



GLASS CLASS: Designed by architect Chan Soo Khian (left), the Toy Museum's curvy glass facade (far left) differentiates it from its neighbours. In the interior (above) of the building, located in Seah Street, layered glass panels add a sleek appearance while doubling as display spaces.

PHOTOS: SCDA ARCHITECTS

Welcome the new face of

Cosmopolitan and globally aware, Chan Soo Khian leads the way by winning the Asian equivalent of the Pritzker Prize

facesin design

Tay Suan Chiang

ARCHITECT Chan Soo Khian looks tired when he turns up at the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) in Neil Road for this interview.

The dark circles under his eyes are clearly visible, but also understandable. The 44-year-old has been shuttling between projects in Thailand, Malaysia, In-

dia and China.

His upcoming works here include a house in Sentosa that will be completed next year and the upmarket condominium Botanika near the Botanic Gardens to be completed in 2008.

On Thursday, the award-winning architect added another prize to his name — the inaugural SIA-Getz Architecture Prize for Emergent Architecture in Asia.

It is awarded by SIA and Getz Bros, a building material supply and service provider. It will be given biennially to an architect who contributes to new directions in Asian architecture.

It also aims to promote up-and-coming Asian architects and architecture in a way that the Pritzker Prize has done internationally.

There were four nominees from Singapore. The other eight came from Asian

countries such as China, Japan and Vietnam, and the judging was by a panel of six including SIA president Rita Soh and leading British architect Will Alsop.

He won US\$30,000 (S\$47,760) and a medallion.

The architect speaks in a serious tone, and at times, appears impatient when questions that have been asked in past interviews pop up again.

Looking through a stack of papers with images of his projects on them, he goes through each page deliberately and picks out the ones he feels should be printed for this article.

"The others have been published many times before," he says.

Born in Penang, he holds a Master of Architecture degree from Yale Universi-

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