The Tropics is about abundance and extremities. It has a climate characterized by scorching heat, high suffocating humidity and heavy downpours that causes inconveniences and even destruction. These forces greatly influence the shape of landscape and the movement of hydrology. It supports immense diversity of lifeforms. And the biodiversity coupled with the climate are both bliss and a bane to any settlement in the tropics. As such, there is inevitably a distinct way of living and adapting to the tropical climate.

“Tempering the Tropics” is a lecture series that examines the idea of how Tropical Architecture is being defined as both a knowledge and a practice, particularly in the South East Asian context. Architectural practitioners and scholars will be invited to expand on the multitude of perspectives that define Tropical Architecture and their impact on the diversity of architectural actions that follow. The lecture series has the ambition to also extend the coverage to include tropical design issues including, but not limited to, scale, landscape integration, multi-disciplinary expertise, performance-based design, tropical urbanism and regenerative design in the tropics.

Chang Jiat Hwee - National University of Singapore
Chang Jiat Hwee is Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore. Jiat Hwee’s research explores the relationship between architecture, environment and technoscience in various colonial and post-colonial social, cultural and political contexts. He is the author of A Genealogy of Tropical Architecture: Colonial Networks, Nature and Technoscience (2016), one of the three books shortlisted for European Association of Southeast Asian Studies’ Humanities Book Prize 2017. He is also the co-editor of Non West Modernist Past (2011) and Southeast Asia’s Modern Architecture: Questions in Translation, Epistemology and Power (2018).

His current research is on air-conditioning, built environment and thermal governance in Asia, part of which is being undertaken as a Canadian Centre for Architecture/Mellon Foundation Researcher 2017-19.

Erik L’Heureux - National University of Singapore
Erik G. L’HEUREUX, AIA, LEED AP BD+C is an American architect and educator. He is an Associate Professor and the B.A. Architecture Program Director at the National University of Singapore.

Erik received his Master of Architecture from Princeton University and previously taught at the Cooper Union in New York City. In 2017, Erik was the Ruth and Norman Moore Visiting Professor at Washington University in St. Louis. He has received over 10 international design awards for his work including multiple American Institute of Architects and Society of American Registered Architects Honor awards. In 2015, Erik was awarded with the Wheelwright Prize from Harvard University. “Deep Veils,” a book on his design thinking is with ORO Editions, 2014. In addition to his creative practice he is currently writing an architectural treatise titled “Hot Air.”