

**CHO Im Sik, PhD****Associate Professor**

Department of Architecture  
College of Design and Engineering  
National University of Singapore  
SDE 1, #03-01, 4 Architecture Drive  
Singapore 117566  
Email: akicis@nus.edu.sg

**Research Areas**

Participatory planning and community building  
Design for urban social innovation  
Comparative studies of Asian urbanism

**Teaching Areas**

Urban Design Theory and Praxis (Core course, Graduate level)  
Community Design and Participatory Planning (Elective, Graduate level)  
Urbanism Research & Studio: M.Arch Thesis & Ph.D. Dissertation Supervision

**Academic Qualifications**

2010	Ph.D., Department of Architecture, The Graduate School of Seoul National University, Korea
2003	Master in Architecture, The Berlage Institute, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
1997	Bachelor of Science, Department of Architecture, Seoul National University

**Awards / Honours (selected)**

2015	High Impact Research in NUS, reported to NUS President
2015	Invited as Visiting Academic to ETH Zurich, Switzerland, for research collaboration (fully funded)
2014	'Asian Urban Epicenters' (concept initiator/editor-in-chief), a collaborative platform for sharing thoughts on Asian urbanism. <a href="http://www.asianurbanepicenters.com/">http://www.asianurbanepicenters.com/</a> Featured as one of "the best city blogs around the world" by the Guardian, UK <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/cities/interactive/2014/jan/27/best-city-blogs-interactive">http://www.theguardian.com/cities/interactive/2014/jan/27/best-city-blogs-interactive</a>
2014	HDB Quality Partners Award 2014 (based on the partnership between HDB and NUS for the research "Study on Impact of the Built Environment on Community Bonding", Principal Investigator)
2007	'Social Brain: The Collective Memory Project', winning project for the Seoul City Gallery 'free proposal competition' (exhibited at the Venice Biennale 2008)

### **Career History / Appointments** (selected)

2018-present	Associate Professor (tenured), Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore
2015	International Peer Reviewer for 'Global Research Laboratory Research Grant Proposals' (appointed by National Research Foundation, South Korea)
2014-2017	Technical reviewer for 'Land and Liveability National Innovation Challenge R&D Proposals' (appointed by National Research Foundation, Singapore)
2010-2017	Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore
2008	Member of External Specialist Task Force Team for establishing 'The National Architectural Policy', South Korea
2007	Task Force Team member for establishing 'The National Architecture and Urbanism Research Institute (AURI)', South Korea, commissioned by The Presidential Commission on Architectural Culture and Construction Technology, South Korea
2006-2009	Founder/ Principal of ACIA (Architectural Creativity Initiating Agency), Seoul, Korea
2006-2008	Invited Professor at Ulsan University, Department of Architecture, Korea
2006-2007	SA (Seoul association of Architects) workshop studio tutor
2006	Invited Tutor at Design Workshops, organised by the Korean Institute of Architects
2005-2006	Studio Tutor at the Korean National University of Arts, Department of Architecture
2005	Yo2 Architecture Urbanism, Seoul, Korea
2005-2008	Lecturer, Department of Architecture, Seoul National University, Korea
2004-2005	Assistant Professor, The Berlage Institute, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
2003	OMA (Office for Metropolitan Architecture), Rotterdam, The Netherlands
1997-1999	MooWon Architectural Office, Seoul, Korea

### **Administrative Leadership** (selected)

2022-2023	Director, Master of Urban Planning Programme, Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore (NUS)
2018-2020	Deputy Head, Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore (NUS)
2018	Chairperson, 'Great Asian Streets Symposium / Pacific Rim Community Design Network / Structures for Inclusion', National University of Singapore (NUS)
2017-2022	Associate of Asia Research Institute (ARI), Asian Urbanisms Cluster, NUS
2016-present	Advisory Committee, Pacific Rim Community Design Network ( <a href="https://prcdnet.org/">https://prcdnet.org/</a> )
2014-2020	Leader of 'Urbanism Research Cluster', Department of Architecture, NUS
2014-2018	Organising / Scientific Committee for 'Great Asian Streets Symposium (GASS)', NUS
2010-2014	Co-Chairperson for 'Vertical Cities Asia: International competition and symposium', NUS

## Research Projects (selected)

- 2021-2023 **Principal Investigator, A Participatory Translational Study to Foster Positive Community Behaviour.** Collaborators (Ministry of National Development/Municipal Services Office, Urban Redevelopment Authority, Housing and Development Board, National Parks, National Environment Agency).  
Funded by the Ministry of National Development, and Social Science and Humanities Research (SSHR) Co-Creation Grant (MOE), a new pilot developed by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Prime Minister's Office Strategy Group to promote innovative and multidisciplinary SSHR on issues of national significance and encourage closer partnership between government and academia to co-create research of high impact to Singaporeans and the society.  
In November 2022, the Dragon Heart Community Platform (major research output) launch event was featured in major media and NUS platforms as listed below. Senior Minister of State Sim Ann and MP/Adviser Saktiandi Supaat were the Guest of Honours for this launch event.  
Media coverage on the launch of the Dragon Heart Community Platform: The Straits Times, Sunday Times, Lianhe Zaobao, Shin Min Daily News, NUS News, NUS Facebook, NUS LinkedIn, NUS IG, NUS Twitter, CDE News, CDE LinkedIn, Yale-NUS College Facebook, Yale-NUS College LinkedIn
- 2017-2019 **Co-Principal Investigator, Urban Gardening in East and Southeast Asia: Transformations in Perspective and Practice,** funded by HSS SEED FUND, ODPRT, NUS
- 2017-2018 **Co-Principal Investigator, Towards a Post-developmental City in East Asia: Comparing Everyday Practices and Policies of Community Building in Seoul and Singapore,** funded by the Asia Center, Seoul National University, Korea
- 2015-2017 **Co-Principal Investigator, Typology Study for Public Housing Development in Dover,** funded by Urban Redevelopment Authority, Singapore
- 2014-2015 **Principal Investigator, Study on the Application of Design Recommendations to foster Community Bonding (Hello Neighbour! project),** funded by the Housing and Development Board, Singapore
- 2013-2014 **Principal Investigator, Art and Culture Focused Community Spaces and their role in promoting community building, social interaction, and encouraging arts participation,** funded by the National Arts Council, Singapore
- 2012-2014 **Principal Investigator, Study on Impact of the Built Environment on Community Bonding,** funded by the Housing and Development Board, Singapore (research outcome included in the Singapore Sustainability Blueprint 2015)
- 2011-2013 **Principal Investigator, Urban Space Planning for Sustainable High Density Environment,** funded by the Ministry of National Development (in collaboration with major government agencies: Urban Redevelopment Authority, Housing and Development Board, National Parks)
- 2011-2014 **Principal Investigator, Asian Urban Epicenters - a comparative case study of Singapore and Hong Kong,** funded by the Ministry of Education and Academic Research Fund, Singapore

## Publications (selected)

- Cho, I. S.,** Križnik, B., & Hou, J. (Eds.) (2022). Emerging Civic Urbanisms in Asia: Hong Kong, Seoul, Singapore, and Taipei beyond Developmental Urbanization, published by Amsterdam University Press. <https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789463728546/emerging-civic-urbanisms-in-asia>
- Gan, D. R. Y., Cheng, G. H.-L., Ng, T. P., Gwee, X., Soh, C. Y., Fung, J. C., & **Cho, I. S.** (2022). Neighborhood Makes or Breaks Active Ageing? Findings from Cross-Sectional Path Analysis. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(6), 3695.
- Gan, D. R. Y., Fung, J. C., & **Cho, I. S.** (2021). Neighborhood atmosphere modifies the eudaimonic impact of cohesion and friendship among older adults: A multilevel mixed-methods study. *Social Science & Medicine*, 270, 113682.
- Cho, I. S.,** & Ho, K. C. (2020). Participatory Design to Co-create Community Spaces. In: C. H. Leong & L. C. Malone-Lee (Eds.), *Building Resilient Neighbourhoods in Singapore: The Convergence of Policies, Research and Practice*, Singapore: Springer, 81-99.
- Cho, I. S.,** & Križnik, B. (2020). Sharing Seoul: Appropriating alleys as communal space through localized sharing practices. *Built Environment (Journal special issue)*, 46(1), 99-114.
- Gan, D. R. Y., Fung, J. C., & **Cho, I. S.** (2020). Neighbourhood experiences of people over age 50: Factor structure and validity of a scale. *The Gerontologist*, 60(8), e559-e571.
- Križnik, B., **Cho, I. S.,** & Kim, S. (2019). Urban change in East Asia: The comparison of civic participation in the residential neighbourhood improvement in South Korea and Singapore. In: *Processes and relations in East Asia*. University of Ljubljana Press.
- Križnik, B., **Cho, I. S.,** & Kim, S. (2019). Deciding Together: Citizen Participation in planning the Neighbourhood Improvement in Seoul and Singapore. *Asia Review*, 8(2), 65-102.
- Cho, I. S.,** Nasution, I., Lee, J. H., & Mascarenhas, N. (2017). Mechanisms to facilitate community participation in Singapore's neighborhood planning framework. *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*, 34(4), 320-335.
- Cho, I. S.** (2017). Changing approaches to community participation for social sustainability: Neighbourhood planning in Singapore and Seoul. In: F. Caprotti & L. Yu (Eds.), *Sustainable Cities in Asia*. London: Routledge, 226-235.
- Cho, I. S.,** Trivic, Z., & Nasution, I. (2017). New high-density intensified housing developments in Asia: Qualities, potential and challenges. *Journal of Urban Design*, 22(5), 613-636.
- Cho, I. S.,** & Križnik, B. (2017). *Community-based Urban Development: Evolving Urban Paradigms in Singapore and Seoul*. Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.
- Cho, I. S.,** Duong, Q., & Nasution, I. (2016). Role of research in community arts: Developing an evaluation framework in Singapore. *Community Development*, 47(5), 683-699.
- Cho, I. S.,** Heng, C. K., & Trivic, Z. (2016). *Re-framing Urban Space: Urban Design for Emerging Hybrid and High-Density Conditions*. New York, NY; Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.  
*"Provocative and richly illustrated, yet profoundly pragmatic, this foundational text should sit on every urban practitioner's desk."*, Jennifer Wolch, William W. Wurster Dean, College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley, USA
- Cho, I. S.** (2016). HDB-NUS Study on the Social Aspects of the Built Environment. *Innovation Magazine - The Magazine of Research & Technology*, 15(1), 47-54.
- Cho, I. S.,** Trivic, Z., & Nasution, I. (2015). Towards an Integrated Urban Space Framework for Emerging Urban Conditions in a High-density Context. *Journal of Urban Design*, 20(2), 147-168.

## Invited Presentations (selected)

- Jun 2024 Research project "A Participatory Translational Study to Foster Positive Community Behaviour (Principal Investigator)" to be exhibited at the World Cities Summit 2024, a biennial global platform that convenes governments, thought leaders, experts and businesses to address city challenges, share urban solutions, and forge new partnerships.
- Oct 2023 Invited as a panelist to present the findings of the research project "A Participatory Translational Study to Foster Positive Community Behaviour (Principal Investigator)" at a Public Dialogue on Fostering Community Action for Municipal Issues, organised by the Ministry of National Development / Municipal Services Office, which was widely covered by media. Other panelists include the Senior Minister of State for National Development and Foreign Affairs, and Adviser (Member of Parliament) to Bishan-Toa Payoh Grassroots Organisations.
- Aug 2023 Invited as Speaker to present my research projects as Principal Investigator, and as Moderator for the panel session with HDB CEO, at NUS Cities Symposium "The Science of Cities" as part of the inaugural NUS Sustainability CONNECT
- Nov 2019 Invited as Keynote Speaker (fully funded) for the 30th Anniversary Korean Housing Research Association, Seoul, South Korea
- Sep 2019 Invited as Keynote Speaker for the 1st Sustainable Tropical Urbanism Symposium: Tropical cities in a warming world, organised by James Cook University Singapore & Australia
- Jun 2019 Invited as Member of IPS (Institute of Policy Studies, NUS), Social Inclusion Policy Network (Inclusive Urban Planning Policy Committee)
- Jan 2019 Invited as Speaker for the SUTD (Singapore University of Technology and Design) Future Urban Habitation Symposium, Singapore
- Feb 2018 Invited Speaker, International conference: "The City in Space and Time", Asia Research Institute (ARI), NUS
- Oct 2017 Invited Speaker, ARI 15th Anniversary Inter-duster conference "An Asian Turn? Researching and Theorising from Asia", Asia Research Institute (ARI), NUS
- Sep 2017 Invited Speaker (fully funded, invited by Suwon city Mayor), Forum on Asian Human City, Suwon, South Korea
- Aug 2017 Invited Speaker (representing Department of Architecture, NUS / fully funded), Innovative ED Workshop and the CLMV Student Conference, "Creation of Innovative Educational System for Sustainable Society and Urban Growth", Meiji University ASEAN Center in Bangkok, Thailand
- Jul 2017 Invited as Keynote Speaker (fully funded), Inaugural Australia Affordable Housing: Tackling Australia's Housing Affordability Forum, Sydney
- Jun 2017 Invited as Respondent, Community Planning in China Paper Workshop, Yale NUS
- May 2017 Invited as Co-Chair, presenter and moderator NUS-PKU Symposium on Sharing Economy and City Future, hosted by NUS and Peking University
- Apr 2017 Invited Speaker, Workshop on Building Resilient Neighbourhoods: The Convergence of Policies, Research and Practice / IPS-CSAC, NUS

- Apr 2017 Invited Plenary Speaker, 8th Annual Affordable Housing Projects Conference, Singapore
- Mar 2017 Invited Speaker, Inaugural National Arts Council (NAC) Sharing and Networking Session on Arts & Culture Research in Singapore, NAC
- Mar 2017 Invited Speaker, Participatory Community Planning & Design Symposium - Asian Perspectives, Department of Architecture, NUS
- Mar 2017 Invited Speaker, International conference: Resilient Cities for Human Flourishing: Governing the Asia-Pacific Urban Transition in the Anthropocene / Asia Research Institute (ARI), NUS
- Dec 2016 Invited as Panel Member for the Roundtable with government agencies CLC, URA, HDB, PA, MCCY, and Seoul Institute on "Community Planning and Rejuvenation"
- Nov 2016 Invited Speaker for the Roundtable "The Future of the Public Realm from a Global Perspective" at the 56th annual conference of ACSP (The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning) in Portland, Oregon, USA
- Jul 2016 Invited Speaker for the International Conference 'Smart Communities and Built Environment', Singapore: "Creating Public Spaces to Promote Better Community Interaction and Engagement of All Stakeholders: A Case Study on Singapore's Public Housing Estates"
- Mar 2016 Invited as Panel Member for the Roundtable "Creating High Density Walkable Cities", organised by government agencies CLC, URA, LTA, Seoul Institute
- Oct 2015 Invited as Moderator / Discussant for the CLC (Centre for Liveable Cities) Public Lecture Series: "Seoul's Achievements and Challenges: Beyond Development-Dependent City"
- Oct 2015 Invited Speaker for the Roundtable "Rethinking Housing: The Challenge of Urbanism in Asian Megacities" at the 55th annual conference of ACSP (The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning) in Houston, Texas, USA
- Sep 2015 Invited Speaker at the HDB (Housing and Development Board)'s PEAK (Professional Engagement And Knowledge-sharing) Forum, Singapore: "Hello Neighbour!" - Participatory Design Approach to Co-create Community Spaces"
- Apr 2015 Invited Speaker at the 6th Annual Affordable Housing Projects conference, Singapore: "Establishing Community Spaces to Encourage Interaction and Cultivate Strong Community Bonds: A Case Study on Singapore's Public Housing Estates"
- Nov 2014 Invited Speaker at the 7th Annual City Development conference: Envisioning Cities of the Future, Singapore: "Impact of the Built Environment on Community Bonding: A Case Study on Singapore's Public Housing Estates"
- Nov 2014 Invited Speaker at the 3rd Cities Roundtable, hosted by CLC (Ministry of National Development) and HDB: "Building a vibrant community in a dense environment"
- Sep 2014 Invited Speaker at the CSAC (Centre for Sustainable Asian Cities) Research Symposium: Researching Sustainability in Dense Urban Environments. Presented four research projects as Principal Investigator
- May 2014 Invited Speaker at the HDB Community Building Seminar: "Impact of the Built Environment on Community Bonding"

## Research featured in Media (selected)

- 2023      **Media coverage of the research project "A Participatory Translational Study to Foster Positive Community Behaviour (Principal Investigator)" (selected):**
- <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/new-initiative-gets-toa-payoh-residents-involved-in-solving-issues-like-bulky-waste-dumping>
  - <https://news.nus.edu.sg/INTEGRATED-COMMUNITY-PLATFORM-TO-TACKLE-MUNICIPAL-ISSUES-PILOTED-IN-TOA-PAYOH-EAST/>
  - <https://cde.nus.edu.sg/news-detail/dragon-carts-lead-charge-to-empower-community-solutions/>
  - <https://www.mnd.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/view/fostering-community-action-for-municipal-issues>
  - CDE Dean's Message - 112023 RESEARCH IMPACT AND COLLABORATIONS - College of Design and Engineering (nus.edu.sg)
- Media coverage on the launch of the Dragon Heart Community Platform (Main output of the research project "A Participatory Translational Study to Foster Positive Community Behaviour")**
- The Straits Times, Sunday Times, Lianhe Zaobao, Shin Min Daily News, NUS News, NUS Facebook, NUS LinkedIn, NUS IG, NUS Twitter, CDE News, CDE LinkedIn, Yale-NUS College Facebook, Yale-NUS College LinkedIn
- 2017      • "Security in common spaces"- interviewed by Channel NewsAsia (June 2017)
- Hello Neighbour projects in Tampines - research project featured in TODAY
  - Interview with Straits Times (published on Saturday 22 April 2017)
  - Interview with Channel NewsAsia (featured on Channel NewsAsia TV & published on 9 April 2017)
- 2016      • "Hello Neighbour" community participatory project in Tampines - featured on Channel 8 News TV (May 2016)
- "Hello Neighbour" community participatory project - interviewed and featured on Channel NewsAsia TV ('Building Blocks': a 6-episode documentary about the design aspects of public housing in Singapore) (March 2016)
- 2014      • "HDB to test social linkway and neighbourhood incubator concept"- interviewed and featured in Channel NewsAsia (May 2014)
- 2013      • "New HDB-NUS study on design and 'kampong spirit'" - interviewed and featured in Channel NewsAsia (May 2013)