LOOKING AT THE BIG PICTURE

HOUSING IN SINGAPORE

Evolution and Chronology of Public Housing:

- **1960s**: The first housing blocks were simple long slabs with small flats.
- **1970s**: The Housing Board began experimenting with different housing shapes. The New Town model was implemented, with neighbourhoods ringed around a town centre, like Macpherson.
- **2000 onwards**: Greater emphasis was placed on better views, increased privacy and high tech or green features. The Pinnacle@Duxton has been acknowledged as the public housing project that has revolutionized the definition of "public housing". [4]

Did you know?

Before the 1960s, Singaporeans lived in squatter settlements and single storey sheds under terrible living conditions due to a widespread shortage of housing. In an effort to improve these living conditions, the Housing Development Board (HDB) was set up. As of 2017, 80% of Singapore's resident population is housed in HDB flats, with a satisfaction rate of 91%.[1]

Homeownership in Singapore

In 2015, homeownership in Singapore reached an astounding 92%, much higher than that of Hong Kong, a much larger country. This is testament to the housing policies and strategies HDB has developed over the years to ensure that quality living spaces are provided for Singapore's residents.[2]

Singapore's resident population is housed in three main types of dwellings- 80% in HDB flats, 14.4% live in condominiums and other apartments and 5.2% in landed properties.[3]

Moving Ahead

Emphasis is shifting from simply providing necessary housing and accommodation to a more macro approach, which involves developing housing in the context of its surrounding living environment. Landscaping and aesthetics serve to boost the identity of each precinct and foster a greater sense of belonging in residents.

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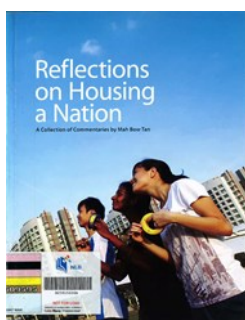- **"Public Housing in Singapore"**
- **"Build-To-Order"**

NewspaperSG articles

(eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers)

Yeo, S.J. (2014, December 15) HDB designs through the decades. The Straits Times, p. 7. Retrieved from NewspaperSG.

Yong , T. & Yu, S. M. (2010, February 27). Housing in S'pore still affordable. The Straits Times , p. 20. Retrieved from NewspaperSG.

Book

Provides insight into the difficulties faced by the government in the allocation and pricing of scarce housing.

Mah, B. T. (2011). Reflections on housing a nation: a collection of commentaries. Singapore: Ministry of National Development, p.11-33.
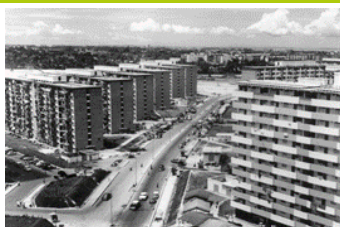*Call no: 363.585095957 MAH*

Infopedia articles

(eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia)

Chew, V. (2010). *Public housing in Singapore.* Infopedia. National Library Board.

Chew, V. (2009). *Housing and Development Board.* Infopedia. National Library Board

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1. Yeo, S.J. (2014, December 15) HDB designs through the decades. *The Straits Times,* p. 7.
2. Housing & Development Board (2017) *About Us*
3. Department of Statistics Singapore (2017). *Households*
4. Yong , T., & Yu, S. M. (2010, February 27). Housing in S'pore still affordable. *The Straits Times* , p. 20.

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