ABSTRACT

High-Tech architecture, with its glorification of machine technology, may be seen to herald the return of architectural confidence in modernity despite the demise of the International Style. Indeed, it has now become an internationally accepted style favoured by capitalistic corporations who wished to be perceived as being advanced and forward-looking.

The intention of this paper is to gain an overall view of High-Tech architecture by examining its distinguishing characteristics, both physical and ideological, and the basis for its continued existence. Although High-Tech architecture is defined (or defended) on the grounds of science and necessity, there are many who claim that it is often used for its aesthetic value alone. Therefore, we also need to seek an understanding of its historical development and its application in our contemporary society. Recent buildings in Singapore, which have been identified by the author to exhibit High-Tech characteristics, will be used as Case Studies to illustrate its current applications. Pawley’s (1990) notion of technology transfer\(^1\) has important implications for the discussion of this development and provides a view for the future.

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