



Singapore Healthcare Management 2024

# Project Bench Restoration

Lee Chiew Ping, Tan Bao Kuang  
SingHealth Environmental Services, SingHealth HQ

## Introduction

SingHealth Tower houses Outram Community Hospital (OCH). Design concept of building was aimed at rehabilitation and providing a conducive environment towards patients' recovery journey.

Level 1 main thoroughfare is equipped with wooden benches to give natural, undisturbed feel. Building facing is also able to capture wind tunnel; encouraging constant natural wind passing through.



Natural, undisturbed feel, raw look

## Aim

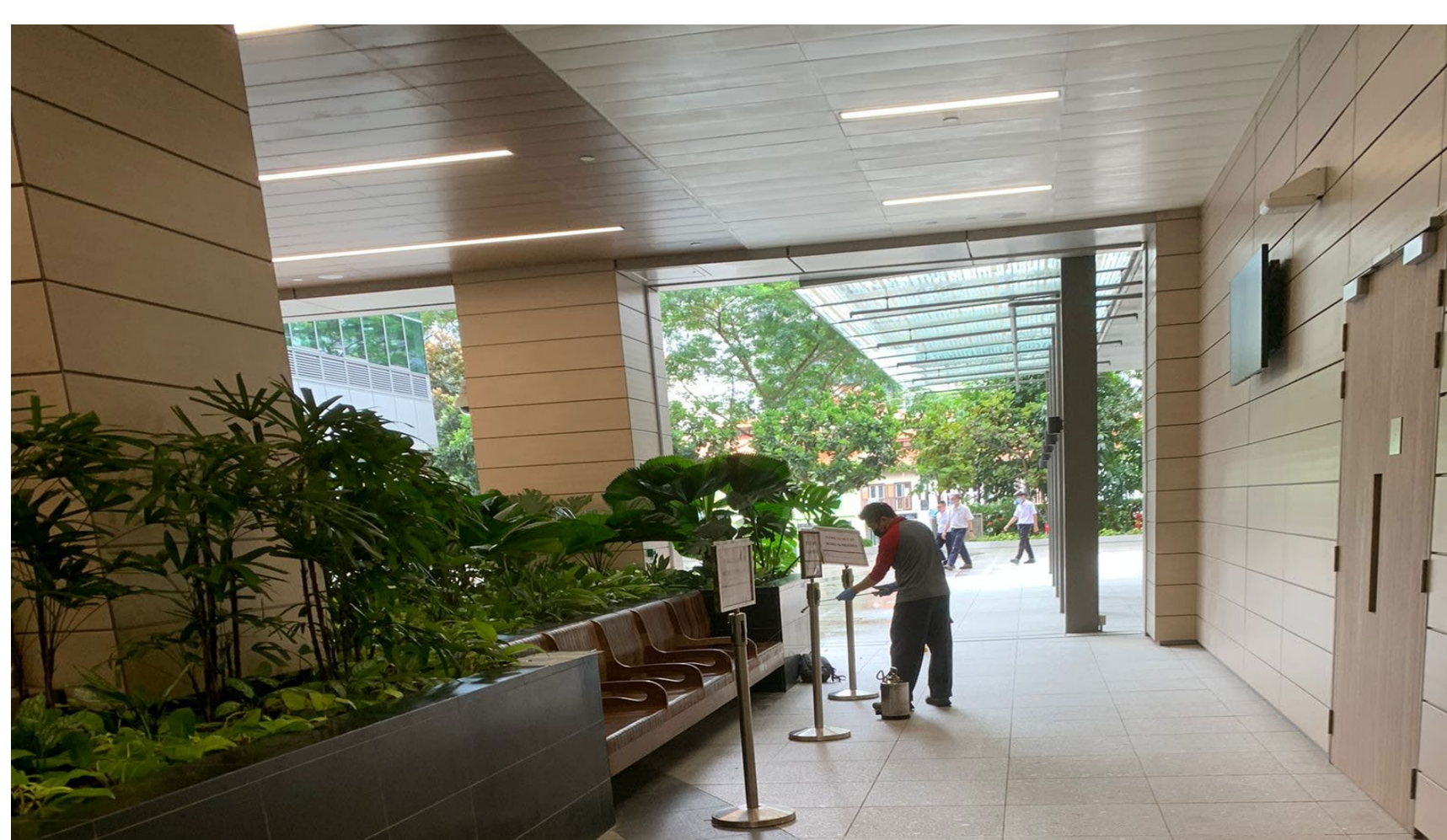
There has been reported cases of members of public being bitten (by bed bugs) while sitting on wooden benches since 2020. Pest control was immediately activated to perform routine treatment on benches. This project addresses design issues and choice of materials used for healthcare settings. It is vital to provide safe benches for patients and public use when they are at SingHealth Tower.

## Methodology

Pest control performed treatment on benches but claimed that there are too many gaps and crevices under and behind the benches for bugs to hide. Even when they spray chemical, bugs may not be in direct contact if they are in hiding spaces. Bed bugs could also be brought in by public through their clothes or belongings. Hence making eradication effort futile. During each treatment, chemicals were sprayed to thoroughly soak benches, leaving it on for 2hrs before housekeeper wipe bench surface and release bench for public use.



Pest harborage in gaps and crevices



During pest Treatment



Post pest Treatment (leave for 2hrs)



Benches wiped for public use

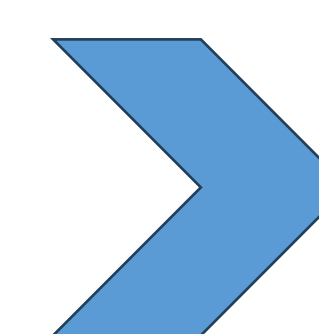
## Result

Worked together with Facilities Development and FME team to explore suitable materials – free of gaps, safe with hospital grade cleaning chemicals and sturdy for elderly patients use.

The new design is to integrate with existing space and structural support with minimum disruption to existing infrastructure.

## Conclusion

### Design



1. Easy to maintain.
2. Should not allow pest harborage.
3. Safe for everyone use.

### Cleaning



1. Easy to wipe down.
2. Material should withstand hospital grade cleaning chemical.



Benches restored with seamless design using polished quartz

Building consultant at design stage wanted natural, undisturbed, raw finishings hence proposed the use of natural untreated wood. This concept, however, does not work well in healthcare environment where cleaning becomes an issue due to gaps and subsequently leading to pest harborage.

Providing a safe and clean environment is top priority in healthcare building design.