

ARCHITECTS
DP Architects Pte Ltd and Michael Wilford & Partners

THE ESPLANADE – THEATRES ON THE BAY

In 1991 the Ministry of Information and the Arts (MITA) through the Public Works Department, invited architects to prequalify for a design competition for Singapore's Art Centre (SAC), a project comprising five theatres, and supporting commercial facilities.

48 firms from Singapore and various parts of the world submitted for pre-qualification. DP Architects Pte Ltd (DPA) of Singapore and James Stirling Michael Wilford & Associates Ltd (SWA) of the United Kingdom made a joint submission during the pre-qualification and were among the shortlist of four teams chosen to enter the second round of the competition.

The SWA partners were Sir James Stirling and Michael Wilford. Sir James Stirling passed away in June 1992, thereby taking no part in the competition. The final competition design was carried out by DPA and the re-named firm of Michael Wilford & Partners Ltd (MWP) with Michael Wilford leading the MWP team and Koh Seow Chuan the DPA team.

A public presentation was made by the Singapore partner of each of the four shortlisted architectural teams in September 1992, and the formal announcement of DP Architects Pte Ltd/Michael Wilford & Partners as the winners was made in December 1992.

DPA and SWA had previously worked together on Singapore's \$380 million Temasek Polytechnic. Design work on the Esplanade commenced in early 1993 and was carried out in London and Singapore in a seamless relationship using the combined design skills of both offices, based on the mutual confidence and respect developed during the Temasek Polytechnic project.

It was agreed at the outset of the project that DPA and MWP will work as equal partners and be jointly responsible for the planning and design but MWP would lead development of the master plan and schematic design and hand over to DPA to continue design development, prepare tender documents and supervise construction. It was also agreed that the architects would be credited accordingly and referred to as DPA/MWP in Singapore and South East Asia and MWP/DPA elsewhere.

The design was completed in early 1995 and at that time the decision was taken by MITA to execute the project in two phases, with Phase One comprising the Concert Hall/Lyric Theatre and three rehearsal rooms leaving the three smaller theatres to a second phase. DPA continued alone with Phase One of the project from mid 1995.

DPA and MWP would like to thank and credit MITA and the Esplanade Company Limited (TECL) as combined client together with the various working committees, user groups and consultant team as listed below, for the success of the project.

Client Ministry of Information, Communication and The Arts (MITA)
End User: The Esplanade Company Limited (TECL)
and the various Committees/Groups appointed

Architect:	DP Architects Pte Ltd Singapore Koh Seow Chuan Gan Eng Oon Vikas Gore Ti Lian Seng Chin Thoe Chong	Michael Wilford & Partners London Michael Wilford Russell Bevington David Turnbull
------------	--	--

Theatre Consultants : Theatre Projects Consultants, UK

Acoustic Consultant : Artec Consultants Inc., New York

Civil, Structural
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers: Public Works Department
from 2001 known as CPG Consultants Pte Ltd

Quantity Surveyors : Public Works Department

Other Consultants Under the Architects:

Interior Design	:	DP Design Pte Ltd
Landscape Design	:	ACLA Pte Ltd
Environmental Engineering	:	Atelier Ten, London
Cladding Consultant	:	Atelier One, London
Lighting Consultant	:	Bo Steiber Lighting Design Consultancy

We would also like to thank the various government authorities, numerous individuals, and firms that have contributed to the project and made the final design and completion of the project possible.

Koh Seow Chuan/Michael Wilford
September 2002