

Horizon 2020 URBAN GreenUP

# Singapore: Vertical Greening in high density city environments

26 Nov 2020

# YVONNE TAN Landscape Architect

DIRECTOR, DP GREEN PTE LTD (SINGAPORE)

Chairperson, Singapore Green Building Council Landscape Technical Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects

ABC Waters Professional Monitoring Committee (Singapore)

Landscape Excellence Assessment Framework Evaluation Panel



An overview of how Singapore promotes vertical greening, and where we are today

Encouraging private building owners to embrace green walls

Lessons learned

keeping a green wall alive and maintaining it affordably





2020 **City in Nature** Liveability City of Gardens and Waters City in a Garden 1963 **Garden City** Singapore began in its concept of sustainable development



# **Strong urban governance**

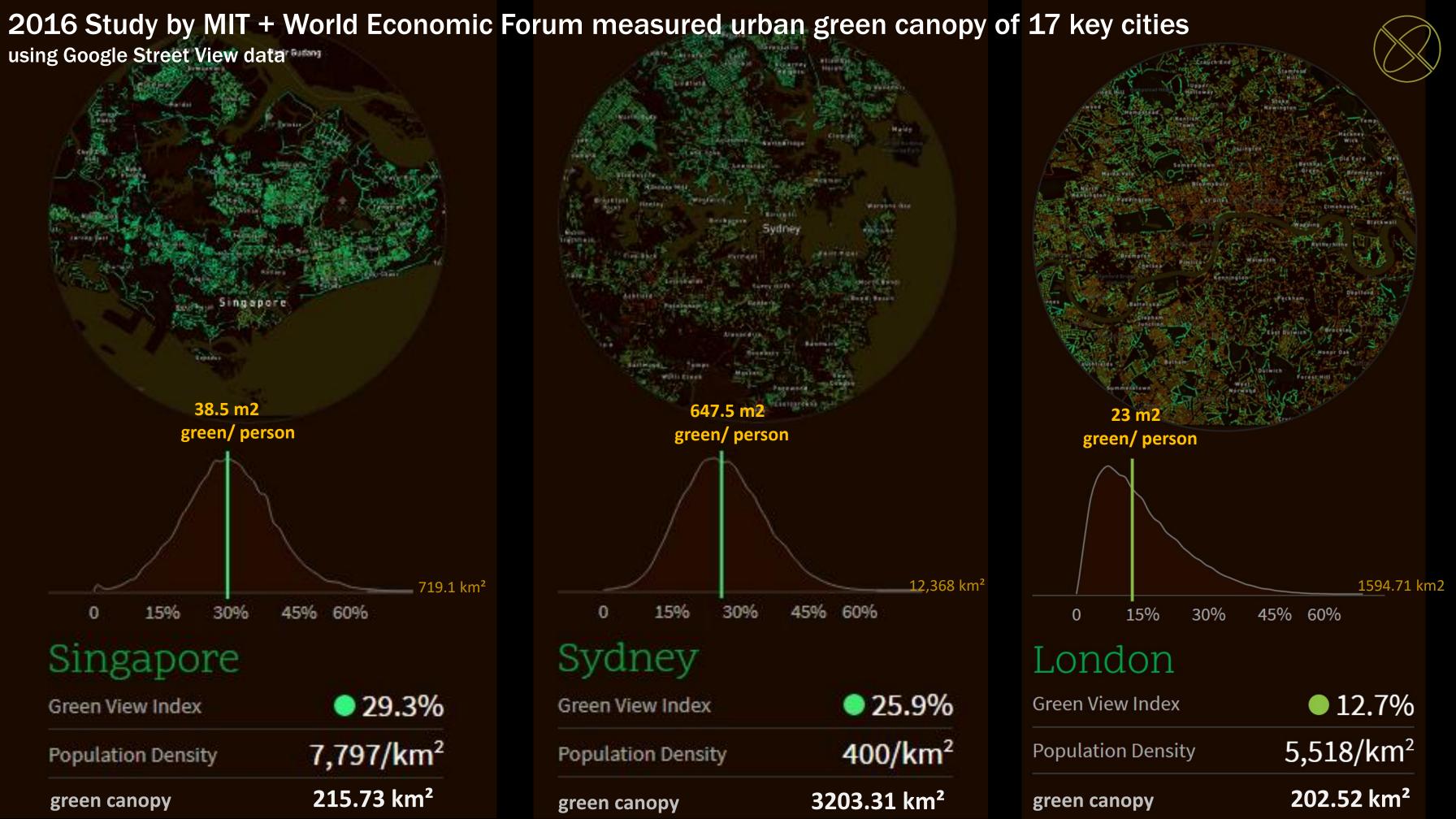




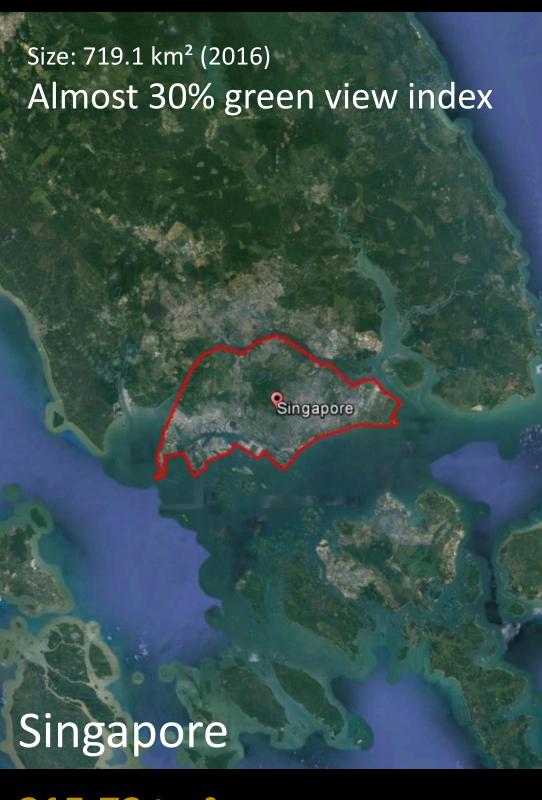
Greening Singapore- Garden City Vision at first Tree Planting Day (1971)

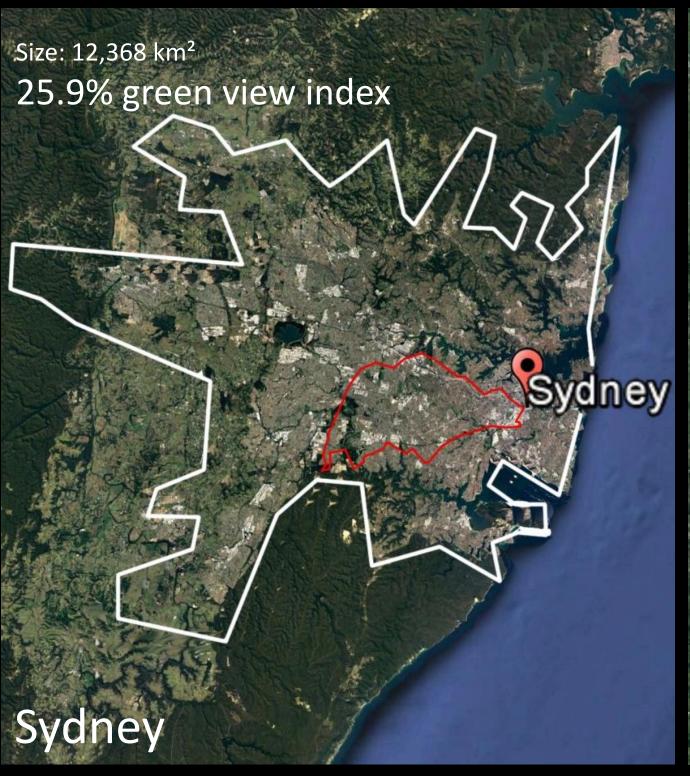
Opening of Gardens by the Bay (2012)

Singapore Botanic Gardens declared UNESCO World Heritage Site (2015)









Size: 1594.71 km<sup>2</sup> 12.7% green view index London London

215.73 km<sup>2</sup> green canopy 38.5m<sup>2</sup> green/ person

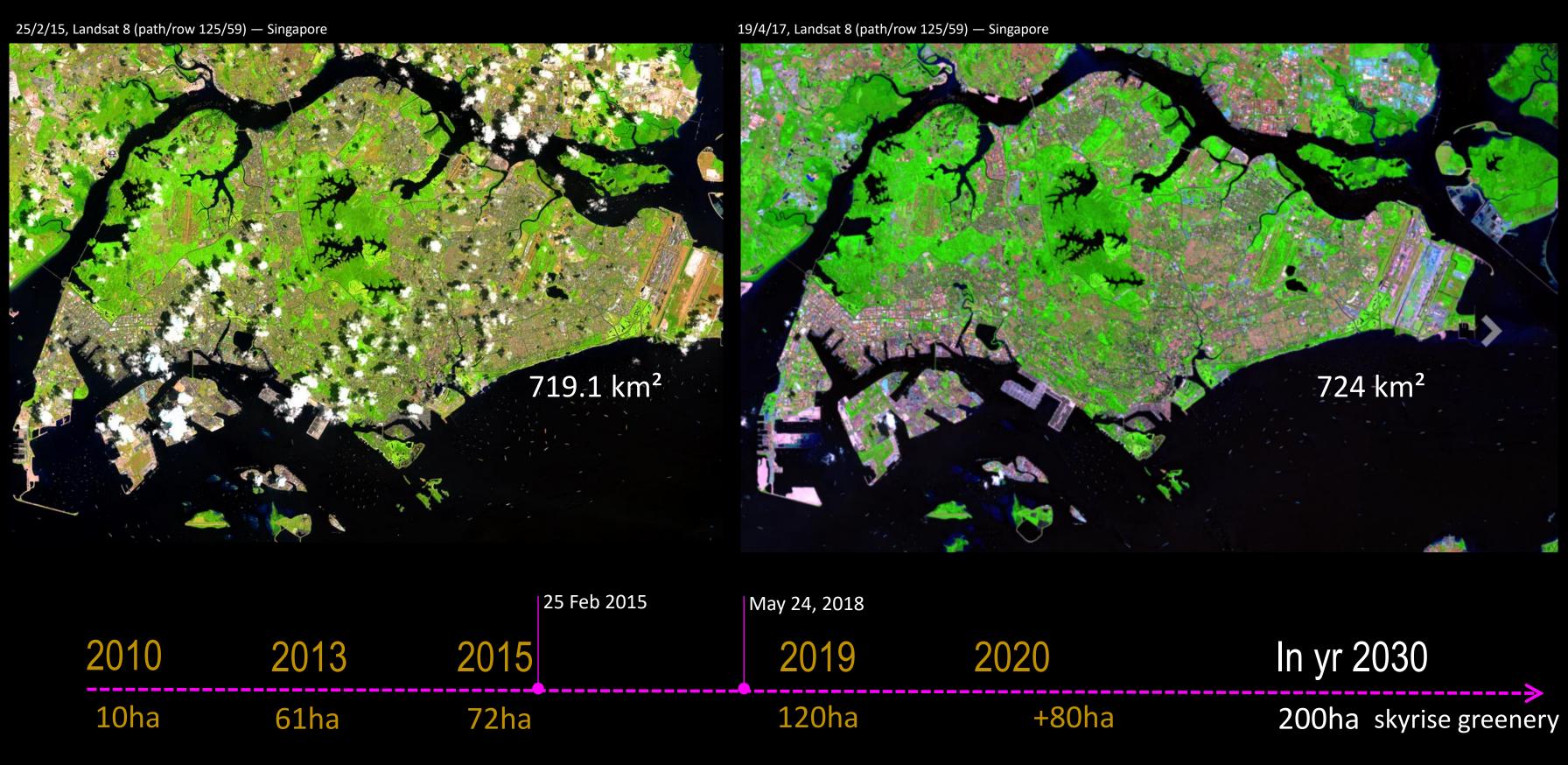
3203.31 km<sup>2</sup> green canopy 647.5 m2 green/ person

202.52 km<sup>2</sup> green canopy 23 m<sup>2</sup> green/ person

# Beyond the urban green canopy...

between 1986 and 2010, despite growth in population from 2.7 million to 5 million...





# a new stage of urban planning for the National Parks Board (NParks)





+ 200ha nature parks + 140ha new gardens/parks next 5 yrs More natural water ways/water bodies

conserve >70 native species

enhance 30ha habitats

+500km
Park Connectors
"within a 10 mins walk
of a park"

+100K trees in Industrial estates

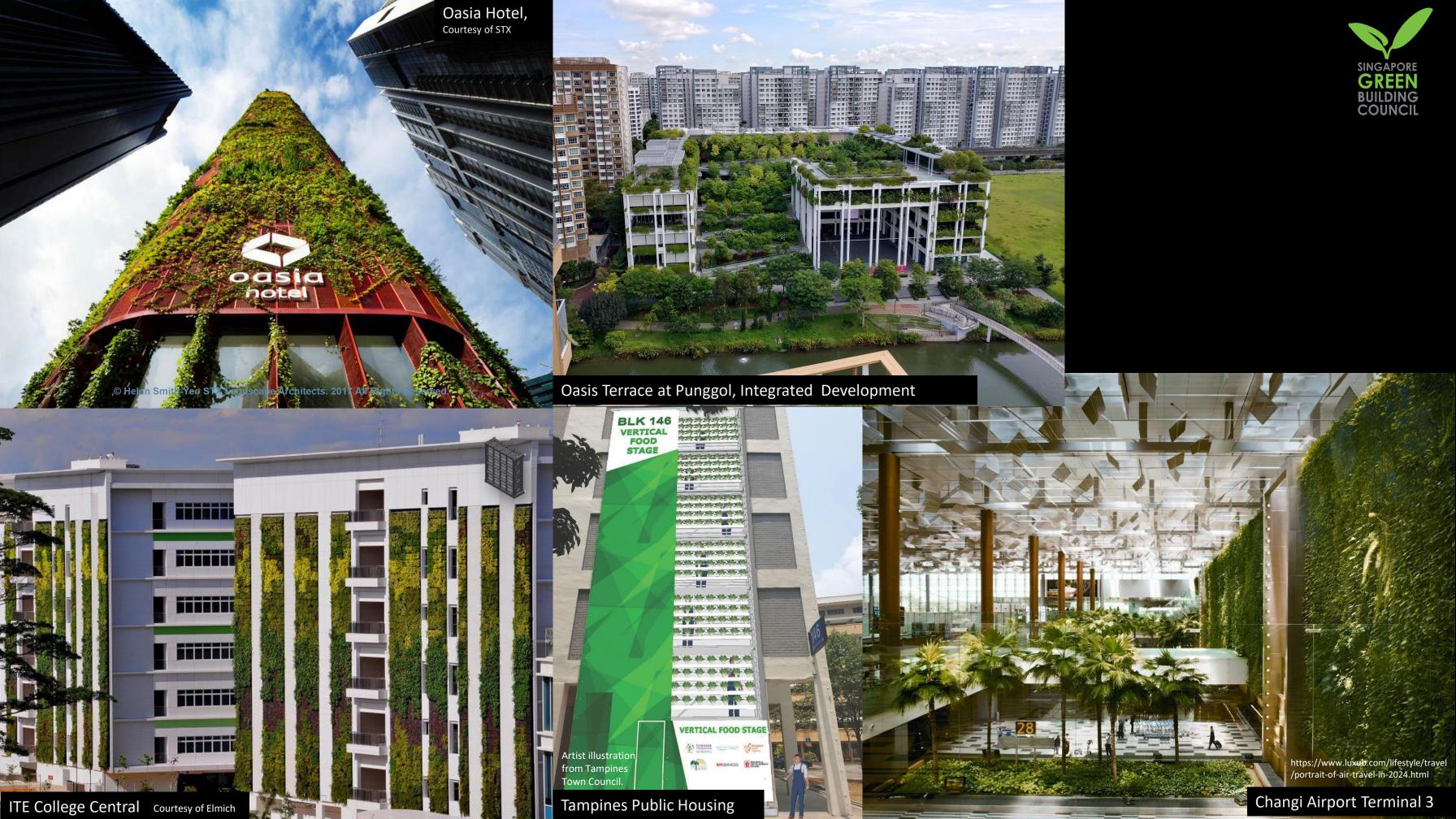
+300km
Nature Ways
along roads

+80ha

skyrise greenery

Total 200ha

skyrise greenery





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# **GREENING INITIATIVES by URA + NPARKS + BCA**

have helped to intensify the integration of greenery with our high density developments

### Urban Renewal Authority (URA)

LUSH 3.0
Landscaping for Urban
Spaces and High-Rises
(launched in 2009)

MANDATORY (REGULATORY)

#### Focus:

incentivises injecting greenery into developments through Landscape replacement Area (LRA) and quality of greenery and benefits to the community

## **Building Control Authority (BCA)**

Greenmark Scheme (launched in 2005)

MANDATORY (REGULATORY)

### Focus:

all new buildings and existing buildings undergoing major retrofits. Target 80% all buildings certified by 2030.

### National Parks Board

LEAF
Landscape Excellence
Assessment Framework

### **INCENTIVES**



Focus:

quality and ecological role of greenery and benefits to the community

complementary initiatives ...perhaps the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

### LANDSCAPE REPLACEMENT AREAS (LRA) Guidelines in Strategic Areas

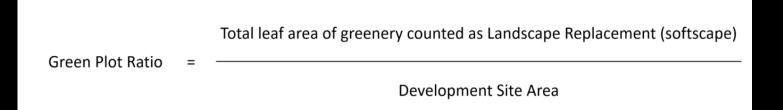


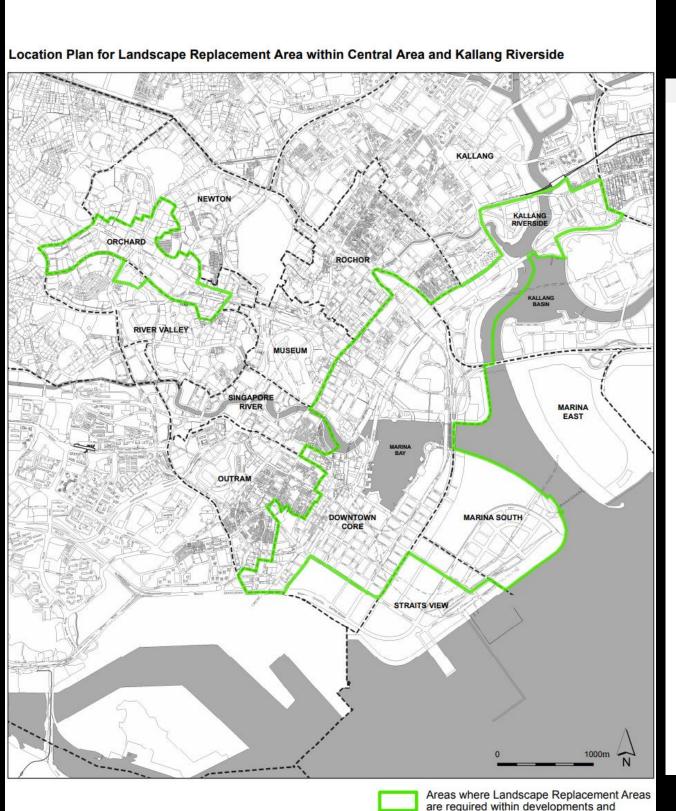
The Green Plot Ratio (GnPR) provides an objective measure of the density of greenery within a site.

#### LRA Requirements for Developments in Strategic Areas

Location	Developments in Strategic Areas	Developments in Strategic Areas Outside Central Area, with Height Control ≤80m <sup>1</sup>
LRA (as a % of Site Area)	100%	70%
Minimum softscape requirement (as a % of Site Area)	40%	40%
Minimum GnPR requirement (Total Leaf Area/Site Area)	4.0	4.0

Total Leaf Area computed based on the Leaf Area Index (LAI) for each plant species, canopy area (for trees & palms) and the quantity planted. The plant species sub-categories and LAI values may be obtained online from NParks' Flora Fauna Web by searching the common or scientific names of plants.





redevelopment projects

Plan	Location
1-1	Downtown Core (part), Straits View (part), Marina South, and Orchard (part) Planning Areas, as well as 2 mixed-use parcels along Orchard Boulevard in Paterson Hill Subzone
1-2	Ang Mo Kio Planning Area
1-3	Bedok Planning Area
1-4	Bishan Planning Area
1-5	Boon Lay Planning Area
1-6	Bukit Batok Planning Area
1-7	Bukit Merah Planning Area
1-8	Bukit Timah Planning Area
1-9	Choa Chu Kang Planning Area
1-10	Clementi Planning Area
1-11	Geylang Planning Area (Paya Lebar Central)
1-12	Hougang Planning Area
1-13	Jurong East Planning Area
1-14	Kallang Riverside
1-15	Marine Parade Planning Area
1-16	Novena Planning Area
1-17	Pasir Ris Planning Area
1-18	Punggol Planning Area (Punggol Creative Cluster & Learning Corridor)
1-19	Punggol Planning Area
1-20	Sembawang Planning Area
1-21	Sengkang Planning Area
1-22	Serangoon Planning Area
1-23	Tampines Planning Area
1-24	Toa Payoh Planning Area
1-25	Woodlands Planning Area
1-26	<u>Yishun Planning Area</u>

Appendix 1-1

### LANDSCAPE REPLACEMENT AREAS (LRA)

calibrated by location, GPR and development type.





LRA requirement not applicable to conserved buildings in historic conservation areas.

LRA in Strategic Areas is the sum of:

- 1) Horizontal surface area of the softscape eg permanent planting beds;
- 2) Horizontal surface area of the hardscape eg communal facilities, urban farm; and
- 3) Vertical surface area of green walls and extensive green roofs (if any).



# biophilic design

(also green design)

green design

(not all green features can be considered biophilic)

integrating natural elements into buildings eg. Being in or views to nature

focuses on sustainability of buildings through safe, effective, and efficient use of resources

sustainability in different ways

"Does this feature contribute to reducing energy and water usage?",

ecosystems help improve air quality;

"Is this material safe for the environment?",

provide natural temperature control forms;

"Can we incorporate renewable energy sources to this building

channel natural lighting;

"Can we achieve thermal comfort with natural ventilation instead of air-conditioning?"

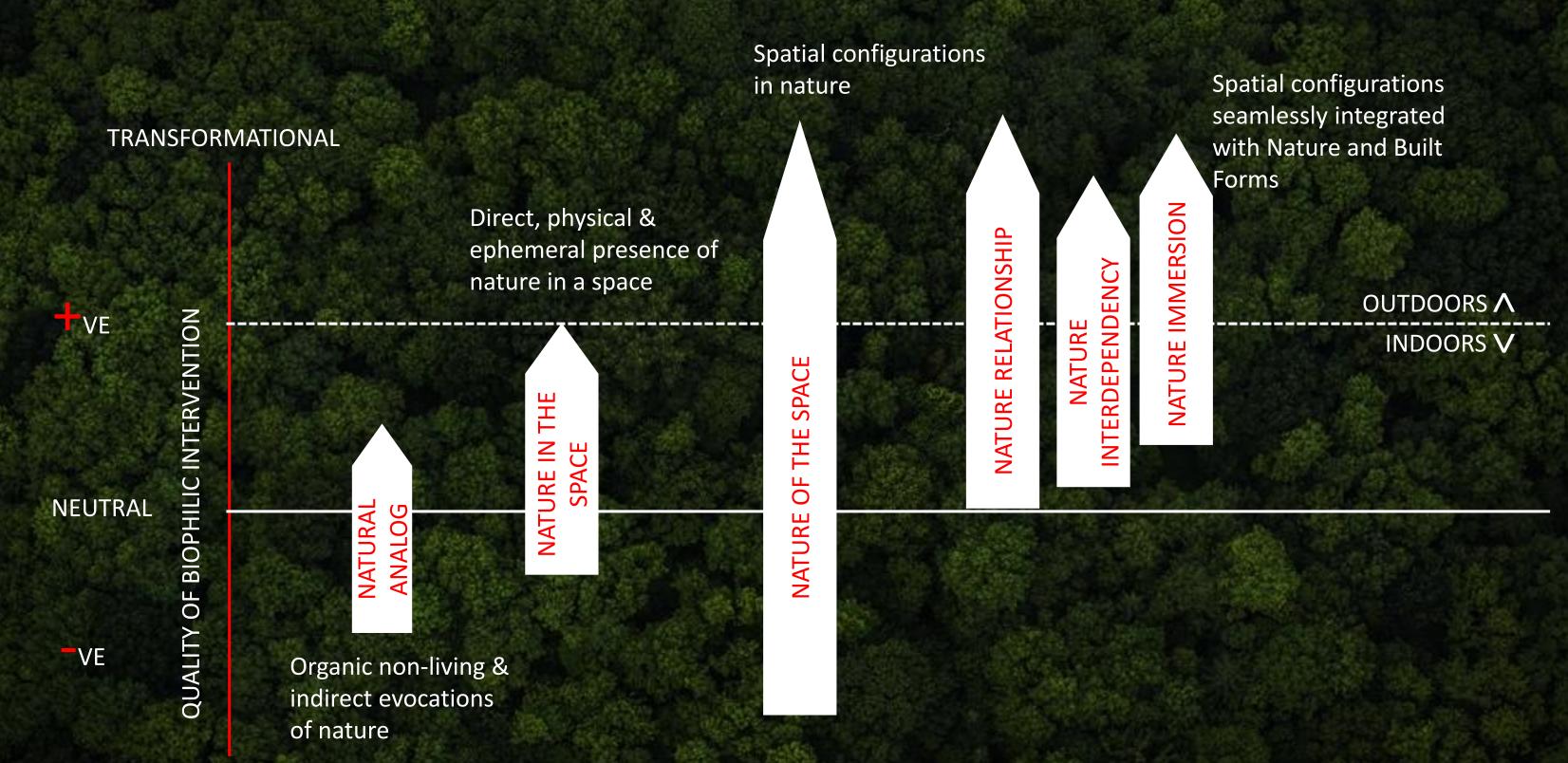
create spaces for growing food;

support urban ecology eg. Wildlife;

fostering a stronger community and wellbeing

# **EFFICACY OF BIOPHILIC INTERVENTIONS**











SYNERGY

Gross Floor Area (GFA)

120,450 sqm

Plot Ratio

2.14 (permissible 2.8)

Site Area

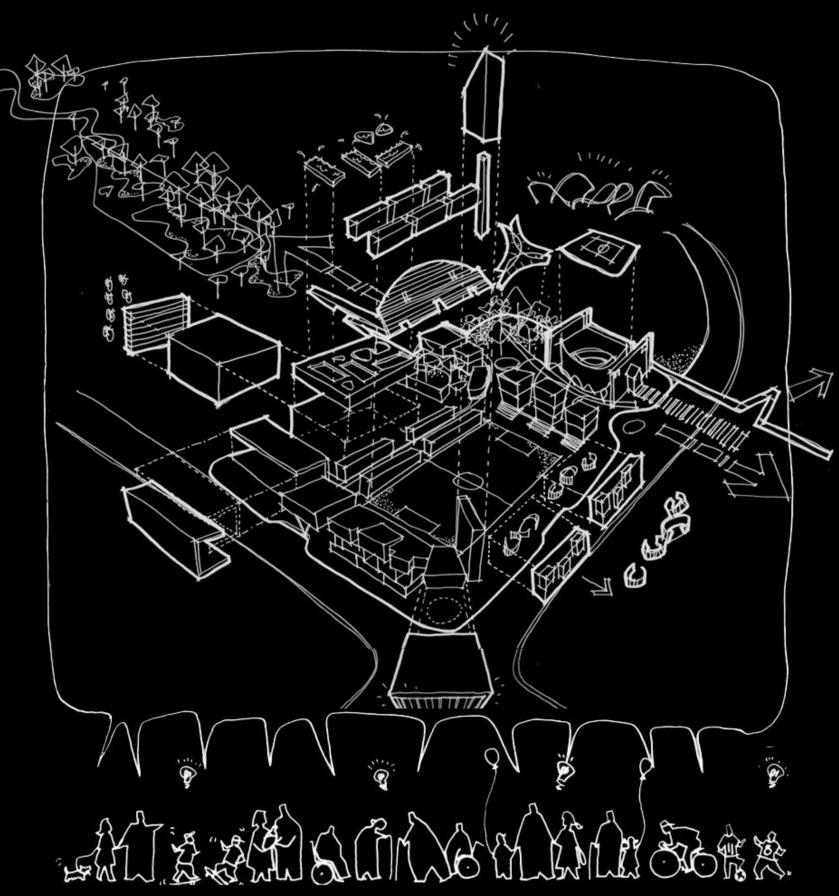
56,800 m2



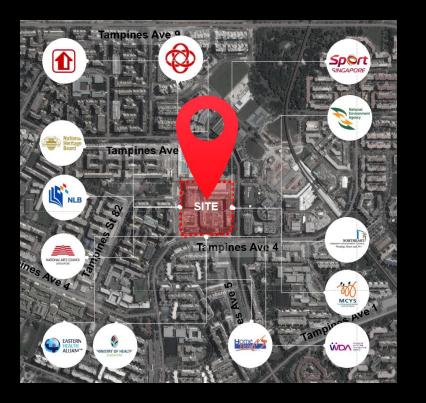


# For, by & with COMMUNITY

A Whole-Of-Government Approach



# 12 public agencies + residents













Large programmatic

spaces

Event Plaza/

Eco-community gardens

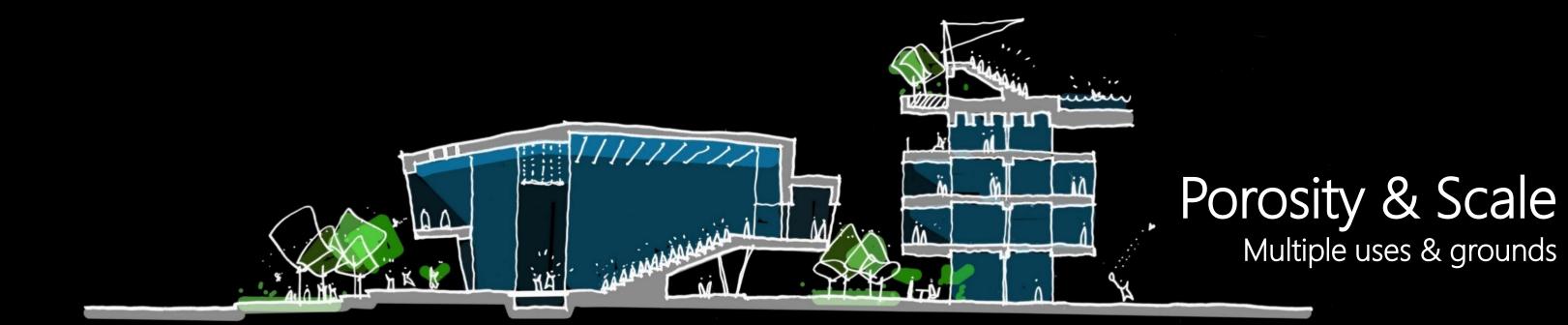
Green carpet/Unifier

Diverse programmes, Interlocking /overlapping

Public thorough-fare/ Community Art/ F&B

Indoor community

hall



Shared

domains

Humanized-

scale spaces



Location:

Along Robinson Road & Cecil Street

Program Usage
Office Building, Medical Clinic, F&B

Gross Floor Area (GFA) – 34,839sqm Building Height – 31 Storeys

Green Mark Current Score 102pts
Energy Savings –30.5%
Landscape Replacement Area
(LRA)- 100%
GnPR - 8.4

# Key Green Strategies

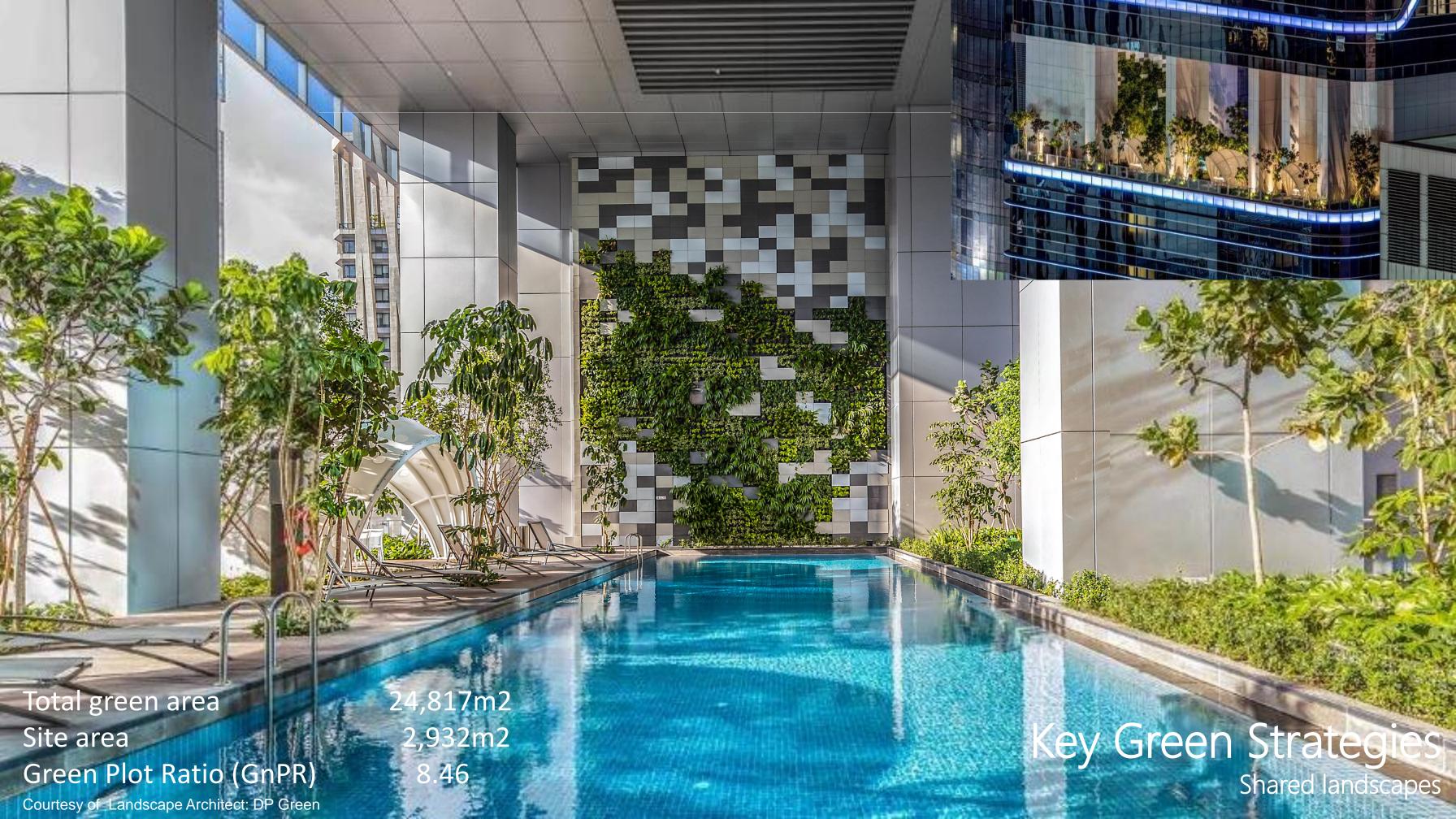
- 1. Lower Urban Heat Island Effect
- 2. Appropriate Plant Species Selection in Existing Daylight Conditions
- 3. Innovative Greening from the ground up

Courtesy of DP Architects and Landscape Architect: DP Green

# 100% Landscape Replacement Area and Green Walls to screen Mechanical & Engineering facilities









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# Increasing spatial complexity of public realm & landscape requires risk management in providing access and maintenance issues



### Situations:

While providing visual-spatial-relief to high density urban environment, skyrise greenery are elevated environments, with diverse Work-At-Height conditions.

#### The Need:

Understand and create Safe-Access & Egress and Safe-Elevated-Workspace. Look at ways to address these elevated edge conditions.

### **Concerns (** in skyrise greenery contexts **):**

- Work-At-Height (along roof edges)
- Risk of falling objects
- Risk of falling bio-debris

# Roof garden Green wall Roof garden Green wall Vegerated sky terrace Green wall Vegetated sky terrace Green wall

SKYRISE GREENERY FORMS

Design Challenges | Design Opportunities

Ground

Landscaping

### Spatial Design and Safety Regulations and Considerations









specifications, methods, vocabularies, codes of practice or quides.









# The CUGE Standard series is a set of published guidelines, by CUGE Research, National Parks Board (Singapore), for adoption in the landscape and horticulture industry. They are written through a formal process that involves consultation with relevant bodies and reaching a consensus across all interested parties. The standards take the form of either

ISBN 978-981-09-1217-8

CUGE V

- The CS E11:2014 has been developed in consultation with relevant industry bodies
  and professional groups in Singapore (i.e. BCA, ACES, IES, SCDF, SIA, SILA, LIAS, MOM,
  WSHC, IPAF, PASMA and the Ladder Association). It is written with the aim to encourage
  early easy uptake of Design-for-Safety (DfS) concept(s) by design professionals (i.e.
  architects, landscape architects, relevant consultants, etc.) during design-phase.
- The document also serves as a useful design-framework, especially for developers and owners.
- Designers are forerunners of spatial programming/design for any development project.
   Several factors crucial to DfS, such as safe access and fall protection, are essentially spatial considerations.
- In essence, during design phase, designers have the power to define DfS conditions/provisions.

# DESIGN FOR SAFETY REGULATION (MOM)

### With effect from 01 Aug 2016

a. To place duties on developers and designers

The Regulations will place duties on developers and designers to identify and address foreseeable risks throughout the lifecycle of a construction project. Where risks cannot be mitigated by design interventions, it will have to be communicated to those involved in the construction project.

e. To mandate it for projects with contract value of \$10 million and above

For a start, we propose for the Regulations to apply only to projects with contract value of \$10 million and above. Over the last two years, about 80% of fatal accidents and dangerous occurrences in the construction industry were contributed by projects with contract value of \$10 million and above.





#### Gazette of WSH (Design for Safety) Regulations 2015

The WSH (Design for Safety) Regulations has been gazetted and published on 10 July 2015. It will come into operation on 1 August 2016.

#### About the new Regulations







The key provisions of the WSH (DfS) Regulations are:

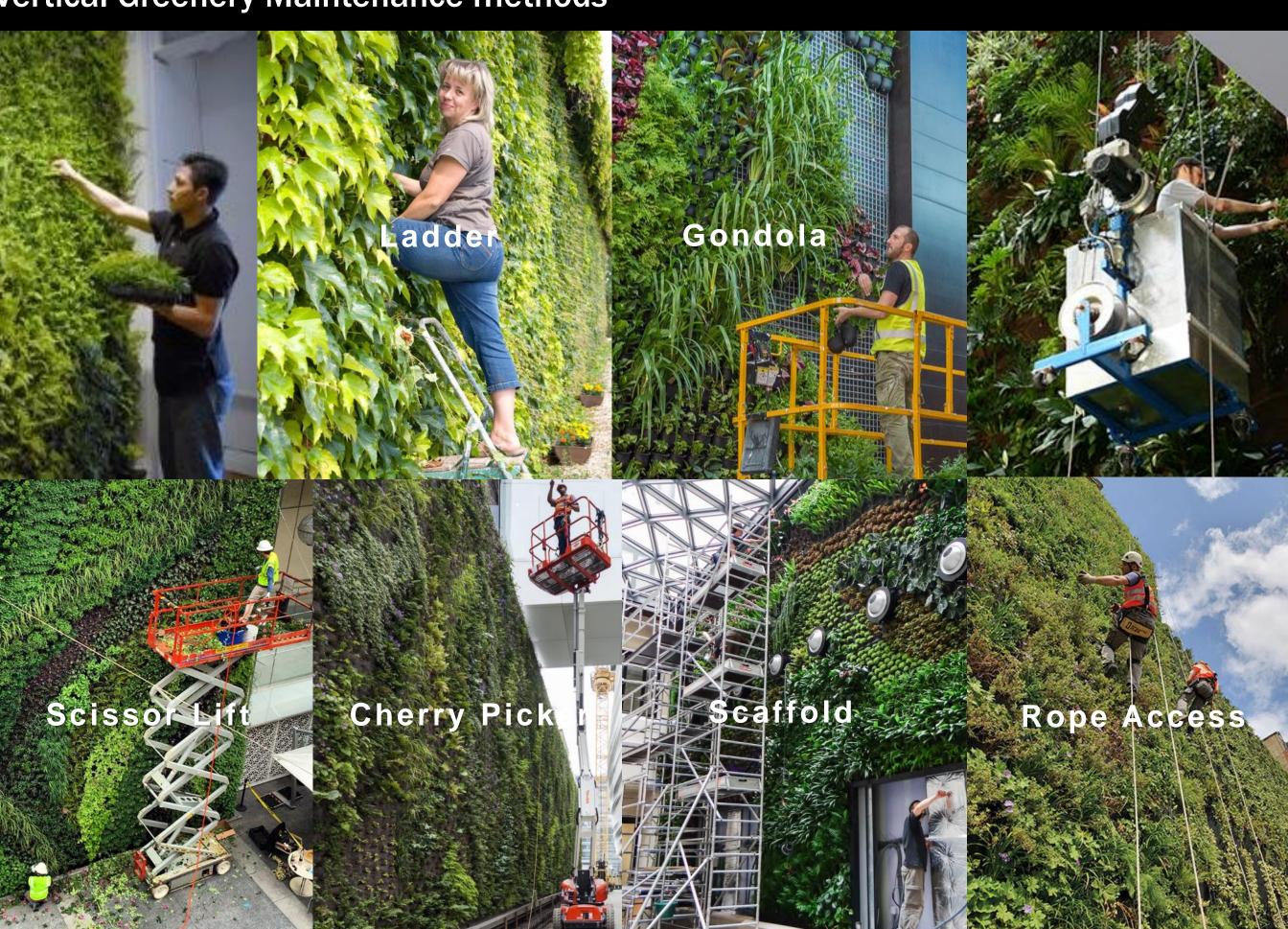
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Source: www.wshc.sg

Courtesy of CUGE

# **Vertical Greenery Maintenance methods**





- Aerial lift
- Ladders
- Scaffolding
- Gondola like system
- Workers on stilts
- Extendable props
- It's maintenance free!

# Design considerations\_ Back Access Maintainance DFS good practices





# Design considerations\_ Back Access Maintainance DFS good practices





- Full carpark storey is installed with maintenance access walkway behind the greenwall
- Double life lines are provided to prevent fall from walkway
- Fully Professional Engineer (PE) designed/ certified
- For mezzanine level, "double decked" maintenance walkway with full railings are provided
- "lift, Tilt, Lock" system
- Class 0 non combustible fire rating
- Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) graded high strength plastic material

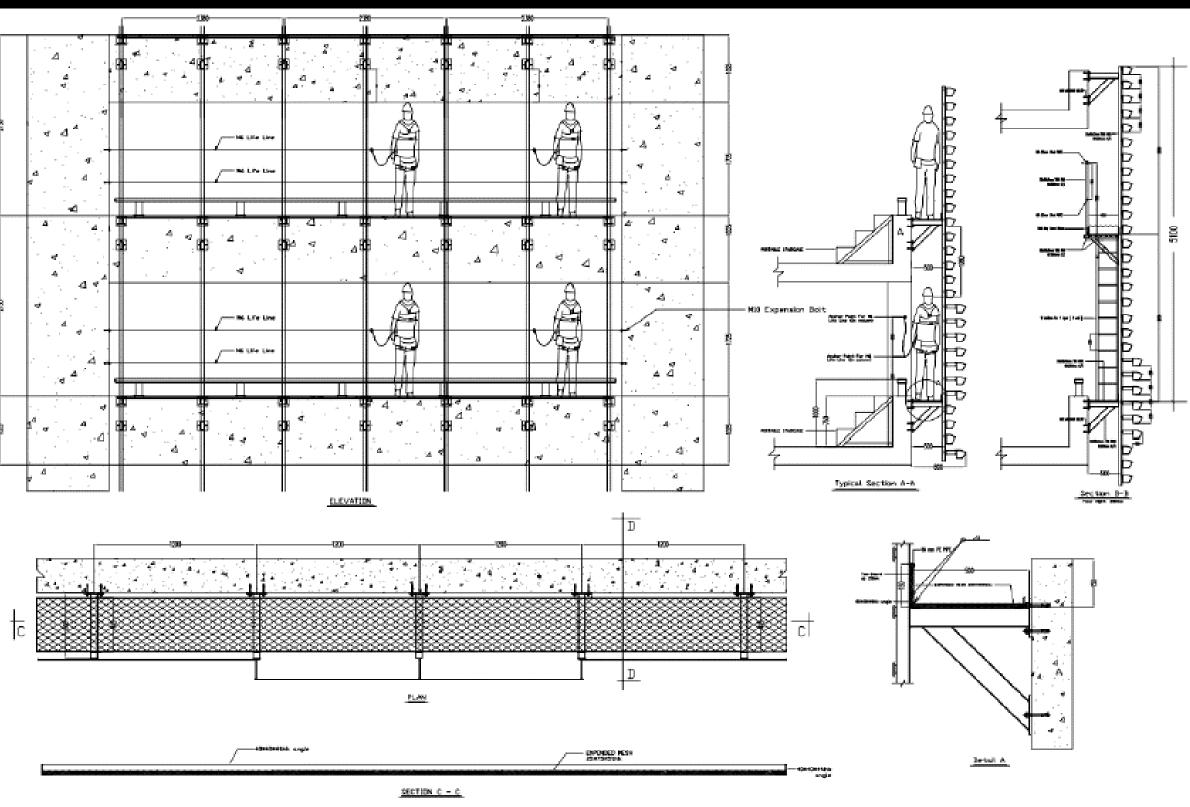




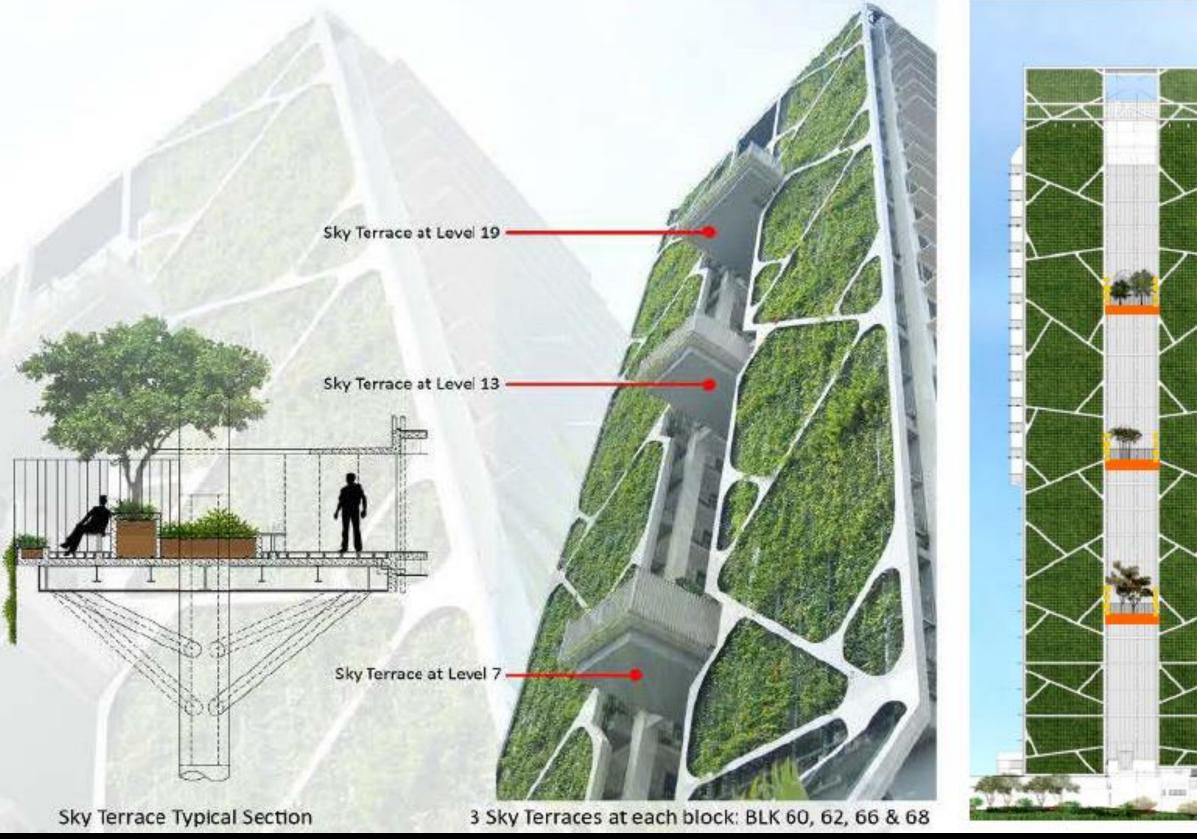
# Design considerations\_ Back Access Maintainance DFS good practices















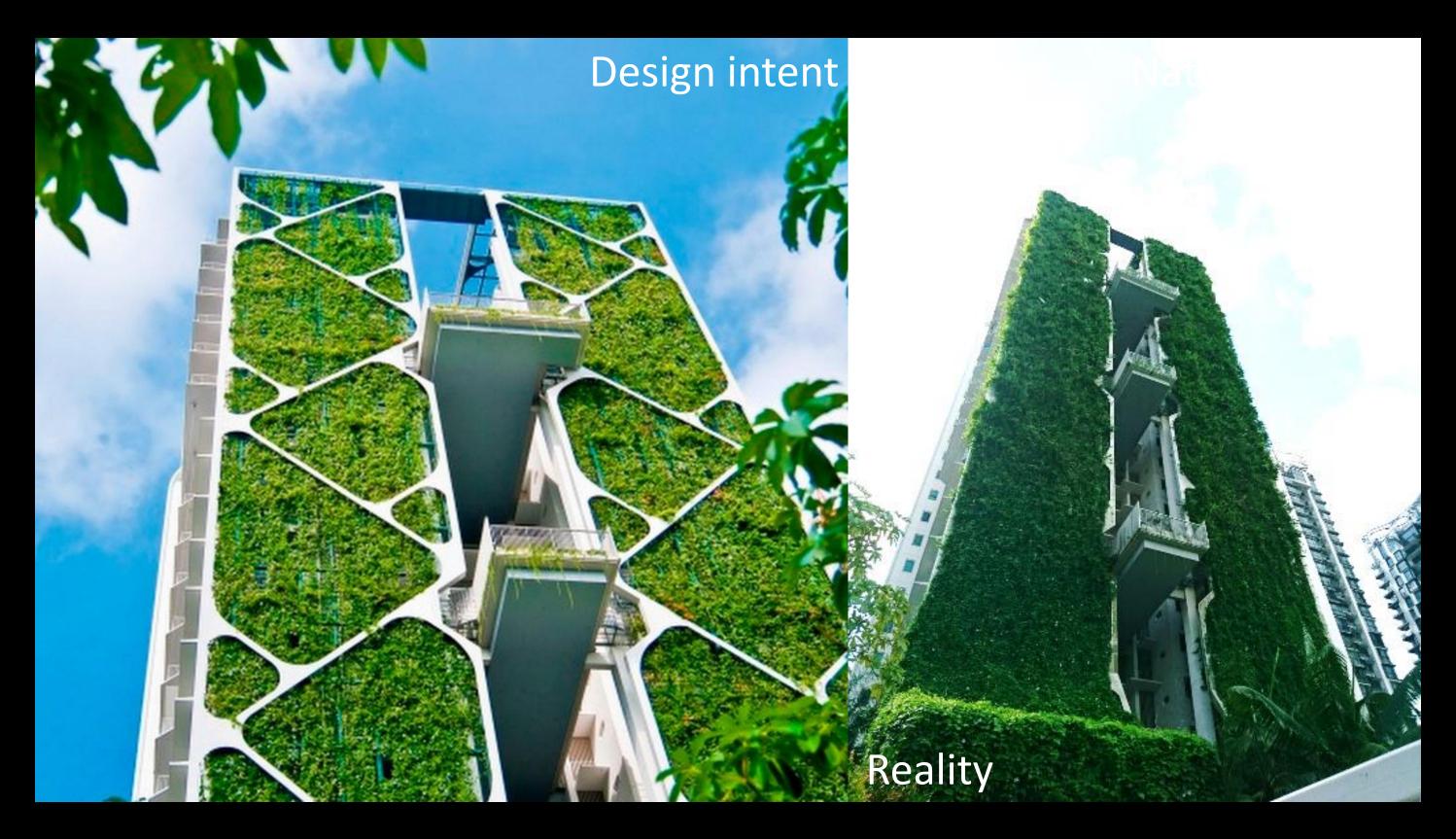
Thunbergia grandifora



Bauhinia kockiana

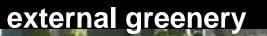
Courtesy of COEN International (Landscape Architect) and ADDP (Architect)



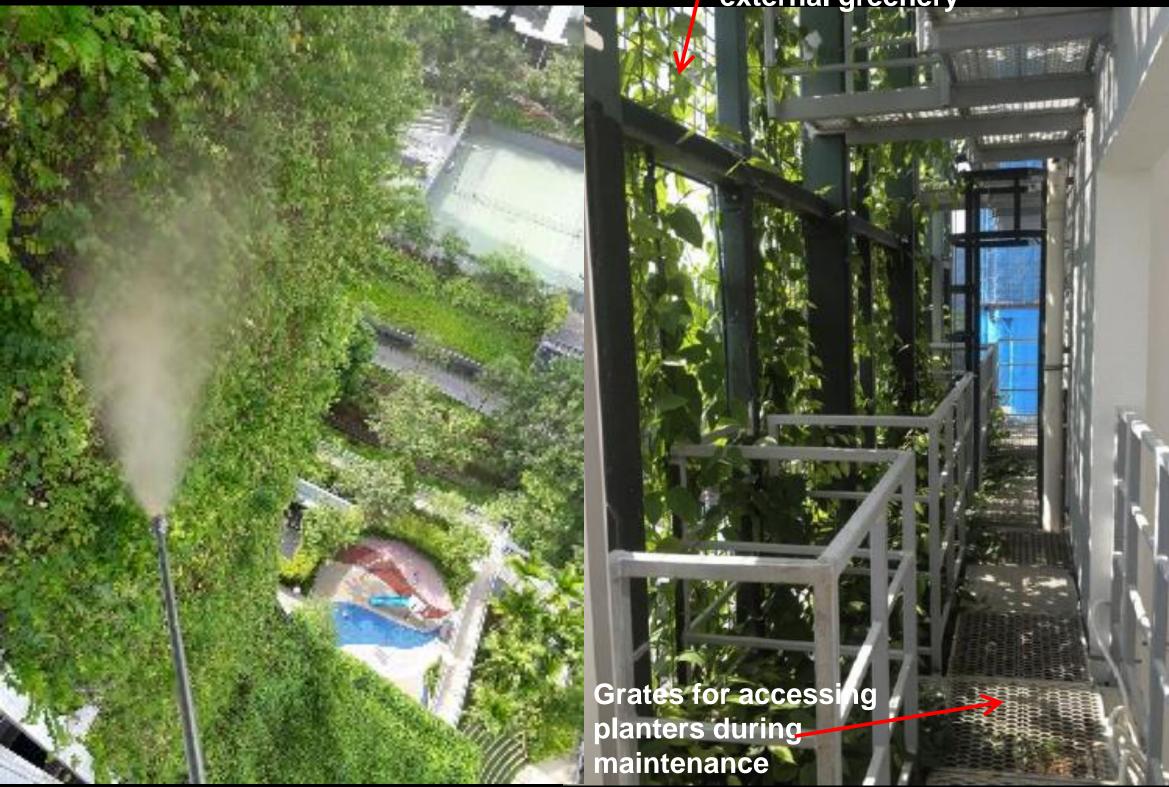


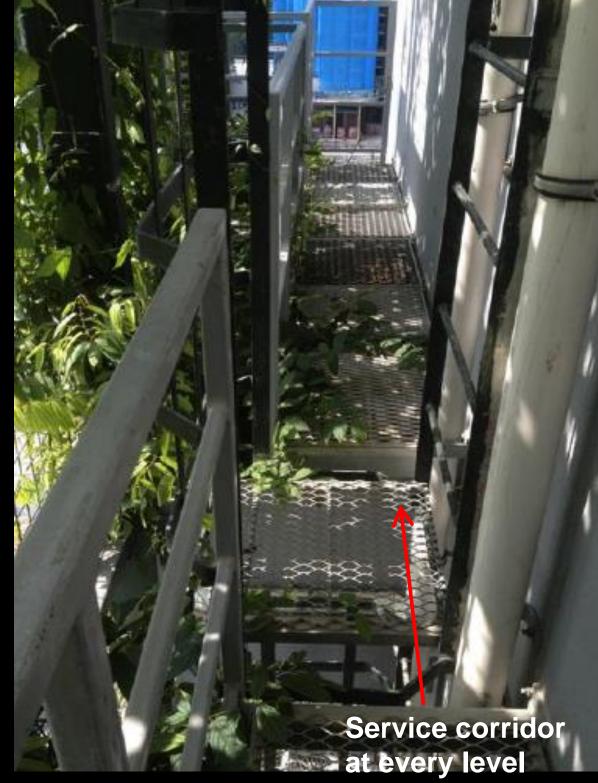
Use of long arm pruner telescopic

1.8 to 3m with saw to prune













SINGAPORE GREEN
BUILDING
COUNCIL

TOP 2013

photo taken in 2018

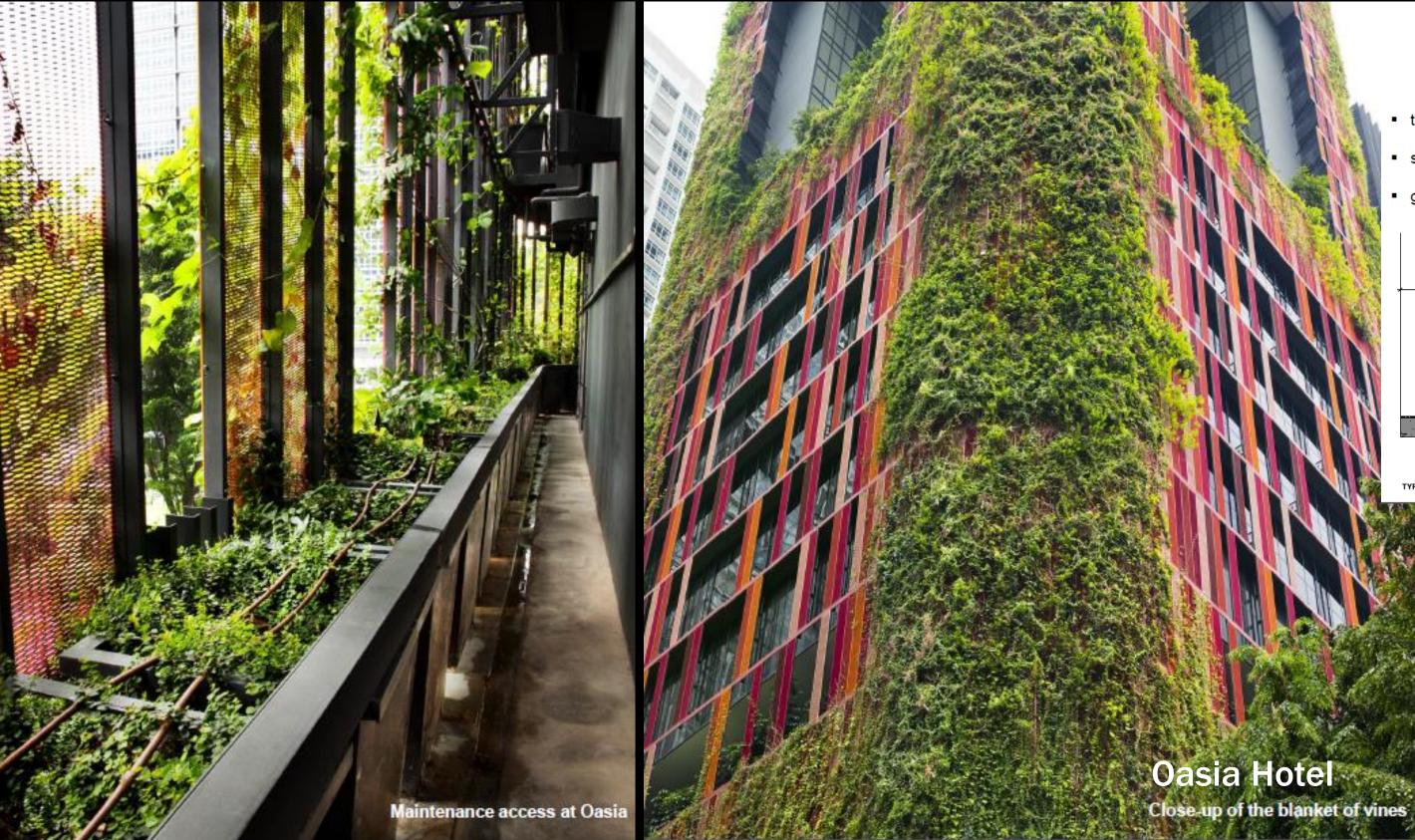




Use of modified long arm pruner telescopic 6m with saw to prune external greenery







trees - 1.5m soil

shrubs - 900mm soil

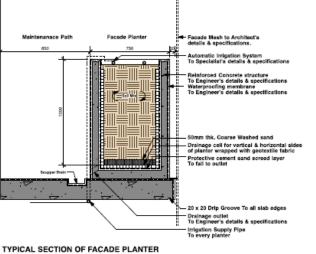
groundcovers - 600mm soil

◆ soil ◆ health

maintenance

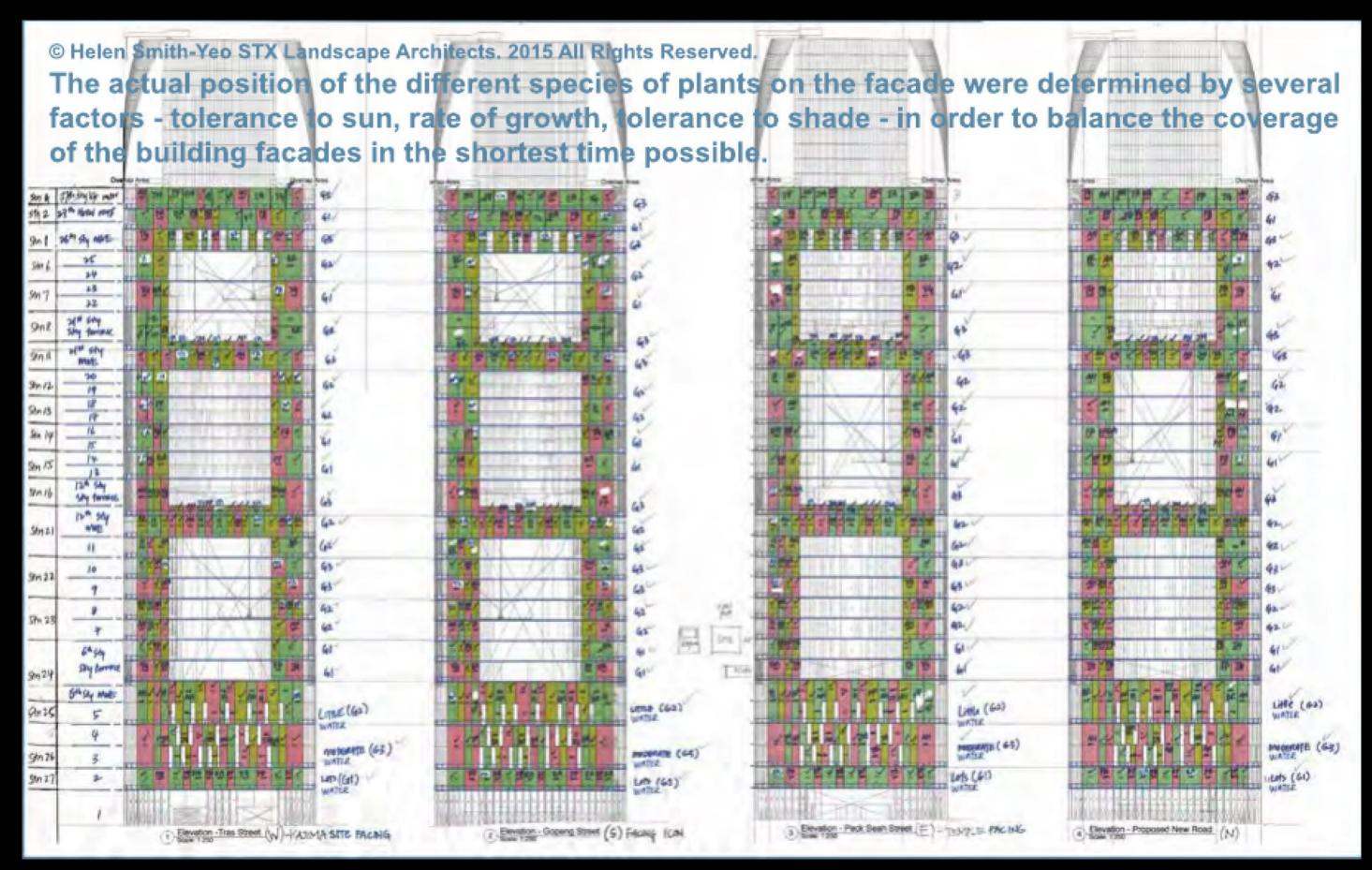
sustainability

irrigation



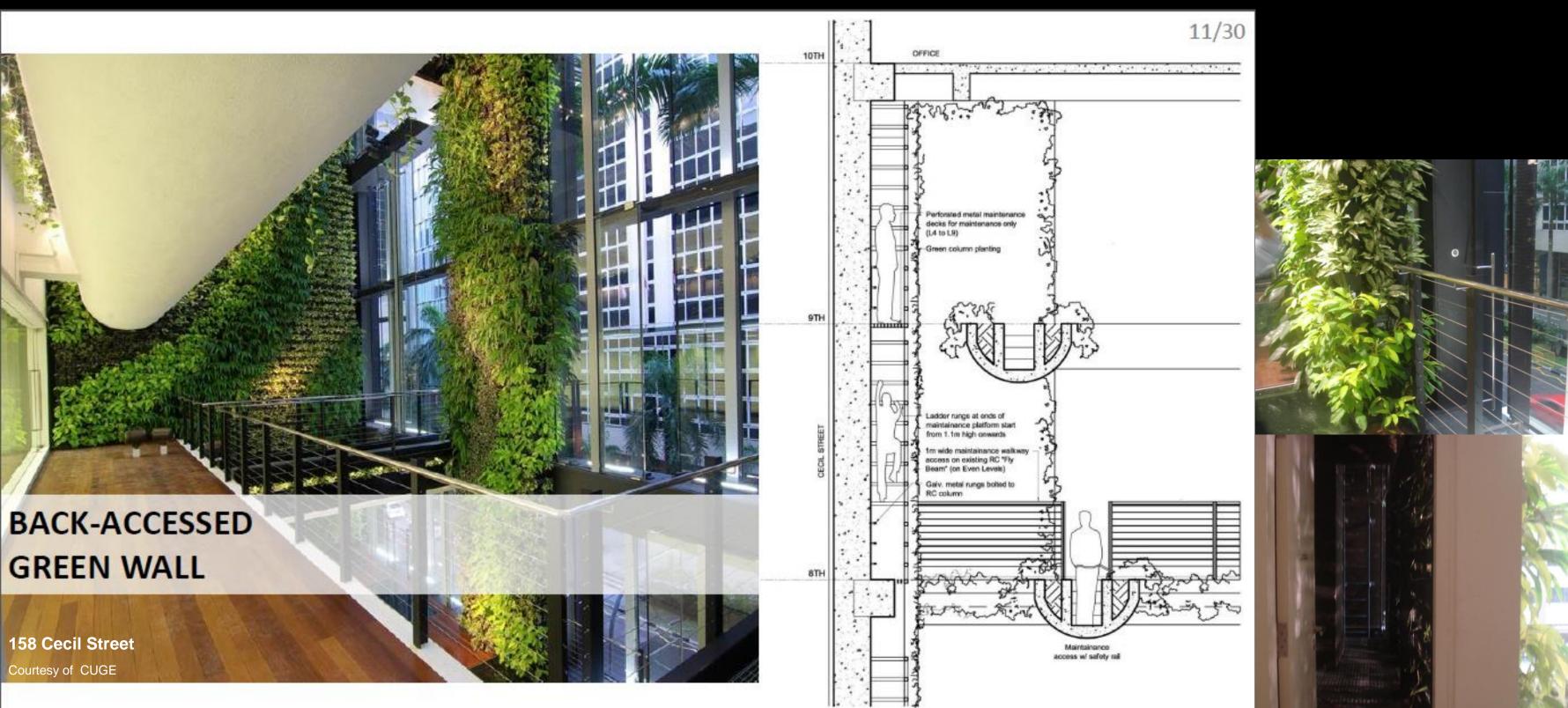
Courtesy of STX Landscape Architect





# design considerations Back Access Green Walls





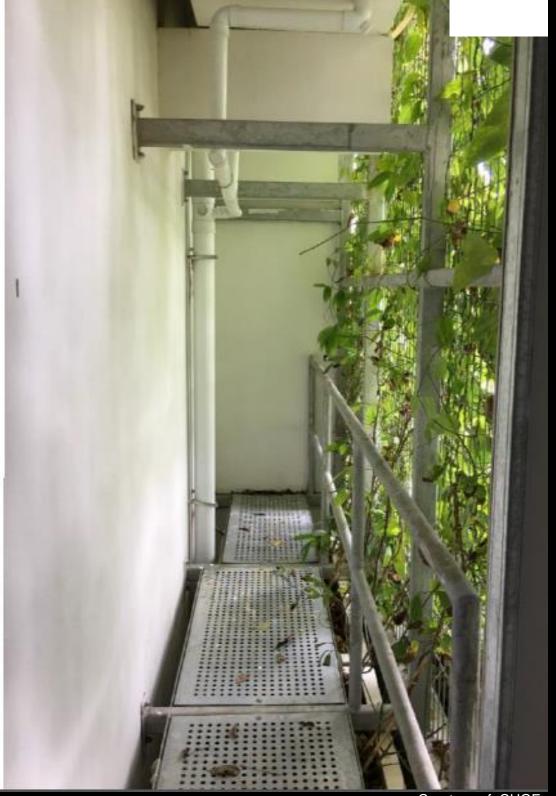
### Design considerations\_ Back Access Maintainance





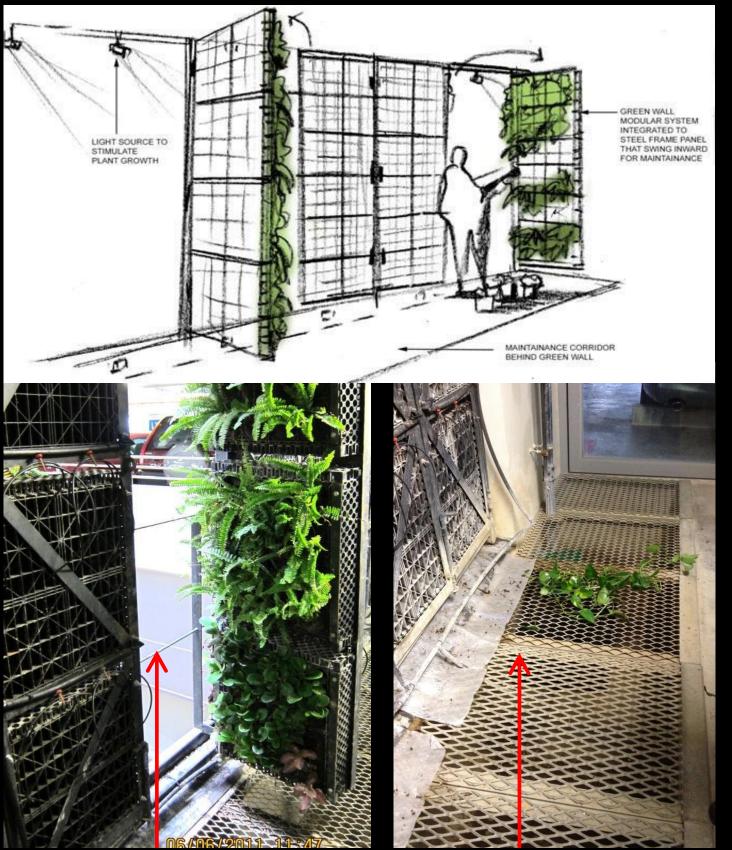
#### A combination of:

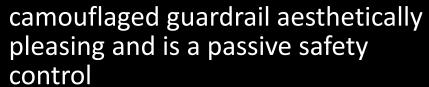
- (1) Back-access-way
- (2) Adequate clearance (>600mm)
- (3) Grate above rooting substrate (avoids compaction from walking directly on substrate)
- (4) Internal guardrail (allows future replacement of mesh modules)



#### **Design considerations\_ Back Access Maintainance Good DFS Practices**



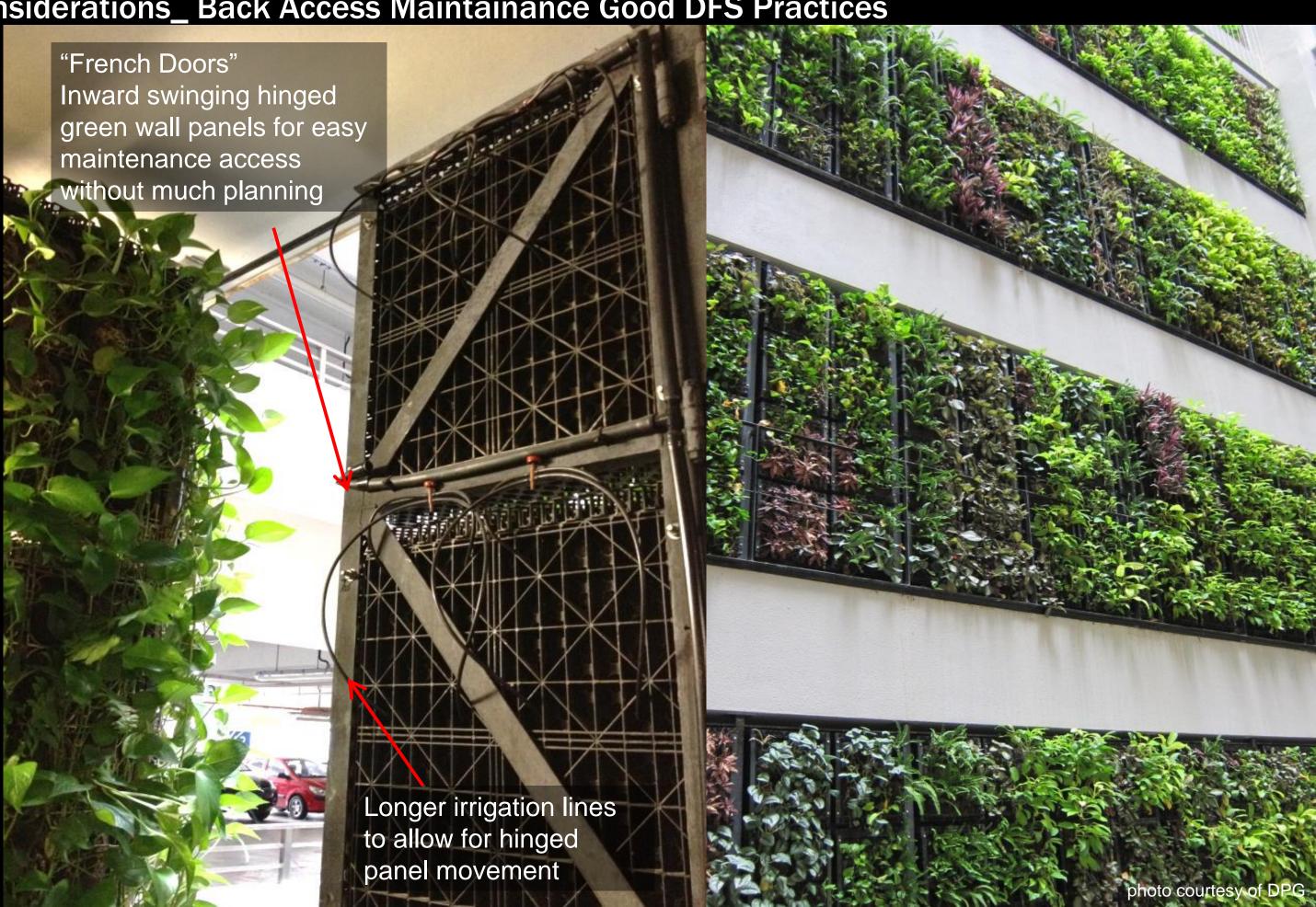




maintenance service corridor behind the green wall.



**Design considerations\_ Back Access Maintainance Good DFS Practices** 





### Design considerations\_ Light, Front Access Maintainance and drainage





#### **Design considerations\_ Back Access Maintainance**





'Rainforest Rhapsody' BY Patrick Blanc, an interior green wall at lobby of CAPITALAND 186 sq.m, 10m (H) x 18m (W)

Courtesy of CUGE

Dulwich College Green Wall by Greenology (Singapore) 240sq.m, 6m (H) x 40m (W)

Courtesy of Landscape Architect: DP Green



### Make passive design considerations for MEWP access

Example (below):- (source: www.genielift.com)

Loads:

10,206 kg (Vehicle weight)

227 kg (Safe Working Load – SWL)

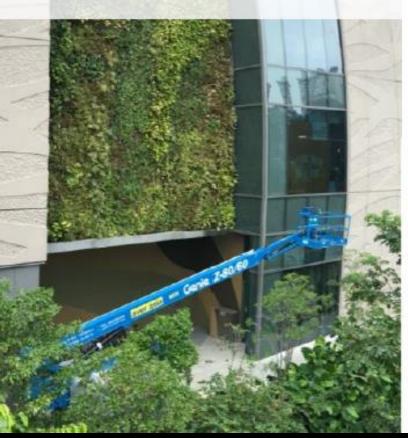
1841 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (Occupied Pressure)

#### **Dimensions:**

2.5m / 11.3m / 3m (Closed-width/length/Stowed-height)

23.8m / 25.8m (Platform height/Work height)

18.3m (horizontal reach)



Example (on the right):-

(source: www.kimberlyaccess.co.uk)

#### Loads:

2,440 kg (Vehicle weight)

230 kg (Safe Working Load – SWL)

18.1 daN/cm<sup>2</sup> (Point Loading Measurements)(1kN = 100daN)

#### **Dimensions:**

1m / 2.6m / 2m (Closed-width/length/Stowed-height)

8m / 10m (Platform height/Work height)

3.1m (horizontal reach)



Courtesy of CUGE

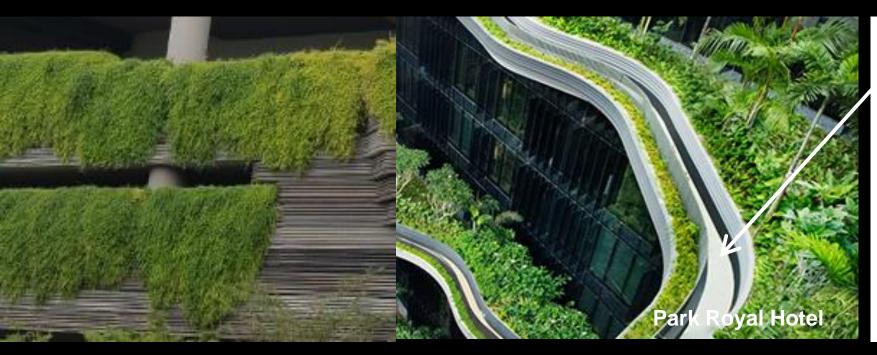
Landing surface that is not level and stable are challenging for lifting equipment to be effectively deployed.

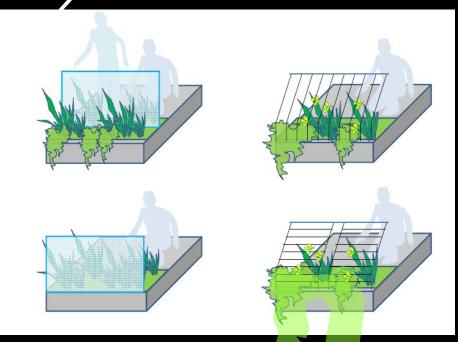
#### Considerations when designing vertical greenery systems





Service walkway and access allows for easy maintenance of top edge of planting





CS E11:2014, Guidelines on Design for Safety of Skyrise Greenery

### **Design considerations\_ Front Access Maintainance**



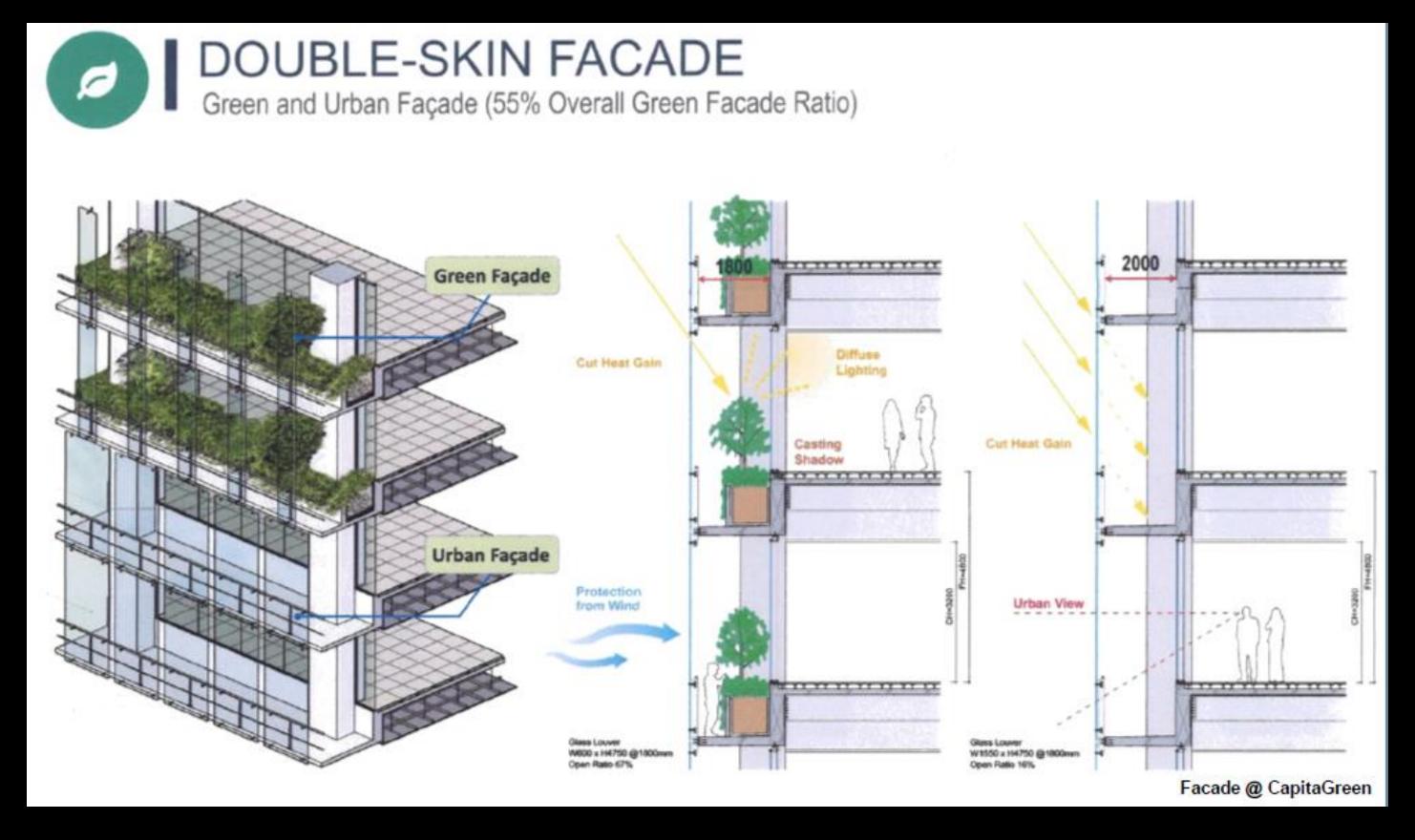




Courtesy of STX

#### **Design considerations\_ Front Access Maintainance**





#### **Design considerations\_ Front Access Maintainance**







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Lessons learned

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#### **Lessons Learned\_ Strong Winds**



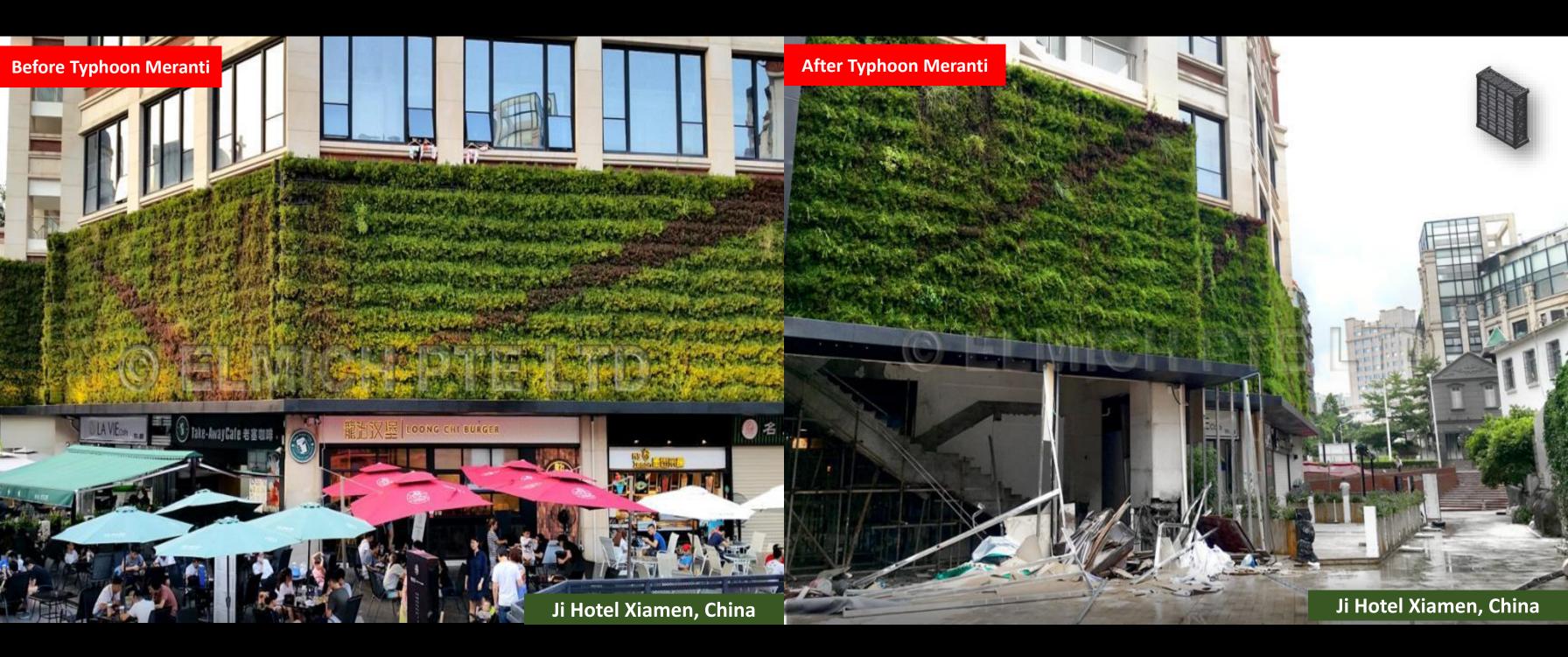




Courtesy of Nature Landscape

### **Design considerations\_Strong Winds**





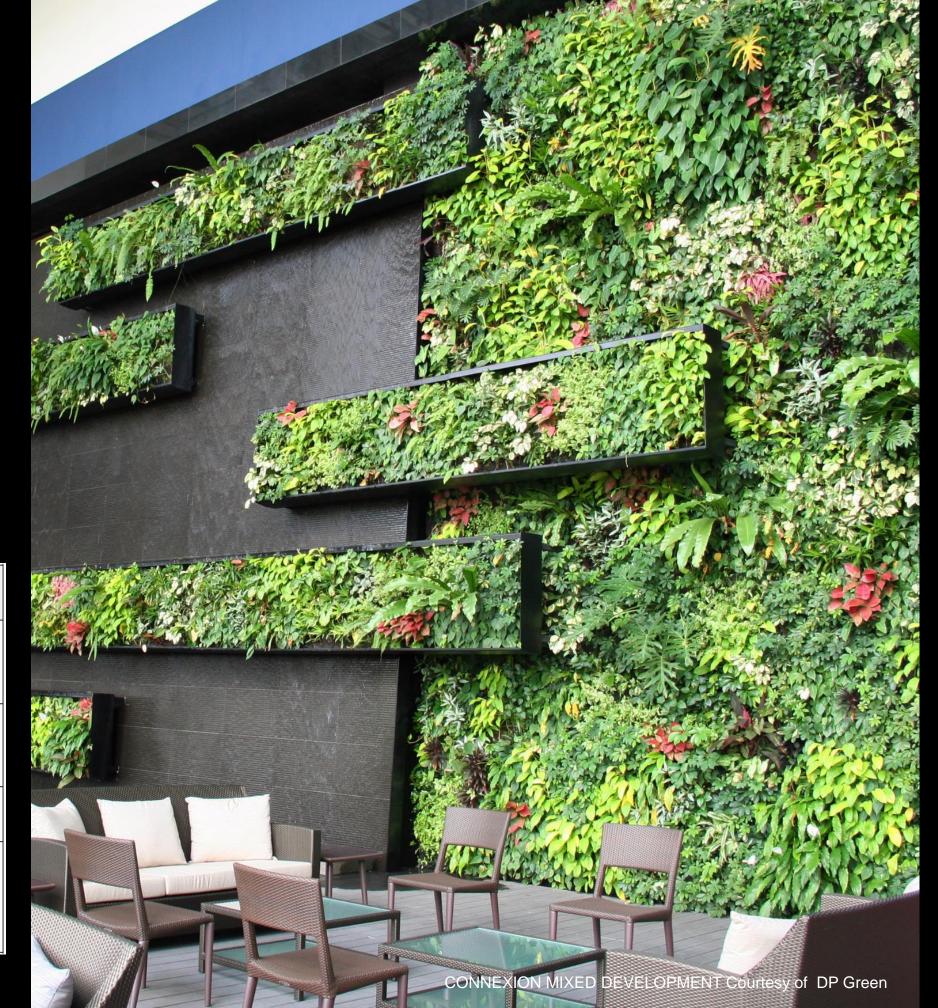
#### Design considerations\_ suitable vegetation

Identifying and selecting suitable species;

using inherent growth characteristics and plant needs to meet design needs

avoid using poisonous/ thorny plants near activity areas or using only at rear area

Work-Scope	Remedial Actions
	(to reduce maintenance complexity)
Plant Replacement	Choose hardy plants
	<ul> <li>Choose plants appropriate to the site's microclimate</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Choose plants appropriate to Owner's expectations</li> </ul>
Pruning and weeding	Choose reliable substrate source (weedless)
	<ul> <li>Choose plants with appropriate rate of growth (to</li> </ul>
	Owner's expectation)
Irrigation/drainage	Choose efficient/passive systems, with low maintenance
system repair work	needs
Fertilizing	Choose reliable fertigation system (Note that Green Roof
	- fertilizing for green roof, if any, is often done via liquid
	fertilizer fed through the irrigation system) Fertilizing can
	also be done manually during periodic maintenance.





### Design considerations\_ suitable vegetation





Tristellateia australis, climber habit (after 3 years growth)

Phyllanthus cochinchinensis, trailing habit (after 3 years growth)

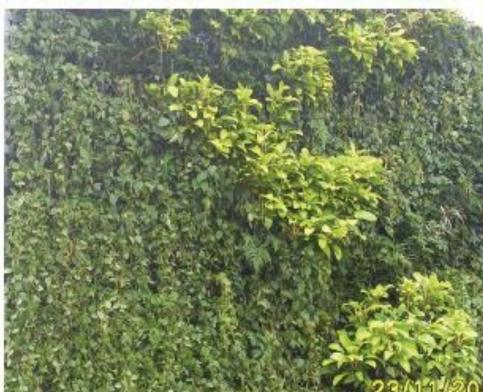
#### **Lessons Learned\_ risks & plant selection**

#### **GREEN WALL MOCK UP**

SINGAPORE MAP SECTION

- IDENTIFYING SUITABLE PLANTS AND PLANTING REQUIREMENTS
- DESIGN IMPROVEMENT





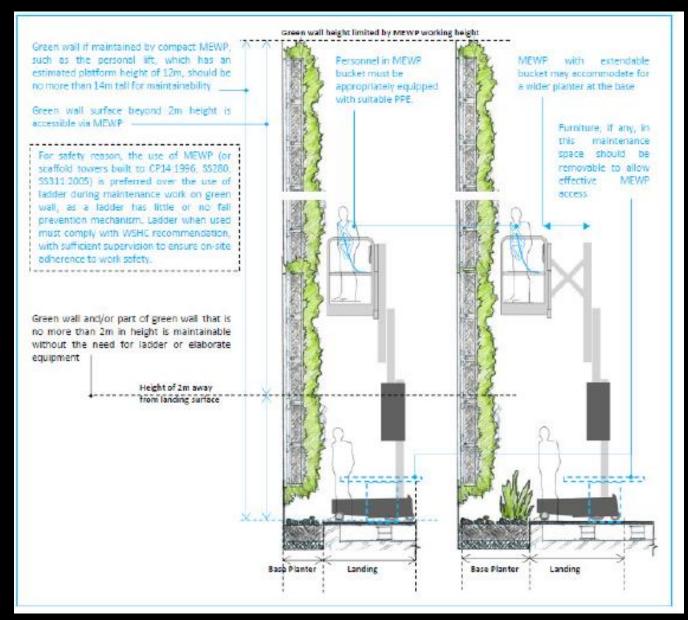






#### Lessons Learned\_ design in the access for maintenance





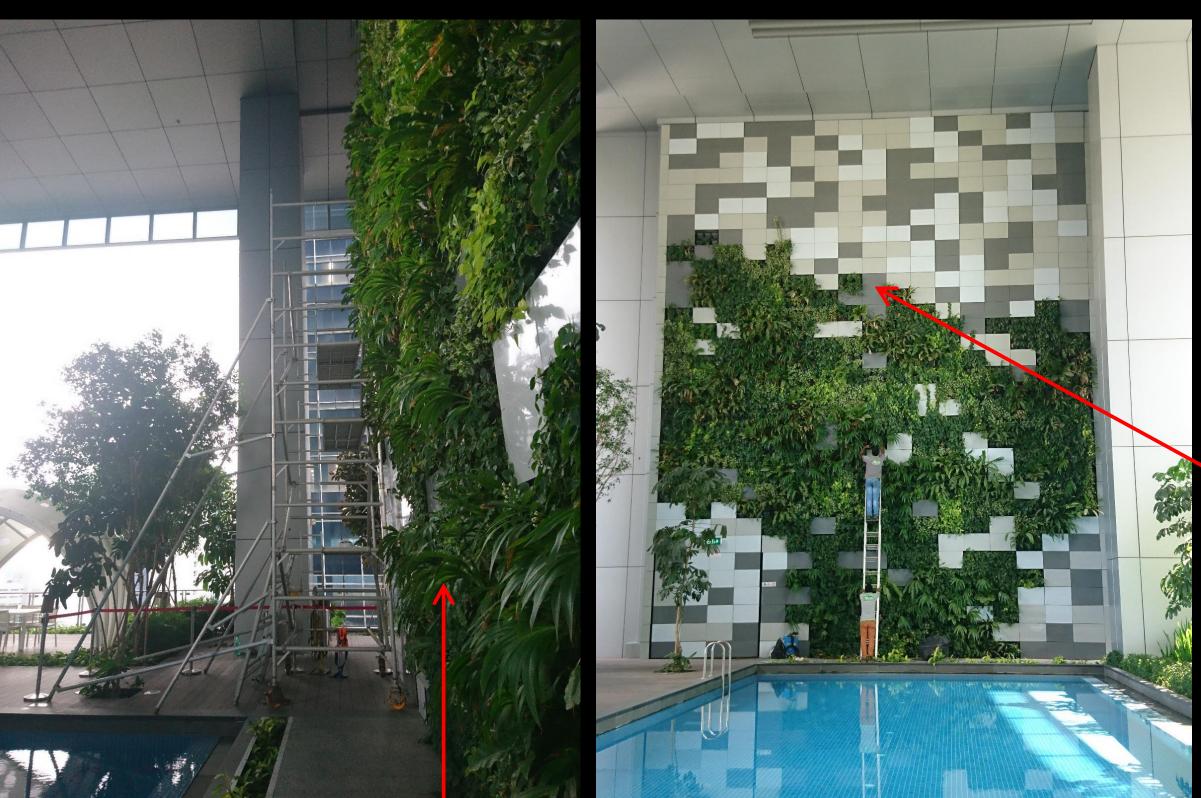
CS E11:2014 Guidelines on Design for Safety of Skyrise Greenery

- Designated area for personal lift maintenance access
- Careful selection of the right MEWP equipment



service landing designed to accommodate 10m H scissor lift

#### **Lessons Learned\_ design in the access for maintenance**





(after 3 years growth)

(After Defects Liability Period)

Images from Nature Landscape (Maintenance Contractor)

#### Lessons Learned\_ preventing loss of media/ media compaction or refreshing over time

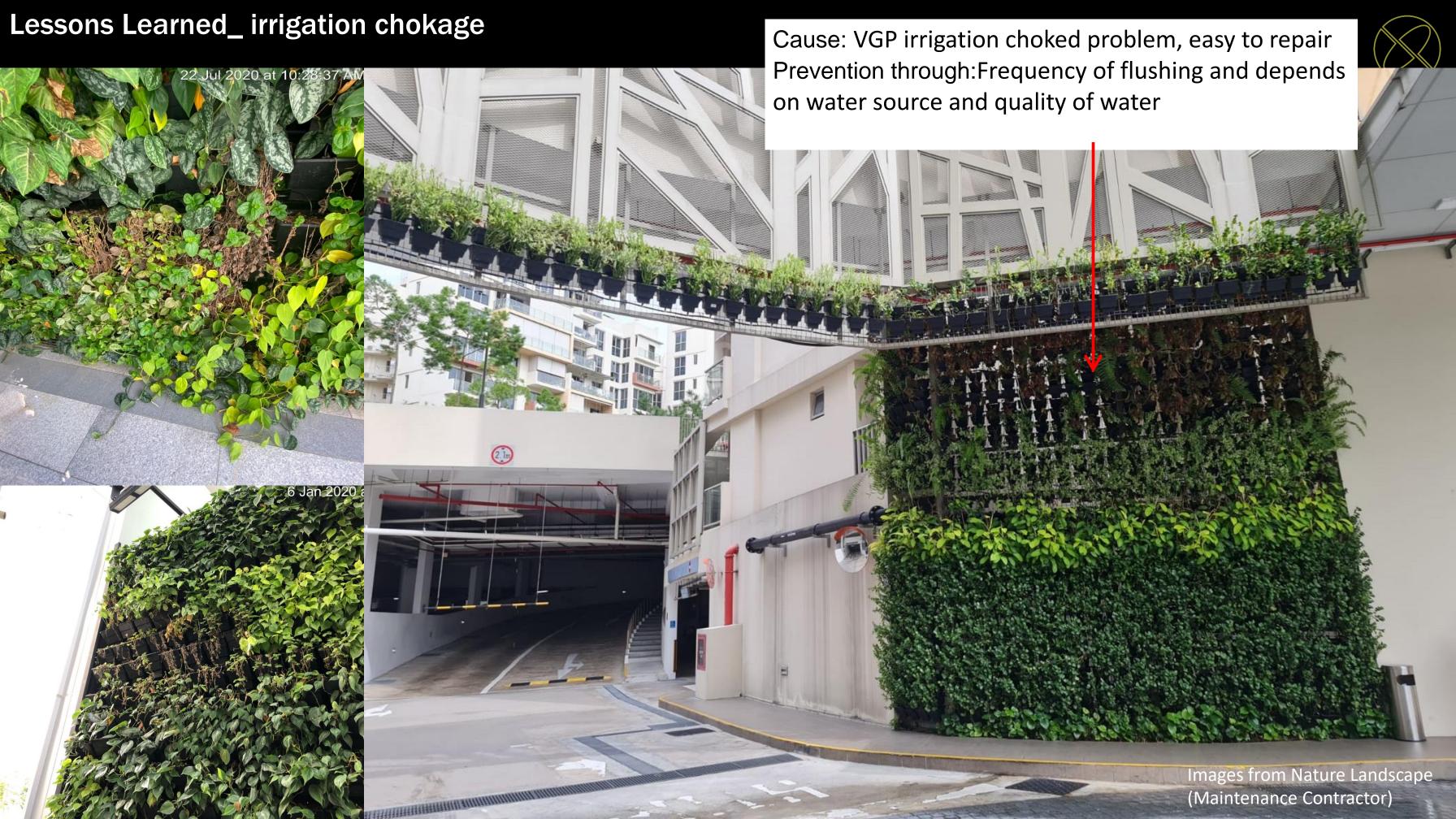


VGM after 5 years, media compaction



#### Lessons Learned\_ preventing loss of media/ media compaction or refreshing over time





#### **Lessons Learned\_ Using technology to reduce maintenance time and cost**





5-storey high vertical garden spanning 300m across the changi airport terminal 3 (length of three football fields) took 10 months to overhaul and was completed in Jan 2018



Despite this increase in quantity of plants, the time needed to maintain the plants has been **cut by over 50%** with wall's new-and-improved system of arranging the plants, and how they are watered and fertilised.

The new Green Wall's (left) potted plant tapestry system with 113,000 plants supports almost 4x the number of plants compared to the original Green Wall (right)



## lessons learned

- Integrating it as early in the design process (structural, drainage, accessibility and design for safety)
- it should not just be greenwashing
- knowing what systems will work where as its not one-system fits all..
- buy-in from stakeholders downstream
- Is the maintainability and access for it right?

#### **UN SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT GOALS**





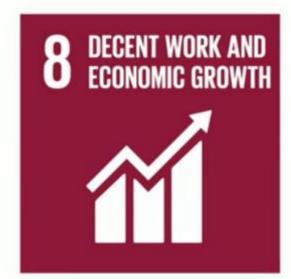






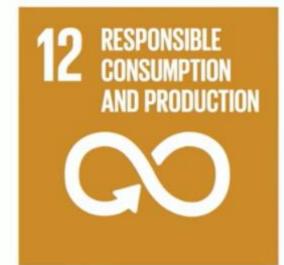






















### Designing Liveability through people centric and biophilic approach



high stress lifestyle environs

living in dense city neighborhoods without close access to

people working long days in window-less environs

community & green spaces

for children in city schools

> Living longer, Aging well

those in institutional settings such as hospitals + nursing homes

the role that landscape spaces and nature plays In Community Liveability and Health Empowering Environs are increasingly important....



Thank you Have a great day!

Yvonnetan@dpg.com.sg