ABSTRACT

The centre is:

- a response to the kind of buildings that house industrial processes in Singapore. For general industries, they are mostly single or double storey sheds located in designated industrial estates. For lighter industries, regardless of the processes that take place inside, the buildings would unanimously take the form of a box enclosed on all four sides that seems oblivious to the surroundings. It allows little or no interaction between the people inside and outside. This is especially evident at the interface between an industrial area and a residential area; where the industrial building appears cold and stark.

- an investigation of how urban processes and industrial processes may be integrated through articulated architecture and appropriate urban strategies; without compromising the quality of space and facilities needed for industrial processes and at the same time maintaining the quality of the surrounding environment where human daily living occurs. The thesis is an attempt to find a middle ground suitable for co-existence.

- an experiment of a new-type architecture that opens up to the public and responds to the surrounding urban landscape. It allows the public to come into close contact with the industrial processes that are normally hidden away either in enclosed ‘boxes’ or in the industrial estates. In fact the centre entices the public to come and understand the industrial processes at a more personal level and thus disintegrating the boundary between ‘workplace’ and ‘home’. The synergy between the two opens up possibilities for a new form of urban environment.
The Site:

- is located at the interface between an industrial area and a residential area in Singapore. It is bounded on both sides by Leng Kee Road and Alexandra Road. An area is well known to motorists for its automobile industries. Most of these buildings are prestigious vehicle showrooms. They also have repair and maintenance workshops of which most are hidden away from view along the main roads.

The Architecture consists of:

- an exhibition component that showcases motorbike -- the product and motorbike-in-the-making. This includes exhibition galleries for scientific innovations, well-designed works and travelling exhibitions, a large atrium that doubles up as a temporary exhibition space for trade fair like events, a motorbike park as a ‘live’ catalogue where the most up-to-date motorbikes are found.

- an information exchange component that allows motorbike enthusiasts, businessmen and layman to gather and exchange ideas and ‘know-how’s. This includes a research library, a cyber gallery, a café, an auditorium to conduct public talks and seminars, and retail shops that includes a ‘live catalogue’ of motorbike parts and accessories where information exchange between retailers and customers may occur.

- a repair component where industrial processes take place. This includes the mechanic workshops, parts retail shops and the wash areas.