

**SINGAPORE FREEPORT — THE ULTIMATE VAULT AND AN ICONIC
ARCHITECTURAL CREATION — CELEBRATES ITS LAUNCH IN MAY 2010**

Singapore, May 2010 - The Singapore Freeport, the ultimate safe and a veritable “Fort Knox” for the world’s finest collections, celebrates officially its launch on Tuesday, 18th May 2010.

A fitting location, being one of the world’s leading financial centres and global trade hub, Singapore offers a secure and stable base for the world’s treasures: high-value art and collectibles, gold and precious metals, vintage wines, jewellery, diamonds, vintage cars, antiques, cigars, carpets, and other confidential archives.

Connected to Changi International Airport for the ease of rapid and safe transfers of the collections, the Singapore Freeport is an architectural masterpiece created by Swiss architects Benedicte Montant and Carmelo Stendardo of Atelier Architecture 3BM3 and a team of Swiss technical and civil engineers. Renowned contemporary designers, Ron Arad and Johanna Grawunder, designed the lobby, showrooms and furniture as well as the internal and external lighting systems, creating an iconic, futuristic environment.

Mr Yves Bouvier, Chairman and co-founder of The Singapore Freeport Pte Ltd said: “The Singapore Freeport is a new and sophisticated tool for art collectors and professionals. It is a ultra high security warehouse with optimal sustainable climate-controlled ambient conditions and security features designed for the long term conservation of collectibles”. This gigantic vault of 25,000sq m (Phase One) will house treasures estimated to several billions, guarded by the most cutting-edge building security technology available today.

Mr Alain Vandendorre, President and co-founder of The Singapore Freeport Pte Ltd said, “The international market has been looking forward to the completion of this Fort Knox state-of-the-art facility with great anticipation. 98% of our space is already fully

allocated. The Singapore Freeport will be the perfect partner of international fine art collectors and dealers, auction houses, diamond dealers, museums, investors and sovereign state collections looking for a safe, stable and secure location to store and trade their valuable collections and treasures.”

According to **Dr Beh Swan Gin**, the Managing Director, Singapore Economic Development Board, “The Singapore Freeport is one of the world’s largest facility dedicated to the storage of art and collectibles. It complements Singapore’s strong connectivity to the world and our reputation as a high-trust location, and strengthens our value proposition for international businesses looking to meet the needs of the arts and collectibles market in Asia.”

The Technology

The facility combines state-of-the-art technology with an eco-friendly ethos. It is enveloped by high-performance thermal insulation that is reinforced by vegetalised facades and shades that require minimal maintenance. In the storage zone, ambient conditions vary from 10 deg C and 60% of relative humidity for wine storage to 18 deg C and 50% of relative humidity for paintings. Heat production in the building is required to reach high dehumidification levels and is also of 100 per cent renewable origin. Solar panels and recycled heat from condensation are used to dehumidify outdoor air.

Housing an impressive space of 25,000 square metres comprising of reinforced walls, strong rooms, huge vaults, private offices, showrooms, workshops and photo studios, the building has four levels including a basement for gold storage that are accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The facility will not be open to the public, and will be restricted to owners and potential buyers only.

The Singapore Freeport’s advanced features include LED lighting, solar power, and heat recovery air-conditioning chillers that enable precise temperature and humidity level control. Other elements include nitrogen fire sprinklers and insulated, non-combustible flooring.

The building is the first ever structure in Singapore to fully integrate solar power, water

recycling and energy efficiency systems, utilising landscaping features. With one of Singapore's objectives of being a leading global city in environmental sustainability, it is only natural for this world-class facility to become the first at setting an integrated energy-efficient and environmentally friendly example.

The Singapore Freeport is supported by the Singapore EDB (Economic Development Board). Its shareholders include the Singapore National Arts Council and the National Heritage Board of Singapore.

Mr Michael Koh, the CEO of National Heritage Board, says, "The completion of the Singapore Freeport marks a significant milestone in the growth of Singapore's heritage ecosystem. With its existence, more private collectors and organisations will entrust their valuable collections to Singapore. We are confident this will result in dynamic spin-offs such as collaborations with collectors to showcase their collections at Singapore museums, as well as the growth of Singapore's cultural talent pool. These activities will certainly strengthen Singapore's reputation as an international arts and heritage hub."

Meanwhile, the CEO of Changi Airport Group, **Mr Lee Seow Hiang**, explains that "the opening of Singapore Freeport at Changi Airport is an exciting development which enhances Singapore's value proposition and service offerings as a trusted business hub. With its direct link to the airport terminals, Freeport can leverage Changi's excellent air connectivity for the safe, reliable and efficient handling of high value goods for its global clientele."

The Design Team behind The Vault

The Architects

The revolutionary concept of Singapore Freeport was envisioned and brought to life by the team from Atelier d'Architecture 3BM3, founded in 2002 by Swiss architects **Carmelo Stando** and **Bénédicte Montant**. The duo spearheaded this project with its

principal engineers Charles Babel from Babel Engineers, Olivier Andres from Rigot Rieben Engineers and Charles Bocquet from Swissafe.

The Designers

Ron Arad — With a portfolio that includes such stellar companies as Vitra, Cappellini and Alessi, Arad's work has put him at the forefront of contemporary design. The Israel-born designer often works with steel, aluminium and polyamide. He is the founder of Ron Arad Architects, established in 2008. He is also known for this radical re-conception of the form and structure of furniture.

Johanna Grawunder -- American designer Johanna Grawunder is based in both Milan and San Francisco, with her impressive resume boasting a wide spectrum of projects from architecture and interiors, to limited edition furniture and lights for various galleries in Europe and the USA. After working for over 15 years with the internationally acclaimed design consultancy and architectural practice, Scottsass Associati, the WALLPAPER Design Award winner opened her own studio in 2001.

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