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WY-TO GROUP WINS SINGAPORE'S FIRST C40 REINVENTING CITIES WITH NOVEL GREEN PLAN

"Good Food, Good Life" will root to collectively motivate and transform mindsets through re-connecting People with fundamental elements for a resilient tomorrow

Helmed by Homestead Group Asia, **WY-TO Group**, consisting of **WY-TO Singapore** and **Provolk architects**, has won Singapore's first **C40 Reinventing Cities Global Competition** to repurpose the former **Bukit Timah Fire Station** into an open cultural community node. The winning proposal, **"Good Food, Good Life"**, which was worked on meticulously with collaborators including **BSD (Environmental Engineers)**, **Studio Lapis (Conservation Specialists)**, **Edible Garden City (Urban Farmers)**, and **Shophouse & Co (Placemakers)**, re-evaluates modern capitalistic goals and roots to advocate circularity and sustainability through the concept of the **Virtuous Food Cycle**. It re-introduces Nature as an integral Partner in the modern world, and is developed in alignment to **c40's global design priorities for the 10 climate challenges that address context adapted environmental concerns**, such as **energy efficiency and low carbon energy, biodiversity and urban re-vegetation**. Each planned intervention is built on an organic structure that will equalize and manage the connection of Heritage, People and Planet.

Building on its existing architecture fabric, **WY-TO Group** is confident that this **new kindred friendly recreational space** will contribute to the **overall aims of reduced carbon emission** under the global Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations (UN), and assist the young Nation in achieving her 2030 Green Plan for a **self-reliant and resilient tomorrow**.



Aerial view of the refreshed Bukit Timah Fire Station with "Good Food, Good Life" in place.

Nature's Nod to the Heritage

The former Bukit Timah Fire Station was built in 1956 to be used as an accommodation for stationed firefighters of the compound's main station. It underwent the first adaptive re-use to primarily serve the Food and Beverage industry after its decommission in 2005 and obtained conservation status in 2019. Strategically located near an upcoming commuter train station, and **in the convergence of island-wide nature and adventure routes**, such as the 24km-long Rail Corridor (aka 'Green Corridor'), and the 36km-long Coast-to-Coast Central Trail, the rejuvenated fire station will establish as a link to the city's nature and reserves and parks, such as Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and Bukit Batok Nature Park. The strategy design considers its close proximity to key heritage icons: Ford Factory and Bukit Batok Memorial, and accounts for an **enriching cultural experience** reflecting the fire station's history. The current façade will be **carefully restored to bring out the latent value** it holds for thematic journeys that will encompass the area of the site. Different informative and artistic mediums such as archival materials and murals will be purposefully and sensitively utilized for the **multi-faceted local** community to connect with their collective past.



A reformed experience that binds generations together through the combination of the fire station's rich heritage with Nature.

A Circular Community

Circularity will echo throughout its approaches. The strategy to **collectively influence conscious lifestyle behaviours** begins at the master plan. It has sights set on integrating the thriving verdant vegetation that hugs the currently underutilized 8,308sqm compound. Layered hands-on programmes targeting education on responsible resource usage will root to inspire change in mindsets. **WY-TO Singapore Director and Founder of Provolk architects, Ar. Jonathan Poh**, “*Visitors will learn about the circularity of food - produce from the ground will be prepared and served, while food waste can return to the ground as fertiliser.*” The site will reopen as a car-lite environment that **encourages slow mobility** such as pedestrianizing, using human-powered vehicles such as bicycles, to mitigate any carbon emissions from the node and ultimately advance towards a carbon-neutral lifestyle destination.



Grounding any new interventions will be the existing lush greenery context the heritage icon enjoys.

Design for The People

A 4-step community node strategy, titled “**Communi-Trail**”, centred on food sustainability will be the heart of the programme. **WY-TO Group Managing Director, Yann Follain**, “*We want visitors to learn about food production and food waste management and hope that they will learn to consume in a way that makes them and the Earth happy.*” The primary principles of “**Communi-Trail**” - **Initiate, Transform, Share, Recover**, will carry the Group’s philosophy “**Design with A Cause**” prominently. It will delicately build on and enhance Singapore’s multi-ethnic, lingual and religious community. The well-curated community event spaces will welcome locally owned business owners to exchange inspiring experiences, and host a network of like-minded ecological tenants that will be instrumental in opening up unbiased employment opportunities. Through a non-judgemental atmosphere, the allotment garden plots will engender the general community to experiment with urban farming techniques and **cultivate a self-sustainable spirit** while doing so. Further sensitive curation on the available cuisines and price options for dining will ensure that everyone is happily fed. The refreshed fire station will re-live its “*rescue mission*” in the final lap of “**Communi-Trail**” through the forms of art therapy, activities such as Yoga, and open workshops in the communal space. These will be performed in the heart of its greenery for an **organic healing process** that taps on the sensory elements of the surrounding flora and fauna.



The community will be able to try their hands on urban farming techniques in allotment gardens and experience life's fundamentals, void of unnecessary modern noise.

Green Construction Solutions

In response to Singapore's increasing climate temperature and **C4o Reinventing Cities Climate Challenges**, the exo-skeleton will spot vertical greenery facades on upper levels as a sustainable and natural solution for thermal comfort and enhancing ventilation for quality breathable air, especially prevalent in endemic times in a climate notoriously known for its high humidity. This **Eco-conscious design** functions to provide tenant privacy, sun-shading, and innovative use as noise pollution barriers, all without adding unnecessary environmental stress from concrete construction. It uniformly ties the overall exterior of the fire station with its context. Timber, a **certified green building material** that is favoured for its practicality and flexibility in tropical climates will be the primary constructing material used for planned structural additions. The durability of the material will allow for a gentle ageing process that is reflective of the environment it is in.



Climate resilience solutions such as using Timber as the primary construction material and vertical greenery façade will assist to offset any carbon emissions from the compound.

With its primary roots in **influencing mindsets** for a circular way of life **through Nature**, the former Bukit Timah Fire Station's renewed purpose will transform into a **resilient lifestyle oasis** that is **sustainably efficient, unprejudiced and welcomes all visitors** into its green embrace.



About [C4o Reinventing Cities Global Competition](#): Initiated by the C4o Cities Climate Leadership Group and made possible thanks to the support of Climate KIC, Reinventing Cities is a global competition that seeks to transform underutilized sites through sustainable and community-focused projects to drive decarbonised and resilient urban regeneration.

About [WY-TO Group](#): Guided by our philosophy, “**Design with A Cause**”, WY-TO Group goes beyond to create valued experiences through urban landscapes, visual communication, exhibition spaces, cultural curation and heritage conservation. The fundamental basis to consciously design for The People and The Planet has propelled our full-service endeavours and inspired our Partners all over Europe and Asia. We design, innovate and pioneer solutions with the vision to influence behaviour and build an inclusive atmosphere for a resilient future. It is with this purpose that our Team is committed to advocating for transformative techniques that reduce carbon emissions and fight climate change. Dedicated to our cause, we frequently participate in opportunities on social initiatives and nurture the next generation of empathic designers. The combined desire for a sustainable world has informed our methodologies and collaborative spirit. Our tailor-fit formulas both meet needs and respect the natural context to promote green energy. Committed to enriching lives in our interventions, our sights are set to collaborate on the mitigation of societal global challenges in urbanism and the Built Environment.

We believe that empathetic and honest long-lasting design solutions are possible without undermining relevant needs in large cityscapes and other less urbanised contexts

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