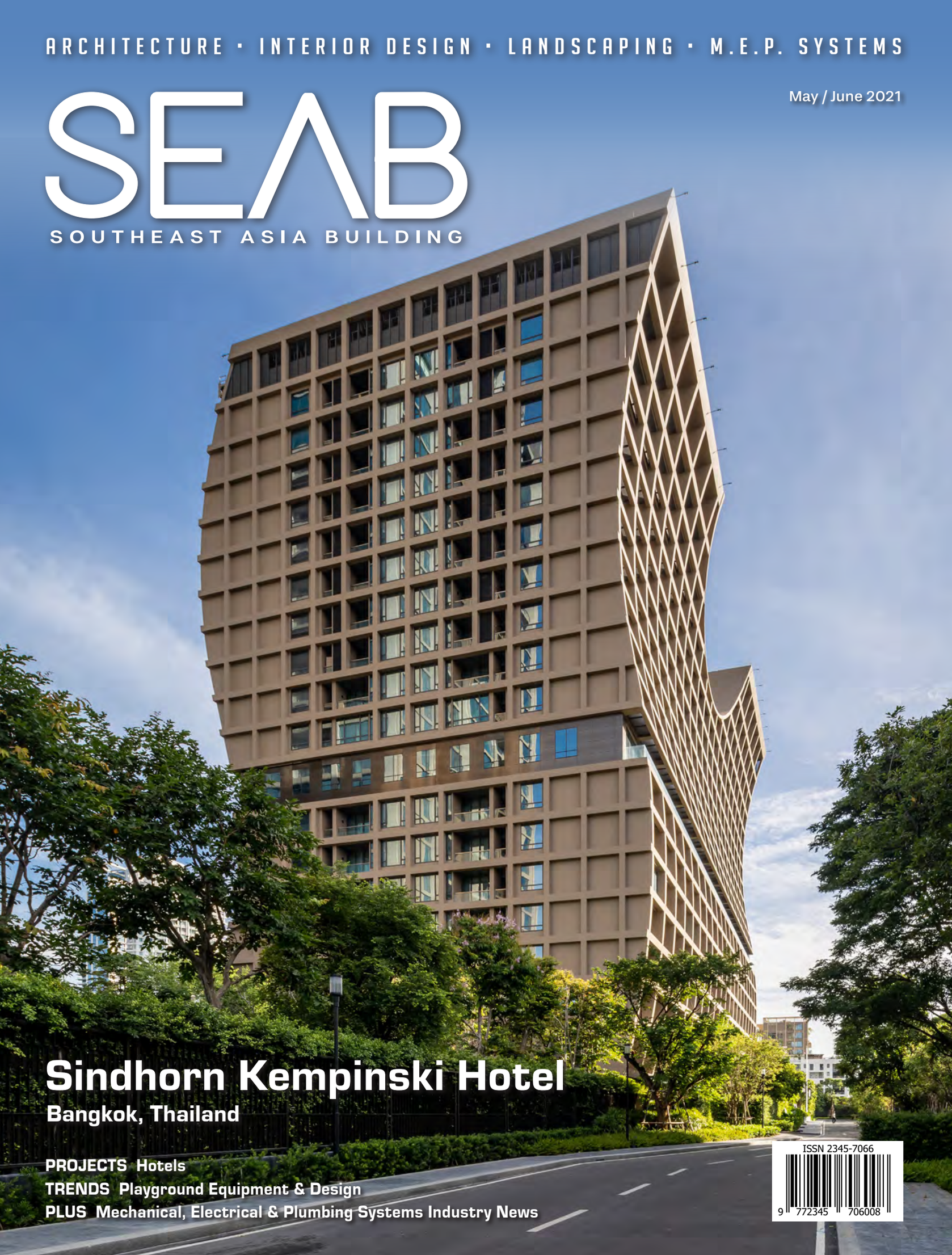
ARCHITECTURE · INTERIOR DESIGN · LANDSCAPING · M.E.P. SYSTEMS

SEAB

SOUTHEAST ASIA BUILDING

May / June 2021



Sindhorn Kempinski Hotel

Bangkok, Thailand

PROJECTS Hotels
TRENDS Playground Equipment & Design
PLUS Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing Systems Industry News

ISSN 2345-7066

3 - 6 NOV 2021
10AM - 7PM

KLCC
KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE, MALAYSIA

An Event Of:
KLAF20/21
KUALA LUMPUR ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL

ARCHIDEX®

THE 21ST INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN & BUILDING EXHIBITION 2021, MALAYSIA

ASIA'S LEADING ARCHITECTURE BUSINESS EVENT

BUILDING BEYOND TOMORROW

Digital Platform:
ARCHIDEX® ONLINE

Concurrent Exhibitions:
CLEAN EXPO ASEAN CLEANING EXPO, 2021 MALAYSIA
FACIMEX™ FACILITIES MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION 2021, MALAYSIA

Featuring:
ECO-B® ECO BUILDING & DESIGN EXHIBITION

www.ARCHIDEX.com.my

Supported By:
MINISTRY OF WORKS, MALAYSIA

Endorsed By:
MATRADE Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation

Jointly Organised By:
PAM™
CIS


Custom Screen Façade
Enhance The Appearance
Sun-Shading And Ventilation
To Gamuda Office, Vietnam
www.hunterdouglas.asia
100
1919~2019
HunterDouglas
Architectural

CONTENTS

may-june 2021

Features

PROJECTS – Hotels

41 How hotel access systems boost security without hindering service – An article by dormakaba
42 Hope Island Resort – A project by Mapei
44 Sindhorn Kempinski Hotel, Bangkok
48 Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok at Chao Phraya River
52 Taj Theog Resort & Spa
58 Mana Ranakpur

TRENDS – Playground Equipment & Design

62 Interviews with architects & landscape architects on designing playgrounds in a pandemic
67 Playground projects

MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SYSTEMS

72 News and projects

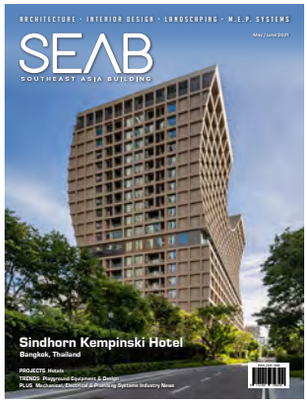
Regulars

NEWS

6 News from Asia Pacific, Middle East & the World

EVENTS CALENDAR

79 Guide to international trade shows and conferences



On the Cover: Sindhorn Kempinski Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.
Photo: © Ketsiree Wongwan

Cover design by Fawzeeah Yamin

Scan QR Code

or visit our website http://seab.tradelinkmedia.biz

Connect with us!

www.facebook.com/southeastasiabuilding

www.twitter.com/SEA_Building

www.instagram.com/southeastasiabuilding

PUBLISHER
Steven Ooi (steven.ooi@tradelinkmedia.com.sg)

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
Eric Ooi (eric.ooi@tradelinkmedia.com.sg)

EDITOR
Amita Natverlal (seab@tradelinkmedia.com.sg)

MARKETING MANAGER
Felix Ooi (felix.ooi@tradelinkmedia.com.sg)

HEAD OF GRAPHIC DEPT/ADVERTISEMENT CO-ORDINATOR
Fawzeeah Yamin (fawzeeah@tradelinkmedia.com.sg)

CIRCULATION
Yvonne Ooi (yvonne.ooi@tradelinkmedia.com.sg)

Disclaimer
All advertisers and contributors must ensure all promotional material and editorial information submitted for all our publications, must be free from any infringement on patent rights and copyrights laws in every jurisdiction. Failure of which, they must be fully liable and accountable for all legal consequences (if any) that may arise.

The Editor reserves the right to omit, amend or alter any press release submitted for publication. The publisher and the editor are unable to accept any liability for errors or omissions that may occur, although every effort has been taken to ensure that all information is correct at the time of going to press. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in whole or part without the written permission of the publisher.

The editorial contents contributed by consultant editor, editor, interviewee and other contributors for this publication, do not, in any way, represent the views of or endorsed by the Publisher or the Management of Trade Link Media Pte Ltd. Thus, the Publisher or Management of Trade Link Media will not be accountable for any legal implications to any party or organisation.

Southeast Asia Building is available free-of-charge to applicants in the building industry who meet the publication's terms of control. For applicants who do not qualify for free subscription, copies will be made available, subject to acceptance by the publisher, for a subscription fee, which varies according to the country of residence in the following manner:

Annual Subscription
Airmail: America/Europe – S$185, Japan, Australia, New Zealand – S$185, Middle East – $185, Asia – S$155, Malaysia / Brunei – S$105
Surface mail: Singapore – S$60
(Incl 7% GST Reg No.: M2-0108708-2)

Printed in Singapore by Fuisland Offset Printing (S) Pte Ltd
MCI (P) 071/07/2020 KDN No: 1560 (1270) – (6)
ISSN 2345-7066 (Print) and ISSN 2345-7074 (E-periodical)

Trade Link Media Pte Ltd also publishes:
• Bathroom + Kitchen Today
• Lighting Today
• Security Solutions Today
• Southeast Asia Construction

SOUTHEAST ASIA BUILDING is published bi-monthly by:
Trade Link Media Pte Ltd, 101 Lorong 23, Geylang, #06-04, Prosper House, Singapore 388399
Tel: +65 6842-2580 Fax: +65 6842 2581
Editorial e-mail: seab@tradelinkmedia.com.sg
Website: www.tradelinkmedia.com.sg
Co. Reg. no.: 199204277K

Exclusive Media Representative for China and Hong Kong S.A.R.

Judy Wang
Worldwide Focus Media Co., Ltd
Flat / Room 02, 7th Floor, SPA Centre
No. 53 – 55 Lockhart Road, Wanchai
Hong Kong S.A.R. China
E-mail: judy@worldwidefocus.hk

Magic Ideas?

We will be happy to help you realise your vision!
Berliner is your perfect partner in customised play equipment.
www.berliner-seilfabrik.com



Photo: Ross Pottinger

CT-Art Creation Pte Ltd is an exclusive distributor of Berliner. Contact us at sales@ctart.com.sg to find out more about what we offer.

CT-Art
PLAY VALUE, INNOVATION, SAFE

Berliner
Play equipment for life



Hello readers! Thank you for picking up the latest issue of SEAB. We hope that you enjoy reading the projects that we have put together on the hospitality industry. Construction on many hotel developments is finally completing and is seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Every hotel property aims to create a unique experience for its guests and you can see that in the projects showcased in the magazine.

The May/June issue is also our annual issue dedicated to playground design and equipment. We ask a few landscape architects on how playground design will change immediately as well as in the post-pandemic period. You can also find some stunning playground projects, which aim to promote fun, learning and skill building in children.

Thank you and please get in touch if you have any feedback or comments regarding the topics.

Amita Natverlal

JULY/AUGUST ISSUE THEMES

- Projects – Office Buildings
- Trends – 3D Printing in Architecture
- M.E.P. Systems (Refer to the media kit)
- Products – Facade Cladding Materials (Advertorial)

PLATINUM PARTNERS SEAB

dormakaba

HunterDouglas

MAPEI

Industry Partners of SEAB

Asscociation of Myanmar Architects

Bangladesh Green Building Council

Design Council – Sri Lanka

Emirates Green Building Council

Foundation for Futuristic Cities

Green Building Committee BEI MYANMAR

Green Building Council Indonesia

Green Building Council Italia

Green Building Council Mauritius

Green Building Council Namibia

Green Building Council Sri Lanka

Hong Kong Green Building Council

Interior Design Confederation of Singapore

Jordan Green Building Council

Qatar Green Building Council

Philippine Green Building Council

Singapore Green Building Council

Society of Interior Designers (Singapore)

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Vietnam Green Building Council

Green Institute Nepal

Interior Designers Association of Nepal

Singapore Institute of Building Limited

Society of British and International Interior Design



ULTRABOND ECO MS 4 LVT WALL

High performance with style...
even in **damp environments**

ECO-ADHESIVE FOR INSTALLING LVT IN DAMP ENVIRONMENTS

With **Ultrabond Eco MS 4 LVT Wall**, you can now install your favourite LVT design on walls, floors and even in damp environments that are frequently in contact with water. The universal adhesive for all kinds of resilient flooring. Ready to use. Easy to apply. Low emission of volatile organic compounds which makes it harmless for installers and end-users.

Mapei Far East Pte Ltd
28 Tuas West Road, Singapore 638383
T: +65 6862 3488 E: mapei@mapei.com.sg
Learn more on **www.mapei.com.sg**
Mapei Singapore

MAPEI®
ADHESIVES · SEALANTS · CHEMICAL PRODUCTS FOR BUILDING

Mapei launches new adhesive for installing LVT in damp environments

Singapore – Mapei has introduced a new adhesive for the installation of LVT on floor and walls in damp surroundings.

LVT is one of the widely popular materials due to their excellent performance properties, ease of installation and maintenance and availability in a wide range of patterns that can reproduce the finish of many types of floor and wall coverings often used in residential and commercial buildings.

Ultrabond Eco MS 4 LVT Wall is a high-performance, one-component silylated polymer-based adhesive with properties of high peel and sheer strength, excellent dimensional stability and high yield. Its key feature lies in its excellent wetting property even with impervious coverings. After application, Ultrabond Eco MS 4 LVT Wall hardens to form a film resistant to moisture, water and heat. This makes it suitable for installing LVT on walls and floors in wet areas.

It is highly resistant to shear loads, which makes it suitable for floors exposed to intense mechanical stress or in environments constantly exposed to water (in kitchens, showers, etc). The product can be applied in interior applications in the domestic, commercial and industrial locations.

Ultrabond Eco MS 4 LVT Wall can adhere well onto most substrates – absorbent and non-absorbent – provided they are sound and without the presence of damp. Installers can use this product as a universal adhesive for all kinds of textile and resilient flooring, in particular, all types of vinyl.

Ultrabond Eco MS 4 LVT Wall is ready-to-use and easy to apply. It is easy to clean from hands and from the surface of floorings. The product is certified EMICODE EC1 Plus (very low emission of volatile organic compounds), which makes it harmless for floor installers and end-users. Its fast-setting property allows for sites to open for light foot traffic in just five hours and ready for use in 24 hours.



Photo: © Mapei



Photo: © Mapei







Como Adventure Grove.

Singapore Botanic Gardens, Gallop extension

An extension of the Singaporeans' much cherished Botanic Gardens, whose role in Singapore's botanical and horticultural development is integral. We are inspired to create a one-of-a-kind play space that lets children learn about the nature through play. You may recognise that the sprawling tree tower dangling with climbing ropes resembles the iconic, magnificent banyan tree. On the other section of the playgarden, gigantic structures of distinctive Singapore flora can be found - thorny jackfruit that the children can scale and bouncy saga seeds for sitting.

PLAYPOINT (Singapore) Pte Ltd
Address: 1 Sims Lane #06-12 Singapore 387355
Tel: 6398 1558 | www.playpoint.asia

@playpointasia

PLAYPOINT™

MRT Corp unveils winning design for the Johor Bahru–Singapore RTS Link Station

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) unveiled the design for the Johor Bahru–Singapore Rapid Transit System Link (RTS Link) Project's Bukit Chagar station.

The modern and futuristic design, dubbed "The Integration of Two", was inspired by the historical and intertwined relationship between Johor Bahru and Singapore which had existed for centuries and will now be further enhanced with the RTS Link between Johor Bahru and Singapore.

The design was the Grand Prize winner of the PAM+MRT Corp RTS Link Station Façade Design Ideas Competition, organized jointly by MRT Corp and Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM), which ran from 23 November 2020 till 25 January 2021.

Johor Bahru–based architect Ar. Chin Yee Chong from SM Architects Sdn Bhd submitted the winning design which allowed him to take home RM 250,000.00 in prize money.

The competition was the brainchild of Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, the Sultan of Johor. His Majesty was the Patron of the competition and Chairman of the Jury Panel.

Congratulating Ar Chin and his team, MRT Corp Chief Executive Officer Datuk Mohd Zarif Hashim said: "This futuristic design manages to capture the relationship between Johor Bahru and Singapore and the station will not only become an iconic landmark in Johor Bahru but also amongst the great railways stations of the world.

"This design was picked by Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku, together with the competition's Jury Panel at the Final Judging Meeting because of the strong symbolism that the design portrayed," he said.

Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Ismail Ibni Sultan Ibrahim, Tunku Mahkota Johor, and YAB Datuk Haji Hasni Bin Mohammad, Menteri Besar of Johor were also present at the Final Judging Meeting. Mohd Zarif said the design also adopted many green features as well as advanced light-weight composite materials.

He said SM Architect's win was also very meaningful as it was a Johor Bahru–based firm. On top of that, Ar Chin's team also included architects who were graduates from Malaysian universities. The winning design unveiling was made during a media conference which was held virtually due to the Movement Control Order. Also present during the media conference were PAM President Datuk Ar Ezumi Harzani Ismail and RTS Link Project Director Ir Zulkifli Mohamed.

Meanwhile, Ezumi said the competition provided Malaysian architects a great opportunity to showcase their talents and capabilities in designing for challenging and complex buildings. "The competition provided the opportunity for Malaysian architects to participate in key projects of national importance such as the RTS Link. It also demonstrates the vital importance architectural imagination plays in the transformation of building and cities," he added.



External view of the station. Artist impression provided by MRT Corp.



Internal view of the platform area of the station. Artist impression provided by MRT Corp.

A total of 91 submissions were received when the competition was closed on 25 January 2021. A total of 10 designs were then shortlisted for the final judging which took place on 8 February 2021. During today's media conference, Mohd Zarif also provided updates of the RTS Link Project.

He said currently the three–month Public Inspection for the project, a requirement under Section 84 of the Land Public Transport Act 2010, was being carried out virtually.

"We have received overwhelming support from the public for the project. We will also analyse all feedback and opinions that members of the public give provided us during the Public Inspection for further improvement," he said, adding that the Public Inspection will end on 15 April 2021.

Mohd Zarif also said that under the project's Bumiputera Participation Programme, over 500 Bumiputera contractors have registered to participate in the project. This programme is being implemented in collaboration with the Johor Centre for Construction Development (JCCD).

architect'21

RE.FOCUS HERITAGE

มองเก่า ให้ใหม่



22-27 JUNE 2021

IMPACT CHALLENGER HALL 1-3
BANGKOK, THAILAND

10 AM - 8 PM

www.architectexpoasia.com

Aamer Architects emerges The Best Luxury Architect and Interior Design Studio in Singapore in Global Luxury Lifestyle Awards

Singapore – Aamer Architects has become the winner of Luxury Lifestyle Awards in the category of The Best Luxury Architect and Interior Design Studio in Singapore.

Aamer Architects is headed by acknowledged architect Aamer Taher, born in 1962 in Singapore. His professional career started in 1987 when he graduated from the National University of Singapore. In 1990 Aamer completed a Master of Architecture degree at the Architectural Association in London and, after two years of practice, returned to Singapore. There he established Aamer Architects, a boutique architectural firm that aims to reconcile beauty and purpose in design. Following the founder's views, the firm considers design as a combination of factors including site, climate and culture, structure and services with an economy of means to arrive at an aesthetic whole. Backed by high-quality service and management support, this combination then results in unconventional architectural projects and ensuring clients' satisfaction. Aamer's recognizable tropical architecture addresses light, shade, landscape with sculptural forms reflecting the master's subtle artistry.

The cutting-edge boutique design firm Aamer Architects has received various awards and accolades in architecture and design throughout its existence and winning the trust of clients. The experts of Luxury Lifestyle Awards strongly support this recognition, as each project of Mr Taher and his team has its own unique and remarkable features.

For example, the first project by Aamer Architects, the Telok Kurau House, features a captivating variety of shapes bursting with vivid yellow elements (representing happy children living in the house), and tendency towards freeing up the semi-detached house by separating the building block from the party wall.

Another of Aamer Taher's works is Queen Astrid Park featuring eye-catching dark-stained timber panels with a chevron pattern on the façade and on the walls within the house, an idyllic pool area, and much greenery in and around. The award-winning project of tropical house Branksome Road 60 is designed to fit into a relative narrow bungalow plot and becoming a perfect family home. The skylights and courtyards allow the natural light and ventilation to penetrate the whole area of the house. Among the main materials are raw 'off-form' concrete and bamboo that forms dramatic lines serving the functions of security and sunshade; parts of the walls and ceilings in the basement are made of tropical hardwood providing good acoustics.



Aamer Taher. Photo: © Aamer Architects



House in Siglap Road in Singapore, designed by Aamer Architects. Photo: © Patrick Bingham Hall

Besides creating designs for luxury private homes, Aamer Architects has taken part in the development of architectural designs for example for (clustered) villas projects in Singapore, a school in the Maldives, a 40-storey development featuring offices and residential units in Malaysia, and – one of the recent works – St John's Home for Elderly Persons in Singapore, a new comfortable Home with intimate spaces and conducive environments with lush greeneries.

Every design project by Aamer Architects is a 'one-of-a-kind' due to the uniqueness of every setting, the site, the environment and each client's specific requirements. But still, there is something constant in all works of Aamer Taher and his team. It is the desire, every time, to try new ways and forms when creating beautiful buildings that resonate with Life!



ASEAN SUPER

International ICW Construction Week

ASEAN'S LEADING EVENT FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

INCORPORATING

ASEAN M&E SHOW | futurebuild southeast asia | IFSEC SOUTHEAST ASIA

ASEAN LIFT EXPO & FORUM | ASEAN LIGHT | ASEAN SOLAR EXPO & FORUM | REVAC EXPO & FORUM | TENAGA EXPO & FORUM | HEAVY MACH

HYBRID EXHIBITION

9 - 11 NOVEMBER 2021

MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE (MITEC), KUALA LUMPUR

SUPPORTED BY

Ministry of Works, Malaysia

ORGANISED BY

informa markets

HOSTED BY

CIDB MALAYSIA

www.super8asean.com

Accor announces first Mondrian property to open in Singapore

Singapore – Accor has announced that Singapore's first Mondrian hotel will be built in the heart of the city's prominent Duxton Hill neighbourhood and is set to open in early 2023. The property is being developed by Craig Road Property Holdings. This news comes on the heels of Accor's recent announcement regarding its planned venture with Ennismore, which will see the creation of one of the world's largest and fastest growing lifestyle and entertainment operators set to include Mondrian hotels. The move signals the group's confidence in Singapore's tourism sector.



Mondrian Singapore, a luxury lifestyle hotel comprised of 300 guestrooms and suites, a restaurant, a lounge and a rooftop bar will combine historic architecture from Singapore's centuries-old shophouses with a new build of modern, contemporary influences.

Sun You Ning, Director, Craig Road Property Holdings said: "We are excited to debut the Mondrian brand in South East Asia and Singapore with our partner Accor. Mondrian Singapore will provide guests an opportunity to stay in the heart of Duxton Hill, a vibrant heritage conservation area surrounded by Michelin-starred eateries, award winning bars, and iconic retail stores – all within walking distance to the Central Business District."

A collaboration between DP Architects and Studio Carter, Mondrian Singapore will feature a lower three-storey building in a contemporary take on the famous Singapore 'shophouse' building typology. This portion of the hotel features a terracotta roof and colonial-style window shutters and will include the hotel's premier guest accommodations in loft suites.

The hotel will then be expanded with a new, contemporary tower housing the majority of the hotel's guestrooms as well as a rooftop pool and bar and signature restaurant. The two buildings will be united by an urban oasis landscape deck to remind guests of their location, as Singapore is known as the "Garden City." In addition to the rooftop pool, the hotel will also feature a speakeasy bar with a hidden entrance for travelers and locals to explore. sbe subsidiary Dakota Development, led by President Joe Faust, will provide design management services for the project.

Nakheel's Palm Tower nears completion

Dubai, UAE – The Palm Tower, Nakheel's new 52-storey landmark development on Dubai's Palm Jumeirah is now almost 95 percent complete, with all components due to open by October this year.

Soaring 240 metres above the world-famous island, the iconic building is in the advanced stages of fit out, with all exterior cladding completed.

Located at the heart of the award-winning Palm Jumeirah, The Palm Tower offers sweeping, uninterrupted views of the island, the Arabian Gulf and the Dubai skyline – and world-class amenities for residents and visitors.

The building comprises 432 luxury, fully furnished residences, due for handover from October this year, and a 290-room St. Regis hotel, opening this summer. The hotel and residences are topped off by a three-storey rooftop dining and leisure destination which includes The View observation deck, opening soon, as well as AURA Sky Pool, featuring one of the world's highest infinity pools, and SUSHISAMBA, which will both open later this year.



The Palm Tower at night. Photo: © Nakheel

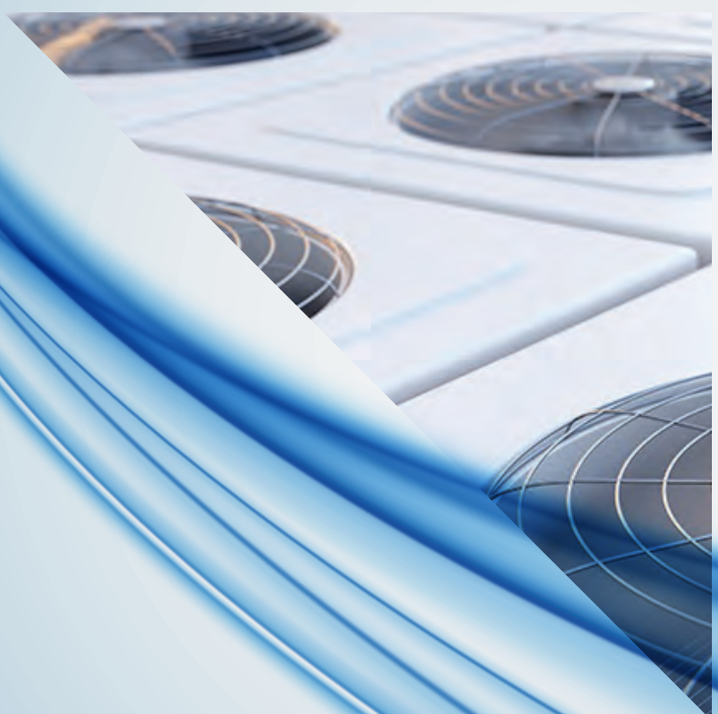
The studios and one, two and three bedroom apartments occupy levels 19 to 47 of the building, with prices from AED1.7 million. The St. Regis Dubai, The Palm is on the first 18 floors.

MARVEX™

1ST AIR-CONDITIONING, REFRIGERATION & VENTILATION EXPO 2021, MALAYSIA

8 - 11 SEPT 2021
10AM - 7PM

KLCC
KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE, MALAYSIA





THE INAUGURAL ACMV & R BUSINESS EVENT FOR ASEAN

Held Concurrently at

ENGINEER™
1ST MALAYSIA ENGINEERING EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE 2021
An Event of IEM Convention

Jointly Organised By:

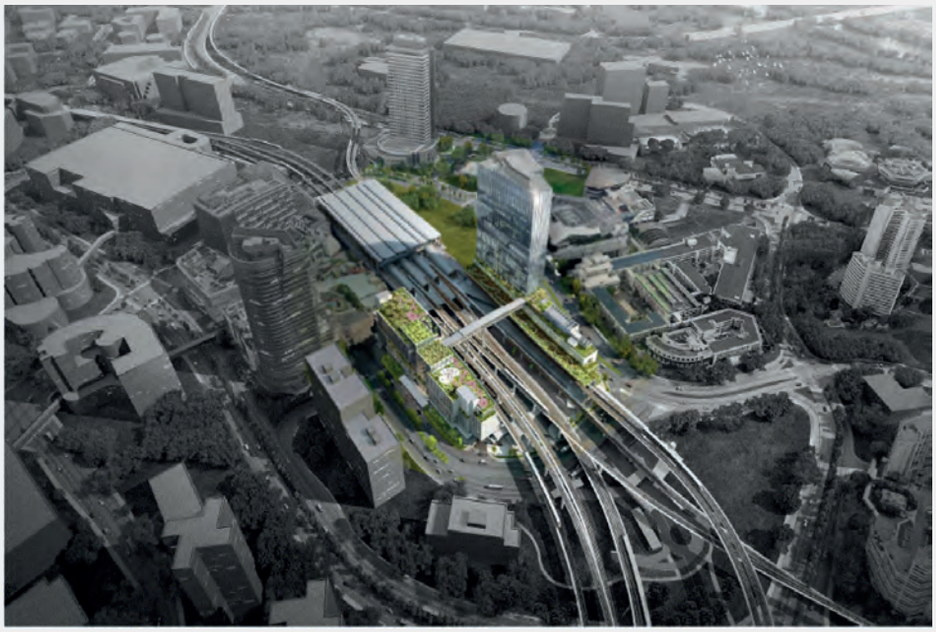
MACRA CIS

LTA awards contract for the Jurong East Integrated Transport Hub

Singapore – The Land Transport Authority (LTA) has awarded the tender to design and build the Jurong East Integrated Transport Hub (JE ITH) to China Communications Construction Company Limited (Singapore Branch) at a contract value of S$477.4 million.

The ITH comprises community and civic institutions, an office tower and a bus interchange. With its opening, commuters in the area can look forward to direct connectivity and more convenient transfers between the North–South and East–West Lines and the future Jurong Region Line at the Jurong East station. The construction of the JE ITH is expected to start in the second quarter of this year and complete around 2027.

Like all our other ITHs, inclusive facilities have been incorporated into JE ITH, including barrier-free alighting areas and toilets, priority queue zones with seats, and a nursing room. This is part of the Government's efforts to create a more caring and inclusive public transport system.



Render: © Land Transport Authority

The ITH will feature a 27-storey tower block connected by a sky bridge to an eight-storey podium block. The development will have offices, public facilities as well as retail spaces.

Mapletree and Keppel Land set to make waves in luxury waterfront living with The Reef at King's Dock

Singapore – Mapletree Investments ("Mapletree") and Keppel Land Limited ("Keppel Land") are jointly developing the highly-anticipated luxury waterfront project, The Reef at King's Dock. The project, which comprises 429 exclusive units, has achieved a strong take-up, with 280 of the 300 units released sold over the launch weekend of January 30 and 31.

The Reef at King's Dock is a sustainable, next-generation luxury development for discerning urbanites which encompasses the convenience of city-living, the tranquillity of nature and the luxury of true waterfront living. The development is also rich in history, being located alongside King's Dock, which was once the second largest dock in the world when it opened in 1913.

Strategically located in the HarbourFront and Keppel Bay precincts, The Reef at King's Dock is within the Greater Southern Waterfront, which the government plans to transform into a new major gateway for urban living along Singapore's southern coast.



Photo: © The Reef at King's Dock

The conceptualisation and design of The Reef at King's Dock is led by master planner and architect, Kees Christiaanse, a visionary industry veteran and founder of KCAP Architects & Planners. KCAP is an award-winning international design firm known for the development of sustainable urban living environments that enliven and renew cities.

The Reef at King's Dock will feature an interplay of building sizes to give the estate a private and spacious atmosphere. While metallic hues will be predominant in the development for the added shimmer against the sun and water reflections, the three distinct building types namely, the Courtyard Blocks, Garden Villas, and Urban Villas, will each boast individualised characters and colour palettes. Each building will also be intelligently oriented to facilitate natural ventilation as well as maximise scenic views.

The Reef at King's Dock will feature Singapore's first floating deck in a residential development, located within the waters of King's Dock. Spanning 180 metres, the iconic floating deck will house an ensemble of swimming pools – an Olympic-length pool, a leisure pool and a rejuvenation pool.

The floating deck will give residents and visitors a unique perspective of King's Dock and enable them to better appreciate its historical role and significance. In addition, the floating deck will house The Reef at King's Dock's very own marine viewing area where residents and visitors will be able to view and better appreciate the marine ecology in King's Dock, thus further promoting environmental awareness and conservation.

Environmental consulting firm and marine ecology specialist, DHI, has been engaged to design the submerged surface of the concrete floating deck to follow ecologically based design principles that will encourage the settlement of marine flora and fauna and enhance marine biodiversity at King's Dock. Keppel had previously carried this out successfully at Marina at Keppel Bay, where the floating concrete pontoons in the marina have since been colonised by a rich variety of marine life. DHI will also be engaged to cultivate corals at and transplant corals to The Reef at King's Dock, to further enrich the biodiversity of King's Dock.

Ascott opens Citadines Berawa Beach Bali in Indonesia

Singapore – CapitaLand's wholly owned lodging business unit, The Ascott Limited (Ascott), has opened Citadines Berawa Beach Bali in the heart of Canggu, a destination on the South coast of Bali, Indonesia. The 224-unit serviced residence is a stone's throw away from Berawa Beach and is surrounded by a plethora of cafes, restaurants, retail and recreational options. It is also a 20-minute drive to Seminyak, a landmark tourist destination with high-end shops, bars, and restaurants. The property is just a 30-minute drive from the Ngurah Rai International Airport. With Citadines Berawa Beach Bali, Ascott has over 150 properties and more than 23,000 units across over 40 cities in Indonesia, reinforcing Ascott's position as the largest international owner and operator of serviced residences and hotels in Indonesia.

Citadines Berawa Beach Bali is designed with an eclectic mix of contemporary and traditional Balinese styles with generous greenery and social spaces. It offers studios, deluxe and executive suites, one- and two-bedroom apartments, as well as a presidential suite with a private pool. Each apartment features a fully equipped kitchen, a balcony, separate bedroom, private bathroom, living area, flat-screen TV, and complimentary unlimited WiFi. The apartments can also be converted into private work suites, offering a conducive and creative environment for digital nomads to work. The property features facilities such as a gymnasium, function and meeting rooms, a children's playroom, swimming pools at the rooftop and ground floor, a rooftop sky lounge, and launderette. Citadines Berawa Beach Bali is also a pet-friendly property with a pet playground at the rooftop for guests and their pets.



Photo: © Ascott

Ervin Yeo, Ascott's Managing Director for Southeast Asia said: "Indonesia is one of Ascott's largest markets in Southeast Asia. Despite COVID-19, Ascott has remained resilient with a strong base of long-stay guests and corporates who value the home comfort, privacy and security of our serviced residences. Citadines is our fastest growing brand globally with more than 160 properties and over 29,000 units in 25 countries. We see the potential for our Citadines brand to flourish and resonate with the guests in Bali. We plan to open five more Citadines-branded properties in Jakarta, Bandung and Batam. The opening of Citadines Berawa Beach Bali increases Ascott's operating properties in Indonesia to 70. We have a strong pipeline of properties to be opened in Indonesia and this includes 11 serviced residences slated to open in the next two years."

Aurecon appoints Catherine Luo to support its growth in Advisory in Mainland China

Melbourne, Australia – Aurecon has announced the appointment of Catherine Luo as Principal, Advisory, China effective 22 February 2021. Catherine will be based in Shanghai.

As Aurecon continues to invest in its Advisory business in Asia, Catherine will lead operations in Mainland China, working closely with the company's Hong Kong and Singapore teams, as well as its other offices across Asia. Catherine reports to Stéphanie Groen, Director, Coastal & Climate Change Asia and Advisory Lead Asia, at Aurecon.

Infrastructure investment and development has long been the cornerstone of economic growth in China. As the country transforms to a digital economy driven by high technology – one that is accelerated with the post-COVID-19 recovery – the government has announced its plan to develop 'New Infrastructure'.

This coupled with the country's vision to be carbon neutral by 2060 gives future infrastructure development a strong emphasis on 'sustainability' and 'digitalisation'. The government will continue to invest further in areas such as 5G, UHV, intercity high-speed railway and urban rail transit, new energy vehicle charging piles, data centres, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, energy reduction, the use of environmentally friendly materials, nature-based engineering solutions, and biodiversity preservation.

Alongside this, the government is promoting public-private partnership (PPP) initiatives with 400 new projects added in the first seven months of 2020 and over 7,000 current projects registered on the national monitoring platform.

Catherine is a highly experienced leader in the fields of urban planning and project management. She combines an ability for unconventional thinking with a sharp commercial mind to help clients give life to even the most complex and innovative development ideas. In her role as Principal for Advisory in Mainland China, she will drive client engagement strategies, directly manage key client relationships, and contribute to building a diverse team at the fast-growing Aurecon office in Shanghai.



Catherine Luo. Photo: © Aurecon

"I am excited to join a company like Aurecon, which takes an innovative and future-focused approach to building the towns and cities of tomorrow. I am looking forward to collaborating with clients to identify, assess and develop investment opportunities locally and internationally," she said. "With Aurecon's design-led thinking approach and innovative technology and engineering solutions, I am confident that local Chinese clients will be able to optimise their investments and deliver resilient infrastructure projects that will drive sustainability, innovation, efficiencies and business returns," she added.

IMK Architects win at Surface Design Awards 2021, London

Mumbai, India – Mumbai-based architecture and urban design firm IMK Architects was honoured as a Supreme Winner at the prestigious 2021 Surface Design Awards, London, for the Symbiosis University Hospital and Research Centre (SUHRC), in a virtual ceremony on February 11 2021. The firm also won in the 'Public Building Exterior' category for its design of SUHRC, a 41,800-square-metre, 216-bed, multi-specialty hospital in Lavale, near Pune, India. Last year's Supreme Winner, New-Delhi-based multidisciplinary design practice Studio Lotus also previously won in the same category for their design of Krushi Bhawan in Bhubaneshwar, India.

Winners in the 12 categories were chosen from a pool of over 100 projects across the world. The award jury, co-chaired by Nicola Osborn from London-based multidisciplinary design studio, Basha-Franklin and Steve Webb of Webb Yates Engineers, London, commended IMK Architects for the use of Compressed Stabilised Earth Bricks (CSEB) at SUHRC.

CSEB is a naturally-compressed, sundried earthen brick, which is low-cost and environment-friendly. IMK Architects used a mix of locally available red soil, sand and *murum* (deep red/ brown soil found in tropical regions)to

create these bricks for SUHRC. These were then compressed, stabilised with 7 percent cement, to ensure durability, and later moulded. All bricks were made by hand during construction, by masons hired from local communities, providing them with employment opportunities. The on-site manufacturing process was done by a block-making machine that not only reduced transportation costs and material wastage, but also significantly reduced carbon emissions. This marks the first time that CSEB has been used on this scale anywhere across the world.

SUHRC represents a new and progressive face for healthcare infrastructure in India. The project is an exemplar of passive design and sustainability. IMK Architects' design draws from the ideas of biophilia (an innate human tendency to seek connections with nature and other forms of life) to promote recovery and rejuvenation for patients and healthcare professionals. With its state-of-the-art healthcare facilities and a research centre to enhance skill development, it is firmly anchored as a COVID-19 quarantine and treatment facility, contributing to Maharashtra's fight against the pandemic.

Rahul Kadri, Partner and Principal Architect, IMK Architects and Nithin Hosabettu, Design Director, IMK Architects said: "We wanted to design a hospital that could last around 50-100 years. Driven by this aim, we designed a facade with natural materials that would save on energy. The facade reflects the light from the sun in different ways through its twisted brick-boxed forms, to reduce internal heat gain and create a gleaming effect of light. We would like to thank the Surface Design Awards jury for this award, and our visionary clients, the Symbiosis Society, for having immense faith in us. It has been an honour to work with Dr. Mujumdar, Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar and family, on various projects for the last 17 years. Their integrity, vision, and commitment to the betterment of society is hugely inspiring. We would also like thank our hardworking teams who work tirelessly to make our projects come alive."



Symbiosis University Hospital and Research Centre (SUHRC). Photography by Rajesh Vora.

Surbana Jurong's Gareth Wong joins World Economic Forum's 2021 Young Global Leaders Programme

Singapore – Surbana Jurong Group is pleased to announce that its employee Mr Gareth Wong has been selected to join the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s cohort of Young Global Leaders (YGLs) for 2021. Gareth is Chief Executive Officer of Mitbana Pte. Ltd, the group's joint venture fund management company with Mitsubishi Corporation, one of Japan's leading trading houses.

Speaking after his appointment, Gareth said: "I'm deeply honoured and tremendously excited to be joining the Forum's 2021 Class of YGLs. YGLs play an integral role in supporting the Forum's vision to create a more sustainable future for the global community. I look forward to contributing my experience and ideas, as well as learning from my counterparts from across the globe. By harnessing our collective diverse resources, I believe we can make a positive change in our respective fields."

As CEO of Mitbana, Gareth is responsible for a deployable capital base of US$500 million aimed at catalysing and crowding in third-party institutional capital to develop Townships & Transit- Oriented Developments (TODs) in ASEAN and South Asia. In September last year, Mitbana announced that it had embarked on a greenfield venture with leading Indonesian developer Sinar Mas Land to transform over 100 hectares of land in its flagship town Bumi Serpong Damai (BSD) City, in Greater Jakarta, into smart and sustainable transit-oriented developments.

Gareth is also a member of the World Cities Summit (WCS) Young Leaders programme organised by the Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore. Held biennially, the WCS is platform for government leaders and industry experts to address liveable and sustainable city challenges and to collaborate on integrated urban solutions.



Gareth Wong. Photo: © Surbana Jurong

Sherwin-Williams Industrial Wood Coatings leverages eco-innovations to kick-start Asia Pacific development in China

Shanghai, China – Sherwin-Williams, a global industry leader in the development of technologically advanced paint and coatings for some 155 years, today rolled out its latest Asia Pacific marketing strategy for industrial wood coatings business. The ambitious plan highlights a series of eco-friendly innovations that provide consumers with green and gracious living experience.

As its first endeavours for Asia Pacific in 2021, Sherwin-Williams Industrial Wood Coatings announced two major eco-innovation initiatives in China: First, an Odor Evaluation Center which is the first of its kind in both Sherwin-Williams as well as the industry; Second, a brand-new Low Odor Series that consists of eight wood coatings products.

"Environmental safety and customer health have always been our top priorities. These considerations are even more important to our industrial wood coatings as they are being applied to a variety of household products. Nowadays, consumers are mindful of preserving healthy living because of the prolonged pandemic. Therefore, our commitment in putting eco-innovation into action resonates well with market climate as well as consumers' expectations in this region," said Henry Wu, Asia Vice President & General Manager, Sherwin-Williams Industrial Wood Coatings.



Odor Evaluation Center. Photo: © The Sherwin-Williams Company

In mid-March, Sherwin-Williams Industrial Wood Coatings launched an Odor Evaluation Center which is located in its Sherwin-Williams South China Technology Center (SCTC) in Shunde of Guangdong Province, China. This is the first of its kind for both the Company and the industry.

Equipped with the state-of-the-art equipment and a team of consummate experts, this center focuses on the evaluation, testing and analysis of the odour of paints. It consists of five functional departments such as a sensory area, laboratory and information processing centre. Its team of 18 professionals (including four PhDs of related disciplines) could quickly produce evaluation report on the odour of a paint product in a scientific and holistic fashion.

Sherwin-Williams Industrial Wood Coatings also launched its highly anticipated Low Odor Series, which could be regarded as a testament of the remarkable achievements of its Huarun Paint brand for the past three decades.

The Low Odor Pro Series boosts a Grade One rating for its odour (dry film) and are certified by the China Environmental Labelling Program (CELP). Pioneering a "double insurance" design for comprehensive environmental protection, this series offers eight product lines in either white or transparent colour that could meet the needs of different wood coatings applications. Having passed the rigorous test of the Odor Evaluation Center, the Low Odor Series is a showpiece of the R&D strength of Sherwin-Williams. Its cutting-edge products are designed to bring a refreshing and healthy lifestyle to end-users.

The Evaluation Center and Low Odor Series are two significant and complementary initiatives of Sherwin-Williams green endeavours. They convey a clear and loud message to consumers: wood products with eco-friendly coatings that have passed rigorous odour evaluation are now at their fingertips.

LWK + PARTNERS designs 'flipping book' at 10 LaSalle for luxury urban living

Hong Kong – LWK + PARTNERS has designed the new luxury residential development 10 LaSalle in Hong Kong, China, inspired by the development's prime location in an area studded with traditional elite schools to make home living an inspiring, refined, mind-soothing experience. The architect infuses the essence of literature into the architecture with a notable podium for recreational facilities designed as an 'opened book with flipping pages', creating a harmonious academic vibe, tapping into the distinct cultural qualities of the place itself, and encouraging residents to savour the joy of everyday life and forge deeper connections with the community.

10 LaSalle rests on a corner site in Hong Kong's covetable low-density neighbourhood of Ho Man Tin, which is traditionally best known for its concentration of top schools and well-established academic culture.

The slender 19-storey single block is situated in this tranquil pocket of the city amid a network of tree-lined streets which are not a common sight in highly dense Hong Kong. "At the site planning stage," said LWK + PARTNERS Director HC Chan, "We took full advantage of such a pleasant environment with a building orientation that maximises the angle of view towards the famous Lion Rock and nearby cityscape, further facilitated by large glass windows letting in generous sunlight. The tower is also set back from the street to mitigate the blocking of



Photo: © LWK + PARTNERS

views by nearby buildings, especially for lower units, while at the same time reducing any street canyon effects."

LWK + PARTNERS embraces the local heritage and the spirit of enlightenment through uncluttered architectural language and a focus on bespoke design and craftmanship. It employs a palette of bronze and light grey, a curation of fine natural materials and finishing, and an astonishing mix of curvatures. All these contribute to a living space of contemporary elegance and sculptural quality, connecting seamlessly with its time-honoured neighbourhood.

Where function meets art

A curvilinear language is found across the whole building to achieve unity and connectivity at 10 LaSalle. A key space representing this would be the residents' clubhouse, stilted at the first floor with recreational facilities and social spaces for people to meet and relax.

The building incorporates a diversity of shiny and rough textures to spark an interesting dialogue of space and materials. The frontage features extensive glass cladding punctuated by premium granite. Balconies have curved glass balustrades lined with slim bronze railings, integrating with the architectural style across the whole building and responding to the design concept of the 'flipping book'. Lobby walls feature 'sheets' of stone that flap up like worn pages of a well-read book, accentuated by gentle backlight for added depth. Outside, façades at the base of the building are made with bespoke parallelogram-shaped masonry.

GHM plans new Chedi for Qatar

Singapore – GHM has announced plans to open a new luxury resort, composed of 59 rooms and suites as well as 32 chalets and villas at Katara Cultural Village in Qatar's capital city, Doha.



Developed by the Qatari real estate consortium, Triple A in partnership with Katara Cultural Village, The Chedi Katara Hotel & Resort, Doha, Qatar shall occupy a beachfront setting within the landmark 100-hectare (247 acre) Katara Cultural Village district that includes theatres, concert halls, exhibition galleries, mosques, restaurants, shops, a park and an open amphitheatre.

The area is a magnet for well-heeled travellers and Qataris who are keen to explore the cultural heritage of the region. All of Katara's pedestrian-friendly attractions will be accessible from the property, either by foot or buggy.

"The Katara Cultural Village is a microcosm of everything that Qatar stands for and what it aspires to be," said GHM Chief Executive Officer Tommy Lai. "Our resort shall be both a springboard to and a respite from one of the most invigorating experiences to be had in the region. It is an oasis of calm and heritage in the middle of a dynamic and modern cit," he added.

With a design that pays homage to the glories of Indian Mughal Architecture and a touch of Ottoman influence, the new Chedi's principal hotel building will house a lobby lounge with 180° views of the sea, an expansive spa and fitness facility, and rooms and suites with terraces and views over the Arabian Gulf and Doha skyline.

The 32 villas dotting the extensive landscaped gardens in the Katara Hills range from one to five bedrooms, all with private gardens and swimming pools, offering privacy, luxury and tranquillity in the heart of the city.

The Chedi's food and beverage offering will include an all-day dining venue on the ground floor of the palace with live cooking stations and the exquisite Lobby Lounge, which is designed to heighten the welcome experience. An exclusive cigar lounge anchors the ground floor at one end of the palace and neighbours the resort's Chedi Lounge.

On the beachfront promenade, a long swimming pool accents the principal resort building while a second infinity pool offers a relaxing environment for families to enjoy a wide variety of snacks and fresh juices at the stand-alone Beach Club.

The property's architect, WATG, is a 75-year-old U.S.-based firm renowned for its work designing some of the world's leading hotels, including the first hotel with overwater villas (in Bora Bora in 1961) as well as gems in the region such as the Royal Opera House in Muscat. Its subsidiary, Wimberly Interiors, will handle the new resort's interior designs, creating an environment of elegance and calm.

The resort is expected to open in July 2022, ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2022.

IHG Hotels & Resorts debuts the first Crowne Plaza resort on Phu Quoc Island in Vietnam

Singapore – IHG Hotels & Resorts, one of the world's leading hotel companies, will open the new-built 308-room Crowne Plaza Phu Quoc Starbay resort in Q2 2021 on Phu Quoc Island, which is an island recognised by UNESCO as a World Biosphere Reserve in 2006. Situated along the unspoilt Bai Dai beach, just northwest of the island, the resort is a 40-minutes' drive from Phu Quoc International Airport, and 30 minutes from downtown.

The emphasis on connection and productivity are purposeful design hallmarks representing the new era of Crowne Plaza hotels globally. With a philosophy of building hotels for the future, the new look Crowne Plaza leans on design aspects that move guests seamlessly between work time and downtime, including the 'Plaza Workspace' – a new take on the traditional hotel lobby space, offering inspiring surroundings where hotel guests and locals can feel comfortable to do some work, enjoy a coffee over a business meeting or socialise with friends and families.

Designed by the award-winning eco-id architects, Crowne Plaza Phu Quoc Starbay offers 308 stylish guest rooms including 10 villas and 22 suites, ranging from 40sqm to 411sqm. Each offers an expansive balcony overlooking t the ocean on one side or t the island's native greenery on the other side. Set in subdued ocean and earth tones, the contemporary interior is inspired by the vernacular culture of fishing and weaving and anchors the resort experience to the tranquility of its stunning Bai Dai beachfront location.

From USB outlets and charging stations throughout the resort to unlimited high-speed wifi, the generously sized guestrooms are brimming with technology-led features designed to blend the 9-to-5, 5-to-9 day. Accompanied by Crowne Plaza's Sleep Advantage programme, which includes pillow menus, botanical-based amenities, the guestrooms are there to restore, inspire and rejuvenate.

Other resort facilities that encourage guests to relax and unwind include two swimming pools – a sheltered Olympic-length 50 metres lap pool and a lagoon fun pool, a gym, and the Hoa Sim spa, a serene oasis with four individual treatment rooms. The resort offers two distinctive dining venues including Horizons Restaurant - Lounge – Bar, which boasts of an outdoor terrace overlooking the ocean. Amber Sands Beach Club offers beachfront dining coupled with a fire dance performance and a spectacular sunset view; guests can savour a selection of fresh locally sourced seafood and prime cuts of meat served a la minute in its open-fire kitchen.



Crowne Plaza Phu Quoc Starbay – Grand Oceanfront Suite. Photo: © Crowne Plaza Phu Quoc Starbay

The resort's Tribe Kids Club invites children to become wildlife adventurers in a day camp setting.

With 416 square metres of dedicated space across a Grand Ballroom and three meeting rooms, the resort will continue to have a strong focus on meetings and events, ranging from corporate functions to weddings for up to 480 people.

Hyatt celebrates sustained growth with 1,000th global hotel opening

Singapore – Hyatt Hotels Corporation announced the official opening of Hyatt's 1,000th hotel worldwide, Alila Napa Valley in St. Helena, Calif. Founder Jay Pritzker purchased the first Hyatt hotel in 1957 with a new vision for hospitality, built around people. Since then, Hyatt's purpose to care for people so they can be their best has driven groundbreaking hotel designs, the award-winning World of Hyatt guest loyalty program and strategic brand acquisitions. Today, this milestone reinforces Hyatt's continued commitment to intentional growth in places that matter most to guests, members, customers, and owners. Marking the expansion of Hyatt's luxury lifestyle Alila brand portfolio with the brand's second property in the Americas, Alila Napa Valley offers guests crafted luxury, innovative design, and bespoke experiences in one of the world's most famous wine regions. The 68-room adults-only restorative retreat is surrounded by the pristine Home Vineyards of the Beringer Estate and features an outdoor pool overlooking adjacent vineyards and distant mountains, a seasonally driven

restaurant and bar with a local, sustainable menu and Spa Alila and Fitness Center with transformative, customied treatments.

"Hyatt's thoughtful journey to 1,000 hotels has been grounded in listening, growing, and innovating along the way to meet guest, member, customer and owner needs," said Jim Chu, Hyatt's Executive Vice President of Global Franchising and Development. "Today, we remain focused on expanding our global footprint and building our business based on where we can best extend care and make a positive impact on our guests and the communities in which we operate. With a strong pipeline of new openings and developments, Hyatt continues to offer differentiated experiences that will cater to the growing demand for leisure destinations our guests are seeking as they get back to travel," added Jim.

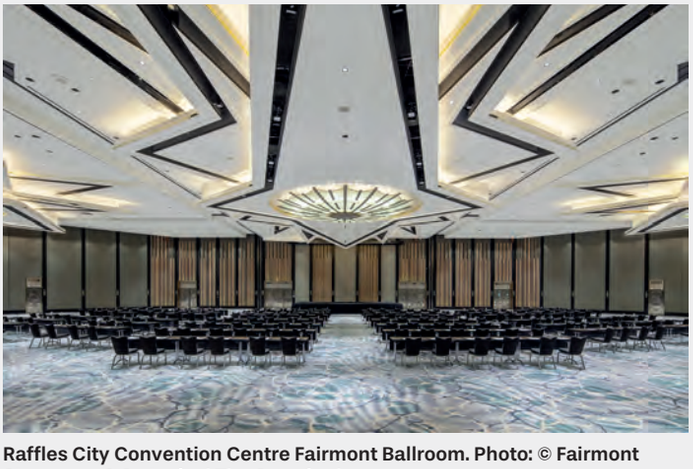


Hyatt's 1,000th hotel worldwide, Alila Napa Valley in St. Helena, California. Photo: © Hyatt

Raffles City Convention Centre awarded BCA Green Mark Gold Rating again

Singapore – Complemented by two of Singapore's landmark hotels, Fairmont Singapore and Swissôtel The Stamford, Raffles City Convention Centre has been recertified with the BCA GREEN MARK AWARD (GOLD) for existing non-residential buildings by the Building and Construction Authority.

The BCA Green Mark awards in turn recognises developers, building owners and individuals who have made outstanding achievements in environmental sustainability in the built environment. Raffles City Convention Centre was first recognised as a Green Mark (Gold Award) building in 2018, and this recertification in 2021 is a strong testament to the ongoing commitment of the venue and the entire hotel complex to responsible green initiatives and practices. Each cycle of the BCA Green Mark awards is valid for 3 years.



Raffles City Convention Centre Fairmont Ballroom. Photo: © Fairmont Singapore & Swissôtel The Stamford

The 108,000 square feet Raffles City Convention Centre offers prime, flexible event space; including 34 function rooms, meeting rooms and three magnificent ballrooms located on a single floor with direct access to 2,030 guestrooms and suites across the two Hotels.

Long-standing and strong supporters of sustainability and the environment, Fairmont Singapore and Swissôtel The Stamford's leading innovations and green achievements were also most recently recognised in the Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific (HICAP) Sustainable Hotel Awards in September 2020. The Hotels beat industry contenders within the Asia Pacific region and emerged winner in the Climate Action category.

Mr Marcus Hanna, General Manager of Fairmont Singapore and Swissôtel The Stamford shared, "We are delighted to receive the BCA Green Mark Gold recognition once again, which truly affirms our commitment towards the larger environment in which we as a business and corporate citizen operate. Much as we are an experienced and preferred venue for large and small scale events, we are equally proud to be known for our green practices and sustainable efforts that will give our clients the added assurance and confidence when they hold events with us at Raffles City Convention Centre".

Inaugural Geo Connect Asia 2021 hailed a success

Singapore – Geo Connect Asia 2021, the first geospatial and location intelligence technology conference in Southeast Asia, was well received by delegates after it was held on 24th and 25th March at Marina Bay Sands. It was also the first large-scale pilot hybrid event in Singapore in 2021, attracting close to 1,200 international and local exhibitors, speakers, delegates and visitors.

In-person attendees were treated to two eventful days of keynote speeches, plenary sessions, roundtables, and more, while about 700 professionals and media from across the global geospatial community tuned in virtually to enjoy a highly curated, immersive and interactive virtual trade event experience. Both physical and virtual attendees hailed from 55 countries.

The event was graced by Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister-in-charge of the Smart Nation Initiative Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, as Guest-of-Honour. Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State for Trade & Industry and Culture, Community & Youth also attended GCA 2021, and was brought on a tour of the event where he met with exhibitors and trade delegates, culminating in a visit to the Singapore Pavilion – an exhibition hall featuring myriad Singaporean firms that are part of a fast-growing local geospatial and location intelligence industry.

GCA 2021 was supported by several Singapore government agencies, namely the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Singapore Tourism Board (STB), Singapore Land Authority (SLA), Economic Development Board (EDB) and Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA).

GCA 2021 also featured Digital Construction Asia 2021 (DCA21) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Asia 2021 (UAV21), which showcased the full range of geospatial and location intelligence applications for key government agencies and enterprises.

Supported by the Emerging Stronger Taskforce (EST)[1] Alliance for Action (AfA) on Enabling Safe and Innovative Visitor Experiences, such pilot events facilitate progressive scaling up to larger events, and provide a crucial springboard to recovery and growth for both the ASEAN geospatial community and the wider MICE industry, overturning the assumption that larger international MICE events cannot be held safely. They are also a testbed for event organisers to refine the implementation of safe management measures and best practices for MICE events progressively. With a multitude of innovations to ensure the safety and well-being of in-person attendees in light of the pandemic, GCA 2021 saw the use of a Bluetooth-enabled dongle which tracked attendees' location and duration of interaction with other attendees at the event. The device, which was part of the Safe Event platform[2] trialled onsite, aided GCA 2021 in ensuring the necessary Safe Management Measures (SMMs) were met.

The pilot event also featured Geo Suites – ballrooms converted into "exhibition booths" that assumed the role of a typical trade show floor as the main mode of interaction and helped to minimise intermingling between cohorts of attendees – and Meeting Pods that allowed 2-to-2 meetings to take place with the safety of a plexiglass divider as well as hand sanitisers and cleaning supplies.

At GCA 2021, Antigen Rapid Tests (ART) were administered onsite both days of the event. The expansion of daily testing beyond foreign attendees allowed risk to be managed during interactions throughout the conference. The testing provided valuable findings and data that will allow for the progressive refinement of SMMs and best practices for future MICE events in Singapore.

Rupert Owen, Co-founder of Geo Connect Asia, organised by Montgomery Asia, said, "Two years in the making, Geo Connect Asia 2021 has navigated significant disruption and uncertainty before making our much-anticipated debut in Singapore this year. This was possible due in no small part to the strong support from our many like-minded partners from both the public and private spheres, with Singapore Land Authority's (SLA) and Singapore Tourism Board's (STB) support, in particular, proving instrumental in guiding the development



Speakers during a plenary session at GCA 2021. Photo: © Geo Connect Asia

of a world-leading hybrid platform for the geospatial and location intelligence markets in Asia. Equally important were our sponsors and other partners from across an array of industries, led by Platinum Sponsor Trimble, Gold Sponsor Bentley Systems, Silver Sponsor UP42, and Conference Sponsors Planet Labs, Synspective, and Dassault Systèmes."

"Geo Connect Asia 2021 has been a success, and will hopefully be the catalyst not only for the geospatial industry evolution across Southeast Asia, but also for the inevitable recovery of the resilient MICE industry. We really appreciate the support we have received from all parties in enabling the launch of Geo Connect Asia. We are looking forward to engaging with the industry over the next few weeks, both in terms of themes and content, as well as exploring the best format to enable face to face engagement," added Mr Owen.

Geo Connect Asia will return next year on 23rd and 24th March 2022 as an even bigger affair, with more exhibitors and conference line-ups featuring some of the most prominent experts and professionals from across the global geospatial space. **For more information, visit www.GeoConnectAsia.com.**



Delegates & visitors at Singapore Pavilion at GCA 2021. Photo: © Geo Connect Asia

[1] The EST was formed under the Future Economy Council (FEC) to review how Singapore can stay economically resilient and build new sources of dynamism to emerge stronger from COVID-19. The EST is co-chaired by Minister for National Development, Mr Desmond Lee, and Group CEO of PSA International, Mr Tan Chong Meng, and comprises members from various sectors, including businesses and trade associations and chambers. It has convened the Singapore Together AfAs, which are industry-led, government-supported coalitions that act quickly by prototyping ideas in areas of opportunity for Singapore. The AfA on Enabling Safe and Innovative Visitor Experiences is one of these AfAs.

[2] The Safe Event platform is a technology solution created by local companies Viatick and Trakomatic during the SafeEvent Challenge at IMDA's Open Innovation Platform.

Lendlease reinforces digital business bench strength with two senior leadership appointments

Singapore – Lendlease announced two strategic leadership appointments to its digital arm, Lendlease Digital, to continue its commitment to the digital transformation of the property and construction sectors.

Richard Kuppusamy has assumed the role of the Head of Lendlease Digital, Asia, effective since September 2020. Kuppusamy retains his role as the Head of Digital Engineering for Integrated Solutions, Asia, which he has held since February 2019. He assumes leadership, management, and performance of the Digital business unit for the region.

Lendlease has also appointed Preetham Nadig as the Head of its Singapore Product Development Centre and the Vice President of Engineering for Lendlease Digital, Asia. In his new role, Nadig will be responsible for driving Lendlease Podium's product technology roadmap and the development of digital solutions for the built environment. He reports to Pankaj Srivastava, Chief Technology Officer, Lendlease Digital.



Richard Kuppusamy. Photo: © Lendlease



Preetham Nadig. Photo: © Lendlease

Nadig brings with him over 18 years of experience leading delivery teams in tech startups and mature platforms in areas such as blockchain, telehealth, e-commerce and supply chain. Most recently, he led the Digital Products team at Zuellig Pharma and has previously held roles leading companies across the pharmaceutical, consumer goods and automotive sectors.

The future of Sustainable and Healthy City Design in Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – On 25 March 2021, global, award-winning consulting and design firm B+H, partnered with the Institute of the Smart City Management (ISCM) – UEH to host a hybrid in-person and virtual seminar to explore holistic planning strategies and solutions for building tomorrow's healthy, sustainable, and resilient communities.

The engaging discussion was moderated by Dr Trinh Tu Anh, Director of the Institute of Smart City and Management of the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh. The panel of global speakers was comprised of B+H Principals Tom Hook, Steven Townsend, and Quan Nguyen. Tom Hook, Global Director of Planning & Landscape, has over 25 years of international experience as a master planner, landscape architect and project manager for large-scale urban developments in Asia, North America, and the Middle East. Steven Townsend, Asia Director of Planning, is a seasoned planning professional and industry leader in urban design with 30 years of experience on award-winning urban design and masterplan projects for multinational clients across Vietnam, Hong Kong, China, USA, Asia, Middle East, and Europe. Quan Nguyen, Director, Planning and Landscape Vietnam, currently leads B+H's Planning and Landscape practice in Vietnam.

Drawing on B+H's global expertise and experience in Vietnam, B+H Principal Steven Townsend discussed critical disruptors including: climate change, urbanisation, and the digital revolution that will affect how people build healthy and sustainable cities in an uncertain future. Meanwhile, Tom Hook shared integrated strategies and new planning principles, designed to test solutions for future flexibility, adaptability and resiliency when shaping spaces, communities, and cities of tomorrow. Regarding B+H's approach to planning, Tom noted, "One of B+H's fundamental planning principles is blending biomimicry with planning and landscape design to uncover new models that are shaped to last by harnessing free energy, redundancies, and cyclical processes". Tom continued to explain that the creation and maintenance of man-made systems, products, and processes often require a great amount of energy. Biomimicry uses natural systems to inspire innovation by addressing challenges and issues, reducing the environmental impact of development, and maintaining a sense of social responsibility.



B+H Planning Leaders and ISCM discussed the future of healthy and sustainable urban development in Vietnam. Photo: © B+H & ISCM

Quan used the example of 200-hectare Hamlet Waterfront Development in Dong Nai Province as a prominent urban planning project case study that applied biomimicry principles to create a resilient community. "A biomimetic approach preserves the environment by working with the forces of nature to create a greater level of sustainability and resiliency. Through phased planning and development aimed at increasing access to and within the site via waterways, linear parks, streets, and walkways, the long-term vision positions the development as an active urban subcentre."

The seminar was hosted at the ISCM Studio in Ho Chi Minh City with a parallel live online session attracting the participation of a diverse audience. Attendees included: local and international academia; practitioners; scholars and students in architecture, urban design, and planning; Vietnamese planning experts; in addition to professional planners from Singapore Planning Institutes; and distinguished guests.

Official launch of HomeTeamNS Khatib, Singapore's first smart clubhouse

Singapore – On 10 April 2021, HomeTeamNS officially opened its newest five-storey clubhouse at Khatib, spanning 21,000 square metres. It is the first 'smart' clubhouse in Singapore, equipped with digital capabilities, and features eco-friendly innovations and several first-of-its-kind facilities.

The launch was officiated by Guest-of-Honour Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and for Law, who is also Chairman of the HomeTeamNS Board of Governors.

20 HomeTeam national servicemen (NSmen) received their Meritorious and Long Service Awards at a ceremony held at the clubhouse for the first time, immediately after the launch of



HomeTeamNS Khatib official launch. Photo: © HomeTeamNS

HomeTeamNS Khatib. The HomeTeamNS Awards Ceremony recognises the contributions and commitment of Home Team NSmen.

This year, HomeTeamNS is presenting a total of 54 awards to 46 Home Team NSmen at two separate ceremonies. Minister Shanmugam and Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Minister of State for Home Affairs and for National Development, and also President of HomeTeamNS, presented the awards to 20 recipients at the ceremony on 10 April. The other 26 other award recipients will receive their awards at another ceremony on 17 April. HomeTeamNS Khatib was progressively opened to NSmen and the public from 1 August 2020, in accordance with the phased relaxation of COVID-19 safe management measures. The new clubhouse is just one of the many ways that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recognises and shows appreciation for the contributions of NSmen from the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) in keeping Singapore safe and secure.

Since the ground-breaking ceremony in 2018, various HomeTeamNS committees, including the Development Committee and Advisory Panel, have been heavily involved in the planning and development of the Khatib Clubhouse. The clubhouse aims to promote camaraderie, pride and bonding among Home Team NSmen, and help them maintain their physical fitness. The HomeTeam's history, mission, and contributions to keeping Singapore safe and secure are reflected in the clubhouse's architecture and design.

The clubhouse boasts a number of firsts in the history of Singapore's clubhouses, including:

- **Adventure HQ,** Singapore's largest multi-installation indoor hub;
- **T-Play Khatib,** the only Peranakan-themed indoor playground in Singapore; and
- **TactSim,** Singapore's first indoor player versus player airsoft arena.

The new Khatib Clubhouse offers a range of other recreational facilities and F&B outlets to cater to the needs of the Home Team community and their families, including Singapore's largest Fitness Workz premium gym spanning 1,500 square metres, the first eMart located outside of SPF and SCDF premises, as well as four ManCaves decked out with the latest entertainment gadgets and a private BBQ patio each.

"HomeTeamNS Khatib is the first of the modern, new-look Home Team clubhouses. We wanted the best in design, facilities, and technology. We appreciate our national servicemen who have given a lot to ensure the safety and security of Singapore," said Minister Shanmugam. "This clubhouse was designed by NSmen for NSmen, It is family-friendly, great for kids and great for adults. It is going to be a very popular addition, to both the Home Team and Nee Soon."

"The opening of Khatib Clubhouse has been very well received by our members, scoring well above the industry norm in customer satisfaction," said Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, President of HomeTeamNS. "We have seen a marked increase in membership sign-ups and renewals among members residing in the North from October 2020 to March 2021, compared to the same period a year before," he added.



HomeTeamNS Khatib – Clubhouse Façade. Photo: © HomeTeamNS

Mitbana and Sinar Mas Land set to embark on Maiden Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in BSD City

Singapore – Mitbana, a joint venture company of Mitsubishi Corporation and Surbana Jurong, together with Sinarmas Land Limited ("SML") through its subsidiary, PT Bumi Serpong Damai Tbk. ("BSDE"), announced that they will be jointly developing the first interconnected multi-modal transport complex in Greater Jakarta. This project is Mitbana's maiden undertaking in Indonesia and is part of a growing partnership with SML.

The new Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) is strategically located in the Intermoda district in Bumi Serpong Damai (BSD) City, BSDE's largest established and thriving satellite township in Greater Jakarta. Capitalising on existing facilities built by BSDE, the Intermoda TOD will offer unparalleled access to multiple public transportation options including road, rail, and park-and-ride facilities to enhance last-mile connectivity and reduce congestion from the BSD area to Central Jakarta.

A key feature of the Intermoda TOD will be its connection to the Cisauk Train Station, which is situated along the Kereta Rel Listrik (KRL) commuter line that connects directly to Jakarta's Sudirman Central Business District in under an hour. Refurbished by BSDE in 2019, the Cisauk Train Station is connected by overhead walkways to various amenities including Pasar Modern, an urban marketplace offering fresh produce, groceries and fast-moving consumer goods, as well as an existing bus interchange which currently services BSD City.

As part of the development of the new Intermoda TOD, the existing pedestrian connections from Cisauk Station will be expanded and upgraded to include new retail and food & beverage offerings. When completed, the entire Intermoda TOD will cover a land area of approximately six hectares. It will feature a new town centre with community facilities catering to young families, working professionals and students such as those from Atma Jaya Catholic University, situated 400 metres from the development.

The collaboration between Mitbana and SML will also explore smart technologies to enhance bus services within BSD City and other surrounding townships. These enhancements will complement Cisauk Train Station's connection to the future Serpong-Balaraja (Serbaraja) toll road section 1A, which is expected to be operational by the end of 2021.



Artist's impression of the Intermoda TOD Phase 1. Image credit: PT Sinar Mitbana Mas

Mr Gareth Wong, Chief Executive Officer of Mitbana, said, "Mitbana is excited to partner Sinar Mas Land in this rare opportunity to build a future-ready development that will cater to the growing needs of BSD City and provide greater connectivity for its residents. We see great potential in the Intermoda district and will leverage its unique attributes of being connected to an upgraded commuter rail station and an operational bus interchange. Our vision is to develop a new urban precinct with modern services conveniently located around the Intermoda TOD and to promote sustainable living by making public transport options even more accessible. We look forward to delivering affordable, quality housing that will cater to the mass market in BSD City."

Construction of the Intermoda TOD, which has a total development value of approximately S$200 million, is expected to commence in phases starting from 2022. This development is part of Mitbana and SML's larger goal to transform over 100 hectares of greenfield land in BSD City into TODs comprising residential apartments, commercial properties, lifestyle amenities and public transport nodes. As the 60 percent majority shareholder of the joint venture, Mitbana will also introduce best practices in urban development from Japan and Singapore and embrace new technologies to create future-ready TODs.

Lifting of Sky Deck ceremony held for Huabang International Centre in Guangzhou

Hong Kong – The latest stage of construction at 10 Design's Huabang International Centre has been marked with a special ceremony to celebrate the lifting of the sky deck that connects the two buildings within the scheme in Guangzhou, China.

Design Partner of 10 Design, Nick Cordingley, commented: "10 Design was invited by Huabang to witness this significant milestone of the construction. The lifting operation took place successfully with the steel structures of the sky deck rising 134.5 metres in height above Pazhou, a major new CBD in the City of Guangzhou."



Huabang International Centre in Guangzhou. Photo courtesy of Huabang Holdings Group.

The sky deck towers are prominently situated with its north fronting along the simmering Zhujiang River, providing views to the CBD of the Haizhu district and the central axis of Guangzhou. One of the sky deck towers will be trade-marked as Huabang Headquarters, whilst the other tower will accommodate a five star hotel and serviced apartment, totaling approximately 145,000 square metres gross floor area.

Nick and the design team have created the sky deck into a signature urban statement – an elevated public space where one can enjoy a spectacular view across the river to the striking skyline of Guangzhou. The sky deck will provide a wide range of amenities for public enjoyment including al fresco dining, a city park, an observatory deck, and a city art gallery.

Nick further added that beyond the sky deck is the 'vertical green valley', the inspiration of which unifies the two towers with a series of stepping green terraces cascading towards the sky deck, unifying the overall composition. The stepping terraces at the upper level then set the rhythm of the main facades of the two towers, allowing the vertical lines to be articulated in the face of the façade."

Edmond Lau, Associate Partner of 10 Design said: "The Huabang International Centre will provide a vibrant and dynamic workplace and public destination to the internationally recognised Pazhou district. This exciting new innovation and technology hub will become a new home to many internationally renowned e-commerce giants like Tencent, Alibaba and Xiaomi."

South Beach secures S$1.22 billion green loan from DBS, UOB, Maybank, SMBC and OCBC

Singapore – South Beach Consortium (SBC) has secured a 5-year green loan totalling S$1.22 billion – one of Singapore's largest green loans to date. It is provided by a group of lenders comprising DBS, UOB, Maybank, SMBC and OCBC. DBS is the lead green advisor and UOB is the green advisor.

Proceeds from the green loan will be used for the refinancing of the South Beach mixed-use development – a double Green Mark Platinum development – in alignment with the City Developments Limited (CDL) Sustainable Finance Framework. This framework was developed and adopted when CDL's SDG Innovation Loan was launched in 2019. It demonstrates how CDL and its Group's entities intend to fund projects or innovations that will deliver social and environmental benefits to support the Group's business strategy and vision. The framework also stipulates how the financing proceeds are to be applied to eligible projects.

Ms Yiong Yim Ming, CDL Group Chief Financial Officer, said, "Since CDL issued the first green bond by a Singapore company in 2017, we have continued to advance on sustainable financing initiatives. By doing so, we are channelling capital to achieve better environmental outcomes and aligning with the expectations of the investment community for more sustainable developments. Including this green loan obtained by South Beach, CDL has secured over S$2.5 billion of sustainable financing in the form of a green bond, green loans and a sustainability-linked loan to date. As a green developer advocate, we are heartened that our strong sustainability track record enables CDL to tap the fast-growing sustainable financing pool to benefit our joint venture projects, sharing our green vision of a low-carbon future with our like-minded partners."



South Beach. Photo: © South Beach Consortium

Aga Khan Award for Architecture announces Steering Committee for 2022 Award

Geneva, Switzerland – The Aga Khan Award for Architecture has announced the members of the Steering Committee for the 2020–2022 cycle. The Steering Committee is chaired by His Highness the Aga Khan. The other members of the Steering Committee are:

- Sheikha Mai Bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, President, Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, Manama.
- Emre Arolat, Founder, EAA– Emre Arolat Architecture, Istanbul.
- Meisa Batayneh, Principal Architect, Founder, maisam architects and engineers, Amman.
- Sir David Chipperfield, Principal, David Chipperfield Architects, London.
- Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Director, Institute of African Studies, Columbia University, New York.
- Nasser Rabbat, Aga Khan Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge.
- Marina Tabassum, Principal, Marina Tabassum Architects, Dhaka.
- Sarah M. Whiting, Dean, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, Cambridge.

Farrokh Derakhshani is the Director of the Award. The Steering Committee is the governing body of the Award. Perhaps one of its most important tasks is to select an independent Master Jury which, in turn, selects the award recipients from the nominated projects. It is also responsible for establishing the eligibility criteria for project nominations, providing thematic direction to the Award, and developing plans for its cyclical and long-term future.

For more information, visit www.akdn.org.



Centre:
His Highness the Aga Khan. Photo: © AKDN

Clockwise from top left:
H.E. Sheikha Mai Al Khalifa. Photo: © Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities
Sir David Chipperfield. Photo: © Benjamin McMahon
Meisa Batayneh
Nasser Rabbat. Photo: © S. Nahas
Sarah M. Whiting. Photo: © Stephanie Mitchell – Harvard Staff Photographer
Souleymane Bachir Diagne. Photo: © Charlotte Force
Marina Tabassum. Photo: © Sounak Das
Emre Arolat. Photo: © Sergen Sehitoglu

BSRIA appoints Tom Garrigan as new Technical Director

Berkshire, UK – BSRIA chairman Tom Smith is delighted to announce the appointment of Tom Garrigan BSc (Hons) as the new BSRIA Technical Director. Tom Garrigan joined BSRIA in 2007 as a test engineer and has gained broad experience in the sector, becoming Business Manager for the BSRIA Test House in 2015. He maintains a distinguished profile in the sector and is well known for his expertise in the UK and Overseas.

Tom Smith said, "BSRIA is delighted with Tom's appointment and looks forward to his continued prominence and impact on the sector."

Julia Evans, BSRIA CEO, said, "Tom will be a welcome member of the team and brings with him not only innate professionalism and knowledge but also insightful views of BSRIA's future."

Tom Garrigan said, "I am honoured to take on this important role for BSRIA and for the sector. I look forward to taking BSRIA forward into the forthcoming challenges presented by its strategic agenda."



Tom Garrigan.
Photo: © BSRIA

New research museum in the jungle

Mexico City, Mexico – Mexican art collector Fernanda Raíz plans a research museum for people, art, and science exploring the possibility of harmonious coexistence in the 21st century. The name of the research museum, Xinatli, is based on the terms Xinachtli from the Nahua language and describes the moment in which a seed germinates, growing into its life-giving form. The phrase symbolises creation and honours the potential for metamorphosis.

Construction is planned for an area in the Mexican jungle to the south of the country, in the tropical conditions of the rainforest. The site will include a newly arranged stepped pyramid housing the main exhibition areas, along with several art pavilions and a terrestrial institute operated by scientists. A 90-hectare area of cleared forest, previously affected by illegal logging, has been selected for the site and will be reforested in the coming years. Testamentary provisions stipulate a transitional use of the land, which after one generation will be returned to Earth as an entity – represented by environmental representatives and local communities who will become its sole caretakers and stewards.

Each of the complex's facilities is designed to explore the 'pluriverse' of life within biodiversity and human communities and carry this knowledge forward in art and research.

Xinatli is grounded in the decision to contribute to an urgent climate change within the mind, utilizing art and aesthetic perception, an ecologically oriented way of building, and a cultural engagement with the other to help preserve the permanence of all life on our planet.



Rendering of Xinatli. Rendering: © bloomimages and bloomrealities

Xinatli's founder, the Mexican art collector Fernanda Raíz, encapsulates this undertaking: "Until now, museums have usually been a space where power is put on display. A 21st century museum should not be a showcase for power but instead a place that advocates for greater equity: in ecology, in art and in society."

Wattyl Australia and New Zealand officially part of the Hempel Group

Kongens Lyngby, Denmark – On 18 February 2021, Hempel A/S signed an agreement to acquire leading paint and coatings manufacturer Wattyl Australia and New Zealand from The Sherwin-Williams Company, the world's largest paint and coatings company and headquartered in the United States.

Hempel received formal customary approval from the relevant authorities in Australia and New Zealand and the acquisition was closed on 31 March. Wattyl is now officially a part of the Hempel Group.

"I am very happy to welcome Wattyl and 750 new colleagues to the Hempel family today. We share many similarities, which makes the acquisition a perfect strategic fit. United, we will create a strong platform for continuous growth and leverage our knowledge, expertise and market strengths to remain a trusted partner of our customers in Australia and New Zealand," said Lars Petersson, CEO of Hempel.

The acquisition is part of Hempel's ambition to double its revenue to EUR 3 billion by 2025 as outlined in its *Double Impact* strategy.

"We have taken the first major step on our growth journey, which will see us build leadership positions in chosen geographies and segments. With Wattyl as part of the Hempel Group, we are gaining a strong footprint in Australia and New Zealand, while pursuing our strategic ambitions for the Decorative, Infrastructure and Energy segments in our South & East Asia region," concluded Lars Petersson.



Lars Petersson. Photo: © Hempel Group

Wattyl has an annual turnover of EUR 150 million and has been a household name in Australia and New Zealand for more than 100 years.

House of Wisdom in Sharjah welcomes its first visitors

London, UK – The House of Wisdom – an iconic library and cultural centre in Sharjah – has opened to the public. The central focus of the 2019 UNESCO World Book Capital celebrations, the project seeks to be the catalyst for a new cultural quarter in the city.

Gerard Evenden, Head of Studio, Foster + Partners said: "The House of Wisdom in Sharjah is a forward-looking conception of what a library should be in the 21st century – embracing a digital future while playing a crucial role as a community hub for learning, underpinned by innovation and technology."

Located on the Sharjah International Airport Road, 10 kilometres from the city centre, the two-storey building embodies a sense of clarity and lightness, with a large floating roof cantilevering on all sides of a transparent rectilinear volume. The 15-metre-wide overhang shades the facades throughout most of the day, while fixed aluminium screens with differing densities filter the low sun in the evenings. Movable bamboo screens at low level are deployed by the building users, to provide privacy or to control glare. When not in use the bamboo screens are left open, preserving the visual connections with the landscaped gardens.

Visitors enter the building from its western edge into a double-height reception hub with a central courtyard that brings light to the interior spaces. This densely planted green area creates a comfortable outdoor environment for social events or quiet contemplation. The ground floor contains large spaces for exhibitions, a café alongside a children's educational space, and the archive and a reading area with facilities such as an Espresso Book Machine that prints and binds books on-demand.

The floating roof is supported by four cores that also contain all the back-of-house and service spaces, creating a large column-free floorplate. The two cores closest to the entrance contain large sculptural staircases that guide people up to the mezzanine floor. The upper floor hosts a series of pod spaces



Water feature in front of the House of Wisdom. Photo: © Chris Goldstraw

suspended above the central courtyard, which offer both quiet and collaborative spaces, exhibition areas and reading lounges including a prayer room and a women-only area. Throughout the building, there is an emphasis on establishing and retaining a connection with the outside, looking onto the gardens surrounding the building.

The landscape is divided into two sections – a knowledge garden and children's playground to the south, which has several native species and a water feature, alongside a more formal, geometrically arranged garden to the north containing The Scroll – a new piece of public art by British sculptor Gerry Judah that is a contemporary interpretation of the ancient Arabic scrolls as a single, spiralling sculpture that loops towards the sky.

"The straight, minimalist lines of the building complement the dunes of the desert, set within a lush landscape. The House of Wisdom is set to be an oasis for the local community, led by research and innovation, at the heart of a new cultural district," added Evenden.

Kéré Architecture proposes a new design for Benin's National Assembly in Porto-Novo

Berlin, Germany – Having outgrown its current building, which dates back to the colonial era of its past, the parliament of the Republic of Benin has entrusted Kéré Architecture to design a new national assembly that will embody the values of democracy and the cultural identity of its citizens.

The project takes inspiration from the palaver tree, the age-old West African tradition of meeting under a tree to make consensual decisions in the interest of a community. The palaver tree is a timeless symbol, having borne witness to previous generations and inspiring respect for the majestic forces of nature.

The assembly hall is located on the ground floor, its spectacular ceiling created by the dynamic reach of the structure, which supports the functions above. The crown is comprised of offices and auxiliary functions, set back from the deep façade, which filters the strong sunlight. The trunk is hollow, creating a central courtyard that allows circulation spaces to be naturally ventilated and indirect light to penetrate the plan. A spiral staircase in its centre connects the assembly hall on the ground floor to the offices above. On the top floor, a roof terrace offers sweeping views over the city and the lagoon in the distance.



Render of Benin's National Assembly facade: © Kéré Architecture

A large part of the site is dedicated to a public park, which will showcase Benin's native flora while providing Porto-Novo with an extensive recreation space. To create a sense of openness and transparency, the park will extend to the foot of the palaver tree, offering a generous shaded space where citizens can gather and deliberate, analogous to the assembly hall on the opposite side.

In the southeast corner of the site, a public square marks the civic façade of the building, across from the former national assembly where Benin's independence was historically declared. Further facilities for government services are integrated into the park's topography with planted roofs, and form a facade along the southern limit of the site.

UNStudio and Bauwerk introduce the Van B residences in Munich – a completely new 'analogue smart' urban living concept

Amsterdam, The Netherlands – The new Van B residential project, located on Infanteriestrasse next to the future 'Kreativquartier' (creative quarter) in Munich, offers a completely new form of housing that reimagines the future of urban living.

As a prototype for modern city dwelling, Van B is designed to cater to changing demographics and multiple family constellations. With its highly flexible apartments, outdoor and shared communal spaces and striking facade, Van B offers a new form of urban living.

Ben van Berkel: "What makes Van B truly special and unique is that it offers a completely new form of 'smart' living. This is not smart in the usual sense of tech integration; it instead involves reinterpreting ideas from the digital world in order to improve the analogue, physical spaces we inhabit."



Photo: © Bauwerk / bloomimages

The architectural strategy was to devise as many different ways as possible to reconfigure an apartment. To achieve this, we designed an adaptable partition and furniture 'plugin-based' system that allows homeowners to use the space in a 40 square metres apartment almost as if it were a 60 square metres loft.

The Van B plugin system allows you to easily change the use of the same floor space in a matter of seconds, making it possible to transform a room from a generous office into a cozy living room, or a bedroom.

Van B challenges old conventions of square footage and fixed footprints to empower people to live in more flexible ways. Quality meters become more important than square metres. The flexibility lies in the fact that each element can work in different configurations and that the resident can chose an individual configuration of plugins based on a catalogue of nine elements.

In order to achieve this, a grid was devised upon which each element is based, as whenever one element is opened, the back of the other one needs to be adjacent to it. This means that no matter which elements the homeowner chooses, and no matter how they arrange them inside their apartment, the modules will work together. With the possibility to reconfigure the apartment to their immediate needs, the homeowner can choreograph their space around their day, instead of the other way around.

Van B offers a variety of apartment types and sizes including one to three room apartments, flats, gallery lofts and rooftop flats, each catering to different demographics and resident constellations. Essential in the design of Van B is the relationship of the inside to the outside and the creation of a community within the development. Creating connections between people and to the outdoors, and using outdoor space as an extension of the living spaces was essential to the design.

Behnisch Architekten opens new office in Los Angeles

Stuttgart, Germany – Behnisch Architekten is expanding its American footprint with a new office in Los Angeles, California, headed by partner Kristi Paulson. It is located in Silverlake, a creative district close to Hollywood and downtown L.A.

"California always seemed like a dream location for our office," said Stefan Behnisch, Founder and Partner of Behnisch Architekten. "The positive atmosphere, the pleasant climate, and the central location on the west coast motivated us to open our very first branch office there in 1999. We're extremely pleased to reopen this studio with Kristi Paulson and reclaim our presence in California," said Stefan.

Previously, Paulson worked at Behnisch Architekten's Venice, California outpost, which operated from 1999 to 2012 and produced projects such as the laboratory and research Park Street Building, New Haven; the Maximino Martinez Commons student housing complex in Berkeley; and the iconic City of Santa Monica Parking Structure.

Joining Paulson in Los Angeles are Tony Gonzalez, Daniel Poei, Vera Tian, Laura Fox, and Amin Abbaszadeh. They share the firm's commitment to creating sustainable, humanist designs that are user-focused. The team is currently working on transforming a large office building in Southern California into a dynamic, contemporary working environment. The 100,000-square-foot building's floor plates are carved out to bring in daylight and provide fluid vertical connections throughout the workplace.

Celebrating three decades of practice, Behnisch Architekten is proud to announce a retrospective of its work, 30 Years of Behnisch Architekten. The 1,768-page book features 66 built projects dating from 1996 through 2021, including several unrealized buildings.



The team of Behnisch Architekten and their new office in Los Angeles. Photo: © Behnisch Architekten

The book traces the evolution of the internationally renowned, award-winning firm. Founded in 1989 as the "downtown branch" of Behnisch & Partner and initially led by Günter and Stefan Behnisch together with Manfred Sabatke, the firm adopted various names, settling on Behnisch Architekten in 2005. Today, in the four German and American studios located in Stuttgart, Boston, Munich, and Los Angeles, a total of around 130 colleagues from almost 20 different countries and various cultures work in close collaboration.

LMN Architects and Booth Hansen celebrate the design and construction of the new Computer Design, Research, and Learning Center at the University of Illinois Chicago

Seattle, Washington, USA – LMN Architects in collaboration with Booth Hansen is pleased to celebrate the design and construction of the new Computer Design, Research, and Learning Center at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Located at a unique prominent site on campus, the structure celebrates the garden and elliptical form of the Harry W. Pearce Memorial Grove and establishes a new front door for technology in downtown Chicago.

The University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) is Chicago's only public research university and one of the most diverse universities in the United States. The new 135,000 square feet Computer Design, Research, and Learning Center (CDRLC) at UIC will consolidate the currently fragmented Computer & Science Department in a new home and co-locate it with a large cluster of university-administered classrooms at the heart of the east campus. The building is designed to be a welcoming, inclusive, and inviting space for the diverse student body. The building will serve research needs with state-of-the-art facilities, accommodate the rapidly increasing undergraduate enrollment in computer science and become a new campus hub.

The CDRLC is the third recent academic building to be built on the east campus originally designed by Walter Netsch in 1965. The building will be delivered on an accelerated schedule to meet the demands of the department, doubling its capacity by 2023. It will create a hub for both engineering and computer science that includes research areas comprised of faculty offices, collaboration areas, dry lab and specialty lab; administrative and student affairs office spaces; collaborative teaching and learning

spaces for undergraduate and graduate students; an undergraduate learning and community center; and a flexible events room; all stitched together by a five-storey daylit atrium.

Creating a contemporary addition to this iconic brutalist campus, the building is functional, flexible, and respectful of the context. Located at a unique, prominent site on campus, the structure celebrates the natural setting and organic form of the Memorial Grove and establishes a new front door for technology in Chicago.

Together with the existing lab building, the new CDRLC creates a dramatic public atrium for social interactions with visual and physical connections to all floors. The refined precast concrete and terra cotta facade of the building are inspired by Netsch's late modern architecture and respond to the site conditions and the Memorial Grove.

Building on UIC's successes with geo-thermal energy resources, the project will include a substantial new geo-thermal farm in the Memorial Grove, and the building has been designed to achieve LEED Gold certification. Reflecting a complex organisation of requirements, the building will prompt students to cross paths with one another and enhance intellectual exchange.

The atrium will be porous and dynamic with connections to the campus and the community, honouring the past and looking to the future.



Rendering: © LMN Architects

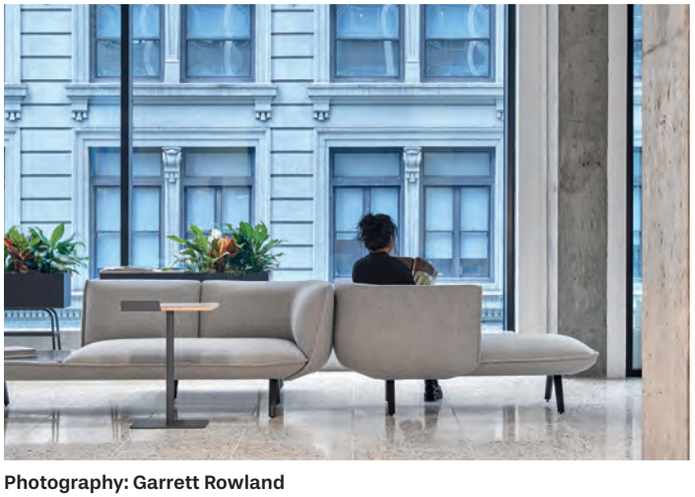
Perkins&Will unveils New York studio in Nomad

New York, New York, USA — The New York practice of global architecture and design firm Perkins&Will has unveiled its new Manhattan home at Nomad Tower, located at 1250 Broadway in Midtown. The studio functions as a storefront, providing passersby with a peek into its design culture while connecting staff to the street life below.

The vision for the New York studio comes to life as an agile and intuitive space that can pivot to accommodate behavioral, cultural, and technological change in the workplace. The studio's flexibility allows for the new space to serve as an agile learning lab, experimenting with new work models and technologies in real-time.

"The gradual return to the office presents a rare opportunity to pilot elements of our new studio as we collectively navigate what the hybrid work model will look like for us. Our design vision was anchored in an acknowledgment of constant change in the way we work, the way we socialize and the role technology plays in our lives," said Bill Harris, Managing Director of Perkins&Will's New York studio.

The new space officially opened in the fall of 2020 with both the build-out and move accomplished amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The firm also developed a Return-to-Studio (RTS) app through which staff check-in and check-out of the office from their smartphones. This helps reduce density by scheduling employees for on and off days that alternate studio seating. The RTS app also surveys staff for symptoms before coming into the studio. This enables Perkins&Will to conduct track-and-trace in line with COVID-19 guidelines. "Our first priority is making sure the staff feels safe and comfortable returning to work," added Harris. "Beyond that, we're most looking forward to re-committing to the values our workplaces have come to represent: a sense of belonging, a social community, and a strong design culture, many of which we previously took for granted."



Photography: Garrett Rowland

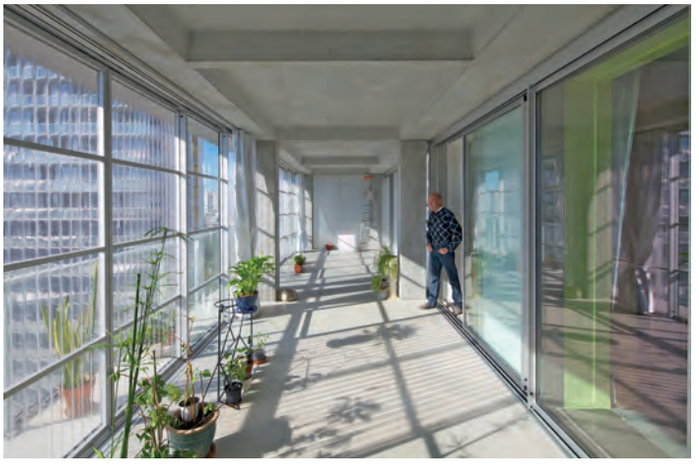
Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal receive the 2021 Pritzker Architecture Prize

Chicago, Illinois, USA — Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, of France, have been selected as the 2021 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureates, announced Tom Pritzker, Chairman of The Hyatt Foundation, which sponsors the award that is known internationally as architecture's highest honour.

"Not only have they defined an architectural approach that renews the legacy of modernism, but they have also proposed an adjusted definition of the very profession of architecture. The modernist hopes and dreams to improve the lives of many are reinvigorated through their work that responds to the climatic and ecological emergencies of our time, as well as social urgencies, particularly in the realm of urban housing. They accomplish this through a powerful sense of space and materials that creates architecture as strong in its forms as in its convictions, as transparent in its aesthetic as in its ethics," stated the 2021 Jury Citation, in part.

The architects increase living space exponentially and inexpensively, through winter gardens and balconies that enable inhabitants to conserve energy and access nature during all seasons. Latapie House (Floirac, France 1993) was their initial application of greenhouse technologies to install a winter garden that allowed a larger residence for a modest budget. The east-facing retractable and transparent polycarbonate panels on the back side of the home allow natural light to illuminate the entire dwelling, enlarging its indoor communal spaces from the living room to the kitchen, and enabling ease of climate control.

On a grander scale, Lacaton and Vassal, alongside Frédéric Druot, transformed La Tour Bois le Prêtre (Paris, France 2011), a 17-storey, 96-unit city housing project originally built in the early 1960s. The architects increased the interior square footage of every unit through the removal of the original concrete façade, and extended the footprint of the building to form bioclimatic balconies. Once-constrained living rooms now extend into new terraces as flexible space, featuring



Transformation of G, H, I Buildings, Grand Parc, 530 Units, Social Housing (with Frédéric Druot and Christophe Hutin), photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault.



Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, photo courtesy of Laurent Chalet.



Multipurpose Theater, photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault.



Latapie House, photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault.

large windows for unrestricted views of the city, thus reimagining not only the aesthetic of social housing, but also the intention and possibilities of such communities within the urban geography. This framework was similarly applied to the transformation of three buildings (G, H and I), consisting of 530 apartments, at Grand Parc (Bordeaux, France 2017), with Druot and Christophe Hutin.

The transformation resulted in a dramatic visual reinvention of the social housing complex, the modernization of elevators and plumbing, and the generous expansion of all units, some nearly doubling in size, without the displacement of any residents and for one third of the cost of demolishing and building new.

"Our work is about solving constraints and problems, and finding spaces that can create uses, emotions and feelings. At the end of this process and all of this effort, there must be lightness and simplicity, when all that has been before was so complex," explained Vassal.

Much of their work encompasses new buildings, and the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nantes (Nantes, France 2009) exemplifies the significance of freedom of use. To accommodate the range of pedagogies necessary for its growing student body, the plot was maximised and the architects were able to almost double the space outlined in the brief and do so within budget. Located at the bank of the Loire River, this large-scale, double-height, three-storey building features a concrete and steel frame encased in retractable polycarbonate walls and sliding doors. Areas of various sizes exist throughout, and all spaces are deliberately unprescribed and adaptable. An auditorium can open to extend into the street, and high ceilings create generous spaces necessary for construction workshops. Even the wide, sloping ramp that connects the ground to the 2,000 square meter functional rooftop is intended as a flexible learning and gathering space.

Significant works also include Cap Ferret House (Cap Ferret, France 1998), 14 social houses for Cité Manifeste (Mulhouse, France 2005); Pôle Universitaire de Sciences de Gestion (Bordeaux, France 2008); low-rise apartments for 53 units (Saint-Nazaire, France 2011), a multipurpose theater (Lille, 2013), Ourcq-Jaurès student and social housing (Paris, France 2013); a 59-unit social housing development at Jardins Neppert (Mulhouse, France 2014–2015); and a residential and office building in Chêne-Bourg (Geneva, Switzerland 2020).

They established their practice, Lacaton & Vassal, in Paris in 1987, and have completed over 30 projects throughout Europe and West Africa. Lacaton and Vassal are the 49th and 50th Laureates of the Pritzker Architecture Prize.



Site for Contemporary Creation, Phase 2, Palais de Tokyo, photo courtesy of Philippe Ruault.

CAZA announces design of La Salle Church in Binan City, Philippines, with construction completing in Q2 2021

Brooklyn, New York, USA – In a bustling tech innovation campus in Binan City, Philippines, finding a way to connect with faith is essential to ensure personal wellbeing and growth. Part of a larger university master plan, also designed by CAZA, La Salle Church weaves together culture and ecology by offering users a different idea of spiritual inclusiveness.

The space aims to take individuals and make them part of a larger, connected group. Its limits help transition worshipers from the busy environment towards sacred areas where worshipers congregate. Circular rooms link together within a porous ambulatory area. The outer skin consisting of vertical slats creates tension between the permeable facade's lightness and the sanctuary's weight.

Viewed from the outside, the building appears amorphous and mysterious, smooth and loose in its shape. To emphasize the connection with the surrounding wooded landscape, the exterior uses raw and unfinished materials. The materiality changes as you penetrate the space, shifting to softwoods and brass. Fourteen individual doors lead worshippers to a double-height central core. This drum-like congregation space has a tilted ceiling, further emphasizing the connection between the individual, the sacred space, and nature.



La Salle Church – Exterior view. Photo: © CAZA

CTBUH announces 10 Year winners for Annual Awards Program

Chicago, Illinois, USA – The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) is pleased to announce the 10 Year Award of Excellence Winners for the CTBUH 2021 Awards Program. The winning projects represent the best tall building projects that, over the past decade, have proven influential on their peers and dynamic in their own foresight.

The Award of Excellence Winners will now move on to the next stage of the CTBUH Awards Program, in which the owner/developers and design/engineer teams for the projects will compete in the CTBUH 2021 Tall + Urban Innovation Conference for "Best in Category" distinctions.

The 2021 Tall + Urban Innovation Conference will take place online on a dedicated virtual portal from 18–20 May. The conference will include several programme tracks discussing hot topics in the urban development and tall building industry. Registration for the 2021 Tall + Urban Innovation Conference is now open at tallinnovation.com, where additional details can be found.



See the 10 Year Winners below:

10 Year Award – 2020
- Burj Khalifa, Dubai
- Guangzhou International Finance Center, Guangzhou
- International Commerce Centre, Hong Kong
- Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
- O-14, Dubai

10 Year Award – 2021
- 1 Bligh Street, Sydney
- African Union Headquarters and Conference Complex, Addis Ababa
- Al Hamra Tower, Kuwait City
- NBF Osaki Building, Tokyo

The 2021 International Architecture Competition is now open for entries

Paris, France – Passion and boldness are the key words of the 11th International Architecture Competition of the Jacques Rougerie Foundation – Institut de France. The call for projects is now open until September 15, 2021.

When and how will we be able to live under the sea? What kind of architectural proposals will meet the challenges of the sea level rise? How will we manage a human centered space exploration?

The international community of young architects, engineers, designers, students or professionals is invited to imagine visionary architectural projects, addressing the great challenges of humanity. Biomimetic, bio-inspired the projects will put together form, function and environment and will place humans at the heart.

The projects, expected from all over the world, must imperatively consider the environmental preservation and contribute to the integration of the sea and space in the future of our planet.

The candidates are invited to build multidisciplinary teams combining sciences, arts and new technologies and to use the constraints of the sometimes extreme environments as new creative force.

The competition is free and open to students and professionals from all over the world.

The prizes are rewarded with a global amount of 30,000 euros in 3 categories:

- Architecture and Innovation for the Sea
- Architecture and Innovation related to sea level rise
- Architecture and Innovation for Space

The only way to submit projects is online until September 15, 2021: https://fjr.wiin-organizers.com/en/applications.

The awards ceremony will take place on December 1, 2021 at the Institut de France in Paris.



Poster: © Fondation Jacques Rougerie

Since its creation in 2011, almost 10,000 candidates from 135 countries have registered to the competition.

Sonova opens one of Switzerland's first zero-energy office buildings

Stäfa, Switzerland – Sonova Holding AG, a leading provider of hearing solutions, is today inaugurating one of Switzerland's first office buildings which is carbon-neutral in its operations. The new Sonova Wireless Competence Center in Murten, home to its subsidiary Phonak Communications AG, will accommodate around 180 employees entrusted with developing and marketing miniaturized communication and hearing protection systems. The innovative building aligns with the Sonova Group's sustainability program, whose goals include a continuous reduction of the company's environmental impact. The entire Sonova Group aims to achieve carbon-neutral operations by the end of 2021. The pioneering architecture of the zero-energy building will provide employees with a modern and inspiring workplace.

"We are delighted to open our new Wireless Competence Center in Murten today. As one of Switzerland's first zero-energy commercial properties, it is part of the world's first generation of carbon-neutral buildings. This pioneering project is an excellent example of how we are continually reducing the environmental footprint of our business in line with our strategy. We are committed to ensuring that the Sonova Group's entire operations will be carbon-neutral by the end of 2021. With its unique environmental features, innovative spatial design and construction, our Wireless Competence Center provides an ideal workplace for our colleagues," said Arnd Kaldowski, CEO of Sonova.



Photo: © Sonova

Foster + Partners collaborates with NVIDIA Omniverse Enterprise for the AEC industry

London, UK – Foster + Partners has been working with NVIDIA to test NVIDIA Omniverse Enterprise, a collaborative platform that breaks down boundaries between 3D design and visualisation by enabling a seamless interface between these two disciplines. The collaboration was part of NVIDIA's early adopters' programme for Omniverse over the past two years. NVIDIA Omniverse Enterprise makes it possible for designer and visualisation teams – which are often large, diverse in skills and geographically dispersed – to work seamlessly together on complex projects. Rather than requiring in-person meetings or exchanging and iterating on massive files, designers, artists and reviewers can work simultaneously in a virtual world from anywhere, on any device.

Gamma Basra, Partner and Head of Visualisation, Foster + Partners, said: "Due to our long-standing relationship, NVIDIA invited us to test NVIDIA Omniverse Enterprise, an interface that allows us to expand our real-time collaboration workflow to include the visualisation pipeline. In partnership with NVIDIA, we are helping shape the future of collaboration for the AEC industry."

Martha Tsigkari, Partner with the Applied Research and Development group at Foster + Partners, added: "This revolutionary platform allows our artists to collaborate on the same scene while working independently on their software of choice. Multiple design changes can be visualised simultaneously in real-time, allowing design options to be reviewed in parallel for faster design cycles. The vast reduction in time previously required for processing models means more time for creative design and visualisation. Integration of futuristic technologies such as machine learning will bring more opportunities to assist the creative process in the future."

This collaboration is a key part of the practice's efforts to push the boundaries of innovation and revolutionise the design process through the use of pioneering technologies. Omniverse Enterprise complements bespoke software developed by Foster + Partners that allows for design interoperability between teams, data exchange on demand, facilitate version control and track changes, all in real-time. The practice will also be delivering an Omniverse online workshop at this year's NVIDIA GTC entitled 'Collaboration matters: An end-to-end workflow for the AEC industry'. A team of designers, developers and artists from Foster + Partners will showcase how NVIDIA Omniverse Enterprise can help transform a typical design to visualisation pipeline into a real-time collaborative workflow. **The workshop will be available online through GTC21 at this website www.nvidia.com/en-us/gtc/.**

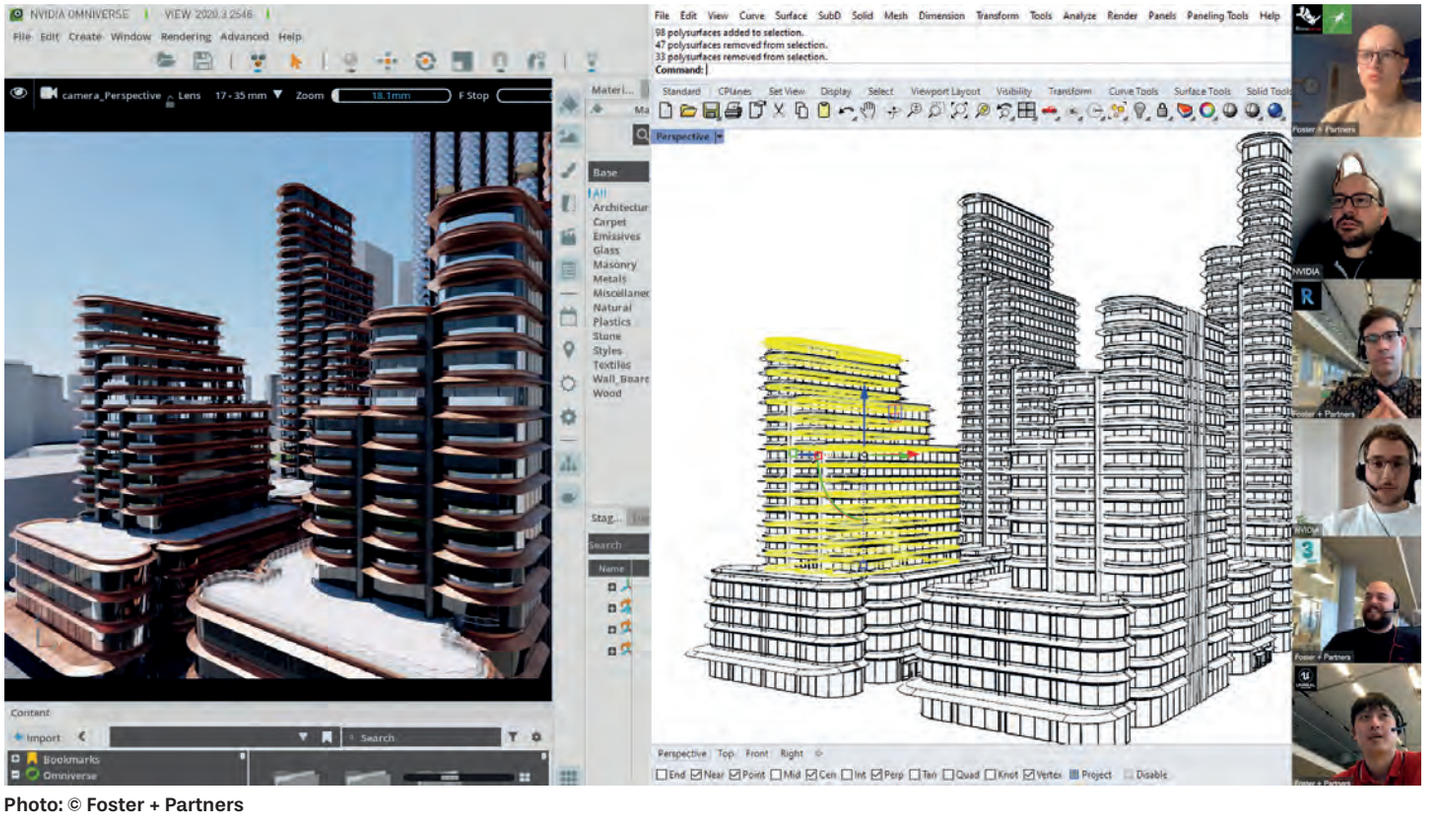


Photo: © Foster + Partners

SBID International Design Awards 2021 entries open

London, UK — Set to celebrate another year of global design excellence across the interior design industry, the Society of British and International Interior Design (SBID) has officially opened its 12th edition of the SBID International Design Awards for 2021.

Since it launched, the SBID Awards has received over 3000 incredible entries from 1000+ companies in 85 countries and continues to grow! Having firmly established itself as one of the most prestigious interior design Awards in the global design calendar, the Awards represent the outstanding achievements, dexterity, mastery and quality services that go on to inspire the creativity of this diverse and ever-evolving creative industry.

Alongside 17 specialist Interior Design categories spanning commercial and residential sectors, the SBID Awards 2021 continues in its quest to champion and challenge industry-wide design standards, expanding entry categories to encompass added specialisms in Product Design and Fit-Out Design.

With the introduction of new design categories, also comes an exciting panel of expert judges to lend their unparalleled knowledge and expertise to this year's extraordinary international jury; featuring Property Services Lead for the Department for Education; Creative Director at Amazon; Interior Design Principal at Walt Disney Imagineering Asia; Editorial Director at WGSN; Global Store Design Manager at Tiffany & Co.; Design Director at Starbucks Coffee Company EMEA; and Director of Major Programmes at the British Council. Inviting entrants from around the world, the SBID Awards presents an exceptional opportunity to showcase professional work to a host of renowned industry leaders and the wider design community on its inclusive and international stage.



SBID Awards 2021 Venue — Nobu Hotel Portman Square. Photo: © Nobu Hotels

In an ambition to reunite the industry, the SBID International Design Awards 2021 will open its doors once again for a global celebration of design talent. Offering unique and inventive event experiences, the annual awards programme suitably culminates in a captivating ceremony at London's latest luxury lifestyle destination, Nobu Hotel Portman Square on Friday 22nd October 2021.

The Awards' entries for 2021 will close at 5pm (BST) on Wednesday 30th June, with 'Early Bird' entry rates ending on 31st March. **For more information, visit www.sbidawards.com.**

SGBC President & Board for the 2021-2023 term announced

Singapore — The Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) is pleased to announce the members of the 7th Board, who will lead the Council through the 2021-2023 term. The composition of the Board was unveiled at SGBC's Annual General Meeting teleconference on 30 March 2021.

Mr. Tang Kok Thye has succeeded Dr. Ho Nyok Yong as SGBC's 7th President. Mr. Tang is an Associate Partner of architecture practice ADDP Architects LLP and a veteran green building professional. He brings with him a wealth of industry experience from his various appointments, including as a Board Member of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and Co-Chair of BCA's Green Built-Environment Advisory Committee (GBAC).

Dr. Ho (representing Singapore Contractors Association Limited) will assume the role of Immediate Past President of the new Board, having served as President from 2019-2021. Under his leadership, SGBC celebrated several major milestones and achievements, including the joyous commemoration of the Council's 10th Anniversary, the review of the Singapore Green Building Masterplan as well as the successful digitalisation of SGBC's operations to advance green building even during the global pandemic.

The newly elected SGBC Board is reflective of the diverse nature of the Council and is representative of the built environment value chain. The Board composition includes representatives from Singapore's leading property developers, professional consulting firms, contractors, institutional bodies, the academia and government agencies.



Mr Tang Kok Thye. Photo: © ADDP Architects LLP

Society of Interior Designers Singapore, with support of world body, to hold symposiums to discuss the future of design in a post-Covid world at SIDFest 2021

Singapore – The Society of Interior Designers Singapore (SIDS) will be holding symposiums to discuss the future of interior design in a post-Covid world as part of the May 17-30 Singapore Interior Design Festival (SIDFest) 2021 at the National Design Centre.

The SIDS Symposium is supported by the International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI) and will be attended both physically and virtually by IFI delegates and the international design community. The Asia Roundtable will have delegates from 15 countries and territories from the Asia-Pacific region.

Both symposiums are a significant part of SIDFest 2021 as they will present opportunities for the international interior design community to discuss shifting paradigms in the built environment industry and how changing global needs and norms will affect design in a post-Covid world. Some of the topics that interior designers around the world are grappling with are the expansion of personal bubbles, decentralisation of workspaces and the blending of physical and virtual spaces as people may prefer reduced physical touchpoints and become more accustomed to doing things online like ordering a meal, looking at a menu, etc. Said SIDS president Keat Ong: "In 2020, we saw the world at its darkest. Yet we also saw it at its brightest. While the pandemic, in many ways, brought mankind to a standstill, it also brought out the best in us. We were forced to innovate, to create, to allow our minds to wander in ways we never thought possible or were brave enough to try." "SIDFest 2021, with our theme of Optimised/Optimism, pays tribute to those in our community who have embraced new habits and, through their works, created new norms. The festival and SIDS Symposium will be a celebration of this positive spirit and feature designs that reflect the optimism in our industry," he added.

SIDFest 2021 will coincide with World Interiors Day (WID) on May 29. IFI has decided that the theme for WID this year is "Design as a Global Conversation", a theme that will complement the discussions at the symposium.

Said IFI CEO Shashi Caan: "On behalf of all at IFI, we are honoured to be part of the SIDS Symposium to discuss the future of design in a post-Covid world. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced the design community to rethink how we look at spaces. With added emphasis and needs on aspects like wellness, for example, the symposium will provide a good opportunity for the international community to speak about these issues. We commend The Society of Interior Designers Singapore (SIDS) for organising SIDFest and for shining the spotlight on the interior design trade. The festival's theme – Optimised/Optimism – and having it coincide with World Interiors Day brings added significance. We wish SIDFest the very best success."

Key highlights – Design by Numbers, 20 Under 45

Apart from the symposium, SIDFest will also feature showcases of installations and workshops in which the public can take part. The main highlight will be the Design by Numbers showcase in which designers will use assigned numbered plots on the National Design Centre (NDC) atrium to build large-scale inhabitable structures of varying heights and sizes.

The showcase is meant to be interactive and multi-sensory, with people able to step into the installations to view and experience them, as well as enjoy them from the various levels of the NDC.

Akin to painting by numbers, the numbered plots represent different segments in the industry, revealing the cumulative sum of the parts as something bigger, better, and with a deeper meaning.



From left to right: Dennis Cheok, Creative Director, UPSTAIRS_, Festival Director, SIDFest 2021, Keat Ong, Kreative Director, Keat Ong Design, President, SIDS and Brandon Fee, 20 Under 45 Awards Chairperson at the official press conference for SIDFest 2021. Photo: © Society of Interior Designers Singapore

The works of some of the most promising young interior designers will also be on show in another showcase, 20 Under 45.

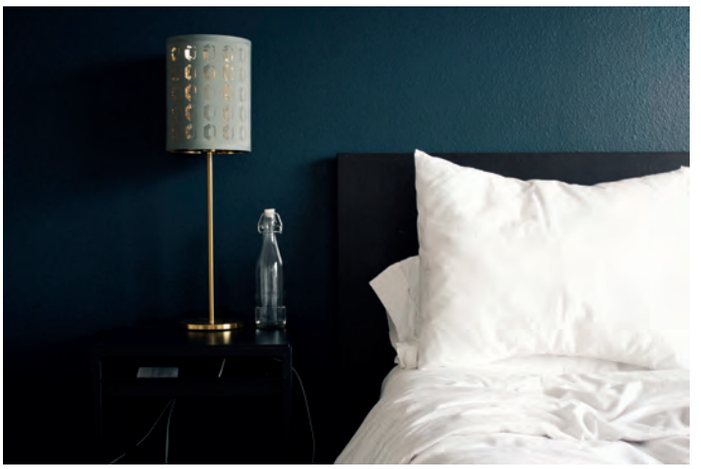
Currently, at the nomination stage, 20 of Singapore's most influential designers under the age of 45 will be selected from a pool of entries to show off their works. The list of the final 20 will be revealed at the end of April.

Incidentally, both Design by Numbers and 20 Under 45 are firsts for SIDFest. Design by Numbers will be the first multi-sensory, multi-dimensional showcase of its kind at SIDFest. Similarly, 20 Under 45 will make its debut at SIDFest with organisers planning to make it an annual affair.

Admission to SIDFest 2021 is free. **More details of SIDFest will be available at https://sid-singapore.org/.**

How hotel access systems boost security without hindering service

Text and photos courtesy of dormakaba.



"Staycations" have been encouraged in order to boost local economies as people are homebound in the current pandemic.

As the travel and hospitality industries continue to grow, millions of customers are checking in and out of hotels everyday. In the pre-pandemic world, with over 700,000 hotels and 16.4 million rooms worldwide, guests are being welcomed into their home-away-from-homes at an incredible rate. Even in today's troubled global situation, local "staycations" have been notably observed to be encouraged, in a bid to boost the local economy and support local businesses.

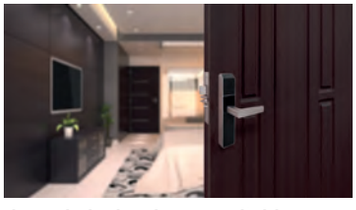
Far from a mere business transaction, the whole experience is deeply driven by brand loyalty and emotional connections. Hotels today are more than just room and board – they need to offer safety, security, and comfort.

Hotels that achieve a maximum, yet seamless security, are poised to stay ahead of the competition and take advantage of this growth.

With the increasingly complex needs of the hospitality industry, how can hotels find the right balance between being inviting, yet secure, at the same time?

Easy come, easy go: The ideal access system

Entrances provide the first impression to the visitors to a hotel. User-friendly and secure access to the front entrance, as well as a fuss-free check-in to the rooms, boost brand loyalty and the number of returning customers.



dormakaba has been a reliable provider of state-of-the-art access solutions in the hospitality industry for many years.

However, as the overnight guests are often far from the only customers of thriving hotel businesses, hotels need more than room keys to manage sophisticated access needs. From conference attendees to diners, gym-goers or spa members, thousands of people can visit a hotel in a day – especially if it is a bigger complex.

To optimise these processes, hotels must tap into an ecosystem of intelligent hotel access systems: welcoming sliding doors, comprehensive system of locks, keys, and software can work in unison to meet the access needs.

Furthermore, RFID & Bluetooth technologies allow hotel managers to control access throughout the property. This can apply to lifts, car parking and other entrances or common areas. In today's world, access control is more critical than ever – managing the guest flow, and ensuring safe distancing measures are adhered to; this allows guests to stay in comfort, assured that their health and interests are well safeguarded.

Mobile technologies to take security to the clouds



Unlocking your room from your personal mobile device is no longer a pipe dream.

As of 2020, there are 3.5 billion smartphones in the world. These ubiquitous gadgets posit new opportunities for hotels to be safer and more user-friendly room entrances. Forward-thinking hotel businesses are now tapping into mobile access solutions to future-proof their guest satisfaction.



Enhancing efficiency by checking in with your personal mobile device.

Using these tools, guests can skip check-in lines (avoiding dreaded overcrowding) and head straight to their rooms. Mobile hotel check-ins also save time for the staff, as they don't have the hassle of managing keys. This way, they can focus on improving premium services to enhance guest-centric experiences.

Seamless security for maximum customer satisfaction

Hotels offer significant value add to the global hospitality industry, attracting large numbers of guests visiting for business or pleasure. With the continued development of smart technologies that enhance the guest journey, the industry is well placed to achieve continued growth, customer loyalty and increased revenues.

Hotels that achieve a maximum, yet seamless security are poised to stay ahead of the competition, and take advantage of this growth.



The golf course at Hope Island Golf is rated as one of the best championship links courses in the world.

Hope Island Resort

Timber flooring was installed throughout the club house in this luxurious golf club and Mapei was delighted to be part of this project.

Since opening in March 1993, the golf course at Hope Island has consistently ranked in Australia's top 10 resort courses. Host to the 1997 Johnnie Walker Classic and Qantas Legends Golf Classic, the course is both nationally and internationally renowned.

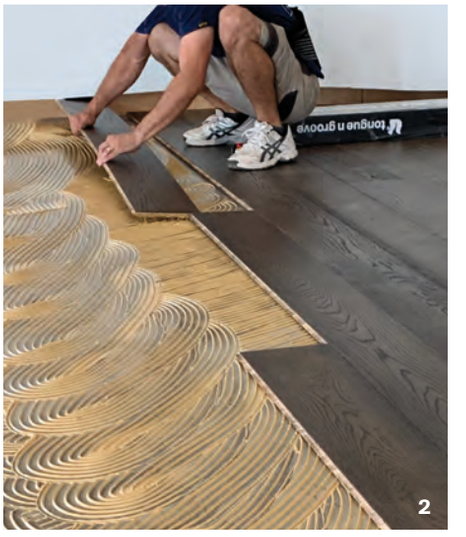
Designed by five times British Open Champion, Peter Thomson, and partner, Mike Wolveridge, it is rated by Australian golfing legend, Peter Senior, as "one of the best championship links courses you'll play". An iconic course it forms the centrepiece of the Hope Island Resort located on the north shore of the Gold Coast, just 20 minutes from Surfers Paradise and 40 minutes from the Brisbane CBD. The Golf Course was constructed over the three years spanning 1991 to 1993 under the direction of architects Thomson, Wolveridge and Associates. The layout is set in a 360 hectares residential resort community and the par 72 course measures approximately 6,500 metres off the championship tees. Careful strategic thinking must be employed around the natural and man made hazards and 128 challenging pot style bunkers.

The golf resort was recently purchased by Golden Horse Nine Dragon Lake Holdings Limited and refurbishment was scheduled for the club house and restaurant areas. Stage 1 of Hope Island Resort Development featured an international 5-star hotel with about 166 hotel rooms and new golf facilities. With total investment of 55 million Euros, Hope Island Resort Development has formally engaged Accor to be the hotel operator of the first Swissôtel Resort in Australia. As part of the stage 1 development, the refurbishment and extension of the existing clubhouse facilities created an intimate, luxurious, opulent and sophisticated feel, to suit the design and experience of an international 5-star hotel which opened to the public in late 2019.

PROJECT DATA

Project Name: Links Hope Island Golf Club
Location: Hope Island, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia
Period of Construction: 2018- 2019
Period of the Mapei Intervention: 2019
Client: Golden Horse Nine Dragon Lake Holdings Limited
Installation Company: Scribed Flooring
Design: Thomson, Wolveridge and Associates
Mapei Coordinator: Troy Bartlett, Mapei Australia
Photos Provided By: Mapei





Photos 1, 2 & 3: In several areas of the golf resort high quality timber floors were installed with ULTRABOND P990 1K.



ULTRABOND P990 1K

One-component, solvent-free, ready-to-use elastic polyurethane adhesive with an extremely low emission level of volatile organic compounds (VOC), for pre-finished, multi-layered and traditional jointed solid wooden floors.



Timber floorings for the club house and dining areas

100 percent oak, fully engineered and prefinished timber plank flooring was installed throughout the club house and dining areas. The floor-layers prepared the substrate by applying a moisture barrier with MAPEPROOF 1K TURBO, a solvent-free, rapid drying polyurethane surface membrane which is manufactured and distributed on the Australian market by Mapei Australia. UC Leveller leveling compound (which is also distributed on the Australian market by Mapei Australia) was then and topped with a 3 mm coat of ULTRAPLAN ultra-fast drying, self-levelling compound to ensure a "fit for purpose" substrate for the installation of over 800 square metres of the timber flooring. Brass inlays were inserted where the timber flooring changed colour, shape and direction. Once the levelling compound was dry, the oak timber flooring was bonded using ULTRABOND P990 1K adhesive. This one-component, solvent-free, ready-to-use elastic polyurethane adhesive with an extremely low emission level of volatile organic compounds (VOC) is ideal for pre-finished, multi-layered and traditional jointed solid wooden floors. Planks, hands and tools were then cleaned with CLEANER H damp wipes.

Mapei Products

Preparing the substrates: Mapeproof 1K Turbo*, Ultraplan, UC Leveller*
Installing timber floors: Ultrabond P990 1K
Cleaning: Cleaner H

*These products are distributed by Mapei Australia.

Article source: Realtà Mapei International no. 79/2020

For more information, email mapei@mapei.com.sg.



Sindhorn Kempinski Hotel, Bangkok

The Sindhorn Kempinski Hotel in Bangkok, designed by Plan Architect, makes guests feel like they part of nature.

The Sindhorn Kempinski Hotel, owned by The Crown property bureau, is one of the masterpieces buildings in Sindhorn Village. The site sits on Langsuan road, flanked by two high-rise buildings and the main green area of the project known as "super green".

As a representative of the wellness city hotel, the building's design approach by Plan Architect is to interact with the frontage green area, to create distinctive recreational space and garden view terraces. These will make the guests feel intimate and being a part of nature. An undulating shape of the building creates various dynamic spaces to the ground floor and privacy to the guestrooms.

Characterised as an exposed concrete grand tunnel, the gigantic vault on the ground floor acts as a welcome area





Wara Jithpratuck. Photo: © Plan Architect Co., Ltd.

"The new verdant living in the city experience, the architecture provides a balance of peaceful space and energetic form which invites all guests to live alive in nature."

Wara Jithpratuck, Head Designer, Plan Architect Co., Ltd.



that secludes itself from the outside, creates its distinctive atmosphere, and represents itself as the main entrance gate of the Sindhorn village. Furthermore, the tunnel enhances the continuity of green areas around the building. The brown monotonous color is painted to harmonise this building to the surrounded one and to compatible with green nature.

The hotel is a single-loaded corridor with an enormous interior atrium, allowing natural light to get into the internal public space. A ventilation system



Photo: © Srirath Somsawat

is the highlight feature of this building. It is switchable: open to let the fresh air in by passing through the gigantic vault and ventilation doors or close to prevent from the outside hot air and run by the supported air-conditioning system.

The top of the building is subtracted by a circle shape to make the interior atrium gain more natural light. Moreover, the mirror bowl-like shape panoramic view swimming pool and the other hotel facilities are located on the 9th floor, which is the middle of the building, so the guests can easily get access both from the low zone and high zone.



PROJECT DATA

Project Name: Sindhorn Kempinski Hotel
Location: Langsuan Road, Bangkok, Thailand
Client: The Crown Property Bureau
Architecture Firm: Plan Architect Co., Ltd.
Gross Built Area: 70,000 square metres
Completion: 2020
Photos: © Ketsiree Wongwan





Photo: © Country Group Developments

Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok at Chao Phraya River

Four Seasons returns to Thailand's capital with an all-new riverside sanctuary designed by Jean-Michel Gathy and Hamiltons International architects.

Rising above the majestic Chao Phraya River in the heart of Bangkok's Creative District is an enclave of tiered buildings, connected at ground level by a series of indoor and outdoor spaces, quiet courtyards and lively restaurants. Art-filled spaces, sophisticated lounges and lush tropical greenery are surrounded by the gentle sounds of water features and inviting open-air terraces.

Located along 200 metres (650 feet) of open riverfront just 40 minutes from Suvarnabhumi International Airport along the famed Charoenkrung Road, the fourth location in the Four Seasons Thailand Collection offers myriad opportunities for locals and international travellers to make connections with each other and the exciting city that surrounds it. Features include a 299-room hotel, destination restaurants and lounges, stunning event spaces, and an urban wellness centre like no other. The complex also includes 366 Four Seasons Private Residences, opening in 2021.

Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok is located within buildings design consulted by Hamiltons International architects. In describing his vision for the interiors of Four Seasons Hotel



Photo: © Country Group Developments

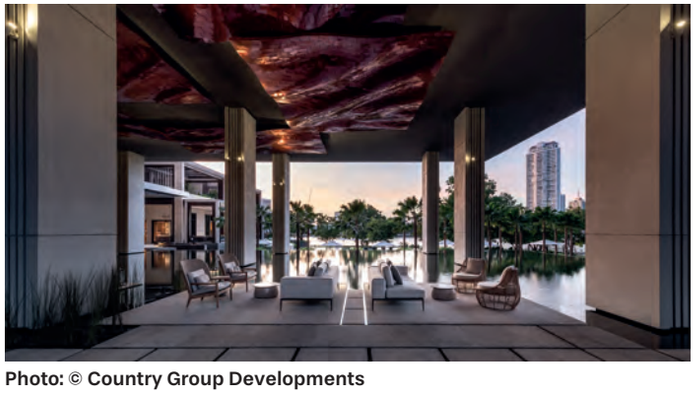
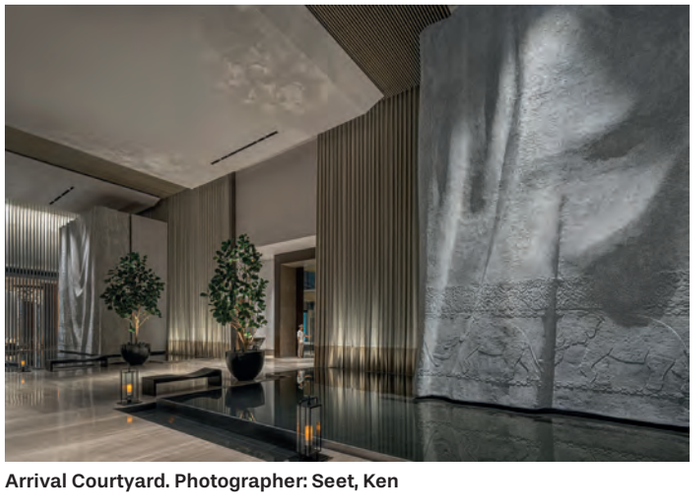


Photo: © Country Group Developments

Bangkok, lead designer Jean-Michel Gathy of DENNISTON said: "Sometimes dramatic. Sometimes intimate. But always charismatic."

"The definition of the hotel courtyards develops an evolving spatial narrative along the 320 metres site from the City/ Charoen Krung road at the South East to the River at North West. As the sequence moves across these courtyards, architectural form and landscape develop to give different expressions and experiences; from a formal arrangement at the road (and site entrance) to expressive and free flowing at the waterfront. Architectural and roof forms also vary in line with this progression as the massing develops from a simple courtyard



Arrival Courtyard. Photographer: Seet, Ken



River-View Premier Room. Photographer: Seet, Ken



Pool. Photographer: Seet, Ken



Arrival Courtyard. Photographer: Seet, Ken



Check-In. Photographer: Seet, Ken

at the calm Spa Court, to stepped roof forms at Hotel and Waterfront courts which take advantage of available roof terrace spaces/ river views, whilst also being reminiscent of the additive form of traditional Thai architecture and art," said Richard Scott-Wilson, Director of Hamiltons International.

High ceilings and glass walls provide breathing space, while pools and flowing water echo the constant movement of the Chao Phraya River. Thailand's natural beauty and the city's urbane charms come together in every aspect of the interiors, punctuated by an art collection amassed by Gathy himself. Celebrating the country's legendary craftsmanship and artistry, a dedicated ART Space in partnership with MOCA Bangkok running from lobby through to the river itself showcases contemporary Thai artists in changing exhibitions.

Destination dining, world class mixology

In developing the food and beverage program at Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok, a dream team of experts in cuisines, room design and hospitality innovation came together to create a collection of original dining and drinking concepts, with a star-studded team of chefs, mixologists and sommeliers in the kitchens and behind the bars.

Designer rooms and suites

Modern rooms and suites have a warm, residential character with Thai touches, balancing contemporary aesthetics with high tech function and signature Four Seasons comfort. Each accommodation boasts high ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows with river or garden views, and spa-like bathrooms.

Among the accommodations, the Terrace Suites offer the ultimate in spacious luxury with landscaped and furnished terraces large enough to host a private dinner party. The 450 square metre (4,800 square foot) Presidential Suite may be Bangkok's finest address, with two-storey windows framing 10th-floor views of the Chao Phraya River, a large open living area with its own bar as well as a catering kitchen, up to three bedrooms and an oversized terrace with private plunge pool.

From intimate gatherings to larger events, Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok



Brasserie Palmier. Photographer: Seet, Ken

offers a host of options for meeting planners, event hosts and wedding parties across more than 3,800 square metres (41,000 square feet), all designed by Jean-Michel Gathy.

The signature space is the Four Seasons Grand Ballroom at 800 square metres (8,600 square feet) featuring a private entrance, pre-function foyer, soaring ceilings within, and a dedicated outside Ballroom Terrace. The Ballroom can also be divided in two.

In the residential-style Conservatory, a smaller divisible ballroom offers 425 square metres (4,575 square feet) of space plus a garden terrace. The unique Conservatory Kitchen hosts up to 200 guests for creative events, or change-of-scenery meeting breaks. Four additional studios complete the suite of meeting rooms.

Coming soon: The Urban Wellness Centre at Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok

Across more than 2,500 square metres (26,900 square feet) of dedicated space, the Urban Wellness Centre is conceived along three streams of wellness, two floors of innovation and one holistic haven.

PROJECT DATA

Project Name: Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok at Chao Phraya River
Location: Bangkok, Thailand
Client: Country Group Developments
Architecture Firm: Hamiltons International
Interior Designer: Jean-Michel Gathy of DENNISTON
Gross Floor Area: 56,900 square metres
Completion: 2021



Richard Scott-Wilson.
Photo: © Country Group Developments

"Wall paneling, expressions and motifs blend together; from landscape, to architectural surface and relief, to interior design as the spaces of the hotel weave from the city to river."

Richard Scott-Wilson, Director of Hamiltons International



Taj Theog Resort & Spa

Studio Lotus was invited by late architect Pradeep Sachdeva to bring in a deliberate mountain house warmth and intimacy into the experience of spaces for the Taj Hotels' first venture in Himachal Pradesh – to revitalise the brand's hospitality experience as more human, service-oriented and with a strong local connect.

This new luxury getaway, Taj Theog, is located on the periphery of the town of Theog and is a 90-key hotel spread over a cluster of three, linear buildings sited on a long stretch of a hilltop. Situated at an altitude of 2310 metres, the sleepy town of Theog provides respite to tourists seeking a quieter experience compared to the popular destinations of Shimla and Kufri all located within a 30-kilometre drive.

"The building looks onto panoramic views of the surrounding valleys and its architectural expression draws from the vernacular. With the backdrop of this building and the setting, the brief for the public spaces in the hotel was developed to reinterpret the narrative of a home in the mountainside," said Ankur Choksi, Principal, Studio Lotus.

The arrival lobby, which receives extensive footfall at all hours, seamlessly extends the reception space into a lounge



area, which provides a quieter space for patrons to unwind. The double-height volume has been further notionally divided by two floor-to-ceiling screens, creating a visual barrier for the seating pockets in the lounge. The lounge is given a personality of a small living room with a library space – a mix of intimate, sit-down pockets to pull out a book and relax, or grab a quick coffee before heading out with co-travellers on an excursion.

The hotel's public spaces are spread across three levels of the hotel, the building's response to the stepped profile of the site. The primary palette comprises extensive use of timber-clad ceilings, slate floors with custom laying patterns, and painted and plastered surfaces to hold curated art forms. Key gestures in the spaces to create a distinct identity for the zone are expressed using regional reinterpretations, such as a timber and stone backdrop behind the reception with carving patterns, adaptation of rows of turn-wood spindles found suspended on eaves of local roofs, and doorways for the 6.5-metre tall screens in the lobby.

The lounge area of the lobby forms a node on the primary circulation spine of the hotel, connecting the guest rooms and the bar on one end to the all-day dining and the specialty restaurant on the other. The vertical circulation takes you down to the gym, the spa, and the recreational zones one level down; and the banquet hall another level down.

The all-day dining seamlessly extends into the southwest-oriented and most useable outdoor space in the hotel. The long corridor, which leads visitors with the show kitchen walls and the inner spaces of the dining space, uses a warm,











tactile, pale grey local stone cladding on the walls to draw the outdoors in. To maximise the volume of light in the space, a false ceiling is designed to match the pitched roof profile and rendered in a light paint; while large glass panes connect to the outdoor spill-out spaces. Slate floors extend all the way into the outdoors to form a large sculptural bench at the edge of the terrace.

Several design elements add warmth to this otherwise monochromatic space: solid wood furniture, extensive use of crafted timber on the central display island, screens that divide the space into smaller pockets and allow patrons to choose a new dining spot with each visit, and the large, hanging, lantern-like lamps made from banana fibres.

In contrast, on the other end of this wing, in the relatively constrained volume under the service transfer zones of the main hotel building, sits



an intimate bar space. The Junction Bar is a take on the mood of the nostalgic train journeys in the carriage-ways of an old locomotive operating in the region. The Kalka-Shimla Express was the first Indian locomotive to operate at such high altitudes. Vaulted-ceiling coffers offer a gentle glow to the relatively dimly-lit space, also helping to articulate this low volume and to delineate seating pockets with the spirit of restaurant cars in the trains of yore. Dark green walls and upholstered furniture in charcoal grey heighten the intimate scale of the space, details from the industrial character of metal work is found in the nuanced forms of the bar panelling, while wall-suspended lamps as well as the spherical lamps consolidate the narrative. A fully dressed bar with an antique mirror backdrop that anchors the space, large and comfortable upholstered lounge furniture, a deep walnut-stained timber flooring reminiscent of old parquet flooring, re-create the notions of a traditional bar.

On the same level, the specialty restaurant at the hotel, Peony, uses a sculptural custom-developed, interlocking system of three-dimensional, ceramic cladding to weave the larger theme of its Asian-inspired cuisine offering. The vase-like profile of the ceramic cladding draws inspiration from Asian influences as well the local traditions of earthenware in the region. Specially-glazed, ceramic-clad walls demarcate a private seating pocket within the restaurant, earmarked for gatherings and special occasions. The rest of the 40-seater, fine dining restaurant is oriented towards the glazed exterior walls that face the valley.

At the levels below are the leisure spaces, consisting of the spa, the treatment rooms, the gym, and the crèche. Given the location of this zone, integration of extremely low-ceiling clearances was a challenge for the development of the interior scheme. To address this, the interior shell is treated with a much lighter palette of painted surfaces, terrazzo floors, and minimal cladding on walls. Layering with artworks and other narrative building devices is utilised to give a sense of place to each facility. The





Ankur Choksi. Photo: © Andre Fanthome

"We worked with a very tight palette of local materials to render a quiet and spartan spatial experience. The warmth, attention to detail, and layering of materials responds to the varying scales of the spaces. Contemporised, handcrafted elements from the vernacular lexicon, made in locally-sourced timber and stone, are brought forth to evoke traditional spatial gestures associated with hospitality and home-like warmth."

Ankur Choksi, Principal, Studio Lotus

Spa, Salon and Gym experience is held together with a central contemplative *kund*–like shallow water body that greets visitors at the entrance to the zone; beyond, the corridors that lead to the treatment rooms are dotted with specially–commissioned illustrations of local flora and fauna, and display cases with pressed and preserved flowers collected from around the site. The executive meeting rooms and the banquet halls use *Deodar* wood to some extent, the true native variant of pine for its aromatic qualities. Handcrafted and dressed doorways and the rhomboid, batten–laying pattern of motifs adapted for the ceiling of the banquet hall draw inspiration from local timber ceilings, textiles, as well as carving motifs found in Himachal Pradesh.

Overall, even with the narrative of the local stories woven in, the broad stance of the interior scheme is to provide a neutral, evocative backdrop for the hotel's team to enhance the everyday experience of their clientele using their core values of service and attention to personal needs. The design intervention only attempts to substantiate this sense of luxury that gets created by the experience of being truly taken care of.

PROJECT DATA

Project Name: Taj Theog Resort & Spa
Location: Tehsil, Theog, Himachal Pradesh – 171201, India
Client: Indian Hotels Company Limited
Design Firm: Studio Lotus
Project Architects: Pradeep Sachdeva Design Studio while Studio Lotus was responsible for the design of the public spaces
Built–Up Area: 21,000 square feet
Start Date: February 2015
Completion Date: 2020
Photographer: Taj Theog and Noughts & Crosses LLP



Mana Ranakpur

Like a glasshouse in a jungle, Mana Ranakpur attempts to recreate the site as it was discovered, by unearthing the various layers that have been embedded in time. It is designed by Architecture Discipline.

Rooted in regionality and collective memory, through its architecture, it creates interfaces that are expressed not as mere filigree or ornate decoration, but as a reflection of time.

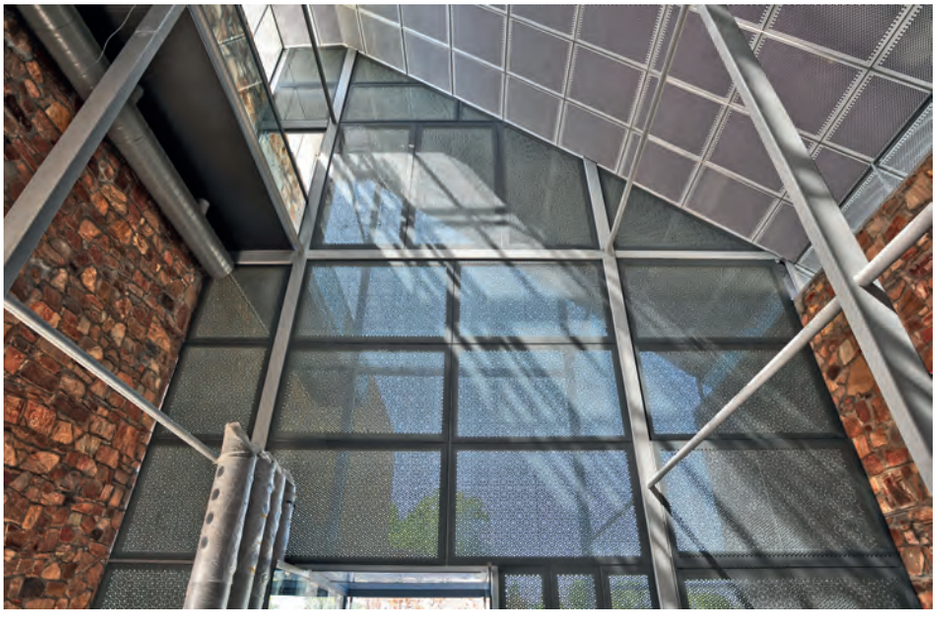
Traditional Indian architecture is typically associated with ornamental detailing, and more specifically in Rajasthan, the architecture connotes the forts and palaces through techniques that are resonant of the wealth and culture of the region. Typically, people engage with tradition in a superficial manner in ways that are ordered,



orthogonal and more often than not, a contemporary take on Indo-Saracenic architecture. Architectural experience is about creating memories, and often, in an attempt to insinuate traditional architecture in order to create a lasting image while adopting a universal aesthetic, intervention ends up being kitschy and pastiche. Techniques, Technology and methods of construction that draw from the region and are 'of the earth' get lost in the midst of mainstream processes. Within this context, the design of Mana Ranakpur attempts to demonstrate the studio's agenda of regional expression within a global context while being environmentally conscious, without adopting a kitschy intervention and predictable construction techniques. The local and regional forms of expression are explored as vital resources to create an architecture that engages with the future and is of a progressive disposition.

Sited in the vivid, enchanted Udaipur valley in the Ranakpur province, the hotel as a public space with a service-intensive program is conceived to celebrate order and dissonance, continuity, stability, the experience of slow-moving time and the vernacular as an imbibed ethos.

These values are celebrated through an architectonic intervention, form and material play in a region with a stark change of seasons and landscape, where the forest changes from Lush Green to bare and arid and the hills turn red during spring as the Tesu trees come to full bloom. Amidst the hills, with a clean, shallow river in the front, a km away from the famed Jain temple and adjoining a reconstructed old haveli, the client brief called for a boutique hotel that offers a unique, iconic experience for travelers in all seasons. A minimal palette of stone, glass, steel and vinyl that is not distracted by too many surfaces is adopted to craft an architecture that is intense and bare-boned all at the same time. Concrete is used to a minimum, hard edges are contrasted with timber warmth, and the structural system/ construction techniques are expressed clearly with as little cladding as possible. As a hat tip to the 70's India modern, the solid, minimal furniture in rubber wood and rosewood inlay as inserts is designed to reflect the environmental concerns of the hotel. The contrasting circular pattern in the perforations also mimics and expresses itself as an intention in the upholstery, linen and furniture. As an attempt to blend in the local craft and culture, the furniture is sourced from local artisans and craftsmen. In order to be environmentally conscious by reducing transportation, local material





PROJECT DATA

Project Name: Mana Ranakpur
Location: Ranakpur, Rajasthan, India
Client: Sheevam Comfort Hotels Pvt. Ltd.
Architecture Firm: Architecture Discipline
Built Area: 65,000 square feet
Completion: April 2013
Photography: Akshat Bhatt







and manpower dictated the architectural intervention; only what was not available was prefabricated and brought from the outside. Apprising the visitor of local ethnicity, an archetypal regional material palette of Stone Masonry and Sandstone floors has been adopted.

For most part, the local Rajasthani craftsmen and construction workers were employed to build in a manner rooted in the region and its landscape. Structural steel has been used as it is a long life span material, reducing dead load & thereby overall material consumption. The concrete consumption is insignificant for a building of this type and size. Daylight ingress into the building is ensured in a manner that eliminates the use of artificial light during the day. Night lighting resonates that of an art gallery; all lighting is from the top with a hint of the sky, the jaali or the clear glass.

The overhang roof is used to bounce life from under the cottage and the overall intent is to efficiently orchestrate lighting in line with the running cables with no sharp rendering. Light from the west that is a dramatic, warm yellow, crafts an array of experiences in the different rooms, while bright southern light is used to bring in luminosity into interior spaces.





Akshat Bhatt. Photo: © Jeetin Sharma

"Through the practice of architecture, you realise that what you are creating is not for the present alone, but also a memory for the future. Hence, it is only wise to be guided by the depth of knowledge and learning of a place – from its past. Sensitivity is key. We must learn from our surroundings and from the people that surround us, and in order to do that as an architect, one has to be sensitive towards the culture and climate of a place. It is crucial to propose designs that are rooted in tradition, yet imbibe versatility and functionality – memorable spaces that people can identify with."

Akshat Bhatt, Principal Architect, Architecture Discipline

DESIGNING PLAYGROUNDS IN A PANDEMIC

Impact of pandemic on playground design and on the way children play

Playgrounds are important areas for children to have fun and develop their thinking skills. During the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak last year, many public and private playgrounds had to be shut down for months. Some playgrounds still remain closed while others have re-opened with stricter measures in place. The global pandemic has put a spotlight on playgrounds. Kids can still have fun but they need to practice social distancing and good hygiene to avoid falling sick. While the pandemic is still going on, designs of new playgrounds might need some changes in the way children play and mingle around. In this section, landscape architects share their thoughts.

Christian Dierckxsens
Senior Associate Director, Landscape, Asia Pacific
Atkins, member of the SNC–Lavalin group

Q: What will change?

A: It is inevitable that the recent pandemic will change the way we design playgrounds especially within the public sector.

Local authorities may decide to take reference to WHO guidelines once setting up new specifications for the design and redesign of play areas. Landscape architect may assist local governments in the development of such new codes and customise them to local needs and culture.

Such design specification may encourage more social distancing and adhere to safety precautions. Playgrounds will need to be properly sized to cater for the expected number of kids who can safely use the area at the same time. Signs will also need to remind parents to keep their kids away from public playgrounds if they notice their kids are showing signs of illness. Installations of hand sanitising stations may become more common especially at those areas where there are no immediate facilities available for washing hands.





Photos above: Conceptual public realm design in Ho Chi Minh City, by Atkins.



Christian Dierckxsens

The selection of Play equipment shall be durable, and materials used must be easy to clean. Preference may be given to several small play equipment placed within a large area rather than one large equipment that accommodates more children. As most designers of public realm and open spaces do, I prefer to limit the number of sign and restrictions for the users of our public realm. As we have yet understood how much impact the pandemic will have in the future and as we question if we will fully regain our 'normal life', I do aim to keep public spaces flexible and diverse in terms of their design.

We need to give kids a way to get a break from sitting still and expend their energy. Such areas don't need to be limited to designated 'playground'. Preference will be given to outdoor play areas rather than indoor play activities. A lawn area that accommodates sufficient buffer space from roads and integrates seating facilities for parents is often proven to be a successful play area. Such spaces may meet the needs for all age groups and become more flexible in operation. Dry fountains with playful water effects can provide a cool escape for children during a hot summer day while they also add complementary value to various types of private and

public developments.

I am confident that the demand for quality open spaces will increase over time and Landscape architects will have a key responsibility to ensure that such spaces are able to adapt and remain flexible over time.

Q: What will not change?

A: The demand for quality playgrounds will remain more than ever. Parents recognise the physical health benefits that playgrounds provide to their kids while it will also exercise their imaginations and develop their social skills.

Whether it is for a public or private development, opportunities for play and exercise have always been considered crucial for most of our clients. Requests with regards to the playground design are often raised during the sessions of public consultation once we engage on a public project. The number and typology of play equipment is often tabled by members of the community while the design will typically need to meet local regulations and specifications. Such regulations may be further tuned following the pandemic as I mentioned above.

While there may be some changes in future, the key requirements such as 'safety' and 'maintenance efficiency' will always remain critical considering liability and cost throughout the lifecycle of the playground.

Playgrounds are not only there for the benefit of the children but also provide a great place of socialising for the all age groups of the community. Shaded seating areas along the edges of the playgrounds facilitate such interaction and are important components of these open spaces.

While paying attention to our children's needs, would I also like to stress the growing demand for elderly fitness stations in recent years. These are areas that accommodate outdoor fitness equipment customised for the senior age group of the community. It is a trend that hasn't been specifically triggered by the pandemic, but it will only gain more popularity considering its success that we have witnessed in recent years, both in public and private development.

Khalifah Jamaludin
Principal
VERITAS Landscapes

Playground can be any open space that function as a place for children to play and from this "play" they learn and develop their social and lifelong skills that mould their future learning capability. Before the emergence of the playground structures, the playground is anywhere or everywhere the imagination takes them whether it is a sand area, mounds, an open field or even a junk yard. I remember the good old days where my childhood was spent running around, there were no playground structures. Out of the desire to play with my siblings and friends, created my own kind of playground from the sand, woods and even canvas and create my own world where everyone can be part of this make believed fantasy.

Q: What will change?

A: In this pandemic situation, it is unfortunate that children playground has been 'grounded'. For the playground to be adaptive in the pandemic time, it has to be developed to be more imaginative and meaningful during this downturn.

Part of the change that we can envisaged, is similar to the above, that is the idea of using the space and creating potential for the child's imagination to take hold, and using the natural elements as the building blocks for the future playground. In addition, these playgrounds will also be more sensory driven and less reliant on just hand/ touched based equipment. It can be sound, sights, walk on or feet activated/ based playground that can still work with social distancing. Of course there will still be a need to adapt the operation of the playground itself. We do foresee the need to create spaces with controllable access, integration of thermal scanner, sanitization of user and equipment as the way to control the spread of the Coronavirus. Another way to look at these additions is can it be incorporated into play, such as a life size thermal scanner that is more than infrared, interactive and etc.

Another aspect is the scale of the playground design. While the overall design of the space may be larger, the playground itself has been scaled down to accommodate more playground sets thus users and avoid congregation of large group of people in one place.



Khalifah Jamaludin. Photo: © VERITAS

Maybe not surprising, the sales of mini playground is soaring during the pandemic especially during lockdown. It is recorded in USA that playground equipment for household rose up to 80 percent in April 2020 compared to same month for the year of 2019.

Q: What will not change?

A: It is interesting that while the playground had been established for



Playground at the International School of Kuala Lumpur (ISKL). Photo: © VERITAS

such a long time the favourites are still the swings, slides, climbing structures, etc. Even these favourites were slowly being abandoned before the Pandemic in favor of the phones and tablets and virtual games. Yet with movement restriction and subsequently the lifting of it we start to see them being used again more frequently. I guess it is human nature that we do not appreciate the simple joy of life until we loss it.

In a year or 2 later would we go back to status quo or do we design the playground better, provide better spaces and potential that the children will enjoy playing with the water by a flowing "*stream*", climb a tree and chase after butterfly. We may be less worried about will change but more worried about what may not change if we do look back from the ipad, virtual games (note that Steve Jobs famously do not allow or restrict his kids on the use iPad/devices). We hope what will not change is the desire to climb, get wet, run, be free and breathe the fresh air*.



Playground at Pantai Tanjung Batu, Bintulu. Photo: © VERITAS

**Kids are exposed to variety of learning experiences through building relationship with community (other kids) as well as the environment around them. This allows rich opportunities to explore, discover and construct knowledge through many different modes of learning. Nature creates a feeling of belonging in a world that is alive, welcoming and authentic.*

Monika Indriasari
Director / Landscape Architect / Urban Designer
PT Townland International
Jakarta Office of TOWNLAND GROUP

Q: What will change?

A: The COVID-19 pandemic has seen parks and playgrounds closed to reduce the risk of community transmission. At the same time, school closures and greater reliance on on-line classes have further shifted the balance of childrens' socialization environments from physical to virtual playgrounds. With the gradual lifting of restrictions, landscape architects need to rethink the way we design our playgrounds, to provide safe and healthy spaces that encourage activity, creativity, individual and small group play, as well as interaction with the environment.

The pandemic has highlighted the benefits of outdoor play areas with good



Monika Indriasari. Photo: © TOWNLAND CONSULTANTS LIMITED

air circulation. Such facilities should be widely available and easily accessible within all communities.

With the current state of the pandemic, stringent health protocols and safety measures will continue to be implemented. Smart devices placed at the entry to playgrounds/play areas may be used to check temperatures and monitor capacities. Hand-sanitation stations may also be provided. These "new normal" precautions are important to promote cleanliness and provide assurance for visitors.

Play-clusters with diverse activities should be widely spaced and positioned at different elevations, if possible. Lawn areas can be marked with activity circles spaced 2 metres-apart (for example by means of paint or ribbons attached to the ground) which also become part of the landscape design.

Within playgrounds, we see the promotion of more conventional games, such as hopscotch, life-sized snakes and ladders, way-finding games, hide and seek, and the like, as a ways to promote activity without the need for shared equipment. Sensory play, which previously focused on the usage of hands, could be replaced by tactile paving materials for feet. For certain types of playground equipment, materials such as stainless steel may be preferred over more porous materials like natural wood that can better absorb microbes. In any event, maintenance regimes (regular cleaning and monitoring of smart devices) will need to be stepped up.

Q: What will not change?

A: There is likely to be continued heightened awareness of health protocols and safety measures post-pandemic. Nonetheless, the key ideals of the playground as a place for children to have fun and socially interact with each other will not change. Playgrounds will continue to be places for children to run, play, explore and discover their creativity to the fullest.

Materials and plants with diverse, vibrant and contrasting colours will still be recommended for use, with equipment, furniture and landscapes to visually stimulate the curiosity of children. The design of the play areas will continue to provide possibilities for children to learn and explore their kinetic and sensory abilities by utilising their five senses optimally throughout the playground. The playground will also remain as a place for people of all ages and backgrounds: for the children as well as the community around them.



Playground. Photo: © TOWNLAND CONSULTANTS LIMITED

Custom made playground with a gorgeous view



Valencia Residences, Queensland

Rhinoplay, one of Australia's leading commercial playground equipment suppliers, designed and installed a custom playground for Valencia Residences, an award-winning and luxurious high-rise apartment building in Kangaroo Point in Queensland.

Rhinoplay was involved in the design, engineering, manufacturing, shipping and installation of the custom-made playground, which is situated on a unique and challenging site.



Valencia Residences has a rippling facade that creates an iconic statement on the Brisbane skyline. Rhinoplay worked with the concept and brief that the clients submitted to them to ensure that the design of the playground met the aesthetics of the building, the budget, and most importantly The Australian Standards for Playgrounds. Rhinoplay then arranged for structural certification, completed detailed 3d shop drawings and managed the manufacturing, shipping, transportation and installation to the highest level.

"The developer wanted to add a unique play area for families and their children living in the building. The play structure needed to fit perfectly into the footprint of the building and aesthetically match building elements to ensure design from one form to another creates a fluid connection among compositional parts and provide a safe, fun and unforgettable place for children to play," said Ryan Gillatt, CEO, Rhinoplay.

The play structure installed at the Valencia Residences features a tunnel slide, shop front, 2 level access, internal climber, telescopes and an access bridge. The structure was made from mild steel, and clad using dressed and oiled spotted gum. The roof of the play structure features a custom designed perforated profile to match design elements found throughout the building. Other unique elements and materials were used such as printed polycarbonate for added detail.



In terms of challenges, the project required great attention to detail to ensure matching materials, finishes, design elements and colour pallets between the building and the play structure. The structure needed to provide access from two levels, work around the required landscaping elements and manufactured in such a way that allowed easy transport and crane lift onto the roof of the high rise.

The project was completed in 2018.

PROJECT DATA

Type: Residential
Client: Aria Property / Aria Group
Architect: Rothelowman
Playground Equipment Supplier: Rhinoplay
Completion: July 2018

Playground inspired by nature



COMO Adventure Grove, Singapore

The COMO Adventure Grove is a new playground that is inspired by forest canopies, jungle trails and Singapore's diverse flora. Located at the new Gallop extension of Singapore Botanic Gardens, the playground is a biophilic wonderland designed to inspire curiosity and encourage exploration in children.

"A collaboration with Ramboll Studio Dreiseitl, COMO Adventure Cove was created to provide a safe space as well as enhancing the play experience for children to experience and be closer to nature," said Jason Sim, Managing Director, Playpoint (Singapore) Pte Ltd.

The Banyan Tree Tower

The banyan tree tower in the playground offers children a modern interpretation of the timeless experience of climbing trees. A giant sandpit amidst lush greenery centres around the 10-metre banyan tree tower. The Grove is augmented by sprawling branches, which are actually steel posts but hand painted to resemble the bark of tree trunks. The banyan tree tower was made by bespoke playground manufacturer, Kinetics.

To give children the feeling of climbing on a real tree, Playpoint and Ramboll designed the Banyan tree Tower with veins and props. They created as many as 13 "branches" complete with climbing ropes, swings and circular nets and hammocks for children of all ages to climb, rest or play on it.

Play structure inspired by real Banyan tree

Another 5.8 metres banyan tree in the playground is inspired from the actual









Banyan tree, *ficus benghalensis*. This banyan tree tower features strong trunkings equipped for climbing, netting and swinging, giving kids a glimpse into the nesting birds, flying squirrels and colourful insects of the neighbouring trees. It gives kids a chance to satisfy their curiosity and experience nature from a different perspective, that is 5.8 metres above the ground.

Tube slides

To increase the fun factor, Playpoint suggested raising the height of the two tube slides in the playground. The tube slides measuring 4 metres and 2.1 metres, let kids exit the canopy with an exhilarating ride, and keeps them coming back for more. Decorated with shrubs and creepers, the sandy pathway reveals many more nature-inspired delights.

Inspired by nature

A huge jackfruit sculpture, 100 times bigger than the size of the real fruit, was created for children to climb on its surface by gripping the "thorns" on it. Various levels of difficulty and allow children of different ages to hone their coordination and improve their sense of awareness as they climb down from it.

Other features such as Insect riders, undulating moulds and wooden steps create an obstacle course for the young and adventurous. These play elements, dotted with specially designed gigantic saga seeds, provide colourful and springy seats, appealing to both the young and young at heart alike.

PROJECT DATA

Type: Park
Client: NParks Singapore
Landscape Architect: Ramboll Studio Dreiseitl
Products Manufacturer: Kinetics
Playground Equipment Specialist: Playpoint (Singapore) Pte Ltd
Completion: 2020
Photos: © Playpoint (Singapore) Pte Ltd

Interview with

Gu Lingyi, Senior Landscape Architect
Ramboll Studio Dreiseitl Pte. Ltd

Q: What type of playground did you want to build for this project?

A: Our vision for the project was an adventure themed playground inside the botanic garden extension, to provide a biophilic experience for all ages. Taking inspiration from the distinctive trees found in the grounds, the playground aims to appeal to a child's inner desire to explore. By allowing children to swing in the banyan aerial roots, scrabble over the giant cempedak, and bounce on the saga seeds, this playground inculcates the enjoyment of nature in children at an early age.

Q: How closely did you work with the supplier to build the playground?

A: During the design stage, we had regular meetings to discuss the material, equipment selection and installation method. During the construction stage, weekly site visits allowed us to work together closely, especially for key items such as giant cempedak's shape and colour, the slides' angle of descent (too high of an angle results in sliding down at too high of a speed, to shallow of an angle could result in someone getting stuck inside), and the banyan tower climbing route (everyone did test climbs to make sure that the challenge level was suitable for children).

Q: Can you tell us how the playground equipment met your requirements?

A: The 'banyan tree' was designed to provide the most challenge area where children can explore in the aerial root jungle, to climb up, slide down, swing around, balance on and rest. Various equipment such as rope bridge, spider web, rope hammocks are installed to meet both the 'aerial root jungle' style and provide the play opportunities.

Another requirement was the play elements must remind people the natural fruit or seed, regardless the scale. Thus, the bright colour and spiky form were very important for the giant cempedak play. Together with supplier's sculpture artist, we found a real cempedak in the nearby forest to study with, and managed to craft a giant cempedak that can be instantly recognizable from far away. We expected it to be an instagrammable spot for this garden extension.

Fun and interactive play



Kampung Siglap, Singapore

New Hope Community Services (NHCS) is a registered charity since 2004, and it was formed with a single motivation in mind – to stay relevant to the needs of the community. The mission of NHCS is to stand in the gap and provide a Shelter of Hope to homeless Singaporeans regardless of their race or religion, and to empower them to alleviate and improve their situations. New Hope Community Services goes beyond providing temporary shelter to those they serve; NHCS aims to restore HOPE to displaced individuals and families, infusing them with real hope to witness positive changes in their lives.

In 2019, CT-Art Creation Pte Ltd, a leading playground and recreation equipment specialist with 25 years of experience, had the honour to collaborate with NHCS to build a playground and fitness area at NHCS's Kampung Siglap. A first-of-its-kind life skills training and retreat centre, Kampung Siglap, a project of NHCS, is specially designed for consistent, meaningful, and deeper engagement between NHCS' clients and the larger community – connecting those who want to help to those that need help. With Kampung Siglap serving







as a bridge between their clients and the community, NHCS hopes to help their clients develop independence and coping skills so that they can achieve sustainable life outcomes.

The centre piece of the playground is designed by CT-Art Creation Pte Ltd – PlayWorld, PlayCubes™. Attached to the cubes is a giant slide that allows kids to have a smooth ride down. Along with this, CT-Art Creation incorporated a spring-based truck that encourages interactive play, and these vehicles come alive when the kids hop on. For example, the truck will beep, and its engine will rev up when a child takes a ride on the spring-based truck.

To include a fun and interactive element to the playground, CT-Art Creation also included its Trike Path Traffic Light, a stop-and-go activity for little pedestrians. It is used in combination with other traffic signs such as the PlayTown Speed Limit Sign, Stop Sign and Traffic Lights which are made of durable steel and fibreglass. Creating a miniature town for trike riders not only differentiates this playground from others, but also helps elevate the fun factor and improve the quality of play.

With Galopin's equipment, CT-Art Creation created a fitness and wellness corner where adults or the elderly can engage in fitness activities. Some examples of the exercises that an elderly person can choose to do are shoulder stability, abdominal strength and push up exercises. For the adults, there are pull-up and push-up bars, dual bicycle, and many other exercises.

With the playground and the fitness area in Kampung Siglap, NHCS hopes to invite more members of the community as well as their clients to enter the premises to enjoy the facilities. All this is possible as they were generously donated in memory of the late Mdm Lim Pek Yong.



PROJECT DATA

Type: Life Skills and Retreat Centre
Client: New Hope Community Services
Landscape Architecture: Nyee Phoe Flower Garden Pte Ltd
Products Manufacturer: PlayWorld
Playground and Recreation Equipment Specialist: CT-Art Creation Pte Ltd
Completion: 2020
Photos: © CT-Art Creation Pte Ltd

Danfoss came out of 2020 with strong results and expects growth in 2021

Nordborg, Denmark – In 2020, Danfoss delivered strong financial results despite the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, the company has prepared the acquisition of Eaton Hydraulics; launched the new business segment, Danfoss Climate Solutions; and continued the high investments in digitalization and electrification. Altogether, it has been one of the most important and transformational years in the history of Danfoss.

"I am very satisfied with our results and what we achieved in 2020. We delivered a significantly better financial performance in 2020 than we expected at the turn of the first half. Due to the uncertainty we experienced, we adjusted our cost to the lower activity level. The safety of our employees was our key priority. We kept our factories going globally, we serviced our customers, and strengthened our digital presence. Our teams around the globe have handled this difficult situation in a fantastic way. With their extraordinary efforts, we have been able to safeguard our strategic initiatives. We look forward to welcoming 10,000 new colleagues from Eaton Hydraulics; and we have prepared our company for the growth we will see in relation to the global megatrends that currently transform our world," said Kim Fausing, President and CEO of Danfoss.

Danfoss saw the most significant impact on sales in the second quarter of 2020, followed by a gradual improvement in the second half. China especially gained traction rapidly and delivered high growth rates. In the fourth quarter, Danfoss was back to pre-COVID-19 sales levels in most markets.

All in all, sales ended at EUR 5,828 million (2019: 6,285 million), which was 6 percent lower than the previous year measured in local currency. Operating profit (EBITA) reached EUR 723 million (2019: 771 million), which was 6 percent below 2019, but with a strong EBITA margin of 12.4 percent (2019: 12.3 percent).



Kim Fausing. Photo: © Danfoss

Danfoss delivered a record high cash flow performance.

"Despite the global uncertainty and the impact this had on demand, we continue to deliver strong results. This shows the strength of our strategy and flexible business model. The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, but we are ready for the global growth driven by the focus on green transition, electrification, infrastructure, and urbanization. We see companies, cities and countries around the world making plans for the future, and they need reliable, tried-and-tested technology partners. Danfoss supplies the necessary solutions which are needed by the automotive industry; the marine, energy and infrastructure sectors; and not least, by the agricultural sector and the entire food chain to enable a green, CO2- neutral future. That is why we say that Danfoss is more relevant than ever," said Kim Fausing.

JJ-LAPP celebrates 100 years of Oskar Lapp

Singapore – On 22 March 2021, J-LAPP, the cable technology joint venture of diversified industrial conglomerate, Jebsen and Jessen Group, and LAPP Holding Asia, commemorated the 100th anniversary of the late LAPP Group founder Oskar Lapp's birthday, introducing new product solutions and expansions in the region amid a year of strong growth for the company.

Oskar Lapp was an inventor and passionate entrepreneur who, together with his wife Ursula Ida Lapp, created a company with a global reputation. The LAPP Group founder would have turned 100 on 20 March 2021. His family and employees across the world honoured the great entrepreneurial personality by laying a wreath at the old cemetery in Stuttgart-Vaihingen and by holding various commemorative events.

Oskar Lapp's inventions, such as the world's first industrially manufactured and flexible power and control cable, ÖLFLEX®, have shaped connection technology worldwide to this day. In Southeast Asia, through the JJ-LAPP joint venture, the ÖLFLEX® brand of cables pioneered by Oskar Lapp is well-known especially for its contributions and usage in various industries across the region including renewable energy, automotive,



Oskar Lapp (1921-1987) carved himself a place in German business history. Photo: © JJ-LAPP

food & beverage, building and construction, paper production and more. The company is also shifting and supporting green energy production by supplying ÖLFLEX® cables to solar farms and rooftops across ASEAN.

Even during a tumultuous year where the COVID-19 pandemic led businesses to revisit and adjust many of the ways they work, JJ-LAPP – a leading cable and connectivity solutions provider in ASEAN, with a focus on building automation, industrial automation, renewable energy, original equipment manufacturer (OEM), transportation, and automotive – spearheaded a series of new initiatives that advanced its growth strategy in the region.

With the boom of e-commerce worldwide, JJ-LAPP, in September last year, expanded into the online and digital world with the launch of its 24-hour e-shop that allows customers to shop for their cable solutions instantly from anywhere and at any time. The introduction of the e-shop offers clients a multichannel approach to sales that focuses on providing a seamless customer experience, whether the client is shopping online from a mobile device, a laptop or in a brick-and-mortar store.

The connectivity solutions provider has also been expanding its business and physical presence, opening new offices around the region. To meet a growing demand for cable and connectivity solutions in the Philippines, the company's recent expansion included the opening of new offices in Cebu and Davao, Philippines that offer its cable solutions locally for even faster and easier access to the local market.

The company has also grown and evolved from a distributor of products to ASEAN's leading cable and connectivity solutions provider. Most recently, they relocated and upgraded their factory to Tangerang, Banten in Indonesia where they employ over 150 people across more than 1,500 production lines, and invested in new machines and a better layout that has led to meaningful gains in output and efficiency. On top of distributing LAPP's products, JJ-LAPP's portfolio now includes the production of a range of LAPP cables such as control cables, single core and fire resistant cables.



Ursula Ida and Oskar Lapp on a tour of the company with former Mayor of Stuttgart Manfred Rommel. Photo: © JJ-LAPP



JJ-LAPP's factory in Tangerang, Banten, Indonesia employs over 150 people across more than 1,500 production lines. Photo: © JJ-LAPP

"By localising German innovation and producing LAPP's products locally in the new manufacturing and warehouse facility, our company is able to reduce transportation costs and order lead time to serve the increasing demand across South East Asia," said Mike Winzerling, CEO of JJ-LAPP.

Meyer Burger commissions Jung von Matt with new brand and product positioning

Thun, Switzerland – Meyer Burger Technology Ltd has commissioned Jung von Matt to reposition its brand. The renowned creative agency is currently developing a new premium brand strategy and communication architecture that will enable the company to position itself as a manufacturer of highly efficient solar modules in the future.

Production of high-efficiency solar cells and modules will start in the second quarter of this year at the new sites in Bitterfeld-Wolfen and Freiberg. The market launch of the modules will also take place in the second quarter,



Meyer Burger's solar cell production facility at Bitterfeld-Wolfen. Photo: © Meyer Burger

kicking off a digital marketing campaign. In addition to the DACH region, the target sales markets are other European countries such as the Benelux countries, Italy, France, Poland, the UK and countries in Northern Europe. Furthermore, Meyer Burger also wants to sell its modules in the US, Australia and Japan in the future.

"We want to position Meyer Burger as the leading European solar brand and set new standards. With Jung von Matt, we have chosen an international lead agency that is willing to break rules and at the same time brings a high level of creativity, strategic thinking and a deep understanding of customers," said Moritz Borgmann, who in his role as Managing Director of Meyer Burger (Industries) GmbH is responsible for sales and marketing.

The services include the complete brand identity from logo to corporate design and the new strategic orientation and positioning of the Meyer Burger brand as well as a digital marketing campaign. Jung von Matt's references include companies such as BMW, Sixt and eBay.

The team around JvM managing directors Markus Bode and Sven Rebholz deliberately opted for an agile collaboration: "With Meyer Burger, we are breaking new ground in the collaboration between client and agency. We rely on an agile cooperation in which we bring together the best minds for the project from the JvM Group in order to develop targeted creative solutions together with the customer. In just three months, we conducted a comprehensive market analysis, developed a new brand idea and came up with the positioning strategy."



Meyer Burger will produce the solar modules from its Freiberg factory from the second quarter of 2021. Photo: © Meyer Burger

The new positioning and brand identity will be presented at the online media conference on March 11.

Wavin launches new generation of low-noise pipe systems to address the challenges of rapid urbanisation in APAC

Singapore – The ongoing pandemic has placed increased pressure on infrastructure across Asia Pacific (APAC). Rapid urbanisation and rebuilding efforts across the region have led to rising noise pollution, where infrastructure is presenting real issues in multi-storey buildings including hospitals, hotels, residential complexes and offices. Pipe noise, in particular, is compromising comfort and living standards as people stay home more than ever before, and this can be far costlier to fix post-build than if addressed during planning.

Building on its successful legacy in low-noise innovations, Wavin, a world leading solutions provider for the building and infrastructure industry, has launched a new generation of low-noise pipe systems, Wavin AS+, providing advanced noise reduction in soil and waste systems for the creation of better, quieter buildings.

"More than 30 years ago, Wavin introduced the world's first, plastic low-noise soil and waste system, and we've continued to invest significantly in enhancing our low-noise innovations. We're proud to launch today the Wavin AS+ in APAC, as it represents a whole new level of performance for these systems, and is an ideal solution for engineers and installers creating our buildings of tomorrow," said Mr Freek Crum, President, Wavin APAC.

The new Wavin AS+ was specifically designed to address the challenges of rapid urbanisation around the world, and will help reduce instances of noise pollution, as well as resolve time and budget constraints in the building process through ease-of-installation and great value.

Wavin AS+ features a compact design ideal for small and narrow spaces, a unique material composition that delivers perfect sound absorption, and a patented blue seal that enhances leak- and failure-proof installation – created after countless hours of noise level testing and exploring new materials to provide the ultimate in noise reduction.



Photo: © Wavin

Additional features of the Wavin AS+ pipe systems include:

– The ultimate in noise reduction and performance: Wavin AS+ is constructed using unique high-density material and features specially-made noise-reducing brackets, certified with industry-standard sound testing at the Frauenhofer Institute in Germany. In order to further reduce sound, Wavin has also developed a unique Wavin Low Noise bracket. It is a single bracket that can be used in multiple configurations in order to optimise the noise performance of the system.

– Noise compliance: Providing the support you need to accurately predict the noise levels of a soil and waste installation, the accompanying Wavin SoundCheck Tool calculates noise levels based on individual parameters, alongside the AS+. Wavin's SoundCheck Tool can be used to stimulate piping system acoustics to check that noise pollution regulations are met.

– Super-easy installation: AS+ uses a compact design, ideal for small and narrow spaces. A sculptured spigot significantly reduces push-in force by up to 30 percent and the blue seal with integrated lubricant ensures both quiet performance and super-easy installation.

– Supports and assists with planning: Wavin AS+ is BIM (Building Information Modelling) Ready, supporting and assisting engineers and contractors in planning their projects, making things easier for professionals specifying plumbing and above ground drainage systems.

Schneider Electric recognised during Renewable Energy Markets™ Asia Awards for renewable energy leadership in Asia

Singapore – The Center for Resource Solutions (CRS), has recognised Schneider Electric, a global leader in the digital transformation of energy management and automation, for its leadership in building renewable energy markets and green power procurement in Asia.

With the renewable energy landscape in Asia moving faster than ever before, the company's Energy and Sustainability Services division has recently established an office in Singapore to provide advisory services to companies with Asian operations. The trend towards decarbonisation, coupled with Southeast Asia's (SEA) thirst for innovation, is the driving force behind the company's expansion plans in this region.

While urbanisation, industrialisation and digitisation generate an increasing demand for energy, many businesses and countries are also looking to reduce their carbon footprint while complying with green regulations, with the most recent sustainability initiative being the Singapore Green Plan. This intersection of needs and regulations is where the company's Energy and Sustainability Services division will thrive as businesses source for experts who can help them navigate these new waters.

"Singapore is a prime location for us to access the SEA region as we can tap on the local government's push for sustainability, while reaching out to operations that may be built in other ASEAN cities. We are committed to helping businesses meet their sustainability goals and that is why you can expect to see more of us as we plan to keep investing in this part of the world," said Jackson Seng, Energy and Sustainability Services Leader, EAJ Region, Schneider Electric.

NUS and Johnson Controls embark on S$5 million research to co-create people-centric smart building systems

Singapore – The National University of Singapore (NUS) and Johnson Controls, a global leader for smart, healthy and sustainable buildings, will embark on a joint collaboration on smart buildings research. Johnson Controls will commit about S$5 million into this research programme, and teams from both organisations will work together to address industry-wide challenges.

"As Singapore advances its whole-of-nation movement on sustainable development, NUS is ready to seize the plethora of opportunities through our digital innovation activities and strategic collaborations with industry to drive the future of urban solutions. This collaboration between NUS and Johnson Controls will combine the University's expertise in the science of cities and sustainability with Johnson Controls' industry knowledge to co-create people-centric smart building systems to bring about impactful and radical changes to the lives of people in Singapore and the world," said Professor Chen Tsuhan, NUS Deputy President (Research & Technology).

The NUS School of Design and Environment (SDE) will kick off with the first research project in April 2021, which will be led by Assistant Professor Clayton Miller from its Department of Building. The research will use machine learning to accelerate the conversion of Internet of Things (IoT) data into the BRICK



National University of Singapore (NUS) and Johnson Controls signed S$5 million research agreement to co-create people-centric smart building systems. (From left) Prof Lam Khee Poh, Dean, NUS School of Design and Environment, Prof Yoon Soon Fatt, Director, Industry Engagements and Partnerships, NUS Office of the Deputy President (Research & Technology), Mr Kelvin Wong, CEO, Building and Construction Authority, and Mr Alvin Ng, Vice President, Digital Solutions, APAC, Johnson Controls were present at the signing ceremony on 11 March 2021. Photo: © National University of Singapore

Schema, a standardising model for data labels in buildings. This open-source schema describes smart buildings and their subsystems in a format that enables software to more easily and quickly connect into a larger number of buildings. With the establishment of a consistent schema across buildings, the industry is better able to understand metadata usage across all building types, to improve overall wellness for its users.

"Our research collaboration with Johnson Controls will contribute to the built environment sector's need for rapid digitalisation and enhanced collaboration across the entire industry value chain. The status quo is that each building speaks its own language when it comes to IoT. With this research, Asst Prof Miller's team seeks to create a type of 'translation engine' to convert these individual languages into the BRICK schema. This is a critical piece of enabling technology for Singapore to develop future-ready solutions for sustainable cities in line with Singapore Green Plan 2030," said Professor Lam Khee Poh, NUS SDE Dean.

As it is a labour-intensive process to convert existing meta-data schemas into the BRICK framework, the team intends to set up a machine learning competition to crowdsource solutions to find the most accurate approach to converting each building's existing labeling methods into the BRICK schema.

The research will leverage the Johnson Controls OpenBlue Innovation Center housed at SDE, which was launched in September 2020 as a testbed for new breed of customisable, contact- free applications built on the Johnson Controls unifying OpenBlue digital technology suite. It will focus primarily on the four SDE buildings, with the possibility to expand the scope to include other buildings across the NUS campus.

"NUS is an important partner in our journey to transform the urban built environment, especially with the focus of 'build back better' in the recovery from the long pandemic. Tapping on the talents from both sides to research on artificial intelligence, sustainability as well as smart experience and wellness, we can innovate and scale from this NUS living laboratory. Singapore's larger regulatory environment is also conducive for adoption of technologies to ensure our built environment is healthier and more sustainable," said Mr Alvin Ng, Vice President, Digital Solutions, Asia Pacific, Johnson Controls.

For the sixth consecutive year, JA Solar awarded with top brand PV Module for the European market from EuPD Research

Beijing, China – JA Solar was recently awarded with the Top Brand PV Modules Europe 2021 Seal from EuPD Research, a leading certification body in the PV industry. This is the sixth consecutive year that JA Solar has won the award since first winning in 2016. The company has also been awarded the Top PV Brand in MENA, and also in seven European countries including Germany, France, Poland, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

The Top Brand PV Seal is one of the most recognised and prestigious certifications in the global PV industry. Considering the customer evaluation and overall quality and performance of PV products, the award highlights the most reliable and trustworthy PV module manufacturers in regional and country-level markets, which provides valuable references for downstream customers in module selection.

Dr. Xinwei Niu, Member of the Board and Executive President of JA Solar, commented: "We deeply appreciate EuPD for its high recognition of JA Solar. We have been committed to providing high quality products and services to the global market, continuously improving product performance, reducing LCOE, and promoting the application and utilisation of PV products and technologies. In the future, we will keep contributing to the global goal of carbon neutrality through continuous technology upgrades and service system improvement."



Trane Technologies plans to cut product carbon emissions in half by 2030, supporting the Paris Agreement Goal of net-zero emissions by 2050

Sword, Ireland – Trane Technologies, a global climate innovator, announced that it plans to cut its product carbon emissions by nearly 50 percent by 2030, and that its ambitious emissions reduction targets have been validated by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi).

Cutting product emissions in half over the next decade supports Trane Technologies' 2030 Sustainability Commitments, including its Gigaton Challenge to reduce customer emissions by one billion metric tons. It also supports the Paris Agreement goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, which will require net-zero global carbon emissions by 2050.

"As a climate innovator, we can make a significant contribution to solving climate change," said Mike Lamach, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for Trane Technologies. "Fifteen percent of the world's carbon emissions come from heating and cooling buildings, and another 10 percent from global food loss. We are transforming our operations and revolutionising the way the world heats and cools buildings and moves refrigerated goods."

Trane Technologies takes a collaborative approach to sustainability through its Center for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES) and partnerships with governments, environmental leaders, NGOs, and its Advisory Council on Sustainability. Andrew Winston, environmental consultant, author of Green to Gold, and member of the advisory council added, "Trane Technologies' science-based targets are an important step in the right direction. Companies can play an active role in the fight against climate change if they set goals – and live by them – to cut emissions at the rapid pace that science demands."

Trane Technologies continues to make progress against its 2030 Sustainability Commitments through action including:

- Launch of Sintesis Balance, a zero-emission solution for commercial heating and cooling when paired with renewable energy.
- Transition of 15 manufacturing locations to 100 percent renewable energy.
- Electrification of Thermo King's sustainable transport temperature control solutions including the fully electric, zero-emission E-200 refrigeration unit.

In 2014, the company set ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, which were also verified by SBTi. It met all its 2020 sustainability commitments two years early, including reducing the refrigerant-related GHG footprint of its products by 53 percent, reducing the GHG footprint of its operations by 45 percent and investing more than $500 million in product-related research and development to fund long-term GHG reductions. The company's 2030 commitments reflect even higher goals for environmental and social sustainability.

LG HVAC Technology earns international certifications for indoor air quality

Seoul, South Korea – Commercial air-conditioning technology from LG Electronics has garnered a number of recognitions from trusted international organisations for its ability to improve indoor air quality. Certifications from Intertek, TÜV Rheinland and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) awarded to LG DUAL Vane™ Cassette system are confirmation of the effectiveness of LG HVAC solutions in delivering clean air.

The LG DUAL Vane™ Cassette is claimed to be the world's first HVAC solution to receive UL's GREENGUARD Gold Certification for low volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions.

LG DUAL Vane™ Cassette was also recognised by Intertek for reducing the presence of harmful particles in indoor air.[1] Its outstanding air purification capabilities are possible thanks to LG Plasmaster™ Ionizer+ technology which emits over 3 million ion clusters to attract and carry away allergens and bacteria. For these reasons alone, LG DUAL Vane™ Cassette is the ideal option for use in schools and healthcare facilities where air quality is of utmost priority.

Another recognition comes courtesy of TÜV Rheinland which certified LG's 5-step air purification system for effectively removing ultrafine dust, allergen and harmful bacteria including Staphylococcus aureus from the air.[2] What's more, LG DUAL Vane™ Cassette's air-cleansing and allergen-removing capabilities are also certified by the British Allergy Foundation.

LG's DUAL Vane™ Cassette is an effective and versatile system air conditioning product featuring two vanes that help to deliver strong airflow and wide, even coverage. With six different modes, users can tailor airflow direction and strength to any space or to suit their own individual preferences.

[1] Certified by Intertek for removing more than 99.9 percent of bacteria including Escherichia coli KCCM 11234, Staphylococcus aureus KCCM 40050 and Pseudomonas aeruginosa KCCM 11321.

[2] Certified by TÜV Rheinland for removing 99.9 percent of ultrafine dust measuring 50 nanometers in up to 35 minutes and 99.9 percent of ultrafine dust measuring 100 nanometers in up to 41 minutes. Also certified for reducing up to 99.9 percent of Staphylococcus epidermidis bacteria in 60 minutes and up to 99.4 percent of Phi-X174 virus in 30 minutes. Tests conducted in chamber of 60 cubic metres.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Fax your order to **+65 6842 2581** or email us at **info@tradelinkmedia.com.sg**

Please (√) tick in the boxes.

PRINT



☐ **Southeast Asia Building**
Since 1974



☐ **Southeast Asia Construction**
Since 1994

***1 year** (6 issues) per magazine*

Singapore	SGD$60.00
Malaysia / Brunei	SGD$105.00
Asia	SGD$155.00
America, Europe	SGD$185.00
Japan, Australia, New Zealand	SGD$185.00
Middle East	SGD$185.00



☐ **Bathroom + Kitchen Today**
Since 2001

***1 year** (4 issues) per magazine*

Singapore	SGD$32.00
Malaysia / Brunei	SGD$70.00
Asia	SGD$85.00
America, Europe	SGD$135.00
Japan, Australia, New Zealand	SGD$135.00
Middle East	SGD$135.00

DIGITAL



Lighting Today
is available on digital platform.
To download free PDF copy,
please visit:

http://lt.tradelinkmedia.biz

☐ **Lighting Today**
Since 2002



Security Solutions Today
is available on digital platform.
To download free PDF copy,
please visit:

http://sst.tradelinkmedia.biz

☐ **Security Solutions Today**
Since 1992

Personal Particulars

Name: _____
Position: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____
_____
Tel: _____ **Fax:** _____
E-Mail: _____

IMPORTANT

Please commence my subscription in
_____(month/year)

Professionals (choose one):

☐ Architect ☐ Landscape Architect ☐ Interior Designer ☐ Developer/Owner
☐ Property Manager ☐ Manufacturer/Supplier ☐ Engineer ☐ Others

☐ I am sending a cheque/bank draft payable to:
Trade Link Media Pte Ltd, 101 Lorong 23, Geylang, #06-04, Prosper House, Singapore 388399
Co. Reg. No: 199204277K * GST inclusive (GST Reg. No: M2-0108708-2)

☐ Please charge my credit card (circle one): Amex / Diner's Club

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name of Card Holder: _____ Signature: _____

2021
22–27
June

Architect Thailand 2021
IMPACT Challenger Hall 1–3
Bangkok, Thailand
T: +66 2 203 4285
E: architect@nccexhibition.com
W: https://architectexpoasia.com

2021
8–11
Sept

MARVEX 2021
Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
T: +60 12 774 1981
F: +60 3 7982 1648
E: info@marvex.my
W: https://marvex.my

2021
23–26
Sept

WORLDBEX 2021
World Trade Center Metro Manila & SMX Convention Center Manila
Manila, Philippines
T: +63 2 8656 9239
E: inquire@worldbexevents.com
W: https://worldbex.com

2021
3–6
Nov

ARCHIDEX 2021
Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
T: +60 16 233 2773
F: +60 3 7982 1648
E: info@archidex.com.my
W: www.archidex.com.my

2021
9–11
Nov

ASEAN Super 8 Show 2021
Malaysia International Trade & Exhibition Centre (MITEC)
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
T: +60 12 367 1415
E: hamizan.razali@informa.com
W: www.super8asean.com

Follow us on **Social Media**

www.facebook.com/southeastasiabuilding

www.twitter.com/SEA_Building

www.instagram.com/southeastasiabuilding

ADVERTISER INDEX

PLATINUM PARTNERS

dormakaba Singapore	Singapore	+65 6268 7633	marketing.sg@dormakaba.com	www.dormakaba.com.sg	OBC
Hunter Douglas	Malaysia	+603 5191 2020	luxalon@hunterdouglas.com.my	www.hunterdouglas.com.my	1
Mapei Far East	Singapore	+65 6862 3488	mapei@mapei.com.sg	www.mapei.com.sg	5

SILVER PARTNER

CT-Art Creation	Singapore	+65 6762 9891	sales@ctart.com.sg	www.ctart.com.sg	3
PLAYPOINT (Singapore)	Singapore	+65 6398 1558	info@playpoint.com.sg	www.playpoint.asia	7

See us at following upcoming events!

Event	Date	City	Country	Website	Page
ARCHITECT THAILAND 2021	22 – 27 June 2021	Bangkok	Thailand	www.architectexpoasia.com	9
MARVEX 2021	8–11 Sept 2021	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	www.marvex.my	13
WORLDBEX 2021	23 – 26 Sept 2021	Manila	Philippines	www.worldbex.com	IBC
ARCHIDEX 2021	3 – 6 Nov 2021	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	www.archidex.com.my	IFC
ASEAN Super 8 2021	9 – 11 Nov 2021	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	www.super8asean.com	11

Legend: **IFC** (Inside Front Cover), **IBC** (Inside Back Cover), **OBC** (Outside Back Cover)



WORLDBEX SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

THE 25TH PHILIPPINE WORLD BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION EXPOSITION

WORLDBEX



SEPTEMBER 23-26,2021

WORLD TRADE CENTER®
METRO MANILA

worldbex.com

inquire@worldbexevents.com



Unlock the potential of dormakaba solutions
Your staycations are only as safe as the hotel is secured. With an incredible range of innovative product offerings from entry systems to door hardware, to the locking systems for guest rooms and amenity access, dormakaba provides function while simultaneously enhancing the guest experience.

dormakaba is your partner in Hospitality access solutions.

Our ASEAN locations:

Singapore	**+65 6268 7633**
Malaysia/Brunei	**+60 3 8081 8009**
Philippines	**+63 2 8893 4077**
Indonesia	**+62 21 2930 3762**
Vietnam	**+84 8 6299 8272**
Thailand/Cambodia/Myanmar/Laos	**+66 2059 2612**

Blog Website

FB: dormakabaASEAN
LinkedIn: dormakaba ASEAN

www.dormakaba.com.sg

dormakaba