

surface ^{asia}

FASHION / DESIGN / ARCHITECTURE / ART / CULTURE

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Urban Legends

THE ARCHITECTS MAKING
OUR CITIES BETTER

+

DEEP GREEN DESIGN

+

TALL STORIES:
ASIA'S SUPER-TOWERS

+

PHILIPPINES
NEW ART MASTERS

+

LAKMÉ FLOWERS:
INDIA'S FASHION WEEK
BLOOMS



AGFACADESIGN

As a specialist working in the area of glass and facade systems, architect Kelvin Kan is an important voice in the sustainable discussion – he has the answers to the question: “How do we green the concrete jungle with today’s technology?” An architect who offers what he calls “integrated solutions”, Kan provides insights on practical application, but says that the kind of sustainability that his firm AgFacade design practices is based on the same set of design principles that inform other architects – that is in optimising design to respond to the local context: “The architectural ‘design’ is a resultant of its ‘responsiveness’ to provide ‘timeless aesthetics’ – in other words, ‘no style’ – where all elements are fully functional by nature.”

The idea is in taking away nothing more (from the natural environment) and adding nothing more (to the built environment)

than required. Kan also believes that “green architecture is where the design enables the minimal use of resources to cool and light up a space. In other words, rely on minimal air conditioning, and achieve good quality natural lighting through efficient planning and design.”

“[It gets] more challenging with high rise buildings,” Kan admits. “But innovative ideas and concepts can often make a difference.” His latest project, in the heart of Singapore’s CBD, does just that. In the office tower’s atrium, a simple innovation in the arrangement of glass panels – in an in-out layered formation – is the urban answer to passive design. With natural ventilation thus achieved, coupled with the natural stream of daily sunlight and the cascading lush plants that attract birds and butterflies, the building is not just an exercise in eco-architecture, it is a precious urban Eden.

agfacade.com

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) AgFacade design team consists of 10 chief architects; The green columns at 158 Cecil street introduce biodiversity to the concrete jungle; In the day, this office atrium becomes a living Eden of light and nature.