

Augmented reality tour imagines parts of Singapore under water

Project offers peek at how climate change could affect the island in 100 years' time

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In 100 years' time, climate change and the resulting rise in sea levels could potentially put parts of Singapore's downtown area under water and push parts of the shoreline back to where they were before land reclamation was carried out.

A new walking tour invites members of the public to imagine what this future could look like, with the help of augmented reality (AR) technology and archival images from Singapore's past mixed with contemporary images.

The route traces a 7.5km-long path along Singapore's historical shoreline, from Tanjong Pagar to the banks of the Singapore River and Rochor Canal.

The experience, titled "Adapting Waterfronts: Postcards from the Future, Singapore 2122", was created by architecture professor Gabriel Tenaya Kaprielian of Tem-



ple University in the United States, in collaboration with the Nanyang Technological University's Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS).

Prof Kaprielian, who worked on the project under a Fulbright scholarship, also collaborated with other artists from Singapore, the

US, Japan, Vietnam, China and Taiwan.

The National History Museum of Singapore, the National Heritage

The augmented reality route traces a 7.5km-long path along Singapore's historical shoreline, from Tanjong Pagar to the banks of the Singapore River and Rochor Canal.
PHOTO: LIANHE ZAOBAO

Board and the National Archives of Singapore also provided support for the project.

During the tour, visitors can read fictional postcards written by scientists, architects and artists which imagine how Singapore will adapt to rising sea levels and what life will be like.

They can interact with 3D AR elements using a smartphone camera and the Adobe Aero app, which is available for iOS and Android devices.

Some Android phones may not support the app as it is still in beta phase.

One point of interest along the tour envisions futuristic versions of the wooden kampung houses

built on stilts that were common in the 1970s and earlier.

Another speculates that a network of canals could be built in the Telok Ayer area, and boats will once again be able to sail past landmarks like Thian Hock Keng Temple, which was built near the coast in the 1820s before reclamation works were carried out from the 1880s.

"This project, in many ways, is trying to reframe the challenges of climate change and sea level rise as opportunities for design innovation," Prof Kaprielian said at the launch of the tour yesterday.

He was addressing invited guests at a pop-up gallery at 70 Shenton Way, the starting point of the route.

"We wanted to create speculative fictions about what the future might bring, and allow you to explore the past, present and potential future by looking at different artistic visions of sea level rise, adaptation and planning strategies for the future."

Prof Kaprielian hosted the first of four walking tours covering a 3km stretch of the trail from 4pm to 6pm yesterday, with the next three tours scheduled for today, next Saturday and Sunday.

Details can be found on the EOS website and free tickets can be reserved on Eventbrite.

Members of the public can also experience the full 7.5km route as a self-guided tour starting from the pop-up gallery in Shenton Way by scanning QR codes available in a downloadable PDF file.

The tour is slated to end next Sunday, but the organisers said it may be extended if there is sufficient interest.

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