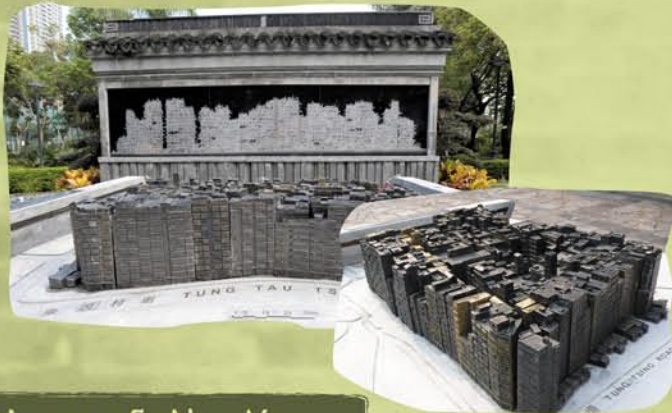


A City of Thousand Faces

This exhibition consists of one outdoor display area and six exhibition rooms inside the former Yamen. It seeks to re-create the old days of the Kowloon Walled City through models, images and sound effects etc.

Outdoor Display Area

Located at the South Gate of the Kowloon Walled City Park, the Outdoor Display Area showcases a shadow wall and a model of the Walled City. The side of the shadow wall facing the South Gate is inscribed with an essay on the Kowloon Walled City Park. On the opposite side, a cross-section of the pre-demolished Walled City is displayed. The bronze model facing the Yamen is a miniature of a building in Walled City before demolition.



History of the Yamen

Built in 1847, the Yamen is the only historical building that remains in the Walled City. Originally built to house the offices of the Commodore of the Dapeng Brigade and the Kowloon Assistant Military Inspectorate, it was later used as a home for the aged, and the word "ALMSHOUSE", engraved over the front door of the Yamen, is still visible today. The Yamen was designed in the traditional architectural style of Southern China, with three halls and four wings of houses. The whole Yamen, with simple and plain decoration, has been renovated and restored to its original appearance.



Enquiries: 2716 9962

Opening Hours of the Exhibition Rooms: 10:00am to 06:00pm
(Closed on Wednesday, except Exhibition Room No.1)

Exhibition Rooms The Yamen comprises six exhibition rooms



KOWLOON WALLED CITY PARK EXHIBITION GUIDE

History

The original site of the Kowloon Walled City was used by imperial Chinese officials as early as in the 15th century. A signal station was established at the site in 1668. In 1810, a fort was built at the far end of the beach adjoining the site. Following the British occupation of the Hong Kong Island in 1841, the Kowloon Walled City and the surrounding area became much more important in China's maritime defence. In 1846, the Qing Government commenced the construction of a walled garrison city there. Surrounded by strong stonewalls with six watchtowers and four gates, the Kowloon Walled City, occupying an area of 6.5 acres, was completed in 1847.

The offices of the Commodore of the Dapeng Brigade and the Kowloon Assistant Military Inspectorate, commonly known as Yamen, were major buildings in the Walled City. When the British troops took over the Walled City in 1899, the Qing officials and soldiers were expelled. Since then, the Walled City had been deprived of the rule of law and administration. It became a semi-lawless squatter slum.

During the Japanese occupation between 1941 and 1945, the walls of the Walled City were demolished by the Japanese troops, with the stones extracted for the extension of the nearby Kai Tak Airfield. The post-war years saw high-rise tenements over the Walled City. Built without government supervision, the living conditions deteriorated as the days went by. The Walled City had literally sunk into a hotbed of vice activities. Finally, the Walled City were brought to an end in 1987 when both governments of China and Hong Kong agreed on the demolition of the Walled City for re-development into a park.

The demolition works of the Walled City were completed in April 1994. During the demolition, some existing buildings, unearthed carved granite plaques, remnants and relics were protected intact.

Relishing the Past

Exhibition Room 1

This room displays pictures depicting the history and daily lives of the residents of the Walled City before demolition.



Exhibition Room 2 - Streets of the City

Scenes of narrow streets and tight alleys in the Walled City have been recreated.



Exhibition Room 3 - The City's home-based industries

Three common trades in the Walled City, namely small-sized noodle factories, home-based candy factories and unlicensed dental clinics, are introduced.



Exhibition Room 4 - The bright and dark sides of the Walled City's Rooftops

This exhibition simulates the environment of a rooftop in the Walled City in the 1970s and the 1980s, enabling you to experience the bright and dark sides of the Walled City.



Interactive Exhibition Rooms

Exhibition Room 5

A series of flashbacks of the Walled City will be shown when you wave your hand before the screen. The images presented to you include the Longjin Bridge, the Longjin Pavilion, the Yamen, the Shadow Wall and Fui Sing Pavilion, Hill Top Pavilion, buildings and streets of the Walled City, the process of demolition, and current scenes in the Kowloon Walled City Park.

Exhibition Room 6

You can interact with the people living in the Walled City by standing in front of the screen and match with the footprints as shown on the screen, waving your hands and/or moving your body.