

Singapore Garden Festival 2016: A Foray Into Firsts

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Images by Singapore Garden Festival

Jointly organised by the National Parks Board (NParks) and Gardens by the Bay, the Singapore Garden Festival (SGF) returned in 2016 to present a visual fiesta of exquisite garden and floral displays. The festival also featured an array of educational programmes, and a non-ticketed area that played host to nightly performances as well as over 100 retail and F&B booths. The biennial, nine-day affair, held from 23 to 31 July 2016, was SGF's largest show to date: spanning 9.7 hectares at Gardens by the Bay.

SGF is Asia's premier tropical garden and flower show. Spread across the Festival grounds were 79 garden and floral displays, many of which were created by 47 garden and floral designers from all over the world, including 17 local designers.

SGF is the only show on the international roster that brings together the world's top names in garden and floral design. World-renowned specialists competed and worked alongside Singapore's own talent—building towards Singapore's vision of a City in a Garden.

Professional and amateur designers competed in five competitions: Balcony Gardens, Celebrations! Floral Table Series, Fantasy Gardens, Floral Windows to the World, Landscape Gardens; for the coveted Gold, Silver, Bronze, and even the Best of Show titles. Best of Show medals were awarded to the highest-scoring Gold display from each category.

Complementing the creations of renowned designers were 21 non-competitive displays. Put together by local designers, community gardeners, hobbyists and NParks staff, the displays enhanced the tropical floral wonderland experience at SGF 2016.

This year, the Festival featured a series of firsts, including the "World of Terrariums" exhibition, which immersed Festival visitors in a larger-than-life terrarium that featured more than 200 creative displays—showcasing over 27,000 plants of various species. Additionally, the inaugural Landscape Design Challenge saw eight teams of tertiary students transform an empty space into a garden within a short span of four hours.

More information can be found on singaporegardenfestival.com.



Five-metre-high walls enclosed a cocoon of greenery and water.

Best of Show Winners

THE TREASURE BOX

Landscape Gardens

Best of Show, Gold, Horticulture Excellence

Award Recipient Inch Lim (Malaysia) **Implementing Partner** Mao Sheng Quanji Construction Pte Ltd

The Treasure Box opened up to reveal a treasure of life: rice. The five-metre-high receptacle featured both greenery and water—a small waterfall and a pavilion, with a stream dividing the two. An abundance of rice plants cocooned the environment, symbolising life and the plant's inherent value as subsistence.

INCHSCAPE
SDN. BHD

Inchscape is a creative landscape company based in Malaysia that has works in Japan, China, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, the USA, the U.K., Singapore and Malaysia. The work includes landscape design ranging from private gardens, public parks, property developments, resorts, landscape consultancy and landscape master plans.

The company is particularly focused on creative design that harmonizes with environment and architecture.

Inchscape's innovative design has won several awards in Japan, the U.K., the USA, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore.

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NATURE'S RESOLUTION

Fantasy Gardens
Best of Show, Gold

Award Recipient Stefano Passerotti (Italy)
Implementing Partner Ban Nee Chen Pte Ltd

A day in the human life was illustrated in this garden, where visitors become immersed in nature the moment they stepped in. Aquatic elements featured prominently in *Nature's Resolution*, and the plants were specially selected due to their benevolent qualities: the *Bacopa monnieri* is used as a medicinal herb, while the *Tillandsia* helps to purify the air. The garden served to illustrate the relationship between man and nature, with story boxes filled with suggestions and thought-provoking sketches throughout. Chinese instrumentals in the background transported visitors back to the past; a replica forest on display demonstrated how nature is suffering today as a result of the actions of mankind.



Nature's Resolution guided visitors through the relationship between nature and man in everyday life.

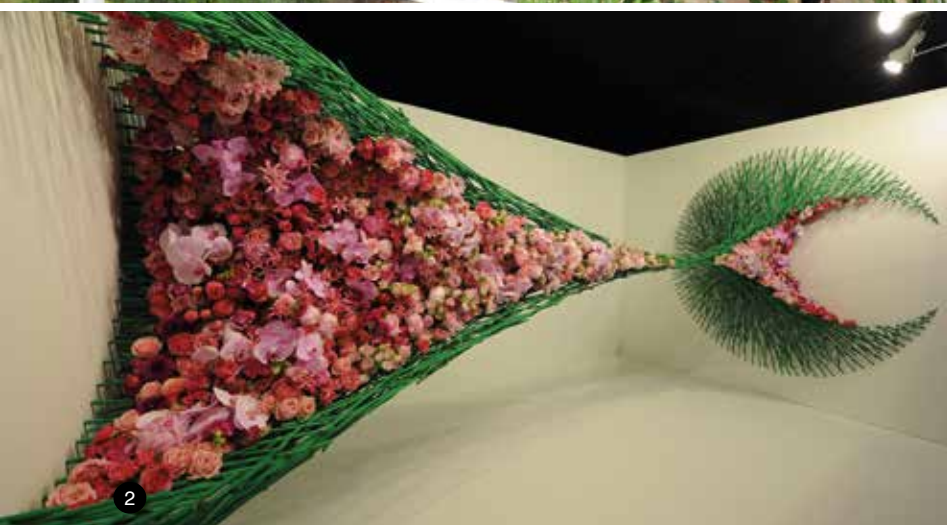


TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES

Balcony Gardens
Best of Show, Gold

Award Recipient Andy Eng

Here, nature spilled into everyday life: butterflies flitted towards the garden in the balcony, while the fragrance of herbs and spices in the balcony enveloped the home—bringing life from the balcony to the table.



STRETCHING TIME

Floral Windows to the World
Best of Show, Gold

Award Recipient Natasha Lisitsa & Daniel Schultz (USA)

Capturing a moment in time, *Stretching Time* was an installation in flux: an elastic, oscillating connection that pulled and pushed at the same time, with the rhythm of a heartbeat and allure of a wave between two walls.

1. Dynamic and gravity-defying, *Stretching Time* demonstrated a force contained between two walls.

2. A lush, greenery-filled garden, together with the scent of herbs and spices, emerged to envelop the home.

Landscape Gardens — Gold Award Winners

EN

Gold

Award Recipient Kazuho Inohana & Yosuke Yamaguchi (Japan) **Implementing Partner** Tropic Planners & Landscape Pte Ltd

The garden *En* showcased scenes inspired by a series of homonyms that are all read as “en” in Japanese, which can mean a special place, play, uninterrupted peace, receptiveness to living in harmony, or even a connection with people. Elements of Japanese tea culture also featured prominently in the setting.



En showcased the belief that people who appreciate nature are dedicated to offering help to those in need.

BACK TO NATURE

Gold, Best Outdoor Lighting

Award Recipient Leon Kluge (South Africa) & Bayley LuuTomes (New Zealand) **Implementing Partner** Eco-Scape

Drawing inspiration from the world’s tug-of-war between the man-made and the environment, *Back to Nature* sought to integrate both elements into a single setting. A man-made pod shelter with seating nestled within a natural landscape of meadow plants, embraced by living “tentacles” enveloping the structure. The water feature represented the vibrancy of life, where an artwork installed within the pond hinted at man’s fingerprint on the planet, and was an integral part of the transformed natural landscape.



A pod shelter tucked away into a bank harmonised the best of nature and man.

AN URBAN JUNGLE

Gold, Best Construction

Award Recipient Adam Frost (United Kingdom) **Implementing Partner** Nyee Phoe Flowers & Garden Pte Ltd

Like its name, *An Urban Jungle* married the built environment with the natural world. A pergola provided a strong focal point—dominant concrete lines reinforcing the play between shadow, light and reflection—amidst nature reminiscent of the English spring. Gravel paths cut through the garden nook, stressing the importance of greenery in an increasingly modernised world.



Created for the busy lives of a city-dwelling couple, *An Urban Jungle* offered a relaxing space to connect with nature.

Fantasy Gardens — Gold Award Winners

POWER OF THE EARTH

Gold, Best Indoor Lighting

Award Recipient Katsuhiko Koga & Kazuhiro Kagae
(Japan) **Implementing Partner** Flora Landscape Pte Ltd

Power of the Earth took its name from an age-old practice of mankind since the ancient times: gaining power from the Earth in spiritual locations. The garden emphasised a different kind of power: the energy of nature and the Earth, allowing visitors to experience the “power” of Nature without the spiritual training.



An extravaganza of greenery proved the true power and might of the Earth.

Floral Windows to the World — Gold Award Winners



Folded, bent, and cut, paper provided the ideal centrestage for the floral displays.

FLOATING MOVEMENTS

Gold

Award Recipient Nicolaus Peters (Germany)

Paper served as the platform for Floating Movements, with the Japanese art of kirigami turning the material into three-dimensional art pieces. Hung in varied heights from the ceiling, they served as the backdrop for the light, elegant flowers twined around the folds.



A blend of cutting-edge arrangement and a finely honed sensibility elevated *Synesthesia* beyond the senses.

SYNESTHESIA

Gold

Award Recipient Hideyuki Niwa (Japan)

Synesthesia blended together modernity and a unique Japanese cultural sensitivity, with a creation that aimed to evoke a shared sense and appreciation for beauty.

Celebrations! Floral Table Series — Silver Award Winners

TO BE

Silver

Award Recipient Rose Cao

To Be took a futuristic outlook on preserving nature: that if mankind stays united in this endeavour, human life will be sustainable for generations to come. The use of aluminium provided an edge to the design, a surface for the organic flowers to curl around.



An aluminium structure provided a counterpoint to the floral displays.

COMING TOGETHER

Silver

Award Recipient Soh Liang Ying (SLY)

The merging of energies from seemingly different worlds served as the inspiration for *Coming Together*, where balance was created where they meet. The surroundings were stretched, distorted, and then combined together to form a single transient moment.




The floral display arching gracefully over the table setting demonstrated a distortion in the environment.

Balcony Gardens — Gold Award Winners

PINING FOR CHILDHOOD

Gold

Award Recipient Gary Nai

Pining For Childhood was a feast for the senses, as the designer recreated his childhood memories: birds chirping, grandma humming her favourite tunes, breeze on the skin, and the aroma of Pandan leaves wafting through the home. The sensations were drawn from the designer's childhood friend's experiences, where their nostalgia was recaptured in this balcony garden. 



Retro furniture and decorations, together with the greenery spilling into the house, harked back to a tranquil village life of yesteryear.

Silver Award Winners**Landscape Gardens**

- *Silence* by Andrew Wilson & Gavin McWilliam (United Kingdom)
- *Where the Lavender Grows* by James Basson & Bruno Torini (France)

Fantasy Gardens

- *A Flower in a Garden* by Michael Petrie (USA)
- *Mystical Depths* by Hugo Bugg (United Kingdom)

Floral Windows to the World

- *Grandiflora* by Kristin Voreland (Norway)
- *A Fairytale* by Annette von Einem (Denmark)
- *Perpetuum Mobile* by Stef Adrianenssens (Belgium)
- *Drop. Flower Capsule – Space for You* by Natalia Zhizhko (Russia)

Balcony Gardens

- *Vintage Bicycle* by Lee Meng Kwan
- *The Bibliophile's Garden* by Erin Gotangco

Bronze Award Winners**Landscape Gardens**

- *The Butterfly Effect* by Alison Douglas (Australia)
- *The Garden Palette* by Ann Teo

Fantasy Gardens

- *Dare to Dream* by John Tan & Raymond Toh
- *Modern-Day Maui* by Adam Shuter (New Zealand)

Floral Windows to the World

- *Photography Through My Eyes* by Li Hai Bo (China)
- *A Scandinavian Touch* by Sofie Danielsson Söhr (Sweden)
- *Floral Window into Our Inner Space* by Marie Bittnerová (Czech Republic)
- *The Message Within* by Tan Han Xiang @ Han Ashworth

Celebrations! Floral Table Series

- *The Swirl* by Cedric Ng
- *Cocoon* by Chen Nina

Balcony Gardens

- *The Garden Studio* by Anita Lim