



Singapore Garden Festival 2008

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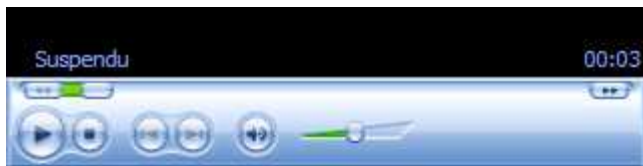


Singapore Garden Festival 2008  
25 Jul – 1 Aug 2008  
Suntec City Convention Centre  
Singapore



## SINGAPORE GARDEN FESTIVAL UNVEILS STAR DESIGNERS FOR 2008 SHOW

- New Expo Component Provides Platform for International and Local Experts to Network and Exchange Ideas -



Singaporeans and visitors can expect more elaborate garden and floral creations when the biennial Singapore Garden Festival (SGF) returns on 25 July 2008. Continuing with the tradition of showcasing the best international garden and floral designers under one roof, the National Parks Board (NParks), organiser of the festival, unveiled its list of 18 international and local garden designers who will participate in SGF 2008 at an evening event tonight.

The special curtain-raiser, organised in celebration of the launch of SGF 2008, was officiated by Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Parliamentary Secretary for National Development and Guest of Honour for the evening.

The 18 garden designers come from 13 countries including Singapore. The foreign designers were in town to take a brief on the competition. Last year's big-time winners return to compete again – Singapore's Henry Steed (winner in the category, Best of Show for Landscape Gardens), Peter Cheok (Best of Show in the Fantasy Gardens category) and Australia's Jim Fogarty (Royal Horticultural Society, UK Award of Excellence and Gold Award in the Landscape Gardens category).

### Garden Design

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In addition to the awards for the designers, next year's SGF will also recognise the talents of contractors who partner with these designers to implement the designs. Gold, Silver and Bronze awards will be handed out to the winning partnering contractors, who are mainly Singapore-based firms.

### Engaging the Trade

Another new key component of SGF 2008 is the launch of the SGF Expo. The three-day trade and business event will kick-start on 24 July 2008, a day before the Singapore Garden Festival opens to the public. Targeted at landscape and horticulture professionals from around the world, it seeks to provide an international meeting place for industry players to network, exchange ideas and explore all facets of landscape design and horticulture in Asia. The event, which comprises a trade exhibition and conference, will also showcase new technologies and trends on innovative landscape designs.

Of this trade component of the Festival, Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman said: "The trade exhibition aims to boost the vast business potential of this industry, while the conference will bring together leading practitioners to share best practices and provide insights into emerging markets and trends driving the industry. The expanded Singapore Garden Festival will be the first international landscape and horticulture event of such scale in Singapore, reflecting our desire to develop Singapore as a centre for horticultural excellence."

### Popular Highlights Return to the Festival

Aside from the new SGF Expo component, and the return of the Show Gardens, the other key highlights will return to the festival:

- **Floral Windows of the World** will showcase stunning cut-flower displays by 16 floral designers from Singapore and abroad. *(Details to be confirmed)*
- **Singapore Orchid Show**, a dazzling display of Southeast Asia's rich and diverse heritage of orchids
- **Garden Fiesta**, including fringe activities such as talks, demonstrations and other exhibits catering to the public, families, serious gardeners as well as hobbyists
- **Vibrant Marketplace**, offering a wide array under one roof of plants, gardening and landscape products and services, and arts & crafts for sale

Visitors can enjoy the 8-day event which will be housed at the Suntec City Convention Centre from 25 July to 1 August 2008. Ticketing details will be announced early next year.

For now, the public can log on to [www.singaporegardenfestival.com](http://www.singaporegardenfestival.com) for more information.



#### Profile of Garden Designers

**Peter Cheok (Singapore)** was a Best of Show Award and Gold winner at the inaugural Singapore Garden Festival. His entry at the Festival last year was highly acclaimed for its strong environmental message. In 2006, he won the Gold Award in the Retail Nursery category of the Landscape Industry Association (Singapore) (LIAS) Awards of Excellence.

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**Kelvin Chua (New Zealand)** is a multiple-award winner at the Ellerslie International Flower Show in New Zealand, including three Gold Awards. He is currently a lecturer in Graphic Communication at the School of Landscape and Landscape Architecture, Unitec. Auckland, New Zealand. Born in Singapore, Kelvin migrated to New Zealand at the age of five.

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**John Cullen (United States)** is a multiple award winner, including a Gold at the Chicago Flower Show. He also won Best of Show and People's Choice Award which he won all eight days at the Philadelphia Flower Show. This eight-day win for the People's Choice Award is a very rare honour and has never happened before in the Philadelphia Show's 180 years.

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**David Davidson (South Africa)** is a renowned designer. His accolades include a Chelsea Lawrence Gold Medal for the World Garden Exhibition, two Golds at the Chelsea Flower Show and first prize at the Royal Floral Expo. David has also been successfully designing sets for theatre and events for the past 29 years.

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**Charlie Evans (Australia)** is Director at Urbaneco, an award-winning landscape and design firm in Australia. He has won numerous awards including 2 Golds at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

**Jim Fogarty (Australia)** is a multiple award-winner including two Best of Show Awards, two Design Excellence Awards and four Gold Medals at the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show. He was also a Gold medal winner and recipient of the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society award at the inaugural Singapore Garden Festival. Jim was the first Australian show garden designer to win a Chelsea award at the acclaimed Chelsea Flower Show.

**S K Gutgutia (India)** is a recipient of numerous awards. This includes the Best Grower Display Award at the International Flower Expo in New Delhi in 2006 and the Best Display Award at the International Flower Expo 2007.

**Ben Hoyle (New Zealand)** is Managing Director of Blue Gecko Ltd. Landscape & Design. He has won various awards including a recent Gold at the Ellerslie International Flower Show in New Zealand in 2006. Ben also hosts the gardening segment of *Good Morning*, a weekday entertainment lifestyle show broadcast on TV One in New Zealand.

**Kazuyuki Ishihara (Japan)** holds several awards and accolades including two Golds at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2006 and 2007. He believes that living an urban lifestyle can lead one to lose touch with their environment. He sees plants and gardens as a way to help re-connect people to nature.

**Landscape Industry Association Singapore (LIAS/Singapore)** was incorporated in 2001. It serves to develop and promote professionalism and quality in landscape products and services to fulfil Singapore's vision of being a City in a Garden. It is a platform for members in the industry to network and be updated to latest activities and programmes relating to landscaping. LIAS will be represented at the Festival by the gold medal winner of the LIAS Awards of Excellence 2007 Competition. The results of this competition will be announced later this year.

**Ng Sek San (Malaysia)** is a member of the Institute of Landscape Architects of New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia. A multiple-award winner, his recent wins include two Creative Design awards at Malaysia's Laman Festival. Sek San has also worked extensively in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and New Zealand.

**Song Xiao Gu (China)** is the Senior Artist at Wuxi Xihui Garden. A multi-award winning designer he oversees garden art creation, landscape planning and design and restoration of cultural relics at the Wuxi Xibui Garden. His accolades include Gold Medals in the 7th and 8th China Chrysanthemum Festival, the 4th and 5th China Rhododendron Exhibition and the China Dalian International Garden and Flower Festival.

**SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (SILA / Singapore)** is the representative body of landscape architects in Singapore. The organisation was formed in 1985 and seeks to advance the art of landscape architecture and civic design in the Singapore environment. It also hopes to promote research and education in landscape architecture as well as to create and maintain a high standard of professional qualification. SILA will be represented at the Festival by its 2007 Gold Medalist of the SILA Design Award Competition. The results of this competition will be announced later this year.

**Henry Steed (Singapore)** is a landscape architect and has been resident in Singapore for 23 years. His work has taken him across the Asian region and the Middle East. Henry was a Best of Show Award and Gold winner at the inaugural Singapore Garden Festival, and also a Gold award recipient at the SILA Design Award Competition in 2006.

**Andy Sturgeon (United Kingdom)** is a recipient of numerous awards, including three Golds at the Chelsea Flower Show. Andy Sturgeon has presented television programmes in the UK and is also a gardening writer for the Guardian. He is the author of two best selling books and lectures on garden design.

**Diana Williams (Sri Lanka)** is a co-founder of Borneo Exotics, the world's leading nursery for carnivorous Tropical Pitcher Plants. Based in Sri Lanka, she is a frequent participant at international flower shows. The winner of the London Flower Show in 2004, she has also won the Silver Gilt at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2005 and Gold Medals at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2006 and 2007. Diana also won the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Anthony Huxley Trophy for the best display of tender ornamental plants shown to the RHS in all the flower shows in the UK during 2006.

**Nico Wissing (Holland)** is a Floriade Medal Winner and a member of the Floriade Think Tank for World Garden Exhibition 2012. Nico brings with him almost 25 years of experience in garden design, layout and maintenance. He is a pioneer of the Green City concept, advocating greening as integral to building and urban planning.

**Dimitri Xenakis (France)** is a site-specific artist, a sculptor and a photographer, with a focus on natural and urban landscapes. His recent competition wins include the 2007 International Gardens Festival at Chaumont, France and the Street Gardens Festival of Lyon, France.

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