

Planting Building

by Michael Lee (Studio Bibliothèque)

How does the past visit the present? ‘Planting Building’ answers this question by combining two aspects of Singapore’s urban memory: topiary and lost buildings. The three pieces here are abstracted from Scotts Shopping Centre¹, which featured Singapore’s first air-conditioned food court; National Theatre², built with funds partly donated by members of the public through “a-dollar-a-brick” campaign and demolished due to factors including structural defects; and Forfar House³, popularly known as ‘suicide block’ at one point in time for being the tallest residential building in Singapore.

Buildings / Plants:

Scotts Shopping Centre (IMAGE 1) / Tabernaemontana
National Theatre (IMAGE 2) / Carmona
Forfar House (IMAGE 3) / Lorepetallum chinensis



IMAGE 1 Scotts Shopping Centre (1982–2007) on Scotts Road, designed by Alfred Wong. Image courtesy of AWP Architects.

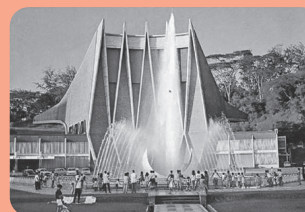


IMAGE 2 National Theatre (1963–1986) on River Valley Road, designed by Alfred Wong. Image courtesy of AWP Architects.



IMAGE 3 Forfar House (1956–c.1999), Strathmore Avenue, built by Singapore Improvement Trust. Image courtesy of Koh Kim Chay.

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