2010 marked the year Taipei City connected with the world. By organizing the “21st Summer Deaflympics Taipei 2009” and “2010 Taipei International Flora Expo,” Taipei stood on the international stage and forged a connection with the world. As citizens were welcoming friends worldwide with wide-open arms, we drew up future development policies for Taipei City by following the instructions in the mayor’s policy whitepaper and the expectations for Taipei City with citizens or community planners. These policies included “Building a Visionary Taipei,” “Shaping a Charming Taipei” and “Re-presenting Taipei Elegance.” We also aggressively promoted the “Taipei Beautiful Project,” aiming to present Taipei City to the public in a more beautiful manner.
1. Building a Recycling and Organic Taipei City

(1) Eco-City Development Strategies and Action Plans

One of the few rare cities which possess a unique set of natural and ecological characteristics including winds, volcanoes, mountains, forests and rivers, Taipei City is enveloped by mountains to its north, east and south. In order to harmonize modern people with nature, promote economic development and social harmony, and turn Taipei into an eco-city with a positive ecological cycle, the Taipei City Government has drafted the Eco-city Development Strategies and Action Plans for the sake of “urban development and planning for the next 30-50 years, aiming to turn Taipei City into a green city filled with trees, grass, flowers, soil, animals and insects, where biodiversity and urban sustainability coexist in harmony and urban development and nature are closely integrated, should be planned and designed in order to build a healthier and more livable city and promote sustainable development to cope with global climate change”.

These strategies and action plans are drafted individually according to the following six issues in order: Tree for green, Aqua for water friendliness and conservancy, Infrastructure for green public facilities, People for green living areas, Energy for energy saving and carbon reduction, and Intelligence for an intelligent eco-city. In fact, the acronym formed by these six issues is the word TAIPEI. With 2030 as the target year, the aim of the master plan is to turn Taipei in “a water-friendlier and healthier eco-environment” for sustainable Taipei Eco-City.

(2) Green Infrastructure Master Plan of Taipei Metropolis

Based on the common experience in economic development across the globe, the level of completion of “gray facilities,” i.e., “urban infrastructures,” determines the degree of local economic development. In
order to realize sustainable development and maintain a balance among production, living and ecology (PIE) in a region, it is necessary to establish a green infrastructure system prior to building urban and social infrastructures (schools, hospitals and libraries).

Green infrastructures include eco-corridors, green channels, environmental corridors, eco-networks and green transport systems. At present, cities in the world are maintaining and extending local eco-and green-systems as the foundation to turn themselves into sustainable eco-cities. Their efforts cover districts, cities and communities. As systemic construction requires strategic planning and runs across administrative districts, it needs inter-district cooperation to accomplish. Therefore, when planning and constructing sustainable cities and eco-cities in Taipei City, New Taipei City and Keelung City, it is necessary to start discussions from the viewpoint of Taipei City, in order to understand, conserve and properly plan Taipei metropolitan area into an existing “network centre” and a network system with green infrastructures containing “linking corridors.”

The “Green Infrastructure Master Plan of Taipei Metropolis” incorporates the green infrastructure nodes and networks in the Taipei metropolitan area to form a green infrastructure system. It further establishes objectives, countermeasures and promotional mechanisms, proposes operational and management recommendations, and instructs the future land use and economic development in the Taipei metropolitan area to promote the sustainable development of Taipei metropolis and turn the city into an eco-city. Also, the “4G Life” vision was proposed to promote the Green Infrastructure Plan in terms of the following four aspects: Good Green, Add Green, Increase Green and Action Green.

(3) Taipei Urban Heat Island Mitigation and Improvement Project

In order to provide urban living functions, land use density has exceeded the average and green land is inadequate and disjointed in Taipei City. Along with the high carbon emissions from transport and the massive use of water-impermeable pavement, a “heat island effect” is formed as the urban temperature rises higher than the surroundings.

Therefore, the aim of the Taipei Urban Heat Island Mitigation and Improvement Project is to reduce high energy consumption and discomfort as a result of the urban heat island effect by means of a pre-cooling strategy and techniques to create a green urban living environment in Taipei City. In this project, the Chenggong Public Housing in Daan District was selected as a demo site. By monitoring and analyzing the interrelations between heat island strength and urban development and by gathering heat island mitigation strategies

The 4G Life in the Taipei City Green Infrastructure System.

Results of local greening with roof plant growth bags.
and techniques from home and abroad, the optimal improvement strategies and design plans appropriate for Taipei City were proposed. These designs include:

A. Roof Plant Growth Bag Greening and Heat Insulation Coating: Plant growth bags are used to grow plants and high polymer heat insulation coating is applied to block direct sunlight from roofs in order to reduce the heat absorption of concrete.

B. Atrium Greening and Spray System: Arbors and vines are grown to form shade and water is sprayed after activated by a temperature sensor to reduce the temperature of the local environment.

C. Rainwater Collection System: Rainwater is collected and purified from a platform for reuse in plant irrigation in order to reduce water resource consumption.

Additionally, stationary meteorological stations were established in and around the demo site under the Taipei Urban Heat Island Mitigation and Improvement Project to collect microclimate data for assessing project benefits in the future, in order to propose more effective heat island solutions for Taipei City and existing buildings.

2. Creating a Future Vision

(1) Promoting Regional Cooperation in Northern Taiwan

Facing competition from globalization, cities in the world are launching either regional alliances or regional cooperation to enhance international competitiveness. Therefore, by launching cooperation with eight counties and cities in Northern Taiwan based on mutual trust and division of labor in a global thought, it is hoped that true regional cooperation is enforced from a regional point of view in order to prepare Taiwan for global competition.

On January 13, 2006, representatives from eight counties and cities in Northern Taiwan signed the “New Era, New Actions for a New Taiwan: Cooperation Declaration” to initiate the regional cooperation of Northern Taiwan in order to make life more convenient for citizens living in these eight counties and cities. On November 5, 2010, the Maioli County Government organized the Northern Taiwan Regional Development Exhibition 2010: The Governor Annual Congress and Accomplishment Show at the Y17 Taipei City Youth Recreation Center when it was responsible for running the cooperative body in 2010.

In 2010, a total of 37 action plans covering short-, medium- and long-terms were formed around eight main issues. These eight counties and cities also applied to the Council for Economic Planning...
and Development, Executive Yuan for funding from the “National Construction Integration Plan 2009” and “National Construction General Assessment and Planning 2010.” The planning of the seven plans approved for funding in 2009 was completed one after another in 2010, and the physical construction plans of the 13 plans approved for funding in 2010 will be proposed in 2010 and 2011 after integration.

(2) The Vision of Youth, the Future of Taipei: Taipei International Co-workshops by Universities Grant Program 2010

Facing competition from creative cities in different regions across the globe, interdisciplinary and cross-border cooperation will be an effective solution for Taipei City. Therefore, the Department of Urban Development, Taipei City Government began promoting Taiwan’s first “University Urban Planning and Design Funding & International Exchange and Cooperation Plan” in 2010 in order to connect with the world, broaden international horizons, stimulate creative energy, uncover unique charms and invite international youth to discover Taipei City.

The plan funded teams formed by departments related to urban planning, urban design, architecture, and landscaping of local universities, both public and private, with overseas universities. These teams must select a site in Taipei City as the research topic and integrate their research with the vision of Taipei City: “humanities”, “science and technology”, and “shore.” The work items of the plan included the organization of an international workshop, establishment of an exchange platform and presentation of stage results. These teams should present their research plans and achievements in project reports and leaflets in both Chinese and English versions and in a video format.

Since web recruitment began on February 1, 2010, the plan attracted six local universities, including National Chiao Tung University, Chinese Culture University, National Taipei University, National Cheng Kung University, National Taiwan Normal University and National Taipei University of Technology, to form teams with top universities worldwide, such as the Architectural Association School of Architecture of the UK and Tokyo University of Japan. From April to August in 2010, these teams organized international workshops at the Taipei Confucius Temple and Nangang District, based on their topic of research. Later in July and August, they organized the mid-term international forum. Further, in September and October, they organized the end-term international forum. In the beginning of October 2010, they held a joint exhibition to present their research results at Huashan Creative Park.

Part 2 Shaping a Charming Taipei

1. Displaying Characteristic Energy

(1) Northern Taiwan Tourism Blue Ocean Plan

Rivers and seas were vital for the development of Northern Taiwan. From the ferry trade along the Danshui River and the harbor trade at Keelung Harbor in earlier times, to the development of Taipei Port in recent years, rivers and the sea have given Northern Taiwan advantages and opportunities to expand
into the world. There are dozens of fishing harbors containing rich marine resources in the eight counties and cities in Northern Taiwan. Therefore, a regional cooperation platform can help incorporate these marine resources and integrate both marine and land tourism spots in these areas to create a “Green Tourism Industry” with sustainable development and thereby provide combined recreation sites and tours of higher quality. Under the Northern Taiwan Tourism Blue Ocean Plan, three tourism corridors (zones) are formed, including the “Taipei City-New Taipei City-Keelung Corridor for Multiple Marine Vehicles”; the “Yilan Corridor for Marine Recreation and Tourism” and the “Taoyuan-Hsinchu-Miaoli Corridor for Coast Restoration & Leisure Fishing and Biking.”

In 2010, Keelung Harbor in Keelung City, Huanggang Fishing Harbor in New Taipei City, and Guangdu Ferry in Taipei City were selected as the strategic harbors for the plan. Overall tourism development strategies and detailed design and improvement ideas covering nine aspects, such as landscaping, government promotion, environmental conservation and local culture, were proposed, and local workshops were held; hoping to increase the opportunities of riverside and seaside recreation for fellow nationals, to develop the river- and sea-based green tourism industry in Northern Taiwan, to increase the variety of tourism and recreation by integrating marine and land recreational spots, and to establish a complete integration of marine and land tourism. The full-area diagnostics and inventory will follow. In the future, these will be integrated into a “flagship plan” and become a reference for the development and promotion of marine tourism policies.

(2) Taipei City Young Community Planner Training Program

The 11th “Taipei City Young Community Planner Training Program” organized in 2010 integrated the environmental course “Urban Planning and Community Participation” of community universities to help the public understand the contents and achievements of community empowerment of the Taipei City Government. In addition to generating education courses, such as Community Planning and Community Empowerment, the program further proposes concrete missions of community planners. By coordinating community planning with major Taipei City Government policies and through the practical courses organized by various workshops, the program cultivated proactive and visionary local community planners.

City transformation requires citizens from different parts of society to form new social values by challenging mainstream ideas with concrete actions. Entitled “City Transformation: Rolling Reforms with Creativity and Green Dreams,” the 11th Program symbolized the assignment of the action reform missions to planners in order to roll out different forms of city vigor.

By diagnosing community issues with the “Community Acupuncture Workshop,” the 11th Trainees of the 11th Young Community Planner Training Program.
group of young community planners made community planning in terms of the following eight themes: “Urban Green Spot Participative Planning and Empowerment,” “Roosevelt Road Green Community Life,” “Community Center Creativity Operations,” “Community Theatre,” “Low Carbon Eco-community Adaptation and Planning Team,” “Creative City, Local Action: Taipei City Movie Theme Park Creative Actions and Practice,” “Fire Lane Empowerment” and “Community Art.” Creative actions were applied to carry out changes in lifestyles.

(3) Opening of Treasure Hill Artist Village

Selected as one of the most characteristic spots in Taipei City by The New York Times in 2006 and the first historical community ever so designated in Taipei City, Treasure Hill is located on Dingzhou Road, Section 3, in Taipei City. It has been inhabited by the Han people since the regime of Emperor Kangxi in the Qing Dynasty. Dwellings built with local materials rise and fall along local terrains, thus forming a twisting landscape of alleys and winning the names such as “Little Jiufan” or “Taipei Tiu Keng Leng.”

After years of planning and renovation, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government, officially commissioned the Taipei Culture Foundation to take over the operations of Treasure Hill in the spring of 2010. On October 2, 2010, Treasure Hill Artivists CO-OP was opened to the public to witness its unique style. In addition to the Treasure Hill Homeland with over 20 households located along the hillside, creative policies for local revitalization and conservation, such as “arts residency” and a “youth hostel,” were also introduced. Also, Treasure Hill Artivists Village and International Youth Hostel were planned, hoping to stimulate more possibilities in this community based on the spirit of “paragenesis.”

Treasure Hill Artivists Village provides 14 studios for the “artists-in-residence” program. For each three-to-six-month residency, resident artists are encouraged to carry out resident projects after long-term observation of local intricacies. Treasure Hill Artivists Village also provides two rehearsal studios, three galleries and various outdoor squares throughout the village for comprehensive performances and exhibitions. Twelve “micro communities” are planned as studios and offices for culture and creative workers and groups in order to form a cluster effect for culture and creative workers and a platform for art and cultural exchange.
Additionally, exhibition planners were invited to work out creation plans by organizing thematic workshops, exhibitions and performances and educational activities in order to shape the basic tone for artists-in-residence, promote artist and community networking, and creation platform incubation. This idea of “artist village paragenesis” has turned this suburban hillside city into an artist town by the Xindian River.

2. Building Beautiful Cityscapes

(1) Nanjing East Road and Nanjing West Road Public Environment Renewal Planning and Design

The MRT Songshan Line Road Restoration Project will be planned for the urban reengineering of all sections along Nanjing East Road and Nanjing West Road. Lanes will be reduced to increase space for pedestrians, and accessibility, bikeway, streetlamps and landscape greening will be taken into account, in order to set out a reference for the design of sidewalks and road surface restoration after the completion of the MRT Songshan Line and thereby to shape the human-based and livable place friendly city image of Taipei.

The expected outcomes of the Nanjing East Road and Nanjing West Road Restoration Project include:
A. Pedestrian Space and Environment Improvement: Sidewalks in specific sections will be expanded to provide a more spacious and more comfortable walking space for pedestrians.
B. Increasing the Scale of Landscape Greening: Trees, flowers and greenery will be planted along sidewalks to enrich the gradational effect of local landscapes.
C. Increasing Urban Water Conservation Area: The capacity of urban water conservation and water permeability is enhanced by means of water-permeable pavement and plantation holes reservation to improve the urban microclimate and reduce the probability of flooding.
D. Urban Open Space Extension: More comfortable and more spacious open areas are provided by incorporating green shades along sidewalks.
E. Biking Space Implementation: Implement biking space in urban areas.

In addition to meeting the demand for public transport, the transformation from “vehicle roads” into “pedestrian streets” is taking place on Nanjing East Road and Nanjing West Road by means of sidewalk expansion, introduction of landscaping plantation, incorporation of space along the roads, and provision of better service facilities, in order to turn the roads into a leisure city space for the people of Taipei.

(2) MRT Zhongshan Station Public Art Corridor

Department stores, banks and crowds are everywhere around the Zhongshan Station of the MRT’s Danshui Line. However, the bar-shaped park located between Nanjing West Road and Changan West Road is an MRT engine room where people rarely gather. In order to incorporate this area into the “Taipei Beautiful” policy, the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Taipei City Government has commissioned the Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei (MOCA Taipei) to invite four artists with individual styles to make public artworks with different media and approaches based on the characteristics of the MRT Danshui Line and Zhongshan District based on the theme “Convenience of MRT and Fun of LOHAS.”

Public art makes space fun and friendly.
In his work “Taipei Legend”, artist Lee Yi-xun made six scenes based on six themes with mosaics to express different field spirits. Artist Lee Aikibo created three lovable stereo robots called “Bigpows” in red and white for people to enjoy their favorite music and the interesting facial expressions of the Bigpows by plugging in their MP3 players and iPods. Artist Liang Ren-hong put 17 lollipop-like colored balloons on the plantation wall at the MRT Changan West Road Exit to convey that the MRT vent is also a passageway from the park to the Zhongshan Metro Mall with his Wind Blowing, Message Floating. “The Welcome to the Galaxy Railway” made by artist Hsu Tang-wei takes people to outer space along the downward staircase.

Over ten public artworks in this bar-shaped park swing under the sun along with the breeze and smile at people under the shade. They take pedestrians by surprise as they appear by the wall and shine at the entrance of the metro mall. These give passers-by a reason to “stroll over leisurely and hang around.”

(3) Saving Energy and Greening with Jobsite Fencing Plantation and Painting

In order to beautify the appearance of Taipei City and improve the living environment around jobsites, the Department of Urban Development, Taipei City Government revised the “Taipei City Construction Project Traffic Obstruction and Public Safety Improvement Plan” on July 13, 2009 to specify that jobsite fencing shall be green and beautified with color paintings, canvas, stickers and green plants in order to save energy, reduce carbon and beautify the city’s appearance. Statistics show that 220 jobsites have completed the greening and beautification jobsite fencing occupying an area of 4,150m², equivalent to seven neighborhood or borough parks in Taipei City and successfully reducing carbon emissions by 450 tons. The Building Administration Office, Taipei City Government also shares with the public examples of demo jobsites with excellent performance in greening and beautification in the “Decorated Construction Fence by Plants or Painting Area” of the Building Administration Office website.

The “Jobsite Fence Greening and Beautification Plan” have successfully turned dusty jobsite fences into beautiful landscapes with the crafty ideas of designers and floral artists. Sometimes, we can even see butterflies fluttering around. Therefore, these have become living public artworks in Taipei City.
3. Administration Efficiency Enhancement

(1) Taipei City Land Use Control Exclusion List

With the rapid pace of industrial development and transformation, the land use approval in both commercial and industrial areas is facing keen business competition. In order to cope with the characteristics of rapid changes and rapid industrial transformation and to coordinate these changes with the implementation of the “Taipei City Statue for Tree Protection Autonomy” and the adjustment of parking spaces based on actual needs, the Taipei City Government began amending the sections concerning land use control in Taipei City in order to solve related problems as soon as possible. Passed at the 13th Review Meeting of the 7th General Meeting of the 10th Taipei City Council on May 28, 2010, the amendment was announced and implemented by the Taipei City Government on June 23, 2010. The amendment includes:

A. To replace the land-use approval policy with exclusion list in commercial and industrial areas and allow the entry of some supportive businesses to cope with the flexible and timing demands for commercial and industrial development in order to enhance industrial competitiveness.

B. To prevent developers from sacrificing precious trees for the benefit of development, the section for adding or reducing the floor area ratio according to the protection or destruction of trees of conservation or previous value and their growth environments is added to facilitate the enforcement of the tree protection policy.

C. To reduce the number of motorcycle parking spaces by 50% because the existing motorcycle parking space standard is too loose, thus leaving too many unoccupied motorcycle parking spaces and spaces for illegal use.

(2) Taipei City Building Line Graphic Management System Implementation Plan

In the present instructions on the application for building line instructions, applicants are required to independently prepare the building line instruction drawings, cadastral drawings and project status drawings. As these drawings are highly professional, they have become a big obstacle to the public. The Department of Urban Development, Taipei City Government has completed the contract execution for the Taipei City Building Line Graphic Management System Implementation Plan and commissioned the contractor to develop the building line graphic drawing management and application functions on March
23, 2010 to informative building line instruction management, in order to simply the procedures for building line instruction applications and to reinforce building line administration informatization based on the spirit of “convenient services for citizens”.

The system analysis and graphic system function implementation of the plan have been completed. At present, the contract is engaging in the web system function implementation. The system will go live after system testing, adjustment and system verification. Projected benefits of the system include:

A. To produce drawings by the system, to simply the drawing process of applicants, to increase convenient services for the public, and to shorten application processing time.
B. To improve the business environment by integrating related drawing information, to enhance business performance and to improve the correctness and integrity of business data.

(3) Establishment of the System to Assist Examining Construction Licenses

In order to effectively simplify construction license application procedures and enhance license issue efficiency, the Building Administration Office, Taipei City Government collaborated with professional architects from the Taipei Architects Association (TAA) to test Taiwan’s first System to Assist Examining the Construction License on March 1, 2008. On October 1, 2008, the Building Administration Office officially commissioned the TAA to assist in construction license examination and analyze construction license applications with statistical techniques in order to propose concrete measures for simplifying the existing construction license application procedure and thereby to enhance administration efficiency. The scope of the assisted construction license examination system was expanded in January 2010 after the success of the trial run. From then on, the examination of construction license design changes, building use license changes, miscellaneous licenses and building demolition licenses has been commissioned to the TAA.

Before the implementation of the assisted examination system, it took an average of 199 days for applications to receive a construction license according to members of the general public. After the implementation of the system, it took only 24 days. The system also provided an opportunity for professional dialogues and exchanges between the Building Administration Office and TAA. In the future, it is hoped that construction management can improve as times go by and the administrative efficiency can reduce delays exponentially through continual reform and exchange. Open and transparent information is another benefit of the assisted examination system. In fact, the system won the First Administration Transparency Special Award of Taipei City in 2009. In addition to providing all examination standards and documents for downloading, members of the public can keep track of the examination progress over the Internet.
1. Building a Livable Space

(1) Taipei City Expanded Urban Redevelopment Project for Buildings in Older Middle- and Low-income Communities

Over one-third of the buildings in older middle- and low-income communities in Taipei City are over 30 years old. Therefore, a full-scale renewal is deemed necessary in an aging society because these buildings have inadequate living functions and public facilities, and are potential threats to safety should any disaster strike. Also, they have become a big problem in the urban development of Taipei City. The Taipei City Government thus launched the “Taipei City Expanded Urban Redevelopment Project for Buildings in Old Middle- and Low-income Communities,” hoping to promote the re-development and transformation of old communities into energy-saving, carbon-reducing, ecological and friendly communities, in order to improve the city image and to enhance living quality. The project implementation projects included:

A. 5-Year Plan for Detailed Planning Change in Urban Planning: In addition to a floor area reward for urban redevelopment in existing urban re-development planning, a development area reward will be granted for development projects with positive benefits for the environment after the review of the Taipei Urban Planning Commission. This policy was announced and implemented on August 2, 2010.

B. Assistance in Promoting Self-reliant Redevelopment Business Integration: The Taipei City Urban Redevelopment Business Funding Directions were amended to double the amount of funding. The amended directions were announced and implemented on July 30, 2010.

C. A maximum of 10 million dollars or 75% of the total contract cost will be funded for each urban redevelopment project in the form of renovation and maintenance. In 2010, a budget of 150 million dollars was planned. The application acceptance of the Taipei City Expanded Urban Redevelopment Project Phase II for buildings in older middle- and low-income communities began from August 2 to November 1 in 2010.

(2) Provision of “Affordable Housing”

The housing policy of Taipei City is to provide “affordable housing” at appropriate prices in appropriate time, in appropriate quantities, at appropriate locations and of appropriate quality in order to ensure the housing rights and benefits of residents. Apart from promoting the “Taipei City Expanded Urban Redevelopment Project for Buildings in Older Middle- and Low-income Communities” to increase the supply of housing and enhance the living quality in Taipei City, the Taipei City Government focuses on the “housing lease market” to meet the strategic urban development needs and the housing demand of the underprivileged.
Under the Taipei City housing policy, all types of government housing are collectively known as “public housing”, including social housing and rental housing designated for “the socially weaker groups, low-income families and elderly residents” and “generally young and middle-income families”. The policy is operated in terms of the supply, demand and environmental aspects. In terms of supply, it is “to increase the quantity of public housing in different ways” [5% of housing stock in the city (approx. 45,000 units) in the long run] and “to improve the lease assignment and the quality of use and management of public housing.” In terms of demand, it is to “increase the housing affordability of residents by means of subsidization.” In terms of environment, it is “to improve the environmental quality of old communities through urban re-development.”

By increasing the quantity of public housing and improving its management quality through professional property management companies, the implementation of the new lease assignment system of rental housing will change the “low quality” stereotype of rental housing or low-income family housing, as well as ensure the living quality of residents and the housing rights of the underprivileged. Additionally, the Taipei City Government will continue to promote its housing subsidization policy and urban re-development planning in order to fulfill the housing demand of residents in all directions through comprehensive approaches.

(3) Taipei City Rental Public Housing Environment Beautification and Improvement Project

Rental public housing in Taipei City was built by the Taipei City Government in the early years to accommodate middle- and low-income families. In order to revitalize the building image of older communities, the Taipei City Government has launched various public environment reengineering, façade landscaping and beautification projects in recent years. In 2010, the Taipei City Government planned the façade and landscape improvement project for Xining Building and Wanmei Rental Public Housing. Besides beautifying and renewing their appearance, the project has improved the overall environmental and living quality of these public housing buildings. The project also has revitalized these buildings by applying environmental concepts to them.

In the project for the Xining Public Housing, in addition to façade renovation, horizontal PC lamps and LED lamps with changeable colors were installed on the façades in the night lighting design to deliver a different visual effect for this riverside housing complex and to display the rich internal design of the building and provide a new visual experience in housing. Additionally, significant landscape improvement was made in the design of facilities, sidewalks and shaded recreational area on the square to promote local re-development opportunities. In the project for the Wanmei Public Housing, façade landscapes and night lighting of Xining Public Housing.
Housing, the exterior wall energy-saving technique was applied to enhance the energy-saving and carbon-reducing functions of buildings by thickening the exterior walls and using a medium-transparency and low-chrominance coating to increase heat insulation and reflection effects.

Also, in order to turn Taipei City into an “accessible” livable city, accessibility facilities are equipped from the exterior environment to interior housing space to build an accessible and friendly housing environment. In terms of interior design, the interior space and equipment of the Wanle Rental Public Housing in Wenshan District have been reengineered with a universal design. In the future, this universal design will be standardized for all public housing and applied to all 23 public housing complexes in Taipei City.

(4) Arcade Flattening Plan: Accessible Arcades for a New Taipei Image

The arcade is a unique townscape feature of Taiwan providing shelter from the rain and direct sunshine for pedestrians and visitors. In the absence of a well-planned policy, arcades of different elevations were built everywhere over the years. Therefore, the Taipei City Government launched Taiwan’s first “arcade flattening plan” in 2002 in order to provide citizens with a friendly walking environment.

The Building Administration Office, Taipei City Government drew up an arcade flattening plan for a sum of 170,000 meters of arcades to be completed on an annual basis. In the planning process, the Building Administration Office has listened to and coordinated with the opinions of shop owners and local opinion leaders in order to maintain local characteristics after flattening these arcades. Also, to ensure the smooth promotion of the plan, the Taipei City Government formed the Arcade Flattening Promotion Taskforce in 2007 to solve problems concerning cross-departmental interfaces at regular meetings.

From 2002 to 2010, a total of 121,100 meters of arcades were flattened to accomplish the target in Phase I of the plan. More importantly, the results have been widely accepted by the public. In order to optimize the results of the plan, Phase II of the plan will be reviewed and a budget will be planned in 2011 to ensure the flattening of the remaining 50,000 meters or so of arcades to turn Taipei City into a true world-class accessible city.

2. Revitalizing Public Space

(1) Taipei City Urban Regeneration Station Promotion Plan

The aim of this plan is to establish new city discourses, action interventions and sustainable strategies for the future. Urban renewal in the past used to emphasize the reengineering of building physical properties and the improvement of the environment and revitalization of old communities. However, in order to search the new Blue Ocean for cities upon existing land, housing and urban economic structure, it is necessary to put some fire into the existing urban development framework, and this fire is known as the
urban regeneration station (URS).

The URS is a platform, a network, and after all, a movement; it is a silent urban revolution initiated by the urban regeneration department. every URS is named by a door plate number. It is a workstation, a neighborhood or borough, an information hub, a community exchange space, an exhibition and meeting location, an experiment, a resting place in the city... You name it, and there it is. As an anchoring station between space and action, present and future, the URS will extend to form new networks. It has friendly development and creative atmospheres. It can be the unrestricted and new soft urbanism.

Existing URSs include:
A. URS 21 Creative Incubator at TTC Zhongshan Distribution Center: urban creative industry incubator
B. URS 127 Design Gallery + TKU Architecture Incubator on Dihua Street: Dadaocheng Culture and Creative Industry Exchange Platform
C. URS 27 The Grand Green on Linsen North Road: The creative new land
D. URS 13 Revived Vanguard on Nangang Road Section 2: Urban regeneration promotion and exchange space
E. URS 89-6 Regeneration Plant on Zhonghua Road Section 1: Interdisciplinary Urban Exchange Center (private real estate)

(2) Luoyang Parking Lot Facade Greening, Beautification and Night Lighting Plan

In order to link the Ximending commercial area, yuquan park, the special-purpose area of the Taipei Main Station and Dadaocheng district into an overall development area, the Taipei City Government has begun the reengineering plans for the Luoyang site formed by the Xining Public Housing, Wanhua Sports Center, Zhongxing Elementary School and Luoyang Parking Lot. On this site, the Luoyang Parking Lot is the major public facility neighboring the Danshui River in Ximending. In order to coordinate this project with the promotion of the riverside re-development vision, the Taipei City Government thus improved the major landscapes of the Luoyang Parking Lot as one of the strategies for improving local environmental landscapes and vigor.

The plan included: cleaning the exterior walls of buildings, and building façade coverage greening, beautification, and night lighting. The Urban Redevelopment Office, Taipei City Government was in charge
of the overall details and design of the plan. Also, the Parking Management and Development Office, Taipei City Government were placed in charge of the construction work.

Unlike the direct lighting with traditional project lamps, white FRP frames are used on the exterior walls along with indirect lighting of LED lamps. Also, flaming trumpets and Boston ivy are grown in the hollows designed in the FRP frames. Webbing is installed for plants to grow. Automatic irrigation systems are equipped to irrigate these plants with recycled rainwater and tap water. Also, green, blue, amber and orange LED lamps are used to light up the exterior walls in different seasons with gradational and random changes. For example, on public and national holidays in spring and summer, blue and green light will be used intermittently. As on public and national holidays in autumn and winter, colors will change into amber and orange. The light color changes according to time announcements and special festivals in order to create a rich and charming city night view.

**Conclusion**

Taipei City has a rich traditional culture with distinctive historical characteristics. In order to turn Taipei City into a capital of culture and tourism, the Taipei City Government implemented urban design and environmental improvement techniques and launched a landscape improvement program to improve important tourist spots, traffic and pedestrian accesses in the city. In order to harmonize the people of today with nature, the Taipei City Government has created a sustainable eco-city designed to save energy and reduce carbon to maintain a balance between the city and nature. In so doing, it promotes economic development, social harmony, and the beneficial circle for ecology. The Taipei City Government is thus able to shape the sustainable eco-environment and empower a quality and humane living environment in Taipei City. Therefore, Taipei City Government can develop green infrastructures and expand the eco-urban concept to the scale of the Taipei metropolitan area.

In order to cope with the rapid changes in the global political and economic environment and industrial structure, Taipei City has launched a regional cooperation program with eight counties and cities in Northern Taiwan by integrating the resources in these areas in order to solve regional issues. Also, apart from promoting the re-construction, renovation and maintenance of older buildings, the Taipei City Government has proposed an “affordable housing” policy to provide housing at appropriate prices in appropriate time, in appropriate quantities, at appropriate locations and of appropriate quality. It has also launched the public housing greening and beautification program to create appropriate and livable living space for the public.

The Taipei City Government will redefine and reshape Taipei City with a long-term vision and strategic view in order to successfully brand Taipei City.