

INTERVIEW: Lee Cheng Wee - Building 12, Qplex

1. What inspired you to build this design concept for Building 12?

The answer to that question is not quite as exciting. Building12 Qplex was not born out of a single moment of romantic inspiration; it was a natural evolution of ideas that I have been exploring since I designed the SADM building at NTU. In a nutshell, a lot of these ideas are about returning a humanistic touch to buildings through humour and fun.



2. Which aspect of the project do you feel has the greatest impact on environmental sustainability? How do you hope it will help locals love their city more?

Building12 Qplex reminds people that a sustainability is more than just obsessing over carbon footprints and energy efficiencies. A socially sustainable project is also very much a part of a complete environmental solution. This softens the psychological thresholds buildings impose onto the urban landscape, which in turn will hopefully give the community a greater sense of ownership and pride.

3. How has this project made you love your own city more?

I think the answer is the inverse of the question. It is because I love and appreciate the nuances in my city that allows me to express these ideas through Building12 Qplex.

4. How did you find out about COLA and what attracted you to apply for it?

I think COLA provides a very interesting platform which allows architects to share their works from the perspective of the community.

5. What advice would you offer to potential applicants who are keen to start their projects?

If there are deeper issues about your project that you will like to share but doesn't quite fit into the narrative of regular architecture forums. COLA is a really good and inclusive place to do that.

6. This project is based in Shenzhen. How do you hope to contribute a similar idea or project to Singapore in the next few years?

Building12 Qplex is actually an evolution of ideas that i had explored in one of my earlier project (School of Art Design and Media) in Singapore many years back. So it is in fact a Singapore flavoured project!