

ANNEX A: P*DA 2023 RECIPIENTS

Designer of the Year

**In alphabetical order of the recipient's last name*

1. Leonard Ng Keok Poh



Designation: Country Market Director, Henning Larsen, APAC

Design Discipline: Landscape Design

Leonard Ng: “My design approach is very much in line with the government’s idea of a ‘City in Nature’ and I have been practising this for years. We humans tend to think of nature as being here to provide for us. But we need to ask what we can do for nature, because we rely on it to survive. In an increasingly urbanised world, many cities are now realising this. They are seeking ways to include nature in their environments so they can become more liveable.”

Jury Citation: Leonard Ng is a visionary leader in landscape architecture who is a champion for nature, having created large-scale green public spaces that are beautiful, liveable, and thriving.

From Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park (P*DA Design of the Year 2012) to Kampung Admiralty (P*DA Design of the Year 2020) to Jurong Lake Gardens, Ng's body of work has shaped many of Singapore's iconic parks and landscapes, touching the lives of Singaporeans across different ages and socio-economic backgrounds. During the pandemic, these green spaces provided much-valued retreat and respite for citizens, offering ways for people to access nature in order to heal and sustain wellbeing. He has extended the nation's 'Garden City' legacy such that the city is immersed in nature, not just on the ground plane but also vertically with greenery that thrives on buildings.

The Jury recognises the tremendous amount of dedication that sees visions achieve fruition, as well as Ng's ability to influence and inspire stakeholders across multiple agencies and groups toward a shared vision, encompassing those who may not have a voice such as otters and birds.

The Jury commends Ng on his passionate and selfless journey to elevate the status and perception of the discipline, illuminating the way forward for future landscape architects. He continues to push boundaries to further the narrative and vision for Singapore as a 'City in Nature', imagining a city in deep harmony with nature.

2. Ar. Tan Kay Ngee



Designation: Principal Architect, Kay Ngee Tan Architects

Design Discipline: Architecture

Ar. Tan Kay Ngee: “The more I got into the subject, the more I realised the range of possibilities and dimensions for interpretation in architecture. When it is built, architecture also represents a moment in time and continues influencing its surroundings and people who engage with it.”

Jury Citation: A scholar, educator, and architect, Tan Kay Ngee is a passionate and sensitive designer who has sustained a body of work in Singapore and globally over nearly four decades. From a villa at the Commune by the Great Wall in China, to the Kinokuniya bookstore in Japan and the Old Bukit Timah Railway Station, Kay Ngee’s works are grounded in his understanding and sensibilities in architectural history and typologies. His eclectic range of works are informed by extensive research that influences his designs, which are responsive to local history, culture, and contexts.

Tan is also a prolific writer on the arts, architecture, and cities, with the belief that design involves all aspects of arts in life. The Jury recognises Tan’s rich and varied contributions in making architecture more meaningful and accessible to all.

Design of the Year

**In alphabetical order of project name*

1. CapitaSpring



Lead Designer & Company/Organisation: Brian Yang, Partner and Architect, Bjarke Ingels Group, in collaboration with Ar. Nina Loo, Director from RSP Architects Planners & Engineers (Pte) Ltd and Carlo Ratti Associati

Design Discipline: Architecture

Impact Area: Enabling Economic Transformation, Raising Quality of Life, Advancing Singapore Brand, Culture and Community, Making Ground-Breaking Design Achievements

Brian Yang: “It has redefined the ambition for what a sky terrace can be and how to effectively integrate it into a skyscraper. The Green Oasis and the rooftop farm are more than just greenery on the facade and the sky, but a meaningful extension of social and communal spaces.”

Ar. Nina Loo: “I think the opening of the green spaces for the public to enjoy is a generous gesture. It increases the green spaces in the densely built-up CBD. You normally need to pay to go up tall buildings to enjoy the views. But what you have at CapitaSpring is a free observatory to see the CBD and the surrounding cityscape.”

Jury Citation: CapitaSpring stands out for its vertical urbanism, filled with lush greenery and a range of publicly accessible spaces. Its design masterfully creates a diverse layering of office spaces, serviced apartments, food and beverage establishments, and a hawker centre, interspersed with different public spaces.

At the core of the 51-storey building are four connected levels of sky terraces known as the “Green Oasis”, a 35-metre-high open-air garden and a sky garden at its rooftop which are publicly accessible. The innovative spiral walkways offer 360-degree views of the city.

From the exterior, the building’s aluminium facade is an interplay of fluid lines that unifies and reveals the pockets of communal green spaces throughout. The result is a tower that feels as one cohesive space, where diverse programming and communal exterior spaces are successfully integrated to read as a seamless whole. The design of the ground plane is also handled successfully to encourage street life by pedestrianizing a part of a road and creating an expanded landscaped area.

The Jury applauds the designer and architect for juggling a diverse programme of uses while contributing to the vibrancy of city living through inclusive public spaces and lush greenery.

2. Hack Care: Tips and Tricks for a Dementia-Friendly Home



Lead Designer & Company/Organisation: Ar. Ong Ker-Shing and Dr Joshua Comaroff, Co-founders of Lekker Architects, in collaboration with Lanzavecchia + Wai

Design Discipline: Social Design Research

Impact Area: Raising Quality of Life, Advancing Singapore Brand, Culture and Community, Making Ground-Breaking Design Achievements

Ar. Ong Ker-Shing: “From the initial discussions, we wanted to look at how to democratise design so people feel they can do it too. Our experience caring for my father taught us that dementia is unfortunately a one-way street at the moment. It is decline. It is inevitable. It is constantly changing. There are no design solutions that are generalised enough to help with all the changes to a person with dementia. Although there is equipment such as mattress protectors or spoons for making eating easier, you cannot afford to buy specialised equipment for every stage of the disease. It is more about supporting the person and their unique journey through it.”

Dr Joshua Comaroff: “On the one hand, we don’t believe that everybody is a designer. Design is really hard. The more you engage with design as research, the more you understand the complexity you are designing for. But we also want to acknowledge the adjacency of design intelligence to a natural human ingenuity. There are certain things that people who have not gone to design school do that are very, very close to how designers solve problems. With this guide, we acknowledge that there are these forms of design and creativity happening organically. As designers, we can draw them out, talk about why they work, and situate them. It is really design at its best: mediating spheres that don’t normally talk to each other.”

Jury Citation: *Hack Care* is a timely, important, and highly accessible piece of work that raises public awareness around providing a life of dignity and grace for persons with dementia. Put together with sensitivity and beautifully designed, the book and toolkit offer creative, affordable, and practical ideas for improving the home environment with simple design hacks and innovations. It encourages and empowers caregivers, as well as seeds advocates for inclusive design with every hack.

The Jury commends the project for its powerful message of normalising dementia – positioning it not as a strictly defeating problem but as a prompt to act, adapt, and create a better experience of daily life through ‘hacking’. The Jury also recognises the designers’ attitude of facilitation, rather than prescription, through design – they refer to family caregivers as designers in the project, along with their intention to open a much-needed deeper debate as to how a complex societal issue such as dementia may be tackled.

Hack Care provides a valuable reminder that now more than ever, it is critical to challenge our preconceptions and shape behaviour and thought around dementia, with one in 10 people above the age of 60 years living with the condition in Singapore.

3. R for Repair



Lead Designer & Company/Organisation: Hans Tan, Founder, Hans Tan Studio

Design Discipline: Design Curation

Impact Area: Advancing Singapore Brand, Culture and Community

Hans Tan: “The emotional connection between a person and an object is one of the biggest sustainable gestures one can think of. Sustainable design is not just about using less material and being responsible with how you make an object; it’s also about establishing an emotional connection between objects and people. If an object becomes part of someone, then there is very little room for them to think of it as waste – as something to throw away. *R for Repair* builds on this idea and I hope that the visitors to the exhibition thought about the meaning of the objects they own and buy.”

Jury Citation: *R for Repair* celebrates the idea of repairing in a transformative way. Repair is usually seen as the forgotten sibling of sustainable consumption (alongside reduce, reuse, and recycle), with broken objects judged as having lost their value in consumer culture. The project is a delightful reinterpretation of objects and memories that would have been discarded, but for the significance and meaning they hold for their owners.

The Jury recognises the educative and innovative effect of the project, galvanising the design spirit for repair to inspire a new attitude of care toward our possessions. The project highlights the impact of repair in physical, mental, and emotional terms, as it re-tells the stories of the repaired objects and the renewed connections to their owners. The project also developed repair kits, empowering individuals to extend the narratives behind damaged objects and memories themselves.

Beautifully executed with agility from concept to exhibition during the pandemic, *R for Repair* was reprised in a collaborative overseas presentation at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. *R for Repair* uses design to empower people to extend and enhance the life of 'broken' objects and memories, and has the potential to power a movement toward care and repair.

4. Singapore Pavilion, Expo 2020 Dubai



Lead Designer & Company/Organisation: Ar. Wong Mun Summ, Co-Founding Director, and Ar. Phua Hong Wei, Director from WOHA Architects Pte Ltd

Design Discipline: Architecture

Impact Area: Enabling Economic Transformation, Raising Quality of Life, Advancing Singapore Brand, Culture and Community, Making Ground-Breaking Design Achievements

Ar. Wong Mun Summ: “If every building and city can be designed as responsibly as the pavilion, we can reach all our targets: net-zero energy, zero-waste, etc. The pavilion shows design strategies that can be scalable and duplicated in neighbourhoods and districts, and in doing so, we will make a meaningful impact towards tackling the climatic and ecological crisis we face as a global society.”

Ar. Phua Hong Wei: “Rather than simply occupying space and taking up resources, buildings and cities can give back and contribute to where they are. The pavilion did that by providing greenery and “ecosystem services”. These are direct and indirect benefits that nature contributes to the quality of life. For instance, nature regulates temperature, filters pollution, and

sequesters carbon. When nature is integrated into our buildings, it can perform ecosystem services that are good for us.”

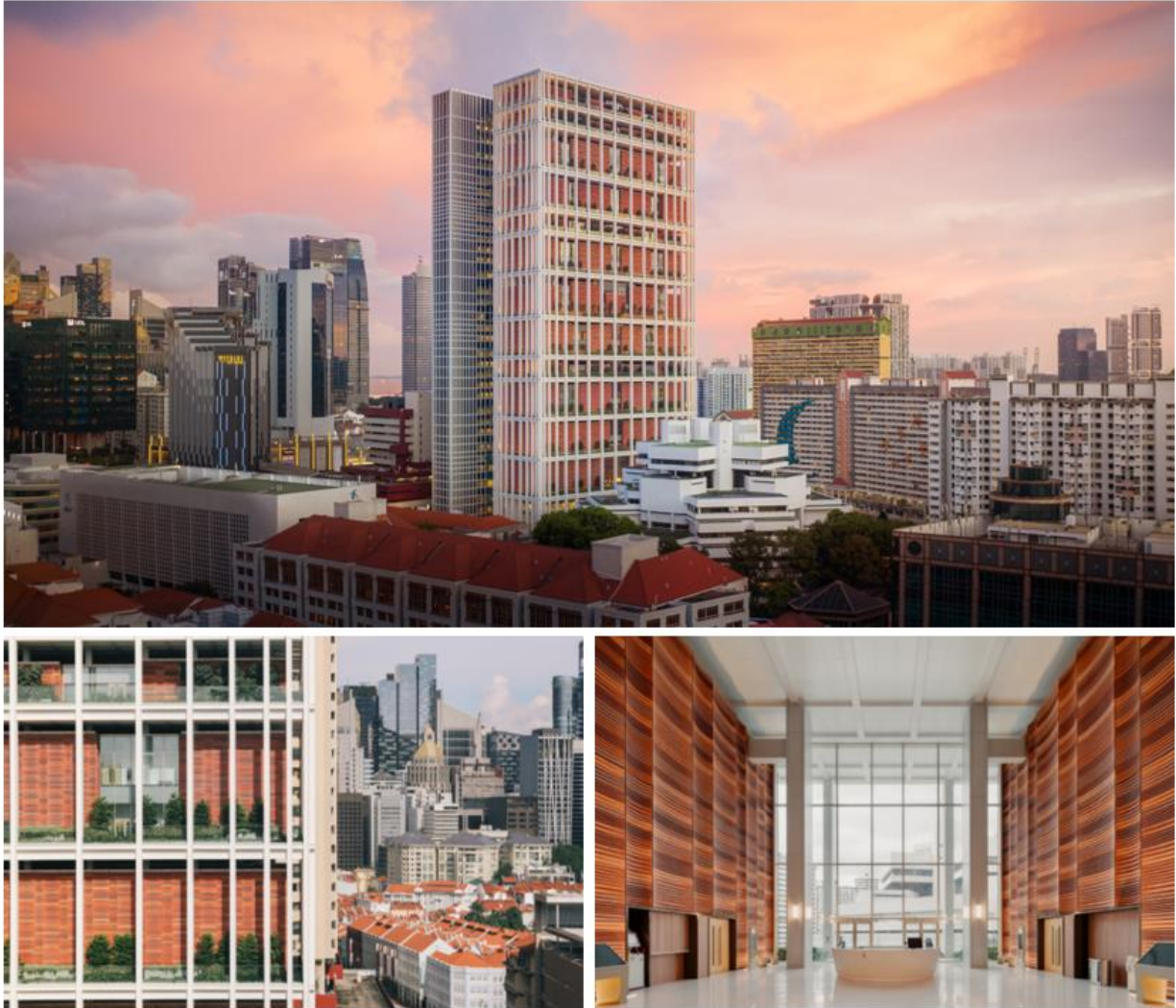
Jury Citation: With its seamless integration of nature, technology, and the built environment, the Singapore Pavilion, Expo 2020 Dubai not only amplifies Singapore’s position as a sustainable and green city, but it also serves as a prototype for how sustainable built environments could be designed for future cities.

Titled *Nature. Nurture. Future.*, the pavilion was designed as a self-contained and self-sufficient system with a net-zero energy target, where architecture, structure, and landscape are integrated to work together as a green, living ecosystem. These elements reflect Singapore’s vision of becoming a City in Nature and its journey towards growth, sustainability, and resilience.

Moving through the pavilion, visitors could immerse themselves in a microcosm of Singapore’s lush and tropical landscape. Its multi-layered greenery and use of technology supported a conducive environment for biodiversity and a memorable experience for visitors.

The Jury recognises the significance of the pavilion as a testbed and prototype in inspiring future innovative solutions to create more responsible and regenerative built environments.

5. State Courts Towers



Lead Designer & Company/Organisation: Christopher Lee, Director, Serie + Multiply Consultants Pte Ltd in collaboration with Ar. Colin Wu, Senior Vice President (Architecture) from CPG Consultants Pte Ltd

Design Discipline: Architecture

Impact Area: Enabling Economic Transformation, Raising Quality of Life, Advancing Singapore Brand, Culture and Community, Making Ground-Breaking Design Achievements

Christopher Lee: “It is precisely because of the constraints and the functional requirements of the courthouse that we were really pushed to innovate... Our response was to rethink the traditional courthouse typology in a high-rise building. We conceived it not as a singular building, but as two towers that each has a very clear function. An office tower is given to the judicial officers, while the courthouses sit on a separate building that is the public interface.”

Ar. Colin Wu: “Any public or civic building should serve the community. As architects specialising in institutional and civic building typology, we design and plan with people at heart. The approach should be true to its function, while also responding sensitively to the context and site. As a public space, the design outcome should integrate well into its surroundings and enhance the urban environment of the community, such that people can freely visit, respond to, and identify with it.”

Jury Citation: Demonstrating a thorough understanding of the complexities of the programming and circulation requirements of a court complex, the design of the State Courts Towers not only achieved a clear segregation in the programming of its user groups, its design also maintained an open and easy circulation throughout. The design strategy to separate the courtrooms and offices into two slender towers in response to the tight urban site is commendable, as it allows the nature of the different functions to be expressed, while bringing abundant daylight and greenery into the interiors and on the facades. The open facade also allows for a series of lushly planted sky terraces to surround the various courtrooms, offering places of respite.

To create a design that would resonate with the public, the State Courts Towers referenced the ‘typical architectures’ of the site, bringing together the design language of shophouses and high-rises into a single gesture. Its materiality was also inspired by the colours and textures of the terracotta roofs of surrounding shophouses.

The Jury commends the designer and architect for the effective design that embraces its space complexities to create a new kind of court complex.

6. Tebet Eco Park



Lead Designer & Company/Organisation: Anton Siura, Director, SIURA Studio Pte Ltd

Design Discipline: Landscape Design

Impact Area: Raising Quality of Life, Making Ground-Breaking Design Achievements

Anton Siura: “When your design can be enjoyed by thousands of people and bring happiness to them, it feels like your hard work has paid off. The bonus is we were also able to showcase to Jakarta the impact of adopting an ecological approach to designing parks. Since the project’s completion, government officials from other cities in Indonesia have expressed an interest in adopting a similar approach for their parks. This will hopefully create more opportunities for designers.”

Jury Citation: In just 15 months, a once neglected and degraded public park in South Jakarta beset with a host of environmental and social problems was transformed into a large and vibrant park embraced by the local community.

The intensity and process of the revitalisation and regeneration of Tebet Eco Park was astounding given its seemingly insurmountable challenges – the degraded condition of the site, tight time constraints, and a lack of local precedents for such restorative solutions. Tebet Eco Park is a successful prototype for a more nature-based, sustainable, and regenerative approach to public parks in Jakarta, minimising the impact of flooding with good design.

The park revitalisation has had a strong impact on the community, with greater visitor comfort, higher programme engagement, and the provision of a safe and inclusive space for everyone.

The Jury commends the project for its reflection of resourcefulness, the return of natural resources to the city and its people, and its reinvention of a park now beloved and well-used by the community.