

MOST *Instagrammable* **HDB** **PROJECTS**

SOME OF THESE HDB BLOCKS ARE NOT ONLY PHOTO-WORTHY, BUT HAVE ALSO WON AWARDS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING DESIGNS.



Singapore made headlines earlier this year when it was ranked by travel publication



Big 7 Travel as the world's "most Instagrammable place" in 2022. From the iconic Marina Bay Sands



to Jewel Changi Airport, our city-state has no lack of eye-catching architectural marvels.



However, it is not just these grandiose buildings that deserve the spotlight.

A number of HDB developments, which come in myriad styles and designs, have also been making waves on social media platforms — thanks to avid photographers who have captured their full glory for all to see.

Read on for a list of photogenic HDB blocks that are worth hunting down so you can immortalise them in your photo album and your mind's eye!



A MODERN TAKE

Dawson Estate

The Dawson Estate in Queenstown was among the first few towns identified for comprehensive redevelopment under the Remaking Our Heartland programme in 2007. New-generation public housing projects were launched as part of the renewal, with SkyVille @ Dawson and SkyTerrace @ Dawson completed in 2015. SkyParc @ Dawson is the latest addition to this development and one of the 2021 HDB Design Award winners.

Built with a 'housing-in-a-park' concept, the Dawson precinct is flush with greenery that has been carefully integrated so that residents can experience living close to nature. The blocks adopt modern designs in both colour and architectural form, thus creating a striking visual contrast against the rich green of the surrounding vegetation.



EastLink I and II @ Canberra

This development is a photographer's playground, where creative camera angles and framing perspectives can be explored. Its design is inspired by the town's history as a naval base — the linkways curve gently like waveforms and the building facades feature undulating bands that bring to mind the constant movement of the sea. The verdant housing project is also dotted with nautical-themed playgrounds. EastLink I and II @ Canberra is a winner of the 2021 HDB Design Award (Mixed Development).



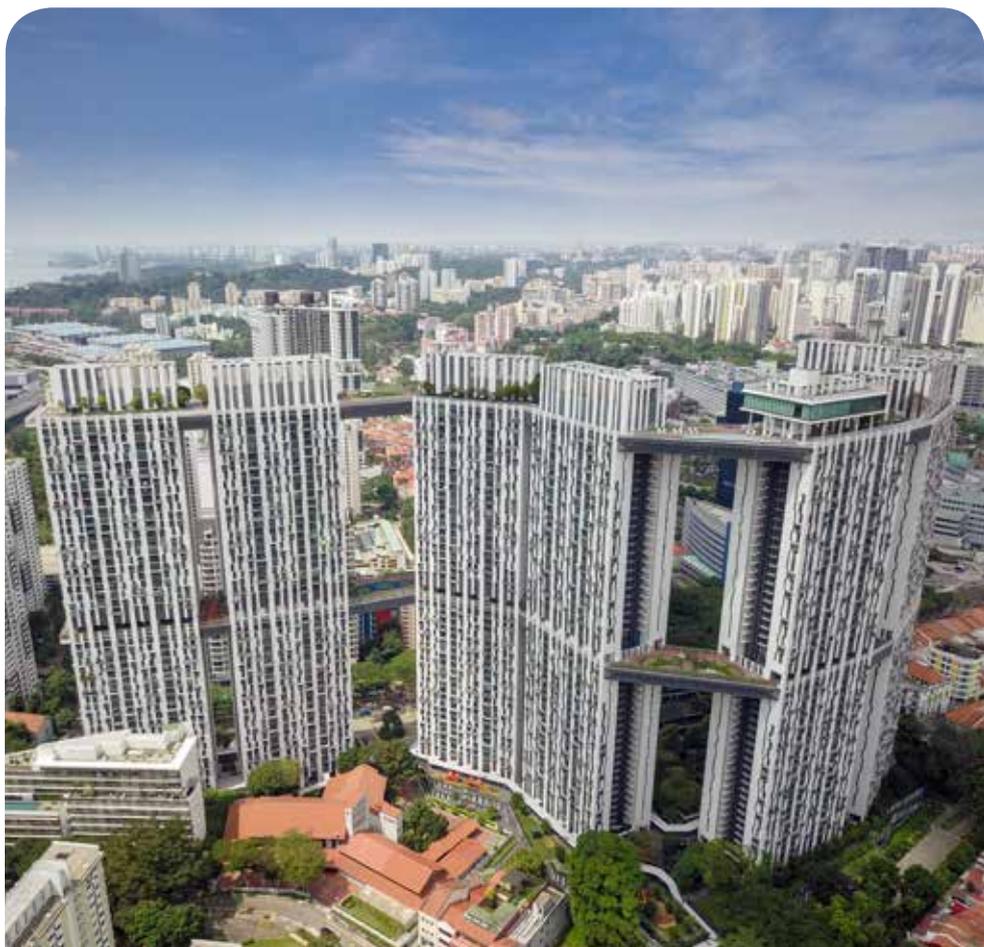
St. George's Towers

One of the winners of the 2020 HDB Design Award (Housing), St. George's Towers is a Build-To-Order (BTO) project that adds vibrancy and diversity to the mature estate of Kallang Whampoa. This contemporary-looking development is flanked by HDB blocks built from the 1970s to 1990s, which are simpler and more utilitarian in design, reflecting the evolution that accompanies the passage of time.



Waterway Terraces I and II

The design of Waterway Terraces pay homage to the terraced rice fields of Asia, with Waterway Terraces I being the first public housing project along Punggol Waterway. Completed in 2015, a core design element of the development was to connect the buildings and the man-made waterway. This was realised by the shape and orientation of the blocks, along with the cascading landscaped terraces of the roofing, which give the visual illusion of ‘flowing blocks’.



The Pinnacle@Duxton

Completed in 2009, this cluster of sophisticated-looking buildings is the tallest HDB development in Singapore. Comprising seven blocks linked by skybridges at the 26th and 50th storeys, The Pinnacle@Duxton is a landmark that is hard to miss in the Central Business District. The juxtaposition of its modern facade against the old shophouses in nearby Chinatown and Tanjong Pagar makes it exceptionally photo-worthy.



Block 9, Selegie Road

Every year around National Day, photographers flock to this geometry-inspired block for a shot of the building facade with Singapore flags hung over the parapet wall outside each unit. Beyond its noteworthy appearance, it is also among HDB's earliest forays into high-rise public housing, officially launched in 1963 by then-Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. The 20-storey block was one of the tallest buildings in Singapore when it was completed.



Block 418, Tampines Street 41

There was a time when television programmes did not run for 24 hours and streaming services did not yet exist. At the end of the day's programming, viewers would see a test screen on their TVs that resembles the image painted on several HDB blocks in Tampines. When the blocks were due to be repainted, residents voted to retain this nostalgic design, which has become an icon of this area.



Blocks 1 to 7, Teck Whye Avenue

Singapore may be a concrete jungle, but look closely and you will find art almost everywhere in the city. At Teck Whye Avenue in Choa Chu Kang, some HDB blocks can't help but draw attention with their colourful facades. Art aficionados will recognise the multi-hued grids that are inspired by Dutch artist Piet Mondrian's paintings in the 1920s and 1930s. In 2020, several HDB blocks at MacPherson Estate were also painted with a similar design.



Block 316, Hougang Avenue 7

Affectionately dubbed the ‘Rainbow Block’, Block 316 at Hougang Avenue 7 features — as you would expect, given the name — a huge rainbow across its facade. This gigantic mural dates all the way back to the 1980s, when the building was completed. Although the block and its surrounding amenities have been modified and rejuvenated over the years, the rainbow has remained, with only slight adjustments to its design.