Contributions of Foreign Architectural Practices to Singapore

by

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ABSTRACT
The dissertation examines the commercial practice of engaging internationally
renowned architects of overseas companies in collaboration with local corporate firms.
This form of practice involves certain important issues regarding the foreign input of
technology, design and other forms of expertise in the local context of Singapore as a
developing nation. By the term “foreign input”, the dissertation intends, at the time of
implementation or introduction, newness and thus cultural difference to the society.
The dissertation discusses the reasons and the supporting conditions for the
commissioning of foreign architects and questions the intentions of the developers and
authorities, considering the fact that these attributing reasons may be more justified in
at a certain period of development in Singapore as a nation and less in other times.
Through the study of these reasons, their relations to the architecture and their
contributions to the architectural scene in Singapore, the dissertation hopes to
investigate the issues involving the developers’ choice in commissioning
internationally renowned architects for the design of commercial buildings
(skyscrapers) in Singapore. The methodology is the use of important quotes from
architects and related professionals coupled with that of case studies. It is of course
essential to also consider the role of local architects, as opposed to architects overseas,
the kind of positions they held in the past and now hold in the architectural scene in
Singapore from the seventies to the nineties.

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