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APRIL 2014

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A COMPLEX MISSION

A new mixed-use development in Chongqing is being masterplanned by 10 Design
重慶全新綜合項目是由拾椽設計負責操刀設計

DESTINATION DINING

Inspired by the shape of a caterpillar's cocoon, Tavaru is the tallest structure on any resort island in the Maldives
Tavaru為馬爾代夫度假島嶼中的最高建築，靈感源自毛蟲蠶繭的外形

9 771606 255002

HK\$48
US\$18
€15



停一停、想一想

Pause for contemplation

Text & images 撰文及攝影：John Batten

Creativity is not simple, but simplicity is the aim of all creative tasks — as anyone who's undertaken the planning of a major event like Hong Kong Art Walk well knows

創作從來不是簡單的事情，但每位創作人都明白一切從簡的道理；而所有曾經籌辦香港Art Walk的人，更加深明此道

I have my nights back again. After an intense 10 weeks, the event I have been organising — Hong Kong ArtWalk — has been held and enjoyed by everyone who attended. This busy period is over.

The long hours of pragmatic, sometimes creative and (more often) problem-solving energy are, let's truthfully admit, draining. Any initial adrenaline rush of anticipation is worn-down by the actual work. And, it can appear to be never-ending. There is task after task. But, all is sequential, there is order and a time-line to event planning, as there is — or should be — in the building of any physical structure.

In our campaigns for heritage preservation and better urban planning, I have invariably

found the people who build large infrastructure projects — architects, engineers and builders — wonderfully pragmatic and careful.

As much as I despise our road and highway planning for unnecessary intrusion into quiet residential areas (visit Tseung Kwan O!), I admire the approach to traffic management issues and the inventive use of scarce road space to allow traffic to creatively move between road lanes to and between difficult points of access and egress.

Only those who have planned an event or built something know the effort and long hours required to achieve a good, and in construction projects, safe result.

Creativity is not simple, but simplicity is

the aim of all creative tasks. A calm, considered approach is necessary. And for all planners, be they for events or roads or buildings, those simple aphorisms quoted when a child are most useful: “many a ‘twix (mistake) between the cup and the lip” and “a stitch in time saves nine”.

Experience enforces this and good planners of any discipline will pass this onto their younger colleagues. In Canada, a graduating engineer receives a finger ring made from the steel used in an engineering disaster — it is a simple reminder not to rush, to check and then check — again.

我終於在晚上有空閒的時間了。經過緊湊的10個星期籌備，香港ArtWalk現已完滿結束，讓所有參加者都樂在其中。忙亂的時光總算過去了。

坦白說，如此長時間地工作，加上偶爾創作和（時常）解決難題等負擔，確實十分累人。所有令人期待的憧憬，都幾乎被繁重的工作耗掉了。事情紛紛接踵而至，彷彿永無止境。然而，活動策劃其實就如（或說應像）動工興建一幢建築一樣，一切理應循序漸進，按部就班。

在我倡導古蹟保育和改善城市規劃期間，我發現建築師、工程師及發展商等主理大型基建項目者，其實全都非常務實和謹慎。

另一方面，雖然我不屑香港的街道和高速公路如何莫名其妙地侵擾寧靜的住宅區（看看將軍澳吧！），但我卻很佩服香港的交通管理方式及其盡用道路空間的創意，令車流能夠靈活活來不同的行車線，或進出較為偏僻的地方。

而只有曾經籌辦活動或規劃建築的人，才知道出色的成果（或安全的建築）背後所需的時間和努力。

創作從來不是簡單的事情，但每位創作人都明白一切從簡的道理。冷靜、周詳的計劃是不可或缺的。所有活動、街道、建築或其他事物的籌劃人，都應謹記「慎始敬終」、「亡羊補牢，未為晚也」等老生常談。

此外，經驗亦會助你一把；而任何出色的籌劃人，都會將這等老生常談，薪火相傳予年輕的同事。正如在加拿大，每位行將畢業的工程師都會獲贈一枚象徵前人過錯的鋼製戒指，以警惕他們不要操之過急，應該再三謹慎檢查。 ●



From top Ling Pui Sze's video projection on Hollywood Road during ArtWalk of her performance playing a zheng after 'inking' the strings to produce an ink painting • Long-duration performance by Rental United, simulating a foot massage parlour, ArtWalk 2014

John Batten is co-convenor of the Central & Western Concern Group and writes on art, culture & heritage issues 百德約翰是中西區關注組召集人，並撰寫藝術、文化及歷史遺產的專題文章

