

Housing for Millions

VO:

This is our home
There are over 7 million people in Hong Kong
and more than 2 million live in public housing estates
under the auspices of the Hong Kong Housing Authority
They provide a comfortable environment
and a full range of basic facilities for tenants
The accomplishments of today's public housing
have actually evolved over the past six decades

Section Title:

The Origin of Public Housing and Establishment of the Housing Authority

Super:

Fire in the Shek Kip Mei squatter area

VO:

On Christmas night 1953
a fire broke out in the Shek Kip Mei squatter area

Super:

Over 53,000 fire victims

VO:

Over 53,000 people were made homeless
This crisis persuaded the Government to build resettlement blocks
to house both the fire victims and other squatter dwellers

Super:

The first Resettlement Estate in Shek Kip Mei completed in 1954

VO:

In 1954

the first batch of resettlement blocks was built in Shek Kip Mei

The Government set up the then Hong Kong Housing Authority

a semi-independent organisation

providing low- to middle-income families

low-cost housing with basic provisions

In 1972

the government announced a Ten-year Housing Programme

Super:

The Hong Kong Housing Authority was established in 1973

VO:

and established the Hong Kong Housing Authority in 1973

putting management of all resettlement blocks

and low-cost housing estates under one roof

The Housing Authority is a policy-making body

which formulates policies on planning, design, construction,

maintenance and management of public housing

while the Housing Department carries out the policies

and day-to-day operations

Section Title:

Public Housing Design

VO:

Over the years

design of public housing has seen continuous improvements

Super:

H Blocks of the 1950s

The old Shek Kip Mei Estate (now demolished)

VO:

Resettlement blocks of the 1950s
were of six or seven storeys high
Residents had to share toilets, bathrooms and tap water
in the middle section of each floor

Super:

Slab Blocks of the 1960s
Choi Hung Estate

VO:

Slab Blocks of the 1960s were 16 storeys high
with lift access for every three floors

Super:

Twin Tower Blocks of the 1970s
Wah Fu (II) Estate

VO:

Twin Tower Blocks of the 1970s were over 20 floors high
with lift access to all levels

Super:

Trident Blocks of the 1980s
Chuk Yuen North Estate

VO:

Trident Blocks of the 1980s were generally 35 storeys in height
with three separate wings connected by a lift lobby in the centre

Super:

Harmony Blocks of the 1990s
Tin Shui Estate

VO:

Harmony Blocks of the 1990s were mainly in cruciform shape
and of 40 floors high

Major improvements have also been made in flat layouts

Super:

Resettlement Blocks (1950s)

VO:

Flats in earlier resettlement blocks were small in size
and without any partitions or provisions

Super:

Slab (1960s) and Twin Tower Blocks (1970s)

VO:

Flats in Slab Blocks and Twin Tower Blocks
were equipped with self-contained washrooms and kitchens
or balconies for cooking

Super:

Trident Blocks (1980s)

VO:

A multi-room design was first adopted for Trident Blocks
There were windows in both the living room and bedrooms
and also window ledges for air-conditioners

Super:

Harmony Blocks (1990s)

VO:

The Harmony Blocks were also of a multi-room design
but with bigger windows for better ventilation and more day-light

Super:

Eco-lighting
Natural ventilation

VO:

Today, construction of public housing is site-specific with flexible non-standard design and green concepts integrated to foster an eco-friendly living environment

Super:

Solar Power Generating Systems
Zero Irrigation Planting Systems

Section Title:

Planning and Estate Management

VO:

Public housing estates built in the early years were only provided with very basic facilities and management
Over time
the environment, local facilities and estate management including security and cleansing services
have seen tremendous improvement
Comprehensive planning of housing estates
takes into consideration the everyday needs of tenants

Super:

Estate Management Advisory Committee

VO:

In the early 70s
we encouraged tenants to form Mutual Aid Committees
Since 1996, Estate Management Advisory Committees (or EMACs)

have been formed in public rental housing (or PRH) estates to involve tenant representatives in their own estates' management which also helps to strengthen residents' sense of belonging

Section Title:

Harmonious Communities

Super:

Universal Design

VO:

'Universal Design' has been widely adopted in both common areas and inside flats providing barrier-free access to all people and rendering an environment embracing "Ageing in Place"

Super:

Harmony and integration

VO:

The Housing Authority also encourages NGOs and tenants' associations to invite their neighbours of ethnic minorities to join activities to help them integrate into the community. A host of activities are also organised on a regular basis by housing estate offices in collaboration with NGOs and EMACs to foster a harmonious community.

Section Title:

Subsidy for Home Ownership

Super:

Home Ownership Scheme

VO:

Since 1978, with the Home Ownership Scheme (or HOS) and various subsidised housing programmes the Housing Authority has been helping low- to middle-income families to buy their own homes
To date, over 480,000 subsidised housing flats have been sold

Super:

For 10 years starting 2021/22
Target supply of subsidised homes for sale: 91,000 units

VO:

It is an integral part of the Government's housing policy to build subsidised housing for sale and boost the turnover of PRH flats

Super:

Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme

VO:

Apart from the HOS, in January 2018 the Housing Authority also made the Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme a regular feature
This helps tenants and eligible PRH applicants buy their homes and release more flats for waiting families

Section Title:

Sustainable Development of Public Housing

Super:

For 10 years starting 2021/22
Target supply of public rental housing / Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme :
210,000 units

VO:

To shorten the waiting time for PRH applicants
we endeavour to meet the housing production targets
and keep enhancing the sustainability of our public housing

Super:

Total Maintenance Scheme
Estate improvement works

VO:

We proactively provide in-flat inspections and repairs
and at the same time improvement works
in the older estates are carried out to extend their life span

Super:

Promoting eco-lifestyle

VO:

Energy saving and waste reduction measures are also in place
to promote an eco-friendly lifestyle

Super:

Electric vehicles
Fabric reinforcement
Precast concrete components

VO:

We adopt low carbon construction methods
and energy saving measures in our new public housing projects
These include making massive use of pre-cast components
avoiding plastering and tiling on walls

Super:

Green treatment of marine mud

Solar power water heaters

VO:

and using recycled materials

and renewable energy whenever possible

Over the past six decades

public housing has been providing stable and affordable homes

for generations of low-income families

improving their quality of life

fostering mobility across the social strata

and promoting Hong Kong's economic and social development

Looking to the future

the Housing Authority will keep striving

to fulfill its mission of "housing for all"