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September / October 2026

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Tropical Sustainability & Passive Design

Lead Feature: Passive Cooling Strategies in Southeast Asia • High-performance Tropical Buildings • Institutional & Retail Interior Design • MEP: Energy-efficient HVAC for Hot Climates • Landscaping: Urban Spaces • Interview with Industry Experts

ON THE COVER: The Corner House / Manila, Philippines

ISSN 2345-7066





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Southeast Asia Building is provided free of charge to qualified applicants in the building industry.

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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, 1 Paya Lebar Link, #04-01, Paya Lebar Quarter 1 (PLQ 1), Singapore 408533

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Co. Reg. no: 199204277K

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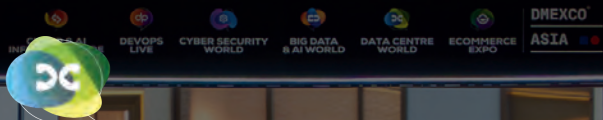
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 **CloserStill**

Welcome to the September/October issue!

How time flies! We are already approaching the end of the year. Our theme for this issue explores design in hot climates, with a focus on passive cooling in architecture. Please take a look through the various projects and see how architects successfully and seamlessly integrate these strategies into their designs!

The interior design section looks at both retail and institutional designs from various parts of Asia. The issue also looks at a few HVAC products and urban landscaping. Additionally, we have an article with a wrap-up of Archifest 2026, and another on BCA's Design for Maintainability study.

In other parts of the world, this time of year would be Autumn. I hope everyone stays cool as you read through this issue!

An Jee-Hyun

November/December 2026 Issue

- **Architecture:** Landmark Architecture & Regional Icons
 - **Lead Feature:** Architectural Icons of Tomorrow—The projects shaping Southeast Asia's skyline.
 - **Case study:** Signature designs from regional architects making global impact.
- **Year-in-review:** 2026 trends and what's next for 2027.
- **Interior:** Hospitality Projects
- **MEP:** MEP for stadiums, airports, and convention centres.
- **Playground:** Design for safety in the tropics

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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



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Arcc Spaces Officially Opens its 9th Location at Bank of Singapore Centre in Raffles Place



The Landing Room on Level 7 of Arcc Spaces, Bank of Singapore Centre

Arcc Spaces, a pioneer in hospitality-led real estate, has officially opened its newest property at the Bank of Singapore Centre. Spread across Levels 5, 6, and 7 at 63 Market Street, the 25,782 square foot property gives

businesses of all sizes a flexible path to one of the city's most sought-after business addresses without the exposure of a long-term lease.

The opening arrives at a pivotal moment for Singapore's commercial

real estate market as the nation experiences the longest upward cycle on record. CBD Grade A rents have now risen for six consecutive quarters, while new supply through 2027 is projected at less than half of historical annual demand. For firms weighing the cost of a long-term lease against an increasingly uncertain business environment, that equation is shifting the conversation toward flexibility.

"Singapore's CBD has never been more competitive, and for many firms, a ten-year lease is simply no longer a viable way to secure their place in it. What we've built here gives companies the credibility of a Raffles Place headquarters with the freedom to scale on their own terms. In a market this tight, that combination is increasingly hard to find elsewhere," said Justin Chen, CEO of Arcc Spaces.

The interior of the property makes a deliberate departure from the typical corporate fit-out. Deep autumn hues such as terracotta, ochre, and burnt orange run through the interiors alongside natural materials and greenery. Every element was chosen to age well and feel



Entryway on Level 6 of Arcc Spaces, Bank of Singapore Centre



Conference Hall on Level 7 of Arcc Spaces, Bank of Singapore Centre

more like home instead of a serviced office—a place people genuinely want to come back to.

Private enterprise suites can be tailored by the Arcc Spaces in-house design team to reflect a company's own brand identity, while open lounges and alcoves give individuals and small groups room to work without retreating to a meeting room. For larger gatherings, the property offers a full range of collaboration and conference spaces, a members' lounge, and a well-appointed pantry.

"What makes a workspace stick isn't the first impression but rather what it feels like six months in. We've thought carefully about how every



Coworking Studio on Level 6 of Arcc Spaces, Bank of Singapore Centre

part of this space holds up over time, because the people here aren't passing through. They're growing careers and showing up every day with something to prove, and our space is built to match their ambition," said Maria Nakamura, Head of Hospitality at Arcc Spaces.

Beyond the workspace, members join the broader Arcc Spaces network spanning Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. Arcc Spaces also runs a curated programme of community events alongside the signature Being.Human series: an ongoing showcase of the journeys of

Entrepreneurs, Changemakers, and Authors that gives members access to conversations and connections that extend well beyond their immediate teams.

The property secured its first members in March 2026, with occupancy already spanning a diverse cross-section of industries; from family offices, financial services, and fintech to law firms, education, recruitment, and steel.

For more information on Arcc Spaces at Bank of Singapore, please visit www.arccspaces.com/bank-of-singapore-centre.



Front of House on Level 7 of Arcc Spaces, Bank of Singapore Centre

ARCHIDEX 2026 Concludes on a High, Setting the Stage for Next // Now



ARCHIDEX 2026, Malaysia's Largest Architecture and Building Exhibition, concluded on a high note, reaffirming its position as Asia's Leading Architecture Business Event and a key platform connecting the region's built environment ecosystem.

Held from 29 July to 1 August 2026 at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC), the 25th edition of ARCHIDEX brought together architects, designers, developers, engineers, manufacturers, suppliers, investors, policymakers, and industry professionals to discover opportunities, exchange knowledge, and build partnerships shaping the future of the built environment.

Organised by C.I.S in partnership with the Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) as part of the Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival (KLAF), ARCHIDEX 2026 welcomed 860 exhibitors from 15 countries and regions, occupying over 39,000 sqm of exhibition space. The exhibition attracted more than 45,000 visitors and delegates from over 100 countries, marking a significant milestone for the industry and reinforcing Malaysia's position as a regional hub for architecture, construction, and real estate opportunities.

On the growth of ARCHIDEX, Dato' Vincent Lim, President of C.I.S, commented, "What stands out is not just how much ARCHIDEX has grown, but what the growth truly represents. These milestones reflect the confidence that local and international businesses continue to place in Malaysia as

a destination for trade, investment, and collaboration. The expansion of ARCHIDEX represents a bigger platform for our industry. Because a larger platform means more innovation to discover, more connections to make, and more business opportunities to create impact."

Complementing ARCHIDEX was the ASEAN Real Estate Conference (AREC) 2026, organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT), which brought together policymakers, developers, investors, and industry leaders to discuss the future of housing, urban development, and sustainable cities across ASEAN.

Officiating the opening of ARCHIDEX 2026, Minister of Housing and Local Government, Yang Berhormat Tuan Nga Kor Ming, said, "While the government sets policy directions, achieving our vision of Housing with Heart requires collaboration across sectors. It is in this spirit that we are hosting AREC, and ARCHIDEX itself embodies this same spirit of collaboration and innovation.

"Our strategic location, strong connectivity, competitive business ecosystem, stable economic fundamentals, and highly skilled workforce continue to attract investors and businesses seeking opportunities in one of the world's fastest-growing regions. ARCHIDEX showcases these strengths by bringing together industry leaders from across Asia and beyond to collaborate, innovate, and invest."

Together with DATUM 2026, PAM's flagship influential

architectural conference, the three platforms created a comprehensive ecosystem that connected policy, investment, design, innovation, and implementation, strengthening collaboration across the entire built environment value chain.

Ar. IDr Dexter Koh, President of PAM, said, "As PAM's flagship architectural conference since 2003, DATUM brings together thinkers and innovators to explore emerging ideas and challenge perspectives. This year's theme, 'FutureCulture', feels particularly timely. As we embrace new technologies, how do we ensure our architecture remains anchored in local culture and identity?"

"The answer lies in balance—between innovation and tradition, progress and context, technology and humanity. Together, ARCHIDEX, AREC, and DATUM form a complete ecosystem: ARCHIDEX connects ideas with industry; AREC connects development with national aspirations; and DATUM connects the profession with critical dialogue."

Beyond the exhibition floor, ARCHIDEX continued to drive industry conversations through more than 100 knowledge-sharing sessions featuring over 170 local and international speakers, alongside business matching sessions and buyer programmes.

Curated showcases further highlighted emerging trends and innovations transforming the industry. World of Works (WoW) explored the future of workplaces through the intersection of technology, culture, and human experience, while A Hospitality Anthology (aha) made its debut as a platform showcasing evolving hospitality trends. Digital @ ARCHIDEX, featuring smarteX, showcased the growing impact of digital technologies, Building Information



Modelling (BIM), artificial intelligence, and smart building solutions in shaping the next generation of buildings.

ARCHIDEX also continued its commitment to recognising excellence and nurturing future talent through the ARCHIDEX Star Awards and ARCHITALENT, providing emerging architects and designers with opportunities to connect, collaborate, and showcase their creative potential.

As ARCHIDEX 2026 closes its doors, it leaves behind new partnerships, fresh perspectives, and stronger connections, continuing its legacy as a catalyst for innovation, collaboration, and growth across ASEAN's built environment.



Singapore Archifest Expo and Future Living Asia Join Forces to Stage Shared Industry Platform at Inaugural Singapore Design Biennale

The inaugural Future Living Asia by Singaplural (Future Living Asia) will be co-located with Singapore Archifest Expo, co-organised by the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) and TAC-Group Pte Ltd (TAC) in June 2027 at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore.

Together, the two events will create an integrated industry platform that connects the people who design buildings with those who shape the spaces, products, and experiences within them, bringing architecture, interiors, furniture, materials, and innovation into a single collaborative ecosystem focused on the future of living.

Held strategically during the inaugural Singapore Design Biennale 2027, organised by the DesignSingapore Council (Dsg), the co-located events will contribute to an extended celebration of Singapore's design capabilities while strengthening the country's position as a regional hub for design excellence, innovation, and future living.

A connected vision for the spaces of tomorrow

The way people live, work, and interact is changing rapidly. Climate change, demographic shifts, evolving lifestyles, and technological advancements are reshaping expectations for buildings, interiors, and the products and technologies that support everyday living.

Responding to these shifts requires closer collaboration across architecture, interior design, furniture, materials, technology, and the wider built environment. Future living is no longer shaped by individual disciplines, but by an interconnected ecosystem working to create healthier, smarter, more sustainable and inclusive spaces.

The co-location of Archifest Expo and Future Living Asia reflects



this shared vision. Presented in partnership with Dsg for the Singapore Design Biennale, the combined platform creates new opportunities for professional exchange, business collaboration and the development of practical solutions for future living and working environments.

Plans include curated exhibitions, immersive showcases, product and material displays, thought-leadership programmes, business matching, and cross-disciplinary networking. The expos will connect architects, interior designers, furniture manufacturers, retailers, developers, specifiers, material suppliers, technology providers, policymakers, and international industry partners.

Ar. Tiah Nan Chyuan, President, Singapore Institute of Architects, commented, "Tomorrow's spaces will not be shaped by architects working alone. They will emerge from the combined thinking of architects, interior designers, furniture makers,

landscape professionals, material specialists and technology partners."

"By bringing Future Living Asia together with Archifest Expo, we are creating a platform where the wider design and built-environment ecosystem can exchange ideas and turn new possibilities into real solutions.

"This collaboration is an important step towards positioning Singapore as a place where the future of living is not merely discussed, but actively designed."

Connecting design with industry As the inaugural edition of Future Living Asia, the platform will bring together businesses, innovators, designers, and industry leaders to explore how future living environments can better respond to changing lifestyles, sustainability priorities, and evolving societal needs, with a special focus on solutions for the growing silver generation.

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future living and working spaces that touch lives, Future Living Asia will feature curated symposiums, immersive showcases, and a trade exhibition designed to accelerate the exchange of ideas, showcase practical solutions, and foster collaborations that will define the next generation of future living solutions.

Its co-location with Archifest Expo will provide participating businesses with greater access to architects, designers, developers, and decision-makers involved in shaping the built environment, while creating new opportunities for partnerships across the design value chain.

"Future Living Asia is more than an event; it is a platform for industry dialogue, innovation and collaboration," said Mr Joshua Koh, President, Singapore Furniture Industries Council. "Our inaugural edition will place a focus on the needs of the growing silver generation. We believe design and innovation have a critical role to play in creating spaces that are healthier, safer, more inclusive, and better equipped to support the community at every stage of life.

"We are honoured to launch Future Living Asia alongside the Singapore Archifest Expo 2027. Together, we are strengthening Singapore's position as a leading hub for design excellence and innovation, while building a future living ecosystem that creates lasting value for businesses, communities and society."

Supporting Singapore's design ambition

The collaboration reflects a broader ambition to strengthen connections across Singapore's design ecosystem and create platforms capable of attracting regional and international participation.

By bringing industry, professional practice, and



design culture closer together, the co-located expos aim to generate new commercial opportunities while demonstrating design's ability to address complex economic, environmental, and social needs.

Ms Dawn Lim, Executive Director, DesignSingapore Council, said, "As a global design hub, Singapore serves as a gateway and marketplace connecting Asia to the world, and the world to Asia. By convening through a shared platform, SFIC and SIA are creating collective scale, greater capabilities, and market reach for architects, designers, and partners to exchange knowledge, forge relationships, and accelerate innovation. This strengthens Singapore's design ecosystem and reinforces our position as a global node for design.

"Singapore Archifest Expo and Future Living Asia will work together over the coming months to develop the exhibition, programme, and partnership opportunities for 2027."

Arup Secures Double Win at MalaysiaGBC Leadership in Sustainability Awards 2026

Global built environment consultancy Arup has received two accolades at the MalaysiaGBC Leadership in Sustainability Awards 2026, recognising both its organisational leadership and its work to improve the environmental performance of Malaysia's growing digital infrastructure.

Arup received the Business Leadership in Sustainability – Industry award. NEXTDC KL1 Kuala Lumpur, for which Arup served as sustainability consultant, received the Leadership in Sustainable Design and Performance award in the Commercial – New Building category.

The awards recognise organisations and projects advancing climate action, resilience, and sustainable development across Malaysia's built environment. They were presented in conjunction with Cities Climate Connect 2026.

Fazidin Faisal, Arup's Malaysia Country Leader, said, "Digital growth and sustainable development cannot be treated as separate ambitions. NEXTDC KL1 Kuala Lumpur shows how energy efficiency, water resilience, and operational reliability can be considered together from the earliest stages of design. We are proud that MalaysiaGBC

has recognised both this project and our wider business leadership and technical expertise."

Arup's organisational award recognises how sustainability is embedded across its governance, business strategy, operations, and client work. In Malaysia, this includes investing in specialist capability, improving the environmental performance of its workplaces and helping clients deliver more sustainable outcomes. The firm is also working towards its science-based net-zero targets by 2040, while supporting greater climate leadership and sustainability knowledge across the industry.

Located in Petaling Jaya, NEXTDC KL1 Kuala Lumpur will have a total IT capacity of 65MW, supporting the rapid growth of artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and critical digital services across Southeast Asia. The project brought together NEXTDC and Arup to integrate energy efficiency, water resilience, and operational reliability into the facility's design.

The project's first phase (Stage 1) has achieved GBI Platinum



Arup at MalaysiaGBC Leadership in Sustainability Awards 2026

Provisional certification and Provisional BCA Green Mark Award Platinum. With advanced energy optimisation strategies in part developed by Arup, the facility is targeting a power usage effectiveness (PUE) of 1.36.

Aligned with the World Green Building Council's global and Asia-Pacific priorities, the award programme reflects a shared commitment to advancing net-zero carbon, resilience, and wellbeing across the built environment.



NextDC KL1 Kuala Lumpur. Photo credit: NEXTDC

The Building and Construction Authority Releases New Study on Cost and Manpower Savings from Design for Maintainability Measures

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) released preliminary findings from a study on 22 July 2026, demonstrating the business case for investing in Design for Maintainability (DfM) features. By incorporating these features early in the design process, developers, building owners, and tenants can expect to benefit from substantial maintenance costs and manpower savings over a building's life cycle.

Revisions to the plans to mandate CORENET X adoption were also announced, following a review of early adoption projects and industry feedback. These refinements will support a more calibrated and targeted approach to CORENET X adoption.

Designing for long-term resilience Demand for building maintenance works continues to increase as Singapore's building stock grows and ages. At the same time, the manpower available to maintain buildings continues to shrink as the population ages.

To ensure that buildings remain well-maintained over time, BCA has been advocating the BE sector to adopt Design for Maintainability, or DfM. This entails factoring longer-term maintainability considerations into the design process, so that buildings are easier and more cost-effective to maintain through their operational phase.

Key findings from the study To quantify the benefits of DfM, BCA worked with Surbana Jurong (SJ Group) to study four local developments—two existing commercial buildings, one new commercial development, and one new residential development.¹ The study used the Green Mark Maintainability (Mt) framework and



Minister Chee Hong Tat speaking at the SIA Dinner Reception on 22 July 2026. Photo credit: MND Singapore

life-cycle cost analysis approach.

The findings showed that adopting DfM can yield annual operational savings and deliver net positive returns after relatively short payback periods. Across the three commercial buildings studied, potential annual operational savings from adopting DfM ranged from \$310,000 to \$950,000, with the majority of DfM measures achieving a payback period of less than six years. For the residential development, potential annual operational savings can be up to \$110,000, with the majority of DfM measures achieving payback within five years.

For example, without dedicated access built into the design, maintenance workers servicing the fan and basin at the top of a cooling tower would need to rely on temporary scaffolding—a costly and

time-consuming exercise every time routine maintenance is required. By incorporating a cat ladder into the design, maintenance teams can gain safer and more direct access to the cooling tower. In the case of Shaw Tower, this straightforward design decision can generate potential life-cycle savings of over \$750,000, with a payback period of just three years. Given that cooling towers typically have a lifespan of 15 years, recovering the investment in three years means net positive returns thereafter for the remaining 12 years.

The study also showed meaningful productivity gains from adopting DfM. All DfM features studied helped reduce annual maintenance man-days, with many achieving reductions of more than 60%. The largest gains came from architectural decisions such as choices about

¹ Ascent from CapitaLand Development, SJ Campus from SJ Group, Shaw Tower from Shaw Towers Realty with Lendlease as project and development manager, and Copen Grand by City Developments Limited (CDL) and Sunway MCL.

design specifications, floor materials, ceiling types, and façade access, underscoring the importance of making maintainability an upfront design consideration.

Across the buildings studied, the additional cost of incorporating DfM for the commercial buildings ranged from 0.6% to 1.5% of total construction cost, and was just 0.2% for the residential development.

Call to action for the industry Developers and building owners are strongly encouraged to attain the Green Mark Mt Badge for their building projects to enhance the long-term performance, unlock significant savings over the building's lifespan, and add value to their properties.

For developers seeking to sell units upon completion, the Green Mark Mt Badge provides added assurance of the asset's long-term sustainability, cost-efficient maintenance requirements, and lower potential savings in maintenance costs. Architects and engineers are also encouraged to embrace DfM and actively apply maintainability considerations in their projects. This not only strengthens the value proposition for clients but also supports broader efforts to transform and future-proof the Built Environment (BE) sector.

BCA and SJ Group will work together with trade associations and chambers in the BE sector to hold a series of engagements with architects, engineers, developers, and

FM practitioners to share the study's findings and gather industry feedback on how DfM can be more widely adopted across the sector.

"For too long, maintenance has been treated as someone else's problem—to be addressed only after the building is handed over. This study shows that designing for maintainability is not a cost burden, but a sound investment. By making maintainability a priority from day one, we can reduce long-term costs, improve productivity and create a more resilient built environment that serves future generations well. We encourage developers, designers, and building owners to embrace DfM and the Mt Badge, as we shift from building for completion to building for long-term performance," said Mr Ang Kian Seng, Group Director of Environment Sustainability at BCA.

"Design for Maintainability goes beyond making buildings easier to maintain. It is about embedding long-term resilience, enhancing asset value, optimising operational performance, and creating environments that support productivity throughout the asset lifecycle. As buildings become increasingly complex, connected and data-driven, the best outcomes are achieved through the seamless integration of design, engineering, sustainability, and smart facilities management from planning through to operations. At SJ Group, we believe this whole-of-lifecycle approach

is essential to unlocking asset performance, reducing lifecycle costs, and delivering resilient, sustainable, and future-ready development," added Praveen Hassan Chandrashekar, Regional Director (Asia), Sustainability & Resilience Office, SJ Group.

As more projects come onto CORENET X, agencies have been reviewing its implementation and engaging industry to understand its impact. The review found that the benefits of CORENET X are more significant for larger and more complex projects, which typically involve more agencies and regulatory submissions. Early coordination through CORENET X helps these projects surface and resolve issues earlier, reducing downstream delays.

From 1 October 2026, all new projects with Gross Floor Area (GFA) of 5,000 square metres and above will be required to make submissions via CORENET X. It will no longer be mandatory for projects with GFA below 5,000 square metres to make submissions via the CORENET X gateway processes. Ongoing projects on CORENET 2.0 and projects with GFA below 5,000 square metres can continue to use CORENET 2.0 to make submissions for now.

These refinements reflect authorities' continued commitment to building a more future-ready Built Environment sector, adopting digital transformation where it matters most and delivers the greatest value.

ebm-papst SEA Celebrates 30th Anniversary

From a traditional fan manufacturer to a global technology leader in air technology and heating solutions, ebm-papst has grown alongside the markets, industries, and customers driving the transformation toward more energy-efficient fans and motors across APAC & MEA. Over the past decades, the company has continuously expanded its regional footprint, guided by its consistent "local for local" strategy, while strengthening local capabilities and investing in innovation to stay close to its customers and their evolving needs.

As ebm-papst celebrates a series of milestone anniversaries across APAC & MEA in 2026, these achievements reflect not only years of business growth, but also enduring partnerships, entrepreneurial spirit and shared ambition that continue to shape the company's journey and future across the region.

This year, ebm-papst SEA proudly celebrates its 30th anniversary. Since its establishment in Singapore, the company has grown its presence across Southeast Asia, supporting customers in the region with energy-efficient



air technology solutions for a wide range of applications and industries.

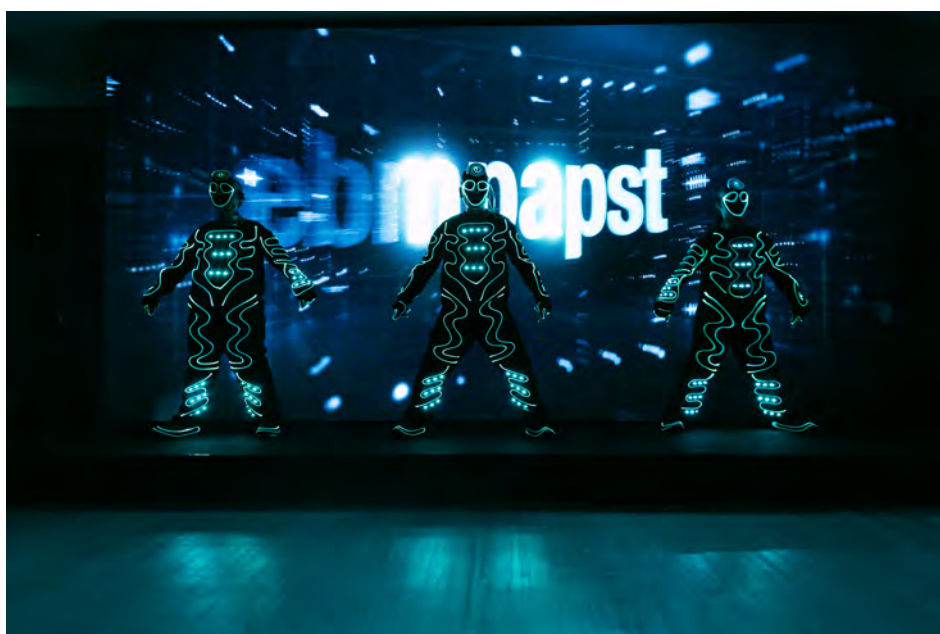
A key milestone in this journey was the establishment of the APAC Hub in Singapore in 2023, achieved through the expansion and transformation of the Singapore location. The upgraded site includes a modernised office, a future-oriented application laboratory and a customer experience centre, strengthening ebm-papst's ability to support innovation, sustainability and closer customer collaboration across the region.

These investments laid the foundation for ebm-papst SEA's digitalisation strategy, which came into sharper focus through the successful implementation of localised digital solutions in key projects. This trajectory underscores the company's sustained commitment to innovation and its role as a regional leader in shaping the future of air technology.

The anniversary event on 10 July brought together long-standing

partners of ebm-papst SEA alongside the company's team to mark this milestone. Over three decades, the firm's growth and transformation have been shaped by the unwavering

support of its partners. In a sector where collaboration and expertise are critical, these relationships have positioned ebm-papst SEA to deliver solutions that advance efficiency,





sustainability, and long-term success across the region.

This milestone was both a celebration of enduring partnerships and a reflection of ebm-papst SEA's own journey as a company. To mark the occasion, Mr. Thomas Schwab, Managing Director of ebm-papst SEA and Vice President of Digital Services and Solutions, APAC & MEA, opened the celebration with a keynote address, stating, "These

achievements reflect the very essence of ebm-papst, a company driven by innovation, engineering excellence, and a deep sense of responsibility toward a more sustainable world."

This was followed by remarks from Mr. Thomas Nürnberg, CSO of the ebm-papst Group and CEO of Air Technology APAC & MEA, who added, "Looking ahead, we further accelerate to develop solutions for air movement

that are smarter, more efficient, and more sustainable. The future belongs to those who innovate, collaborate and lead. And that is exactly what we at ebm-papst will continue to do."

Building on three decades of collaboration, ebm-papst SEA will continue to work closely with partners and customers to deliver air technology solutions that meet the demands of a smarter, more sustainable future.



Thomas Nürnberg and Thomas Schwab jointly cut the anniversary cake, joined by the company's Heads of Department.

Frasers Property Broadens Frasers Experience Rewards Ecosystem through Partnerships with NTUC Link and Shell, Creating One of Singapore's Largest Rewards Networks

On 29 July 2026, Frasers Property Singapore announced separate strategic partnerships with NTUC Link and Shell Singapore to expand the reach and value of its Frasers Experience (FRx) programme. By connecting FRx with Link Rewards and Shell GO+, the partnerships will unlock new ways for members to earn and redeem rewards across everyday essentials, lifestyle spending, and mobility touchpoints, opening up additional opportunities for over 2,000 retailers across its mall network.

Together, the partnerships have the potential to engage a combined membership ecosystem of approximately 4 million, benefitting over 1 million FRx members, 2.4 million Link Rewards members, and both petrol and electric vehicle (EV) owners in Singapore who are members of the Shell GO+ and Shell Recharge programmes.

The partnerships were formalised through two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) signed at Retail Spark! 2026, Frasers Property Singapore's annual tenant appreciation event. Through these partnerships, the company aims to drive repeat visits, increase cross-category spending, and create more opportunities for tenants to engage and retain customers across its mall network.

Connecting everyday essentials with lifestyle experiences

Under the MOU, Frasers Property Singapore and NTUC Link will connect FRx with Link Rewards, giving members access to more than 2,000 grocery, dining, retail and lifestyle touchpoints islandwide, including nine participating malls operated by Frasers Property Singapore.

The collaboration builds on the strong co-location advantage between Frasers Property Singapore, Singapore's largest suburban retail



Mr Adrian Tan, Managing Director of Retail, Frasers Property Singapore (seated left), signed an MOU with Ms Lim Jen Nie, Director & Head of Partnerships, FairPrice Group (seated right), to connect FRx and Link Rewards and create one of Singapore's largest rewards ecosystems, bringing together daily essentials, retail, dining, and lifestyle experiences to more than 2,000 touchpoints islandwide across nine of Frasers Property's malls. Witnessing the signing were Ms Soon Su Lin, CEO, Frasers Property Singapore (standing left), and Mr Kenneth Tan, Chief Strategy, Network and Transformation Officer, FairPrice Group (standing right).



(From left to right) Mr Adrian Tan, Managing Director of Retail, Frasers Property Singapore; Ms Soon Su Lin, CEO, Frasers Property Singapore; Ms Lim Jen Nie, Director & Head of Partnerships, FairPrice Group; and Mr Kenneth Tan, Chief Strategy, Network and Transformation Officer, FairPrice Group, at the memorandum of understanding signing ceremony between Frasers Property Singapore and Shell.



Representatives from Frasers Property Singapore, Frasers Centrepoint Trust, NTUC Link, and FairPrice Group commemorated the strategic partnership between FRx and Link Rewards with a group photo following the memorandum of understanding signing ceremony. From left to right: Ms Molly Lim, Senior Director, Retail, Frasers Property Singapore; Mr Qian Xiao Dong, FairPrice Group; Mr Richard Ng, CEO, Frasers Centrepoint Trust; Ms Soon Su Lin, CEO, Frasers Property Singapore; Mr Kenneth Tan, Chief Strategy, Network and Transformation Officer, FairPrice Group; Ms Lim Jen Nie, Director & Head of Partnerships, FairPrice Group; Mr Adrian Tan, Managing Director, Retail, Frasers Property Singapore; Mr Nick Toh, Head, Platform Success, NTUC Link.



Mr Adrian Tan, Managing Director of Retail, Frasers Property Singapore (seated left), signed an MOU with Mr Doong Shiwen, General Manager, Shell Mobility and Convenience Singapore (seated right), to integrate FRx with Shell GO+ and extend one of Singapore's largest rewards ecosystems into mobility, connecting EV charging, retail and lifestyle experiences through a more seamless "drive, charge, shop, and earn" journey. Witnessing the signing were Ms Soon Su Lin, CEO, Frasers Property Singapore (standing left), and Mr Tan Min Yih, Senior Vice President, Shell Mobility and Convenience Asia (standing right).

mall owner whose malls serve about half of the nation's population, and FairPrice Group's extensive presence across grocery, food service, convenience, and pharmacy touchpoints islandwide.

By combining two of Singapore's leading loyalty programmes, the partnership connects shoppers to a broader range of rewards across everyday essentials, retail, dining, and lifestyle experiences.

Extending rewards into mobility

Separately, Frasers Property and Shell will explore opportunities to connect their loyalty ecosystems, FRx and Shell GO+, to extend member benefits across EV charging and retail experiences.

The three-year partnership will look into deployments of Shell Recharge EV charging solutions at selected malls, alongside charging-related incentives and exclusive member offers. Benefits include EV charging privileges, Shell and tenant promotions, complimentary parking for Shell Recharge users, and opportunities to earn rewards across both retail and mobility touchpoints, creating a seamless "drive, charge, shop, and earn" journey.

The partnership aims to make EV ownership and charging more rewarding, while creating new opportunities for shoppers to conveniently earn and redeem value across both retail and mobility experiences.

Mr Adrian Tan, Managing Director, Retail, Frasers Property Singapore, said, "Through strategic partnerships with NTUC Link and Shell, we are extending the value of our FRx ecosystem beyond retail into areas such as daily essentials and mobility. This creates more opportunities for members to earn and redeem rewards across a wider range of experiences, while helping our tenants reach a broader customer base, drive footfall and encourage cross-category spending. Ultimately, this reinforces our vision of our malls as vibrant community destinations that create meaningful value for consumers, retailers and partners."



Representatives from Frasers Property Singapore and Shell commemorated their strategic partnership with a group photo following the memorandum of understanding signing ceremony. From left to right: Mr Dylan Huang, Head of Convenience Retailing and E-Mobility, Shell Mobility and Convenience Singapore; Mr Richard Ng, CEO, Frasers Centrepoint Trust; Ms Soon Su Lin, CEO, Frasers Property Singapore; Mr Tan Min Yih, Senior Vice President, Shell Mobility and Convenience Asia; Mr Doong Shiwen, General Manager, Shell Mobility and Convenience Singapore; Mr Adrian Tan, Managing Director, Retail, Frasers Property Singapore; Ms Elizabeth Yap, Head of Marketing, Shell Mobility and Convenience Singapore; and Ms Molly Lim, Senior Director, Retail, Frasers Property Singapore.

Ms Karen Chan, Chief Customer and Marketing Officer, FairPrice Group, said, "We are excited to partner with Frasers Property Singapore to make Link Rewards available to FRx members, giving them an additional way to be rewarded for their everyday spending at merchants under Frasers Property malls. By earning Linkpoints across participating malls, they can enjoy rewards across our growing network of dining, entertainment, retail and lifestyle brands, as well as FairPrice Group's extensive network of everyday touchpoints. Together, we hope to elevate the shopping experience, bringing greater value and making everyday moments a little better."

Mr Doong Shiwen, General Manager of Shell Mobility and Convenience Singapore, said, "Customers increasingly expect connected experiences that fit seamlessly into their daily lives. Our collaboration with Frasers Property

Singapore gives us an opportunity to create more connected experiences across mobility and retail, making everyday journeys more convenient and rewarding. By combining the strengths of our respective loyalty programmes, we can explore new ways to reward Shell GO+ and Frasers Experience members whether they are fuelling, charging, shopping or dining."

The benefits for FRx and Link Rewards members are expected to roll out from 1Q 2027, while initiatives under the partnership with Shell are targeted to commence towards the end of the year. Details will be shared at a later date.

Advancing a community-first retail strategy

These collaborations build on Frasers Property Singapore's community-first retail strategy, which envisions its malls as social hubs where people can meet everyday needs,

build connections, and feel a sense of belonging. Through inclusive design, technology, and strategic partnerships, the company continues to enhance accessibility, community engagement, and sustainability across its retail portfolio.

Initiatives such as digital wayfinding, Calm Hours, Dementia Go-To Points, and FRx50+ support diverse community needs, while collaborations with organisations including Lions Befrienders, DBS Foundation, CIMB Singapore, Community Chest, SG Enable, and The Food Bank Singapore strengthen social impact.

Frasers Property Singapore also promotes more sustainable lifestyles through initiatives such as its Green Coded campaign and collaborations with SP Group on renewable energy and energy-efficient solutions, reinforcing its commitment to creating inclusive, future-ready spaces for the communities it serves.

FROM FOREST TO FUTURE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY | Petr Krejci



Every piece of wood tells a story.

Not just of craftsmanship, but of growth, stewardship and renewal.

The striking installations featured in Wood for the Trees at Copenhagen's 3daysofdesign reveal a simple truth: beautiful materials do not begin in the workshop. They begin in the forest.

American hardwoods come from naturally regenerating forests that today cover more than 40 million acres across the eastern United States. For over a century, careful management and responsible harvesting have allowed these forests to grow faster than they are being harvested.

The result is a remarkable material palette. From the rich warmth of cherry to the clean elegance of hard maple, the character of each species reflects decades of natural growth, creating textures, colours and grain patterns that cannot be replicated.

But beauty is only part of the story.

Every specification choice shapes the future of our forests. By using a diverse range of responsibly sourced hardwoods, designers help support long-term forest stewardship, carbon storage and the continued regeneration of these landscapes.

In a world searching for materials that are both inspiring and responsible, American hardwoods offer something rare: a connection between exceptional design and a thriving natural system.

The future of design is already growing in the forest.

Hendro Hadinata Expands KARANA into a Full Habitat Collection at JIA Curated

The American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) revisited its collaboration with Indonesian designer Hendro Hadinata for KARANA Habitat, the expanded second chapter of the KARANA Collection first unveiled at Indonesia Design Week 2025. KARANA Habitat debuted on 15 August 2026 at Jia Curated, Bali.

Where the original collection presented three sculptural showcase pieces—the Kuta Bench, Sanur Lounge Chair, and Ubud Light—KARANA Habitat grows the range into a full living and dining collection for everyday life. Four new pieces joined the collection: the Klungkung Sofa, Negara Dining Chair, Negara Armchair, and Negara Dining Table. The material palette also expanded, with American hard maple joining red oak and cherry.

"Each timber species has its own distinctive grain and colour—maple, red oak, and cherry. Although they are different, they complement one another beautifully. Rather than arranging them in random patterns, we bring the three species together into a cohesive piece, creating a harmonious visual composition," commented Hadinata.

The collection continues to be shaped by the responsible forest management of the American hardwood forests resource. The selectively harvested and naturally regenerating American hardwood forests are the world's largest and most diverse temperate hardwood resource. Forest volume has more than doubled since the 1950s, and annual growth exceeds harvest, meaning the resource continues to increase in volume.

Home to more than 22 commercial timber species, Hadinata focused on American cherry, red oak, and hard



maple—three readily available but underutilised species ideally suited for high-quality furniture.

KARANA Habitat was part of a wider presentation by Studio Hendro Hadinata at Lintang Pavilion, a joint exhibition with Studio Aliri, Nusae, and Tradisi, exploring architecture, collaboration, and shared cultural practice. Lintang Pavilion ran from 13–17 August 2026 at Jia Curated, Bali.

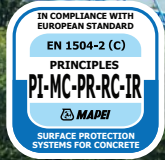
KARANA Habitat launched with an open afternoon hosted by Hendro Hadinata on Saturday 15 August 2026 at 4pm at the Lintang Pavilion, Pengembak Beach, Bali. Hadinata introduced the collection and shared his personal experiences of its creation.

For more information on KARANA Habitat, visit <https://www.americanhardwood.org/en/examples/our-projects/karana-habitat>.



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New BCA Study Confirms 80% Energy Efficiency Target is Within Reach for Singapore's Built Environment Sector at the Singapore Green Building Council Awards Gala Dinner 2026

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) shared insights from the completed Design Prototyping for Decarbonisation (DPfD) study, confirming that Singapore's target of achieving an 80% improvement in energy efficiency from 2005 levels is technically feasible for new and existing office buildings, new hotel buildings, and new mixed-development buildings with incremental decarbonisation pathways proposed to accommodate varying financial, operational, and technical considerations across different buildings.

A public report detailing the study will be made available by the end of 2026. The announcement was made at the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) Awards Gala Dinner 2026 by Guest-of-Honour Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment.

This comes as Singapore's buildings sector makes steady progress towards its "80-80-80 in 2030" targets under the Singapore Green Building Masterplan (SGBMP). As of July 2026, the following results have been achieved:

- For the target to have 80% of

buildings by Gross Floor Area (GFA) achieve Green Mark Certification by 2030, 66% of buildings by GFA have been greened

- For the target to have 80% of the new buildings achieve Super Low Energy (SLE) standard from 2030, approximately one-third have achieved the SLE standard
- For the target to have best-in-class buildings improve energy efficiency by 80% compared to 2005 levels by 2030, our best-in-class buildings have achieved a 72% improvement in energy efficiency from 2005 levels thus far



Charting the path to 80% energy efficiency

The DPfD is a consultancy study commissioned by BCA to explore decarbonisation pathways for high-rise commercial office, hotel, and mixed-development building typologies. The study assessed the technical options and commercial viability across a range of solutions, providing building owners with practical guidance on improving energy efficiency in their buildings.

Two strategies emerged as particularly impactful. First, plug load management offers a practical and accessible means for building owners to track and reduce energy consumption, with green leases enabling landlords and tenants to co-share cost savings. Second, Alternative Cooling Technologies (ACTs)—such as Passive Displacement Cooling (PDC) and Hybrid Cooling systems—can reduce building cooling energy consumption by 30 to 50% while maintaining thermal comfort. Given that cooling accounts for 40 to 60% of building energy consumption, ACTs can help to provide a meaningful pathway to meet Singapore's decarbonisation goals.

As of July 2026, at least 33 public buildings and 14 private buildings in Singapore have adopted ACTs. At



Dulwich College (Singapore), the adoption of PDC across classrooms, the auditorium, and collaborative spaces has achieved 49.5% energy savings for the air-distribution system. At Paya Lebar Green, a cooling system combining perimeter active chilled beams with interior VAV (Variable Air Volume) AHU (Air Handling Unit) systems and a high-efficiency dual-temperature chiller plant has delivered 45% energy savings. Both projects are recipients of the SGBC-BCA Leadership in Sustainability Award in the Carbon Performance category.

SingLand to pilot advanced solutions at The Clifford

Singapore Land Group (SingLand), one of the developers involved in the DPfD study, has committed to advancing its decarbonisation efforts through the Green Building Innovation Cluster (GBIC) Demonstration programme for the redevelopment of The Clifford at Raffles Place (The Clifford).

The Clifford is a redevelopment project for a 35-storey commercial building with 3 levels of retail space and a total GFA of 52,041.62 sqm. The project will adopt high-efficiency lighting solutions and promote plug load management systems on its office floors, with a target to raise its office block's energy efficiency performance from 65% to 75% compared to the 2005 baseline. SingLand will also test-bed Passive Displacement Cooling solutions in

the building's retail space to assess viability ahead of potential scaling up.

"The findings from the DPfD study give the industry the evidence it needs to act with confidence," said Mr Tan Chee Kiat, Deputy CEO (Industry Development) of BCA. "We now know that achieving 80% energy efficiency improvement is technically feasible for new and existing office buildings, new hotels and mixed developments. ACTs alone can cut cooling energy consumption by up to 50%; the technology is ready, and the business case is clear. With extreme weather patterns and rising temperatures increasing the urgency to act, I strongly encourage building owners and developers to take that next step towards adopting ACTs in their buildings."

Record nominations reflect growing industry momentum

The Gala Dinner also saw the announcement of winners of the prestigious SGBC-BCA Leadership in Sustainability Awards 2026, with a record 107 nominations—a 29% increase from the previous edition in 2024.

The biennial Awards, now in their fifth edition, recognise professionals, organisations, and building projects that have demonstrated outstanding contributions to Singapore's green building movement. 24 winners received their trophies from Ms Fu at a dedicated ceremony during the dinner.

Award winners

The Professional Leadership in Sustainability Award recognises exceptional Green Mark Professionals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation, and commitment in advancing sustainability within Singapore's built environment. The Award seeks to honour professionals whose personal vision and drive have created lasting impact, pushed industry boundaries, and accelerated Singapore's journey toward a greener future. This Award celebrates transformative leadership for those who have gone above and beyond to champion change, influence the industry, and leave a legacy of sustainability excellence. The recipients were:

- Yong Ping Quen, Director, Building System and Diagnostics Pte Ltd, Green Mark Advanced Accredited Professional (GMAAP)
- Teo Hwee Yean, CEO, CBM Solutions Pte Ltd, Green Mark Advanced Accredited Professional (GMAAP)
- Nadaraja Sripragas, Director, Sustainable Design & Climate Adaptation, Ramboll Pte Ltd, Green Mark Advanced Accredited Professional (GMAAP)
- Li Qiao Yan, Divisional Director, Sustainability and Resilience Office, SJ Group, Green Mark Advanced Accredited Professional (GMAAP)
- Yong Cheng Hong, Associate, Arup, Green Mark Accredited Professional (GMAP)

The Business Leadership in Sustainability Award honours companies and organisations that



demonstrate exceptional commitment, strategic innovation, and measurable impact in advancing green building practices and sustainability within Singapore's built environment.

This Award recognises corporate leadership that not only achieves internal excellence but also elevates industry standards and accelerates the broader market transformation toward a sustainable future.

IMPACT — Leadership Through Integration & Results

This sub-category is for organisations that have deeply embedded sustainability into their core business strategy and operations, delivering consistent, measurable, and industry-leading environmental and social outcomes; and for companies with mature ESG frameworks, outstanding green building portfolios, robust tracking systems, and proven stakeholder engagement that drives real-world change. The winners were:

- Building System and Diagnostics Pte Ltd
- Frasers Property Singapore
- Housing & Development Board (HDB)
- Teambuild Engineering & Construction Pte Ltd

INNOVATION — Leadership Through Solutions Development

This sub-category is for organisations that have developed or significantly advanced novel technologies, products, services, or business models that solve critical sustainability challenges in the built environment; and for product manufacturers, technology firms, consultancies, or service providers with groundbreaking solutions that have been validated and adopted in the market, delivering superior environmental performance. The winners were:

- GreenA Consultants Pte Ltd
- Keppel DHCS Pte Ltd
- Uniseal Creative Solutions Pte Ltd

TRANSFORMATION — Leadership Through Strategic Change

This sub-category is for organisations that have undergone a fundamental, strategic shift to place sustainability at the core of their business,

transforming their culture, operations, and market position; and for companies that can demonstrate a clear "before and after" journey, showcasing intentional change management, renewed corporate vision, and tangible outcomes from their sustainability-led transformation. The winners were:

- Cora Environment
- Crestar Enterprise Pte Ltd (Crestar Fans)
- Tai Sin Electric

The Building Project Leadership in Sustainability Award recognises outstanding green building projects that demonstrate leadership, innovation, and transformative impact in advancing a greener, more sustainable built environment in Singapore. This category honours developments that exemplify sustainability across different achievement areas and building types.

The Building Project must be located in Singapore, have at least one year of verified operating data, and must have attained the highest Green Mark rating for the corresponding building project typology (Green Mark Platinum, Green Mark Platinum Super Low Energy, Green Mark Platinum Zero Energy, Green Mark Platinum Positive Energy).

Carbon Performance

Projects submitted demonstrate exceptional energy efficiency, innovative low-carbon materials, embodied carbon reduction strategies, renewable energy integration, and comprehensive carbon accounting throughout the building lifecycle. The winners were:

- The GEAR—Developer/Owner: Kajima Development Pte. Ltd.
- The Greenhouse at Dulwich College (Singapore)—Developer/Owner: Dulwich College (Singapore)
- SGX Centre—Owners: The Management Corporation Strata Title Plan No. 2675 (United Overseas Bank Pte Ltd), Singapore Land Group, and Hudson

Community Engagement

Projects submitted demonstrate

meaningful community co-creation processes, programmes that enhance social equity, public space activation, stakeholder education initiatives, and designs that foster community identity and belonging. The winners were:

- City Square Mall—Developer/Owner: City Developments Limited
- SAFRA Choa Chu Kang (SAFRA CCK)—Developer/Owner: SAFRA National Service Association

Health & Wellbeing

Projects submitted demonstrate superior indoor air quality, abundant natural light, biophilic design elements, acoustic comfort, thermal comfort optimisation, wellness amenities, and designs supporting physical and mental health. The winner was:

- SJ Campus—Developer/Owner: SJ Campus Pte Ltd

Intelligent Building

Projects submitted demonstrate advanced building management systems, IoT integration, predictive analytics, smart grid connectivity, digital twin implementation, automated performance optimisation, and data-driven facility management. The winner was:

- Paya Lebar Green—Developer/Owner: DBS Trustee Limited (Certis & Lendlease Property Trust)

Urban Renewal

Projects submitted demonstrate adaptive reuse of structures, heritage conservation integrated with sustainability, neighbourhood-scale revitalisation, brownfield redevelopment, and designs that enhance urban resilience while respecting cultural context. The winners were:

- Joo Chiat Complex—Owner: Housing & Development Board (HDB)
- Keppel South Central—Developer/Owner: Keppel Ltd.

Mr. Allen Ang, President of the SGBC, commented, "The surge in nominations reflects a clear acceleration in the industry's commitment to sustainability. Across professionals, businesses, and



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building projects, we are seeing deeper capabilities, more ambitious targets, and a growing recognition that sustainability is no longer a niche specialisation but a core competency for the entire built environment sector."

Expanding the Go 25 Movement

The Gala Dinner also marked the launch of the Go 25 Climate Appropriate Attire Guide by SGBC, the latest addition to its suite of Go 25 resources.

A study by Ngee Ann Polytechnic's Centre for Environmental Sustainability showed energy savings of up to 12 percent for each degree raised in air-conditioning temperature from 23°C to 25°C in offices, and up to 28 percent in retail spaces, with no reported increase in occupant discomfort. Similarly, a study by BCA at its ZEB Plus building @ BCA Braddell Campus found that through hybrid cooling, cooling energy savings of 32% can be achieved when AC temperature is increased from 24°C to 26.5°C,

without affecting occupant thermal comfort.

Since the campaign's launch in May 2025, Go 25 has attracted more than 200 industry partners, with energy-efficiency pledges translating to at least \$6.4 million in annual savings.

The Attire Guide joins the Go 25 Indoor Comfort Snapshot and the Go 25 Industry Guide for Building Operators in providing practical support for organisations making the shift to sustainable cooling, offering clear guidance on appropriate attire for Go 25 indoor settings and empowering building occupants to feel comfortable in environments set to 25 degrees Celsius.

As part of the Attire Guide's recommendations, office workers should opt for lightweight cotton, linen, or blended dress shirts and polos. Choose easy-fitting, relaxed silhouettes that let air circulate, such as straight-cut trousers, easy-fit blouses, or unstructured jackets. A lightweight, unlined or half-lined blazer or cardigan can be kept on hand for cooler moments. Pair with

breathable loafers, polished sneakers, or dress shoes with breathable linings.

The SGBC Awards Gala Dinner brought together over 800 industry leaders, policymakers, and sustainability practitioners to celebrate the achievements of the 2026 winners. During her speech, Minister Grace Fu said, "Building a green and climate-resilient future requires collective effort. The green building movement in Singapore has come a long way, and SGBC has contributed tirelessly to uniting key stakeholders and building strong capabilities across the sector.

"As the world grapples with a warmer environment and more frequent and extreme heatwaves, technology and know-how in building and running resource-efficient buildings represent a green growth opportunity. I am confident that with the continued commitment of our built environment sector, we will not only build a climate-ready home for Singaporeans but a competitive, future-ready sector."

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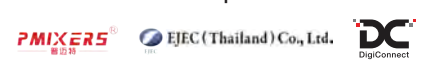
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Design Meets Play at Singapore Science Park's REINVENTION: ALLPLAY

Singapore Science Park, developed and managed by CapitaLand, announced the return of *REINVENTION*, its annual activation supported by the DesignSingapore Council.

Now in its second edition, *REINVENTION: ALLPLAY* transforms the precinct into an immersive playground where design and play meet to inspire wellness, creativity, and connection.

Building on its 2025 debut during Singapore Design Week as a design district, this year's edition looks at play as a form of research, exploration, and experimentation. Curated by CapitaLand Development in partnership with OuterEdit, *REINVENTION: ALLPLAY* features a series of installations, experiences, and activities that demonstrate how thoughtfully designed spaces can encourage movement, spark creativity, and strengthen social connection.

At its core, the activation reframes play through the lens of design, reimagining familiar routines and activities to explore how small design interventions can lead to fresh ideas that are more accessible, inclusive, and impactful.

Chew Peet Mun, Managing Director, Investment & Development, CapitaLand Development (Singapore), said, "We are excited to welcome *REINVENTION* back as part of Singapore Science Park's ongoing evolution into a live-work-play innovation district. This year, *REINVENTION:*



ALLPLAY aims to curate new experiences in everyday spaces throughout Singapore Science Park over a three-month period. We hope that this will create more opportunities for learning, discovery, and camaraderie for the Science Park and wider community."

Ryan Tan, Founder and Executive Creative Director of OuterEdit, said, "Play is one of the most universal languages we share. Regardless of age, culture or background, it invites curiosity, imagination and connection. With *REINVENTION: ALLPLAY*, we wanted to celebrate play not simply as games, sports or leisure, but as a mindset. At its heart, *ALLPLAY* is an invitation to discover creative ways of approaching the challenges and opportunities of everyday life. We hope to demonstrate how play can become a powerful catalyst for design and innovation, empowering visitors to shape and reinvent the world around them."

Where design meets community

Building on the momentum of Geneco's official opening in May 2026, *REINVENTION: ALLPLAY* complements the cluster's purpose-built infrastructure with meaningful people-first experiences for tenants and the wider community.

The festival brings together over 30 designers, artists, and partners to collectively reimagine the concept of play through design. The three-month-long programme serves as a platform for unexpected collaborations that activate public spaces and showcases how innovation can shape everyday experiences.

Three new signature experiences

Anchoring the festival are three opening experiences: PlayLab, PlayMission, and PlayCourt.

PlayLab presents self-guided exhibits represented by five themes of 'Think', 'Make', 'Move', 'Experience', and 'Connect', that are designed to spark discovery, creativity, movement,

and experimentation.

Key events happening at PlayLab include Minds at Play (15–16 August), Hands at Play (22–23 August), and Design Market (22–23 August). PlayLab will be at The Canopy at Geneo from 11 to 23 August, then move to other locations within Geneo through 22 November.

PlayMission explores how play can inspire learning and positive action. Launching with Ranger Buddies: The Planet Cup by Mandai X, the programme invites families and young visitors to discover how everyday actions can collectively create a positive environmental impact through a series of interactive physical and digital (Augmented Reality) mission challenges. PlayMission – Ranger Buddies: The Planet Cup runs from 29 August to 13 September at The Canopy.

PlayCourt repurposes the outdoor area at 7 Science Park Drive into an ever-changing playscape. Gradually transforming over the course of three months, the PlayCourt will open with familiar sports courts before introducing design and spatial interventions that invite visitors to rethink forms of play. Alongside adapted versions of sports such as basketball, football, and pickleball, visitors can contribute to Singapore Science Park's first co-created community mural, collectively creating a lasting artwork throughout the festival.

Interactive fun for all ages

At The Canopy, visitors can enjoy a series of interactive play areas and workshops, including exhibitions by local creative collective J.A.B.O.C. (Just A Band Of Creatives). Other PlayLab activations include immersive indoor playground installations by CT-Art and Parklab, as well as a Design Market curated by OfWonderWander.

Complementing these experiences are hands-on workshops for all ages, such as Puzzle Tour & Hands-On Discovery by Project Enigma, featuring over 100



unique mechanical puzzles with a spotlight on Singapore puzzle designers; Hypersketch by STUCK Design, where participants explore AI-assisted creative sketching; and a build-and-customisation workshop by local collective Observation House.

Beyond these opening experiences, *REINVENTION: ALLPLAY* will continue to roll out programmes and creative collaborations across its three-month season to provide new ways to play and encourage different communities to activate the Play Court in creative ways. Visitors are encouraged to return throughout the festival to experience what's new.

Admission is free and open to the public. For the latest programme information and registration details, visit the *REINVENTION* website.¹



Science Park: REINVENTION 2025



Science Park: Geneo

¹ https://reinvention.sciencepark.com.sg/?utm_medium=website&utm_source=ssp&utm_campaign=homepage&_gl=1*1hhydp*_*gcl_*au*MTY1NDc5MjAwMS4xNzgOMjU1NzU2

Tech Week Singapore 2026: Charting the next phase of "The Infrastructure Era" across Asia



Tech Week Singapore 2026 returns to the Sands Expo & Convention Centre on 29–30 September 2026, organised by global events producer CloserStill Media.

This year's edition, themed "The Infrastructure Era", will welcome Mr Tan Kiat How, Senior Minister of State for Digital Development and Information, as Guest of Honour on the first day of the event.

Tech Week Singapore 2026 will see the return of its flagship co-located shows, including Cloud & AI Infrastructure, DevOps Live, Cyber Security World, Big Data & AI World, and Data Centre World. The 2026 edition is set to host over 600 regional and international speakers with special conference theatres.

"As AI moves from experimentation into enterprise operations, the question for technology leaders is no longer whether to adopt new systems, but whether the

infrastructure beneath them is ready. Across Asia, that means focusing on the foundations required to scale responsibly, including resilient infrastructure, strong governance, sustainable usage of energy and the right technical capabilities," said CloserStill Media's Managing Director for Asia Pacific, Andy Kiwanuka.

"Now in its 12th edition, Tech Week Singapore remains a major meeting point for the region's technology ecosystem. With the launch of Tech Week Shanghai earlier this year, we are building on that foundation to extend these conversations across Asia, connecting government, enterprise leaders, and the infrastructure ecosystem shaping the next phase of digital growth."

What's new at Tech Week Singapore 2026

This year's show marks the first time the Open Compute Project (OCP) will

host OCP Southeast Asia Tech Day at Data Centre World Asia, as industry leaders convene to explore how open hardware and next-generation infrastructure are accelerating Asia's digital infrastructure growth.

Likewise, for the first time, Cyber Security World Asia will introduce a Live Vehicle Cyber Hackathon. The competition challenges participants to test a vehicle's cyber defences, driving innovation in AI-enabled vehicle security while bringing together future cybersecurity talent.

Big Data & AI World will also host an AI Consultation Clinic by Beyondsoft, where enterprises can learn how to harness data and translate it into AI-driven business solutions.

As digital infrastructure and AI evolve hand in hand to unlock true enterprise transformation, these new additions reinforce Tech Week Singapore's role as the region's



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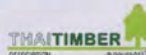
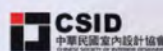
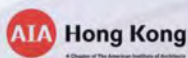
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Insights from global industry leaders

The wider programme will examine how organisations are applying AI, quantum computing, and digital transformation strategies in practice. This year's headliners will include senior leaders from Google DeepMind, Horizon Quantum, the European Space Agency, and AI Singapore, who will take the stage across keynotes, fireside chats, and panel discussions, alongside representatives from the National Assembly of Serbia and UNICEF.

The Main Stage will welcome the following industry leaders, and more:

- Dr Nicolas Heess, AI and Robotics Team Lead, Google DeepMind, who will speak in a session titled Towards AGI for the Physical World: AI for General Purpose Robots
- Dr Joe Fitzsimons, Founder & CEO, Horizon Quantum, who will share insights on the quantum economy in an opening keynote titled When Computing History Repeats: The Quantum Era
- Andrea Vena, Chief Sustainability Officer, European Space Agency, who will participate in Day 1's closing keynote titled ESA's Space AI Frontier: Sustainability at Cosmic Scale
- Laurence Liew, AI Innovation Director, AI Singapore, who will speak on Day 2's opening keynote titled Building Enterprise Readiness
- Marta A. Tomovska, Advisor to the President, National Assembly of Serbia, who will speak in a session titled Global AI Sprint: Unlocking Innovation in Governance & Business
- Kaan Cetinturk, Global CIO and Director, Digital Impact, UNICEF, who will participate in a fireside chat titled From Vision to Value
- Guillermo Veiga, Group Chief Information and Operations Officer, Standard Chartered, who will participate in a fireside chat titled Mastering the Future of

Banking: Innovation, Operations, and the New Rules of Leadership

In addition to the Tech Week Singapore main stage, each of the five co-located shows will also feature its own keynotes and theatres. Some Headline Speakers across the shows include:

- Dr Said Mirza Pahlevi, Head of the Centre for Digital Talent Development, BPSDM Komdigi, Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, who will speak in a keynote titled Komdigi's Role in Developing AI Talent Towards National AI Sovereignty
- Eugene Neo, Senior Assistant Director, MOHT, who will speak in a panel discussion titled Realising AI for Everyone: Human-Centred Innovation at Scale
- Dr. Saji PK, Director of Data Center Operations APJC & Global Services, AWS, who will present a session titled Is APAC Keeping Up with Global Data Centre Development and Innovation?
- Harmen Thys Nieuwenhuis, Senior Director – Customer Experience, Klook, who will speak in a keynote titled Architecting for the Real-World Chaos: Agentic CX & The AI-Agent Customer Moat
- Robert Bedington, CTO, SpeQtral, who will speak in a panel titled Preparing for Quantum Computing Threats and Protecting Cryptographic Security
- Frank Winkler, Director of Digital Transformation, Lotus's, who will speak in a keynote titled Human-Centred Platform Design – Reduce Cognitive Load, Automate Documentation & Accelerate Onboarding

Attendees can participate in activities across all Tech Week Singapore 2026 events, with opportunities to earn accredited CPD and CPE points through selected sessions. Data Centre World Asia is also expected to welcome 25% more attendees this year, reflecting the increasingly critical role of digital infrastructure in enabling AI, cloud and enterprise transformation.

Along with the four shows on Level 5, it brings together the different technologies that underpin modern enterprises, allowing technology leaders and attendees to explore these priorities in one place. Senior IT leaders are expected to be present, providing attendees with high-impact networking opportunities.

Key highlights from all the co-located events

Cloud & AI Infrastructure Asia

Network with key industry leaders at Asia's biggest and most influential cloud infrastructure and technology event that brings together the conversations shaping cloud strategy, AI deployment, data architecture, and infrastructure resilience. Hear from key speakers from leading industries such as Standard Chartered, FedEx, China Unicom, China Mobile International, and more.

DevOps Live

Explore the latest DevOps and Cloud-Native trends at DevOps Live Asia, spotlighting the practices, tooling, and culture shaping modern software delivery. From continuous integration and deployment to platform engineering and cloud-native architectures, the programme addresses the real-world challenges of operating at scale. Gain insights from DevOps leaders from Datadog, Morgan Stanley, AWS, Lotus's, and more at the DevOps & Platform Engineering Theatre.

Cyber Security World Asia

Join industry leaders as they discuss emerging cybersecurity trends shaping the future of Asia Pacific. Bringing together the full enterprise technology ecosystem, the event addresses evolving threat landscapes, regulatory complexity, and security architecture in an AI-driven world. Hear about cybersecurity from organisations such as the Bank of Singapore, Centre for Quantum Technologies, Cyber Security Agency of Singapore, and more.

Data Centre World Asia

Engage with the full data centre ecosystem at the 12th edition of

Data Centre World Asia, where five dynamic theatres will spotlight the industry's most critical developments, bringing together thought leaders, innovators and decision-makers from across Asia. Hear how industry leaders are driving the future of digital infrastructure from organisations such as Samsung SDI, Bridge Data Centres, Siemens Energy, NTT Data Centres, and more.

The Live Data Centre will also feature guided tours and expert demonstrations, giving attendees a rare look into real-time operations and the latest infrastructure innovations. The Open Compute Project (OCP) will host OCP Southeast Asia Tech Day within Data Centre World Asia, bringing speakers from Meta, Google, Micron, NVIDIA, and more.

Big Data & AI World Asia

Real-world case studies from industry experts on practical applications, challenges, and successes in leveraging AI technologies to drive business impact. From analytics and machine learning to governance and applied AI, discover how enterprises are turning innovation into operational

scale. Learn from key speakers representing diverse sectors, including Klook, Microsoft, Grab, and more.

Award-winning credentials and industry reputation

Building on its reputation as one of Asia's leading technology events, Tech Week Singapore was recognised at the Singapore Tourism Awards 2026, where CloserStill Media clinched the Outstanding Event Organiser title. The event has also won Trade Show of the Year for the second consecutive year at the Singapore MICE Awards 2026, while also being named a finalist for Event Marketing Campaign of the Year, Event Organising Team of the Year, as well as Marketing Campaign of the Year — International Trade Show at the prestigious Association of Event Organisers Excellence Awards 2026.

Tech Week Singapore 2026 has partnered with Singapore Airlines, Sentosa Development Corporation, and Burnaby Solutions, giving participants access to exclusive offers that extend beyond the exhibition floor. The full list of benefits and their respective terms and conditions can be found here.¹

- For the second consecutive year, Tech Week Singapore 2026 is partnering with Singapore Airlines to offer attendees, sponsors and partners travelling to Singapore an exclusive 13% discount across all cabin classes when they book using a dedicated promotional code.
- In partnership with Sentosa Development Corporation, delegates can enjoy exclusive perks, including 15% off the Sentosa Fun Discovery Pass and two complimentary island admissions, allowing them to experience more of Singapore beyond the event.
- Through Burnaby Solutions, attendees, sponsors, and partners can access exclusive travel offers, including up to 20% off hotel bookings. Selected hotels will also provide complimentary one-way shuttle services to the Sands Expo & Convention Centre on event days.

Registration is now open. Technology professionals can register for a complimentary pass here.²

¹ <https://www.singaporetechnologyweek.com/welcome/venue-travel-faqs>

² https://www.gevme.com/Tech-Week-2026-visitor-registration/?promo=&source=partner_organic_MediaAlert

JIA CURATED 2026: The Premiere of VIDAR by Alexis Dornier in Collaboration with Ahti Interiors

Presented at JIA CURATED 2026 from 13–17 August 2026, Ahti Interiors unveiled VIDAR, an exclusive collection by acclaimed architectural designer Alexis Dornier. Set at Pengembak Beach, Sanur, the exhibition brought together architecture, craftsmanship, art, and sensory design in an immersive installation that celebrated the beauty of everyday ritual.

A shared vision

The collaboration between AHTI Interiors and Alexis Dornier was founded on a mutual appreciation for timeless design, honest materials, and exceptional craftsmanship.

For Alexis, architecture is about shaping experiences—considering how people move through space, interact with materials, and connect with their surroundings. His work is recognised for its expressive forms, refined simplicity, and seamless relationship with nature.

These principles naturally align with AHTI Interiors' commitment to creating bathroom collections that balance technical excellence with enduring design. Together, they set out to create something that felt effortless, purposeful, and built to last.

Based in Bali, Alexis Dornier is an internationally recognised architect whose work spans residential,

hospitality, and commercial projects globally. Known for pushing the boundaries of contemporary architecture, he combines innovative structures with a deep respect for craftsmanship and place. Through thoughtful proportions, natural materials, and an intuitive understanding of light, Alexis creates spaces that are both bold and deeply human. His approach has earned international recognition and established him as one of the leading voices in contemporary tropical architecture.

Introducing VIDAR

VIDAR represents the meeting point between architecture and product design. Inspired by clarity of form and the beauty of restraint, the collection embraces balanced proportions, refined detailing, and tactile finishes that invite interaction. Every element was carefully considered for its appearance and everyday use. Rather than following trends, VIDAR was designed to integrate naturally into contemporary spaces, allowing architecture and interiors to speak in one cohesive language.

The result is a collection that reflects quiet confidence and enduring quality, expressing both technical excellence and the authenticity of the maker's hand.

A celebration of craft

The VIDAR collection drew inspiration from the enduring spirit of Balinese craftsmanship—a tradition in which making is guided by patience, precision, and a deep respect for material. It is this philosophy, rather than ornament alone, that shaped the collection's approach to design.

A defining feature of the collection is its hand-hammered finish, introducing a new expression for AHTI's sanitary ware envisioned by Alexis Dornier. Each textured surface captures the subtle irregularities that



Photos from the VIDAR Collection

only handcraft can achieve, giving every piece a unique character and tactile richness. The result is a finish that feels timeless, where the marks of the maker become part of the design itself.



Hong Kong International
Lighting Fair
(Autumn Edition)

27-30/10/2026

Hong Kong Convention and
Exhibition Centre

Hong Kong International
Outdoor and Tech Light Expo

26-29/10/2026

AsiaWorld-Expo

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Beyond Illumination

The **HKTDC Hong Kong International Lighting Fair (Autumn Edition)** and the **HKTDC Hong Kong International Outdoor and Tech Light Expo** together form a world-renowned lighting marketplace that presents an extensive array of innovative and state-of-the-art lighting products and solutions, creating dazzling business opportunities for buyers to source.

Autumn Lighting Fair (HKCEC)

Product Zones

- Hall of Aurora
- Hall of Connected Lighting
- Commercial Lighting
- LED Display Solution **NEW**
- LED Essentials
- LED Lighting
- Residential Lighting
- Testing, Certification & Inspection
- Trade Service & Publications

Outdoor & Tech Light Expo (AWE)

Product Zones

- Landscape and Architectural Lighting
- Outdoor, Industrial and Technical Lighting
- Smart Pole & Solution



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HKTDC Marketplace

Conceived by Alexis Dornier, this handcrafted approach introduces a bold new expression for AHTI's sanitary ware. Architectural in form yet rich in human touch, the collection reimagines everyday bathroom objects as sculptural pieces that balance precision with imperfection.

The Loom: an architectural installation

The VIDAR collection was presented within The Loom, an open bamboo-and-jute pavilion envisioned by Alexis Dornier. Rather than functioning as a conventional exhibition booth, the pavilion became an architectural framework that allowed the collection to exist in dialogue with its surroundings.

Inspired by the form of a traditional loom and the coastal landscape of Pengembak Beach, the installation featured a bamboo framework, woven shading, filtered light, and an open spatial rhythm. Bamboo and natural fibre surfaces expressed a connection to craftsmanship and temporary architecture, while the structure remained open to the movement of air, the changing coastal light, and the shifting texture of the sand.

Within this setting, the VIDAR collection was presented

alongside the sculptural works of Maverick Lee. The interplay of woven materials, handcrafted metal finishes, and contemporary sculpture created an immersive environment where architecture, design, and art were experienced as one.

The concept of weaving extended beyond the pavilion itself—a metaphor for collaboration that brought together Ahti Interiors, Alexis Dornier, Maverick Lee Studio, and Utama Spice. From bathroom fittings and architecture to sculpture and natural wellness, each practice contributed its own perspective to a shared spatial narrative.

A multisensory experience

Completing the installation was a sensory journey curated with Utama Spice. Integrated throughout the space were carefully selected botanical fragrances that enriched the atmosphere, adding another layer to the visitor experience.

Together, architecture, sculpture, craftsmanship, and scent created an immersive environment that encouraged visitors to slow down, explore, and reconnect with the rituals of everyday living.



The Loom Pavilion at JIA CURATED 2026

ICW & BuildXpo Malaysia 2026 Preview: New Platforms, Ideas, and Innovations Take Centre Stage

The construction and built environment industry is set for an expanded experience this November as International Construction Week (ICW), now in its 28th edition, and the International Building and Construction Exhibition (BuildXpo Malaysia), now in its fourth edition, come together for ICW & BuildXpo Malaysia 2026, alongside the first-ever co-location of Glasstech Asia & Fenestration Asia (GAFA) 2026.

Taking place from 10 to 12 November 2026 at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC), Kuala Lumpur, this year's edition is anchored by the theme "Beyond Limits" and the positioning tagline, "The Industry Platform for Knowledge, Innovation and Growth".

Building on last year's success of more than 15,000 trade visitors, 210 exhibitors from 11 countries, and RM1.41 billion in projected business transactions, the 2026 edition is targeting 250 exhibitors from 15 countries and regions, 17,000 trade visitors, and RM1.5 billion in projected trade value.

CIDB Malaysia Chief Executive, Sr Ahmad Farrin Mokhtar, said, "When we launched ICW & BuildXpo Malaysia 2026 earlier this year, we set out an ambition for the industry to go 'Beyond



Limits'—to move beyond conventional approaches, embrace innovation, and strengthen collaboration.

"But transformation cannot happen through policy or technology alone. It requires people who are willing to learn, organisations that are prepared to adapt, and an industry that is willing to share knowledge and collaborate across traditional boundaries. This is where ICW & BuildXpo Malaysia has an important role to play. It provides a platform where the industry's aspirations, ideas, technologies, and capabilities can come together and where we can move beyond

discussing transformation to explore how it can be implemented in practice."

Expanded programme for 2026

This year's edition places a stronger emphasis on knowledge sharing, technical excellence, and industry collaboration through an expanded programme of conferences, seminars, and new visitor experiences.

The programme will feature the AsiaConstruct Conference, BAMBUilds'26 Talk & Dialogue, Global Opportunities Seminar, and Impact





Change Through Construction (ICTC) Conference, alongside The Build Series, a curated platform for technical insights, innovation showcases, and thought leadership discussions. New features, including Build ProPass and Build360, will further connect conferences, exhibitions, business opportunities, and professional development into a more integrated visitor experience.

Qube Integrated Malaysia Executive Chairman, Mr. Richard Teo, commented, "BuildXpo Malaysia has always been about connecting businesses with technologies, products, and solutions. But this year, we are putting even greater emphasis on the experience of learning, discovering, and engaging... to make every visit to ICW & BuildXpo Malaysia more purposeful and valuable.

"We are (also) bringing together a strong mix of conferences and seminars covering different dimensions of the construction industry, (demonstrating how) ICW is no longer simply about what is being built today; it is increasingly about how we will build tomorrow—the technologies we adopt, the skills we

develop, the ideas we exchange, and the partnerships we create.

"Ultimately, the success of ICW & BuildXpo Malaysia should not be measured only in numbers. It should be measured by the connections made, the technologies discovered, the knowledge exchanged, the partnerships formed and, most importantly, the progress that follows after everyone leaves MITEC."

GAFA makes its debut alongside ICW & BuildXpo Malaysia

A major milestone for this year's edition is the first-ever co-location of Glasstech Asia & Fenestration Asia (GAFA) 2026, organised by MMI Asia Pte Ltd.

Marking the 22nd edition of Glasstech Asia and the ninth edition of Fenestration Asia, GAFA will bring specialised expertise in glass, façades, and building envelope technologies into the wider construction ecosystem, with more than 250 exhibitors, 5,000 visitors, participation from 50 countries and regions, 300 international hosted buyers, and 50 speakers expected.

Beyond the exhibition and

conference programme, ICW & BuildXpo Malaysia 2026 will also feature QUEST Day 2026, technical visits to Carcosa Seri Negara, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, and Pos Malaysia Headquarters Kuala Lumpur, the CIDB-CLPM-ISOSB 2nd ASEAN Crane Lifting Planning Competition, and the MSSA Open Ideas Competition.

The event builds on the momentum of ICW Borneo 2026 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, which attracted more than 1,000 visitors—strengthening ICW's role in connecting construction innovation, business opportunities, and industry collaboration across Malaysia.

Driving the industry beyond limits

Construction professionals, policymakers, developers, manufacturers, consultants, architects, and technology providers are invited to participate in ICW, BuildXpo Malaysia and GAFA 2026 from 10 to 12 November 2026 at MITEC, Kuala Lumpur.

For more information and the latest programme updates, visit <https://icw.my/>.



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Frasers Property Launches Yishun 10 Memories Ahead of Redevelopment



Yishun 10

Frasers Property Limited ("Frasers Property", and together with its subsidiaries, the "Group") announced plans to redevelop Yishun 10, its retail mall in Yishun town centre, into a new mixed-use development. At the same time, it has launched "Yishun 10 Memories", an initiative to document and celebrate the building's place in the community.

To lead this effort, Frasers Property has engaged renowned placemaking consultant Studio Lapis to develop a community initiative that captures the site's stories and shared experiences, tracing its evolution as one of Singapore's pioneering suburban entertainment destinations while identifying opportunities to incorporate elements of these shared memories into the future development.

As part of "Yishun 10 Memories", Frasers Property invites the public, including former and current patrons, residents, and tenants, to share memories, photographs, memorabilia, and other materials on Yishun 10.

Interested individuals can email their contributions to yishun10memories@studiolapis.sg by 31 October 2026, together with a brief introduction, their connection

to Yishun 10, and contact details. Materials received after this date may still be considered. Frasers Property is also exploring ways for the community to come together and celebrate their shared memories and experiences of Yishun 10, with further details to be announced later.

Ms Soon Su Lin, Chief Executive Officer of Frasers Property Singapore, said, "Yishun 10 holds a special place in the hearts of many Singaporeans who grew up in its immediate community. Through Yishun 10 Memories, we invite the community to share their stories, memories, and experiences, as we embark on the next chapter of the Yishun Central site with a new mixed-use development that supports evolving lifestyle needs and aspirations."

Shaping the next chapter of the Yishun Central site

Yishun 10 will be redeveloped into a mixed-use development comprising approximately 110 residential units and a street-level retail podium. Targeted for launch in mid-2027 with completion in 2031, it will be the first residential launch in Yishun Central in more than a decade.

Located next to Yishun MRT Station and Yishun Integrated Transport Hub, the new development will offer residents seamless access to Northpoint City via the existing underground pedestrian network. Northpoint City is the largest suburban mall in Singapore's northern region and is owned by the Group through Frasers Centrepoint Trust.

The site is also surrounded by healthcare, recreational, and community amenities, including Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, SAFRA Yishun, schools, parks, and community facilities. With convenient access to the upcoming North-South Corridor, the development will offer easy access to key employment centres and lifestyle destinations across Singapore.

Alongside Northpoint City and North Park Residences, both developed by Frasers Property, the redevelopment of Yishun 10 reflects the company's continued commitment to creating vibrant, connected, and liveable communities in Yishun Central.

Yishun 10 will continue to be managed by Frasers Property, with operations expected to cease on 2 March 2027.

HKTDC Hong Kong International Lighting Fair (Autumn Edition) & Hong Kong International Outdoor and Tech Light Expo Set to Illuminate This October

Organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), the Hong Kong International Lighting Fair (Autumn Edition) & the Hong Kong International Outdoor and Tech Light Expo will be held in late October. The Autumn Lighting Fair will take place at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 27 to 30 October, while the Outdoor and Tech Light Expo will be held at AsiaWorld-Expo from 26 to 29 October.

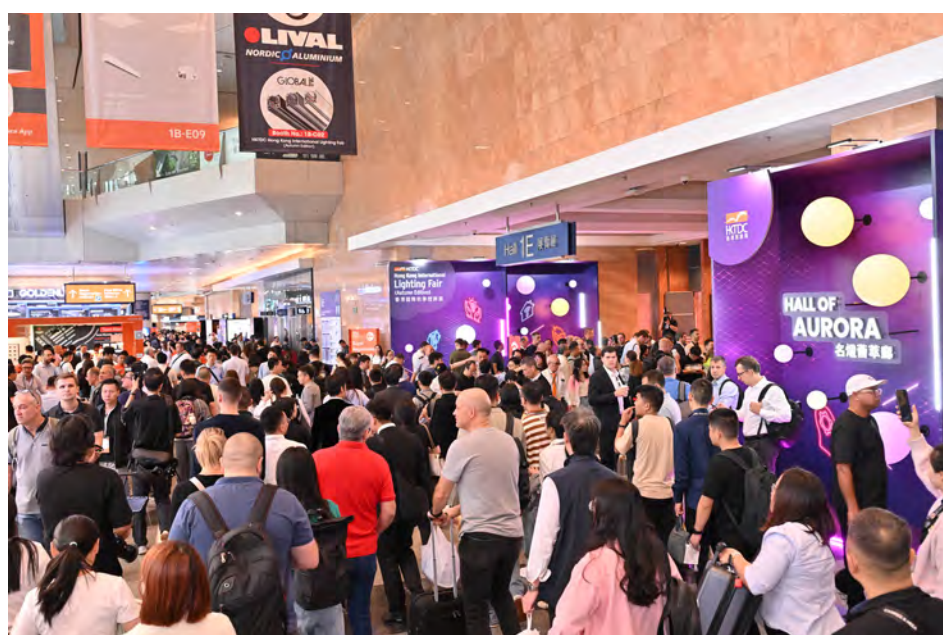
Renowned as two of the world's premier lighting trade fairs, this year's twin lighting fairs will be held under the theme "Beyond Illumination". Bringing together some 3,000 exhibitors from more than 20 countries and regions, the fairs will showcase a diverse range of innovative lighting products and solutions that blend smart technologies, sustainability, and design craftsmanship.

Register for a free buyer badge:
<https://tinyurl.com/4hfpupfe>

Hong Kong International Lighting Fair (Autumn Edition)—HKCEC

A highlight zone of the 28th Hong Kong International Lighting Fair (Autumn Edition), the Hall of Connected Lighting, makes a return this year with a line-up of more than 50 leading global brands, including local brands Dimon, TUYA Smart, and Viliya from Chinese Mainland, as well as international names such as Viso Systems from Denmark, Casambi from Finland, Japan Display from Japan, Signify from the Netherlands, LiteTrace from USA, and global major industry alliances.

Exhibitors will showcase an array of award-winning designs, designer collaboration collections, and lighting solutions featured in world-class landmark projects. Combined with diverse themed scenarios and immersive lighting installations, visitors will gain first-hand experience



of the latest smart lighting products and solutions.

This year's new zone, LED Display Solutions, will bring together industry-leading display technologies and creative applications, showcasing the latest high-definition LED displays, transparent displays, flexible panels, and immersive visual systems that

bring transformative visual effects to retail spaces, event experiences, and architectural projects.

Another fair spotlight, the Hall of Aurora, will feature some 500 renowned brands, presenting lighting fixtures and products that blend creativity, design aesthetics, and superior craftsmanship. Exhibitors



include local pioneers Prosperity Group and Profiled Group; major players from the Chinese Mainland, such as Eaglerise, FSL, LEEDARSON, and Opplé; and international brands like Lival from Finland, Cupower from Germany, and Beghelli from Italy.

Other zones include:

- The Commercial Lighting zone, which will showcase a wide range of commercial lighting products designed to meet the diverse needs of buyers across various industries, addressing the distinct lighting needs of retail, office, and other commercial spaces
- The LED Essentials zone, featuring a diverse collection of lighting accessories and components
- The LED Lighting zone, displaying a diverse range of LED light sources, including LED tubes, panel lights, bulbs, etc., providing the fundamentals for energy-efficient solutions

- The Residential Lighting zone, showcasing an array of functional and decorative household lighting products
- The Testing, Certification & Inspection zone, with companies providing professional light quality testing and certification services
- The Trade Service & Publications zone, with companies offering market intelligence, industry publications, and business support services for the lighting industry

Visit the Hong Kong International Lighting Fair website for more information: <https://www.hktdc.com/event/hklightingfairae/en>

Hong Kong International Outdoor and Tech Light Expo—Hall 6, 8 @AsiaWorld-Expo

The 11th Hong Kong International Outdoor and Tech Light Expo will

be held from 26 to 29 October at AsiaWorld-Expo, showcasing a comprehensive range of outdoor, commercial and industrial lighting products and solutions to drive smart city development.

The expo will feature 3 thematic zones—the Smart Pole and Solution zone showcases technologies and integrated solutions to optimise energy efficiency, improve urban management, and elevate the quality of life for city residents; the Landscape and Architectural Lighting zone presents advanced lighting solutions that enrich urban ambience while enhancing safety, functionality, and aesthetic appeal across public and commercial spaces; the Outdoor, Industrial and Technical Lighting zone features a wide spectrum of professional-grade lighting products designed for outdoor environments, industrial applications, and technical settings such as warehouses, factories, and infrastructure projects.

Visit the Hong Kong International Outdoor and Tech Light Expo website for more information:
<https://www.hktcdc.com/event/hkotlexpo/en>

A Rich Programme to Stay Ahead of Innovative High-End Design and the Latest Market Trends

The twin lighting fairs will collaborate with prestigious international lighting organisations to feature a series of thematic seminars, product launches and networking events.

The Innovative Lighting Design Forum will take place on 27 October at the HKCEC under the theme "Treasures of Light: Artistic Brilliance Beyond Exhibitions". Award-winning lighting designers renowned for their work on museums, exhibitions, and art galleries will share the latest market trends with case studies.

Featured speakers include Dr Yan Liu, Design Director, China, AT Design & Consulting Co. Ltd. (Chinese Mainland), who has contributed to the lighting design of the Musée du Louvre, the Cité du Vin, the Palace Museum in Beijing, and the National Centre for the Performing Arts of China, among many other landmark projects; and Mr Adam Meredith, Lighting Designer, MEGS Lighting (Australia), who led the lighting design of M+.

Another debut event, "Circularity in Lighting Design", will be co-organised with Women in Lighting (WIL) on 28 October. Influential female designers, including Ms Sophie O'Rourke, Principal Lighting Designer, AECOM and Co-Founding Member of the Green Light Alliance (the United Kingdom); Mrs Pavlina Akritas, Founder, Akritas Lighting Design (the United Kingdom); Ms Yah Li Toh, Founder and Principal, Light Collab (Singapore); Ms Jinkie de Jesus, Founder, Light Plan Inc. (the Philippines) and more, will discuss relevant topics in detail.

Another key event, the Connected Lighting Forum, co-organised with Shanghai Pudong Intelligent Lighting Association (SILA), will be under the theme "Healing Light for the Future: Illuminating Emotional Well-being", uncovering the development

of intelligent and human-centric lighting technologies in psychological wellness and sharing application cases of light healing and therapy.

Providing Buyers with a Seamless Sourcing Journey

The events will adopt the EXHIBITION+ hybrid model, enhanced by the Click2Match online smart business matching platform, available from 19 October to 6 November. Additionally, the Scan2Match feature in the HKTDC Marketplace App will be accessible on-site for buyers to scan dedicated QR codes from exhibitors to:

- Bookmark favourite booths and products
- Instantly access detailed product information
- View interactive electronic floor plans
- Continue conversations with exhibitors after the fair
- The seamless experience ensures a smoother, more connected sourcing journey—before, during, and after the fair.

Products at a Glance—Hong Kong International Lighting Fair (Autumn Edition)

Casambi Technologies Oy – Casambi KNX DALI Hybrid Gateway

(Casambi Technologies Oy; Booth No.: GH-D01)

The Casambi KNX DALI Hybrid Gateway enables seamless integration between Casambi wireless lighting networks and KNX building automation systems. Designed to bridge wired and wireless control environments, it combines



Casambi KNX DALI Hybrid Gateway

KNX, DALI, and Casambi technologies in a single ready-made solution. KNX sensors, switches, and control devices can directly interact with Casambi-enabled luminaires, while commissioning and configuration are managed through the familiar KNX ETS software.

Aston Lighting Co., Ltd. – Cross (Aston Lighting Co., Ltd; Booth No.: 1E-C02)

Cross is a unique downlight with an 8.5mm aperture, designed for seamless ceiling integration and powerful light output. Available in trim and trimless versions in white or black, it allows for invisible installation. The fixture and driver are easy to access for maintenance. With an integrated 8W high-performance LED, Cross delivers high-quality illumination on vertical and horizontal surfaces. It comes with 25°, 36°, and 55° optics, available in fixed or adjustable versions, making it perfect for aesthetic and lighting needs.



Cross

Zhongyuan Innovation (HK) Limited – Smart Gaming Light Bar- Gleam GBar1

(Zhongyuan Innovation (HK) Limited; Booth No.: GH-C14)

Level up relaxing moments and nighttime gaming with the Smart Gaming Light. It creates an immersive atmosphere by casting a stunning ambient glow around the monitor. Featuring distinctive smoked black housing, eliminates distracting silhouettes when the light is on, ensuring your focus remains entirely on the screen.



Smart Gaming Light Bar- Gleam GBar1

Products at a Glance—Hong Kong International Outdoor and Tech Light Expo

Shenzhen Huadian Lighting Co., Ltd. - FL11 Apollo

(Shenzhen Huadian Lighting Co., Ltd.; Booth No.: 8-E02)

1800W high-intensity sports lighting fixture, weighing only 18.7kg, featuring integrated optics, efficient heat dissipation, energy saving, and durability—designed for precise illumination in large stadiums.



FL11 Apollo

Hangzhou YD Illumination Co., Ltd. - LED High-Brightness Media Curtain Wall Decorative Screen

(Hangzhou YD Illumination Co., Ltd.; Booth No.: 6-G14)

YD Illumination is a national high-tech enterprise specializing in outdoor LED lighting and systematic lighting solutions. LED High-Brightness Media Curtain Wall Decorative Screen is equipped with premium LED light sources featuring high brightness and a wide viewing angle. It vividly displays dynamic videos, graphics, and animations, transforming building exteriors into giant multimedia display surfaces. It allows visible performance



LED High-Brightness Media Curtain Wall Decorative Screen

guaranteed in daylight when powered on and turns into an elegant stainless steel decorative wall when switched off, integrating architectural aesthetics with digital media display.

Zhejiang Fonda Technology Co., Ltd. - Smart Pole and Control System Solutions

(Zhejiang Fonda Technology Co., Ltd.; Booth No.: 6-J23)

FONDA smart pole integrates lighting, monitoring, communication, and

environmental sensing into one unified carrier. Based on an intelligent lamp controller, it realises precise street light dimming and energy-saving. Reserved expansion interfaces support cameras, information screens, public Wi-Fi, and charging piles. The unified cloud platform achieves centralised equipment monitoring and management. It reduces repeated infrastructure construction, serving as an essential hardware carrier for smart city construction.



Smart Pole and Control System Solutions



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Next Phase of Research and Innovation Funding Initiatives, Refreshed Green Mark, and New Accreditation Schemes Drive Singapore's Built Environment Forward

At the International Built Environment Week (IBEW) 2026 opening ceremony, Minister for National Development Mr Chee Hong Tat announced the next phase of research and innovation funding to accelerate the built environment sector's transformation. He also introduced strengthened industry standards to raise the bar for sustainability and quality.

Next phase of funding initiatives under Research, Innovation & Enterprise (RIE) 2030

Keeping Singapore liveable and resilient over the long term requires sustained investment in research and innovation (R&I) that will shape how Singapore builds, maintains, and renews its built environment. The Cities of Tomorrow (CoT) R&D Programme and Built Environment Technology Alliance (BETA) Catalyst Programme have secured an additional \$112 million in Funding Initiatives (FIs) for the next five years to drive the next bound of R&I in four key areas, aligning with Singapore's latest priorities.

1. Advancing productive and safe demolition techniques to support urban rejuvenation needs while improving



productivity and minimising disamenities in built-up areas

2. Expanding capabilities in modelling building lifespan, improving building maintenance reliability and timeliness of repairs



3. Strengthening focus on embodied carbon reduction and energy efficiency towards achieving net zero carbon emissions in the built environment by 2050
4. Catalysing the translation of R&I outcomes into industry adoption through the Built Environment Technology Alliance (BETA) Catalyst Programme

This investment comes alongside growing industry momentum and confidence. More private sector players are investing in R&I across successive RIE tranches, such as by co-developing innovations, participating in pilot trials, or adopting promising solutions in their projects. The four FIs aim to deepen this collaboration further by bringing together BE firms, researchers, and Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) to translate promising research into practical solutions that address real-world challenges that can be adopted by industry.

The first grant call for the CoT R&D Programme is expected to launch in October 2026, with topics aligned with the R&I priorities. More details will be shared closer to the launch.

A Refreshed BCA Green Mark Version 7 to Accelerate Decarbonisation and Foster a Greener Built Environment

The BCA Green Mark Version 7 (GM v7) is the latest refresh of Singapore's green building certification scheme. The refresh will accelerate decarbonisation of the built environment and support Singapore's broader climate commitments under the Singapore Green Plan 2030.

The GM v7 refresh is anchored on three key objectives:

1. Advance the greening of Singapore's building stock
2. Mainstream Super Low Energy buildings
3. Respond to industry feedback to make sustainability more practical and achievable

To meet these objectives, GM v7 will introduce the following enhancements:



A new Energy Rating to advance the greening of Singapore's building stock

The new Energy Rating is part of the GM v7 certification scheme and focuses solely on a building's energy performance. It provides an alternative certification pathway for building owners to invest in energy-efficiency improvements with a clear return on investment. This approach has been successfully adopted in other international green building frameworks. The Energy Rating will enable more buildings to enter the

green building ecosystem and further drive decarbonisation.

Under the Energy Rating, BCA will introduce the SLE70—a new Super Low Energy tier that is achieved by delivering over 70% energy savings against its building typology's 2005 baseline. This challenges Singapore's most progressive developers to demonstrate leadership and strive towards the national target of 80% energy-efficiency improvement.

Alternative Cooling Technologies (ACTs), including hybrid cooling, active chilled beams, and passive

displacement cooling, can achieve up to 50% energy savings compared to conventional air-conditioning systems. To further support the industry in adopting such technologies, ACTs will now be recognised under GM v7.

Together, the new Energy Rating and inclusion of ACTs can spur industry-wide adoption of such green technologies, accelerating the mainstreaming of the Super Low Energy standard across the industry and directly supporting Singapore's decarbonisation efforts.

Collaborative development with industry consultation

GM v7 was developed in close collaboration with industry stakeholders. It incorporates feedback from consultation sessions with over 150 organisations and 280 professionals across the built environment value chain. The result is a certification that balances sustainability ambition with practical, cost-effective implementation.

Additional enhancements in GM v7 include:

- More efficient recertification processes: Building owners with large portfolios of similar properties can recertify multiple buildings concurrently, reducing time and administrative effort. Buildings that demonstrate sustained energy performance will also benefit from an extended certification validity of up to five years, up from the current three.
- Increased competitiveness and access to green financing: GM v7 is further aligned with globally recognised Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting frameworks and international sustainability standards, reflecting the core themes that investors and sustainability reporting requirements increasingly use to evaluate real estate assets. Building owners can therefore demonstrate their sustainability performance in terms that resonate directly with the market, unlocking green financing



opportunities and strengthening their competitiveness in a sustainability-conscious global economy.

New Accreditation Scheme for site supervision firms

As Singapore's built environment advances with increasingly complex projects, built environment firms must build up a broad range of technical competencies to meet supervision demands. To address this, from 2028, large-scale structural works projects valued above \$75 million will be required to appoint BCA-licensed firms to carry out site supervision services.

Additionally, there is increasing adoption of remote site supervision (RSS) across the sector. This enables firms to supervise multiple project sites virtually by leveraging digital tools and technologies such as data platforms, smart glasses, and live streaming devices, while maintaining rigorous governance and standardised operating procedures. Engaging BCA-licensed firms for supervision will ensure projects benefit from the necessary firm-level resources, expertise, and the latest technological developments to meet

evolving demands and deliver safer, higher-quality infrastructure for Singaporeans.

To give developers and builders greater confidence in the firms they appoint, the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) has launched the Site Supervision Firm (SSF) Accreditation Scheme. Firms must first be accredited under this scheme before they can be licensed by BCA to provide mandatory site supervision services for large-scale structural works projects.

To be accredited, firms must meet stringent requirements for competence, impartiality, and consistent operations for inspection bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020. They must also demonstrate the necessary technical expertise, staffing, and professional experience, and have structured training programmes in place.

The SSF Accreditation Scheme will strengthen safety and quality, while building industry capacity and knowledge retention. It will also give developers and builders greater confidence in the service they are buying. Developers and builders are encouraged to engage accredited site supervision firms before the new requirements take effect in 2028.

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Nemetschek Group Signs MOUs with ITE and Singapore Polytechnic to Build AI and Digital Delivery Capability in Singapore's Built Environment

Nemetschek APAC Pte. Ltd., part of the Nemetschek Group, a global Construction AI leader and software provider driving the digital transformation of the AEC/O and media industries, formalised MOUs with two of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning, the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and Singapore Polytechnic (SP), to embed AI and digital delivery capability into built environment education and training.

The collaborations come as Singapore's built environment sector confronts a national push toward digitalisation and AI adoption, a theme set out by the Ministry of National Development at IBEW 2026. Both MOUs address the skills side of that transition, pairing curriculum change with training routes for practitioners already in the field.

"AI and digital delivery are changing how buildings get designed, approved, built, and operated, but the sector cannot adopt what it cannot staff," said Jonathan Ng, Managing Director, Southeast Asia, Nemetschek Group. "Transforming the built environment will take industry, government, and education moving together. These partnerships put our software and connected workflows into the hands of students and lecturers now, so that capability enters the industry through every new cohort rather than through one-off retraining. That is how you lift the capacity of a whole sector."

Both partnerships respond to the sector's evolving needs. As design-and-build programmes increasingly incorporate model-based delivery, automated compliance checking and data-led workflows from design into operations, the MOUs will support capability building on two fronts: enhancing what students learn, and giving existing practitioners a route to the same skills.

ITE and Nemetschek have signed a five-year MOU to strengthen



Nemetschek Group, represented by Jonathan Ng and Sunil Pandita, and ITE, represented by Alvin Ng and Catherine Soh, MoU Signing



Nemetschek Group, represented by Jonathan Ng and Sunil Pandita, and Singapore Polytechnic, represented by Dr Faris Akbar Hajamaideen and Dennis Goh, MoU Signing

collaboration across all three ITE Colleges, focusing on digital innovation, applied learning, and capability development for the sustainable built environment and creative design sectors.

The partnership will equip ITE students, staff, and adult learners with future-ready skills in digital creative design and visualisation, Building Information Modelling (BIM), and Integrated Digital Delivery

(IDD). It will support curriculum enhancement, provide access to selected Nemetschek software, digital technologies, and learning resources, and explore the development of digital labs, demonstration spaces, and technology showcases to support hands-on, industry-relevant training.

"As the built environment and creative design sectors become increasingly digital, the next generation of talent needs a

strong technical foundation and the confidence to innovate across connected workflows. Through our partnership with Nemetschek, our students, adult learners, and staff will gain access to industry-relevant tools, learning opportunities, and capabilities that will prepare them for the sectors' continued evolution," said Mr Alvin Goh, Principal, ITE College East.

Singapore Polytechnic: AI-assisted compliance and Digital Twin workflows

The three-year MOU with SP's School of Architecture & the Built Environment, effective 1 September 2026, covers curriculum development across both pre-employment (PET) and continuing education (CET) tracks, student internships with Nemetschek, industry attachment opportunities for lecturers, and co-organised forums, workshops, and learning journeys for students and industry stakeholders.

Training under the partnership will focus on the digital workflows the sector is adopting now, including AI-



Plenary 2 with Dr. Eugene Seah, Sunil Pandita, Liew Ziqing, Stephen Yurek, and Shajay Bhooshan

assisted regulatory compliance, IFC model validation, CORENET X-related submission processes, Smart FM, and Digital Twin applications.

"Built Environment education must evolve with the industry. We need to prepare our students for an increasingly model-based, data-driven, and digitally integrated way of working," said Dr Faris Akbar Hajamaideen, Director, School of Architecture & the Built Environment, Singapore Polytechnic. "Through

this partnership, we can also extend these capabilities to our CET learners, helping professionals already in practice keep pace with the industry's digital transformation."

The two MOUs follow Nemetschek Group's strategic partnership with Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore), announced in October 2025, to translate advanced AI research into deployable solutions for sustainable construction and design-to-operations workflows.

PLP Architecture Appointed Precinct Master Planner and Lead Designer for Marina Square Partial Redevelopment

London-based PLP Architecture has been appointed precinct Master Planner and Lead Designer, alongside local architect DP Architects, for one of Singapore's largest urban renewal projects: the transformation of the iconic 1980s-era Marina Square into a unified, vibrant, outward-looking, live-work-play precinct.

As Singapore's first hyper-mixed development, the landmark project by Singapore Land Group will preserve the legacy of John Portman, the American architect who pioneered the atrium hotel typology. Several of his works still stand in Singapore today, including Marina Square's own trio of hotels—PARKROYAL COLLECTION Marina Bay, Singapore, Pan Pacific Singapore, and Mandarin Oriental, Singapore—all of which will be retained and integrated within the development.

The partial redevelopment of Marina Square will see the complete repositioning of its retail space, the addition of three new buildings across the 9.2-hectare site, and extensive public spaces and gardens integrated with the three existing hotels. The existing four-storey Marina



Artist's impression of the repositioned retail mall, integrated with landscaped public spaces and connected to the precinct's existing and new components. Photo credit: PLP Architecture

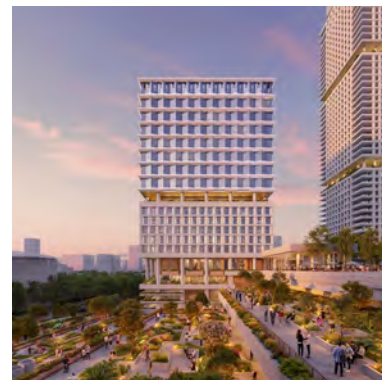
Square Shopping Mall will undergo major enhancements and be repositioned to link the hotels, offices, residences, serviced apartments, and public spaces.

PLP says Portman's original "tropical modernist" design

Right: Artist's impression showing three new towers integrated with the existing Marina Square complex to create Singapore's first hyper-mixed development.

Far right: Artist's impression of the mixed-use block and its multi-level landscaped terraces, designed to support placemaking and community activities.

Bottom right: Artist's impression of the 204-unit residential development, with views across the city skyline and Marina Bay.



featured strong geometric forms, interconnected podium levels, and large internal atrium spaces, creating an "interior urbanism" that emphasised placemaking within buildings themselves. However, over four decades, successive adaptations undertaken, combined with the transformation of the surrounding landscape—which has since seen the emergence of The Esplanade, Marina Bay Sands, Gardens by the Bay, among others—have led to a diffused architectural language across the site.

PLP's precinct masterplan will reinterpret Portman's inward-facing urbanism as a unified composition arranged within a new large-scale, multi-level urban garden containing reimagined retail experiences and public spaces. The new development's architecture is a direct response to Portman's original architectural language and continues PLP's portfolio of tropical modern buildings in Southeast Asia.

Lee Polisano, President of PLP Architecture, commented, "The intent was to enhance landscape integration and ensure that our architectural expression responds sensitively to the larger Marina Centre context and the existing Portman-designed hotels.

"Marina Square occupies a unique place in Singapore's built environment. John Portman created a model of mixed-use urbanism that was remarkably forward-looking for its time, but introverted and unconnected with its surroundings. We are fortunate to be working with very enlightened clients who see the benefit in sensitively protecting the Portman legacy while delivering a comprehensive transformation.

"Our task was to understand why John Portman's vision succeeded and reinterpret its original energy and excitement into a public-facing, connected piece of civic urbanism that reintegrates this precinct into its wider surroundings.

"The result is a design that respects the site's identity while helping it evolve into a destination that feels more connected, open, and relevant to the way people live and experience cities today. Each new building will have a distinct architecture and character intended to harmonise with the climate and context."

An advocate for biophilic architecture as a vital contributor to both sustainability and wellness, PLP's masterplan for the project incorporates an elevated Botanical Loop around a sequence of gardens that will offer



distinct spatial experiences and will connect to six new nodal points featuring terraces, a mall, a concourse and an oculus, and vertical circulation points across multiple levels.

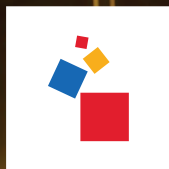
Movement is therefore conceived as part of the placemaking experience, guiding visitors through a varied landscape of arrival, activity, and transition, creating a continuous network of public realm, landscape, retail, wellness, sport amenities, hotel arrivals, and pedestrian connections.

Tina Qiu, Partner at PLP Architecture, who set up PLP's Singapore studio in 2023 and leads the practice's Southeast Asia and China operations, said, "Marina Bay has transformed dramatically over the past four decades, yet Marina Square has remained largely unchanged. This creates a rare opportunity to rethink how the precinct relates to its current surroundings.

"We are excited [about] the new ways people will experience the precinct. By bringing together homes, hotels, workplaces, public spaces, and experiences, we can create a neighbourhood with a much richer mix of activity and a stronger sense of community, one that feels active, welcoming, and engaged with the city throughout the day and evening."

PLP says the new design will save embodied carbon by retaining the retail podium's existing structure.

"We are going to minimise demolition, maximise adaptive reuse, and limit new construction to small zones within the retail mall necessary for future-proofing," Ms Qiu said, adding that other ways to decarbonise include the use of steel in construction, installation of solar panels on canopies, and the exploration of low-carbon materials. "We are experimenting with recycling and up-cycling materials stripped out of the mall into outdoor furniture."



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Messe Frankfurt Teams Up with Guangzhou Zongheng Construction Technology Exhibition Co Ltd, Joining Forces to Drive the Building Industry Forward in the Greater Bay Area

In recent years, China has continued to advance urban infrastructure, smart construction, and "quality homes", with safety, comfort, sustainability, and smart features as core standards for residential development. This direction has not only accelerated the building industry's shift towards digitalisation, industrialisation, and low-carbon practices, but has also intensified the need for seamless technology integration across the entire industry chain.

In 2025, Guangdong's construction sector neared USD 371 billion in output value, making it the second-largest in the country. Beyond traditional developers and contractors, the province has also built a strong base of tech-driven manufacturing and design firms. Government policies are now pushing this network to scale prefabricated construction, modular building, prefabricated renovations, construction robotics, AI-driven engineering management, and low-carbon building systems.

Against this backdrop, Messe Frankfurt Co Ltd and Guangzhou Zongheng Construction Technology Exhibition Co Ltd have teamed up to collaboratively run CCTE Build+, showcasing the latest technologies, solutions, and applications across the building and construction sector. The event will be held alongside the 24th and 32nd editions of the Guangzhou Electrical Building Technology (GEBT) and Guangzhou International Lighting Exhibition (GILE), respectively.

Ms Lucia Wong, General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd, shared, "Messe Frankfurt has a long history of trade fair experience in China's Building Technologies sector. Within this portfolio, the Guangzhou-based GEBT and GILE shows have a proven track record across the lighting, home automation, and low-carbon intelligent building sectors. CCTE Build+ is a welcome addition, broadening the scope to cover architectural design, mechanical and electrical engineering, and integrated systems under one roof. Ultimately, these platforms will collectively enable exhibitors to connect with high-level clients from the operations and management, construction, and development sectors.

"At the same time, CCTE Build+ brings a well-established network of design firms, engineering specialists, and real estate developers into the fold, opening up new business opportunities for GEBT and GILE exhibitors. The synergy between these three fairs creates a powerful, end-to-end platform for South China's smart construction industry."

Mr Huan Chen, Executive Vice President of Guangdong Building Materials Association, stated, "CCTE Build+ will tap into the global networks of GEBT and GILE to extend beyond the conventional scope of regional trade exhibitions. The fair's showcasing of global smart construction standards, low-carbon technologies, and international sourcing channels will support the high-quality, globally focused



transformation of the region's construction sector. It sets itself apart from conventional building materials and home decoration fairs by targeting professionals across the entire construction supply chain."

A specialised hub for engineering-focused smart construction

Under the theme "Empowering quality homes", CCTE Build+ 2027 will showcase innovative products and solutions across its four key pillars:

- **Comfort Residential Solutions:** Supportive "quality homes" solutions, elderly-friendly renovations, residential mechanical and electrical systems, as well as residential management and maintenance services
- **Prefabricated, Modular, and Urban Renewal Projects:** Modular building systems, prefabricated components, and integrated mechanical and electrical solutions, whole-house prefabricated finishing, integrated urban renewal technologies, and fenestration and facade systems
- **Smart Construction and Digital Engineering:** Smart site-management systems, smart construction equipment, building information modelling (BIM) applications, and digital engineering tools
- **New Building Materials:** Environmentally friendly building materials that are efficient while remaining safe and reliable throughout their entire life cycle

CCTE Build+ will be held with the support of several leading industry associations, including the Guangdong Building Materials Association (GBMA), the Guangdong New Building Materials Industry Alliance, the Guangdong Association of Green Low-Carbon Building (GAGLB), the Guangdong Provincial Construction Sustainable & Prefabricated Industry Association (GDCSDA), and the Guangdong Ceramics



Association (GCA). Together, these parties will establish the exhibition as an end-to-end platform spanning product showcases, knowledge exchange, business matchmaking, policy insights, and industry-academia-research collaboration.

The fair is expected to welcome decision-makers across

property development, construction, design firms, urban infrastructure, industrial parks, and overseas infrastructure projects to source solutions.

Three shows, one united ecosystem

The synergy between the three exhibitions will create a one-stop industry exchange and trade platform that facilitates high-quality development across the Greater Bay Area, seamlessly bridging regional supply with global demand.

CCTE Build+ will cover front-end construction technology, building equipment, digital operations and maintenance, and low-carbon systems. At the same time, GEBT and GILE will lead the building automation, home automation, and lighting sectors. CCTE Build+ is expected to host nearly 100 exhibitors across approximately 10,000 sqm of exhibiting space at the China Import and Export Fair Complex from 9–12 June 2027.

To learn more about CCTE Build+, please visit www.ccte-buildplus.com.

For more information on Messe Frankfurt's Light + Building shows worldwide, please visit <http://www.brand.light-building.com>.



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Archifest 2026—Convergence

Spotlighting innovation and forward-thinking creativity

Singapore Archifest (SGAF) 2026 marked twenty years of community and celebration in the design industry, with architects, students, and the public coming together to explore new ideas on both local and global scales. Hence the theme, "Convergence"—a meeting point of scales, voices, and approaches, imbuing the symbolic significance with a practical dimension.

As an annual architecture festival commissioned by the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA), SGAF encouraged industry professionals and the general public alike to partake in the city's built environment while encouraging meaningful dialogue about architecture and design. With islandwide activities throughout mid-July and the SGAF Conference & Forum and Expo & Market on 22–24 July, SGAF 2026 embodied the artistry of design and the dynamism of the future.

SGAF Conference & Forum

Over 20 influential speakers spoke during the first two days, exploring the overarching theme of "Convergence" in their discussions. By relating design to community, lifestyle, and more, the speakers covered a wide range of forward-thinking topics that are more important now than ever. Capping this off was the Director's Roundtable on Day 3, with past Festival Directors reuniting to talk about the evolving future of architecture.

The Forums similarly tackled a myriad of topics, from education & inclusivity to leadership and technology. On Day 1, the SIDS



Media Wall

Design Convention 2026 took place in the Forum Hall, exploring interior design and how it transforms the architectural experience. Day 2 saw the AI Hackathon Forum take place in the same location. Grounded in discussion rather than debate, the forum explored the use of AI tools in practical settings and where they currently fall short. Afterwards, "Fast Flow Forum: The Art of Drainage in Architecture" took place to explore the state of drainage systems and the relationship between hydraulic engineers and architecture. The last day showcased the New Common Grounds (NCG) forum—exhibition to foster camaraderie between architecture students across seven Southeast Asian countries and Taiwan. Two films were also shown at the Forum Hall over the first two days, marking a cohesive and diverse programme for visitors and exhibitors.

SGAF Community Square

The Community Square's most eye-

catching display was the Media Wall, celebrating 20 editions of SGAF. With statistics of SGAF over the years displayed on a roadmap, and a carousel of videos from past Festival Directors, the information was easy to grasp at a glance, giving onlookers an appreciation of SGAF's twenty years of evolution.

The 20 Under 45 exhibition by URA, in its fourth edition, shed light on 23 local architects who exemplified excellence in contemporary architectural practice. These selected architects have gone on to participate in forums, inspiring the next generation of architects with their experience and design philosophies. Adjacent to this exhibit were the Architecture Discourse Exhibition by SUTD and the NUS Emergent Systems Exhibition Showcase. Designed by students from their respective schools, these two exhibitions highlighted the talent and efforts of burgeoning architects, giving them a platform to display their work. The



Architecture Discourse Exhibition by SUTD showed the projects by SUTD's recent Master of Architecture graduates, and the NUS Emergent Systems Exhibition Showcase presented the Year 3 Architecture students' designs in collaboration with Sport Singapore.

SGAF Expo & Market

Spanning two halls in Sands Expo & Convention Centre, over 7,000 architecture and design professionals came together to spark collaboration and shape future projects. It featured cutting-edge products, the latest industry trends, and innovative solutions from across the spectrum.

To conclude Southeast Asia Building's wrap-up of SGAF 2026, we would like to highlight three exhibitors with ingenious products that will support designers and the general public going forward.





Phillip Jeffries

Founded in 1976, family-founded Phillip Jeffries has grown into a luxurious international brand providing leading brands with wallcoverings to fit their needs. Expanding into Asia, Phillip Jeffries opened its Singapore showroom in March 2026—a testament to their commitment to providing top-quality wallcoverings for the market.

Selection at SGAF 2026

The booth displayed a large selection of wallcovering types: Authentic Washi, Murals, Specialty Metallics, Authentic Cork, Embroidery, Naturals, Paper Weaves, and Specialty Vinyl.

Their Authentic Washi, Concrete Washi, is authentic abaca pulp, hand-combed into distinctive dimensional designs with a stain-repellent finish.

Complying with CDPH Standard Method v1.2, the handcrafted wallcovering is distinctive and sustainable.

Similarly, the Mural Blossom has the same IAQ/VOC Evaluation. This large-scale painterly design can be printed on a variety of grounds and is made to order, with many customisation options available to prospective buyers.

Flourish, the Specialty Metallics piece on display, uses the latest laser-cut technology to create the perfect scenic setting on authentic wood veneer wallcovering. Artisans hand-place authentic metallic leaves to add incredible colour and dimension to the design.

The Authentic Cork piece, Mulberry Bark, is 100% Wood Veneer. Artisans hand-lay large strips of authentic

mulberry bark washed in an array of soft neutral tones to create a large-scale subway tile motif.

Under Embroidery, Heirloom Bloom was inspired by the airy silhouette of Queen Anne's lace. Floral designs cascade delicately, merging classic botanical artistry with contemporary refinement. Complying with CDPH Standard Method v1.2, the subtle seaming in Heirloom Bloom makes it a durable and sustainable choice.

Enchanting Planks, the Naturals spotlight, is a modern and natural collage. The banana leaves are deconstructed and hand-woven into an artistically handcrafted wallcovering. It features a stain-repellent finish and similar sustainability compliance.

Phillip Jeffries also featured Diamond Weave to represent their



Concrete Washi



Blossom



Flourish



Mulberry Bark



Heirloom Bloom



Enchanting Planks



Diamond Weave



Vinyl Pana

Paper Weaves selection. Natural paper is dyed before weaving to create a virtually seamless wallcovering. The panelling, while intentionally imperfect, has high colour consistency and is expertly laminated. The backing is made of recycled paper, adding to its sustainable charm.

Lastly, Vinyl Panache was the Specialty Vinyl of choice. With a large-scale wave pattern, the textural Type II performance vinyl is perfectly engineered for high-traffic areas. Durable and low-VOC, it is perfect for both residential and commercial use. It complies with CDPH Standard Method v1.2 and has earned the MAS Certified Green Certificate of Compliance.

AXIFORM™ by MonteQ

Design and manufacturing company MonteQ Pte Ltd unveiled AXIFORM™ at SGAF 2026, its new modular aluminium system. It is a versatile structural platform designed to evolve across different applications and environments.

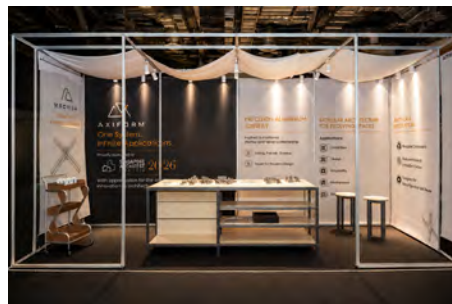
MonteQ had two booths during the event: one for MonteQ, showcasing all its products, including AXIFORM™, and another dedicated to AXIFORM™ itself. The latter's structure and furniture were constructed entirely using the AXIFORM™ system, which doesn't require screws. Visitors were

able to knock the joints together, experiencing AXIFORM™'s flexibility and ease of use.

AXIFORM™ is built around precision-engineered aluminium profiles and purpose-designed joints that provide the structural foundation for an expanding range of furniture and spatial applications. Rather than developing another collection of products with predetermined functions, MonteQ conceived AXIFORM™ as a system—one structural language from which many different possibilities can emerge.

By starting with a modular structural system rather than a permanently fixed product, AXIFORM™ gives designers greater freedom to respond as spaces, functions, and requirements evolve.

Adaptability also influences MonteQ's approach to sustainability. While aluminium offers durability and recyclability, MonteQ believes sustainable design should consider more than what happens to a material at the eventual end of its useful life. AXIFORM™ is therefore designed around disassembly, reconfiguration,





and reuse.

Additionally, different panels, surfaces, finishes, and materials can be integrated with the aluminium framework, allowing designers to create different visual expressions while working from the same underlying structural system. It is this freedom that makes AXIFORM™ truly special.

When asked about the AXIFORM™ booth at SGAF 2026, Kelvin Kwek, co-founder of MonteQ, commented, "The response to AXIFORM™ at Archifest was very encouraging. As this was the first time we were presenting the system publicly, what was particularly valuable was seeing architects, designers, and other industry professionals begin to look beyond the applications we had displayed and consider what else could be created with the system."

"That interest has also translated into actual commercial applications. Since Archifest, we have started receiving enquiries and project opportunities for exhibition booths, roadshows, furniture, and built-in furniture using AXIFORM™, which is

especially meaningful to us because it shows the system progressing from something we introduced at an exhibition into something clients are prepared to use for their own projects.

"We also wanted to demonstrate AXIFORM™'s adaptability through our own actions. After Archifest in Singapore, we dismantled the same AXIFORM™ exhibition booth and furniture, transported them to Kuala Lumpur, and reassembled them at ARCHIDEX 2026 for the AXIFORM™ launch in Malaysia. Rather than fabricating an entirely new booth and new furniture for the second exhibition, we were able to give the same system another use in another city."

"For us, that journey from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur is an important demonstration of what 'Build Once. Adapt Endlessly.' actually means. AXIFORM™ is not only about being modular when it is first assembled; we want to explore how the system can be dismantled, moved, reconfigured and continue to serve new requirements."

Quin Zhang, co-founder of MonteQ,

added, "Going forward, we intend to continue showcasing AXIFORM™ at relevant architecture and design platforms while developing new applications with architects, designers, and industry partners. We are particularly interested in exhibition and temporary spatial applications, where the ability to reuse and reconfigure a structural system could offer a very different approach from conventional one-time builds. We will also be releasing different categories of the AXIFORM™ furniture range in the near future."

The Mill International

Established as a carpet and vinyl flooring supplier in 1998, The Mill International Pte Ltd started as a small office between its founding members and no additional employees. Since then, it has grown to 46 staff members occupying 14,000 square feet.

At SGAF 2026, The Mill International showcased its carpet recycling technology, converting carpets into recycled polypropylene (PP) pellets that can be upcycled into furniture. This journey began in 2019—right before the COVID-19 pandemic, slowing progress. Undeterred, The Mill International continued to search for a firm that would partner with them to recycle carpets, and then another to handle the upcycling.

The process is now streamlined and straightforward: collect enough tonnes of recyclable carpet to be sent to the recycling plant, shred them to feed into the extruder, and the extruded materials are pelletised. From there, the pellets can be used to make a variety of things—chairs, keychains, and more. At SGAF, The Mill International displayed their Nue Level Chair, which can be bought or leased for events.

Since their start in carpet recycling, The Mill International has recycled tonnes of exhibition carpets under their ExpoFlor Rewind scheme and initiated the Take-Back programme in 2024, collecting back carpets sold to customers. By the end of 2024, 80% of The Mill International's goods were sustainable. The company has



also been recognised and awarded by green organisations for its sustainability and innovation.

When asked about the response to the company's carpet recycling showcase at SGAF, Adriel Cheung,

Sustainability Manager, said, "Industry professionals showed strong interest in carpet recycling, circularity, and practical sustainability solutions for the built environment. In fact, we had a follow-up session with one of them



just the other day at our office!

"We plan to continue showcasing our carpet recycling initiative at future exhibitions. We would be keen on a live mini recycling demonstration, but this would depend on organiser rules. Having this would certainly help visitors better understand the process and outcomes, leading to greater opportunities for industry adoption."



The Corner House, Manila, Philippines



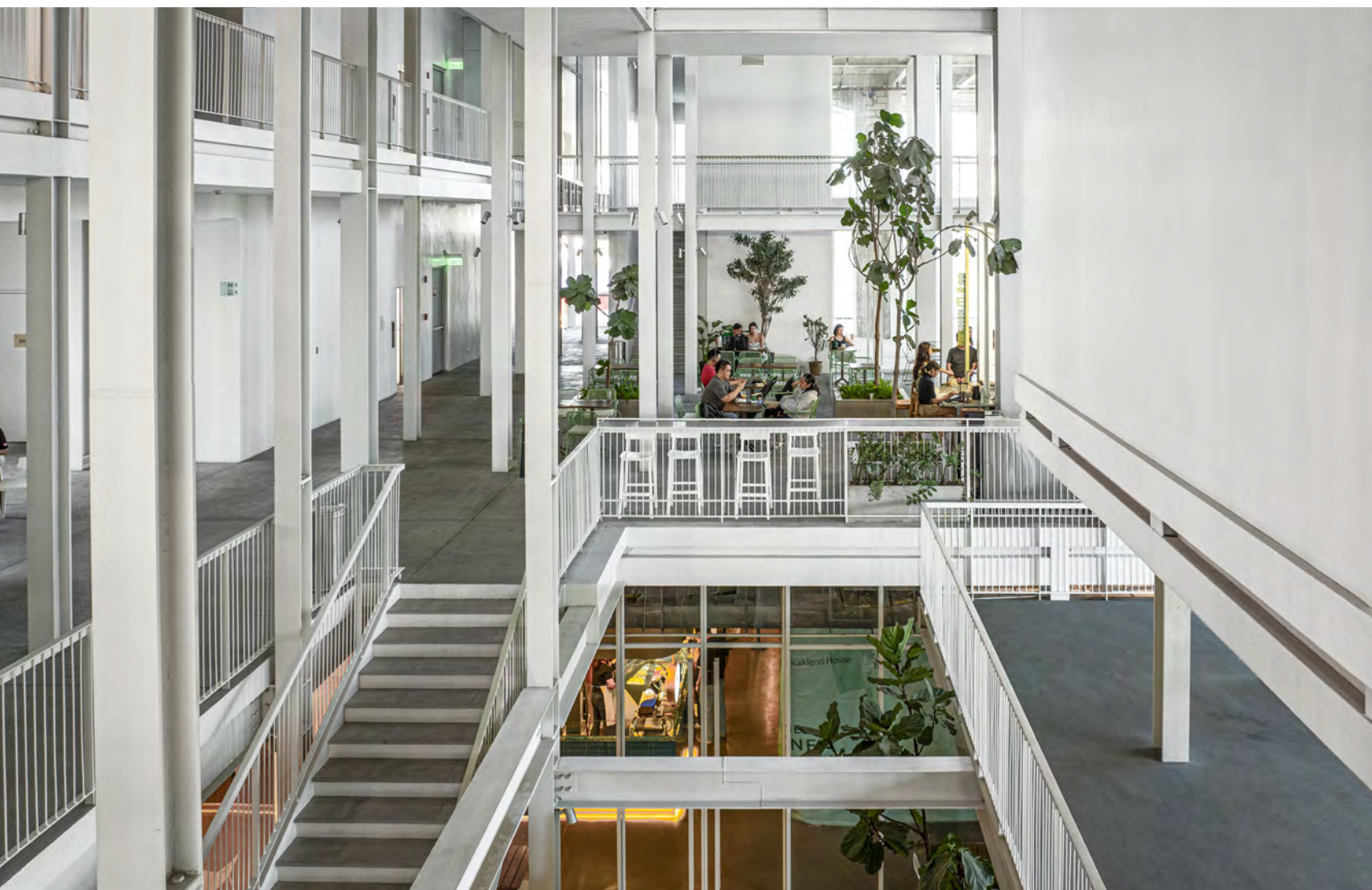


Commercial architecture in tropical cities has long been defined by enclosure. Faced with heat, humidity, and monsoon rain, shopping malls have evolved into sealed, air-conditioned environments that disconnect people from both climate and city. The Corner House proposes another possibility—one where openness becomes the foundation of commercial life.

The Corner House, located at the intersection of two busy streets in San Juan, Manila, responds to the city's need for open-air public spaces suited to its tropical climate. It becomes a refuge from the dense urban environment, offering a space for relaxation and social interaction.

Featuring a cascading ground plane that links the street to a four-storey atrium, the design offers a unique open-air experience amid floating glass restaurant boxes. Its responsive building envelope combines operable aluminium louvres and motorised roller blinds, each controlled independently according to sunlight, wind, and rainfall. Under favourable conditions, the perimeter opens almost entirely, allowing natural ventilation to flow through the building. During heavy monsoon storms, only the affected façades close, while the remaining sides continue to breathe naturally. Instead of creating a fixed boundary between inside and outside, the envelope constantly adjusts to changing environmental conditions.

The lightweight steel structure, operable walls, and ceiling fans ensure a breezy and comfortable environment year-round, while dichroic skylights infuse the interior with vibrant beams of light. The rooftop event space, nestled among lush berms that control views to the skyline, offers a peaceful





escape from the bustling city below. Vibrant skylight cubes double as high tables for parties and landscape lighting installations, adding a dramatic touch.

At the centre of the building, the atrium is wrapped by a gently sloping 500-metre ramp, connecting every level. Conceived as more than circulation, the ramp simultaneously serves multiple functions: jogging, dining, events, and exhibitions. It invites visitors to interact and connect with their surroundings rather than retreating from it.

As visitors move through the building, the surrounding neighbourhood is revealed from constantly changing heights and perspectives. Fresh air, daylight, and

views towards the city remain present throughout the journey, replacing the inward-looking experience typical of conventional shopping malls. At the same time, people moving along the ramp become part of the building's façade, making life inside visible to the surrounding streets and establishing a continuous visual dialogue between the building and the city.

The generous open-air spaces have allowed the project to evolve far beyond its original retail programme. During the week, they support remote work, informal meetings, exercise, children's workshops, and everyday gatherings. On weekends, rotating markets featuring independent food vendors, local crafts, books, fashion, and design products transform the building into a distinctive vertical flea market, where commercial activity unfolds across multiple levels rather than within a conventional shopping street.

The same communal spaces also support an alternative economic model. Rather than maximising enclosed rentable floor area, the project creates adaptable venues for exhibitions, performances, markets, and seasonal events that generate substantial event-based revenue while increasing footfall for

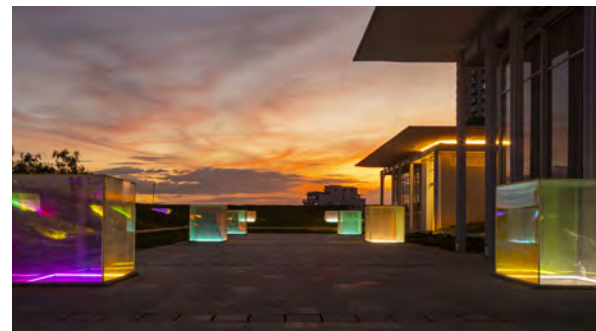
permanent tenants. Public space is therefore treated not as a commercial compromise, but as a long-term economic asset.

Environmental performance is achieved through straightforward architectural strategies rather than technological complexity. More than half of the building operates without air-conditioning, relying primarily on natural ventilation supported by ceiling fans. Existing trees were carefully preserved during construction, while planted rooftop berms provide natural insulation for the interior below and frame calmer skyline views, screening the surrounding urban clutter to create a more private setting for rooftop events.

The Corner House represents more than a physical structure; it is an adaptive urban ecosystem, integrating flexible, climate-responsive architecture with dynamic public spaces, offering a harmonious space that evolves with the rhythms of the city. By replacing enclosure with adaptability, and expanding retail beyond consumption into a shared urban experience, it suggests that the future of commercial architecture may depend less on separating people from their environment than on reconnecting them with it.







The Corner House has received international recognition, including the 2026 Architizer A+Awards Jury Winner in the Retail category, the 2025 Archello Award for Shopping Mall of the Year, and the Gold Award at the DFA Design for Asia Awards 2025.

PROJECT DETAILS

Location: H2WQ+F8 San Juan City, Metro Manila, Philippines

Dimensions: 80m x 45m

Site area: 4,200 sqm

Total Area: 16,100 sqm

Project Completion: November 2023

Owner: Emerald Rich Property Inc.

Principals: Amata Luphaiboon, Twitee Vajrabhaya Teparkum

Design Team: Waraphan Watanakaroorn, Pitchaya Poonsin, Veeris Vanichtantikul, Yada Pianpanit

Architect: BAAD STUDIO LTD. CO.

Lighting Designer: ACCENT STUDIO

Landscape Designer: Clarq Landscape Design Studio

Main Contractor: Megawide Construction Corporation

Structural Engineer: David Carl H. Reyes Structural Design

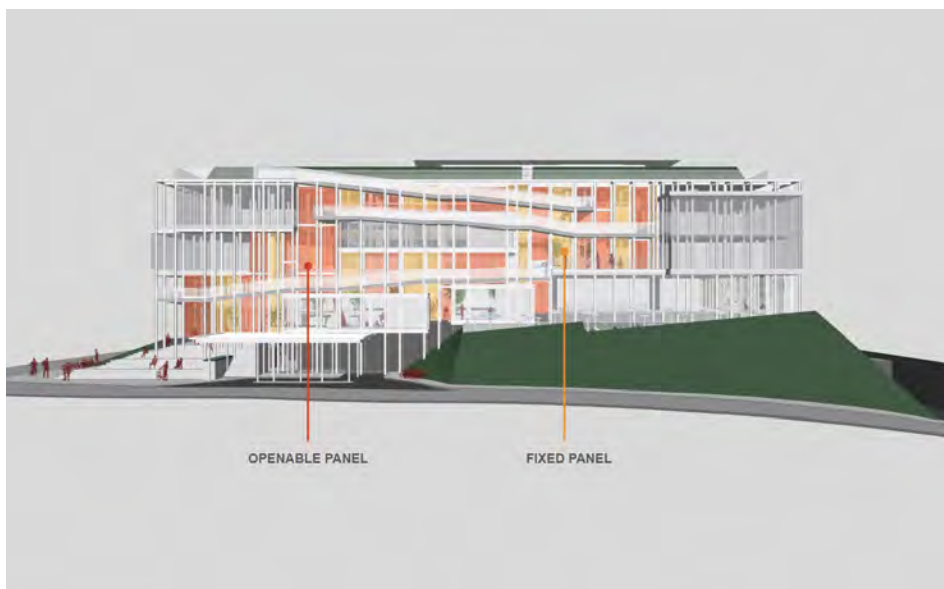
Mechanical Engineer: KOMFORT-AIRE, Incorporated

Sanitary Engineer: S&H Electrical Const. Corporation

Electrical Engineer: Armstrong Plumbing Corporation

Photographer: Jar Concengco

Awards & Certificates: Shopping Mall of the Year, ARCHELLO AWARD'S 2025; Gold Award, DFA Design for Asia Awards 2025, Hong Kong

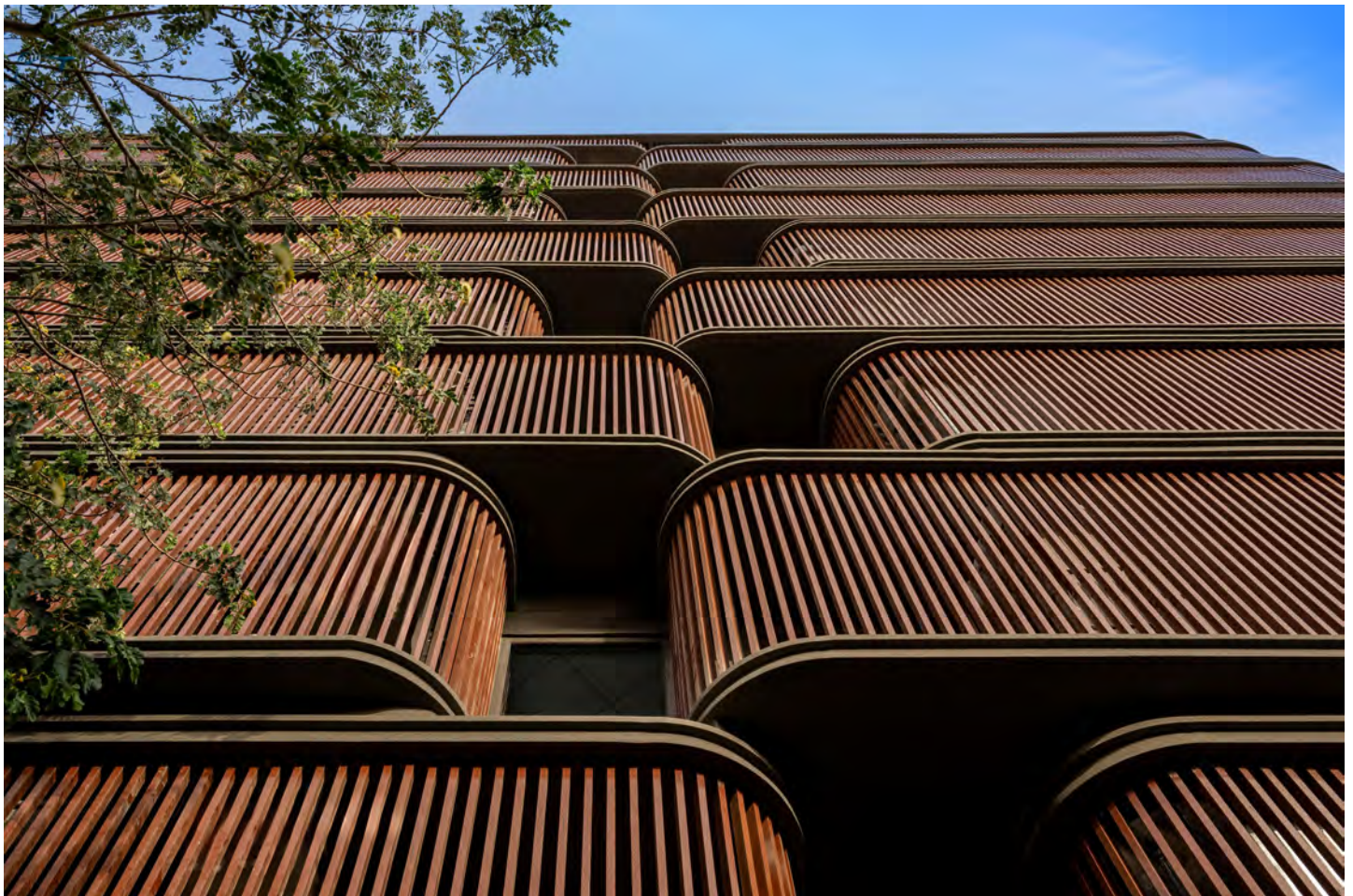


The Primus

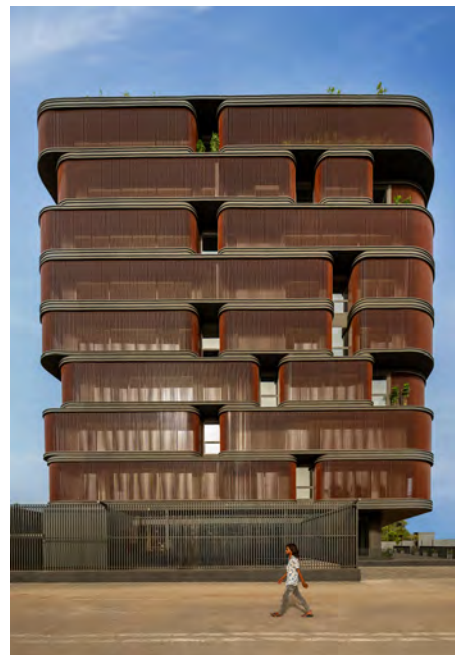


The Primus is a nine-storey, climate-responsive office building in Jaipur, India. Composed of a series of capsule-shaped modules stacked vertically, the structure creates a breathable and environmentally conscious workspace.

As it is located adjacent to Jaipur Airport, the project was subject to a strict height restriction of 30 metres. To meet the client's requirements, the building accommodates eight offices on each floor, with unit sizes ranging from 60 sqm to 125 sqm. The structural design provides complete flexibility, allowing individual offices to be combined into larger workspaces if needed.







Each office features large sliding glass openings that connect to sheltered capsule-shaped planter spaces wrapped with vertical aluminum screens. These landscaped buffers introduce greenery into the workplace while reducing solar heat gain and mitigating noise from the adjacent arterial road and airport activity.

Given the development constraints

and height limitations, the building footprint is 1,116 sqm, leaving no opportunity for ground-level gardens. To compensate, planter terraces encircle every floor, complemented by a landscaped rooftop garden that provides valuable outdoor spaces for occupants.

Designed as a breathable workplace, The Primus integrates passive environmental strategies to enhance

occupant comfort while reducing operational energy demand. In Jaipur's harsh climate, where temperatures exceed 40°C for nearly eight months each year, the building responds directly to its context through shading, natural ventilation, and integrated greenery.

By combining flexibility, climate responsiveness, and biophilic design, The Primus creates a healthier work environment while significantly reducing its lifecycle carbon footprint, establishing a benchmark for sustainable commercial architecture in hot climatic regions.



PROJECT DETAILS

Architect Firm: Sanjay Puri Architects
Lead Architect: Sanjay Puri
Design Team: Chandan Joshi, Sonali Chougule
Client: Mahima Real Estate Pvt. Ltd.
Site area: 1,735.88 sqm
Built-up Area: 9,475 sqm
Completion: May 2026
Structural Consultant: Vijaytech Consultants Private Ltd.
MEP Consultant: P K Kalra Consultants
Landscape: Greenway Landscape
Photo credits: Mr. Vinay Panjwani

Nachan The Antique Courtyard Hotel





Designed as a small-scale, tranquil village cluster, Nachan The Antique Courtyard Hotel represents the serene spirit of the Mekong River landscape.

The project subtly blends into the existing landscape with the use of reused timber, minimising the hotel's carbon footprint. The hotel rooms are arranged around serene triangular courtyards to respect the existing trees, provide privacy, and add a humble touch to the Earth.

The design uses locally available, naturally weathering materials—reused timber, handmade brick, and on-site earth plaster mixed with native grass—inspired by local wisdom and the unique Mekong River landscape of northeastern Thailand. Responding to the tropics, the optimised timber structure features a large roof, cantilevered floors, balconies, and louvres, offering graceful protection against heavy rain and sun while ensuring ventilation.

The primary building material is reclaimed solid timber from old houses, abandoned warehouses, and local rice mills. To pass local wisdom in natural materials and craftsmanship to the next generation, techniques and tropical timber species were studied and developed in collaboration with local crafters.

The project optimises the timber's bay and span, balancing it with a cantilevered floor to reduce the depth of the beams while adding transparent material for select sceneries. The project's MEP and bathrooms are integrated into a single hidden reinforced concrete core to subtly strengthen the wooden structure and enhance maintenance and affordability.

As a transition between the fast-





paced urban setting and the calm Mekong River, the hotel is located within walking distance of the forest parking area and the river. The hotel cluster orientation welcomes shade on the facade, shadow on the land, natural light, and ventilation, while

respecting the context and guests' privacy.

The approach to the hotel is framed as a picturesque view, following the existing trees and landform. Preservation of all existing trees was a priority, with a prominent

group of tamarind trees forming the background, soft rain trees as natural sculptures, and twin mango trees as the welcoming space. The hotel room's interior design enhances the village's serene atmosphere by highlighting the authentic wooden structure and earthen surfaces. The warm, soft touch of these natural materials encourages guests to slow their pace and calm their minds.

The design celebrates the inherent beauty and character found in the imperfections of natural materials, such as knots and grains in timber, or the subtle cracks in an aged earth finish. The project demonstrates that quality is not determined by larger timber planks or smoothly uniform colours, but by embracing natural variation and scars that tell an untold story. Embracing this philosophy, the hotel's true beauty will be fully realised through the weathering of its materials, the growth of its surroundings, and the changing of the seasons, connecting guests more deeply to the revitalised Mekong landscape.

By adopting a slow-build approach, the project embraces low-carbon

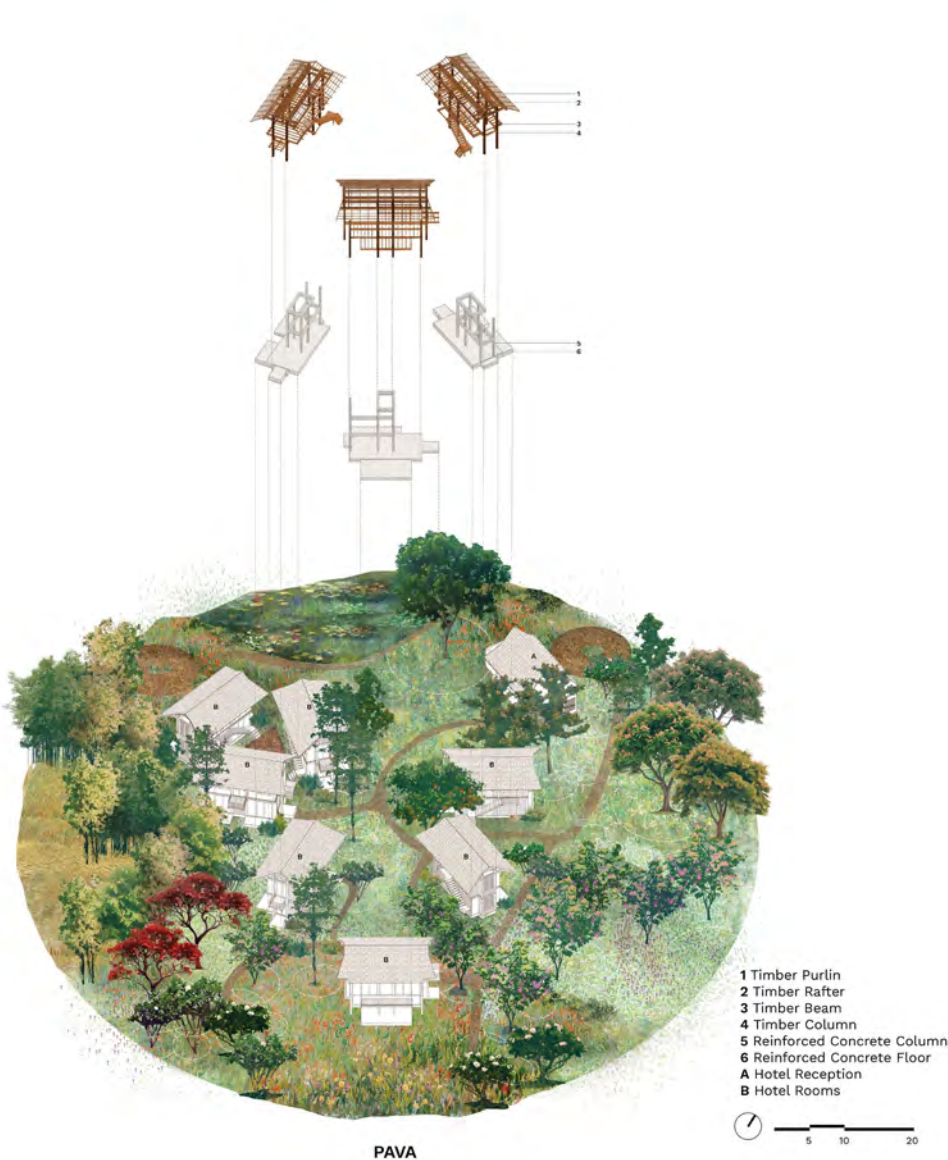






and locally sourced, reused timber. These bio-based materials are entirely reusable, ensuring a circular lifecycle. The design also minimises the building footprint to maximise natural water absorption and retention, and to create ponds for passive runoff management. Trees were preserved to improve air quality and provide cooling shade. The architecture, featuring large roofs, balconies, and louvres, prioritises passive ventilation, making artificial insulation unnecessary in the comfortable Northeast Thai climate

The hotel functions as a holistic, productive landscape, integrating farm-to-table sources and artisan workshops to empower the community. This resilient design embraces the beauty of natural change, using weathering materials such as handmade bricks and aged timber to reduce lifetime costs. By blending ecological health with local wisdom, Nachan offers an immersive, educational experience; a sustainable, living architecture that evolves beautifully with the changing seasons and respects the spirit of the land.



PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name: Nachan The Antique Courtyard Hotel

Project Location: Chiang Khan, Loei, Thailand

Architect: PAVA architects

Interior Architect: PAVA architects

Landscape Architect: PAVA architects

Built Area: 1,200 sqm

Photographer: Spaceshift Studio

Designing for Feeling, Not Fahrenheit: A New Perspective on Thermal Comfort



Source: www.freepik.com



Vaishali Mangalvedhekar, Partner,
SJK Architects

Vaishali Mangalvedhekar from SJK Architects reflects on the physical and psychological aspects of thermal comfort

designing spaces attuned to climate, culture, history, technology, and above all, communities. She has always been passionate about sustainability; whether in architecture or in her personal life, her decisions are consciously geared toward reducing the environmental impact of each action.

On a warm Sunday morning in Alibaug, I sat on a verandah, surrounded by the still, humid April air. The temperature read 27°C, but it felt like 29°C. There was no breeze, yet the setting felt calm, even pleasant. The next morning, back in my Mumbai office, the same 27°C felt stifling. Almost instinctively, I reached for the AC remote. It made me reflect on thermal comfort and how dramatically our perception of it can shift, even under seemingly similar conditions.

Comfort begins in the mind

ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) defines thermal comfort as "that condition of mind which expresses satisfaction with the thermal environment". In other words, thermal comfort is subjective and contextual, shaped by an individual's perception and the specific conditions of their surroundings.

And yet, paradoxically, building codes such as ASHRAE and India's ECBC (Energy Conservation Building Code) often reduce thermal comfort to an objective checklist—air temperature, humidity, airflow, and metabolic rate. Even the 'feels-like' temperature that we see on our weather forecast apps relies on measurable environmental data, including the ambient air temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed, to determine how weather conditions feel to bare skin.

These metrics, while useful, treat the human body as a passive recipient of environmental conditions, rather than an active interpreter of them. In doing so, they overlook the complex ways in which culture, conditioning, and context shape how we feel heat or cold. To truly design for comfort, we must begin by acknowledging that thermal comfort is not just a matter of numbers, but of perception.

How perception alters comfort

Our perception of comfort is shaped as much by expectations as by actual temperature. At the resort in Alibaug, I was outdoors and mentally prepared for warmth. Surrounded by open spaces and nature, I anticipated a certain level of heat, and my clothing, activities, and mindset were aligned with that. As a result, 27°C in Alibaug felt natural and easy to adapt to. The same 27°C back in my air-conditioned Mumbai office felt unpleasant, simply because my mind expected a cooler, conditioned environment.

Over the years, we've grown used to associating thermal comfort with air-conditioning. Since the 1980s, as air-conditioners became more affordable, commercial buildings in India began to mimic the glass towers of the West. As a result, we've internalised thermal comfort standards rooted in colder climates, routinely setting our thermostats to 22–24°C regardless of our own context or climate.

The internationally acclaimed architect Charles Correa questioned this shift in his seminal lecture, 'A Place in the Sun', where he critiqued the blind replication of Western models of building. Correa pointed out that this uncritical replication of Western ideals overlooks local realities—including intense sunlight, high humidity, daily life patterns,

As temperatures rise, adapting to the heat has become a growing concern. Architecture and people alike need to prepare for hotter days and adopt better cooling strategies. Vaishali Mangalvedhekar, Partner at SJK Architects, argues that thermal comfort goes beyond the physical and includes psychological factors, which should influence how buildings are designed and inhabited.

Southeast Asia Building is pleased to have Vaishali Mangalvedhekar share her thoughts on the importance of mindsets in how society adapts to the climate. Vaishali is a partner at SJK Architects, a Mumbai-based architecture, interior design, and masterplanning practice founded in 1990 by Shimul Javeri Kadri. Across diverse typologies, she is guided by a commitment to advancing and integrating holistic sustainability in architecture into mainstream values.

Since 2000, she has led the design of multiple award-winning projects that exemplify the firm's ethos of

and socio-economic factors related to energy use. When buildings are designed without adapting to their context, they often become over-reliant on artificial cooling, disconnected from their surroundings, and less comfortable or accessible to the people who use them. He urged Indian architects to design in dialogue with our specific climate, culture, and ways of living rather than adopting standards rooted in other geographies. While his argument was about form and responsiveness, it applies equally to how we think about comfort. When we ignore local realities, we also risk dulling our ability to perceive and adapt to them.

In doing so, we end up designing spaces where comfort is engineered, not experienced, and where our perception is slowly trained away from the richness of sensory connection to our surroundings.

Heat resilience is cultural: comfort thresholds can shift with exposure

Heat resilience, the ability to cope with and adapt to rising temperatures and heat waves, is not purely biological. It is also deeply cultural, shaped by habits, lifestyles, and the environments we grow up in. People in tropical regions, where life often unfolds in outdoor or semi-open settings, develop a higher tolerance to heat through repeated exposure.

A 2017 study by Titis Wijayanto et al. compared how students from Malaysia and Japan responded to heat stress. Both groups underwent the same set of activities, including time in a sauna, while researchers tracked their core temperatures. The Malaysian students, more familiar with high-heat environments, showed better tolerance.

This observation naturally led me to the question: Would the Japanese students never acclimatise to heat stress? The answer lies in the human body's remarkable ability to adapt.

Acclimatisation is the body's way of adjusting to environmental shifts. With time and exposure, comfort thresholds can shift. What first feels unbearable can become tolerable, even preferable.

In fact, we adapt to different climates all the time, often without realising it. We anticipate discomfort when we go trekking in a colder region, like the Himalayas, and we prepare for it. Similarly, in hot regions, we instinctively adjust how we move through the day—by wearing lighter clothes, slowing down during peak heat, or choosing shaded routes. In both cases, we allow our bodies to respond to the climate. This same ability applies to our everyday environments as well.

The Equatorial School in Singapore: a case study in thermal comfort adaptation

During a visit to Singapore last November, I came across a compelling example of a building that embodies the principles of acclimatisation: The Equatorial School, part of the NSU Campus, designed by architect Erik L'Heureux. This project is an interesting example of how the human mind can adapt to its environment.

Singapore experiences a relatively stable equatorial climate, marked by uniform temperatures and consistent rainfall throughout the year. Yet, despite the absence of

thermal extremes, the country exhibits a strong dependence on mechanical cooling, evident in the widespread air-conditioning of public spaces, including transport systems such as buses, trains, and interchanges.

Within the context of Singapore's heavy reliance on mechanical cooling, the Equatorial School offers a deliberate counterpoint—a three-zone thermal comfort strategy that foregrounds adaptability and perception. More than 65 per cent of the building is hybrid-cooled or naturally ventilated. Spaces that require strict environmental control remain fully air-conditioned. In the zones where air-conditioning is optional, baseline AC temperatures are raised to 24–26 degrees Celsius—a subtle but significant shift from the default 22 degrees—helping occupants recalibrate their sense of comfort. Meanwhile, circulation spaces such as corridors and stairways are left entirely naturally ventilated, transforming them into socially active zones that engage directly with the tropical climate. Additionally, the extended west façade is designed as an envelope that engages with the tropical climate, screening the building from heat gain by creating a deep veil. This approach shows how architecture can be utilised as an instrument of thermal adaptation.

When I spoke to the architect about the reception of the building, he mentioned initial resistance. Singaporeans are so used to air-conditioned environments that the transition to naturally ventilated spaces was met with discomfort. However, over the course of 6 to 8 months, as students adjusted to the new thermal conditions, the heat gradually became something they expected, and their perception of comfort shifted. The naturally ventilated corridors became a space that students began to enjoy, showing how adaptable human beings are when exposed to new, though initially uncomfortable, environments.



The extended west façade of the Equatorial School at NUS, Singapore, is designed as an envelope that engages with the tropical climate, screening the building from heat gain by creating a deep veil | Image by Finbarr Fallon; Courtesy of Erik L'Heureux, FAIA; Campus Design Innovations Group, National University of Singapore; and DP Green. Source: www.aiany.org



The adaptive comfort theory

Most conventional models of thermal comfort, such as the widely used PMV-PPD model developed by Danish engineer P.O. Fanger, are based on climate-controlled environments. They assume comfort can be achieved by maintaining a fixed range of temperature and humidity, typically through air-conditioning. These models treat comfort as a universal physiological response, calculated using parameters like air temperature, humidity, metabolic rate, and clothing insulation, regardless of geography or lifestyle.

But as we have already discussed, comfort is not one-size-fits-all. In a country like India, with five distinct climatic zones and diverse ways of living, fixed thresholds fail to reflect how people actually experience temperature in daily life.

Rather than prescribing a universal temperature, this theory accounts for everyday adjustments: opening windows, changing clothing, drawing curtains, or modifying routines. It expands the definition of comfort to include expectation, context, and lived experience. In doing so, it aligns more closely with both how people actually feel and how sustainable buildings must function.

Yet despite its relevance, this theory remains underutilised in mainstream practice. Most large-scale developments still follow conventional models that prioritise uniform, air-conditioned environments, often ignoring regional variation and occupant adaptability. This gap between research and reality highlights the need to rethink how we define and design for comfort, especially in a climate-diverse country like India.

The silent heatwave

We have become so used to air-conditioning that we forget—air-conditioning doesn't just cool the inside of buildings; it also heats the world outside. The mechanism is simple—it takes heat from indoors and releases it outside. But in already warm urban environments, that extra heat adds up. In cities, this has been shown to raise night-time



Circulation spaces such as corridors and stairways at the school are entirely naturally ventilated | Image by Finbarr Fallon; Courtesy of Erik L'Heureux, FAIA; Campus Design Innovations Group, National University of Singapore; and DP Green. Source: www.aiany.org

temperatures by as much as 2°C, creating a feedback loop where people crank up their ACs even more.

This cycle is especially dangerous in dense built-up areas where green cover is minimal. The more we rely on artificial cooling, the hotter our cities become and the more energy we use. It's an invisible damage that worsens over time.

Of course, air-conditioning is sometimes essential. It helps manage thermal comfort during extreme heat. But our relationship with it needs a shift. Not just in how much we use it, but in how we think about comfort, resilience, and design.

A shift in mindset

If comfort is shaped by what we expect to feel, then maybe the first step is to question those expectations. As architects, calibrating our own expectations as well as clients' expectations about thermal comfort is necessary. If we keep chasing the idea of 22°C indoors, air-conditioning will always seem like the only answer. But if we adjust our thinking, accepting that in a tropical climate, comfort can exist between 24–28°C, new solutions begin to emerge.

Integrating passive design strategies and revisiting traditional methods of cooling, like water coolers or khus coolers, or adopting mixed-mode ventilation, where mechanical cooling is supplemented by ceiling fans or natural ventilation through openable windows, can help lower indoor temperatures as much as possible. The good-old ceiling fans must become fashionable again! Many new companies are already doing a good job at it; now it's time to align our aspirations.

Mixed-mode ventilation gives users the flexibility and agency to respond to their needs—opening a window in winter, switching on a fan in summer—rather than relying on systems to decide comfort for them. We don't have to rely entirely on machines to feel okay. With a little more awareness, and a little more trust in our bodies and our environment, we can begin to redefine comfort on our own terms.

And in doing so, we move closer to a mindset where thermal comfort is rightly understood as subjective and circumstantial rather than a fixed, universal standard, which is arguably the most important mindset shift we need to make.

Flexibility in the Workspace

Justin Chen, CEO of Arcc Spaces, Discusses the Importance of Human-Centred Design

Arcc Spaces officially opened its newest property at the Bank of Singapore Centre earlier this year. Spanning three levels and 25,782 square feet, the location at 63 Market Street provides businesses with a design that departs from the typical office layout. From warm hues to greenery, every design element was chosen to feel welcoming to employees, all within the CBD. Arcc Spaces' in-house design team can also tailor private enterprise suites to reflect a company's brand identity.

The holistic and flexible design language allows a portfolio of working styles to coexist and thrive in the space.

Southeast Asia Building discussed the new location and more with **Justin, the Deputy CEO of Arcc Holdings and CEO of Arcc Spaces**. With over a decade of experience in real estate development and hospitality, Justin spearheads the strategy, design, and development of Arcc Spaces and its growing portfolio across Asia. A hands-on leader



Justin, the Deputy CEO of Arcc Holdings and CEO of Arcc Spaces

committed to challenging industry conventions, Justin is passionate about bringing forward-thinking concepts to life. He actively guides the firm's design team, overseeing all development projects and ensuring they remain at the forefront of market trends.



The Landing Room on L7



The Landing Room on L7

Q: What was the vision behind Arc Spaces' new location at the Bank of Singapore Centre? How did material-focused design become the space's focal point?

A: Our journey started in 2003, with One Marina Boulevard launching in 2020. Back then, bringing genuine

hospitality into a workspace set us apart, but today it is a baseline. That is why we chose to design inward this time, leaning residential rather than hotel. Hotels want to be transportive, which is why hotel design is often outlandish and evocative. A workspace, I believe, should do the

opposite by creating familiarity and belonging, a place where people feel comfortable and calm.

Being right in the heart of the CBD, we saw an opportunity to create a space that slows the pace and draws people closer to materiality. Lush greenery, organic textures, generous daylight, and a palette of deep oranges, terracotta, and earthy tones sit against the Marina Bay skyline, all at an intimate scale. Like a home that is lived in rather than staged, the space is designed to grow richer the longer you work in it. To us, that is a more human way to work, and a reflection of how work has changed and how space can respond with greater care and intention.

Q: How does the space encourage holistic work styles as opposed to traditional offices? Please tell us what key features the location offers to accommodate different modes of work.

A: Flexibility works, and it is central to what we offer. But ultimately we are still social creatures. The office has re-emerged as a critical hub for engagement, social interaction, and the sharing of ideas. Those water cooler chats we once thought were pointless turn out to be where spontaneous conversations and new ideas actually happen, rather than just in planned meetings with fixed agendas.

We see 2026 as the year of intentionality, with people coming in saying, "I'm here for this reason", whether that is deep focus, a client meeting, or an event. The space is designed for that full range, with diverse pockets for focused work, contemplation, and rest through to natural gathering and collaboration.

In practical terms, across 25,782 square feet on Levels 5 to 7, members can look forward to bespoke enterprise suites and private office clusters for teams from 1 to 50-plus pax, with premium Grade-A finishes, alongside co-working and flexible office areas on every level. On Level 7, there is the Landing Room, our dedicated members' lounge, alongside a Private Lounge and a Common Lounge as spaces for collaboration.



Social Bar, The Landing Room on L7



Entrance on L6

Q: How does the Bank of Singapore Centre location differ from previous Arcc Spaces locations? Are there any design innovations you'd like to keep in future locations or implement in previous ones?

A: Each Arcc Spaces property is conceived as a response to its architecture, its city, and the people it serves, rather than being applied from a portfolio template. But honestly, the real difference at Bank of Singapore Centre is maturity. It is the fullest expression of what we have learnt over the years, with a residential warmth that prioritises enduring comfort over spectacle.

At One Marina Boulevard, we created 'Little Neighbourhoods', pockets of space where you can step out, take a walk, have a break, and come back to your work, and we are expanding on that idea here. That kind of spatial thinking—concepts that shape how people move, focus, and connect—is exactly the sort of design idea we would carry into every future location. So is the approach behind it: we refine each space through real use rather than assumption, testing ideas in real conditions, and building around what members actually need.

Q: This is Arcc Spaces' fifth collaboration with The Afternaut Group. What experiences does The Afternaut Group provide that enhance Arcc Spaces locations? What can other design firms learn from their expertise?

A: Five projects in, Afternaut knows our members, our operations, and our brand inside out, and that understanding compounds with every project. They describe themselves as a design agency with a heart for placemaking, and it shows in spaces built to help people find connections. Usage data and feedback from One Marina Boulevard and our earlier projects feed directly into each new design, including this one. They also understand that biophilic design is far more than adding greenery. Plants are paired with curated art and objects, while lighting, acoustics, and colour

are managed as one sensory whole.

From their expertise, other design firms can learn two main things. First, design for adaptability, with modular spaces that can shift and reconfigure rather than being torn down and rebuilt, because nobody can predict how work will change. Second, biophilic design is ultimately about how people feel in a space, not just how it looks.

Q: How does the new location balance operational flexibility with elevated, human-centred experiences? How do you think the future of workplaces will evolve in our urban landscape?

A: For us, these two things aren't in tension; one enables the other. Flexible terms alone don't set anyone apart anymore. A suite or a few desks, a team that can scale without a long lease—that's expected now. What's different is what we do with that flexibility. We've moved from treating an office as a utility to treating it as a hospitality experience. With us at the Bank of Singapore, a company doesn't have to choose between a polished, permanent headquarters and the freedom to grow or contract. It gets both, in a space that feels considered and residential rather than off-the-shelf.

Looking ahead, the office is being redefined by what it no longer has to be. For a long time, it was simply where work got done. But routine work can now happen almost anywhere, and AI is accelerating that by absorbing a whole layer of tasks that once filled the day. What can't be automated, or done over a video call, is people together in a room, the trust built face to face, the idea that surfaces in an unplanned conversation, the deal closed over lunch. That is why we design our spaces around a human-centric design philosophy that inspires creativity, as places for connection, collaboration, and everything that only happens in person. The urban office is shifting from somewhere you have to be to a space to return to, and that's the standard we're designing to.



Pantry on L6



Library; The Landing Room on L7

Elegant Craftsmanship and Experience in Furniture

Lim Swee Hoe, Managing Director, Flexform Singapore, shares his expertise on bringing Italian collections to the local market



Lim Swee Hoe, Managing Director of Flexform Singapore

On 26 June 2026, Italian luxury furniture powerhouse, Flexform, celebrated the launch of its Singapore Experience Centre, marking a significant milestone in the brand's presence in Southeast Asia through its exclusive partnership with Rosso Italia Living.

Founded in Meda, Italy, Flexform is a third-generation family-owned brand by the Galimberti family that has defined luxury Italian interiors for more than six decades. Internationally recognised for its exceptional craftsmanship, every piece is manufactured exclusively in Italy using locally sourced materials, reflecting the brand's enduring commitment to authentic "Made in Italy" quality and artisanal excellence.

The Flexform Experience Centre in Singapore serves as the brand's dedicated physical showcase and immersive design destination in the country. Managed exclusively by Rosso Italia Living, the appointment-only space offers clients and design professionals a bespoke introduction to Flexform's craftsmanship and customisation capabilities.

Southeast Asia Building had the pleasure of talking to **Flexform**

Singapore's Managing Director, Lim Swee Hoe. Over the past 40 years, Mr Lim has built a distinguished career in real estate and property development.

With a longstanding appreciation for architecture and design, his passion for interiors naturally became an extension of his journey. This



Rosso Italia Experience Living Centre / Flexform Guscioalto & Guscio (Armchair), Pico (Table), FeelGood (Ottoman), Softdream (Sofa)

foundation continues to inform his thoughtful, brand-led approach as Managing Director of Flexform Singapore, where he has helped shape the brand into a destination for refined contemporary living.

Mr Lim was drawn to Flexform for its artisanal craftsmanship, exceptional quality, and unparalleled comfort. He made it his mission to introduce Flexform's understated elegance and superior materials to residential and hospitality spaces across Singapore. Under his leadership, Flexform Singapore continues to expand its offerings with designs that cater to modern lifestyles while remaining rooted in timeless Italian craftsmanship and effortless functionality.

Q: Please introduce yourself and your role at Flexform. How did you come to join Flexform?

A: I am the Managing Director of Flexform Singapore and oversee the brand's partnership with Rosso Italia Living. Over the past 40 years in the real estate industry, I have always believed a well-designed home is about more than architecture. It is about creating spaces where people genuinely enjoy living. As homes



Rosso Italia Living Experience Centre / Flexform Camelot (Sofa), Arnold (Coffee Table), Lauren (Chair), Inca (Carpet)

evolved into places to work, entertain, and relax, I became increasingly interested in how furniture and interiors shape those experiences.

When I learnt about Flexform,

I immediately recognised that it embodied everything I value. The craftsmanship, comfort, and understated elegance were exceptional, but what resonated with me most was its heritage as a third-generation family business. Like many enduring family businesses, Flexform has remained true to its philosophy while continuing to evolve. That authenticity made me want to grow Flexform's brand presence in Singapore.

Q: Why did Flexform decide to establish its new Singapore Experience Centre? What makes this location different from other Flexform stores in Southeast Asia?

A: After spending many years helping people create homes, I have come to realise that furniture is one of the few luxury purchases that simply cannot be appreciated online. You need to experience the comfort, proportions, materials, and craftsmanship in person. That thinking shaped the Experience Centre. Rather than creating a traditional showroom, we wanted visitors to feel as though they were walking through



Rosso Italia Living Experience Centre / Flexform Groundpiece (Sofa), A.B.C (Armchair), Bangkok (Ottoman)



Rosso Italia Living Experience Centre / Flexform Perry (Sofa), Jiff (Side Table), Fly Marble Table (Coffee Table)

a beautifully designed home. Every space demonstrates how the furniture functions in everyday life, while allowing clients to explore different collections, materials, and finishes in a natural setting.

Flexform offers an exceptional level of customisation, and the Experience Centre allows clients to experiment with different configurations, upholstery, and finishes to create something that truly suits their lifestyle. Ultimately, we wanted to create a destination where people could take their time, experience the collections properly and make confident decisions for their homes.

Q: How did the team decide which collections to showcase in Rosso Italia Living? What were the key considerations made when designing the space?

A: The Experience Centre was curated in close collaboration with the Flexform team in Italy to ensure it faithfully reflects the brand's design philosophy while remaining relevant to contemporary living in Singapore.

Rather than filling the space with individual display pieces, we wanted to create complete living environments that showcase how Flexform furniture is meant to be experienced, as part of a thoughtfully designed home. Visitors will discover

some of the brand's most iconic collections, including Groundpiece, Loungescape, Camelot, and the Ginger lounge chair, all designed by Flexform's longtime designer, Antonio Citterio. These pieces represent the enduring design language that has defined the brand for decades.

We also wanted to highlight the versatility of the collections. Whether for a compact apartment or a larger family home, many of Flexform's

designs can be customised through different configurations, upholstery, materials, and finishes to suit individual lifestyles. By presenting these possibilities in realistic living spaces, clients can better appreciate how timeless Italian craftsmanship, comfort, and functionality come together in a home.

Q: Admissions to Rosso Italia Living are by appointment only. What is the reason for this arrangement?

A: Buying furniture for your home is a significant decision, and it deserves time and attention. By welcoming clients through private appointments, we are able to understand how they live, what their priorities are, and what kind of home they are creating. That allows us to provide thoughtful guidance instead of simply showing products.

The experience becomes much more personal and collaborative. Clients can explore the collections at their own pace, discuss materials and layouts, and receive advice tailored specifically to their needs. That is the kind of experience we believe luxury should offer.

Q: The experience centre boasts a multimedia room where guests can visualise spatial compositions with



Rosso Italia Living Experience Centre / Flexform Zefiro Outdoor (Table), Echoes Outdoor (Chair)

Flexform's online program. Why was it important to have this feature on-site, and what are the benefits of using this tool?

A: Using Flexform's digital planning programme, clients, architects, and interior designers can create and refine different layouts using the brand's extensive range of modular collections, experimenting with configurations, dimensions, upholstery, materials, and finishes in real time, which the multimedia room houses. These layouts can be adapted to suit different room sizes and planning requirements, making it easy to explore multiple design directions before making a final decision.

For design professionals, the platform is also a valuable planning tool. Proposed furniture configurations can be developed and mapped onto architectural floor plans and integrated into broader interior schemes, allowing designers to evaluate scale, circulation, and spatial relationships with greater accuracy. This streamlines the design process and gives clients greater confidence before moving into procurement.

Most importantly, the digital experience is complemented by the physical one. While visualisation helps inform design decisions, clients can simultaneously experience the furniture's comfort, proportions, and craftsmanship firsthand. Together with the guidance of our design consultants, the Experience Centre provides a holistic design journey that combines technology, expertise, and the tactile qualities that define Flexform.

Q: A key feature of Flexform's furniture is its modular and flexible nature. How did Flexform come to be known for its personalised approach, and how does the experience centre support this aspect of the brand?

A: One of the reasons Flexform has remained relevant for so many decades is that it has never designed furniture around passing trends. Instead, it has always been designed around the way people live. As lifestyles have evolved, the collections have evolved with them. The modular systems allow clients to personalise



Unveiling of the Rosso Italia Living Experience Centre



Mr Lim Swee Hoe and Mr Giuliano Galimberti

layouts, materials, and finishes while maintaining the timeless aesthetic and craftsmanship that define the brand.

The Experience Centre was created to help clients fully appreciate that flexibility. Rather than looking at individual products, they can experience how different configurations come together to create homes that feel both functional and personal.

Q: Flexform furniture is manufactured exclusively in Italy. Are there any challenges in producing products for Singapore's climate and clientele? How have these challenges been addressed?

A: One of the qualities I admire most about Flexform is its unwavering commitment to manufacturing exclusively in Italy. "Made in Italy" is not simply about geography; it represents generations of craftsmanship, specialised knowledge, and a close community of artisans who continue to produce every piece to an exceptional standard.

The considerations for Singapore are not about changing the product; they are about helping clients select the right solution for their homes. Every home is different, so our



Ribbon Cutting



role is to guide clients towards the configurations, materials, and finishes that best suit their space and lifestyle.

That combination of Italian craftsmanship and personalised consultation allows us to deliver homes that feel both timeless and highly individual.

Q: Why do you believe Singapore is an important market for Flexform? How does Flexform plan to expand in the country and the region going forward?

A: We see Singapore as a market that appreciates quality, craftsmanship, and timeless design. As people's lifestyles continue to evolve, we see strong long-term potential because there is a growing appreciation for timeless design, authenticity, and furniture that becomes part of everyday life for many years. This is something we believe aligns closely with Flexform's philosophy, and thus the potential for brands like Flexform to survive and thrive in Singapore.

Looking ahead, our focus is on continuing to share that philosophy by helping more people appreciate the value of thoughtful design, authentic craftsmanship, and furniture that is made to become part of everyday life for many years.

■ Greening with Ropes and Net Structures to Create High-Quality Urban Spaces

Jakob Rope Systems develops suspension rope and net solutions that harmoniously combine architecture and vegetation



Green courtyards, atriums, and facades are becoming increasingly important in architecture. Green spaces create attractive areas with high aesthetic and climatic quality, particularly in offices, administrative buildings, banks, hospitals, educational institutions, and residential buildings.

Stainless steel trellis structures can take many forms, from cones and columns to vertical rope systems or large-scale stainless steel nets. They offer climbing plants optimal growing conditions and enable customised greening concepts that integrate seamlessly into the architecture.

Similarly, green structures improve the spatial atmosphere on multiple





levels. They create a vibrant, natural ambiance, reduce noise transmission, and improve the microclimate. Flowering plants also add seasonal accents and offer diverse views of the greenery from adjacent rooms.

Planning and installation

Development of trellis structures usually begins with the architectural design; landscape architects define the planting scheme and its growth characteristics. Using this as a basis, Jakob Rope Systems designs the load-bearing structures and rope systems made of stainless steel as project-specific constructions.

The structural design considers factors such as the vegetation's weight, its long-term development, wind and snow loads, and the forces at the building's connection points. Fire safety requirements are also integrated into the early planning process.

Planting is carried out using pots or planters that are positioned near the ground, elevated, or distributed across multiple floors. This results in both continuous vertical greening and systems planted floor by floor. Ground-level planting areas are often combined with seating and lounge areas.

Key aspects of planning

Light

Local light conditions determine the choice of plants and the layout of trellis structures. Rope directions are designed to support optimal and healthy plant growth.



Mounting

Trellis structures are mounted to walls, ceilings, or steel structures. Load transfer is coordinated closely with the structural engineer to ensure all forces are transferred permanently and safely into the building structure.

Fire safety

Fire safety requirements depend on the building type and its use. They are coordinated with the relevant specialist planners and authorities at an early planning stage.

Irrigation

Automated irrigation systems supply the plants with water and nutrients as needed. Sensor-based controls take climatic conditions into account and support long-term plant vitality.

Learn more about Jakob Rope Systems at www.jakob.com
Watch an example of Jakob Rope Systems' rope and net structures here: <https://youtu.be/F1hFSpPZbsk>

All photos copyright: Jakob Rope Systems

■ Qincheng Park



In today's urban landscape, commercial spaces are often treated as efficient pass-through systems—clear entrances, defined routes, quick transactions. People are guided in, then ushered out. True lingering has become rare.

ProA's design for Qincheng Park did not start with asking how to amplify commercial appeal. Instead, they asked: in an area dominated by offices, could a commercial space become a public place people return to and choose to pause in? Here, commerce recedes gently into the background, woven softly into the rhythm of daily life.

The "Forest Isle Spirits", the project's core IP, are not repeated as heavy-handed visual motifs. Instead, they are subtly integrated at a turn in the path, within a rest area, along a textured

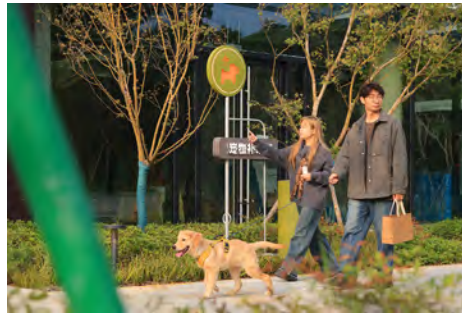


surface, sometimes glimpsed peeking through grass, other times resting quietly, almost hidden in nature.

During off-peak hours, what you'll often see are quiet moments: someone sitting with their dog in the shade, another taking a quick phone call, or a visitor simply pausing to do nothing at all.

Nature is an active participant in everyday life, and the space welcomes all naturally. Through design, the space's narrative extends to the smallest gestures, so that every pause and interaction becomes a quiet conversation with nature. An example is the pinecone-shaped seats scattered across the sunken courtyard; they playfully echo the "sound of nature falling", like treasures left behind by forest spirits, waiting to be discovered.

Within the woven canopy, trees seem to chat through mushrooms, while soft, flickering lights convey nature's own symphony. The Forest Isle continues to grow, with nature itself becoming the moderator. The design follows nature's lead—creating order while respecting the environment—so





that the space evolves organically over time.

The great lawn was envisioned as a versatile, reusable setting. The Qincheng Stage, for example, is a flexible performance platform. When needed, it becomes a vibrant hub for brand events, community projects, or pop-up exhibitions. On ordinary days, it blends naturally back into the landscape. The stage offers adaptability, enriching the space's long-term vitality and allowing commerce, community, and culture to merge without clear borders.

Pet-friendliness is woven into the fabric of the park. Leash hooks beside benches, the "Fuzzy Island" play zone for four-legged friends, and gentle reminders nestled among the greenery—each touchpoint meets community needs while encouraging a more relaxed rhythm. This fosters





spontaneous connections between people, pets, and nature.

When engagement comes before consumption, commerce integrates more meaningfully, becoming a natural outcome, not a precondition.

PROJECT DETAILS

PROJECT NAME: Qincheng Park

PROJECT LOCATION: Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province

SITE AREA: 47,984 sqm

START TIME: August 2024

COMPLETION TIME: December 2025

DESIGN COMPANY: ProA Design

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: ProA Design

DESIGN TEAM: Sharon Shi, Lin Limin, Dai Yue, Xie Jiaqi

PHOTOGRAPHER: Ah Qi



Copen Grand and Shaw Tower

The Quantitative Benefits of Designing for Maintainability Considerations

By incorporating long-term maintenance considerations into the design process from the outset, Design for Maintainability (DfM) helps reduce maintenance costs and manpower needs during a building's life cycle.

Given the synergy between maintainability and sustainability, DfM is integrated within the Building and Construction Authority's (BCA) Green Mark (GM) 2021 Certification Scheme via the Maintainability (Mt) Section—one of the five sustainability sections. It assesses how well a building's design supports labour-efficient and cost-effective maintenance, and projects that demonstrate exemplary performance in adopting DfM measures are awarded the Mt Badge.

Given that some stakeholders sought clearer evidence of DfM's value and the scale of benefits that could be achieved in practice, BCA commissioned a DfM Consultancy Study to establish the business case for DfM, analysing four local projects through a Life Cycle Costing approach, considering current costs, labour intensity, and maintenance approach norms.

With Surbana Jurong Consultants Pte Ltd at the helm, four developers offered their projects as case studies: SJ Campus by Surbana Jurong Consultants Pte Ltd and Ascent by CapitaLand Development, both without the Mt Badge; Shaw Tower by Shaw Towers Realty, with Lendlease as project and development manager, and Copen Grand by City Developments Limited (CDL) and Sunway MCL, both with the Mt Badge.

The Study, completed in May 2026, mapped the DfM features within the Mt Section onto these developments and used the LCC analysis approach to derive the potential operational cost and productivity savings over their lifespan. The findings showed that, in commercial buildings, the additional cost of incorporating DfM was relatively modest, ranging between 0.6% and 1.5% of the initial construction cost, while potential annual operational (OPEX) savings over their lifespan (assumed at 30 years) ranged between \$310K and \$950K. Additionally, the majority of DfM measures adopted had a payback period of less than 6 years, and all DfM features studied returned productivity savings, with many achieving productivity savings of more than 60%. In comparison, for private residential buildings, the additional cost of incorporating DfM measures was lower at 0.2% of the initial construction cost (CAPEX). The OPEX savings over its lifespan (assumed at 30 years) were up to \$110K, with the majority of DfM measures having a payback period of less than 5 years. All DfM features studied returned productivity savings, with

many achieving productivity savings of more than 65%.

Ultimately, the study provided valuable quantitative results demonstrating DfM's value proposition for new and existing buildings given the operational costs and productivity savings, with relatively modest upfront investment.

Copen Grand

As the first Executive Condominium (EC) in the upcoming future-forward Tengah Town, 639-unit Copen Grand obtained its Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) in April 2025. Designed with sustainability in mind, Copen Grand is the first BCA Green Mark Platinum Super Low Energy (SLE) EC in Singapore.



Copen Grand features several maintainability features, all of which are integrated thoughtfully and subtly into the design. For the EC's landscaping, water points are provided at every 15-metre radius for convenient irrigation, and gravel maintenance paths provide defined routes for easy access to deeper planter areas while protecting existing planting.

The buildings boast drainage control architectural features,





with rain cover overhangs to reduce rain exposure at lift lobbies and louvres at ventilation openings to mitigate the effects of wind-driven rain. The buildings' facade also has access features, with a davit arm system and gondolas provided at the roof level for maintenance. Thus, all residential blocks' facades can be maintained efficiently via the gondolas.

Ms Tay Seok Cheng, Senior Vice President, Head, Projects, Deputy Head, Property, Development Division, CDL, shared the motivations behind the DfM considerations at Copen Grand with Southeast Asia Building. "As an experienced developer, we have a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with a focus on sustainability and quality. It was a collaborative effort with ADDP Architects to determine what the most suitable approach was on multiple levels.

"Recently, the weather has been very harsh. Considering this, proper weather shields, balanced with authority regulations, were implemented in areas heavily used by residents. DfM features like these will be felt by the residents, especially in the long term, and they will intrinsically know the difference between an estate that has them and one that does not. Additionally, the cost-benefit will make itself apparent over time; owners might not need to use additional funds to carry out repairs or similar maintenance because they were already accounted for in the design.

"Through years of experience, CDL has developed the ability to take feedback and learn from it, improving ourselves for the next project. The most important thing for developers is to get it right in the design stage. It is more cost-effective than trying to implement DfM features later."

Shaw Tower

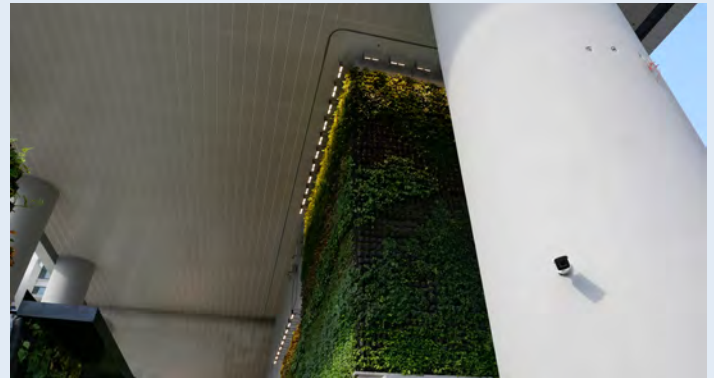
An award-winning Grade A commercial development at 100 Beach Road, the new Shaw Tower sets the bar for sustainable offices with future-ready designs, progressive workplace amenities, innovative technology, and best-in-class resilient digital infrastructure to enhance



Photo credit: Shaw Towers Realty Pte Ltd

health and human experience.

The entrance of Shaw Tower features an aluminium drain pan with walk-off mats to collect and drain rainwater while removing moisture and dirt from footwear. This improves safety by reducing slip hazards caused by wet floors, enhances drainage efficiency, and simplifies maintenance.



On the Sky Terrace (L6), a monorail system was installed for safe and direct access to the vertical green wall, ensuring easy maintenance and plant replacement. Without the need for extensive temporary access systems, this enhances worker safety, prolongs the lifespan of the green wall, and supports sustainable building operation throughout its lifecycle. The Sky Terrace also features a suspended metal modular ceiling that comprises uniformly sized metal panels hung from the building's structural ceiling via a supporting grid, allowing for easy removal and replacement of individual panels. To minimise the need to get to such heights, the design team ensured that there are no services other than sprinklers



on/above the ceiling. Services such as lights are installed on the walls or reflected upwards toward the ceiling.

The roof features a Building Maintenance Unit (BMU) system, a permanent facade access system that provides safe access for inspection, cleaning, and maintenance of the building exterior. The Glass Replacement Unit (GRU) is also integrated within the BMU and comprises a vacuum suction cup mounted on a mechanical arm/ frame that grips and holds heavy glass panels securely. Incorporated during the design phase, it provides safe, permanent access, reduces

work-at-height risks, eliminates reliance on temporary access methods, and improves long-term maintainability and efficiency. Due to its incorporation during the design phase, the system's track is integrated with the facade design to minimise its visibility.

Shaw Tower also has multiple MEP DfM features that most users won't see. The top of the cooling towers has cat ladders with a metal enclosure to ensure sufficient space and safe access for workers, eliminating the need for their own scaffolding, which costs more and introduces unnecessary risks. There is also a

clear distance of 2 metres or more from the top of the cooling towers to the trellis. This allows for good ventilation and sufficient headroom above the fans for optimal operation, and also gives workers enough room to manoeuvre comfortably during maintenance. The side stream separator cleans dust and debris from the cooling towers, improving hygiene, reducing maintenance costs, and extending the asset life.

On level 32, clear access is provided to all major M&E plantrooms for ease of transporting equipment or materials to their respective areas. In conjunction, a permanent



Photo credit: Shaw Towers Realty Pte Ltd

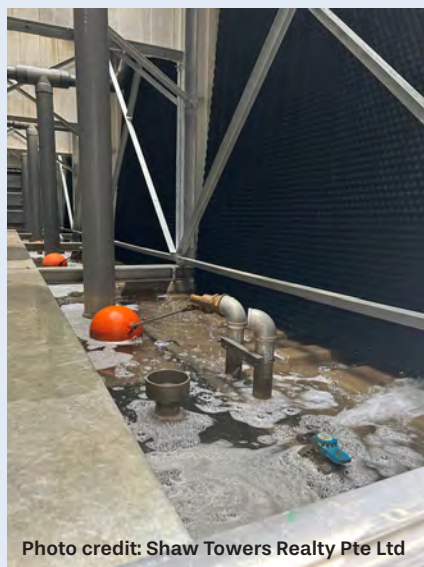


Photo credit: Shaw Towers Realty Pte Ltd



motorised lifting beam was designed for end-of-life replacement of major M&E equipment. This ensures major M&E components can be more easily transported from the rooftop to Level 1 without using temporary cranes or dismantling the equipment. By designing this from the start, costs and disruption to users are kept to a minimum.

Mr David Clayton, Global Design Principal, Aedas Pte Ltd, shared the firm's motivations and thought process in Shaw Tower's architectural design. "It's not about thinking of DfM on its own. A lot of questions arise during the design brief, and from there, the details start to emerge to deal with these maintenance issues. In the end, it's one holistic process.

"Architects now are already thinking about maintenance in their design process, and my advice would be: the earlier they consider these issues, the better. Bigger buildings will have more parts that need addressing, and forgetting to address something will be a much bigger problem than if it was solved at the design phase. From a practical point of view, most architects will have a quality management system. Design for maintenance needs to be one of those checks in their system so it's not forgotten."

Mr Darren Burrows, Senior Associate Director — Building Services, Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner (S.E. Asia) Pte Ltd, Shaw Tower's M&E consultant, also shared the considerations made during their M&E design. "Access for maintenance was a key driver from the client, and it made it easier for us to explain to the architect and ensure it was incorporated into the design. What was different was BCA's specific Mt Badge in their GM 2021 Certification Scheme. There is a better framework to aim for and pursue higher levels of maintenance. These specific criteria enabled us to go beyond what we'd typically do.

"The crucial part is thinking about design and DfM from the beginning because it's so integrated between architectural design, M&E design, and structural design. These considerations add up, and that



is the power of working together collectively as a team. There are hundreds of other features we've implemented that we haven't shown. Still, they ultimately help from a maintainability perspective for safety, efficiency, reduced labour cost, manpower, resources, as well as the quality of the final product."

Conclusion

From the perspective of a developer and the design team, the lesson is

clear—DfM needs to be adopted from the very beginning of the process. This ensures maximum benefits and greatly reduces safety risks for workers. Many of these features work so seamlessly with the design that they may go unnoticed, but together they produce a better project. Across the board, DfM is a consideration that needs to become second nature to developers and architects so the positives outlined in BCA's study are fully realised.



Family Justice Courts' Exterior. Photo credit: Finbarr Fallon

The Octagon: Family Justice Courts

Building Type: Judiciary /
Courtouse

Project Location: 3 Havelock
Square, Singapore 059725

Name of Client: Singapore Courts

Country: Singapore

Year of Completion: 2024

Operation Start Date: 25
November 2024

Gross Floor Area: 37,400m²

With its official opening on 23 July 2025, the Family Justice Courts (FJC) began a new chapter at the iconic Octagon building. Formerly occupied by the State Courts and originally designed as a purpose-built Civil and Criminal Courtouse, the Octagon has undergone extensive refurbishment, transforming into a family courtouse that centralises all services in one location and offering greater convenience for court users.

CPG Consultants (CPG) had the honour to serve as the Principal Consultant, Architect, Engineer, and Principal Design Consultant for



Exterior of the Family Justice Courts. Photo credit: Finbarr Fallon



Interior of the Family Justice Courts. Photo credit: Finbarr Fallon

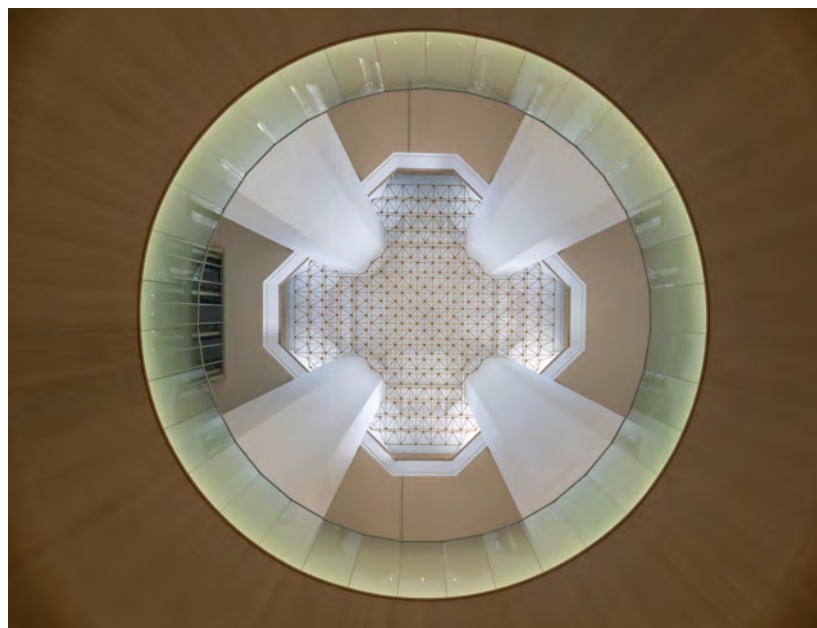
the project, leading the transformation of the landmark state institution.

Conservation and adaptive reuse: steeped in history and reimagined for the future

Constructed in 1975, the Octagon is a rare example of a post-war building, recognised for its distinctive brutalist architectural features. It was gazetted for conservation in 2013; preserving the essence of the original design was central to a building like the Octagon, with its iconic eight-sided stepped exterior form and voluminous interior atrium. CPG's multidisciplinary team ensured that architectural and structural interventions, along with a comprehensive overhaul of mechanical and electrical systems, were modernised carefully and unobtrusively.

Expanding functional space

In 2014, the Family Courts were restructured into a separate judicial body known as the FJC under the Family Justice Act. Before the move to Octagon, FJC was operating from



Family Justice Courts' Podium. Photo credit: Finbarr Fallon



Counselling and Psychological Services at the Family Justice Courts



Family Justice Courts Service Hub. Photo credit: Finbarr Fallon

two separate locations. To centralise operations in a single location, additional functional space was required within the Octagon.

This was achieved through the careful insertion of floor slabs to create additional floor area within the building's internal volume. As a result of the move, the number of courtrooms for the FJC increased from 12 to 25, and chambers from 21 to 52, respectively. The expansion also accommodated specialised facilities, including child-friendly interview rooms, quiet rooms for distressed adults and children, and vulnerable witness rooms to enable remote testimony in hearings.

Redefining court space: a therapeutic approach

The scale and character of the Octagon before the refurbishment, while well-suited to the State Courts, necessitated change under the Family Justice Courts, which handled sensitive matters, primarily serving vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and women. The transformation was driven by the Therapeutic Justice (TJ) philosophy: a holistic, problem-solving approach that shifts the judicial process focus from pure adversarial conflict to achieving positive and sustainable social outcomes for families.

Spaces were made warm, comforting, and protective—keys to a non-adversarial environment, which is a core architectural element of the TJ framework. This is crucial for reducing trauma and fostering the emotional safety required for the court process to be effective.

Wayfinding

By dividing the Octagon into distinct green and blue zones for easier orientation, wayfinding was significantly improved. Each zone is clearly defined by colour-coded elements, including signage, furniture, carpets, and acoustic panels. This creates a cohesive design philosophy that ensures clear and intuitive navigation throughout the building.

Honouring the past through design

Conservation was a central focus of the



Family Justice Courts' Flying Staircase. Photo credit: Finbarr Fallon

project, reflected in the design team's thoughtful restoration of the Octagon's distinctive architectural features while introducing modern interventions through a deliberate balance of contrast and harmony. The sensitive integration of old and new allows the Octagon to retain its historical narrative

while fulfilling the functional demands of a contemporary courthouse—honouring its heritage while embracing the future.

The revitalised atrium Flying staircases

At the heart of the atrium are the



High Court (Family Division). Photo credit: Finbarr Fallon



Heritage Court. Photo credit: Finbarr Fallon

expressive flying staircases, a prominent architectural feature that has been carefully conserved for its functional value and historical significance. These staircases provide vertical circulation, reducing dependence on lifts. From their vantage point, the open corridors surrounding the atrium are clearly visible, symbolising the transparency and openness central to the judicial process.

Space frame

The atrium of the Octagon features a striking space frame comprising interlocking struts arranged in a geometric pattern, reflecting the architectural movements of the 1970s. The space frame was conserved and finished with a new coat of paint.

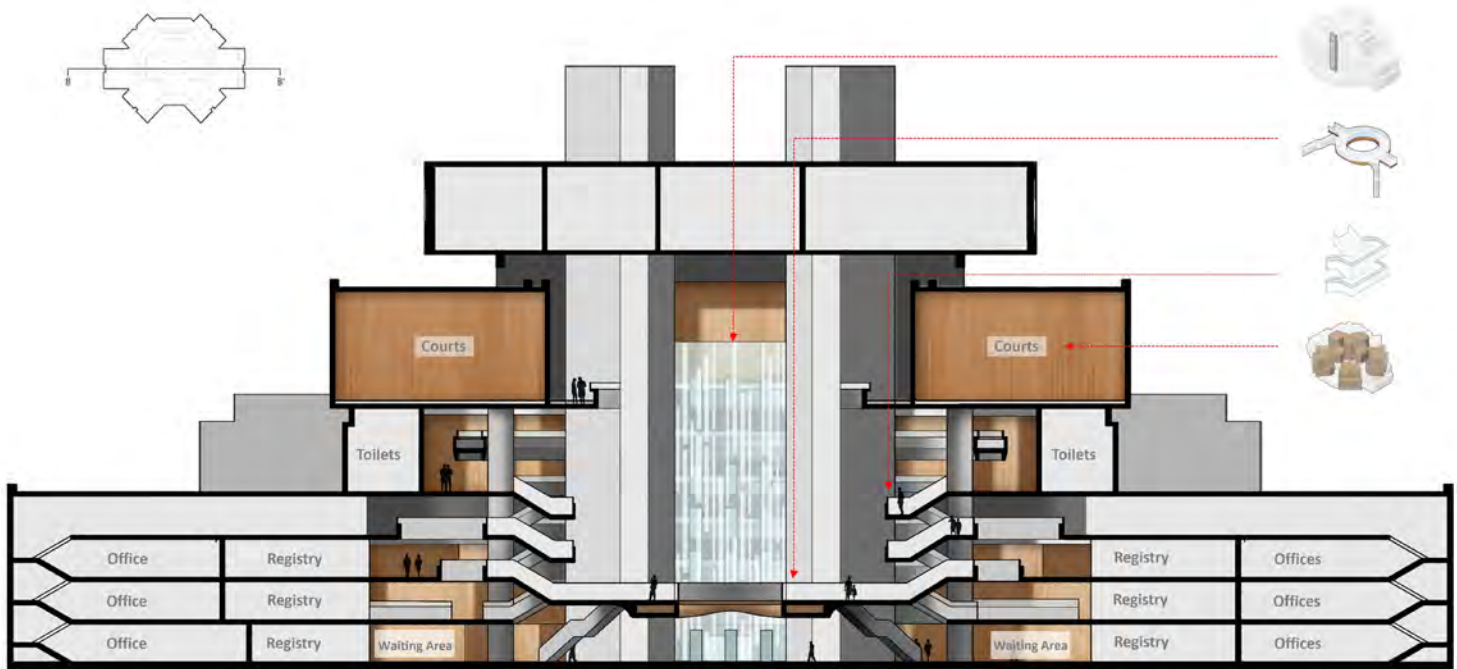
The podium

With the removal of the Criminal Mentions Court from the atrium's centre, the building's ground floor was transformed into an open, welcoming, and accessible space. A new curved sculptural podium was introduced between the second and third storeys—a contemporary reinterpretation of the original raised platform. This architectural intervention enhances vertical circulation and cross-connectivity within the atrium and to the flying staircases.

A large circular void at the centre of the new podium elegantly frames the view of the space frame from the ground floor. As a tribute to the building's heritage, arabescato marble flooring from the original raised podium was carefully salvaged, polished, and reinstalled, preserving its timeless beauty on the new podium.

Heritage Court

Once known as Court 1 of the State Courts, the courtroom has been restored and renamed as the "Heritage Court".



Atrium Diagram. Photo credit: CPG Consultants

Measuring 220 square metres, the Heritage Court is a fully functional, modernised courtroom that seamlessly combines the former courtroom's design with the modern courtroom standards of today. It features original timber wall slats sourced from old courtrooms, and were treated and reused in the Heritage Court. Approximately 500 square metres of conserved timber slats were used, showcasing the lasting appeal of the original wood.

Environmental sustainability

The refurbished FJC is an environmentally sustainable building, equipped with modern mechanical systems, such as a pre-cooled fresh air system, a chilled-water system (tapped from State Courts Towers), and passive displacement ventilation.

In recognition of its green features, the building was awarded the BCA Green Mark Platinum Award for Existing Non-Residential Buildings (ENRB:2017) in 2022.

A unified judiciary cluster

The refurbished FJC and State Courts were designed as a unified judiciary cluster, fostering greater synergy and operational efficiency between the two buildings. The shared roundabout with dedicated pick-up and drop-off zones, along with a new covered linkway designed to echo the Octagon's distinctive horizontal banding, provides a smooth, sheltered connection between the two buildings, enhancing accessibility and convenience for all users.

This project reflects CPG's commitment to conservation and adaptive reuse.¹ Together, these principles safeguard the historical and cultural fabric of a nation's built environment, while sensitively adapting it to meet contemporary needs. Relevant, functional, and sustainable, the Octagon ensures Singapore's built heritage remains relevant in a rapidly evolving world.



Exterior of the Family Justice Courts. Photo credit: Finbarr Fallon

<u>Project Team</u>	
Principal Consultant & Architect	CPG Consultants Pte Ltd
Principal Design Consultant	CPG Consultants Pte Ltd
Civil & Structural Engineering	CPG Consultants Pte Ltd
Mechanical & Electrical Engineering	CPG Consultants Pte Ltd
Quantity Surveyor	CPG Consultants Pte Ltd
Project Management	PM Link Pte Ltd
Site Supervisory Team	Construction Professionals Pte Ltd
Interior Design Consultant	CPG Consultants Pte Ltd / SCA Design Pte. Ltd (Ong & Ong)
Special Lighting Consultant	Ong & Ong Pte. Ltd
Security & Blast Consultant	Certis Cisco Consulting Services Pte. Ltd
Conservation Consultant	Franz Wood ASA Pte. Ltd
Facade Consultant	HCCH Consulting Pte. Ltd / Building Facade Grp
Landscape Consultant	Plantwerkz Pte. Ltd
Acoustic & AV Systems Consultant	Alpha Acoustics Engineering Pte. Ltd
Signage & Wayfinding Consultant	Endpoint APAC Pte. Ltd
Environmental Sustainability Design Consultant	Surbana Int'l Consultants Pte. Ltd

¹ CPG served as Principal Consultant, Architect, and Engineers for the State Courts – a bold high-rise courthouse, and Supreme Court—a contemporary interpretation of Singapore's original 1930s neoclassical courthouse. The completion of the newly refurbished Family Justice Courts marks a significant milestone in the 21st-century modernisation of the trilogy of Courts that form the Singapore Courts, representing the latest chapter in CPG's enduring legacy of shaping Singapore's civic and judicial landscape.



adidas Originals Flagship Store, Anfu Road, Shanghai

Project Name: ADIDAS
ORIGINALS OFS 311 ANFU RD

Client: ADIDAS

Location: Shanghai, China

Area: 350 sqm

Completion time: April 2025

Design Studio: TOMO
DESIGN, TO ACC

Chief Designers: Uno Chan,
Xiao Fei

Cooperative Design: Linus,
Psyun, Sirry, Jason

Decoration Design: Tin, Evan

Brand Promotion: Xiao Fei,
Yuu, Tuantuan, Sunshine PR

Photography: Free Will
Photography

Videography: Y3 Studio

At the intersection of Anfu and Wukang Roads, a new landmark emerges in one of Shanghai's most iconic historic neighbourhoods. Set within the former Yongle Cinema, a site rich with local memory, the city's first adidas Originals global flagship store stands where historic architecture meets contemporary youth culture.

The design pays tribute to the unique Haipai culture that defines the area while preserving the building's original structure. It articulates the distinctive identity of adidas Originals—a lifestyle brand built for sport, shaped for and adopted by culture—embracing the local context with cultural sensibility, breathing new energy into the neighbourhood.



Classic forward: a new story in a historic setting

TOMO DESIGN wove adidas Originals' timeless narrative into the architectural shell of the former Yongle Cinema, activating the site's latent cultural DNA through a bold, avant-garde lens. The retail environment echoes local culture and engages with the neighbourhood; design motifs draw from historical architecture, from geometric lines to embossed glass windows and louvred shutters. These elements are integrated seamlessly with the brand's signature elements and the city's distinctive Haipai culture.

The brand space unfolds across four dimensions—simplicity, innovation, perspective, and iconicity. The result is a multi-layered circulation system that invites perception, exploration, and interaction. Rooted in a logic of exploration and engagement, the store







transforms into a socially interactive, immersive environment, guiding visitors through a rich brand narrative while enabling a unique, personalised journey of consumption.

Facade: three stripes beneath the plane tree shadows

The facade's renovation preserved the original structure and its history, reinterpreting it as a vessel for brand storytelling. The design balances preservation and reinvention through a restrained material palette and precise proportions.

Three vertical windows, framed in patterned stainless steel and accented with blue film, subtly reference the iconic palette and three cut-out stripes of the adidas Originals logo. A glowing Trefoil logo embedded onto one side of the facade is a contemporary gesture to the historic shell, continuing the old building's story with the pulse of the

brand's fashion identity.

Anchoring the right corner, a monumental "Shell Toe" installation activates the streetscape, inviting passersby into a fresh, interactive experience as a response to the pose-and-post culture of today's fashion-forward youth. This metallic installation contrasts playfully with the textures of surrounding old buildings, bringing urban sport culture to the neighbourhood and deepening the dialogue between the brand and local culture.

The retail space reinterprets adidas Originals through Shanghai's cultural lens, weaving signature elements into the spatial journey from entry. Through localised and youth-centric design, brand symbols become a bridge between the retail experience and the city's pulse. It's a deep resonance between adidas Originals, the city, and Generation Z.





Ground floor: a fashion playground in an old building

An open layout fuses rugged historical textures with refined modern materials, creating a retro-industrial aesthetic aligned with adidas Originals' brand. A central display fixture takes the form of the iconic Trefoil logo at the heart of the space, framed in metal to spotlight signature products. Modular frameworks and interactive installations activate the environment, making it dynamic, flexible, and socially engaging.

Front Room

Stepping into the ground floor space, visitors are greeted by a kinetic centerpiece—an automated arm installation inspired by the louvred shutters of old Shanghai architecture. Capable of rotating and folding, it creates a shareable moment and is one of the store's most photographed features on social media.

The surrounding display area combines wood finishes, stainless steel shelving, and a modular slot system, balancing visual cohesion with flexible displays. Old Shanghai textures—concrete finishes, terrazzo flooring, and retro manual levers—are thoughtfully juxtaposed with avant-garde kinetic installations and brushed stainless-steel panels. This interplay injects fresh energy into classic elements, echoing

the Originals' spirit: inspired by the past, shaped by the future.

Suspended overhead, the MADE FOR YOU signage glows in pixelated lighting as a nod to the digital influence interwoven with today's street culture. The same material palette extends to the customisation station, where retro embossed glass stamped with the Trefoil logo pairs with sleek metal supports, creating a tactile contrast of softness and strength.

Backroom

The back area continues the bold, cool tone, with matte stainless steel outlining sleek spatial contours. Light wood veneers and dust mats soften the metal's chill, adding warmth and balance.

Behind the front display screen, deliberately exposed wiring resonates with the coarse textures of the original building. Overhead, a blend of point and linear lighting draws focus to the ORIGINALS signage, crafting a rear zone infused with strong brand identity.

The apparel display area balances ceremony with playfulness. Vintage hand cranks and motorised lift racks animate the display. The light-toned burl-wood-grain backdrop wall—crafted with a high-gloss lacquer technique often seen in Shanghai-style decorative art—offers a

contemporary take on traditional craftsmanship. The result is a retro-inspired modernity that resonates with younger audiences while honouring classic artistry.

Ground Floor Fitting Room

The ground floor fitting rooms blend mirrored surfaces with wood-toned finishes, merging industrial coolness with fashionable warmth. Light panels create a soft ambiance, while custom mirrors expand visual depth, transforming each fitting moment into a ritual of self-exploration and personal style expression. A blue carpet echoes adidas Originals' signature palette, enriching the refined and immersive fitting experience.

Upper floor: the Originals' inspiration loft

A multidimensional design statement, the staircase with hidden light strips unites the existing structure with terrazzo and stainless steel accents. A wall-sized poster highlights the spirit of adidas Originals, facilitating a seamless visual transition between the two floors.

Clothing Section

The clothing display area on the upper floor reimagines fashion expression through custom embossed glass and



minimalist geometric lines. Inspired by vintage glass doors and windows from Shanghai's old villas, the custom glass is subtly imprinted with the recurring Trefoil logo.

Wood-veneered display platforms introduce a dynamic interplay of elevations, shaping a layered visual rhythm across the space. Geometric zoning defines distinct experiential touchpoints, while a modular stainless steel display system enables swift reconfiguration to meet evolving merchandising needs.

Shoe Section

The footwear area channels the avant-garde energy of street culture through

crisp, dynamic lines, translating adidas Originals' urban sports culture into a cool and sleek display. A visual rhythm emerges from blue carpeting paired with deep-toned finishes, while mirrored surfaces add symmetry and extension.

Inspired by the geometry of skateboard axles and wheels, linear lights extend across the ceiling to form a "hovering street playground" overhead. Trefoil-embossed glass transforms into a series of display shelves, paired with stainless steel profiles and digital screens. The orderly displayed footwear narrates the genetic code of street culture.

Upper Floor Fitting Room

The fitting rooms on the upper floor reimagine the try-on experience with a futuristic touch; rippled silver-metal walls contrast with soft blue carpeting, and the Trefoil emblem strengthens brand resonance, completing the shopping journey.

A local narrative for a global brand Beyond a mere product showcase, this landmark flagship store is a cultural hub that activates a historic site and connects urban culture with younger generations. Rooted in a dual embrace of modernity and local identity, the design integrates meticulous material choices and rich sensory textures to craft a layered visual interface.

The intentional preservation of the "old" and the bold amplification of the "new" creates a compelling tension, embodying adidas Originals' spirit of honouring tradition while relentlessly pursuing innovation.





Pierre Hermé Paris Flagship Store, Singapore

Project Name:
Pierre Hermé
Paris Flagship
Store, Singapore

Owner: Resorts
World Sentosa

Location: #01-
234/234A, WEAVE,
26 Sentosa
Gateway, Resorts
World Sentosa,
Singapore 098138

Interior Design:
CCD Singapore

Lighting Design:
CCD Singapore x
BPI

Signage Design:
CCD Singapore x
Corlette

Design Area: 572
sqm

Completion Date:
August 2025

Photographer:
Boris

For Pierre Hermé, pastry is more than food—it's emotion, architecture, and art. Every creation builds a world of flavour, and the Singapore flagship store turns that vision into space.

CCD's design for Pierre Hermé Singapore embraces its local setting. Rather than replicating the Paris boutique, it blends the refinement of French patisserie with Singapore's tropical vitality, creating a dialogue between elegance and exuberance, art and nature.

The entrance sets the tone with a fusion of Parisian street café and tropical garden.





Macaron sculptures glimmer among lush greenery, like sweet fruits peeking through the leaves; a poetic nod to the brand's signature creation, rooted in the island's natural charm.

Stepping inside, bold contrasts of colour and texture awaken emotion. Smooth and rough surfaces play in harmony, creating a tactile rhythm that mirrors Pierre Hermé's refined and daring desserts.

The layout unfolds through gentle curves and layers of sweetness. Cakes, pastries, and breads are displayed with artful precision along a curved counter. A central circular counter celebrates Pierre Hermé's icons of macarons, chocolates, and French cakes, each one a masterpiece of taste and design. From the moment guests are seated







to the crafting and tasting of each dessert, every step is choreographed like an interlinked act in a theatrical performance, and everyone in the store becomes part of this culinary stage.

Every detail is meticulously composed. This precision mirrors Pierre Hermé's personal approach to pastry-making, selecting each ingredient with care and crafting every creation with discipline and artistry.

Natural wood furnishings and warm lighting bring a sense of calm and comfort. The soft glow highlights the vivid colours of the desserts, while the contrast between







of Pierre Hermé's words: Savoury for nourishment, sweet for pleasure.

Here, Pierre Hermé's world-first ice cream and bubble tea bar brings French artistry and Asian charm into playful harmony. Every sip creates a joyful fusion, where pure enjoyment is the only rule.

The dining area welcomes guests with an airy, light-filled atmosphere, the design responding gracefully to Singapore's tropical climate. Custom rattan furniture, with delicate weaves and gentle curves, offers a sense of visual coolness, and its sustainable and tactile nature evokes the feeling of a soft breeze in a tropical garden.

The colour palette is rooted in natural wood tones, complemented by muted macaron hues: blush pinks, soft beiges, and creamy whites. These shades echo Hermé's iconic Ispahan dessert, where rose, lychee, and raspberry mingle in a delicate gradient of flavour and colour.

The spatial rhythm unfolds through elegant curves and flowing lines. One side opens to a serene tea salon, the other reveals relaxed seating with views of lush greenery. Whether for an intimate conversation or a cheerful gathering, every corner offers the perfect setting to begin a sensory-led journey of pleasure.

wood's raw texture and the delicacy of pastry adds a subtle depth to the space.

In response to sustainability practices, the store introduces cloth packaging, combining eco-consciousness and gift-worthy elegance. This blend of Eastern tradition and Western confectionery reflects the brand's cultural sensitivity within a global context.

The second-floor area unites savoury and sweet creations under one philosophy, a living expression

Light is the final storyteller. Soft amber tones intertwine with daylight streaming through large windows, illuminating the pastries' delicate hues. As the sun moves across the sky, shifting shadows dance through the space, turning the interior itself into a living, breathing work of art.

Every touch and note, from custom tableware to subtle background music, reinforces the immersive pleasure of haute pâtisserie. A curated world of delight, creativity, and tropical imagination where expectations melt away, and the senses take the lead—Pierre Hermé Paris Singapore invites patrons to experience an intimate dialogue with beauty, dessert, and the very essence of space.





Chun Sheng Jewelry

Project Name: Chun Sheng Jewelry

Location: Kunming, Yunnan Province, China

Project Area: 300 sqm

Design Time: August 2023

Completion Time: December 2023

Design Firm: Aurora Design

Chief Designer: Yang Xuewan

Lighting design: Uniimport

Construction: Rebuilding Space Lab

Photography: Na Xin from INSPACE

Video: WM STUDIO

In a historic neighbourhood in central Kunming, an old residential building was given new life. The renovation project, led by Aurora Design, sits adjacent to a multi-storey parking lot and a snack street. Situated between the new and old, "spring" was the project's central theme—the season of blossoms and new beginnings.

Chun Sheng Jewelry, a new-generation art jewelry store, is dedicated to high-quality original gemstone designs that highlight natural beauty. The brand has its own production factory, showing its dedication to refining even the smallest details in its work. Handmade by experienced craftsmen, the result is a blend of refined creativity and skill. The brand's young owner integrates natural beauty and artistic lifestyle into the jewelry design, creating an original brand with warmth and vitality.

The original frame of this three-layer building remains unchanged to harmonise with the surroundings. Inside, however, the space was divided into a series of modular sections, and load-bearing walls were removed from the original structure. The result is a fresh, airy, and open space that invites light in.

Similarly, an extended terrace and outdoor display on the south side welcome more natural light in, allowing the previously enclosed environment to connect with nature.

Through the influx of light, the essence of spring is evoked, as is the passage of time.

A large-scale art installation acts as an introduction to the interior, setting the scene immediately for visitors—relaxed and comfortable, like bathing in spring breezes and the fragrance of flowers. Inspired by the wild nature and the intricate root systems of plants, the installation's natural elements continue into the space with wooden furnishings.

An office with a tea area provides a comfortable space for customers, easing them into the experience. Light and shadow dance across the stone and wood, and breezes carry the gentle fragrance of tea, allowing thoughts to float delicately around the room.

Light plays another important role in spotlighting the meticulously sculpted gems and jewels on display. Paired with the irregularly shaped ceiling, time settles into a tranquil atmosphere. The wall, intentionally designed with alternating curves and sharp edges, echoes the tools used to carve gems. As time passes into midday, the white micro-cement finish captures the whispers of light as it travels, playfully weaving between recessed and smooth surfaces.

The combination of light and dark wood is like the different tones in a chorus, reflecting the varying stages of spring. The wooden furniture, originally designed by Aurora Design, seamlessly integrates functionality with aesthetic appeal. Its warm texture, combined with other natural materials, imbues the space with a sense of relaxation.

The customised jewelry room on the north side was designed for customers to express their own whimsical ideas, letting their thoughts germinate, grow, bloom, and fruit. A treasure trove of creativity, each piece of work holds special meaning. The alternating movement of glittering light combines brand awareness, natural aesthetics, and originality.

Throughout the work area, a sense of greenery envelops visitors. The designer retained the plants from the original site, moving some on the west side to the terrace, creating a moment perfect for calming the mind. In the grey space,





a wooden installation adjacent to the plant overlaps multiple geometric forms, connecting the outside and inside. The staircase connecting the second and third floors, with its restrained colour palette paired with minimalist geometric shapes, amplifies the sense of balance. The feeling continues to the third floor, which was mainly used as an office and VIP space.

Rectangular windows were largely used to introduce more natural light. The skylight on top of the office, bright but focused, meets the demand of jewelry identification; the white and bright light in the floating window bring the landscape in; the large glass blocks on the south side make the mid-day sunlight more warm and gentle; and the side window on the west side, with its secretive and gentle light, protect the privacy of the studio in its entirety. Functional areas are







separated by grilles to ensure spatial and tonal continuity.

While choosing the palette, the designer observed the neighbourhood and took its characteristics into consideration. As a result, the facade is mainly white, highlighting a harmonious coexistence with its surroundings. White was also used as the undertone to offset the beauty of light and shadow. The interior's colour expression was centred on the jewelry; hence, the use of warm and neutral colours to support the theme of balance, warmth, and calmness.

Striving for cross-border integration in the discourse of architecture and urbanisation, Aurora Design skillfully played with light and dark tones, enabling nature to flourish in form. The peaceful lifestyle of embracing spring and enjoying tea is conveyed through the warm light alongside the original brand spirit.





Kurasu, MixC Shenzhen Bay

Kurasu Coffee Stores in Shenzhen and Beijing

Project Name: Kurasu, MixC Shenzhen Bay

Client: Kurasu

Start: June 2025

Completion: October 2025

Area: 184 sqm

Location: Zone C, MixC Shenzhen Bay Phase II, Nanshan District, Shenzhen

Design Studio: Atelier L

Lead Designers: Dake Li, Nan Lei

Design Team: Longwei Zhuang, Wenfeng Luo, Zhaohong Wu, Shuping Zhang, Changxin Li

On-site Design Support: Zhaohong Wu

Interior Construction: King Sun Design

Facade Construction: Beijing Million Partner Construction Company Limited

Curtain Wall Consulting: Youzhao Zheng (RINRO)

Lighting Consulting & Fabrication: GAMMA

FF&E Consulting: SHEXIA SPACE DESIGN

Photography: Jin Weiqi, Zhaoming Fan

Kurasu, MixC Shenzhen Bay

Amid the momentum of the third-wave coffee movement, Kyoto-born speciality coffee brand Kurasu has established its presence in China with two locations—first debuting at MixC Shenzhen Bay, followed by a pop-up at Beijing's Taikoo Li Sanlitun.

Designed by Atelier L, the two coffee shops translate Kurasu's coffee brewing rituals and community ethos into distinct spatial experiences tailored to these two new urban settings.

The Shenzhen store is inspired by traditional East Asian pitched-roof architecture and adopts a "dual eaves" design strategy, while the Beijing pop-up employs a "dual vessels" concept—abstracting the geometry of the pour-over dripper into two architectural volumes.

Both coffee shops balance brand identity with a sensibility to local context, bringing Kurasu's coffee culture into the everyday rhythms of contemporary Chinese cities.

Kurasu, MixC Shenzhen Bay
Kurasu's first store in China is located at Shenzhen Bay MixC Phase II, a vibrant commercial and lifestyle hub that fosters everyday coffee culture in the neighbourhood. The vision was to create a community living room—an everyday space for visitors to stop by, gather, and connect. The design focused on an "inner and outer eaves" concept, inspired by the pitched roofs in both Japanese machiya townhouses and Shenzhen's vernacular fishing settlements.

The "outer eaves," shaped as a sloped matte corrugated metal canopy, continues the surrounding facade



language while providing gentle shade. Outwardly, it is a canvas for the play of light and shadow; inwardly, it compresses the perceived scale, cultivating a slower, more intimate spatial atmosphere.

The "inner eaves" are lighter and subtly lifted above the bar, suggesting the coffee counter as a stage for pour-over rituals. These "dual eaves" establish a spatial hierarchy, reminiscent of "a house within a house".

The interior layout follows a clear zoning strategy, with a secondary entrance separating active and quiet zones. Coffee, baking, and retail are interwoven into a cohesive setting, fostering a community hub that balances operational efficiency with unhurried stays.

The generous 5.8-metre ceiling height opens up broader spatial possibilities. On the ground floor, the entrance, espresso bar, and pour-over bar define a dynamic zone, guiding a fluid sequence of ordering, brewing, and pickup. Rather than a typical linear counter, the design introduces a looped bar at the centre, turning coffee preparation into an open, shared experience where the tools, rituals, and



Kurasu, MixC Shenzhen Bay

aromas of hand brewing unfold into an interactive scene.

Inspired by the imagery of savouring coffee amid dappled shade, the material palette balances cool and warm tones. The exterior is clad in matte corrugated metal, while the interior features timber, handmade brick, limestone, and Tyvek—imbuing the space with tactile and visual depth. Caramel, wood, and black leather define the furniture palette, evoking the earthy hues of soil and coffee beans. Woven pieces, lacquerware, and

ikebana vessels introduce a Japanese sensibility at an intimate scale, creating a warm, relaxed atmosphere akin to a living room.

The lowered, gently sloping external eaves echo the surrounding trees, softening the boundary between interior and exterior. Outdoor seating extends into a landscape of water features and street trees, inviting guests to pause unhurriedly beneath the outer eaves, between coffee and everyday life.



Kurasu, MixC Shenzhen Bay



Kurasu Pop-Up, Taikoo Li Sanlitun

Kurasu Pop-Up, Taikoo Li Sanlitun

The Kurasu Pop-up at Taikoo Li Sanlitun, Beijing occupies a compact footprint—8 metres long, 3.5 metres wide, with a height limit of 3.5 metres.

Within its modest scale, the design draws on Kurasu's signature pour-over dripper as a reference, reimagining it as two architectural volumes articulated with the lightness of origami. The larger volume, like an inverted coffee dripper, creates an inward-facing space for brewing. The smaller volume tilts outward in a cantilevered gesture, opening onto the street as an interface that fosters a dialogue between the brand and the city.

Given the limited footprint, the design prioritises spatial efficiency.

Project Name: Kurasu Pop-Up, Taikoo Li Sanlitun

Client: Kurasu

Start: September 2025

Completion: December 2025

Area: 28 sqm

Location: East side of N2 Building, Taikoo Li Sanlitun North, No. 11 Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Design Studio: Atelier L

Lead Designers: Dake Li, Nan Lei

Design Team: Longwei Zhuang, Wenfeng Luo, Zhaohong Wu, Changxin Li

On-site Design Support: Yixiu Zhang (Will Architects)

Construction: Beijing Million Partner Construction Company Limited

Photography: Jin Weiqi, Xiao Bai



Kurasu Pop-Up, Taikoo Li Sanlitun

The larger volume features a compact, efficient layout, with a central linear bar that clearly delineates the service and customer areas. Its "inverted vessel" form creates a sense of enclosure, buffering the interior from the street.

The wall gently tilts within the service area, freeing up movement behind the bar, while on the customer side, the curvature deepens, enhancing the spatial perception. The result is an intimate environment that evokes the atmosphere of an izakaya.

The smaller volume cantilevers outward as a visual highlight, doubling as an outdoor display and a place for passersby to pause, transforming the pop-up into a micro urban gallery in Sanlitun. The operable glass roof addresses potential wind loads during extreme weather while attuning the interior to seasonal changes. As guests enjoy their coffee, their gaze is drawn upward to the shifting sky and the rhythms of surrounding trees.

Rooted in Kurasu's brand identity, the design uses structure and materials to articulate a cultural narrative. A nuanced interplay of texture and light extends the familiar contrast of the Shenzhen store—cool outside, warm within. Brushed stainless steel, wood-grain aluminium, and beige textured finishes echo both the brand's crafted wares and Kyoto's ritual sensibility, while ensuring durability and construction efficiency.

A steel base anchors the two volumes to the ground, while its corners are slightly lifted as a nod to origami's lightness. A mix of dark gravel, natural stone slabs, and scattered rocks forms a courtyard-like setting, accommodating both movement and moments of rest.

Instead of adopting a uniform design language, Atelier L sought to cultivate an ongoing cross-cultural dialogue, exploring how a slower pace of life can flourish in urban commercial settings. The design reframes the coffee space as part of everyday life, where Kurasu's pour-over culture takes root in new local contexts, echoing the brand's vision and the meaning of Kurasu, "to live"—a tribute to everyday living.



Kurasu Pop-Up, Taikoo Li Sanlitun



Kurasu Pop-Up, Taikoo Li Sanlitun



Physique 57's Flagship Studio

Project: Physique 57

Project Area: 3600 sq ft

Location: Mumbai

Type of Project: Fitness Studio

Design Studio: Empire - The Living Company

Principals: Shonali Mahajan and Rustom Cooper

Photography: Talib Chitalwala

In Mumbai's landmark 1950s Kwality House overlooking Kemps Corner, Physique 57's studio pairs South Bombay heritage with modern fitness. Designed by Shonali Mahajan from design firm Empire, the studio reimagines the brand's Indian flagship as a warm, high-performance fitness environment.

Physique 57, a global fitness and media company headquartered in New York City, is known for its barre-based workout method inspired by ballet. Moving from its earlier hotel-based location in Mumbai created an opportunity to rethink the studio experience. The design focused on three priorities: creating a warm, welcoming environment; ensuring



complete acoustic separation between studios; and integrating advanced air filtration and climate control so members could exercise with confidence.

The building's own history shaped the first impression of the vision. On the top floor, the site revealed an existing wooden roof structure. Rather than conceal it, Shonali restored and polished the timber trusses, turning them into a defining feature.

"The larger studio now sits beneath this ceiling, creating a striking contrast between historic architecture and the studio's modern language," she explained.

The layout is simple and intuitive. A corridor leads to a central reception and lounge positioned between two studios, doubling as a waiting area and retail display for merchandise and fitness products. One studio faces the road and benefits from natural light, while the other sits beneath the restored wooden roof. An office beside the reception allows trainers and staff to manage operations and conduct online sessions.

Further along are the functional areas, lockers, showers, and a spacious women's dressing room. With generous mirrors, well-lit vanities, and comfortable circulation, the space allows members to refresh and prepare for the day after their workout. Finished in lacquered glass, colourful elements gleam against a white coloured shell, allowing the space to breathe and bathe in light.

The second studio makes the most of its unusual wedge-shaped plan and street-facing orientation. Existing windows were opened up to bring in natural light and frame views of the flyover below. Members exercising inside remain visually connected to the city, while passersby catch glimpses of classes in motion, turning the studio itself into a subtle yet effective advertisement for the brand.

Finished largely in white, the space is articulated through fluted surfaces and mirrored walls. In a quiet gesture that acknowledges the restored roof above, the barre bars themselves







are crafted in wood, weaving the building's heritage structure and the contemporary studio.

In Empire's choreographic style, lighting shapes the experience. Circular ceiling fixtures replace spotlights, creating even illumination and a clean architectural ceiling. The reception and lounge glow with warm light, studios use bright white to energise, dressing areas stay naturally lit, and bathrooms return to spa-like warmth. During cool-downs, soft light within the wooden ceiling creates a gentle ambient glow. Behind the scenes, acoustic detailing prevents sound transfer, advanced HVAC keeps air clean and cool, and automated music systems sync sound with the rhythm of the workouts.

The space is a dialogue between past and present. Beneath restored timber trusses and carefully choreographed light, movement unfolds against the building's memory. Here, heritage architecture and contemporary wellness meet, turning every workout into a moment suspended between city, body, and space.





JODI Life Flagship Store, Khan Market

Project Name: JODI Life Store

Design Firm: Alkove-Design

Area: 265 sq ft

Location: Khan Market, Delhi

Principal Designer/s: Ar Komal Mittal and Ar Ninada Kashyap

Photographer: Tanuj Ahuja

Tucked away in the bustling lanes of Khan Market in Delhi, the JODI Life retail store stands as a vibrant canvas where fashion meets

culture, embodying the essence of Indian craftsmanship in every thread and texture.

JODI Life, an India-based fashion brand, celebrates India's rich craft heritage through distinctive, culturally inspired designs, using natural textiles and artisanal techniques such as hand block printing, bandhani dyeing, and hand embroidery. Understanding JODI's ethos, Alkove-Design sought to reflect the brand's celebration of skilled artisans and time-honoured traditions while creating a modern and engaging retail space. The brief centres on crafting an immersive shopping experience—one that narrates the story of India's artisan traditions and JODI Life's commitment to creating





enduring, handcrafted designs.

Drawing inspiration from the architectural beauty of Kutch's traditional homes, the interiors feature earthy, muted tones complemented by intricate white mural-style detailing.

These murals, inspired by JODI's unique prints and motifs, bring an artistic flair that resonates with the brand's identity and commitment to preserving handcrafted artistry. The subdued backdrop allows



the colourful, intricately designed garments to shine while mirroring the rich cultural influences that define JODI.

This carefully curated space invites customers to immerse themselves in a world where heritage and contemporary design converge, offering a deeper appreciation for the intricate patterns and vibrant hues of the JODI Life collection.

The design also features organic, flowing shapes that soften the store's ambience, fostering fluidity and warmth. A striking monolithic centrepiece, conceived by the design team, serves as both a counter and a seating area, adding a sculptural element to the space. This multifunctional piece enhances the store's layout, acting as a visual anchor while offering a moment of pause amid the vibrant retail environment. Adorned with hand-painted white motifs, the centrepiece echoes the artisanal touch found in Kutch's wall art traditions.

To further elevate the artisanal atmosphere, the design team introduced hand-painted tiles throughout the store, each featuring





patterns inspired by JODI's designs. The tiles add a unique decorative element that enhances the store's aesthetic with vibrant, textile-inspired motifs.

Additionally, some of the tiles were creatively repurposed into functional hooks, merging practicality with artistic appeal. This thoughtful integration of design and function creates a seamless connection between the brand's clothing and the store's interiors, weaving JODI's

essence into every corner of the space.

"Securing a space in Khan Market, one of Asia's most iconic hubs, is no small feat. Though compact at 265 sq ft, Alkove-Design has masterfully transformed it into a quintessentially 'JODI' haven. Every detail, from the thoughtful storage solutions to the appliqué curtains, intricate motifs, and hand-painted murals adorning the ceiling and storefront, reflects the essence of JODI—where design

meets soul," commented the JODI co-founders, Gauri Verma and Karuna Laungani.

This space beautifully marries traditional influences with modern retail needs, creating an engaging, sensory experience for customers. Thoughtfully crafted by the team at Alkove-Design, a modern retail environment infused with Indian artistry was born, enhancing customer engagement in a beautifully curated space.



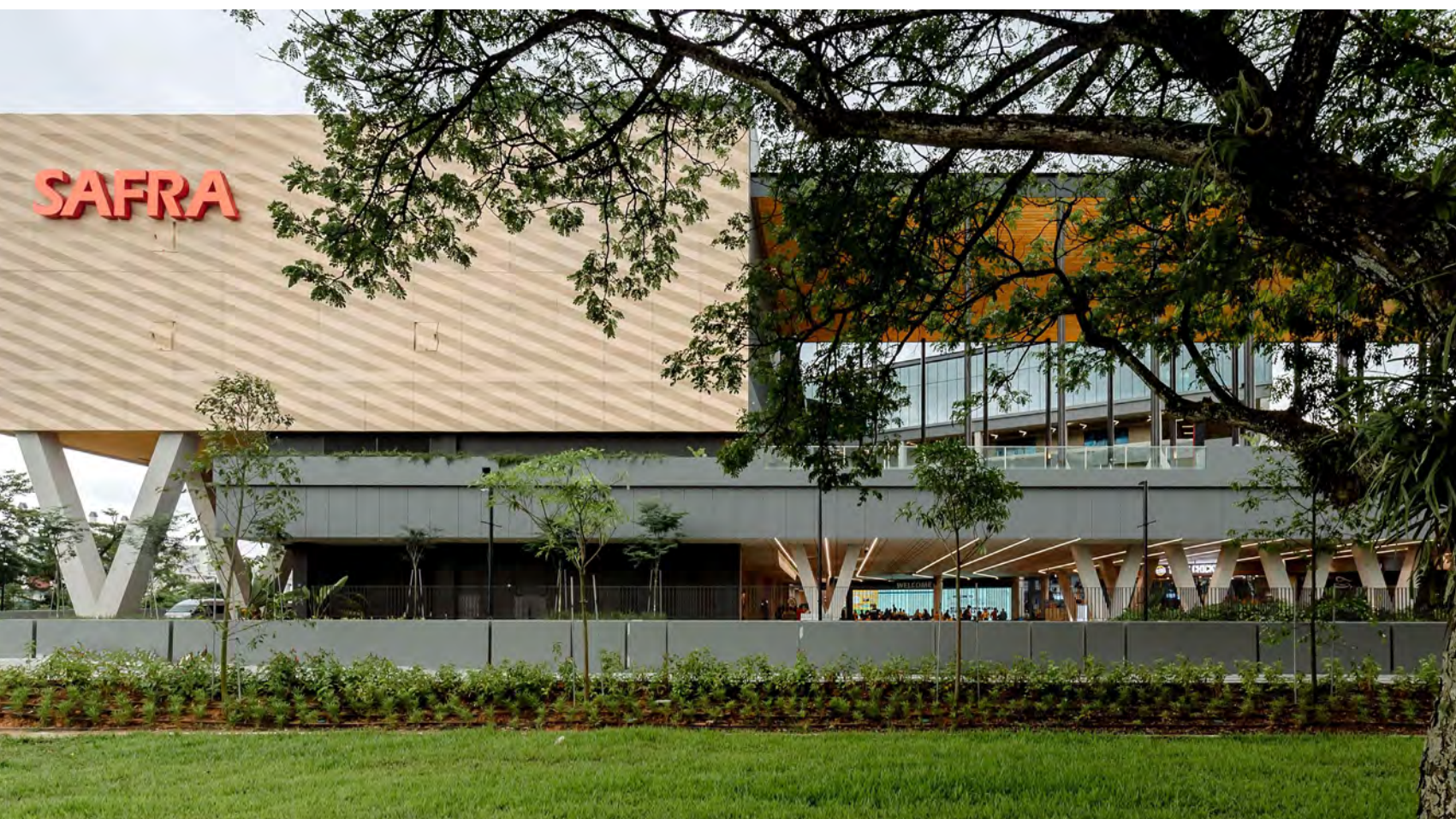
SAFRA Choa Chu Kang Clubhouse



SAFRA Choa Chu Kang Clubhouse is a recreational clubhouse in Singapore designed by DP Architects in collaboration with its specialist arms DP Engineers (Structure), DP Green, and DP Sustainable Design. It offers a suite of health and wellness activities for National Servicemen and their families. It is the first such facility to be sited within a public park, which formed the impetus—Nature, Fitness, and Community—for

how the design team conceptualised the clubhouse as a 'Fitness Oasis' that prioritises the health and wellbeing of both its end-users and the environment.

The design reflects and responds to its park surroundings. Innovative design features were applied to work around the natural elements, delivering a sustainable development that also elevates the primary vision of promoting fitness and supporting community





wellbeing. This is articulated in the building's massing, which is oriented to the park's axis and anchored by a green courtyard. This central green spine maximises the natural light and ventilation filtering into the clubhouse, reducing the use of artificial lighting and mechanical cooling. It also seamlessly integrates the clubhouse with the park.

Derived through computational fluid dynamics, planters are strategically located along the building perimeter to mitigate wind-driven rain along the weather-exposed pathways and harness rainwater for irrigation to minimise water consumption. The incorporation of greenery also alleviates the urban heat island effect.

The rich biophilia throughout SAFRA Choa Chu Kang Clubhouse creates proximity to nature that is not often







found in urban settings. Creatively interwoven with the clubhouse's comprehensive suite of amenities, recreational spaces, and communal gardens, they work in synergy to bring people together and foster a strong sense of community, while promoting physical and mental wellbeing. This confluence of nature, community, and lifestyle is further elevated through the integration of biophilia and pedestrianised networks throughout the development.

To further tackle operational carbon, active design strategies were employed. These include the use of energy-efficient LED lighting design, such as automatic zonal dimmers; a heat recovery system that reuses hot water from chiller plants, reducing the energy used for electrical heating; and photovoltaic panels. As a result, SAFRA Choa Chu Kang Clubhouse is able to generate renewable energy and maximise energy efficiency, enabling 42% in energy savings.

Underscoring this is a full-scope, whole-life carbon assessment

conducted at the early design stage. This was crucial in informing the project's embodied carbon emissions and ascertaining the use of sustainable materials. SAFRA Choa Chu Kang was constructed with green concrete and recycled steel, which reduced embodied carbon emissions per gross floor area by 23%.

"In understanding the vision that SAFRA had for its Choa Chu Kang clubhouse, we developed an architecture that not only serves its primary purpose as a sports and recreation destination for National Servicemen," shared Ar. Ng San Son, Director at DP Architects and Design Lead for the project. "We sought to challenge the parameters of this typology and, through strategies for porosity and seamless integration with nature, realised meaningful architecture that achieved authentic sustainable outcomes while promoting community togetherness and wellbeing."

The clubhouse received the Singapore Building Construction

Authority Green Mark Platinum – Super Low Energy certification, with sustainability badges for outstanding performance in Whole Life Carbon and Health & Wellbeing.

PROJECT DETAILS

Location: Singapore

Client: SAFRA National Service Association

Lead Architect: Ng San Son

Design Team: Ng San Son, Tan Kok Ming, Jireh Lee, Nigel Chew

C&S Engineer: DP Engineers

ESD Consultant: DP Sustainable Design

Landscape Consultant: DP Green

Main Contractor: Hytech Builders Pte Ltd

M&E Engineer: WSP Consultancy Pte Ltd

Quantity Surveyor: Northcroft Lim Consultants Pte Ltd

Project Completion: 2023

Total Floor Area: 19,700 sqm

Photography: DP Architects



Central Manpower Base, Singapore



Designed by DP Architects, a multidisciplinary design practice headquartered in Singapore, Central Manpower Base (CMPB) is an institutional building in Singapore. Conceived as an open civic campus rather than an introverted military facility, CMPB transforms a traditionally bureaucratic process into an experience grounded in dignity and belonging.

Recognising that CMPB carries deep symbolic and civic significance as the first point of contact for every citizen entering National Service in Singapore, the design reimagines the campus as an open, human-centred civic environment, where individual journeys transition into collective identity.

A series of courtyards, community spaces, and daylit halls introduce airiness, clarity, and life into the heart of



a secure compound, softening the threshold between formality and openness. Situated at the foot of Bukit Gombak Hill, the development is structured around three ascending zones—Play, Live, and Work—linked by a ceremonial stairway that anchors the composition along a central civic axis. Courtyards, daylit halls, and shared landscapes introduce airiness and legibility into the heart of a secure compound, softening the threshold between institutional formality and public openness, while guiding enlistees, families, and staff through the campus with clarity and ease.

CMPB's architectural language draws from Singapore's modernist and tropical heritage. Vertical concrete fins and deep eaves temper heat gain and animate the façade with light and shadow while offering glimpses of within, reinforcing the campus's open, civic character.

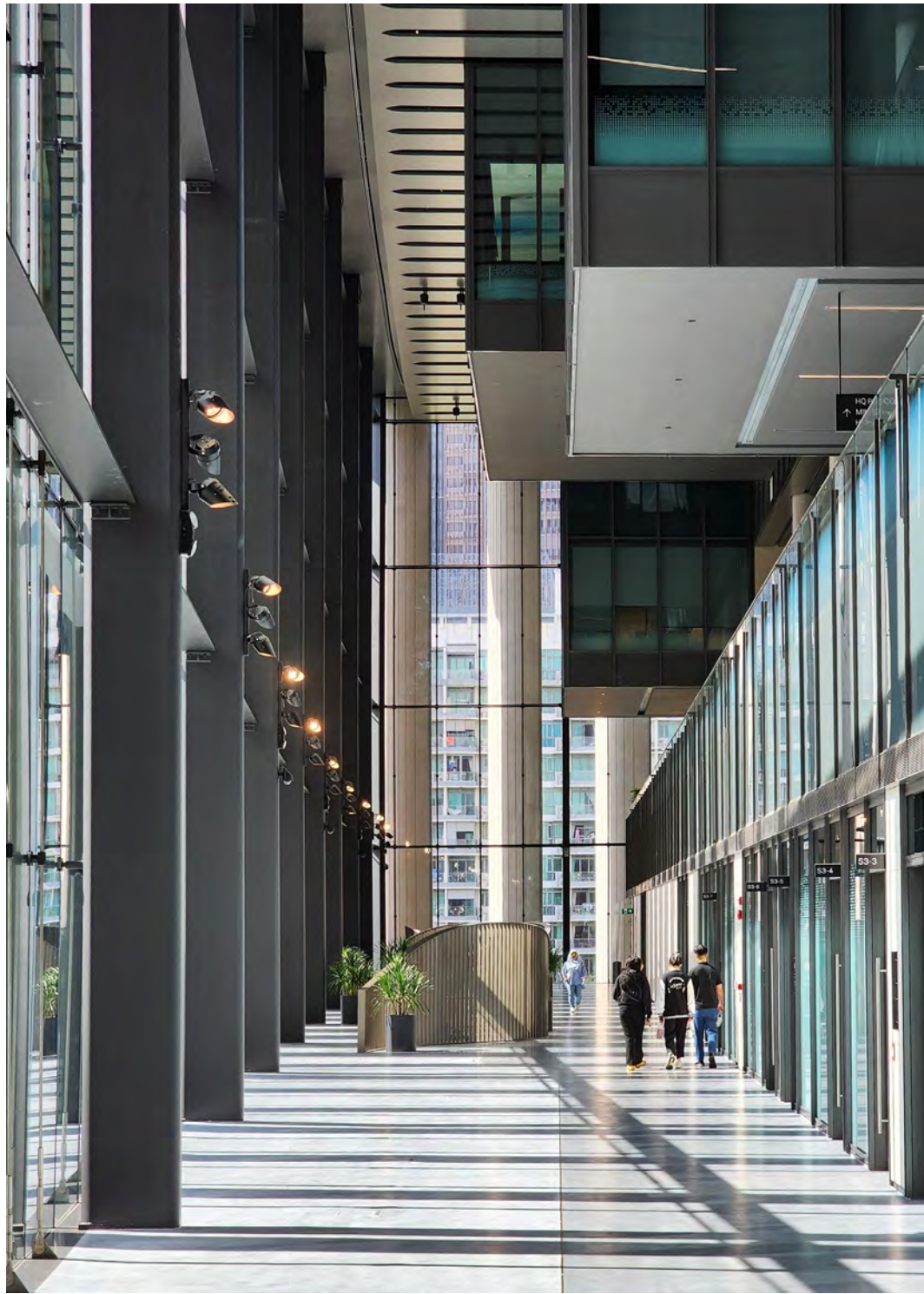
At its core, the Beacon façade gives material expression to this vision. Composed of ninety prefabricated concrete panels



interwoven with interlocking bricks forming the State Crest, it anchors the campus as a symbol of national unity, embedding collective identity directly into the material language of the building.

This confluence of civic purpose, architectural heritage and material symbolism elevates CMPB beyond an administrative facility into a shared civic experience—one that softens the boundary between institution and community, at once transparent and resolute.

Environmental stewardship is woven throughout this civic ambition. CMPB has achieved the Singapore Building Construction Authority's (BCA) Green Mark Platinum – Super Low Energy certification, attaining 47% overall energy savings through a combination of passive design strategies and high-performance, energy-efficient building systems. Reflecting the seamless integration of environmental performance with civic and architectural ambition, it



positions CMPB as a benchmark for sustainable public architecture in Singapore

More than a building, CMPB stands as a gateway to national service, a new paradigm of government architecture defined by transparency, sustainability, and empathy.

"CMPB is a testament to what

purposeful design can achieve, reimagining a traditionally inward-looking typology and shaping it into a civic facility that integrates sustainability, innovation, operational performance, and a meaningful connection to the public realm," commented Ar. Ng San Son, Lead Architect, Director, DP Architects.





> PROJECT DETAILS

Location: Singapore

Client: Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), Ministry of Defence

Lead Architect: Ng San Son

Design Team: Lim Sheau Miin, Tay Kai Loong, Jireh Lee, Melvin Tan Jia Herng

C&S Engineer: Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte Ltd

ESD Consultant: DP Sustainable Design

Landscape Consultant: DP Green

Main Contractor: Tiong Seng Contractors (Pte) Ltd

M&E Engineer: Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte Ltd

Quantity Surveyor: AECOM Cost Consulting And Project Management (Singapore) Pte Ltd

Project Completion: 2025

Total Floor Area: 66,132 sqm

Photography: Melcas Lim, Courtesy of DP Architects



LG Electronics' 600kW Coolant Distribution Unit

LG Electronics (LG) secured official NVIDIA certification for its 600kW Coolant Distribution Unit (CDU) in July 2026. This milestone validates the reliability and efficiency of LG's liquid cooling solutions and thermal management technology with NVIDIA's AI infrastructure standards, supporting the company's continued expansion in the AI data centre cooling market.

Reliable partner for global hyperscalers

As one of the select few companies globally to pass NVIDIA's technical verification process, LG successfully validated its 600kW CDU against more than 100 technical evaluation criteria. These metrics are designed to standardise cooling performance, reliability, and failover capabilities for high-density AI Factories.

The certification marks a strategic milestone for LG, strengthening the company's position as an officially verified NVIDIA partner for AI Factory infrastructure. For global hyperscalers and data centre operators, this designation provides confidence in supplier selection by reducing procurement risks and accelerating qualification for large-scale AI infrastructure deployments.

Chip-to-Chiller cooling solution provider

LG's NVIDIA-certified 600kW CDU is engineered to manage the thermal demands of high-heat AI GPUs. By implementing a Direct-to-Chip (DTC) liquid cooling solution that delivers coolant directly to heat-generating components such as GPUs and CPUs, the unit creates a highly efficient "hybrid cooling" system that operates in synergy with existing air-cooling infrastructure.

The unit is designed to achieve temperature-control precision of

± 0.25 degrees Celsius, helping enhance system thermal stability and support reliable AI server operation (performance results, including temperature-control precision and component lifespan, may vary depending on actual operating environments, server loads, and conditions). It also integrates virtual sensor technology for real-time monitoring and leak detection capabilities. Paired with LG's Data Center Cooling Control Manager (DCCM), the solution enables predictive control and centralised monitoring, while supporting seamless integration with data centre management systems through standard communication protocols.

To ensure comprehensive reliability, LG evaluates these solutions at its dedicated Chip-to-Chiller validation site in Pyeongtaek. Here, the company tests system-wide transient responses, temperature changes, and low-load stability across the entire cooling chain—from the AI chip load and cold plates to the CDU and chiller. By meeting NVIDIA's strict failover requirements, the CDU is engineered to maintain operational stability even under highly demanding conditions.

LG aims to further solidify its position as a trusted AI data centre infrastructure partner with a comprehensive "Chip-to-Chiller" portfolio, offering end-to-end thermal management solutions from the chip level to the cooling plant. The company's end-to-end offering includes chillers that produce chilled water, CDUs that distribute coolant, and cold plates that deliver cooling directly to AI chips—the core components of liquid cooling systems for AI data centres.

Backed by 60 years of engineering



Photo source: LG Electronics

expertise in the HVAC sector, LG's CDUs are designed for high-density AI data centre environments, offering precise temperature control, advanced control capabilities, and high reliability. The company also strengthens its competitiveness by producing key components in-house, including inverter systems and magnetic bearing compressors—core technologies widely applied across its chiller portfolio.

LG also secured major global data centre cooling projects, including hyperscaler facilities in North America and the Sinar Mas data centre, SM+ Data centre's flagship AI-ready facility in Jakarta, Indonesia. By leveraging its core technological capabilities, LG aims to expand global orders and strategic partnerships in the next-generation AI data centre market.

"As AI data centres continue to scale, the need for highly reliable liquid cooling solutions has never been greater," said James Lee, president of the LG ES Company. "Leveraging our advanced cooling technologies together with the LG Group's integrated infrastructure capabilities, we are expanding our AI infrastructure business with end-to-end solutions that help enable Physical AI, where AI creates value in real-world environments."



VitaBreeze

Modern households demand more than basic heating and cooling. Today's consumers expect intelligent systems that adapt to their lifestyles, reduce energy consumption, and maintain optimal indoor conditions year-round. VitaBreeze answers this call with a suite of innovative technologies that transform how we experience indoor climate.

Midea's newly launched VitaBreeze features "AirGrid", which maps room layouts and enables visual airflow control using a smartphone. Presence detection allows airflow to follow or avoid occupants based on individual preferences, while wide-angle air distribution ensures consistent comfort throughout the room. The latest Breezeless Pro technology expands airflow coverage by 30%, delivering gentle, draught-free cooling without compromising performance.

Whether directing cool air precisely where needed during yoga practice or eliminating draughts while relaxing on the sofa, VitaBreeze responds to individual preferences with unprecedented flexibility. The system recognises that comfort extends beyond temperature control—it's about balancing humidity levels that vary by season and location, ensuring children's rooms remain cosy even during dehumidification on rainy days.

Breakthrough technologies

AirGrid Intelligence

VitaBreeze maps room layouts and enables visual airflow control via smartphone. Users can direct air exactly where they want it, making climate management intuitive and engaging.

Wide-Angle Coverage

An extra-wide distribution angle ensures every corner receives consistent conditioning, while intelligent person detection enables airflow to follow or avoid occupants based on preference.

Breezeless Pro Evolution

The latest generation of Midea's signature draught-free technology increases air outlet area by 30%, dispersing cool air through strategically arranged micro-perforations to create gentle, multi-directional breezes without uncomfortable direct blasts—delivering full cooling performance instantly upon startup.

ClimaBalance Precision

Unlike traditional dehumidification that inadvertently lowers room temperature, this function maintains precise thermal stability while actively removing excess moisture, ensuring consistent comfort without compromise.

ECOMASTER 2.0 Efficiency

Building on Midea's patented algorithm, this predictive climate control system optimises energy use by responding to current and anticipated conditions with proactive micro-adjustments. By eliminating energy waste at the micro-level, it achieves exceptional overall efficiency.

VitaBreeze combines cutting-edge technology with contemporary aesthetics, featuring softer edges and refined styling that seamlessly integrates with modern interior design, reflecting Midea's commitment to the market's aesthetic preferences. VitaBreeze arrives in European homes in early 2027.



Photo credit: Midea

ShinFlow's Debut in Southeast Asia

ShinFlow, a premium air conditioning brand backed by its Japanese R&D Center and produced in Thailand, marked its global debut in Southeast Asia on July 4th. The company unveiled its new generation of human-centred cooling solutions, I-Series Smart Inverter Air Conditioners, featuring advanced AI-powered technologies designed to bring smarter, healthier, and more energy-efficient comfort to modern households across the region.

A global launch marking a new chapter

Positioned as a next-generation air-conditioning brand for the intelligent era, ShinFlow is a brand under the powerful Parent Group (AUX), with Japanese research and development at its core and high-standard production in Thailand.

The event marked an important milestone in ShinFlow's global expansion, starting with Southeast Asia, one of the world's fastest-growing air conditioner markets. The regional market is projected to grow at



ShinFlow representative presents at the global launch event. Photo credit: ShinFlow

a strong CAGR of approximately 6.9%, reaching around USD 9.55 billion by 2034 from USD 5.6 billion in 2026.

"By making SEA our first global launch region, we are bringing ShinFlow's human-centred cooling philosophy to a market where it can enhance not only comfort, but also

energy efficiency, smart control, and healthier indoor air, and create meaningful value for everyday households," Mr. Rocky Shi, Global Air Conditioning Brand Director, stated.

At the heart of the launch is the ShinFlow I-Series Smart Inverter Air Conditioner, a new product line designed for Southeast Asian households.

Backed by the ShinFlow Japan R&D Center, the I-Series brings together smart inverter technology with a range of innovative features. These include AI ECO mode, offering up to 40% energy savings; Human Sensing Airflow that automatically adjusts based on room occupancy; Voice and Wi-Fi control for seamless smart home integration; quiet air operation; UVC sterilisation; and advanced filtration systems.

The product line has been tailored to meet specific market preferences. In Vietnam, the I-Series highlights AI ECO, Wi-Fi and Voice Control, and UVC Sterilisation. These features support greater energy savings, smarter remote control, cleaner air,



Photo credit: ShinFlow



Photo credit: ShinFlow

and more even airflow distribution for Vietnamese households.

In Malaysia, emphasis is placed on Human Sensing technology, AI ECO,

Voice Control, and UVC Purification, offering personalised comfort and a healthier indoor environment.

In Thailand, the series features

Human-Sensing, AI ECO, Voice & Wi-Fi Control, Quiet Air, PM2.5 Filter, Easy Installation & Maintenance, addressing growing demand for intelligent cooling, cleaner indoor air, and convenient control in urban homes.

ShinFlow is committed to providing long-term reassurance for Southeast Asian consumers through localised after-sales and warranty policies, including replacement programmes, whole-unit warranties, and compressor warranties of up to 12 years.

"Over the next three to five years, ShinFlow aims to become one of the trusted air-conditioning brands of choice across SEA. Beyond business growth, we aspire to be recognised for smart technology, energy efficiency, and superior user experience. Our long-term vision is to establish ShinFlow as a world-class HVAC brand that promotes sustainable living and healthier indoor environments," he stated.



Mr. Hồ Thanh Lâm, Deputy General Manager of AUX Vietnam. Photo credit: ShinFlow

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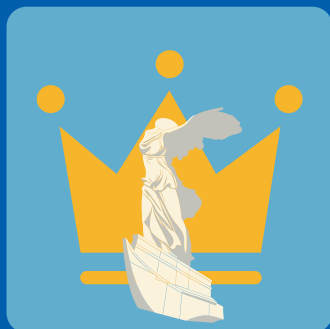
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