

The island of Singapore has been a strategic S.E. Asian port for different empires over time



The modern city first started to grow in 1800s



UK trading port, large scale immigration
& a **plan** with ethnic enclaves

Chinese, Malay, Indian & European quarters are no longer residential but preserved



'Chinatown' was regenerated and is now a tourist area

MRT station →



'Shophouses' had become slums but now des-res

← *Mount Sophia*



‘Little India’ offers a taste of home for migrant workers who congregate on Sundays

← Working temple on Serangoon Rd.



...heritage architecture shelters pavements

“5-foot way” →



Similarly the Malay
area retains its
heritage
← *'Kampong Glam'*

esp. the working mosque
built by the Sultan of
Johore using the fortune
he acquired when ceding it
to the British
'Sultan Mosque' →



'Civic district' / European area reworked over time



National Museum of Singapore dating back to 1887 was originally a library. ↑ right side of the building is original and the extension on the left

Heritage buildings often harnessed for commercial development...



↑ *Cathay cinema & mall complex '75 years old' was reopened in 2006 keeping original façade intact*

.... and national government projects



↑ *Model of the Former supreme court & city hall, currently being renovated for use as a national art gallery & UFO shaped new Supreme Court* ↑

Large scale change eg 'Reclamation', Megastructures

Padang (field) by the old
supreme court in 1960s→

View from same field in 2010:
↓ Marina Bay development &
international financial hub↘



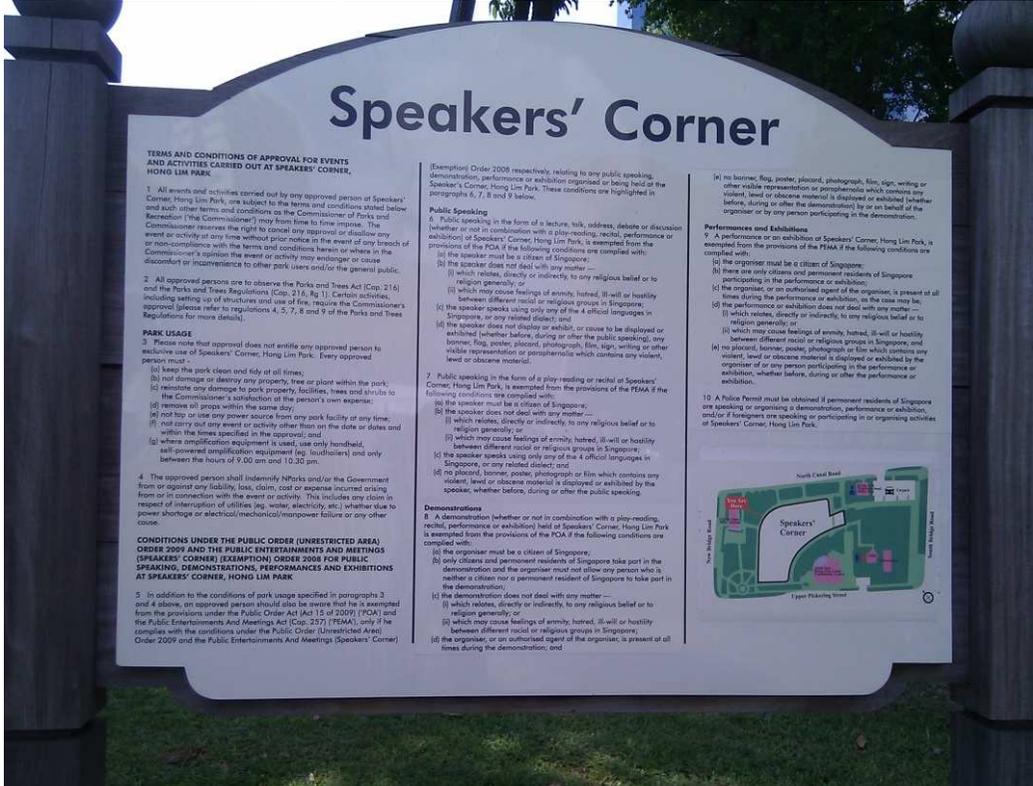
Whose national / city identity?



← Community engagement
(Preservation of Monuments Board)

Top-down nation-building ↓

↙ Restrictions on speech



Multiple meanings of cultural icons



- ←e.g. ‘Samsui’ women
- embody the Singaporean spirit of resilience and hard work
 - were escaping harsh conditions of pre-communist China in the 30’s
 - did low paid for hard labour (carrying mud) and rarely had family
 - had independent social & working lives in contrast to most migrant workers today

Government land title & sovereign wealth funds



Government-linked businesses held under 'Temasek Holdings' (e.g. Singapore Airlines, MediaCorp) dominate the economy

Wealth is ploughed
back into the county
in ambitious
infrastructure
projects
e.g. Marina Bay→



Most construction by foreign 'guest' workers



85% of Singaporeans live in “HDB blocks”, good quality apartment on 99 year leases from the Housing Development Board

“We will create a Global City, which we can call our home.”
Ministry for National Development 2007

HDB-related video

Winning Civic Life competition entitled “Where the Heart is”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxa1lyJJsY0&hd=1>

Singapore successfully markets itself as a major player on 'the international stage'

Hosting the first ever "Youth Olympics" ↓

F1 around the streets of the city ↓



Government decorates & 'house-keeps' the city



↑ Politeness campaign, Land Transport Agency

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5eY43Ewh9A>



↑ Sanctioned graffiti, Urban Redevelopment Authority

Local people also making Singapore their own

Architect exhibiting the temple he built locally in the

traditional style of his former home in Nepal ↓



Artist with her exhibition

Singapore River as a Psychogeographical Faultline in 'the Substation' gallery ↓





The Singaporean national image: A “Merlion”

- Body of a fish – importance of the sea
- Head of a lion – ambition & power

← *Merlion Statue made out of recycled tyres by ‘Mr Brainwash’ on Orchard Road*