

Project Title: “Hou2” Living Gallery: Co-creating Age-friendly Neighbourhood in Hong Kong's Private Housing Estate 好好生活館: 共創年齡友善社區實驗計劃

Abstract

Hong Kong is facing the issue of double ageing – ageing population and aged built environment. The pace of retrofitting/maintenance of the aged building stocks cannot promptly address the needs of older adults. The aged physical environment poses risks to older adults' safety and compromise their overall wellbeing, and meanwhile, the process of retrofitting/upgrading is hindered due to potential high costs, lack of stakeholders' consensus, and diversification of ownership. The proposed project aims to address the aforementioned double-ageing challenges by developing quick-win prototypes to improve the age-friendliness of a private housing estate through a participatory action approach, for promoting ageing-in-place and healthy ageing at large. Through various engagement of key stakeholders (residents of different ages, key actors and local champions, and professionals), the project will identify, design, fabricate/implement and test (on-site) cost-effective and impactful age-friendly design interventions to stimulate residents' imagination and build consensus among stakeholders. City One Shatin is selected as the project site to further test and scale-up the initiative. Possible design interventions to be tested include elderly-friendly seating design, physical-exercise facilities, age-inclusive play facilities, age-friendly community farming facilities, and age-/dementia-friendly wayfinding design. Given the complexity involved in housing retrofitting and stakeholder dynamics, the project adopts a participatory action method (or co-design approach) as an instrumental tool to promote participation of and dialogues between residents and key actors for co-creating estate specific knowledge, prioritizing needs and co-exploring practical and cost-effective solutions. The process/outcome will be a demonstration of community-led initiative in contextualizing the concept of age-friendly city in neighborhood scale, serving as an exemplar for micro-regeneration for other similar private housing estates in Hong Kong.