

The Landscape Excellence Assessment Framework (LEAF) Awards

As an urbanised city where most, if not all, developments consist of some form of greenery, it is ever more important to recognise the many benefits brought about by good landscape design and management. Launched in 2013, the Landscape Excellence Assessment Framework (LEAF) is the first certification scheme in Singapore dedicated to celebrating good landscape design, construction, and management of landscape in development projects and parks. Organised by NParks, LEAF aims to cultivate ecologically, climatically, and socially resilient landscapes in Singapore's developments and parks in line with our nation's efforts to transform into a City in Nature.

LEAF is designed to assess a project in six aspects – design and landscape, accessibility, community wellbeing and engagement, environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation and maintenance strategies. The certification also appreciates and recognises that concerted efforts from various parties, from contractors to architects, are required to achieve good landscapes. In 2020 and 2021, 37 developments were assessed and certified via LEAF. These projects exemplify how residential, commercial, and public developments in Singapore contribute to the nation's efforts to create a liveable, sustainable and climate resilient Singapore. Here, we showcase 4 exemplary projects.

Gold Award, certified in 2021
EDEN

Type
New Development
Developer
Celestial Fortune Pte Ltd
Contractor
Unison Construction Pte Ltd

Architect
RSP Architects Planners & Engineers (Pte) Ltd
Landscape Architect
COEN Design International Pte Ltd
Softscape Contractor
City Garden Pte Ltd

EDEN



Located in the historic Orchard Road neighbourhood of Singapore and commissioned by Swire Properties, the 104.5 metre building - the first residential project in Asia by the studio - offers a unique response to its location that entwines nature with city apartment living.

EDEN is designed to resemble a spine blade: simple vertical rectilinear plains with slim windows form the blade with generous garden balconies situated in between. This approach grants privacy for each of the twenty apartments and allows for a generous central living space that forms the heart of each residence. The unconventional concrete walls are moulded with a topographical map of Singapore's terrain which has been abstracted to create a unique three-dimensional texture.

The focus on creating a garden for each apartment is a response to the disconnection between high rise apartments and the lush greenery at street level in Singapore. Responding to Lee Kuan Yew's original vision of Singapore as a 'City in a Garden', the design extends the landscape of Singapore upwards through the building with a series of hanging gardens, connecting the interior living space with the outdoors, providing views of Singapore's green landscape.