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Round Table Forum

Chua Beng Huat



Chua Beng Huat

Chua Beng Huat is a Provost Professor and the Head of the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore. He is concurrently the Cluster Leader of the Cultural Studies in Asia program at the Asia Research Institute (ARI).

Chua studied biology and chemistry in his undergraduate years. After completing his degree, he realized that the isolated life of a lab scientist was not for him and switched to postgraduate studies in sociology, obtaining his PhD from York University, Canada.

He has written extensively on Singapore's development experience, including the publications: *Communitarian Ideology and Democracy in Singapore* (Routledge, 1995); and *Political Legitimacy and Housing: Stakeholding in Singapore* (Routledge, 1997).

His current research efforts are focused on three key areas: multiracialism and multiculturalism, public housing policies, and East Asian pop culture.

Carolyn Steel

Carolyn Steel is an architect, lecturer and writer. A director of Kilburn Nightingale Architects in London, she has taught at the London School of Economics, Cambridge and Wageningen Universities. Her 2008 book, *Hungry City: How Food Shapes Our Lives*, is a key text in the emergent field of food planning. Carolyn is much in demand internationally as a speaker on Food and Cities, and is currently developing her concept of 'sitopia' (food-place) as a design tool.



Carolyn Steel

Dieter Läßle



Dieter Läßle

Dieter Läßle is professor emeritus of International Urban Studies at the HafenCity University Hamburg. For many years he directed the Institute for Urban Economics at the University of Technology Hamburg. He is also an advisor and contributor to the 'Urban Age Programme' of the London School of Economics and a member of the board of trustees of the International Building Exposition - IBA Hamburg. In 2007, he received the Award for Urban Culture of the Architectural Association (BDA Hamburg Baukulturpreis).

Tay Kheng Soon

A graduate of Singapore Polytechnic, Tay Kheng Soon is a practicing architect and adjunct professor at the National University of Singapore's school of architecture. He was president of the Singapore Institute of Architects and founding member and chairman of SPUR (Singapore Planning and Urban Research).

His civic activities include being a member of the advisory panel of the Government Parliamentary Committee on national development, and a member of the advisory panel of the Singapore Institute of Policy Studies. In 1997, he was appointed adjunct professor of architecture at RMIT Australia, and in 1998 made adjunct associate professor at the National University of Singapore.

Today, he continues to churn out creative, out-of-the-box ideas that he personally sees through to reality via his architectural practice Akitek Tenggara in Singapore, which he founded in 1976.



Tay Kheng Soon

Ng Wun Jern



Ng Wun Jern

Ng Wun Jern served the Faculty of Engineering at the National University of Singapore as Vice-Dean and then as Dean until 2003. From 2003-04, he was the founding Director of the Environmental Science & Engineering Program (ESEP) and in 2007 he took up the position of Executive Director at the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI), Nanyang Technological University.

His research interests are largely in the area of water and wastewater management. These investigations span the water quality spectrum - ranging from ultra-pure water to high strength and potentially inhibitory wastewaters.

Wong Yunn Chii

Wong Yunn Chii is the Head of the Department of Architecture at the National University of Singapore, where he teaches architectural design and lectures on architectural history and theory.

He is an editor of the *Journal of Southeast Asian Architecture* and the *Singapore Architect* and is actively involved in the works of mAAN (modern Asian Architecture Network), an organisation that promotes the study, documentation and conservation of Asian modern buildings and environments. He was lead curator for Singapore's inaugural international architectural exhibition at the Venice Biennale 2004.

His current research focuses on the architecture and urban history of Raffles Place / Commercial Square in Singapore..



Wong Yunn Chii

Making Future Cities

Future Cities Laboratory
First International Conference
12-14 September, Singapore

14 September PM
Round Table Forum

SINGAPORE – At the ending of the Future City Laboratory's First International Conference, the organising team has a pleasure and an honour to invite you to a Round Table Forum, gathering the FCL's distinguished guests. As a counterpoint to the FCL's themes and projects seen in the past two and a half days, the roundtable will offer valuable reflections from the outside. All of the guests are from outside FCL, and most, apart from Dieter

Läßle and Carolyn Steel, are from Singapore. With Ng Wun Jern, Wong Yunn Chii, Tay Kheng Soon and Chua Beng Huat the roundtable group represents a strong showing from Singaporean intellectuals, architects and engineers.

In this exceptional setting we would like to open the discussion with two notions that have been central to both FCL and Singapore: the notions of the *future city* and of an *urban laboratory*.

How did the visions of the city's future change over the course of Singapore's urban boom? To what extent has Singapore become the model city of the future for new urban environments across Asia? Conversely, what kind of urban future is Singapore pursuing for itself? What are the city's plausible and desirable futures? MILICA TOPALOVIC

FCL – Future Cities Laboratory

GAZETTE

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Lau Pa Sat. Image, passthefishsauce.wordpress.com

Epilogue

As it stands, the Singapore model [...] is now poised to metastasize across Asia. The sparkle of its organization, the glamour of its successful uprooting, the success of its human transformation, the laundering of its past, its manipulation of vernacular cultures present an irresistible model for those facing the task of imagining – and building – new urban conditions for the even more countless millions. More and more, Singapore claims itself a laboratory.

Rem Koolhaas, 'Singapore Songlines' (1995)

Given its success, Singapore has been deemed worthy by many as a 'model'. However, the ideological consensus generated by a common apprehension toward collective 'survival' as an island-nation that sustains an competent, efficient, financially non-corrupt, less-than-democratic, party-state is the open secret of Singapore's success – one that is not replicable. 'Singapore as Model' cannot be and is not a desire for mimicry, for cloning. Chua Beng Huat, 'Singapore as Model' (2011)

Lau Pa Sat

Former Telok Ayer Market (now Lau Pa Sat).
 Date of Construction: 1890-1894
 Date of Gazette as a National Monument:
 28 June 1973
 Address: 18 Raffles Quay Singapore 048582
 Architect: James MacRitchie, Municipal Engineer,
 Public Works Department Engineer/
 Builder: Riley Hargreaves and Co.

The first market in Singapore was located on the south bank of the Singapore River. The land there was soon required for commercial use, and Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles

ordered the market to be moved to Telok Ayer. This area was then along the seafront, and a market on piles over the sea, was built by 1824. In the 1830s, there was a need for a bigger market. G.D. Coleman won the commission to build it, and his market was ready for use by 1838. But Coleman had failed to take into account the powerful surf at Telok Ayer Bay, and his market over the water was structurally weak. The ornamental columns at the entrance of this octagonally-shaped market were a small but necessary luxury according to Coleman because the market was going to be a landmark, and would face houses that were neat and respectable in appearance. Coleman's market was used

for some 40 years until it was encroached upon by land reclamation works at Telok Ayer. In 1894, a new market was built on reclaimed land. Also octagonal in shape, it was meant as a tribute to Coleman's market. The designer was the Municipal Engineer, James MacRitchie, who has given his name to a reservoir. The ornamental cast work used in its construction was imported from Glasgow. Today the market is known as the Lau Pa Sat, a food centre popular with both tourists and locals alike.

Adapted by Silke Langenberg from Edwin Lee's *Historic Buildings of Singapore* (1990),