

Synopsis: FUTURE PROOFING THE PROFESSION: The New Architect

It has been widely anticipated that by 2050, 65% of world's population will be above 65 years old and living in an urban environment. This 'Silver Urban Tsunami' will place unprecedented strain and challenges on the built-environment, especially on the way we consume the earth's natural resources. Tight spaces and dense environments make designing sustainable environments extremely difficult.

The relentless onslaught of the next wave of technology (on which future economies will ride on) will be driven by Environmental, Bio, Nano and Healthcare Technologies. These will leverage upon digitization and exponential rise in computational power and will create circumstances for new and probably disruptive products and services.

As such, Architect Theodore EC Chan makes the case that it is now time more than ever, for architects to re-define their role in society, reminding every architect of their ordained primary role of creating a built-environment to sustain life.

In this respect, they must arm themselves with not only the talent to design architecturally sublime forms, but more importantly to understand the technology and be equipped with skill sets required to deliver such architecture, with an enlightened consciousness to produce evidence-based solutions that use resources optimally and sustainably.

Only then will architects survive the future by re-claiming their long-lost relevance and stewardship by becoming 'healers of the built-environment'; future proofing their profession.

