

## CONTENTS

- 2 Taking A Walk Through The Central Area
- 4 Exploring Chinatown On Foot
- 6 Albert Mall Stirs With New Activities And A New Vigour
- 8 Makeover Of Our Singapore River
- 10 Government Releases Land Sale Programme For 1998
- 11 Development Applications Go Paperless!
- 12 Mid-Autumn Festival Brightening Up Albert Mall

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Lee Kwong Weng (Chairman)
- Foo Chee See
- Choy Chan Pong
- Wong Kai Yeng
- Michael Koh
- Ler Seng Ann
- Ang Hwee Suan

## EDITOR

- May Goh

## ASSISTANT EDITOR

- Shirley Chan

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

- Ng Chor Seng
- Lim Chye Leong

## DESIGNED &amp; PRINTED BY

- Lancer Corporate Design

Front Cover:  
Artist's impression of Telok Ayer Street  
in future

Urban Redevelopment Authority  
45 Maxwell Road  
Singapore 069118  
Tel: 2216666/Fax: 2248752  
URA Home Page Address:  
<http://www.ura.gov.sg/>

 URBAN  
REDEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY  
TOWARDS A TROPICAL CITY OF EXCELLENCE  
© Urban Redevelopment Authority, 1997

Note: Plans and models shown are working  
tools of the Authority and therefore,  
tentative and subject to change.

# Taking A Walk Through The Central Area

by Eleanor Kor

Most of us are familiar with the pedestrian malls along Singapore River at Boat Quay and Clarke Quay. These malls have become favourite places for people who enjoy dining under the stars or for those who simply just want to stroll by the Singapore River. Activities on these malls have also injected life into the city area after dark.

In addition to the pedestrian malls at Boat Quay and Clarke Quay, we have also planned pedestrian malls within the three Historic Districts of Chinatown, Little India and Kampong Glam.

Outside of these Historic Districts, construction work for Phase II of Albert Mall has also started in September 1997 after the completion of Albert Mall Phase I. See pages 6 to 7 for more details on this mall.

## Vision for the Historic Districts

As part of the Concept Plan for the Historic Districts, streets which were the traditional focus of life and activities were designated as core areas. In addition, the plans also identified landmarks, suitable sites for plazas, sites for future developments and proposed carpark locations.

Under this Concept Plan, key streets were also proposed to be pedestrianised. The vision is to turn these Historic Districts into highly-accessible and pedestrian-friendly areas with landmarks, focal points and active streets in their core areas.

## Learning from other cities

URA's planners visited successful historic areas in European countries like France, Italy and Spain to learn about the factors that contribute to their vibrant street life and activities. Our planners gained insight into the planning,

design and implementation of malls in these cities. The key ideas learnt included identifying the type of pedestrian malls (full or semi pedestrianisation) that are suitable for Singapore and selecting streets to pedestrianise. Useful tips were also adopted when drawing up the detailed plans for the three historic districts.



Bustling activities along a pedestrian mall in Rouen, France.

## From vision to reality

Before physically pedestrianising a street within the Historic Districts, URA has to ensure that the buildings along the street are restored so that the finishes on the malls will not be damaged by any future restoration works. Now with many of the shophouses either fully restored or undergoing restoration, there is opportunity to implement our vision.

While the Bussorah Mall in Kampong Glam and Kerbau Mall in Little India are already in place, a few other malls in Chinatown and Rochor area are also shaping up. In Chinatown, URA commenced works on Trengganu Mall and Land Transport Authority concurrently started construction of Pagoda Mall in June 1997. With future MRT stations and LRT stops planned nearby, the pedestrian malls will become even more accessible to visitors. 



Restored shophouses in the Chinatown Historic District.