Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA)

COUNTRY REPORT 2025

Incheon, South Korea
9th & 10th September 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 date back to the founding of the Singapore Society of Architects in 1923, shortly after the First World War. This pioneering body championed the profession and was instrumental in the enactment of the Architects Ordinance in 1926, which came into force in January 1927 to grant formal protection to the practice of architecture.

In 1930, a branch of the society was set up in Kuala Lumpur. The following year, in 1931, the organization was renamed the Institute of Architects of Malaya, with its headquarters in Singapore. However, the Institute was dissolved in 1961.

Meanwhile, the Kuala Lumpur branch had become autonomous in 1949 as the Federation of Malaya Society of Architects, which later evolved into the Society of Malayan Architects in 1958.

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

Since then, SIA has remained dedicated to advancing the profession and shaping the nation's built environment. Today, it serves as the sole representative body of architects in Singapore. SIA was a founding member of ARCASIA in 1969 and rejoined the International Union of Architects (UIA) in 2024, strengthening its role in promoting collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the collective voice of the profession regionally and globally.

VISION & PLAN

Guided by its mission and vision, the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) sets the direction for the profession's growth and its contribution to society. These aspirations not only define the Institute's priorities but also shape its long-term role in advancing architecture within Singapore and beyond.

The mission of the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) is "**to champion excellence in architecture and the built environment**".

Its vision is to position "**Singapore as an Architecture Capital**".

To realise this vision, the Institute pursues four overarching objectives:

a) Fostering Awareness and Appreciation

Cultivate deeper awareness within the community of the value of sustainability, good design, and the built environment.

b) Advancing Architecture

Promote the advancement of architectural theory and practice by supporting and recognizing research, innovation, and excellence in design, practice, and education.

c) Enhancing Professionalism

Elevate professional standards through a robust Continuing Professional Development (CPD) framework, equipping architects to better serve the community.

d) Upholding Standards and Ethics

Unite architects under a shared vision of a dignified and caring profession that upholds the highest standards of professional conduct and ethics.

STRATEGIC PLAN

To translate its mission into action, SIA advances its work through four strategic development pillars:

Design

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

Practice

- Advocate design competitions as a means to elevate standards and creativity.
- Safeguard equitable conditions of appointment for architects.
- Strengthen technical competency and engage in proactive policy formulation.

Education

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

Institution

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

SIA COUNCIL 2025/2026

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President

Ar Tony Ang
1st Vice President
Institution Thrust
Co-Chair

Ar Wong Ker How
2nd Vice President
Design Thrust
Co-Chair

Ar Ivy Koh
Honorary Secretary
Practice Thrust
Co-Chair

Ar Adrian Lai
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President

Council Members

Chio Wen Tian

Ho Ai Ling

Melvin Keng

Kor Teck Poh

William Lau

Law Yoke Foong

Patrick Lee

Lim Choon Keang

Lim Shing Hui

Pan Yi Cheng

Sunita Dass

Wong Wai Ying

Cheryl Chan

Jonathan Christian Chin

Current Membership Strength

The Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) comprises 1,304 members, of which 1,290 are voting members.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2025 of the Singapore Institute of Architects was held on 18 March 2025. The AGM provided a key platform for members, stakeholders, and industry leaders to reflect on the year's achievements, review the Institute's financial and strategic progress, and discuss future priorities. Reports on activities, financial performance, and ongoing initiatives were presented, followed by discussions that allowed members to contribute actively to shaping the Institute's direction. The AGM continues to serve as an important occasion to strengthen professional ties, foster collaboration, and chart the advancement of architecture in Singapore.

Legal Status of the Institute

SIA is officially recognized as the sole representative body of the architectural profession in Singapore. It functions as a professional organization but does not hold statutory authority. The regulation and registration of architects in Singapore are under the purview of the Board of Architects (BOA), Singapore.

International Affiliations

Strengthening global connections is central to SIA's mission. The Institute actively engages with architectural organizations worldwide to facilitate knowledge exchange, dialogue, and collaboration.

SIA is a member of:

- Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA)
- International Union of Architects (UIA)

Through these affiliations, SIA remains attuned to global developments in architecture while contributing to the shared progress of the profession at both regional and international levels.

Looking ahead, SIA is committed to deepening these partnerships through joint initiatives, collaborative platforms, and the continued exchange of ideas that advance the role of architecture in addressing global challenges

MAJOR PROGRAMS OF THE INSTITUTE

In 2025, 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) 2025

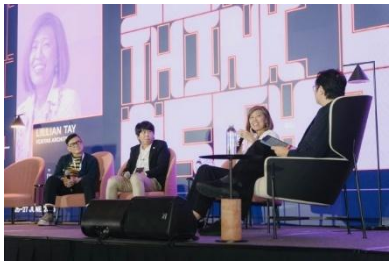
Singapore Archifest 2025, held from 25 June to 25 July, invites design enthusiasts and the public to explore a radical new perspective on architecture. The overarching theme, “Don’t (Just) Think Like An Architect”, challenges conventional thinking and positions architecture as a dynamic force shaping lives, communities, and the future of our world.

Helmed by Festival Director Ar. Rene Tan from RT+Q Architects, SGAF 2025 features exhibitions, talks, workshops, and citywide events (SGAF+) designed to engage the public and the architectural community. Highlights include:

Key Highlights:

a) Singapore AF Conference (25–27 June 2025):

A three-day event at Sands Expo & Convention Centre featuring over 40 influential figures in architecture and design, including Pritzker Prize laureates Riken Yamamoto and Eduardo Souto de Moura, renowned architects Jim Olson, Arne Emerson, Dietmar Eberle, designer Samuel Ross, and cross-disciplinary innovator Dean Chew.



b) Architects Roundtable (27 June 2025)

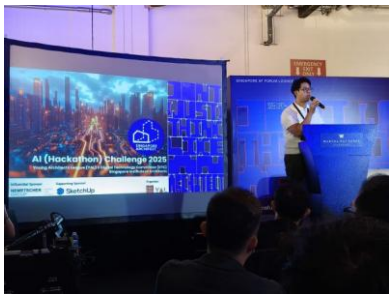
An SG60 event bringing together over 60 local architects, ranging from pioneering figures to emerging talents, to discuss the evolution and future of Singapore's architectural landscape.

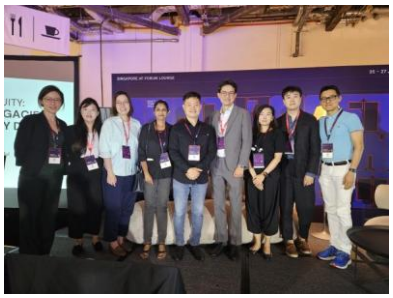
c) Singapore AF Expo & Market (25–27 June 2025)

The largest trade exhibition in Singapore's architecture industry, showcasing cutting-edge products, the latest industry trends, and innovative solutions presented by more than 60 curated exhibitors.

d) SGAF+ (24 June – 27 July 2025):

A series of citywide installations, exhibitions, and events, including heritage trails, pop-up pavilions, and interactive experiences, designed to engage the public and promote architectural awareness.





2. SIA Design Awards

The SIA Design Awards (SIADA), formerly the SIA Architectural Design Awards, remains the premier recognition of architectural excellence in Singapore. SIADA 2025 continues to honour projects that demonstrate outstanding design quality, innovation, and sustainability.

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

- Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM)

- The Association of Siamese Architects (ASA)
- The Indonesian Institute of Architects (IAI)

New for 2025: SIADA introduced a “Overseas High-Density Housing” category, inviting partners from the 4-Nation Partnership to submit projects. This expansion aims to recognize more deserving projects, spotlight architectural creativity across the region, and make this award cycle more inclusive and dynamic.

This continued expansion reflects SIA’s commitment to fostering regional collaboration and celebrating design excellence beyond Singapore.

The winners of SIADA 2025 were revealed at Singapore Archifest 2025, providing a platform to showcase both local and international talent while promoting dialogue and knowledge exchange across the architectural community.

3. URA-SIA Queensway Node Viaduct Design Competition

The URA-SIA Queensway Node Viaduct Design Competition invited young architects to transform an underutilized viaduct beneath the Queensway Flyover into a vibrant community space along the Rail Corridor.

First Prize: Kaleidoscope Boh Beh Kang

Lead Architect: Samuel Lee (Designshop Pte Ltd, HKS)

Team: Asia Pacific Design Consulting Pte Ltd

Consultants: Taylor Thomson Whitting (Civil & Structural), DN+O Engineers (Mechanical & Electrical), DLS Consultancy (Quantity Surveying)

This proposal envisions the node as a kaleidoscopic tunnel that immerses visitors in Queenstown's rustic charm. The design features heritage exhibits along the Rail Corridor trail, guiding visitors through different eras of Queenstown's development. A secret underground garden and a central plaza space offer venues for community gatherings and events. The open space is designed with rows of trees reminiscent of rubber plantations, illuminated by firefly lights.

The competition, organized by URA and promoted by SIA, reflects a commitment to transforming underutilized urban spaces into vibrant community hubs.

4. SIA Annual Dinner 2025

The SIA Annual Dinner 2025 was held on 25 June 2025 at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre, Level 4, Peony Ballroom. Themed “Architect by Day, ____ by Night”, the event brought together over 500 members, industry partners, and stakeholders to celebrate the multifaceted identities of architects beyond their professional roles.

Highlights of the evening included:

- Keynote Address: Delivered by Mr. Chee Hong Tat, Minister for National Development.
- Official Launch of Singapore Archifest 2025: Marking the commencement of a month-long celebration of architecture and design.
- Interactive Gala Format: A hybrid setup of formal tables and cocktail-style seating to encourage mingling and meaningful connections.
- Entertainment and Engagement: Interactive games, a lucky draw, and opportunities for spontaneous fun.
- Dress Code: Attendees were encouraged to "Dress as your alter-ego," embracing the spirit of the theme.

The Annual Dinner served as a platform to reconnect with peers, honour shared passions for design, and celebrate the diverse roles architects play in society.

5. Sketch, Paint & Celebrate SG60 with SIA!

In celebration of Singapore's 60th anniversary, SIA launched the Sketch, Paint & Celebrate SG60 with SIA! competition, inviting members to capture the nation's architectural heritage through art.

Competition Details:

- Theme: "Singapore Built Projects"
- Format: Hand-drawn or hand-painted postcards (4" x 6")
- Medium: Open to various artistic mediums including pencil, ink, watercolor, gouache, acrylic, charcoal, oil paints, markers, or mixed media
- Submission Deadline: 22 April 2025

The competition received an overwhelming response, showcasing the artistic talents of SIA members. Public voting took place from 29 April to 19 May 2025, with the top five winners each receiving a cash prize of S$600. The winning artworks were featured in SIA's promotional materials and displayed at various events throughout the year.
Apex SIA

This initiative not only celebrated Singapore's architectural milestones but also fostered a deeper connection between the architectural community and the public through the universal language of art.

6. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programmes

SIA remains committed to the lifelong learning of its members. CPD offerings in 2025 included:

- Masterclasses and webinars on AI in design, advanced construction technologies, and adaptive reuse of buildings.
- Workshops emphasizing technical competency, legal knowledge, and project management.
- Industry forums addressing pressing challenges in the architecture and construction sectors.

In addition, SIA organized several seminars and events throughout the year:

- SIA-MBAS Seminar: Redefining Quality in Landed Properties & Micro Projects – Trust, Transparency, and Excellence
- Bukit Merah Town Centre Placemaking Challenge – A Sharing by Shortlisted Teams
- 2025 SIA Master Planning Series – Reimagining Urban Spaces: Designing Cities for Health, Wellness, and Inclusivity
- CSR Seminar: SG60 Conservation and the Social Fabric Evolution
- SIA-SMAP Seminar: Protecting an Architect's Interests – Defining Scope and Managing Risks
- Bukit Brown – Learning Journey
- Professional Knowledge Series
- Thursday Night at SIA Seres
- Inspirational Talk Series
- In Conversation with Series

These seminars and events were organized in collaboration with government agencies, educational institutions, and professional organizations, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience for architects.

7. Policy and Advocacy Initiatives

In 2025, SIA continued to strengthen its advocacy efforts by engaging with policymakers, government agencies, and industry leaders to:

- Promote equitable procurement practices and fair conditions of appointment, ensuring that architects are fairly compensated for their expertise and services.
- Advance sustainable design policies and building standards, supporting Singapore's vision for a greener, more resilient built environment.
- Encourage the adoption of emerging technologies, enhancing productivity, innovation, and the professional practice of architecture.
- Champion architects' professional interests in regulatory and policy discussions, reinforcing the value and integrity of the profession in shaping Singapore's urban landscape.

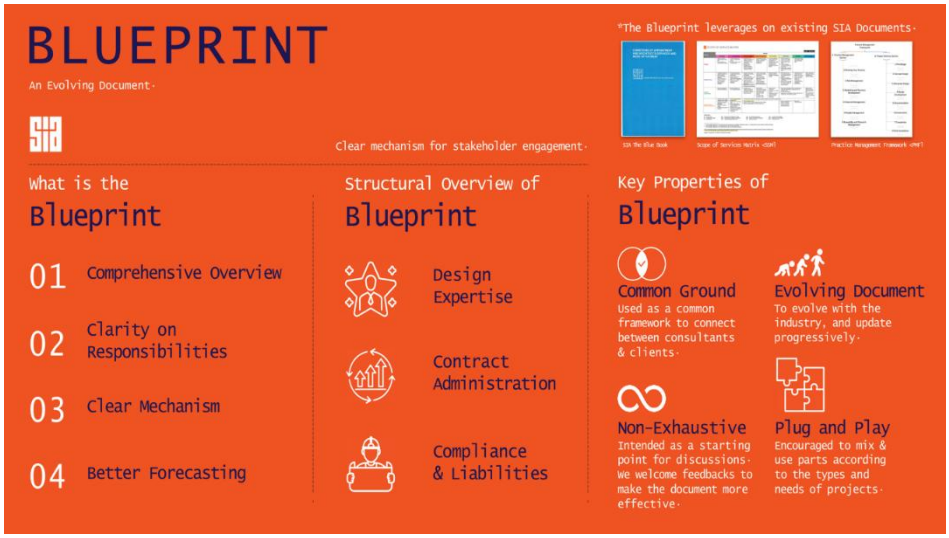
Through these initiatives, SIA maintains an active role in shaping policies that foster a sustainable, innovative, and ethically grounded architectural profession.

8. Value Articulation Framework (VAF) Blueprint

A key highlight in 2025 is the continued implementation and promotion of the Value Articulation Framework (VAF) Blueprint, designed to:

- Articulate the value of architecture and design to stakeholders across industries, government, and society.
- Provide clear metrics and strategies to demonstrate the contributions of architects to economic, social, and environmental outcomes.
- Enhance the professional standing of architects through structured engagement with clients, developers, and decision-makers.
- Support advocacy and policy efforts, ensuring that architectural services are recognized, valued, and fairly compensated.

The VAF Blueprint serves as a strategic tool for architects to communicate their impact, strengthen professional credibility, and promote value-driven architectural practice across Singapore and the region.



9. MND Ministerial Task Force for Architects and Engineers

The MND Ministerial Taskforce for Architects and Engineers, established in September 2024, continues its work in 2025, engaging industry stakeholders to address key challenges in the Built Environment (BE) sector.

<u>SIA's Advocacy for the Task Force</u>

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 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 Taskforce 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 (VAF) Blueprint

Central to SIA's advocacy is the VAF Blueprint, a strategic roadmap aligning 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 Taskforce, 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 Taskforce 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 Taskforce delivers tangible outcomes that enhance the professional landscape for architects and engineers.

By championing the integration of the VAF 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.

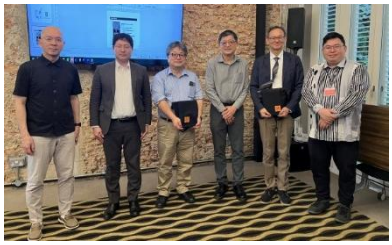
11. Global Outreach and International Relations

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

- Represent Singapore at International Conferences and Forums: SIA actively participates in global dialogues, contributing to discussions on architectural innovation, sustainability, and urban development.
- Facilitate Cross-Border Collaborations and Exchanges: SIA fosters partnerships with international architectural bodies, enabling local architects to expand their global presence and engage in collaborative projects.

In 2025, SIA further strengthened its global and regional ties through:

- Engagement with the World Association of Chinese Architects (WACA).
- Hosting delegates from Mitsubishi Jisho Design (Japan) for knowledge-sharing exchanges.
- A 4-nation meeting with PAM, IAI, and ASA to deepen regional collaboration.
- Roundtable meetings with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP).
- Collaboration initiatives with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA).
- A dialogue with the German Design Council, exploring opportunities for joint programmes and knowledge exchange.



These international engagements underscore SIA's role as a bridge between Singapore architects and the global community, reinforcing the Institute's commitment to advancing architectural excellence and strengthening professional networks worldwide.

12. Architects and the Community

SIA remains committed to engaging the wider community by:

- Launching Public Awareness Campaigns: These campaigns aim to highlight the value of good design and sustainability, educating the public on the impact of architecture on daily life and the environment.
- Organizing Community Design Workshops: SIA conducts workshops that involve citizens in co-creating public spaces, fostering a sense of ownership and community spirit. These workshops encourage collaborative design processes, ensuring that public spaces reflect the needs and aspirations of the communities they serve.

RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE

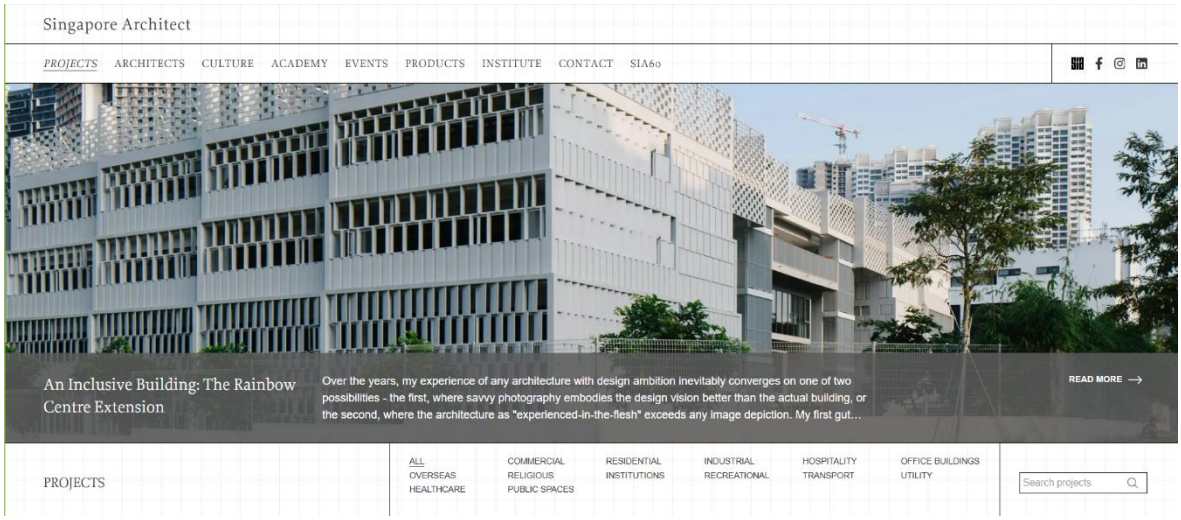
The Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) offers a range of valuable resources to support its members and the wider architectural community. These resources are designed to enhance professional knowledge, promote best practices, and provide tools for success in the industry.

1. The Singapore Architect Magazine and Website

The Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) provides a comprehensive suite of resources to support its members and the wider architectural community. These resources are designed to enhance professional knowledge, promote best practices, and equip architects with the tools needed to succeed in a dynamic industry.

The platform provides:

- **Showcasing Local Projects**: Highlights innovative projects by Singapore-based architects, offering detailed insights into design philosophies, creative processes, and the broader impact of architecture on the built environment.
- **Architectural Narratives**: Features articles from architects with diverse backgrounds, sharing perspectives on noteworthy buildings and projects. These narratives enrich understanding of Singapore's evolving architectural landscape.
- **Engaging Readership**: Through compelling stories and visual content, TSA engages both architectural professionals and the public, providing a journey through spaces that inspire, educate, and captivate.

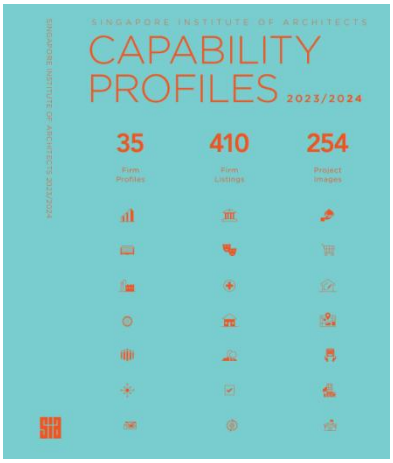


2. Capability Profiles

The Capability Profiles offer a comprehensive directory of architectural firms and professionals in Singapore. This resource serves multiple purposes:

- For Clients: Enables clients to identify and connect with qualified architects for a wide range of projects.
- For Firms: Provides a platform for architectural practices to showcase their expertise, services, and project portfolios to potential collaborators and clients.
- Promoting Singaporean Talent: Highlights the capabilities of local architects, enhancing their visibility and reputation both locally and internationally.

By consolidating professional information in a structured and accessible format, the Capability Profiles support networking, collaboration, and the broader promotion of architectural excellence in Singapore.



3. CS News

CS News is a regular publication designed to keep SIA members informed and connected with the architectural community. It provides:

- Industry Developments and Trends: Updates on evolving practices, emerging technologies, and key issues shaping the architecture and construction sectors.
- SIA Initiatives and Events: Coverage of the Institute's programmes, advocacy efforts, awards, and professional development activities.
- Expert Insights: Thought leadership articles and commentary from experienced practitioners, offering perspectives on design, policy, and industry best practices.

CS News serves as an essential tool for keeping members up-to-date, fostering professional engagement, and promoting knowledge sharing within the architectural community.

4. Other Publications

SIA produces a variety of publications to support professional practice and ensure industry standards are upheld, including:

<u>Building Contracts</u>

SIA's suite of standard building contracts provides clear, fair, and equitable terms for construction projects. These contracts are widely recognized and adopted, facilitating smooth collaboration between architects, clients, and contractors while minimizing disputes and ensuring professional accountability.

Practice Management Framework

The Practice Management Framework provides comprehensive guidance on best practices for managing architectural firms. It covers key areas including:

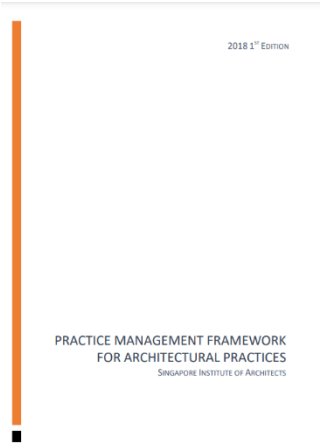
- Financial Management: Strategies for budgeting, cost control, and sustainable business operations.
- Project Delivery: Guidelines for efficient project planning, execution, and quality assurance.
- Operational Efficiency: Recommendations for workflow optimization, resource allocation, and organizational management.

This framework serves as a practical tool to help firms enhance their performance, improve client service, and strengthen long-term business sustainability.

SIA Bluebook

The SIA Bluebook is a definitive reference guide for architectural practices in Singapore. It provides:

- Standards and Recommendations: Guidance on professional conduct, design processes, and operational norms.
- Best Practices: Practical advice to ensure quality, consistency, and compliance in projects.
- Professional Excellence: A resource for architects to uphold high standards and maintain credibility in the profession.



Together, the Practice Management Framework and SIA Bluebook equip architects and firms with structured guidance to operate efficiently, deliver quality projects, and sustain professional excellence.

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