

Generation eXemplary

45 PEOPLE
AGED 45 OR
BELOW MAKING
A DIFFERENCE IN
HONG KONG

This special list, compiled to mark our 100th issue, pays tribute to this city's youthful and inspirational movers, shakers and opinion makers. Championing causes such as the arts, design, culture, society, philanthropy and politics, these influential figures – all 45 or under – are shaping up to be Hong Kong's next generation of leaders. In their gifted hands and wise heads we trust . . .



CARL GOUW, 36

While managing his family-owned property and equities investment company, Carl Gouw takes the lead in building design-conscious projects, such as Acts Serviced Apartments. He is also the founder of Wanchai Visual Archive and a director of Ambassadors of Design.

What's the biggest challenge facing Hong Kong today?

"Many in the current generation of leadership were educated and trained in areas that are not

meant for them, that is, they were 'forced' to become the so-called 'professionals.' I also worry about losing our competitiveness to Shanghai."

Biggest challenge in your area of expertise?

"I don't foresee Hong Kong having meaningful architecture, impactful designers and a vibrant arts-and-culture scene in 10 to 20 years' time, compared to mainland China, which is a lot more open-minded in terms of creativity and has more history, heritage, sub-cultural diversities, nature and space."

What can we do?

"We need a government who is intentional about building these strengths through education, urban planning and trade development; and businesses and individuals who are humble enough to acknowledge our weaknesses in this area, and say, 'Yes, we have designed and produced a lot of ugly things!'"