

FACT SHEET

October 2014

THE URA ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE AWARDS SCHEME

THE AWARDS

The URA Architectural Heritage Awards were introduced in 1995 to accord recognition to monuments and buildings with preservation and conservation status in Singapore which are judged to have been well-restored. In so doing, it is intended that the awards, which are given out annually, will:

- 1 Serve as an incentive to owners, professionals and contractors to pay particular attention to quality restoration.
- 2 Provide a way through which competition for quality restoration may be enhanced.

In 2003, two Award categories were created under the Awards Scheme:

Category A

This is for National Monuments and fully conserved buildings which are assessed on how far they adhere to quality restoration principles such as the “3R” principles and the “top-down” approach.

Category B

This is for “old” and “new” developments which are assessed on both the quality restoration of the “old” elements, as well as the innovation and architectural excellence of the “new” elements. Also, how well the “old” and “new” elements are integrated to enhance each other's character to form a quality development.

The three winners in 2014 bring to 120 the total number of projects that have received the annual Awards since it was launched in 1995.

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WHO QUALIFIES

The 2014 URA Architectural Heritage Awards were opened to owners of national monuments and conservation buildings completed and/or scheduled to be completed with Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) obtained by 31 March 2014. Applications were received from government departments, statutory bodies and developers which carry out restoration works.

The Awards are conferred on the building owner, architect, engineer and principal contractor for the project.

THE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Awards are judged by an Assessment Committee appointed by the Authority. The Chairman and members of the Assessment Committee comprise Authority members, senior Authority officials and senior representatives from government departments, professional institutions, National University of Singapore and the Singapore Heritage Society.

The members are:

1. Mr Peter Ho, URA Board Chairman (Assessment Committee Chairman)
2. Mr Anthony Kang, URA Board Member, Tenasia Group Pte Ltd
3. Prof Heng Chye Kiang, Dean, School of Design and Environment, NUS
4. Mr Cheang Kok Kheong, Alternate to 1st Vice-President, REDAS
5. Mr Theodore Chan, President, SIA
6. Assoc Prof Wong Yunn Chii, Head, Department of Architecture, School of Design and Environment, NUS
7. Ms Goh Siam Imm, Director, Universal Design Department, BCA
8. Mr Ignatius Low, News Editor & Supervising Editor (Money), The Straits Times
9. Er Emily Tan Shu Min, Chairman, Technopreneurship & Professional Development Committee, IES
10. Dr Yeo Kang Shua, Honorary Secretary, Singapore Heritage Society
11. Ms Jean Wee Mei-Yin, Director (Preservation of Monuments Board), NHB
12. Mr Lim Eng Hwee, Chief Planner & DCEO (Planning), URA
13. Mr Ler Seng Ann, Group Director (Conservation & Development Services), URA

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ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

For both Categories A & B

1 Design Approach

- 1.1 Thorough research and documentation on history, building typology, architecture, structure, building techniques, materials and existing condition of the buildings.
- 1.2 Design approach respects and enhances the inherent qualities of the buildings.

2 Restoration Process

- 2.1 Quality restoration that adheres to the "3R" principle of maximum Retention, sensitive Restoration and careful Repair.
- 2.2 Use of protective measures to ensure structural integrity and maintenance of important elements of the buildings and application of "Top-Down" approach, i.e. to start from the roof downwards with the floors and roof retained.
- 2.3 Authentic and accurate construction techniques and detailing.

3 Finished Product

- 3.1 Retains the inherent and essential qualities of the buildings.
- 3.2 Serves as a good precedent for future projects in terms of its features, ideas and methods used.
- 3.3 Sensitively and innovatively adapted to current use
- 3.4 Contributes to the surrounding environment.

Additional criteria for Category B

- a Design intention that clearly defines the relationship between the "old" and the "new".
- b Material, construction detailing and ambience that draw inspiration from the "old" buildings.
- c "Old" and "new" elements that enhance each others' character and qualities.

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- d Finished product serves as a good precedent in terms of innovation and architectural excellence.

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