REALISING AN URBAN PLANNING STRATEGY:
Towards a Tropical City of Excellence

by

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ABSTRACT

The inspiration for the topic of the dissertation stems from the general observation that due to the dynamic characteristics of physical and social systems, urban planning process, policies and programmes do not always achieve the desired intention. Singapore is a city-state where planning is highly centralised and where the state plays a dominant role in the shaping of the urban development. It has adopted a highly unique urban planning strategy and implementation process. The strategy involves a process of constant reviews and feedback and a continuous evolution of the planning paradigm. Such a strategy aims to effectively respond to a society that is always in transition and ensure that planning policies and programs do not become obsolete.

The dissertation aims to map out the processes and strategies of urban planning embarked by urban planners in Singapore and explore to what extent this has been successful in achieving the intended national vision and policy upon which these processes and strategies had been based on in the first place. The dissertation comes in two main parts, consisting of five chapters. The first part traces the planning concept embarked by Singapore, stating the key factors that led to the formulation of the planning paradigm given by the notion of "A Tropical City of Excellence". The second part examines the components of this planning paradigm and to what extent these components managed to address current issues in development whilst projecting future planning considerations. The dissertation concludes by examining the adequacy of the current planning model in moulding the intended "Tropical City of Excellence."