



CITY IN A GARDEN

KIAT TAN

SINGAPORE - CITY IN A GARDEN. The phrase invokes images of lush tropical trees, plants and flowers growing amongst towers of glass, concrete and steel, but while it is easy to write this on paper, it takes a trip to this tiny tropical island to verify this claim.

To the delight of many visitors, this is exactly what they discover when they travel to Singapore. One of the most densely populated countries on earth, Singapore surprises with its lushly landscaped roads and highways, and a hierarchy of green spaces and gardens that fills every nook and cranny of this metropolitan city-state. It lays claim to being one of the rare global cities with a bona fide primary forest in its heart.

Investment in gardens has always been an integral part of Singapore's strategy in transforming the city-state into a progressive, new age garden nation. Behind this planning is an efficient and forward-looking government that recognizes the importance of greenery in evolving societies. This is particularly significant for a space-challenged nation only 3.5 times the size of Washington, D.C.

Singapore is home to the Singapore Botanic Gardens, which recently earned a 3 Star Michelin award in the tourism world. Situated within the

Botanic Gardens is the National Orchid Garden. Orchid breeding has been an ongoing activity in these gardens since 1912 when Eric Holttum, the regionally acknowledged Father of Malayan Orchidology, began the orchid breeding program, which continues to the present day. The National Orchid Garden showcases orchid hybrids bred by the Garden's staff and named in honor of visiting dignitaries. In a land of perpetual summer where green predominates, orchids provide much needed color accent in a breathtaking spectrum. These Botanic Gardens' hybrids are displayed along with a substantive species collection in a rainforest setting. A special cloud forest greenhouse provides a tropical high elevation habitat for the display of the montane orchid species of the Gardens.

With its long history of Orchid culture, it is fitting that Singapore should host the 20th World Orchid Conference in 2011. Singapore hosted the 4th WOC back in 1963, before attained nationhood. For several decades thereafter, Singapore was an important producer of orchids as a commercial crop. Indeed, Singapore was the source of Vanda Miss Joaquim, the country's first orchid hybrid, subsequently parlayed by Hawaii into an internationally recognizable product in leis and cocktail decorations. Now a thriving centre of

commerce and industry, Singapore continues to be an important regional centre for commercial orchids. It is therefore apt that Vanda Miss Joaquim was designated the national flower of its motherland.

Orchids in South East Asia

Singapore is fortuitous in its geographic location in the centre of a region of resplendent tropical rainforest biodiversity - an archipelago of over 3000 islands that is home to more than 10,000 endemic orchid species, many yet unnamed. Its neighbors include Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia, countries that are themselves renowned for orchid discoveries, seed banking, orchid culture and hybridization. Many are also important producers of orchids for the commercial cut-flower trade. Singapore is the natural gateway and a thriving hub to these countries of South East Asia, with all the facilities to make for world-class marketplace for their products.

The Marina Bay Area

The venues for the events of the 20th WOC in Singapore will be in brand new multi-million dollar projects that are currently under development. The conference and show will be in the Marina Bay Sands, a bold new development by the proprietors of Las Vegas Sands, which will house Singapore's first ever casino, as well as an opulent hotel, convention facilities, food and beverage establishments, upscale shops and entertainment complexes. Next door is the billion dollar Gardens by the Bay, currently being developed by Singapore as the latest addition to the growing inventory of parks and gardens of Singapore. Gardens by



Dendrobium World Peace



Dendrobium amabile



Cool-Dry Conservatory



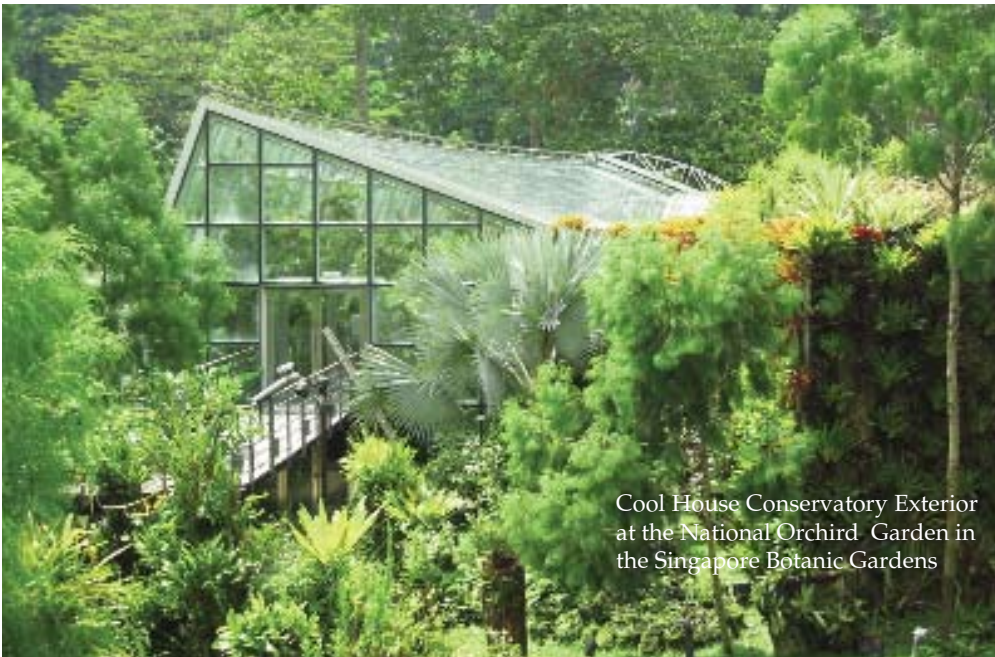
Super Trees at dusk.

the Bay will be featured prominently in the programming for the 20th WOC.

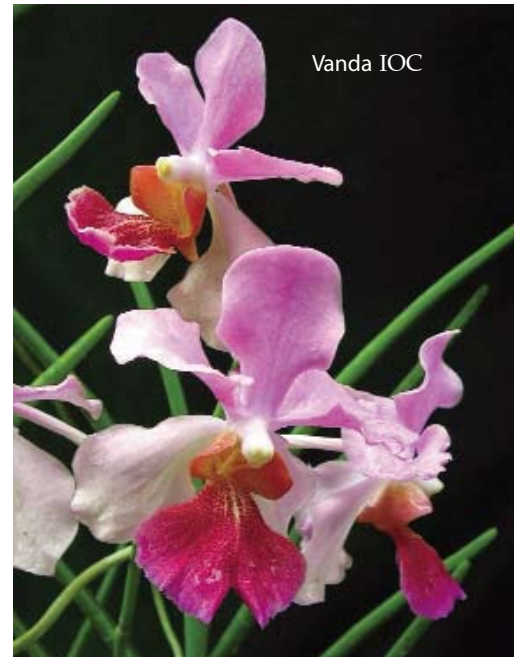
Bay South is one of three distinctive waterfront gardens that make up the 101-hectare Gardens by the Bay at Singapore's new downtown. The other two are Bay Central and Bay East Gardens. These three gardens aim to capture the essence of a lush tropical island paradise. Through plant-based edutainment, horticultural displays, garden craftsmanship and floral artistry, the Gardens by the Bay strive to enhance Singapore's image as a Tropical Waterfront Garden City.

Cooled Conservatory

One of the iconic attractions at Bay South Gardens is a cooled conservatory featuring a Mediterranean environment. In a land of perpetual summer, this architectural icon will provide the environment to display spring flora while showcasing sustainable energy-use technology. Located at the waterfront, it will provide an all-weather 'edutainment' space within the Garden. Enveloping a "Cool dry" biome (1.2 ha), this conservatory will be used as a venue for 20th WOC activities.



Cool House Conservatory Exterior at the National Orchid Garden in the Singapore Botanic Gardens



Vanda IOC

20th World Orchid Conference – 14 to 23 November 2011

The 20th WOC will continue the tradition of combining a show and a conference. The conference component will run over four days and feature both a strong scientific programme and a series of talks and seminars that will interest the hobby grower and horticulturist. The conference programme will as usual be highly international, but as Singapore is at the centre of one of the richest orchid regions on the planet, the programme will take care to highlight the SE and continental Asian contribution to orchid science and cultivation.

An important part of World Orchid Conferences is the World Orchid Show. Here, visitors will view a spectacular show of the finest hybrids and species from the region and beyond. There will be competitive entries of individual plants, landscapes and cut flowers. Judging orchids is always a challenge, albeit a very enjoyable one, and we expect the high standards set at recent WOCs to continue. We hope that orchid judges around the world will be able to join us in 2011 for this once in a lifetime judging experience.

In addition, the 20th World Orchid Conference will feature a marketplace of over 100 vendors, an education element and lots more. Here, more than any other international show, is a perfect occasion to feature new discoveries and trends in hybridisation and culture.

For those keen to venture out of the venue, there will be day tours to many popular tourist spots in Singapore. Including tours to sample the republic's multi-ethnic culture, as well as a visit to Singapore's highly regarded Botanic Gardens, with its rich 150 year history, a well-documented herbarium, attractive tropical grounds, the National Orchid Garden itself that boasts of more than 1,000 species and 2,000 hybrids, and a collection of plants that date back to the time of Raffles.

More intrepid visitors can avail themselves of 'orchid' tours that take one to neighboring countries, to view a plethora of species in their natural habitat, and visit nurseries and tropical gardens along the way. Included in the package are other famous sight-seeing locations set amidst pristine rainforests or beach paradises, and certainly stays in well-regarded resorts.

This very important event in the world orchid calendar promises not to disappoint. Coupled with the fact that Singapore is also known for a wide array of good food, fantastic shopping and fascinating tourist attractions, the 20th WOC in Singapore will be an occasion not to be missed. See you in Singapore in 2011!



Best Landscape Group, Papua New Guinea
(Singapore Orchid Show at the Singapore
Garden Festival 2008)



First prize in Mokara for the Commercial
Cut Flower category (Singapore Orchid Show
at the Singapore Garden Festival 2008)



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20th WOC Details

Dates: 14-23 November 2011

Venue: Singapore

For more information, email us at
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website at www.20woc.com.sg