

Success Story

LWC ALLIANCE PTE LTD - MAKING CONCRETE LOOK COOL

Due to BCA's push for mechanized construction methods to increase the buildability of construction projects, precast concrete has now become a common building material in Singapore.

LWC Alliance Pte Ltd, a home grown company, is one of the early pioneers of Precast Concrete and GFRC in Singapore. Over the last thirty years, LWC has evolved from a producer of mass-market precast concrete products such as HDB precast concrete components to a producer of niche market precast components. The precast concrete that it produces is artistic and beautiful, in addition to being a fast and efficient construction material. It combines the best of an artisan's crafts to an engineer's innovative know-how.



NTU Learning Hub Precast Panels

An example of this "artisan" precast concrete is the recently completed NTU Learning Hub project, where the entire building is clad with over 1,200 pieces of precast concrete wall panels. Each of the 2 m wide by 3.2 m high precast concrete claddings is made with specially blended concrete that comes with colour and textures that looks like natural stone. The unique feature of the precast concrete is that none of the panels are repetitive. Every panel is has a different profile, pattern and shape.

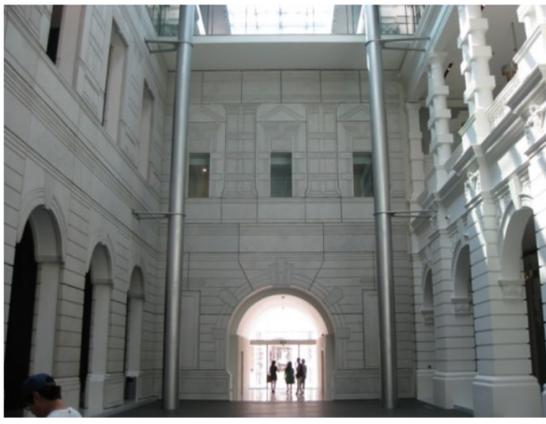
Mr Jay Fung, LWC's Managing Director collaborated with the architects from the Heatherwick Studio in London and CPG to achieve a façade that is bespoke in its colour, texture and profile. Jay, an architect by training, worked hard to assist the architects to maximize design freedom to realize their dream design.



Mr Jay Fung (left) and Mr Thomas (right) in the exhibit "Inside Heatherwick's Studio"

LWC has proven that with its craftsmanship and technical know-how, it is able to deliver on-time and within budget, a beautiful precast concrete façade even it is non-repetitive. The NTU Learning Hub precast concrete was selected by Mr Thomas Heatherwick to be featured in his exhibit "Inside Heatherwick's Studio" that is currently touring in major cities around the world.

Another example of the artistic precast concrete is found in the Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall. The concrete panels in the central atrium are made with specially blended and treated concrete that comes with the stone look-alike finish, without the high cost of stone. Again, LWC's Jay collaborated with Mr Mok Wei Wei of W Architect to develop a colour and texture that is tailored made for this project.

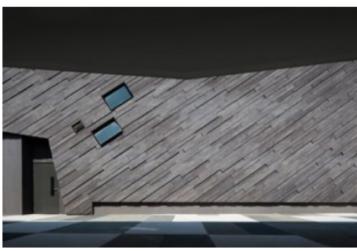


Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall

Two other concrete projects that LWC collaborated with W Architects are the Singapore National Museum and the recently opened NUS Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum.



NUS Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum



Singapore National Museum



LWC's expertise in concrete finishes has led it to the restoration of many national monuments in Singapore. LWC recently restored the Shanghai Plaster facades of the National Gallery Singapore, previously the Former Supreme Court and City Hall. The highlight of the façade restoration exercise is the repair and restoration of the many sculptures of the Tympanum on the former Supreme Court, that have been badly damaged by weathering over the years.



The restoration of the facades of the National Gallery Singapore and the tympanum of the Former Supreme Court

Capitol Theatre, another venerated piece of architecture built by the British has been given a brand-new make over. LWC was tasked to restore the ornate theatre interiors, including the design and painting of the zodiac signs on the dome ceiling.



The restoration of the Capitol Theatre including the painting of the zodiac signs on the domed ceiling

LWC's success in its home market allowed it to expand to the neighbouring countries. Under the guidance of BCA, LWC carried out many iconic projects in Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand.



Dhamarkai Temple, Bangkok



Bank Ayuidaya, Bangkok

During the economic slow-downs brought by the financial crisis, many local construction companies were unable to survive. LWC managed to pull through by following BCA's lead to market itself to faraway places such as the Middle East. Being a specialist, it was relatively easy for LWC to market its services and products in the Middle East. Together with the main contractors, LWC participated in a number of prestigious projects such as the Emir's Private Terminal of the Doha International Airport and the College of Technology in Qatar.



College of Technology, Doha

More importantly, LWC is able to meet many potential partners and customers through the introduction of contacts by BCA's officers, commented Mr Jay Fung on its ability to penetrate difficult markets such as China. It has recently worked with a world renowned local architect WOHA in the development of the precast façade screens of the Intercontinental Hotel in Sanya, China.



Intercontinental Hotel, Sanya, China

More importantly, LWC is able to meet many potential partners and customers through the introduction of contacts by BCA's officers, commented Mr Jay Fung on its ability to penetrate difficult markets such as China. It has recently worked with a world renowned local architect WOHA in the development of the precast façade screens of the Intercontinental Hotel in Sanya, China.