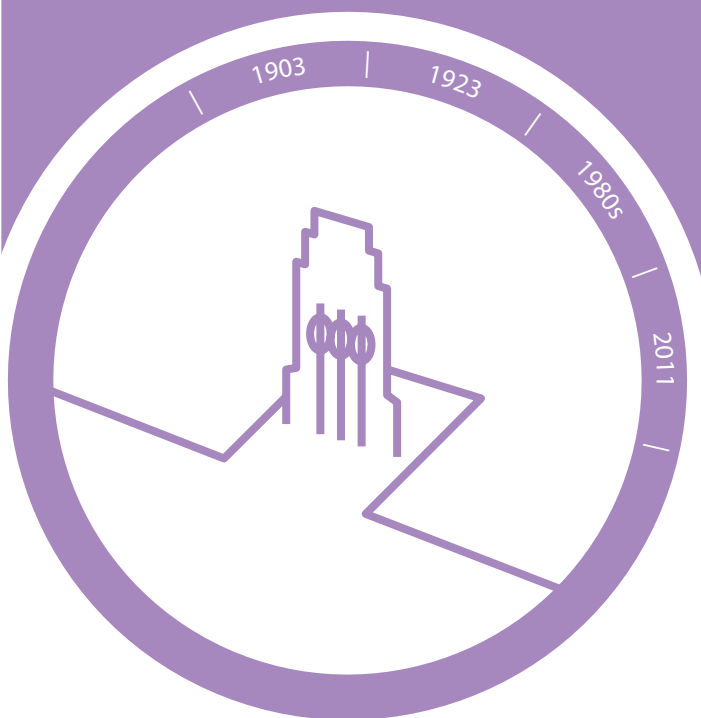




Statue Square and Cenotaph



Cenotaph, with the High Block of the new City Hall at the background

The Statue Square was constructed in 1903 by private funding, and was the first and only civic space in the heart of Central. In addition to a square of statues, the Square provided a wide open space for all kinds of civic activities. The importance of the Statue Square remains unmatched throughout the years, and continues to be Hong Kong's most important and most representative public space.

Ceremonies took place weekly at the Cenotaph, where there would be a change of flag at sunrise and sunset. Ceremonies were also performed annually on Liberation Day, the last Monday in August, to commemorate Hong Kong's liberation from Japanese occupation. These ceremonies ceased to be performed after the transition of Hong Kong's sovereignty in 1997.

! Key Points

Statue Square's history

- Intention of space
- Users
- Functions and significance as a public space

Cenotaph

- History and significance
- Structure
- Significance

Future of Statue Square as public space

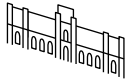


Questions to be completed after Lesson 2

1. Name five activities most commonly held at the Statue Square area.

2. The Cenotaph designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens was widely replicated across the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Find the name, location, and photo of three other such structures (or structures inspired by Lutyens' design). Briefly explain how they are different from the one in Hong Kong.

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3. What are the essential elements of a public space? What is your favourite public space, and why?

4. As a public space, what would you like to see (e.g. a carnival, flea market etc.) take place at the Statue Square? Why?

5. **[For field trip]** Surrounding the Statue Square stand some of the most iconic buildings of Hong Kong. Can you name them?