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Edition**

**News, views
and interviews
on 10 years
that shook a city**

A decade of change

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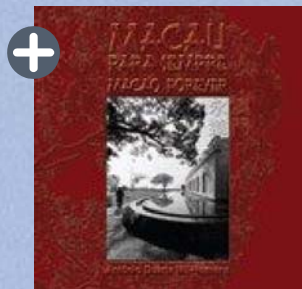
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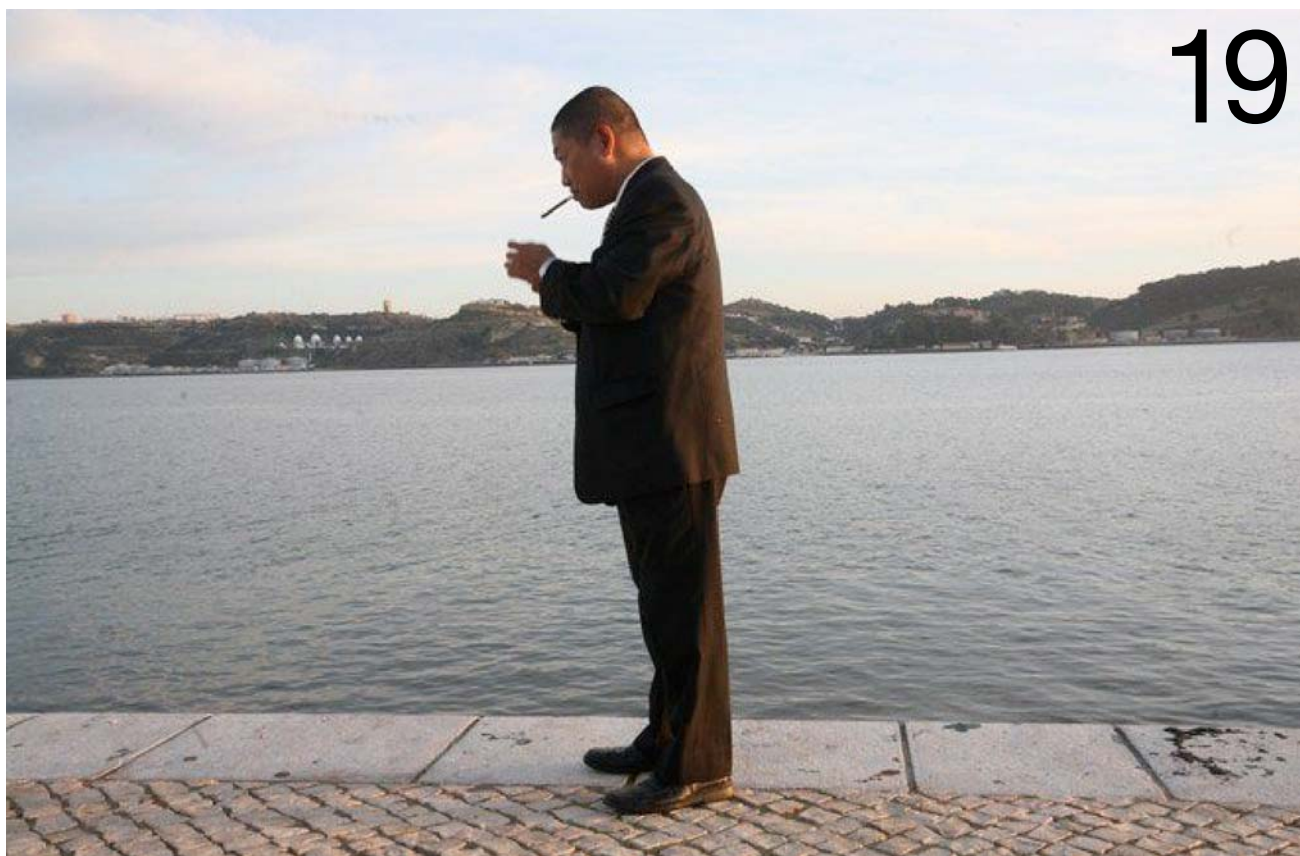
While stock lasts



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Macau
MOP 30
Hong Kong
HK\$ 35
Mainland China
RMB 30



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For Macau to build on and profit from an amazing 10 years of growth, a revolution will be required in the way we plan and develop our physical environment

FUTURE IN MIND

by **Mário Duque***

The decade we are now leaving behind us has, without a doubt, given Macau a place in the global gaming and tourism consciousness, that the city could hitherto have only dreamed of.

But it is equally clear that in the next 10 years, the city will have to undergo a planning and infrastructure revolution if the world's most financially successful casino town is to deliver on its undoubted potential.

If real action, backed by a solid political will to build an operational and integrated infrastructure is not forthcoming, all the good work will be undone and the dream could become a nightmare.

Opportunity from crisis

The 2009 global financial crisis has given the new SAR government a chance to prepare strategies for the next stage in Macau's development,

and to create the conditions that will make the city a must for private investment.

It is hoped that a clear, transparent, effective, well-funded and above all co-ordinated urban plan can be developed, rather than the piecemeal efforts we have seen so far.

The city's history and geographical conditions should also be high on the agenda when our planners sit down to map out the future. Our decisions must make the SAR stand out as unique in the region.

Building regulations and design should take heritage and environmental sustainability into account, so that quality buildings are renovated rather than substituted. Sustainable energy should also be factored in.

These moves are necessary because in the future, buildings will become obsolete if they don't come up to global scratch on the energy and environmen-

tally-friendly front. Put simply, people and companies will not want to use them.

By recognising that architectural heritage is a resource, there is no reason why new buildings should not include components which reflect Macau's rich architectural tradition.

On and beneath the streets

It is also time to look at the city's transport infrastructure, the way concessions are granted and the actual hardware, in an integrated fashion.

Deactivated networks should be removed and replaced by wireless technologies.

Underground services should become systems that are housed in joint galleries, making them accessible and easily and cheaply repaired.

This would spell the end of an apocalyptic techno-vision where cables dominate building fronts and the space



above our heads. All this would allow a better managed system and allow traffic options at several levels.

While officials ponder the best strategy for the light railway system, non-polluting automatic carriages could be used immediately on main arteries, providing more capacity than the current buses and requiring no permanent structures.

Such vehicles are easily accessible and travel at the same level as pedestrians, ensuring accessibility.

Immediate efficiency and improved air quality results could be achieved, and the move would be a flexible alternative to the future light railway. It would also give some breathing space for those planning the rail system.

In sites where space is at a premium, the government could partner with private investors to create train stations, so that train stops and access ways don't

take up too many public areas. On the contrary, such places should be located in private buildings.

New mindset

For the professionals who must deliver all of this, an economic crisis is not the same as a crisis of personal capabilities. Rather, it's an opportunity for them to reflect and re-formulate their creations using a new mindset.

Only then will they be able to lead institutions, governmental bureaus and clients to proper solutions.

The SAR executive must know how to achieve harmony when conflicts arise between global opportunities and local responsibilities.




Ideally, local and foreign professionals should create partnerships according to international standards, to create consistent construction and allow local professionals to benefit from the advantages of free circula-

tion of goods and services.

Shaping the future

Architectural and engineering rules will have to be strictly applied and technological advances taken on board quickly, making architecture and engineering influential professions, and creating a true base that can support the abilities and responsibilities needed to shape the environment in which we spend our lives.

Growing global opinion is voicing concerns about the society's overuse of resources, creating moves towards a society with lifestyles geared more to "criteria" and less to "gratification".

This doesn't mean we should stop doing business or have a worse life, but instead calls on us to be more discerning in the way we live by making meaningful changes in urban planning and building design.    *Architect

