Johannes Widodo, PhD 陳國林

Associate Professor, Department of Architecture

College of Design and Engineering, National University of Singapore

4 Architecture Drive, Singapore 117566

+65 6516 8862 · jwidodo@nus.edu.sg

johanneswidodo.academia.edu

ORCID 0000-0003-2522-7351

Scopus 35794021500 · WoS A-9868-2008

Profile

Architectural historian and heritage strategist with more than 40 years in academia and 25 years at the National University of Singapore. He connects heritage conservation, urban sustainability and community empowerment with long-term public value, and advises governments, NGOs, corporations and local communities across Asia.

He has built institutions as well as scholarship: he founded the NUS MA in Architectural Conservation in 2021 and co-founded regional and national bodies including ICOMOS Indonesia (1998), mAAN (2000), iNTA (2004), ICOMOS Singapore (2013), Docomomo Macao (2013), Docomomo Singapore (2019) and SEACHA (2019). He has served on the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards jury since 2002 and on the National Heritage Board's Preservation of Sites and Monuments Advisory Board (2013–2019).

His board contribution lies in cultural due diligence, heritage-led ESG strategy, stakeholder engagement across sectors and cultures, and governance of research and education programmes.

- Founded and directs NUS MAArC (launched January 2021), building a conservation ecosystem for Singapore and Asia
- More than two decades of adjudication for UNESCO's regional conservation awards
- Director, Tun Tan Cheng Lock Centre for Asian Architectural and Urban Heritage, Melaka
- Founder or founding executive of nine regional and national heritage bodies across Southeast Asia and Macao
- Principal investigator on National Heritage Board grants totalling over S$230,000 (2019–2022)
- Long Service Award (25 years), National University of Singapore, 2026

Board, governance and advisory appointments

2025–2027	Doh Eain, Yangon · Member, Board of Advisors
2025–	UHC-HEI, International Network for Urban-rural Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions · Executive Board Member
2023–	Heritopolis, Small Islands Working Group (Small Island Developing and Developed States) · Steering Committee Member
2020–	*Architecture Asia*, official journal of ARCASIA · Advisory Board Member
2019–	SEACHA, South East Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance · Founder; Member, Board of Directors
2019–	Docomomo Singapore · Founding Board Member
2019–	AAHM, Asian Academy for Heritage Management · Executive Committee Member (member since 2003)
2018–	iDiscover Asia · Advisory Board Member
2013–	ICOMOS Singapore · Founder and Executive Member
2013–	Docomomo Macao · Founding Board Member
2004–	iNTA, International Network for Tropical Architecture · Founder, Chair and Executive Core Member

2002–	UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, Bangkok · Selection Panel (Jury) Member
2000–	mAAN, modern Asian Architecture Network · Founder; Executive Committee; Southeast Asia Coordinator
1998–	ICOMOS Indonesia · Founder and Executive Member
1989–	LSAI, Institute of the History of Architecture of Indonesia · Founder and Executive Member

Past

2015–2020	mASEANa Project, with Docomomo Japan and the Japan Foundation · Founder and Executive
2013–2019	National Heritage Board of Singapore, Preservation of Sites and Monuments · Advisory Board Member
2009–2013	GCOE Program, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan · Research Fellow and International Research Partner
2008–2024	International Seminar on Vernacular Architecture (ISVS) · Scientific Committee Member
2005–2008	Asia Research Institute, NUS, Asian Cities Cluster · Research Coordinator
1998–2000	Institute of Architects of Indonesia (IAI) · Office Bearer for Academic Affairs; representative to ARCASIA/ACAE

Current advisory engagements

2026	Heritage adviser to the consultancy team appointed by the National Heritage Board for the Little India and Chinatown Place Plans · Leading on community-based place keeping in Chinatown
2026	Reviewer, Indonesian World Heritage Preliminary Assessment drafts · Ministry of Culture, Republic of Indonesia
2026	Reviewer, Traditional and Cultural Practices of Heat Management open call · GHHIN-SEA network

Core competencies for board service

Heritage policy and spatial governance

NHB Preservation of Sites and Monuments Advisory Board; NHB Place Plans; World Heritage assessment reviews

Strategy and institution building

Founded NUS MAArC and nine heritage networks and committees across Asia

Sustainability and ESG

Climate, culture and sustainable architecture; heritage economics; cultural authenticity in development

Stakeholder and community engagement

Advisory roles with Doh Eain, iDiscover Asia and SEACHA; community-based place keeping

Independent judgement

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards jury since 2002; grant, journal and thesis examination

International reach

Trained in Indonesia, Belgium and Japan; publishes in English, Japanese, Chinese, Korean and German

Research governance

Principal investigator on NHB, MOE and NUS grants; partner on Australian Research Council and RIHN Japan projects

Education leadership

Head of Department, Parahyangan Catholic University (1996–1999); founding director of a graduate programme

Academic appointments

2021–	Founding Director, MA in Architectural Conservation (MAArC) · National University of Singapore

Current	Director, Tun Tan Cheng Lock Centre for Asian Architectural and Urban Heritage, Melaka · Department of Architecture, NUS
2001–	Associate Professor, Department of Architecture · College of Design and Engineering, NUS
1998–2000	Senior Lecturer · Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung
1996–1999	Head, Department of Architecture · Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung
1984–1998	Lecturer · Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung

Architectural history, theory and criticism · urban morphology and architectural typology · heritage conservation and management · climate, culture and sustainable architecture · education in architecture, urbanism and cultural heritage management

Education

1996	PhD in Architecture · The University of Tokyo, Japan
1988	Master of Architectural Engineering (M.Arch.Eng.) · Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
1984	Architectural Engineer (Ir.) · Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung, Indonesia

Honours and awards

2026	Long Service Award (25 years), National University of Singapore
2007	Outstanding Lecturer Award, voted by students (NUSSU), NUS Commencement
2006	Singapore Studies Module Incentive Award (Semester 2, AY2005/06), NUS
2003	Best article of the issue, *Docomomo Journal* 29, for "Modernism in Singapore"
1993	Excellent Prize, International Essay Competition "Tokyo as an International City", Tokyo Metropolitan Government and *Yomiuri Shimbun*
1991	First Prize, urban renewal design competition for Duri, Jakarta, Indonesian Institute of Architects and Ministry of Housing
1989	Best Lecturer Award, Parahyangan Catholic University
1981–1983	Student design competition wins in Bandung, including St. Laurentius Catholic Church

Research grants and projects

2019–2022	Singapore Architecture Literacy (SALty): Digital Platform for Heritage Architecture and Cultural Heritage · PI · National Heritage Board, Heritage Project Grant · S$113,600
2019–2021	Developing a Decision-Support Tool for the Conservation of Significant Post-Independence Buildings in Singapore · PI from July 2020 · National Heritage Board, Heritage Research Grant · S$117,000
2017–2019	Transient Religious Spaces: Expanding the Allowable Space for Religious Activities on Underutilised Public Spaces · PI · NUS Humanities and Social Sciences Seed Fund
2015–2020	mASEANa Project: Appreciating Modern ASEAN Architecture · Co-organiser · Docomomo Japan and the Japan Foundation
2015–2017	Singapore's Tangible and Intangible Architectural and Urban Heritages · PI, with co-PI Dr Wong Yunn Chii · Ministry of Education AcRF Tier 1
2012–2015	Cool Living Heritage in Southeast Asia: Sustainable Alternatives to Air-conditioned Cities · Collaborator (PIs Dr Tim Winter, Prof Donald McNeill) · Australian Research Council Discovery · A$195,000 total

2008–2013	Megacities and Global Environment · Core member (PI Prof Shin Muramatsu) · Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto
2005–2008	Morphology and Transformations of Southeast Asian Coastal Cities in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand · PI · NUS · S$74,535
2002–2004	Transformation and Modernisation of Chinese Diaspora Shophouse Architecture and Dwelling Culture in Indonesia · PI · NUS · S$18,800
2000–2002	Visual Database of Modern Dutch Tropical Architecture in Indonesia · PI · NUS · S$9,850
1999–2001	Overseas Chinese Settlements around the South China Sea · Collaborator, with Dr Hideo Izumida · Toyota Foundation · JPY 2,500,000
1993–1995	Social History of Colonial Cities, Monbusho "Global Area Study" · Researcher (coordinator Dr Tsuyoshi Kato) · Ministry of Education, Japan
1992–1995	Southeast Asia's Traditional Dwellings, Architecture and Urban Planning · Researcher (coordinator Dr Hideo Izumida) · Housing Research Foundation, Japan
1989–1991	The Role of Chinese Settlements in the Urban Development of the Northern Coast of Java · Researcher · Toyota Foundation

Selected publications

Books and edited volumes

1. Joshi, N. and Widodo, J. (eds.) (2018). *Managing Change: Urban Heritage and Community Development in Historic Asian Cities*. Singapore: National University of Singapore. ISBN 978-981-11-7688-3.
2. Wong, Y.C. and Widodo, J. (eds.) (2016). *Shophouse/Townhouse: Asian Perspectives*. Singapore: National University of Singapore. ISBN 978-981-09-1065-5.
3. Widodo, J. and Lai, C.K. (eds.) (2013). *Journal of Southeast Asian Architecture*, Vol. 12. Singapore: Centre for Advanced Studies in Architecture, NUS. ISSN 0218-9593.
4. Widodo, J. and Reyes, Y.D. (eds.) (2006). *ARCASIA Architectural Timeline Chart*. Manila: Architects Regional Council Asia and University of Santo Tomas Publishing House. ISBN 978-971-506-399-9.
5. Widodo, J. (2004). *The Boat and the City: Chinese Diaspora and the Architecture of Southeast Asian Coastal Cities*. Singapore: Marshall Cavendish International.

Book chapters

1. Widodo, J. (2026). Contributing author in Caballero, G.V. and Oglethorpe, M. (eds.), *The Industrial Heritage of South-East Asia: A Thematic Regional Study*. Jakarta: UNESCO.
2. Widodo, J. (2024). "Architecture in Indonesia: A Story of Grounded Modernity." In *Indonesia and the Amsterdam School: When Culture Crosses the Ocean*, pp. 50–62. Amsterdam: Museum Het Schip.
3. Widodo, J., Muramatsu, S. and Yamana, Y. (2024). "Epilogue." In *mASEANa: Appreciating Modern ASEAN Architecture*, pp. 344–345. Tokyo: Docomomo Japan.
4. Widodo, J. (2023). "The New Capital is for the Future, Not for the Present nor the Past: A Commentary on the Nusantara Project." In Warsilah, H., Mulyani, L. and Nasution, I.K. (eds.), *Assembling Nusantara: Mimicry, Friction and Resonance in the New Capital Development*, pp. 9–20. Singapore: Springer.
5. Widodo, J. (2023). "高密・高層居住によるシンガポールのリバブルシティ計画" (Singapore's Liveable City Plan with High-Density and High-Rise Housing). In *超高層住宅の未来絵図－アジア4都市からみた日本* (The Future of High-Rise Housing: Japan Seen from Four Asian Cities). Tokyo: Gihodo Publishing. ISBN 978-4-7655-2645-6. Japanese
6. Widodo, J. (2020). "Rejuvenating and Synergising Modern ASEAN Architectural Conservation." In *Progressive Once More: Rejuvenating Mid-Century Modern Architecture in Southeast Asia*, Report of mASEANa Project 2019, pp. 16–17.
7. Widodo, J. (2018). "Historical Morphology of Coastal Cities in Southeast Asia." In Padawangi, R. (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Urbanization in Southeast Asia*. London: Routledge. ISBN 978-1-138-68159-0.

8. Widodo, J. (2018). "Conserving Heritage and Changing Pedagogy." In Joshi, N. and Widodo, J. (eds.), *Managing Change*, pp. 52–55. Singapore: NUS.
9. Widodo, J. (2013). "Evolution and Change in Asian Architecture and Urbanism: The Impacts of Modern Interventions." In Unakul, M.H. (ed.), *Asia Conserved, Volume II: Lessons Learned from the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation (2005–2009)*, pp. 58–61. Bangkok: UNESCO and iGroup Press. ISBN 978-974-652-271-7.
10. Widodo, J. (2013). "Typological and Morphological Adaptations of Hakka Diaspora Settlements in Cosmopolitan Southeast Asia: The West Kalimantan Case." In *Life and Culture of Hakka Communities in Southeast Asia*, pp. 242–252. Taiwan: Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, National Chi Nan University.
11. Widodo, J. (2012). Entries "Lim Siew Wai, William", "Liu Thai Ker" and "Tay Kheng Soon". In Suryadinata, L. (ed.), *Southeast Asian Personalities of Chinese Descent: A Biographical Dictionary*, Vol. 1, pp. 665, 687, 1142. Singapore: ISEAS Publishing.
12. Widodo, J. (2011). "Keramats." In Tan, K.Y.L. (ed.), *Spaces of the Dead: A Case from the Living*, pp. 202–225. Singapore: Singapore Heritage Society and Ethos Books.
13. Widodo, J. (2010). "Gentrification, Conservation, and Regeneration: Lessons from Urban Conservation Cases in Asia." In Chun, T.S. (comp.), *The 20th Century Urban Cultural Heritage in Our Daily Life*, pp. 109–122, 265–281. Seoul: Korean National Commission for UNESCO. English and Korean
14. Widodo, J. (2009). "Morphogenesis and Hybridity of Southeast Asian Coastal Cities." In Ismail, R., Shaw, B. and Ooi, G.L. (eds.), *Southeast Asian Culture and Heritage in a Globalising World: Diverging Identities in a Dynamic Region*, ch. 5, pp. 79–92. Farnham: Ashgate.
15. Widodo, J. (2007). "Contributing to the Community's Cultural Continuum." In *Asia Conserved: Lessons Learned from the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation (2000–2004)*, pp. 46–50. Bangkok: UNESCO Bangkok.
16. Widodo, J. (2006). "Modern Indonesian Architecture: Transplantation, Adaptation, Accommodation and Hybridization." In Nas, P.J.M. (ed.), *The Past in the Present: Architecture in Indonesia*, pp. 17–23. Rotterdam: NAi Publishers.
17. Widodo, J. (2006). "The Chinese Diaspora's Urban Morphology and Architecture in Indonesia." In Nas, P.J.M. (ed.), *The Past in the Present: Architecture in Indonesia*, pp. 67–72. Rotterdam: NAi Publishers.
18. Widodo, J. (2005). "A Celebration of Diversity: Zheng He and the Origin of the Pre-Colonial Coastal Urban Pattern in Southeast Asia." In Suryadinata, L. (ed.), *Admiral Zheng He and Southeast Asia*, ch. 6, pp. 94–123. Singapore: ISEAS.
19. Widodo, J. (2002). "Southeast Asia: Architecture." In Levinson, D. and Christensen, K. (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Modern Asia*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Journal articles, essays and guest-edited issues

1. Widodo, J. (2024). Review of *Malayan Classicism: From the Architecture of Empire to Asian Vernacular*. *Fabrications*. DOI 10.1080/10331867.2024.2327201.
2. Widodo, J. (2023). "UNESCO World Heritage Branding: Learning from Some Cases in Asia." *Journal of City: Branding and Authenticity*.
3. Widodo, J. (2023). "The FuturArc Interview", interviewed by C. Lim and D. Mundakir. *FuturArc* 81 (2Q), pp. 36–49.
4. Widodo, J. (2022). "Culture and Climate Go Hand in Hand." *Bangkok Post*, Opinion, 24 November 2022.
5. Widodo, J. (2022). "Place Heritage: Our Shared Responsibility." *MUSE SG* 15(2), pp. 2–22. Singapore: National Heritage Board.
6. Widodo, J. (2022). "未来のための実現可能で持続可能な近代遺産保存：シンガポールのゴールデン・マイル・コンプレックスの事例" (Viable and Sustainable Conservation of Modern Heritage for the Future: The Golden Mile Complex Case in Singapore). Architectural Institute of Japan Annual Convention, Hokkaido, pp. 61–65. Japanese
7. Widodo, J. (2021). "Denkmalpflege als Transformationsbewältigung: Die Bewahrung des architektonischen Erbes der Moderne in Asien." *ARCH+* 243, pp. 12–15. German
8. Widodo, J. (2021). "シンガポールの歴史的建造物の保存活用" (Conservation and Utilisation of Historic Buildings in Singapore). *Kenchikushi* 70(1), pp. 26–29. Japanese
9. Widodo, J. (2021). "城市环境与人类行为：向历史和本土智慧学习" (Urban Environment and Human Behaviour: Learning from History and Local Wisdom). Beijing: Academy of Arts and Design, Tsinghua University. Chinese and English

10. Guedes, P. and Widodo, J. (guest eds.) (2020). “South of Cancer: Modern Architecture's Tropical Diasporas.” *Docomomo Journal* 63. ISSN 1380-3204.
11. Widodo, J. (2014). “Jakarta: A Resilient Cosmopolitan City” (雅加达：一个亚洲大都市的曲折发展之路). *Shanghai Urban Planning Review* 3. Chinese
12. Croft, C., Henket, H.-J. and Widodo, J., moderated by S. Macdonald (2013). “Modernity, Temporality, and Materiality: A Discussion about Conserving Modern Architecture.” *Conservation Perspectives, The GCI Newsletter* 28(1). Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute.
13. Widodo, J. (2011). “Sustainability Lesson from Southeast Asia: Singapore Experience.” *Journal of Architecture and Building Science*, pp. 34–35. Tokyo: Architectural Institute of Japan. Japanese
14. Widodo, J. (2010). “Current State of Modern Asian Architecture Discourse and Networking.” *Journal of Architectural Education* 63(2), pp. 79–81.
15. Widodo, J. (2003). “Modernism in Singapore.” *Docomomo Journal* 29, pp. 54–60. Selected as the best article of the issue.

Professional memberships and networks

ICOMOS: Voting Member, International Scientific Committee; International Training Committee (CIF); Shared Built Heritage Committee; founding executive of the Indonesia (1998) and Singapore (2013) national committees

Docomomo International: founding board member, Docomomo Macao (2013) and Docomomo Singapore (2019)

Singapore Institute of Architects: Associate Member, since 2020

Institute of Architects of Indonesia: Professional Member, since 1988

Singapore Heritage Society: Member, since 2001

Urban Housing Society Japan: Member, since 2024

Preserving Legacy – Climate Adapt! Network: Member

The Circle of Human Sustainability, Singapore: Member, since 2022

Asia Research Institute, NUS: Affiliate, Asian Urbanisms Cluster (since 2010); Southeast Asia–China Cluster (2008–2009)

KU Leuven Alumni Regional Council, Southeast Asia: Member, since 2020

NUANSA, NUS Indonesian theatre society: Staff Adviser, since 2023