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CIRCULAR TO PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTES

Who should know

Architects, Conservation Property Owners, Developers, Contractors, Engineers, Conservation Specialists

2017 URA ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE AWARDS: OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Details

- 1 URA is pleased to announce that the 2017 Architectural Heritage Awards (AHA) is now open for submissions. This annual award recognises owners, professionals and contractors who have gone beyond the basic essentials to lovingly restore gazetted National Monuments and conserved buildings to their former glory for today's use in Singapore. They serve to set a high restoration standard for others to follow.
- 2 There are two categories for the Awards:
 - Award for Restoration
This is for projects that demonstrate exemplary restoration of gazetted heritage buildings. The assessment will take into account how far the project adhered to the three 'R' principles of maximum retention, sensitive restoration and careful repair, as well as the "top-down" approach.
 - Award for Restoration and Innovation
This is for integrated "old" and "new" developments that demonstrate exemplary restoration of gazetted heritage buildings, innovation and architectural excellence of the new developments, and how the "new" draw inspiration from and enhance the "old".

At the discretion of the Assessment Committee, a project may be conferred 'Special Mention' for commendable efforts in some aspects of the restoration work.

- 3 Application is open to all projects that have obtained Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) or Certificate of Statutory Completion (CSC).

- 4 Each application is to be submitted by the building owner and endorsed by the Qualified Person (Architect), the Qualified Person (Engineer), the main Contractor, and the Conservation Specialist if one has been engaged for the project.
- 5 Eligible submissions will be judged by an Assessment Committee chaired by URA's Chairman and comprising representatives from URA, other government agencies, industry professionals and academia.
- 6 Please note projects that are largely contemporary interior design works or have unapproved use, illegal works, unresolved planning issues will be disqualified. These criteria will be used to pre-screen applications received at URA's discretion and will not be assessed by the Assessment Committee.
- 7 Further details of the Awards, eligibility, assessment criteria, application form and submission requirements can be accessed from the URA website at <http://www.ura.gov.sg>.
- 8 The closing date for the submission is Friday, 23 June 2017 at 1 p.m.
- 9 I would appreciate it if you could convey the contents of this circular to relevant members of your organisation. If you or your members have any queries concerning this circular, please do not hesitate to call Mr Kelvin Ang, Director (Conservation Management) at Tel: 63218191.

Thank you.

CHOU MEI (MS)
GROUP DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND URBAN DESIGN)
for CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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THE AWARDS

- 1 The **URA ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE AWARDS** are accolades for well restored gazetted National Monuments and conserved buildings in Singapore. They serve as an incentive to owners, professionals and contractors to pay particular attention to quality restoration, as well as innovative and sensitive interventions, where appropriate.

TYPE OF AWARDS

- 2 There are two categories for the Awards:

- a. **Award for Restoration**

This is for projects which demonstrated exemplary restoration of gazetted heritage buildings. The assessment will take into account how far they adhere to the '3R' principles of maximum retention, sensitive restoration and careful repair, as well as the "top-down" approach.

- b. **Award for Restoration & Innovation**

This is for integrated 'old and new' developments which demonstrate exemplary restoration of gazetted heritage buildings, paired with innovation and architectural excellence of the new development, and how the "new" draws inspiration from and enhance the "old".

- 3 At the discretion of the Assessment Committee, a project may be given '**Special Mention**' for commendable efforts in some aspects of the restoration work.

ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-SCREENING

- 4 Application is open to all projects completed in Singapore and already obtained Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) or Certificate of Statutory Completion (CSC). **Projects which are largely contemporary interior design works or have unapproved use, illegal works, unresolved planning issues will be disqualified.**
- 5 **All applications received will be pre-screened at the discretion of the URA and non-eligible ones will be returned. Only eligible applications will be assessed by the Assessment Committee.**

DEADLINE AND MATERIALS TO BE SUBMITTED

- 6 Application is to be made by the building owner using the **Application Form** which is to be endorsed by the Qualified Person (Architect), the Qualified Person (Engineer), the main Contractor and the Conservation Specialist, if one has been engaged for the project.

- 7 The accompanying materials are detailed in the **Checklist For Submission Materials**. The checklist is to be filled in and submitted as part of the application.
- 8 The submission is to reach the office of the Secretary, URA Architectural Heritage Awards Assessment Committee at 45 Maxwell Road, The URA Centre, Singapore 069118 **not later than 1 p.m. on Friday, 23 June 2017**.

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

- 9 The Assessment Committee, chaired by URA Chairman, comprises representatives from URA, other government agencies, industry professionals and academia.
- 10 The Committee will consider the following:
 - a. **Research & Design Approach**
 - i Evidence documented to show research carried out on the social history, building typology, architecture, structure, building techniques, materials and existing condition of the building.
 - ii Design approach respects and enhances the inherent historic, physical, spatial and environmental qualities such as natural lighting and ventilation, open-to-sky courtyard etc.
 - b. **Restoration Process**
 - i Adhered to the "3R" principle of maximum Retention, sensitive Restoration and careful Repair.
 - ii Applied "Top-Down" approach, i.e. works should start from the roof and then work downwards to ensure structural integrity and to minimise weather damage.
 - iii Used protective measures to maintain structural integrity of important elements of the buildings.
 - iv Kept to original materials, appropriate paints, colour schemes and finishes.
 - c. **Finished Product**
 - i Retains the inherent and essential qualities of the building.
 - ii Sensitively and innovatively adapted to current use, including barrier-free accessibility provisions.
 - iii Incorporates interpretive elements to present the history of the site and tell the story of the building.
 - iv Contributes to the surrounding environment.
 - v Has a transformative effect on the neighbourhood.

- vi Serves as a good reference for future projects in terms of its features, ideas and methods used.
- 11 For Awards for Restoration and Innovation, in addition to the above criteria as listed in paragraph 12, the assessment will include the
- a Design intention that clearly defines and demonstrates the integration of the “new” with the “old” and how they enhance each other’s character and qualities; and
 - b Design, material, construction detailing and ambience of the “new” which draw inspiration from the “old”;
 - c Finished product as an outstanding example in terms of conservation, innovation and architectural excellence.
- 12 A presentation is to be made to the Assessment Committee on a date to be given by URA. The presentation should be made by the consultant leading the project. The presentation should clearly articulate the following:
- Research & Design Approach
- a Historical research carried out and how it informed the design approach;
 - b Design intention and approach that draws out the inherent qualities of the historic building
- Restoration Process
- c Outline problems encountered and solutions adopted to resolve them; and
 - d Special efforts and best practices employed to retain and restore the historical fabric, building form and inherent heritage value.
- 13 The presentation is to show exterior and interior images of before, during and after restoration. In essence, a case has to be made why the project is deserving of the Award.
- 14 Access shall be given to the Assessment Committee to view the projects as part of the assessment process.
- 15 The decision of the Assessment Committee shall be final. The discretion of the Assessment Committee to make or withhold an Award is absolute. No form of discussion or correspondence relating to any decision will be entered into by the Assessment Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

- 16 Winners will be informed and invited to an Award Giving Ceremony organised by URA. The results will also be announced in the press in conjunction with the Ceremony.

BUILDING PLAQUE, STORYBOARD AND OBLIGATIONS

- 17 Each award-winning project will have a building plaque installed on the building. A storyboard (optional for private residential houses and national monuments) will also be installed. URA may commission videos/audio-visual works and publicity of award-winning projects and, the owner's and project team's collaboration are expected.
- 18 **Owners are obligated to maintain the award-winning buildings in a good condition, in particular the qualities which made the projects worthy of the Awards.**
- 19 URA will carry out regular visual inspections. Where necessary, URA will write to owners for access to carry out the inspections. The Awards will be withdrawn if the winning projects are poorly maintained, put to disreputable use or the award-winning qualities are compromised.
- 20 In such unfortunate event, URA reserves the right to withdraw the Award plaque (including the storyboard if applicable. The information relating to the withdrawal of the Award will be made public.
- 21 If new major works are subsequently carried out to award-winning buildings, URA may withdraw the building plaque if the works substantially alter the buildings and affect the particular qualities which made the projects worthy of the Awards.

PUBLICATION OF MATERIALS

- 22 Applicant(s) should own the copyright to materials submitted and the copyright remains with the applicant(s), unless otherwise stated. The URA reserves the right, without payment of fees or royalties, to use materials submitted for promotional/marketing and educational purposes. Materials submitted should clearly state the name of the copyright owner.
- 23 All enquiries concerning entries for the **URA ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE AWARDS** shall be addressed to:

The Secretary
URA Architectural Heritage Awards Assessment Committee
Urban Redevelopment Authority
12th Storey, The URA Centre
45 Maxwell Road
Singapore 069118
Email: Kelvin_Ang@ura.gov.sg



CHECKLIST FOR SUBMISSION MATERIALS

(To be printed out and included as cover page of application package, this check list has 1 page)

The following items must be included as part of the overall package:

S/N	Item	Please tick
1	A4 Report containing the following	
	a. Archive drawings/plans, old photographs	
	b. History of the building and context.	
	c. Measured building survey drawings	
	d. Structural condition report of the existing building and method statement of the proposed works highlighting any unique features and/or construction methods of the building	
	e. Photographic/Audio-visual record of pre-restoration condition	
	f. Conservation specialist report on proposed restoration process, materials and methods	
	g. Drawings (plans, sections, elevations and details of proposed restoration works and/or new interventions)	
	h. Documentation of restoration works in process, showing proof of 3R approach	
	i. Presentation and Interpretation of history on site (e.g. content of storyboards installed on site)	
	j. Detailed write-up addressing the assessment criteria	
	k. Maintenance guide for the preserved/conserved building	
2	Four (4) attractively presented and exhibition-ready 800 mm (W) by 1000 mm (H) compact-foam panels of 5 mm thickness . The panels in portrait format and clearly numbered as Panels 1 to 4 should show colour photographs on the exterior and interior of the building before, during and after restoration. Descriptions should highlight on the a. Historical research, design intent and approach, b. Restoration process/progress pictures, challenges faced and best practices employed, c. key features or special techniques/methods used, and d. finished product	
2	DVD containing a complete set of each of the images/photos in high resolution and as shown on the panels. Photo credits, where relevant, should also be included.	
3	DVD containing clear, sharp and proportional digital images in resolution of 300 pixels/inch and Photoshop Tiff format of each of the 4 exhibition-ready panels.	
4	DVD of the A4 report in a PDF and Word Format.	
5	A copy of the Termite Treatment Certificate.	

Note: Accuracy of submitted information

- The applicant is to ensure that all information, including spelling, is correct in the submission as this information may appear in publications, on the URA website and on the plaques.
- URA will not be responsible for the publication of incorrect spelling or inaccurate information supplied in the submission.