

李韶熱心慈善教育 喜見桃李相融搭建中西文化橋樑 拓展學子國際視野

2007-12-19 - 文匯報 - A28 - 名人會客室

留學，是無數中國莘莘學子的夢想，但昂貴的費用卻令人望而卻步。由香港慈善教育家李韶創辦及資助的「李韶暑期文化交流計劃」，每年都吸引了各省市的名牌大學生爭相報名。近 10 年，他藉此計劃為逾千名國內外大學生，其中包括 5 至 6 成內地大學生，搭建互通中西文化的橋樑，讓他們不費分毫，便能走出中國，接觸國際。經過多年努力，李韶欣悅地看到，不僅是內地大學生真切了解到中西文化，開闊了視野；更有美加大學生自願到內地去教書，並且進一步了解和學習中國文化。■主持人：張慧榮 本報記者：沈清麗

曾經留學海外、亦曾在外國執教鞭多年，李韶體會到：中國自改革開放後，經濟迅速發展，但是教育發展卻還是相對地落後。香港回歸祖國後，李韶先後在嶺南大學、香港大學及中文大學創辦「李韶暑期文化交流計劃」，每年全數資助各大學開辦的交流計劃，且隨着社會所需而逐年改善，使學員們能夠認識最新的發展。

資助大學 暑期交流

當中，香港大學連續 8 年舉辦的「李韶社會經濟考察計劃」，每年取錄內地、香港、北美的大學生逾 70 名。學員中包括內地名牌大學如北京大學、清華大學、復旦大學，香港大學，及美國大學如耶魯大學、哈佛大學、史丹福大學等，共同生活 4 至 6 星期，並參與各項專題研究及實地考察。嶺南大學同期舉辦「李韶暑期研習所」，形式與港大舉辦的考察計劃大致相同，參加者同樣來自 3 地，但卻增至 14 至 26 所學府。中文大學崇基學院於 01 年加入協辦「李韶文化交流學習中心」，04 年增收來自新加坡的學生。

設獎學金 粵生受惠

此外，李韶還舉辦及資助了各類別的交流計劃，包括香港法律界、醫學界、社會科學界、教育界與內地的交流計劃，以及青年領袖培訓計劃、改善英語教學計劃。另外，李韶與熱心教育的甘尚武、林順忠在廣東省信宜市設立的「甘李林獎學金」，全費資助信宜市學生入讀內地重點大學，更得到當局頒發「信宜市榮譽市民」獎。

受父影響 重視教育

談及自己的慈善教育情懷，李韶坦言最受父親的影響。李韶的父親是「李耀記建築用品行」、新界「龍圍花園」的創辦人李耀祥。在他心中，父親是一位心繫民族的慈善家。他說：「家父是廣東中山人，14 歲時開始參加革命，曾經親任領隊，攻城克縣.....家父在參加革命後，才明白到只有有識之士才能救國。後來，他發憤圖強，努力讀書，考進了美國康納爾大學(Cornell University)，成為首位香港考進康納爾大學的學生。」

李耀祥深知教育的重要性，非常重視對子女的教育。當李韶在廣州嶺南大學完成進修，便被父親送到美國，在加州大學柏克萊分校(University of California,Berkeley)完成化學工程學士及碩士學位，後來於耶魯大學(Yale University)獲取化學碩士和博士學位。他畢業後，先後在香港和美國執教鞭，教授化學多年。

李韶簡介

- 美國耶魯大學化學博士
- SHUM WAN(投資)有限公司行政總裁
- 李韶家庭基金有限公司行政總裁
- 香港大學/嶺南大學諮議會成員
- 港大專業進修附屬學院校董會委員
- 法律教育信託基金榮譽顧問

父親基業龍圍花園 捐政府最恰當

2007-12-19 - 文匯報 - A28 - 名人會客室

由李韶、李梅以耆夫婦擁有的深井青龍頭歷史大宅——龍圍花園，捐獻政府後的維修和管理模式，擾攘了年多，雙方仍未有最後共識。雖然如此，李韶伉儷仍然堅信將龍圍捐給政府，開放成為公眾花園，以紀念父親李耀祥事蹟，是最持久和最可靠的方法。

去年斥 1.3 億購回業權

去年，李韶眼見父親的心血基業——龍圍花園，將落入地產發展商手中並化為烏有，毅然以 1 億 3 千多萬元的巨資，向其他家族成員手上購得業權。說起這件事，李韶有點黯然地道，「父親花了無數的心機、親自設計建造的龍圍，我捨不得將它賣了，給發展商鏟平了，就什麼也沒有了……」對此，李梅以耆也說，「如果把它賣給了發展商，眼見父親辛苦建成的基業，被夷為平地，會捨得嗎？就是捨不得，才想保存它，才會花這麼多錢買回來」。

冀保留古蹟供後人緬懷

李韶亦感到，香港的歷史文物已經逐年減少，龍圍當年是仿照北京故宮設計建造，現被評為二級歷史建築，是香港獨一無二的，很有歷史價值。「我希望在園內建造一間紀念館，來緬懷父親的生平事蹟及龍圍歷史。父親生前參與過數十項社會公益，倍受人尊敬。本港年輕人可藉着了解他的事蹟，學習他的慈善精神。」

Dragon Garden cash concerns

2007-10-25 - Helen Wu - CITY3 - South China Morning Post

The owners of the historic Dragon Garden are worried they might not be able to find a non-profit partner to operate the site, saying the maintenance cost alone is HK\$15 million.

Secretary for development Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor met Lee Shiu and his wife, Jenny Lee Mui Yee-ching, on Tuesday and made three proposals for opening the garden in Castle Peak Road to the public.

- Putting it under the ownership and management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department;
- Handing the site to the government and inviting non-governmental organisations to submit proposals on how to revitalise it; and
- Allowing Mr Lee to retain ownership and nominate an NGO to revitalise it.

Mrs Lee said none of the proposals were good enough to ensure the garden would be properly managed in the long run because she expected the garden to incur deficits.

It will be very difficult to find an organisation that is willing to bear the loss after the first two years - during which the government has agreed to inject money to sponsor it.

Mrs Lee also proposed a structure be built at the site of the garden's swimming pool to commemorate her father-in-law, Lee Iu-cheung, founder of Dragon Garden.

But she said the government had refused to pay for this.

The garden was accorded grade two historic status by the Antiquities Advisory Board. Mr Lee became sole owner after buying out family members for HK\$100 million following a three-month battle to save it from developers last year.

Lee Iu-cheung's granddaughter, Cynthia Lee Hong-ye, who launched a campaign to save the garden, said the government should exempt the garden from complying with building regulations - such as installing facilities for the disabled - if the government pushed ahead with the proposal to open it to the public.

Heritage plan may help open Dragon Garden

2007-10-21 - Danny Mok - EDT4 - South China Morning Post

Historic Dragon Garden can be preserved and developed under the principles applied to other government premises named in the latest of its heritage preservation initiatives, Development Secretary Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor says.

The owners of Dragon Garden - built by late tycoon Lee Iu-cheung in Sham Tseng - want to make a gift of the garden to the government. And the government would speak to them about starting a fund to revitalise the garden, Mrs Lam said on Metro Radio yesterday.

She also said the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership scheme, an initiative to preserve cultural heritage sites for adaptive re-use laid out in the chief executive's policy address, could be applied to the private residence as well.

Through the scheme, non-profit organisations can submit proposals to use these buildings to provide services or for social enterprises. Financial support will be provided in the first two years of operation.

Seven government-owned buildings - including the old Tai Po Police Station, the Lui Seng Chun and the North Kowloon Magistracy - will serve as pilot construction projects in the scheme.

Mrs Lam said her bureau had been discussing with the owners of Dragon Garden how to revitalise it. She had suggested setting up a non-profit foundation to preserve the mansion and the garden to enable it to be opened to the public.

Dragon Garden covers an 8-hectare waterfront site in Castle Peak Road and was built in the late 1950s. One of the city's largest and most beautiful private gardens, it was designed by renowned architect Chu Pin, who was involved in the restoration of the Forbidden City in Beijing.

It features hundreds of species of trees and flowers, as well as ponds, footpaths, bridges and architecture of the Song, Ming and Qing dynasties. It was open to the public in the 1970s and early 1980s.

A family dispute broke out last year over whether to sell the residence to a developer.

Mrs Lam said the scheme could also be applied to the Blue House in Wan Chai.

鼓勵業主設基金發展 開放大宅供市民參觀 龍圍藍屋 政府擬「活化」

2007-10-21 - 文匯報 - A15 - 香港新聞

【本報訊】(記者 鄭佩琪、羅敬文) 行政長官曾蔭權在施政報中提出的「活化歷史建築夥伴計劃」，選取大埔警署、雷生春等 7 棟歷史建築作試點進行活化。發展局局長林鄭月娥透露，計劃正在擴展中，正考慮把灣仔藍屋及深井龍圍大宅也納入計劃，並建議有意捐出物業的龍圍業主，自行設立基金活化花園及大宅，將來供公眾參觀。該計劃牽涉較繁複的翻新工程，料 3 年內也難落實。

活化歷史建築計劃的首批政府建築物，繼有舊大埔警署、旺角雷生春、荔枝角醫院、北九龍裁判法院、舊大澳警署、馬灣芳園書室和石硤尾邨美荷樓。發展局局長林鄭月娥昨日出席電台節目時稱，計劃是鼓勵非牟利機構以社會企業模式活化建築物，如改建成青年旅舍、展覽中心、中藥零售店、精品酒店等，並賦管理權予有關機構。

復修工程費資助不設上限

林鄭月娥表示，政府會向獲批的非牟利團體撥出一次過無上限的資助款項，補貼首 2 年的營運赤字，以及活化建築的工程費，第 3 年起機構便須自負盈虧。她昨日出席論壇時稱，即使要用上 2,000 萬元進行修復歷史建築，也不成問題。她說：「我們不要回報，只要日常的運作能夠自負盈虧，社企基本上沒有很大的牟利壓力。」據悉，假若機構管理不善，無法自食其力，當局或會「換馬」。

除了原訂的 7 棟歷史建築外，林鄭月娥透露，正考慮把市建局負責的灣仔藍屋(一級歷史建築物)，及由私人家族擁有的深井龍圍大宅(二級歷史建築)列入活化計劃。她稱，龍圍業主有意捐出花園，政府正與其研究，成立非牟利基金，用於日後發展，活化龍圍花園及大宅，以便日後開放給市民參觀。

制訂指引禁破壞歷史建築

政府強調活化歷史建築計劃，旨在推動文物保育，不會因遷就非牟利團體的日常營運而破壞歷史建築。林鄭月娥說：「若果要把歷史建築變作餐廳，想把內籠變得開揚些，想打通間隔，我們是不容許這樣做的！」康樂及文化事務署署長周達明表示，政府會制訂詳細指引，以便明年初供非牟利團體申請時參考。

Talkback

2007-09-28 - CITY2 - South China Morning Post

Should King Yin Lei mansion be preserved?

Of course, King Yin Lei should be preserved. However, the question is not whether or not it should be preserved, but why we are only considering its preservation when a developer has started demolition work.

Why is the loss of development rights to the developer worth HK\$430million of taxpayers' money, but the loss of one of the city's cultural heritage assets, when owned by the previous owner, worth nothing?

We could blame the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) for not taking action earlier when prompted by the Antiquities Advisory Board, but what negotiation power does the AMO have if there is no heritage policy to back them?

The then home affairs secretary, Patrick Ho Chi-ping, failed to take action, but the present secretary for development, Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor did (albeit reactive rather than proactive).

Will the fate of our valuable heritage assets lie in the AMO's ability (with no legal power to negotiate) to knock on private owners' doors to assess their heritage value? The government owes us a heritage policy.

Cynthia Lee, founder, the Dragon Garden Charitable Trust

Talkback The E-mail Forum

2007-09-27 - CITY2- South China Morning Post

Should King Yin Lei mansion be preserved?

I do hope that a solution can be reached that will save King Yin Lei mansion and see it restored to its former glory.

However, like many who know only too well how things work here, I too believe that the government will eventually balk at the cost and the precedent it sets by saving it. I hope I will be proven wrong.

I remember a similar incident involving the equally amazing Dragon Garden (of James Bond fame), and thankfully, in that case, a wealthy relative was able to step forward and preserve it from the developers.

The common thread between these two locations is that they have been made famous around the world by their use in films and television.

It strikes me as odd that the Hong Kong Tourism Board really doesn't do enough (if anything at all) to promote itself off the back of the many famous (and well-loved) films that have been made here over the years - Love is a Many-Splendored Thing, The World of Suzie Wong, Enter the Dragon, The Man with the Golden Gun, The Sand Pebbles and not forgetting to mention the next Batman film - the list goes on and on, and I haven't even included any of the local film industry's productions.

Many of these films also receive huge international exposure and followings thanks to people like Jackie Chan, Wong Kar-wai, Bruce Lee, Chow Yun-fat and John Woo.

I wonder how many people visit Hong Kong on the basis of seeing some of these films and hoping to see some of the locations used? My first visit to Hong Kong back in 1995 was certainly mainly fuelled by my interest in films here, and I am sure I am not alone.

I realise the Hong Kong film archive serves its purpose quite well already, but what a fitting end it would be for King Yin Lei if the government could use the building as a museum dedicated to Hong Kong's proud international film heritage.

P. Kenny, Tai Po

Exhibition of a lifestyle in peril

2007-06-08 - Fox Yi Hu - CITY1 - South China Morning Post

Drawings of Hong Kong's disappearing street life and designs by conservationists will be featured at an art exhibition at the historic former Tsang Yuk hospital.

Urban designer Peter Cookson Smith will present his sketches of the city's older streets in the exhibition, called Hong Kong's Cultural Heritage, which opens tomorrow and runs until August 8.

A group of City University students will also use their conservationist projects to illustrate how heritage can be preserved in creative and sustainable ways.

Dr Cookson Smith said Hong Kong's older streetscapes represented an essential part of its urban life.

"Our street culture in Hong Kong is a very important community-oriented urban experience with markets and stores overflowing into the streets," he said.

The urban planner said his drawings, which took 21/2 years to complete, were not artistic: "It's all linked to the cultural influences of our heritage." He said he feared traditional ways of life could be lost in urban renewal projects.

"It's a shame that nowadays the planning and renewal projects tend to be too intrusive," he said.

The exhibition will also explore sustainable means of conservation, according to organiser Cynthia Lee Hong-yee.

"The student projects in the exhibition will look at how heritage can adapt to modern life," said Ms Lee, whose Dragon Garden Charitable Trust is organising the show.

City University student Cheng Ping, along with four of her peers, has designed a conservation project for the Dragon Garden on Castle Peak Road.

They propose turning the garden into an educational and recreational venue. "We suggest the garden charge admission fees which will fund its conservation," said Miss Cheng. "This will help educate people about the garden's heritage while sustaining its preservation."

Also featured in the exhibition will be photographs and an art installation about 10 traditional shops in Sham Shui Po.

Presented by the Society for Community Organisation, the photos will seek to remind visitors of a fast disappearing community culture, as well as the marginalised people in need of care.

中大護法榮任院士

2007-05-24 - Next Magazine - 財經 A103 - 中環人語 - 宗菁華

呢個禮拜一，天氣麻麻咗，但馬料水中大則隆重其事，舉行第六屆榮譽院士頒授典禮；八位同中大關係密切之猛人獲此榮銜，當中包括敝刊創辦人之一香樹輝（之二係邊位唔使講啦啫！），我哋與有榮焉。

阿香同中大關係密切，固然係因為佢係中大之優質產品（七一年）；更加因為佢係盡人皆知之中大護法；八一年起已出任中大新亞書院校董，「熱愛母校，鼎力支持香港中文大學的發展」。

除咗阿香，同時獲此榮銜者，仲有幫敝集團上市之東尼·馮永祥（冇佢就冇 282），青龍頭龍圍花園後人李韶教授、中大建築系創系教授李燦輝、中大另一名校友莫秀馨、雅禮協會會長 Nancy Chapman。

Dedicated Legco panel set on heritage

2007-05-12 - Scarlett Chiang - Metro A08 - The Standard

Legislators have agreed to set up a separate subcommittee to review redevelopment projects to ensure buildings with unique heritage values are preserved. The decision was arrived at Friday in a meeting of the Legislative Council home affairs panel, which was discussing the government's heritage conservation policy.

Civic Party lawmaker Fernando Cheung Chiu-hung said there were too many issues to be discussed by the home affairs panel alone.

"The preservation of buildings or sites is a very technical topic," he said.

"It would be more appropriate to have a separate subcommittee to discuss such issues."

However, Emily Lau Wai-hing of The Frontier expressed fears some sites of historic value might be bulldozed as part of redevelopment projects by the time a subcommittee was formed.

Liberal Party chairman James Tien Pei-chun said he supported the idea of a subcommittee as there were already too many items on the home affairs panel's agenda.

The panel decided to propose to the House Committee that a subcommittee be set up.

The subcommittee would monitor the government on projects involving potential heritage sites and make sure buildings or sites with unique heritage values are preserved.

It will also discuss with the government feasible alternatives so that certain buildings can be preserved.

The panel also decided to visit Macau and Europe to better understand how other places dealt with such issues.

The discussion came after some legislators expressed dissatisfaction with the passive performance shown by the government on issues involving heritage conservation.

They were particularly concerned that some historical sites, which had been included in redevelopment projects by the Urban Renewal Authority, would be damaged or even destroyed in the redevelopment race.

One of the first tasks for the new subcommittee would be to look at preserving the last remaining traditional Chinese fortified village in Kowloon's urban districts at Nga Tsin Wai and Dragon Garden in the New Territories.

The government's heritage policies first came under harsh scrutiny in January when the Star Ferry pier was dismantled despite a public uproar.

More recently, attention has focused on the Queen's Pier, where colonial governors first set foot on the territory.

The Antiquities Advisory Board last week voted to designate the pier as a Grade I historical building.

But government officials said they had no intention of making the pier a declared monument and the grading would not necessarily grant it a reprieve.

Declaration challenges Queen's Pier demolition

2007-04-19 - Chloe Lai - CITY3 - South China Morning Post

The government's decision to dismantle Queen's Pier goes against the central government's principles on heritage conservation, according to a joint declaration signed by 17 conservation groups yesterday.

Paul Zimmerman of Designing Hong Kong Harbour District, one of the declaration's signatories, said the government had failed to show that the building of a four-lane road and the work leading to it were of national importance, as the central government's legislation requires.

Other signatories to the declaration include Heritage Watch, Heritage Hong Kong, Civic Act-up, See Network, the Conservancy Association, Dragon Garden Charitable Trust, The 30s Group, and the Society for Protection of the Harbour.

Under the Principles for the Conservation of Heritage Sites in China, which the central government implemented from 2000, a heritage site could be removed only in response to uncontrollable natural threats or because the development project was of national importance, Mr Zimmerman said.

Conservationists also criticised the government's recent technical and costs justifications for demolishing the pier as an attempt to divert public attention.

They demanded a comprehensive reassessment on the pier's cultural value and a new location for the road linking the IFC and Admiralty, for which the pier has to make way.

The principles also recommend minimal intervention, conservation of the remains in their historic condition and preservation of the heritage site's setting.

Queen's Pier, a traditional landing point for British governors and royalty when they arrived on Hong Kong Island during colonial times, will hand over its function to Pier Number Nine from next Thursday.

Government engineers, citing technical difficulties and extra costs, said the pier had to be dismantled first to avoid delaying reclamation in Central. The government will consult the public on where to place a reconstructed pier.

Officials plan to submit a funding request to the Legislative Council next month for the extra work and costs for dismantling the pier but would not discuss a timetable or cost.

Local Action's Ho Loy, who was arrested in December for protesting against the demolition of the former Star Ferry Pier, said: What happened during Star Ferry Pier was accidental. We don't want to it to be repeated.

New hope for heritage conservation

2007-03-11 - Quinton Chan - EDT4 - South China Morning Post

Officials are considering expanding the semi-official Lord Wilson Heritage Trust to give the government a proper mechanism for conserving the city's historic buildings.

But government sources said that despite the authorities' recent commitment to heritage conservation, the enlarged trust would not have the power or money to buy buildings from private owners.

The government is reviewing its long-term policy on heritage conservation and setting up a trust has been high on its agenda.

Officials believe a trust, as a non-government body, would have greater flexibility in dealing with heritage issues.

They said it would make for more responsiveness towards public concerns over the preservation of heritage sites.

[Transforming] an existing trust is easier and faster than setting up a new one, so at least we do not have to draft a new piece of legislation, a source said. But we should not expect the trust to be funded with billions of dollars to buy out all old buildings.

It was possible the trust, which was established in 1992 to fund research and heritage-related activities such as public lectures and exhibitions, would be responsible for managing one of the city's oldest tenement houses, the 75-year-old Lui Seng Chung, the historic Dragon Garden and the Yau Ma Tei Theatre, which are now, or will be, owned by the government.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department is still trying to decide on a new use for the Lui Seng Chung tenement house, which has been vacant for years.

The ground floor of the building in Sham Shui Po originally housed Lui's Chinese medicine shop, while the Lui family lived on the upper floors.

Their descendants lived there until the 1980s.

Sources said the government preferred using the heritage site for non-commercial purposes, as the building was too small to accommodate a business.

The house is designed for one family to live in, while the balcony is much bigger than the inside area, a source said. The space is too small for any business to make a profit.

The government will ask interested parties to submit plans for how to conserve and use the building.

The winner will be responsible for the building's maintenance, and officials expect they will team up with private foundations to get money for maintenance.

The department has already committed the deserted Yau Ma Tei Theatre, a graded heritage building next to the historic wholesale fruit market, for a Cantonese opera house.

Dragon Garden, built in 1950, was accorded Grade II status on the recommendation of the Antiquities Advisory Board last year after a three-month battle to save it from a property developer.

The eight-hectare waterfront site on Castle Peak Road, built by tycoon Lee Iu-cheung, is regarded as the most beautiful private garden in Hong Kong.

It has charmed architects with its mixture of Chinese architectural styles, western building technology and good fung shui settings.

The Lee family plans to donate the garden to the government.

Officials are planning to spend about HK\$50 million on a facelift for the garden before opening it to the public.

Talkback

2007-03-01 - CITY2 - South China Morning Post

Q: What do you think of the redevelopment plan for Peel and Graham streets?

A: Cynthia Lee Hong Yee, Dragon Garden Charitable Trust

It is not any different from what I think about the Star Ferry pier, Queen's Pier, the former police headquarters, Yau Ma Tei Market, Wan Chai Market, or Dragon Garden, for that matter.

What is this rush to "sanitise" and "concretise" our city? Who benefits from all these new developments?

Where do all these people go whose homes are being destroyed and replaced by luxury high rises they cannot afford? What happens to the generations of social and business networks they have built within their neighbourhood and community, small or large?

Does the Urban Renewal Authority give them just compensation? No. Does the authority relocate all the residents and businesses back into the neighbourhood they know and love? No.

It makes me wonder where all the people are coming from who move into these new high rises, at a time when the population is going down. If the authority knocks down three blocks of low rises to replace with four towering blocks, is the demand really there to fill all the new flats?

And what happens to the old flats that are vacated for the new ones?

As in the case of the demolished Star Ferry pier, has the government been able to prove an "overriding public need" to build a four-lane highway in its place, or is this instead an "overriding government need" to create an artificial need?

I am just not convinced that progress means we have to tear down our past to make way for more density, less open space, worse pollution and deteriorating quality of life.

And one more thing, do you notice that Talkback letters from Hong Kong citizens are getting more and more cynical? That's because we are really sick and tired that Hong Kong is turning into a place we no longer want to live in. I wonder if Donald Tsang Yam-kuen reads this column?

Dragon Garden facelift budget raised to HK\$50m

2007-02-11 - Quinton Chan - EDT6 - South China Morning Post

Authorities have significantly increased the budget for upgrading the historic Dragon Garden amid the recent controversy over heritage conservation, according to the garden's owner.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department officials are now planning to spend about HK\$50 million to give the garden a facelift before opening it to the public, up from the original HK\$15 million.

The officials met owner Lee Shiu last week to discuss how to preserve the 8-hectare waterfront site on Castle Peak Road. Mr Lee became sole owner of the garden after buying out family members for HK\$100 million following a three-month battle to save it from developers last year.

The garden, built in the late 1950s by his father - late tycoon Lee Iu-cheung - was accorded grade two historic status by the Antiquities Advisory Board in October. The businessman is planning to donate the site to the public.

Mr Lee's wife, Jenny Lee Mui Yee-ching, said both sides were now working out a detailed renovation plan. Officials originally said they only had HK\$15 million to spend on the garden, she said. We thought this was not enough and my husband even offered to lend the government some money to renovate the garden.

Then the officials came back and said they had a bigger budget. I think this may have something to do with the Star Ferry controversy. They are very sincere and want to demonstrate to us that they will preserve the garden well.

Mrs Lee said her husband had appointed an architect to draw up plans for the government. There is a lot of work to be done, she said. We have to repair slopes, build washrooms for visitors and possibly convert the swimming pool into a water fountain. The officials have agreed to install displays explaining the contribution of my father-in-law and other philanthropists during the 1950s and 60s.

But Mrs Lee said she and her husband believed the garden should be opened to the public by appointment only: It was designed as a private garden and may not be able to hold lots of people at the same time. We have to discuss this further with officials.

Lee Iu-cheung's granddaughter Cynthia Lee Hong-ye, who launched the campaign to save the garden, said a group of academics had proposed conducting a conservation study on the garden.

A proper conservation study has to be done before any construction work is launched, she said. This is not just about renovation - it is about preserving the garden in the most appropriate way.