

For Immediate Release**Asia Society Hong Kong Center Wins Prestigious AIA Architecture Award**

Hong Kong (January 28, 2016) – Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) has won the prestigious 2016 Institute Honor Awards for Architecture given by the American Institute of Architects. The award recognizes the vision of internationally acclaimed architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, who were tasked by ASHK to turn four former British military buildings into a cultural, artistic, and intellectual hub set in the heart of Hong Kong’s central business district.

“It is a tremendous honor to be selected for this prestigious award. The heritage site has been carefully conserved, restored, and transformed into a cultural, artistic, and intellectual hub for visitors from near and afar. It recognizes our achievements and encourages us to strengthen our mission by making the center accessible to all through engaging exhibitions and thoughtful programs,” says S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center.

In selecting ASHK, the jury commented that the duo’s vision is “subtle and beautiful,” and that the project “capitalized on the setting, rather than building over.” Of note is that ASHK is the first Hong Kong site honored by the AIA through the Institute Honor Awards for Architecture program.

The three Grade I buildings were built by the British Army in the mid-19th century for explosives and ammunition production and storage. The Grade II building was added in the 1940s and used by the Royal Military Police. All the buildings were abandoned in the 1990s and sat derelict until they were passed to ASHK by the Hong Kong SAR Government for adaptive reuse.

“We appreciate the government for giving us a valuable opportunity to rejuvenate an importance piece of Hong Kong’s heritage for the artistic and cultural needs of the community,” adds Mong. “With this space, we can better serve the people of Hong Kong by organizing world-class events and programs, and to further Hong Kong’s role as an educational and cultural center of international caliber.”

With funds donated by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and other local and international individuals and organizations, all four buildings were connected by an angular footbridge and a glass wrapped modern pavilion, cutting angular lines through the jungle around it, as part of the revitalization project.

The architects envisioned a horizontal campus in amongst the vertical city landscape surrounding the structure. The ASHK complex is lauded as an example of architectural excellence that fuses culture, styles, and eras with precision and style. The design deliberately veers off course at one point to protect a tree where a family of endangered fruit bats lives, and is intended to preserve the juxtaposition of heritage, modernity, and the surrounding natural beauty.

For more information, visit the ASHK website:
asiasociety.org/hong-kong

Connect with ASHK on social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Asiasocietyhongkong

Twitter: twitter.com/AsiaSocietyHK

Instagram: [@AsiaSocietyHK](https://www.instagram.com/AsiaSocietyHK)

- End -

About Institute Honor Awards for Architecture

The Institute Honor Awards for Architecture is described as “the profession’s highest recognition of works that exemplify excellence in architecture, interior architecture, and urban design.” Architects licensed in the United States are eligible for the awards but projects can be located anywhere in the world. This year the awards were chosen from roughly 500 submissions, and the selection was made by a jury comprising architects and academics. Selection criteria focuses on the AIA’s core values of sustainability and submissions were required to include a narrative describing the ways sustainable design and building performance strategies have been integrated with the project’s broader design goals. The winners will be celebrated this May at the America Institute of Architect’s national convention in Philadelphia.

About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III in New York, Asia Society is a leading not-for-profit, non-government educational organization dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context. Across the fields of arts, business, culture, education, and policy, Asia Society provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a shared future.

About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

As one of the 12 centers of Asia Society, Asia Society Hong Kong Center (the “Hong Kong Center” or “ASHK”) was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders, led by the late Sir Q.W. Lee, honorary chairman of Hang Seng Bank.

In February 2012, the Hong Kong Center established its new permanent home in Admiralty at the Old Victoria Barracks, Former Explosives Magazine site. Steeped in history, cultural significance, and natural beauty, the site was originally built by the British Army in the mid-19th century for explosives and ammunition production and storage. Through careful conservation, restoration, and adaptive re-use, this heritage site was successfully transformed into a cultural, artistic, and intellectual hub. ASHK warmly welcomes the public to visit the Center, to join the programs and view the exhibitions organized by ASHK and its partners.

As the leading regional knowledge-based platform for furthering the understanding of the countries and cultures of Asia and global issues that impact the region, Asia Society Hong Kong Center boasts extensive regional and international networks of leaders and scholars, and offers a broad variety of programs in the form of lectures, performances, film screenings, and exhibitions to the community.

Asia Society Hong Kong Center was established entirely with local funding and is supported through membership dues, fundraising events, and contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations that work together to support and advance its mission.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Head of External Affairs, Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Ms. Christy Ko

Tel: +852 2103 9513 Email: mediahk@asiasociety.org / cko@asiasociety.org

External Affairs Manager, Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Mr. Jerome Yau

Tel: +852 2103 9563 Email: mediahk@asiasociety.org / jyau@asiasociety.org

Senior External Affairs Officer, Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Ms. May Tam

Tel: +852 2103 9559 Email: mediahk@asiasociety.org / mtam@asiasociety.org