PRESS RELEASE

BCA BEST BUILDABLE DESIGN AWARDS - AWARD FOR A LEADING LIGHT IN SINGAPORE'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

1. Capital Tower's colourfully lit penthouse roof is not only a well-known beacon on Singapore's night skyline, but according to the Building and Construction Authority (BCA), it is also a guiding light for productivity achievement in the construction industry. This newest landmark in Singapore is being awarded one of the industry's most prestigious prizes - a Best Buildable Design Award by the BCA.

2. Capital Tower won with a Buildability score of 81. The industry average for the commercial category is 62. A 36% manpower saving was also achieved for the construction of the mammoth building, compared to the Commercial Building Category's industry average.

3. Mr Tan Kian Hoon, Deputy Chairman of BCA and Chairman of the Best Buildable Design Awards Assessment Committee, said it is fitting that Capital Tower's winning of the Award coincides with the implementation of Buildable Design legislation.

4. "The developer of Capital Tower, CapitaLand, is a forward thinker. While others had waited for the new laws to come into effect on January 1st, they had opted to use Buildable Design earlier because they could see the benefits," he said.

5. The architect's starting point was to adopt the image of a sapling and its growth as a metaphor for building, reflecting growth, dynamism and efficiency.
That essence is reflected in the organic features like the palm pool, the glass ball sculpture and curved facade.

6. Buildable Design's new techniques lent the project other advantages too. The architect Ms Hazel Ang from RSP Architects Planners & Engineers (Pte) Ltd said, "The site is wedged between Robinson Road and Cecil Street and offered the architects and engineers a significant challenge. Heavy traffic runs on both sides of the road, and using conventional construction methods would have seriously inconvenienced the public. We solved the problem by assembling building components elsewhere, trucking them to site and craning them into position."

7. Capital Tower is also located beside the underground MRT lines which required low vibration construction techniques. "We used steel which is lighter and therefore faster to build," said Ms Ang. "Steel construction is also less messy than poured concrete construction. The site is therefore cleaner and minimise the inconvenience to the traffic along the busy Robinson Road and Cecil Street."

8. Singapore Changi Airport is also home to another Award winner - the Two-Finger Buildings at Terminal One. It won the Award with a Buildability score of 75 compared to the industry average of 60. Construction took 27 months to complete with a manpower saving of 40%. In order to minimise on-site activities and disturbance to the busy operational area of the airport, the PWD Consultants utilised a high proportion of precast and prefabricated components.

9. One of its most striking features is the criss-cross of beams and braces supporting the glass roof. Photo sensors on the roof automatically control the amount of natural light let in depending on different weather conditions. This innovative application allows half of the artificial lighting to be switched off during the day. Prefabricated sunshades and the high performance glass facade minimise the input of infra-red heat while still providing plenty of light. Again, this was another example where architects balanced aesthetic considerations with the practicalities of airport business.
10. This year's competition saw 29 submissions shortlisted, an increase of 12 projects on last year. The other five award winners this year are:

- Under the Industrial category, HDB Prefabrication Technology Centre and Air Freight Terminal 6, are winners.

Another four projects were given certificates of merit.

11. The Best Buildable Design Award was inaugurated 10 years ago to promote greater awareness and use of Buildable Design. Only projects which have achieved outstanding construction efficiencies through the use of easy-to-build designs are eligible for nomination. The bumper crop of entries this year is testimony to the industry's acceptance of Buildable Design. The year's entries also had more residential projects with high Buildable scores. An unprecedented 15 private residential were nominated compared to last year's five. Of these 15 nominations, 10 were shortlisted for the competition. This year, all award winners scored well above the legislated minimum Buildability score, which was effected on 1 January 2001.

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