



BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE

The Institute's Mission is "*To champion excellence in architecture and the built environment*" and our vision is to see "*Singapore as an Architecture Capital*".

The Institute's general objectives are:

- To generate in our community a greater awareness and appreciation of the value of a sustainable approach in good design and the built environment
- To advance the theory and practice of architecture through the support and reward for quality research and innovation in architectural design, practice and education
- To continually upgrade through the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme, the level of professionalism among architects in order to better serve our community
- To promote and provide a common template among architects through a collective vision of working towards a dignified and caring profession that upholds a high standard of professional conduct and ethics

Strategic Plan

Four key strategic development strands will help SIA to fulfill its mission:

- **Design** – Principally to attain design leadership, to promote excellence in architecture through recognition and awards, education and continuing professional development, research and innovation
- **Practice** – The key aspects include promoting design competition, to promote equitable conditions of appointment, to promote technical competency, to engage in proactive policy formulation



COUNTRY REPORT

- **Education** – The key aspects include continuing professional development and promoting quality architecture education.
- **Institution** – The main emphasis is to enlarge membership, to increase opportunities, to enhance SIA-industry partnership, to promote globalization, to promote positive image of the profession

COUNCIL 2011/2012

President	Ashvinkumar
First Vice President	Ong Tze Boon
Second Vice President	Theodore Chan
Honorary Secretary	William Lau
Honorary Treasurer	Tan Shao Yen
Immediate Past President	Tai Lee Siang

Council Members

Darren Benger	Angelene Chan	Chan Kok Way
Chan Seng Kee	Changaroth N Suneeth	Cheong Yew Kee
David Chung	Khoo Peng Beng	Richard Lai
Laurence Liew	Thomas Lew	Loh Ju Hon
Lim Choon Keang	Frven Lim	Ng Meng Hui
Seah Chee Huang	Audrey Teo	Chris Vickery
Mark Wee	Wo Mei Lan	

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH

1522 with 829 voting members



LEGAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTE

The Institute is recognised as the sole body representing the architectural profession in Singapore. However, it is a professional body with no statutory power.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Promoting good relations with architectural institutes in other countries is a key objective of the Institute. This is conducted through maintaining regular rapport and exchange of information. The SIA is a member of the International Union of Architects (UIA), the Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA), the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA), the ASEAN Association of Planning and Housing (AAPH) and the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI).

In June 2011, SIA signed a memorandum of understanding with Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers (ALACE) to agree to cooperate and promote mutual activities that will contribute to the development of both institutes and to exchange and share information concerning professional standards and practices.

These professional organisations have enabled the Institute to keep in touch with the development of architecture and the profession in other parts of the world and have provided a forum for exchange and sharing of views with sister institutes.

MAJOR PROGRAMS OF THE INSTITUTE

Bid for 2017 UIA World Congress

Following SIA's previous unsuccessful bid attempt for the UIA World Congress, Ministry for National Development has once given his support for SIA to continue with greater vigour and to present our candidature for 2017 UIA World Congress in Tokyo in 2011.

Singapore's proposed theme for 2017 UIA World Congress is "One World Only – A sustainable world....a better world....a better future....for all". The theme is based on the tenet that we want a sustainable world, a better world and a better future for our children and our children's children. It is looking at sustainability from the holistic



COUNTRY REPORT

angle; it is an accumulation of knowledge and experience to date, redefining them and exploring new ones.

SIA looks forward to ARCASIA's support for Singapore to host the 2017 UIA World Congress.

ArchiFest

The Singapore ArchiFest, started in 2007, is an annual festival for the city to celebrate the built environment. The main aim of the festival is to provide a platform to breed a vibrant design culture, and consequently a design conscious society, by encouraging and guiding the general public and design professionals of all fields to interact in a fun and free atmosphere.

ArchiFest '11 will be held from 3 – 28 Oct 2011. This year ArchiFest looks at the notion of Common Spaces. We are curious to explore how the nature of shared spaces and experiences are shaped by conditions of our current global environment. This subject is examined in three key aspects of common spaces – our physical surrounding, media and virtual space and our psychological one. The dissolution of shared domains in public realms, threatened by privatisation and commercialisation of these areas has led to questions of what is truly public in today's context. On the other hand, the emergence of the new media spaces of blogs, chat rooms, with instruments like Facebook, Twitter, Youtube etc, have empowered us with new means of communication and connectivity, and added a fresh dimension to the way we interact. With the redefinition of conventional meaning of territories, boundaries and communities, how will these spatial parallels influence our perception and of shared experience and collective memories of our surrounding? How will these new ideas of common spaces and networks affect the way architecture and cities are designed? How can we harness its potential to create a sustainable urban environment and enrich our idea of Place?

For more information on ArchiFest, visit www.archifest.sg



Practice Convention

The Practice Convention is an annual event with the purpose to serve as “catapult of minds” on matters concerning architectural practice in Singapore as well as in the global arena. Practice Convention strives to promote its objective to bring together the general membership especially small practices to exchange and share information and experience on the latest development of practice and the regulator environment.

The theme for 2011 Practice Convention “EMBRACING NEW FRONTIERS” was mooted in view of the ever changing building industry and the new challenges that practices are facing. A highlight in this year’s Practice Convention was the launch of the SIA Expert Determination* (ExD) Rules, as well as a presentation by our Guest of Honour, Mr Edward Wong.

The two-day Convention brought together a lineup of senior speakers who have many years of experience in the building industry, Government agencies, and legal environment addressed the challenges of new frontiers in Architectural Services Procurement, Building Contracts and Construction Law, Project Management, Business Development, Technologies and Resources and Statutory Compliance. Software vendors were also invited to present BIM applications tailored specifically for Architects.

The Practice Convention will return for its fourth year on 1-2 Mar 2012.

Singapore Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Approach to Design and Construction

The Singapore Roundtable, which started in October 2009, is a platform for architectural institute in Asia to come together to deliberate on pressing issues related to an ever-increasing concern for global warming, climate change as well as sustainability. Representatives from the regional Green Building Councils were also invited to contribute to the discussion.



COUNTRY REPORT

First Roundtable discussion – October 2009

A Memorandum of Understanding on common approach to promote a sustainable movement in Asia was drafted.

Second Roundtable – September 2010

The meeting supported to establish a mechanism where participants begin to share information and communicate directly with one another. SIA took on the role to setup the online discussion forum for this purpose the online discussion was set up in December 2009 and each participating institute was given a login username and password.

The forthcoming Singapore Roundtable will be held on 13 September 2011 (Tuesday), 5.30pm – 6.30pm in Suntec Convention Hall.

Singapore Pavilion @ Venice Biennale

SIA was commissioned by the Singapore Ministry of Information Communications & the Arts through DesignSingapore Council to lead, manage and execute the delivery of Singapore's presentation at the 12th Venice International Architectural Exhibition from 26 August to 21 November 2010.

Singapore chose "**1000 SINGAPORES – A Model of the Compact City**" to depict the main theme of this year's exhibition, "People meet in architecture".

1000 Singapores – A Model of the Compact City looks to share an effective model for a future, compact and sustainable city through the experience of the city-state, depicted in a high-density living ambiance made up of thousands of communities, lives, faces, ideas and experiences.

A city that is green.

A city that is transit-oriented.

A city with high intensity and fully integrated infrastructure.

A city that manages water and waste efficiently and effectively.

A city where the residents are creative and productive.

A city of innovation and ideas.



COUNTRY REPORT

A city where diversity and differences are celebrated.

A city that is complete and fully connected.

A city that houses the world.

Singapore's projected population of 6.5 million people, multiplied by 1000, equates to 6.5 billion people: the very population of the world. One Singapore fits into 710 sq km. An area 1000 times larger would still occupy only 0.5% of the world's land area.

The Singapore Pavilion was developed around a 35-metre long model of Singapore: a long section of the entire territory of the city-state, on a scale of 1:1000 and completely white, to tell the story of the wide range of landscapes, housing typologies, densities and programmes of the island. A single tubular element encloses and protects the model, which, from its fascinating entrance courtyard develops into the Institute gallery. The tube, which has been made-to-measure, is produced in super-light EIFS, a typical construction material in use in south-east Asia, and which is highly recyclable.

A thousand panoramic postcards of Singapore complete the model, providing documented data, diagrams and portraits, as an elaboration of the energy and thought behind this urban landscape. Divided up into eight different categories, the images tell of the context of the planning that affected different scales of design, from national to that of the individual housing. www.1000Singapores.com.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITIONS / AWARDS

SIA Gold Medal Award

The SIA Gold Medal, conceived in 1998, is the highest honour the Singapore Institute of Architects bestows on a senior architect to recognize his life time contribution to architecture and his distinguished service to the architectural profession.

The 5th SIA Gold Medal was presented to Mr Tay Kheng Soon at the 49th SIA Annual Dinner on 21 May 2010.



SIA Architectural Design Awards

The most prestigious award conferred by SIA to promote and encourage distinction in architectural design, the Awards recognizes the achievements of SIA members in their pursuit of architectural excellence and motivates architects to push the boundaries with innovative solutions.

The results for the 11th SIA Architectural Design Awards were announced at the 50th SIA Annual Dinner on 20 May 2011. A total of 9 Design Awards and 19 Honourable Mentions are awarded in 6 categories. Of the 9 Design Awards, one project is selected as the "Building Of The Year".

SIA-NParks Skyrise Greenery Awards

SIA and the National Parks Board (NParks) launched the third Skyrise Greenery Awards in April 2010. The Awards aims to promote and recognise the greening of high-rise developments through the joint efforts of owners/developers, architects, landscape architects/designers and landscape contract managers. The Awards is open to all architects in Asia.

The winners for the Skyrise Greenery Awards 2010 will be announced on 2 November 2010 in conjunction with Skyrise Greenery Conference.

RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE

The Institute publishes regularly the following:

SIA e-Newsletter

This is a monthly e-Newsletter featuring newsworthy items to inform members on events, activities and other related matters.

Singapore Architect

This is a bi-monthly magazine, with the December Issue incorporating the profiles of member firms. This professional magazine publishes articles related to architecture and the built environment as well as commentaries on professional and academic



COUNTRY REPORT

matters. It is distributed free to members and also available in bookshops or by subscription.

Capability Profile

This annual publication seeks to profile firms with indication of the strengths, expertise and countries of operation. This will provide a suitable platform for firms to mutually seek out working partners. More importantly, it allows international clients and developers to easily find the right capabilities and practices for their projects.

Members' Directory

This is an annual publication featuring Members' listing. It is distributed free to members together with the Institute's Annual Report.

RCS News

An in-house circular to inform members on the latest development on government rules, regulations, codes and standards pertaining to the building industry. This is a useful source of information for architects and building professionals. In 2005, the Institute's created RCS Online Archive Service to allow members to search all the circulars received from the government agencies.

Other Publications

There are numerous other publications published from time to time, such as SIA Architectural Design Awards, SIA Form of Contracts, Conditions of Appointment and Mode of Payment, Specimen Forms and Certificates for use in conjunction with the Main Contract. etc., which are for sales to members and the public. The Institute had also produced Guidance Notes for the Main Contract as well as for the Nominated Sub-Contract.



KEY ISSUES FACED BY THE PROFESSION AND ARCHITECTS

Sustainable Fees

An important aspects of doing business in Singapore, especially for the public sector projects, is in submitting a Quality Fee Method (QFM) bid for rendering professional services. Whilst the transparency of the system in appointing architects suited for the project is greatly appreciated, one of the challenges is to educate the members to offer professional fees that are sustainable in order to ensure continual improvement in the quality of architectural services.

Investment in Staff Training and Education (Increasing Productivity)

Recently, the Singapore government has allocated S\$250 million for the construction industry to improve and enhance productivity across the board. The multitude of grants available sometimes do confuse the applicant in determining as to which is the most appropriate route to apply for such grants. SIA is in the midst of coordinating with the relevant government agencies to streamline and make simpler the application process.

Competitions

Competitions for iconic projects are strongly encouraged. Competitions for the staple types of projects should be discouraged as it is a tremendous drain in resources and monies. Members are constantly encouraged not to be involved in the proliferation of competitions for the staple building projects.

Marketing and Branding

The world economics today is Asia driven. Yet, we find that local architects are not given opportunities to design important and iconic buildings as there is still a preference amongst developer to appoint foreign consultants. One glaring issue is the lack of marketing and branding by local architects. The profession has to take it upon itself to navigate the market place and place itself on the world architectural map through marketing and branding.



FUTURE PLANS

Over the years, SIA has been working collaboratively with the industry, both in the private and public sectors, and in consultation with the government agencies to further elevate Design and Practice to a higher level locally and internationally. Design and Practice remain core thrusts that sustain the profession. Over the past years, Design featured more dominantly and did well to profile the profession. Beginning 2009, Practice, together with Design, played an equally important role to engage within and also profile the profession in the next lap forward. SIA will continue in the collective efforts to steer the profession in the right direction and in the process create a platform where members can adapt better to the demands of an ever-changing dynamic market and create a better future.

Sustainability, Continuity and Engagement will remain as barometers of the Institute's work wherein the emphasis is to reach out to new members by structuring activities to be value add to the member's professional development. Simply put, the Institute is more effective as a group, within and outside the profession. The Institute has to further harness the on-going support of various stake-holders in order to be relevant, play an integral part in its overall development and remain sustainable.