

Chun Yeung Estate integrates with artistic atmosphere in Fo Tan (with photos)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Housing Authority:

Fo Tan has traditionally been an industrial area, but a number of local artists have been setting up studios in the district since 2000. This has created a vibrant art scene there and gradually turned part of Fo Tan into a community with a unique character.

To echo this unique character of Fo Tan, the Housing Department's architectural project team adopted the language of Piet Mondrian, a well-known artist of the 20th century, as the main theme for the building facades and design details of Chun Yeung Estate during its design stage.

"Piet Mondrian's art influenced not only the field of painting but also industrial product design and architecture. His artworks embellish straight lines and right angles with some vivid colour rectangles, showing vibrancy in tranquil and harmonious settings," Chief Architect of the Housing Department Mr Dominic Wong said today (December 27).

"We applied Piet Mondrian's art style to the facades of domestic blocks and shopping malls, as well as public facilities including ground floor lobbies and lift lobbies on each floor. Drawing well-balanced grid lines infilled with geometric patches of vibrant colours on walls has brought a unique outlook to the estate and fluid flows of new energy to the community," Mr Wong said.

Besides working to fit the project in with the artistic atmosphere in Fo Tan, the architectural project team considered and overcame geographical factors in the overall disposition and design.

Built against a hill, Chun Yeung Estate provides a series of covered pedestrian networks linking all the domestic blocks, the shopping centre and other amenities, which creates a liveable and barrier-free environment for more than 13,000 residents. This fulfils the mission of the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) to provide liveable housing to people in need.

"To optimise the potential of the hillside site for sustainable housing development, the buildings and facilities are strategically built on several platforms to address the level differences," Mr Wong said.

Chun Yeung Estate provides about 4,800 public rental housing units in five domestic blocks (namely Chun Yat House, Chun Yi House, Chun San House, Chun Sze House and Chun Wu House) and a five-storey shopping centre. The estate accommodates retail, restaurants, a residential care home for the

elderly, a day care centre for the elderly, a special child care centre, an elderly education training centre, a small group home, a kindergarten, a wet market, car parks and a Public Transport Lay-by (PTL).

"Aiming to provide barrier-free access to connect domestic blocks with major estate facilities, such as the shopping centre, the PTL, welfare facilities and landscaped gardens, we created a covered pedestrian network to shelter the residents from sunlight and rain, and to connect the shopping centre and the covered PTL at the lowest platform to the domestic blocks at various upper platforms of the hillside," Mr Wong said.

The covered pedestrian network comprises a walkway system, lifts and escalators, footbridges and a pedestrian corridor in one of the domestic blocks.

"To cater for the need of the residents to enter the estate from Kwei Tei San Tsuen Road, the other side of the estate at the top platform, a pedestrian corridor that routes through the sixth floor of Chun Wu House links up the estate with Kwei Tei San Tsuen Road via a footbridge. At the other end of the pedestrian corridor is a lift lobby for taking pedestrians down to the ground floor of Chun Wu House. To facilitate pedestrian circulation, the area surrounding the pedestrian corridor on the sixth floor is an open space with leisure facilities but with no residential flats nearby."

Given the delightful natural environment, the building block disposition of Chun Yeung Estate is strategically planned, taking into account the microclimate studies, environmental assessments and natural terrain of the site. Sufficient building separation is allowed to serve as visual and ventilation corridors for enjoyment of the natural landscape and maintaining effective wind penetration in the locality. The five-storey shopping centre is situated along Kwei Tei Street, and acts as a shield for the domestic blocks against the traffic noise.

Special furniture, such as sculptural seating and feature signage, is strategically placed at areas along the main pedestrian routes to reflect a more artistic approach.

In addition, Chun Yeung Estate provides a large variety of recreational facilities, including a basketball court, a badminton court, children's play areas, elderly fitness equipment and table tennis facilities for residents' enjoyment. It also maximises greenery through preservation of dozens of existing trees, and providing landscaped gardens, roof greening and vertical greening at various platforms. The use of renewable energy provides a pleasant and sustainable living environment for the residents.

The Government earlier used Chun Yeung Estate as a quarantine centre and returned the estate to the HA in two phases after thorough disinfection. The HA then conducted relevant reinstatement works and acceptance testing for the whole estate. The first batch of residents gradually moved into Chun Sze House and Chun Wu House from the end of August. As for the remaining three

blocks, namely Chun San House, Chun Yat House and Chun Yi House, the intake has gradually commenced from mid-December. Once most of the residents have moved into the estate, even more vitality and vivacity will be found in the community of Fo Tan.



