

Thanks for beautifying Singapore

Four landscape companies are recognised for the quality of their work

By MARIA ALMENOAR

SINGAPORE'S green thumbs were honoured for the first time last night, when the Landscape Industry Association held its inaugural awards of excellence to recognise those who have made significant contributions towards beautifying the island.

The four winners were Na-

ture Landscapes, Kosin Contractor, Far East Flora, and Tropical Environment which bagged two awards.

Organisers hope that the awards will set the standard for the quality of work expected of landscape professionals.

The four areas being contested were implementation of projects, maintenance, design-and-build and retail nursery.

Entries for the implementation of projects category were assessed on the quality of plant materials, installation techniques and craftsmanship, among other things.

Entries in the maintenance

category were judged on areas such as condition of plants, neatness and cleanliness of the site, and the degree of difficulty.

Design-and-build projects were judged on the creativity of the design, ease of maintenance and the selection and quality of materials.

Retail nurseries were judged on their merchandise display, product knowledge and quality of plants among other things.

The awards were presented by Minister of State (National Development) Heng Chee How, who was the guest of honour at the awards ceremony.

Speaking at the event at

Meritus Mandarin Hotel, Mr Heng said: "To stay ahead of the competition, Singapore must continue to innovate and remake our Garden City and transform it into a 'City in a Garden', with an exceptional matrix of parks, gardens and green spaces that inter-connect to enhance overall development.

"Looking ahead, there will be many emerging opportunities in Singapore to showcase your works."

maria@sph.com.sg

Landscape Industry Association's awards of excellence



» **Who:** Tropical Environment for its work on Caribbean condominium at Keppel Bay

Award: Implementation (Residential)

The project: The landscaping area is vast and surrounds almost all the buildings on site. Courtyards within the development in particular were intensively planted. The main challenge for this project was in transferring most of the plants and materials manually, as there was little access to the site. Despite that, the project was completed on time.



» **Who:** Nature Landscapes for its work on The Claymore condominium.

Award: Maintenance (Residential)

The project: The site, which is on Orchard Road, has more than 200 species of plants that are lush enough to attract a host of birds, insects and even squirrels. Maintaining this garden involves protecting plants from damage caused by animals or insects without using harsh chemicals. The dense, free-form planting is pruned and thinned so that it looks naturally "wild", but not untidy.



» **Who:** Tropical Environment for its work on the Singapore Management University City Campus.

Award: Implementation (Commercial, Industrial, Recreational and Institutional)

The project: The works here involved creating a "green" wall effect as well as installing a central lawn area for exhibition purposes by the university and use by the public. One of the challenges of the site was working with existing angana trees belonging to the Old Bras Basah Park.



» **Who:** Kosin Contractor for its work on Glistead Brooks

Award: Design and Build (Residential)

The project: The 28 town house units in this development are arranged around a central garden and overlooking a 27m swimming pool. Planters and feature walls around the estate are designed to enhance and extend living spaces. Tropical trees create privacy and shade while terraced landscaping and brooks are visually engaging.



» **Who:** Far East Flora for its flagship store in Thomson Road

Award: Retail Nursery

The project: There are approximately 500 types of plants in the store and shipments of flora from Malaysia, Europe, China and Taiwan come in at least twice a week to ensure plants are fresh. Products are arranged according to species, with spacious aisles for easy movement and bright yellow banners to navigate customers to different zones. Plants are also tagged with useful information, like maintenance tips.