



Press Release

For Immediate Release

## UABBHK 2025 Concludes with a Civic Performance in the Age of AI

(Hong Kong, 26 January 2026) — **The 2025 Hong Kong & Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Hong Kong) (UABBHK 2025)** officially concluded on 24 January 2026 with its **Closing Ceremony** held at the **Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)**, bringing to a close the two-months of exhibitions, public programmes, and cross-disciplinary dialogue under the theme **“TECHFORMANCE: Technology, Platform and Performance”**, organised by **The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation**, and co-organised by **The Hong Kong Institute of Architects, The Hong Kong Institute of Planners, and The Hong Kong Designers Association**. The Biennale is proudly supported by the **Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency (CCIDA)** as Lead Sponsor.

UABBHK 2025 transformed traditional architectural exhibitions into a dynamic **civic performance**, positioning artificial intelligence (AI) not as a tool, but as a platform to co-create ethical, inclusive, and human-centred futures. Through immersive installations, public workshops, and experimental formats, UABBHK 2025 invited audiences to participate in the design of the city — in real time.

“The Biennale has not only showcased the possibilities of design in the AI era, but also activated a civic platform where architecture, technology and public imagination intersect,” said **Ar. Allen Poon, Chairman of The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation**, during the ceremony. “Today’s conclusion marks both a milestone and a beginning — a new phase of creative exploration among Hong Kong, Shenzhen and the world.”

### Exhibition Highlights: Tech Meets Imagination

UABBHK 2025 unfolded across two venues, **Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)** and the newly opened **East Kowloon Cultural Centre (EKCC)**, showcasing **25 curated exhibits** by architects, artists, researchers, and technologists from Hong Kong and beyond. Teams from **10+ regions**, including Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, as well as Australia, Austria, Italy, Japan, Singapore, the Netherlands, the UK, and the USA, explored how AI can be integrated into architectural thinking, spatial storytelling, and participatory design. Among the highlights were **4 video screening works** that extended the exhibition’s themes through cinematic and documentary perspectives, addressing topics such as displacement and homecoming, the entanglement of code and culture, and speculative futures shaped by collective memory and student-led design fictions. Interactive installations like **Prompt[Pond]ering, Sentient Mirror, and Collaborative Ephemeral Pavilion** invited audiences to co-design spaces through AI-driven interactions. Works such as **LANdLine Project and Flower Market Imaginaries** grounded these future-facing visions in Hong Kong’s unique community and cultural context.

“In curating UABBHK 2025, we imagined AI not as a threat, but as a collaborator — a partner in rehearsing the future of our cities,” shared by **Dr. Jimmy Ho and Ar. Aron Tsang, Lead Curators of**



**UABBHK 2025.** “We are proud to have created a platform that enables technology to be tangible, and civic imagination visible.”

### Extending Impact: Public Programmes on Innovation & Collaboration

To extend the UABBHK 2025’s engagement beyond the galleries, two flagship public programmes were launched to bring AI and urban thinking into action: the **ArchiTech Hackathon** and the **Hetao Vision: AI Video Competition**.

#### ArchiTech Hackathon: Bridging Architecture and AI

Held earlier on the 24 January morning and co-hosted with **Google Developer Group Hong Kong (GDGHK)**, the **ArchiTech Hackathon** was a first-of-its-kind 3-hour collaborative event that brought together **40 architects, developers and students** — half from the **HKIA Young Architects Group (YAG)** and half from **GDGHK** — to explore how AI can support architectural workflows. The participants learned to use **Google’s Gemini model** and no-code platforms to build **AI agents for architectural design code compliance**.

Led by **Mr. Frankie Wu from GDGHK, Ms. Adeline Chan and Ar. Owen Lam, Executive Curators of UABBHK 2025**, the event embodied UABBHK’s vision by fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration between the tech and design communities, showcasing AI as a practical and imaginative tool for the built environment.

The winning team is **Mr. Eric Chan and Ar. Toby Chiu**. They successfully built the AI agent for the competition in an astonishing time of **3 minutes, 56.32 seconds** within a 60-minute timeframe, and was able to answer 10 questions, as required by the competition, completing the complex professional architect exam questions with 90% accuracy under four minutes.

#### Hetao Vision: Innovative AI Video Competition

Also announced during the ceremony were the winners of the **Hetao Vision AI Video Competition**, which invited creators to imagine the future of the **Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone (HSITP)**. All entries were required to be fully **AI-generated** — both visually and aurally — using tools such as Runway, Pika Labs, Suno, and Udio.

The competition explored how AI can democratise futurology, letting creators of all backgrounds envision **interconnectivity, innovation, and inclusiveness** across the “**one river, two banks**” vision of Hetao.

The winning video, titled **深港河脈：一河兩岸的科創樞紐宏圖** (*Shenzhen-Hong Kong River Network: A Grand Vision for a Science and Technology Innovation Hub Across Both Banks*) by **Mr. Zhang**

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**Xiaoshan**, was praised for **utilising AI to create a convincing narrative of a cross-border innovation hub, demonstrating a profound understanding of the development of the Hetao area**. Two additional finalists were also recognised for their distinctive storytelling and technical creativity.

A public screening of **the shortlisted videos will be held in the Hetao Science and Technology Innovation Centre, in February 2026**, allowing the public to reflect on the role of AI in imagining future urban life.

### What's Next: Visit UABBSZ and Explore the Living Archive

UABBHK 2025 will continue its journey in the **Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Shenzhen) (UABBSZ)** from **January to March 2026**. Whether you participated in the Hong Kong Edition or missed it, we warmly welcome you to visit the parallel venue of UABBSZ, at the **Shenzhen Hetao Science and Technology Innovation Centre**. Come and view the selection of UABBHK 2025 exhibits, continuing the creative dialogue and collaboration between Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

In addition, UABBHK 2025's ideas and output will remain accessible through a **dedicated digital gallery website** and a **forthcoming archive booklet**, both will preserve the curatorial vision, exhibited works, and public interactions from this edition. These resources will serve as an open, living archive — a springboard for future conversations across architecture, AI, and urban futures.

Photo captions:



Photo 1: **Ar. Allen Poon, Chairman of The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation, (Second Left), Dr. Jimmy Ho, Lead Curator of UABBHK 2025 (Fourth Left), Ar. Aron Tsang, Lead**

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**Curator of UABBHK 2025 (Fourth Right), Ar. Owen Lam, Executive Curator of UABBHK 2025 (Third Right), and Ms. Adeline Chan, Executive Curator of UABBHK 2025 (Second Right).**



Photo 2: The winning team of the ArchiTech Hackathon is Mr. Eric Chan (Third Left) and Ar. Toby Yiu (Fourth Right).



Photo 3: The winner of the Hetao Vision AI Video Competition is Mr. Zhang Xiaoshan (Third Left).

Please [click here](#) for hi-res photos.

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**About The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation**



The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation is a non-profit making organisation established and incorporated in 2014 for charitable purposes. The objects for which the Biennale Foundation is established are:

- To promote creativity and advance the understanding, appreciation and interest of architectural and design excellence
- To encourage cross-border and cross-disciplinary dialogue and collaboration among creative professionals from Hong Kong, other parts of the Greater China region and overseas
- To support art, design, architectural and cultural education for students and youth, the community, and policy makers
- To create a favourable environment for study, research and experimentation of design, art and architectural works in an exhibition scale
- To energise and revitalise specific sites of interests by introduction of cultural and creative events

### About the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency

The Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency (CCIDA), formerly known as Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) since 2009, was established in June 2024. CCIDA is a dedicated office under the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR Government) to provide one-stop services and support to the cultural and creative sectors with a mission to foster a conducive environment in Hong Kong to facilitate development of the arts, culture and creative sectors as industries. CCIDA's strategic foci are nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups, exploring markets, promoting cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary collaboration, promoting industrialisation of the arts, culture and creative sectors under the industry-oriented principle, and fostering a creative atmosphere in the community, thereby reinforcing Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital and our positioning as the East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.

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#### *2025 Hong Kong & Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Hong Kong)'s Disclaimer:*

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