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## Bulletin - Music Therapy Tea House; Human Light; REASY; Design Thinking PMQ

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## Music Therapy Tea House

**|| This issue, we bring you the latest award-winning designs from students and alumni of Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI), and an introduction to the unique E5 design thinking actions developed by HKDI's very own Design Thinking team. ||**

HKDI alumni Ka-wing Chu impressed the Global Awards Programme (GAP) jury panel with his creative design project Music Therapy Tea House. The Interior Design graduate gained a Silver Award in this prestigious global architecture award presented by the International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI). Already bearing a Gold Award from the student category of the 2017 Asia Pacific Interior Design Awards, Music Therapy Tea House is an interior design project incorporating conventional interior design and innovative acoustic elements. Chu studies and utilises the natural landscape of Shing Mun River in Sha Tin, and adopts characteristics of sunlight, breezes, flowing water and rustling leaves in his design to form a harmonious experience inside the tea house. Chu admits that he was inspired by the concept behind Japanese Chado

when creating this relaxing getaway. He hopes people could maintain a peaceful state of mind while enjoying the making and tasting of tea in the relaxing getaway.

Chu's award-winning tea house design employs concrete as its sole construction material. Cool-toned simple colours are visible throughout the entire space with inclined walls to amplify natural sounds. The tea house invites people to rediscover their primitive senses through engaging with the multi-sensory experiential space. With the help and guidance of HKDI's Department of Architecture, Interior and Product Design lecturer Penny Chan was able to formulate a comprehensive spatial experience through architectural textures, materials, spatial and acoustic designs.

## Human Light

Mei-yee Lui's night light Human Light precisely captures the phrase "a hug lights up one's world". Inspired by the image of two people hugging each other, this innovative design gained a Bronze Award in the Student Division Conceptual Group of the Hong Kong Smart Design Awards 2020. The simple yet versatile design makes Human Light possible to be used not only as fixed lighting, but also an illuminating bracelet and even a doorstopper. The luminous band can be separated from its base, allowing users to easily pick it up and carry around at night.



## REASY



REASY not only simplifies the daily domestic recycling process but also encourages people to keep the habit of compressing packaging prior to disposal. Narrowed midway, Shing-kai Liu's design takes a slender pillar shape that has an inner compartment for compressed waste. The bottom compartment of REASY contains a filter to drain water from washed packaging. To strengthen the connection between domestic and public recycling, REASY is lightweight and safely concealed, allowing users to carry it to public waste collection stations worry-free.

## Design Thinking PMQ

The PMQ Seed – To Open Minds programme is a series of educational projects and activities targeting primary school students. It consists of a teaching team made up of 30+ participants of design professionals, architects, IT experts, performing artists and primary school teachers. HKDI recently hosted a train-the-trainer workshop for the PMQ teaching team, in order to help them better navigate through design education. During the workshop, HKDI continued to emphasise on the importance of empathy, and also introduced its unique E5 design thinking actions.

Empathy is a key element to both education and design. Therefore, participants were highly engaged in action-based activities such as lead user interviews and co-creation exercises. Through these activities, trainees gained a more thorough understanding of end-users' needs and expectations.

Developed by HKDI's very own Design Thinking Team, the E5 actions is composed of 5 categories: Engage, Envision, Experiment, Evaluate and Enable. During the training workshop, HKDI encouraged interdisciplinary discussions and collaborations, and embraced the exploration of both divergent and convergent actions for user-centred innovations. After the 18-hour workshop, participants could skillfully embed design thinking methodologies into their own programme-planning processes.



The informative and practical workshop came to completion with all participants feeling fruitful, gaining design-thinking and education insights and looking forward to the commencement of the Seed – To Open Minds programme.