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### COVER CREDIT:

Montage of some projects by BCI Asia Awards 2018 Malaysia Winners



### CONSTRUCTION+ SUPPORTING ASSOCIATIONS



Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia (www.cidb.gov.my)



Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (ILAM) (www.ilamalaysia.org)



Malaysia Green Building Confederation (MGBC) (www.mgbc.org.my)



Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) (www.mtib.gov.my)



Waste Management Association of Malaysia (www.wmam.org)



The Federation of Malaysia Hardware, Machinery & Building Materials Dealers' Association (FMHMBA) (www.mhmba.org.my)



Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) (www.dbkl.gov.my)



Malaysian Association of Facility Management (MAFM) (www.mafm.org.my)



Malaysian Interior Industry Partners Association (MIIP) (www.miip.com.my)



Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) (www.miti.gov.my)



Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (www.rism.org.my)



Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (www.rics.org/ASEAN)



American Concrete Institute — Singapore Chapter (ACI-SC) (www.concrete.org.sg)



International Facility Management Association (IFMA) Singapore Chapter (ifmasingapore.org)



Singapore (IDCS)

(www.idcs.sq)

Landscape Industry Association of Singapore (LIAS) (www.lias.org.sg)

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The Singapore Contractors Association Ltd (SCAL) (www.scal.com.sg)



Singapore Environment Council (SEC) (www.sec.org.sg)



Singapore Electrical Trades Association (SETA) (www.seta.org.sg)

Singapore Building Materials

Suppliers' Association (SBMSA)



Society of Interior Designers Singapore (SIDS) (www.sid-singapore.org)



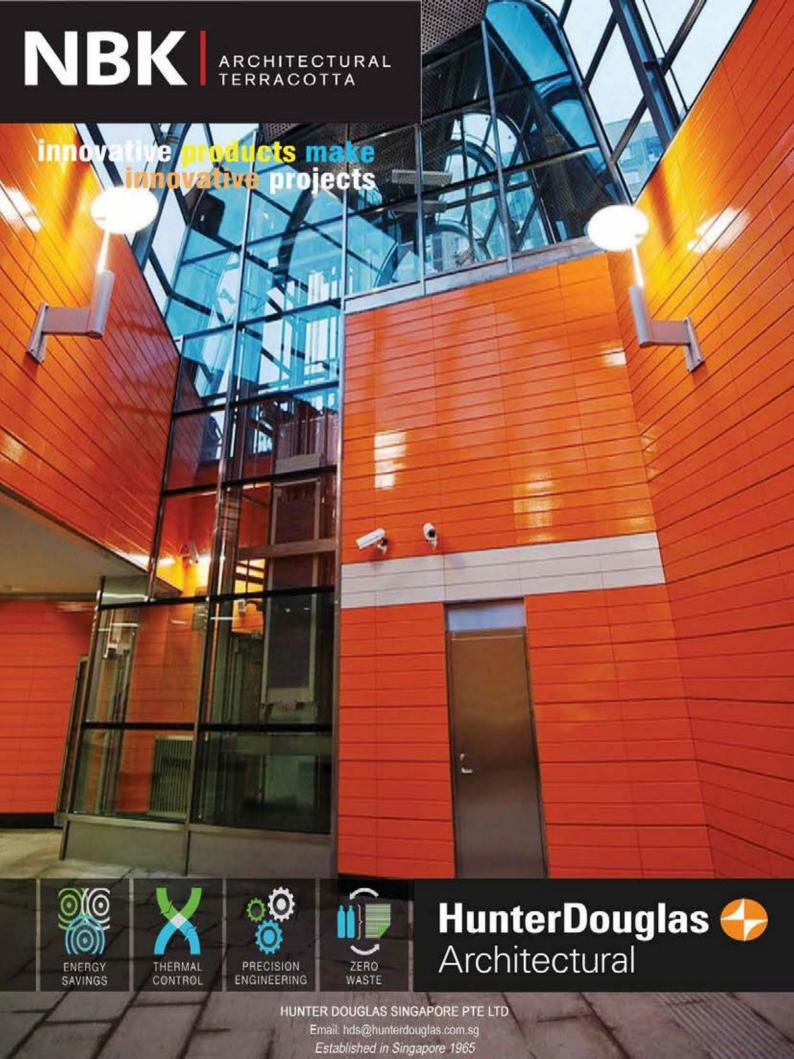
SEA Drymix Mortar Association (www.seadma.org)



Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) (www.smfederation.org.sq)



Security Systems Association of Singapore (SSAS) (ssas.org.sg)







First of all, on behalf of the Society of Interior Designers, Singapore (SIDS), I would like to congratulate BCI Asia for its Construction+ magazine.

SIDS began as a professional body for Singaporean and Singapore-based interior designers in 1994. As a non-profit organisation governed by law, the society not only has to protect the standards of professionalism of interior designers and to resolve industry issues, it also has the duty to promote the creativity and expertise of Singapore's interior design Industry on the global arena.

Interior design is not only an important discipline in the design industry but also an integral part of the construction industry. There has always been a misconception between interior designers and interior renovators, as well as interior decorators. In short, an interior designer is a professionally trained individual who is paid a fee to design and/or enhance a given space or a series of it. Similarly, architects who design interior spaces must not treat interior design as an add-on complimentary service because interior design is a respected profession on its own!

Besides the creative aspect of the job, competent interior designers have to possess an in-depth understanding of the materials and fabrication techniques, and in some cases, the construction methods for the designs created. In today's competitive regional market, it is also important for interior designers to keep themselves updated with new products and techniques through publications and even advertisements!

Thus I applaud *Construction+* for taking the initiative to fill this important role of providing interior designers in Singapore and the region with regular news, articles and information to keep practitioners on a competitive edge. The magazine will act as an important bridge between interior designers and suppliers, renovators, contractors and other related vendors.

Last but not least, I wish Construction+ all the best, and call for all interior designers in Singapore and the region to give them their full support, because a bridge will only be useful if people use it. Thank you!

### Keat Ong

President, Society of Interior Designers, Singapore Managing Director, Nota Design Group



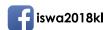


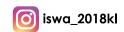


### KUALA LUMPUR, 22-24 OCTOBER

The vibrant and cosmopolitan Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur will ISWA 2018 World Congress featuring a world-class host the technical programme, designed to advance scientific and technical knowledge for sustainable solid waste management addressing the theme of Sustainable Consumption towards Waste Minimization.

### **#ISWA2018 #LETSTALKABOUTIT**













### A staggering 3.5 billion people—that's half of the world's population—lack access to organised waste disposal facilities.

In countries with municipal waste management systems, about 70 per cent of the waste collected are not recycled or used as an alternative energy resource. The Global Footprint Network reports that we are now in an ecological deficit—it is taking Mother Earth one year and six months to regenerate what we use in a year.

Sustainable waste management is a strategic approach that covers all sources and aspects of waste management—from generation, segregation and transfer, to treatment, recovery and disposal in an integrated system—with an emphasis on stakeholder participation and resource recovery.

Malaysia, like most developing countries, is coping with the challenges of a growing population, high consumption and energy demand. In Malaysia, waste is expected to reach 16.76 million tonnes by the year 2020. In 2016, we produced an average of 38,000 tonnes of solid waste daily, of which 15,000 tonnes were from food waste alone.

However, we are making progress by shifting to a greener trajectory—Green Growth—which will ensure sustainable socioeconomic development. Firstly, Malaysia has ratified its commitment in Agenda 21 at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and The Kyoto Protocol to position sustainability as a fundamental basis for its continued growth and development.

In 2007, the government passed the Solid Waste Management Act, transferring executive authority on solid waste management and public cleansing in Peninsular Malaysia from the local authorities to the federal government. Enforced on 1 September 2011, the act positioned Malaysia as the first country in the world to federalise solid waste management. In September 2015, household waste separation commenced in six states and two Federal Territories.

Since the challenge of waste management affects every person and institution in society, there is a need for a collective approach to waste challenges and the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders in their implementation.

This is why we are very excited to announce to Construction+ readers that Kuala Lumpur will be hosting the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) World Congress in 2018. Themed Sustainable Consumption towards Waste Minimisation, the congress addresses our current rate of rapid consumption and waste and will look at the implementation of integrated systems to reduce waste generation and the role of effective project management in tackling this global crisis.

I look forward to seeing all of you at ISWA World Congress 2018 so that we can all work together towards a sustainable and sound waste management in Malaysia!

### Ho De Leong

Chairman, Waste Management Association of Malaysia





Dear readers.

Welcome to our bumper issue of *Construction+*.

They say the road to excellence is always under construction. And as a magazine, we continuously strive to become better. This issue marks the synergistic fusion of the Malaysian and Singaporean editions of *Construction+* to give you a more diverse, more engaging and more insightful read into the region's building and design industry.

We also shine the spotlight on BCl Asia Awards 2018—recognising those who have significantly contributed to the local built environment. Check out our coverage of the Singapore awards event on page 45 and the Malaysian winners on pages 54 and 95.

The Top Ten Architects and Developers Awards 2018 honour the most active firms in seven Asian territories—Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam. These are chosen based on the greatest total value of projects under construction in 2017, weighted by the extent of their sustainability efforts (as measured by BCI Asia's project leads research and confirmed WGBC-accredited Green building ratings certifications).

The BCl Asia Interior Design Awards 2018 recognise distinctions in interior architecture—designs that stand out aesthetically, functionally and ergonomically. Check out a Malaysian entry that sets itself apart as a hip, vibrant and sustainable youth volunteer centre (page 96). We also feature several winning interior projects from Thailand, from resorts to luxury residences and a fresh lifestyle office.

In other pages, we look at the importance of integrated waste management, Singapore's role in the region's energy sector, the preservation of what used to be one of the biggest leprosy settlements in the world, and the largest sewage treatment plant in Asia Pacific that doubles as a sprawling pubic park.

It's been an exciting ride, and we look forward to a more thrilling chapter ahead with all of you. Share your thoughts and feedback with us as we work towards becoming the read of choice in Malaysia, Singapore and beyond.

Thank you. And to our Muslim friends, Selamat Hari Raya!

Joanna Sze Senior Editor

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# KNOWING WHAT TO BUILD, WHERE AND WHEN

The importance of market analysis in the local building and development industry

### BY DR HISHAMUDDIN MOHD ALI

The emergence of the digital revolution has made information accessible and exposed to the property market. It has socially affected the way of thinking and expectations, with regard to decision making in acquiring personal goods, including property assets. Clearly, the behavioural changes of the property market players complicate the environment and understanding of property ownership and investment.

The property market in Malaysia has shown some significant changes over the past couple of decades, from home ownership to investment, with property now becoming a significant and strategic asset class. This shift has resulted in more sophisticated property products, expanding towards long-term investments and new lifestyles.

However, we must not disregard property as a necessity and a basic need, especially for those

in the bottom and middle 40 per cent (B40 and M40) income groups. Therefore, a balanced market analysis must consider the wide spectrum of the built environment, without leaving out any gaps that may result in unbalanced development with high market inefficiency. Other infrastructure assets, such as transportation, communication, water, energy and sewerage, must also be part of the market analysis to establish a holistic view in the justification to build.

### UNDERSTANDING THE MARKET

For the builders/developers, the decision of property development is dependent on 'the market, the market and the market'. So in this current property market, the questions on most developers' minds are: What to build? Where about? And what would be the best timing?

Market analysis may hold the answers.

### A balanced market analysis must consider the wide spectrum of the built environment, without leaving out any gaps that may result in unbalanced development with high market inefficiency.

Market analysis is a systematic way of investigating and examining the supply and demand for a specific type of property, at a specific locality and point in time. Market analysis is paramount before embarking on property development, and no compromise should be granted without proper and rigorous property market analysis.

The main components of market analysis comprise the following:

• Description of the proposed project The first part of a market analysis is the details of the project, such as evaluation of the site and its surroundings, legal and planning constraints and other general economic factors. The project description is important to ensure that the project will not cross the boundary of development requirements.

### Study of demand

Future expectations may be affected by population growth trend, household income. employment, family size, taxes, financing facilities and interest rate, and lifestyle. The key indicators are population growth and household income, which may indicate a specific demand of certain property products or public assets that are needed within the specific area.

### Study of supply

The current supply of property assets should be analysed to ensure no redundancy of the proposed project. This also includes the supply of similar projects under construction and competition within the same property product class or public assets. Cost of capital, labour and land are also important as part of evaluating the project viability.

### Evaluation and conclusion

Based on the findings of the above three components, the critical reviews will be outlined and a conclusion drawn to assist decision makers on whether a project should proceed or not.

As property products are internally controlled by various laws, such as the National Land Code, Local Government Act, Town and Country Planning Act, Strata Management Act, Strata Title Acts and many more, buyers and sellers cannot directly influence the market prices. Moreover, these acts actually influence the location of the subject land and property.

For example, location factors for residential development can be analysed by examining the proximity to the economic centre, such as transportation costs and travel time, as well as accessibility and public transport.

In market analysis, the demand factors for residential property development must consider the new household formations, age composition of new and current households, household income and financing conditions. The household income, family structure and new expectations must be analysed to estimate the appropriate demand.

Concurrently, supply factors consist of development components, including development charges, building material costs, building technology, current and future stocks and credit conditions for developers. These demand and supply factors must be matched to provide a decision of what to build, at the suitable location and at the right time.

### **LOOK BEFORE LEAP**

Generally, any physical and non-physical development must undertake market analysis. At least two sources of data are mandatory for market analysis, viz. communities/stakeholders survey, information gathered from reports and published documents.

The construction of hospitals, schools, housing, transportation infrastructures, such as airport, highway and mega infrastructure projects, such as the high-speed rail (HSR) and the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) must be justified through comprehensive market analysis to ensure the expected returns can be realised.

We should not simply spend and build infrastructure without anticipating and addressing the future benefits—not only monetary, but also social and environmental. The intangible benefits may comprise stakeholders' satisfaction in the functions and services provided from the property and infrastructure assets, while tangible benefits







### We should not simply spend and build infrastructure without anticipating and addressing the future benefits.

include cost savings (monetary and in kind), income maximisation and value.

The risk factors also have to be taken into account—unique risk, such as location, type and physical aspects of asset, and market risk, which include fiscal changes, legal, political and planning requirements. Therefore, prioritisation of any property and infrastructure projects is paramount.

Market preferences and behavioural changes have become increasingly important factors as the trend of contemporary lifestyles may not necessarily depend on types and location with the emergence of Industrial Revolution 4.0. For example, with the advent of flexible workplaces, do we still need more offices, infrastructure assets or even teaching spaces in the university?

Another purpose of market analysis is to improve market efficiency. The demand of property and infrastructure assets should match the supply and vice versa for a beneficial efficient market.

Currently, most of the market studies have been conducted by private companies and organisations; obviously, the main aim is to maximise shareholders' wealth. For public agencies, market analysis must be made compulsory by the respective ministries for any

development projects, whether for maximisation of return or for public accountability. For example, to develop a school, market analysis must be undertaken on the current need, site analysis, accessibility and population pattern to justify the location and size of school.

Government agencies should also conduct market analysis when there are applications from developers for property development. The approval must not merely comply with the planning and legal requirements but must also be able to capture the local housing need and affordability levels. This is important to help reduce the gap between the housing need and supply.

The Valuation and Property Services Department, Ministry of Finance, divisions in each local authority should be used for the development approval process at the state level. This is not a matter of restricting the property market or prohibiting economic development, but as a safeguard for public interest.

The main concern now is to understand the property market's preferences and to translate these into property products that would match future demand and expectations. Hence, it is important to ensure the quality and reliability of the data and measurements employed for the analysis. 

G



PROFESSOR SR DR HISHAMUDDIN MOHD ALI Director **Business Management Division** Office of Deputy Vice **Chancellor (Development)** Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)

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He is actively involved in property research, having led many research and consultancy projects and published in various publications and proceedings. He has been appointed as a consultant for many projects in real estate valuation, market and feasibility studies for more than 30 years. His research interest covers asset management strategy, property market dynamics, investment and valuation.

He is a member of the European Real Estate Society (ERES), International Association of Certified Valuation Specialists (IACVS), Royal Institute Surveyors Malaysia (Property Surveying Division) (RISM) and the Malaysian Institute of Professional Property Managers (MIPPM).

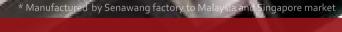


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# ENERGY & THE LITTLE RED DOT: THE IMPACT ON ASEAN

Marked on most maps as a little red dot at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, Singapore comprises the main island and all its islets, totalling a land area of no more than 718.3 square kilometres, which is much smaller than its Southeast Asian neighbours. However, this does not limit Singapore from becoming a major player in the region, and even the world, in various sectors, including energy.

BY BENI SURYADI







### Long known as the first in the region to have a waste-to-energy power plant in 1979, Singapore now deploys and integrates new technologies to transform its energy landscape.

In 2015, Singapore consumed about 15 million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe), merely about 4 per cent of the region's total final energy consumption (TFEC). Nearly all of it was imported to meet domestic energy demand, as it has no fossil resources, while its renewable energy potential is also limited. To maintain its ranking among the world's most competitive economies, it is crucial for this small city-state to ensure that economic growth is supported with competitively priced and reliable energy supplies. Hence, Singapore's overall energy policy framework aims to maintain a balance of policy objectives namely economic competitiveness, energy security, and environmental sustainabilityknown as the 'Energy Trilemma'.

Over the years, the government has been constantly providing and enhancing policies

and supporting regulatory frameworks, allowing the private sector to actively participate in moving towards sustainable energy. Back in the early 1970s, the largest oil refinery in the region started its operation in Singapore, a country with no oil resource at all. But then this refinery—still the largest in the region along with two more refineries (amounting to about 1.35 million barrels per day) became the main source of oil products for neighbouring countries, such as Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam. When natural gas gained its momentum, Singapore started the construction of a SGD1.7 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) receiving terminal in 2010. Singapore has raised its initial throughput capacity of 3.5 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) to around 11 Mtpa. This plan will not only secure the supply for domestic demand, where more than 90

per cent of Singapore's electricity is generated from imported natural gas, but it will also allow Singapore to become the hub for physical LNG trading and regional redistribution.

The progress of the oil and gas sector does not only occur at the national level. Singapore also actively contributes to the development at the regional level. The electricity exchange between Plentong in Peninsular Malaysia and Woodlands in Singapore is the first regional cooperation in electricity interconnection, which has now become the backbone of the ASEAN Power Grid (APG). Singapore is also a member of the Lao PDR, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS PIP), the first regional initiative in multilateral electricity trading. The Energy Purchase and Wheeling Agreement (EPWA) of

### Singapore, together with Malaysia, also initiated the 5-kilometre pipeline from Malaysia to Singapore in 1991, under another ASEAN flagship project, the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP).

Phase 1 was signed in Manila, the Philippines, in 2017. Singapore, together with Malaysia, also initiated a 5-kilometre pipeline from Malaysia to Singapore in 1991, under another ASEAN flagship project, the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP). As of 2017, Singapore is connected to about one third of the total 3.673-kilometre TAGP.

At the same time, efforts in renewable energy are also escalating. Long known as the first in the region to have a waste-toenergy power plant in 1979, Singapore now deploys and integrates new technologies to transform its energy landscape. The adoption of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in Singapore has accelerated in the past three years. Grid-connected installed capacity of solar PV systems sharply increased from 25.5 MWac in 2014 to 46.0 MWac in 2015. and subsequently to 99.9 MWac by the end of the first guarter (Q1) of 2017. This increase was driven by 955 new installations in 2016 and in Q1 2017, resulting in a total of 1.898 solar PV installations across Singapore. The country has also established the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) as the national institute for applied solar energy research, focusing on technologies and services to harness the full potential in solar.

Efforts in energy efficiency (EE) are also showing the same progress. Improving FF is recognised as a key strategy to help achieve the three objectives of the country's energy policy. To improve EE in Singapore, the government has established an Energy Efficiency Programme Office (E2PO). The office has developed a national plan known as Energy Efficient Singapore (E2 Singapore). This plan includes promoting the adoption of EE technologies and measures; building capacity and expertise in energy management; raising public awareness on energy efficient behaviours; and research and development (R&D) in EE technologies. Having a robust financial system also helps Singapore to boost the establishment of various



This year, 2018, as part of their ASEAN chairmanship, Singapore will also host the 36th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and Associated Meetings, as well as the ASEAN Energy Business Forum (AEBF). This ministerial meeting will be held for the first time together with the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) from 29 October to 2 November 2018. SIEW is an annual platform for energy professionals and policymakers to discuss and share best practices and solutions within the global energy



space. The 36th AMEM and AEBF will bring together ASEAN Dialogue Partners to advance key regional energy initiatives and strengthen publicprivate partnerships. At this junction, Singapore's chairmanship is timely to bring ASEAN energy sector towards energy security, accessibility, affordability and sustainability for the region, as aimed by the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016–2025, the energy blueprint of the ASEAN Economic Community.



### The deployment and integration of new technologies, and the growth in energy demand are transforming the energy landscape.

energy services companies (ESCO). As the country develops best practices in EE across different sectors, it has also developed a pool of ESCOs with good track records and references that are able to provide services outside its shores, allowing them to be scaled up in the neighbouring countries.

The little red dot's energy system may be different from others in the region, where most countries are still using the vertical integrated system with state-owned utilities and oil and gas companies. Singapore is introducing the liberal market with private sector's active

participation. Its efficiency and clarity in creating a good business environment for stakeholders is a crucial lesson that other ASFAN member states could adopt. The deployment and integration of new technologies, and the growth in energy demand are transforming the energy landscape. To facilitate this transition, it is important to address the capital market barriers and foster an enabling environment for infrastructures investment. Policymakers, investors and industry leaders must ride this wave of opportunity to invest, innovate and integrate energy systems for a more resilient energy future.





**BENI SURYADI** Manager Policy Research & Analytics **ASEAN Centre for Energy** 

Suryadi leads the Policy Research & Analytics (PRA) department of the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), an intergovernmental organisation within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) structure that represents the 10 ASEAN member states' interests in the energy sector.

The PRA assists in fulfilling ACE's function as a regional centre of excellence that builds a coherent, coordinated, focused and robust energy policy agenda and strategy for ASEAN. It provides policy recommendations for the region in achieving the member states' collective goals under the umbrella of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025, which is the energy blueprint of the ASEAN Economic Community.





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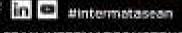
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### 2018 MGBC DINNER AND AWARDS

Date: 11 May 2018

**Company: Malaysia Green Building** 

**Confederation (MGBC)** 

Themed Building Lasting Changes, the 3<sup>rd</sup> MalaysiaGBC Leadership in Sustainability Awards Night was held at the Setia City Convention Centre, Setia Alam, to recognise leaders in the Green building industry.

Award winners include Brunsfield International Group (Business Leadership in Sustainability Award); Menara Pejabat Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa Dan Industri (MITI) (Leadership in Sustainable Design and Performance Award); and Ar Serina Hijjas (Women in Green Building Leadership Award).

The winners of this biennial awards will be offered the opportunity to represent Malaysia at the Asia Pacific World Green Building Awards competition.







### TRENCHLESS ASIA 2018

Date: 7-8 May 2018

**Company: Westrade Group Ltd** 

This is the second time Malaysia has hosted Trenchless Asia, the major international gathering for trenchless technologists from 22 nations to meet and discuss the latest industry developments.

The two-day event consisted of a conference and an exhibition with some 110 exhibitors showcasing viable underground utilities construction solutions for developed and developing cities.

Datuk Seri Ir Dr Zaini Ujang, Secretary General, Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water Malaysia, delivered the keynote address for the conference.

Trenchless technology involves underground utility and construction works (such as the mass rail transit and light rail transit projects) with minimum surface disruption—an environmentally and financially sound alternative to traditional excavation techniques.

"As the population expands around the world and with the trend of urbanisation, as well as with the increasing numbers of deteriorating pipes that are currently in the ground, the immediate need for new pipelines that can carry more capacity, and the increasing environmentally-sensitive green environmental areas, trenchless techniques are going to continue to evolve and become more necessary," says Peter Smeallie, executive director of the International Society for Trenchless Technology (ISTT).







# METRICS GLOBAL WINS BIG AT ASIA PACIFIC PROPERTY AWARDS

Date: 4 May 2018

**Company: Metrics Global** 

Metrics Global walked away with three interior design awards, including a Five-Star award for the Hotel Interior category for its Impiana Hotel Senai project, at the 2018–2019 Asia Pacific Property Awards 2018 in Bangkok.

Its other two awards were for the interior design of the Apartment at One Stonor Residences and Show Home Intercontinental Show Suite.

"It is truly amazing with winning of all entries, and we appreciate the great effort by the team, and also the opportunity provided by the organiser," said managing director Jackal Chua.

The awards are part of the International Property Awards and drew more than 900 entries. The awards presentations also played host to the IPAX Asia Pacific property industry exhibition on 3–4 May.







### MLAA10

**Date: 21 April 2018** 

**Company: Institute of Landscape Architects** 

Malaysia (ILAM)

ILAM recently hosted the  $10^{\text{th}}$  edition of the Malaysia Landscape Architecture Awards (MLAA) in recognition of excellence in landscape architecture.

More than 67 awards were presented to winners of the eight award categories—professional, (landscape design, landscape analysis and study, and young landscape architect), landscape contractor, developer and GLC, researcher, government and student, as well as two new categories, international entries and landscape supplier or manufacturer. These were chosen from the 165 entries submitted from Malaysia and Singapore.

The MLAA is part of a wide array of activities organised by ILAM in conjunction with the World Landscape Architecture Month celebration in April, which aims to introduce the profession to a larger audience and create greater visibility of the growing role of landscape architects in the outdoor built environment.

"Over the past 10 years, we have witnessed changing trends in landscape architectural design and practices and have marvelled at the way in which these trends have altered our landscape spaces and cities, and shaped our living environment," says Associate Prof Dr Osman Mohd Tahir, President of II AM.

ILAM also announced that Malaysia will host the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) World Congress 2020, to be held concurrently with the World Landscape Architecture Summit. The event will play a key role in the formulating of the New Landscape Architecture Agenda 2050.



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**Upcoming Event** 

### **ARCHIDEX 2018**

Date: 4-7 July 2018

**Companies: Malaysian Institute of Architects** 

(PAM); C.I.S Network Sdn Bhd

The 19th International Architecture, Interior Design & Building Exhibition (ARCHIDEX) will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. The trade event expects 550 local and international exhibitors and 36,000 visitors from the region. It will be held in conjunction with the annual Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival (KLAF).

This year's highlights in the new exhibit zone include Building Smarter— Integrated Building System (IBS), and Building on Cleaning—Building Maintenance & Cleaning Services, which will showcase sophisticated technologies to maintain buildings in good order.

Since 2014, ARCHIDEX has also featured the Eco Building & Design Exhibition (ECO-B), a platform to explore the growing global interest in environmentally responsible buildings. ECO-B features Green building technologies, designs and solutions, local governmental legislations and incentives, Green building assessment tools and rating consultations.

**Upcoming Event** 

### **7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MODULAR &** PRECAST CONSTRUCTION

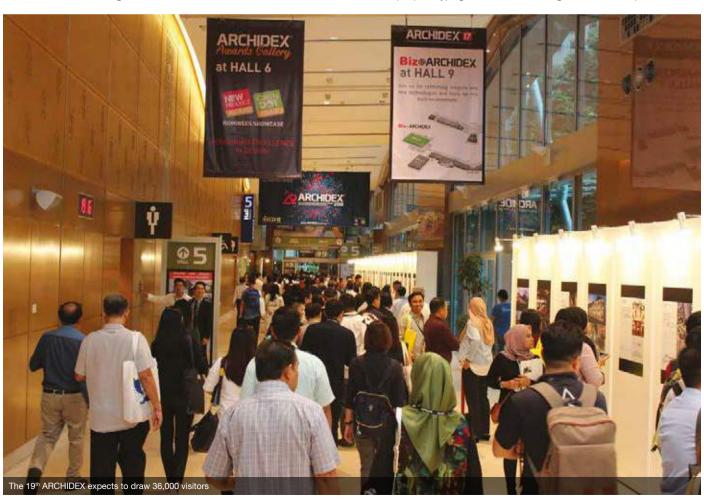
Date: 24-26 July 2018 **Company: Trueventus** 

This year's event at the JW Marriot Hotel Kuala Lumpur puts the focus on modern methods of construction, namely dynamic prefabrication.

The plenary sessions examine topics such as dimensional control techniques, industrialised building systems, environmentally-sustainable procurement, lean manufacturing, volumetric modules, productive collaboration, financial models, and streamlining of materials providers and manufacturers.

The four-stream programme—off-site construction, design and engineering, project management and manufacturing essentials—is packed with presentations and case studies by both local and international speakers.

A full-day workshop by Amy Marks, president of XSite Modular Consulting, will cover rapid prototyping and decision-making benchmark for prefabrication.























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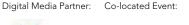




































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### **AR EZUMI** HARZANI ISMAIL

Apart from being the current president of the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM), Ezumi Harzani Ismail is the director of Arkitek MAA Sdn Bhd in Kuala Lumpur. Throughout his career with Arkitek MAA, he has completed several hospitals, hotels and government office buildings, and is currently working on high-rise residential and mass rail transit (MRT) projects.



### As an institute, our main objective of promoting architecture never wavers, but our approach in attaining these goals have changed.

Ezumi is also a board member of the Board of Architects Malaysia and has been appointed as the advisory board member of Kuala Lumpur City Hall. He is also involved in various government working groups and committees, including PEMUDAH's Focus Group on Dealing with Construction Permits (FGDCP). He graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture from Universiti Sains Malaysia and Master of Philosophy (Policy Studies) from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

In this interview with *Construction+*, he shares more about his experiences and his plans at the helm of PAM.

### Your father was an art teacher. Can you share a bit about how that has inspired you and your journey in architecture?

That's right, my late father was an art teacher. I suppose I inherited his artistic genes in the sense that I enjoy art, both in creating and appreciating it.

I was a kampung boy, and in those days, many things were handcrafted, unlike today where anything can be easily bought. It was not surprising that my friends and I sometimes created our own crafts, such as wau (traditional kite), gasing (top), congkak, kertuk (traditional drum made from coconut shell and nibong plank), bird cage, 'lastik (slingshot) and many others. We learnt this by watching our elders, who seemed to be always crafting something in their spare time, whether wood carvings, kites or wayang kulit (shadow puppets). It was always nice to have someone artistic in your group of friends to decorate or embellish the creations to make it look better.

Since I was young, I have valued creativity. My great grandfather used to build houses, so I see architecture as an extension of that value creation.

### What was one of your most memorable projects? Your most challenging?

My most memorable project is the Pusrawi Hospital on Jalan Tun Razak. It was the project I was working on when I was retrenched in 1998. Lo and behold, it was still there for me when I re-joined Arkitek MAA about a year later. It was a coincidence that during the time I was away from the office, the project was also put on hold.





# With such technologies and borderless information exchange, we have to change our mindset to look into different ways of doing business.

The most challenging one was the Ministry of Transport office in Putrajaya. Due to the often-changing client requirements, we had to change our design 18 times! Luckily, we were compensated for that.

### What would you say are the main strengths of Arkitek MAA? In what ways have you contributed towards this?

Project delivery is definitely our strength. I say this based on how we secure most of our projects, which is through returning clients and referrals. We have more than 200 staff ready to deliver design works, master planning, detailings and project management services to meet our clients' expectations. We do not spend much time in doing marketing but focus more on ensuring our clients receive the best service we can offer. I always say to our clients that our fee may not be cheap, but they can be assured of good project delivery.

As the director of Arkitek MAA, my duty is to bring in projects to the company and to coordinate and lead the project team in construction implementation. Of course, I also have another 12 partners and three associates to coordinate

and look after projects according to their specialisation. For the past 20 years, I have been focusing on hospital, residential and office projects.

### PAM was founded in 1920. How has its role evolved through the years, and how does it remain relevant for today?

As an institute, our main objective of promoting architecture never wavers, but our approach in attaining these goals have changed. PAM is like an old wise man, collecting wisdom along its way. We keep improving our organisation to stay relevant. For example, we have been using an e-voting system, instead of paper voting, for our council election since a few years ago.

In professional practice, we engage with government agencies and other construction industry stakeholders to be more efficient in development processes. We offer building information modelling (BIM) training at competitive rates for our members so that they stay updated as well.

We also improve our activities to benefit our members and society at large. We used to focus only on improving knowledge and promoting

good practices, but today, PAM has expanded its contribution not just to its members but also to programmes that involve public participation. such as public art and architecture exhibitions, student exhibitions, student scholarship programme, building and fire safety seminars, public design lecture series, design competitions, sustainable urban development programmes and many more.

This year, we are going to have our Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival (KLAF) from 28 June to 26 August 2018. During KLAF2018, there will be many events that will involve the public, including a charity chair design competition, which is now open for registration, sustainable Green design forum, public design lectures, public art and design exhibitions and more.

#### What do you think is the biggest challenge facing the architecture profession today, and what can or should be done?

Technology that can design and build buildings without an architect is definitely something to watch out for. Today, we have 3D-printed buildings that were built almost overnight, and some were also built according to building codes. Since the first 3D-printed building was built in China three years ago, there have been many more across the world, for example in Dubai and Europe. Luckily, they are limited in size and complexity, with the largest about 1,100 square meters in Suzhou, China.

Architects today should be innovative in their project delivery, perhaps even looking into the new technologies that are available out there. The conventional method of construction will be replaced by faster, cleaner and more sustainable methods.

Right now, we are getting our architects to embrace using BIM for their projects. It tremendously improves project efficiency, especially for complex projects, where problems can be foreseen even before construction. It will not be long before a 3D-printed building appears on our shores, but in the meantime, BIM is the immediate solution for efficient large-scale and complex project delivery.

With such technologies and borderless information exchange, we have to change our mindset to look into different ways of doing business. Today, some designers offer their design services from different parts of the world, with design and plans being transmitted virtually via the Internet. Design services are being transacted like a commodity in some places. My advice to PAM members is to equip ourselves with the new technology knowledge and be prepared for such challenges.

#### Over the past one year as PAM President, what would you consider your biggest accomplishment to date? What do you plan to achieve in the next year?

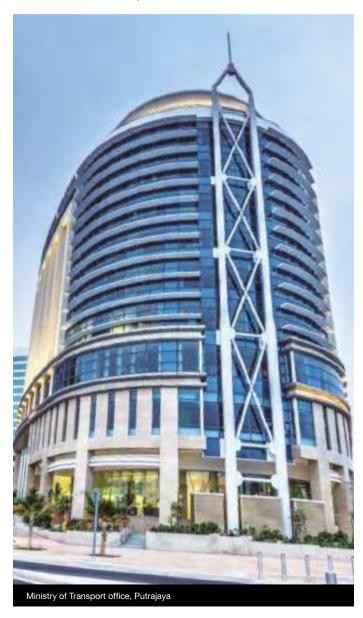
I am especially proud of the fact that our KLAF in July 2017 was the best one, thus far, in terms of earnings. The two-month festival programme also recorded the highest participation from members of the public through its public exhibition programmes at Solaris Publika, Gallery Petronas KLCC and RUANG by ThinkCity.

Of course, 2017 is also the year when the PAM Centre—our own building in Jalan Tandok, Bangsar—was officiated by the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, on 18 July.

On 2 April 2018, we launched "The Merdeka Interviews" book, which showcases the works done by 17 architects, engineers and artists in our post-Merdeka era. The 668-page tome also reveals an inside story lesser known to the public, about the Kongsi Women who literally helped to build Malaysia's iconic buildings. It compiles important interviews that will serve as historical records of the development of early Malaysia in the 1960s.

The book launch at Loke Mansion, a location befitting the occasion. Apart from being gazetted as a National Heritage Building, Loke Mansion—which was built in 1907 by tin-mining magnate Loke Chow Kit—used to be the 'home' of PAM from 1973 until it moved out in 2012.

This year, we are planning a bigger and better KLAF. We will introduce the International Architecture Education Conference, which will be held backto-back with our DATUM:KI conference, DATUM:Green and DATUM+ conferences from 4 to 7 July 2018. G





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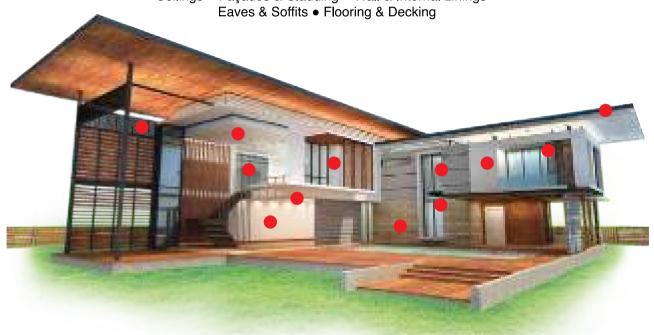
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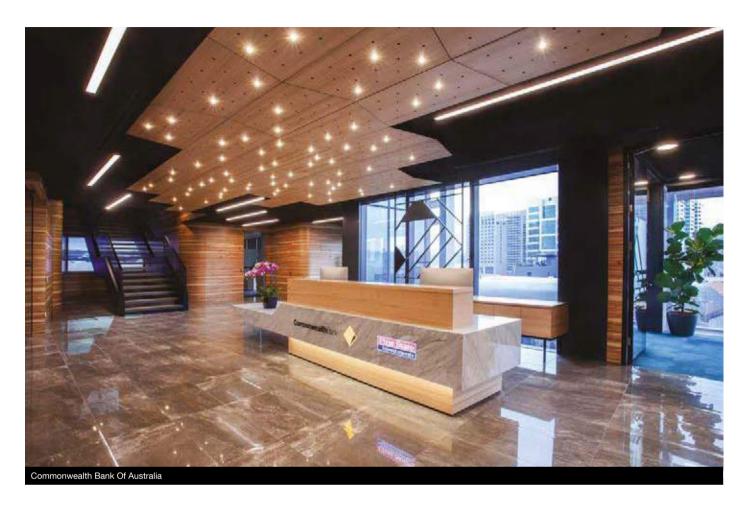
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### **DEREK MACKENZIE**

Derek MacKenzie is managing director of designphase dba. With over 35 years of experience working in the region, he brings a tenacious, pragmatic and client-centric mindset to design issues.



#### The design profession provides almost daily challenges where divergent improbabilities necessitate thinking outside the box to resolve and integrate issues.

As a seasoned Asian campaigner and designer for both public and private sectors in Singapore and Southeast Asia, MacKenzie relishes using his tremendous wealth of experience in his role as managing director of a multiaward winning interior design company. With over 35 years in Singapore and the region, he brings a tenacious, pragmatic and client-centric mindset to design issues. MacKenzie is a staunch advocate of the immense contribution that open-minded, imaginative designs bring to all businesses. To that end, he has assembled a like-minded team of thoughtful, highly original, creative thinkers and producers to critically assess and implement solutions in partnership with clients. A tireless campaigner for professionalism, MacKenzie remains thoroughly engaged in his field and continues to believe that both people and businesses perform better in well-designed, carefully curated environments.

#### Tell us about your design philosophy and how would you describe your signature style in managing clients' expectations?

Interior design is all about crafting spatial potential. But success in this endeavour is never one person's enterprise or opinion. The crafting requires orientation, an aspiration towards a preferred future. And the 'enterprise' necessitates

collaboration. In our profession, there are often many stakeholders; they all have opinions that vary and compete for attention. Central to this environment, however, are the objectives, expectations and dreams of the client. Empathy with the client and their team will weigh heavily on the opinions and desires of others involved. So, designphase dba builds storylines or narratives that capture, weave in and reframe the client's proposition, gently bring them on board through a process of mutual understanding.

#### Could you give an example of a recent successful interior project that you have led from inception to completion?

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) assignment: the bank's business profile in Singapore was blended with a design aesthetic that emphasised its Australian heritage. This was stylistically contemporised and infused with CBA's brand identity.

Spatially, the needs to accommodate the various business groups, technologies and conference facilities coalesced around the staircase connection that was introduced to link client-facing areas, encouraging the physical ebb and flow between the different spaces. This planning strategy





#### Clients appreciate the attention we give, not just to the softer creative elements of the service, but also to their concerns about deadlines, budgets and long-term maintenance.

anchored the plan together with the placement of the bank's partner First State Investments, and the positioning of the trading room and made spaceplanning priorities easier for the flow between operating teams.

The abstracted Federation styling through these public areas helps to visually unify the bank's two main entities (CBA and First State Investments), providing a distinctive Australian look and feel that identify strongly with the bank's cultural background.

#### What do you think is a major strength of designphase dba and how have you personally contributed towards its success?

The firm operates in three core worlds—corporate, retail and hospitality. And in every project our goal is to create positive experiences through their designs, delighting staff, customers and guests respectively.

It is our belief that the development of a strong visual narrative provides a solid foundation on which to build or craft a concept for clients in each of these sectors. The depth of research we draw from and apply pays off from our clients being satisfied and their proud association with the outcome. But the development of a successful concept is only part of the story for professional interior (or other) designers.

From the firm's earliest days, we have felt it essential to deliver projects through a structured framework. Our robust process keys into every definition of design thinking and extends this methodology to the bidding, implementation and completion stages. The need for the designer's involvement throughout the project life cycle ensures that key messages within the design are handled with care and that the design philosophy is not lost through the commercial cut and thrust of practical execution, and that there is strong commitment to quality in every decision.

#### Could you give an example of a creative and practical interior concept that you have conceived and delivered?

At the outset, Philips made it clear that their new 380,000-square feet APAC Centre would need to conform to a number of important criteria:

- a) While this is a headquarters building, the administrative aspects need to fuse with the design, R&D, prototyping, workshops and warehousing of Philips' product creation. This encourages a culture of understanding and co-creation between the various parts of the organisation
- b) As a 'BI' class (light industrial) building, the proportion of occupancy by the headquarters and industrial functions is strictly governed.

Understanding how Philips sees these two aspects individually necessitated a visit to Amsterdam (headquarters) and Eindhoven (High Tech Campus) where the differences were observed as 'stark'.

c) The task in Singapore was to bring these two together as an agile working environment, within one building.

The goal was to create an ecosystem where Philips employees, stakeholders, associates and partners would see one another, greet customers, collaborate and create together as a mutually beneficial community within an open and supportive workplace.

#### What is the foremost interior design principle(s) or consideration(s) at the onset of your engagement and discussion with clients?

Clients appreciate the attention we give, not just to the softer (perhaps more exciting) creative elements of the service, but also to their concerns about deadlines, budgets and long-term maintenance.

The development of an empathetic relationship with a client will open gateways to understanding their operations, idiosyncrasies, values and brand personalities. But this will also help to shed light on the practicalities related to a client's internal politics and their concerns related to stakeholder demands, reporting necessities and the impact the work will have on current businesses, staff and public relations/perceptions.

Another key consideration from most clients is the 'yield' from space planning. Corporate clients are concerned about headcount; F&B operators about seating capacity; hoteliers about revenue area and room count; and retailers about product and brand displays, stock keeping units and promotion areas. Here, ambition and reality can come together; so early address, debate and decision-making are essential to the time it will take through to concept evolution.

In recent years, recognising the interconnectedness of buildings, people and community in the creation of an environmentally responsible built environment, interior design practice has incorporated strategies that now focus on providing physiologically and psychologically healthy indoor environments for individuals to live, work and play. Could you share how a recent project has successfully done so, minimising negative and maximising positive impacts over the expected life cycle?

When designphase dba was approached by the developer of Asia Square to propose a concept for a food court on the second storey, our initial thoughts were as follows:

- a) With the business-like severity of the development's architecture, it was clear to us that those working in the precinct would need physical and psychological relief from their pressured work life.
- b) If you think about a food court, generally everyone will have in mind how it should be and how to go about its operations. So we proposed a 'multi-cuisine dining destination', reframing the proposition to allow a creative dialogue to open up in a very unusual direction.

Currently, with Asia Square being part of the 'City in a Garden', we pushed forward the idea of a 'Garden Within a City in a Garden'. With free flowing curves and generous spatial arrangements similar to a park in the CBD, this concept provided the added advantages of exposing vendor brands to the majority of diners and easing traffic through the 70,000-square feet space with nearly 1,300 seats. An abundance of greenery calms the nerves and is easy on the eve. Interestingly, the leaves and stems of all the plants, which were specified as artificial, contributed positively to the sustainability target of LEED Platinum due to the energy saved from unnecessary plumbing and special lighting. Huge potential costs were also saved in ongoing maintenance and attention to hygiene.

Interior designers aim to create internal spaces that are both visually appealing and practical. Could you highlight a notable work in which you successfully overcame a challenging proposition that competently integrated seemingly divergent improbabilities?

The design profession provides almost daily challenges where divergent improbabilities necessitate thinking outside the box to resolve and integrate issues, which seem superficially impossible, or at least very difficult.

Hindustan Unilever's New Corporate Headquarters building in Mumbai had been planned to be in six separate buildings, accommodating their various operating components. These were linked to a ground floor 'street' that was essentially a five-storey-high atrium space where F&B, retail and services functions were located. While a couple of bridges were planned, these were perfunctory in their location and utilitarian in concept. Our dilemma was: "How do you connect all of the 2,000 employees within the buildings, so that they can integrate, collaborate and just get to know one another more easily?"

The key that unlocked this dilemma came in three separate but allied notions:

- a) Working closely with DEGW (strategic planners) it was suggested that there should be more bridges and open stairs. And they should not be prioritised over the other in planning their locations. If the bridges crossed the atrium at usual angles, they would offer employees the opportunity to see their colleagues as they moved around the building.
- b) Locate what would have been internal (within the office space) meeting rooms to positions outside of the office area facing the atrium and create 'terraces' there (inside the atrium) as landing points for the bridges. This meant that employees would converge at these points for meetings, chats and connections. Of course, this also considerably heightened the likelihood of serendipitous connectivity and opportunities for informal conversations.
- c) By externalising these terraces towards the atrium, they and the pathways that connect them to their internalised offices would also be exposed to the view of all who are in the atrium, ground or upper levels. An ideal opportunity was therefore created to 'brand' these balconies with themes that represented the Unilever departments that they were associated with.

Another great example was Napoleon Restaurant in Telok Ayer. The client had a limited amount of space (1,100 square feet) and a requirement for a





#### Developing an empathetic relationship with your client will open the floodgates of understanding operations, concerns and aspirations.

full service kitchen, a separate bar and an Enomatic wine dispensary, as well as 50 seats for diners! Here, we created a 'hidden gem' concept, where the exterior was treated modestly but the interior really popped once you pass through the entrance.

#### What are the major challenges faced by the studio and the interior industry in Singapore in general?

There is still confusion in some client's perceptions as to what interior designers are supposed to do and how they work (where processes are concerned). This is not helped by a lack of clarity in certain segments of the industry itself. But there is general recognition from industry representatives like the Interior Design Confederation and the Society of Interior Designers that more public awareness is necessary, which will be helpful for both the professional community and the public. The most prevalent question is: "What is a design consultant and how is this different from a design builder?"

Undertaking challenging assignments is stressful in any studio. For design consultants, this can be made even more difficult with this sort

of confusion or misunderstanding and will be exacerbated if fees are supressed, budgets are limited, deadlines are shortened, or changes keep recurring to the design. At the end of the day, to keep things moving, those involved in such projects need to believe that they are working toward a common, shared purpose and that the outcome will be a reflection of their creative spirit, positive professionalism and neversay-die attitude. And they need to know we as directors and leaders are always there to support them.

#### What are the main objectives that you try to meet in every design?

Innovation, operational efficiency and punctuality. Developing an empathetic relationship with your client will open the floodgates of understanding operations, concerns and aspirations. Reframing the brief to allow your imagination to develop something distinctive. Managing everyone's ambitions to control the outcome within the established time and money targets.

#### What principles are fundamental to your work ethos and culture? Creating positive experiences through design is central to the designphase

#### Living up to your promises creatively and professionally enhances your reputation. This is the most important reward to be gained from every project.

dba spirit. We celebrate our positive and inclusive culture, and it permeates every part of our business. When recruiting, we look for "what makes someone different"; "what can we learn from this person"; "what experiences indicate that this candidate has creative initiative, courage to voice their views and a desire to jump the fence and see things from a different perspective". This is because these qualities are likely to predispose them to explore and to appreciate client issues as a fundamental aspect to any brief. It is not just our people who buy into our company culture, but our clients do so too.

#### What are some of the major accolades that you have won and how have they motivated you?

Our firm has won many industry awards, more than most. And over 35 years, we have remained remarkably consistent in this regard. But by far the most important accolades to us are those from appreciative clients.

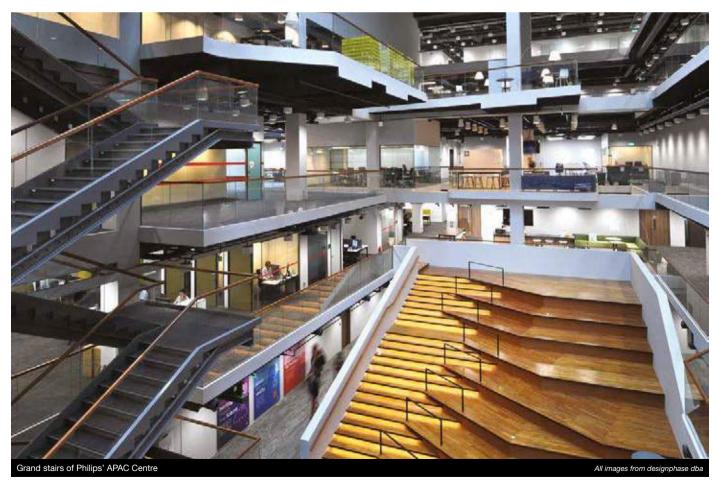
#### How do you want your legacy to be remembered when it comes to your design?

With integrity, tenacity and diversity.

Being original is much harder than copying and pasting. Being original in multiple sectors is more exciting, experiential and educational than specialising in one. We are delighted when a potential client selects our concept because it resonates in a positive way with their aspirations. We think this is partly because we have a broader outlook, which is influenced by working in other sectors. Living up to your promises creatively and professionally enhances your reputation. This is the most important reward to be gained from every project. It is much more valuable than revenue, as it will bring clients back.

#### What are your upcoming plans for 2018 and 2019?

We will be creating positive experiences through design by providing the design community with an interesting voice. We are planning to continue our collaboration with relevant partners of the design field for events, e.g., designphase dba's Community Learning Series. Initiatives such as these help us to connect with professional specialists and to provide the wider community with a different perspective on interior design. We will be following up on our two successful events Scent in Spaces and Sound in Spaces with new and interesting ways of appreciating the world in which we work, live and enjoy.









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### BCIASIA **AWARDS 2018**

### **SINGAPORE**

#### **BCI ASIA AWARDS 2018 RECOGNISES THE BEST** IN SINGAPORE'S ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

On 4 May 2018, BCI Asia hosted the Singapore leg of its BCI Asia Awards 2018, an annual gala affair, now in its 14th year, held in seven countries in the region. The event honours the best in the industry: top-earning architecture firms and developers constructing the greatest volume of buildings in Asia (BCI Asia Top Ten); excellent Green designs from the architecture fraternity (FuturArc Prize); and ingenious environmentally sensitive projects (FuturArc Green Leadership Award). Additionally, some of the most distinctive interior designs in Singapore (BCI Interior Design Awards) were also recognised.

This year, the awards was especially meaningful as BCI Asia celebrates its 20th anniversary. Chairman of BCI Asia Dr Matthias Krups shared nuggets about the company's beginnings way back when, and how it has transformed itself into a dynamic and multifaceted enterprise. The company is now a major stakeholder in the region's construction sector.

Collaboration is key. And Catherine Loke, first vice president of the Singapore Institute of Architects, who was the guest of honour of the evening, echoed this ethos. She lauded BCl Asia's efforts, as a private sector entity, in bringing industry players together by sharing information, creating networks, and showcasing the best projects in the country and the region, to encourage excellence and forge alliances.

The Singapore event drew more than 240 distinguished guests.

BCI Asia Awards partners appreciated the opportunity to connect with some of the industry's most important people.

"Great event ... and thank you for all your support. You know that we always want to improve and make things bigger/better, so we appreciate us working so closely together," commended Benedikt Herweg, managing director of Schüco South Fast Asia.

"The event was great, and we appreciate the exposure for Technal and the opportunity to meet with key people. We will definitely consider this event for next year," remarked Xavier Courboin, managing director, SEA-Pacific, and marketing director, Asia, Technal Southeast Asia.

"Through your efforts and those of other individuals and corporations in the community, we were able to generate some enquiries and business leads. It's been a long time since I have been to a sit-down dinner that was that much fun," said Danny Ng, strategic business manager of Hafele Singapore Pte Ltd.

"We witnessed the success of this event and find it very useful for young companies like us, as we could showcase our products to major developers/ architects of this region. We will not hesitate to recommend any of our business associates to take part in this event in the future," said Johnny Chua, director of Innivate Pte Ltd.













The BCI Asia Top Ten Awards were presented by Xavier Courboin, managing director, SEA—Pacific, and marketing director, Asia of Technal Southeast Asia, and Dr Matthias Krups, chairman of BCI Asia.

#### **BCI ASIA TOP 10 ARCHITECTS – SINGAPORE 2018**





















#### **BCI ASIA TOP 10 DEVELOPERS – SINGAPORE 2018**





















#### **FUTURARC PRIZE 2018**



From left: FuturArc Prize 2018 Professional Category 3rd Place winning team receiving the prize from Arnold De Silva, head of Construction Chemicals – ASEAN, BASF South East Asia Pte Ltd and Candice Lim, FuturArc managing editor

#### **FUTURARC GREEN LEADERSHIP AWARD 2018**



From left: Benedikt Herweg, managing director of Schüco South East Asia presenting the FuturArc Green Leadership Award to Morphogenesis for their winning projects in the Institutional category, with Robert Krups, CEO, BCI Asia

#### **BCI ASIA INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS 2018 SINGAPORE WINNERS**

The Interior Design Awards were presented by Max Missbichler, senior sales manager, TROX Malaysia Sdn Bhd, and Nish PKN, BCI Asia's general manager (Emerging Markets).





















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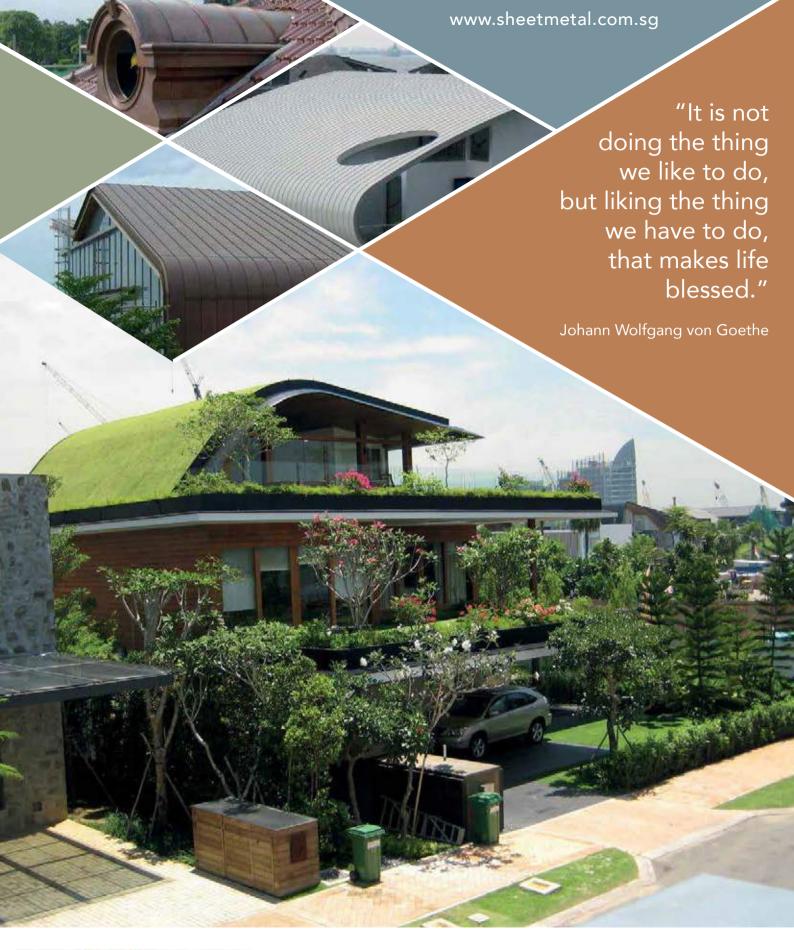














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## BCIASIA **AWARDS 2018**





















### WINNERS **MALAYSIA**



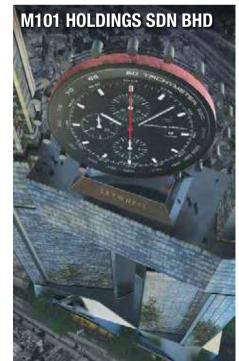






















#### **RDC ARKITEK**



Six-time BCl Asia Top Ten Architects 2018 winner RDC Arkitek Sdn Bhd traces its roots to Regional Development Consortium Architect, a Singapore practice that was established in 1971.

The firm expanded to Malaysia in 1992, opening branch offices in Kuala Lumpur and Melaka in 2005 and 2012, respectively. Over the past 27 years, RDC has delivered a number of large-scale projects, such as Mutiara Hotel, Hatten City and KSL City. It also recently opened its new headquarters at ECO Business Park, Iskandar Malaysia, in Johor Bahru (read more at page 56).

RDC is currently helmed by directors Tan Choon Kiat, Mohd Hisham Ibrahim and Lee Wee Siang. Tan shares with Construction+ how the firm has grown, especially since he first joined 14 years ago.

Upon completing his architectural studies at Louisiana State University in the US, Tan worked with the Stephen Jacob's Group in New York City for two years before returning to Malaysia. "The group in the US had a very good system, but the scope of work was limited as I had to learn everything step by step, and it became a bit too slow for me," he says.

In 2004, he joined his uncle Siow Chien Fu, who was then a director at RDC. At that time, there were only three architects who had to be out attending meetings and visiting job sites in the day time,

only returning to the office in the evenings to draft minutes and draw out plans. "This resulted in inefficient use of time with a lot of repetitive work and overtime," Tan says.

Through the years, the practice grew with more architects and more layers of oversight. "RDC has evolved a lot, from a staff of 13 to more than 70," Tan adds. "With our structure, work can still go on even if someone is away. We have instilled a task-oriented culture so that everyone is selfmotivated to work more efficiently. I'm glad to say that for the past eight years, we have not needed to pay out any overtime."

#### LESSONS AND GOALS

One of the most impactful projects for Tan was the KSL City shopping mall in Johor Bahru, which was built from 2008 to 2012. Located on 6.7 acres in the middle of the city, surrounded by low-rise buildings, the 2.5-million-square-foot mixed development comprised a shopping mall, hotel and apartments.

"We were involved in this project from beginning to the end," says Tan. It was not an easy period with a recession, small market and high steel prices, but the project was successfully completed on time.

"We learnt a lot from the perseverance of the owner, Mr Ku Hwa Seng, who was also the project's main contractor. We would have site meetings every Monday; before the meetings, from 10am to 3pm,



he would walk the site, examining every floor and corner and dealing with the smallest details."

While Johor Bahru remains it core base, RDC is gradually making its name in other parts of Malaysia, spurred by continued work from longtime clients, such as Gadang Holdings, LBS Bina and Green Target Group. The company has also moved from designing single projects and parcels to master planning developments, such as the ECO Business Park Land II.

"We started initiating master plan proposals as an edge to get a bigger piece of the pie," says Tan. "Looking ahead, we want to move into more niche markets and projects, such as airports, museums or hospitals."

#### **REFLECTIONS**

As the 'third generation' of directors to carry the torch for RDC, honesty and integrity are two key elements for a successful partnership.

"Our motto is 'whatever we do, we do it for the company'," says Tan. "If our focus is for the company, nobody can question you or get offended because we do not have any hidden agenda. If there are any issues, we speak out. That's what we have kept on insisting from the beginning."

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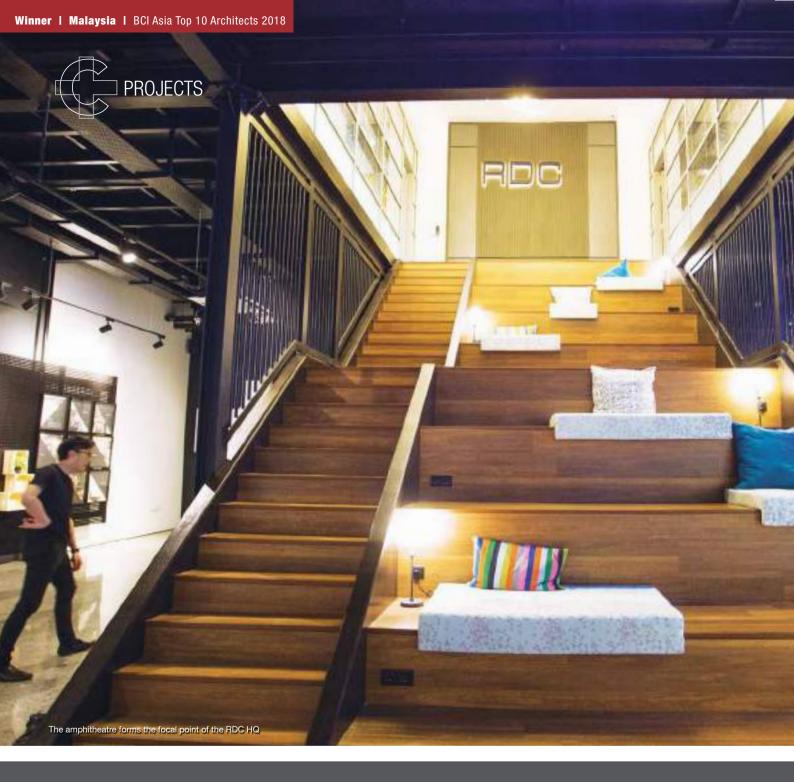


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# RDC HQ







When architects get to design their own office, the possibilities are endless.

"RDC HQ acts as a large design playground for our designers to realise our dream workplace fantasy," says director Tan Choon Kiat.

The plan was to maximise the half-acre site at Eco Business Park 1 in Iskandar Malaysia and to craft spaces for a variety of uses.

As a result, the new RDC headquarters is a synergistic mixture of an open and ergonomic co-working office and a social and informative space, designed to promote work-life balance and bonding among colleagues.

The ground floor space acts as an informative centre with exhibition space and library for industry professionals, construction-related personnel and visitors to learn, play and mingle together. To ensure easy and welcoming access into this public area, a 'fenceless' design is adopted.

An amphitheatre, with its cosy tiered seating, is the focal point of the project. It serves as the main gathering space and a platform for regular





public events or talks by building material manufacturers or professional association bodies to share knowledge and educate the public, site personnel, students and developers.

The building's lower façade sports an aluminium composite panel that enhances the translucent glazing on the top, which acts as a filtration component to prevent direct sunlight penetration into the work space.

Due to time and budgetary constraints, careful

attention was paid to every material and detail—such as the size and angles of each aluminium panel before manufacturing, and the quantity of tiles—to minimise the material wastage and maximise on-site efficiency.

Lighting—diffuse lighting, uplights and garden lighting—is used strategically to create ambience and to express the building's charm in the dark. The landscape and hardscape are used as vernacular elements to blend in with the greenery in the business park.  $\blacksquare$ 

#### **PROJECT DATA**

**Project Name**RDC HQ

#### Location

1, Jalan Eko Perniagaan 1/7, Taman Eko Perniagaan, Johor Bahru, Malaysia

Completion Date

18 January 2018

#### Site Area

2,013.48 square metres

Gross Floor Area

818.75 square metres

**Building Height** 

2 storeys; 10.6 metres

Owner

RDC Arkitek Sdn Bhd

Architecture Firm RDC Arkitek Sdn Bhd

Principal Architect

Ar Tan Choon Kiat

**Images** 

RDC Arkitek Sdn Bhd



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# PAM CENTRE BANGSAR





he landmark PAM Centre in Bangsar stands as a showcase of timeless aesthetics and sustainable architecture.

Sited on a narrow tract of land on Jalan Tandok, the original four-storey former warehouse has been transformed into an iconic 10-storey building that a whole institution of architects is proud to call their own.

The Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) purchased the property in 2010 with plans to develop it into an architect-driven centre for contemporary arts. However, due to circumstances, the plans were expanded to include a new headquarters in 2012.

PAM invited its corporate members to submit design proposals for the new centre. The chosen design out of 36 entries—by Ar Mohd Heikal Hasan of HMA & Associates—provided an elegant and efficient solution for the highly constrained site.

In May 2016, the PAM Centre was completed at a cost of RM17.8 million. With a built-up of 3,782 square metres, it includes an auditorium, exhibition hall and rooftop skybar.

#### AN ARCHITECTURE ICON

The minimalist building cuts a distinctive figure with its striking powder-coated black aluminium grid façade wrapped around exposed concrete



walls, accented by yellow staircases on both ends of the building.

Diagonally stacked and landscaped open atriums add splashes of green to an industrial backdrop, while promoting cross ventilation and connecting the whole building together. These pockets of semi-private spaces are inspired by the old Chinese shophouse courtyards.

Running alongside the atriums is a long single-flight steel staircase, which emphasises transparency, connection and flow, both physically and visually.

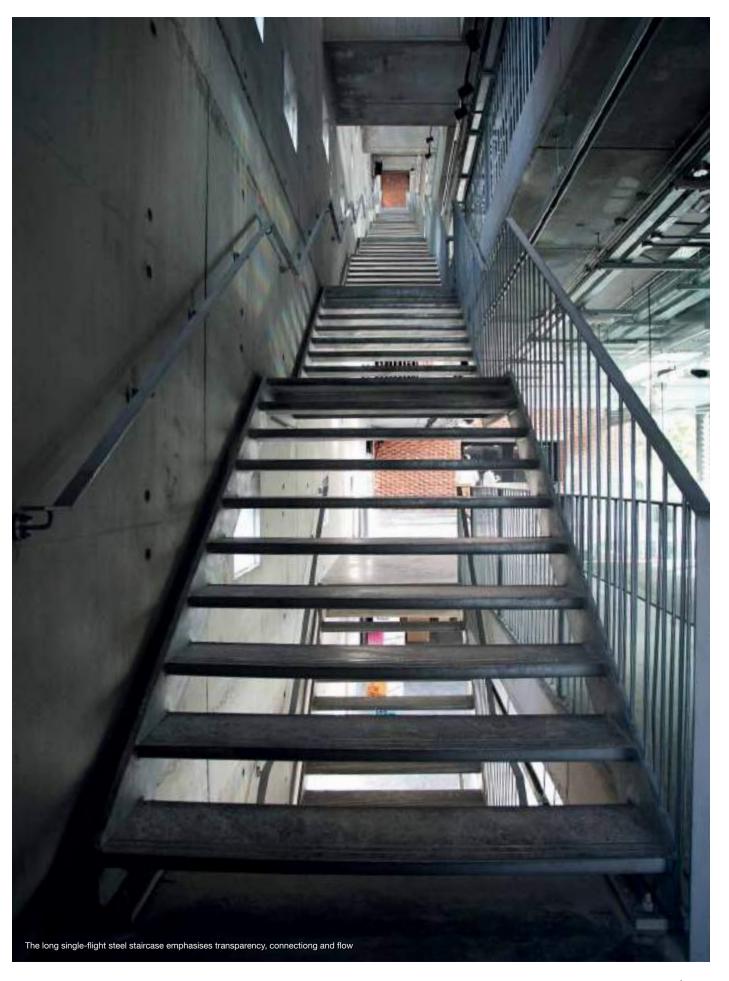
The backdrop of these is a concrete shear wall, which forms the spine of the centre. Made from off-form concrete, the wall shields the centre from neighbouring block, which has a somewhat 'loud' colour scheme.

The raw and unfinished materials used inside and out were chosen for their richness of texture and ageless appeal.

#### A SUSTAINBAILITY SHOWCASE

The centre received the highest rating of platinum under the national Green Building Index (GBI) for sustainable and efficient buildings with its careful design and systems.

Ample natural light and air flow are key features that are instantly evident as one steps into the tripleheight entrance foyer. More than half the space is illuminated with natural light that streams in through large glass openings and skylights. Old-school louvre windows and punched holes in the shear wall facilitate cross ventilation—all public and circulation spaces, such as lift lobbies, escape staircases, toilets and the sub-basement, are naturally ventilated.







The original four-storey structure has been retained and incorporated into the new building, reducing the use of new building materials. The cafeteria, exhibition spaces, auditorium, storage space, training room, and prayer rooms occupy the original structure.

Egg crate-like sun shading devices and blinds on the north-west façade help cut down 60 per cent of the solar radiation, preventing glare and reducing heat penetration into the office spaces. The cold air trapped during the night in the building's southeast-facing concrete wall is naturally released in the morning, helping to further cool down the building.

The building automation system and solar panels increases energy efficiency, while water-efficient

fittings and a rainwater harvesting system result in huge water savings. On-site composting contributes to the building's landscape sustainability, while hybrid vehicle charging stations and bicycle racks outside the building encourage Greener modes of transportation.

Apart from the landscaped atriums, there is a herb garden at the back of the centre, with local herbs such as pandan, limau purut, lemongrass and galangal.

No doubt, the project's Green building features drive PAM's message of sustainability, while also contributing towards cutting edge technology in the building industry.

#### **PROJECT DATA**

Project Name

PAM Centre Bangsar

Location

99L, Jalan Tandok, Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Completion Date** 

May 2016

Site Area

1,120 square metres

Gross Floor Area

3,782 square metres

**Building Height** 

10 storev

Owner

Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM)

Architecture Firm

HMA & Associates

**Principal Architect** 

Mohd Heikal Hasan

Interior Design Firm

Spatial Factors Sdn Bhd

Principal Designer

Ar Chris Yap Seng Chee

Civil & Structural Engineer

TY Lin International Sdn Bhd

Mechanical & Electrical Engineer

Primetech Engineers Sdn Bhd

Quantity Surveyor

JUBM Sdn Bhd

Landscape Architect In-Site Design

Green Building Consultant

Exergy (M) Sdn Bhd

**Main Contractor** 

Al-Ambia Sdn Bhd

**Images** 

PAM; Mohd Radzi Ibrahim





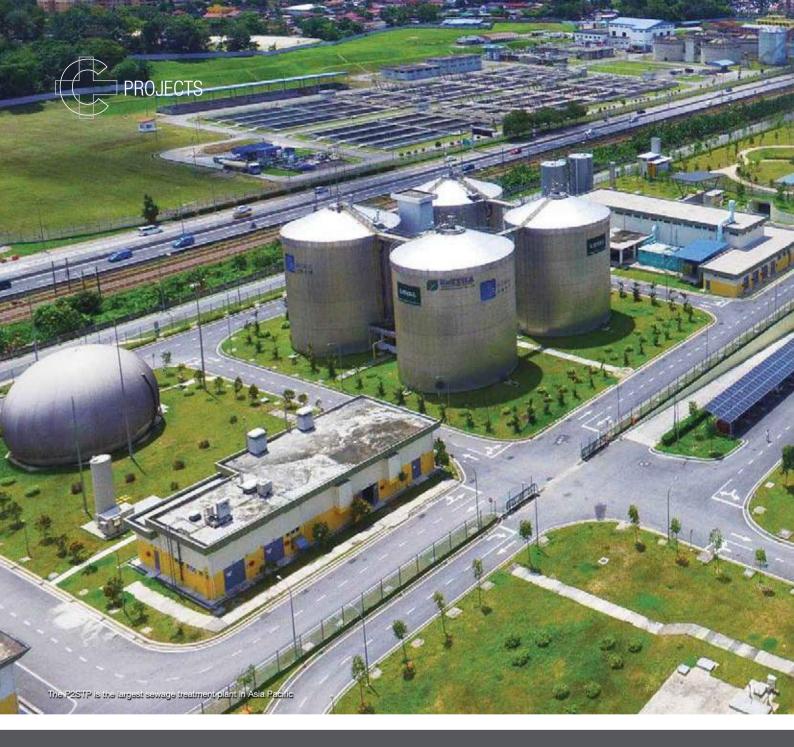


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# PANTAI 2 SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT



For more than 50 years, Pantai Dalam—one of the oldest settlements in Kuala Lumpur—has been known as the home of the Pantai Sewage Treatment Plant, an open-air oxidation pond that served as one of the most critical sewage treatment facilities in Kuala Lumpur. The unfortunate by-products of this service are the water pollution and unpleasant odour that emanate from the facility.

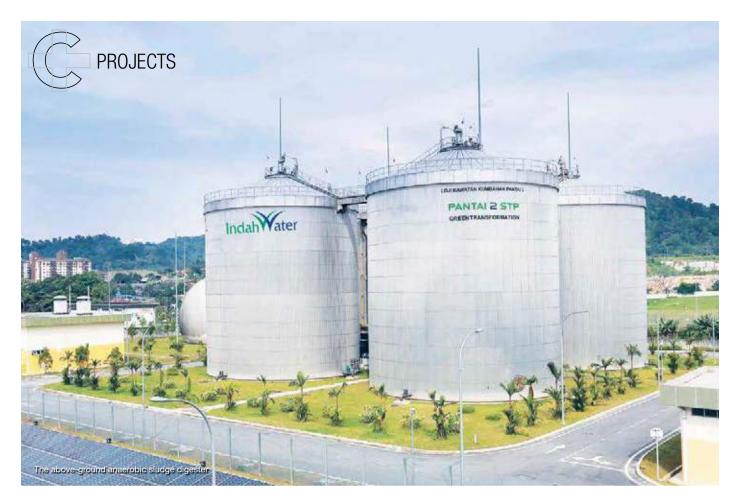
Under the 10th Malaysia Plan, the RM983 million Pantai 2 Sewage Treatment Plant (P2STP) was built to replace the original facility. This new stateof-the-art mechanised underground regional sewage treatment plant has proved to be a model for innovation in concept, design, engineering and construction-setting new standards for

sewage treatment in Malaysia and transforming its surrounding environment.

#### FROM POND TO PARK

The Pantai catchment area covers 6,700 hectares in the central and south-western parts of Kuala Lumpur—including Bandar Baru Sentul, Sentul Raya, the Bukit Kiara central business district, Taman Botani and parts of Petaling Jaya-with a 320,000-cubic-metre per day capacity to serve a population equivalent to 1.423 million.

The mega sewage treatment plant—the largest in Asia Pacific—is constructed on the same site as the previous oxidation ponds and comprises two main parts: the sludge treatment facility above



ground and the fully underground multi-layered sewage treatment facility that goes 17 metres deep.

At the ground level, there is also a 12-hectare public park—Pantai Eco Park—complete with waterways and abundant greenery, as well as recreational facilities, such as jogging track, playground, courts for futsal, tennis, sepak takraw, volleyball and badminton, community centre, cafeteria, surau and covered parking.

#### TREATMENT PROCESS

The plant is designed for Standard A effluent discharge quality as prescribed in the Environmental Quality (Sewage) Regulations 2009.

This state-of-the-art plant uses advanced anaerobic-anoxic-oxic (A2O) liquid treatment process—using microorganisms to break down sewage material—which results in better quality effluents, more efficient and effective removal of contaminants such as nitrogen and phosphorus from wastewater, more stable operating system, minimal production of sludge, and a smaller footprint.

With centralisation of sewage treatment at P2STP, as many as 140 small plants that produce substandard effluent can be closed, reducing

pollution into the Klang River. Odour scrubber systems are provided at this plant to treat odorous gases from the sewage and sludge treatment.

#### **GREEN TECHNOLOGY**

The P2STP is built with sustainability in mind, capitalising on renewable resources for energy and water to reduce wastage and pollution. It has a Green Building Index (GBI) silver rating.

A bio-gas generator converts the methane gases produced during the sludge treatment process to generate up to 700 kilowatts of auxiliary power. Together with solar panels installed atop the parking lots, it supplies 10 to 15 per cent of the plant's power needs.

Rainwater harvesting produces about 80 cubic metres of water a day for toilet flushing and landscaping, while a multi-stage filtration and reverse osmosis membrane system recycles bioeffluent into 2,460 cubic metres of treated water daily for plant operations.

The aquatic skylight over the underground passageway provides natural lighting for the space below with energy savings of up to 30 kilowatts a day, while the wastewater source heat pump facilitates heat exchange with effluent to generate







The fully underground multi-layered sewage treatment facility goes 17 metres deep



a cooling load of 1,200 kilowatts, which drives the air-conditioning system for the administration building and community centre.

#### SIX YEARS IN THE MAKING

Beginning in July 2011, the project was finally completed after more than six years. Works included the construction of a temporary treatment facility, the underground and above-ground structures, and the installation of equipment, as well as operations and maintenance. The community centre and sports facilities were among the final structures to be constructed.

The project was not without its challenges from surrounding residents, site constraints and technical difficulties. Temporary treatment facilities were provided to deal with continuous incoming sewage flow while underground excavation works were ongoing. During water rationing periods, filtered rainwater was used for concrete mixing, while extensive pumping and plugging of leakage points were required during excavation works due to the high water table. Working with a Chinese contractor also meant dealing with different reference standards, working culture and practices.

#### **PROJECT DATA**

#### Project Name

Pantai 2 Sewage Treatment Plant

#### Location

Jalan Kampung Pasir 1, Pantai Dalam, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

#### **Completion Date**

July 2017

#### Site Area

17 hectares

#### Owner

Ministry of Energy, Green Technology & Water

#### Implementing Agency

Sewerage Services Department (JPP)

#### **Project Management Consultant**

Kumpulan Ikhtisas Projek (M) Sdn Bhd-MECIP (M) Sdn Bhd ioint venture

#### Architecture Firm

Kuek Wee Chien Architect (KWCA)

#### Design & Build Contractor

BEWG (M) Sdn Bhd

(novated from Beijing Enterprises Water Group Ltd, China)

#### Civil & Structural Engineer

Engineering and Environmental Consultants Sdn Bhd (EEC Sdn Bhd)

Mechanical & Electrical Engineer SMHB Sdn Bhd

### **Quantity Surveyor** Perunding NFL Sdn Bhd

#### Landscape Architect

PTA Design Sdn Bhd

#### Green Building Consultant

Prudenergy Sdn Bhd

#### National Concessionaire

Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd (IWK)

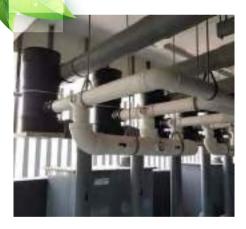
#### **Images**

JPP; IWK; KWCA

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# DARUL HANA BRIDGE



Dridges are so much more than a functional access route. From Golden Gate to Tower Bridge, these public infrastructures are iconic landmarks that help shape the cities they represent.

The Darul Hana Bridge in Kuching, Sarawak, is intended to complement the new State Legislative Assembly Complex (DUN) to form a dynamic urbanscape—set against elegant parks and water features—that will be intrinsically linked to the identity of the city.

Officially opened in November 2017, the RM35 million bridge provides pedestrian access from the Kuching Waterfront in the south of the city to the new DUN, the Botanical and Orchid Gardens and beyond in the north. It will also provide pedestrian access from the surrounding villages to the city centre attractions, such as the Plaza Merdeka shopping mall, the international hotels strip and the cafés at the old Court House.

#### **DESIGN AND FORM**

The bridge form was developed in Kuching by Ng Chun Chien and Kamal Fozdar using cutting-edge 3D-modelling (RHINO) and structural analysis software (SAP2000). A MAKERBOT 3D-printer was used to produce accurate scale models of the bridge and its key components.

Designed with aesthetics and ergonomic considerations, the bridge is an S-shaped



3.25-metre-wide walkway that meanders 335 metres over the Sarawak River. Its curved plan allows a comfortable walkway gradient that is suitable for access by disabled persons, while still providing sufficient clearance for river vessels to pass beneath it. It also orients the bridge towards particularly attractive surrounding viewpoints.

Inclined concrete columns branching from the base of each tower support elliptical egg-shaped viewing platforms. Each platform is 30 metres long by 10 metres wide and covered with a golden roof to match the roof of the nearby DUN.

Nine inclined concrete 'fingers' support the sharply curved approach span at the Waterfront end of the bridge—the number of 'fingers' correspond to the number of points on the star at the centre of the state flag.

#### CONSTRUCTION

The bridge comprises two towers, a network of double-galvanised cables and a precast concrete walkway deck for a three-dimensional structural system that is light and naturally resistant to dynamic pedestrian-induced vibrations.

The load-bearing structure consists of a curved, oneside supported steel tube truss superstructure with two outwards inclined steel masts. The bridge was erected using the balanced cantilever method and built on three sets of in-river bored pile foundations. The main bridgeworks subcontractor worked with Stuttgart-based construction engineers SchlaichBergermann Partners to develop a construction methodology that removed the need for mid-river supports.

Despite the site constraints and other challenges, an efficient project execution plan and successful collaborations among various stakeholders helped to minimise construction risks involved in working on the Sarawak River.

#### **SIGNIFICANCE**

The bridge's steel spaceframe is suspended from two 50-metre-high steel towers that are angled steeply away from each other. Even though the towers pull in opposite directions, by carefully fine-tuning the walkway curvature and tower inclinations, the designers were able to balance all forces and keep all elements in harmony. This symbolises the state leaders' efforts to bring balance and harmony in a multiracial and multicultural society.

The web of angled wires is reminiscent of the arched wings of a traditional Bidayuh bamboo bridge. When viewed from afar, the towers and cables resemble stylised hornbills—the state's emblem. The bridge stands as a homage to its name—derived from Sarawak's full name under the Brunei Sultanate, Sarawak Darul Hana—which means 'Home to Peace and Tranquillity'.





#### PROJECT DATA

Project Name

Darul Hana Bridge

Location

Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Completion Date

11 November 2017

Tower Height

Bridge Length

Walkway Width

Client

Government of Sarawak

Implementing Agency Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC)

**Turnkey Contractor** 

PPES Works (Sarawak) and Naim Land Sdn Bhd

**Principal Designers** 

Ng Chun Chien; Kamal Fozdar

Civil & Structural Engineer KTA (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd

Mechanical & Electrical Engineer

KTA (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd

Quantity Surveyor
PUBM Quantity Surveyors Sdn Bhd

Lighting Consultant

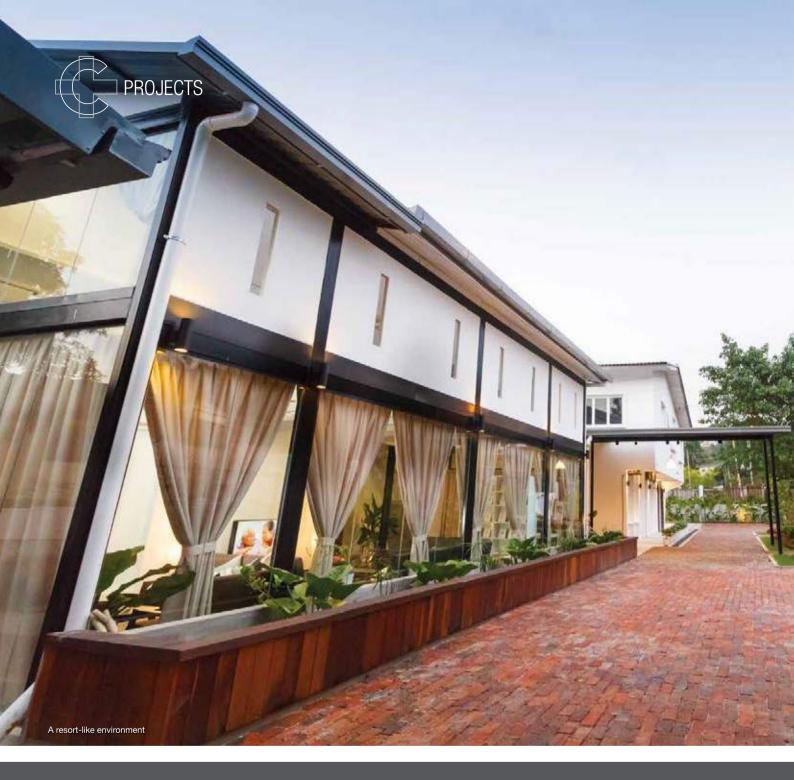
Philips Lighting Malaysia

**Bridgework Contractor** 

SediaBena Sdn Bhd

**Images** 

KTA (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd



# THE MANSION @ GASING





Nursing homes are stereotypically depressing institutionalised places, but The Mansion in Petaling Jaya is a deliberate attempt to shed such stigma.

The assisted-living home would serve semiactive elderly residents, early-stage Alzheimer's and dementia patients, stroke and post-operative patients, on both a short- and long-term basis.

It would also have to be able to accommodate multiple social activities running concurrently, from mahjong sessions and karaoke to gigong and other morning motion exercises.

#### **NEW BEGINNING**

The design and construction took seven months to complete. The project involved the redevelopment of two adjacent colonial bungalows into a 30-bed premier nursing home.

The two rental bungalows were previously used as a corporate warehouse and were in poor shape. The wooden flooring on the secondstorey of one of the bungalows was found to be structurally unsound due to termites—the whole floor had to be completely torn down and replaced within budgetary and time constraints.



On the upside, this allowed for a completely new façade and flooring. The wood was replaced with a steel structure, a glass façade was added, and the upstairs rooms were reconfigured for more open space.

#### A PLACE TO CALL HOME

With the elderly and disabled, accessibility is at the forefront of the design considerations. Residents should be able to move around freely and unobstructed, yet always remaining safe. Grab rails are installed at every corridor and bathroom, as well as shower seating, stair lifts and ramps.

Multiple lounge areas and even a sports pavilion (with a ping-pong table) have been created for social interactions and for residents and their families to spend time together.

The traditional terrazzo flooring—characteristic of the 1960s architecture of Petaling Jaya

bungalows—was repolished to evoke the old-time charm, complemented by practical wood-textured vinyl flooring. The old window pane louvres were retained, while old timber beams that had to be taken out of the building were reused as timber linings across the water features.

To incorporate a tropical environment, the layout is kept as open as possible, with outdoor spaces as a priority. A steel roof structure was added for the outdoor dining area, as well as a water feature and artificial turf alongside the perimeter of the building.

The compound features local plants and landscaping by locals from the Sungai Buloh hillside, as well as traditional coal-burnt redbricked paths. The home is also developing its own vegetable farm, which will provide about 30 per cent of the residents' food source.







#### PROJECT DATA

Project Name
The Mansion @ Gasing

Location

136, Jalan Gasing, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

Completion Date

August 2017

Site Area

1,600 square metres

Gross Floor Area

580 square metres

**Building Height** 

Client

Sawara Care Sdn Bhd

Architecture Firm

**Principal Architect** 

Martin Yap

Main Contractor

NKK Construction Sdn Bhd

Interior Fit-Out Contractor

**Images** 

Sawara Care Sdn Bhd



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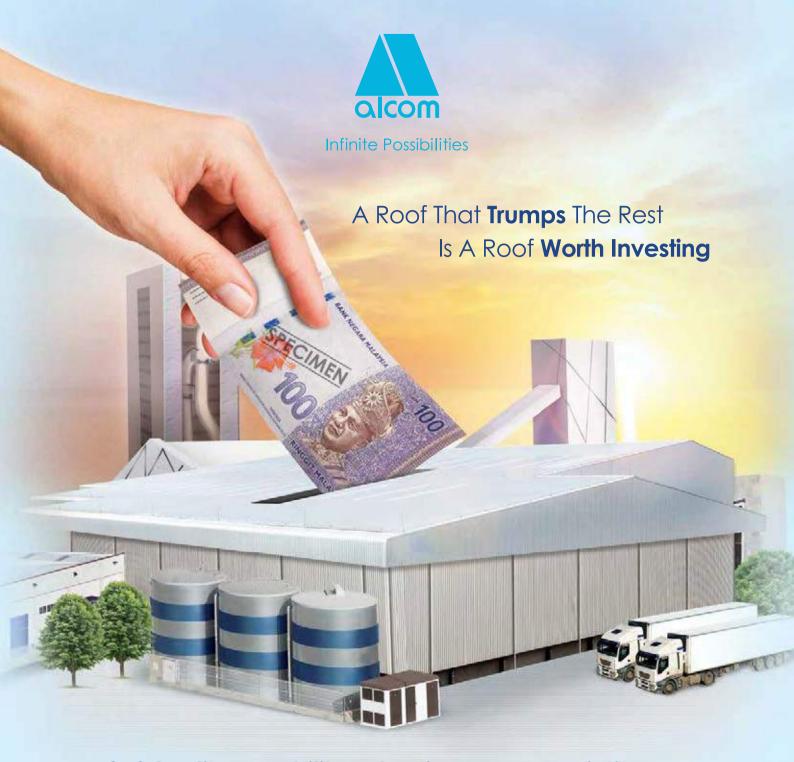
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## KANDA TERRACE







Located in a central Tokyo neighbourhood with many low- and mid-rise office buildings, this rental building for restaurants stands on a long, narrow lot, surrounded by streets on three sides.

Key considerations when designing a building of this type are how to create a group identity for the tenants and how to relate the units to the cityscape. Because of its city-centre location, this mid-rise building needs to be commercially efficient,

occupying the entire permissible floor-area ratio and filling that space with restaurant tenants on every floor. It was therefore essential to set up an attractive, bright and welcoming environment for visitors and passers-by.

The position of the access to each floor was carefully examined during the design process. Each floor is intended for one tenant, to ensure an effectively functioning building with a brief

waiting time at the elevator. The vertical flow of the external staircase and elevator was pushed to the back façade, keeping the second and upper floors easily accessible from the backstreet (crowded with nearby eateries), while the firstfloor restaurant has its main access along the front road. This strategy enables the front road façade to be free of additional structural elements and to be fully glazed without visual obstructions.





The building has a recessed façade with three-dimensional stacked terraces, protruding into the space on each floor. The size and shape of these terraces vary by floor, creating a layered form that changes as it moves upwards. In typical multi-storey restaurant buildings, tenants are completely independent of one another, but in this building, they can interact through the terraces of this vertical garden, creating opportunities for customers at each restaurant to visit the others. Furthermore, this dynamic façade is made of glass, allowing people outside to look into the restaurants. In response to its context, the

building, like a porous volume, encourages the terraces on each floor to connect to the street and the larger neighbourhood. In doing so, it aims to take on a public character.

The black joinery work and frames, while avoiding an office-like appearance on the outside, allow each restaurant unit to stand out clearly from each other. For the interior spaces, the black window sashes, neutral and basic, allow users to apply the space easily. The use of locally available materials kept the project within its limited budget and reduce the overall cost and building period.

#### **PROJECT DATA**

Project Name

Kanda Terrace

Location

Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

**Completion Date** September 2017

Project Site Area

154.91 square metres

Gross Floor Area 986.03 square metres

Building Height

9 storeys; 34.48 metres

Number of Units 10 rental spaces

Architecture Firm Key Operation Inc

Principal Architect Akira Koyama

Interior Design Firm

Key Operation Inc

Structural Engineer

Delta Structural Consultants

Mechanical & Electrical Engineer

Comodo Facility Plan Ltd

Lighting Consultant

Key Operation Inc

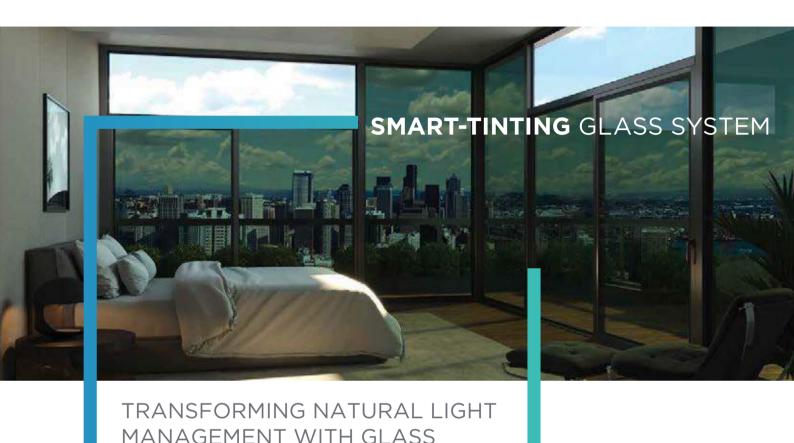
Facility Planner Comodo Facility Plan Ltd

Main Contractor

Images

Shigeo Ogawa





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Halio can block up to 99.9% of visible light



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## PEAK OFFICE



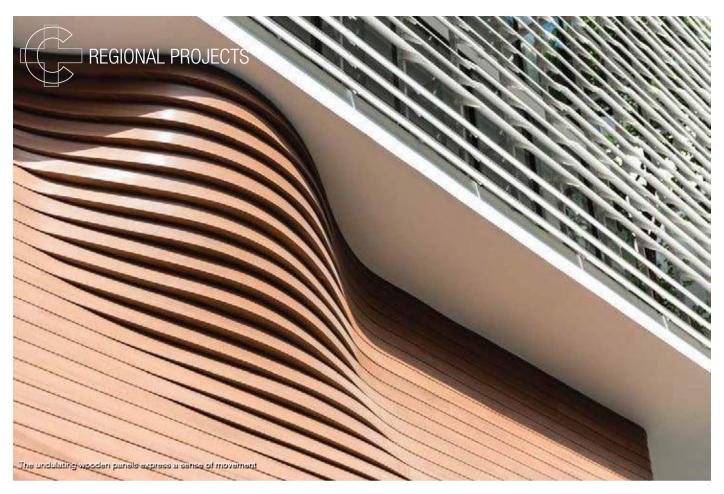


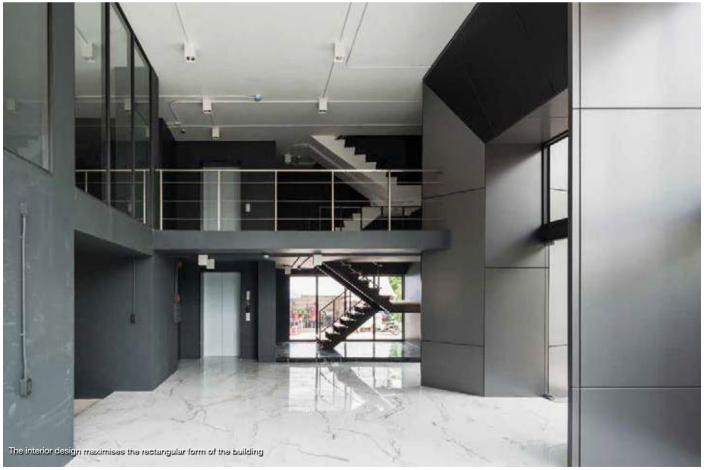
Peak Office is located on the central corner site of Sriwara road, inside the Town in Town neighbourhood, where many production houses, designer firms and creative offices are situated. The architect kept the building height aligned with the surrounding structures while projecting a sense of affiliation to the community through its façade design.

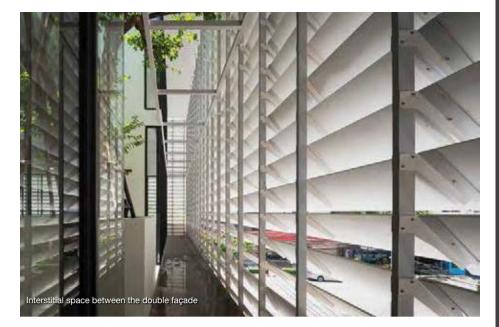
The programme consists of three main sections. with the ground floor holding the parking and reception areas. The area from the second to the fourth floor hosts the office space for rent, with the top floor as the owner's residence. The architect maximised the building's rental area with a rectangular architectural mass that takes up almost the entire land area. The posttensioned floor system used for the structure allows for the project to include more floors.

The owner's personality and passion for car racing are expressed through the physically and visually dynamic façade. The building's façade is divided into two parts and constructed from different

materials. The first part, with the undulating wooden strips, helps lessen the 'stiffness' of the box-shaped mass, resulting in a visually energetic elevation that delivers 'movement' to the building. The second part, made up of a series of horizontal grills, functions as the shell that wraps the three sides of the building's glass exterior. The louvred screen allows for privacy while still enabling a visual connection to the outside. Certain parts of the programme are turned into green spaces, following local building laws and regulations. G











The architectural mass takes up almost the entire land area

#### **PROJECT DATA**

Project Name Peak Office

Location

Sriwara, Bangkok, Thailand

**Completion Date** 

Site Area

1,200 square metres

Building Height 5 storeys; 14.8 metres

Client/Owner/Developer

Maison Garden

Architecture Firm

Principal Architects

Kiengkiat Chuenterawong; Pamornpong Wongpeng; Pimonphan Kinkul (coordinating architect)

Civil & Structural Engineer

J&K Group Engineering

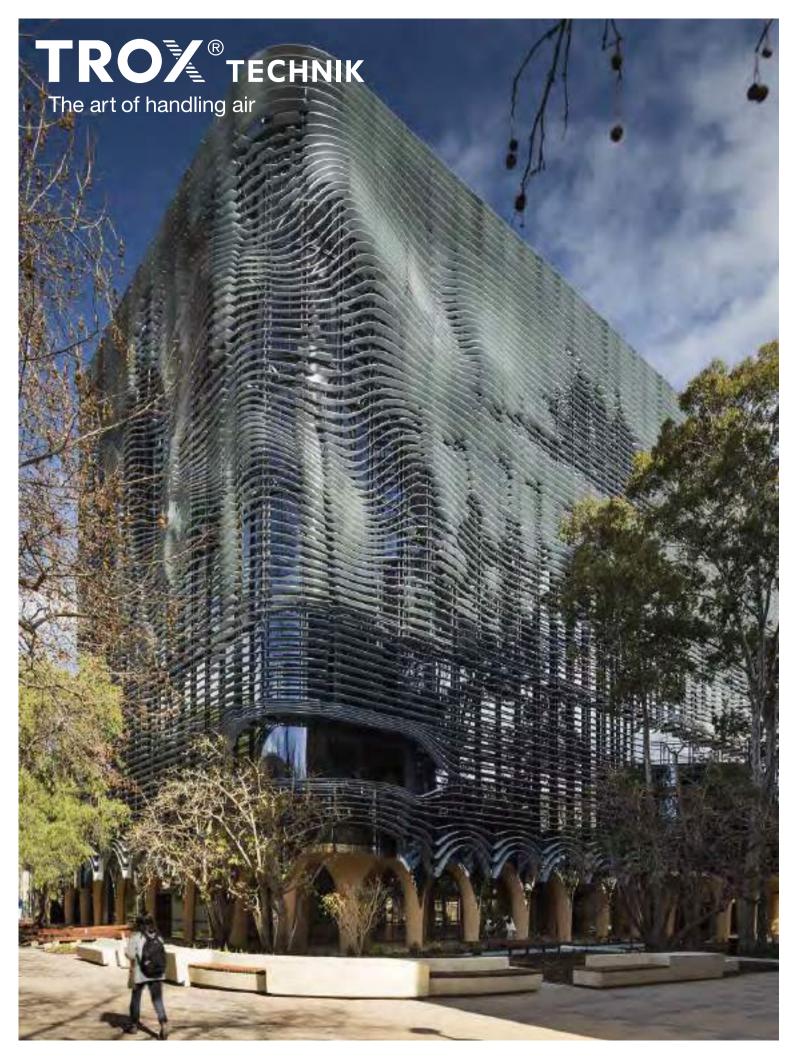
Mechanical & Electrical Engineer TS Electric Engineering

Main Contractor

J&K Group Engineering

**Images** 

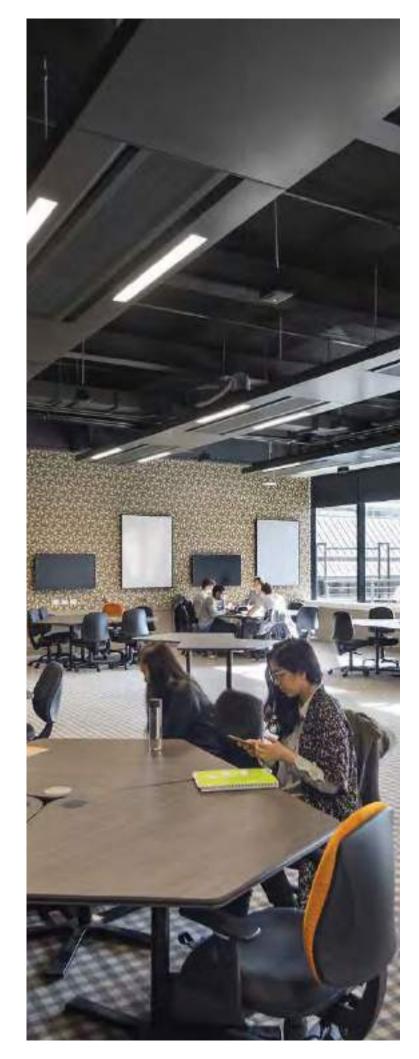
Beersingnoi ArchPhoto



## Tranquility in an urban lifestyle

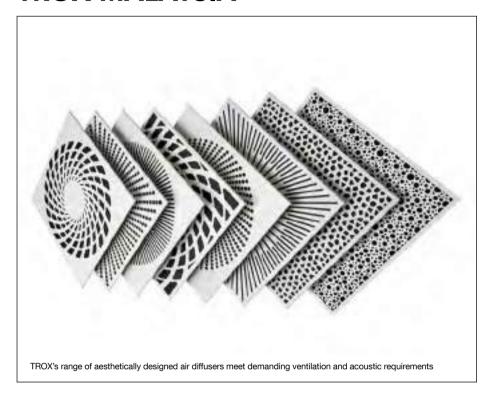
Energy efficient air water systems reduce power consumption of the building yet provide thermal comfort and improve indoor air quality.

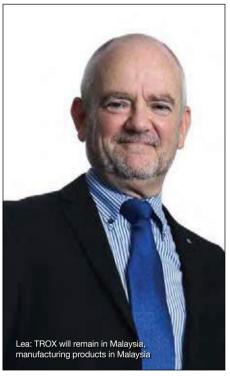
Stylish concepts that shapes an inspirational work environment.





#### TROX MALAYSIA





The TROX Group is the leader in the development, manufacture and sale of components, products and systems for indoor air-conditioning and ventilation.

Headquartered in Germany, the group entered Malaysia in 1995. Since then, TROX has proven itself to be a reliable global partner providing excellent technical knowledge and high-quality products that are manufactured in Malaysia.

Some of the large local projects that TROX has been involved in include the Petronas Twin Towers, the Klang Valley Mass Rail Transit, Universiti Teknologi Petronas R&D Building and the refinery and petrochemical integrated development project (RAPID) in Pengarang, Johor.

Philip Lea, Senior Vice President of Sales, Asia Pacific Operation, informed *Construction+* that "all these projects actually have very diverse requirements, but they all demonstrate that when it comes to air-conditioning, TROX is a reliable partner to work with."

"That is the strength of being part of a large group

as we can utilise resources within TROX from all over the world to ensure that we assist locally in the best possible manner."

#### **INNOVATIONS**

The ubiquitous four-way ceiling diffusers in Asia was one of first diffuser designs introduced by TROX back in 1952. In early 2000, the company engineered a new range of aesthetically-pleasing swirl diffusers called XARTO, available in 10 different face patterns to suit most interior ceiling designs. TROX also works with interior designers to develop customised aesthetics, combined with TROX functions, to ensure optimum indoor air quality.

Since the late 1980s, TROX has also manufactured chilled beams, which are a relatively new concept in Asia but well established in Europe, US and Australia. "With increasing energy costs, we believe that chilled beams are the future due to the reduced energy consumption that they enable," says Lea.

"TROX has now developed a new concept chilled beam called DID-EW for hotel rooms and patient rooms in hospitals. This beam fits beautifully into modern hotel room designs and creates a quieter, more comfortable and hygienic environment for guests."

#### **GROWTH PLANS**

In Malaysia, TROX plans to transform from a component manufacturer into a system supplier to further assist designers and installers. Its new state-of-the-art test facility, set up in 2015, can help simulate the actual installed condition of TROX products and solutions, with mock-up tests that demonstrate the functions, providing additional confidence to customers prior to manufacturing and installation.

TROX Malaysia has also invested in a factory extension, which will open later in 2018. "These long-term investments give our customers confidence that we are not only adapting to the changing needs of the market, but that TROX will remain in Malaysia, manufacturing products in Malaysia."

Brought to you by TROX MALAYSIA



## **MALAYSIA**

Held for the second year running, BCI Asia's Interior Design Awards (IDA) recognises interior architectural designs that stand out aesthetically, functionally and ergonomically. The winning entries showcase creativity and promote excellence in interior spaces. The competition also seeks to generate awareness towards responsible designs (human, economic, environmental, ethical).

About 200 entries for IDA 2018 were received from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Completed projects had to be built within 2016 and 2017, while projects at concept stage had to be finalised for construction on or before 31 December 2018. IDA 2018 is supported by Gold Sponsor TROX Malaysia Sdn Bhd.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS** to the winner and merit recipients from Malaysia:



#### WINNER IM4U YOUTH SENTRAL

Schools

OOI DESIGN & ASSOCIATES SDN BHD



A communal hub for youth volunteerism that was commissioned and designed to provide Malaysian youths accessible and affordable facilities, including a youth hostel, retail studios, and working spaces sports. co-working spaces, sports facilities and art galleries.



#### **MERIT RECIPIENTS**



DAMANSARA AVENUE **SALES GALLERY** 

Ooi Design & Associates Sdn Bhd Exhibition



**DE GALLERY** 

DAA Design Associates Sdn Bhd Residential



**SOFITEL KUALA LUMPUR DAMANSARA** 

Wilson & Associates, LLC Hospitality



**IBIS MELAKA HOTEL** 

Aprilist Associates Sdn Bhd Hospitality



MONOCHROMATIC CRUSH

MX Design Residential



**ROSA MALACCA** 

Rosa Hotel Sdn Bhd Hospitality



**MERU HOUSE** 

A3 PROJECTS (formerly known Arch Cubic) + Kenny Chong Architect Residential



## IM4U YOUTH SENTRAL

en years after it was first completed, the Kompleks Rakan Muda Puchong has been upgraded into a modern communal hub for youths.

The iM4U Youth Sentral seeks to provide accessible and affordable community facilities for the younger generation. Its new design boasts a more striking and appealing visual presence, incorporates better organised spaces and injects flexible public areas that promote private and public interactions within the premise.

#### **REVAMPING THE OLD**

The existing facility sits next to the Puchong Industrial Park, a growing commercial and light industrial area, right next to a new LRT station.

It comprised two building blocks—an administration and hostel block with sub-basement car park, and a sports and events block-linked together with a canvas canopy structure that stretches over ramps, kiosks and seating.

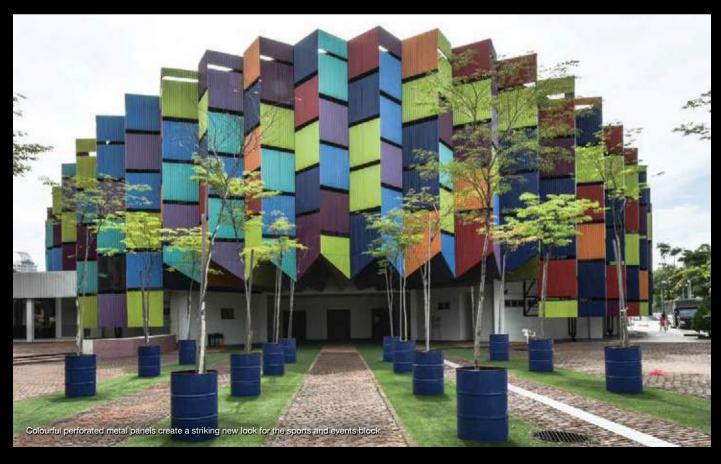
Most of the interior spaces were bricked up with conventional-sized window openings, resulting in minimal visual connection to activities in the building. The internal areas in the sports and events block had large volumetric spaces that were closed up with a low ceiling heights and poor natural lighting.

#### INJECTING LIFE

One of the main changes was the creation of a more welcoming entrance from the main road by demolishing the existing fence and guardhouse along the Damansara-Puchong Highway (LDP). The original main entrance was too close to the LDP flyover exit, hence, a new slip road was introduced to move vehicular access to a safer and more convenient location.

For a fresher look, the designers worked with colours, textures and inexpensive materials. Both buildings sport new facade cladding-vibrant multi-coloured perforated metal panels and vertical gardens—that screen off undesirable views without sacrificing permeability. Transparent materials, such as glass and polycarbonate, replace selected brick walls at selected areas for better natural lighting. Digital and conventional media panels help generate income to support the operation of the complex.

The 'clutter' at the central spine has been removed and replaced with a small piazza that unifies the site and connects the two buildings together, while increasing natural daylight and ventilation to the interiors. The piazza also increases leasable frontage for small retail studios and becomes a space for entertainment and recreational activities.







#### REORGANISED SPACE

The mixed-use building programme takes advantage of the flexible spaces provided. The administration and hostel block is dubbed the Green Wing, complete with a vertical garden wall façade. It includes an open gallery exhibition space for young artists, retail studios and an international youth hostel. Equipped with virtual studio and office facilities, the Green Wing also serves as the start-up centre for budding careers and the development of various volunteer groups.

The sports and events block is known as the Youth Factory, a centre for cultivating young talent in sports and music. A new platform deck linking the first floor of the Youth Factory with the courtyard below makes the building seem less imposing, while allowing a vehicle-free access to the LRT station. The space beneath the platform allows an F&B drive-through outlet, the insertion of cabin studios at the soffit of the new slab, and additional 35 parking bays. A semi-outdoor wall-climbing facility has been added at the rear entrance.

#### SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

Sustainable strategies and initiatives include

rainwater harvesting, a recycling collection centre, louvered glass windows for natural light and ventilation, and porous surfaces to reduce heat gain.

Many flexible public spaces have been strategically designed within the premise unify people and the buildings. The piazza connects all the site's amenities with clearly defined rubber turf paths, marked with linear line patterns, to encourage visitors to walk or cycle around. New lifts are introduced to assist the disabled, along with fire escape staircases.

Landscaping plays an important role, with a cluster of Casuarina trees at the piazza for shade, and trees planted along the boundary. Youths were invited to participate in the design outlook, from mural painting to using upcycled and recycled items for feature walls and installations, for a sense of ownership and belonging.

Hip, vibrant and distinctive—the iM4U Youth Sentral has set itself apart as a showcase of what youth volunteer centre can and should be. c











#### **PROJECT DATA**

Project Name iM4U Youth Sentral

Location

Taman Perindustrian Puchong, Puchong, Selangor, Malaysia

Completion Date
January 2016

Gross Floor Area 7,530.85 square metres

Building Height The Green Wing: 4 storeys; The Youth Factory: 2 storeys

Client

1 Malaysia for Youth

Interior Design Firm
Ooi Design & Associates Sdn Bhd (OD&A)

**Lighting Consultant** OD&A

Mechanical & Electrical Engineer Gabungan APS Holdings

**Quantity Surveyor**Gabungan APS Holdings

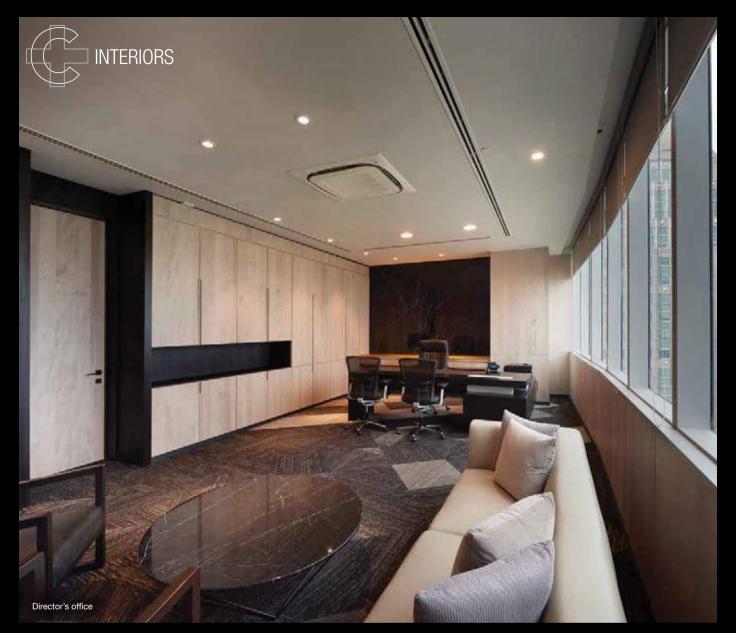
Interior Fit-Out Contractor Gabungan APS Holdings

Images OD&A



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## GUOCOLAND OFFICE DAMANSARA CITY

his property group's office occupies two full floors of its new building in Damansara City, Kuala Lumpur. The main goal of the project was the creation of a statement space to greet guests and a functional space for employees from various departments.

A co-creation exercise was carried out to generate areas for connection, concentration and innovation that help promote well-being and efficiency practices; generate integration between different work teams; stimulate natural and spontaneous collaborations; and reflect

the group's corporate identity both to internal and external users. The project also had to be completed and fitted out in a short time to minimise downtime.

The result is a sophisticated and bold design concept complemented by sleek detailing. One level has been converted into a main reception area, along with meeting rooms and the workspaces, while the upper level holds the directors' rooms, boardrooms, training space and more workspaces.

#### FL00R 13

The limited ceiling height challenged the design team to fit in a statement 'installation' while still achieving a spacious interior. The solution was to create a striking graphical pattern on the floor using carpet tiles to lead and welcome guests to the lounge area.

The floor pattern, installed monolithically and layered diagonally for a dynamic effect, helps amplify the main reception area. Highlights of denim blue—the colour of the client's brand—are used to create a striking contrast against the neutral surrounding tones.



Vertical wood strips on the walls and louvres on the ceiling add warmth to the space, while large vertical light boxes diffuse a soft ambience in the lounge area. The meeting spaces have been integrated close to the reception to facilitate quick meet-ups while maintaining some form of transparency.

A host of wall panels double as cabinets to divide the function of each space, yet continuity of space is not neglected thanks to the carpet tiles design.

#### **FLOOR 13A**

The concept of strength is key to this floor, and this is generated using a warm palette, rich textures and solid colours to reflect the company's brand image. For example, the waiting area's walls are wrapped in dark grey stainless steel, finished with anodised gold inserts.

The combination of open and closed spaces was designed to create collaboration and privacy. The spatial distribution allows transparency and integration of artificial light. A coffee area is included for use by

all group employees to promote socialisation.

One challenge was the office's all-round glazing, which results in harsh lighting and heat. Thus, the larger common areas are confined to the centre of the core, while smaller rooms with specific temperature control line the sides of the building.

Design standards include environmental characteristics and certifications, such as GBI and LEEDS, in an effort to reduce the environmental impact from the office relocation exercise. c







#### PROJECT DATA

#### Project Name

Guocoland Office Damansara City

#### Location

Levels 13 & 13a, Wisma Guocoland, Damansara City, Bukit Damansara, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

#### **Completion Date**

May 2017

#### Office Gross Floor Area

37,000 square feet

#### Storeys

#### Developer

Damansara City Sdn Bhd

#### **Design Consultant**

P&T Consultants Pte Ltd

#### **Executive Architect**

Kumpulan Senireka Sdn Bhd

#### Interior Design Firm

SWOT Design Group

#### Creative Director

Sean Yeap

#### Civil & Structural Engineer

Asia Pacific Engineering Consortium (APEC) Sdn Bhd

#### Mechanical & Electrical Engineer

Li-Zainal Sdn Bhd

#### Quantity Surveyor

JUBM Sdn Bhd

#### **Traffic Consultant**

Perunding Trafik Klasik Sdn Bhd

**Lighting Consultant**Lightwave Lighting Design Sdn Bhd

#### Landscape Architect

Pentago Landscape Sdn Bhd

#### Earthworks and Piling

Aneka Jaringan Sdn Bhd

#### **Basement Contractor**

SsangYong Engineering & Construction Co Ltd

#### Main Contractor

Daewoo Engineering & Construction (M) Sdn Bhd

#### Interior Fit-Out Contractor

Jalex Sdn Bhd

#### **Images**

SWOT Design Group



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The mix of old-city heritage laced with the rich textures of the dining upholstery reflect the visual vibrancy of both Asian and South American cultures. The combination of bright blues, greens, wicker and geometric parquet creates an eclectic oasis of funky flavours.

The bar seating area consists of seats segregated by high-backed sofas, providing intimate spaces shielded from high traffic. Farther from the bar, there are open seats that cater for larger numbers, allowing a clear view of the beautiful waves of the preserved marble table tops.

In another area, the six-course dessert bar is framed overhead by mint-green timber panels, while the bar stools are upholstered with watercoloured Christian Lacroix fabric. The centrepiece is a vintage ice shaving machine, while an extensive white marble counter top provides a showcase of dessert degustation. Beside the bar, a patterned metal screen subtly hides an open staircase leading upstairs.

The bedrooms have been converted into semiprivate compartmentalised dining spaces, tucked behind the stained-glass doors at the main corridor. These come with sofa lounges, with plush cushions lining the walls, creating a cosy vibe.

The restrooms each come with individual porcelain Chinese bowl basins, each painted with intricate patterns. The counter, tap and mirror frames are covered in brass, with the mirror frame also functioning as a towel holder.

A dark red spiral staircase leads to a semiprivate cocktail bar, clad in cylindrical pipe finishes in varying diameters. The upstairs dining spaces resemble vintage speakeasies for after-hour drinks. The furniture design becomes more executive, while still preserving an eclectic style, with two-seater tables and high-backed seats functioning as semi-partitions against passing traffic. c







### PROJECT DATA

Project Name
Mr Chew's Chino Latino Bar

### Location

The Penthouse, WOLO Bukit Bintang, Jalan Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### Completion Date

April 2017

### Gross Floor Area

740 square metres

# Building Height 2 storeys

### Owners

Eddie Chew; Christian Bauer

# Interior Design Firm SWOT Design Group

### Creative Director

Sean Yeap

# **Lighting Consultant** Lightcraft Sdn Bhd

### Interior Fit-Out Contractor

Jalex Sdn Bhd

**Images** SWOT Design Group



# SUNGAI BULOH STORY GALLERY

Sungai Buloh used to be home to the second biggest leprosy settlement in the world. While a remnant of residents remains, the settlement and its historical significance have been fading into oblivion.

Sungai Buloh Story Gallery was initiated by the Sungai Buloh Settlement Council as a place to house related artefacts and historical materials, as well as a platform for recording, storing and exhibiting the leprosy community's collective memories-which form an intangible cultural heritage.

The design project was first incorporated as a design studio project at the School of Architecture & Built Environment (SABE) UCSI University in 2016.

Students' designs were seen as preliminary design schemes and then further developed and finalised by professional architectural designers—such as Shin Chang and Penny Ng from MentahMatter, Ng Seksan and Wong Jeh Tat from Seksan Design, and Associate Professor Teoh Chee Keong from SABE—who served as unpaid volunteers for the project. The project raised RM700.000 via crowd-funding, and its construction was managed by Great Substance Sdn Bhd as their corporate social responsibility (CSR) project.

### **ADAPTIVE REUSE**

The Story Gallery is located at the former people assembly hall (Dewan Orang Ramai) at the settlement, dubbed Valley of Hope, and divided into several parts—a three-storey gallery space, an outdoor vertical trellis with a fire-safety staircase, a disabled-friendly lift, a canteen-cum-library, and a 'village green' garden surrounding the building.

Considering the heritage and historical values of the existing building, the design team agreed that the new facility should adhere to the principles of heritage preservation with minimum impact to the existing structure, using reversible construction method that would allow flexibility in any space adjustment in the future.

The gallery is built of structural steel and light covering, such as polycarbonate sheets, to minimise the dead









load of the building. The design optimised the use of locally-available and sustainable materials, such as mild steel, salvaged timber, galvanised chain links etc.

This adaptive reuse project required a creative, brave and thoughtful design intervention to carefully insert new spatial elements into an existing hall, without losing the building's original function and characteristics. The newly added Story Gallery provides an additional 200 square metres of space without sacrificing the original useable floor area within the community hall.

### **DOWN MEMORY LANE**

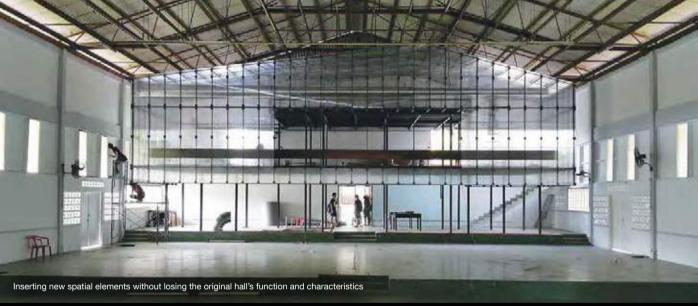
Conceptually, the Story Gallery is designed to connect the landscape of the Valley of Hope environment with the community hall building, with a special construction along the walking path designed to bring visitors down the leprosy patients' memory lane.

The first floor is mainly for display corridors, which leads to the second floor where the main function and activities would take place. The displays include a clear overview about leprosy and the settlement.

The second floor is divided into several sections, including an original film projector room, a main video screening area featuring stories from the survivors, an interactive section, as well as two existing semi-outdoor platforms. These spaces will showcase the settlement's oral history and the social lives of the residents in the past, giving visitors a closer look at the life and stories in the settlement.

The council hopes the project will enable the future generation to remember the settlement, which provided refuge to thousands of leprosy patients since 1930. c









### PROJECT DATA

Project Name Sungai Buloh Story Gallery

### Location

National Leprosy Control Center, Sungai Buloh, Selangor, Malaysia

### Completion Date

March 2018

### Site Area

2,000 square metres

### **Gross Floor Area**

450 square metres

# Building Height 3 storeys; 9 metres

Client/Owner Sungai Buloh Leprosy Settlement Council

Architecture Firms
Collective design by:
MentahMatter Design; Seksan Design; School of Architecture & Built Environment, **UCSI** University

Interior Design Firms MentahMatter Design; LostGen Artspace

**Principal Designers** Shin Chang; Wong Jeh Tat; Teoh Chee Keong

### Landscape Architect

Ng Seksan

### Main Contractor

Great Substance Sdn Bhd

### **Images**

Teoh Chee Keong



The Story Gallery

Fire-Safety Staircase

Canteen and Library

Section view



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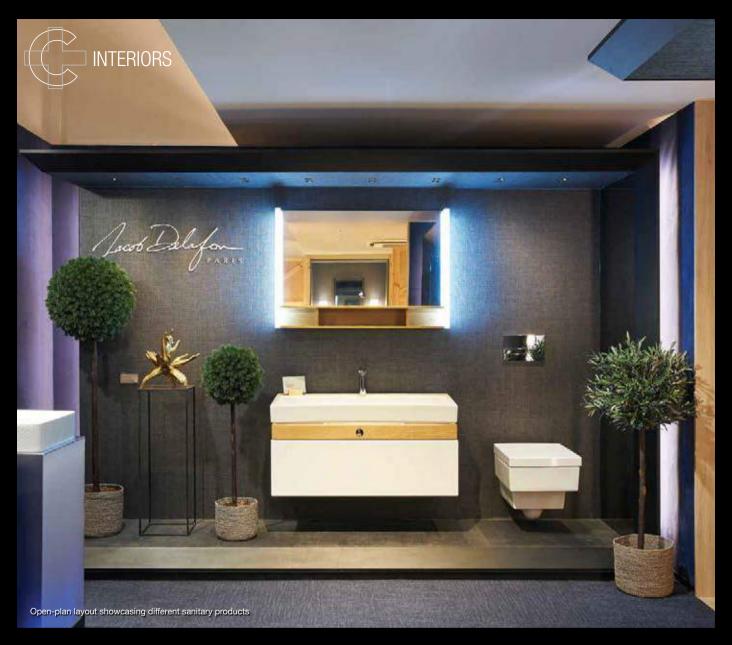






Showcase of the shower products

### KOHLER EXPERIENCE ER ORMANCE SHOWERING CENTER SINGAPORE CO FLOW OPTIONS Located in Singapore's downtown district and housed in a three-storey conservation shophouse on Peck Seah Street, the Experience Center is an interactive showcase for Kohler's Summon the Rain bathroom and spa products housed under one roof. The space is deliberately revealed as a series of five semi-open 'display suites', each designed with a distinctive theme (fashion, hi-tech, family, classic and black). The entrance of the centre is anchored by a gallery space that showcases the brand's history, interactive digital media walls, glass display cases with original castings, and special pieces re-imagined as jewellery. Light timber-panelled walls with black metal trims, plush carpeting and open ceilings give the interiors an airy yet refined atmosphere. The remaining public spaces include a live kitchen, consultation areas and flexible seating arrangements that can be adapted to suit various functions, such as meetings, events and exhibitions. To pay homage to the architecture of the place, a key element in LTW's design philosophy, the design team integrated features such as laser-cut batik panels and Peranakaninspired flooring tiles.



Furniture items were handpicked from Restoration Hardware, an American interior décor brand known for their contemporary furniture, fixtures and accessories inspired by the rustic craftsmanship period. "We felt these items were a perfect complement to the 19th century American home aesthetic that alludes to Kohler's beginnings as a company, as well as the historic nature of the building this Experience Center is located," says LTW partner Teo Su Seam.

The design team created different environments for each bathroom suite to showcase Kohler's sanitary products in a quirky way by allowing the construction of the suites to be completed in a 'pop-up' manner; these spaces have the flexibility to be updated as often as required.

The second level of the Experience Center features an open-plan layout to showcase

Kohler's Sustainability and Konnect products. Two contrasting colours and textures have been used at opposite ends of the space—red to symbolise creativity; and blue to represent the mutual collaboration with sister brands, Jacob Delafon and Kallista.

Dedicated to the newest Kohler products, the third floor of the centre invites visitors to experience the range in an intimate and cosy setting.

"This was both an immersive and intensive process for us. Using a theatrical approach, we wanted to tell a story about each collection that is dramatic and multifaceted," adds Teo. "From getting to know the wide range of high-quality products from Kohler's various lines to delivering the end result in a very compressed schedule, our team was very excited to work on such a unique interior project." c



# A bold use of red in the display



### **PROJECT DATA**

Project Name
KOHLER Experience Center Singapore

### Location

52/56 Peck Seah Street, Tanjong Pagar, Singapore

# Completion Date June 2017

### Project Site Area

1,116.88 square metres

### Gross Floor Area

739.85 square metres

# **Building Height** 3 storeys; 13.29 metres

### Client

Kohler Co

# Interior Design Firm LTW Designworks Pte Ltd

# **Principal Designer** Teo Su Seam

# **Lighting Consultant** LTW Designworks Pte Ltd

### Interior Fit-Out Contractor

Huading & Zinta

Images LTW Designworks Pte Ltd



# 'ORGANIC CELL SPACES' AT PLATFORM E

latform E is an entire entrepreneurship ecosystem and support community. Its two-level co-working space, at the Singapore Institute of Management's Management House, consists of open desks, private suites, discussion rooms, boardroom, administrative offices and an atrium lobby.

Organic cells are the building blocks of life in any ecosystem. Hence, circular cell shapes are used extensively in the interior design. Glass walls create a sense of transparency for the whole place, while colourful graphics inject a metabolic and energetic feel, like that of an organic cell.

The previous space was used entirely differently. Thus, the whole project involved a completely new

layout, with all walls being demolished, and new spaces being created.

The circular-shaped discussion rooms, boardroom and co-working spaces are given strategic frontages; they flank a central corridor that leads to the open roof terrace, which allows occupants easy access for a breath of fresh air. Ancillary areas such as the administrative offices are tucked away.

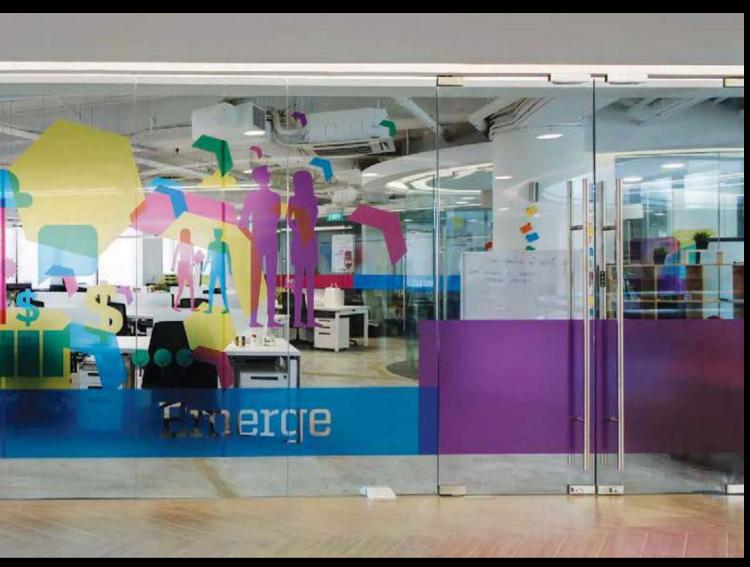
The co-working space can accommodate more than 250 desks, arranged in linear form to maximise space utility. The raw cement floor and exposed ceiling create a bare energetic look and save costs. Carpets are used for floors in the boardroom and

discussion rooms for better sound absorption.

The atrium lobby has been upgraded and modernised. The herringbone floor tile pattern creates a more youthful look. Counters, entrances, columns and staircases have been clad with white acrylics with accent lighting.

The circular scheme used is accentuated with glass walls, circular cove lights, tables and seats, carpets details, etc.

This project was accorded the bronze award at the Interior Design Excellence Awards 2017 for Best Workplace Design in Singapore, in the workplace over 5,001 square feet category.









### PROJECT DATA Project Name 'Organic Cell Spaces' at Platform E

### Location

41 Namly Ave, Singapore

# Completion Date August 2017

### Client

Platform E, Singapore Institute of Management AEC Pte Ltd

# Gross Floor Area 2,500 square metres

Interior Design Firm Lim Ai Tiong (LATO) Architects/Design

# **Principal Designer** Lim Ai Tiong

**Images** Lim Ai Tiong (LATO) Architects/Design





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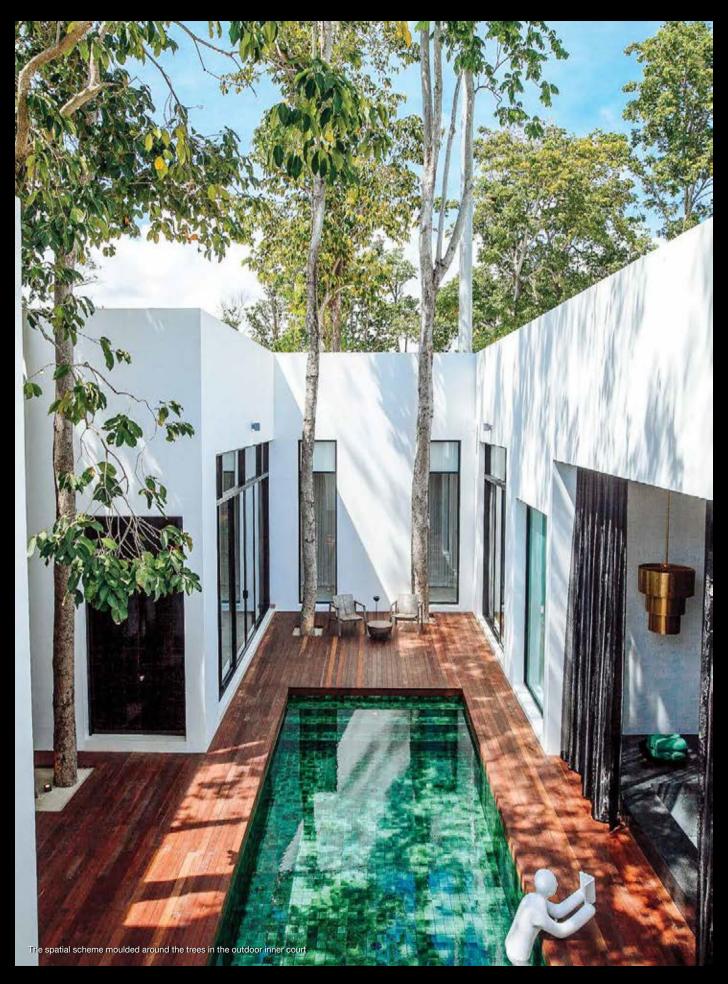
# THE SECRET CHAPTERS

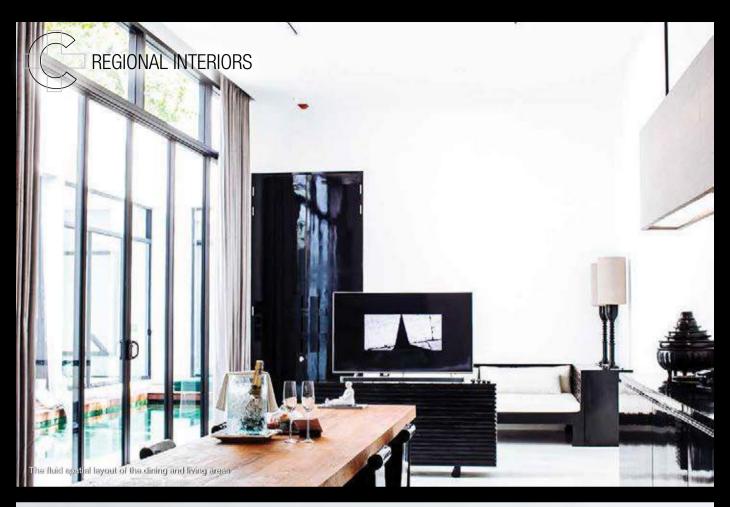
Jesigned for guests to experience both freedom and privacy, the subjective notion of conceptualising a secret place was a challenge for the design team—how does one create and define a space based on such an elusive, fluid idea? Aside from this, the second challenge was for the designers to retain the existing landscape, based on the client's wishes, with almost 100 trees scattered around the site that must be preserved. Prior to the conceptual design, the team tested several schemes of the hotel's master plan in order to tailor the architecture to fit the existing landscape while responding to the project's feasibility.

The designers expressed the 'secretive nature' of the building by 'moulding' the spatial scheme around the trees, which produced architectural clusters that blend with the surroundings and also created spaces that are open as well as hidden. These spaces unfold or open up only to those who have access, allowing for a sense of freedom in the privacy of a well-concealed spot, as laid out in the design brief.

The colour palette and finishes, as well as the use of white walls, wooden decks and plenty of glass, convey a modern Asian sensibility. C











# Bedroom



### PROJECT DATA

# Project Name The Secret Chapters

### Location

Samui Island, Surat Thani, Thailand

### Completion Date

March 2018

### Client/Owner

Kamoltham Co, Ltd

# Gross Floor Area 5,000 square metres

### Interior Design Firms

Tirawan Songsawat; G4 architects Co, Ltd

### Number of Villas

# Mechanical & Electrical Engineer ADEE Environment & Engineering Co, Ltd

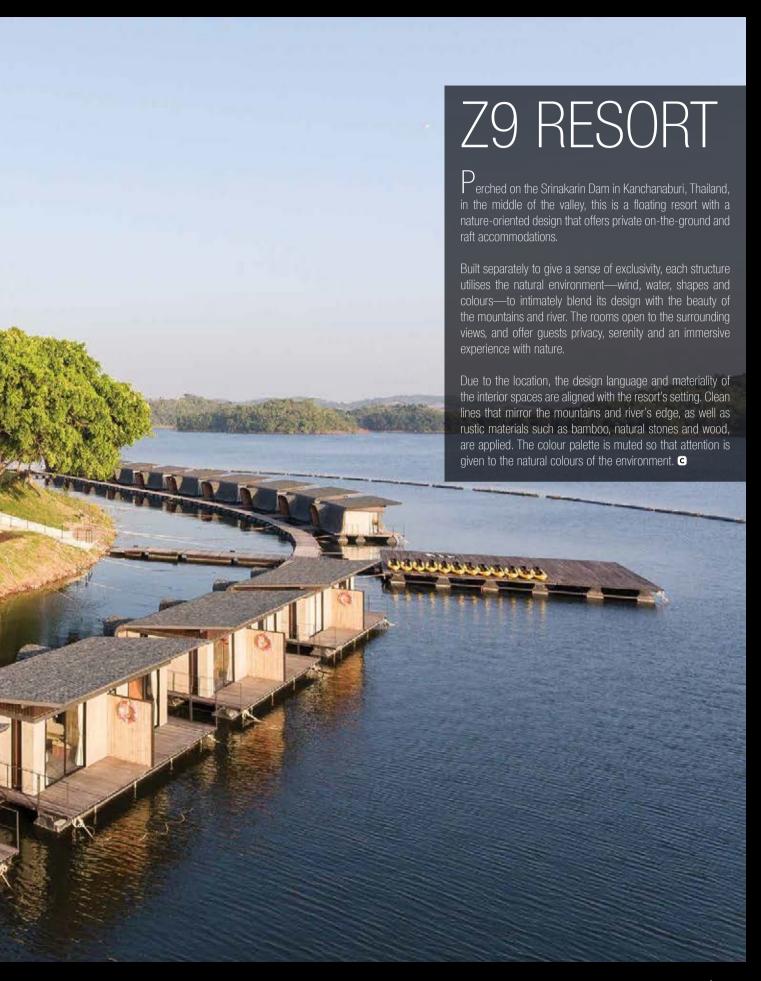
**Quantity Surveyor** Prachanart Nawamintr Co, Ltd (PCM)

### Interior Fit-Out Contractor

Pattara Studio

Images Kamoltham Co, Ltd; G4 architects Co, Ltd; FAT FILM Studio













### PROJECT DATA

**Project Name** Z9 Resort

Location

Kanchanaburi, Thailand

Completion Date 25 December 2017

Client/Owner

Chatchai Chatudomkul

Gross Floor Area 2,500 square metres

Interior Design Firm Dersyn Studio Co, Ltd

Number of Rooms

**Lighting Consultant** Saksit Veeramas

Electrical Engineers Teerachote Konglomjeake; Dersyn Studio Co, Ltd

**Quantity Surveyors** Narathip Deekaew; Dersyn Studio Co, Ltd

Properties Masters Tawee Nawatrakulpisut; Kunaporn Buathong

Interior Fit-Out Contractor TEN Design and Construction Co, Ltd

**Images** Beer Singnoi







### Liyana Lee

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# VITTORIO BY AP

 $\sqrt{\text{ittorio}}$  is a 28-storey luxury condominium located in the heart of Bangkok on Sukhumvit, Soi 39. The client's brief was for a modern 'vertical palazzo' inspired by the Renaissance art and architecture of Florence, with a focus on three main concepts: exquisite building design; high-quality materials and craftsmanship; and privacy for residents. The challenge of this project was to design a lush residence with privacy and sophistication, for the occupants to feel as if they are living in a masterpiece.

### **SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS**

High ceilings inspired by the Uffizi Gallery and a modern classic theme were chosen to reflect refined quality, sophistication and a sense of sanctuary. Entering the building, residents are welcomed by a reception area that opens into a lobby, accessible only by access card for security and privacy. In keeping with the gallery theme, a carefully curated collection of sculptures and paintings by renowned local artists are showcased in a 6-metre-high room, lined with high-quality Palissandro Bluette Italian marble stone and wood.

Fixtures and fittings of exceptional craftsmanship were chosen to meet the client's expectation of timeless five-star lavishness. Patterned glass etched with gold finishes not only camouflages the TV in the master bedroom, but also adds an elegant design element. Through meticulous planning of separated walls and private lift access for discretion and ventilation, privacy was accomplished. In addition, each residence was thoughtfully designed to maximise the available space to ensure a sophisticated quality of life.

All the elements of dwp's design for the show suites and public areas, from the reception and sky lounge to the pool and gym, reflect an extraordinary quality of life. Paintings by prominent Thai artists and sculptures accessorise the public spaces and offer an ambience of opulence. Vertiginous ceilings and towering floor-to-ceiling windows allow space and light to 'flow over' the residents. Modern yet classic chandeliers, reminiscent of a starry sky, are, in themselves, works of art. c















### PROJECT DATA

**Project Name**Vittorio by AP

Location Bangkok, Thailand

Completion Date

1 July 2017

Client/Developer AP (Thailand) PCL

Gross Floor Area

15,685 square metres

Interior Design Firm

dwp

**Number of Units** 

Mechanical & Electrical Engineer Pass Engineering Consultant Co, Ltd

Interior Fit-Out Contractor

Task Interior Co, Ltd

Images/Photos AP (Thailand) PCL



# OOKBEE HEAD OFFICE

Digital lifestyle platform OOKBEE works with many different players in the content industry, from freelance writers to the big publishers in Thailand and the region.

As the company's business was growing rapidly, it needed more space to accommodate its team. Hence, the company rented four units of old five-storey townhouses—which used to house a tire factory—located next to the main street in Bangkok's business district.

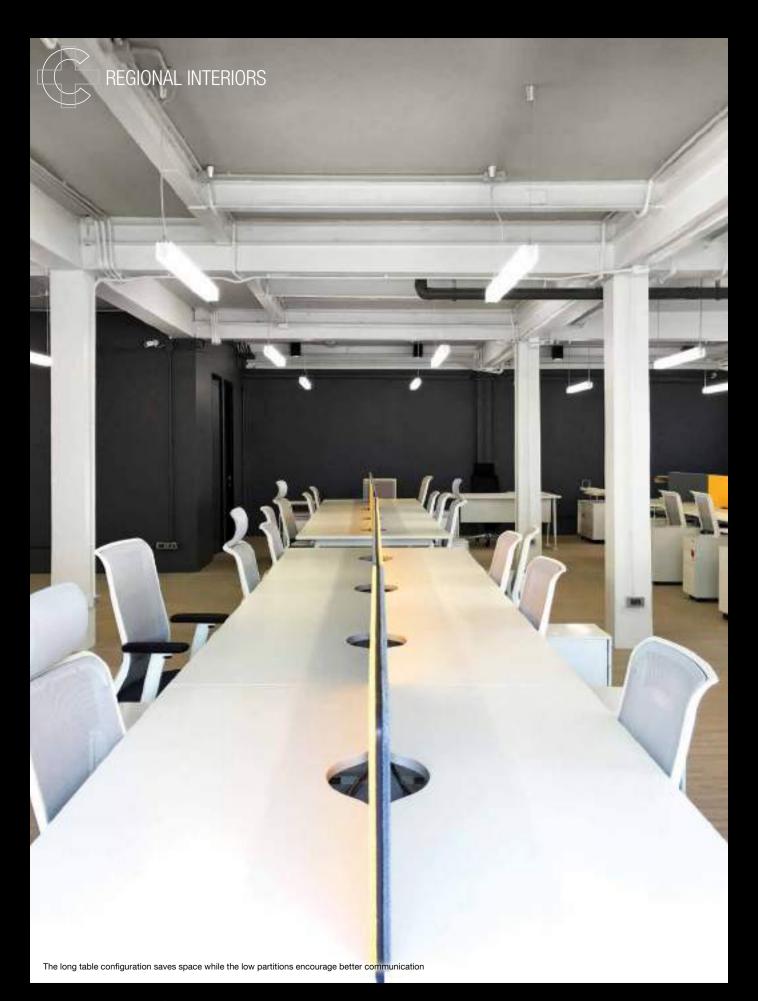
The designers decided to create the physical space by drawing reference from the company's logo and corporate identity. This led to a strong

hexagonal imagery for the interior space, from the colours and the bee hive-patterned screen at the main entrance to the stools and the patterns on the glass partitions. The designers also allocated a rooftop garden with an open-air canteen to bring nature into the workplace. Materials were sourced locally and easily available.

The office space was mainly designed to cater to the new generation of employees, with the large recreational area, free food and drinks at the rooftop canteen, music and sports corner, etc. These are features that would help satisfy the need for a less corporate and more lifestyle-driven type of working environment. c













Project Name OOKBEE Head Office

Location

Pattanakarn 24, Bangkok, Thailand

**Completion Date** 

July 2017

Site Area

316.6 square metres

Gross Floor Area

1,650 square metres

**Building Height** 

18 metres

Client/Owner

OOKBEÉ Co, Ltd

Interior Design Firm

Interior Fit-Out Contractor

10. Design

Mechanical & Electrical Engineer

N Engineering Service Co, Ltd

Civil & Structural Engineer N Engineering Service Co, Ltd

Main Contractor

PKT Co, Ltd

10. Pictures (Krissada Sillapachai)



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# **Open Time**

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Another challenge was the architecture itself the building was a mixed-use shopping arcade and office building, with low ceilings, limited solar access and an irregular structure, forcing the designers to design each and every one of the 129 rooms as an individual exercise. This had to be balanced with the practical necessity of standardising the room design. The solution came again by observing the architectural context and adhering to the nature of the building by using retail design principles. Rather than aiming at standardising the whole room, the designers broke down the room into decorative and functional units that are recomposed in each layout to suit the irregularities of the architecture. As a result, each room gives guests a distinct experience.

The lower basement, with its low ceilings and lack of natural sunlight, is transformed using container-like structures to create an almost shipyard-like space that fits well with the theme.

Meeting rooms are placed here for a more intimate setting.

# REALISING THE DESIGN CONCEPT

Upon entering the hotel, guests will notice hints of its past retail life with the bold colours and excitement of Taiwanese arcades. Elements of life in the harbour, such as custom seating that resembles tangled purple ropes and a reception desk made out of bright pink stacked boxes, sets an industrial ambience.

The 129 guest rooms are filled with bright colours and feature a full headboard wall of vintage soda crates. Again, amenities are placed on shelves resembling boutiques in the neighbourhood, allowing guests to 'shop' for the items they want. The brilliant blue-tiled walls and floor-to-ceiling windows of the bathrooms that look out towards the harbour take their cue from the ocean. The port hole-inspired mirror and luggage-like seating at the vanity desk add the finishing touches to the theme.









The suites are again inspired by the idea of luxury shops—the final destination of goods that arrive at the harbour. Bold blue and orange colours are used in the custom headboard artwork, meant to remind guests of luxury watchbands woven together. On the adjacent wall, large clock hands turn an otherwise blank space into a grand timepiece.

Versatile custom-designed UV prints—designed by HBA and printed locally in Taiwan-are used as a bright and bold backdrop to achieve the look and feel of an emporium in the guest rooms. Because of its versatility of application, the UV prints are used on various surfaces, including headboards, cabinet doors, fabric and wall covering, creating an all-encompassing look.

The flooring material is a customised mix of reconstituted stone and stone fragments to create the look of terrazzo flooring, a commonly used material in Taiwanese traditional architecture, but more durable for hotels' high traffic use. The elongated hexagonal blue tiles

in the guest bathrooms are reminiscent of the hotel's brand colour.

Metal is predominantly featured in the interiors. From the hull in the lobby to the metal sheets at the guest room doors, all metal is locally sourced and purposely untreated so that it will age with the building. The patina created over time will add character to the hotel while creating a different experience for guests.

Dining areas resemble open-air markets, with fresh produce, cheeses and breads on display, and communal seating areas. Items for sale are positioned on shelves in custom packaging designed by the graphics team. The harbour staff canteen, with chains and ropes and suspended weights similar to the bustling area, inspired the basement café.

In a world increasingly congested with fussy designs, this project demonstrates a new type of luxury with a refreshing perspective, celebrating the Kaohsiung harbour and all of the creative energies of the commercial surroundings. c





Project Name Hotel Indigo Kaohsiung Central Park

#### Location

4, Zhongshan 1st Road, Xinxing District, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan

# **Completion Date**

April 2017

# **Building Height**

14 storeys

# Number of Rooms

129 rooms

# Owner

Royal Seasons Hotel Group

# **Hotel Operator**

Hotel Indigo

# Hotel Branding & Design VOCUIS Branding & Design

# **Architecture Firm**

Architect Shen & Associates

# **Project Architect**

Congren Shen

Interior Design Firm Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA)

# **Principal Designers**

Federico Masin; Shichao; Durian Lau; Eva Lam

# Civil & Structural Engineer

# Mechanical & Electrical Engineer Home Run Electrical Engineers Associate

**Lighting Consultant**TinoKwan Lighting Consultant Ltd

# Interior Fit-Out Contractor Immortal Triumph Industrial, Taiwan

# **Images**



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# **MALAYSIA**







| PROJECT TITLE                          | PROJECT TYPE   | LOCATION                              | DEVELOPER/OWNER                           | ARCHITECT/<br>Consultant                        | CONSTRUCTION<br>START | PROJECT VALUE<br>(RM 'MILLION) |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Three33 Residence                      | Apartments   | Kuala Lumpur                          | TSI Domain Sdn Bhd                        | A & A Architects                                | March 2018            | 100*                           |
| Camelia Residences                     | Apartments   | Johor Bahru                           | UM Land                                   | RDC Arkitek                                     | August 2018*          | 70*                            |
| ISOLA KLCC                             | Serviced apartments                                    | Jalan Yap Kwang Seng,<br>Kuala Lumpur | OCR Development Sdn Bhd                   | Unit One Design Sdn Bhd                         | 3Q 2018               | 200*                           |
| Pavilion Embassy                       | Serviced apartments; offices                           | Jalan Ampang,<br>Kuala Lumpur         | Pedoman Ikhtisas Sdn Bhd                  | Atelier ADT Akitek;<br>Greenscapes; Pintar Jaya | 3Q 2018               | 600*                           |
| Kek Lok Si<br>Medical Centre           | Hospital   | Penang                                | Kek Lok Si Temple                         | Johnny Ooi Architect                            | March 2018            | 50                             |
| PD International<br>Maritime Gateway   | Shopping centre;<br>clubhouse                          | Port Dickson,<br>Negeri Sembilan      | Maritime International<br>Gateway Sdn Bhd | Zon Design Rekabina (ZDR)                       | 4Q 2018               | 350*                           |
| Kuala Terengganu<br>City Centre (KTCC) | Shopping centre;<br>hotel                              | Kuala Terengganu                      | KTCC Mall Sdn Bhd                         | YTT Architect                                   | 4Q 2018               | 1,000*                         |
| Labuan Water Theme<br>Park & Resort    | Theme park;<br>shopping centre;<br>serviced apartments | Labuan                                | Growball Development                      | Arkitek Allan Wong Sdn Bhd                      | 4Q 2019*              | 120*                           |
| Mangrove Langkawi                      | Resort   | Bukit Wang Temoyong,<br>Langkawi      | Binavv Darulaman Bhd                      | C'Arch Architecture &<br>Design Sdn Bhd         | 1Q 2019               | 100*                           |

\*estimate Source: BCI Asia Research

# **SINGAPORE**





| PROJECT TITLE                                   | PROJECT TYPE   | LOCATION                                      | DEVELOPER/OWNER                          | ARCHITECT/<br>Consultant              | CONSTRUCTION<br>START | PROJECT VALUE<br>(SGD 'MILLION) |
|---|----------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 120 Grange                                      | Residential    | 120 Grange Road                               | Roxy-Pacific Holdings Ltd                | ONG&ONG Pte Ltd                       | May 2018              | unavailable                     |
| Harbour View Gardens                            | Residential    | 213A Pasir Panjang Road                       | Roxy-Pacific Holdings Ltd                | JGP Architecture (S) Pte Ltd          | 2Q 2018               | unavailable                     |
| Jade Scape                                      | Residential    | 314 Shunfu Road, Bishan                       | QingJian Realty Pte Ltd                  | ONG&ONG Pte Ltd                       | 2Q 2018               | 400                             |
| Potong Pasir Condo<br>(Former Raintree Gardens) | Residential    | Potong Pasir Ave 1 (D13)                      | UVD (Projects) Pte Ltd                   | WOHA Architects Pte Ltd               | May 2018              | 136.80                          |
| New Punggol Way<br>Primary School               | Education      | Punggol Site 26                               | Ministry of Education                    | Interconsultants Pte Ltd              | May 2018              | 50                              |
| Anglo Chinese School redevelopment              | Education      | Barker Road                                   | Ministry of Education                    | ONG&ONG Pte Ltd                       | May 2018              | 15                              |
| Civil Aviation Authority<br>CAA Warehouse       | Industrial     | Aviation Park Road/ Tanah<br>Merah Coast Road | Civil Aviation<br>Authority of Singapore | Design Link<br>Architects Pte Ltd     | May 2018              | 26.8                            |
| Polder Areas                                    | Infrastructure | Pulau Tekong (Areas A & C)                    | Housing and<br>Development Board         | Surbana Jurong<br>Consultants Pte Ltd | May 2018              | 1,230                           |
| Pan Asian Flow Factory                          | Industrial     | Plot 24, Tuas South Link 3                    | Pan Asian Flow T<br>echnology Pte Ltd    | AJ+J Architecture Pte Ltd             | May 2018              | 10                              |

Source: BCI Asia Research



# STAKING HOUSE ON SLOPE



Situated on the slopes of Ipoh's Meru Golf Valley Resort, this private residence has been designed to gracefully complement the surrounding natural environment.

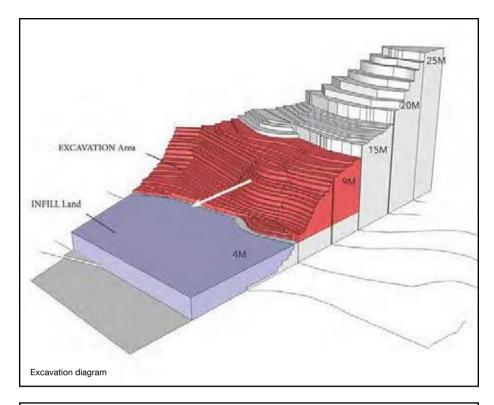
The architect drew inspiration from the mountain's geology to create a sophisticated yet intimate topology solution for the client. Long projecting floors mimic rock gradients,

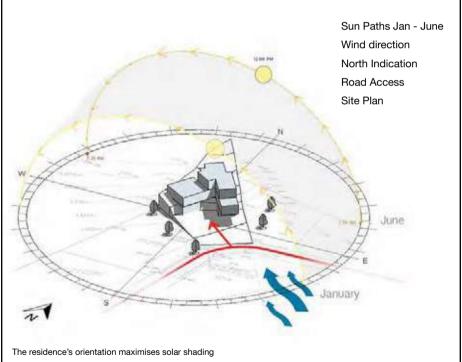
the vertical timber cladding blends with the surrounding rainforest, while the stepped floors harmonise with the neighbouring cliffs.

Balancing accessibility with the hill's complex contours was achieved by raising the base level a metre higher than road level, allowing cars easier passage to the residence's main entrance.









The mezzanine has been left open to allow the flow of cool breezes across the room. By doing so, the underpinning concrete retaining wall could be reduced in size, minimising construction costs.

A short stroll from the first floor leads to a pool area overlooked by forested hill slopes. To avoid extensive infilling and foundation works, the architect opted to support the pool on piles.

Energy efficiency is another standout feature of this design. The residence's orientation maximises solar shading as the sun's daily passage casts shadows on opposing walls. A double-layered roof structure also prevents overheating.

The choice of materials such as wood and architectural concrete results in highly sustainable construction, which is in line with the design belief that environmentally responsible design inspires creative solutions. G

# **PROJECT DATA**

#### **Project Name**

Staking House on Slope

#### Location

Meru Golf Valley Resort, Jelapang, Perak, Malaysia

#### Site Area

1,778 square metres

# **Gross Floor Area**

858.95 square metres

# **Building Height**

4 storeys; 14 metres

# Client

Mr Fam

# Architecture Firm

# Principal Architect

Ar Shyuan Kuee

# Civil & Structural Engineer

FC Ng Perunding

# **Construction Start**

December 2018

# **Scheduled Completion Date**

December 2019

# **Images**

Kuee Architect



# PUNGGOL DIGITAL DISTRICT



Punggol Digital District (PDD) is envisioned to be Singapore's first district to adopt an integrated master plan approach, where a business park and university are co-located to enable technology and social innovations to flourish. Technological platforms would be incorporated from the start to meet the needs of digital industries that will help drive wider transformation efforts for the local economy. Such a holistic planning approach seeks to create an inclusive district.

PDD will house key growth sectors of the digital economy, such as cyber security and Internet of

Things (IoT), bringing approximately 28,000 jobs closer to residents in the Punggol and the northeast region.

As a greenfield site, the district has the flexibility to incorporate industry needs into the core of its design and allow for integration between industry and academia. The co-location and integration of the Singapore Institute of Technology's (SIT) new campus with JTC Corporation's (JTC) business park buildings will facilitate greater industry-academia collaboration, through the cross fertilisation of ideas and knowledge among students, faculty and



professionals. New technological or business ideas conceived in SIT could be tested and adopted by businesses in PDD, contributing to a higher rate of commercial success. Likewise, creative enterprises affiliated with SIT's strengths in applied programmes, such as digital and cyber security, engineering, food technology (R&D), design and specialised businesses, can also tap into SIT's research capabilities for R&D and student pool for talent.

The existing greenfield site is a forested area with lush greenery and mature trees. In order to preserve the rustic identity of Punggol and to allow the community to enjoy the greenery, the designers have identified these as 'heritage trees' to be conserved. Another initiative that has been undertaken is to ensure that any greenery that is removed to make way for new infrastructure will be replaced elsewhere within PDD. The existing

Punggol Road will also be transformed into a pedestrianised heritage trail—a 1.3-kilometre green link for the community to stroll or cycle from Punggol Waterway Park to Punggol Promenade Park Connector. In addition, there will be green spaces within the SIT campus equivalent to 10 football fields of shared parks for the community to enjoy.

PDD also plans to have a distinctive green identity with urban and architectural designs, seamless connectivity within the district, as well as porous connections to the existing residential estates and developments in the vicinity. The urban design of the district will leverage the existing and future green and blue assets in Punggol, such as designing green links to the waterfront, as well as creating public spaces for the community to gather and enjoy along the waterfront. PDD is also located beside the Serangoon Reservoir, and this allows

the designers to plan more community spaces that will offer retail and dining options for the community to relax and unwind by the coast.

The district is designed to be 'car-lite', with an environment that is connected, walkable and friendly to personal mobility devices (PMD) so that the community can walk, cycle, scoot, or perhaps take a driverless shuttle to their daily destinations.

Sited near the existing and upcoming Punggol residential areas, the community will be able to inject greater vibrancy into the business estate and ensure that the amenities are well utilised after office hours and over the weekends. Similarly, this higher demand for community spaces and amenities (such as hawker centre, childcare centre and community club) also allows for more amenities to be provided, which will in turn benefit the business community.







Project Name
Punggol Digital District (PDD)

Location

Punggol North, Singapore

Status of Construction
Master Planning stage

Project Site Area

Approximately 50 hectares

Client

Master Planners

JTC; Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)

Chief Executive Officers Ng Lang (JTC); Lim Eng Hwee (URA)

Architecture Firm

WOHA Architects Pte Ltd

**Principal Architect** 

Chan Ee Mun

**Images** 



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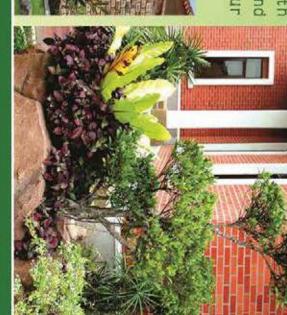
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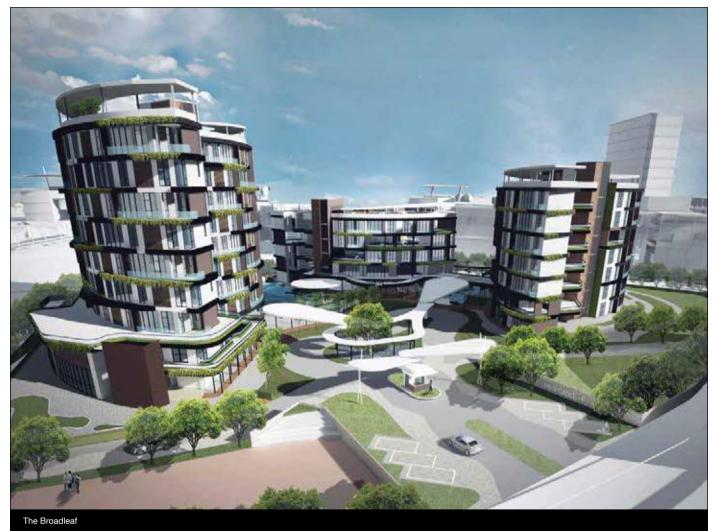
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FACTORY





# HOUSING PROPOSITION – THE BROADLEAF

This student project is a hybrid urban housing development, comprising three six- to eight-storey apartment blocks, on 4.97 acres in Bukit Jelutong, Shah Alam.

The blocks will have a total of 100 residential units, with basement parking, facilities and social areas, interwoven with lush greens. The apartments come in three different sizes, with 45 three-bedroom units, 30 two-bedroom units, and 25 single bedroom/studio units.

### **CONNECTING WITH NATURE**

The development is designed to meet the needs of

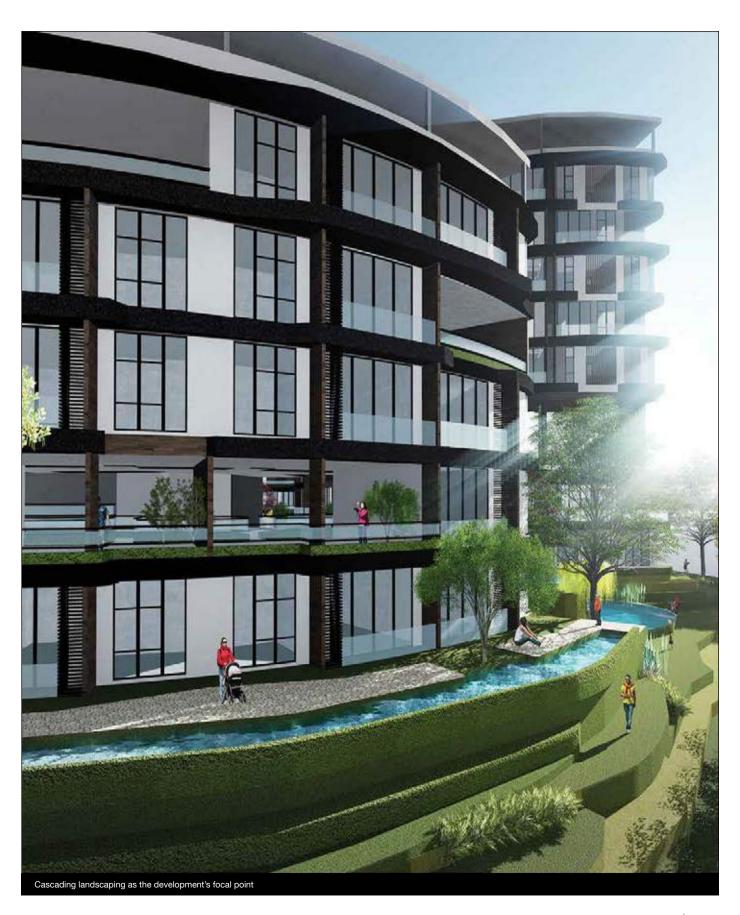
the community and reconnect people with nature. Thus, emphasis is placed on landscaping and creating innovative recreational spaces between the apartment blocks.

The site is a corner lot surrounded with service roads at three sides—the front faces a residential area, while the left and rear view faces an undeveloped area with a man-made lake. On the right of the building is a commercial area with shop lots.

The building is orientated so that the facilities and landscaping area faces the lake view at the rear. To

take advantage of the sloping ground conditions, which has a difference of 4.7 metres from the front to the back, a cascading landscape—inspired by the terraced farming in Bali—is designed as a focal point of the development.

The apartment blocks are organised in a way that creates an open-air garden with water features and planter boxes for every floor. Landscaped ledges help soften the building's edges and allow vertical greening of the building's fabric. The rich leafy atmosphere enhances the natural connection with the forested surroundings, with enriched air ventilation.









Greens are distributed along the circulation paths for use by the community. The large infinity swimming pool, water features and man-made pond around the site are for recreational use, as well as for evaporative cooling.

#### **GREEN PRINCIPLES**

The Broadleaf is planned according to sustainable Green principles. Its mostly north—south orientation avoids direct sun exposure and reduces the need for shading devices and cooling systems. Vehicle access is controlled around the building, while the surrounding fire access service road is 'camouflaged' as a bicycle and jogging

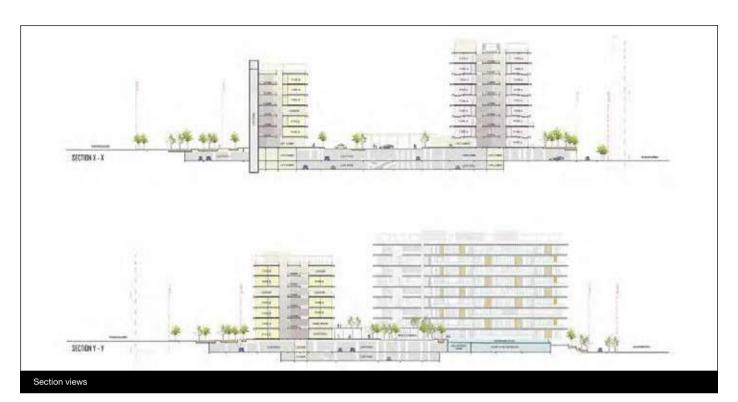
track to reduce vehicular footprint and to promote a healthy lifestyle.

#### CONSTRUCTION

The project is designed using the post and beam construction at the basement and roof levels, with a transfer slab on the ground and first floors. The apartment levels, from the first to eighth floor, is supported by a shear wall. The highest level, which is also the servicing level containing the water tank and lift motor room, is covered with zinc-aluminium metal roofing. The elongated metal roofing is sloped by 3 degrees to the direction of the lift core for rain water discharge.

Architecture features such as the spiral staircase, pedestrian roofing and the bridge are all built as steel structures. The façades of the apartment blocks are decorated with wood-stained fibre cement planks, combined with grey walls and dark-coloured aluminium shading devices. The simplicity of the façade design and calm colour scheme helps to balance the complexity of the building layout and building form.

Most of the materials used—such as the reinforced concrete structure, fibre cement planks, aluminium sun shading, porcelain tiles and zinc-aluminium metal roofing—are sourced or produced locally for convenience.  $\bullet$ 





# Student Name

Maisura Yong

# School

Limkokwing University of Creative Technology

# Programme

Bachelor of Science (Architectural Studies) (Graduated July 2017)

#### Instructors

Sharonee Sidek; Ar Azman Zainal Md Nor

**Project Name**Housing Proposition — The Broadleaf

**Location** Bukit Jelutong, Shah Alam, Malaysia

# Site Area

20,118 square metres

# Gross Floor Area 42,024 square metres

# Number of Units

100

**Building Height** 8 storeys; 37 metres

# **Images**

Maisura Yong





# THE INHERIT

The student project's intent is to design a retail space to encourage the younger generation to appreciate the beauty of jade. Choo Yilin is a brand that seeks to fuse sustainability with luxury. As the brand is known for its modern interpretation of jade jewellery in sculptural, organic forms, paired with richly coloured gemstones, the interior design of the space should tell a story of conservation, heritage and love.

The project brief required students to choose a shop in the Plaza Singapura mall. This store was selected after analysing the flow of the shoppers and consumer types—the unit is located at level one, near the main entrance

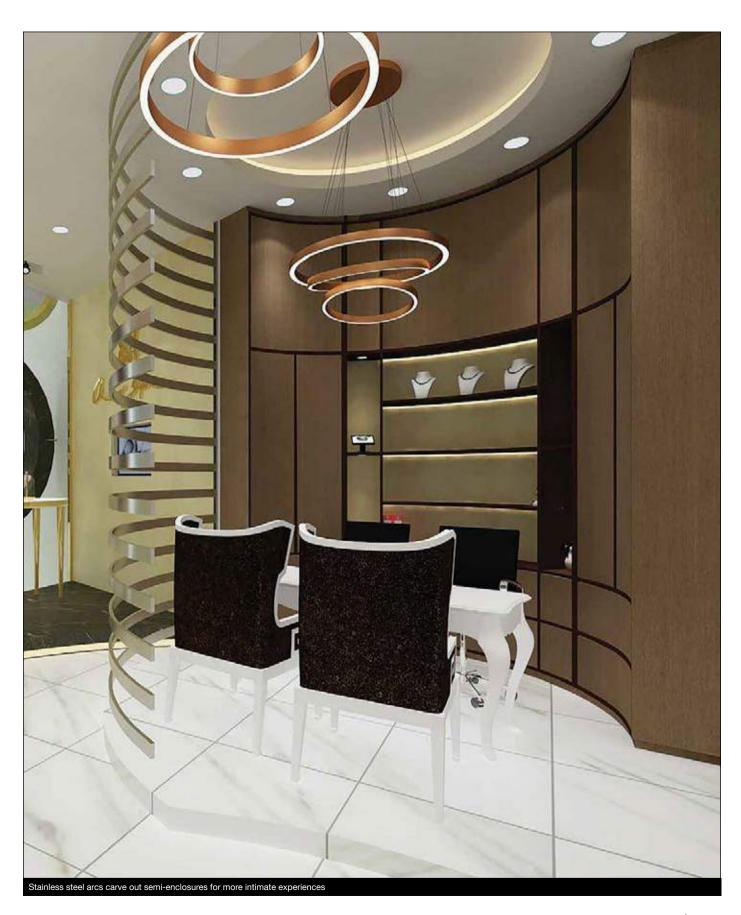
of the shopping mall, attracting mostly women shoppers.

The main materials proposed for this project include stainless steel, glass and marble. Glass will be used for the storefront to provide an opportunity for window shopping. Stainless steel will be applied to the façade design, signage and decorative cladding due to its durability.

Inspired by the brand's philosophy of infusing modernity into a stone typically regarded as 'old-fashioned', the space uses circular shapes to help inject a sense of trendiness, to break the traditional mindset of consumers towards jade. The name of the shop implies the cultural

inheritance of passing down jade jewellery from the older generations to the younger ones.

The circular forms are also strongly used in the façade design to attract the attention of the target audience. The circular glass allows passers-by to peek into the retail space, as if viewing through a looking glass. Circles and arcs are also applied onto the furniture and spatial flow of the space. The display cases and features are elegantly designed to draw customers' eye to take a closer look. The private consultation area offers clients space for a more intimate and personalised experience; as such, the stainless steel arcs are used to create a semi-enclosure for this purpose.  $\blacksquare$ 









# Student Name

Lim Siew Kei

# School

Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA)

# Instructor

Shin Jung Hoon

# **Project Name**The Inherit

# Location

Plaza Singapura #01-63/64, Singapore

# Site Area

90 square metres

# **Images**

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