



## **PRESS RELEASE**

***For immediate release***

### **WINNER OF THE INDIAN HERITAGE CENTRE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION UNVEILED**

**SINGAPORE, 13 July 2011** – The Indian Heritage Centre (IHC) is pleased to announce that the submission from Robert Greg Shand Architects, in collaboration with URBNarc, has been selected as the winner of the Indian Heritage Centre (IHC) architectural design competition.

2 Launched in January 2011, the IHC architectural design competition attracted a total of 38 submissions out of which four were short-listed to proceed to Phase 2 of the competition. All four short-listed designs were showcased at a public exhibition held at the IHC site at Little India from 22 to 24 April 2011, and the URA Centre from 25 to 28 April 2011. In addition, the four designs were also featured on the IHC website during the public exhibition period.

3 From the four short-listed designs, the IHC architectural design competition judging panel selected Robert Greg Shand Architects and URBNarc's submission as the winning design because it best translates IHC's stated vision into an iconic, unique and sustainable building that blends both traditional Indian as well as modern architectural elements. Please refer to *Annex A* for pictures of the winning design.

4 According to the winning architect, the design for the IHC is inspired by the "Baoli" (or Indian stepped well) and seeks to create an urban forum for the celebration and nourishment of Indian culture. The multi-faceted nature of Indian culture is also captured in the use of a translucent shimmering façade to create an impression of the IHC as a "shining jewel" in the day, and the transformation of the IHC into a "glowing lantern" of the Indian community with the lighting of the colourful mural behind the façade at night.

5 Following the announcement of the winning design, Robert Greg Shand Architects, in collaboration with URBNarc, will be commissioned to develop the design for the IHC building with the IHC Steering Committee and National Heritage Board, and will receive an honorarium of S\$10,000 which will form part of the 5% professional fees for the overall building construction cost estimated at S\$12 million.

6 The three runners-up of the IHC architectural design competition are APds Architects LLP, Surbana International Consultants Pte Ltd and Point Architects (in collaboration with FARM) and they will each receive an honorarium of S\$10,000 to help defray part of the expenses for their participation in the competition.

7 Mr S Iswaran, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry, and IHC Steering Committee Chairman, commended all short-listed architects for their creativity and unique designs.

8 At the press conference to announce the winning IHC design, Minister Iswaran, on behalf of the IHC Steering Committee and all the Sub-Committees, also paid tribute to the late Dr Balaji Sadasivan's invaluable contributions to the IHC project as the former Chairman of the IHC Steering Committee.

9 In his tribute, Minister Iswaran said: "Dr Balaji was instrumental in setting the directions for the IHC Steering Committee and its Sub-Committees, and inspired all with his tireless work and creative ideas. He was passionate about the IHC project and devoted to its success."

10 The announcement of the winning design marks a significant milestone and brings the IHC project closer to fruition. The construction works for the IHC will commence in the first half of 2012 and the IHC project is targeted for completion by December 2013.

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#### **About the Indian Heritage Centre**

The Indian Heritage Centre (IHC), under the Heritage Institutions Division of the National Heritage Board, traces the history of the Indian and South Asian community in the Southeast Asian region. Located at the Little India Heritage District, the centre has been scheduled to open in 2013 and will feature small scale museum facilities as well as programming and educational spaces.

#### **About the Indian Heritage Centre Architectural Design Competition**

Organised by the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) in partnership with the National Heritage Board (NHB), the architectural competition was opened to both local and foreign design consultants including members of the Architects Regional Council of Asia.

The judging panel, chaired by Mr R Jayachandran, Chairman of the IHC Design and Construction Sub-Committee, and co-chaired by Mr Ashvinkumar s/o Kantilal, President of SIA, comprised members from NHB, IHC Steering Committee, Urban Redevelopment Authority, the Institution of Engineers, Singapore, as well as representatives from the Indian community.

#### **About the National Heritage Board**

The National Heritage Board (NHB) champions the development and promotion of a vibrant cultural and heritage sector in Singapore. It makes heritage enriching, relevant and accessible to all through staging innovative programmes and forging partnerships with both private and people sector counterparts. NHB leverages on state-of-the-art technology and refreshing new approaches to make heritage more dynamic, alive and exciting for different audiences. It also manages both national and public museums, the National Archives of Singapore, the Preservation of Monuments Board and the Heritage Conservation Centre. NHB was formed on 1

August 1993 as a statutory board under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA). Please visit [www.nhb.gov.sg](http://www.nhb.gov.sg) for more information.

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Winning design by Robert Greg Shand Architects in collaboration with URBNarc Pte Ltd



Night shot of winning design by Robert Greg Shand Architects in collaboration with URBNarc Pte Ltd