

Exemplary green examples

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The management of Singapore's famous riverside entertainment hotspot, Clarke Quay, opted to install simple canopies, which are more cost effective than covering walkways with glass and air-conditioning them, says manager Dawn Tan. Those canopies saves the Quay S\$1.5mil (RM3.64mil) in energy and maintenance costs every five years. - File photo



From as far back as 1995, the 1 Utama shopping mall in Petaling Jaya had incorporated green architectural and engineering initiatives into its design plans. These features include a rainwater harvesting system that reduces its usage of treated pipe water by 30%, and a building automation system with sensors that automatically adjust lighting and temperature. - 1 Utama

Singapore's Moulmein Rise Residential Tower, designed by WOHA Architects / Wong Mun Summ and Richard Hassell, won a jury citation at the prestigious triennial Aga Khan Award for Architecture.



The building borrows low-energy strategies from vernacular housing instead of relying on mechanical systems for climate control. By reinterpreting traditional elements such as monsoon windows and the perforated wall, air circulation is maximised and energy for cooling is reduced. - Aga Khan Development Network



The Securities Commission of Malaysia's building is a fine example of how environmentally-friendly buildings can also be aesthetically pleasing. It is a 2001 Asean Energy Award winner because it saves RM2.5mil a year on electricity bills alone. - KEVIN TAN / The Star



In Melbourne, Australia, the Municipal Council's new headquarters is a wholly green building where even grey water is recycled and filtered for re-use. It also has an active facade that moves to harvest the maximum amount of solar energy. - Dr Tan Loke Mun

A green building can also be highly intelligent as Goldis Berhad's upcoming GTower in Kuala Lumpur shows. The Art Deco design-inspired project comprising office space, a hotel, and club received Singapore's Green Mark and is also a sophisticated Multimedia Super Corridor-compliant building equipped with the latest smart card and RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Technology for automatic identification) technologies. The motivation for its design was simply, to save and provide a better internal environment, explains GTower director Colin Ng: "In light of the recent increase in the price of electricity, our green investment will see faster payback. And all the elements incorporated in GTower will provide a more holistic and better working environment." - AZMAN GHANI / The Star

