

# dwell

AT HOME IN THE MODERN WORLD

asia

**ROYAL  
FLUSH:**  
Bathrooms  
Fit for a King

## Go With the Flow

Six Homes That Use  
Water Wonderfully

The Freshest  
Design News from  
Beijing, Manila and  
Singapore

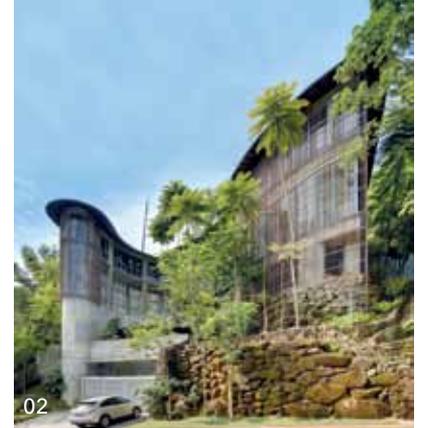
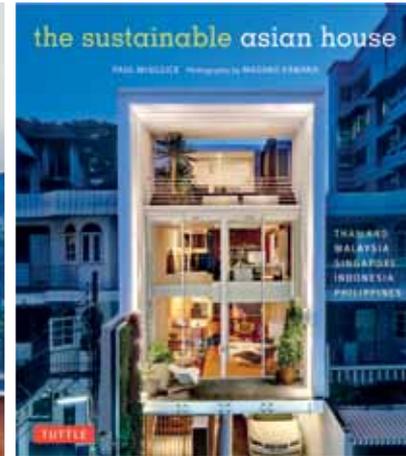
**CHARTING CHANDIGARH**  
India's Crumbling  
Modernist Masterpiece



WE RECOMMEND

# Renewed Vision

A new book explores old and new approaches to sustainable Asian architecture.



The Sustainable Asian House  
Written by Dr Paul McGillick  
Photos by Masano Kawana  
Tuttle Publishing  
[tuttlepublishing.com](http://tuttlepublishing.com)

It's somewhat ironic that the design of "sustainable" homes – as recorded in new book *The Sustainable Asian House* – is currently finding favor across Asia, when Asian architecture has historically been wedded to its environment and situation. Think of the Straits shophouse found up and down the Malay Peninsula, with its central courtyard, long extended form, and successful combination of residential and commercial usage; or the traditional Thai dwelling, with its raised floor that allows cooking and the storage of domesticated animals below, and high ceiling that encourages cooling airflow; or even the *honai* of Papua in far eastern Indonesia, with their conical roofs and windowless walls that help keep out the bitter cold on remote mountaintops. In many cases, it has been the introduction of a modern Western sense of development – that of cities filled with concrete, and windowless air-conditioned apartments – that has overridden centuries-old architectural rules. Now though, as this new book written by Dr Paul McGillick and photographed by Masano Kawana demonstrates, across Southeast Asia – the book focuses on the region's five "tiger" economies of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia

and the Philippines – a generation of architects are embracing the principles of the past. As McGillick states: "New architectural approaches involve the reinterpretation of vernacular practices and a growing interest in traditional materials and craftsmanship. The importance of well-being is reflected in the emphasis on fresh air, natural light and spatial variety to accommodate individual needs." In other words, we're starting to relearn important lessons from the past. –*Simon Ostheimer*



## 01 Bangkok House

by Scott Whittaker  
Thailand

Scott Whittaker, executive director and founder of global design group dwp, has transformed a worn Bangkok shophouse into a lesson in openness – and his home.

## 02 Ting House

by Wooi Architect  
Malaysia

With its distinctive wave shape, this dwelling by Malaysian architect Lok Wooi has an organic form that successfully creates balance with the sloping, tree-filled site.

## 03 Bougainvillea House

by C/S Design Architecture  
Philippines

This L-shaped, 820sqm home in Manila revolves around a garden and reflective pool, leading the interior and exterior to merge in a transitional state.

## 04 The Party House

by W Architects  
Singapore

With its industrial look, mood lighting, and self-described purpose, this building – by innovative Singapore firm W Architects – is nonetheless an ode to harmony.