Burning Too – Hong Kong
Humans had been dependent on actual fire for warmth, protection and food preparation throughout most of our history, but fire for most people today is only an aesthetic experience providing feelings of warmth or romanticism. *Burning Too* was intended to be a metaphorical depiction of humanity’s long-standing relationship with fire.

*Burning Too* consisted of video projections and the sounds of fire presented on the Run Run Shaw Creative Media Centre in Hong Kong. The crystalline-shaped building, designed by architect Daniel Libeskind, has a 55 x 26 m façade angled forward 62 degrees. A software was designed by Ritter to map and combine four HD video projections onto the angled façade of the building, enabling the imagery to appear as one unified Ultra HD (4K) video projection of fire synchronized with interactive sound.

Don Ritter  director, video and sound, system design, programming and mapping
Cleo Song  production coordinator
Mitch Martinez  camera

Documentary photographs and video by Don Ritter, Luna Leung, and Ching Yung Yau. Assistants: Hao Li, King Him Fung, and Ching Yung Yau. Produced with assistance from City University of Hong Kong.

additional photo of *Burning Too • Hong Kong* on first page of this document
Location

Projection, computer and audio equipment were placed across the street from the Run Run Shaw Creative Media Centre on a terrace located 13 m above ground level.

Top view of video projections onto the building
Building

The Run Run Shaw Creative Media Centre in Hong Kong, designed by architect Daniel Libeskind.

View from right side of building

- 13 m to lower right corner
- 37.5 m to lower right corner
- 19.5 m to peak
- 26 m to roof
- 22.1 m to top
- 20.9 m to top
- 28.8 m to top
- 13.9 m to top
- 54.8 m to top

View from top

- Measurements from height of balcony (13 m above ground level)

View from top

- 37 m to lower right corner
- 22.1 m to top
- 20.9 m to top
- 28.8 m to top
- 13.9 m to top
- 54.8 m to top

CMC Building side view

- Roof
- Balcony (glass barrier 1.5 m high)
- Stand for projector 1.7-2 m high
calibration of four projections onto building
Burning Too was created using a Mac Pro computer, four 20K lumen video projectors, and a two channel sound system. The computer provided four full HD signals to the four projectors and a fifth signal to a control monitor. Software created by Ritter for the project provided the following real-time functions using a single computer:

- real-time playback of two separate source video recordings of fire (4K Ultra HD, 3840x2160, 24 fps)
- continuous real-time colour adjustment of source videos
- real-time mixing of source videos into a single 4K Ultra HD video stream
- analyses of the source videos control two separate audio files: brightness and motion correspond to loudness
- source video stream separated into four 1920x1200 video signals, one for each of four projectors
- edge blending adjustments for each of the four streams for creating one unified projection
- keystone, position, corner pin and re-sizing adjustment for each of the four streams
- mapping adjustments of unified projection onto building

computer with HDMI connections to four projectors, audio interface and mixer
placement of four projections onto buildings