



SINGAPORE
INSTITUTE OF
ARCHITECTS

Mission:

To champion excellence in Architecture and the Built Environment

Vision:

Singapore as an Architectural Capital

COUNTRY REPORT

FOR THE 30TH ARCASIA COUNCIL MEETING
18 – 19 August 2009, Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA

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 2009/2010

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

Council Members	Darren Benger
	Cheong Yew Kee
	Khoo Peng Beng
	William Lau
	Thomas Lew
	Laurence Liew
	Li Sau Kei
	Lim Choon Keang
	Ng Meng Hui
	Siew Man Kok
	Tan Beng Kiang
	Christopher Vickery
	Mark Wee
	Yap Mong Lin

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 2009 (as of June 09)
Honorary Fellow	6
Fellow	21
Fellow (Life)	10
Corporate	766
Associate	115
Fellow (Retired)	2
Corporate (Retired)	38
Student	264
Allied	2
TOTAL	1224

BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE

The main source of revenue is traditionally from membership's subscription. However, with the recent constitutional changes that will streamline 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 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 PAST YEAR

ArchiFest '08

Returning for its 2nd time, ArchiFest 2008 saw an extensive expansion in its programming to showcase 33 events over four weeks in October 2008, with the official launch of the festival on 6 October, World Architecture Day. There was a significant increase in the programme development, content with over 12 festival partners staging architecture-related activities, seminars and interesting installations and programmes during the festival month.

ArchiFest 2008 programmes were categorized in four broad areas, namely Forum, Exhibitions, Architours and Fringe Events. The festival was well attended with an estimated visitorships and attendance of 50,000.

THEME 2008 : Man+Environment

The theme for ArchiFest 08 is "Man+Environment". This theme re-examines the relationship of Architecture with the Environment. This complex relationship encompasses context, genius loci, history, culture, economics, and technology to the growing concern about the role of Architecture in the degradation of our environment that could contribute to global warming, climate change, displacement and alienation. These are clear and present issues facing many countries all over the world. It is therefore befitting and timely to adopt the theme "Man + Environment" to drive home the point for balancing mankind's needs and the environment.

Practice Convention

The inaugural SIA Practice Convention was held on 23 & 24 February 2009 at Furama Riverfront Hotel. The main objective is for the convention to serve as a "catapult of minds" on matters concerning architectural practice in Singapore as well as in the global arena and also be an opportunity for members to revisit, explore, debate, share and exchange their experiences. The desired intention of the Convention is to attract the attention of the general membership, especially the small to medium practices, to 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 Convention included topics like;

- Services Procurement
- Contract Administration
- Project Management
- Code of Ethics
- Globalisation and Business Development
- SIA Initiatives to address practice issues

There were 24 speakers comprising SIA members and also government agencies. The Convention was attended with over 180 participants.

Architecture Practice Course

Architecture Practice Course was conducted by SIA to prepare architectural graduates for the Professional Practice Examination (PPE) in order to become a registered architect in Singapore.

In 2007, SIA Board of Architecture Education (BAE) Committee was tasked by the Board of Architects Singapore (BOA) to revamp the existing PPE course, by widening the scope of the course together with more in-depth coverage, with the primary objective of raising the standard of professional knowledge of PPE candidates. The course was restructured to a 6-month evening-classes (total 24 sessions) incorporating both lectures and hands-on practice workshops. The course curriculum includes the following topics:

- Inception
- Feasibility
- Planning Submission
- Building Plan Submission
- Detail Design
- Production Information
- Tender Conditions
- Tender Action
- Site & Contract Administration
- Procurement of TOP/CSC
- Maintenance Period / Defects Liability
- Closing out of project
- Professional Maturity

Looking ahead, SIA hopes that the Architectural Practice Course will evolve into a formal professional qualification (ie. Graduate Certificate (or Diploma) in Architectural Practice (GCAP) and be the impetus for the SIA Architecture Academy. The GCAP title may be conferred upon participants who fulfill the requirements and successfully complete the course. The requirements may include assessment and examinations. Upon conference of the Diploma and candidates may be entitled to use the GCAP initials as another professional qualification attached to their name.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITIONS / AWARDS

Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP)

Design Competition

SIA together with the Tampines Town Council launched a design competition on January 2009 for the architecture profession to collectively create a vision for neighbourhoods of the future. The competition was well supported with over 30 entries, the results for the competition will be announced later this year.

9th 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 9th SIA Architectural Design Awards were announced at the 47th SIA Annual Dinner on Wednesday 21 May 2008. A total of 7 Design Awards and 14 Honorable Mention are awarded in 6 categories, with two new awards, "Best Project Below S\$1 Million Construction Cost" and "Building of The Year".

SIA-NParks Skyrise Greenery Awards

This inaugural Awards is jointly organized by SIA and National Parks Board. It aims to promote and recognize the greening efforts in highrise developments in Singapore by the joint efforts of the Owner / Developer, Landscape Architect / Designer, Architect and Landscape Contract Manager.

The results for the SIA-NParks Skyrise Greenery Awards were announced at the ArchiFest Networking Party on Friday 17 October 2008. A total of 4 Awards were presented.

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.

SIA-Philips Green Innovation Award

Jointly organized by SIA and Philips, this inaugural award aims to drive adoption of innovative sustainable design in Singapore by providing a platform for architects to showcase their innovations and recognizing industry leaders who champion innovative, yet sensible, green solutions, in their projects.

The results for the SIA-Philips Green Innovation Award were announced at the ArchiFest Networking Party on Friday 17 October 2008. There was 1 winner for the Award.

SIA-Getz Architecture Prize

The SIA-Getz Architecture Prize for Emergent Architecture in Asia is to honour bi-annually an architect who contributes to emergent architecture in Asia. In the last decade, Asia has seen an overwhelming rate of development. This is beginning to leave an impact in architecture history now as well as in the future. It is therefore timely to recognise and promote emergent Asian architects and architecture - in a similar way that Pritzker Prize has done for the worldwide community of architects.

The result for the 2nd SIA-Getz Architecture Prize was announced at the SIA-Getz Architecture Prize Dinner on 24 October 2008. Dr Hitoshi Abe from Japan was the 2nd recipient of the Prize. He received a prize money of US\$30,000 and a specially designed medallion.

KEY ISSUES FACING THE PROFESSION

The current global financial crisis have also affected the architecture profession, to understand how this has affected the demand for architectural design services from both foreign and domestic markets, SIA together with DesignSingapore engaged Forbes Research to conduct a straw poll among SIA member firms. Majority of the firms reported that the most critical factor affecting the business is the cancellation of projects.

PUBLICATIONS

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.

Policies 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 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2009/2010

ArchiFest '09

Returning for the 3rd year, ArchiFest '09, a month long event, will be held from 5 to 31 October 2009. The main festival hub will be at the National Library Building.

Theme "Architecture for Humanity"

Our theme for ArchiFest '09, "Architecture for Humanity," expresses our ambition to return to one of the fundamental purposes of creating architecture – to celebrate and embrace the concept of humanity. In the midst of frantic urbanisation, a proliferation of globalised one-size-fits-all solutions, and the ubiquitous production of icons, have we, as cultural and social stalwarts of society, forsaken our duty to create architecture for people? Does architecture have the capacity to act as a catalyst for changes for the good, to relieve in moments of crisis, to trigger socio-cultural regeneration?

ArchiFest '09 attempts to re-address that basic role of the architect. Through the spirit of humanity in the works of various architects from around the world, we hope to find inspiration. From low-cost social housing to disaster relief housing, from schools to social design services, these architects have improved lives, supported community development and provided invaluable contributions to community partners around the world.

Through the sharing of ideas and aspirations, and vigorous debate, ArchiFest '09 hopes to encourage the building of safer, more sustainable and relevant environments – works that will be enduring to the community and which could symbolise the ability of people to unite for a better future.

For more information on the festival, please visit www.archifest.sg

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 search for the 3rd recipient is now on and the closing date for submission is on 31 August 2010.

To download the nomination forms and for more information, please visit www.sia.org.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 2nd Practice Convention will be held on 4 and 5 March 2010.

Some of the topics that will be covered during the convention include Green Practice, Services Procurement, Contract Administration, Project Management, Code of Ethics, Globalisation, Business Development and many more.

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 sustains the profession. Over the past years, Design featured more dominantly and did well to profile the profession. Beginning 2009, Practice, together with Design, will play 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.