

## **Singapore @ Venice Biennale 2004**

### **Singapore Participates in the Venice Biennale 9<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition**

DesignSingapore Council, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, will present a national pavilion showcasing our architectural works and aspirations in the Venice Biennale 9<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition for the first time. Singapore's participation is part of DesignSingapore's strategy to promote local designers through overseas international platforms.

2 The exhibition will be held in Venice, Italy, from 12 September to 7 November 2004. Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, Dr Lee Boon Yang, will be the Guest-of-Honour for Singapore's Exhibition Inauguration Ceremony on 10 Sep 2004

3 "We are proud to be presenting Singapore's architectural works in the Venice Biennale, a prestigious event with participation from more than 50 other countries, that will attract international media publicity and numerous foreign visitors. The exhibition will be subject to international review," said Dr Milton Tan, Director of DesignSingapore Council.

4 The theme for the 9<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition is 'Metamorph', and Singapore is presenting 'Second Nature' which will explore the relationship between architecture and nature, and how it affects our lifestyles.

5 Dr Wong Yunn Chii, lead curator for the exhibition explained, "Second Nature highlights the city-state's creative ways of responding to and transforming Nature in its urban landscape. The selection illustrates the emergent conditions and the response of Singapore's architects that is unique and exciting. It is a phenomenon that extends to a wider discourse of design."

6 Second Nature as a title addresses two aspects of the curatorial intent: a) the re-development of Singapore's urban landscape, and b) the emergence of a design sensibility among Singapore's architects towards a modern urban, tropical aesthetic. The curatorial team from the National University of Singapore, Department of Architecture has selected 15 works from 13 local architectural firms and the National Parks Board for the exhibition. The full list is found on Page 3.

7 The exhibition includes a mosaic room that features a skyline of modern-day Singapore. It is formed by an extensive collection of images that captures historical buildings and places of significance. Partnering the Skyline are four Timeline panels succinctly archiving Singapore's history and cultural statistics. Peripheral events of evening screenings highlight the latest development in Singapore's multi-disciplinary design scene.

8 The Venice Biennale started as a showcase of Italian art in 1895, eventually becoming the oldest and most important international visual art event in the world. As an international platform for contemporary art, it does not limit its cultural spectrum to that of the visual arts. It has evolved over the years to include architecture, music, cinema, dance and theatre. It attracts hundreds of thousands of people to each event and is recognised as the most strategic and high-profiled cultural event of its kind.

9 The Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition is held in alternative years to the Venice Biennale International Exhibition of Art. Singapore participated in the Venice Biennale for Art held in 2001 and 2003.

## Quick Facts on Singapore @ Venice Biennale 2004

**Commissioner:**

**Designsingapore**

*Designsingapore is an office within:*



**Co-Commissioner:**



**Co-Organisers:**



**Official Airline:**



**Supporting Organisations:**



**board of architects singapore**

Organiser

**Designsingapore**

Co-Organisers



## Press Release by Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts

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### **About DesignSingapore**

As Singapore seeks to remake its economy and stay competitive, it must enhance its creative capacity as well as develop its creative industries - namely the arts and cultural, media and design industries in Singapore. DesignSingapore is a specific initiative targeting design as part of Singapore's creative industries.

DesignSingapore Council is set up by the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts. It involves leaders and individuals from the various industry stakeholders, the design community and government. The Council works closely with the design and industry associations, which currently sit on the Council's Industry Development Panel.

While the different design and industry associations cater to the needs of specific design professions or industries, the DesignSingapore Council is set up as a national body to steer and coordinate the overall development of the various design industries as an integrated cluster, to promote design in Singapore as well as Singapore design internationally. For more information on DesignSingapore, please visit

[www.designsingapore.org](http://www.designsingapore.org)

## ***Full List of Singapore Architects Featured***

Michael Ngu  
Lim Chow Weng  
*Architects 61 Pte Ltd*

Khoo Peng Beng  
Belinda Huang  
*Arc<sup>10</sup> Studio Architecture + Urbanism*

Tay Kheng Soon  
*Akitek Tenggara*

Wong Hooe Wai  
Phan Phit Li  
Edwin Lee  
Patrick Tan  
*CPG Consultants Pte Ltd*

Chan Sui Him  
Koh Seow Chuan  
Vikas Madhav Gore  
*DP Architects Pte Ltd*

Tan Kok Hiang  
*Forum Architects*

Tan Kay Ngee  
*Kay Ngee Tan Architects*

Tan Hock Beng  
*MAPS Design Studio*

Yap Mong Lin  
Pok Siew Fatt  
*RSP Architects Planners & Engineers (Pte) Ltd, Singapore*

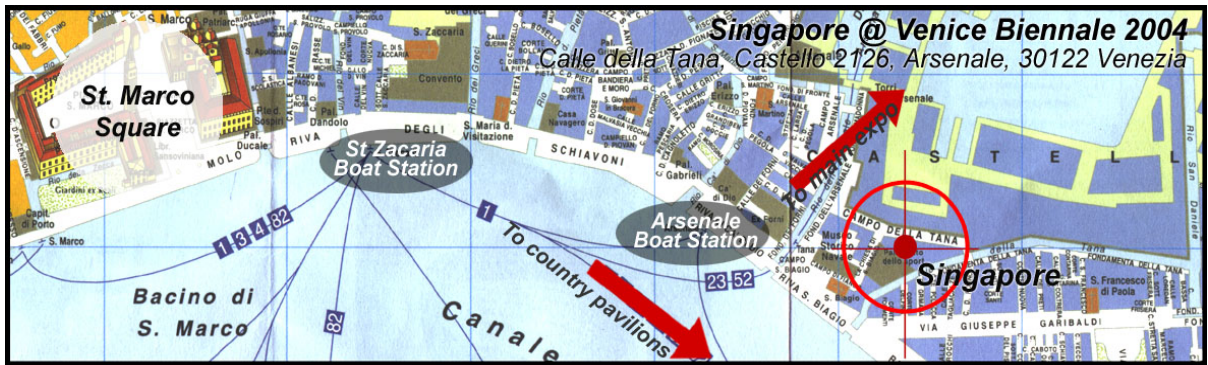
Chan Soo Khian  
*SCDA Architects Pte Ltd*

Boey Yut Mei  
Chong Fok Loong  
*Surbana Consultants Pte Ltd*

Mok Wei Wei  
*W Architects Pte*

Wong Mun Summ  
Richard Hassell  
*WOHA Designs Pte Ltd*

## Press Invitation



Dear Member-of-the-Press,

DesignSingapore invites you for the inaugural participation of Singapore at the Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition (VBIAE). The location of Singapore's pavilion is given in the map above and the programme is as follows:

### Programme Outline

#### 9th Sept, Thurs (Preview Day- by Invitation only)

- 4-6pm Architectural Forum
- 7-8pm Screening of Singapore's multi-disciplinary works/films with Light Refreshments

#### 10th Sept, Fri (Preview Day- by Invitation only)

- 12.30-2.30pm Inauguration Ceremony for Singapore @ Venice Biennale 2004  
Guest-of Honour Minister Lee Boon Yang  
Press Preview  
Reception
- 7-8pm Screening of Singapore's multi-disciplinary works/films with Light Refreshments

#### 11th Sept, Sat (Preview Day- by Invitation only)

- 7-8pm Screening of Singapore's multi-disciplinary works/films with Light Refreshments

#### 12th Sept, Sun (Open to Public)

- 7-8pm Screening of Singapore's multi-disciplinary works/films with Light Refreshments

### Address of Singapore @ Venice Biennale 2004:

Calle Della Tana, Castello 2126,  
Arsenale, 30122 Venezia  
(Nearest Boat Station: Arsenale)  
Tel. +39 041 5234044

The Pavilion opens daily from 10am to 6pm from 12 Sep to 07 Nov 2004.  
Please bring along this letter to exchange for a free catalogue.

For interviews in Venice and application of press passes, please contact Paivi Tirkkonen De Grandis at [paivi@artecomunications.com](mailto:paivi@artecomunications.com) or call +39 041 526 4546.

For enquiries from Singapore, please contact Elaine Khoo at [Elaine\\_khoo@mita.gov.sg](mailto:Elaine_khoo@mita.gov.sg), or call +65 6837 9632.

Organiser

**Designsingapore**

Co-Organisers

ARTE COMMUNICATIONS  
ARTES COMMUNICATIONS

NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL  
SINGAPORE

Second Nature

Calle della Tana, Castello 2126, Arsenale, 30122 Venezia