Marine Parade Community Building

Marine Parade Community Building (Chinese : ?????????? ; pinyin : M?lín B?iliè shèq? zh?nghé dàshà) is a community building located in Marine Parade , Singapore . Opened in 2000 , the building houses the formerly separate Marine Parade Community Centre and Marine Parade Public Library , as well as a performing arts group , The Necessary Stage . Designed by William Lim Associates , one of the distinguishing features of the postmodern building is the mural cladding called the " Texturefulness of Life " , the largest piece of installation art in Singapore .

History

The current building sits on reclaimed land first occupied by the Marine Parade Community Centre , which was built in the early 1980s and later renamed to Marine Parade Community Club . In March 1995 , the People 's Association (PA) announced plans to spend S $ 9 @.@ 56 million to upgrade 54 community centres and clubs that were over ten years old , adding facilities such as lifts , dance studios , karaoke rooms and multi @-@ purpose air @-@ conditioned activities rooms , to make community centres more user @-@ friendly , with open concept offices and reception areas .
In June 1995 , then @-@ Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong asked PA to study the idea of having community centres share their premises with other civil users such as libraries , government offices and commercial developments . Goh , who is also a Member of Parliament for Marine Parade Group Representation Constituency , suggested combining the Marine Parade Community Club , which was slated for upgrading , with the National Library branch in Marine Parade , in a six @-@ storey building with three floors for the community club and three for the library . In June 1996 , Wong Kan Seng , PA 's deputy chairman , announced that due to the scarcity of land in Singapore , eight of the redeveloped community centres , including Marine Parade Community Club , would be located with other civil users .
As 30 % of the upgrading cost had to be paid by the community club , several fundraising activities were carried out for the redevelopment . These activities , which included music concerts , golf tournaments and cyclethons , raised a total of S $ 6 million . The old club building was demolished in 1997 and construction of the Marine Parade Community Building began the same year . SAL Construction was the project 's main contractor . Built at a cost of S $ 30 million , the new building was completed in January 2000 , and was open to the public on 6 March 2000 . It was officially opened by Goh Chok Tong on 28 May 2000 .

Facilities

The Marine Parade Community Building currently houses the Marine Parade Community Club , the Marine Parade Community Library and a professional theatre company , The Necessary Stage . It also originally had an al fresco Starbucks café on the ground floor .

Marine Parade Community Club

Opened on 6 March 2000 , the Marine Parade Community Club is equipped with a glass @-@ walled gymnasium overlooking part of the East Coast Parkway , a covered basketball court on the rooftop and an air @-@ conditioned sports hall . There are also a 263 @-@ seat theatrette , a roof terrace for gatherings , and music , study and activity rooms .

Marine Parade Community Library

Opened on 10 November 1978 , the Marine Parade Community Library was originally located at the town centre of Marine Parade Housing Estate before it shifted to its new premises at the community building . The library is Singapore 's second @-@ oldest community library and the only one built on reclaimed land . It started moving in stages to the community building in April 2000 , and was

officially opened by Goh Chok Tong on 28 May 2000 . The Marine Parade Community Library is the first public library in Singapore to be housed together with a community club and an arts group . The library 's old premises was renovated for an NTUC FairPrice supermarket .

The library is spread over four floors of the Marine Parade Community Building , with a floor area of 3 @,@ 500 square metres (37 @,@ 675 square feet) . As one of the first neighbourhood libraries , the library 's entire second floor is its children 's book section , featuring murals , trivia and multimedia tools . The library has more than 150 @,@ 000 books and 2 @,@ 500 videos available for loan . There is a café on the ground floor , and the library is fitted with numerous couches and benches for the public 's use . Other facilities include multimedia stations , do @-@ it @-@ yourself service stations , and music posts equipped with headphones .

The Necessary Stage

The Necessary Stage was the first arts group to be housed in a community building with a community club by Singapore 's National Arts Council (NAC) . The move was part of the NAC 's Arts Housing Scheme that offered alternative locations to arts groups besides old vacant buildings , in line with PA 's plan to repackage its community clubs as fashionable multi @-@ purpose spaces . The Necessary Stage 's 672 @-@ square metre (7 @,@ 467 square feet) premises at the basement of the community building was about three times the size of its old premises at Cairnhill Arts Centre , which did not have a proper theatre space for productions . The arts group 's facility at the community building features a " Black Box " , a stage @-@ less theatre with flexible seating . The NAC spent S $ 2 @.@ 1 million on construction costs for the unit at Marine Parade , which includes a foyer and the 120 @-@ seat Black Box .

Architecture

Overall , the architectural form of the Marine Parade Community Building has been described as a " dragon " , with the roof as a crest and the artwork as the eye of the dragon . The horizontal louvres on the library block was seen as the tail fins of the dragon , an auspicious beast in Chinese culture .

Design concept

Sited adjacent to Housing and Development Board apartment blocks of the Marine Parade Housing Estate , the Marine Parade Community Building could be seen as an attempt to engage the wider community . The activities of the community building were planned to overlap and to coalesce , as a one @-@ stop destination for the entire family . The rich congruence of the multiple programmes for the building is expressed architecturally as a collage of diverse elements . The building was designed by a local architectural firm , William Lim Associates , which adopted a postmodern pluralist approach , expressed through a multiplicity of materials and forms .

Wall mural

The community building is clad in a huge wall mural , a commissioned work of art by Thai architect Surachai Yeamsiri . The mural is Singapore 's largest piece of installation art , measuring 63 metres by 12 metres (207 feet by 39 feet) , and covers the curved north- and east @-@ facing façade of the community building . Called the " Texturefulness of Life " , the artwork made use of a variety of materials such as glass and wood . The artwork 's centrepiece resembles a huge human eye plastered on a wall , made up of tiny mosaic tiles arranged by computer @-@ aided design .
Surachai 's abstract piece was the winner in the " Art on Wall " design competition , organised by the Marine Parade Community Club Management Committee in 1998 . A panel of international judges picked the winning design from a total of 66 entries submitted by artists , architects and designers from all over Southeast Asia , including 40 entries from Singapore . Led by local art historian T. K. Sabapathy , the panel felt that the winning entry best reflected the contest 's themes

of dynamism , interaction , fusion and harmony . The mural was installed on the curved facade of the community building at a cost of S $ 50 @,@ 000 .

= = = Other features = = =

The library block is predominantly clad in glass , fitted with horizontal fins , on its frontage with the main road . The alfresco café had a street frontage and was spread into the shared forecourt . The roof of the community building resembles the leaves of a palm tree , and covers the community club 's rooftop basketball court . The court 's location on the roof level was a departure from the norm , as in other community centres then , the basketball court occupies space on the ground floor .