

Architect to design pavilion at World Expo

Tan Kay Ngee will show the creative side of Singapore at the Expo in Shanghai next year

deepika shetty

A design by Singapore architect Tan Kay Ngee (below) has been chosen to represent Singapore in the World Expo Shanghai 2010.

The 53-year-old architect, known for designing the interiors of bookstores, pipped four other contenders to bag the prestigious contract.

The decision was made by a nine-member evaluation panel comprising senior officials from the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), Urban Redevelopment Authority, Ministry of Trade and Industry as well as media and design experts.

Details of the pavilion design will be unveiled later but STB's Leong See Kay, who is the Singapore director of the World Expo, says that Tan's design is integrated and holistic, which is why it won in the end.

"This award covers not just the building of the pavilion but the entire pavilion experience," she adds.

The multi-million-dollar project, covering 30,000 sq ft, is bigger than all previous Singapore Pavilions built for an Expo.

It will be decorated with the theme Better City, Better Life.

The World Expo, held in a selected city once every five years, is a showcase for countries to trot out their best in de-

sign, architecture, technology and culture. The first one was held in Hyde Park, London, in 1851.

In 1928, the Bureau International des Expositions became the international coordinating body of the Expo and it selects the host city for the event.

The last one, in 2005, was hosted by Nagakute in the central Aichi prefecture of Japan and drew 22 million visitors.

The Singapore Pavilion there, conceptualised by theatre director Glen Goel, created quite a splash, giving visitors a multi-sensory experience of being in a rainforest, complete with lightning, thunder and rain.

The Shanghai Expo, which will run from May 1 to Oct 31 next year, is expected to attract 70 million visitors.

It will be on a site located between the Nanpu and Lupu bridges, along both sides of the Huangpu River.

More than 180 countries and 34 international organisations are expected to participate, and they will be showcasing their cultural and economic achievements in addition to promoting an exchange of ideas.

While he is not allowed to reveal full details of the project yet, Mr Tan says: "I am delighted to be selected for this. Together with a very talented team of architects, engineers, designers and photographers, we will use this opportunity to show the other side of Singapore and Singaporeans."

"People usually see us as very disciplined, very orderly. We will show how we are also very creative and innovative."

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For more details, visit www.SingaporeAtWorldExpo.com.sg.

