ANNEX B

AHA Scheme

THE AWARDS

1. The URA Architectural Heritage Awards (AHA) was launched in 1995 to recognise well-restored gazetted national monuments and conserved buildings in Singapore and has been periodically reviewed to reflect evolving best practice in heritage building projects.

2. The scheme aims to recognise projects that have gone beyond the basic requirements to conserve a building. It serves to encourage conservation best practices, both in technical restoration of the building's physical fabric, and the intangible aspects of creating long-term value for the wider community.

3. Since 2022, the Awards have been presented once every two years.

CATEGORIES OF AWARD

Award for Conservation*

4. This is for a gazetted heritage building which largely retains the original building envelope.

Award for Conservation & Innovation*

5. This is for an integrated "old" and "new" project where a new extension is added to the heritage building and/or site.

Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts*

6. This is for an outstanding independent new building within a national monument site or conservation area and is well integrated with its historic context.

**Exceptional projects that excel in all assessment criteria may be accorded an additional mark of Distinction to the award given.*

Special Mention

7. At the discretion of the Assessment Committee, a project may be conferred 'Special Mention' for commendable efforts in some aspects of the restoration work or for partial conservation.

Legacy Award

8. This is open to past AHA winners with at least 10 years** of post-award exemplary management where the longevity of the heritage building(s), both physically and socially, is sustained for present and future generations. This includes proper

maintenance of the building fabric and creating value for the wider community through continual investment such as educational efforts, programming and engagements.

***If the applicant is not the recipient of the initial Award, the building and site must be under the applicant's management minimally for the past 5 years.*

ELIGIBILITY

9. Applications are open to projects completed in Singapore and must have been occupied or put to a viable use for a minimum of one year after obtaining the Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) or Certificate of Statutory Completion (CSC).

10. Projects that do not constitute full conservation on the entire building may also apply if there are key conserved elements that are done exemplarily (e.g. plaster ornaments, woodwork etc.). These projects do not require TOP/CSC clearance or a minimum occupancy period. Partial conservation projects should also demonstrate technical excellence and social/cultural impact. If assessed to be of merit, projects will be conferred a Special Mention.

11. All applications will be pre-screened and at the discretion of the URA, non-eligible applications will be returned. Conservation projects which are assessed to consist only of largely interior design works will not be eligible for consideration.

12. Projects that have unauthorised use, illegal works, unresolved planning issues will be disqualified.

THE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

13. The Awards are judged by an Assessment Committee appointed by the Authority. The Assessment Committee, chaired by the URA Chairman, comprises senior representatives from government agencies, professional institutions and academia.[1]

14. The members are:

No.	Member	Appointment / Organisation
1	**Mrs Ow Foong Pheng**	Chairman Urban Redevelopment Authority
2	**Ar Ms Chou Mei**	Group Director (Conservation & Urban Design) Urban Redevelopment Authority
3	**Ar Mr Zahidi Abdul Rahman**	Board Member Urban Redevelopment Authority
4	**Mr Yeo Kirk Siang**	Group Director (Policy & Community) National Heritage Board

No.	Member	Appointment / Organisation
5	**Professor Laurence Loh**	Executive Director Arkitek LLA Sdn. Bhd. (Malaysia)
6	**Ms Winnie Yeung**	Senior Project Manager Henderson Land Development (Hong Kong)
7	**Professor Ho Puay Peng**	Adjunct Professor Department of Architecture National University of Singapore
8	**Dr Yeo Kang Shua**	Associate Professor & Associate Head of Pillar (Research/Practice/Industry) Architecture and Sustainable Design Singapore University of Technology and Design
9	**Dr Chang Tou Chuang**	Professor Department of Geography National University of Singapore
10	**Dr Hossein Rezai**	Global Design Director Ramboll Pte Ltd
11	**Mr Adib Jalal**	Deputy Director (Research) Centre for Liveable Cities
12	**Ar Mr Adrian Lai**	Principal Architect META Architecture

[1] Assessment Committee members involved in a project will recuse themselves from assessing that project.

CRITERIA FOR AWARD FOR CONSERVATION, CONSERVATION & INNOVATION, NEW DESIGN IN HERITAGE CONTEXTS, AND SPECIAL MENTION

a. Research

i. Research on the historical background of the site and the original architectural design intent e.g. architectural style, construction methods, choice of materials and finishes etc.

ii. Research on the socio-cultural significance, its relationship with the community and past functions of the site.

b. Conservation and Design Approach

i. Demonstrate an appropriate response in its overall site planning that is sensitive to and respects the heritage building and its context.

ii. Evidence that building has been put to meaningful adaptive reuse that is suitable for the typology of the building and appropriate for the socio-cultural significance of site.

iii. Adopt innovative solutions for new interventions to ensure a coherent and sensitive design that relates and responds to the historic fabric, scale and form of the heritage building and/or its features.

iv. Demonstrate how construction methods and materials of any new extensions draw inspiration from, respect and enhance the inherent qualities of the heritage building.

*(*Not Applicable for Submission for 'Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts')*

c. Conservation Process

i. Application of appropriate conservation principles, methodology and assessment of potential challenges and well-considered solutions.
ii. Adherence to the "3R" principle of maximum Retention, sensitive Restoration and careful Repair. Use of protective measures to ensure structural integrity and application of a "Top-Down" approach.
iii. Involvement of craftsmen/specialists and use of appropriate construction techniques and materials that are compatible with the building's original architectural qualities.
iv. Demonstrate appropriate mitigation measures in response to unforeseen circumstances on site.

d. Social and Cultural Impact

i. Engagement of key stakeholders and partners for the project.
ii. Incorporation of heritage interpretation elements to recall memories and promote the historical significance of site.
iii. Development of a Heritage Management Plan (HMP) to ensure and guide long-term post conservation maintenance.
iv. Evidence of environmental sustainability.
v. Result in a transformative impact on the neighbourhood, community and/or industry.
vi. Serve as an exemplary reference for future projects in terms of its features, ideas and methods used.
vii. Result in a positive impact on the building occupants and/or community members while allowing public access to enjoy and appreciate the site.

15. The Awards Assessment Committee assesses the submitted projects based on all criteria and decides on the appropriate Awards category for the winning project.

CRITERIA FOR THE LEGACY AWARD

16. Projects are expected to demonstrate exemplary maintenance of the building and management of the site as well as how conservation efforts are sustained to contribute in the following aspects:

a. Enhancing Social Outcomes

i. Enhance interaction with users, empower and educate them, and increase overall comfort levels and user experience.

ii. Facilitate public access and achieve significant positive impact on day-to-day living.
iii. Improve well-being (in terms of happiness, connections to family or community, health and play).

b. Advancing Culture

i. Provide opportunities to foster a sense of community, provide a platform for cultural activities.
ii. Promote understanding and engage various community sectors and stakeholders, conduct outreach and volunteer programmes.
iii. Promote co-creation within the community and support new initiatives to propagate heritage significance of the site.
iv. Uses are sensitive to the heritage significance of site.

c. Embracing Economic and Environmental Sustainability

i. Be a catalyst for growth in industry practices, enhance brand reputation, provide new economic opportunities.
ii. Provide training for employees and equip them with unique skillsets specific to heritage sector as well as deep knowledge on the heritage significance of site.
iii. Showcase innovative solutions to reduce operating costs and resources, put in place pre-emptive measures to minimise adverse impact or reduce potential risk to building.
iv. New interventions are sensitive to heritage context.