

We live in a hard concrete city. Many people don't get out to the countryside and so we have to try and bring the countryside and bring nature back into the city. Part of a landscape architect's job is to try to reconnect people with nature and try to give them opportunities to do that.

Avenue of stars was in bad need of a renovation. There was no shade at all. Very little greenery. Very little seating. The architecture was very dated. The genius of that place is , though, its views so the design from the very outset was geared to exploit those views and make it a comfortable place for people to do a variety of things while experiencing the fabulous views of the Hong Kong skyline.

There are a lot of seating opportunities. You can sit in the front, you can sit in the back, you can sit in a group, you can sit by yourself. One of our design collaborators on the project created seating created from recycled timber that had been found. I love the undulating edge - we used this material called "Resista" which is made out of rice husks and oil. Actually, pretty much everything in this project was bespoke design. I don't think there was anything that was off the shelf. It's a great pleasure I have whenever I walk along there and I see so many people enjoying the space.

For Victoria Dockside, I would like to think that people can view this as an example of what can be done to integrate landscape and architecture at multi-levels. All of these designs from the 57th floor when we put in some trees up down to the ground landscape was a very exciting collaboration I think with the different disciplines. We were working alongside James Corner Field Operations. They were sort of the lead designers I would say and we were the executive Landscape Architects. Talented designers were brought in. We worked together. We designed things that were designed especially for this project.

On the 8th floor of the Musea building, there is a nature discovery park which is sort of designed as a nature museum and the architecture there was designed by LAAB. The species that were chosen help to encourage butterflies, bees, wildlife to really bring nature back into the city and if we take that approach throughout Hong Kong then I believe that we can create a city that is a more pleasant place to be in.

The client (New World Development) had the vision for Victoria Dockside and for Avenue of Stars to make it something modern and contemporary that can be enjoyed by the public to achieve something that at the of the day, I think, works and ties in all these design aspects: engineering architecture, landscape; very successfully.

The end product is proof of how that can be a very rewarding design process. We're just creating a stage for people to do all the things that they like to do in public spaces.