



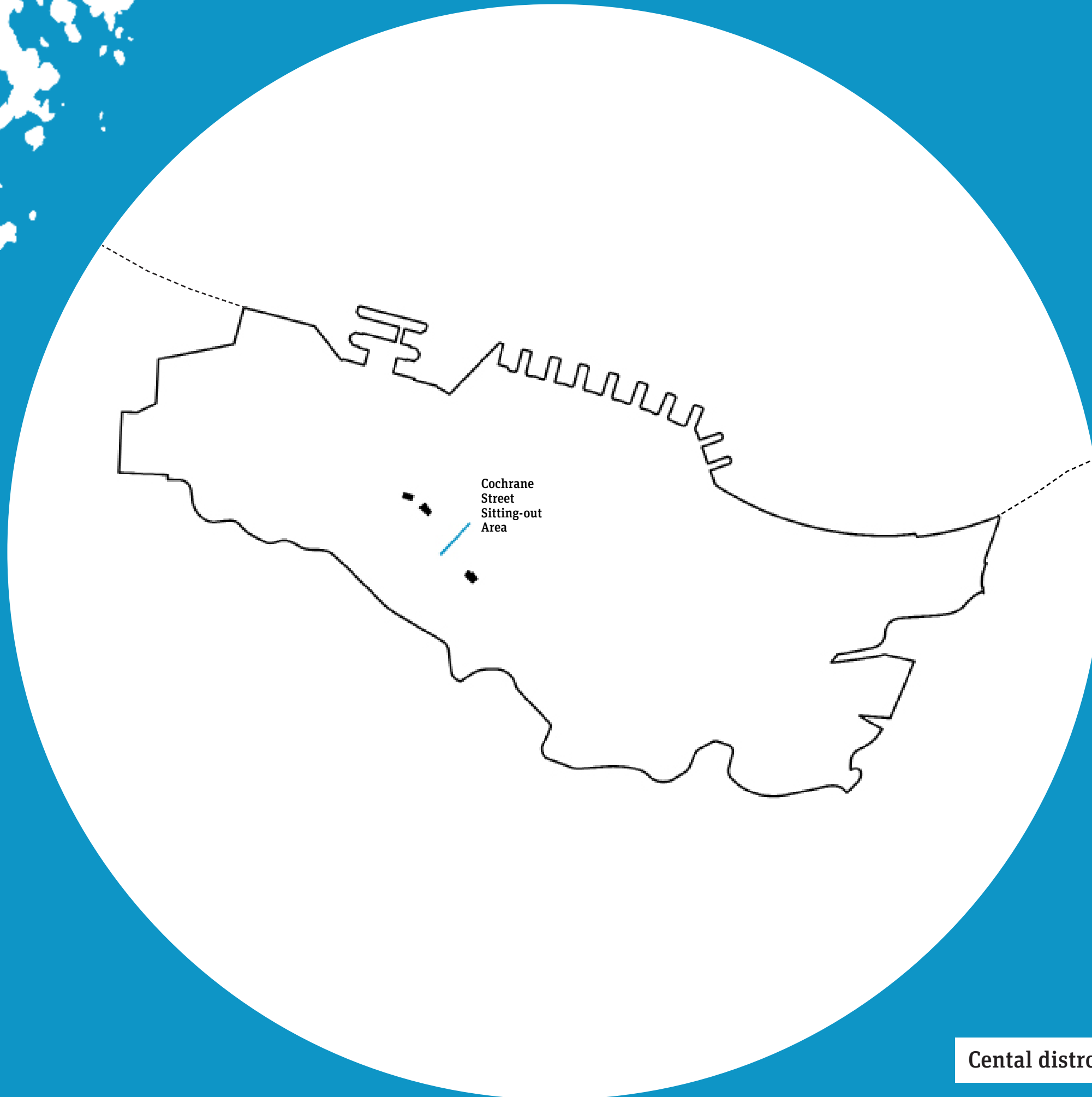
**UrbanactionsHK**  
INTERNATIONAL DESIGN IDEAS COMPETITION

# Cochrane Street Sitting-out Area

**Site 03.**



Hong Kong island



Cental distrct in Hong Kong island

# Description

## Cochrane Street Sitting-out Area

*"There are many tourists in the area, and the presence of the escalator does not affect the density of people who walk along the streets of this busy district of the city."*

### Site Condition

The Cochrane Sitting-out Area, surrounded by the mixed-use high rise building and a construction site, is located at the steep Cochrane Street under the Central-Mid-Levels escalator. The Street and the escalator is the primary connection between the Mid-Levels residential area and the Central commercial area. Thousands of residents, office workers and visitors of historical buildings like the Tai Kwun Museum pass by the Street and the escalator. The Street was initially a Cantonese residential area in the 19th century and slowly developed into a mixed-use district with high rise buildings. The sitting-out area was replaced by the original food and grocery stalls to provide more leisure spaces and space for the pedestrian road. The Central-Mid-Levels escalator has operated since 1993 to improve the traffic and became a tourist attraction with restaurants and bars on the Cochrane under it. Owing to bird dropping, users widely criticized the hygiene and environment of the sitting-out area.

### Activities

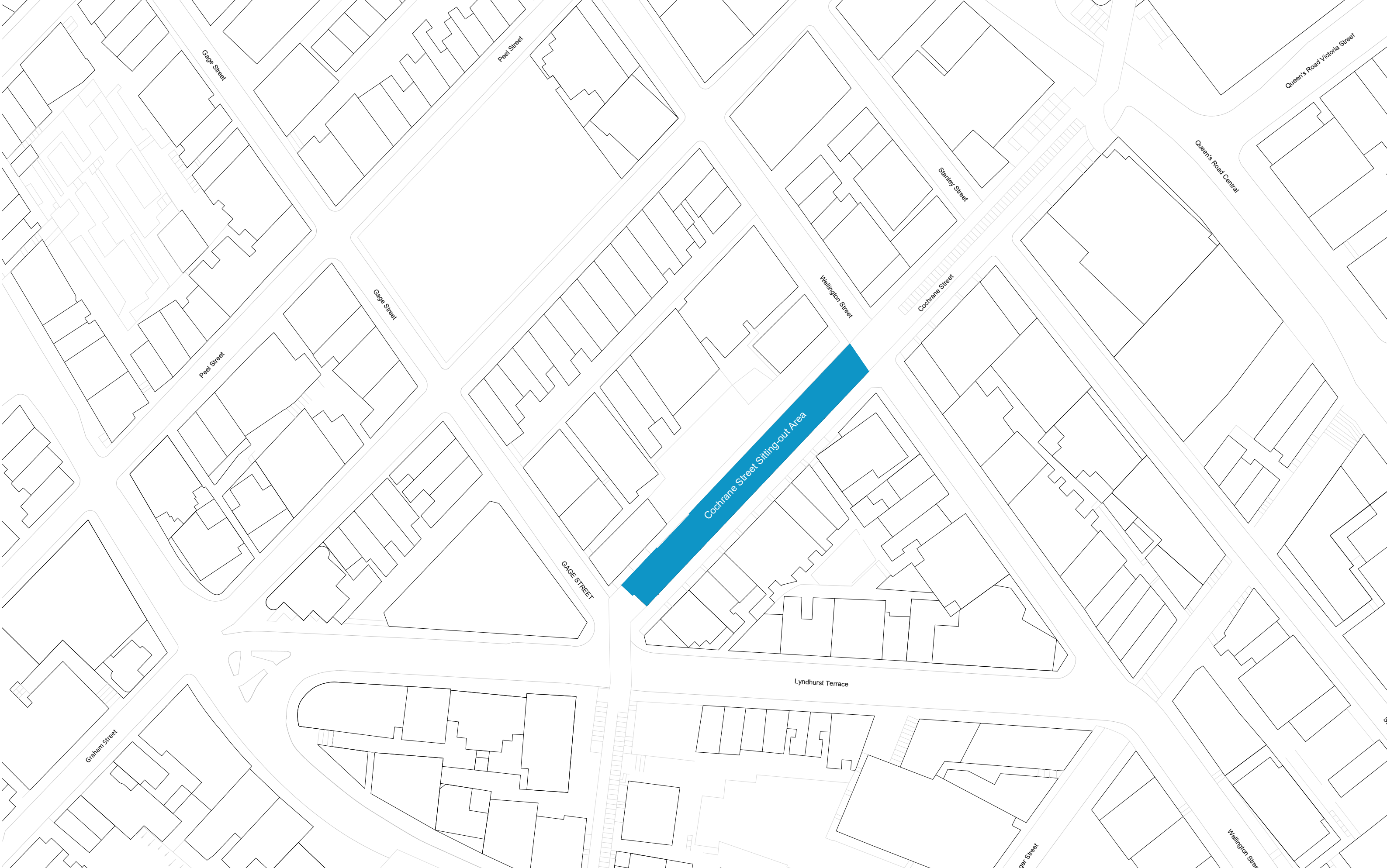
The field survey revealed an incredible flow of pedestrians that pass along this street; nearly 18000 passers-by were counted during the day from 9 am to 8 pm. The passage of people is very intense, and during lunchtime, the benches are a popular spot for grabbing a quick bite, drinking tea or coffee, or simply taking a break. This sitting-out area is not smoke-free, which facilitates the presence of people who like to spend their time relaxing in the company of a cigarette. There are many tourists in the area, and the presence of the escalator does not affect the density of people who walk along the streets of this busy district of the city. The lack of public spaces in Central district is one reason, and therefore, the Cochrane Street Sitting-out Area, even if not properly designed, provides a place for people to linger.

The on-going urban renewal project on Peel Street and Graham Street has the objective to improve the physical

living and working environment while offering opportunities to retain the historical and cultural characteristics as well as the social network of the district.

On Sunday, Filipino domestic helpers are the primary users of the space. They often occupy different areas in groups of 3 to 5 people. As observed in other locations in Central district, this active women community spends most of their day, often until evening, eating home-cooked food, chatting and dancing. During the weekend, Cochrane Street Sitting-out Area is also a popular spot for teenagers who animate the space in the evening chatting and drinking beer purchased from the nearby convenience stores.

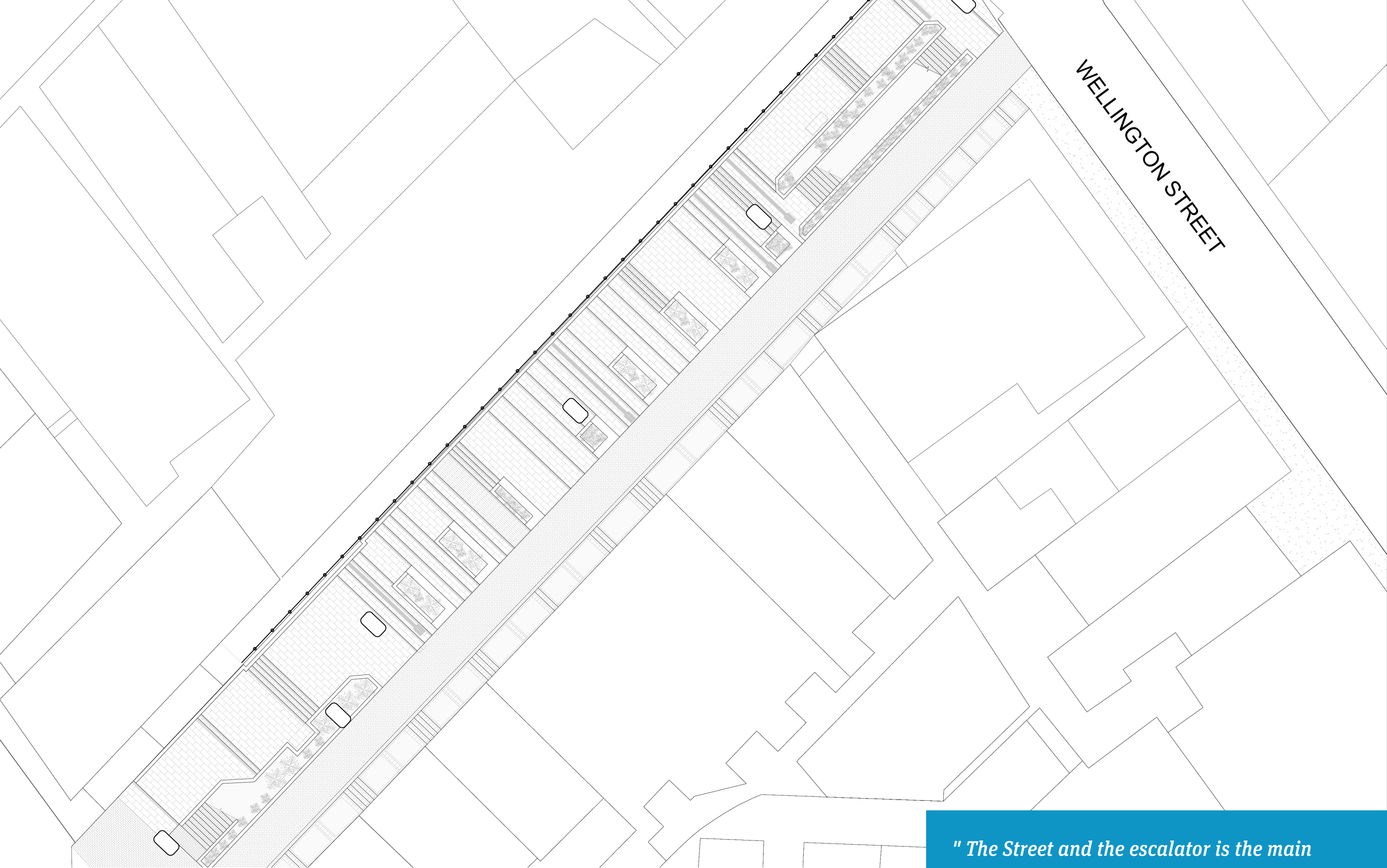
Cochrane Street Sitting-out Area, like the other three sites of this competition, represents an opportunity to experiment with innovative interventions that could potentially change the aspect of this strategic area of the city.



Site plan of Cochrane street sitting-out area





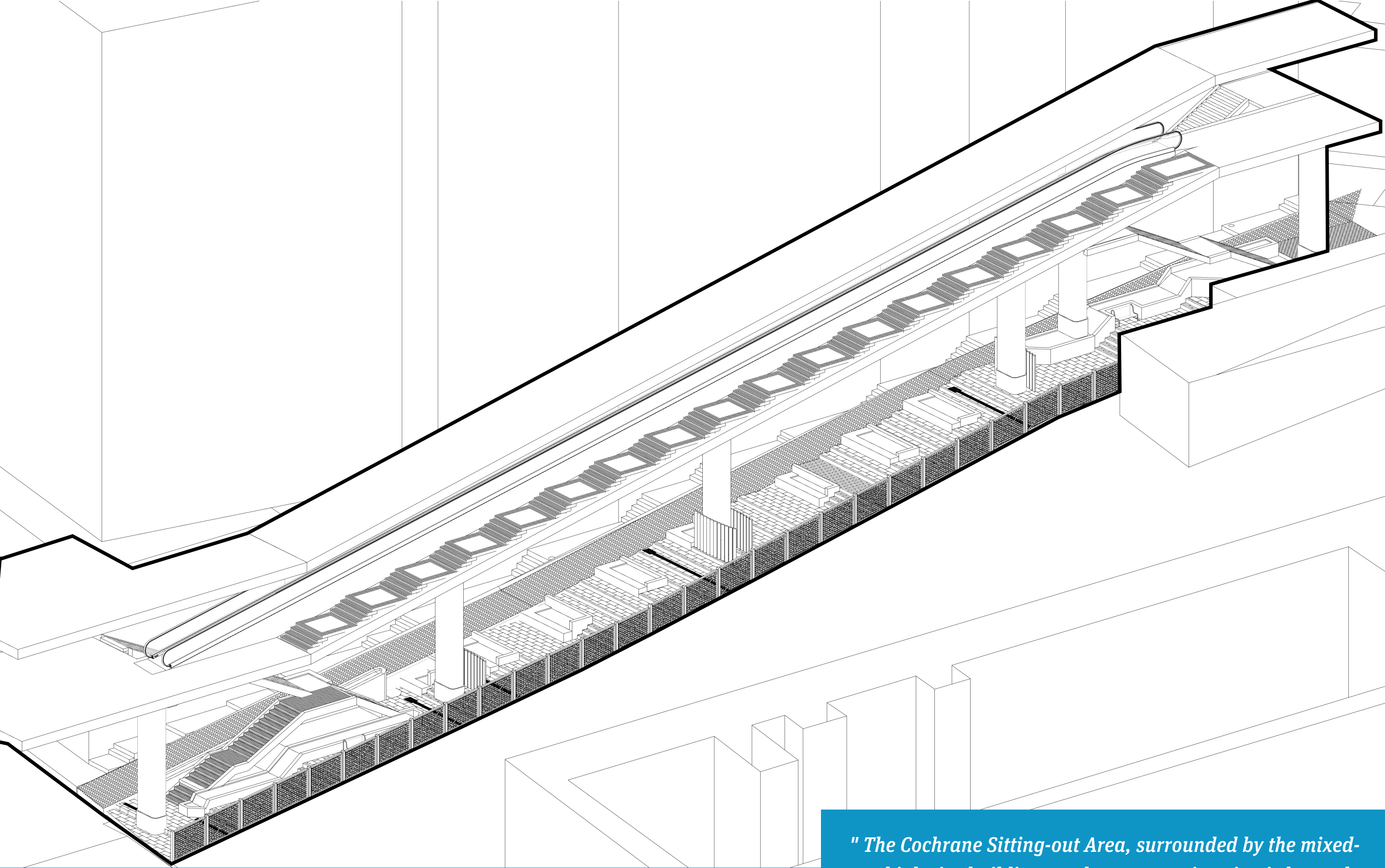


WELLINGTON STREET

Plan of Cochrane street sitting-out area

*" The Street and the escalator is the main juncture between the Mid-Levels residential area and the Central commercial area."*





Isometric of Cochrane street sitting-out area

*" The Cochrane Sitting-out Area, surrounded by the mixed-use high-rise buildings and a construction site, is located in the steep Cochrane Street under the Central-Mid-Levels escalator."*





01. Panorama of Cochrane street sitting-out area





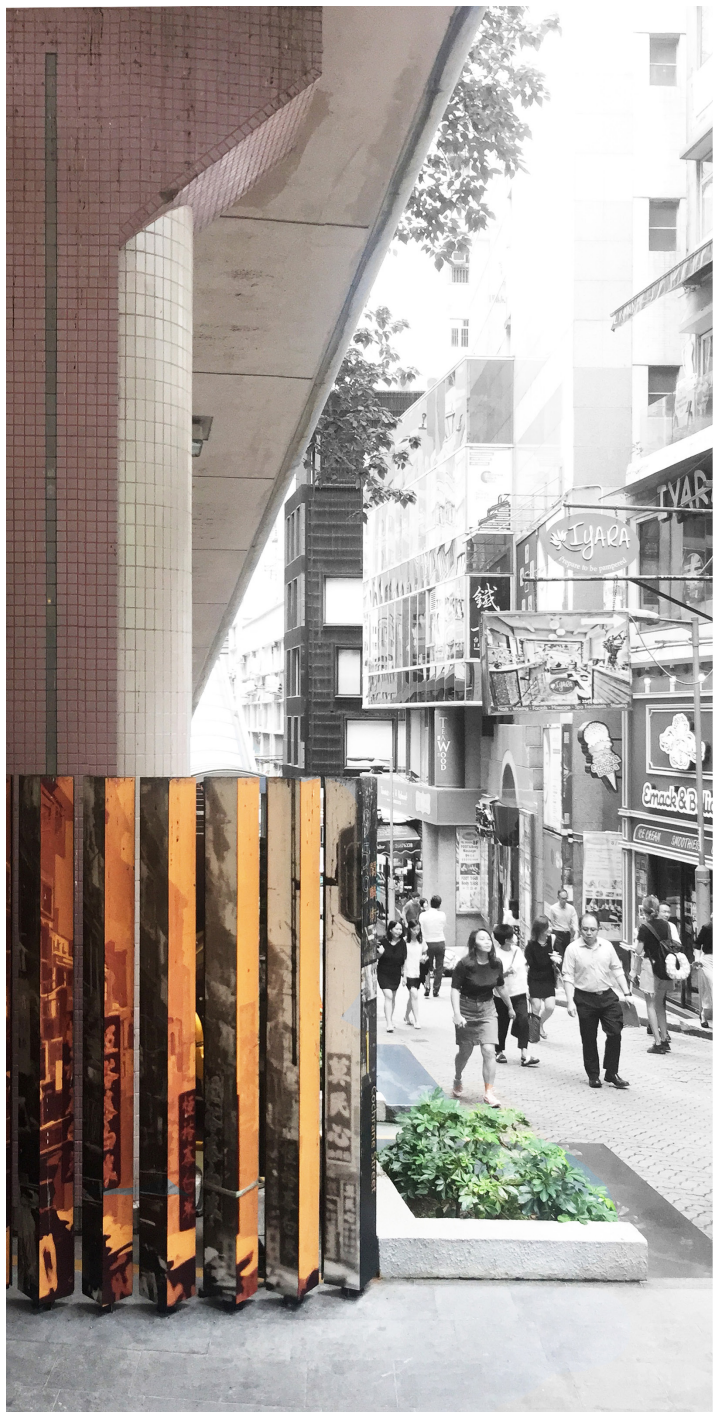
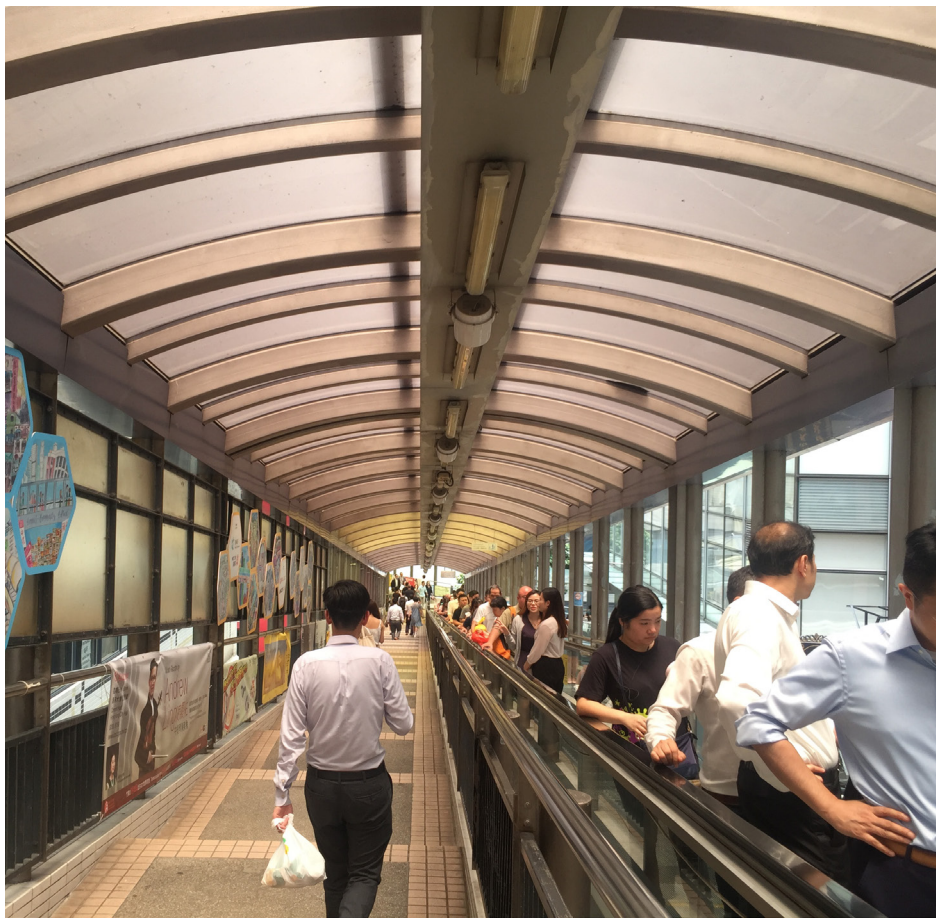
02. Panorama of Cochrane street sitting-out area





### 03. Panorama of Cochrane street sitting-out area





Cochrane Street  
Sitting-out  
Area





School of Architecture  
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG