

MEDIA RELEASE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE INSPIRES BIOPHILIC URBAN DESIGNS, BRIDGES MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS AND REINFORCES COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Singapore, 9 July 2018 – International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) World Congress, the largest and most significant event for landscape professionals in the world, returns to Singapore for the second time from **18 to 21 July 2018** at **Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore**. Themed **“Biophilic City, Smart Nation, and Future Resilience”**, the 55th IFLA World Congress is jointly organised by the Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects (SILA), IFLA and SingEx Exhibitions. This year, the event will examine how landscape architecture that enhances the attractiveness, liveability, equitability and sustainability of environments, can inspire future urban designs to be more meaningfully connected to nature while bridging social connections and reinforcing community resilience.

City in a Garden, the Host City – Singapore

Commenting on the return of the international congress to Singapore after 17 years, Mr. Ronnie Tan, President of SILA said, “We are extremely honoured to be accorded the opportunity to once again host the annual event. Building on the success of the first congress held in Singapore in 2001, the 55th edition will further explore how landscape architecture can contribute to the development of attractive, liveable, equitable, and sustainable environments of the future. This year’s conference, in addition to the international line-up of industry experts and thought leaders, will also feature exclusive content tailored to meet the unique needs of the Asian community.”

Mr. James Boey, Executive Director of SingEx Exhibitions, added “Singapore is not just a choice international meeting city¹, but also the ‘City in a Garden’, which has kept nature at the heart of its planning and design process, as well as a globally recognised Biophilic City and Smart Nation. The event provides a unifying platform for professionals, government bodies and academics to explore designs of smart, biophilic and future resilient cities, discuss trends and challenges, and create business opportunities. This year, we expect some 1,000 regional and international attendees to advance the interests of the growing sector at the 4-day event.”

Mr. Kenneth Er, CEO of National Parks Board (NParks), organising partner, who will also be giving a talk during the congress noted, “Singapore is widely recognised as one of the greenest cities in the world. Its transformation from unsanitary port city to

¹ Singapore came in second after Brussels under the [Union of International Associations \(UIA\) 2016 Global Rankings](#), International Meeting Cities category, contributing to 8.5 per cent of all global meetings.

a ‘City in a Garden’ was a result of pragmatic thinking by her forefathers coupled with clear direction on our greening efforts. Today, we have established ourselves as a biophilic city but there’s still work to be done. Being a biophilic city goes beyond just having nature in the built environment. We now need to work on enlisting the communities to become stewards of nature. This can only happen if people love our green spaces, which we are continually working towards by designing such spaces to cater to a variety of lifestyle needs and interests.”

IFLA World Congress 2018 will reinforce the importance of landscape architecture, in partnership with other disciplines, in the continuous shaping of our living environment through a strong programme line up. The event’s opening ceremony will also see participation of Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Lawrence Wong, Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance, as well as senior representatives of Organising Partner, NParks and Supporting Organisations – Design Singapore Council, Housing & Development Board, Public Utilities Board, Urban Redevelopment Authority and JTC Corporation.

Liveability at the Core of the IFLA World Congress 2018 Design

Strategically focused on improving the liveability of cities, the IFLA World Congress 2018, will explore innovative ideas for landscape research, planning and design through three key areas, which are also reflected in the event’s theme.

1. **Biophilia** – Sessions will discuss the concept of “biophilia” and what constitutes a truly biophilic city. Speakers including Prof. Timothy Beatley, Professor of Sustainable Communities, Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, University of Virginia School of Architecture and Prof. Peter Edwards, Principal Investigator, Future Cities Laboratory, Switzerland will present case studies on how a city can place nature first in its design, planning, and management, and explore the environmental and economic values of infusing nature into our urban environment.
2. **Smart** – The conference examines the relevancy of landscape architecture in a digitalised society through urban design, and the adoption of technology, the Internet of Things (IoT) and data analytics, can offer practical solutions to address climate change and urbanisation. Dr. Conrad Phillip from Singapore-ETH Centre, Cooling Singapore will share about how scientific applications helps to cool the island state, while Dutch artist, creative thinker and maker of social designs, Mr. Daan Roosegaarde will explore the social role of design through his vision for a better global future.
3. **Resilience** – Landscape architecture plays an important role in increasing resilience within cities. Therefore, landscape architects are required to work beyond their disciplines with other experts, to develop concepts, frameworks, and tools to overcome the loss in biodiversity and inundation as well as to lessen the impact of compromised critical infrastructure and systems, and environmental damage. Ms. Rachel de Lambert, Landscape Architect and Director of Boffa Miskell, New Zealand, will lend insights on the Christchurch Blueprint and the post-earthquake Christchurch.



The accompanying sponsor showcase will feature an inclusive display of landscaping solutions and innovations in the region, creating a platform for attendees to connect and collaborate, paving the way for better and more sustainable living.

Held in conjunction with IFLA World Congress 2018 is the Singapore Garden Festival (SGF). A biennial event, positioned to be amongst the top flower and garden shows on the international calendar, SGF is the first garden show to showcase creations from the world's top award-winning garden and floral designers under one roof, to be held from 21 July to 3 August 2018. This is the seventh time the NParks-organised event will enchant local and international visitors alike. Key highlights at this year's festival include the highly popular landscape and fantasy show gardens and the floral windows to the world displays.

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About SingEx Exhibitions

SingEx Exhibitions is a subsidiary of SingEx Holdings, which is wholly owned by Temasek Holdings, Singapore's investment company. SingEx Exhibitions harnesses insights and its strategic networks to organise and manage a series of trade exhibitions and conferences in various industries, including automotive, education, environment, e-commerce and logistics, technology, healthcare and lifestyle. These events aim to connect businesses in Asia and globally, and facilitate business matching with opportunities along with knowledge sharing.

For more information, log on to www.singex.com.

About Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects (SILA)

SILA is a non-profit organisation representing the Landscape Architectural professional in Singapore. It was established in 1985 to advance the art of Landscape Architecture and the theory and practice of landscape, environmental, and urban design; to promote research and education therein; and to create and maintain a high standard of professional qualification.

For more information, log on to www.sila.org.sg.

About International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA)

A truly global federation, IFLA currently represents 76 national associations from Africa, the Americas, Europe and Asia Pacific, and a newly emerging region in the Middle East. Our mission is to create globally sustainable and balanced living environments for the benefit of humanity worldwide. IFLA officially represents approximately 25,000 landscape architects across the world – the actual number of landscape architects is estimated to be about three times that. Our strategic aim is to become more indispensable through services we provide to our members and through leadership that raises the profile of the profession and increases advocacy via national and international governments and NGOs.

For more information, log on to <https://www.ifla.org>.

HIGHLIGHTS: AN INCLUSIVE PROGRAMME INVOLVING THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM

Singapore Garden Festival 2018

Singapore Garden Festival (SGF) is a biennial event, positioned to be amongst the top flower and garden shows on the international calendar. SGF is the first show to bring together top international award-winning landscape and garden designers, florists and horticulturists from around the world who are invited to the Festival to work alongside Singapore's own talented horticulturists. Singapore's geographic location makes the Festival an ideal platform to showcase horticultural and gardening products and services from the northern and southern hemispheres, as well as from Asia and New World nations. In 2014, SGF became the first festival in Asia to clinch the prestigious International Garden Tourism – Achievement of The Year Award, awarded by the Canadian Garden Tourism Council as a part of the biennial Garden Tourism Conference.

For more information on SGF 2018, log onto www.singaporegardenfestival.com and www.facebook.com/SGGardenFest.

IFLA World Congress 2018 Technical Tours

Singapore is a country that has made tremendous efforts in infusing nature into the heart of all urban developments. Boasting an impressive network of trails and pathways that connects parts and green spaces, the city-state has made considerable efforts to also integrate nature into its vertical spaces. Delegates and members of the public will be able to join us for a first-hand experience in exploring the deep wonders of what the city has to offer by signing up for our specially curated technical tours, where we go out to explore award-winning sites right in this garden city.

1. **Remaking Heartlands in Singapore**

Curated and hosted by Housing & Development Board (HDB)

These projects will bring you through the heartlands of Singapore where most of our Singapore population live. HDB designed and built many of these new age public housing, positioned as satellite towns where biophilia ecosystems, integrated greenery and water planning are part of their design principles. Learn and experience how one could seamlessly move through places lined with greenery in between housing, town centres and regional parks.

2. **Biophilic Playscapes**

Curated and hosted by National Parks Board

Building values through play. Play and experience how biophilic and immersive play stimulates active nature learning through design while fostering social interaction amongst users of different abilities. This tour will also give you a glimpse of how our park space provides recreational play for adults and cater for lifestyles of different demographic.

3. **Water Story – from Resilience to Biophilia**

Curated and hosted by Public Utilities Board

Look into the past and present of Singapore waterways and water bodies. See how Singapore has transformed their once ugly drains and canals into clean river and beautiful waterways. This tour will bring you on a journey of a water story beginning with resilience building and now transformed for biophila. Be surprised by how Singapore engineers work with landscape architects to transform some of these urban and residential spaces.

4. **Singapore Heritage and Conservation Efforts**

Curated and hosted by Urban Redevelopment Authority

This tour will bring you through the heritage and conservation journey of Singapore. Understand the conservation efforts and some award winning heritage buildings that are part of Singapore's preservation of local culture, architecture and landscapes including biodiversity.

5. **“Breathtaking” Greenery**

Experience the innovations and landscape architecture feat behind Singapore skyrise greenery for commercial and mix-residential projects. These projects will give you insights on how landscape architects, worked with architects to challenge greenery at heights and at scale. These projects will bring you through some of the award winning landscape architecture projects and introducing new breathtaking projects that pushes biophilia principles and experiences.

6. **State of the Art**

See and experience the engineering feat and brilliant architecture that integrated thoughtfully & beautifully with the lush greenery. These projects will give you insights into the challenges of planning, design and construction stages.

7. **Transforming the Landscape of Institutions**

Zoom out and be surprised to see 30% of our city is well covered by lush greenery. Walk through the spaces under the tree lined canopy and feel the intensity in numbers of the trees and plants planted all around Singapore. Understand how the planning and transport authority integrates cycling and landscapes with the greening authority and appreciate the challenges behind. This tour will also bring you to some of the business parks and university campus with a lush landscape master plan in place.

8. **Beautiful Healthcare and Therapeutic Gardens**

Healthcare services and hospitals in Singapore are stepping up their greenery provision, believing in the therapeutic effect that greenery has for its patients. Communities are also having a piece of their planting spaces in public areas where community gardens and allotment gardens are provided to enhance the social bonding and well-being of our societies.

9. **Biodiversity conservation and Ecological connectivity**

Experience resilient landscapes where biodiversity and conservation efforts thrive in response to rapid urbanising programmes and increasing competing land use demand in the tropical island city. These nature spaces and projects bring you into the depth of our design with built in resilience strategies for the tropical rainforest structure, wildlife ecology, and even communities engagement that serves as a pedagogical approach.

For a full list of the sites under each technical tour, visit www.ifla2018.com/technical-tour.

Student Design Charrette

Themed “Optimisation of Biodiversity Conservation in an Urban Island State”, the IFLA Student Design Charrette is a 3-day design workshop for landscape architecture students. The workshop will also run on three sub-themes, namely “Biophilic City”, “Smart Nation” and “Future Resilience”, which echo the theme of the IFLA World Congress.

Award Ceremonies and Student Design Competition

1. **IFLA Africa, Asia Pacific and Middle East (AAPME) Awards** – The IFLA AAPME Awards 2018 - Resilience by Design is an inaugural international award organised by the IFLA APAC region and co-chaired by the regional IFLA presidents. It is recognition for landscape design and planning practitioners who have contributed to multidisciplinary projects grounded in the landscape, with the intention of building resilience in the region’s urban and natural systems. The award presentation will take place on the second evening of World Congress at the Awards Gala.

2. **Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Awards (SGJA)** – The SGJA is the highest honour that IFLA can bestow upon a landscape architect. The annual award recognises a internationally respected landscape architect for his achievements and contributions which have made unique and lasting impact on the welfare of society and environment. Past awardees include Dirk Sijmon, Peter Latz, as well as Mario Schjetnan.

3. **Student Design Competition** – The competition, which is held annually, demonstrates the achievement of the highest standards in landscape architecture



and recognises students enrolled in landscape architecture educational programmes for thoughtful and innovative environmental design work. The awards for the design competition will be presented on 18 July at the event's evening reception.