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Singapore Opens Community-Focused Pavilion at Venice Architecture Biennale 2016

BY SAMUEL SPENCER | MAY 27, 2016
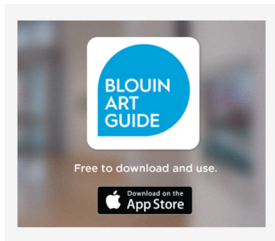
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Installation view of Singapore Pavilion
(Courtesy Yee Chin Teo)

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The Singapore Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale, opened by President Tony Tan, shows how Singaporeans transform social housing to build communities and make spaces their own.

The Pavilion's exhibition "Space to Imagine, Room for Everyone," responds to the Biennale theme of "Reporting from the Front."

The display was inaugurated by President Tan on May 26 and will be open to the public from May 28 until November 27.

The pavilion, which is located in the Sale d'Armi building in Venice's Arsenale region, has been curated by the Department of Architecture of the National University of Singapore (NUS).

As reported in our guide to the best pavilions from Asia-Pacific, this work will be displayed on "81 customized lanterns, illuminating photographs that will provide a glimpse into ordinary Singaporean homes." These images, from a series called "HDB: Homes of Singapore" by Keykkismos and Tomohisa Miyauchi, respond to the theme by considering Singapore's HDB homes (Housing Development Board houses which 80% of Singaporeans reside in) as a "front" where people battle to "humanize the environments of Singapore," according to a press release.

Accompanying these photographs, which are shown alongside work about the efforts of community groups to create green spaces within the city and other social projects, will be joined by "03-FLATS," 2015, a film directed by Lei Yuan Bin in collaboration with Lilian Chee, a professor at the NUS, that focuses on three single women of different ages living in a social housing project.

The Singapore Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale runs May 28-November 27 at Sale d'Armi building.

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