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ARCHITECT SPECIAL

# ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECES

Zaha Hadid | Daniel Libeskind | Moshe Safdie

EDITION 8

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ACGMEDIA

# MODISH MASTERWORKS

Singaporean architect Colin Seah boldly takes and forms the new black in the design world today and beyond.

TEXT CLARA LING IMAGES COURTESY OF MINISTRY OF DESIGN



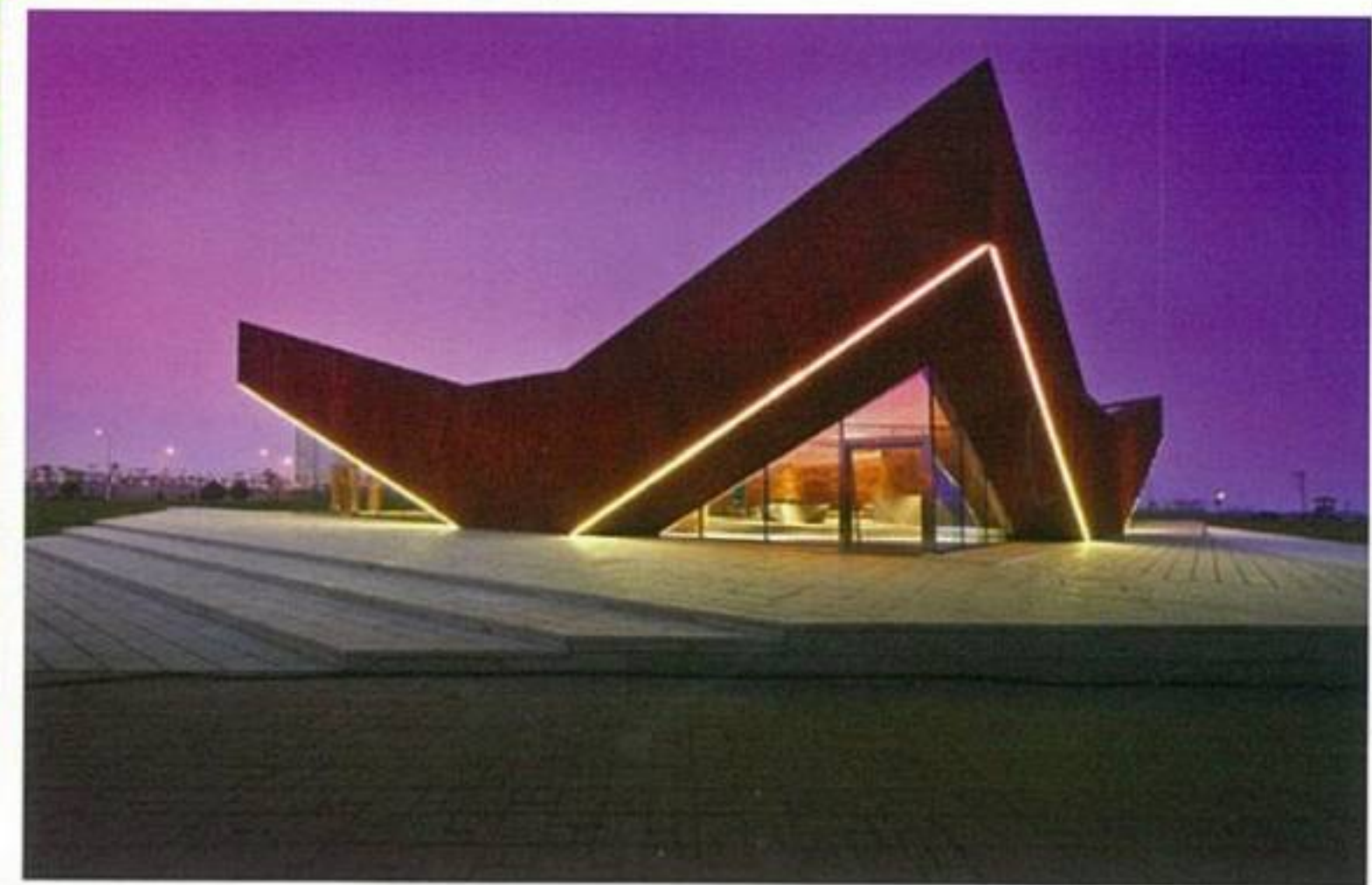
*"ASPIRE TO  
WORK WITH THE  
PERFECTIONS OF  
NATURE - THAT  
IS THE DIVINE  
PERFECTION OF  
DESIGN."*

Colin Seah, Founder and Design  
Director of Ministry of Design



They say architects wear black. Speaking of one, walking in entirely black with his sleek leather jacket matched with white-polka-prints to the ACA conference is award-winning and amiable Colin Seah. Architecturally trained in America and honed his sensibilities working for the likes of Rem Koolhaas and Daniel Libeskind, Colin helms his highly acclaimed design practice in Singapore.

Headquartered in Singapore with offices in Kuala Lumpur and Beijing, Ministry of Design (MOD) has bagged close to 70 awards since inception including Designer of the Year by the International Design Awards 2010, USA. As remarkable as it sounds, MOD has a varied portfolio consisting residential, commercial, retail, restaurant, hospitality and more.



Taking what's old - usually the circumstances of a building or site - MOD lease new life into the building with modern touches without compromising on the building's beautiful heritage. One perfect example is the notable Macalister Mansion, an award-winning hotel in Penang that was once a family home to a prominent Chinese family.

Known to explore the possibilities of the impossible, MOD demonstrated it through a Singaporean billionaire's zigzag residence. The building acquired its twisted form via a series of formal manoeuvres around a mature tree located on the long sliver of land that is marked for conservation by National Parks Board.

Judging from his amazing works, it does seem like Colin has a design identity that's easily recognisable. So when asked if he has a significant style, Colin simply replied, "However similar a style may comprehend in the design manner, at the end of the day whatever the idea is, it boils down to the essentials. So, I term this approach Essentialism." And rightly so, his firm's ethos to Question, Disturb and Redefine the spaces expresses his structures' outstanding forms. ❖

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