ABSTRACT

Although the idea of introducing waterfront housing was mooted in the 1991 Singapore Concept Plan, the concept of waterfront housing is not crystallised. The objective of this research study is to find out what is the best form waterfront housing should take so as to avoid duplication of housing type, optimise our precious waterfront resources and heeding the wants of Singaporeans.

The hypothesis formulated is that a low scale canal/lagoon housing concept, closest to depicting the water-based community living which Singaporeans want, is more superior to the coastal seaside flats, depicted by medium/highrise marina housing presently taking shape in the Kallang Basin. This hypothesis is derived from public feedback at the Draft Simpang Development Guide Plan requesting for revival of kampong-style water-houses designed for 'living on and by the water' as against the ubiquitous seaside highrise condominiums detached from the water.

The research methodology concentrates on a rigorous testing of this hypothesis. It identifies the most appropriate form of waterfront housing after an extensive research of the typology of waterfront housing worldwide and examines the benefits of developing this authentic water-based housing form, based on Port Grimaud, in Singapore's context and from the national standpoint. It carries out a local market survey to test out people's preference between the concepts.

The positive results yielded conclude that the hypothesis is acceptable. Having proven this, the study translates the survey results into a masterplan for the case study, an island off Simpang. It further proves that the chosen concept meets with local planning standards, with proposed modifications, is technically feasible and financially viable as a real estate undertaking.