



<b>Title</b>	<b>Evidences that demand a verdict: place-making battles in Asia's world city</b>
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<b>Citation</b>	<b>The 10th Asian Urbanization Conference, Hong Kong, 16-19 August 2009.</b>
<b>Issued Date</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>URL</b>	<b><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10722/93642">http://hdl.handle.net/10722/93642</a></b>
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## Evidences that Demand a Verdict: Place-making Battles in Asian World City

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This paper examines the history and politics of reclamation, a mechanism that has produced 25 percent of urban land from the sea, in Hong Kong. Through detailed review of historical records and documents, the 感 heroic conquest?of the sea by reclamation in Hong Kong in the past 168 years can be divided in four broad phases: a tug-of-war between the pro-reclamation colonial Government and the anti-reclamation British military force and the private sector in the first forty years in the City of Victoria; a prolonged period from the 1880s to the Second World War with Government-planned but private sector-driven reclamations spread to Kowloon, annexed in 1860; the post-war decades up to the 1990s when public-sector led reclamation had been instrumental in accommodating and fueling industrialization and urban growth spatially and financially; and finally in the last decade when the civil society groups have been proactive in arresting further Harbour reclamation and demanding a right to design an accessible, vibrant and sustainable Harbourfront. This historical review offers us a window to decipher the politics of place-making in an evolving open market economy 懷 acilitated?by an executive-led government increasingly challenged by a developing post-colonial civil society.