

## Vertical Cities Asia Symposium – Abstracts of Faculty Members

Title: MULTI-TASKING Architectural Infrastructures - Slender Urbanism and Mobility Models.

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### Abstract:

How can infrastructural-led development stitch together thriving urban communities that are both able to develop formally and informally to ensure diversity and demographic pluralism? How can we project and build for a 'Vertical Cities Asia': one that proposes well-proportioned, packed vertical structures that utilizes minimal resources and embraces community life, programmatic mixing with mass interconnectivity? If the future is to embrace a demographic that is more singular in lifestyle (young urban, upwardly mobile, smaller families, to an ever-ageing healthier group and more individualized living), then how do we proactively design with this in mind? In the dynamics of global and local flows today, a city's quality is based on efficiency, convenience, mixing and clustering of human capital to generate vitality and social sustainability. Yet, efficiency is often measured in architecture and urban planning through planimetric terms; however, can we rethink efficiency through a sectional strategy both in architectural space to three-dimensional networks?

This paper examines Hong Kong case studies that demonstrate how efficiency can maximize potentialities. I will analyze the various forms of mobility and efficiency networks such as the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway (MTR) to intermodal transportation of Hong Kong. I will present how these agencies have created an infrastructural-led development to form a series of corporatized spaces that negotiate local identity, cultural sensibilities and economic ingenuity within the urban fabric. This has given rise to slender typologies that are productive, such as thin pencil towers, urban alleyways, flatted factories to transit and market economies that have strategically created or organically produced clusters of human capital to flourish and collaborate as knowledge transfer 'hubs'. The Hong Kong model of the MTR allows one to argue how mutually beneficial infrastructural development can integrate with dense vertical compact spaces for the diversity of needs of Hong Kong's demographic. How can we learn from this and advance these concepts for the future? Slender Urbanism advocates for a nimble, flexible, and dynamic continuum packed programmatically in section. The understanding of these intersections, demonstrates a need for a new generation of multi-tasking infrastructures for 'Vertical Cities Asia'.