

Jardin HOME IN A GARDEN

Text by Yeong Weng Fai

Photography by Rory Daniel / courtesy of Far East Organization

Drawings by DP Architects Pte Ltd

PROJECT CREDITS

Location: 966 Dunearn Road **Completion Date:** 2012 **Client:** YHS Dunearn Pte Ltd **Design Consultant:** DP Architects Pte Ltd
Structural Engineer: KTP Consultants Pte Ltd **M&E Engineer:** J Roger Preston (S) Pte Ltd **Landscape Consultant:** DP Green
Pte Ltd **Quantity Surveyor:** KPK Quantity Surveyors (1995) Singapore Pte Ltd **Interior Designer:** Creative Mind Design Pte Ltd
Contractor: Rich Construction Company Pte Ltd **GFA:** 17,900 m² **Site Area:** 7,491 m²



Jardin, or “garden” in French, stands as a medium-rise condominium on Dunearn Road. Carved deeply into its front façade are wide sky terraces, brimming with greenery at multiple levels held up by vine-covered *pilotis*, which follows the Corbusian precept of returning the land—or in this instance, gardens—which the building has robbed to its upper reaches. *Jardin* celebrates the notion of living within a garden; the architecture and landscape fuse inextricably to emerge as a green edifice that offers a unique living environment with a certain *je ne sais quoi* of an elegant lifestyle.

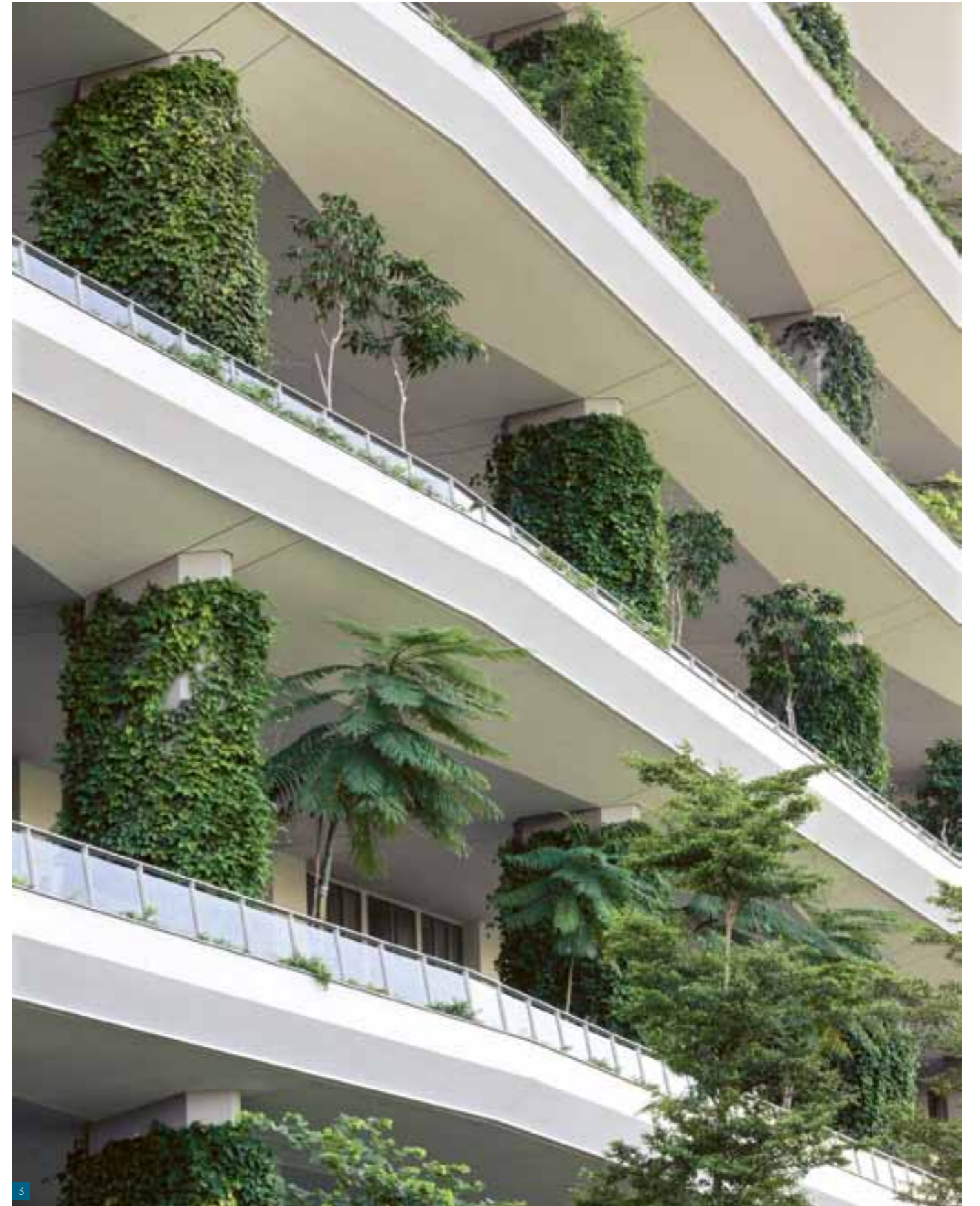
The experience of *Jardin*'s landscaped setting begins from its frontal presence at ground level along Dunearn Road, where the building is raised on a berm with dramatically aligned, glaucous hedgerows of *Leucophyllum frutescens* that draw the eye upwards to the building. This is similarly accentuated by rows of *Terminalia mollis* trees that line up alongside these hedgerows. In all, this alludes to the bucolic landscapes of Provence with their lavender fields and windbreaks. The berm also serves to conceal the entry driveway whilst providing privacy and filtering the immediate living spaces above from the noise, dust, and view of the heavy traffic along the main road.

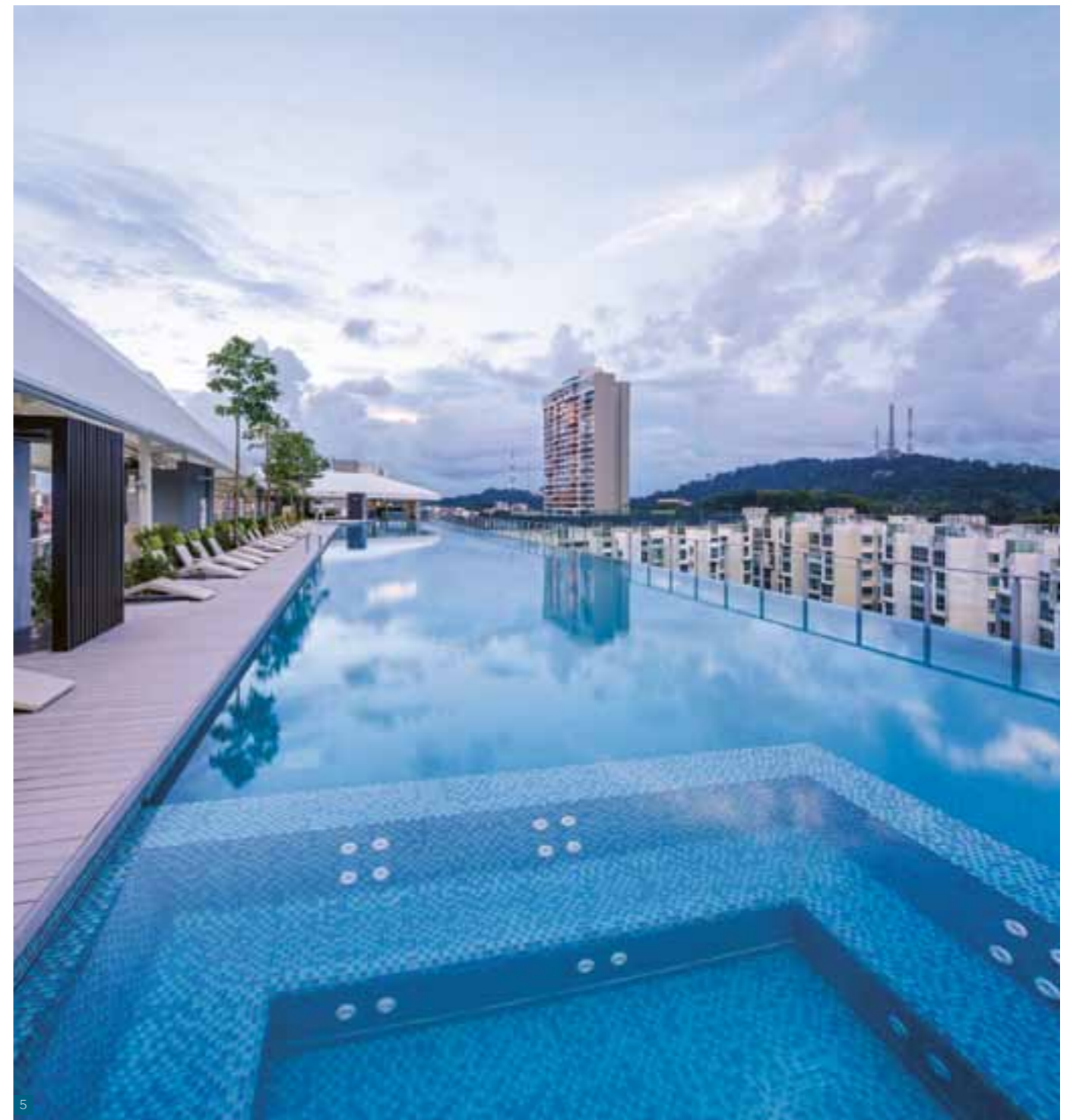
The point of entry to the development is orchestrated by a break in the berm, with the development's signage contrasted against a canted backdrop of flowering vines. A conserved rain tree, *Samanea saman*, graces the entry to one side and immediately lends its dappled shade to the entry gesture. The stone-lined water walls flanking both the ingress and egress of the driveway is the first in a series of features adopting the serial-vision technique to cue the arriving resident or visitor to the landscape experience. A sequence of landscape

1. Hedgerows of *Leucophyllum frutescens* draw the eye upwards to the building.

2. The berm conceals the entry driveway and filters the noise, dust and view of the traffic along the main road. The narrow opening between the berm and the sky terrace naturally lights the driveway.

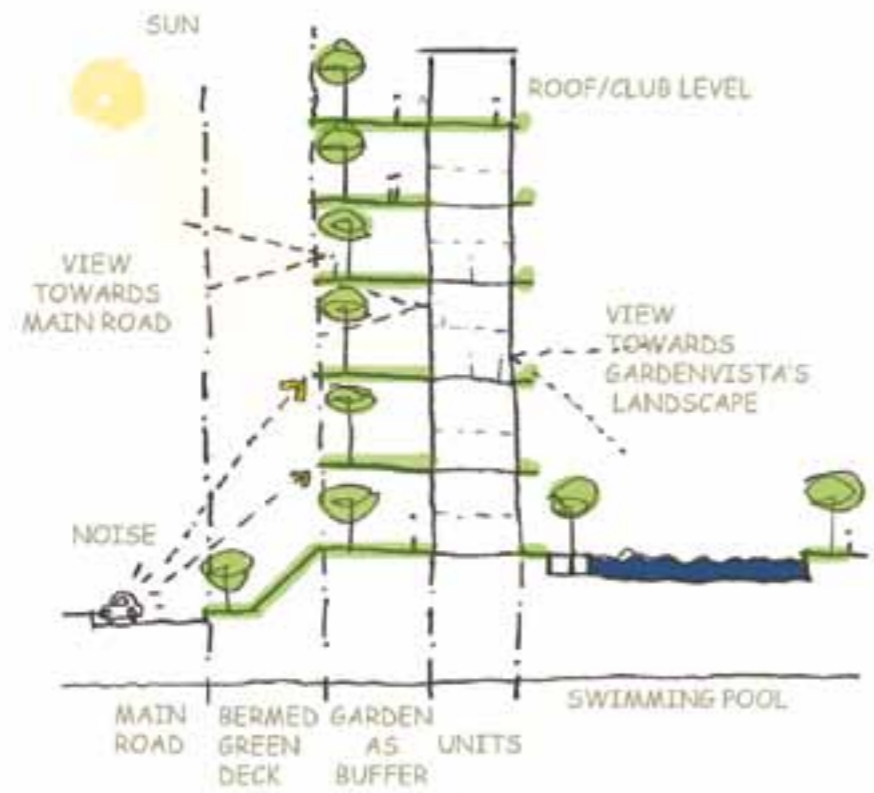
3. Columns are shrouded by vines at various heights of the building.





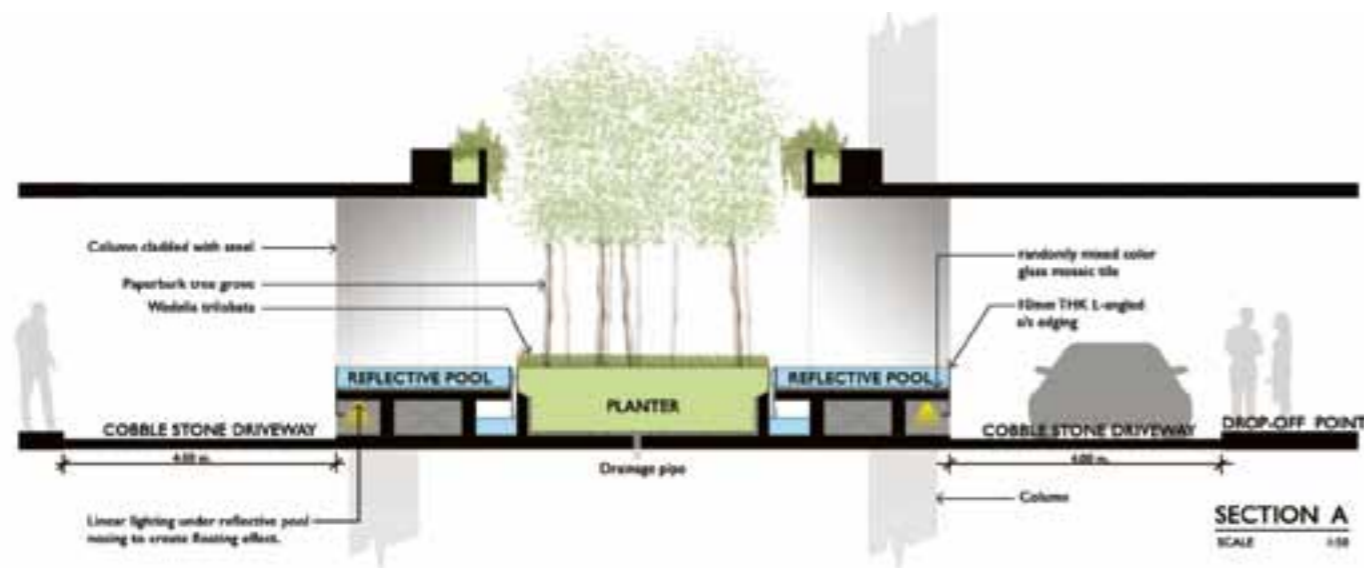
4. Open stairways at the two ends of the linear block are covered by a screen of greenery.

5. The pools on the roof terrace stretch almost the length of the block, employing the Japanese notion of *shakkei*, or borrowed scenery, to enhance the views.



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Developmental Sketches



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Basement Section

Hence, the widest possible terraces are created, which not only bring gardens to the immediate unit thresholds in a high-rise situation, but also essentially create a deep buffer, again filtering the view and noise from the heavy traffic below.

elements is unveiled as one navigates through the development at this entry level. Fronting the ingress and egress point, another expansive water wall greets the homecoming resident with its angled flat stone panels, breaking the cascades into a delightful ensemble of water play. Shielded from sight by the landscaped berm, the entry driveway leading to the main vehicular drop-off is naturally lit by a continuous narrow opening between the berm and the sky terrace on the first level. Trailing plants, such as the *Plumbago capensis* at the edge of this opening, continue the embodying experience of greenery within.

Driving towards the main lift lobby, a cluster of *Melaleuca leucadendron* trees arising from a raised reflective pool forms the main focus for this vehicular circus. Here, the light shaft terminates, highlighting the circle of trees whilst the pool mirrors the sky above, bouncing light into the basement interior. Two decorative, stone-clad walls cascade water down to the reflective pool, guiding the visitor around the circus to the drop-off point.

Arising from the peripheral berms, the architecture is composed of deep sky terraces on alternate floors with the residential units relegated to the rear. Hence, the widest possible terraces are created, which not only bring gardens to the immediate unit thresholds in a high-rise situation, but also essentially create a deep buffer, again filtering the view and noise from the heavy traffic below.

To enhance the overall garden theme, a different garden style is conceived for each communal sky terrace, giving residents differ-

ent stylistic landscapes to enjoy, from flower, grass, tiled, rock, to a pleasure garden. Plant and tree palettes were carefully selected for their colour, texture, and fragrance to define these different thematic gardens. Similarly, hardscapes are designed to complement the theme and plantings whilst subtle lighting amplifies the ambience during nightfall. Uplighting is also employed to cast captivating shadows on the ceiling canvases of the sky terraces, contributing to the visual composition of the landscape design.

Peripheral planters are added along the entire lengths of the sky terraces, filled with flowering trailers that add colour whilst diminishing the hard edges of the terrace structure. Various vertical elements like columns and elevator shafts are shrouded by vines that have grown over and obliterated a distinctive chevron-motif treillage. Likewise, open stairways at the two ends of the linear block are covered by a screen of greenery, created by vines over an assemblage of steel mesh panels.

At the topmost roof terrace, a "garden of pleasures" awaits with its dramatic infinity pools that stretch almost the length of the block with spa pavilions at one end and club amenities at the other. The poolside is lined with a row of *Brachychiton acerifolius*, commonly known as Illawara Flame Trees, which further accentuate the linearity of the pool. The Japanese notion of *shakkei*, or "borrowed scenery", is employed here to capture the panoramic rainforest skyline of distant Bukit Timah, which on misty evenings lends an almost ethereal air to this poolscape. 