

MEDIA RELEASE

Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, first hospital to clinch Gold Award in BCA Universal Design Awards

1. The heart of Universal Design (UD) is good and considerate design for people with diverse needs. Increasingly, we are seeing more projects embodying this heightened sense of consciousness at the planning and design stage. At first glance, common features associated with UD may not be evident, however as you walk through the building, the user will find the navigation intuitive and seamless, enhanced with thoughtful features that are placed purposefully when you need them. This is a testament of good design and upfront planning with careful consideration of users' needs.

2. **Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH) is the first hospital to win the BCA Universal Design Gold Award for its exemplary application of UD.** KTPH provides a comprehensive range of medical services and specialties, set within a restful and healing environment filled with greenery and water features. The calm surroundings help to relieve patients' anxiety, and speed up their recovery process. The design of the hospital brings together elements of accessibility, comfort and convenience in an integrated manner to serve the needs of patients and visitors. Design for enabled living is also prominently featured in one of their retail outlets called the "ABLE Studio", a concept store featuring solutions for rehabilitation, accessibility and safety at home.

3. Mr. Liak Teng Lit, Chief Executive Officer of Khoo Teck Puat Hospital said, "In 2004, Minister for Health Khaw Boon Wan challenged us to build a hassle-free hospital designed with patients at the centre of focus. We are grateful that many people came forward to help us. They include architects, engineers, grass root

leaders, volunteers and people with disabilities. Their feedback and advice helped us tremendously to ensure that our hospital is easy to navigate and accessible.”

4. UD is also illustrated in infrastructural developments like the BCA Universal Design Silver award winner - Sentosa Boardwalk. **Although it is intended to serve a utilitarian function as a bridge, the Sentosa Development Corporation and their designers have gone beyond, and provided a seamless connection between Vivocity and Resorts World Sentosa, via a variety of routes.** Users of different needs can either use the sheltered options of travellers, stairs and ramps or opt to walk under the open deck. Despite being an outdoor transitory structure, extra provisions have been catered, through user-friendly facilities such as nursing room, first aid room and child-friendly fittings, to provide a convenient and a hassle-free travel.

5. **Mapletree Business City is another BCA Universal Design Silver award winner who has pushed the design envelope for a conventional office development.** Conceived as more than a place for work, the incorporation of ‘play’ is evident in its thoughtful provisions of facilities such as a childcare centre, multi-purpose hall, gym with a 40-metre pool and restaurants. The development was purposefully built with generous sized public spaces, cleverly articulated with art work. Good design considerations put into beautifying the car park and defining the lobby with themed artwork, give a distinct identity to each lobby space and boost the overall ambience of the development.

6. This year, four HDB’s newly developed residences also bagged silver and bronze Universal Design Awards, indicating **HDB’s strong commitment towards universal design to enhance the built environment and to cater to all residents with different needs.** These projects are well integrated into existing precincts, and the design of the communal facilities has enhanced the pedestrian network within and beyond the residential blocks. For example, its Silver Award winner, ‘RiverVista’ (Kallang Whampoa RC 31) is a vehicular free and pedestrian

friendly precinct, with blocks arranged along the periphery of the site forming green central open space that connects the residents directly to parks and the riverfront.

7. The needs of the elderly have also been strongly featured in HDB's design. Strathmore Green, for example, is a HDB selected En-bloc Renewal Project with most of the residents expected to be in the older age-group. Integration of the studio apartment with other units within the same floor is a good demonstration of UD which caters for an ageing-in-place lifestyle where one grows old amongst the young within the community. The project has taken an extra step to enhance connectivity and social inclusion by planning for future communal facilities nearer blocks with Studio Apartments to minimise walking distance for the elderly. Another development, Golden Jasmine, a purpose built residential development for the elderly, has elderly provisions such as trailing bars through corridors, emergency buttons, and elder-friendly kitchen layout and fittings. These are important universal design considerations that take good care of the needs of the elderly and enable them to enjoy a good quality of life as part of the community.

8. Mr Cheong Yip Seng, Chairman of the BCA UD Award Assessment Committee said, "This year, a good spectrum of projects spanning from hospital to bridges, commercial buildings, MRT stations and residences achieved significant breakthrough in universal design. This goes back to the essence of the Awards, which is to raise awareness that universal design is simply good design, and building owners are developing projects that are user-centric by putting more thought of integrating design into the environment. So, we are pleased to see that a friendly built environment for all is taking shape".

9. Into its fifth year, the BCA Universal Design Awards has awarded 13 outstanding projects in six categories with one Gold, five Silver and seven Bronze awards this year (The complete list of award winners can be found in Annex A). Winners of this year's BCA Universal Design Award will receive their award at the BCA Awards Night on 19 May 2011.

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About BCA

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) of Singapore champions the development of an excellent built environment for Singapore.

At BCA, our mission is to shape a safe, high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment, as these are four key elements where BCA has a significant influence. In doing so, we aim to differentiate Singapore's built environment from those of other cities and contribute to a better quality of life for everyone in Singapore. Hence, our vision is to have "the best built environment for Singapore, our distinctive global city". Together with our education and research hub, the BCA Academy of the Built Environment, BCA works closely with its industry partners to develop skills and expertise that help shape the best built environment for Singapore. For more information, visit www.bca.gov.sg.

About Universal Design Awards

The annual BCA Universal Design Awards gives recognition to building owners and architects who have embraced Universal Design in their building and upgrading projects. This award recognizes their efforts for being active partners of BCA in creating a seamlessly connected and friendly built environment that caters to the varying needs of people with different physical abilities. To-date, BCA has conferred a total of 51 awards (5 Gold, 12 Silver and 34 Bronze).

**BCA UNIVERSAL DESIGN AWARD FOR
THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT 2011**

The Award

The BCA Universal Design Award was introduced in 2007. The objective of the awards is to give recognition to good practices and special efforts taken to raise awareness of the importance of providing seamless accessible built environment for all. Into its fifth consecutive year, to-date, BCA has conferred a total of 51 awards (5 Gold, 12 Silver and 34 Bronze). This year, we received 33 nominations for 6 categories of awards.

The Recipients

The building owners and developers are the principal recipients of the Awards. Qualified persons and architects of the buildings will also be acknowledged for their friendly designs and efforts.

Award Categories

The 6 categories of buildings/structures for the awards are:

- a) Commercial/Mixed Use/ Industrial Buildings
(E.g. Hotel, shopping centre, cinema, theatre, office building)

- b) Institutional Buildings
(E.g. Hospital, school library, museum, religious building)

- c) Residential Buildings
(E.g. Condominium, public housing, townhouses, detached, semi-detached and terrace houses)

- d) Open Category
(Buildings not included in categories (a) – (c), e.g. factory, MRT station, bus interchange, sport complex, swimming pool, places of interest)

- e) Open Spaces and Structures
(E.g. Park, promenade, amphitheatre, plaza, overhead bridge, underpass)
and

- f) Refurbished Buildings
(E.g. Buildings or facilities which have been upgraded with universal design features)

Judging Criteria

The key considerations for assessment are as follows:

a. Connectivity:

The degree to which the building has allowed for seamless movement within the building, from the building to adjacent buildings, road related facilities and urban spaces;

b. Accessibility:

The availability and convenience of external accessible facilities, such as car parking lots, and other facilities which are child-friendly and family-friendly;

c. User Friendliness:

The degree to which the design, provision of signage and way-finding cues are easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills or concentration level, and requires minimal effort for use by people with varied needs.

d. Safety:

The degree to which accessible paths and walking surfaces are made safe and secure and the provision of accessible escape routes and systems;

e. Integrated Design:

The degree to which the provision and location of facilities are integrated with the overall architecture and interior design of the building catered to the needs of different users.

f. Operations and Maintenance:

The degree to which an organisation is committed to creating an inclusive built environment through the establishment of corporate policy, operation and maintenance procedures, communication and training systems;

g. Bonus for Innovation and Enhancement:

The provision of other new or innovative aging-in-place, family- and or employee-friendly UD facilities or features, and accessible escape routes and systems for the physically challenged; and the commitment and efforts of refurbished building owners in overcoming the challenges of existing constraints.

Assessment Committee

Chairman:

Mr Cheong Yip Seng BCA Board Member (2003 - 2011)
Chairman, Singapore's non-resident Ambassador to Chile

Deputy Chairman:

Mr John Lim BCA Board Member
Senior Director, Homefront Security Division, MHA

Members:

Mr. AshvinKumar s/o Kantilal	Singapore Institute of Architects
Ms. Nancy Chia	Handicaps Welfare Association
Mr. Chin Chi Leong	Building and Construction Authority
Mr. Chng Chee Beow	Real Estate Developers' Association of Singapore
Mr. Thomas Ho	Singapore Institute of Architects
Ms. Ruby Lai	Singapore Institute of Architects
Ms. Coral Yuen	Singapore Association of Occupational Therapists
Prof. Tse Swee Ling	National University of Singapore

List of Universal Design Award Winners 2011

Gold Award - 1

Silver Award - 5

Bronze Award -7

No	Project/ Development	Type of Award	Award Category
1.	Khoo Teck Puat Hospital At Yishun	Gold	Institutional Building
2.	Sentosa Boardwalk	Silver	Outdoor Spaces & Structures
3.	Marina Barrage	Silver	Outdoor Spaces & Structures
4.	Paya Lebar Mass Rapid Transport Interchange Station	Silver	Open Category
5.	Mapletree Business City	Silver	Commercial Building
6.	Rivervista @ Kallang	Silver	Residential Building
7.	Strathmore Green	Bronze	Residential Building
8.	Dover Gardens	Bronze	Residential Building
9.	Golden Jasmine	Bronze	Residential Building
10.	Nicoll Highway MRT Station	Bronze	Open Category
11.	Tribeca	Bronze	Residential Building
12.	Marina Bay Financial Centre Commercial Phase 1	Bronze	Commercial Building
13.	Skybridge And Rain Shelters Between Queen's Close And Mei Chin Road	Bronze	Outdoor Spaces & Structures

Winners

GOLD AWARD

1) Khoo Teck Puat Hospital at Yishun (Institutional Category)



Owner:
Alexandra Health Pte Ltd

Architect:
CPG Consultants Pte Ltd

More than just providing an extensive range of medical services and specialties, KTPH has a restful, tranquil and healing environment filled with greenery and water features to help relieve patients' anxieties, and speed up their recovery processes. This is a result of good upfront planning with linkages to the reservoir and incorporation of a landscape courtyard and roof gardens within the hospital.

Key Features:

- Intuitive and good way finding through colour cues facilitate orientation despite the scale of the hospital complex.
- Provision of Braille markings, rest areas with ample seating and child friendly provisions throughout the building exemplified the attention to details made for both patients and visitors to KTPH alike.
- Incorporation of a shop with daily necessities to support patient's rehabilitation at home
- Users were engaged to advise on provisions, thus enabling good integration at onset of design.

SILVER AWARD

2) Sentosa Boardwalk

(Outdoor Spaces & Structures)



Owner:
Sentosa Development Corporation

Architect:
Aedas Pte Ltd

Seamless connection between Vivocity and Resorts World Sentosa via a variety of routes and means – sheltered, open deck, travellators, stairs and ramps provide various options of travel and caters to persons with different needs.

Key Features:

- Though, this is an outdoor transitory structure, user-friendly facilities like nursing room, first aid room, child-friendly fittings, are extra provisions made for enhanced convenience in view of the length of travel.
- Interesting lighting patterns at glass railing and light patterns on floor not just enhanced the night time experience but serve as a safety barrier and alert one of level changes.
- Braille on the handrail provides the visually handicapped visitors with directional guidance.

SILVER AWARD

3) Marina Barrage

(Outdoor Spaces & Structures Category)



Owner:

PUB

Architect:

Architects Team 3 Pte Ltd

Marina Barrage has successfully integrated a welcoming community space for leisure and recreation within instead of a fenced utilitarian facility.

Key Features:

- Clever integration of user-friendly community spaces and utilities - design of landscape mound camouflages pump station and also allows visitors to stroll to the promenade at grade level, via a gentle slope to enjoy an elevated view of the channel and sea.
- Good philosophy in catering to all users. The design has successfully engaged the public to use its open spaces, it is well utilised by all ages and open for 24 hours.
- User-friendliness extends beyond providing family and child-friendly facilities e.g. audio tour players allows them to explore the facility at their own pace.
- Nursing room, child size sanitary fittings and shower area for children to clean after playing with the water features, were some of the features that were catered for families.

SILVER AWARD

4) Paya Lebar Mass Rapid Transport Interchange Station (Open Category)



Owner:
Land Transport Authority

Architect:
Land Transport Authority

Travel within and emerging from the station is hassle free and intuitive with its seamless interconnectivity. Large sheltered bus bays, integrated vehicular drop-offs with seats and sheltered walkways provide direct and easy movement of passengers of all ages and abilities.

Key Features:

- Despite the change in level, that links an aboveground with a belowground platform, a direct intuitive connection is maintained with escalators and wide corridors.
- Artwork with local references gives identity to the station and also enhances the commuters travelling experience. The roof of the centre track is designed as a link-bridge, forming a design element and a viewing platform. Award winning seat were designed with handgrips to aid the elderly or physically disabled.
- Good utilisation of space is found under the existing East West Line with a roundabout driveway for taxis and sheltered passenger pick-up is located amongst lush landscaping.
- Good planning with provision of non-structural wall panels enable for connection to future adjacent developments.

SILVER AWARD

5) Mapletree Business City (Commercial Building Category)



Owner:
Mapletree Business City Pte Ltd

Architect:
P & T Consultants Pte Ltd

Conceived as more than a place for work, the incorporation of 'play' is evident in its thoughtful provisions of conveniences and amenities like child-centre, multi-purpose hall, gym with 40m pool and restaurants. Layering the site vertically creates spacious thoroughfare on the ground as well as an elevated landscaped deck, providing respite for the office users. The deck also provides a natural and seamless link to all buildings, including adjacent ones.

Key Features:

- Huge development with generous sized public spaces, cleverly articulated with art work. Good design considerations haven been put into beautifying the car park, defining the lobby with themed artwork, giving it a good overall feeling.
- Subtle considerations were given to user-friendliness. e.g. planter boxes with seats, reception counters designed to cater to different statures, weather-protected public spaces.
- Nursing rooms and childcare facilities within the office development provide for a family friendly environment.
- Generous facilities for tenants with multipurpose hall and meeting rooms.

SILVER AWARD

6) Rivervista @ Kallang (Residential Building)



Owner:
Housing & Development Board

Architect:
Surbana International Consultants
Pte Ltd

RiverVista is a vehicular free pedestrian friendly precinct, with blocks arranged along the periphery of the site, this makes way for a green, central open space that connects the residents directly to parks and the riverfront.

Key Features:

- Pedestrian central space is pleasant forming a conducive environment where children are free to play.
- Kallang river edge is well engaged and utilised with level differences that are resolved with gentle sloping meandering footpaths.
- Ample seating is planned purposefully at varying heights along the main pedestrian spine, along with a drop off porch and shelters at activity nodes.
- Hierarchy of spaces is evident in the spatial layout of public active spaces (childcare centre and playground) to semi-active zones with quieter activities (elderly fitness corner) between the residential blocks.
- Signage and colour-coded lift lobbies and staircase wall are applied strategically for a sense of direction, orientation and identification.
- Good cross-ventilation at the lift lobbies and the corridors.

BRONZE AWARD

7) Strathmore Green (Residential Building)



Owner:
Housing & Development Board

Architect:
Surbana International Consultants Pte Ltd

Strathmore Green is a HDB selected En-bloc Renewal Project, comprising mostly elderly resident, hence there is distinct emphasis on connectivity and social inclusion. The Integration of the studio apartment with other units within the same floor is a good demonstration of Universal Design which caters for an aging-in-place lifestyle where the elderly can integrate with the young within the community.

Key Features:

- The development has multiple accessible routes, allowing residents and visitors an option of walking either in a semi-open trellis or a fully sheltered route.
- Elderly-friendly provisions extend from communal spaces to within the residential units. In the outdoors, there are elderly exercise stations and seats with grab bars; to and within the units grab bars also installed along the common corridors, emergency call buttons linked to a public electronic board are located at the public lobby and elder-friendly kitchen layout and fittings.
- Provision for future communal facilities have been taken into consideration by locating them nearer to blocks with Studio Apartments, to minimise walking distance for the elderly.

BRONZE AWARD

8) Dover Gardens (Residential Building)



Owner:
Housing & Development Board

Architect:
Surbana International Consultants Pte
Ltd

Seamless connectivity achieved through sensitive planning to overcome an existing 4-metre height difference in terrain and while enhancing the pedestrian network within and beyond the precinct.

Key Features:

- Comprehensive pedestrian network within and beyond Dover Gardens set up through a series of covered link ways with gentle ramps, allowing convenient access to residential blocks and amenities.
- Pockets of multi-generational spaces for recreation incorporated across the housing estate to promote greater social integration of the residents.
- Contrasting coloured bands with distinct directional floor pattern act as way finding cues to assist residents and visitors navigate around Dover Gardens
- Sheltered and wide drop-off points with seating provides a grand entrance whilst providing shade.

BRONZE AWARD

9) Golden Jasmine (Residential Building)



Owner:
Housing & Development Board

Architect:
Surbana International Consultants Pte Ltd

Although, Golden Jasmine is a purpose built residential development for the elderly, it is well integrated into existing precinct. The design of the communal facilities has brought about an overall good feeling and mitigated the existing level difference in the terrain and enhancing the pedestrian network within and beyond the residential block.

Key Features:

- Elderly-friendly provisions: Within the units, there is levelled-entry, elderly-friendly kitchen layout and fittings. Bathrooms are installed with grab bars and are spacious for the wheelchair bound.
- Each unit is fitted with an emergency call button that is linked to a public electronic board located at the public lobby.
- Trailing (or trail) bars along corridors provide support as they make their way around.
- Accessible lifts lead to the light exercise area and a clinic is located conveniently below the development.

BRONZE AWARD

10) Nicoll Highway MRT Station (Open Category)



Owner:
Land Transport Authority

Architect:
ONG&ONG Pte Ltd

Nicoll Highway MRT station is essentially a transport facility that has a well planned layout and design provisions catered for the diverse group of commuters.

Key Features:

- Seamless connections and aesthetic integration with adjacent commercial development, alighting/boarding bay, taxi stand and bus stop.
- Wide passenger concourse allows unobstructed movement of commuters, providing comfortable travelling experience, especially during peak hours.
- Vertical circulation is facilitated by various modes, including wide staircases with additional support handrails in the middle, ramps, lifts and escalators.
- Signages bear names of adjacent buildings to aid orientation.

BRONZE AWARD

11) Tribeca

(Open Category)



Owner:
City Developments Limited

Architect:
RSP Architects Planners & Engineers (Pte) Ltd

The open plan concept provides for cross ventilation, natural lighting and facilitates visual connection from the main entrance to the facilities.

Key Features:

- Main canopy over the first storey drop off provides a focal point for way finding whilst providing shelter.
- Strategically placed water features provide visual and sensory cues to the resident and aids orientation.
- The basement car park layout is simple with clear sightlines to cars, pedestrians and signages.
- Safety is enhanced with a dedicated pedestrian footpath and speed humps at the road crossing.

BRONZE AWARD

12) Marina Bay Financial Centre Commercial Phase 1 (Commercial Building Category)



Owner:
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited
Hongkong Land (Singapore) Pte Limited
Keppel Land Limited

Architect:
DCA Architects Pte Ltd
Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates PC

Upfront and sound urban planning brings about comprehensive connectivity to adjacent developments and transportation network, providing visitors with sheltered access and convenience.

Key Features:

- In a large development with expectedly high volume of pedestrians and vehicular traffic, navigation around the corporate precinct is well-considered and designed.
- Large, colour coded signage for easy identification across all levels of the development.
- Attention to detail with design considerations provided with levelled entrances and generous sheltered pick-up/drop-off enhanced with safe, segregated traffic flow.
- Generous spaces and wide corridors at subterranean mall provides for seamless connectivity to adjacent buildings and future MRT.
- Large open park forms a place of respite for office users.

BRONZE AWARD

13) Skybridge and Rain Shelters between Queen's Close and Mei Chin Road (Outdoor Spaces & Structures Category)



Owner:
Tanjong Pagar Town Council

Architect:
S A Chua & Associates
Architects and Designers

Integration of form and function to mitigate an existing 6-metre level difference, creating a convenient connection between a remote housing estate and amenities via a series of gentle ramps.

Key Features:

- Besides performing a utilitarian function, the ramp is incorporated with a series of steps as an alternative quick transit.
- Rain shelters with seats are provided along the 1.5km long access route with landscaping to enhance the transitory experience.
- Incorporated with lush landscape to enhance the experience.