

Project: Punggol Soka Centre

Design Team: Formwerkz Architects

Size: 3200 m²

Location: SINGAPORE



Feature:

Project - Formwerkz Architects' Punggol Soka Centre reinterprets the concept of a citadel as an "Open Citadel" - a fortified yet welcoming sanctuary in Singapore's Punggol neighborhood. Situated at the intersection of Sumang Walk near the Punggol waterway, the centre aspires to be an "oasis of happiness" that embraces principles of peace, culture and education.

The architects conceived the 3,200 square metre building as a solid masonry form punctured by a series of courtyard spaces that allow nature to permeate the interior. These landscaped voids create a variety of environments for discourse, relaxation and engagement with the outdoors. The courtyards provide moments of tranquility where one can observe and commune with nature - inspiring self-reflection and inner transformation.

Despite its robust, fort-like appearance, the porous design establishes a sense of openness. Formwerkz describes it as bearing "fortitude to safeguard the good foundation" while remaining inclusive and protective. The interspersed green spaces offer pockets for both group activities and private contemplation amidst verdant surroundings.

Embodying dignified hospitality, the Punggol Soka Centre presents an urban citadel reimagined - its bold massing contrasted by pockets of naturalistic sanctuary that cultivate engagement, wellbeing and happiness. The unique concept hybridizes notions of fortification and porosity into an innovative community hub.

Design Team - Established in Singapore in 2004, Formwerkz Architects is a design practice renowned for fostering active engagement between people and their environments.

Founded by Alan Tay, Seetoh Kum Loon, Gwen Tan and Berlin Lee, the firm's ethos centers on recovering meaningful human relationships and reconnecting people with nature through architecture.

In 2010, the three design principals - Alan Tay, Gwen Tan and Seetoh Kum Loon - were lauded by Singapore's AUDE as part of the "20under45: The Next Generation" exhibition, celebrating emerging design talent. Formwerkz's body of work encompasses award-winning residential, commercial, hospitality and institutional projects driven by conceptual clarity and contextual responsiveness.

The practice has garnered numerous accolades, including the Singapore Institute of Architects' prestigious Building of the Year, Chicago Athenaeum's International Architecture Award, and merits from the Design for Asia Awards. Their designs manifest a sensitive yet bold approach, deriving simple yet imaginative solutions that negotiate the ephemeral nature of space.

With a rigorous commitment to cultivating meaningful spatial experiences, Formwerkz Architects synthesizes innovation and functionality to create contextually-grounded yet transformative architectures that enhance human engagement and wellbeing.