



Firms lauded for adopting new building methods

15 to receive BCA awards for using advanced technologies to build in more efficient ways

Ng Jun Sen

Think children's building blocks and picture a high-rise development constructed block by block.

Construction contractors Dragages Singapore and Teambuild are already doing that by adopting Prefabricated Pre-finished Volumetric Construction (PPVC) building techniques here.

PPVC allows construction firms to build in a "Lego-like" manner, involving the off-site prefabrication of building modules complete with finishes, fixtures and fittings.

The two firms are among 15 to receive Construction Productivity Awards, in the advocates category, from the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) on June 13 at Resorts World Sentosa.

Dragages Singapore and Teambuild will receive the highest platinum award given to builders, while City Developments Limited (CDL) will be the sole platinum award recipient for developers.

In a statement yesterday, BCA said the awards are to recognise the firms that are taking the lead in adopting new technologies, even as more construction firms are adopting advanced methods to build in a more efficient manner.

Said Mr Ang Lian Aik, BCA's group director of construction productivity and quality: "It is encouraging to see more firms changing the way we build, by shifting most construction work off-site for efficient assembly on site, and making use of info-communication technologies to improve work processes."

CDL, which won the platinum award for the second time, worked with Teambuild to employ 5,000 of the building modules to build The Brownstone.

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CDL worked with Teambuild to employ 5,000 building modules to build The Brownstone, an executive condominium in Sembawang. PHOTO: CITY DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED

tion of full concrete PPVC for a large-scale private residential development", said the statement. BCA hopes that by 2020, 40 per cent of building projects will use Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DFMA) building processes.

DFMA reduces the need for on-site construction work in favour of off-site prefabrication, using technologies such as PPVC.

CDL's executive vice-president of projects Anthony Chia told The Straits Times: "Over the years, we have pioneered DFMA techniques which enabled us to enhance productivity and worksite safety as fewer workers are required on site."

"In turn, this leads to fewer accidents and less down time. DFMA also helps to ensure quality and generates less construction waste for cleaner and safer worksites, as the building components are manufactured in a controlled factory environment before being assembled on site."

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It is likely to be "the world's largest and first-of-its-kind application of full concrete PPVC for a large-scale private residential development", said the statement. BCA hopes that by 2020, 40

per cent of building projects will use Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA) building processes.

DfMA reduces the need for on-site construction work in favour of off-site prefabrication, using technologies such as PPVC.

CDL's executive vice-president of projects Anthony Chia told The Straits Times: "Over the years, we have pioneered DfMA techniques which enabled us to enhance productivity and worksite safety as fewer workers are required on site.

"In turn, this leads to fewer accidents and less down time. DfMA also helps to ensure quality and generates less construction waste for cleaner and safer worksites, as the building components are manufactured in a controlled factory environment before being assembled on site."

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