

# Singapore Institute of Architects

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## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE

The Singapore Institute of Architects is a professional organisation established in 1961 with the objective to promote the architectural profession and the built environment in Singapore. The Institute is the sole representative for the architectural profession in Singapore.

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:

1. To generate in our community a greater awareness and appreciation of the value of a sustainable approach in good design in their built environment.
2. To advance the theory and practice of architecture through the support and reward for quality research and innovation in architectural design, practice and education.
3. To continually upgrade through the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme, the level of professionalism among architects in order to better serve our community.
4. 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.

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 a sustainable approach in Design & Practice, design competitions, to promote equitable conditions of appointment, to promote technical competency, to engage in proactive policy formulation.

### **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 2010/2011**

President	Ashvinkumar s/o Kantilal
First Vice President	Ong Tze Boon
Second Vice President	Theodore Chan
Honorary Secretary	Chan Kok Way
Honorary Treasurer	Thomas Lew
Immediate Past President	Tai Lee Siang

Council Members	Aamer Taher
	Tony Ang
	Darren Benger
	Cheong Yew Kee
	Khoo Peng Beng
	William Lau
	Laurence Liew
	Lim Choon Keang
	Frven Lim
	Ng Meng Hui
	Seah Chee Huang
	Tan Beng Kiang
	Audrey Teo
	Chris Vickery
	Mark Wee

## **CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH**

The membership of the Institute consist of Honorary Fellow Members, Fellow (Life) Members, Fellow Members, Fellow (Retired) Members, Corporate Members, Corporate (Retired) Members, Associate Members, Student Members, and Allied Members. Only Fellow and Corporate Members have voting rights.

Membership	Year 2010 (as of June 10)
Honorary Fellow	6
Fellow	17
Fellow (Life)	16
Corporate	781
Associate	117
Fellow (Retired)	2
Corporate (Retired)	35
Student	397
Allied	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1374</b>

## **BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE**

The main source of revenue is traditionally from membership's subscription. However, with the recent constitutional changes that has streamlined business operations, the Institute is looking at alternative means of revenue generation to further sustain its operations and bring more value add activities to the general membership. Other sources of revenue include partnership/sponsorship programmes with strategic partners, sales of publications, advertisements in the SA (Singapore Architect) magazine, events and activities. The Administration and Finance Committee, comprising the Office Bearers, is responsible for the administration and financial management of the Institute.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held once a year before 31 March to elect the new Council. The outgoing Council will present both operational and financial reports to the general membership. As and when necessary, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be convened to transact specific business. From time to time during the year, members are invited to specific dialogues to obtain feedback.

## **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.

## **LEGAL STATUS OF THE ARCHITECT**

The word, "Architect" or any of its derivatives is protected under the Architects Act, enacted by the Government. Any person with recognised architectural qualifications can register with the Board of Architects as a "Registered Architect". After registration, a Registered Architect can then apply for a practice licence to practise architecture. An architect must obtain 20 credit points per year to renew the practice license. The licence is renewed every year. The current licensing fee is S\$200 per year. The licensing fee for corporation is S\$500 per year.

## **ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION AUTHORITY**

The registration body is the Board of Architects, Singapore. The common route for registration is via recognised qualifications, two years practical experience, and passing the professional practice examination.

A person can also apply for register if he possesses such practical experience in architectural work for not less than 5 years as may be recognised by the Board. The 5 years may include such prescribed practical experience in architectural work in Singapore for not less than two years comprising a continuous period of at least 12 months gained within the 5 years immediately preceding the date of application for registration under the Act.

A 3rd route is when a person possesses such practical experience in architectural work for not less than 10 years and has been recognised internationally with outstanding works as may be recognised by the Board.

The Board of Architects is currently reviewing the structure of the Board, with a view to involve more private sector participation.

## **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 ASEAN Association of Planning and Housing (AAPH) and the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI). 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 IN THE LAST YEAR**

### **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 ambience 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.

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](http://www.1000Singapores.com).

### **ArchiFest '10**

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'10 held from 4 Oct – 3 Nov 2010, explores the possibilities of developing cities into an apparatus for 'Happiness' — an often elusive but a quintessential component of human aspiration. Happy Cities postulates a more refreshing way to benchmark quality built environments and sustainable urban settings.

The month-long event consist a myriad of activities with the anchor events ArchiFest Forum on 21 & 22 October 2010.

For more information on ArchiFest, visit [www.archifest.sg](http://www.archifest.sg)

### **Practice Convention**

Practice Convention is an annual event for the architecture fraternity to come together and discuss relevant and current issues that affect the long term viability of the profession and provide a potential platform for the members to consolidate and strengthen their respective practices in the context of the fast evolving business landscape.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Practice Convention was held 4 and 5 March 2010. The highlight of the convention was the launched of the fee calculator. Other topics covered include Green Practice, Services Procurement, Contract Administration, Project Management, Code of Ethics, Globalisation, Business Development and many more.

### **Singapore Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Approach to Design and Construction**

SIA together with Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) jointly hosted the Singapore Roundtable Meeting on 30 Oct 2009 and 15 September 2010. The meetings served as a platform for architectural institutes in Asia to come together to deliberate, debate and contribute on pressing issues related to concerns for global warming, climate change as well as sustainability.

### **Investment in Students and Young Architectural Graduates**

SIA formed the Architectural League Committee in 2009 with the aim to establish a progressive, passionate and vibrant community of young architects with the standing to impact the future of Singapore's built environment.

### Community Project

In early 2010, SIA and Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore (NUS) embarked on a community design exercise with South East Community Development Council (SECDC) to improve, design or possibly building new facilities for the public housing estate in MacPherson area. The aim of this exercise was to raise the level of community consciousness among architects and students and to create an opportunity to contribute ideas and designs which the community and the SECDC can take up.

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> SIA Gold Medal was presented to Mr Tay Kheng Soon at the 49<sup>th</sup> SIA Annual Dinner on 21 May 2010.

### **10<sup>th</sup> 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 10th SIA Architectural Design Awards were announced at the 49th SIA Annual Dinner on 21 May 2010. A total of 11 Design Awards and 19 Honorable Mention are awarded in 6 categories.

### **SIA-Getz Architecture Prize for Emergent Architecture in Asia**

The SIA-Getz Architecture Prize for emergent architecture in Asia was first launched in September 2005. This Architecture Prize is to honour, bi-annually, an architect who contributes to emergent architecture in Asia. It aims to bring recognition to emergent Asian architects and architecture, promote increased public involvement and appreciation of Asian architecture, encourage future generations of Asian architects and to honour a living architect and to recognise a career that is in progress.

The SIA-Getz Architecture Prize 2010 was announced at the presentation ceremony on 22 October 2010. Wong Mun Summ & Richard Hassell are the laureates for 2010.

### **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.

### **SIA-Hunter Douglas “Eco Friend Awards”**

Jointly organized by SIA and Hunter Douglas, the SIA-Hunter Douglas Awards was introduced to promote creative use of sustainable products. The Awards invite architects to submit an environmentally design that highlights the creative use of any sustainable products and building materials possibly with Hunter Douglas or other brands, in standard applications such as ceilings, claddings and sun louvers, and in innovative new applications.

The results for the SIA-Hunter Douglas “Eco Friend Awards” were announced at the ArchiFest Networking Party on Friday 17 October 2008. 1 Award and 2 Honorable Mentions were awarded.

## **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 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.