



## Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities

*cordially invite you to a Public Lecture*

### A History of Innovation: Building Technology Innovation in Singapore's Housing and Development Board, 1960-1995

**Jane Margaret Jacobs**

Visiting Professor  
Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities

Professor of Urban Studies  
Division of Social Sciences, Yale-NUS College



<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 12 June 2018
<b>Time:</b>	12.00 pm to 1.30 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Lecture Theatre 3, Building 2, Level 4</b> Singapore University of Technology and Design 8 Somapah Road, Singapore 487372 (see overleaf for map)

#### Synopsis

Between 1960 and 1995, Singapore's Housing and Development Board (HDB) radically transformed the housing landscape of Singapore, and did so through an emphatic commitment to the high-rise typology. This lecture uses this period of accelerated, bureaucratically-managed, high-rise housing delivery to inquire into the cultures of technological experimentation and innovation that enabled this radical transformation. Using insights from Science and Technology Studies, the lecture argues that the work of the HDB was to assemble a large socio-technical system that was not only technologically reliable, but also socially acceptable. How the HDB achieved this is examined using one specific technology upon which high-rise livability depended: the lift. The analysis draws on archival and oral history work with engineers and social scientists from the first decades of Singapore's public housing development.

#### About the Speaker

Professor Jane M Jacobs is Head of Urban Studies at Yale-NUS College. She is currently a Visiting Professor with the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, where she is collaborating with Dr Belinda Yuen on a history of building technology innovation in Singapore's public housing system, a project supported by the Chen Tianqiao Research Programme on Urban Innovation. Prof Jacobs has a PhD in Geography from University College London, and has published widely on the history and cultures of urban development. Her books include *Edge of Empire: Postcolonialism and the City* (1996), *Cities of Difference* (1998) and *Buildings Must Die: A Perverse View of Architecture* (2014). She manages the pleasant confusion of sharing a name with the influential but now deceased urbanist, Jane Jacobs, and so has become an expert in professional disambiguation!



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For more information on the event, please visit <https://lkycic.sutd.edu.sg/>

For enquiries, please email us ✉ [lkycic@sutd.edu.sg](mailto:lkycic@sutd.edu.sg)



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**Singapore University of Technology and Design  
8 Somapah Road Singapore 487372**



**BY TRAIN**

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Alight at one of the bus stops along Upper Changi Road East and walk to our Campus:

**BY BUS**

- B96041: Upper Changi Road East, Before Tropicana Condo. Service No: 2, 5, 24
- B96049: Upper Changi Road East, Opposite Tropicana Condo. Service No: 2, 5, 24
- B96449: SUTD - Along Somapah Road. Service No: 20
- B96441: Opposite SUTD - Along Somapah Road. Service No: 20
  
- Take Exit 2B on ECP
- Take Exit 4A on PIE
- Take Exit 1 on TPE

**BY CAR**

Turn into Somapah Road via Upper Changi Road East. The entrance is on the left. Carpark charges apply.

[Click here](#) for the map.



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