



## NEWS RELEASE

7 APRIL 2016

### **Building A Future-Ready Home For The Aged Design Competition for the new St. John's Home For Elderly Persons**

*Singapore – 31 March 2016.* After close to 58 years of operations at its present location at 69 Wan Tho Avenue, St. John's Home for Elderly Persons is embarking on its greatest challenge yet - to build a new Home for its elderly residents on a smaller plot of 3,300 sqm on its current land area of 12,224 sqm. Construction of the new building is expected to commence in January 2019, and completed in 2021. The licensed capacity for the new building is 150 elderly residents, an increase from the current number of 102 residents.

The smaller land area poses an interesting challenge to the management of the St John's Home as they deliberate on how best to optimize the land area to build a future-ready Home for the residents.

*Mr Woon Wee Yim, Chairman of St. John's Home explains, "When the Home was established back in 1958, things were simpler. At that time, the vision was to build a cosy, cottage-style Home for needy or homeless elderly. These buildings have served us well for the past 58 years.*

*But times have changed. The needs of the elderly have also changed. We now have to build upwards on a smaller piece of land while increasing the capacity for care – from the current 102 to 150 elderly persons - to meet the present needs of the elderly, and also cater to the geriatrics care, beyond the next 30 years."*

Together with the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA), the St. John's Home is organizing a two-stage Design Competition for a winning design for the new Home. The brief is to build a Home to care for the residents in the best possible way supported by well-thought-out design

and functionality - a place for happy residents, good work environment for care staff and for volunteers to visit and support the programmes of the Home.

*Mr Theodore Chan, immediate past President of the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA), elaborates, "Many things that we see today were not available back when St. John's Home was first built some 58 years ago. Yet the Home still remains relevant, in terms of form and function.*

*The challenge for us Architects today is to design a Home for the elderly that not only fulfills the physical, functional and aesthetic aspects of a building, but also meet the geriatrics and environmental needs of the future.*

*We also have to be cognizant of the fact that the Digital Natives of today will be the tech-savvy and well-educated elderly of the future. This is the profile of the elderly who are going to stay in the new St. John's Home."*

## **Project Background**

2016 marks a new milestone for St. John's Home for Elderly Persons as the Home's land lease expired in December 2015. It now operates on its existing site, on a new Tenancy Agreement, for another three plus three years. Concurrently, the Home has been awarded a fresh 30-year land lease on a smaller plot of 3,300 sqm of its existing land area of 12,224 sqm, for the construction of a new building, which is estimated to cost \$12 million.

In November 2013, the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) introduced St. John's Home to its corporate partner, the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) that was looking for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) opportunities. Since then, SIA has been advising the Home on matters pertaining to the land lease renewal and Building Redevelopment Project. In January 2015, SIA proposed a Design Competition to solicit the best design for an elderly-friendly, future-proof Home for the Aged.

## **Needs Of The Home And Fundraising Target**

The estimated construction cost of the new building on the fresh 30-year lease is \$12 million. Construction of the new building is targeted to commence in January 2019, which means that the Home will need to have at least \$8 million by December 2018 in order to commence construction. This in turn means that the Home will have to raise an additional \$2.7 million per

year for the Building Redevelopment Project, on top of the \$1 million yearly operating expenditure and yearly rental (for the three-plus-three years Tenancy Agreement).

As a relatively small Charity with limited resources, and being a non-Government subsidized Home, it is a huge fundraising challenge that it hopes to have the continued support from corporates and donors who have been funding the Home since 1958, as well as new benefactors.

### **Design Competition**

This competition is open to SIA Fellow or Corporate members' firms. For non-SIA members' firms, they must participate in association with SIA Fellow or Corporate members' firms who must take a lead role of Prime Consultant. SIA Fellow or Corporate members' firm may collaborate with consultants (e.g. SIA Associate/Retired/Student/overseas architects (if specific expertise is required)).

Registration for the Stage 1 Competition begins on 12 April 2016 (Tuesday), after 9,30am. A briefing on the Design Competition will be held on 19 April (Tuesday), at 10am at the SIA Theatre. Stage 2 of the Competition will commence on 1 June 2016, where up to five participating firms will be invited to submit their Physical Massing Models by 12noon on 13 July 2016 (Wednesday).

The winning scheme will be announced on Friday, 22 July 2016.

## PANEL OF JUDGES

The judging panel comprises:

<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Chairperson	Mr Theodore Chan	Immediate Past President, Singapore Institute of Architects
Panel Member	Mr Andrew Lioe	Vice Chairman, St. John's Home
Panel Member	Mr David Alexander Ong	Management Committee Member, St. John's Home
Panel Member	Ms Rita Soh	Director, RDC Architects Pte Ltd
Panel Member	Dr Wong Sweet Fun	Deputy Chairperson, Medical Board, Yishun Community Hospital

## PRIZES

The winning entry will receive a \$20,000 reimbursement, which will be part of the professional fee of 6% (capped at \$720,000 excluding GST). Four merit shortlisted entries will each be awarded \$5,000. Stage 1 entrants who are not shortlisted for Stage 2 will not receive any prize money or reimbursement.

*For media queries, please contact:*

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## **About St John's Home for Elderly Persons**

Established in December 1958, St. John's Home for Elderly Persons provides long-term residential care for needy/homeless elderly persons aged 60 and above, regardless of race or creed. The Home strives to be a place where ageing is celebrated, and where the elderly can live their golden years in comfort and dignity.

In 2014, the Home was accorded the President's Award for Philanthropy (Non-profit), in recognition of the concerted efforts by its Management Committee members, staff and volunteers in raising funds.

<http://www.stjohneldershome.org.sg/home-page>

## **About the Singapore Institute of Architects**

The Singapore Institute of Architects is a professional organization established in 1961 with the objective to promote the architectural profession and the built environment in Singapore. The Institute is the sole representative for the architectural profession in Singapore. Over the years, the Institute has helped organize several design competitions, which include such projects like the Maybank Headquarter Redevelopment, Marina Line Stadium and Museums Stations, The NUS Alumni Complex, scape\*Youth Complex, Tampines Town Council Neighbourhood Renewal Programme, Al Ansar Mosque in Bedok, Indian Heritage Centre (IHC), Al-Islah Mosque in Punggol, Bukit Panjang Hawker Centre (BPHC) and the most recent is the Wisma Geylang Serai.(WGS).

<http://www.sia.org.sg/>