

SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS SILA AWARDS 2009

Text by Gwendy Tan
Images courtesy of Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects



Kolam Ayer Riverfront

Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects (SILA) is a professional body of qualified landscape architects with the aim of advancing the art of landscape architecture and civic design in our environment. Its objectives are to promote research and education in landscape architecture, create and maintain a high standard of professional qualification, and increase the awareness of the benefits of the profession and its plays in improving our overall living environment.

On defining the practice, "Landscape Architecture is the study and understanding of the earth's natural processes, and the design of integrated solutions, enabling man and his environment to thrive in a sustainable, synergistic relationship."

Just as Architecture is the design and organisation of interior spaces, Landscape Architecture is the design and organisation of external spaces. For successful integration of a building into its site and surroundings, it is essential that a Landscape Architect be included in the design team from the beginning of the design process. In Singapore, with limited land availability and ever-increasing prices, it is even more important that the space which surrounds a building—be it a civic or commercial development—is carefully planned to maximise the physical and mental benefits that a well designed landscape can provide.

This year, there were a total of 29 submissions for the SILA awards under seven categories. The winning entries are:



Kolam Ayer Riverfront

PARKS – GOLD AWARD

project Kolam Ayer Riverfront
developer National Parks Board

The Kolam Ayer Riverfront was considered by the judges as a pioneering project of great significance in achieving multi-agency agreements to bring together a single, unified environment over many administrative boundaries.



Berlin Wall Project



Berlin Wall Project



Berlin Wall Project

PARKS – SILVER AWARD

project Berlin Wall Project

developer National Parks Board

A contemporary structure in Bedok Reservoir Park is constructed to showcase four concrete panels from the Berlin Wall, on loan from the Hefner Collection. Surrounded by lush greenery, the panels deliver the message of “freedom over oppression”.



National Library Building



National Library Building



National Library Building

CIVIC AND URBAN SPACES – SILVER AWARD

project National Library Building
developer National Library Building
landscape architect DLQ Design Pte Ltd.

At street level, this was an excellent fusion of landscape and architecture, where the streetscape was creatively moulded to achieve a spatial landscape instead of the usual, narrow corridor. The upper gardens were also creative and attractively landscaped.

NATURE/ ECOLOGICAL RESERVES – GOLD AWARD

project Sentosa Nature Discovery
landscape architect ICN Design International
Being part physical and part educational, this was a nature discovery project with complexities at every stage. The landscape architect had presided over the conversion of the old monorail station to the Nature Centre, and had designed boardwalks and access to old and new nature trails. This was also overlaid with a detailed interpretive programme, partly by the landscape consultant and external exhibition designers. The project was seen as a pioneer in bringing natural eco-systems to the doorstep of a near urban location with a view to educating people about the environment.



Sentosa Nature Discovery



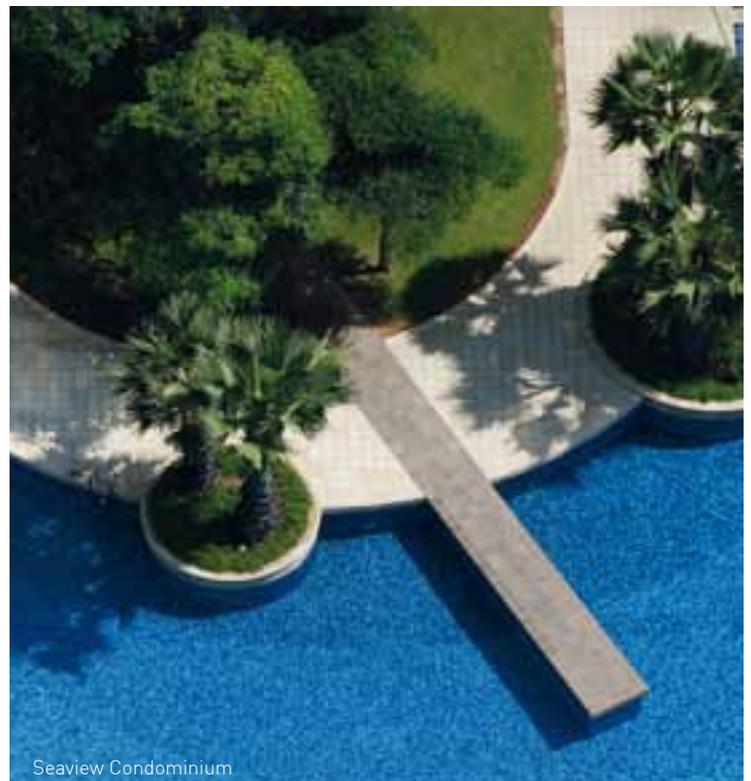
Sentosa Nature Discovery



Sentosa Nature Discovery



Seaview Condominium



Seaview Condominium

RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS – GOLD AWARD

project Seaview Condominium
landscape architect Sitetectonix

The large site, with the buildings set far apart, generated ample opportunities for extensive landscape work. The designers used the space exceptionally well—without neglecting the finer details of their design—to produce a holistic and well-balanced design. The judges agree unanimously that this has set a high standard for both space planning, landscape layout and detailing.



Grange Condominium



Grange Condominium



Sungei Buloh Master Plan

MASTER PLANNING – GOLD AWARD

project Sungei Buloh Master Plan

developer National Parks Board

This is a new Master Plan to enlarge, enhance and improve the Sungei Buloh Wetland reserve. After 15 years as a wetland reserve, which is a unique entity in Singapore's normally urban environment, the new Master Plan pushes the boundaries quite literally with the much needed extension and upgrading of the reserve. The plan offers many layers of progression, from deeper conservation of sensitive environments to the expansion of more popular locations to cater to the public. The judges believe that this is an important step forward in urban planning which highlights the authorities' commitment to nature conservation.

RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS – GOLD AWARD

project Grange Condominium

landscape architect Sitetectonix

This being a much smaller and odd shaped site, the designers managed to optimise the difficult space while creating an attractive and usable landscape on various scales. The quality of detailing was excellent and the various features well designed.