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Preamble

This HDB Town Design Guide serves as a reference for consultants, town councils, and government agencies, to guide developments within our towns.

Each HDB town is distinctive, with unique history, natural features, built environment, characteristics and communities that provide a sense of identity and belonging for the residents.

Since the 2010s, HDB has planned and built new-generation public housing that is well-designed, community-centric, sustainable, and smart. To keep pace with new needs, HDB launched the Designing for Life roadmap in 2020, which is supported by 3 pillars – 'Live Well', 'Live Green', and 'Live Connected'. The roadmap will centre on the overall health and well-being of residents, to provide them with a better living environment at all stages of their lives. Careful planning backed by science and data will guide HDB's efforts in biophilic design and development of smart and sustainable solutions to help residents live more comfortably with greater convenience. HDB will also find more ways for people to foster social connections and a greater sense of place.

Today, many agencies and town councils make further enhancements and improvements to the towns. HDB wants to provide these partners with a good understanding of the vision and the development history for each town, so that they can further enhance the distinctiveness of the town, and maintain the town identity.

We have provided illustrations and ideas as a Guide to achieve this vision, and HDB welcomes creative ideas and solutions to strengthen the town identity.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following organisations and government agencies for their valuable suggestions and input:

Jurong Town Corporation
Land Transport Authority
Ministry of Health
National Environment Agency
National Heritage Board
National Parks Board
People's Association
Public Utilities Board
Sport Singapore
Urban Redevelopment Authority

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User Guide

The HDB Town Design Guide establishes the planning, urban and architectural design considerations for the town/ estate at 3 scales.

Town Scale Layers

1. Read to understand the overall theme, historical and physical context of the town

Town scale layers give the general context of the town so that the developments can be aligned with HDB's overall vision of the town.

Neighbourhood Scale Layers

2. Understand the sub-theme to apply relevant planning and design guidelines in your project

Neighbourhood scale layers set out distinctive sub-themes and concepts, to reinforce the town scale layers.

Precinct Scale Layers

3. Apply the design ideas and principles in your project

Precinct scale layers guide the detailed design of projects, allowing flexibility in the micro design elements for a unique precinct identity while aligning with the district themes.

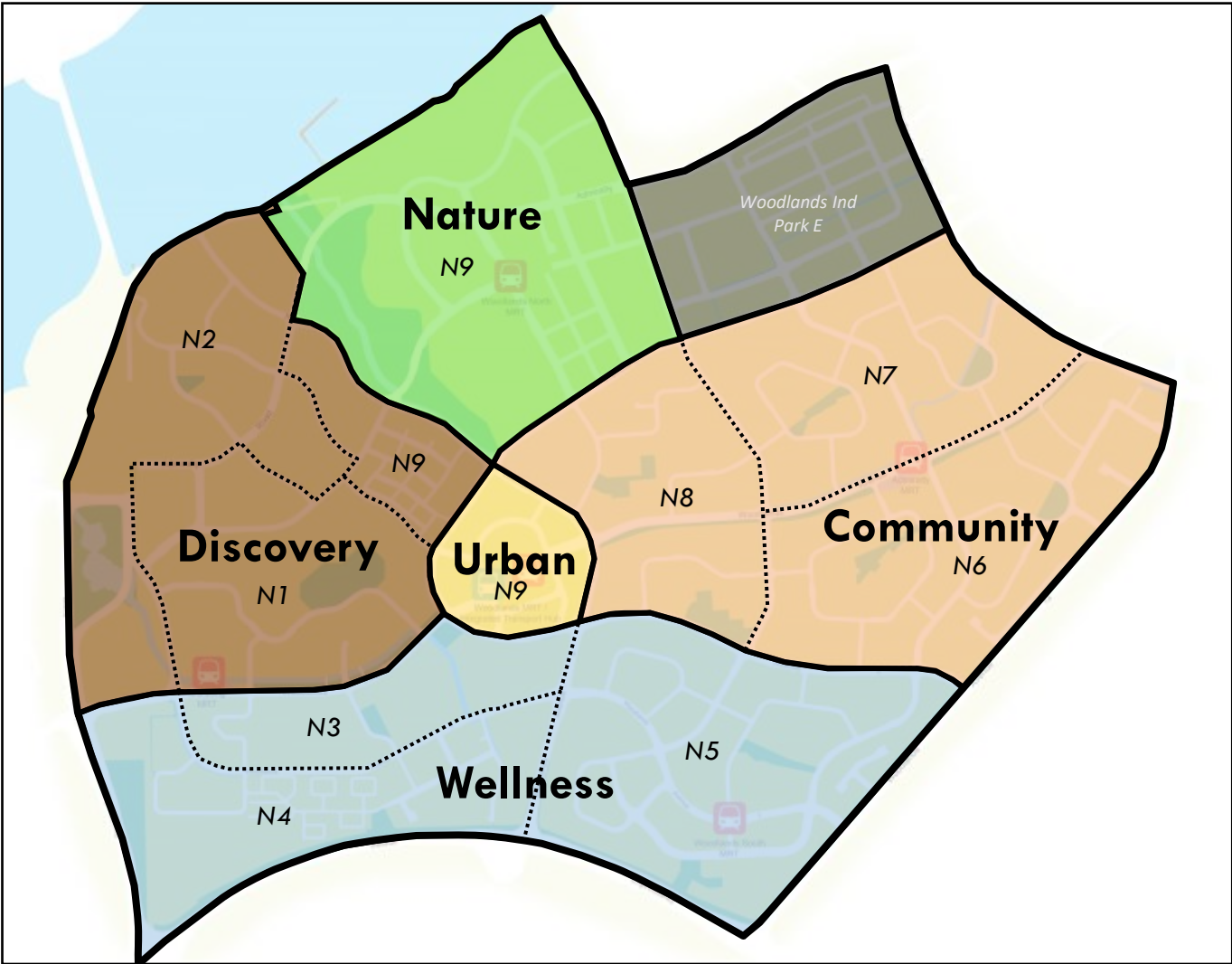
The Guide* should be used for:

New HDB Developments
At design reviews with HDB, design consultants would need to demonstrate how their proposals have addressed the design layers.

Upgrading and Improvement Projects by HDB or Town Councils
Similarly, design consultants would need to demonstrate how their proposals have responded to the design layers.

Developments by Government Agencies
Government agencies may also use the Guide as part of the design brief/ requirements for their design consultants.

*It is intended to accompany the detailed Urban Design Guidelines of specific developments, where applicable.



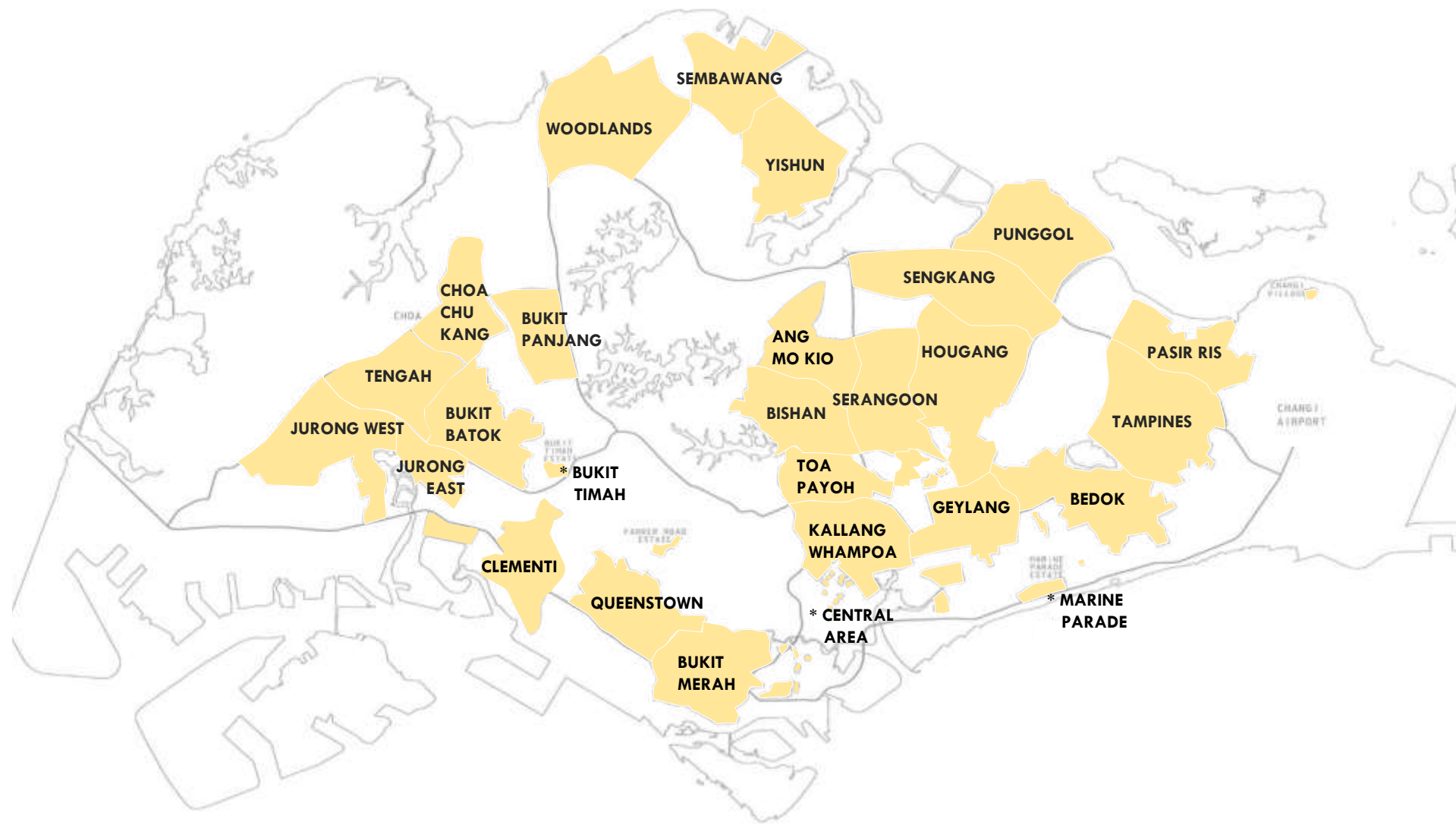
Sub-themes in Woodlands

Introduction

HDB Towns and Estates

HDB carries out comprehensive town planning and design for 24 towns and 3 estates*, and strives towards achieving a clear vision and unique identity for the communities.

*Bukit Timah, Central Area and Marine Parade



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- Parks and Waterbodies
- Key Corridors
- Key Nodes and Junctions
- Heritage Elements
- Art Elements
- Broad Landscape Theme

Neighbourhood Scale

- Sub-themes and Concepts
 - Form and Massing
 - Public Spaces
 - Streetscape and Urban Edge
 - Colour Palette
 - Facade and Roofscape
 - Landscape Approach

Precinct Scale

- Precinct Facilities
- Playgrounds
- Street Furniture
- Wayfinding
- Covered Linkway Design

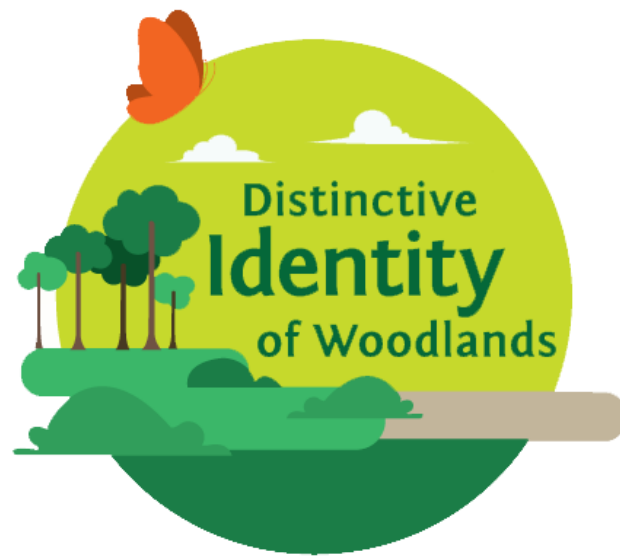
Context and History



Located in the North Region, Woodlands is designated as a Regional Centre to provide diverse retail and job options for residents. With its various transportation links with Malaysia, Woodlands has grown in importance as the northern gateway into Singapore.

Today, Woodlands is a bustling town and a growing Regional Centre served by 2 rail lines. With large tracts of vacant land available in the town, there is opportunity to introduce more unique facilities, leisure activities, employment opportunities, and housing developments.

Context and History



New Star Attractions

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Proposal 1 | Breathing New Life into the Regional Centre located in the Central and North |
| Proposal 2 | WoodsVista Gallery linking the Regional Centre towards the North |
| Proposal 3 | Discovery Playground in the West |
| Proposal 4 | Wellness Haven in the South |
| Proposal 5 | Community Nexus in the East |
| Proposal 6 | Social Corridor Linking East to West |

Improving Neighbourhoods to Star Quality

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Proposal 7 | Rejuvenating Key Facilities and Existing Housing |
| Proposal 8 | Enhancing Greenery |
| Proposal 9 | Making The Connections Around and Beyond Woodlands |

Remaking Our Heartland 3 Woodlands Town

The Remaking Our Heartland 3 (ROH 3) plans for Woodlands Town will focus on 2 key strategies of creating new attractions and improving existing neighbourhoods.

Envisioned as the Star Destination of the North, Woodlands will be transformed through 6 'New Star Attractions' that will be created as unique places of interest for the residents. Existing neighbourhoods will also be improved by enhancing key facilities, greenery, and connections to rejuvenate the overall living environment of Woodlands.

These rejuvenation plans were formulated based on the residents' feedback obtained from the Focus Group Discussions held in June and July 2015.

Broad Landscape Theme



NParks' landscape masterplan and concept for Woodlands comprises the 'Coastal Forest Zone' to the north, the 'Lowland Tropical Rainforest Zone' to the south, as well as 'Mangrove Forest Zones'. This complements the 'Wooded' town theme and identity.

This is applicable to nature ways in Woodlands. Future developments are encouraged to respond to the surrounding context, along these identified nature ways.

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Precinct Scale

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Neighbourhood Scale Layers

Each of the neighbourhood scale layers should take into consideration the respective sub-themes, in order to create a strong and coherent identity for each area.

Form and Massing

Form and massing can be designed based on the sub-themes and site context to create urban landscapes and landmarks.

Streetscape and Urban Edge

Paying careful attention to the design and treatment of the streetscape can enhance the experience of the users moving along a street or through a space.

Examples of streetscape treatment:

- Forms that front the street
- Street level activities
- Landscaping and shelters
- Pocket spaces along the street
- Pedestrian-friendly connections

Facade and Roofscape

The facade and roofscape of a development are distinct elements of its architectural design. When different developments in an area take reference from the sub-theme, it can contribute to the identity of the area.

Public Spaces

To encourage social interaction and community bonding, public spaces can be designed to be welcoming and vibrant. Such spaces include community plazas, and areas with facilities.

Landscape Approach

The use of plants, as defined by planting concepts and strategies, strengthens the identity of a precinct and neighbourhood. The shape, form and colour of plants can also assist in defining a space through repetition and scale.

As each thematic area is made up of varying extents of vacant land and existing developments, the Neighbourhood Scale Layers will be customised to suit the needs of each area.

Where there are sizeable areas with the opportunity for development, all the neighbourhood scale layers will apply.

Where areas are predominantly made up of existing developments, the emphasis can be in the design of public spaces.

Neighbourhood Scale Layers

Colour Palette

Colours can greatly enhance identity. Used consistently across precincts, colour palettes can help to reinforce the identity of an area. The suggested colour palette for each area in a town draws reference from its sub-theme. It consists of:

- **Primary Colours**
Unify the identity of the town, and form the main base of the colour scheme (55–70% of painted area)
- **Secondary Colours**
Complement the primary colours (20–30% of painted area)
- **Accent Colours**
Highlight certain architectural features on facades (such as fins, ledges, canopies, spandrels, selected parts of gable end walls, etc.) and precinct facilities (10–15% of painted area)

Application of Colour Palettes

For the colour scheme of each development, it is recommended to use:

- Building Facades: 2 primary colours, 1 or more secondary colour(s), and 1 or more accent colour(s)
- Precinct Facilities: 1 or more accent colour(s)

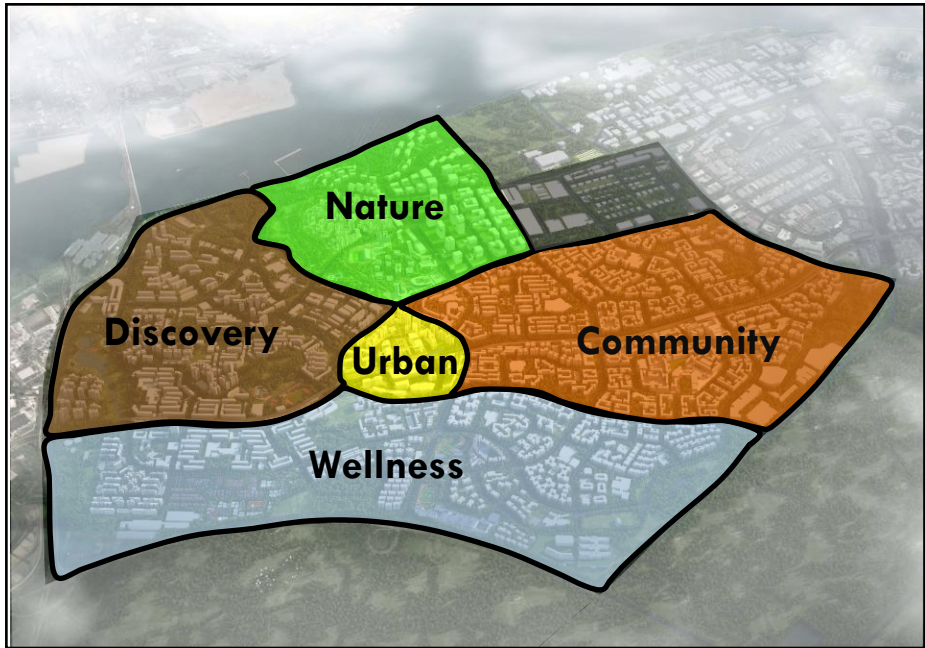


Examples of the application of colour palettes on facades

Neighbourhood Scale Layers

Summary of Colour Palettes for Woodlands

Based on the ‘Wooded’ town theme, the suggested colour palettes of the 5 distinct areas in Woodlands are inspired by the history and character of each area. Please refer to each area for the details of its suggested colour palette.



Woodlands Central
Urban

Primary Colours



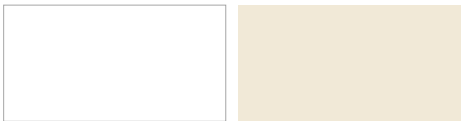
Secondary Colours



Accent Colours



Woodlands North Coast
Nature



Woodlands West
Discovery



Woodlands South
Wellness

