

# Aim high the smarter way

Woh Hup's award-winning projects leverage technology to lower costs without compromising on quality

BY ESTHER TEO

**H**aving an exceptional creative design, a clever use of materials and a talented team with the ability to bring everything together are essential to develop a unique construction project.

Woh Hup's construction manager Thian Hung Ming, who believes in this combination of a successful formula, says: "There are many components to think of when making plans at the start of a construction project. The creative design can sometimes be tricky and we tackle it with the use of building in-

formation modelling, where we carefully plan the timeline and the materials to use.

"From step-by-step planning to execution, it is the combined efforts and talents of the team that make the project successful."

#### Pushing the envelope

Woh Hup was one of the pioneers to adopt the use of Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA) technologies in its projects since the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) encouraged the industry to embrace it in 2016.

This year, the four projects for which it has received the BCA Construction Excellence Awards and Construction Excellence (Merit) Awards have applied various components of



Mr Thian believes exceptional design, clever use of materials and a talented team are essential to develop a unique construction project.  
PHOTOS: TED CHEN, WO HUP CONSTRUCTION



DfMA. The use of DfMA technologies, coupled with the company's quality motto to "Get it right the first time", minimised the need for re-work and resulted in a substantial amount of manpower savings.

But the savings in manpower costs do not mean a compromise in quality standards. The company has received the BCA Quality Excellence Award — Quality Champion (Platinum) for the seventh year running. They have been using a Project Quality Management System to ensure that the finished products are of exceptional quality and high standards.

#### A brighter future

Now one of Singapore's largest privately owned construction and civil engineering specialists, Woh Hup continues to break new ground by delivering award-winning projects. It has undertaken many iconic ones, including Clifford Pier, MacDonald House, Reflections at Keppel Bay, Gardens by the Bay, The Interlace and the new Jewel Changi Airport.

Its upcoming projects include The Tapes-

try and Rivière, which will be ready in 2020 and 2022 respectively.

The Tapestry is Woh Hup's first Prefabricated Prefinished Volumetric Construction (PPVC) residential project, and also one of the first few private residential projects to adopt the use of PPVC in Singapore.

"We are also expanding our own precast business to meet the demand for PPVC and this will also help us to better control the construction and production timelines for our projects," says Mr Thian.

For Rivière, the conservation warehouse that formerly housed Singapore's best-known club Zouk, restoration is a significant part of the project as the right materials need to be chosen in order to preserve the original glory of the warehouses.

For both projects, success is greatly dependent on the respective teams in charge to lead the way.

Mr Thian explains: "People are our greatest asset. We invest continuously in employee training so that they hone the skills to deliver high quality work through sustainable and innovative building solutions."

Source: The Straits Times © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Permission required for reproduction.