

SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS/  
NATIONAL PARKS BOARD

# SIA-NPARKS SKYRISE GREENERY AWARDS

Text by Gwendy Tan  
Images courtesy of respective architects

One interesting fact to note about the term “Skyrise Greenery” is that it was actually coined in Singapore, and has no equivalent terminology in other cities. We are now in an exciting phase of the 21st century, where architectural modes of design are starting to be greatly influenced by a new focus on sustainable developments. With greater awareness and an understanding of developmental impacts on our environment, greenery and landscaping are now viewed as a key and crucial factor to the whole sustainable energy and resource cycle. Thus, with a

growing interest and focus on green buildings due to pressing climate issues, rooftop gardens have started to sprout up everywhere in Singapore, especially in newer housing estates such as Sengkang and Punggol. Seen as an integral part of the urban lifestyle, developers are now integrating and marketing skyrise greenery as premium features in their upcoming developments.

## THE AWARDS

In the running for the second year, the SIA-NParks Skyrise Greenery Awards, jointly organised by the Singapore Institute of Architects and the National Parks Board, aim to recognise the creative integration of building and landscape design, as well as greening efforts in high-rise developments.

An encouraging sign that more architects and designers are incorporating landscape design in their design process was the increase in submissions by 50 percent from the previous year from Singapore and the region. This year, the awards were presented to three local residential and commercial developments at a ceremony at rooftop bar, the Loof, by SIA President Mr. Ashvinkumar, and Director of Streetscape [NParks], Mr. Simon Longman.

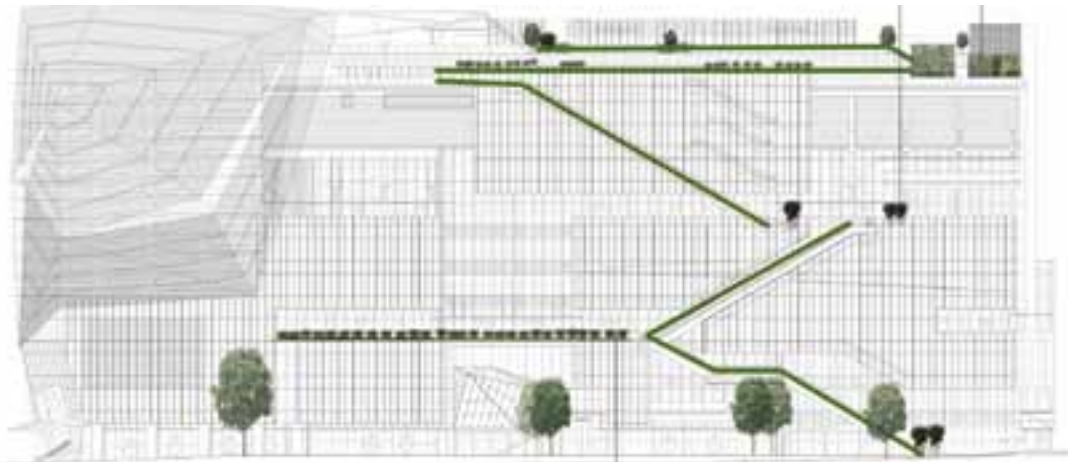


Entries were assessed by a jury comprising representatives from NParks, SIA, and the Urban Redevelopment Authority. The evaluation criteria included landscape considerations that would enhance Singapore's cityscape and environment quality, as well as originality, creativity and sustainability of the landscape ideas.

Six main criteria were used as guidelines in the judging of the competition:

- 1 Provision of landscape opportunities at the building blocks, with an emphasis on sky greenery. E.g., balconies, planter boxes, roof gardens, communal sky gardens and vertical greenery
- 2 Landscape considerations that enhance cityscape and environment quality
- 3 Creative landscape ideas and originality in design with emphasis on softscape
- 4 Choice of plant materials
- 5 Sustainability
- 6 Quality of maintenance








---

#### BUILT CATEGORY

---

#### 1ST PRIZE: ORCHARD CENTRAL

**developer** Orchard Central Pte Ltd

**architect** DP Architects Pte Ltd

**landscape architect** DLqdesign Pte Ltd

**landscape contract owner** Nature Landscapes Pte Ltd

The judges recognised there were several layers of innovation in Orchard Central which arose from a very difficult context. This was an extremely urban site, in the heart of Orchard Road, Singapore's commercial belt. Building over an existing canal, within a narrow and long, linear site, the architect conceived a 12-storey "vertical mall", topped with two comprehensively landscaped sky gardens.

The sky gardens can be accessed from the ground level directly via "super-escalators" and from the internal atrium. Set within the sky gardens are a high vertical green wall, biological pond and lushly planted pockets. Public art generously introduced into the sky garden inject a delightful experience for visitors. At the same time the setting created a unique dining experience at the roof garden. It has a very pleasant garden-like ambience that is a surprising find in busy Orchard Road—a delightful oasis for the public.

Conceived from the start of the project, the Orchard Central sky garden design is well-integrated with the architecture and the urban setting.



Central Horizon

**2ND PRIZE: CENTRAL HORIZON**

**developer** Housing & Development Board  
**architect** Surbana International Consultants Pte Ltd

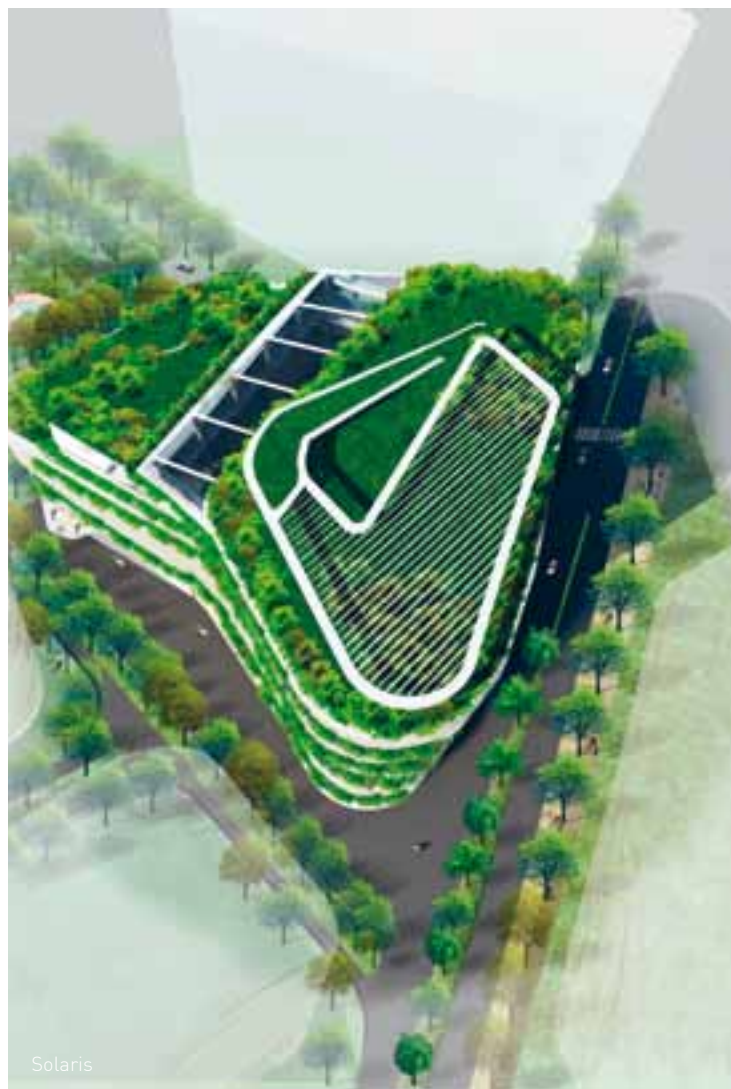
**landscape architect** Surbana International Consultants Pte Ltd

**landscape contract owner** Greenscape Pte Ltd

Central Horizon is a high-density public housing project which replaced a former public housing precinct in the mature Toa Payoh housing estate. Although faced with the brief to design to higher density, the architects took the opportunity to renew the sense of communal living by creating generous rooftop landscaped gardens, which are joined to and therefore independently accessible from each apartment block in the precinct.

The multi-tiered garden, at the roof of the seven-storey car park and twelfth storey, created a continuous elevated green belt providing a pleasant, safe and shaded environment for the enjoyment of residents of all age. This extensive greening of the roofs even benefited the neighbouring precincts as it presented a much softer and pleasant environment when seen from other adjacent blocks. Care was taken to retain all the mature rain trees along the boundary during the design and the construction of the development. The trees formed an important part of the heritage of the site and provided a beautiful setting for the development.

The jury noted that the success of this public housing scheme was a very commendable effort in the development of a design culture of sustainability and raising public awareness of the communal benefits of a greener environment.




---

## UNBUILT IDEAS CATEGORY

---

### 1ST PRIZE: SOLARIS

**developer** SB (Solaris) Investment Pte Ltd

**architect** CPG Consultants Pte Ltd, TR Hamzah & Yeang

**landscape Architect** Tropical Environment Pte Ltd

Continuous “spiralling” landscaping connecting the basement to the roof-top is integral to the architecture, as is the atrium design which brings copious natural ventilation and filtered daylight into the public spaces. The design envisions an “eco-infrastructure” not just for the sake of “greening” the architecture and making of a unique built-form, but more importantly as “key social, interactive and creative zones”.

Impressed with the comprehensive considerations to make greenery and sustainability the driving force behind the design concept, the jury also noted that the success of the design is as much a function of its execution as it is of the strength of the conceptual convictions, but also that the designer had also considered the importance of maintenance in such a design. The Solaris is a stand-out proposal for its architectural integration of skysrise greenery.

For more information, visit [skyrisegreenery.com/awards](http://skyrisegreenery.com/awards).



Solaris