

Biography

Toyo Ito *Architect, VivoCity*

Toyo Ito, one of the most innovative and influential architects around, is the man behind the design of VivoCity, one of Mapletree Investments Pte Ltd's largest projects in Singapore.

A native of Japan, Mr Ito graduated from the Department of Architecture in Tokyo University in 1965. Having designed some of the world's most dramatic buildings, he has won many awards including the Architectural Institute of Japan Prize for "Silver Hut" in 1986, 33rd Mainichi Arts Award for Yatsushiro Municipal Museum in 1992, IAA "Interach '97" GrandPrix of the Union of Architects in Bulgaria (in 1997), The Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2000, the Grand Prize of the Japanese Good Design Award in 2001 and the Royal Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2006.

Mr Ito started out in Kiyonori Kikutake Architect and Associates (Japan) and later established his own studio, "Urban Robot" or "Urbot" (Tokyo) in 1971. Its name was changed to Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects in 1979 and is now considered one of Japan's most revolutionary architectural establishments.

Ito is renowned for his stoic vision that combines present architecture with future technologies. His signature-style focuses on the utilisation of nature, climate and open spaces and this talent placed him in the international limelight with critically-acclaimed projects such as "Sendai Mediatheque", the multi-purpose public cultural center in Sendai, Japan in 2001, the "Tower of Winds" (Yokohama-shi), the Dome in Odate (Odate-shi), Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2002 (London), and TOD'S Omotesando (Tokyo).

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Toyo Ito served as a guest professor at Columbia University and is an honorary professor at the University of North London. VivoCity is this internationally renowned architect's inaugural project in Singapore.