SINGAPORE TATLER HEINSIDER'S GUIDE TO LUXURIOUS LIVING

As featured on Singapore Tatler Homes

GREEN MILE

More than just achieving beauty, awardwinning architecture firm WOHA shifts the conversation towards crafting sustainable spaces and cities equipped for global warming



n Singapore, look at any green building, vertical garden or structure built with sustainable design in mind and it's bound to be touched by WOHA, the distinguished architectural practice founded by Wong Mun Summ and Richard Hassell. That's not to say every project was conceived and designed by them, but that their guiding principles on how a building should interact with its environment has shaped the landscape of the Little Red Dot in the last two decades. For that reason alone, anyone who revels in the garden city that is Singapore has them to thank for the pleasant cityscape.

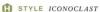
During interviews, designers' narratives usually delve into the intricacies of their creative journey and their continuous quest of achieving form and function. In my hourlong conversation with WOHA, the talk often drifted to the effects of global warming. Climate change isn't just a passing fascination for the duo; in fact, they've recently authored Garden City Mega City: Rethinking Cities for the Age of Global Warming—a provocative proposal on how to save our cities and our planet through smart and sustainable design decisions.





WOHA BEING

Partners Wong Mun Summ and Richard Hassell have moved forward on WOHA Being, an umbrella entity through which they'll be developing a series of projects. The Maison&Objet Asia Designers of the Year aim to use this as a platform to showcase thoughtfully sourced homeware, as well as to launch initiatives that highlight and promote local Asian crafting skills. IA CASTAŘEDA IMAGES COURTESY OF WOHA (PHOTOGRAPHY, JING WEI, PORTRATI, PATRICK BINGHAM-HALL, ALILA ULUWA



MODERN LANDMARK

The architectural practice has worked on a wide array of projects, ranging from residential homes to public projects. Here are a few of our favourites in Singapore:

PARKROYAL ON PICKERING



OASIA HOTEL DOWNTOWN



SCHOOL OF THE ARTS SINGAPORE







"WE WERE VERY LUCKY BECAUSE WE STARTED AT A TIME WHEN SINGAPORE ITSELF WAS ACTIVELY TRYING TO BECOME A GREEN CITY"

THE PERFECT STORM



build our practice," stresses Wong,
"It all changed with the movie An
Inconvenient Truth," adds Hassell, referencing
the turning point when sustainable design
began to be taken seriously. Since 2006,
vertical gardens and the overt greening of both
interiors and architecture became au courant,
but WOHA insists that it's just the beginning.
In the 22 years the duo have addressed the
subject, they've devised a quantifiable approach
to measuring the impact of sociable architecture
and sustainable cities, which they've outlined in
their most recent tome.











CLOCKWISE THRIVING ARCHITECTURE

FROM LEFT
The Oasia Hotel
Downtown has
an open-air
lobby and a
or pen-air
lobby and a
or pickering relates to the arresting impact
of their unconventional thinking. "Parkroyal
was successful as a prototype," says Wong.
"It allowed us to develop our ideas on
a bigger scale. It also helped that it had
seductive images, which helped to push the
agenda forward."

WOHA, however, is about more than just

aren't considered creating green spaces. If the definition of omamentation, design is that it's a solution, then the problem but a way of they're actually addressing is how to make the promoting world more liveable for people today and for ventilation, future generations. "One of our criteria is civic sustainability generosity, which relates to how a development and wellness facilitates the public life of a city," says Wong. While the duo insist that their impact is felt more abroad-with projects from Australia to Taiwan, and having made the rounds as key speakers in notable conferences overseas-it's hard to overstate how key WOHA has become in creating a liveable, lovable and future-ready Singapore. Next time you see the Oasia or shop in the Space Furniture flagship store on Bencoolen Street, be thankful that designers as generous as the two work in our midst. 0

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For more information, visit woha.net