

LUK, Ying-Xian Cassandra

RESEARCH AREA: East Asian Modernism, Portuguese Colonial History, Politics of Architecture



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LUK Ying-Xian, Cassandra, is a final-year PhD Candidate at the NUS Department of Architecture. She holds a First Class Honours in BA (Architectural Conservation) with a Minor in Portuguese from the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Cassandra was part of the prestigious HKU Undergraduate Research Fellowship Programme (URFP) and even clinched the Best URFP Presenter Award (2020-2021) for her comparative research on industrial heritage conservation policies of Hong Kong and Singapore. As a Fundação Oriente scholar, she pursued Advanced Portuguese at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. She graduated as the top student and is DAPLE accredited.

Cassandra was the Local Conference Organiser of IASTE 2022 Singapore during her first academic semester at NUS. Highly passionate about teaching, she has been a Graduate Tutor and Dissertation Co-Supervisor for the Master of Arts in Architectural Conservation (MAArC) programme since 2024. Regarding external involvements, Cassandra has been a contributing writer for UNESCO Bangkok's Asia Conserved Series (Vols. III-V) since 2018. In 2024, she was a Guest Lecturer at the Escola da Cidade, São Paulo. She was a former Researcher for Prof. Ho Puay-peng's "Connected Cosmopolitanism" project (2022-2024), funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club. She is currently onboard Prof. Ana Vaz Milheiro's (DINÂMIA'CET-ISCTE) LabourMap-Macao project (2024-2027), supported by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT). As an HKICON Associate and independent conservation consultant, Cassandra has been involved in several notable projects, such as Singapore's Golden Mile Complex and 141 Neil Road, and Hong Kong's No. 4 Hospital Road.

Cassandra's research interests include East Asian Modernism, Portuguese colonial history, and the politics of architecture. Her doctoral dissertation, which scrutinises the overlooked symbiotic relationship between British Hong Kong and Portuguese Macau, challenges Lusocentric narratives on the latter's post-war modernism through the perspectives of transcolonial regional mobilities. Her research investigates the works of Alfred Alvares and Eric Cumine, and their respective influences on Macau's Hotel Estoril (1964) and Hotel Lisboa (1970). Cassandra is a Peer Reviewer for the Journal of Architecture and has forthcoming publications in the Journal of Political Geography and Docomomo Journal. She is proficient in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Italian.