

Singapore Subordinate Courts Complex

Serie Architects

Open Competition, 1st Prize
Location: Singapore
Client: Subordinate Courts Singapore
Status: To be completed in 2019
Cost: US\$350 million
Area: 110,000 sqm
Use: Civic



Below: View of sky terrace



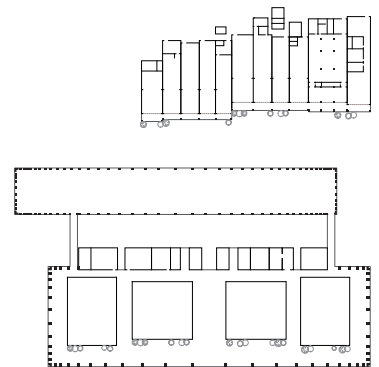
Serie Architects, in collaboration with local firm Multiply Architects, won an open competition process for the construction of the Singapore Subordinate Courts Complex with its winning design for two new towers and the renovation of the existing Octagon courts building. One of the new towers houses the criminal courtrooms, the other the judges' chambers and supporting functions. The towers are linked by a series of bridges that enable the controlled circulation necessary for the courtroom process.

The relationship between the city and its civic buildings is the primary interest for this project. The new courts complex is a building that is symbolically open and accessible to the public. Its design language is drawn from the city so that it will be readily understood by all Singaporeans. The courtroom tower is an open frame supporting a series of shared terraces on which the courtrooms are placed: it has no external facade. In a metaphorical sense this represents the openness and impartiality of the judicial process. The outdoor terraces feature high rise gardens and allow views across the city thereby reinforcing the civic role of the building. The courtrooms are clad in ribbed terracotta which reflects the colours of the tiled roofs in the adjacent historic Chinatown shop-houses. The existing octagon courts building are

also refurbished and houses 35,000sqm of civil, family and juvenile courts. The two new 150m high towers have a combined area of 110,000sqm and accommodates 60 criminal courts, making it three times larger than the current courts. The courts complex has a budget of US\$350m and is scheduled to begin construction next year and to be completed in 2019.

The open design competition jury was headed up by internationally acclaimed architect Moshe Safdie. In a joint statement, the judges praised the 'simple but dignified' winning design which 'complements the conserved octagon without trying to outshine it.' A public viewing was held in March to invite views on the shortlisted designs.

Serie and Multiply worked with structural engineers AKT II. Albert Williamson-Taylor, Partner at AKT II, commented 'with the continued debate surrounding sustainable tower design it is encouraging that a client like the Justice Department of Singapore is promoting innovative, environmentally-friendly architectural solutions'.



Below: large courtroom interior
Bottom: North-west facade

