



# 照明探偵団通信

vol. 108 Shomei Tanteidan Tsu-shin

## The Singapore Pavilion at 17th International Architecture Exhibition

An exhibition that had to re-examine itself after the impact of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic.

La Biennale di Venezia 2021.05.22-2021.11.21

Reiko Kasai, Mayumi Banno, Sun Young Hwang, Sherri Goh, Shosaku Takahashi

In late November 2019, we were invited by the National University of Singapore (NUS) Department of Architecture curatorial team to submit a proposal for the Singapore Pavilion under the theme To-Gather: The Architecture of Relationships.

Our pitch was shortlisted amongst 16 other participating architects and designers. We began work at the start of January 2020 to design and fabricate the installation scheduled to exhibit in Venice from 23rd May to 29th November 2020.

The brief was to question how our work responds to the dialogue of: *how will we live together?*

### Our Response

In Singapore, terms such as "light pollution" and "loud lights" are now used to describe the lit environment in Singapore. There is a pressing need to re-evaluate and balance the current situation with our needs and wants. We need to examine if such an increase in light actually provide us with more pleasant nights?

### Designing the installation

The format conceptualised by the curators were of the iconic Singapore hawker center.

Hawker centers are integral to the Singapore way of life pertaining to everyday

dining. All participants are assigned a table with stools arranged around it, mimicking a typical layout in hawker centres.

We updated the lengthy lighting chronology exhibited at Lighting Planners Associates 2015 travelling exhibition Nightscape 2050. The history of lighting in Singapore was printed onto blind fabric to resemble magic scrolls rolling and unrolling to reveal the story and light bulbs behind them.

The usual activities of Lighting Detectives were plated on the table for guests to sit down and read.

### The Pandemic

Singapore went into lockdown in early April 2020. Word of official postponement of the exhibition in Venice only came through on 20th May.

Our work was collected by the curatorial team and put in storage until February 2020.

All the participants participated in interviews and zoom calls to brainstorm and re-examine the meaning of our installations in response to the pandemic.

### Venice

Our installation reached Venice in March 2021 and installation was coordinated with our sponsors Lutron and Linealight due to travel restrictions. It was a great

success! The exhibition launched on 22nd May to 21st November with a great turnout. The pavilion received an average of 465 visitors a day!

### Future

The Singapore pavilion will be coming back home for a Homecoming Exhibition in February 2022. We feel honoured to be able to exhibit both abroad and at home in such trying times. (Sherri Goh)



Pre-opening set-up



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# Project Asagao x Lighting Detectives

Discover Tanjong Pagar, Singapore 2021.10.22-2021.10.23

Reiko Kasai, Sun Young Hwang, Sherri Goh, Quratuaini Jamil,

Shirmine Tan, Xiao Qing

Team Asagao: Hana Kasai, Victoria Wee, Marielle Ang, Elias Bay

Our first activity since 2020!

Initiated by students in joint collaboration with Lighting Detectives.

An evening out by the park, surrounded with twinkling lanterns.

We collaborated with student team Project Asagao in October for an installation to raise awareness and funds for Beyond Social Services.

The student team comprise of 4 students from St Joseph Institution International. The installation was part of their campaign for Citi-YFC, an initiative to enable youths to champion a charity of their choosing.

Drawings from the youths under the charity were featured on the lanterns laid out on the lawn in the pattern of hearts.

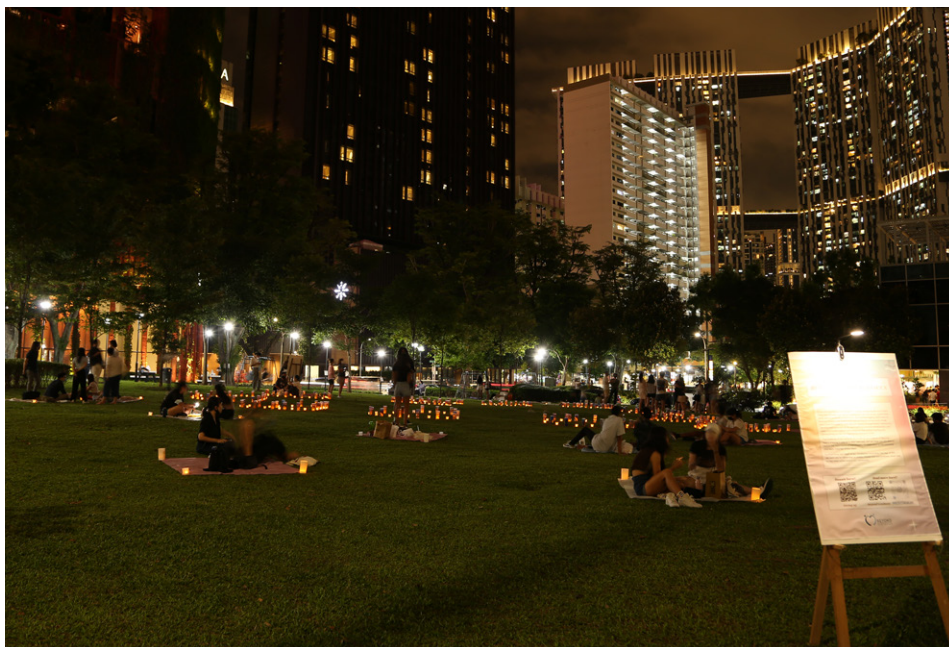
The lantern installation was initially planned to include a lantern-making workshop as well. However as Singapore was still in a lockdown, public participation was not encouraged.

Despite the situation, the installation was very well received by the public with high turn-out for both days!

It is our first physical Lighting Detectives activity in Singapore since the pandemic hit and took support from the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore (URA) for us to leap through hoops and expedite the approval of this proposal within a short frame of time. Discover Tanjong Pagar and Guoco Tower were also very supportive and happy to see a physical project done in the neighbourhood.

We hope to organise other activities soon as things ease up as part of our Neil Road Revitalisation Plan!

(Sherri Goh)



Members of the public enjoying the ambience



Kids playing around the lanterns



People enjoying the picnic



Students crafting in the office



Office meeting with venue sponsors



Aerial view of the installation layout



Lanterns with drawings from the students

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