

# FACTSHEET

## ARCHITOURS



### ARCHITOURS / 30 Nov to 9 Dec 07

In the world of ever-changing fashions, the central purpose of architecture as an answer to the needs and issues of the human habitat has been displaced by hype and capitalism. This is especially true in developing and developed nations in Asia, seeking recognition as a "global city" in the modern (and predominantly western-oriented) world.

The socio-cultural significance and representations of architecture is often overlooked by citizens of the "global city" who are seduced by visually stimulating facades and stylistic imagery within the mass media.

This tour aims to educate address the issues of architecture as a façade and this façade as a social-cultural and historical imprint on the urban fabric of Singapore. We hope to offer the participants a chance to "read" instead of merely looking at local architecture from the past and present. Through which, we would also like to engage the public in questioning the relevance and suitability of architectural typologies applied to Singapore, as well as assess if they have been successfully grafted onto our city's landscape.

The buildings selected for the 2 day-tours have been categorized to allow participants to compare the differences in issues that architects in the earlier years of Singapore's history, attempted to address – and those of today. The night tour serves as a showcase of architectural conservation carried out through a predominantly capitalistic approach. Is this answer to consumerism and lifestyle trends a masquerade or is it a true reflection of the society?

## TOUR ITINERARY

### DAY TOUR A / DAY REELING / 0900hrs to 1300hrs / 4 hours

#### Themes

- Nationalism
- Petri-dish for Urban Architecture
- Urban Housing
- Manhattan-ities

**START** Urban Redevelopment Authority → Singapore Conference Hall → Tiong Bahru SIT Flats → Pearlbank Apartments → People's Park Shopping Complex → Golden Mile Shopping Complex → Old Supreme Court & City Hall **END**

### DAY TOUR B / DAY TRIPPING / 1200hrs to 1630hrs / 4.5 hours

#### Themes

- Conservation: Contextualizing Global Trends
- Contemporary Vernacular
- Global City & Arts
- Tropical Urbanism

**START** Urban Redevelopment Authority → National Museum → Singapore Management University → Singapore Art Museum → Gallery Hotel → Hwa Chong Institution (Old Chinese High School Extension) → New National Library → Old Supreme Court & City Hall **END**

### NIGHT TOUR / NIGHT SWIMMING / 1830hrs to 0130hrs / 7 hours

#### Themes

- Capitalism versus Conservation/History
- Tourism versus Consumerism
- Conservation versus Preservation

**START** CHIJMES → Loof → Muse @ National Museum → Dempsey Road → Holland Village → Clarke Quay → Zouk → St James Powerhouse → CHIJMES **END**



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## Tiong Bahru SIT Flats



The first large-scale public housing project in the modernizing process of Singapore's urban landscape, these 2000 units of 3-5 storey apartments in Tiong Bahru are designed by S.I.T (Singapore Improvement Trust) within the timeframe of 1936-1954. The design is an adaptation of the shophouse typology through the planning of courtyards and backlanes between adjacent housing blocks. The cylindrical stairwell can be read as an analogy for the spiral staircases in the traditional shophouse typology.

## Pearlbank Apartments



The first all-housing project to be undertaken by the Urban Renewal Department in HDB's Sale of Sites programme, this is the oldest condominium and was the tallest housing project in Singapore at the time of its construction. Designed by Archurban Architects & Planners in 1976, the 37-storey hollow, cylindrical tower composed of split-level, interlocking apartments. The hollow core facilitates natural ventilation and provides a private enclave for the users from the urban surrounding.

## People's Park Shopping Centre



A revolutionary typology as a multi-use complex which comprises of a high-rise residential slab above a multi-functional podium, this is Singapore's first shopping centre. Designed by Design partnership in 1973, it is an urban solution to bringing shopping streets indoors within a building; "City within the City", and a physical manifestation of and inspired by the Metabolist theories from Japan.

## The Gallery Hotel



Designed by Tanguanbee Architects & William Lim Associates, the Gallery Hotel is a "hybrid project" which aimed to blur the boundaries of different programmatic requirements, by housing an art gallery within a hotel. Architecture is used in this example to create an "in-between", pluralistic framework in an era of globalization.

## Singapore Management University



The site of this campus was formerly Bras Basah Park, an open green space within an urban setting. The design scheme focuses on "returning the green space to the public" by perforating the city campus with open-to-public courtyard spaces and open ground floor plans formed by raising the structures on columns. The use of green planter walls along and around the edges of the buildings help to soften the outline of the structures and serves as an attempt to contextualize the campus design.

## Golden Mile Shopping Complex



Designed by Design Partnership in 1974, this multi-use building was intended to set the urban pattern for the Golden Mile of Beach Road with all buildings linked by a continuous pedestrian spine, not unlike the 5-foot way found in the shophouse typology. It is the first building to adopt the stepped terrace morphology in Singapore. The resultant form responds to the tropical climate through the provision of sun-shading by the over-hang of each floor level as well as a sheltered walkway.

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