

CONSTRUCTION+ HONG KONG

# CONSTRUCTION+

Bringing The Building And Design Industry To You

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## ROLE OF CONSTRUCTION IN LOW-CARBON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRALITY  
BCI ASIA AWARDS HONG KONG 2020/21 HIGHLIGHTS



## CAN STRIVES TO CREATE EXTRAORDINARY DESIGNS THROUGH A HOLISTIC APPROACH



Stephen Chow, Managing Director at CAN

Designing commercial projects is complicated and challenging. It is not only about the visions and ideas, but it also requires to meet with different requirements like building codes, client's expectation and operational concern.

A brand-new international design practice based in Hong Kong CAN Design pushes design boundaries by integrating culture, art, and nature to create innovative, meaningful and enticing destinations. CAN strives to imbue pioneering ideas with a modern and human-centric approach to implement bespoke and cutting-edge design around the globe.

The Managing Director of CAN, Stephen Chow, is an award-winning Design Architect with over 20 years of

international design experience. Prior to founding the firm in 2020, Stephen was a director of an international firm for over a decade, taking a leading design role in numerous high-profile projects. He currently heads up the multi-disciplinary firm focusing on commercial developments in different scales. He shares to Construction Plus about CAN's design value in developing and enhancing the built environment on commercial and retail landscape and community infrastructures.

### DESIGN ESSENTIALS

CAN's expertise incorporates masterplanning, architecture, interiors, environmental signage and visual branding. Primarily, the firm works on commercial projects and believes in design's power to transform spaces, communities, and cities. The team of over 40 creative designers

has an excellent proven record of award-winning design and strives to design iconic buildings and significant public spaces by applying international expertise with a local perspective.

CAN adopts a holistic approach of uniting architecture, interiors, and signage, providing all-round design services. It helps explore the design realm into infinite possibilities and transform clients' visions into sustainable designs, uniting comprehensive design outputs.

Stephen emphasised a design should be sensible. The primary design objective is to create an engaging, enjoyable and intriguing journey for the users. Designing a commercial building, especially retail, is like opening a treasure box: its curiosity led one to open its joy through strategic discoveries.

**CAN'S GREATEST SHOWCASE:  
BEIJING ZHONGGUANCUN PROJECT**

One CAN's attractive portfolio is the revitalisation of the Beijing Zhongguancun project – transforming the isolated site into a park in retail / retail in park settings: it envisions to create a sacred landmark that incorporates art, culture, technology, and design that meets the needs of the new generation. It took around a year to complete the conceptual and schematic design, and the project will start construction around the first half of 2022.

Developed early in the 80-90s, the initial project did not achieve that outcome due to limitations. In response, CAN Design revitalise the site into a

technology hub. A fascinating part of this project is to develop ways to merge the retail into the park, which was originally for military purpose, but as time goes on, it becomes desolate and does not fit in with the fast-changing commercial vibes today.

Stephen treasures the chance to design this site as it is very different from other commercial projects. It is historical, and cultural, and the Government pays much attention to the site, particularly when the IT trend is rising so rapidly that tech companies as Tik Tok, Tencent and Alibaba are becoming more influential to the world.

“This project is exceptional to us, as this is our first project, and it fits to

**The holistic approach helps transform clients' visions into sustainable designs, uniting comprehensive design outputs.**



Beijing Zhongguancun Retail Park



Beijing Zhongguancun Retail Park



represent our brand,” said Stephen. “We took so much time to discuss with the Government on the visions and goals, and finally, we are now on the same page and the design got approved. I hope eventually this project can truly provide a destination to the local and tourists. ”

Embracing the power of design to spark positive change and transform communities and cities, CAN's holistic approach also supports the team's potential to grow despite the outbreak of COVID-19, which makes it stand out from the other practices. As a new practice, CAN eagers to implement innovative architectural solutions and approaches to create a liveable future.



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