01
Honouring top designs

06
Loving Marina Bay
one picture at a time

16
Non-profit groups benefit from
URA’s scheme
Honouring top designs

By Serene Tng
Quirky, understated, bold, stunning — the 2012 President’s Design Award honoured designs that have transformed Singapore’s physical landscape and daily lives.

President Tony Tan presented the nation’s most prestigious design accolade to four designers and nine design projects at the awards ceremony held at the Istana on 4 December 2012. The President’s Design Award is the highest accolade conferred on an individual or organisation in the field of design in Singapore. In its seventh year, the Award recognises the achievements and contributions of Singapore designers who are making a difference to the lives of Singaporeans and that of the larger global community.

Administered by the DesignSingapore Council of the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the Award has two categories — Designer of the Year and Design of the Year. The Designer of the Year Award recognises the creative achievements of individual designers or teams with a sustained portfolio of works, while the Design of the Year title is accorded to projects or products in any design discipline of national significance and creative value to Singapore.

The 2012 Award saw a record 139 submissions, and jurors praised both the vibrancy and number of creative thinkers in the local landscape. Robert Tomlin, Chairman of the DesignSingapore Council said: “What’s most interesting is to talk to someone who hasn’t been here in five years, and see how amazed they are at how fast everything has changed creatively in Singapore.”

Some of the winning Designs of the Year are distinctive residential projects like 19 Sunset Place by ip:li architects and Martin Road No. 38 by Kerry Hill Architects. Mr Ng Lang, URA’s Chief Executive Officer said: “The winning residential architectural projects for this year are an apt reflection of the importance that we place on the quality of life and liveability in Singapore, and the significant contributions of the architecture fraternity in this area. From a simple house that successfully integrates old and new, to an elegant building that mediates the transition between the house and the city, Singapore architects have gone beyond just aesthetics to offer new ways of living.”

A total of 20 Designer of the Year and 46 Design of the Year Awards have been conferred up to 2011. The winning designs are on display at The URA Centre until 15 February 2013 and will then be shown at Changi City Point and the Old Hill Street Police Station.
DESIGN OF THE YEAR

19 SUNSET PLACE
ip:li architects
Yip Yuen Hong, Matthew See, Thanyaphat Sukhonthatam and Koh Kai Li

19 Sunset Place was created out of the desire to accommodate additional space requirements while preserving the original brick house built during the 1970s. The solution was radical — a concrete shell was built over the existing structure, generating interesting in-between spaces. The house is a simple abode with a pitched roof based on the existing brick house. In its raw form, it reminds us of the houses we would draw as children. This treatment inspires one to question the typology of the house itself.

There is an exceptional integration of old and new, with remarkable sensitivity to the existing structure, breathing new life into the old. The architect’s passion in his art is obvious. Materials are painstakingly sourced and composed with flawless details. The intentional placement of lalang on the roof porch invokes a wild and rustic feel. 19 Sunset Place is an intelligent response to the pressing challenge of integrating the new and old successfully.

DESIGN OF THE YEAR

MARTIN NO. 38
Kerry Hill Architects
Kerry Hill, Henry Sauerbier, Lim Chee Hong, Goh Wei Kiat, Paul Semple and Bernard Lee

Quiet, raw, yet elegant, Martin Road No. 38 is inspired by the history of the site, being a former warehouse district close to the Singapore River. The interior is designed with precise and consistent detailing, enabling residents to use the spaces according to their lifestyle needs. The design mediates the transition between the house and city, encouraging connectivity between public and private spaces. Residents and the public are drawn in to interact with each other with a gymnasium, sky terrace and swimming pool at the roof level and a restaurant on the ground floor.

The design of the building cleverly reduces energy consumption. Orientated to the south, daylight penetrates deep into the building to reduce the reliance on artificial lighting. Operable aluminium sun louvres provide cross-ventilation in all units, keeping internal spaces comfortable and cool. The structure and elements of the building have been masterfully executed, creating clean, simple and beautiful spaces.
DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

Tan Cheng Siong
Principal, Archurban Architects Planners

A pioneer behind some of Singapore’s residential typologies like the iconic Pearl Bank Apartments and the Pandan Valley Condominium, Mr Tan Cheng Siong has made many deep imprints on Singapore’s residential architecture. His career spans five decades. At the age of 75, he is still pursuing his passion for architecture with rigour and energy, when many of his peers have retired. His passion is driven by his desire to create good living environments. One of his memorable works is the Pearl Bank apartment built in the late 60s. It was the first super high-rise in Singapore that introduced quality living on the ground while living in the air. Another notable work is Pandan Valley Condominium, where he pioneered the first condominium housing typology with community spaces for residents.

Mr Tan has a remarkable ability to skillfully mediate between the characteristics of architectural sites and the function and experience of spaces. His enduring works continue to resonate with users and the architectural community. Most notably, Mr Tan introduced the condominium concept to Shenzhen in the 90s, benefiting the Chinese communities with Singapore’s experience in housing development.
President's Design Award 2012 winners

DESIGNERS OF THE YEAR

Hanson Ho (01)
Creative Director
H5

Tan Cheng Siong
Principal
Archurban Architects Planners

Voon Wong (02)
Director
VW+BS

Yang Yeo
Chief Creative Officer
JWT Shanghai

DESIGNS OF THE YEAR

19 SUNSET PLACE
ip:li architects
Yip Yuen Hong
Matthew See
Thanyaphat Sukhonthatam
Koh Kai Li

BISHAN-ANG MO KIO PARK
Atelier Dreiseitl Asia Pte Ltd
Herbert Dreiseitl
Tobias Baur
Leonard Ng
Stefan Brueckmann
Hendrik Prost

BUILDING AS A BODY (03)
kwodrent
Grace Tan
In collaboration with
Zarch Collaboratives Pte Ltd
Randy Chan

DELL ALL-IN-ONE DESKTOP PC FAMILY
Dell Global B.V. (Singapore Branch)
Chan Wai Lim
Yong Khang Chian
Mark Chan
Lee Leong Chye
Kenneth Ding Yin Hean
Greg Breinholt
Etienne Thetard
Celia Law
Erene Teo Tan Lun Cheak
Darren Lin
Joyce Lu Tay Yan Bing
Shamindri Perera

DELL AUSTIN DESIGN CENTRE
Mike Morten
Ed Boyd
Joe Jasinski
Michael Ellis
Paula Cox

MARTIN NO.38
Kerry Hill Architects
Kerry Hill
Henry Sauerbier
Lim Chee Hong
Goh Wei Kiat
Paul Semple
Bernard Lee

PELÉ SPORTS TRINITY 3E
Pelé Sports Innovation Team
Sonny Lim
Greg Lever-O’Keefe
Ezio Margiotta
Darryl Cassingham

SPOTTED NYONYA COLLECTION (04)
Hans Tan Studio
Hans Tan

THE BROWSING COPY PROJECT
A Beautiful Design
Roy Poh

WONDER BOX (05)
Spacedge Designs
William Chan
It was a month-long visual feast for shutterbugs, photography enthusiasts and heritage buffs islandwide as the Loving Marina Bay photo exhibition kicked off on 3 November 2012.

The exhibition showcased the different facets of the Marina Bay precinct through over 100 enthralling photos taken by 20 of Singapore’s popular bloggers and photographers, also affectionately known as “AmBAYssadors”.

By Nur Farhana
From remote area to dynamic lifestyle hub

The precinct has undergone a massive transformation over the years to become the 24/7 thriving destination it is today and through it all, has left an indelible mark on the public’s consciousness. Mr Aram Pam, one of the AmBAYssadors, echoed this sentiment: “The Marina Bay area holds many memories for me. I practically grew up watching it transform from nothing to what is now, a spectacular jewel in Singapore’s crown.”

Mr Kevin Soh, another AmBAYssador, agreed. “Marina Bay, to me, used to be a place where I had gatherings and steamboats with friends; and only Bus 403 and kite flying were associated with it,” he reminisced. “Today, it has transformed into a central spot with many distinctive Singapore landmarks, and I love the fact that while relaxing at any corner, you can see the achievements of the country, and feel proud to be a Singaporean.”

Heritage is also very much part of the precinct’s foundation, as captured in key historical landmarks such as Merlion Park and Collyer Quay. To highlight this, the exhibition featured a Street Museum section. It charts Marina Bay’s story over its first few decades since the 1960s by displaying vivid present-day snaps of iconic landmarks superimposed onto their archival past day context — creating an interesting effect of the past and present in a single snap.

More than just a photo exhibition, the event lineup at Loving Marina Bay included weekend heritage walks and photography workshops that were led by the AmBAYssadors. Adding a touch of whimsy to the event were “Love Notes” that the public penned to their friends and families before dropping them into the retro red pillar post boxes at The Fullerton Hotel Singapore.

Skyline highlights some gorgeous photos that caught our eye.
GOING UNDERGROUND

By Serene Tng

The effective use of underground space can be both a strategic resource and a key enabler for cities to meet the many needs of an urban environment. Hence, we have planned for a range of uses underground such as pedestrian links, utility services, sewerage systems and underground oil storage facilities.

Underground development in Singapore is still in its early stages. While going underground generally entails higher capital and construction costs, planners still see the potential and value for more underground developments. According to a feasibility study commissioned by the government in 2008, it established that it is technically possible to build and operate large uses, for example, utility plants, landfills and data centres as stand-alone underground facilities.

URA’s Group Director for Strategic Planning, Richard Hoo says: “There is potential for a wider use of underground space by tapping on engineering and scientific expertise and to continue to invest in innovations in these and other related fields. We will continue to explore ways to better utilise our underground space and to seek innovative urban solutions that may make underground developments more viable and attractive.”

15m – 50m
To enhance our living environments, future major road and rail networks, especially those that will cut through built-up areas, will be located underground. This reduces the impact of noise and dust on homes.

100m onwards
The underground ammunition facility built under a quarry in Mandai in 2008 stores ammunition and explosives. It frees up land about half the size of Pasir Ris town. The Jurong Rock Caverns under Jurong Island is for petrochemical storage. In phase one, its five caverns are as high as nine storeys, saving approximately 60 ha of land.
1m – 3m
Underground pedestrian links make it easier to connect between buildings or cross busy streets. For a more extensive underground pedestrian network, URA offers an incentive scheme to co-fund the construction of selected linkages in Orchard Road and the Central Business District.

1m – 10m
More than just space-saving measures, underground pipes are less prone to external wear and tear. The Common Services Tunnel in Marina Bay is a creative way of housing all utilities together. This frees up land, with lesser maintenance disruptions on the roads.

20m – 50m
The Deep Tunnel Sewerage System is a network of tunnels that operates on gravity, and transports sewerage and waste water across the island to two centralised water Reclamation Plants.
The first half of the 2013 (1H2013) Government Land Sales (GLS) Programme will comprise 13 sites on the Confirmed List and 19 sites on the Reserve List. Together, these sites can yield about 14,000 private residential units, including 3,100 Executive Condominium (EC) units, 315,000 sqm gross floor area (GFA) of commercial space and 1,740 hotel rooms.

There is a large pipeline supply of private housing units that will be constructed over the next few years. To meet the strong demand for private housing, the Government has placed 25 sites on the 1H2013 GLS Programme for residential development, including five EC sites and two commercial and residential sites. Together, they can generate about 14,000 private residential units (including 3,100 EC units). 13 of the sites for private residential development are on the 1H2013 Confirmed List, which can yield about 6,900 private residential units. This is comparable to the supply made available on the Confirmed List in the second half of 2012.

Most of the residential sites in the 1H2013 GLS Programme, including the five EC sites, are located in Outside Central Region or in locations in Rest of Central Region where more affordable housing is expected to be built.

The new supply of housing in the 1H2013 GLS Programme is over and above the 93,800 private housing units (including about 9,800 EC units) that are already in the pipeline and due for completion over the next few years. About 40,000 of these units (including 3,400 EC units) remain unsold.
Supply of commercial space

The 1H2013 Reserve List will have three sites for office developments. The White site at Marina View / Union Street and two commercial sites at Sims Avenue / Tanjong Katong Road and Cecil Street / Telok Ayer Street, which are already on the 2H2012 Reserve List, will be carried over to the 1H2013 Reserve List.

Together, these three sites will provide opportunities for the market to initiate more office space, over and above the 1,173,000 sqm GFA4 of office space in the pipeline, if there is demand.

The GLS Programme is regularly reviewed to ensure that there is sufficient supply of land to meet demand for economic growth and to maintain a stable and sustainable property market. Sites in the GLS Programme are released through two main systems — the Confirmed List and the Reserved List. Confirmed List sites are released on a fixed, pre-determined date; while a site on the Reserve List will only be released for sale if the criteria for triggering the sale of the site are met5.

(1) This includes a commercial and residential site at Yishun Ave 2 / Yishun Central 1.

(2) Outside Central Region refers to areas located outside of the Central Region. The Central Region comprises the following 22 Planning Areas: Downtown Core, Orchard, Marina East, Marina South, Museum, Newton, Outram, River Valley, Rochor, Singapore River, Straits View, Bishan, Bukit Merah, Bukit Timah, Geylang, Kallang, Marine Parade, Novena, Queenstown, Southern Islands, Tanglin and Toa Payoh. The Rest of Central Region refers to the areas within the Central Region but is outside of the postal districts 9, 10, 11, the Downtown Core Planning Area and Sentosa. The Core Central Region refers to the postal district areas 9, 10 and 11, Downtown Core and Sentosa. A map showing these areas is available at http://spring.ura.gov.sg/ld/ore/login/map_ccr.pdf.

(3) The 93,800 units are from new development and redevelopment projects that have been granted planning approvals, i.e. either Provisional Permission (PP) or Written Permission (WP), as at 3rd Quarter 2012.

(4) The 1,173,000 sqm GFA of office space are from new development and redevelopment projects that have been granted planning approvals, i.e. either PP or WP, as at 3rd Quarter 2012.

(5) The government will put up a Reserve List site for public tender if it receives an application from a developer who commits, by signing an agreement and paying a deposit of 3% of the bid price, to bid for the site at or above the minimum price which is acceptable to the Government. The government will also consider launching a Reserve List site for sale if it receives sufficient market interest for the site. A site is deemed to have received sufficient market interest if more than one unrelated party submit minimum prices that are close to the Government’s Reserve Price for the site within a reasonable period.
**GOVERNMENT LAND SALES PROGRAMME FOR FIRST HALF OF 2013 — NEW SITES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SITE AREA (HA)</th>
<th>PROPOSED GPR</th>
<th>ESTIMATED NO. OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS(1)(2)</th>
<th>ESTIMATED NO. OF HOTEL ROOMS(1)(2)</th>
<th>ESTIMATED COMMERCIAL SPACE (SQM)(2)</th>
<th>ESTIMATED LAUNCH DATE</th>
<th>SALES AGENT</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CONFIRMED LIST</strong></td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Woodlands Avenue 5 / Woodlands Avenue 6 (EC) (3)</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>Jun-13</td>
<td>HDB</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Yuan Ching Road / Tao Ching Road (EC) (3)</td>
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<td>2.37</td>
<td>1.4/1.6</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMMERCIAL &amp; RESIDENTIAL SITES</td>
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<td>Total (Confirmed List)</td>
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<td>PROPOSED GPR</td>
<td>ESTIMATED NO. OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS(1)(2)</td>
<td>ESTIMATED NO. OF HOTEL ROOMS(1)(2)</td>
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<td>URA</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOTEL SITES</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Jun-13</td>
<td>URA</td>
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(1) The estimated number of hotel rooms and dwelling units for some sites carried forward from 2H2012 Reserve List have been updated to take into account the average unit sizes of recent developments in comparable areas and the revisions to site areas.

(2) The actual number of housing units, hotel rooms and commercial space could be different from the estimated quantum depending on the actual plans of the developers in terms of mix of uses and the size of the housing units and hotel rooms.

(3) New sites introduced in 1H2013.

(4) Refers to the estimated date the detailed conditions of sale will be available and applications can be submitted.
120 Junior College and Polytechnic students raced against time to dream up big ideas for Tanjong Pagar Railway Station and the old railway yard, part of the larger Rail Corridor that has been attracting public interest in the past year. This was the focus for URA’s annual Challenge for the Urban & Built Environment (CUBE) in 2012. In its fourth year, CUBE is a workshop cum competition that gives students a chance to be planners, delving into the intricacies of planning and urban design work.

A variety of experienced practitioners - from URA architects and planners to experts and academics from the National University of Singapore, the Singapore University of Technology and Design, Friends of Rail Corridor, Singapore Heritage Society as well as the main sponsor, CPG Consultants - helped equip the students with fresh insights into what it means to plan for and design a space for the people.

Results of the competition will be announced later in 2013. For more information on CUBE, go to www.ura.gov.sg/cube

“Urban planning plays a very important aspect in a city as it relates one thing to another. It’s more than just one thing or its surroundings; it’s about many things put in place together.”
Fidelia, Nanyang Polytechnic

“After CUBE, when I go out now, I find myself being more conscious of how buildings are built and the spaces around me and what they are used for.”
Alina Chia, Temasek Junior College
The CSFS was initiated in 2003 to encourage owners of commercial buildings to provide spaces for community and sports uses. This involves the granting of bonus Gross Floor Area (GFA) of up to 2,000 sqm or 10 per cent of the total GFA, whichever is lower, over and above the Master Plan allowable GFA. The scheme is targeted specifically at non-profit groups providing direct services to the community.

Better accessibility
One benefit of the scheme is better access to community services. Ms Julaiha Rashid, Centre Manager from the Alzheimer’s Disease Association (ADA) New Horizon Centre (Jurong Point) said: “Family caregivers and our clients with dementia can commute easily to our centre at the Jurong Point Shopping Centre. They don’t feel like they are going to a day-care centre given the surroundings of being within a shopping centre. It feels more like going to a club house to socialise.”

Ms Aw Lay Hoon, Assistant Director from Family Central (FC), which runs programmes on marriage, parenting and other family related matters, adds that the central location of their centre at Tiong Bahru Central Plaza enables the public to walk in at any time to find out more about their programmes and offer their volunteering services. “We are also able to reach out to more senior citizens and low-income families living around the Tiong Bahru estate and across the island.”

Being in accessible locations also opens up new possibilities. Ms Sherena Loh, Executive Director from Muscular Dystrophy Association says: “Since the association moved to Bishan Junction 8, we have been able to run independence and mobility training for our members, getting them to buy their own food and take the MRT and bus on their own.”

Forty joined the scheme
Since the scheme started, some 40 non-profit, community and sports groups have been able to operate in commercial developments. So far, the approved community services include those catering to the disabled and elderly, as well as voluntary services, libraries, community clubs, childcare centres, sports facilities and charities.

The scheme has enabled non-profit groups to better manage their costs. In some cases, developers do not collect rents from groups under the scheme and only collect maintenance and utility charges for the use of common facilities such as lifts and escalators. Having
different non-profit groups come together within the same building has also made a difference. Ms Aw from FC said: “We were able to minimise our operating costs through the sharing of resources and infrastructure like reception, meeting rooms, training rooms, and security system. These costs savings have been passed on to caregivers, making our programmes and services more affordable to them.”

Positive spinoffs
There are also other positive spin-offs and intangible benefits. According to Mrs Theresa Lee, Executive Director from the ADA, the shopping centre surroundings has helped to better re-integrate their clients back into the community with day-to-day activities like walkabouts within the mall and visits to the supermarket. The immediate communities and retailers are also more aware of dementia and take part in outreach efforts.

“The road show in 2010, held in conjunction with World Alzheimer’s Day and the Health Promotion Board at one of the outdoor spaces between Jurong Point Shopping Centre and the Boon Lay MRT Station, saw many from the community joining in spontaneously in mass exercises and other fringe activities. While reaching out to the community, we were also reaching out to many stores and businesses in the shopping mall through public education activities,” says Mrs Lee. She hopes more of such spaces in shopping malls and commercial buildings would be made available for social service facilities with the increasing demand for such services especially eldercare services.

Ms Ang Bee Lian, Chief Executive Officer of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) added, “Having various agencies provide direct services under one roof and in easily accessible places like shopping centres reaps additional intuitive connections. One very notable observation that arose was the offering of professional expertise during discussions over a cup of coffee which then led to other forms of collaboration and sharing. We are confident that more agencies will be drawn to this and we hope to facilitate more of this in future projects.” The NCSS helps to facilitate the allocation of space to non-profit groups under the CSFS.

Non-profit groups that offer direct community services to the public are encouraged to join the scheme. For more information about the scheme, please go to www.ura.gov.sg/circulars/text/dc12-01.htm.
Christmas ChariTrees light up MARINA BAY

By Nur Farhana

The Christmas ChariTrees @ Marina Bay raised $235,000 for Community Chest’s 300,000 beneficiaries, a wonderful present indeed for the yuletide season.
The second instalment of Christmas ChariTrees @ Marina Bay returned with a bang in December 2012, having raised $235,000 and 78 per cent more funds than last year’s proceeds. Jointly organised by Community Chest and Urban Redevelopment Authority, a total of 25 ChariTrees lit up the Marina Bay Waterfront Promenade, adding to the cheer of the festive season.

Eight Eco-Trees designed specially by the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) Department of 3D Design students, made their debut at Marina Bay. They were selected from a submission of 50 entries and were cleverly created using recyclable or recycled materials such as metal cans and shower curtains.

The remaining 17 traditional Conical Ficus live trees, meanwhile, were adopted and lovingly decorated by corporate partners of Community Chest. Members of the public also contributed to the initiative by making donations of ten dollars at the Marina Bay City Gallery in exchange for a Christmas ornament to personalise and hang onto the ChariTrees.

“URA is happy to be involved in this project again. Over time, we hope to grow this into a key event at Marina Bay. We hope that as the community celebrates the success of Marina Bay and the year-end festival in the Bay, we continue to keep the less fortunate in mind,” said Mr Ng Lang, URA’s Chief Executive Officer.
Public housing in the Eco-City, developed with reference to Singapore’s experience in public housing.

GEMS International School, which emphasises education in sustainability.

Rainbow bridge leading to the Tianjin Eco-city.

Tianjin Eco-City’s solar and wind powered street lamps.

First day of school at Binhai Xiaowai (Primary and Secondary School).

The Landmark Building in Eco-Business Park.
An insightful exhibition at the URA Centre provided a good overview of Sino-Singapore collaborative efforts in developing a sustainable Tianjin Eco-city.

The Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city: Model for Sustainable Urban Development exhibition took place at the URA Centre between November and December 2012. Organised by URA in collaboration with the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city Investment and Development Co. Ltd (SSTEC), the exhibition, which also received support from the Eco-city Administrative Committee (ECAC), showcased the significant achievements and milestones of the project to date. The exhibition also featured fresh ideas submitted by international design firms for the Tianjin Eco-city main city centre and its waterfront cultural belt.

A joint seminar was organised in conjunction with the exhibition launch to share key lessons and experiences gained in planning and developing the Tianjin Eco-city. The seminar was attended by over 200 participants comprising policy makers, urban planners and industry professionals.

Speakers included SSTEC CEO Ho Tong Yen and ECAC Director of Construction Bureau Li Dong. They shared the highlights and future plans for the Eco-city Project from the perspectives of the Joint Venture Master Developer and the Local Government respectively. Giving an update on the Project, Mr Ho said, “Singapore and China have their respective areas of expertise and strengths in developing sustainable cities. The Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city Project brings together the governments and people of the two countries to work together and learn from each other.” Mr Li added, “The Tianjin Eco-city would become a vibrant model sustainable city that promotes energy efficiency, technological advances, healthy-living and harmonious environment.”

The Seminar also saw speakers from local firms — Surbana International Consultants and Jurong Consultants — sharing their experiences in planning and developing public housing and industrial parks in Tianjin. Speakers from the Building and Construction Authority also shared insights on developing and implementing the green building assessment system for the Tianjin Eco-city, while URA Senior Director for Urban Planning Excellence introduced the urban design ideas from a recently held Urban Design Competition for the Eco-city main city centre and its waterfront cultural belt.
Wishes for the nation

The “Wishing Spheres” project is an integral part of the Marina Bay Countdown, an annual event jointly organised by URA and the Esplanade — Theatres on the Bay. For the eighth consecutive year, URA and Esplanade encouraged the public to jot down their hopes for the coming 12 months onto tens of thousands of buoyant balls, stationed across the island, before casting them off into the Bay as part of a stellar finale to 2012. The theme for the wishing spheres was simple: “What am I grateful for?”

Were you thankful for 2012? What did you wish for?