

MEDIA FACTSHEET: THE CANYON

The Canyon, the newest attraction at Gardens by the Bay, features the largest collection of sculptural rocks in Singapore. Designed by Japanese landscape designer Jun-ichi Inada, the rock garden fires up the imagination with its collection of massive, naturally-sculpted rocks in intriguing and mysterious shapes. Complementing these rocks are a variety of interesting plants from hot and dry regions, as well as four sculptures.

The Designer

Jun-ichi Inada is an established Japanese landscape architect with over 30 years of experience in landscape design. The Osaka native has overseen a multitude of landscape design projects in the region, including several in Singapore such as the redevelopment of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, the development of the National Orchid Garden, and the conceptualisation of the Park Connector Network.

He has been conferred numerous awards including the Grand Prix Award by the Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture and the Highest Design Award by the Japanese Institute of Civil Engineering.

This year, he was named one of the recipients of the National Day Award, which recognises acts of merit and service to Singapore. He was given the Public Service Star for his contributions to the greening of Singapore.



The Rocks



Mother Nature's creativity can be seen in the massive rocks displayed at The Canyon, which bear unusual shapes naturally formed over time. There are 60 unique rock sculptures, which are more than a thousand years old and made of granite.

These rocks, of which the largest measures 9m across and the tallest is 7m in height, were sourced from Shandong, China by the Gardens by the Bay team over a period of three years.

The Plants

The Canyon showcases 5,900 plants consisting of 200 species, many of them palms, cycads, and succulents. These plants come from hot and dry regions, and were chosen for their unusual appearances or surprising qualities, to complement the spectacle of unique rock sculptures.



Beaked Yucca (*Yucca rostrata*)

The Beaked Yucca sports narrow, powder-blue leaves that will eventually form a skirt of dead leaves around the stem. In horticulture, the dead leaves are usually trimmed to create a more manicured effect. The tall inflorescence of the Beaked Yucca is made up of cream-white flowers with buds that resemble a beak, giving it its vernacular name.



Carnauba Wax Palm (*Copernicia prunifera*)

The Carnauba Wax Palm originates from the savannah, being able to withstand droughts and occasional flooding. The common name comes from heat-resistant wax that can be harvested from the leaves. Other than being cultivated for commercial wax production, the palm is used in landscaping for its glaucous leaves and persistent leaf bases.



Cockspur Coral Tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*)

The keel of the red flowers of this subtropical tree resembles the sharp spur on the cock's feet, hence its common name. The Cockspur Coral Tree has root nodules that houses nitrogen-fixing bacteria. The two organisms form a symbiotic relationship, where the bacteria produces nitrogen compounds in return for organic substances.



Doum Palm (*Hyphaene thebaica*)

The Doum Palm is easily recognisable by the natural dichotomous branching of its stem, which is uncommon in most palm species. The leaves of the palm are significant to the tribes along the Niger and Nile Rivers for the purpose of weaving material for baskets, mats, textiles, brooms and ropes.



Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhoea glauca*)

The Grass Tree is an iconic plant in Australia that has a significant role in Aboriginal history. It has grass-like leaves and a “trunk” like a tree, hence its common name. Its blackened stem is an indication of its ability to withstand intense bush fires – the grass tree will sprout new leaves from the leftover charred leaf bases.



Moore's Cycad (*Macrozamia moorei*)

Growing up to 7 metres in height, the Moore's Cycad is the tallest growing species in the *Macrozamia* genus. With a thick stout trunk and gracefully curved leaves on mature plants, this cycad can be mistaken for a date palm. The Moore's Cycad is a hardy species and is known to recover after being transplanted, bare rooted.



Pochote (*Ceiba schottii*)

Like all *Ceiba* species, the Pochote produces cotton fibres within its seed pod. However, the fibres are stiffer and coarser than those of Kapok (*C. pentandra*). The trunk is relatively shorter compared to other species and covered in stout spines, even on younger trees (pictured, left). The slender flowers are white and emit a vanilla-like fragrance.



Tataré (*Chloroleucon tortum*)

The Tataré, also known as the Brazilian Rain Tree, is an attractive ornamental tree noted for its peculiar twisted trunk and peeling bark that reveals contrasting colours. It produces fragrant white powderpuff flowers that eventually turn yellow (pictured below).



Yellow Rain Tree (*Albizia saman* 'Yellow')

The Yellow Rain Tree is no different from the normal species, except this yellow cultivar is a mutation caused by recessive genes. A Yellow Rain Tree is a difficult plant to obtain, as the possibility of growing it is one out of a thousand seeds sown.

The Sculptures



Dragonfly

The dragonfly is a symbol of Gardens by the Bay, because it is attracted to healthy ecosystems and represents the Gardens' environmental sustainability efforts. This dragonfly perched on a rock, which is crafted from salvaged metal, is a work of Italian sculptor Simone Belotti, and is donated by Ms Juanita Foo.



Marco Drago

This sculpture of a dragon is inspired by an original story by Mr John Koh, which tells the tale of how a dragon named Marco Drago journeyed to the East and found its way to Gardens by the Bay. A work of Italian sculptor Simone Belotti, "Marco Drago" is donated by Mr Koh.



Huabiao (Chinese Totem)

The *Huabiao*, or Chinese totem, is an ornamental stone column often seen in traditional Chinese architecture. It was first used by the early Chinese as a signage for roads. Traditionally crafted with marble or jade, it features an intricately carved dragon coiled around the column as a symbol of authority and prosperity.

In modern times, the *Huabiao* has been reinterpreted as a decorative feature. Here at The Canyon, there are two crafted out of granite. The taller one (pictured) is 10m in height and towers over the calm waters of Marina Bay.