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EDITORIAL

Bold. Forward-thinking. Pioneering.

These three words best sum up the editorial committee's hope for this fourth issue of the Social Space. We knew there were many worthwhile ideas for articles, just as we knew practitioners had invaluable insights to share. They just needed a platform on which these ideas and insights could be widely shared. We believe new ideas—along with the risks, fresh perspectives and a healthy dose of balancing skepticism—need far greater exposure for real work and change to happen.

As it happened, our wish did not just transpire on paper. As we wrestled with the editorial content, around the world, epoch-making events were taking place. In the Middle East, the Arab Spring arrived to mark the birth of democracy. Fertilised by the power of social media, the first leaves sprouted late in 2010 in Tunisia, spreading to Egypt, then Libya and beyond. Globally, WikiLeaks, a media platform that delivers improbable truths to the public and gives mainstream media a run for its money, still exists despite the many moves to ground it. Here, at home in Singapore, the electorate voiced their demands that governance be not only about dollars and sense, but that it should also be about the heart.

As we move onward in our lives and work, we do so with renewed confidence in the spirit of positive change and the power a collective social voice possesses. And we do so in the belief that risks must be embraced, even it means that some sacred cows must be sacrificed for the greater purpose.

"Enlightened Marketplace," for instance, urges us to move beyond business as usual to a reassessment of what the business of the future should and will be. "Savvy advocacy" champions a civil society movement that is neither adversarial nor ceremonial; instead, we choose to embrace a movement that is wise, complementary, inclusive and savvy. "New Social Models" goes a step further by harnessing the practical aspects that make innovation happen.

In this issue, we have gathered 17 writers—leaders in their respective fields—to canvass their thoughts and experiences. From the UK, US, South Korea, Thailand, Denmark, Italy, China and of course, Singapore, they came to help us make the case for positive social change. In addition, we interviewed three well-known individuals, each respected in the Singaporean social space scene, to give their candid thoughts on some of the still contentious issues in our society, and what remains undone.

We hope this theme strikes a chord with you and, as always, we welcome your feedback.

The Editorial Team