

# Going Beyond Just Adding Solar Panels and Water-Efficient Tanks

A renowned Malaysian architect and ecologist Ken Yeang believes that building owners and property developers need to go beyond adding solar panels and water-efficient tanks to facades merely for accreditation. A green sign-off by governments does not necessarily make a building green. According to Dr Yeang, truly green buildings incorporate climate, environment and the people who use it. “Most architects today focus on the engineering side of greening buildings, but that’s only one aspect. There’s more to it than just putting in technology. I look at projects in a more ecological way by looking at the species of flora and fauna in the environment in relation to the climate. Humans are a species too, so it’s about designing buildings within a living system, rather than removing them completely.”

One of his latest projects in Singapore, Solaris at one-north, has been shortlisted in Britain for this year’s prestigious annual Royal Institute of British Architects’ Lubetkin Prize, an award presented to the best new international building outside the European Union. Dr Yeang emphasised, “Green architecture deserves its own aesthetic and look. You can’t just call a normal building green because you’ve stuffed it with green engineering systems or machines. There are many principles we try and design around, to bring pleasure to people who use these buildings, and design them in simple ways without spending a lot of money. It can be done. That’s the magic of architecture.”

*(Sourced from The Star, 17 September 2012)*