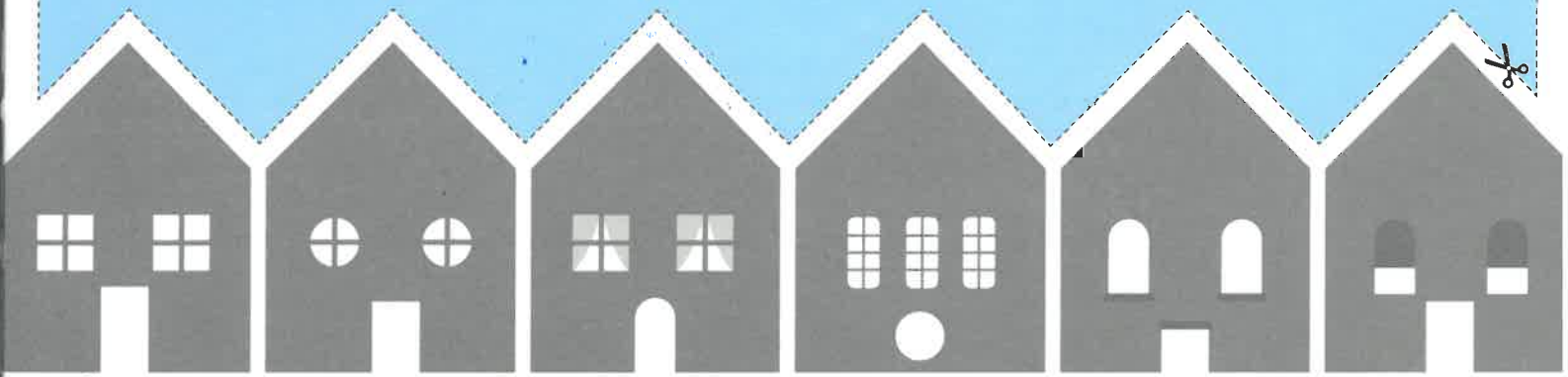


# SA

SINGAPORE ARCHITECT

COMMON SPACES



COMMON SPACES

# Greening Up Our Common Spaces:

## 4th SIA-NParks Skyrise Greenery Awards 2011

Now in its fourth year, the SIA-NParks Skyrise Greenery Awards continues to attract entries and award projects that have well integrated vertical greening into their architecture. Three prizes and four honourable mentions were awarded this year to projects of various scales and usage typologies. This feature highlights the competition's objectives and jury citations for the top three prizes, and sheds some light on the prize-winning schemes.

Architect's Statements by respective architects  
Citations by SIA and NParks Jury  
Photography as credited

### INTRODUCTION

Skyrise greenery is a concept that integrates green elements into the built environment. As physical living conditions become increasingly stratified, we need to look to innovative skyrise greenery for a sphere of new possibilities in our physical and social environments. It represents a vision to evolve our ever-intensifying cities into urbanscapes that are dynamic in more environmental and sustainable ways.

The Skyrise Greenery Awards aims to promote and reward greening efforts in urban developments. The awards recognise architects who have taken the lead role in provisioning for green elements from the initial design stages, working in conjunction with stakeholders to bring a project to fruition.

The Skyrise Greenery Awards 2011 is jointly organised by Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) and National Parks Board (NParks).

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Skyrise Greenery Awards are:

- To promote skyrise greenery in urban developments by recognising the architect / owner / designer / management team who pays particular attention to Skyrise Greenery.

- To encourage creative and original landscaping ideas in skyrise greenery.
- To encourage architecture design with innovative use of greenery and landscaping to create a positive environment to live, work, and play in.
- To highlight the importance of team effort in the implementation, carrying through of design

### JUDGING CRITERIA

The competition was open to architects who are members of ARCAAsia Institutes or the International Union of Architects. All entries were assessed by the appointed judges according to the following criteria:

- Landscape considerations that enhance a cityscape and reflect a "City in a Garden" aspiration with lush greenery.
- Creative designs that integrate the building and landscape, spotting emerging trends or setting benchmarks for future projects.
- Appropriate use of technology or innovative methods in the pursuit of sustainable building design with an emphasis on skyrise greenery, spotting emerging trends, or setting benchmarks for future projects.
- Design considerations that enable social interaction and community engagement.
- Quality of greenery, paying particular attention to considerations such as appropriate use of plant species and enhancement of biodiversity.

### JURY COMPOSITION

The Jury for the Skyrise Greenery Awards 2011 comprised the following members:

- Mr. Ashvinkumar (President, Singapore Institute of Architects)
- Ms. Fun Siew Leng (Group Director (Urban Planning & Design), Urban Redevelopment Authority)
- Mr. Poon Hong Yuen (Chief Executive Officer, National Parks Board)
- Mr. Damian Tang (President, Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects)
- Prof. Wong Yunn Chii (Head, NUS Department of Architecture)

### 1st PRIZE

**HANGING GARDEN IN CBD—  
A FUSION OF "ARCHI-NATURE"**  
158 Cecil Street, Singapore

Architect: AgFacadesign  
Building Type: Office  
Client: East Coast (Cecil) Investment Pte Ltd  
Landscape Architect: Tierra Design Pte Ltd  
Landscape Contract Manager:  
Consis Engineering Pte Ltd



### ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

An existing 14-storey addition and alteration ("A&A") project within the CBD, the task was to provide an attractive façade and create a lively and inviting atrium space overlooked by most office floors. The architect transformed the space into a "hanging garden" by seamlessly integrating all surfaces, camouflaging existing structural elements, and designed a unique "Layered-Façade" system for natural ventilation and smoke to disperse. This results in a seamless integration of architecture and façade design with a "hanging garden" that is highly transparent and visible at night.

Extending spatial connectivity, "Green-Columns" are strategically placed to visually penetrate the glass floors to link the seven-storey "hanging garden" to the road and pavement levels below. A total of 350 square metres (or 13,000 potted plants) in the "Green-Walls/Columns" was achieved, which is 135 percent of the Atrium floor plate area, with another 70 square metres of hanging plants in horizontal planter beds. Ease of access for

### JURY CITATION

The jury finds in this project a unique and praise-worthy effort illustrating the spirit of skyrise greenery design. The vision was to transform the formerly nondescript concrete and glass façade using vertical greenery, and doing so in a sustainable manner.

The architect, working in conjunction with the owner and landscape architect, identified opportunities and constraints in the existing structures and made use of these effectively to create a system and design framework for vertical green walls and planters.

Not merely a green wall, it is an elevated green atrium which thoroughly transformed the quality of office spaces in the building, and it certainly transformed the façade as well. The green atrium added a different dimension to a very urban street-front, positively contributing to the urbanscape of downtown Singapore. But equally important, the efforts offered a much more pleasant working environment, one that allows them to

1 A growing green lantern by night. (Photo: Amir Sultan)

2 Clear views are afforded, beyond the lush green layered internal façade. (Photo: Amir Sultan)

3 Hanging gardens, green walls and columns at the interior atrium.