

PHOTO RELEASE

STUDENT DESIGNERS TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT THE SINGAPORE GARDEN FESTIVAL 2026

- Team 'Retro Reel Collective' from the Institute of Technical Education (College East) clinched Gold at the Landscape Design Challenge with their landscape display titled *"Echoes Reimagined - A Retroactive Reimagination of the Past with Modern-Day Themes"*
- Awards were presented by Senior Minister of State Dr Janil Puthucheary on Sunday, 5 July at Singapore Garden Festival 2026

Singapore, 5 July 2026 – Team 'Retro Reel Collective' from the Institute of Technical Education (College East) clinched the Gold Award at the Landscape Design Challenge at the Singapore Garden Festival (SGF) 2026. A total of 39 students participated in the competition, including some recipients of the NParks-Peter Lim Scholarship¹, which aims to nurture young talents in the landscape and animal sectors.

The Landscape Design Challenge is a competition that simulates real-world work environments, giving students from institutes of higher learning an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in designing and constructing landscaped areas, while applying their classroom knowledge and letting their creativity shine.

It also provides a platform for these students to showcase their landscape design and floral art abilities to local and international audiences at SGF, which is held at Gardens by the Bay from 4 to 12 July 2026.

This year, seven teams from the Institute of Technical Education (College East), Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, and Singapore Polytechnic were given four hours to implement their landscape displays inspired by the theme *"Retro Reimagined"*.

Teams were assessed on criteria including design and execution, variety and suitability of plants featured, and project management — all essential skills in the landscape sector. The Landscape Design Challenge is supported by the Garden City Fund, NParks' registered charity and IPC.

At the Landscape Design Challenge Prize Presentation Ceremony today, Senior Minister of State for Education and Sustainability and the Environment Dr Janil Puthucheary presented the awards to the winners.

¹ The scholarship programme empowers less privileged youths to pursue careers in landscaping, horticulture, ecology, veterinary, and animal science sectors by supporting their skills development. Set up in 2020, it is the first structured award that benefits students passionate in the landscape, veterinary, and animal science sectors.

Team 'Retro Reel Collective' from the Institute of Technical Education (College East) triumphs in the Landscape Design Challenge

Team 'Retro Reel Collective' from the Institute of Technical Education (College East) clinched the Gold Award for their display titled 'Echoes Reimagined - A Retroactive Reimagination of the Past with Modern-Day Themes'. Suspended air plants were featured alongside materials such as PET bottle caps, repurposed wires, and mushroom waste were upcycled into sculptural features to present a nostalgic landscape that connects past values with modern sustainability principles.



Gold Award goes to team "Retro Reel Collective" from the Institute of Technical Education (College East)

The Silver Award went to the team 'Urban Canopy Lab' from the Institute of Technical Education (College East) for the display titled, 'Synthwave Merlion', while the Bronze Award went to the team 'Ikan Bilis' from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts for their display titled 'Channels of Time' and team 'Kampong Kakis' from Republic Polytechnic for their display

titled 'Heartlands' Stories'.



Silver Award goes to team 'Urban Canopy Lab' from the Institute of Technical Education (College East) for their display titled 'Synthwave Merlion'



Bronze Award goes to team 'Ikan Bilis' from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (left) for their display titled 'Channels of Time' and team 'Kampong Kakis' from Republic Polytechnic (right) for their display titled 'Heartlands' Stories'



The seven Landscape Design Challenge displays will be showcased at SGF until 12 July 2026. For more information on the displays, please refer to the **Annex** below.

Visitors can purchase tickets to SGF 2026 via <https://sgf.nparks.gov.sg/tickets/>.

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ANNEX: Landscape Design Challenge – Team and Display Information

Plot #	Award	Institution	Team Information	Information on the Display
LDC01	Bronze	Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts	Team Name: Ikan Bilis	Channels of Time What if a river could carry memories instead of water? Our garden traces everyday Singaporean life from the 1960s to the 1990s. It begins at a Peranakan window, flung open and waiting. Step behind it, frame yourself in its arch, and become part of the story. From here, the Singapore River flows through time. In the 1970s, humble HDB blocks crafted from old biscuit tins line the banks, a nod to the nation's drive to give every family a home. The 1980s bring neon and noise, with disco tiles and roller skates capturing the energy of a city coming alive at night. By the 1990s, things slow down at the kopitiam, where a familiar uncle, which is reimagined in pixel art, serves up a reminder that community never goes out of style. Every era flows into the next. Step in, look through, and find yourself in time.
			Students: 1. Yim Qiao Xin (Leader) 2. Azeema Yasmin D/O Rajikahamed 3. Auren Deandra 4. Muhammad Nur Faqif Bin Zambri 5. Ogena Abiannie Carel Que 6. Wee Wenrou Castillo (Huang Wenrou)	
			Supervising Lecturer: Tham Xin Kai	
LDC02	Special Mention (Softscape)	Ngee Ann Polytechnic	Team Name: CHROMAVISIO N	TV Nostalgia: A biophilic broadcast 'TV Nostalgia' reimagines the retro television as a gateway where nature, recollection, and community converge. Responding to "Carnival of Bloom" and "Retro Reimagined," the design transforms 90s domestic plant nostalgia into a horticultural experience that feels both familiar and renewed.
			Students: 1. Shameerul Mirdza (Leader) 2. Christopher Bryan Andrew 3. Dahiyah Atilia Binte Mohamad Faizal 4. Malbas Klaryce Soh	

			5. Nur Rifqah Asyura D/O Abdul Raffiq 6. Oh Angel	At the heart of the installation, the sculptural television serves as a biophilic broadcaster, transmitting plants as living images beyond the screen. A spiral staircase unfolds like streaming channels of lived experience, while cascading water traces the steps as a continuous flow, reflecting transition and emerging growth. Here, native, introduced, and hybridised plants once familiar in Singaporean homes are reinterpreted as living memory archives, inviting visitors to relive nostalgia and renew their encounters with everyday flora. In this space, retro culture returns as an immersive sensory landscape where nostalgia, community, and the dance of life resonate, celebrating shared experiences while inspiring new connections ahead.
			Supervising Lecturer: Tham Xin Kai	
LDC03	Bronze	Republic Polytechnic	Team Name: Kampong Kakis	Heartlands' Stories Our display transports you to Singapore in the past, from the simplicity of kampong life to the beginnings of urban living. At its heart stands a familiar place to every Singaporean - the HDB void deck, where everyday memories were created, friendships blossomed and communities came together in fellowship, shaping our identity across generations. Inspired by the spaces we proudly call home, our display features iconic HDB elements, with patterned wall tiles as the focal point, complemented alongside familiar features that symbolise the carefree joy of
			Students: 1. Gwendolyn Marie Tan Kay Shuen (Leader) 2. Isaac Low Jun Khai 3. Ow Yi Shan Gwyn 4. Damien Ku Wei Cheng	
			Supervising Lecturers: Lee Yeow Peng Sangeeta Nair	

				childhood and invite visitors to relive the simple pleasures of growing up. Retro-inspired features are thoughtfully blended with greenery to reflect the harmonious coexistence between heritage and modern urban living. Combining vibrant, “old-school” flora with lush foliage creates a nostalgic landscape while warm red and orange tones complete the display, wrapping visitors in a welcoming atmosphere that feels like home.
LDC04	Special Mention (Concept)	Ngee Polytechnic	Ann	Team Name: Another Encore
				Students: 1. Wee Lucas (Leader) 2. Ethan Chua Yi An 3. Kristen Koh 4. Kayden Lee Jie Hao 5. Lim Xiao Hui
				Supervising Lecturer: Saiful Anuar Mohd Said
				Another Encore ‘Another Encore’ is inspired by Vectordelia, a retro niche graphic design style from the 2000s known for its abstract flourishes, striped circles, stars, solid silhouettes, and music inspired visuals set against bold and vibrant backgrounds. While retro styles are often associated with older eras, this design reimagines Vectordelia to evoke nostalgia in a younger generation by transforming 2D digital graphics into a 3D physical display. In our landscape interpretation, vibrant multi-coloured softscape represents the bold backgrounds, while black wire hardscape reflects Vectordelia’s striking shapes and lines. Star-shaped flowers and butterfly-attracting plants further reference its motifs and aesthetics while enhancing biodiversity within the garden. Through this translation of digital aesthetics into spatial form, ‘Another Encore’ becomes a living expression of Vectordelia in the physical

				environment. The name 'Another encore', links both Vectordelia's musical motifs and the reimagination of this nostalgic graphic style.
LDC05	Gold	Institute of Technical Education (College East)	Team Name: Retro Reel Collective	Echoes Reimagined – A Retroactive Reimagination of the Past with Modern-Day Themes We inherit more than memory; we inherit feeling. Our landscape is a living reverie, woven from whispered tales. A flickering window becomes a portal where retro ideals are reimagined through modern values and sustainable living. Circular economy principles breathe new life into discarded materials. Reclaimed PET bottle caps restore forgotten colour to the earth, repurposed wires twist into sculptural forms celebrating biodiversity, and mushroom waste is transformed into communal tables where people gather once more. Biophilic design reconnects us instinctively with nature, echoing how communities once gathered around warmth and wonder. Landscapes form a quiet chorus, while suspended air plants create a living bridge between past and present. Sustainability becomes our homage. As our grandparents once honoured the earth naturally, we now honour it intentionally through every reclaimed material and conscious choice, carrying their legacy gently forward through time.
			Students: 1. Ayu Wandira Binte Abdul Karim (Leader) 2. Koh Ya Xin Chelsea 3. Muhammad Irfan Bin Dzomir 4. Muhammad Rezky Haziq Putra Atan 5. Phelia Tan Loke Yen (Chen Lexin) 6. Tasha Yue Jing En	
			Supervising Lecturers Chow Wei Jun Kevin Chua Bee Ling Jenny	

LDC06	Special Mention (Hardscape)	Singapore Polytechnic	Team Name: Reminisce	Reminisce Festivals and carnivals have long been occasions that bring people together through joy, celebration, and shared experiences. Beyond the vibrant colours and lively atmosphere, they create lasting memories that connect generations and strengthen our sense of belonging. Through moments of play, laughter, and social interaction, these experiences become part of our collective identity and the stories we carry forward. This plot reimagines the festive spirit of Singapore through a nostalgic lens, celebrating treasured memories of the past while embracing the energy of the present. At the heart of the exhibition stands the iconic Dragon Playground, a beloved symbol of childhood and community. Surrounding it, dynamic circular forms evoke the movement of a carnival, representing unity, continuity, and the shared journey of our nation. Vibrant colours and playful elements capture the excitement of festive celebrations, while familiar landmarks and memories remind us of our roots. Together, they create a space where visitors can reconnect with the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to the future.
			Students: 1. Ler Guan Xi (Leader) 2. Chua Wei Ann 3. Euvin Lai Wei Dar 4. Muhammad Sufi Bin Emmy Effandy 5. Su Myat Yati 6. Theodore Sim Hong Yi	
			Supervising Lecturer Idris Bin Bidin	
LDC07	Silver	Institute of Technical Education (College East)	Team Name: Urban Canopy Lab	Synthwave Merlion Synthwave Merlion reimagines Singapore's iconic Merlion through a bold retro-futuristic lens. The concept combines tropical planting, reflective
			Students: 1. Nur Izzati	

			Sofiya Binte Mohamad Riduan (Leader) 2. Aliff Ashraf Bin Hasrin 3. Cheng Pei Ying 4. Chloe Ann Wong 5. Muhammad Adib Putra Bin Muhammad Hanis 6. Seth Koh Jia Le	materials, water movement and neon-inspired design to create an immersive landscape experience that feels both nostalgic and futuristic. At the centre is a futuristic Merlion, finished with mirror tiles and recycled mirror pieces to create a shimmering synthwave landmark. Water flows from the Merlion into a pond, symbolising renewal, movement and Singapore's close connection to water as an island city.
			Supervising Lecturer: Muhammad Fahmi Bin Mohd Zakaria	Layered tropical plants create a lush urban canopy, softening the black platforms, neon grid lines and reflective surfaces. Their textures, colours and forms bring warmth and life to the futuristic setting. The contrast between greenery and technology reflects Singapore's identity as a City in Nature. Overall, the concept celebrates heritage, sustainability and imagination, transforming the garden into an experience that connects Singapore's past, present and future.

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Notes to the Editor

About Singapore Garden Festival

The Singapore Garden Festival (SGF) is a biennial event, positioned to be amongst the top flower and garden shows on the international calendar. SGF is the first show to bring together top international award-winning landscape and garden designers, florists and horticulturists from around the world who are invited to the Festival to work alongside Singapore's own talented horticulturists.

Singapore's strategic location makes the Festival an ideal platform to showcase horticultural products and services from various regions.

For more information on SGF, visit sgf.nparks.gov.sg, www.facebook.com/SGGardenFest and <https://www.instagram.com/sggardenfest/>

About National Parks Board (NParks)

The National Parks Board (NParks) is Singapore's lead agency for greenery, biodiversity conservation, and wildlife and animal health, welfare, and management.

NParks manages parks, nature reserves, the Singapore Botanic Gardens, Pulau Ubin and Sisters' Islands Marine Park, as well as the island-wide network of Nature Ways and Park Connectors. We also manage millions of trees across roads, parks and state land.

Our urban biodiversity conservation model guides efforts to protect key ecosystems and strengthen biodiversity in our land-scarce city. The Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS), a cluster within NParks, is the main touchpoint for animal-related issues and works to uphold high standards of animal health and welfare in Singapore.

We work closely with the community and partners across the landscape, horticulture, veterinary and animal sectors to enhance our living environment, build industry capabilities, and achieve Singapore's City in Nature vision.

For more information, visit www.nparks.gov.sg and www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz

About Gardens by the Bay

An integral part of Singapore's "City in Nature" vision, Gardens by the Bay is a national garden and premier horticultural attraction that showcases the best of garden and floral artistry for all to enjoy. Spanning 101 hectares in the heart of Singapore's downtown Marina Bay, it comprises three waterfront gardens – Bay South, Bay East, and Bay Central. Bay South, the largest at 54 hectares, officially opened on 29 June 2012.

Guided by the vision to be a world of gardens for all to own, enjoy and cherish, the Gardens' extensive plant collection, ever-changing floral displays, and myriad of engaging programmes have captured the imagination of many, while its Gift of Gardens community initiative, with Mr



Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore as Patron, reaches out to people from all walks of life.

Since opening, Gardens by the Bay has welcomed more than 115 million visitors and garnered numerous international accolades including the eighth top attraction in the world in Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Awards Best of the Best 2024, Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability at the Singapore Tourism Awards 2024, Best Theme Attraction at TTG Travel Awards 2022 and 2023, and Best Attraction Experience at the Singapore Tourism Awards 2019. The Gardens continues to refresh and refine its offerings, to be a place that everyone can enjoy – a garden where wonder blooms.

For more information, visit www.gardensbythebay.com.sg