About Singapore Design Golden Jubilee Award

The Singapore Design Golden Jubilee Award is a commendation by the Minister for Communications and Information to honour Singapore’s pioneer designers. It is a tribute to the individuals whose achievements and contributions have shaped the development of design in Singapore over the last 50 years, and is also a special award presented in conjunction with Singapore’s 50th anniversary.

Organised by the DesignSingapore Council, the Award recognises and celebrates the pioneering spirit of Singapore’s first generation of designers. It is an accolade presented to those who have imparted their knowledge and lent their expertise to achieve excellence in their respective fields of design or design education.

Award recipients were nominated by the Presidents of the nine design industry associations that make up the DesignSingapore Industry Development Panel, the Heads of the design institutions and their respective representatives. Together, they formed the Singapore Design Golden Jubilee Award Panel, which was chaired by Mr. Tai Lee Siang, President of DesignS, an alliance of design industry associations in Singapore.

Singapore Design Golden Jubilee Award

The Mark

The mark is made up of five arches, with each one representing a decade in Singapore’s Golden Jubilee. Each of the arches also signifies the bridge that our design pioneers have built between design and culture.

Put together, the mark forms a propeller, with the shape of a star encapsulated in the negative space formed by the arches. It reflects the contributions that the award recipients have made as trailblazers of Singapore’s design scene, and celebrates the transformative effect of design on society.
The Award

The Award was designed to represent the personal life, professional life and civic duty that each of the award recipients embody. It exemplifies the strength of each individual's conviction in fulfilling their work in these areas.

When viewed from the top, the five corners of the Award - which represent traits of strength, dynamism, vision, devotion and integrity - come together to form a complete star. This symbolises the qualities found in each of the recipients as they helped to mould Singapore into a creative nation.
In 1959, when Singapore became a self-governing state, one of the first orders of business was to design a state flag.

At Fifty Years of Singapore Design, a permanent exhibition at the National Design Centre, you will learn that then Deputy Prime Minister Toh Chin Chye led a committee to design the Singapore flag. The flag’s red band symbolises universal brotherhood and equality of man; the white band, purity and virtue. The crescent moon signifies a young nation; and the five stars, democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality.

Design has helped to articulate these shared ideals, encoding the aspirations of a citizenry and giving all Singaporeans a visual beacon to be one united people. Over the years, design has also helped to enhance our environment, transform our lives and strengthen our nation’s economic growth. Therefore, it is timely, following 50 years of nationhood, that we acknowledge our pioneer designers. Their work and vision have contributed to a shared national identity and influenced the development of design in Singapore.

To our recipients, the Singapore Design Golden Jubilee Award validates your contribution in building our nation.

Congratulations to all!
Message from
Mr. Robert M. Tomlin

Chairman
DesignSingapore Council

This remarkable event today bears witness to a small but resourceful group of craftsmen and designers who forged a path for their respective vocations, in the early years of independent Singapore. We are happy to have many of them with us today.

The Singapore Design Golden Jubilee Award is in honour of our pioneer designers. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Communications and Information, and organised by the DesignSingapore Council; with the support of a panel of representatives from design industries and institutions led by Mr. Tai Lee Siang, President of DesignS, an alliance of design industry associations. I wish to extend my appreciation to the panel for nominating these designers.

The achievements of our pioneer designers are no mean feat. They practised their craft at a time when the service of design was barely organised, with negligible resources. Yet, each of them has had a hand in laying the foundations of the flourishing Singaporean design industry we know today.

We pay tribute today to the 70 Award recipients - designers, design advocates and design educators - aged 65 and above (in 2014). We applaud their fearlessness, ingenuity and sheer guts.
Award Recipients

Sannie Abdul
Shamsuddin H. Akib
Eddie Chan
Chan Sui Him
Chan Yew Lih
David Chen
Victor Chew Chin Aik
Alan Choe Fook Cheong
Choo Yong Fee
Chua Peng Chye
Chua Soo Bin
Otto Fung Wai Chan
Michael Gan
Dr. Kerry Hill
Dr. Ho Kok Hoe
Ho Pak Toe
Dr. Albert Hong Hln Kay
Khor Ean Ghee
Koh Seow Chuan
Koh Teng Kwee
Koh-Lim Wen Gin
Peter Lee Hoong Fatt
Lee Kip Lin
William Lee
Charlie Lim B. K.
David J. K. Lim
Lim Lay Ngoh
Prof. William S. W. Lim
Dr. Liu Thai Ker
Loh Khee Yew
Brother Joseph McNally
Meng Ta Cheang
Allein G. Moore
Basil Nettar
Ng Weng Sang

Benny Ong
Ong Teng Cheong
Ong Teong Pin
Carsten Ovesen
Assoc. Prof. T. K. Sabapathy
Dr. Eu Jin Seow
Sim Hong Boon
Sim Kok Huoy
Henry Steed
Su Yeang
Tan Cheng Siong
Tan Cheng Whatt
Jack Tan Eng Kiat
Tan Kah Hoe
Tony Tan Keng Joo
Richard L. P. Tan
Tan Shee Tiong
Dr. Tan Wee Kiat
Tang Guan Bee
Willie Tang
Tay Kheng Soon
Assoc. Prof. Teh Kerm Jinn
Daniel Teo
Assoc. Prof. Tse Swee Ling
Wee Chwee Heng
Richard Wee Kong Hee
Thomas Wee
Alfred Wong Hong Kwok
Edward H. Y. Wong
Raymond Woo
Yam Kum Chun
Yang Wah Kiang
Victor Yeow
Luke Yong Ching Chee
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Etsie Yu
The late Mr. Sannie Abdul was a true design pioneer in every sense of the term. He started his design journey as an architectural student at the Singapore Polytechnic, and went on to study industrial design and architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, with a grant from the Asia Foundation. He also interned at the Italian Design Group, Olivetti, on a United Nations Scholarship. He then served as Head of the Industrial Design Centre at the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research (now SPRING Singapore), before joining RSP Architects, a leading architectural firm.

In the mid-1980s, Mr. Sannie was invited back by the Trade Development Board (now International Enterprise Singapore), and eventually headed the Design Centre. He organised the first International Design Forum in 1988, putting Singapore on the world map of design. He also set up the Design Centre in North Bridge Road, which boasted the largest collection of design books in Singapore and housed a showcase of Singapore designs. During his term, he was elected to the Executive Board of the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (Icsid) in 1993.

His contributions to the field have enabled many government initiatives, such as the launch of the Made in Singapore products and the Icsid World Design Congress 2009 in Singapore, to come to fruition. Even after his retirement, Mr. Sannie continued to promote design by sharing his life experiences as an educator at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and Nanyang Polytechnic until 2013.

Mr. Shamsuddin H. Akib is a multi-talented visual communicator who worked as an advertising art director, a graphic designer, an illustrator and a political cartoonist.

Throughout his long career, Mr. Shamsuddin worked for large advertising firms such as Papineau, Donald Moore, Ted Bates, Grant Kenyon, Eckhardt (Grant K&E), and Young & Rubicam (later Dentsu Young & Rubicam). As a freelance graphic designer, he designed the original Yayasan MENDAKI logo, the logo of the former Changi Hospital (today part of the Changi General Hospital), and recently updated the Singapore Heritage Society logo. He was also responsible for the iconic book covers of three seminal local and regional works, namely Alex Josey’s Lee Kuan Yew (1971) and Donald and Joanna Moore’s The First 150 Years of Singapore (1969), and co-designed the original cover of The Malay Dilemma by Dr. Mahathir Mohamad (1970). In a national competition in 1963, he submitted a mural design which was selected to grace the Arrival Hall of Paya Lebar Airport.

During the 1970s, Mr. Shamsuddin provided political and current affairs cartoons for local newspapers such as The Straits Times and The New Nation, and illustrated for a weekly sports commentary in The Straits Times called Sham’s Saturday Smile. His wide-ranging illustration style, sense of humour and wit made him a highly sought-after political cartoonist whenever an issue needed a light-hearted representation of weighty current affairs.
Mr. Eddie Chan has been a leading voice in the advertising industry for the past 50 years. He began his career at Masters, the largest agency in Singapore then, where he worked with a number of prominent clients. He later went on to helm Meridien Advertising as Chief Executive Officer, before establishing his own practice, AdMan Enterprises. Under his leadership, the agency grew into a million-dollar business in less than two years. AdMan Enterprises later merged with another company in 1985 to form Mojo, for which he served as Chairman.

Mr. Chan has won several awards for his work, most notably Advertising Man of the Year and the Max Lewis Gold Medal in 1988. The latter is bestowed upon any individual or company that has made significant contributions to the advertising industry. Beyond his practice, Mr. Chan is regarded as a distinguished mentor in the field of advertising, and has groomed a generation of young advertising designers who worked under him. He also served repeated terms as President and Executive Director of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agents. Today, he continues to contribute as a source of reference and guidance to the industry.

With a career spanning nearly 50 years, Mr. Chan Sui Him is a notable figure in the architectural industry. He has been Chairman of DP Architects since 2004. Under his leadership, the firm has taken on projects of various scales, including the Bayshore, River Place, One Marina Boulevard, St. Andrew’s Village, Square 2 and Novena Medical Center, Orchard Central, the Fullerton Bay Hotel and the conservation of Clifford Pier and Customs House, National University Health System Tower Block and Four Acres Singapore.

Aside from his professional work, Mr. Chan has also made great contributions towards educating aspiring young architects, serving as Chairman of the School Management Board of Anglican High School and Chairman of the School Advisory Committee in the National University of Singapore’s School of Design & Environment. In the interests of furthering the architectural field, he has taken on roles as a Fellow Member of the Singapore Institute of Architects, Chairman of the Design Advisory Panel for the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), Board Member of URA from 2006 to 2015 and President of the Board of Architects from 2001 to 2009.

In recognition of his work, Mr. Chan was conferred the Public Service Medal (PBM) in 2006.
Mrs. Chan Yew Lih started her teaching career at the National University of Singapore (NUS) in August 1982 following a planning stint at the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).

After obtaining her Masters in Conservation, she advanced the development of similar coursework for urban design and urban studies at NUS. She initiated sharing sessions on conservation practices that became the annual NUS-URA Conservation seminars held as part of the Architectural Heritage Awards, and coordinated the highly cited University of Malaya-NUS Joint Studio for heritage conservation. She demonstrates through practice and exemplifies a generation of career women with the gumption for self-improvement in educational and professional excellence.

She is cited for her work as a design teacher, as well as her seminal role in architectural conservation. Her projects, like the Shuang Lin Monastery, Tan Yeok Nee House, the NUS Baba House (Neil Road), the extension to St. Andrew’s Cathedral, St. Andrew’s School and the Tun Tan Cheng Lock Centre in Malacca, remain vital benchmarks for excellence in design conservation.

Mr. David Chen is one of Singapore’s first industrial designers who studied and trained overseas. He studied industrial design in the United Kingdom and worked as an automobile designer at Chrysler UK. He developed his professional practice in Italy as well, where he interned with famed architects and designers such as Ettore Sottsass.

Following his return to Singapore, Mr. Chen founded Studio Industrial Design in the late seventies, and continues to manage the practice today. Over the years, the firm has designed innovative products for various companies such as IPC Corporation Pte Ltd (IPC). In particular, a laptop he designed for IPC won a Singapore Design Award in 1992. When it was launched, it was widely-acclaimed as the slimmest laptop of its time. Other groundbreaking products include a photo printer for Singapore Technology and a laptop printer for Comtech Pte Ltd. More recently, he was behind the design of the first in-vehicle unit for the Electronic Road Pricing system.

Mr. Chen was an early member of the Designers Association Singapore, which has grown to become a multidisciplinary design chamber known as the Design Business Chamber Singapore today. He also serves as Vice President for the Singapore Inventors’ Development Association.
After graduating from Cambridge University in the 1950s, Mr. Victor Chew Chin Aik returned to Singapore and embarked on an illustrious career in architecture. Today, he is one of Singapore’s most celebrated architects.

He was a trailblazer who successfully entered an industry that was an expatriate stronghold and moved into the Malaysian market. At the same time, he co-founded an organisation now known as the Singapore Institute of Architects, and made history as the first Singaporean member of the Board of Architects as well as the Planning Committee. He was also the first to represent Singapore at the 1963 International Union of Architects’ congress in Cuba. His practice, Kumpulan Akitek, has been behind many of Singapore’s landmark designs, namely the Hilltops Apartments, the Ming Court Hotel, the Malayan Banking Chambers building, the Subordinate Courts Complex and the Singapore Polytechnic expansion buildings.

As part of our nation’s founding generation, Mr. Chew has also played pivotal roles in public service - he served on the Housing Development Board during its early years and contributed to the formulation of public housing policy and architecture. The late President Benjamin Sheares appointed him to sit on the Commission of Inquiry to investigate the Robinson’s Department Store fire in 1972. The Commission’s recommendations for fire safety regulations paved the way for Singapore’s first Building Control Act in 1974. He was made Fellow at the School of Architecture at the National University of Singapore, conferred the Public Service Star (BBM) in 1978, and appointed Justice of Peace in 1979 for his contributions to society.

Mr. Alan Choe Fook Cheong joined the Housing and Development Board (HDB) in 1962 as their first architect and town planner. He helped to define Singapore’s public housing standards, and launched the new town development programme that has become Singapore’s most internationally acclaimed urban planning and development success. He personally led the planning for Queenstown, Toa Payoh and other housing estates, initiating public housing models that have been refined over the years.

In the sixties, he built up the urban renewal unit in HDB that would later become the Urban Redevelopment Authority. As its first General Manager, he devised the Sale of Sites programme, fundamentally changing the concept of urban renewal and driving the development of subsequent commercial and condominium projects over the last 40 years. He led the development of Sentosa as a leisure and tourist destination, served as its Chairman from 1985 to 2001, and spearheaded the Sentosa Cove project from 1996 to 2004.

Mr. Choe was a past President of the Singapore Institute of Planners. He lectured at Singapore Polytechnic on planning and architecture, and was awarded a medal by the Ministry of Education for his contributions. At the same time, he sat on the boards of the Singapore Tourism Board and Jurong Town Corporation. For his contribution to public housing, urban renewal and Sentosa, he was awarded the Gold Medal (1967), the Meritorious Service Medal (1990) and the Distinguished Service Order (2001) by the Government as well as the Singapore Institute of Architects Gold Medal in 2004.
CHOO YONG FEE

Mr. Choo Yong Fee graduated with a Diploma in Furniture Design and Production from the London College of Furniture, and is a pioneer industry leader whose association with the furniture industry dates back to 1973.

As President of Cheng Meng Furniture Group, he plays a central role in upholding the company’s excellent reputation in delivering quality custom-made furniture and interior fittings to hotels, corporate offices, banks, restaurants, public buildings and even cruise ships. Under his leadership, Cheng Meng Furniture Group has completed several note-worthy projects with global hotel groups, furnishing rooms and the interior façades of prominent and luxury hotels both locally and worldwide.

Mr. Choo has helped to nurture a local talent pool and develop design-centric enterprises by championing marketing, branding and design development initiatives. He was actively involved with the then Singapore Trade Development Board (TDB) from its formative years to 2000, when he served as Vice-Chairman of the Organising Committee for the International Design Forum. His efforts in TDB have furthered the promotion of industrial design and furniture design training in Singapore. As the President of the Singapore Furniture Industries Council (1995-1998) and current Presidential Advisor, he has also spearheaded many successful initiatives such as the Furniture Design Award and has been responsible for positioning the International Furniture Fair Singapore as one of the leading global design-centric trade fairs.

CHUA PENG CHYE

Mr. Chua Peng Chye is the founding President of the Singapore Institute of Planners, which came about after he and a group of like-minded colleagues saw the need to nurture the urban planning profession further and promote good urban planning for the benefit of the community.

Mr. Chua spent 17 years with the Planning Department, and served as Chief Planner from 1973 to 1976. He co-directed Singapore’s first Concept Plan - a strategic plan for the country’s long-term physical development - and laid down the structure for the new towns and transportation lines that were developed over the next 40 years. He has served as a Director at Jurong Town Corporation, the People’s Association and the Preservation of Monuments Board.

As a pioneer in sharing Singapore’s expertise with the developing world, Mr. Chua was appointed as the first Urban Development Specialist in the Asian Development Bank in 1976, where he advised governments, administrators, planners and developers on a wide range of planning and development policy issues, and led numerous regional missions to evaluate projects and loans.
CHUA SOO BIN

Mr. Chua Soo Bin is a Singaporean photographer and recipient of the Cultural Medallion. He began his career in advertising and was once described by The Straits Times as “one of the most sought-after commercial photographers” in Singapore.

Highly regarded by his fellow professionals, Mr. Chua’s achievements as a photographer and art director is internationally acclaimed; he has won numerous awards for his work in advertising and fashion photography. These include the Creative Circle Awards, the French Tourist Board’s Gold Award and the Pacific Asia Travel Association’s Gold Award for his project with the Singapore Airlines back in 1985. Some of the most memorable and enduring photographs of the Singapore Girl were taken by him during the period.

Mr. Chua is an associate of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, a recipient of the Excellence of the Fédération Internationale de l’Art Photographique of Switzerland and an honorary fellow of the Photographic Society of Singapore. Beyond his extensive work in advertising, Mr. Chua has also expanded the scope of visual communications by combining his photography with fine arts, most notably through his seminal photo-documentary series on Chinese ink painters.

OTTO FUNG WAI CHAN

After graduating from Utah State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Landscape Architecture, Mr. Otto Fung Wai Chan became the first local professional landscape architect to be employed by the government in 1972. During his time at the Parks and Recreation Department and the National Parks Board, he worked on a number of notable projects including Changi Airport (Phase 1), East Coast Park, the Singapore River, New Parliament House and Mount Faber Park Redevelopment. He later set up his own practice, The Fung Studio.

Mr. Fung was also a founding member of the Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects and the Institute of Parks and Recreation, where he provided critical leadership as President during their formative years. Over the course of his career, he also took on various teaching roles at the School of Ornamental Horticulture in the Singapore Botanic Gardens, Singapore Polytechnic, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, the Building & Construction Authority Academy and the National University of Singapore.

He continues to promote Singapore as a Garden City by presenting papers at international conferences in China, Malaysia, Japan and Singapore beyond his retirement.
Upon his return to Singapore in 1980, Mr. Michael Gan worked with the Singapore Science Centre and the then Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research. He subsequently set up a pioneering digital media business which created a computer graphics programme with the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation that enabled infographics to be broadcast in real time for the 1988 General Elections. His business took him all over the world, giving him the opportunity to network with overseas design luminaries and industry professionals.

It was this extensive network that Mr. Gan tapped on as a founding member of the Designers Association Singapore (now Design Business Chamber Singapore), and as a member of the organising committee for the series of International Design Forums that began in 1988. He was also on the judging panels for the Singapore Design Awards and the Young Designer Awards.

Together with the late Mr. Sannie Abdul, Mr. Gan was considered one of Singapore’s champions for the development of local design, creating a buzz in the industry and putting Singapore on the world design map. He was also a member of the team that won the bid for the hosting of the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design World Design Congress 2009 in Singapore.

Dr. Kerry Hill has established his practice, Kerry Hill Architects, in Singapore for more than 35 Years. During his years in Asia, Dr. Kerry Hill has been recognised for a brand of Architecture that draws upon traditional Asian designs and site-specific, climatic conditions. Amongst his most noteworthy developments is the Datai Hotel in Langkawi, which received the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2001.

He is also a prolific educator who has taught in various schools of architecture, and has groomed generations of architects in Singapore. He conducted public lectures at the School of Architecture, National University of Singapore, where he also served as external examiner from 2005 to 2007. In 2008, he was conferred an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Architecture by the University of Western Australia. Currently, he is Adjunct Professor of Architecture at the University of Western Australia.

His achievements in his years of practice were recognised by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects honouring him with their Gold Medal in 2006.

In 2010, Dr. Hill received the Singapore President’s Design Award for the Designer of the Year and on Australia Day 2012, he was made an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO).
A public-minded professional, some of the legacies Dr. Ho left behind include the drafting of the Charter for Hawkers, and advancing motions to amend and revise by-laws and procedures for the approval of building plans to “keep pace with the increasing population.”

He was also a strong promoter of art and art education in Singapore, and served as President of the Singapore Art Society in the company of illustrious artists like Chen Wen Hsi and Georgette Chen.

Mr. Ho Pak Toe is responsible for providing much insight into the design of public infrastructure, policies on private housing development, and the accreditation of professional practice and architectural education in Singapore.

As the first civil servant to be elected President of the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) in 1971, he worked to close the gulf between public and private architects. This included reviewing condominium housing concepts that led to the introduction of policies responsible for shaping much of Singapore’s private high-rise housing developments. During his time at SIA, he also developed the masterplan for the then Ngee Ann Technical College, and supported competitions that produced two of Singapore’s modern national icons - the Singapore Science Centre and multi-storey headquarters of the Public Utilities Board (PUB).

Mr. Ho served as Assistant Director of the Public Works Department (PWD) until his secondment in the early seventies, when he took on directorship of the University of Singapore Development Unit, leading engineers and architects from the Housing and Development Board, PWD and PUB on the 473-acre site development of Kent Ridge. Assisted by Dutch master-planning consultants OD205, Mr. Ho delivered a campus that retained its scenic beauty while offering a panoramic view of the surrounding land and sea.
**DR. ALBERT HONG HIN KAY**

Dr. Albert Hong Hin Kay has had more than fifty years of experience in the architectural industry, and was a prominent figure in the moulding of Singapore’s built environment. Apart from designing numerous symbolic buildings and landmarks in the country, he has also taken Singapore’s unique class of architecture onto the world stage through his keen insight, passion and determination.

In addition to his personal achievements, Dr. Hong is also deeply concerned about giving needy students the opportunity for education. Through the years, he has offered various scholarships and made donations to institutions of his own volition.

Dr. Hong clearly understood the importance of developing architectural excellence, and was convinced of the significant role that the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) had in taking the architectural profession further, as well as in advocating good design. This led him to contribute substantially to the development of the SIA Building Centre. His efforts were recognised with his conferment of the First Patron of SIA in 2014.

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**KHOR EAN GHEE**

Mr. Khor Ean Ghee was an interior designer with the Housing and Development Board (HDB) during the seventies. During his time there, he worked on the designs of more than 30 playgrounds in the country, providing generations of Singaporeans with safe spaces to play in and identify with. His designs are reminiscent of Asian and local culture, the most iconic of which is the Dragon playground at Toa Payoh, which remains one of the most popular landmarks in Singapore today. Some of his other designs include the Watermelon and Baby Dragon playgrounds along Pipit Road, the Doves playground in Dakota Crescent, and the Bumboat and Elephant playgrounds at Pasir Ris.

Mr. Khor earned his diploma in interior design from the University of North London, and holds a fine arts degree from the National Taiwan Normal University. Besides his work with the HDB, he was also a senior lecturer with LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts (now LASALLE College of the Arts). He is a President of the Singapore Art Society and a founding member of the Singapore Watercolour Society.
Mr. Koh Seow Chuan is a key founder of DP Architects, one of the largest architectural firms in Singapore today. He remained with the practice from its founding in 1967 until his retirement in November 2004. With the principles and key values that Mr. Koh established during DP Architect’s formative years, the firm survived four recessions in its 48 years, and has even grown to be one of the most respected full-service architectural practices locally and regionally.

Mr. Koh himself was a driving force behind some of the firm’s most significant projects, including the People’s Park Complex, Ridgewood Condominium, Marina Square, Temasek Polytechnic, and Esplanade Theatres by the Bay.

In 2005, Mr. Koh received the Royal Institute of British Architects’ Worldwide Design Award as well as the inaugural Singapore President’s Design Award in 2006 for his work on the Esplanade project. He was also named Distinguished Patron of Heritage in 2009 for his numerous generous donations and contributions to Singapore art and heritage. In 2015, he received the Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award.

Mr. Koh Teng Kwee is the founder of Koda Ltd and a pioneer industry leader who has contributed significantly to the development of Singapore’s furniture design scene. He received his certification as a craftsman from the United Kingdom’s City and Guild Advanced Craft Institute. Before starting Koda in 1972, he was actively involved as a Senior Craft Teacher at the Adult Education Board.

Mr. Koh is considered by many to be a visionary leader. He has brought valuable insights to his practice and has played an influential role in the firm’s growth strategies and design initiatives. He is also credited for his work in positioning Koda as a reputable and significant global Original Design Manufacturer. Over the years, Koda has acquired valuable market experience and in-house design expertise, and

made much headway in the sphere of product development. To date, they have clients from more than 40 countries.

Today, Mr. Koh remains keenly interested in the future of design, and passionately pushes the younger generations to innovate and anchor Koda and Singapore on the global map for marketing, branding and design of furniture.
KOH-LIM WEN GIN

Mrs. Koh-Lim Wen Gin took on the role of Director of the Conservation & Urban Design Division when the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) became the national planning authority. She spearheaded many of URA’s Urban Design and Conservation of Built Heritage programmes from 1982 to 2008, and was appointed Deputy Chief Planner in 1996.

Mrs. Koh’s team has been instrumental in developing and implementing Singapore’s Conservation Programme since the early 1980s. The programme saw the development of the URA’s Conservation Master Plan in 1989, which established a legal framework to conserve buildings, invite private development, encourage good restoration practices, consult with the private sector, and promote conservation through education and recognition.

The programme has played a major role in protecting Singapore’s architectural legacy, and its success was duly recognised by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) when it was conferred ULI’s prestigious Global Award for Excellence in 2006.

From 2001 to 2008, Mrs Koh took on the role of Chief Planner and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of URA. During this period, she steered the development of Marina Bay and led her team in establishing the Jurong Lake District Conceptual Master Plan. She also spearheaded the rejuvenation of Bras Basah.Bugis into a lively arts, culture, education, learning and entertainment locality. It won the inaugural Cityscape Asia Real Estate Awards in 2008 for the “Best Urban Design and Master Planning”.

PETER LEE HOONG FATT

Mr. Peter Lee Hoong Fatt served as Head/Director for the School of Architecture & the Built Environment (ABE) at Singapore Polytechnic from 1992 to 2008, and then as Director for Professional & Adult Continuing Education Academy from 2008 to his retirement in 2010.

He was also instrumental in introducing design thinking and appreciation to all diploma courses in Singapore Polytechnic. His contributions and innovations as an educator at Singapore Polytechnic have inspired many students to participate in the design industry and take up roles as key players in the field.

Under his leadership, the Technician Diploma in Architectural Technology programme at the School of ABE was revamped from a two-year course into a three-year full-time programme in 1982. Recognising the growing demand in the design industry, Mr. Lee directed the introduction of the Diploma in Interior Design in 2002, and enhanced the Diploma in Architecture in 2003 to offer students a more rigorous educational programme.
LEE KIP LIN

Between 1961 and 1984, Mr. Lee Kip Lin held teaching positions at the Singapore Polytechnic’s School of Architecture as well as the University of Singapore, where he took on the role of Associate Professor in 1982 until his retirement two years later. He also set up Silat Associates, which subsequently merged with Architect Team 3. Over the years, he mentored many students, including Tay Kheng Soon and Tse Swee Ling, who have since become influential architects and teachers themselves.

After he retired, Mr. Lee continued to contribute to the field of architecture through his research, advocacy and publications. He was a leading voice on the preservation of old buildings in Singapore, and was often consulted for his views on conservation issues.

He served on the Preservation of Monuments Board from 1971 to 1977, during which he chaired the Board’s Research, Documentation and Publicity Committee from 1972 to 1975. His bestselling book, The Singapore House, was published in 1988, establishing him as a passionate architectural historian. His two other books, Telok Ayer Market (1983) and Emerald Hill (1984), contributed to the understanding of Singapore’s place histories.

His collection of over 20,000 personal and historical photographs was donated by his family to the National Library Board, highlighting his deep personal interest in conserving Singapore’s built history.

AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY

WILLIAM LEE

Mr. William Lee is widely regarded by industry players to be the father of Singapore logos, as well as one of the pioneers in the field of graphic design. He got his start in the industry while on stints in Australia, Amsterdam and London, during which he spent a total of 12 years studying and working in the field.

After graduating from London’s St. Martin’s College of Art (now Central Saint Martins) with a National Diploma in Design, he proceeded to take on the role of Art Director at an advertising agency in the United Kingdom before returning to Singapore to start his own practice called Central Design. Throughout the seventies, he took on a wide range of projects with local and international companies like United Overseas Land, Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore Bus Service and the Post Office Savings Bank. He was also approached by various government organisations for his expertise in logo design.

In 1971, he was commissioned to design a series of stamps to mark the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting that was hosted in Singapore. His work garnered him international attention, and helped elevate the standards of stamp design locally.

In recognition of his contributions to the State, Mr. Lee was conferred the Public Service Star (BBM) in 1975.
Mr. Charlie Lim B. K. is professionally trained in Advertising and Commercial Photography. He is a veteran in the field with more than 30 years of experience. As a creative with varied talents and foresight, his projects have spanned diverse subjects, such as food, product advertising and wedding photography.

Through years of research, Mr. Lim has developed a new art form that he calls “Oil-Painting” Photography, which dwells on the boundaries of fine art and photography. In his portraiture, Mr. Lim employs a Baroque approach of dramatic play of light and shadow where he “paints” his figures in the dark with a light source. The results resemble Rembrandt’s paintings and the term “Light” takes on a double entendre; the moving figures embody a sense of lightness with a hint of surrealistic whimsy.

“Oil-Painting” Photography has propelled Mr. Lim to international fame. He has had media coverage in countries like Australia, London, Philippines, India, Vietnam and Singapore. His works were also featured in Vietnam TV in May 2014 and in another live telecast in early 2015.

His latest achievement has to be his selection by World Wide Art Books, publisher of the International Masters of Photography Volume II, an annual juried, by invitation only art photography publication presenting noteworthy photographers of different genres from all over the world.

Mr. David J. K. Lim was one of the University of Singapore’s (now the National University of Singapore, NUS) longest serving design educators until his retirement from his role as Associate Professor in 1986.

His 24-year long teaching career began in 1962 at the Singapore Polytechnic at Prince Edward Road and continued through all three sites of Singapore’s national architectural education, including the Ladyhill campus as part of the University of Singapore, and Kent Ridge at NUS. Mr. Lim’s forte was in architectural technology, especially building services. He highlighted, in a short 1966 manifesto titled “Sins of Omissions”, the follies of design without good common sense and robust technological knowledge. Under his watch, generations of architects were schooled and graduated with in-depth knowledge of contextual and environmental designs. Some of his many students include fellow design pioneers such as Chan Sui Him, Chan Yew Lih and Tang Guan Bee, as well as younger architects like Lim Koon Yong and many more.

Mr. Lim’s creative works consist of the Foochow Methodist Church at Outram as well as the JCB Building on Shenton Way and bungalows in Sennett Estate off MacPherson Road, which have since been demolished.
Mrs. Lim Lay Ngoh was a Mombusho Scholarship holder who went to Chiba University in Japan to do an industrial design course. Upon her return, she joined the Industrial Design Centre of the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research (SISIR, now SPRING Singapore). She subsequently took over as Head of the Division, and was responsible for various design projects with SISIR, Risis and external industries like Setron and Acma.

In 1981, Mrs. Lim left SISIR to form her consultancy firm Design 3, which provided design services to various industries and government-linked organisations. Along the way, she also became a founding member of the then Designers Association Singapore, playing an active role in the promotion and propagation of design in Singapore. Besides design work for local organisations such as the former Singapore Productivity and Standards Board, SPRING Singapore, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Wing Tai Holdings Ltd, Overseas Union Bank, Singapore Police Force, Lum Chang Group and Singapore Power, her company also managed projects for Shell Malaysia, Brunei Shell Petroleum, and other small and medium-sized enterprises.

Mrs. Lim now spends much of her time assisting her alma mater, Nanyang Girls High School, as well as Nanyang Primary School and Nanyang Kindergarten, where she sits on the Board of Directors.

Professor William S. W. Lim is a strong advocate for architectural fields in Singapore and Asia. Apart from writing and lecturing, he is also deeply involved in fostering discourse with the younger generation on topics relating to architecture, urbanism, culture and social justice.

Between 1960 and 1967, Prof. Lim was Principal Architect at Malayan Architects Co-Partnership. Later, he moved to Design Partnership (now DP Architects) from 1967 to 1991, and then to William Lim Associates from 1991 to 2002. As Singapore’s “Master of Modernism”, Prof. Lim was responsible for many significant modernist designs for residential and commercial projects, including the Marine Parade Community Building, Golden Mile Complex and People’s Park Complex.

Prof. Lim was also instrumental in shaping Singapore’s design scene beyond architecture. He was mentor to Mr. Sannie Abdul, and was heavily involved in the formative years of Singapore’s first Design Centre set up by Mr. Sannie. In addition, Prof. Lim helmed the Singapore Heritage Society from 1988 to 1997 as its first President. Currently, Prof. Lim is President of the Architectural Association of Asia. He is also Chairman of the Asian Urban Lab (AUL), which he co-founded in 2003. Earlier this year, AUL hosted Singapore Dreaming, a two-year project that culminated in a conference and upcoming publication which brought together many of Singapore’s greatest thinkers to share their visions of a creative and sustainable society.
DR. LIU THAI KER

For over 40 years, Dr. Liu Thai Ker has helped shape the physical and social environment of Singapore, leaving a lasting impact on the country’s urban development strategies, new town and public housing development, cityscapes and public spaces. In his long career with the Housing & Development Board - where he was Chief Architect and later Chief Executive Officer from 1969 to 1989 - Dr. Liu continuously gathered feedback and refined plans and designs to create affordable and functional living spaces imbued with a sense of community.

As CEO and Chief Planner of the Urban Redevelopment Authority from 1989 to 1992, he worked to preserve Singapore’s built heritage and natural environment, helping to transform Singapore into a liveable and beautiful urban environment for both Singaporeans and international visitors. Dr. Liu’s influence in the field is not limited to Singapore alone; he serves as advisor to more than 30 cities in China, and has planned nearly 40 cities in the country over the last three decades. He has also planned cities in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Russia.

Currently the Founding Chairman of the Centre for Liveable Cities, Dr. Liu is also an Adjunct Professor at the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University. Through these roles, he shares his experience and deep passion for planning and design with generations of planners to come.

LOH KHEE YEW

Mr. Loh Khee Yew is one of the eminent leaders of Singapore’s visual communications movement. As a recipient of the Colombo Plan scholarship, he studied at the Alberta College of Art in Canada, where he took classes in art, design and advertising. After he graduated in the late sixties, he returned to Singapore and honed his skills with a number of multinational advertising agencies.

He subsequently pioneered the design curriculum at LASALLE College of the Arts, and served as the Dean of the Design Faculty from 1992 to 1995. He also served as Head of Applied Arts at Baharuddin Vocational Institute, and has been hailed by Temasek Polytechnic as a “teacher of teachers” in design education.

Since his retirement from teaching in 1996, Mr. Loh has continued to promote various avenues of visual expression both as a practitioner and an educator. He is a practising artist with the late Brother Joseph McNally’s Group 90 artists’ alliance, and raises literacy in the arts by conducting community art classes.
The late Brother Joseph McNally was best known as the founder of LASALLE College of the Arts, which he started in 1984 after retirement. He was a strong advocate for the arts and art education, and despite a lack of support from the government during the time, he pushed through with his vision of setting up an arts school by injecting his own savings into the venture.

Despite its humble beginnings with only 27 students, Brother McNally, who had until then been a teacher and artist for a large part of his life, continued to provide mentorship and guidance to the aspiring artists who passed through his school. At the same time, he spearheaded the creation of the art syllabus and the Art Elective Programme with the Ministry of Education, providing hundreds of budding young artists in Singapore with the opportunity to hone their craft.

Brother McNally's work in the sphere of arts and design education has had a huge impact on the education landscape in Singapore, as well as on the formalisation and recognition of diplomas in the field. In honour of the contributions he has made, the government presented Brother McNally with the Meritorious Service Medal in 1997.

Mr. Meng Ta Cheang is the Principal Partner of OD Architects Singapore, and was responsible as masterplanner and architect for the National University of Singapore’s Kent Ridge Campus between 1968 and 1979.

While his consultancy focused on regional, city and town-planning, master-planning and feasibility studies for a wide variety of projects, Mr. Meng also executed pioneering works in the conservation of educational infrastructure, which included Hwa Chong Institution/ The Chinese High School (1988) and CHIJ Katong Convent. This followed a highly cited pioneering work on conservation that updated the environment around 10 terrace houses at Bukit Pasoh (1983). Later, he also worked on the Outward Bound School at Pulau Ubin, Yishun Junior College and the urban renewal project with the Yue Hwa Building.

His other significant contributions include an alternative new town schema for Singapore, which with the support of the Singapore Institute of Architects and then Minister for National Development Mr. S. Dhanabalan, took the form of the Simpang 1989 Development Guide Plan, a 900-hectare site near Yishun. It demonstrated how Mr. Meng’s vision of an environmentally responsible design for a new city could be achieved. His plan for the Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Town later incorporated the same design sensibility, and was the first of its kind in the new, undeveloped Special Economic Zone.
Mr. Allein G. Moore was trained in graphic design and typography, and was Creative Director and Executive Creative Director of various international agencies in London and Singapore before coming to Singapore in 1979. During his stints with Batey Ads, Fortune Advertising, Leo Burnett and Chiat/Day/Mojo, he worked with major brands such as Mercedes Benz, DBS, Gardenia Bread, Singapore Airlines, Qantas, Pampers, Nescafe, Mitsubishi Electric, Singapore Tourism Board and the Australian Tourism Board. He left the agency business to launch a popular magazine for the advertising industry titled AdAsia, and he went on to publish Designer magazine, both of which have won awards. He sold his publishing company in 2014.

Mr. Moore was a founding member and Chairman of the Creative Circle of Singapore; he also helped to found the Designers Association Singapore (DAS), and sat on the board as its first President. The DAS has since evolved into the Design Business Chamber Singapore today.

Currently, Mr. Moore is a member of Nanyang Polytechnic’s School of Design Advisory Committee, where he continues to build up Singapore’s design scene by offering his knowledge and sharing his experience with industry players. As of 2015, he continues to advise brands and train new talent as Chief Executive Officer of the Communications Clinic Asia.

Mr. Basil Nettar’s teaching career spans more than 40 years, of which 27 were spent as a lecturer of professional photography. During this time, he led the development of curriculum in the art and photography departments of various institutions such as Temasek Polytechnic, Baharuddin Vocational Institute and a number of secondary schools. He also spearheaded the design and set-up of photo studios and labs, with corresponding teaching, learning and assessment strategies. Many local professional photographers today owe their craft to him. In the world of advertising, where photography often holds the key between a competent advertisement and a great one, Mr. Nettar’s contribution cannot be ignored.

Along the way, Mr. Nettar also worked as a professional photographer in Toronto, Canada, where he honed his skills and acquired studio portrait experience under the guidance of Mr. Berge Tanielian, a renowned portrait photographer. Today, Mr. Nettar’s expertise in photographic portraiture is widely recognised both locally and internationally; prominent figures like the late Dr. Lee Chiaw Meng, former Minister for Education for Singapore, as well as Sir Arthur Kelly of the Supreme Court of Canada, have his work amongst their personal collections.
NG WENG SANG

Mr. Ng Weng Sang is a pioneer in Singapore’s visual merchandising landscape. Returning to Singapore in the seventies from London with a degree in Stage Design, he found that there was a dearth of opportunities for theatre design majors. He thus created his own niche in visual merchandising, dressing the shops and store windows of international brands like Issey Miyake, Giorgio Armani, Tiffany & Co., De Beers, Van Cleef & Arpels, Versace, Bvlgari and many more.

Mr. Ng was also responsible for the annual Christmas light-up façade displays for several shopping centres such as Tangs, Scotts Shopping Centre, Paragon, Raffles City, Robinsons, Wisma Atria, the Centrepoint and others. Recently, while in semi-retirement, he designed the costumes of the National Day Parade 2012 performers.

Over the years, Mr. Ng has come to be known by many in the industry as a leading visionary in the visual merchandising and design field, who can be credited for creating the look and feel of some of the most iconic local and international retail stores.

BENNY ONG

Mr. Benny Ong was probably the first Singaporean fashion designer to establish himself in London. After graduating from Central Saint Martins, he started his own fashion label Benny Ong Designer in 1975. He is recognised internationally for his work, and his designs are stocked in department stores in New York and across Europe. He is also a founding member of the London Designers Collection.

Mr. Ong is best known for his expertise in styling corporate identity. His first major commission was a series of uniform designs for the British Airports Authority. Subsequently, he styled the uniforms of Singapore’s Raffles Hotel and restyled the uniforms for leading hotels in Beijing for the 2008 Summer Olympics. He has also worked with the Economic Development Board, Tan Tock Seng Hospital and International Enterprise Singapore on various corporate projects.

Over his long and illustrious career, Mr. Ong’s client list has included esteemed individuals such as the late Diana, Princess of Wales, and Queen Noor of Jordan.

In recent years, Mr. Ong has launched a cross-disciplinary exploration of textile art, collaborating with electronics manufacturer Philips, and worked with exquisite weavers from Laos to create a unique series of Peranakan-inspired contemporary textile artworks.
Before becoming the first elected President of Singapore, Mr. Ong Teng Cheong worked with the Planning Department of the Ministry of National Development as a town planner. He was an architect by profession, and later set up the design firm ONG&ONG with his wife in 1972. Mr. Ong was soon seconded to the United Nations Development Programme (Special Fund) Assistance in Urban Renewal & Development Project, where he assisted in formulating the long-range concept plan of Singapore’s physical development.

Known for his tenacity and foresight, Mr. Ong is credited for major infrastructural developments in the country. Most notably, he championed the development of the Mass Rapid Transit, fighting a 10-year battle from 1972 for the development of a train system in Singapore. It was finally approved in March 1982. He was also involved with the planning and building of Singapore’s Changi Airport.

Mr. Ong is also fondly remembered as a dedicated patron of the arts and culture in Singapore. He was the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Culture and the Arts, which set up the National Arts Council and proposed the development of a performing arts center in 1989 under his direction. This is known to us today as the Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay.

Mr. Ong Teong Pin was a key figure in the urban planning and design field during the formative years of Singapore’s rapid transformation from third world to first. He worked in the Planning Department from 1966 to 1973, and was involved in a range of projects including the formulation of planning standards and guidelines for new forms of high density condominium housing and development control for the Central Area.

Later, as an architect in private practice, he had the opportunity to work on projects that creatively applied planning guidelines to landmark developments such as Signature Park Condominium, Aspen Heights Condominium, Trellis Towers Condominium, Chestnut Garden Housing Estate, Heeton Park Housing Estate, Balestier Plaza, Orchid Inn Hotel and Pantech Industrial Complex.

For over 40 years, Mr. Ong has been actively involved in the Singapore Institute of Planners, serving as President from 1993 to 1995. He is also one of the founders of the ASEAN Association for Planning and Housing (AAPH), a platform where ideas and experiences can be exchanged among South East Asian countries. Through AAPH, Mr. Ong has shared Singapore’s experience in housing with government officials, planning consultants and private developers from other countries, and spoken out on a wide range of planning issues and government policies.
Mr. Carsten Ovesen studied furniture, fabrics and commercial science in Aalborg, Denmark. Since his graduation, he designed furniture for some of the world’s most renowned furniture retailers and manufacturing companies, and eventually founded his company Carsten Ovesen Design in the late seventies.

In 1990, he saw the potential for growth in the furniture business in Asia, and moved his company to Singapore. He made waves with his award-winning furniture such as The Singapore Chair, the Sun Lounger, Garden Trolley and the dining chair Enzo Reni. In 1992, he joined the Singapore Furniture Industries Council (SFIC) and brought his wealth of knowledge to benefit the local furniture design scene. He has also served on the SFIC Advisory Board for Design and actively contributed as a jury panel to the Furniture Design Award for over 23 years. Mr. Ovesen eventually took up citizenship in 2008.

Mr. Ovesen has judged several local and international design competitions and shared his insights in numerous seminars and workshops. He is passionate about offering mentorship to aspiring young designers, and is an advocate for the incorporation of design into a company’s practices. Some of the local companies he has worked with include Unicane Furniture, Koda Pte Ltd, Eurosia Furniture, d-Scan Furniture and Fowseng Holdings. The last two have clinched several design awards with his contributions.

ASSOC. PROF. T. K. SABAPATHY

Associate Professor Thiagarajan Kanaga Sabapathy has had great influence on three decades of architectural students passing through the National University of Singapore since 1981. Trained as an art historian, he brought sophistication and criticality to design education, inculcating in students the importance of a humanistic approach to design and architecture. Through the course of his career, he consistently obtained the highest accolades in teaching.

Though teaching primarily art history in an architecture school, he challenged his younger colleagues to bring the same level of scholarly rigour to their teaching of architectural history. Under his intellectual leadership and mentorship, he encouraged a climate of discussion of architectural history, and impressed upon his colleagues - including Dr. Lai Chee Kien, Dr. Imran B. Tajudeen and Dr. Chee Lilian - its purpose and significance to the education of the architect.

He was the editor of the Architecture Journal from 1983 to 1994, and served as the inaugural editor of the internationally refereed Journal of Southeast Architecture. Under both titles, he promoted scholarly studies of architecture and its histories in Southeast Asia.
Dr. Eu Jin Seow was the first local head of the School of Architecture at the University of Singapore (now the National University of Singapore). Prior to the appointment, he had lent his support to the course of study at Singapore Polytechnic’s Prince Edward Road campus. His doctoral dissertation at the University of Melbourne, Architectural Development in Singapore (1973), established him as Singapore’s first-trained and foremost architectural historian, and remains a significant benchmark of local knowledge for architectural teachers and students.

As a teacher, he was known to be encouraging, optimistic, patient and caring, mentoring a number of equally influential historians in their respective fields: Dr. Jon Lim (Malayan architecture), Dr. Pinna Indorf (Thai Buddhist architecture) and Dr. Evelyn Lip (Chinese temples).

Throughout his career, he received strong patronage from Lee Kong Chian and Loke Wan Tho, for whom he completed some of the most modern theatres and factories. His practice was open and tolerant, and nurtured the likes of contemporary luminaries including Lim Chong Keat, Victor Chew, Albert Hong and Tan Cheng Siong. He also served as the Singapore Institute of Architects’ first President, bridging the gulf between expatriate and local practices.

Mr. Sim Hong Boon is regarded as one of the leading figures amongst the pioneer generation of Singapore architects and urban designers. His notable works include the Singapore Embassy Building in Kuala Lumpur and the Singapore American School at Ulu Pandan Road. He was also the Project Manager for the construction of Changi Airport Terminal 1. In addition, he served as the seventh President of the Singapore Institute of Architects and was a Council Member of the Singapore Institute of Planners.

Apart from professional practice, Mr. Sim laid firm foundations for the development of architectural education in Singapore as a long-serving Member of the Advisory Committee to the Department of Architecture at the National University of Singapore (1976 - 2000). Notably, together with Prof. Bill Lim, he pioneered the school’s accreditation by the Royal Institute of British Architects to benchmark its standards at an international level. Mr. Sim also lectured on professional practice at the Department as an Adjunct Associate Professor.

As a past member of the Board of Management of the Ministry of National Development’s Training Centre, he played a significant role in training ‘in-house’ architects at a time when there was a shortage of professionals.
Mr. Sim Kok Huoy is one of Singapore’s most respected design educators. He began his design career in advertising after completing his graphics degree studies in the United Kingdom. From 1974 to 1993, he headed and directed the creative departments of multinational advertising firms such as Hakuhodo Advertising, Needham Advertising (now DDB Worldwide) and McCann-Erickson. Mr. Sim has mentored leading designers like Theseus Chan of WORK and Chris Lee of Asylum, who have both received the President’s Design Award for Designer of the Year in 2006 and 2009 respectively.

In 1993, Mr. Sim set up the advertising studio Crunch Communications, but soon retired from corporate life in 1999. That same year, he joined the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) as an academic and educator. He served at NAFA as a teacher trainer (2003 - 2010), headed the Fine Art Department (1999 - 2003), and shaped Singapore’s design education as Curricular Advisor (1974 - 1998). He also represented NAFA at high-profile industry conferences, speaking on interactive learning and his role as a creative educator.

Mr. Sim is credited for raising the profile of NAFA as a leading institution for creative education. In 2003, he was an instrumental figure in the fund-raising process for its new premises by staging “Salmon’s Homecoming”, a thematic call for NAFA alumni to render artworks for auction.

Mr. Henry Steed is the Principal Design Director of landscape design consultancy firm ICN Design International. He has had more than 40 years’ of experience in the field as a Landscape Architect, and is highly regarded as one of the region’s foremost landscape designers.

Having been based in Singapore for 33 years now, he has spearheaded numerous award-winning projects including Resorts World Sentosa, Glentrees Condominium, the Ethiopian Exhibit at the Singapore Zoo, Sentosa Nature Discovery and the SAFITI Military Institute. As past President of the Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects, Mr. Steed has played a pivotal role in shaping and elevating the profession of Landscape Architecture in Singapore and beyond.
Ms. Su Yeang started on the path of design with Cold Storage Holdings, working with the group as an in-house designer. Together with her team, she contributed to the revamp of numerous brands, Magnolia, Sunshine as well as the creation of new brands like Guardian, Centrepoint. She later struck out on her own with her studio, Su Yeang Design, in 1983, focusing on brands and visual brand communications.

Through the years, Ms. Su Yeang has led her team to take on projects with some 289 clients. They consist not only of local firms, but also regional and international ones that offer a range of products and services to global markets. These include Tiger Beer, Khong Guan Biscuits, Prima Taste, CapitaLand, F&N and Singapore Airlines. Her studio was responsible for creating the identities for the Esplanade and the National Library Board, as well as for events by ASEAN and the International Monetary Fund. In 1997, the World Trade Organisation adopted the logo design by her studio as their official emblem.

Su Yeang Design was one of Asia’s leading brand and design consultancies, with a track record of developing distinctive and enduring brand identities. To many industry players, Ms. Su Yeang is widely accepted as one of the greatest commercial successes of her generation.

Mr. Tan Cheng Siong is a serial trailblazer in Singapore’s architecture and urban planning landscape over the last 40 years, as well as Singapore’s idealist thinker on the future of liveable housing environments.

Mr. Tan designed seminal projects such as Singapore’s first super high-rise housing, the iconic Pearl Bank Apartments, as well as the first condominium, Pandan Valley. He also oversaw the design of the Development Guide Plans for Jurong East in 1991 and Pasir Ris 21 in 1997. His practice has put together more diverse and groundbreaking concepts in condominium design than any other. He has served as advisor to the Shenzhen Planning Committee since 1986, and in the nineties, introduced condominium housing to China.

In recent years, Mr. Tan has invested his time and resources into promoting Skyland, an innovative set of designs for spacious, flexible high-rise housing and community mobility. He has worked and researched unceasingly on sustaining middle-income Singaporeans’ quest for “groundedness” and exclusivity in their living environments.

In 2012, Mr. Tan received the President’s Design Award, and the Singapore Institute of Architects Gold Medal a year after.

Presently, he is promoting voluntary conservation of Singapore’s habitat to unlock the true value of strata living. The Urban Redevelopment Authority has approved his proposals for “Voluntary Conservation, Upgrading and Redevelopment” for Pearl Bank.
Mr. Tan Cheng Whatt is an expert metallurgist who studied and honed his craft in West Germany. After returning to Singapore, he took part in his first exhibition at the Singapore International Furniture Fair in 1985, taking home the Bronze Award for his designs. The following year, inspired by the Italian sculptor and goldsmith Benvenuto Cellini, he founded his furniture store, which he named Cellini.

Under his leadership and vision, Cellini has forged a path in knowledge, innovation as well as research. The company has grown by leaps and bounds and earned numerous industry accolades and awards along the way, with a number of patented products under its belt. In recognition of Cellini’s and Mr. Tan’s commitment to quality, excellence and inventiveness in design, the company was also awarded the ISO9001-2000 certification.

Today, Cellini has expanded beyond Singapore’s shores and has seen remarkable growth in the region, with manufacturing plants in both Indonesia and Malaysia, and 60 retail outlets across Southeast Asia.

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Mr. Jack Tan Eng Kiat was a distinguished teacher of basic design in the Department of Architecture at the National University of Singapore. He began his career as a lecturer in 1978, and served as senior lecturer from 1981 until his retirement in 1994. During this time, he impressed upon his students the importance of serving the needs of the wider community through design.

Ever demanding a high level of design, technical and comprehensive competence, he put in place a rigorous programme of works that shaped many influential architects of today, such as Richard Ho, Mok Wei Wei and Tan Kok Hiang, who are also recipients of the President’s Design Award. Others, like Eugene Seow of TOUCH Community Services, Tan Kay Ngee (architect and critic), Dr. Lai Chee Kien (historian), Tan Teck Kiam and Dr. Joseph Lim (architects and teachers), are known for their work as cultural commentators and teachers in the community.

Between 1982 and 1985, Mr. Tan entertained a generation of young readers of The Straits Times with his column “Uncle Otak”. Through the use of illustrations, he combined his keenness for general knowledge, design, drawing and games to encourage the youth to think through imagining, drawing and making.
Mr. Tan Kah Hoe has done invaluable work to advance urban planning through his involvement and leadership in local and regional planning organisations. These include the Singapore Institute of Planners, where he was a founding member and served many terms as President. He was also a founding member of the Singapore Professional Centre (SPC), and led SPC’s contingent for National Day Parade as Contingent Commander in 1982 and 1983. Regionally, he contributed to the founding of the ASEAN Association for Planning and Housing, and was President from 1986 to 1988 and Honorary President from 1988. He was Vice President of the Commonwealth Association of Planners for the Southeast Asian region from 1996 to 2003.

As an architect and town planner, Mr. Tan contributed his expertise as Team Leader in the planning of Jurong Town under the United Nations Development Programme from 1966 to 1970. He organised several learning and networking events for fellow practitioners, notably the International Convention on High Rise High Density Living in 1982.

Apart from his achievements in urban planning, Mr. Tan is also active in community and diplomatic work. He was High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, served on the Board of the People’s Association and the Chinese Development Assistance Council, chaired high profile fundraisers, and has been appointed Justice of Peace. For his distinguished service, he was conferred Dasha Abimani by the Sri Lankan government in 2008, and awarded the Public Service Medal (PBM) in 1987 and Public Service Star (BBM) in 2007.

Between 1982 and 2003, Mr. Tony Tan Keng Joo served as Chief Architect of the Housing & Development Board (HDB). He played an influential role in shaping Singapore’s public housing landscape, bringing condominium-like HDB flats with state-of-the-art facilities and communal spaces to homeowners. This gradually transformed the perception that Singaporeans had of public housing.

Of significance is his contribution to the planning of Punggol 21. From planning and design to development, he introduced many firsts to public housing. These include basement carparks, roof landscapes, full shelters from carparks to lift lobbies, floor to ceiling glazing and better finishes and fittings.

Mr. Tan has also contributed his expertise and experience to various organisations. He has served as Board Member at the Institute of Technical Education, Temasek Polytechnic, Science Centre Board, School Advisory Committee of the National University of Singapore (NUS), Strata Titles Boards and as Chairman of the People’s Association Development Committee since 1990.

Currently, he is involved in health care development for Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Yishun Community Hospital, Sengkang Health hospitals and Woodlands integrated hospitals. He was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver), Public Administration Medal (Gold), Public Service Medal, National Day Long Service Award, Distinguished Alumni Award (NUS) and Fellow (Life) of the Singapore Institute of Architects.
RICHARD L. P. TAN

Mr. Richard L. P. Tan is a pioneer in Singapore's landscape industry. In 1968, he founded Garden and Landscape Centre, the first local company specialising in landscape planning, design and construction. For nearly half a century, he has endeavoured to integrate the beauty and lushness of the tropical landscape with Singapore's rapidly-developing cityscape through his work in over 22 residential projects, 17 institutions, 11 industrial and commercial developments, and 38 hotels and resorts. Notably, he was responsible for the landscape design of the Pinnacle@Duxton, a development which received the President’s Design Award for Design of the Year in 2010. At 80, he remains active in the industry, having just completed two large nature parks - Zhen Hua Nature Park and the Coney Island Park.

Mr. Tan has also held pivotal leadership roles locally and abroad. He was a founding member and past Vice President of the Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects (SILA). In 2000, he became the first Asian elected as President of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA). He was also made an Honorary Member of the Thai Association of Landscape Architects and inaugural Honorary Fellow of SILA. This year, in recognition of over 30 years service at an international level, IFLA made him an Honorary Member.

Mr. Tan is also deeply involved in supporting future industry professionals by providing internships and post-graduate scholarships. In 2013, he founded the Landscape Academy, a not-for-profit organisation to train young ASEAN students. He has established a school in Thailand and is setting up another in Cambodia.

Singapore Design Golden Jubilee Award

TAN SHEE TIONG

Mr. Tan Shee Tiong has taken on numerous roles in the Singapore planning scene. He chaired various focus groups in the 2001 and 2011 Singapore Concept Plan Review, served in the Urban Redevelopment Authority’s Design Waiver Committee, the Singapore Tourism Board’s Design Review Panel for Chinatown’s rejuvenation, and the judging panel for the Singapore River Rejuvenation International Competition. In 2001, he helped lead a team in proposing Urban Design Guidelines for the new Marina Bay. He was also Deputy Chair of the judging panel for the inaugural Singapore Planning Awards in 2008, and spearheaded a public forum “Can We Plan for 2030” as part of the population debate in 2013.

In the past 30 years, Mr. Tan has served terms as council member and President of the Singapore Institute of Planners. He has served as external tutor and examiner of the post graduate urban design courses at the National University of Singapore. He currently promotes the Singapore planning brand by training mayors and city officials from China and Southeast Asia on urban planning, design and management in Singapore and at Chinese universities, town halls and communist party colleges.

He regularly appears in the media to comment on issues regarding urban planning and design, conservation and the environment. He has won several international urban planning and design competitions in Beijing, Tianjin and Hainan, as well as selected architectural design competitions in Singapore.
Dr. Tan Wee Kiat is a steward of Singapore’s natural heritage and a pioneer in the transformation of the nation’s landscape. A champion of the “City in a Garden” vision, his foresight and forward thinking have contributed to keeping Singapore lush, sustainable and liveable.

In 1990, he was appointed founding Chief Executive Officer of the National Parks Board. He played a pivotal role in the transformation of the Singapore Botanic Gardens into a world-class botanical institute, and pushed for greater accessibility to nature areas such as Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and Pulau Ubin. Under his leadership, the pervasiveness and connectivity of greenery across the island were strengthened with the introduction of the Streetscape Greenery Master Plan, Skyrise Greenery, and Park Connector Network. Dr. Tan paid personal attention to the planting palette, design and theming of Singapore’s natural landscape, providing the unique identity our urban fabric has come to be known for on the international stage.

After retiring in 2006, Dr. Tan continued to devote his energies to the “City in a Garden” vision as founding Chief Executive Officer of Gardens by the Bay, where he has précised his decades of experience into a revolutionary vision for a “garden of the future”.

For his significant contributions to the greening of Singapore, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order Medal in 2015.

Mr. Tang Guan Bee is often regarded as one of the most avant garde architects of his generation. This forward-looking and risk-taking spirit drove him to work on his first hotel - Singapore’s Gallery Hotel - with William Lim Associates in the nineties. Back then, the project was a pioneering boutique accommodation that brought a breath of fresh air to the hospitality industry in 2000.

Prior to the mid-eighties, Mr. Tang worked in several architecture partnerships. Later, he decided to start his own studio, Tanguanbee Architects, in 1984, as he wanted the independence to pursue his ideas and learn for himself the entire process of architecture. With almost five decades of experience under his belt, Mr. Tang has developed a variety of architectural forms in Singapore with his studio, notably the original Picture House building, Fortredale Apartment, Windsor House, Abelia Condominium, Eastpoint Mall, and the Market Place.

His designs for the Gallery Hotel and Eastpoint Mall were nominated for the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2001. In 2006, he was awarded the Singapore Institute of Architects’ Gold Medal, an accolade given only to those who have made lifetime contributions to Singapore society. Mr. Tang also received the President’s Design Award in 2011.
Mr. Willie Tang is a commercial photographer and television commercial and film director who is often credited for bringing Singapore’s commercial visual communications into global prominence, having worked on several major international advertising campaigns during the seventies and eighties. Today, he is described by many industry practitioners as being a trailblazer in his field. Mr. Tang has created many memorable and award-winning images throughout his career, and was one of the very few Singaporean photographers commissioned to work with the Singapore Airlines during its early days.

Throughout his career, Mr. Tang has directed some of the most enduring TV commercials for a slew of reputable brands. Back when the creative industry was predominantly led by foreign talents, he was credited not only for elevating the quality and reputation of Singapore’s creatives, but also for raising local industry rates to be commensurate with those of expatriate directors.

Mr. Tang has mentored many renowned photographers including Adrian Tan and John Clang, paving the way for a younger generation of image makers. Today, he continues to be active in the industry and remains a much sought after director.

Mr. Tay Kheng Soon has been and still is a highly regarded voice of design conscience in Singapore since our independence. He is a critical writer, designer and thinker on architecture and urban planning, and is currently an Adjunct Professor at the National University of Singapore. He has also served on various task forces at the Ministry of National Development, the former Ministry of Community Development, Institute of Policy Studies and the Advisory Council on Culture and the Arts. He was also the first Chairman of the Substation.

Over the past five decades, Mr. Tay has helmed his own practice, Akitek Tenggara and his Founding Practice, Design Partnership. Along with taking on roles such as President of the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) from 1990 to 1993, he is also a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science. His legacy in the design profession is undeniable, having attempted to steer design thinking in Singapore towards one that suits the local climate, as well as balancing social and economic goals through urban design. His latest design exploration, the Modular City, is testament to his vision and foresight: the schema was designed with social equity, sustainability and human resilience of the future of Singapore and the World in mind.

His discourses have been highly influential on public education, the professional fraternity and the academic community. In recognition of his contributions and achievements in architecture, he was awarded the SIA Gold Medal Laureate in 2010. He received the International PLEA (Passive and Low Energy Architecture) Award in 2007.
ASSOC. PROF. TEH KEM JIN

Associate Professor Teh Kem Jin is an architect and fire safety consultant by training and profession. He has taught at the Architecture Department of the National University of Singapore (NUS) since 1977 and has held numerous positions as Director of several undergraduate and graduate programmes.

In 1999, he took on the role of Founding Director for the Bachelor of Arts in Industrial Design (Honours) at NUS’ School of Design & Environment. He is credited with building the foundation of the Industrial Design programme at the university.

Assoc. Prof. Teh has had more than 20 years of experience in the field of Fire Safety. He was a member of the Fire Safety Appeals Advisory Board, Ministry of Home Affairs. Since 1985, he has been participating in the preparation of the Singapore Fire Code. His wealth of knowledge in this field of study has made him a respected consultant in the design for fire safety both locally and internationally.

DANIEL TEO

Mr. Daniel Teo Tong How is deeply passionate about the conservation and adaptive re-use of historic buildings in Singapore, and has been actively involved in many conservation projects, including the Wetterling Teo Gallery, where an old shophouse was transformed into an elegant art gallery. He recently completed the award-winning 36 Armenian Street conservation project, transforming a row of 100-year shophouses into a vibrant, elegant commercial SOHO complex. He has sat on the National Heritage Board and Preservation of Monuments Board, and is currently Director of Tong Eng Brothers as well as Chairman of the Hong How Group.

Mr. Teo is also involved in many government committees on ageing and housing for the elderly, and champions the development of retirement villages in Singapore. He has a keen interest in providing highly urbanised Singaporeans with the opportunity to interact with our natural environment, and does so through a social enterprise farm, Kranji Agrivista. In addition to his strong devotion to socially oriented planning and development projects, Mr. Teo also develops residential and commercial projects that meet high standards of design quality and environmental sustainability.
ASSOC. PROF. TSE SWEE LING

Associate Professor Tse Swee Ling has nurtured and inspired architectural students since 1977, when she joined the University of Singapore (now National University of Singapore, NUS). Her design pedagogy has helped her students to excel in architecture, inspiring some to become architectural educators themselves.

She was passionate about providing her students with the opportunities to progress both academically and professionally, and was one of the major fund raisers for the Milton Tan Memorial Fund, which supports internships and scholarships for architectural and industrial design students at NUS. Some of her notable students include Mok Wei Wei, Wong Mun Summ, Richard Ho, Chang Yong Ter and Tan Kay Ngee — all of whom have been bestowed with the President’s Design Award.

In 2004, she received the prestigious NUS Teaching Excellence Award.

Assoc. Prof. Tse has been known to champion inclusiveness in design, with her design studio focusing on the integration of the elderly into the community. She co-authored the Building & Construction Authority’s (BCA) Universal Design Guide in 2007, and served as a member of the jury for the BCA’s Universal Design (UD Mark) Award (2010 - 2014) and also the Accessibility Code Review Committee (2012 - 2014).

WEE CHWEE HENG

Mr. Wee Chwee Heng is a practising architect who strongly advocates good urban planning and design as well as planning education. He has provided valuable insights to government agencies such as the Urban Redevelopment Authority and Jurong Town Corporation on issues like alternative design possibilities, and led planning teams in their work on the Changi Development Guide Plan and a Central Business District extension plan.

Already a successful architect in the sixties, Mr. Wee enrolled in an urban planning course because he felt that architects could benefit from gaining a better understanding of the wider urban planning and development context. To this day, he strongly supports learning initiatives launched by the Singapore Institute of Planners as well as other educational and professional institutes. He graduated with a Masters degree in Urban Planning from the University of Singapore (now National University of Singapore) in 1974.

Mr. Wee was an active member of the Singapore Planning & Urban Research Group, and served on the Singapore Polytechnic Board of Governors from 1968 to 1974. He has also served as an examiner for the Board of Architectural Education.
Mr. Richard Wee Kong Hee has been an adjunct lecturer in Art & Design Foundation studies at Temasek Polytechnic’s School of Design since his retirement in 2009. As a graduate of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Mr. Wee’s areas of interest have always been Asian Cultural Studies, Drawing and Interior Design. He is known for both his intellectual curiosity and creative flair, and is a versatile lecturer who straddles different disciplines in both theory and studio practice.

Mr. Wee is known to many students as an approachable and inspiring figure who has nurtured hundreds of aspiring designers during his tenure as a lecturer. He remains undistracted by his accomplishments and accolades in the field of design, and instead dedicates his time to helping his students realise their goals and potential. His attitude as such is best summed up by his memorable quote “my job is actually my hobby”. As an accomplished jazz pianist, he lent his talents to Temasek Polytechnic’s 25th Anniversary musical production.

Over the years, Mr. Wee has kept himself in current practice and teaching to stay relevant in the ever-changing design landscape. Many of his design consultancies were collaborations with former students who are today running successful design agencies locally and in the region. Some of his projects have been carried out in far-flung places like Egypt and the Middle East.

Mr. Thomas Wee has been internationally lauded for his work as a fashion designer, and is celebrated for his pattern making skills. He has been designing for more than 35 years, and is widely-known as the “King of the Jacket” for his precise cutting and impeccable tailoring. His work has been described as “instantly recognisable”, cutting-edge and innovative.

As one of Singapore’s pioneering fashion designers, he has represented the country in many international trade shows. He was one of “The Magnificent Seven” designers selected by the former Trade Development Board to showcase his collections in Tokyo and Osaka in 1980, and Paris in 1981 and 1982. In 1985, he represented Singapore in “The Best of Asian Designers”, “The Best of Best” and “The Premier Designer Show”. He was recognised by the Cable News Network in 2011 as one of 50 people who have shaped modern Singapore. His work is featured in the Fifty Years of Singapore Design exhibition at the National Design Centre in recognition of his contributions to the Singapore fashion scene.

Mr. Wee has devoted his time and efforts to grooming the next generation of designers. For many years, he taught at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and mentored many young designers. He has also sat on the judging panel of many local and regional young designers’ competitions, including the President’s Design Award 2012.
Mr. Alfred Wong is one of the earliest Singapore architects educated overseas. After graduating from Melbourne University in 1953, he started his company Alfred Wong Partnership (now AWP Architects) in 1957. His most well-known work, the National Theatre at Fort Canning, enabled Singaporeans to participate in cultural events and facilitated the grooming of a generation of performers. He can also be credited for the Marco Polo Hotel, Singapore Tourism Board Headquarters, Singapore Polytechnic, St. Joseph’s Institution, Changi Vocational and Industrial Training Board (now ITE College East) and Keppel Distripark.

Mr. Wong has served on many public bodies, taking on roles such as Chairman of the Preservation of Monuments Board (2003 - 2009), Board Member of the National Heritage Board (2004 - 2009), Board of Governors at Singapore Polytechnic (1966 - 1969), Member of the University Council (National University of Singapore, NUS, 1972 - 1980) as well as Adjunct Professor at NUS (1999 - 2000).

As past President of the Singapore Institute of Architects, Mr. Wong was awarded the Institute’s first Gold Medal in 1998. In 2005, he was conferred the Public Service Star (BBM) awarded by the Singapore government for contributions made to public service.

After graduating from Liverpool University with a Bachelor of Architecture (Honours) in 1961, Mr. Edward Wong started his career with Alfred Wong Partnership (now AWP Architects), where he supervised the construction of the National Theatre. After he made partner, he worked on the first international-class five-star hotel in Malaysia, which was later renamed the Marco Polo Hotel. He was also the architect for Singapore’s first serviced apartments, the Ascott.

Mr. Wong’s other illustrious architectural achievements include Singapore’s first air-conditioned foodcourt - the Picnic Food Court (1985) - at Scotts Shopping Centre. His interest in and experience as a yachtman also led him to specialise in marina design, working on the design for Raffles Marina, the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club and Marina at Keppel Bay. He was also the architect behind Orchard Gateway and several other award-winning projects.

From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Wong served as the President for the Singapore Institute of Architects, as well as on government boards and committees in an advisory capacity. These include the National Parks Board, Board of Architects, Jurong Town Corporation Business Parks, Buona Vista Science Hub, and the National University of Singapore’s School of Architecture.
Mr. Raymond Woo graduated from the University of New South Wales with a Bachelor of Architecture. After winning a competition held by the Singapore Science Centre to decide on its architectural design, he founded Raymond Woo & Associates Architects in 1970 to work on the project. His iconic “spaceship” design of the Science Centre has housed numerous exhibits over the years, attracting over a million visitors annually.

Mr. Woo is also responsible for the design of Ngee Ann City, which today remains one of the crown jewels of Orchard Road. Since its completion, the building's nestled outdoor plaza and twin towers have served as a grand backdrop for countless large-scale events, while its unique underground courtyard attracts both locals and tourists alike. One of Mr. Woo’s pivotal designs is 268 Orchard Road which was recently completed.

Apart from his achievements in the architectural field, Mr. Woo has also served as an educator, design critic and design competition judge for the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Land Transport Authority, National University of Singapore, Singapore International Chamber of Commerce, National Trades Union Congress and the Subordinate Courts. He has been a Fellow (Life) Member of the Singapore Institute of Architects since 2012.

Ms. Yam Kum Chun is a specialist in the planning and design of industrial parks and related urban development, with a strong track record spanning 40 years in Singapore, China, India, South East Asia, the Middle East and South Africa.

Ms. Yam worked in Jurong Town Corporation (JTC) for 14 years and subsequently joined Jurong Consultants, a subsidiary of JTC Corporation active in international urban planning work. Throughout her career, she has been involved in the planning of the Singapore Science Park, Jurong Industrial Estate, the Jurong Lake area, and in policy studies on business parks, warehouse development and transportation strategies. She played a key role in the planning and design of the Suzhou Industrial Park, designed the master plans for the Vietnam-Singapore Industrial Park and India’s Gurgaon Technology Park, and led the planning teams for the business park master plan for the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, amongst others.

Over the years, Ms. Yam has been highly engaged with the Singapore Institute of Planners, taking on the role of President between 2003 to 2005 and 2008 to 2010. Recently, she helped organise the Commonwealth Association of Planners conference in Singapore, a learning and networking event which drew participants from across the region and the Commonwealth. Ms. Yam currently chairs the Singapore Professional Centre, an umbrella organisation representing diverse professional bodies.
Mr. Yang Wah Kiang is a two-time recipient of the President’s Design Award, which he received in 2009 and 2014 for his Urban Origami eyewear and Eyelet Flip respectively. The latter, in particular, clearly exemplifies his strong advocacy of designing to make a difference to lives. It is designed to help the ageing population manage their daily tasks, and its unique wide-angled vision also aids those who work in jobs that require detailed visual attention, such as surgeons and dentists.

As Chairman of optical retail chain Nanyang Optical, Mr. Yang believes that passion for design, research and development is the way forward for his business and the industry. This is especially evident in his unceasing drive to develop an environmentally-aware business model. His company is known for Nature Eyes, eco-friendly eyewear made of recycled materials. Nature Eyes is widely considered to be the world’s first green eyewear product by key industry players and consumers. Beyond developing environmentally-friendly products, Mr. Yang has also implemented a full-circle recycling system in his shops.

Under Mr. Yang’s leadership, Nanyang Optical has garnered several international awards and accolades, including the Red Dot Design Award in 2007 and 2009, the iF Material Award Gold in 2009, the Silmo d’Or Special Prize for Environment in 2009 and the IOFT Eyewear of the Year 2012 Award.

Mr. Victor Yeow is a veteran in the advertising and design industries, with more than 40 years of experience to his name. By the late seventies, he was already an accomplished Art Director with agencies like Grant Advertising, Kenyon & Eckhardt, and later Bozell & Jacobs (now known as Bozell).

After deciding to branch out on his own, Mr. Yeow founded the local agency Nexus Advertising in the late eighties. He later sold it to the Japanese agency Asatsu DK in the mid-nineties, upon which the firm became known as Nexus Asatsu Advertising. He remained as the company’s Senior Partner and Executive Creative Director until 2003.

Over the years, Mr. Yeow has won many awards for his creative work and sat on the judging panel for the Creative Circle Awards. As of 2003, he has been running a furniture and design company, Zia Concept Pte Ltd, which specialises in creating art pieces and installations for both residential and commercial properties.
LUKE YONG CHING CHEE

As a trained architect, the late Mr. Luke Yong took over the reins of his father Mr. Henry Yong’s business - a pioneer furniture company creating residential and office furniture in Singapore. Under his leadership, the company ventured into the design, manufacturing and supply of furniture for residential, hospitality and commercial markets.

For a period of time in the early seventies, the company was in a joint venture with Jardine Matheson, during which its focus was redirected to commercial projects. He directed his team to work on the design and building of notable commercial spaces including those in Plaza Singapura’s Yaohan, then the first mega supermarket and department store from Japan to set up operations in Singapore. When Changi Airport opened in 1981, Henry Design was the supplier of the furniture to its offices, duty-free shops and public areas. During this time, Mr. Yong also became a founding member of the Singapore Furniture Industries Council.

Mr. Yong subsequently rebranded his firm as Henry Design Centre, and until his retirement, continued to push his team to stay relevant and innovative in their design in the area of office furniture.

ASSOC. PROF. DR. ELSIE YU

Associate Professor Dr. Elsie Yu has been described by many to be a Renaissance woman. Through the years, she has been an artist, designer, sculptor, activist, community worker and educator. In particular, she is one of the most acclaimed coin designers in Singapore. She has won coin design competitions locally and internationally, including Best Gold Coin Design and Most Innovative Design for coin designs submitted by the Board of Commissioners of Currency to a competition in the USA.

Dr. Yu’s work has been celebrated through the numerous awards in art and design that she has received. Among them are the Australian Art Award, the Singapore University Alumni Sculpture Competition Award and the IBM Award. She has created many sculptures and installations all over Singapore and the region, and remains an active member of the Modern Art Society and the Singapore Art Society.

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Singapore Design Golden Jubilee Award
Acknowledgements
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