

# Tell-tale sign on the roof

## Yeo Hiap Seng Factory

POST-modernist buildings can often tell you what goes on inside them.

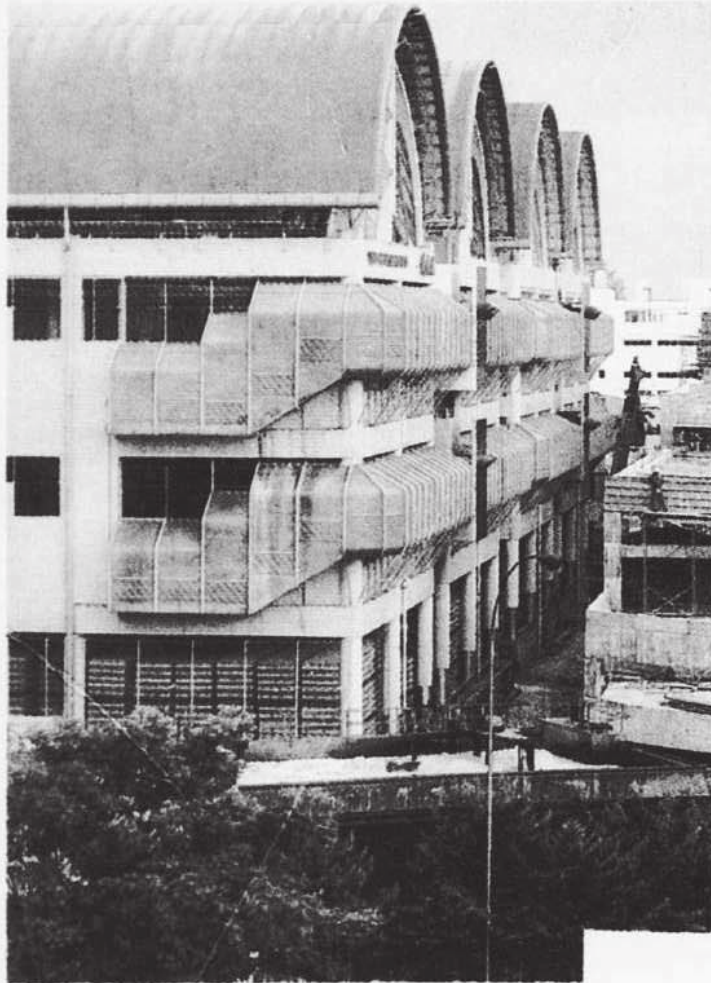
Yeo Hiap Seng's \$10 million four-storey factory has dome-like tops, suggesting barrels. This image is appropriate as the factory is a bottling facility.

Off Dunearn Road and on a 2,320 sq m site, the factory's bottling processes can be seen from the outside too, for there are fibreglass gangways running round each level. As well as being an architectural device to surprise the eye, the gangways also provide the building with shade.

At ground level, the visitor can see bottles being cleaned, filled, capped and placed into cases. Conveyor belts take them to a warehouse where the cases are put in pallets.

These are moved to the second floor for packing. The third and fourth levels are used primarily for storage.

A top executive at Yeo's said there was no dissatisfaction with the design: "We were more concerned with having our requirements for work spaces met.



This was done. The design we left to the architects, DP Architects."

The architects who worked on the factory were given a chance to use design concepts they were interested in.

Without extra cost, they came up with an unusual design which blended well with the environment, primarily an upmarket residential

area dotted with a few light industrial factories and offices.

The design didn't interfere with the function of the building either, and energy costs were cut because the height of each level offer enough coolness to dispense with air-conditioning.

The design and the needs of the building match each other perfectly.

corridor between the rooms.

The orange reversed-L board is intended to flash the condominium's name, The Orange Grove, to snare attention from two directions — Orange Grove and Stevens roads.

The various hues is an "experiment in colours" which has enraptured many who have seen it.

"It sure brightens up the street," said a banker who drives by twice a day while a gushing expatriate executive declared she would not mind living there — "it's so pretty."

In fact, a few have mistaken the five-metre tall, plywood attraction at night as a house. It costs about \$40,000 to erect.

Indeed, the spartan interior is as big as an average five-room Housing Board flat.

There are essentially a semi-circle proposed sales office and four rooms, including a rectangular meeting place for up to 30 people.

The corridor roofed with plastic and the grid-window face of the planned site office are to save energy by using sunlight, said Mr Arkaneh Urairat, also of Enviro-tech.

"It's the first time we are experimenting on such a scale and as a study of forms. It has been a success," said Mr Chew.

But many of the workers there were unimpressed. They see it as "just another office."



Left: The factory's bottling facility is reflected in its dome-like tops. Above: It blends well with the environment which is primarily an upmarket residential area