Editor's Note

Chang Yong Ter did it again—in a category not many architects want to corner. Lucky Shophouse pockets the “Best Project Constructed Under $1.5 Million” on top of a Design Award in this year’s SIA Architectural Design Awards.

This special category is perhaps most popular with clients and least with architects. No kidding. Chang repeats a precedent of budget sensibility but unquestionably also high quality. The conservation shophouse project is lean and mean, as it delicately takes on a new rear extension and the preservation of the former Lucky Book Store’s history.

In a different category, Chang’s Namly House also won a Design Award for its perceptive and innovative solutions for a multi-generational home. Cleverly staggered volumes and views are crowned by a stepped terrace roof garden, which forms an admirable intimate family space.

The other notable winner, Formwerkz Architects, has won the “Building of The Year” and a Design Award for Extended House. This is due encouragement to the young architectural firm that has established a steady output of impressive, refreshing work.

Extended House extends a postwar bungalow with a new block and lap pool. The result is a conversation between new and old, mirrored by colour and concrete, which culminate in the former dining hall transformed into a tall atrium that encloses two intimate courtyards.

The courtyard also serves as a key defining space in another of the firm’s projects, Courtyard House, which also won a Design Award. The heart of the house, a central courtyard, interacts with the adventurous periphery and foliage through a calculated progression of spaces.

While exceptional residential dwellings, such as those just mentioned, continue to comprise the largest proportion of the submissions and winning projects, a couple of alternative-use projects are also recognised, including a pop-up zero-waste pavilion by WOW Architects and an exemplary retrofitted high-rise office building by Teh Joo Heng Architects.

SIA Architectural Design Awards 2013 sees a total of 109 submissions, 15 Design Award winners, and 7 Honourable Mentions.

Keeping up, this issue rounds up more of the usual suspects (including ip:li Architects, RT+Q Architects, MKPL Architects Pte Ltd, ONG&ONG Architects, RSP Architects Planners & Engineers (Pte) Ltd, and CPG Consultants, among others) and presents the highlights of the 13th cycle of SIA’s flagship awards.

In the same issue, we are also proud to present the inaugural winners of SIA-Rigel Bathroom Design Awards, organised by SIA and sponsored by green restroom specialists Rigel Technology (S) Pte Ltd, to spark new innovations in intelligent bathroom design.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to all the winners featured in this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Kelley Cheng
Editor-in-Chief
Singapore Architect
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