Campus crusader

A student's dream design for home-grown SMU won him an international prize

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The design of the Singapore Management University (SMU) campus may have come under much criticism, but one architecture graduate student from the National University of Singapore (NUS) has come up with his own prize-winning design.

Mr Lui Honfay, 27, created a model of the SMU campus that went on to win an award of excellence at this year's Society of American Registered Architects (Sara) Student Design Awards.

Sara, founded in 1956, caters to practising architects in the United States. It has a council in New York which organises the annual Design Awards, which are open to professional architects and students worldwide.

Mr Lui's design shows a 27-storey building with open spaces between floors where students can hang out. "More of the city's green spaces can be retained by housing the different faculties in one building," he says.

Two other NUS architecture graduates Tan Szue Hann and Kee Wei Hui also won excellence and special recognition awards.

This is the first time an institution outside the United States has clinched the top awards at this annual competition.

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