

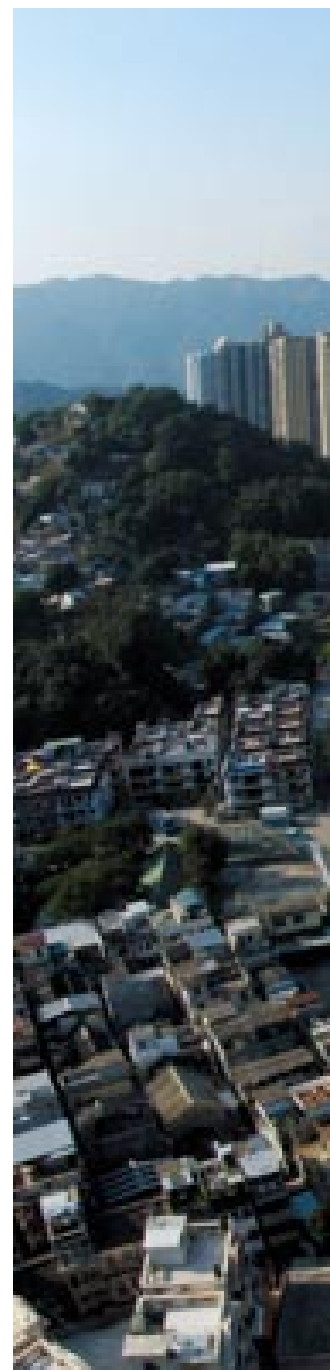
Project name **Tai Po Complex**

Location **Tai Po, Hong Kong**

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Tai Po Complex

Community development



After 10 years of planning and construction, Tai Po Complex has added a range of modern community facilities to the Tai Po district.



Commissioned by the Regional Council in 1994, Tai Po Complex on Heung Sze Wu Street was originally planned to include a market with 327 stalls, a cooked food centre, three floors of government offices, a basement carpark, a podium landscaped garden



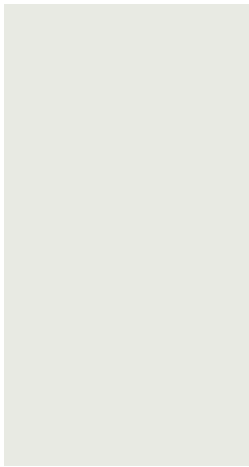
and an indoor recreation centre (IRC). A library was later incorporated into one of the original office floors after construction of the superstructure began.

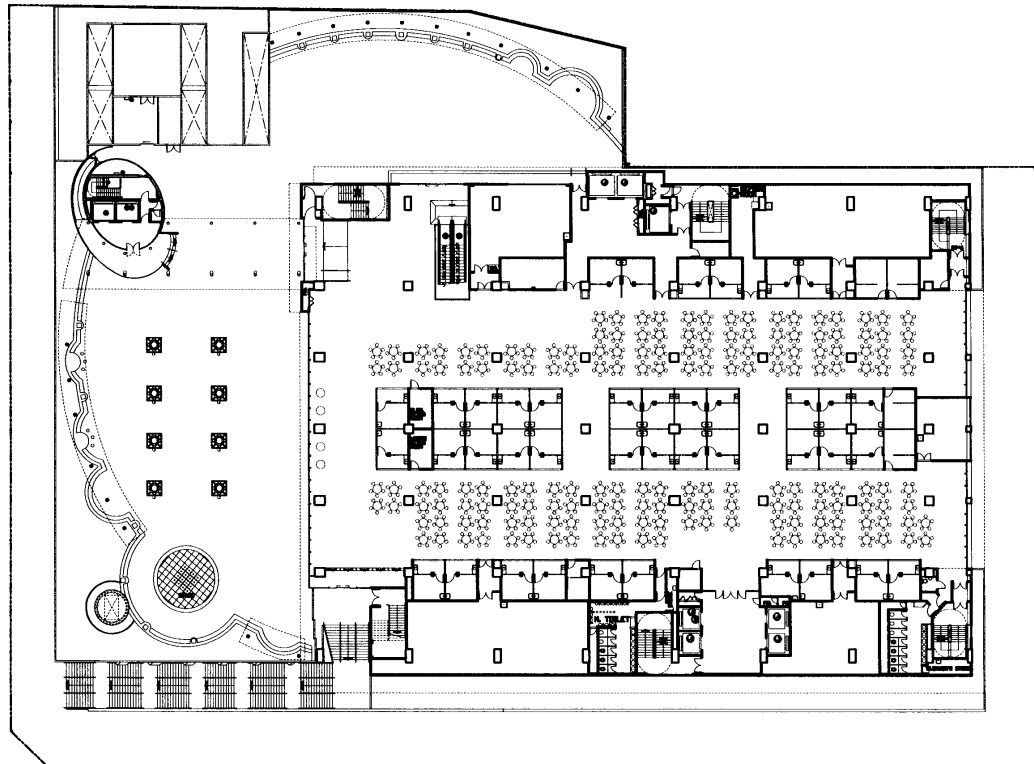
Dennis Lau & Ng Chun Man Architects & Engineers (HK) Ltd (DLN), which served as architect for the multi-storey market pilot scheme with Aberdeen Market Complex in the early 1980s, was project architect for client Architectural Services Department (ArchSD).

Tai Po Complex is built on a 9,214 sq m site and the project has a total GFA of approximately 49,489 sq m. Due to the high headroom requirements of the various functions within the building, the total height of the eight-storey complex is more than 60 m. The dynamic form introduced to the building with its wave-like roof is inspired by the position of a sprinter crouched and poised to leap out of the starting blocks in a 100 m race — an allusion to movement alongside conventional residential buildings. A combination of curtain wall with



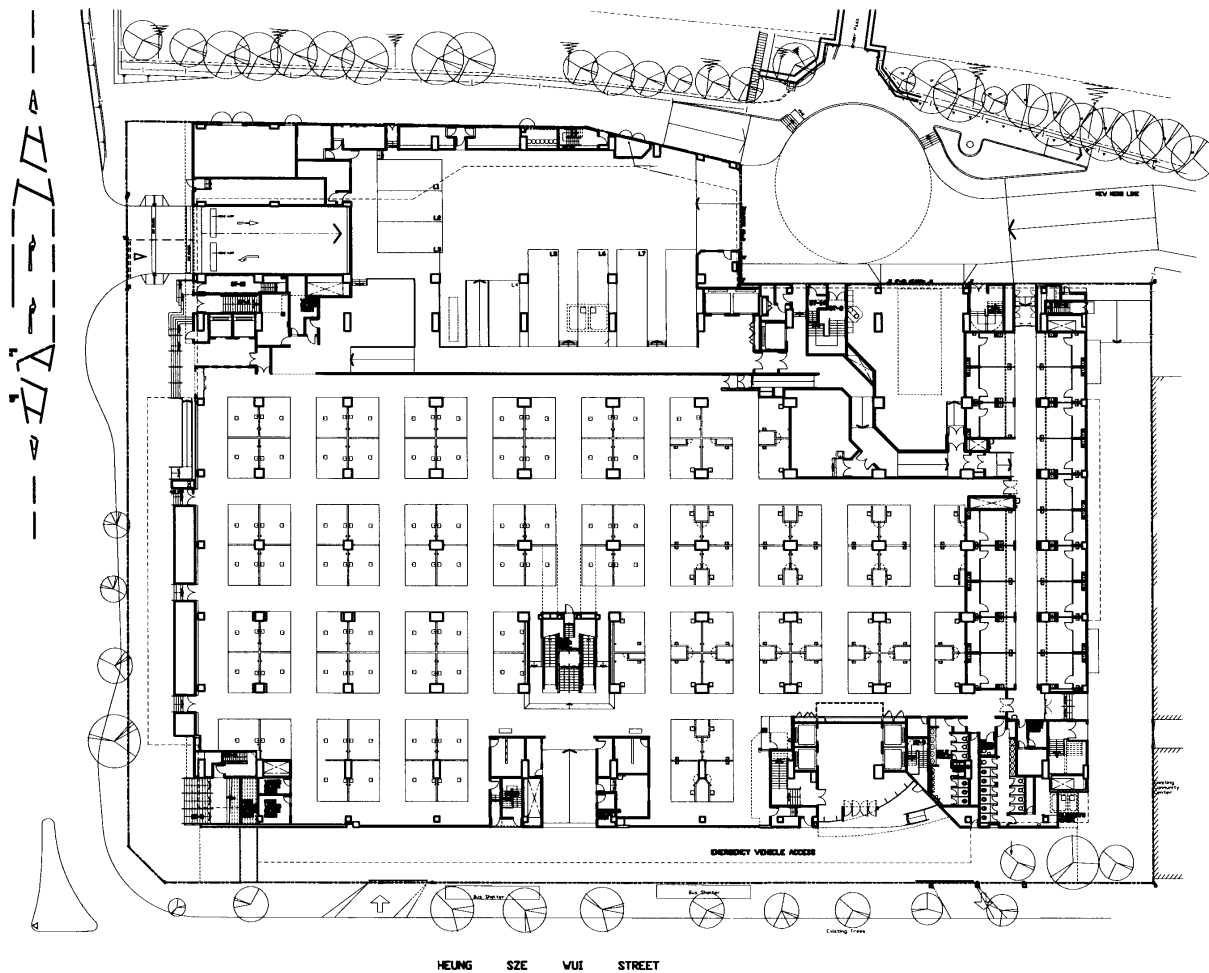


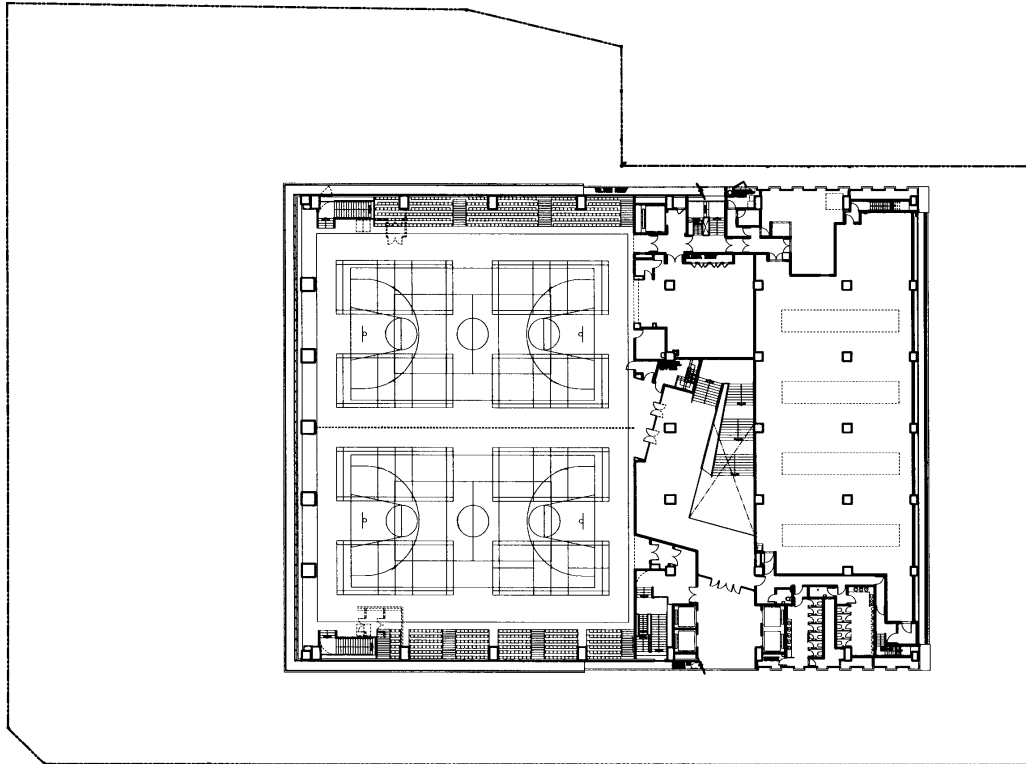




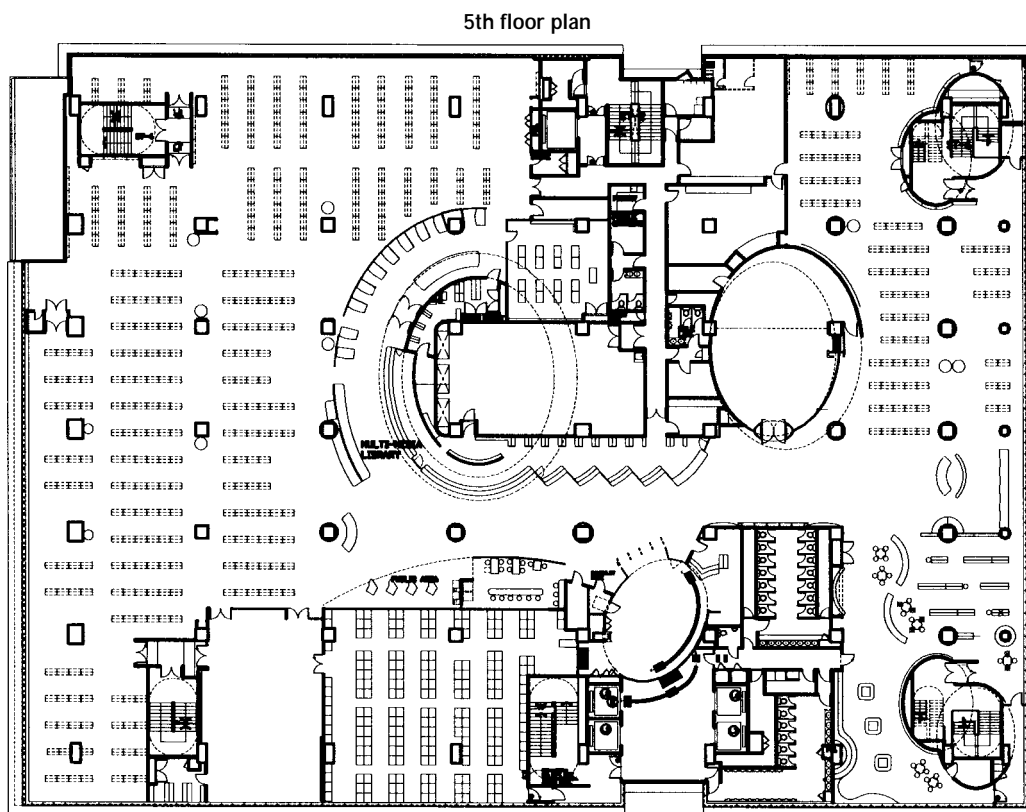
2nd floor plan

Ground floor plan





7th floor plan

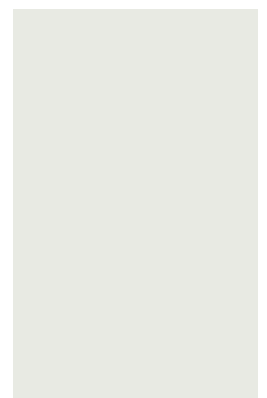


5th floor plan



reflective glazing, aluminium cladding and tiling meanwhile gives the building a cosmopolitan outlook, creating an interesting contrast to vernacular buildings on the other side of adjacent KCRC railway tracks.

The complex's configuration sees the market placed on the ground and first floors while loading bays and loading facilities are located on the ground floor and in the basement. The main entrance to offices, the library and the indoor recreation centre are also accommodated on the ground floor. The cooked food centre and landscaped garden are on the second floor and the government offices occupy the third and fourth floors. The district library is placed on the fifth floor. The sixth floor features the indoor sports centre with a children's play room, a multi-purpose function room, dance rooms, a fitness room and changing facilities, and the main games arena is on the seventh floor.



upper floors are separated at street level. Design features of the market include a vertical circulation spine at the centre which links the ground floor to the second floor. Reconstituted granite wall cladding, generous circulation space and colourful decorative banners along the circulation spine aim at creating a delightful shopping experience for market goers. All

The external building form is segmented horizontally in three different portions to both reflect the array of activities inside the complex's zones and reduce the scale of the massive building. Access points to the market and the




display tables and chopping tables for fish stalls are standardised and are provided for tenants in the market under a new government policy to ensure proper tidiness and hygiene standards.

The library has its different functions planned around a central counter and main circulation space for efficient management. Constrained by the 3.8 m floor-to-floor height originally designed for office use, visual focal points are created at circulation and function nodes in the interior design to draw viewers' attention from the ceiling.

The indoor sports centre has its two levels of activities on the sixth and seventh floors linked by a 12 m high internal atrium facing the IRC entrance. Bright orange-coloured interiors,

complimented by reconstituted granite and aluminium panel cladding, aim at giving a lively and active atmosphere. The famous Wishing Tree of Lam Chue in Tai Po was recreated inside the children's play room, onto which soft padded balls instead of oranges are thrown to make wishes come true. The main games arena has a clear headroom of 8 m to 13 m and, due to the large compartment volume, the space is provided with a static smoke extraction system.

The designers sought to incorporate signage features into the building's podium finishes — a departure from standard practice. The architect firm's experience showed it would be better to implement a solution at the planning stage rather than see ad hoc banners draped on the building later. The resulting scheme has vertical banners hanging at intervals around the podium structure for a colourful and more integrated appearance. 

Leisure and Cultural Services Department
client

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