

## Media Release

EMBARGOED TILL 19 NOVEMBER 2009, 1930 HOURS SINGAPORE TIME

# 11 designers and designs recognised for outstanding achievements at the President's Design Award 2009

President S R Nathan presented Singapore's most prestigious design award to four outstanding designers and seven ground-breaking designs at the President's Design Award Ceremony held at The Istana. The Award honours the significant achievements and contributions of the city-state's design talents and is awarded to designers and designs that have challenged conventions with innovation and enhanced the lives of the community.

2. The President's Design Award aims to promote and recognise design excellence in Singapore by embedding good design in everyday life for competitive advantage, quality of life and the environment. Design's economic, social and environmental impact demonstrates its increasing importance and the critical role it plays in communities and businesses.

3. "Since its inception in 2006, the President's Design Award has honoured many designers and designs that have developed innovative works that contributed to Singapore's creative culture across different disciplines. I would like to congratulate the 11 Recipients of this year's Award. We have witnessed a strong showing of remarkable works by talented and inspiring Singapore designers. With the increased vibrancy of the design sector in Singapore and the potential displayed by Singapore designers, Singapore is becoming a leading voice in design in Asia," said Mr. Robert Tomlin, Chairman, DesignSingapore Council.

4. "Now into its fourth year, the President's Design Award plays an important role in identifying our design talents who help to shape the future through their vision and work. We look to these design talents to raise the bar in not only architecture, but also urban design which contributes to a higher quality public realm. For example, the Dhoby Ghaut Green which was recently opened, stands as a new focal point and relaxing haven in the city centre. The URA commissioned Mr Chan Soo Khian, who was conferred the Designer of the Year award in 2006, to design this public space for community activities. We encourage all our designers to aim for excellence in urban design and architecture so as to develop a better quality of life for all, said Mrs Cheong Koon Hean, Chief Executive Officer, Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).

5. 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*. A total of 12 *Designers of the Year* and 21 *Designs of the Year* have been conferred the Award up to 2008.

6. This year, awards have been presented to four *Designers of the Year* and seven *Designs of the Year*:

- a. **The Designer of the Year** award category recognises designer(s) or design team(s) for their creativity and achievement(s) in any design discipline, demonstrated by a sustained body or portfolio of works.
- b. **The Design of the Year** award category recognises the national

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significance and creative value to Singapore of project(s) or product(s) in any design discipline.

7. The four *Designer of the Year* Recipients are:

- a. **Koichiro Ikebuchi**  
Director  
Atelier Ikebuchi Pte Ltd, Singapore
- b. **Chris Lee**  
Founder & Creative Director  
Asylum Creative Pte Ltd, Singapore
- c. **Look Boon Gee**  
Managing Director  
LOOK Architects Pte Ltd, Singapore
- d. **Tham Khai Meng**  
Worldwide Creative Director  
Ogilvy & Mather, New York

8. The seven *Design of the Year* Recipients are:

- a. **Genesis Theatre, Fusionopolis**  
Arup and WOHA  
Andrew Nicol and Wong Mun Summ (and Team)
- b. **Henderson Waves**  
RSP Architects Planners & Engineers (Pte) Ltd  
IJP Corporation Ltd, UK  
Liu Thai Ker and George Liaropoulos-Legendre (and Team)
- c. **Paper Fold**  
Exit Design  
Kelvin Teo (and Team)
- d. **Republic Polytechnic**  
DP Architects Pte Ltd in association with Maki & Associates  
Fumihiko Maki and Angelene Chan (and Team)
- e. **The Met (Bangkok, Thailand)**  
WOHA  
Wong Mun Summ and Richard Hassell (and Team)
- f. **Urband Origami**  
Nanyang Optical Co Pte Ltd  
Yang Wah Kiang (and Team)
- g. **X-halo Breath Thermometer**  
Philips Design  
Michael Paterson (and Team)

9. More information on the 11 Recipients and the Jury's citation of their works is included in **Annex A**. An expert panel of Singapore and international Jurors from different

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design disciplines convened in Singapore and evaluated the submissions from 29 to 31 July 2009. A list of the Jury members is included in **Annex B**.

10. All four Recipients of the *Designer of the Year* are eligible for the President's Design Award Grant. This Grant provides designers with the opportunity to pursue a community-driven project of their choice with funding of up to S\$50,000 to foster design in everyday life through cross-disciplinary and multi-sectoral collaborations. More information on the Grant is included in **Annex C**.

11. The President's Design Award Exhibition, presenting exceptional works from this year's Recipients, will be held at ION Orchard during the Singapore Design Festival from 20 to 30 November 2009.

### ISSUED BY

**DESIGNSINGAPORE COUNCIL,  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS & THE ARTS AND  
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**19 NOVEMBER 2009**

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### **About the President's Design Award**

The President's Design Award is Singapore's most prestigious award for its designers and designs from all design disciplines who are pushing the boundaries of Singapore design, tangibly making a difference to the lives of Singaporeans and larger global community. By recognising the significant contributions and achievements of design talents in our nation, the award also encourage design excellence that improves quality of life, enhances human potential and national competitiveness. While engendering national pride among Singaporeans for outstanding designs and leading designers in Singapore, it in turns nurtures among Singaporeans a greater awareness and interest in quality designs in all areas.

### **About DesignSingapore Council**

Design changes and improves lives, inspires creativity and new forms of expression. It also enhances business competitiveness in today's crowded marketplace.

DesignSingapore is Singapore's response to these propositions and opportunities. As a national initiative, DesignSingapore aims to place Singapore on the world map for design creativity. It looks to developing a thriving, multi-disciplinary design cluster of industries and activities in Singapore that has relevance and impact globally. The initiative also aims to bring design to business boardrooms, new audiences and new markets.

The DesignSingapore Council formed in August 2003 as a department within the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, is the national agency for promotion and development of Singapore design.

The Council is dedicated to enhancing Singapore's design capabilities and growing the appeal of design in everyday life. This is achieved through design scholarships to nurture Singapore designers, as well as research and development focused on design excellence. The Council has also played a pivotal role in the establishment of design studios to grow the design industry. Up and coming Singapore designers have also raised their international profile with support from DesignSingapore's Overseas Promotion Partnership Programme.

More information on the Council is available at [www.designsingapore.org](http://www.designsingapore.org).

### **About the Urban Redevelopment Authority**

The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) is Singapore's national land use planning and conservation agency. URA's mission is "to make Singapore a great city to live, work and play in". We strive to create a vibrant and sustainable city of distinction by planning and facilitating Singapore's physical development in partnership with the community.

The URA has successfully transformed Singapore into one of the most liveable cities in Asia through judicious land use planning and good urban design. URA adopts a long term and comprehensive planning approach in formulating strategic plans such as the Concept Plan and the Master Plan, to guide the physical development of Singapore in a sustainable manner. Its plans and policies focus on achieving a balance between economic growth and

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a quality living environment. As the conservation authority, URA has an internationally recognised conservation programme, having successfully conserved not only single buildings, but entire districts.

To turn its plans and visions into reality, URA takes on a multifaceted role. In addition to its planning function, URA is also the main government land sales agent. Through sale of state land, it attracts and channels private capital investment to develop sites to meet our land use needs. URA is also the development agency for Marina Bay, the new city extension. To create an exciting cityscape, URA also actively promotes architecture and urban design excellence.

For more information, please visit us at [www.ura.gov.sg](http://www.ura.gov.sg)

### **About AUDE**

To create an exciting cityscape, URA also actively promotes architecture and urban design excellence. URA's Architecture & Urban Design Excellence (A.UDE) programme aims to promote good design in our built environment. The programme seeks to raise public awareness of good architecture and urban design and encourage a more vibrant and design-conscious community. It does this through a variety of initiatives and outreach programmes for both the general public and the industry professionals and includes exhibitions, talks, seminars, workshops and design competitions.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.ura.gov.sg/aude](http://www.ura.gov.sg/aude).