HERE were acrid comments from some critics last week that a few new buildings in the Bras Basah civic district are eyesores because they mar the colonial aura of the area.

But the Singapore Management University, one of the buildings picked for disapproval, says it has more beauty than meets the eye.

He ain’t heavy, he’s our Bodhi

Once: The university has taken great pains to ensure that the old Bodhi tree and many others have been preserved to add a historical dimension to its spanking new city campus.

When SMU’s 3,500 students move from their temporary campus in Bukit Timah to their new $426 million study hub in June, they will be pleasantly surprised by many features behind the university walls.

An eye-catching feature must be the lush greenery. At the heart of the campus will be the concourse garden court which promises to be the hub of social activity.

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Surrounding the campus are museums, theatres, art galleries, shopping outlets, restaurants and cafes.

A major boon is, of course, the excellent public transport network in the area. It is possible that when the Circle Line’s Museum MRT station is ready in 2006, students may just walk off the train and into their campus.

Who knows, even Dhoby Ghaut and Raffles City MRT stations may be linked to it in the future.