



Eric Design Architect Ltd

Architecture Practice of the Year 2018 - Hong Kong

Eric Design Architect Ltd (EDArch), is a Hong Kong based architectural practice focusing on institutional projects. We profile the firm to find out more about the secrets behind its success over the years.

Established in 1995, over the years EDArch has flourished, and it now supports a wide range of clients and creates innovative projects throughout Hong Kong.

Eric Chan, the founder of EDArch, was born and raised in Hong Kong. In this region where fast changing in every aspect is the norm and competition in the field is intense, Eric has demonstrated his perseverance in his architectural pursuits. He has always been exploring new design possibilities while creating designs that are unpretentious and pleasingly functional.

Today, he sees the unique characteristics of Hong Kong, which lie in the mixture of activities, the intermingling of different visions and the overlapping of multi-disciplines both in the tangibles and the

intangibles. Balanced or not, it is a co-existence of differences and variations. His designs always draw inspiration from these unique characteristics of Hong Kong and explore 'Symbiosis and Amalgamation'. He admires the beauty of uncertainties. This is reflected in his design process of creation out of the symbiosis and amalgamation, under which architectural forms and spaces with vast potentials and possibilities are created, and such generates surprises.

Fundamentally, Eric pursues for simplicity and purity in designs.

Above all, he designs with passion and joy, and with upheld drive and persistence for an architect's dream - to create architecture which are inspiring and touching. He prides himself on his ability to benefit and contribute to some sectors of the society and has acquired considerable recognition in the architectural field.

Since the beginning, EDArch has always been a small practice as the core, while having various flexible work forces for various specific tasks. Over the years, Eric has been mastering every aspect of EDArch in an abstract

organization like a single cell organism. From a single cell, it proliferates and mutates. Splitting and integrating have both been happening at the same time all the time. With this lifeform, EDArch has demonstrated vitality. Eric is extremely grateful to the many people who had walked with him along this 23 years' journey. The works of EDArch demonstrate the endeavours of its team members, past and present, to whom Eric expresses his sincere thanks.

Overall, 2018 has been an exciting and very meaningful year to EDArch. Two key projects



Eric Chan



Hong Chi Pinehill Complex



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Precious Blood Novitiate

have defined the firm's success this year; one is the largest it has ever undertaken, and the other the smallest. Both are very special and meaningful, and have just been completed in December 2018.

The first of these projects, the Hong Chi Pinehill Complex, is the largest rehabilitation facilities in Hong Kong for people with intellectual disabilities (PID). The project includes Hostel for Persons with Moderately Mentally Handicapped; Pre-School Complex which includes Special Child Care Centre and Early Education and Training Centre; and Social Service Complex which includes Integrated Vocational Training Centre, Day Activity Centre and Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons. In this Project, complicated functional requirements are well accomplished while creating a cheerful home for the PID. The total construction cost of the Project is about HK\$550M. Upon completion, over 1,100 beneficiaries will be served.

At the same time, EDArch has completed the smallest Catholic

Novitiate for Sisters of the Precious Blood. Due to land use zoning restrictions, the building height limit is restricted to 8.23m while covered area shall not more than 65 sq.m.. This has resulted in a small 3-storey building. Eric treated this small commission as a very meaningful religious mission. The Novitiate would enable a space for those young ladies who are determining their destiny or dedication of God, and provide them opportunities to experience consecrated life.

Light is the key in the design, expressing creation by God and evoking religious atmosphere. The cross, the symbol of crucifixion, is expressed in various forms, solid or void, abstract or figurative, fosters the spirit of salvation. The ever-changing light, in days, nights and seasons, gives life to the architecture. The building lies humbly below the Heaven, where the sky is the dominant feature. Looking ahead, EDArch will continue to focus on creating truly spectacular projects that are both unique and in-keeping with Hong Kong's existing vibrancy and innovation.



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