



---

## Media Release

EMBARGOED TILL 11 MAY 2016, 1700HOURS (SINGAPORE TIME)

---

# Pavilion of Singapore at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition Shines the Spotlight on Citizens' Creative Actions Co-creating and Forging Connections to People and Places

**Singapore, 11 May 2016** – Singapore will be participating at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition (Biennale Architettura 2016) of the La Biennale di Venezia, in Venice, Italy, from 28 May to 27 November 2016. Commissioned by the DesignSingapore Council of the Ministry of Communications and Information and curated by the Department of Architecture of the National University of Singapore (NUS), the Singapore Pavilion will be presenting ***Space to Imagine, Room for Everyone***. Singapore will be amongst the 88 participants from 37 countries at the Biennale Architettura 2016. This marks the country's fifth appearance at the exhibition since 2004.

Responding to the Biennale Director Alejandro Aravena's main exhibition theme, *Reporting from the Front* (the overview of 15<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition's theme is in [Annex G](#)), the Singapore Pavilion focuses on the small 'battles' fought at the home-front which are contributing to the emergence of an invigorated Singapore.

Minister for Communications and Information, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim said, "The Singapore Pavilion at the Venice Biennale brings together our Singapore design talents to showcase Singapore homes and infrastructure. It reflects the pervasiveness of design in how Singapore has built our communities, shaped the living environment and made Singapore a lovable city."

***Space to Imagine, Room for Everyone*** goes behind Singapore's carefully planned infrastructure and its modern cityscape to put the spotlight on the people and their creative actions in forging new identities, connections to place and social bonds. The Singapore Pavilion will show a selection of works in three segments: People and their Homes, People working the Land and People engaging the City. Details can be found in [Annex C](#).

"Singapore's presentation emphasises how the built environment is intertwined with people by outlining the frontiers that need to expand to improve the quality of life. By helping the community to take ownership and participate in the development of their surrounding landscape, we will be able to foster emotional connections and shared memories of the city with its people," said Mr Jeffrey Ho, Executive Director of DesignSingapore Council and Commissioner of Singapore Pavilion.

Mr Tai Lee Siang, Board member of DesignSingapore Council and Co-Commissioner said, "Singaporeans benefitted from the urban orderliness in the earlier years and is now one of the most liveable cities in Asia. The challenge to create a sustainable living environment and improve



engagement from the public is an interesting and unique battle for Singaporeans, which may have significant learning applications for the cities that are modelling themselves after Singapore.”

“*Space to Imagine, Room for Everyone* shares with the global audience, the challenges in Singapore’s next stage of development; especially how individuals, enterprises and ground-up actions are making a palpable difference. As small “battles” in its home-front, the selections provide a poignant account on how design improves the quality of the built environment and people’s lives,” said Associate Professor Wong Yunn Chii, Lead Curator of Singapore Pavilion and Head of Architecture, National University of Singapore.

The Singapore Pavilion will be located in the Sale d’Armi building at the Arsenale region. The 240sqm space will feature a centerpiece – a display of 81 customised lanterns illuminating photographs. These will offer a glimpse into the homes of ordinary Singaporeans living in public housing and how each family has imaginatively created a space to call their own. Complementing these lanterns are displays of artefacts and interview footages which will tell the stories of how citizens are stepping out and taking actions to adopt and own their environments, such as mud-bricks made by the community for the walls of their new building.

A design forum will also be held to discuss the "battles" that Asian cities have to contend with, namely, under the cover of high-density and speed of urbanisation, the prospects for its people to have *Space to Imagine, Room for Everyone*. The forum will be held on 28 May, 5pm (Italy time) at Level 1, Sale d’Armi building (adjacent to Singapore Pavilion). Architects and representatives from the Singapore, China, Korea and Japan pavilions will share their views at the forum.

Please refer to **Annex A** for details on the Singapore pavilion and **Annex B** for the curator’s statement, **Annex C** for the exhibition content, **Annex D** for the exhibition design concept and **Annex E** for profiles of the commissioners and the curatorial team, **Annex F** for the profiles of the exhibition participants and **Annex G** for details of the 15<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition. Media interviews with the commissioners and the curatorial team may also be arranged.

For more information on the Singapore Pavilion and design forum, please visit our website at [www.roomforeveryone.sg](http://www.roomforeveryone.sg).

---

## ISSUED BY

**DESIGNSINGAPORE COUNCIL,  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION**

**11 MAY 2016**

---



## ▶ Media Contacts

### **Carol Lum**

Corporate Communication &  
International Relations  
DesignSingapore Council  
[carol\\_lum@mci.gov.sg](mailto:carol_lum@mci.gov.sg)  
D +65 6837 9343

### **Frances Kong**

Corporate Communication & International  
Relations  
DesignSingapore Council  
[frances\\_kong@mci.gov.sg](mailto:frances_kong@mci.gov.sg)  
D +65 6837 9314

### **How Hwee Yin**

Affluence PR for  
DesignSingapore Council  
[hweeyin@affluencepr.com](mailto:hweeyin@affluencepr.com)  
M +65 9831 1350

### **Jen Wee-Almodiel / Audrey Leona K**

O'Lief PR for  
Singapore Pavilion at the 15<sup>th</sup> IAE  
[jen@olief.com.sg](mailto:jen@olief.com.sg) / [audrey@olief.com.sg](mailto:audrey@olief.com.sg)  
M +65 9837 5236 / +65 9794 6321

## **About the DesignSingapore Council**

The vision of the DesignSingapore Council is for design to differentiate Singapore from global competition. As the national agency for design, the Council's mission is to develop the design sector, and to help Singapore use design for innovation and growth, as well as to make life better. The DesignSingapore Council is part of the Ministry of Communications and Information.

The National Design Centre supports the DesignSingapore Council's efforts to enhance the vibrancy of the design ecosystem as well as catalyse industry collaborations and business opportunities for innovation and growth.

Singapore was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Design in December 2015. This designation will support the development of a creative culture and eco-system in Singapore that fully integrates design and creativity into everyday life. It also enables Singapore to collaborate internationally with the cities of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). The City of Design Office will be sited within the DesignSingapore Council to coordinate and implement programmes that contribute towards the UCCN mission.

Further information about the DesignSingapore Council, the National Design Centre and Singapore's designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Design is available at [www.designsingapore.org](http://www.designsingapore.org)

## **About National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Department of Architecture, NUS School of Design and Environment**

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. NUS has 17 faculties and schools across three campuses. Over 38,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse



social and cultural perspectives. NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 26 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner in Singapore's fifth RCE.

The Department of Architecture, which is part of the NUS School of Design and Environment, was established in 1958. Today, NUS Architecture offers a wide range of programmes, including landscape architecture, urban design, urban planning and integrated sustainable design. Building on the strength of its rich heritage and visionary leadership, NUS Architecture is poised to remain at the forefront of global excellence in architectural education and research, with a focus on high density Asian cities in the tropics.

For more information on NUS and NUS Architecture, please visit [www.nus.edu.sg](http://www.nus.edu.sg) and [www.arch.nus.edu.sg](http://www.arch.nus.edu.sg).



---

## Media Release | Annex A

### PAVILION OF SINGAPORE AT THE 15<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

---

**Commissioner** : Jeffrey Ho  
Executive Director  
DesignSingapore Council

**Co-Commissioner** : Tai Lee Siang  
Board Member, DesignSingapore Council,  
President, Design Business Chamber Singapore and  
Group Managing Director, ONG&ONG Singapore

**Curators** : Wong Yunn Chii (Lead Curator)  
Associate Professor, Department of Architecture,  
National University of Singapore

Tomohisa Miyauchi (Co-Curator)  
Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture,  
National University of Singapore

Teo Yee Chin (Co-Curator and Designer for the Singapore Pavilion)  
Principal, Red Bean Architects

Liane Ee, Curatorial Assistant

#### Commissioned and Presented by:



#### Organised by:





<b>Venue:</b>	Sale d'Armi building, Arsenale Campo della Tana 2169/F, Venice, Italy
<b>Open for Public Viewing</b> Date:  Opening Hours:  Admission:	28 May – 27 November 2016  10am – 6pm (Mondays to Thursdays and Sundays), 10am – 8pm (Fridays and Saturdays)  Closed on Mondays except 30 May, 5 Sep, 31 Oct and 21 Nov 2016  Admission charges apply. Please visit the ticketing office at <a href="http://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/tickets/">http://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/tickets/</a> for more details
<b>Official Opening Ceremony</b> 26 May 2016, 2pm (Italy time)	
<b>Preview</b> 26 & 27 May 2016, 10am to 6pm	
<b>Design Forum</b> 28 May 2016, 5pm, Level 1, Sale d'Armi building (adjacent to Singapore Pavilion)	
Convenor : Lai Chee Kien. Adjunct Associate Professor, Singapore University of Technology and Design	
Panelists : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siew Man Kok - Chairman &amp; Founding Director, MKPL Architects</li> <li>• Liang Jing Yu - Curator for the Pavilion of China &amp; Principal, Approach Architecture Studio</li> <li>• Yoshiyuki Yamana - Curator for Pavilion of Japan &amp; Professor at Tokyo University of Science, Faculty of Science and Technology, Department of Architecture and Building and Engineering</li> <li>• Kim Sung Hong - Curator for Pavilion of South Korea &amp; Professor at University of Seoul, Department of Architecture</li> </ul>	
<b>Website</b> <a href="http://www.roomforeveryone.sg">www.roomforeveryone.sg</a>	



## Media Contact

### O'Lief PR for Singapore Pavilion at the 15th IAE

Jen Wee-Almodiel

[jen@olief.com.sg](mailto:jen@olief.com.sg) | M +65 9837 5236

Audrey Leona K

[audrey@olief.com.sg](mailto:audrey@olief.com.sg) | M+65 9794 6321

Carol Lum

Corporate Communication & International Relations, DesignSingapore Council

[Carol\\_lum@mci.gov.sg](mailto:Carol_lum@mci.gov.sg) | D: +65 6837 9343

Frances Kong

Corporate Communication & International Relations, DesignSingapore Council

[Frances\\_Kong@mci.gov.sg](mailto:Frances_Kong@mci.gov.sg) | D +65 68379314



---

## Media Release | Annex B

### PAVILION OF SINGAPORE AT THE 15<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA CURATOR'S STATEMENT

---

Responding to the primary theme of 15<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition, 'Reporting from the Front,' Singapore's presentation places the small "battles" fought at the home-front. These efforts are contributing to the emergence of an invigorated Singapore.

From within the comfort and the security of the domestic environments and public spaces that have been created over the past five decades, we are now pushing the home-front from within – to create more **Space to Imagine**, and **Room for Everyone**.

Through actions, guided and spontaneous, initiated by individuals, establishments and groups, we are witnessing active participation of our citizens: stepping out, taking actions, owning and adopting their environments. They have also heightened the role of design advocacy and participation, both real and imagined, at various scales and levels in schemes of future renewals, intensified in-fills of left-over spaces, in the narrow confines of domestic spaces.

In two broad themes (archetypal terrains), at every scale, in the boundary between the private and public realms, actions like participation, contestations, activations, appropriations, transgressions and occupations are enacted. All these happen in the building and urban fabric – on the grounds, in the void decks in the private abodes of our housing estates, and in our public spaces.

In a battery of actions on these terrains, we forge through design a new society built on the gains of the previous more austere generation. In pushing against this front, in turning Singapore inside out, we move beyond from being productive and technocratic, to be creative and egalitarian. Thus, these "battles" at the front is a poignant visual account of our human capacity building, in looking at the past with new eyes and broadly, and in our attempts to humanise the environments of Singapore.



---

## Media Release | Annex C

### PAVILION OF SINGAPORE AT THE 15<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA EXHIBITION CONTENT

---

#### PEOPLE AND THEIR HOMES

##### Uncovering the creativity inherent in our domestic lives

In the heartland of our new towns where 85% of the population dwell and own homes, there exists the dominant 'front' where the challenges are the real and hidden edges of the commonplace. To remain vigilant is to tug against the complacency of sedentary comfort and security. While some individuals dare to reinvent their definition of domestic space and actualise their dreams, many others remain satisfied, comfortably settled into their routines. Despite these different reactions and conditions, there is a rising awareness that the stability of the domestic realms sets the tone for communal and collective thoughts of social resilience.

##### HDB<sup>1</sup>: Homes of Singapore

By Keyakismos and Tomohisa Miyauchi

HDB Homes of Singapore is a pictorial journey, with photographs taken over a period of three years that portrays the diversity, culture, individuality, colours and creativity inside HDB Homes. These extraordinary images will be presented on lanterns, suspended and illuminated. Within each lantern, is a model of an HDB building.

##### 03-FLATS

By Lei Yuan Bin and Lilian Chee

03-FLATS is an essay film that follows the domestic lives of three women, from their well-worn, lived-in spaces of their homes, to the contrasting orderliness and expanse of the outside. The essay film records how domestic resilience might resist the ennui of mass housing, turning housing into home.

03-FLATS is a key filmic output of a research initiative led by Dr Lilian Chee, who conceptualised the project. The film was in collaboration with award-winning Singaporean director and filmmaker, Lei Yuan Bin, to probe how domesticity - a critical component wherein home is produced - may be viscerally represented and affectively encountered.

03-FLATS was selected for competitive standing in the Wide Angle Documentary Competition at the Busan International Film Festival (2014) and won the best ASEAN documentary at the Salaya International Documentary Film Festival (2015).

---

<sup>1</sup> HDB (Housing Development Board) Homes: Singapore's Public Housing Flats. Currently, over 80% of the population lives in HDB flats.



## PEOPLE WORKING THE LAND

### Working the earth, forming roots

The participants shown here reflect a new wave within this land-scarce city-state, where groups discover a connection to the ground. As much as urban development has housed people in modules, grids, and stacks, their spontaneous engagement with the land release them, even momentarily from the imposed order of modern life. The 'battle' in this terrain contemplates a renewal of the social, communal and spiritual gains in working the land. It offers alternatives in seeing such creative activities beyond the economic bottom-lines or confined to neatly zoned and controlled areas.

#### Community In Bloom

By Goldhill Gardening Club

Community in Bloom is a nationwide gardening movement started by the National Parks Board. The exhibition features an award-winning garden and vegetable farm in a 465 sqm plot of land behind their houses, which was maintained by a group of 50 enthusiastic residents from the Moulmein Goldhill Neighbourhood Garden Committee.

#### Urban Farming

By Edible Garden City and Comcrop

Edible Garden City champions the "Grow Your Own Food" movement in land-scarce and import-dependent Singapore. They are made of a team of farmers that design and care for food gardens in urban areas and push forth initiatives that transform under-utilised metropolitan spaces into arable plots to grow produce.

Comcrop is a farming enterprise that employs innovative agriculture technology on roof-top spaces in the city. With their accessible location, they engage students, housewives and retirees as their community of farmers. They are focused on producing vegetables efficiently, to eventually provide for 3% of Singapore's entire vegetable intake

#### Rootedness & Resilience

By Ground-Up Initiative (GUI)

Ground-Up Initiative (GUI) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to building and promoting Singapore's first low carbon footprint 5G village campus in its 'Balek Kampung' (Return to the Village) programme for a more Gracious, Green, Giving, Grounded and Grateful place to live as well as create a sustainable future through the 21st Century Kampung Culture.

This section of the three projects will feature artefacts such as handmade bricks used to build their eco-campus, as well as interviews with the enthusiastic participants.



## PEOPLE ENGAGING THE CITY

### Citizens taking the initiative in shaping the environment

In our city, a new 'front' in urban spaces and the Rail Corridor are open to be enlivened, to be made more responsive and to be transformed into places of conviviality for public involvement and creative activation. This entails careful place management and public consultation with stakeholders. The affordances of place are explored to understand and evaluate the extant obstacles created by legacies of control and management. Similarly, the quest for more responsive spaces and inclusive services in our built environment has also fired up the imagination of young designers to find ways to empower a larger segment of our population in imagining their spaces, making them accessible to many.

#### Rail Corridor Project

By Rail Corridor Partnership, Friends of the Rail Corridor, Nature Society (Singapore), Singapore Heritage Society and Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)

The Rail Corridor is a 26km stretch of railway land which served as a route for train services from Peninsular Malaysia to Singapore, beginning from the early 1900s. When the Malaysian government ceased operations of the train services, the land was returned to Singapore in 2011. The Rail Corridor passes through a myriad of landscapes and threads through various communities that showcase a cross-section of Singapore's urban history and development

The Rail Corridor project is headed by URA, Singapore's land use planning and conservation authority, to plot the future of the rail corridor in consultation with the various interest groups listed above. The exhibition features a video presentation which records dialogues with the various parties on their ideas and passion, as well as a 10m long topographical model of the corridor, made by the students from the Department of Architecture of the National University of Singapore.

#### Our Favourite Place

By Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)

Our Favourite Place is an initiative by the URA to celebrate and enliven public spaces through events and activities that would engage the people and raise their awareness of the potentialities of urban life. The programme aims to provide more opportunities for the community to step forward and activate public spaces – be it a space under viaduct, or a public area within a commercial or public building – and transform them into meaningful and accessible public spaces.

Video footages and images will showcase these events and the people behind them.



## Empowering Design

By Participate in Design (P!D)

This is a presentation of projects by P!D, a non-profit organisation that creates awareness of participatory design. It helps neighbourhoods and public institutions in Singapore design community-owned spaces and find solutions for uses of spaces through engaging and enabling people in shaping their everyday environments and local communities. P!D's projects are presented in video footage together with a post-it note wall, with hand-written notes by participants in their engagement activities.



---

## Media Release | Annex D

### PAVILION OF SINGAPORE AT THE 15<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA DESIGN CONCEPT

---

The design of the exhibition uses the grid as a base onto which different meanings and potentials are projected. The grid (a frame with equal intervals in the x & y dimensions) signifies the order and rationality with which Singapore is planned. The grid however, also provides openness and freedom. In the exhibition space, we set up a grid that allows everyone to move freely, to appreciate the diversity of stories that thrive within.

The effect created is an atmosphere to envelope and immerse the viewer. The curatorial team endeavoured to make an emotionally charged experience using the hundreds of interior scenes from everyday life in our public housing estates, the Housing Development Board (HDB). More than experiencing any one of these HDB interiors in the skin, the exhibition would immerse the viewer intimately in the diverse collection of interiors, an intensified domestic experience.

Eighty-one (81) customised image lanterns are suspended at eye level in the central space. On three faces of each lantern, a photograph from the *HDB: Homes of Singapore* collection will be mounted. On the fourth side, one will look into the lantern<sup>2</sup> to see a small model of the HDB block in which the interiors described in the photographs are sited. A bulb in the centre lights the model as well as the photographs from behind. A viewer will freely meander through these scenes of everyday life, glowing gently.

One may notice that in this pavilion staged for an International Architecture Exhibition, it is not showing buildings. Rather it is showing the connections between people and their spaces. The challenge is that while buildings are traditionally documented in drawings, photographs, and models, the stories of these small “battles” that were found on our home-front had no ready-made form.

To embody the spirit of each participant, the curatorial team selected from each an artefact, a visually striking object that bears the marks of their endeavour or tells the stories succinctly.

In one example, the Ground-Up Initiative (GUI) displays the mud-bricks that their volunteers are making for the walls of their new campus. For Participate in Design (PID), an array of the colourful, now universal, Post-It notes that the protagonists gathered from their consultation sessions is presented.

The selection of the artefacts that will carry the story of each participant is an act of design as much as it is an act of curation. This direct on-the-ground approach, like the preparation of fresh sashimi, is premised on choice and cut. No seasoning is required. The design philosophy for the Singapore Pavilion is, similarly, to present the inspiring stories in an honest and transparent manner.

---

<sup>2</sup> The lanterns, made of specially cast glass will retain a raw hand-made quality. The materiality of the lanterns forms an apt counterpoint in the raw space of the Arsenale characterised by its rough bricks and timber roof trusses. The use of glass in the exhibition is also a nod to the local context, specifically the rich history of glass craftsman of nearby Murano.



---

## Media Release | Annex E

### PAVILION OF SINGAPORE AT THE 15<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA PROFILE OF COMMISSIONERS AND CURATORIAL TEAM

---

#### **Jeffrey Ho, Commissioner**

Mr Jeffrey Ho joined the DesignSingapore Council in 2009. As the Executive Director, he leads the national agency for design in Singapore by charting national policies on design, developing design capabilities, and enabling enterprises to use design for innovation and growth.

Jeffrey is the chairman of the Design Industry Development Panel and is also a member of the Design 2025 Masterplan Committee that looks into the development of Singapore's design sector till 2025. He founded the National Design Centre in Singapore and the Design Thinking & Innovation Academy with the aim to infuse design thinking and develop design-driven innovation capabilities in Singapore. He also set up the Asian Insights & Design Innovation Programme to understand Asian users' lifestyles, needs, wants and desires to drive product, service and experience innovation in Singapore.

Currently, he is a member of the Shanghai International Creative City Advisory Board. He sat on the International Strategic Advisory Council of IFI (International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers) and was a board member of the 2011-2013 Icoграда (International Council of Graphic Design Associations) Executive Board.

He is appointed an Adjunct Associate Professor for Design Thinking at the Faculty of Engineering, National University of Singapore. He is also a practising visual artist.

#### **Tai Lee Siang, Co-Commissioner**

Mr Tai Lee Siang sits on the board of the DesignSingapore Council as well as the Design 2025 Masterplan Committee. He is also currently President of Design Business Chamber Singapore. Mr Tai held the position as President of Singapore Institute of Architects from 2007 to 2009. In 2010, Mr Tai chaired the formation of DesignS – an alliance comprising eight design-centric Associations to promote Singapore Design Brands.

He is currently the Group Managing Director of ONG&ONG Singapore, a multi-disciplinary consultancy firm providing total solutions encompassing Urban Planning, Architecture, Engineering, Landscape Architecture and Interior Design. Mr Tai has practised as an architect and urban planner since 1990.



### **Wong Yunn Chii, Lead Curator**

Wong Yunn Chii is the Head of the Department of Architecture at the National University of Singapore (NUS) since 2006. He studied architecture and architectural history at Washington University-St Louis and MIT-Cambridge respectively. He presently works modern and contemporary architecture and urban history of Singapore. His on-going researches and writings deal primarily with the contemporary architecture of Singapore, history of modern architecture, housing and shop-house typologies and contemporary architectural practices. He curated Singapore's inaugural architectural exhibition at the Venice Biennale [2004], mounted three other national exhibitions on Singapore architecture and architects: Singapore 1:1 (City) [2005], Singapore 1:1 (Island)[2007], and 20 Under 45 [2010]. He served as an editor of the Journal of Southeast Asian Architecture and The SA (Singapore Architect), and on the juries of Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Architectural Heritage Awards, and Singapore Institute of Architecture Annual Design Awards.

### **Tomohisa Miyauchi, Co-Curator**

Tomohisa MIYAUCHI is Senior Lecturer at the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore, conducting design studio and lectures. His teaching and research areas include; architectural practice as entrepreneurship and experimentation, contemporary architectural theory and curation in architecture. He received his Bachelor of Architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) in 2000, and Master in Architecture from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University (GSD) in 2004. He set up the architectural partnership in Tokyo shortly after graduating from SCI-Arc and was responsible for the design of a host of built projects relating to art, furniture, interior and architecture in Japan and China. In 2010, he was selected as one of the 20 emerging designers in "JAPAN DESIGN+" by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan.

### **Teo Yee Chin, Co-Curator & Designer for the Singapore Pavilion**

Teo Yee Chin is a practising architect based in Singapore. He is the founding principal and design director of RBA which he first established in 2009 as Red Bean Architects. He is also an educator and a writer. Yee Chin was born in 1975 in Singapore. He obtained his Master's of Architecture at Harvard University in 2003. He has taught design studios in both National University of Singapore (NUS) as well as Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) focusing on architecture in the city. Yee Chin has been an invited speaker at TEDx, Archifest, NUS and Singapore Polytechnic. He has published commentaries on local architecture and urban design in the press and local architectural journals.



---

## Media Release | Annex F

### PAVILION OF SINGAPORE AT THE 15<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA ABOUT THE EXHIBITION PARTICIPANTS

---

#### PEOPLE AND THEIR HOMES

##### **Keyakismos**

Eitaro OGAWA and Tamae IWASAKI are the passionate people behind Keyakismos. Derived from the Japanese word “keyaki” (Zelkova tree) and “cosmos” (flower), the alias stands for their shared creative philosophy that the collaboration between two different elements achieves much more than one.

The husband and wife team who specialises in printmaking hails from Osaka, Japan. Shortly after graduating from Tokyo Zokei University, the couple moved to Singapore to join STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery (formerly known as the Singapore Tyler Print Institute) as pioneer printers. Since then they have collaborated with more than eighty artists from all over the world. Motivated by their life motto – “love God, love people” – Eitaro and Tamae are involved in art and community projects that encourage collaborations amongst people, with the goal of creating opportunities for people to experience art in daily life. Keyakismos brought about ‘Pameran Poskad’, a bi-annual group exhibition of postcard-sized artworks that sees participants from all walks of life submitting entries of various mediums. ‘HDB Home of Singapore’ is the couple’s latest project.

##### **Lei Yuan Bin**

LEI Yuan Bin is a founding member of the film collective 13 Little Pictures. He was conferred the Young Artist Award in 2012 by the National Arts Council, Singapore’s highest award for young arts practitioners. Lei was mentored by film maestro Hou Hsiao-Hsien at the Busan Asian Film Academy 2008 and worked on Tsai Ming Liang’s 9th feature film FACE in 2009.

His directorial debut, WHITE DAYS, has been praised by film scholar, Professor Gilbert Yeoh to be “one of the rare films in Singapore cinema that invites the viewer to rethink the aesthetics of cinema.”

03-FLATS, his sophomore feature was a collaboration with the National University of Singapore’s Architecture department. It was selected for documentary competition at the prestigious Busan International Film Festival and won the Best ASEAN Documentary prize at the Salaya International Documentary Film Festival.



## **Lilian Chee**

Lilian CHEE is Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore. Her research is situated at the intersections of gender, architectural representation and production.

Her projects focus on the emergence of architecture through, and from within, a non-architectural milieu. She is influenced by the disciplines of film, art and literature, and is engaged in how an affective construction of architectural discourse might change the writing of its histories and theories. She conceptualised the award-winning architectural essay film 03-FLATS (2014). Her publications include the forthcoming monograph Architecture, After Affect (2017) and an edited volume Asian Cinema and The Use of Space (2015). She is on the editorial board of the Journal of Architecture.

## **PEOPLE WORKING THE LAND**

### **Goldhill Gardening Club**

Community in Bloom (CIB) is a nationwide gardening movement started by the National Parks Board (NParks) in May 2005, to encourage community farming in public and private housing estates, educational institutions, hospitals, welfare homes as well as organisations.

The Moulmein Goldhill Neighbourhood Committee Garden was started in 2008 under the CIB Scheme. The garden sits on a 465 sqm vacant plot, located at the end of Goldhill Avenue, and is managed by a 50-member strong Goldhill Gardening Club, made up of residents living in the area. It was the first community garden set up on state land in a private housing estate. The club holds regular harvest parties and the community garden has become a platform for residents to meet and connect with neighbours.

The Moulmein Goldhill NC Garden is a winner of the Platinum award under the “environment and Biodiversity” category at the CIB Awards.

### **Edible Garden City**

Edible Garden City was founded in 2012 to champion the “Grow Your Own Food” movement in land-scarce and import-dependent Singapore. Edible Garden City is made of a team of farmers that design and care for food gardens in urban areas and push forth initiatives that transform under-utilised urban spaces into arable plots to grow produce.

Edible Garden City holds the mantra that beautiful gardens should be productive too. Unlike a typical commercial farm, they offer foodscaping services to restaurants, schools, hotels, offices and residences to turn food production into a niche form of landscaping. Edible Garden City is committed to supporting communities through workshops, social projects and public outreach. They firmly believe that growing food re-connects urbanites to nature, conserves natural resources, and cultivates a sense of community.



## **Comcrop**

Comcrop is a farming enterprise founded in 2011 that employs innovative agriculture technology on roof-top spaces in the city. Their self-designed A-frame that stacks multiple levels of planting on a small footprint also allows farming to be carried out comfortably from a standing position. Continually experimenting, they are currently onto the third version of their vertical farm which runs on a combination of hydroponics and aquaponics. They are focused on producing vegetables efficiently, targeting to eventually provide for 3% of Singapore's entire vegetable intake.

In the process of growing vegetables sustainably, Comcrop also sets out to engage different community constituents. They currently outsource germination work to a nearby MINDS daywork activity centre and buy back trays of the seedlings for transplanting into the farming pipelines. With their accessible location, they attract housewives and retirees as their community of motivated farmers.

## **Ground-Up Initiative**

Ground-Up Initiative (GUI) is a volunteer-driven non-profit organisation founded in 2008, to build a community bounded by a shared love for the environment. GUI aims to restore the connection between city dwellers and the land and foster a 21st Century Kampung Culture that will help to build a 5G society – one that is 'Gracious ~ Green ~ Giving ~ Grounded ~ Grateful'.

GUI conducts regular courses in leadership, and social entrepreneurship, and runs public programmes with an emphasis on experiential learning. Since 2009, GUI has steadily grown its base – the Sustainable Living Kampung – at Bottle Tree Park, Yishun, Singapore. In Sept 2014, GUI succeeded in securing a land area of 26,000 sqm to build Kampung Kampus – a community learning space. The campus will serve Singapore and the region, and be used as a centre for sustainability ideas and concept incubation. It will be built on principles of sustainable architecture and showcase eco-technology and environmentally friendly practices.

GUI is currently constructing Kampung Kampus with the help of volunteers.

## **PEOPLE ENGAGING THE CITY**

### **Friends of the Rail Corridor**

Friends of the Rail Corridor is an informal group of individuals, mostly architects, who are each realising their belief for the ex-railway lands in their own individual ways. This informal group begun by collaborating and consulting with the Nature Society Singapore to put forth the idea to preserve the spine and thereafter naturally reach out to other interest groups and individuals to cover the spectrum of potential for the vast tract of land. When the government convened the Rail Corridor Consultation Group for multi-agencies to plot the future of the corridor in consultation with the various interest groups, they came to be known as Friends of the Rail Corridor.

### **Singapore Heritage Society**

Established in 1984, the Singapore Heritage Society aims to promote active interest in the cultural life and history of Singapore and to initiate action on research, evaluation, documentation,



publication, collection, display, and preservation and restoration of skills and items of historical interest. Over the years, SHS has been involved in many projects to raise awareness of Singapore's history and cultural heritage, including publishing books, organising talks and forums as well as conducting heritage tours for members as well as the general public.

### **The Nature Society (Singapore)**

The Nature Society (Singapore) or NSS is a non-government, non-profit organisation dedicated to the appreciation, conservation, study and enjoyment of the natural heritage in Singapore, Malaysia and the surrounding region.

It was formed in 1954 as a branch of the Malayan Nature Society and became formally the Nature Society (Singapore) in 1991.

The NSS organises nature appreciation activities like guided nature walks, conducts conservation projects and surveys, collaborates with schools and community groups to promote nature appreciation and campaigns for the protection of natural habitats. The Master Plan for the Conservation of Nature in Singapore published by NSS has been instrumental in influencing Government policy and planning in Singapore.

### **The Urban Redevelopment Authority**

The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) is Singapore's land use planning and conservation authority. Their mission is to make Singapore a great city to live, work and play and to creating a vibrant and sustainable city of distinction by planning and facilitating Singapore's physical development in partnership with the community.

### **Participate in Design**

P!D is a non-profit organisation that helps neighbourhoods and public institutions in Singapore design community-owned spaces and solutions. They are dedicated to engaging and enabling people in shaping their everyday environments and local communities. Founded on the firm belief that everyone has the right to participate in and influence the design and planning processes that affect them, P!D provides services in designing and facilitating the public participation and engagement process concerning the built environment.

They research, test and develop socially just and inclusive methods of design that are appropriate for our local neighbourhoods, while also promoting the integration of participatory design in design education and practice.

P!D was founded in 2012 to expand on the participatory design work that its founders, Jan Lim and Mizah Rahman, have been doing since 2010. They have partnered with grassroots organisations, educational institutions and statutory boards in various initiatives to build engaged and empowered communities.



---

## Media Release | Annex G

### PAVILION OF SINGAPORE AT THE 15<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA ABOUT THE 15<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION

---

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition will be held from 28 May to 27 November 2016. Organised by La Biennale di Venezia chaired by Paolo Baratta, there will be 64 national participations with their pavilions located at the Giardini, Arsenale and various parts of the city centre in Venice.

The theme for this 15<sup>th</sup> edition is *Reporting from the Front* and is directed by 2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate, Alejandro Aravena. The main exhibition theme looks at the battles and frontiers that need to be won and expanded in order to improve the quality of the built environment and consequently people's quality of life.

It encourages national pavilions, the civil society and architects to share about the battles they face at home, present cases where organised communities and empowered citizens have been able to improve their own built environment and share knowledge and ways to overcome these battles and improve the quality of life.