

Curriculum Vitae

Ar CHEAH KOK MING

Associate Professor
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Department of Architecture
National University of Singapore

Registered Architect(Singapore)
Cert in Teaching (Higher Education)
BArch(Hons)
BA(Arch Studies)



Kok Ming joined Department of Architecture, NUS in March 2006.

Academic

In his twelve years of service, he has won 3 Teaching Excellence Awards conferred by the School of Design & Environment and 2 Annual Teaching Excellence Awards presented by NUS. In 2011, he received the Outstanding Educator Award from NUS. He served in the NUS Teaching Academy from 2012 to 2014. He rejoined to serve the Teaching Academy for another term in 2018. Prior to this, he has taught in the Polytechnic from 2000 to 2006. His contributions to practice-oriented pedagogy in Singapore Polytechnic were recognized with 4 teaching accolades.

He took over the helm of the Design Technology & Management (DTM) programme in 2007, a year after its establishment. His academic leadership emphasizes design competence founded on technical imagination and sustainability literacy, consolidating the programme, transformed it to Design Technology & Sustainability (DTS). This two-year specialized route to a professional degree is offered to undergraduates after their third year. External reviewers have commended on the positive direction and progress of the DTS programme. He coordinates and builds a team of experts and practitioners that enriched the studio pedagogy with parametric design, digital fabrication, architectural technology and sustainable design. He has led 4th year and MArch design studios in exploring architectural propositions from less land more yield challenges. He has also piloted a collaborative design studio involving Building Science and Architectural students in an integrative approach to architectural design. His studio explorations have produced design outcomes that won both local and international design competitions.

His axiom that design and technique are integrated and interrelated percolates throughout his design teaching as well as the guiding philosophy in his first year Architectural Construction module. Since 2007, he initiated “learning by building” approach to learning construction. The building assignment begins with a provocative design problem that requires exploration of material and construction techniques to inform the solution. He has received the university’s Teaching Grant in 2010 for developing a constructivist approach in learning construction. The pedagogy empowers the learners to formulate their own learning approaches and strategies through a problem-based learning process. He has staged a few exhibitions on his pedagogical explorations in design teaching. Together with a colleague, they received a Teaching Enhancement Grant to develop a pedagogy for integrated teaching of Tropical Envelope in 2018.

Contributing at the international realm, he chairs the committee that organizes the Vertical Cities Asia Design Competition and Symposium from 2011 to 2015. This is an

annual event that seeks innovative paradigms to meet challenges of fast growing Asian cities. It involves the participation of students from Tongji, Tsinghua, Tokyo, CUHK, Delft, ETH, UC Berkeley, UMichigan, UPenn & NUS. The pedagogical thrust of the event creates a platform in which research by design on high intensity urbanism in Asia is explored and subsequently made accessible as a resource or ideas catalyst to a worldwide student audience via publication and web-based information.

Kok Ming shares his teaching reflections in the university's Centre for Development of Teaching & Learning publications. His essays on poetics of detail design and materiality in Singapore Architect and FuturArc journals are an influence on students developing their design thesis and written dissertation.

He has lectured in CUHK's conference on "The Evolving Architectural Education: Innovation in teaching and learning in Asia" in 2012. He also spoke at the Korea University addressing "Architectural Education in Asia: Past Present and Future" in 2014. He is the visiting academic for Taylor's University in Malaysia since 2013. He was the external examiner for City School of Architecture, Sri Lanka from 2013 to 2016. He was a member of the course review panel for Diploma in Architecture and Diploma in Landscape Architecture of Singapore Polytechnic in 2016 and 2014 respectively. He was an external examiner for Temasek Polytechnic's Diploma in Environment Design in 2018.

As a Deputy Head(Finance & Admin) from 2008 to 2010, he was instrumental for the expansion and improvements to workshop and its technological capabilities for supporting design education. He was appointed Deputy Head (Academic) in 2013. In his term of duty, he has mentored colleagues and set up peer-learning platform to improve quality of teaching as well as aligning research and teaching. In 2015, he established the Architectural Educator Forum, a platform for Asian design teachers to exchange ideas and discuss about design education in Asia. The Forum is in its 3rd installment.

He conceived the biannual "Construe & Construct" Lecture/Exhibition Series in 2014, this is a strategic initiative to connect academia with emerging architectural talents in the Tropical Asian region. Paving the way for design workshops and collaboration to advance design education and research. The Lecture/Exhibition series is into its 4th year.

He served as an examiner for 5 years in the Board of Architects Professional Practice Examinations since 2007. He is also the chair for Board of Examiners for the BCA Academy's Diploma in Design course from 2008 to 2012.

He was appointed by the Minister of National Development in 2015 to serve a term of 3 years as a board member in the Board of Architects. His area of contribution is in the accreditation of architectural education and eligibility for professional registration.

Practice

His architectural accomplishment consisted of schools, museum and research building when he was serving in the Public Works Department from 1992 to 2000. In 1995 he pioneered a prefabricated school design which won the BCA's Best Buildable Project. His conversion of the Empress Place Building to the Asia Civilization Museum won an Architectural Heritage Award in 2003. Most of his built works have been featured and published in professional journals and books. Notably the ISEAS research institute has contributed discourses on tropical architecture in several books. He contributed to the team design efforts for the Department's 50th Anniversary Exhibition that won the HKDA

Design Asia Excellence Award 2009. In 2009, he completed the conversion of two heritage shophouses owned by the Department in Malacca into a field school and gallery for the Tun Tan Cheng Lock Centre (TTCLC). This project has been nominated for Aga Khan Award in 2012.

He runs a yearly internship programme at the TTCLC in which students develop design solutions for alternations, additions as well as exhibition setup to be constructed at the centre. The programme ran for two years since 2011.

He was a jury member for the 2007 ITE West Campus Design Competition. He had been a member of the Green Practice Committee in the Singapore Institute of Architects and the Recycled Materials Taskforce in the Singapore Green Building Council. He is appointed by SPRING Singapore to review product standards in the Technical Committee for Architectural Works. He has been invited in 2012 to serve in the National Environment Agency Design Advisory Committee for the evaluation of Market & Hawker Centre design. He has served as a jury for the Malaysian Institute of Architects' Architecture Award 2013.