

Diamond Hill Crematorium

Final departure, an inevitable moment in life. At times of mourning, a tranquil environment could heartily soothe the pain of the bereaved.

(Bird's eye-view of the Diamond Hill Crematorium)

The Diamond Hill Crematorium is intended as a prototype for future crematorium development. The architecture not only addresses the *basic functions* of a crematorium, but also addresses the *emotional needs* of the users. Starting from the drop-off area, mourners reach a sunlit circular atrium with the square planter in the centre which imbues a feeling of serenity. Above, they will see the sky shaped by the circular form of the atrium, signifying the all-embracing roundness of heaven.

(View of the circular atrium)

Mourners then ascend a circular stair to the podium as if transiting from Earth to Heaven with their beloved.

(View of the circular stairs)

As they reach the top, the space immediately opens up to reveal a whole new broad vista of luscious green hills beyond. The mourners find themselves surrounded by a garden of plants and lily ponds, with their gentle murmurs of running waters.

(View of the lily pond on the podium level)

Making their way to the entrance of one of the Service Halls, they pass through a colonnade lit by skylight. The entrance and exit to the Service Halls are spaced apart to minimize the chances of one procession meeting the other groups, giving each group a sense of privacy.

(View of the glass roof of the colonnade)

The soft natural rays from the skylight and windows bring a dignified and comforting atmosphere to the congregation. Once ceremony is completed, processions exit to the garden with sweet-smelling and colourful flowers and shrubs at the back of each Hall.

(Views of the interior of the Service Hall, and of the garden at back of the Service Hall)

The architectural elements in the new Crematorium create an environment harmonious with nature. After experiencing the sequence of spaces and vistas along the ceremonial path, mourners return to a peace of mind.

(A series of external views of the crematorium)