functions - lighting and telecommunication systems
Multi-directions - inward and outward facing

Day Time Scenario

Exterior Surfaces
of the Interface

Interior Surfaces
of the Interface

Brighter
Interior Chamber of
Information Space

Darker
Exterior Plaza defined by
the Integrated Mesh

**Artificial Lighting Fixture
inside architecture**

**Artificial Lighting Fixtures
illuminate exterior plaza and
building surfaces**

Artificial Light / Electric Light
passing through the interface
from interior to exterior

Night Time Scenario

fig. a3

Different Lighting Qualities and Conditions: Day time and Night time Scenario of this Interface

Interior Chamber

Lighting Conditions relative to Exterior
Daytime: Darker
Nightime: Brighter

Lighting System
Daytime: both artificial and daylight
Nighttime: artificial only

Daylight Sun rays

Exterior Plaza

Lighting Conditions relative to Interior
Daytime: Brighter
Nightime: Darker

Lighting System
Daytime : daylight only
Nighttime: artificial only

Whole Day Lighting Conditions and Performances Scenario
Dual Surfaces of Single Interface, Two Opposing Directions under Two Sets of Extreme
Lighting Conditions throughout the day

Day Lighting Illumination Zone
mainly bounded by Exterior Surfaces of the Interface and Exterior Plaza

Artificial Lighting Illumination Zone
mainly Interior Surfaces of the Interface and Exterior Surfaces during night time

Mutual Day Lighting and Artificial Lighting Illumination Zone
complex lighting conditions and performance requirements
for both lighting and information display systems

fig. a4

Different Lighting Qualities and Conditions: Day time and Night time Scenario of the Interactive Interface

Darker
Interior Chamber of
Information Space

Daylight Sun rays

Brighter
Exterior Plaza defined by
the integrated Mesh

Exterior Screen During Day Time Scenario

Brighter
Interior Chamber of
Information Space

Darker
Exterior Plaza defined by
the integrated Mesh

Exterior Screen During Night Time Scenario

Daylight Sun rays

Interior Chamber of
Information Space

Exterior Plaza defined by
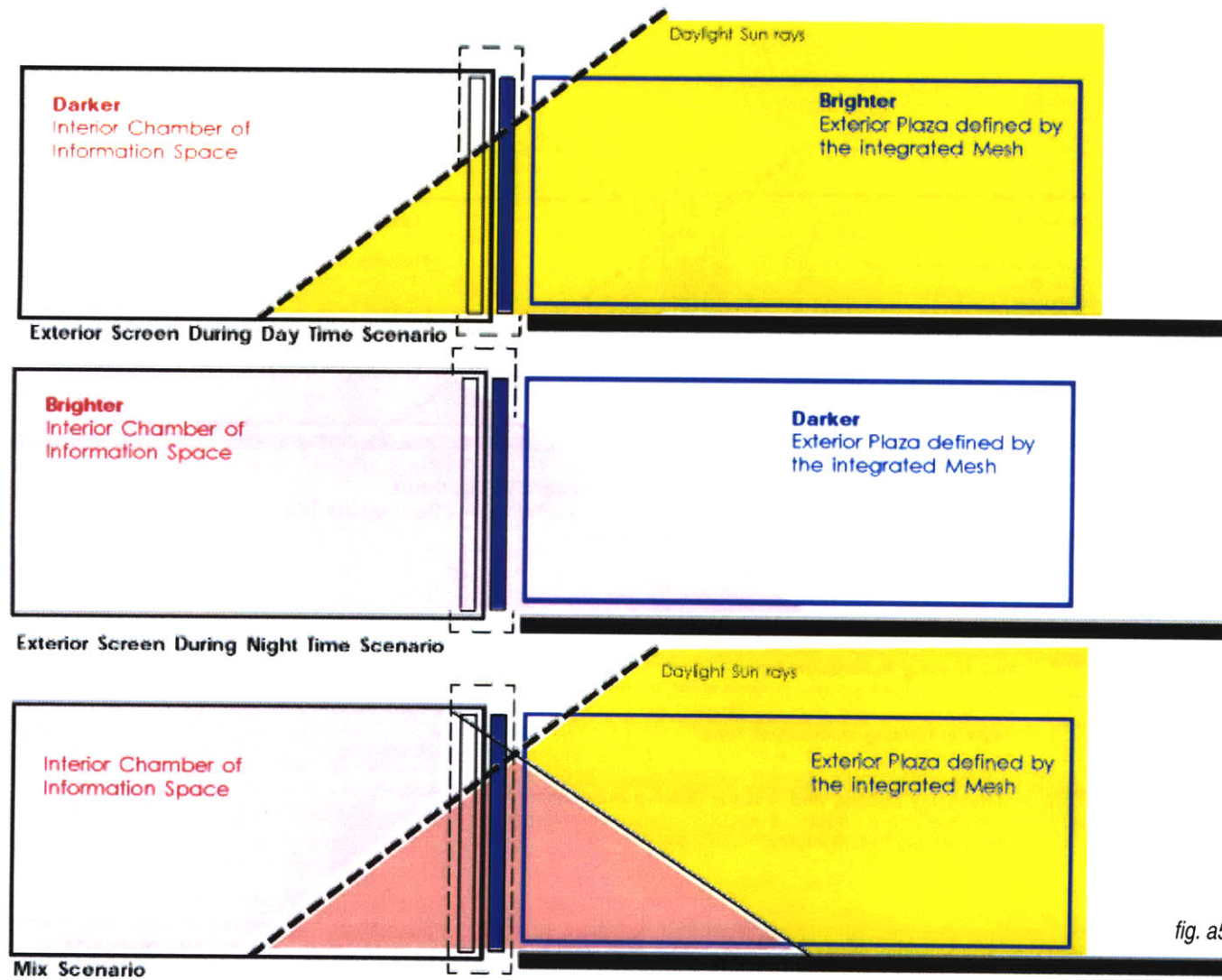the integrated Mesh

Mix Scenario

fig. a5

Illustration Credits

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End