Jeepers creepers

THE Singapore Management University in Bras Basah Road may have drawn flak for its architecture, but its landscape is a winner.

Landscape design company Tropical Environment won a gold award at the inaugural Awards of Excellence 2005, organised by the Landscape Industry Association (Singapore) or Lias.

Its winning landscape works involved creating a green wall effect using hanging creepers, for about half of the campus facade.

When fully grown, the creepers will hang 2.5m down the facade “to soften the hard feel of the building”, says Mr R.P. Jickky, Tropical Environment’s managing director.

Part of the landscaping works also included preserving six angsana trees by first removing and later transplanting them back onto the campus grounds.

Mr Jickky reckons that 90 per cent of the greenery in the former Bras Basah park was removed during the campus construction. His company managed to put back about 50 per cent of it.

The Lias Awards were handed out on Thursday by Mr Heng Chee How, the Minister of State (National Development). More than 60 entries were received, and the projects were divided into four categories: Implementation projects, maintenance projects, design and build projects and retail nursery.

“The awards recognise the outstanding projects made by landscape contractors, designers and owners,” says Lias chairman Michael Teh. “It also aims to set standards on the quality of work expected.”

Tay Suang Chiang

No, it’s not a tropical resort. This is just one of the upper floors of the SMU campus at Bras Basah.