

Looking at Singapore from the inside



Artist impression of the Singapore Pavilion at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition of the La Biennale Di Venezia. Photo: Red Bean Architects

Singapore Pavilion at the Biennale Architettura will showcase interiors of HDB flats

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SINGAPORE — Eighty-one hanging rectangle lanterns covered with photographs – which will be illuminated in the dark – depicting the interior of various HDB homes across the country: This is the scene that will greet visitors at the Singapore Pavilion at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition (Biennale Architettura 2016) of the La Biennale di Venezia happening from May to November.

The photos are the result of a collection of 2,000 pictures taken over a period of three years – the result of knocking on the doors of HDB homes and asking for a glimpse inside. Of these, 243 photos were picked to showcase the diversity of the Singaporean community, and encompass a wide range of family types and income groups, crossing boundaries of race and religion, to bring a sense of authenticity and spontaneity, said the people behind the Pavilion.

The lanterns are surrounded by artefacts that cover the walls, showcasing the various ways in which people have co-created their community by interacting with and in public places. Among others, these include a "Post-It Wall" comprising handwritten ideas and uses for various public spaces, a 10m long topographical model of the Rail Corridor, as well as an award-winning essay film "03-FLATS" by Lee Yuan Bin and Lillian Chee that follows the lives of three women from inside their HDB homes.

This was revealed this afternoon (May 11) in a media briefing by DesignSingapore Council.

Their presentation, titled Space to Imagine, Room for Everyone, was a thought process which began in earnest in December, said Jeffrey Ho, Executive Director of DesignSingapore Council and Commissioner of the Singapore Pavilion at the Biennale.

Focusing on how orderly urban planning has enabled up to 85 per cent of the country's population to own their own homes, the main showcase will highlight a side of Singapore not usually seen around the world – HDB homes from the "inside out". The Singapore Pavilion will also include highlights of co-creation taking place in common spaces around the city.

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