



**Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA)**

# **COUNTRY REPORT**

Colombo, Sri Lanka  
15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## **BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE**

The Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) was officially established in 1963.

The origins of the architectural profession in Singapore can be traced back to the formation of the Singapore Society of Architects in 1923, following the First World War. This body played a pivotal role in advocating for the profession, culminating in the passing of the Architects Ordinance in 1926. By January 1927, the Ordinance granted formal protection to the architectural profession.

In 1930, a branch of the society was established in Kuala Lumpur. A year later, in 1931, the organization was renamed the Institute of Architects of Malaya, with its headquarters in Singapore. However, the Institute of Architects of Malaya was dissolved in 1961.

Meanwhile, the Kuala Lumpur branch became an autonomous entity in 1949, known as the Federation of Malaya Society of Architects. This development led to the formation of the Society of Malayan Architects in 1958.

In 1961, the Society of Malayan Architects was reconstituted as the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA). The SIA was registered under the Societies Act on March 5, 1963, and officially gazetted on March 15, 1963. Its inaugural Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was held on April 14, 1961.

Since its establishment, SIA has been committed to advancing the architectural profession and fostering the development of Singapore's built environment. Today, the Institute serves as the sole representative of the architectural profession in Singapore.

## VISION & PLAN

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:

- **Fostering Awareness and Appreciation:** To cultivate a deeper awareness and appreciation within our community of the value of sustainability in good design and the built environment.
- **Advancing Architecture:** To promote the advancement of architectural theory and practice by supporting and recognizing quality research, innovation, and excellence in design, practice, and education.
- **Enhancing Professionalism:** To elevate the level of professionalism among architects through the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme, ensuring they are equipped to better serve the community.
- **Upholding Standards and Ethics:** To unite architects under a shared vision of a dignified and caring profession that maintains the highest standards of professional conduct and ethics.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) aims to fulfill its mission through four key strategic development pillars:

### **Design**

- Establish leadership in design and promote architectural excellence.
- Recognize outstanding achievements through awards and accolades.
- Foster growth through education, continuing professional development, research, and innovation.

### **Practice**

- Advocate for design competitions to elevate standards and creativity.
- Ensure equitable conditions of appointment for architects.
- Promote technical competency and engage in proactive policy formulation.

### **Education**

- Strengthen the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) framework.
- Champion the importance of high-quality architectural education.

### **Institution**

- Expand membership to strengthen the profession's representation.
- Increase opportunities for members and foster strong SIA-industry partnerships.
- Promote globalization and enhance the public image of the architectural profession.

# SIA COUNCIL 2024/2025

## Office Bearers & Immediate Past President



Ar Melvin HJ Tan  
President



Ar Tiah Nan Chyuan  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



Ar Tony Ang  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Institution Thrust  
Co-Chair



Ar Wong Ker How  
Honorary Secretary  
Design Thrust  
Co-Chair



Ar Ivy Koh  
Honorary Treasurer  
Practice Thrust  
Co-Chair



Ar Richard Lai  
Immed. Past President

## Council Members



Ar Ho Ai Ling



Ar Ho Sock Yee  
Education Thrust  
Co-Chair



Ar Melvin Keng  
Design Thrust  
Co-Chair



Ar Kor Teck Poh  
Institution Thrust  
Co-Chair



Ar Adrian Lai  
Education Thrust  
Co-Chair



Ar William Lau



Ar Patrick Lee  
Practice Thrust  
Co-Chair



Ar Lim Choon Keang  
Practice Thrust  
Co-Chair



Ar Lim Shing Hui



Ar Ong Ker-Shing  
Education Thrust  
Co-Chair



Ar Pan Yi Cheng



Ar Tang Kai Vern

## **Current Membership Strength**

The Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) comprises 1,153 members, including 963 voting members.

## **Annual General Meeting**

The Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024 was held on 20 March 2024. The event brought together members, stakeholders, and industry leaders to reflect on the year's accomplishments, discuss key developments, and plan for the future. During the meeting, reports were presented on SIA's activities, financial performance, and strategic initiatives. Members had the opportunity to engage in discussions about the direction of the Institute and contribute to shaping its goals for the coming year. The AGM was a key occasion to foster collaboration, strengthen professional ties, and ensure the continued growth and advancement of architecture in Singapore.

## **Legal Status of the Institute**

SIA is officially recognized as the sole representative body for the architectural profession in Singapore. However, it operates as a professional organization without statutory authority. The Architects Registration Authority in Singapore is the Board of Architects (BOA), Singapore, which is responsible for regulating and overseeing the registration of architects in the country.

## **International Affiliations**

Fostering strong relationships with architectural institutes worldwide is a key objective of SIA. This is achieved through regular engagement and the exchange of knowledge and information.

SIA is an active member of:

- International Union of Architects (UIA)

- Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA)

These affiliations allow the Institute to stay abreast of global developments in architecture and provide a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas with international counterparts.

## MAJOR PROGRAMS OF THE INSTITUTE

In 2024, the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) continues to advance its mission of promoting architectural excellence, supporting the profession, and enhancing the built environment through a series of impactful programmes. These initiatives reflect SIA's commitment to innovation, education, collaboration, and sustainability.

### 1. Singapore Archifest (SGAF) 2024

Singapore Archifest 2024 is an exciting celebration of architecture, design, and the built environment. Organized by the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA), the festival brings together industry professionals, design enthusiasts, and the general public to explore the latest trends, innovations, and ideas shaping architecture in Singapore and beyond. The event features a series of engaging exhibitions, talks, workshops, and tours, highlighting both local and international architectural practices. Archifest 2024 aims to inspire creativity, foster dialogue, and promote a deeper understanding of architecture's role in creating sustainable, vibrant communities. It serves as a platform for collaboration, learning, and the exchange of ideas in the ever-evolving architectural landscape.



## 2. SIA Architectural Design Awards

The SIA Architectural Design Awards continue to honor outstanding achievements in architecture, recognizing projects that demonstrate design excellence, sustainability, and innovation.

A significant enhancement in 2024 is the expansion of Category A4: Overseas Residential Projects, which allows participation by overseas architects from the 4-Nation partnership, comprising:

- Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM)
- The Association of Siamese Architects (ASA)
- The Indonesian Institute of Architects (IAI)

Eligible architects or firms must be registered with their respective Boards of Architects and architectural institutes. This addition underscores SIA's commitment to fostering regional collaboration and celebrating design excellence beyond Singapore.

The 2024 awards also introduced a new category emphasising net-zero and green building solutions, reflecting the importance of environmentally responsible design in shaping the future of architecture.



### 3. HDB-SIA Bukit Merah Town Centre Placemaking Challenge

This collaborative initiative with the Housing & Development Board (HDB) aims to reimagine and revitalize Bukit Merah Town Centre as a vibrant, community-focused hub.

- **Design Teams:** Multidisciplinary teams of architects, urban planners, and designers proposed innovative ideas to enhance the area's functionality and appeal.
- **Community Engagement:** A critical aspect of the challenge involves gathering insights and feedback from residents and stakeholders to ensure proposed designs meet the needs of the community.
- **Sustainability and Innovation:** Emphasis will be placed on incorporating sustainable solutions and creative placemaking strategies to breathe new life into the town centre.

The outcomes of this challenge will not only contribute to a rejuvenated Bukit Merah but also serve as a model for future placemaking projects across Singapore.



#### 4. NParks-SIA Raffles Place Park Redevelopment Design Competition

The NParks-SIA Raffles Place Park Redevelopment Design Competition invites architects to reimagine Raffles Place Park as a more accessible, sustainable, and vibrant urban space.

- Design Focus: The competition seeks innovative design proposals that transform the park into a green oasis that enhances the urban experience while promoting environmental sustainability.
- Community-Centric Design: Emphasis is placed on creating a public space that is inclusive and caters to the diverse needs of the city's residents, workers, and visitors.
- Sustainability: Proposals are expected to integrate sustainable design practices, such as rainwater harvesting, energy-efficient lighting, and the use of native plants, contributing to Singapore's vision of a sustainable and green urban environment.

The winning design will set the stage for the redevelopment of Raffles Place Park, making it a key landmark in Singapore's cityscape.



## 5. URA-SIA Queensway Node Viaduct Design Competition

The URA-SIA Queensway Node Viaduct Design Competition challenges architects to design a new viaduct that integrates seamlessly into the surrounding urban context.

- **Design Objectives:** The competition seeks innovative proposals that balance functionality with aesthetic appeal while considering the surrounding environment and urban fabric.
- **Sustainability and Resilience:** Proposals are encouraged to incorporate sustainable and resilient design solutions, with a focus on minimizing environmental impact while enhancing connectivity.
- **Community Impact:** Designs must also consider how the viaduct will enhance the liveability of the area, providing a safe and engaging space for the public while supporting the area's growing transportation needs.

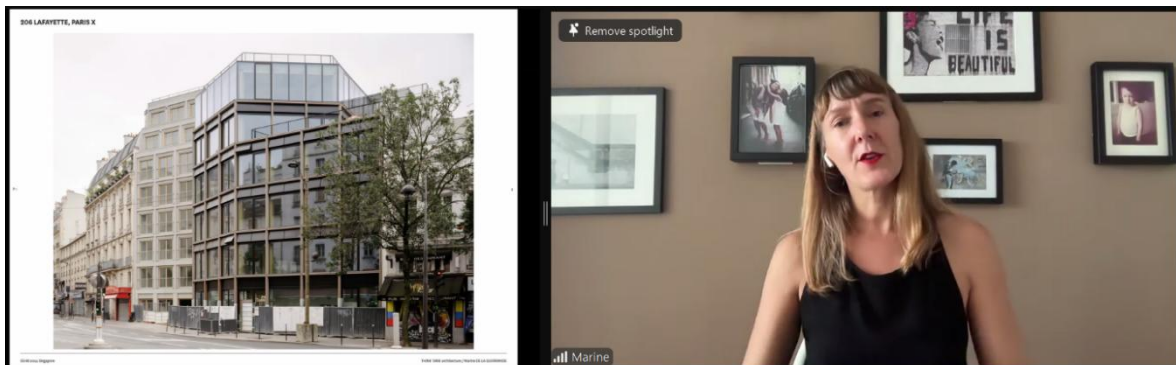
This competition will provide a unique opportunity to rethink urban infrastructure, blending engineering with architectural creativity to redefine the Queensway Node.



## 6. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programmes

SIA remains committed to the lifelong learning of its members. In 2024, CPD offerings included:

- Masterclasses and Webinars on cutting-edge topics like AI in design, advanced construction technologies, and adaptive reuse of buildings.
- Workshops emphasizing technical competency, legal knowledge, and project management.
- Industry Forums featuring collaboration with key stakeholders to address pressing challenges in the architecture and construction sectors.



## 7. Policy and Advocacy Initiatives

SIA will strengthen its advocacy efforts in 2024 by engaging with policymakers and industry leaders to:

- Promote equitable procurement practices and fair conditions of appointment.
- Advance sustainable design policies and building standards.
- Advocate for the adoption of emerging technologies to enhance productivity and innovation in the industry.

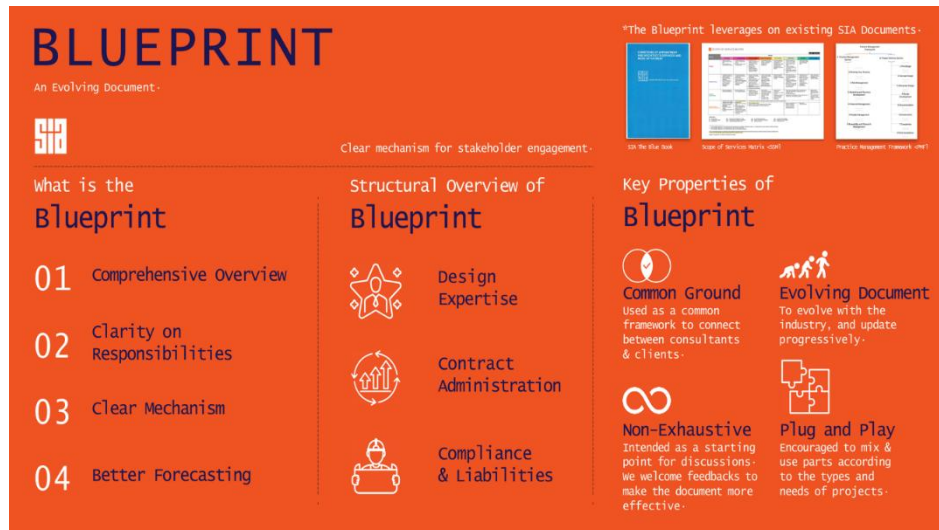


## 8. Value Articulation Framework (VAF) Blueprint

A key highlight for 2024 is the launch of the Value Articulation Framework (VAF) Blueprint, aimed at:

- Articulating the value of architecture and design to stakeholders across industries and society.
- Providing clear metrics and strategies to showcase the contributions of architects to economic, social, and environmental outcomes.

- Strengthening the professional standing of architects through structured engagement with decision-makers and clients.



## 9. MND Ministerial Task Force for Architects and Engineers

The Ministry of National Development (MND) recently announced the formation of a Ministerial Task Force for Architects and Engineers, signalling a pivotal step towards addressing pressing challenges faced by these professions in Singapore. This initiative underscores the government’s commitment to ensuring a sustainable and equitable practice landscape for built environment professionals.

### SIA’s Advocacy for the Task Force

SIA has been a vocal advocate for reforms within the architectural profession, recognizing the critical role architects play in shaping Singapore’s built environment. Over the past few years, SIA has engaged stakeholders across the industry and government to highlight the systemic issues impacting architects, including:

- Unfair fee structures, leading to unsustainable practices.
- Erosion of professional standards due to fee-driven competition.
- Increasing complexity in design and regulatory requirements without commensurate recognition or compensation.

Recognizing these challenges, SIA initiated dialogues with MND and other key stakeholders, advocating for a unified platform to address these concerns. The formation of the Ministerial Task Force is a direct outcome of these sustained efforts, reflecting the shared recognition of the urgent need to recalibrate the practice ecosystem for architects and engineers.

#### Integrating the Value Articulation Framework Blueprint

Central to SIA's advocacy is the Value Articulation Framework Blueprint, a strategic roadmap developed to align architectural practice with the values of design excellence, professional integrity, and sustainability. The Blueprint outlines actionable steps to ensure fair and transparent fee structures, uphold ethical standards, and articulate the intrinsic value of architectural services.

Through the Task Force, SIA aims to integrate this framework into the broader industry landscape by advocating for:

- **Fee Benchmarking:** Establishing fair and transparent fee guidelines to reflect the complexity and value of architectural services.
- **Legislative Support:** Introducing regulatory measures to curb undercutting and ensure compliance with ethical practices.
- **Enhanced Engagement:** Collaborating with developers, engineers, and allied professionals to foster a shared understanding of value-based design.
- **Capacity Building:** Empowering architects with the tools and resources to articulate and demonstrate their value effectively.

#### Looking Ahead

The establishment of the Ministerial Task Force is an important milestone, but the journey ahead requires a collaborative effort across all stakeholders. SIA remains committed to working closely with MND, its members, and industry partners to

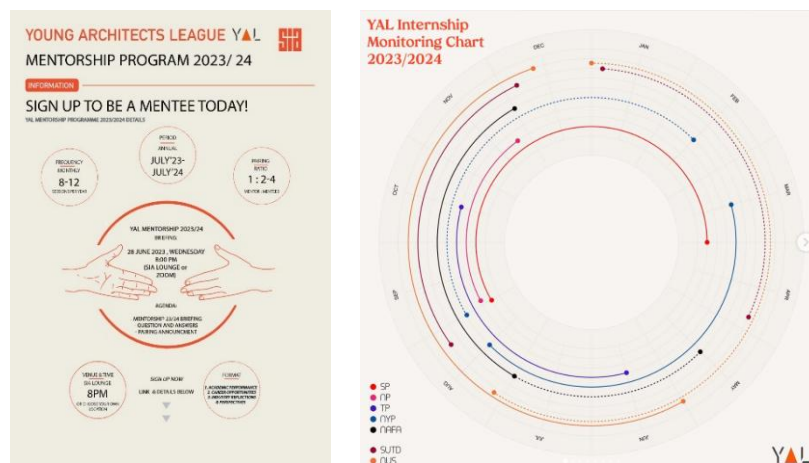
ensure the Task Force delivers tangible outcomes that enhance the professional landscape for architects and engineers.

By championing the integration of the Value Articulation Framework Blueprint, SIA reaffirms its vision for a future where architectural services are recognized and remunerated fairly, ensuring the long-term sustainability and vibrancy of the profession.

## 10. Collaboration with Schools and Emerging Architects

To nurture the next generation of architects, SIA will enhance its educational outreach by:

- Partnering with universities to promote high-quality architectural education.
- Hosting the Emerging Architects Forum, providing young professionals with a platform to showcase their work and engage with established practitioners.
- Offering mentorship programmes that connect students with seasoned architects for career guidance and skills development.



## 11. SIA Young Architect Award 2024

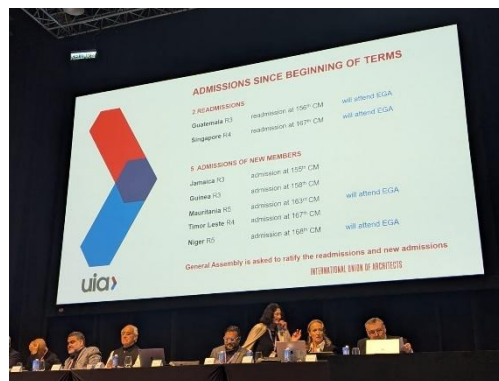
The SIA Young Architect Award 2024 recognizes outstanding young architects who have made significant contributions to the architectural profession in Singapore. This prestigious award celebrates individuals who have demonstrated innovation, leadership, and a commitment to the advancement of architecture. The recipient of

the award is acknowledged for their exceptional design work, influence on the built environment, and impact on the architectural community. The SIA Young Architect Award aims to encourage and inspire the next generation of architects to continue pushing boundaries and shaping the future of architecture in Singapore.



## 12. Global Outreach and International Relations

In November 2024, SIA officially rejoined the International Union of Architects (UIA), strengthening its global presence and reaffirming its commitment to international collaboration.



Through its affiliations with UIA and the Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA), SIA will continue to:

- Represent Singapore at international conferences and forums.

- Facilitate cross-border collaborations and exchanges, enabling local architects to expand their global presence.
- Organize joint programmes with sister institutes to share insights and best practices.

### **13. Architects and the Community**

SIA will also focus on engaging the wider community by:

- Launching public awareness campaigns to highlight the value of good design and sustainability.
- Organizing community design workshops that involve citizens in co-creating public spaces.

With these initiatives, SIA aims to elevate the architectural profession, address evolving industry challenges, and contribute meaningfully to Singapore's built environment in 2024.

## RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE

The Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) offers a range of valuable resources to support its members and the wider architectural community. These resources are designed to enhance professional knowledge, promote best practices, and provide tools for success in the industry.

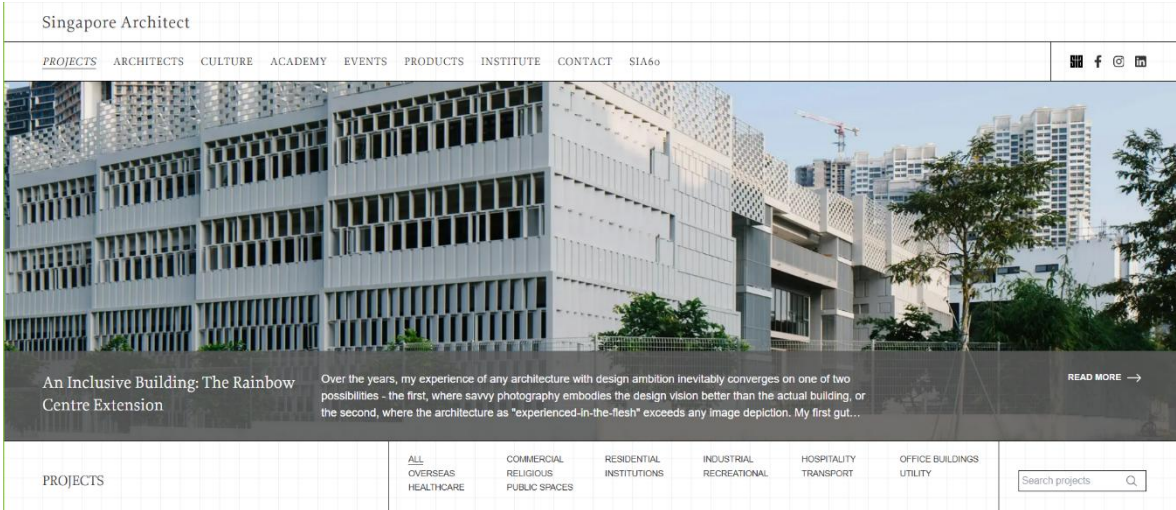
### 1. The Singapore Architect Magazine and Website

The Singapore Architect (TSA) magazine, accessible through the Singapore Architect Website, serves as SIA's flagship platform for showcasing architectural content tailored to the local context. Jointly led by Editor-in-Chief, Ar. Ronald Lim, and Ar. Razvan Ghilic-Micu, TSA embodies a visionary approach to architectural storytelling.

This platform features:

- Showcasing Local Projects: A spotlight on innovative projects by Singapore-based architects, offering an in-depth look at design philosophies and creative processes.
- Architectural Narratives: Regular articles invite architects from diverse backgrounds to share insights on featured buildings, creating a tapestry of perspectives that enriches the understanding of Singapore's architectural landscape.
- Engaging Readership: Through compelling stories about thoughtfully designed spaces, the website engages both architects and non-architects, offering readers a journey through spaces that inspire and captivate.

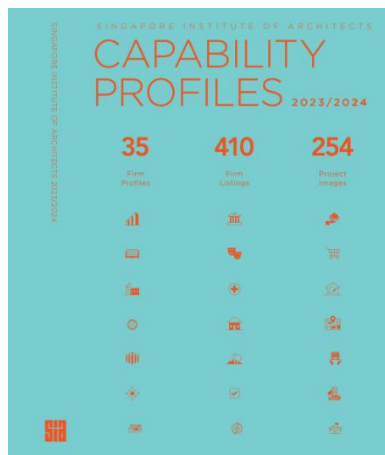
By blending professional insights with engaging narratives, the TSA platform bridges the gap between the architectural community and the public, fostering greater appreciation for the art and science of design.



## 2. Capability Profiles

The Capability Profiles provide a comprehensive directory of architectural firms and professionals in Singapore. These profiles are a valuable resource for:

- Clients seeking qualified architects for projects.
- Firms showcasing their expertise, services, and portfolio to potential collaborators and clients.
- Promoting the capabilities of Singaporean architects locally and internationally.



## 3. CS News

The CS News is a regular publication that keeps members informed about:

- Industry developments and trends.

- Updates on SIA initiatives, events, and advocacy efforts.
- Insights and thought leadership articles from experts in the field.

#### 4. Other Publications

SIA produces a variety of publications to support professional practice, including:

##### Building Contracts

SIA's suite of standard building contracts provides clear and equitable terms for construction projects. These contracts are widely recognized and used to ensure smooth collaboration between architects, clients, and contractors.

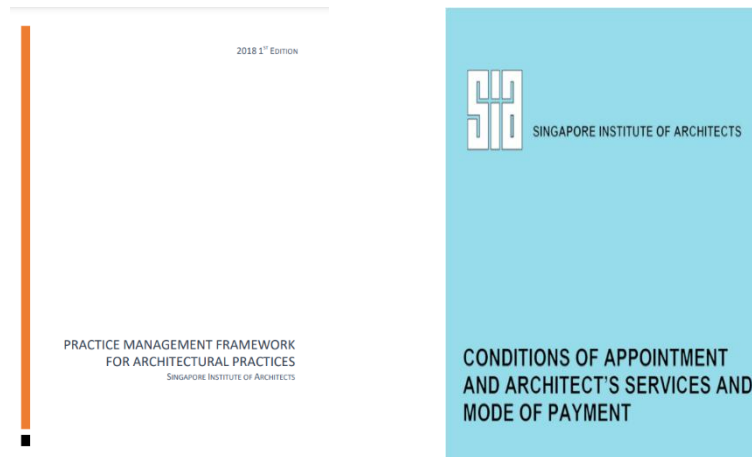


## Practice Management Framework

This framework offers guidance on best practices for managing architectural firms, covering topics such as financial management, project delivery, and operational efficiency.

## SIA Bluebook

A definitive reference guide, the SIA Bluebook outlines standards and recommendations for architectural practices in Singapore. It serves as a valuable tool for maintaining professional excellence and ensuring compliance with industry norms.



These resources collectively empower architects to achieve professional excellence, enhance their practices, and contribute to the growth and sustainability of Singapore's built environment.

For more information on Singapore Institute of Architects, please visit our website at [www.sia.org.sg](http://www.sia.org.sg)

