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Melanie Francis / Master of Architecture, 1980

Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts

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ACTS LIFESTYLE, SINGAPORE

Melanie Francis, MSIA, Director-in-charge
Tow Francis Pte Ltd

completed 2004

ACTS Lifestyle was conceived as a venue to reach out to the multi-cultural community in Singapore with the Gospel message. Located in the basement of a downtown shopping centre, the 10,000SF space comprises a book and music store, cafe, performance stage and seminar room. In plan, the various activities are organized along an 'L' shaped spine extending from the shopfront entrance to the stage and seminar room at the rear. A ribbon of vinyl flooring defines this path, winding its way through carpet tiled areas. With a budget of \$535+ per square foot, false ceilings were omitted except in the seminar room. The ductwork and concrete soffit were painted and high bay and track lights used for lighting. Shelving, information counter and other store fixtures are finished in laminate. At the entrance, water runs down a cross in the form of the letter "T" in the word "ACTS", symbolizing streams of living water.



Alumnae Biography

BIOGRAPHY

After spending the first decade of my career in Boston, I moved to Singapore in 1990 to work at Tsao & McKown on Suntec City. Currently, I teach architecture part-time at the National University of Singapore and run a small practice which celebrated its 20th anniversary last year. In design, we strive for clarity of intention

and craftsmanship in execution. We believe that architecture must be rooted in its time and place to have meaning. We acknowledge the relevance of technology to our work, but believe that spaces which evoke delight and wonder cannot be reduced entirely to formula; rather, they evolve from fleeting moments of inspiration patiently nurtured to fruition.

AWARDS

Merit Award, IDC/Nippon Paint "Colour My World" Design Excellence Award, 2004

PUBLICATIONS

Trends magazine, vol 30 no 1
Trends magazine, vol 18 no 7
Trends magazine, vol 17 no 11
Space magazine, 2000
The Business Times newspaper, 1997
Interiors Quarterly magazine, 1994