THE SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE

- Preserve biodiversity and ecosystems
- Increase productivity
- Beautify the world
- Enhance air and water quality
- Better health and wellness
- Reduce stress on infrastructure
- Conserve natural resources
- Maximise economic potential
- Save costs
- Reduce waste
- Contribute to green industry
- Better lives for all
Editor's Note

The Sustainability issue is based on the belief that knowledge is the key to building sustainably.

Sharing and building on the good work accomplished by the Sustainability Committee at the Singapore Institute of Architects with the Twelve Attributes of a Sustainable Built Environment, Singapore Architect has partnered it to curate The Sustainability Issue, a knowledge and inspiration bank for architects on building sustainably.

Both parts of the policy paper (reproduced in these pages) should be called the twelve commandments of building sustainable environments, as they outline the key impacts of our buildings and work processes on the environment, put forth by the Sustainability Committee and the Singapore Institute of Architects.

The issue has also distilled the collective wisdom of experts, architects, and policymakers. Critical essays by Benjamin Henry Towell reflect on the sustainable planning agenda of the past Singapore Improvement Trust and green consumerism shrouding current sustainable development. Urban Atelier Studio and Ng Wai Keen educate and enlighten on an impending food crisis that we should be concerned about. Peter Sueck analyses the different Green Building Rating Systems currently in use. Thomas Schröpfer zooms in on materiality in sustainable architectural design. Yewkee Cheong sheds light on green architecture within the sometimes-self-contradicting framework of building code compliance.

Some local architects have already leaped onto the sustainable agenda, greening Singapore’s urban landscape and providing green inspiration and impetus. Punngol Promenade, Singapore’s newest waterfront promenade project, is a poetic gesture and respectful salutation to mother nature. The new award-winning NUS Utown master plan holistically integrates sustainability, eco-friendliness, and preservation principles with a progressive communal learning programme.

More greenworthy examples include the “zero-waste” Hill House in Melbourne and Earthship Biotechnology, the movement led by green-architecture-revolutionary Michael Reynolds.

Compared to building, knowledge is evergreen. It is also power, and it is great responsibility.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Kelley Cheng
Editor-in-Chief
Singapore Architect
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