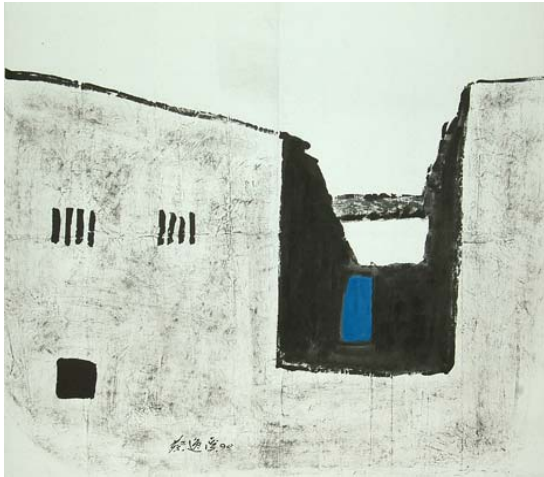


# NUS MUSEUM & Department of Architecture, NUS

present

## FORUM: CONSTRUCTED LANDSCAPES: COSMOPOLITAN & COLONIAL SINGAPORE

Held in conjunction with *Constructed Landscapes: Singapore in Southeast Asia* exhibition



Chua Ek Kay  
*A Window of Deep Blue at Kreta Ayer*, 1990  
Ink and pigments on paper

Sat, 7 Feb 2009  
2 to 4pm  
NUS Museum  
Free Admission

To register, email [museum@nus.edu.sg](mailto:museum@nus.edu.sg)  
or call 6516 8817

The forum examines the intrinsic character of Singapore as a cosmopolitan city since the precolonial period until now, from various perspectives.

### Speakers

Imran bin Tajudeen:

Historical Evidence and Aestheticised Portrayals Compared: Colonial Constructs and Frames, and the Gaze on the Nanyang in representations of 'Kampung'

Ang Yik Han:

The Mun San Fook Tuck Chee - History and Community

Ho Weng Hin:

Materiality and Modernity: Colonial Public Works Architecture in Singapore during the Inter-War Period

Chua Ai Lin:

Landscapes of Modernity in Colonial Singapore (1920s and 30s)

### Moderator

Johannes Widodo

### Contact Us

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**Johannes Widodo** is an Associate Professor and Director of CASA (Centre for Advanced Studies in Architecture at the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore. He teaches History & Theory of Southeast Asian Architecture, Typology & Morphology in Architecture, Singapore Urban History and Architecture and others.

**Imran bin Tajudeen** studied the historic urban vernacular heritage of the port cities of insular Southeast Asia or Nusantara for his recently-submitted doctoral thesis. He is interested in the processes, underlying motivations and assumptions through which notions of 'traditional built heritage' have been constituted, and how they are narrated in contemporary reconstructions. Imran was awarded the Jeffrey Cook Prize for Best Student Paper for the Tenth IASTE Conference in 2006 for a critique of how state projects for architectural and cultural heritage intervention in Kampung Gelam and Geylang Serai have reinvented ethnic identities in stereotypical ways, in contrast to the historical evidence and with contemporary reactions and strategies of counter-appropriation. He was also selected as one of twelve young researchers to present a paper before a roundtable discussion at the ICOMOS 2008 International Youth Forum on Cultural Heritage in Quebec City. In 2005 he was awarded the Asia Research Institute Graduate Student Overseas Fieldwork Grant for fieldwork in old port cities in Sumatra and South Sulawesi. He is currently assisting a research project on a comparative study of post-industrial urban waterfront regeneration in Singapore and Yokohama, and is also working on a chapter on the planned city of Nusajaya in Johor Bahru, Malaysia in the context of contemporary notions of urbanism for an edited volume on 'New Cities in the Muslim World'.

An engineer by profession, **Ang Yik Han** spends more time than he should pursuing his interest in local history. He is a member of the Selat Society and a co-author of the book *A Boon Returned: The History of Mun San Fook Tuck Chee*.

**Ho Weng Hin** is a practising architectural restoration specialist and architecture historian. He holds a Master of Architecture degree from NUS, and pursued postgraduate studies in architectural conservation at the *Scuola di Specializzazione in Restauro dei Monumenti*, University of Genoa, Italy, where he graduated with top honours. For his postgraduate thesis, Ho carried out a detailed conservation survey of the former Supreme Court building which was submitted to MICA and PMB under the purview of the National Art Gallery project. A member of Singapore Heritage Society, he has been involved in a number of book projects, including *Between Forgetting and Remembering: Memories and the National Library* (2000), and one that he is currently co-authoring, *Our Modern Past: Modern Architecture in Singapore 1920s – 1970s*. Other notable projects include *Building Dreams* (2002), the ground-breaking info-documentary TV series commissioned by Mediacorp Arts Central. Ho was former Co-editor of *Singapore Architect*, the bimonthly professional journal of the Singapore Institute of Architects, from 2005 till 2007.

**Chua Ai Lin's** research has been focused on Anglophone Asian communities in Singapore between 1920-1940, particularly in terms of social, cultural and intellectual history. Her M.A. centred on the attempts of this ethnically-diverse group of English-speaking non-Europeans in Singapore to negotiate their identity/identities in terms of ethnicity, nation and empire. In her Ph.D., she looked at how modernity affected the everyday lives of this same group of people, focusing primarily on the social history of the motor car, cinema, radio and gramophone. She plans to extend her research into the experience of women and the domestic sphere. At the NUS History Department, she coordinates and co-teaches the module HY2254 Popular Culture in Singapore."