

A City  
in Blue  
and  
Green

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*To the old and new pioneers of Singapore.*

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## PREFACE

Peter Rowe and I have known each other for a long time. We collaborated through design studios between the Singapore Urban Redevelopment Authority and the Harvard Graduate School of Design as early as the 1990s. Limin, now director of research at my centre, was also his doctoral student at Harvard. Peter often fondly recalls his childhood in Hong Kong, and his frequent visits to Singapore. It is of no surprise that he continues to be a keen observer of developments in Asia, having many former students in the region, and especially in China, where he is also Visiting Professor at Tsinghua University.

When we invited Peter to our Centre as a Visiting Fellow back in 2015, he noted with admiration Singapore's transformation over the years, especially in how we have developed but retained a green mantle as a distinctive part and parcel of our cityscape. I also shared with him some of our programmes to beautify our waterways, notably, the Active, Beautiful and Clean Waters Programme. In our conversation, Peter saw an opportunity to capture the subject of Singapore's

integral use of blue and green infrastructure as part of our recent history of planning in a book. He expressed a keenness to write about our success in greening the city and water management as he felt there are applicable lessons there for other cities. Such a book would also help to present the model of Singapore's planning, which has great potentials beyond that of a city in a garden, to an international audience of practitioners and researchers.

Peter then very kindly took up the invitation to write this book in collaboration with our researchers at the Centre, and in the process, engaging with many of Singapore's urban pioneers, practitioners in both our public and private sectors, as well as visiting several projects to gain insights into how we have created a city in blue and green.

I would like to thank Peter for putting this book together, having devoted much of his precious time and energy on this collaboration. And to thank the many who have shared their experiences and thoughts with Peter.

Khoo Teng Chye  
Centre for Liveable Cities, 2019

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