

# FACT SHEET

October 2016

## 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.

From 2016, the Awards are differentiated into two categories:

#### Award for Restoration (formerly Category A)

This is for projects which demonstrate exemplary restoration of gazetted heritage buildings and they stand out for adherence to the three 'R' principles of maximum retention, sensitive restoration and careful repair, as well as the "top-down" approach.

#### Award for Restoration and Innovation (formerly Category B)

This is for integrated "old" and "new" developments which demonstrate exemplary restoration of gazetted heritage buildings, innovation and architectural excellence of the new developments and how the "new" draw inspiration from and enhance the "old".

#### Special Mention

From this year, the 'Special Mention' has been formalised. At the discretion of the Assessment Committee, a project may be given 'Special Mention' for commendable efforts in some aspects of the restoration work. A certificate would also be given in recognition of this effort.

The four winners in 2016 bring the total number of projects that have received the annual Awards to 128, since it was launched in 1995.

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## WHO QUALIFIES

The 2016 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 the date of submission.

The Awards are conferred on the building owner, architect, engineer, principal contractor and conservation specialist (if applicable) 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  | Prof Heng Chye Kiang      | Dean, School of Design and Environment, NUS   |
| 3  | Mr Cheang Kok Kheong      | Alternate 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, REDAS   |
| 4  | Mr Theodore Chan          | Immediate Past President, SIA   |
| 5  | Assoc Prof Wong Yunn Chii | Head, Department of Architecture, School of Design and Environment, NUS                           |
| 6  | Mr Ignatius Low           | Managing Editor, English/Malay/Tamil Media Group, SPH   |
| 7  | Er Emily Tan Shu Min      | Chairman, Technopreneurship Development Committee & Women in Science, Engineering & Research, IES |
| 8  | Dr Yeo Kang Shua          | Honorary Secretary, Singapore Heritage Society  |
| 9  | Ms Jean Wee Mei-Yin       | Director, Preservation of Sites and Monuments, NHB  |
| 10 | Prof Brenda Yeoh          | Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS  |

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| 11 | Ms Leong-Kok Su Ming | Director, Green Mark Department (New Development), BCA   |
| 12 | Mr Lim Eng Hwee      | Chief Planner & DCEO, URA                                |
| 13 | Ms Chou Mei          | Acting Group Director (Conservation & Urban Design), URA |

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

### For both Categories

#### **1 Research & Design Approach**

- 1.1 Evidence documented to show research carried out on the social history, building typology, architecture, structure, building techniques, materials and existing condition of the building.
- 1.2 Design approach respects and enhances the inherent historic, physical, spatial and environmental qualities such as natural lighting and ventilation, open-to-sky courtyard etc.

#### **2 Restoration Process**

- 2.1 Quality restoration that adheres to the "3R" principle of maximum Retention, sensitive Restoration and careful Repair.
- 2.2 Application of "Top-Down" approach, i.e. to start from the roof downwards with the floors and roof retained.
- 2.3 Use of protective measures to ensure structural integrity and maintenance of important elements of the buildings and
- 2.4 Keeping to original materials, appropriate paints, historic colour schemes and finishes.

#### **3 Finished Product**

- 3.1 Retains the inherent and essential qualities of the buildings.
- 3.2 Sensitively and innovatively adapted to current use, including barrier-free accessibility provisions.
- 3.3 Incorporates interpretive elements to present the history of the site and tell the story of the building.

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3.3 Contributes to the surrounding environment.

3.4 Has a transformative effect on the neighbourhood.

## **Additional criteria for Restoration and Innovation Awards**

- a. Design intention that clearly defines and demonstrates the integration of the “new” with the “old” and how they enhance each other’s character and qualities; and
- b. Design, material, construction detailing and ambience of the “new” which draw inspiration from the "old";
- c. Finished product as an outstanding example in terms of conservation, 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.