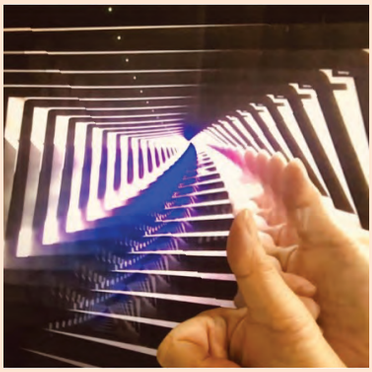
INSIGHT

SIA NEWSLETTER (E-BULLETIN) : THE WFH EDITION • DAY 46 OF 56 (CIRCUIT BREAKER)

"THIS IS HOME, TRULY ... FOR WORK!"



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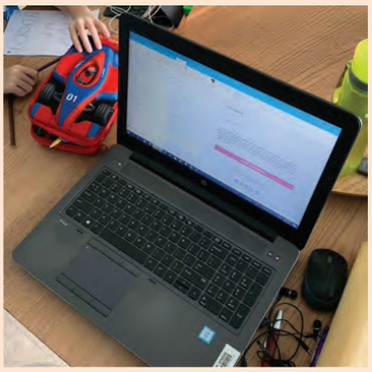

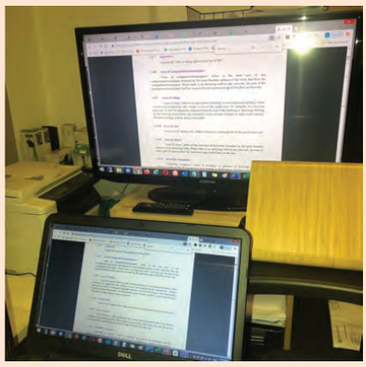

SIA COUNCIL MEMBERS WORK FROM HOME. SEE IF YOU CAN MATCH ARCHITECT TO HABITAT! (ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF BULLETIN)

CB THOUGHTS **by our CE (Chief Editor)**

Dear Members,

Greetings from the confines of my apartment! It's been quite a while and the team at INSIGHT have missed all of you.

Feb 2020, we saw the beginnings of a world pandemic, which would later force the globe into a "Great Lockdown". In Apr 2020, our little red dot went into its own version of a semi-lockdown – the "Circuit Breaker". 45 days have passed since and many of us are starting to get restless; finding alternative ways to connect with each other. We share the same sentiments and created our very first edition of the e-bulletin version of INSIGHT, to connect with our membership.

Through this series of e-bulletins, we hope to bring our readers, cheer through fun and light-hearted happenings in the institution and provide a resource platform for members to navigate the many government assisted programs resulting from this pandemic.

We hope you will enjoy this read and welcome comments from all. Meanwhile, stay safe and healthy, practice safe distancing and always wear a mask when out of your homes! #SIA United.

Ar. Melvin Keng
Chief Editor

(For comments or submission of stories, please send an email to communications@sia.org.sg)

BREAKING DOWN THE CIRCUIT BREAKER

No break from work during the Circuit Breaker! INSIGHT editor, Christian Chin finds out from 3 SIA council members how they have adapted and learn tips to survive this CB period.

Catherine Loke

1st Vice President & Practice Thrust Co-Chair, Lander Loke Architects

How has the COVID19 situation changed your personal life and work?

Not much change as I've been working from home since 1996, partially at first, then fully from 1998.

What are your thoughts on COVID19's impact on society and architecture?

It is a timely wake-up call for us to simplify our lives, and to reconsider our priorities. If we reconnect with what is of real value to us, architecture will change to reflect that.

What are the 3 most essential objects for work from home (WFH) that you cannot survive without?

Good computer with large screen (is that two items?), comfortable chair and broadband router.

What is the first thing you will do once the Circuit Breaker is over?

Have a meal with friends.

Wu Yen Yen

Honorary Secretary & Design Thrust Co-Chair, Genome Architects

How has the COVID19 situation changed your personal life and work?

I already have blurred working hours pre circuit breaker, so WFH doesn't have an impact on how many hours a day I work. However, I'm usually actively on my feet when at work, on site and in school. Now, I'm sitting all day in front of the computer. That's not something I enjoy because I prefer personal and physical engagement, but I have adapted.

Work wise, things have slowed down for projects that are on site, so we are taking the opportunity to concentrate on the unaffected projects, and also to re-examine our ways of practice and transform.

What are your thoughts on COVID19's impact on society and architecture?

I have two concurrent trains of thought. One is that we will revert to

pre--COVID life because we are so entrenched in business, play, life, everyday culture as we know it and it is not uncommon for most people to want to go back to the way things were. The other is that there will be a resistance or a post trauma-like reaction to crowds, proximity to the next person, sanitation, well-being, transport, public touchpoints etc., that we might not be able to shake off in the near future even if our rational minds tell us that the pandemic is over when that happens. It is the negotiation between the two that I believe we will see uncertain shifts between radical change and normalcy towards social distancing, WFH, ideas of neighbourhood, identity, travel etc. I feel it is likely to be somewhere between the two, and so there will be a period of re-calibration and investigation in how we use and design architecture for a while.

What are the 3 most essential objects for work from home (WFH) that you cannot survive without?

A fan, a good work desk and credit card for food delivery.

What is the first thing you will do once the Circuit Breaker is over?

Ideally, I'd like to spend time nursing a humongous ice coffee on a mat in the park.

Tan Szue Hann

Council Member, Sustainability Committee and director, Marina Bay Sands

How has the COVID19 situation changed your personal life and work?

I am gravely concerned about how COVID-19 impacts human and societal health primarily, and puts severe strain on supply chains, industries and the economy at large. The elusive silver lining is that it's allowed us to carefully consider our habits of consumption and sustenance. While we have been given the opportunity to take stock and re-evaluate our priorities, Nature has been given a tiny window of relief from our plundering, polluting and pugnacity towards it.

Personally, it's certainly allowed for contemplation and evaluation of my own habits as a consumer, and my role as an architect and sustainability professional. It's allowed me to think with a wider lens; on the bigger picture.

What are your thoughts on COVID19's impact on society and architecture?

COVID-19 has hit a world that has been given many, many previous dry runs (Smallpox! AIDS! SARS! H1N1! Ebola! MERS!), and which has once again fallen painfully short. Yet, it is one of the many wake-up calls we need for our pattern of consumerism, immediate gratification, frail virtual

and transient economies, and reliance on transnational supply chains for our very basic needs. COVID-19 is a dress rehearsal for a larger looming crisis - climate change for instance - and world leaders have been caught pants down.

Its impact on society is obvious - the need for social distancing, and the ensuing paranoia - justified or otherwise - will loosen our social fabric, and not just literally. What we architects have long championed - public space, community living - have become an overnight threat to our very existence. We have become unwitting biological weapons; our architecture a vehicle for their deployment.

COVID-19 has swiftly revealed huge cracks in society - and our societal systems. For architecture, the dangers are clear and present: economy fails = no financing for construction = no architecture. Where we've had the opportunity to create healthy cross-ventilated buildings, we've chosen to maximise usable GFA. We've lost the art of designing for the wellness of our fellow human beings, and thus the soul of what architecture is fundamentally meant to do - shelter, protect, heal, inspire.

This is our proverbial rainy day - it is now time to regroup, rethink, relearn.

COVID-19 didn't cause any of the above; it only revealed our fractures as a society. And once the dust settles, we have a lot of reflection to do as a society, and a lot of change to make as Architects.

What are the 3 most essential objects for work from home (WFH) that you cannot survive without?

The new 3 'C's:

1. Computer (for typing these responses);
2. Cellphone (for the needful food deliveries);
3. Canned food (for times when '2' is hijacked by the kids for YouTube).

What is the first thing you will do once the Circuit Breaker is over?

The first day after the Circuit Breaker ends, I will stay at home, and probably continue to do so for a while longer, unless otherwise required. The last thing we need as a society is false pretence that the world has gone back to normal, and we continue risking ourselves and others by engaging in mass public tomfoolery the morning after - risking a second wave.

#SIAUNITED

CARE & SHARE WEBINAR SERIES

Every Tuesday & Thursday
30 April - 04 June 2020 I 12PM - 1PM
30 Minutes Sharing + 30 Minutes Q&A

SIGN UP FOR A SEAT AT THE NEXT SESSION AT
HTTPS://SIA.ORG.SG/SIAUNITED-CARE-SHARE-WEBINAR-SERIES/

Standing Together Against COVID-19

Covid-19 and the necessary government-imposed circuit breaker has seen semi-lockdowns, stop work and stay home orders, social distancing measures and a declining economy. This has thrown architecture practices into some disarray, forcing them to rethink and regroup at a breakneck pace. Fortunately, with the advancement of information, telecommunication and video-conferencing technology and creative adaptability, we see many architecture practices adapting to working from home, albeit some inconveniences.

In utilizing such technology and championing continuous professional development through learning and up-skilling, SIA's Education Thrust has put together **#SIA United: Care &Share Webinar Series (Theme: "Standing Firm Together Against Covid-19")**. This webinar series is an initiative that aims to address urgent and critical challenges confronting the architecture practice and community, in the wake of this pandemic. SIA council members and past presidents step forward to show a concerted care for the plight faced by SIA members through sharing of experiences and knowledge in dealing with various aspects of practice (from contractual, legal to post-pandemic issues).

As the circuit breaker eases from 02 Jun 2020, architecture practices will no longer revert to what was once before. New 'normals' and challenges lie ahead as local and global economies are mired in dire straits. The end is not in sight. However, with perseverance, determination, preparation, and creativity, we will overcome this crisis together.

I wish to thank SIA Council members for their enthusiastic contributions and to SIA members for their keen participation. To this end, we stand firmly together with the members in the battle against Covid-19.

Ar. Lim Choon Keang
Council Member
Co-chairman of Education Thrust

As a continuation of this initiative, SIA will continue to conduct and roll out educational and professional development training programmes for its members. Do check out SIA website (https://sia.org.sg/) for more details and the calendar of events.

Full Schedule

FULLY SUBSCRIBED

Date	Day	Topic	Speakers
30 Apr 2020	Thu	Introduction to Care & Share	Ar. Seah Chee Huang & Thrust Heads
05 May 2020	Tue	Engaging Technical Agencies during Circuit Breaker	Ar. Richard Lai, Ar. Koh Siew Lay & Ar. Thomas Ho
08 May 2020	Fri	How to Work From Home	Ar. Carmen Lake & Ar. Melvin Tan
12 May 2020	Tue	Building Contracts & A.D.F	Ar. Chan Kok Way & Ar. Darren Benger
14 May 2020	Thu	Workplace Safety & Health	Ar. Darren Benger
19 May 2020	Tue	Technology Adoption during COVID-19	Ar. William Lau & Ar. Ho Sock Yee
21 May 2020	Thu	Sustainability Beyond COVID-19	Ar. Tan Szue Hann & Ar. Benjamin Towell
26 May 2020	Tue	Wellness and us in times of COVID-19	Ar. Cheong Yew Kee
28 May 2020	Thu	Beyond COVID-19: Future of Workplace and Home Future of Healthcare Future of Practice	 Ar. Tiah Nan Chyuan Ar. Theodore Chan Ar. Lim Choon Keang
02 Jun 2020	Tue	Future of Design Sensibilities	Ar. Wu Yen Yen & Ar. Christina Thean
04 Jun 2020	Thu	Future City, Architecture and Way of Life	Ar. Ong Tze Boon, Prof. Erwin Viray & Prof. Ho Puay Peng

#SIAUNITED
COVID-19 Resources

Official Websites

Ministry of Health: *https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19*

Gov.sg COVID-19: *https://www.gov.sg/features/covid-19*

Gov.sg Social Media Channel
Keeping the public informed on the latest COVID-19 situation in Singapore.
Gov.sg WhatsApp subscription:
Local: *https://go.gov.sg/whatsapp*
Gov.sg Facebook: *https://go.gov.sg/govsg-fb*

Meh Go Where
For youth to get latest information and have fun at the same time during the circuit breaker period. Youth can engage in live streams, refer to articles and useful resources, take part in polls or weekly challenges, submit ideas and much more: *https://www.mehgowhere.sg/*

SG United
To receive content, stories and different community-led COVID-19 responses and to be inspired to help one another get through this challenging time: *https://www.sgunited.gov.sg/*

Budget 2020
Support for Singaporeans and businesses: *http://singaporebudget.gov.sg/budget_2020*

GoBusiness
For businesses to apply exemption for circuit breaker period: *https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/*

Temporary Relief Fund Refund Form
For those seeking to return the fund online: *https://go.gov.sg/trf-refund-form*

Support Go Where
Find available grants, funds and packages for you: *https://www.supportgowhere.gov.sg/*

CIRCUIT BREAKING NEWS

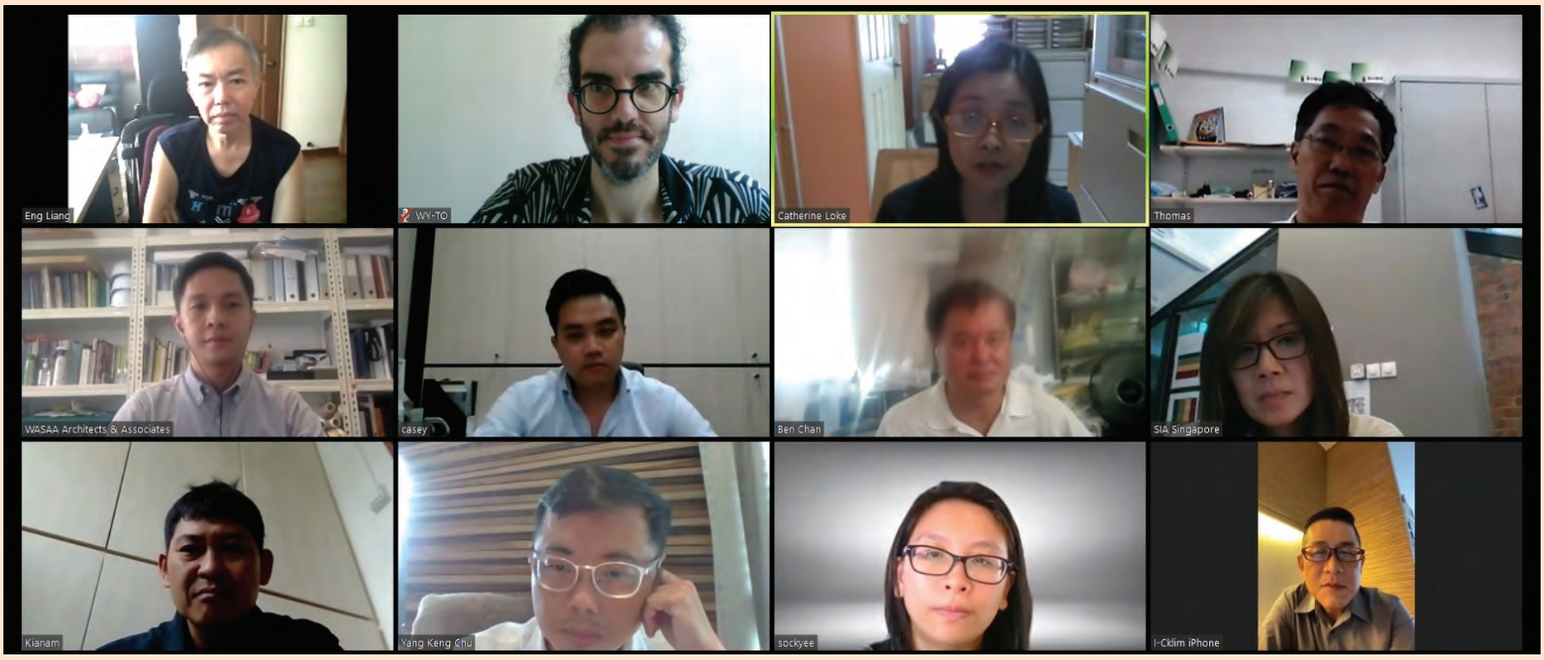

PHOTO: SCREEN CAPTURE OF THE 1ST SMAP MEETING USING ZOOM ON 1ST APRIL 2020

Why Architect Forum 2020

In conjunction with this year's Archifest, the Small and Medium Architectural Practices Committee (SMAP) is presenting another exciting instalment of the **'Why Architect Forum'.**

Open to the public, the forum has served as an excellent platform for people to understand the architect as a profession, attracting an audience from all walks of life – from practitioners to academics and architecture enthusiasts. Each year, an esteemed panel of industry professionals that comprise of architects and associate consultants (e.g. engineers, surveyors etc.) are invited to share and discuss the role of the Architect in the design and creation of the built environment.

A complimentary fringe event titled **"Why Architect Design Series"**, a series of design talks by architects from emerging small practices, accompanied by an exhibition of their works, is also organized alongside the forum.

The theme of Archifest 2020 is **"Architecture Saving Our World"** and the forum aims to contribute to the bold theme by bringing a greater understanding and appreciation of the profession to the public.

*Interested members who would like to contribute as a speaker/ exhibitor in the **Forum** or the **Design Series** in this year's edition can contact Ms Annie Ang (email: smap@sia.org.sg).*

Yann Follain (Wy-To Architects),
Wu Huei Siang (WASAA Architects & Associates),
Casey Chua (ADX Architects Pte Ltd)
"Why Architect ?" Organizing Team

GUEST CONTRIBUTION

“ WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN”, ARTIST: AR. KENNETH KOH

#CB HACKS

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PHOTO CONTEST ANSWERS:
1. ONG TZE BOON, 2. WILLIAM LAU, 3. KOH SIEW LAY, 4. CHAN KOK WAY, 5. CHEONG YEW KEE, 6. SEAH CHEE HUANG, 7. WU YEN YEN, 8. KEE WEI HUI, 9. TAN SZUE HANN, 10. MELVIN TAN HJ, 11. HO SOCK YEE, 12. CATHERINE LOKE, 13. CHRISTINA THEAN, 14. LEE WAI FONG, 15. RICHARD LAI, 16. DARREN BENGER, 17. TIAH NAN CHYUAN, 18. LIM CHOON KEANG