



World
Architecture
Festival
2013
Singapore
2-4 October 2013

ENCOUNTER

Personal and Cultural Identity in Architecture in Today's World

Presented by The British Council, Fortune Cookie Projects and The Royal Academy of Arts

3 October 2013
4.00—4.45PM
Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre

About WAF

The World Architecture Festival is the largest live, inclusive and interactive global awards programme for the architecture community.

Attracting an international selection of visitors and entrants, WAF is a unique meeting place for architects, suppliers and clients: the profession's only annual forum to network and celebrate its global achievements while discussing today's major industry issues.

WAF is a superb opportunity to meet and speak with influential clients, keep up-to-date with the world's most innovative and exciting architecture and enjoy keynote.

Architecture

is both a form of high art, and a product of social and economic forces where artistic thinking has little and nebulous influence. In one sense it holds its place in the Gesamtkunstwerk – the 'total work of art' – where it becomes one with painting, music and poetry, but in another sense it is a series of pragmatic operations. Architecture's uniqueness, and its strength, lies in its ability to bridge these different ways of thinking.

Precisely because of this ability, architecture is also an important measure of interaction between different cultures. Architects working outside their own context may start with ideas formed in their own milieu, but have to understand how they can be built, used and valued in different conditions. These conditions may in turn affect architects' creative practices.

As the largest annual international gathering of architects, the World Architecture Festival is an ideal place to discuss and debate how architecture can transfer between different cultures, and how the aura and reputation of individual designers might facilitate or hinder cultural exchange.

What can leading architects bring to different cultures and what can they learn from them?

How does architecture's role as a bridge between high art and pragmatic conditions vary in different contexts?

How can architecture itself be a medium for cultural exchange and understanding?

These will be among the questions that our panel will tackle.

MODERATOR



JEREMY MELVIN

Curator
World Architecture Festival

Jeremy Melvin has been curator of WAF since it was launched in 2008, developing themed content for talks, films and exhibitions. He is also consultant curator to the Royal Academy's Architecture Programme, and curated Richard Rogers: Inside Out which closes on October 13 for the RA. He studied architecture and history of architecture at the Bartlett School, UCL, and is the author of many articles for the professional, national and international press, papers in academic journals and several books, including ...Isms: Understanding Architecture.

PANELLISTS



WILL ALSOP

Founder
All Design

Will Alsop is a prominent architect and founder of ALL Design, and works on large-scale urban planning and design initiatives. His practice is an international operation guided by the principle that architecture is both vehicle and symbol of social change and renewal. The philosophy extends from the design of individual buildings to embrace broader principles of urbanism and city development. By abandoning the hegemony of an acceptable style, he has rendered the whole process of architecture one of increasing fluidity and transparency; a new and refreshing position for architecture both in the UK and elsewhere.

In 2000, Will Alsop won the prestigious RIBA Stirling Prize and in 2003 the Civic Trust Award for the Peckham Library. In 2004 he was the winner of the RIBA World Architecture Award for the Sharp Centre of Design of the Ontario College of Art & Design. Will was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) and was elected to the Royal Academy. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and is a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.



KWOK KIAN CHOW

Deputy Chairman
Yellow River Arts Centre

Writer, curator and museum development consultant Kwok Kian Chow, who was founding director of the Singapore Art Museum and National Art Gallery Singapore, has written and presented extensively on museum issues and art history in Asia. His board roles include deputy chairman of the Yellow River Arts Centre, an 80-hectare arts centre development in Yinchuan, China, and a board member of the Barcelona-based International Committee of Modern Art Museums and Collections.



MARK WEE

Chairman
Archifest

Mark is the Founder & Director of OX:D, the Experience Design studio at ONG & ONG. The studio takes a human-centered, design-based approach to helping organizations in the public and private sectors innovate and grow, through understanding human behavior and motivation. Their work envisions new companies and brands, through the design of products, services, spaces, and interactive experiences that bring them to life.

Mark has pioneered the use of design thinking in the area of organisational change and business innovation in today's experience economy in Singapore. He regularly speaks to organizations on how design thinking can help rethink and innovate existing systems.

Mark has worked extensively with public and private sector clients to develop and design rich experiences on a wide range of topics such as internal innovation frameworks, to new customer experiences. He has consulted on organisational change with clients such as the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX), Public Service Division, SPRING, MOE, and IRAS.

Also an award-winning architect, Mark's projects have won design awards such as the President's Design Award, the URA Heritage Award, the Singapore Institute of Architects Design Award, and the Interior Design Confederation (Singapore) Color Award. His projects have also been featured extensively in local and international design publications.

Mark holds a Bachelor's in Architecture from Cornell University, and was the Chair of the Architectural League under the Singapore Institute of Architects where he serves as a council member. He is also an artist and illustrator.



CHRIS WILKINSON

Founding Director
Wilkinson Eyre

Chris Wilkinson is a principal and founder of Wilkinson Eyre Architects. After working in a number of top UK practices, he set up Chris Wilkinson Architects in 1983, formed a partnership with Jim Eyre in 1987 and established Wilkinson Eyre in 1999.

With a passion for architecture and design, he has helped develop the profile of Wilkinson Eyre as a leading international architectural practice. In addition to his management coordination role, he leads design and takes responsibility for projects with co-director Jim Eyre. He has directed the practice's cultural and educational work in addition to commercial, leisure and infrastructure projects.

Chris Wilkinson combines a lifelong interest in art with a fascination for science, technological innovation and a sense of history, producing a fresh new approach to architecture. The design for every project is different, and relates closely to the specificity of brief and context. His contribution to architecture has been recognised by the award of an OBE in the Millennium Honours List, election to the Royal Academy of Arts in 2006, and an Honorary Fellowship of the American Institute of Architecture in 2007, as well as honorary doctorates for Westminster University and Oxford Brookes University.

CLOSING REMARKS



THEODORE E.C. CHAN

President
Singapore Institute of Architects

In the earlier part of his 25-year career, Theodore worked for IVS RichardYim Architects (Singapore), Tangguanbee Architects (Singapore) and SAA Partnership Architects (Singapore). Some of the more significant projects that he was directly involved in include The Picture House (Cinema Complex), Bungalow Houses at Mountbatten Road (Honourable Mention Award from the Singapore Institute of Architects in 1992), World Trade Centre Harbour Pavilion (SIA Micro Design Award), Hotel Rendezvous (URA Conservation Award) and Jalan Besar Stadium (Structural Steel Society Design Award).

In 2000, he joined CIAP Architects as Director /Architect, the firm responsible for Choa Chu Kang Christian Columbarium (SIA Design Awards), Bishan Mosque (SIA Design Awards), Mt Elizabeth Novena Hospital, Wilby Central 15 Queen Street, Marina Bay Fire Station, NUH Medical Centre, Community Hospital (Yishun) and Community Hospital (Outram).

Theodore is currently President of Singapore Institute of Architects where he developed the curriculum for the Architectural Practice Course (Board of Architects and Singapore Institute of Architects) and the National Competency Standards for Architectural Practice (Workforce Development Agency). He also serves as panellist on several key industry initiatives namely Board of Architects (Education Review Panel), BCA Green Building Master Plan Committee, URA Conservation Advisory Committee, Design S and Design Business Council, Peoples Association Development Committee and Land Transport Authority Design Review Panel. He also taught as Adjunct Architecture Studio Master - Department of Architecture, School of Design & Environment, National University of Singapore (2004 to 2008).



The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III in 1768 with a mission to promote the arts through education and exhibition. The first Royal Academy exhibition of contemporary art was held in 1769. This exhibition, now known as the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, has been staged annually without interruption to the present day. It is the world's largest open submission exhibition and the profits support the running of the Royal Academy Schools, the oldest art school in the UK. Each year the RA presents a programme of exhibitions, ranging from Old Masters, Classic Modern to Contemporary.

The Royal Academy of Arts counts among its members many of the world's most renowned artists and architects, spanning generations and working in a variety of styles and techniques. They are rightfully recognised as influential practitioners in their respective fields.



The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and build trust between them worldwide.

We work in more than 100 countries and our 7000 staff – including 2000 teachers – work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year by teaching English, sharing the Arts and delivering education and society programmes.

We are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter. A core publically-funded grant provides less than 25 per cent of our turnover which last year was £781m. The rest of our revenues are earned from services which customers around the world pay for, through education and development contracts and from partnerships with public and private organisations. All our work is in pursuit of our charitable purpose and supports prosperity and security for the UK and globally.

Fortune Cookie Projects

Fortune Cookie Projects (Singapore) Pte Ltd, a curatorial and art advisory firm led by Mary Dinaburg and Howard Rutkowski, with offices in Singapore and New York. With over 35 years' experience, Fortune Cookie Projects has organized and curated major exhibitions throughout Asia and around the world, including the series of Royal Academy exhibitions Encounter, which to date have been held in Singapore and Doha, with venues scheduled in 2014 for Moscow and Bogota.

The Encounter projects offer a unique concept in showcasing the best of contemporary art practice around the globe. Eschewing the presentation of a single curatorial point of view or theme, Encounter enters into the spirit of engagement with the international art community and the general public by inviting important artists from different countries to exhibit side-by-side with a selection of prominent Royal Academicians.

The aim of Encounter is to provide a platform for dialogue amongst practitioners working in a wide range of media – architecture, painting, sculpture, assemblage, photography and video – and for an international team of curators to exchange ideas about different communities and environments and how this translates into visual art experience.



Acknowledgements

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Evonne Mackenzie
Deputy Head of Architecture Department, British Council UK

Antony Phillipson
The British High Commissioner

The Royal Academy of Arts

All Panellists
Will Alsop
Kwok Kian Chow
Mark Wee
Chris Wilkinson
Theodore EC Chan

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arts@britishcouncil.org.sg



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**Fortune
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