

ARCHITECTURE

DESCRIPTION

To develop understanding, knowledge and skills in the use of IT, communication technologies and the digital design media in supporting studio and research projects and for applications in practice. Research areas include

- Computational Design Support Tools interconnecting Architecture, Building and Real Estate
- Harnessed and reaped from Digital Design Media concepts including research and development of digital systems for the creation, evaluation and communication of architectural design including Parametric CAD Modeling and Animation, Visualization, Simulation, Video and Image processing, Mobile and pervasive Computing, 3D Immersive Design Environments, Cross Media Production, 3D input and output devices including immerse projection systems, 3D-CAD

TECHNOLOGY / EXPERTISE APPLICATION

- Simulation and Visualization of Bio-climatic Architecture responding to natural forces such as sun, wind and rain and their impact on architecture
- Providing virtual design laboratories to explore spatial design context and solutions
- Virtual Lighting Design and Prototyping
- Parametric Design Studies
- Visual Perception and Digital Representation
- Cross Media Production, DVD-Web-Print

REPRESENTATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

- I-Light 2
- Design Guide for Energy Efficient Qualitative Lighting Design in Urban Housing

CONSULTANCY

- Review of Lighting Design Consultants for the new NLB building
- In all the above-mentioned

SHORT COURSES

- AR 3512 Computer Aided Lighting Design (Undergraduate)
- AR 5516 Computer Aided Lighting Design (Graduate)
- AR 3511 Things Different - Vibrant Places 2 (Undergraduate)
- AR 5515 Things Different - Vibrant Places 2 (Graduate)
- AR 3551 Independent Studies Design Computing (Undergraduate)
- AR 5551 Independent Studies Design Computing (Graduate)

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COMPUTER- AIDED ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

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OTHER INFORMATION

Our facilities include

- Cross Media Production, DVD-Web-Print
- 8 Digital Design Studios including one Mobile Studio (all with CAD and Digital Design Media Software), Total of 165 Workstations (PC, Mac)
- Responsible for Digital Design Media Curriculum, hard- and software, peripherals

AWARDS

2nd place in Young Designers Award

DESIGN COMPUTING

DESCRIPTION

Please refer to "Architecture; Architectural Design"

DESCRIPTION

To develop a new pedagogy for understanding and promoting “technology integration”, cutting-edge technologies, and performance-based tropical designs. Research areas include

- Environmental Studies
- Accessible Environment
- Glass and Cladding Systems in Tropical Contemporary Architecture
- Rapid Deployment Systems
- Architectural Façade and Detailing in the Tropics
- Water Infrastructure
- Lighting Design
- Design Computation
- Computer-aided Visualization and Evaluation

TECHNOLOGY / EXPERTISE APPLICATION

- Moderation of building microclimate
- Development of strategies and design guidelines to integrate urban housing architecture with water treatment infrastructure
- Structural prototype with new materials not previously explored in building/architecture (e.g. kevlar, alloy metals in monocoque systems)
- Prefabrication of Integrated M&E, skin and structure systems

REPRESENTATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS**Ongoing Research Projects**

- Master Plan Guidelines for the Spatial Incorporation of a Water Infrastructure Proposal
- I-Light 2 - Design Guide for Energy Qualitative Lighting Design in Urban Housing
- Project “T”: The Design And Development Of A New Land-Side Airport Trolley
- Best Practices in Eco-Housing

Completed Research Projects

- A Preliminary Investigation into the Thermal Effects of Plants on Rooftops in Singapore
- Documentation of Proven Architecture Façade & Detailing in the Tropics
- Pilot Study for Research into Effective Design of Accessible Environments
- Dynamic Thermal Performance of Buildings in the Singapore Climate
- Construction Details in Singapore
- Ultrasonic Method of Evaluation Strength of Concrete
- Studies on Passive Methods of Cooling of Buildings Including Desiccant Cooling
- Intelligent Control of Building Envelope for the Tropical Design
- IMPAGE - Interactive Multimedia Presentation of Architectural Geometries by Example
- Mapping of Sky Luminance Distribution & Computational Prediction of Daylight Performance in Singapore
- Elasto-plastic Response to Local Damage of High-Rise Reinforced Concrete Building due to Accidental Loads
- Establishment of Architectural & Technical Standards & Guidelines for the Construction & Maintenance of Marine Mammal Facilities
- Applying Advanced Computational Lighting Visualization to Architectural Design
- Preliminary Investigation Towards Formulation of a Tool for Architectural Design which Incorporates Aesthetic & Rigour in the Development Process of Given Design

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- Rapid Deployment Architecture
- Online Architectural Studio Information System (OASIS)
- A Design Guide of Glass in Architecture in the Tropics
- Study of the Performance-Based Fire Codes of Australia and New Zealand to Determine their Relevance to Singapore
- Project “H”: Development Of New Architectural Concepts For A Prototype House At Sabah, Malaysia
- Development Of Masterplanning Parameters And Design Specifications For An NUS Campus
- Rethinking Sentosa: Development Of New Architectural Concepts And Models Vertical Sponsored Studio
- Interchange At The Science Hub: In Search Of New Forms Sponsored Studio
- Ecological Industrial Park

SHORT COURSES

Short courses such as conferences, symposiums, seminars, guest lectures and research forums organized by the department, faculty members and graduate students have covered topics such as Environmental Planning, Architectural Planning, Architectural Technology, Technology Integration, Lighting Design, Design Computing.

AWARDS

- Shenzhen Liuxiancun Ecocity Design Competition
- Ideas Competition Singapore Management University
- 6th Singapore Institute of Architects Architectural Design Awards: Core Curriculum Office & Ban Patai Village School Hall

DIGITAL DESIGN MEDIA

DESIGN COMPUTING

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School of Design and
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BUILDING

DESCRIPTION

The department's established core competency in Total Building Performance focuses on indoor environment and energy, and building systems and diagnostics. Total Building Performance (TBP) addresses a set of coordinated strategies aimed at bringing about a performance and quality driven construction industry. It examines and develops processes contributing to the delivery of integrated and high performance buildings with respect to needs and resource availability. It is about the embedding of best practices and approaches from design to construction, and to the management stages of a building life cycle. TBP is applicable to all building types.

The Center for Total Building Performance (CTBP) was established on 25 November 2000. It is a joint research center of NUS and Building and Construction Authority, concentrating on building performance in the tropics. The research areas are

- Acoustics
- Building integrity
- Indoor air quality
- Lighting
- Thermal and energy
- Building diagnostics and evaluation
- Energy-efficient systems
- Intelligent buildings
- Façade systems
- Performance simulation

TECHNOLOGY / EXPERTISE APPLICATION

- Energy performance of buildings
- Development of a maintainability index for buildings
- Development of a framework for building performance assessment
- Development of computer-based design decision support tools
- Indoor environmental quality
- Sustainable built system
- Total building performance and diagnostics
- Maintainability of building façade systems

REPRESENTATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Ongoing research projects

- Medical informatics databases on the Internet, e.g. visible man project
- An integrated index for measurement of total building performance: Groundwork for development of software
- Evaluation of energy efficient personalized air units for enhanced ventilation in the tropics
- Maintainability under tropical conditions
- Life-cycle costing of high technology building: Case of life science research building
- A study of the urban heat island in Singapore
- Energy and building performance assessment and classification of commercial buildings in Singapore
- Life-cycle costing for office productivity
- Development of an energy efficient air-conditioning system with zonal ventilation control for improved indoor air quality
- Evaluation of displacement ventilation system in the tropics
- Life-cycle costing for office productivity

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- Development of an energy efficient air-conditioning system with zonal ventilation control for improved indoor air quality
- Evaluation of displacement ventilation system in the tropics
- Life cycle costing for facade maintenance
- Development of performance criteria for sustainable Housing and Development Board's projects
- Productivity and indoor environmental quality (IEQ)

CONSULTANCY

- Total building performance studies
- Indoor air quality investigations and audits
- Structural investigation of buildings
- Building design appraisals concerning structure, materials and environmental performance
- Building and material defect studies and repairs
- Building material evaluation and development
- Building and architectural acoustics design and evaluation of new and existing projects
- Construction site and environmental noise monitoring and control
- Acoustical product developments, evaluation and certification

SHORT COURSES

Short courses organized by the department or staff members have covered topics including Building Refurbishment and Conservation, Cash Flow and Energy Management in Buildings.

OTHER INFORMATION

Laboratory Facilities: Indoor Energy and Environment

Thermal Unit

Humidification/dehumidification test rig; solar collector test system; laboratory simulated weather room and the thermal chamber system; hot-plate thermal conductivity equipment and thermal conductivity meter; UV/VIR/NIR spectrophotometer; computer-controlled thermovision system; home automation system; solar and daylight measurement system; smoke tunnel; indoor climate analyzer; weatherometer; temperature and humidity meter. The laboratory also has an extensive range of recording and measurement instruments.

Lighting Unit

Two-meter integrating sphere; color measurement system; artificial sky; TOPCON Luminance Colorimeter BM7; Hagner Universal Photometer.

Acoustics Unit

A full-size sound transmission suite for transmission studies; a full-size reverberation chamber; anechoic room; audiometer testing facilities; air-conditioning duct silencer test rig; a comprehensive array of measuring instruments totaling 200 items. Some digital equipment, such as building acoustics analyzers, Narrow Band Frequency Analyzer and Dual Channel Analyzer, have been hooked to HP 300 computer, permitting on-line measurement, computation and graphic generation.

Building Services Unit

Air-conditioning laboratory unit; refrigeration demonstration unit; heat pump laboratory unit.

Indoor Air Quality Unit

Thermal comfort meter; Bruel & Kjaer multi-gas monitor; multi-point doser sampler system; portable indoor environment monitor; Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GCMS) system; Gallenkamp incubator; Biotest air sampler; Andersen sampler; dust monitor, ultrasonic flowmeter, ozone analyzer. The laboratory also has an extensive range of measurement instruments. Building Systems and Diagnostics Surveying Unit Profometer (PROCEQ SA) and depth meter; protimeter survey master; electronic timber moisture meter; Nikon DTM-330 Total station. Wind Tunnel Unit; Large modern boundary layer wind tunnel, 17 m long x 3.4 m wide x 1.7 m high, wind speeds can be varied from 0 to a maximum of 20 m/sec; 48 port Scanivalve; Constant Temperature Anemometer (CTA) system; 36-point multitude manometer; flow-visualization system; Dantec 6-channel low velocity flow analyzer and computer; Solenoid Controller; ROSCO 1600 Fog machine; Kanomax Anemometer; and Yokogawa DX230 DAQStation. Structures Unit Model 1340 Servo-Hydraulic 500 kN Dynamic Instron universal testing machine; ELE Autotest 2000 BS compression machine (2000 kN capacity) with microprocessor digital console and transverse (100 kN capacity); ten loading frames of 300 kN capacity, each for testing columns, beams and structural assemblies equipped with anchorage beds and jacking systems; facilities for the fabrication and testing of pre-stressed concrete; facilities for the non-destructive testing of concrete; Atlas-Weatherometer (Model CI 35) for accelerated weathering tests on building materials; soil testing facilities. Building Materials Unit Paint testers, Hardness testers, Micromeritics pore-sizer and facilities for Petrography studies. Fire Technology Unit Harshaw Thermoluminescent Dosimetry Reader; Cone calorimeter; Toxicity chamber; Automatic sprinkler system and smoke sensitivity chamber. Metal & Wood Workshops Unit Metal lathe machines; arc welding transformer; bandsaw machine; wood turning lathe, circular bench saw; bend drilling machine and wood thicknesser. Information Technology Hardware such as IBM servers, Epson Perfection scanner, Fujitsu LifeBook e-Series, HP Color LaserJet printer, etc., and software such as Adobe FrameMaker 6, ArchiCAD 7.0 Teamwork, Autodesk Lightscape, CFX 5.5, EDSL TAS, PowerDOE etc.

TOTAL BUILDING PERFORMANCE

DESCRIPTION

Please refer to "Building; Building Maintainability"

BUILDING PERFORMANCE INTEGRATION & INNOVATION

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TOTAL BUILDING PERFORMANCE

DESCRIPTION

Please refer to “Building; Building Maintainability”

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS

DESCRIPTION

The department’s core competency in Construction Management & Economics focuses on construction industry development and construction productivity and quality.

The key operational principle underpinning the department’s efforts is “integration” and information technology tools are developed and pervasively deployed to facilitate the integrated approach in design and construction. This is in support of the Construction 21 vision “to be a world class builder in the knowledge age”, in the belief that buildings that are well designed, well constructed and well managed are important assets of Singapore. It will help to maximize the quality and efficiency of the built environment, improve the productivity of people and enterprises, and enhance the overall quality of life in the nation.

The focus areas of this group are international construction, industry performance and benchmarking, and project management.

TECHNOLOGY / EXPERTISE APPLICATION

International Construction

- Export capability of Singapore construction firms
- International construction market
- Strategies of international construction firms
- Management of international projects

Performance and Benchmarking

- Productivity, quality, cost and safety performance
- Cross-cutting performance themes

Project Management

- Procurement arrangements
- Managing teams and processes
- Legal issues and dispute management
- Information technology

REPRESENTATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Ongoing research projects

- Enabling innovation in construction: The alignment of motivation in construction for greater integration
- Adopting high technology construction in Singapore - Managerial and human issues
- Project managers' behavior and their impact on project performance and innovation
- Benchmarking construction waste levels in Singapore towards effective minimization
- Strategies for the diffusion of prefabrication to the private sector
- Developing world-class firms with strong export capability: Learning from successful USA design and construction firms
- Enhancing safety culture in construction: The impact of safety management systems on construction safety levels
- Development of a strategic integrated global procurement framework

CONSULTANCY

- Project management of specialized projects
- Technological development for the construction process, products and building components
- Development of national IT standards for the construction industry
- Studies on the development of national construction industries

SHORT COURSES

Short courses organized by the department or staff members have covered topics including Construction Project Management (for the Housing and Development Board, Jurong Town Corporation, Singapore Institute of Building, Yonsei University and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, under the Colombo Plan); Contract Administration (for the Institution of Engineers of Singapore); and Quality Management in Construction.

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INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS

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School of Design and
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DESCRIPTION

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PROJECT MANAGEMENT

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS

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DESCRIPTION

This research group focuses on real estate as an investment asset. Its research agenda covers global real estate investment strategies, portfolio diversification, asset pricing models; corporate real estate in relation to wealth creation, performance measures, corporate strategies; and securitized real estate such as property trusts, asset backed securities and financial engineering.

REPRESENTATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Recently Completed Cases

- Application of information technology in property management
- Corporate investment and ownership in real estate in Singapore
- The pricing of corporate real estate in the stock market
- Nonparametric estimation of dynamic hedonic price indices
- Repeat sales & hedonic repeat sales indices of Singapore property markets
- Strategic behavior in oligopolistic bidding and pricing
- Real estate securitization in Singapore: A timely innovation or a white elephant

Ongoing Research Projects

- Commercial real estate cycles: Theory and evidence
- Performance measurement and modeling for corporate real estate
- Price discovery in real estate auctions
- Real estate financing in Singapore: Alternative method
- Asset-backed securitization
- Branding in the Real Estate Market
- Performance Measurement and Modeling for Corporate Real Estate
- Impact on Information & Communication Technology on Office Space Demand

CONSULTANCY

- Expert witness for Supreme Court to value an option on property
- Developed Econometric Forecasting Model for URA/STB
- Conducted consumer surveys for ERA
- Conducted consumer surveys for CB Richard Ellis
- Consultant on Securitized Real Estate for Collyers Jardine
- Consultant to formulate a Real Estate Financial Planning Service for CKS Property Consultants
- Developing Asset Allocation Model for Ascendas Group
- Consultant to construct an Analytical Forecasting Model for CB Richard Ellis
- To Build a Robust Economic Leading Index Model for GIC Real Estate
- Development and Marketing Feasibility Analysis for Jones Lang LaSalle Property Consultants
- Member of the Keppel Insurance Islamic Advisory Board
- Cash Flow Analysis for Teletech Pte Ltd
- Private Instruction on Real Estate Investment Analysis for Hillwood Asia
- Charting Future Real Estate Development Opportunities in Asia for Lend Lease Asia
- Definition of The National Standard Classification Systems for the Construction Industry for International Alliance for Interoperability Singapore Chapter

SHORT COURSES

- Executive Program on 'Real Estate Securitization & Financial Innovations'
- World Bank Institute distance learning course on "Infrastructure Financing"
- Short courses on 'Transportation Planning in Singapore'
- Short courses on 'Property Valuations'

AWARDS

- Outstanding Faculty of Management Lecturer Award, Dr Muhammed Shahid Ebrahim, (1997-98)
- Recipient of Harwood Memorial Real Estate Scholarship, Dr Muhammed Shahid Ebrahim, (1989-90)
- Literati Club Highly Commended Award 2001, A/Prof Ong Seow Eng, (2001)
- *Fourth Sharjah Urban Planning Symposium* best international paper award, A/Prof Ong Seow Eng, (2000)
- ANBAR Electronic Intelligence Citation of Excellence, A/Prof Ong Seow Eng, (1999)
- ANBAR Management Intelligence Citation of Excellence, A/Prof Ong Seow Eng, (1996)
- Literati Club and MCB Press Highly Commended paper, A/Prof Ong Seow Eng, (1994)
- Best papers Award for European Real Estate Society Conference, Dr Joseph Ooi Thian Leong, (1999)
- High Commended Paper Awarded by MCB University Press, Dr Joseph Ooi Thian Leong, (2000)
- "Most Outstanding" Paper Awarded by MCB University Press, Dr Joseph Ooi Thian Leong, (2001)

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HOUSING RESEARCH

HOUSING RESEARCH

DESCRIPTION

Housing research aims to improve understanding of housing and urban systems in Singapore as well as regional countries. Major research themes are

- Economics of the housing market
- Economic analysis of housing and public policies and finance
- Social housing and housing governance

REPRESENTATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Recently completed projects

- Measuring the quality of life of Singapore
- Private housing demand and speculation
- Public-to-Private housing switching behavior of households
- Understanding the changes of Singapore's urban housing sub-market system: A policy modeling approach
- Quality of life of expatriates working in Singapore

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- Assessment of housing needs of the elderly in Singapore
- Quality of life of lower-income inner city residents in Singapore
- Housing policy review in Singapore
- The determination of the natural vacancy rate(s) for the Singapore housing market

Ongoing Research Projects

- Living experience in super tall buildings
- Econometric modeling of urban housing price dynamics
- A comparative Study of Housing Markets and Economic Development in Hong Kong and Singapore

CONSULTANCY

- Charting Future Real Estate Development Opportunities in Asia for Lend Lease Asia Holdings Ltd
- Construction of Econometric Models for Hotel Room Demand for URA
- Research Consultancy for Chesterson International Property Consultants

SHORT COURSES

- Short courses on 'Transportation Planning in Singapore'
- Short courses on 'Property Valuations'
- Short courses on 'Urban Planning and Management'
- Short courses on 'Housing and Land Policy'

DESCRIPTION

This research focus group covers formal and informal institutions governing real estate markets, dynamics of real estate markets and implications for globalization and real estate investment; spatial distribution patterns of property values and land uses, inner city development, re-urbanization, urban consolidation and planned decentralization.

REPRESENTATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Recently completed projects

- A study of the natural vacancy rate in Singapore's office market
- A land policy and economic study of en bloc sales in Singapore
- Work-travel and shopping patterns in the east and west regions of Singapore
- Repeated bidding under supply uncertainty - capital constraints and public information
- The impact of China's land management reforms on the land market and urban development in the 1990 - A case study of Shenzhen
- Impact of the industrial property market movements on the manufacturing restructuring in Singapore
- Development of a land price index in Singapore
- The potential for strategic environmental assessment in Asia
- Ecotourism potential for Singapore
- Land use structure and property value pattern in Pacific-Asian metropolis: A case study of Singapore
- Emerging Global Cities - Comparison of Singapore and Cities in United Arab Emirates

Ongoing Research Projects

- Urban development and restructuring under a transition economy - Case study of Shanghai
- The Dynamics of Residential Property Value Surface in A Transitional Metropolis: Beijing
- The Impact of Globalization on Real Estate investment in Singapore and Major Cities in China

CONSULTANCY

- Consumer Work for CB Richard Ellis
- Charting Future Real Estate Development Opportunities in Asia for Lend Lease Asia Holdings Ltd

SHORT COURSES

- SCPTA -Singapore Cooperation Program Training Awards and STAPCPC-Singapore Technical Assistance Program for Colombo Plan Countries
- Singapore Technical Assistance Program for Colombo Plan Countries (STAPCPC)

AWARDS

Senior Fellow, Urban Studies Program, Johns Hopkins University, for A/Prof Zhu Jieming (1998/99)

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