



# Fairfield Methodist paints its vision of future housing

**Nasri Sadi** finds out what some elements that make up the pupils' dream homes are

When she was a child, Ms Regina Tay used to run around her old housing estate in Alexandra Road, during a time when the flats were only four stories tall, amid many fields and few roads.

On Feb 9, the art teacher shared with her pupils at Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) about her dreams of a car-free housing estate, and how it is now going to come true with the new Tengah housing estate in 2026.

She was leading Primary 6 pupils in a Community Art Project (CAP) by the Housing and Development Board (HDB). The artworks will be showcased in an exhibition in May this year.

The pupils were encouraged to create works of art inspired by their hopes and visions of the future of living in Singapore, and Ms Tay felt that her story would be perfect to inspire her students.

"I wanted to show them if you dream, even at your young age, it can come true in your lifetime, because it came true for me," said Ms Tay, now 49.

When Little Red Dot visited, half the class was painting art cards with Ms Tay, while the other half was creating digital art with another art teacher, Mr Wong Yek Yue, on the HDB Digital Art website portal.

The pupils wasted no time in bringing their dream homes to life, with many of them drawing housing estates surrounded by nature.

"I think a lot of children want pets, so it would be nice for children to explore and interact with animals in their natural habitat," said Claire Chan, 11, who painted a neighbourhood with fields for picnics and animals running around the trees.

Besides being environmentally friendly in their vision, the pupils also thought about the community.

For instance, Rianne Lee, 11, came up with public libraries and common study areas in her artwork.

"Here at Fairfield Methodist School



For Leanne Lam (left) and Isaac Lim, both 11, their ideal home has triangular buildings and rooftop gardens.  
ST PHOTO: NASRI SADI

(Primary), we really hope that our art classes can be a platform for students to develop empathy and build social awareness," said Ms Michelle Yap, the school's Head of Department (Aesthetics) who is currently teaching music and social studies.

"Art is a universal language that everyone can understand, and we hope that through our art programme our students can reach out to the wider community outside of our school."

As the session came to an end, the pupils were deep in discussion with one another about their art pieces.

Some were even planning to spread the joy with their friends and family by continuing to contribute more artworks from home through the HDB Digital Art portal.

"When I was younger I had dreams of becoming an architect," shared Enoch See, 11. "I really enjoyed creating my own neighbourhood today and I hope this will come true in the future."

*This story is brought to you by the Housing and Development Board.*

## VIEW THE PIECES

Submitted artworks will be showcased in the upcoming exhibition during the HDB

Community Week 2021 in May,

curated by architect-turned-installation artist Mr Sun Yu-li, with painting materials sponsored by Nippon Paint.

The information received from the HDB CAP project will inspire the planning and design of future HDB towns, neighbourhoods, and flats.

For more information or to submit artworks of your own, you can visit [www.hdbdigitalart.gov.sg](http://www.hdbdigitalart.gov.sg) or e-mail [info@hdbdigitalart.gov.sg](mailto:info@hdbdigitalart.gov.sg).

