

## Singapore Institute of Planners: 2<sup>nd</sup> Planning Award 2011

### JURY CITATION

Thurs, 11 Nov 2010

On behalf of SIP Jury Panel, comprised of 4 Judges with high profile and prominent individuals in the planning and design professions, namely Mrs Koh-Lim Wen Gin, a Board of Director, Keppel Land and ex-Chief Planner, URA; Mr Ashvinkumar s/o Kantilai, SIA President, Ms Norliza Bt Hashim, MIP President and myself as SIP President, I am commissioned to read this Jury Citation for this year's award winning projects.

Upon close examination of all 24 valid entry submissions, the Jury appreciates the diversity of responses, the keen interest, high qualities and professionalism of the projects. The Jury was heartened to consider several worthwhile planning and design proposals.

In total, the Jury confers 6 Awards, 1 Merit and 3 Finalist Prizes to the competitors, which we wish to commend as follows:

Category A <b>Award</b>	Outstanding Achievement in Planning 2010 <b>Al Sahan City, Qatar</b> <b>Surbana Urban Planning Group, Singapore</b>
----------------------------	---

Jury Citation: There was a unanimous consensus amongst all Judges to select Surbana's Al Sahan City as this year's new SIP Award Winner for the "Outstanding Achievement in Planning". The key features of the project are:

1. **"A City Inspired by Tradition"**: A bold attempt of contemporary approach to utilize the traditional "Sahan" or "Courtyard House" to generate the entire segment of the new Master Plan, the city urban forms, grandiose public spaces, right down to intimate private courtyards, providing a local identity to this "City of A Thousand Courtyards".
2. **Central Activity Spine + 2 Key Nodes**: The planning scheme is pragmatic and economical, but yet dynamic and flamboyant, with "Grand Majilis" as the primary belt of commercial & communal facilities with elegant focal nodes at two ends.
3. **Environmental Control Strategies**: The Jury appreciates the careful orientation in physical planning to avoid noise due to nearby airport and highway; the building façade design to control solar gains & the buildings orientations to create wind scoop cooling effect.

Overall, the Jury concurred that this is a well conceived redevelopment plan by Surbana for Al Sahan, which is coherent and imaginative with cultural sensitivity, appropriate assignment of building density and massing.

This planning scheme is also a brilliant showcase of how a model city can be "very modern" and yet carries a strong sense of local identity and distinctiveness. It is a really refreshing change from the current masses of new cities with slab blocks of similar looking concrete buildings and anonymous glass and aluminium clad towers.

Jury Citation: This planning proposal has performed well with all-rounded approach, which is systematic and wide encompassing.

**1. Redefining Liveability in Central Africa**

A comprehensive set of pragmatic planning and design guidelines is established, in order to help the local government and ground staff in implementing good quality affordable housing, developing alluring recreational & tourism attractions, as well as conserving & revitalising its natural environments.

**2. Creating a Vibrant CBD**

The master plan attempts to create a premier financial hub of Central Africa, with the development of Muhima Sector of new CBD, Nyarugenge Sector as the new cultural and institutional district and Kimicanga as the new entertainment and recreational district.

**3. From Concept to Reality**

The hallmark of Surbana planner's successful implementation of this project is a set of systematic documentation, with step-by-step process to guide the local government and ground staff.

There is a high level of skills in developing priorities and phases with Implementation Tool Kit with active engagements in citizen participation and the training program to empower local staff, in order to be on a fast track realisation program.

## Jury Remarks

In Category C, the Jury decided that there are 2 entries which jointly deserve the “Best Urban Design Project” Awards. They are namely:

### Category C Award

Best Urban Design Project

#### **TVS Motor Co Masterplan Campus, Bangalore, India**

**2B Architects, Singapore**

Jury Citation: This campus planning with highlights on ground relationship, access, hierarchies and domains is being sensitively carried out. Thorough an orderly series of thinking process & effective 3D Diagrams, 2B Architects bring across their design concepts in an “easy to understand” manner. This Center of Excellence aims to combine the training & development aspects, as well as the functions of a traditional university.

#### **1. Vaastu: Indian Geomancy & Essence of “Indian-ness”**

With careful interpretation of the “Science of building in Vaastu”, the overall urban design observes the key emphasis, such as positioning in South-West quadrant with the Seat of Power: Design Studio. Whilst, in the North-East quadrant with Source of Energy: Landscape & wetland waterbodies.

Despite strict observations on Vaastu, it is commendable that the urban design & Archi massing models emerged as a modern and contemporary solution with well balanced sense of order in harmony with nature.

#### **2. Place Making & Green Strategy:** Other notable efforts - Hierarchy of domains; close demarcation of closed & open spaces; Waterbodies & native wet land lakes; Green corridors of covered walkways & trees.

### Category C Award

Best Urban Design Project

#### **Al Khor Downtown & Waterfront, Qatar**

**Surbana Urban Planning Group, Singapore**

Jury Citation: With the radical proposal to re-route Al Corniche Road, which is a local highway road that disconnects the potential waterfront developments from downtown, Surbana planners open the opportunities to integrate and stitch back a holistic heritage new city downtown seamlessly to the enchanting waterfront developments.

The 3 key features of this urban planning proposal encompass:

1. **Heritage Walk:** A thematic pedestrian promenade which showcase the city’s culture & heritage, with traditional “Souq” which are quaint shops with reliving Arabic charms, along narrow streets in shaded open spaces.
2. **Al Khor Waterfront:** The precincts are devoted to recreational activities, heritage and a family park, poised to be one of the most splendid waterfront tourism destinations in Qatar.
3. **Al Khor Steps:** the City’s iconic and dynamic public space by the waterfront with Spanish steps and cascading water feature ponds, F&B outlets, performance areas and viewing decks.

## Jury Remarks

For Category D, similarly the Jury decided on 2 joint awards. We are encouraged by their works which have lots of rigour, extensive research and conceptual analysis.

Category D

### Award

Best Planning Project - Student Entry

#### **Amphibious City, Kallang, Singapore**

**Ujjaival Parekh & Wang Kai - MA Urban Design, NUS, Singapore**

Jury Citation: The concept of land + water activities = amphibious activities is interesting.

##### **1. New Waterbodies under Flyover**

At Benjamin Sheares Bridge & Rochor Road Exit intersections

The Jury was delighted with this interesting proposal to turn entire highway green & physical buffer zone into new waterbodies, which add a lot of charms and significantly increase water reservoir volume of Kallang Basin.

Mrs Koh Wen Gin, ex-Chief Planner, URA commented: "This concept of Waterbodies under the Flyover is very interesting. Even URA planners did not think of it...". The Jury views that this is an innovative, viable and implementable solution. Mr Ashvinkumar, SIA President said "This proposal of waterbodies is a stroke of genius".

##### **2. Design Objective and Strategies**

The precinct development of two distinctive areas with residential and business hub, recreation of water front with commercial activities:

Area A: Intimate & Local    Nicoll Highway & Kallang basin

Area B: Event & Global    Nearby Suntec City & Beach Road

##### **3. Exploration of Urban Grid & "Folding Ground"** with horizontal layering to allow for folding grounds toward Kallang water edge; Study on urban vistas along waterfront long houses, Nicoll Highway into Kallang basin.

Category D

### Award

Best Planning Project - Student Entry

#### **New Melaka Wall, West Malaysia**

**Rodeo Cruzado Cabillan & Jakub Zoha - MA Urban Design, NUS, S'pore**

Jury Citation: The students attempted an intriguing but challenging exercise for the heritage core district of old Melaka. Rodeo & Jakub explored the synergetic and symbiotic redevelopment between Melaka urban fabrics and its historic core. The judges liked the nostalgic quality of their beautiful thumbnail 3D perspective renderings of the heritage buildings.

##### **1. Concept of Wall + Portal + Buttress**

\* Wall        Predominately demarcated by the row of existing historic buildings forming a "wall effect" around the Heritage inner core

\* Portal      Penetrations through walls; some may become Icons

\* Buttress    Bracing structures which enhance support

##### **2. Interesting Streetscape & Urban Spaces** between existing historic buildings with hospitality amenities, edge plaza, wet & dry market, events area, themed F&B, etc. The students made special efforts to study the typical shop house front open space typology, with permutations for various uses.

Prepared by

**Mr William HL Lau**

President, SIP