

THREE SINGAPORE PROJECTS EMERGE TO WIN THE SIA-NPARKS SKYRISE GREENERY AWARDS

Back for a second year, local and regional projects vied for the SIA-NParks Skyrise Greenery Awards, which were presented to three local residential and commercial developments.

Jointly organised by Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) and National Parks Board (NParks), the Awards aims to promote and recognise the greening efforts in high-rise developments.

Last year, the Awards were presented to four residential and commercial developments in Singapore. This year, it was also open to regional architects who are members of the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA). The Awards attracted over 50 percent more submissions than the previous year, a sign that it is gaining prominence in the industry.

This year's Awards were presented by SIA President, Mr Ashvinkumar and Director of Streetscape (NParks), Mr Simon Longman, at a ceremony at The Loof.

Entries were assessed by a jury comprising representatives from NParks, SIA, and the Urban Redevelopment Authority. The evaluation criteria included landscape considerations to enhance Singapore's cityscape and environment quality, as well as originality, creativity and sustainability of the landscape ideas.

In conjunction with the presentation of the Awards, a book on vertical greening, *Vertical Greening For The Tropics*, was also launched. A joint collaboration between NParks, the National University of Singapore and the Building and Control Authority, the book introduces and evaluates different systems of implementing vertical greenery. It also includes results of studies which validate the benefits of vertical greenery within our tropical urban environment.

A total of three schemes emerged as winners this year, namely: Orchard Central, Central Horizon & Solaris.

JUDGES' CITATION

SIA-NPARKS Skyrise Greenery Awards recognises the creative integration of the building envelope and landscape design. We are very pleased to have received many submissions not only from within Singapore, but also from other countries in the region. Whilst Singapore has long strived towards being a Garden City, it is timely that our neighbours jump on board the quest, which is especially relevant in the context of our tropical climate and burgeoning cities.

It is an encouraging sign that designers and architects in the region are increasingly conscious of the treatment of built-forms in harmony with the environment, and are incorporating landscape design meaningfully in the design process. It is also an important part of a design culture with sustainability in mind.

A set of six criteria were used to evaluate the submissions:

- 1 Provision of landscape opportunities at the building block(s), e.g. balconies, planter boxes, roof garden, communal sky gardens, vertical greenery etc, with emphasis on sky greenery
- 2 Landscape considerations that enhance cityscape and environment quality
- 3 Creative landscape ideas and originality in design with emphasis on softscape
- 4 Choice of plant materials
- 5 Sustainability
- 6 Quality of maintenance

JURY PANEL

Mr Ashvinkumar
*President 49th Council 2009/2010,
Singapore Institute of Architects*

Mr Ng Lang
CEO, National Parks Board

Ms Fun Siew Leng
*Group Director (Urban Planning & Design), Urban
Redevelopment Authority*

Mr Henry Steed
*President, Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects
—SILA*

Ms Yap Mong Lin
Yap Architects

Facilitator:
Mr Laurence Liew
DCA Architects Pte Ltd

For more information, visit
<http://skyrisegreenery.com/awards/>.



UNBULIT IDEAS CATEGORY: 1ST PRIZE
WINNER: Solaris
DEVELOPER: SB (Solaire) Investment Pte Ltd
ARCHITECT: CPG Consultants Pte Ltd, TR Hamzah & Yeang
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: Tropical Environment Pte Ltd

The jury is impressed with the comprehensive considerations to make greenery and sustainability the driving force behind the design concept. Continuous “spiralling” landscaping connecting the basement to the rooftop is integral to the architecture, as is the atrium design which brings copious natural ventilation and filtered daylight into the public spaces. The design envisions an “eco-infrastructure” not just for the sake of “greening” the architecture and making of a unique built-form, but more importantly as “key social, interactive and creative zones”.

The jury noted that the success of the design is as much a function of its execution as is the strength of the conceptual convictions, but the jury also recognised that the designer had also considered the importance of maintainability in such a design. The Solaris is a stand-out proposal for its architectural integration of skysrise greenery. ▀