

**Harbourfront Vision Anything but Vibrant**  
**Sir David Akers-Jones**

The Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront was published by our government in April.

I quote from it: "The public has expressed a clear aspiration for a vibrant waterfront...a lot of green and quality open space" (whatever that is).

The document does not measure up to this clear aspiration.

Vibrant means quivering, thrilling, vibrating with life and excitement.

I suggest that what the people aspire to and wish to enjoy is oases of green interspersed with havens of light and life, cafes and dai pai dong, and so forth.

This is the variety they flock to and enjoy, not a replica of the Kowloon waterfront north of the New World Centre which is baking hot by day and quite and lifeless by night.

I wonder too how many people realise that just in front of the iconic Two IFC, between it and the harbour, our planners have plonked a 30-storey building, and next to the Star Ferry piers, a 15-storey office block or hotel.

Why go to the trouble to begin the long-delayed improvement of the waterfront at this end and to encourage the construction of this striking building and then set about destroying its lonely grandeur with a 30-storey office block and another of 15 storeys?

To do so will result in Hong Kong, which strives to attain world city of Asia status, instead being called "The city that they cared about too late".

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