

ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ARCHITECTURE COLLECTION

Building upon the rich architectural materials in the National Library and National Archives of Singapore, the Singapore Architecture Collection seeks to document, preserve and make available a wider repository of significant archival materials on Singapore's modern and contemporary architecture that symbolise our growth as a city as well as strengthen our national heritage and identity.

The collection comprises architectural models, photographs, drawings, artefacts, oral history recordings and more, contributed by architects, planners, urban designers and other professionals from the built environment industry. These materials not only capture Singapore's architectural and urban design journey through the innovative works of pioneer and current practitioners, but also provide a rich resource for research, education and design inspiration in shaping Singapore's built environment for present and future generations.

The collection is managed by the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the National Library Board and the National Heritage Board, in close partnership with the Singapore Institute of Architects, the National University of Singapore and the Singapore University of Technology and Design. It forms part of a larger collaborative effort to build up a design collection for the nation, which covers a range of disciplines, from fashion to graphic design and architecture.

Contributions to the collection to date

In addition to William Lim Associates – W Architects, other architects and firms have also contributed to the collection. They include architects Chan Sau Yan Sonny, Tay Kheng Soon and Dr Goh Chong Chia, and architectural firm, RSP Architects Planners & Engineers.

The collection is still growing and welcomes contributions from others.

Architects, planners, urban designers and others in the built environment industry interested in contributing to the collection can write to enquiry@nlb.gov.sg.

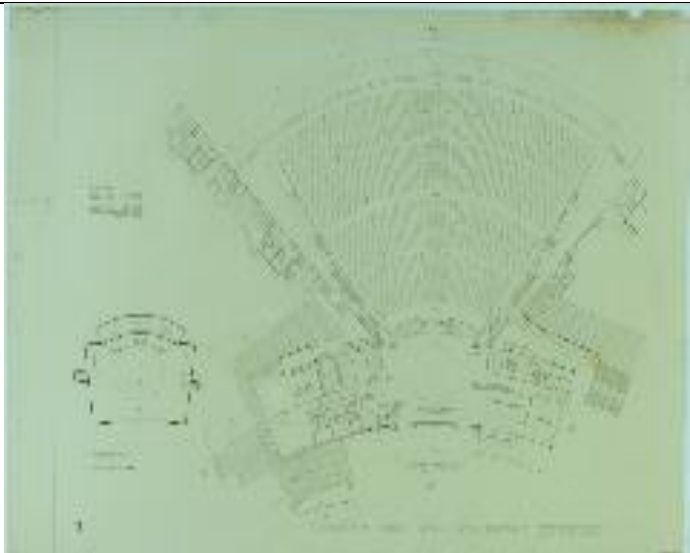
Public programmes and access


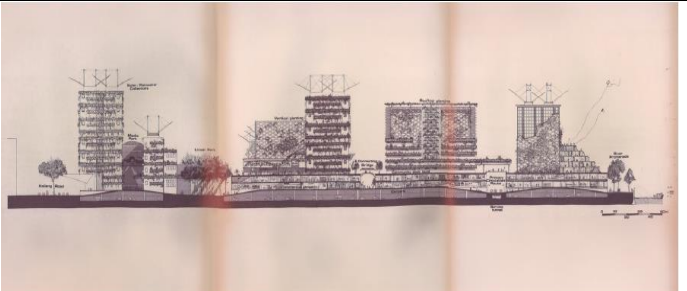
The public and industry can learn and discover more about the Singapore Architecture Collection by participating in a series of initiatives, starting from the "To Draw an Idea" exhibition and public

programmes. The full collection can be accessed on the National Library Board's OneSearch, at www.search.nlb.gov.sg/onesearch, while writeups on key materials can be found in the Singapore Architecture Collection booklet at www.go.gov.sg/sqarchitecturecollection.

Highlights from the collection

Below are notable materials currently in the Singapore Architecture Collection.

Items	Details
Architectural drawings and plans	
	<p>National Theatre drawing, 1960</p> <p><i>Ground floor plan of the National Theatre, 1960. Donated by Alfred Wong Partnership, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.</i></p> <p>Designed by architect Alfred Wong and opened in 1963, it was Singapore's first National Theatre. Some of its key features include its five-point façade that represented the five stars of the Singapore flag and its large, cantilevered steel roof over the open-air auditorium. It had a stage with a revolving platform and ample spaces for dressing rooms and storage space. While it was demolished in 1986, the building's history and stories can still be told through drawings, photographs, oral history recordings and other materials.</p>

Items	Details
Architectural drawings and plans	
	<p>Jurong Town Hall drawing, 1970</p> <p><i>South-west elevation of Jurong Town Hall, circa 1970. Designed and donated by Datuk Seri Lim Chong Keat, courtesy of National Library, Singapore.</i></p> <p>Completed in 1974, Jurong Town Hall served as the headquarters of the Jurong Town Corporation (currently known as JTC Corporation) formed in 1968 to spearhead industrial growth. Over the years, it has become a symbol reflecting the bold imagination, inventiveness and the resilient spirit of our early nation building efforts. The cantilevered upper storeys give the building the appearance of a ship's hull with its tall clock tower serving as the 'mast'. It was designated as a national monument in 2015 as a significant symbol of Singapore's national identity and heritage.</p>
	<p>Kampong Bugis Guide Plan, 1989</p> <p><i>Section of the proposal for Kampong Bugis, developed by architect Tay Kheng Soon and the Singapore Institute of Architects team, 1989. Donated by Tay Kheng Soon, courtesy of National Library, Singapore.</i></p> <p>Tay Kheng Soon's 1989 Kampong Bugis Guide Plan was ground-breaking for many due to its environmentally conscious tropical architecture features that were novel then but have been well-adopted today. For example, extensive vegetation was proposed on the vertical surfaces of buildings, with vertical shading and naturally ventilated breezeways to reduce the use of air-conditioning. Vertical green buildings became more prevalent from the 1990s.</p> <p>The guide plan was developed as part of URA's Master Plan Review in 1990. The Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) was commissioned to develop master plans for selected areas around Singapore. Led by Tay, the SIA team included Lai Chee Kien, Rob Hearne,</p>

	Chua Beng Huat, Bob Powell, Patrick Chia, Winston Yeh and Chung Meng Ker.
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Items	Details
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Physical model



Model of of Assyafaah Mosque, 2004

Designed and donated by architect Tan Kok Hiang, courtesy of Urban Redevelopment Authority.

The design of the mosque adapted traditional elements to create a contemporary version of the arch, minaret and the arabesque.


Photograph



Beverly Mai photograph, 1974

Photograph of Beverly Mai. Donated by architect Dr Goh Chong Chia, courtesy of National Library, Singapore.

Singapore's first condominium built in 1974 was designed by architect Timothy Seow (1938-2019), who designed some of the earliest high-rise condominiums in the 1970s.

	Details
 <p>The image shows a historical document titled 'BOARD OF ARCHITECTS' with the subtitle 'Constituted under the Architects Ordinance (Cap. 64)'. Below this is 'ANNUAL RENEWAL CERTIFICATE'. The main text certifies that Ho Kwong Yew, of Singapore, is authorized to practice as an architect in the colony for a further period of twelve months from the 1st day of January 1939. The certificate is dated 7th December 1938 and includes a circular seal of the Board of Architects and the signature of the Registrar.</p>	<p>Annual renewal certificate, Ho Kwong Yew, 1938</p> <p><i>Board of Architects annual renewal certificate of the first local-born registered architect in Singapore, Ho Kwong Yew, 1938. Donated by Kelvin Ang Kah Eng, courtesy of National Library, Singapore.</i></p> <p>Ho Kwong Yew (1903-1942) was one of the leading Asian architects in 1930s who designed numerous modernist buildings. One of his more well-known works was a luxury mansion that used to be located where the current Haw Par Villa is today. It was built in 1937 for a Chinese businessman, Aw Boon Haw (founder of the Tiger Balm brand), but was demolished after the Japanese Occupation. Some of the buildings Ho designed have been conserved, such as the main house of the modern bungalow at 25 Grange Road, known as the 'Wellington House', and an iconic corner shophouse at 79 Circular Road.</p>