

# Digitising the Real Estate Industry for Future-Proof Cities

*Drees & Sommer APAC announce their local initiative that streamlines digital processes to transform construction practices for future-proof cities.*

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Internationally renowned real estate consultancy company Drees & Sommer celebrated 19 years in Asia with the recent opening of a new office in Singapore. The German consultancy was founded in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1970 and has been leading innovation for over 50 years. Today, the company continues to lead the way with digital and sustainable initiatives to transform the industry and ensure the [sustainable development](#) of the real estate sector.

In alignment with the ongoing World Cities Summit 2022 Singapore, The theme of which is “Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Emerging Stronger”, Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development, shared in his opening speech that; “as a nation, Singapore is looking to emerge stronger, more resilient, and more prepared for the future.” The summit strongly focuses on topics like Climate Change, Sustainable Financing, Smart Cities, Development and Planning, Urban Resilience, and Future Cities.

As the world is witnessing an unprecedented climate crisis, governments and climate-conscious leaders are calling on all industries to change their processes and practices to ensure a safe and climate-positive future. The construction industry needs to change; however, change often comes at an increased cost. [Stephan Degenhart, Associate Partner and Managing Director of Asia Pacific](#), actively attending the summit, shares insights into a solution through digitising processes during the planning and construction phases to finance sustainable initiatives.



Securing finances for sustainable construction methods has proved to be the biggest hurdle for new developments, even with the emergence of green loans and sustainable bonds. Degenhart explains: “The financial burden often falls back on the developing entity and can become unmanageable resulting in significant losses or non-sustainable stranded assets. When it comes to sustainable development, true transformation comes about only when digital and sustainable solutions are combined. Streamlining digital processes could [save up to 45% of project costs](#) that can be re-invested in sustainable solutions. The entire value chain becomes future-proof at no additional capital investment.

# DREES & SOMMER

Drees & Sommer Singapore

He continues: “In a recent Drees & Sommer survey, 91% of respondents said digitisation would have a medium to high impact on the real estate sector. The purpose of digitisation has moved

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Transforming digital processes to save project costs means freeing up capital for sustainable and environmentally friendly products and methods without causing economic damage.”

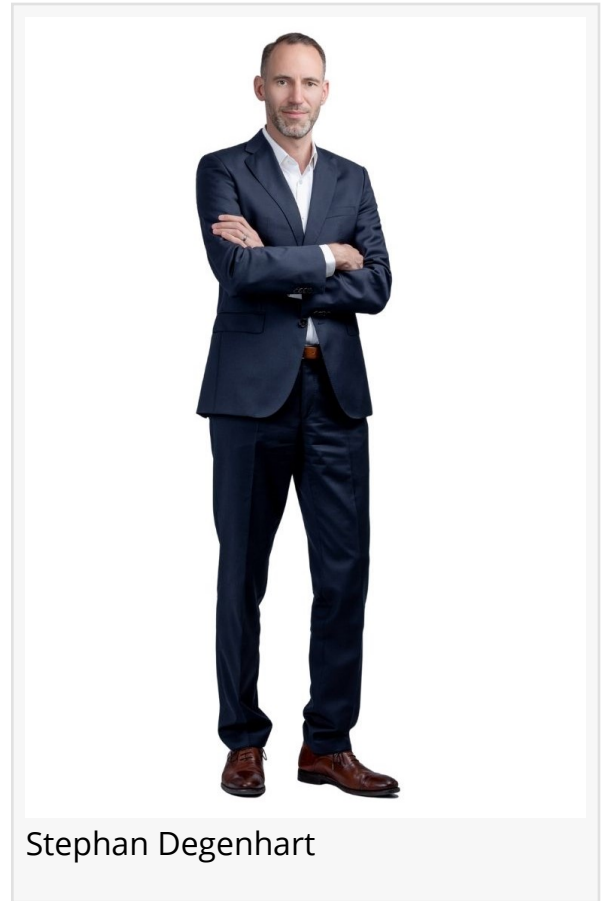
*Stephan Degenhart, Associate Partner, Drees & Sommer*

quickly across sectors making human life more manageable and building end-users more comfortable. Operating smart buildings digitally saves energy and prevents unnecessary waste, but focusing on digital solutions in the design and planning phases can keep entire developments from becoming obsolete in this fast-moving environmental economy.”

Degenhart concludes by recommending that all developers involve a digitisation and sustainability consultant that can outline and structure projects to their fullest potential, ensuring financial stability and securing return on investment while future-proofing buildings that make for

intelligent and sustainable cities.

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