

## Media Release

*For Immediate Release*

### The Substation Announces Results of (Not the) Singapore Venice Pavilion Case Competition



**Singapore, 18 September 2017** – Chosen from a total of thirty-five submissions over the month of August, three teams presented their case to a panel of distinguished judges for **(Not the) Singapore Venice Pavilion** by the **Persuasive Design Agency** at **The Substation**. The three finalists are *Candrielle*, *FRIENDS*, and *-Stable~Unstable*. The winning proposal was slated to win \$10,000, with the runners-up receiving \$2,000 each.

The panel of judges felt there to be no clear winner among the three shortlisted competitors. Each project contained ideas with the potential to be developed into a compelling pavilion design; however, none were deemed to be adequately advanced at the time of final presentation. Selection was further challenged by the fact that—while all three contained strong and weak aspects—the schemes (at their stages) were radically varied and difficult to compare on either artistic or technical merit.

After lengthy deliberation, the panel decided to split the first prize among the three competing teams (\$3000 each). They also raised the possibility of either developing the schemes or creating a publication.

“The Substation is recommending that we work with the entrants to document their works, and then discuss ways in which the proposals might be refined and presented at Persuasive Design Agency. The balance of the remaining prize money (\$5000) will be dedicated to this next task of documentation and development of the schemes,” says Alan Oei, Artistic Director of The Substation and co-curator of Discipline the City.

“We look forward to working with the three finalists to further refine their concepts as we certainly see a lot of potential in each of these proposals. We hope that the competition has served as a conversation starter for Singaporeans to examine the reasons behind our participation in the Venice Biennale and to also to offer their voices in not just the Venice Biennale, but also the various national exercises that our nation takes part in,” says Joshua Comaroff, designer and co-curator of Discipline the City.

Commissioned by the Persuasive Design Agency, **(Not the) Singapore Venice Pavilion** began with an open call for proposals of alternative visions for the Singapore Pavilion at the 16th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia 2018. The competition aimed to reimagine not only the nation’s yearly participation in this costly national branding exercise, but also for rethinking how architecture responds to the current social environment of ecological disaster, refugee crises and political failure. The period of submission lasted until 21 August 2017, with the shortlisted teams announced on 28 August 2017. The three shortlisted teams then took part in an open, public workshop from 2 to 3 September at The Substation, where they organised open dialogue sessions to develop the potential of their concept. The final presentation and judging round took place on 9 September 2017.

The three were chosen by a jury panel comprising

- Lilian Chee, Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore
- Debbie Ding, a visual artist and technologist
- Jane M Jacobs, Professor and Director, Division of Social Sciences at Yale-NUS College Singapore
- Lai Chee Kien, Adjunct Associate Professor at the Singapore University of Technology and Design
- Hunn Wai, co-founder and Creative Director of award-winning Italian-Singaporean Industrial Design consultancy Lanzavecchia + Wai
- Adrienne Wilson Joergensen, architectural designer and Research Coordinator at the ETH Zürich Future Cities Laboratory in Singapore
- Sarah Mineko Ichioka, former Director of The Architecture Foundation (London) and Royal Institute of British Architects Fellow

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## **About The Substation**

The Substation is Singapore's first independent contemporary arts centre. Established in 1990 by the late Kuo Pao Kun, it is known for its pioneering and experimental arts programming. Over the years, The Substation has worked with some of Singapore's most critically acclaimed artists, writers and intellectuals including Alvin Tan, Goh Boon Teck, Amanda Heng, Lee Wen and Kok Heng Leun. The Substation is a recipient of the National Arts Council's Major Grant from April 2017–March 2020.

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