

INTERSECTION

A man in a dark suit and glasses stands at a podium on a stage, addressing a large audience seated at long tables in a grand, ornate hall. The room features a high ceiling with recessed lighting and a large, multi-tiered chandelier. Stage lights are visible above the speaker. The audience is seated at long tables covered with white cloths, with water bottles and glasses on the tables. The walls are decorated with large, illuminated panels.

4/2018-2019
PPK469/01/2017(034673)

PAM SARAWAK CHAPTER MAY 2019

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Time flies. As the term approaches its end, it is time for introspection. There were several new events organized over the term to respond to the changing needs of our practice and industry partners. The Building Trade Show (BTS) was put on hold and new bold attempts such as the Sundowner Architects Networking Night and Mini Trade Show during the Design Festival were made. Both events were well received and supported by our members and industry partners.



The Design Forum was also transformed into the PAMSC Design Festival which included a Graduates Design Competition and Site Visits to local buildings of interest. The response to the Design Festival was very encouraging and there was unwavering support for the new events. The members of the present committee are energetic - they explore changes and transformation in order to attract students and graduates to participate and become involved in the Chapter's events. The Cardboard City 2019 was one of the successful events that inspired the public, especially children, to have a better understanding of the architectural profession.

The commitment that the Practice, Government and Liaison sub-committee showed throughout the term was unwavering as many members volunteered their own time to pursue issues to improve architectural practice with local authorities and statutory organisations. We hope that all of their inputs will help the Chapter to streamline submission procedures as well as other initiatives to improve the local architectural and built community.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the committees, sub-committees, and the secretariat who have dedicated, contributed and supported the Chapter selflessly. The Chapter is also grateful to receive continuous support from the industry partners, without whom it would be impossible to organise meaningful and inspiring events. I am confident that the new team will bring the Chapter to even greater heights.

Thank you.

Ar. Bong Joon Hin
PAMSC Chairman 2018 - 2019

Greeting to my fellow architects!

It has definitely been an eventful first quarter of 2019 for PAMSC.

Thank you for your confidence, support and encouragement in me to lead our Chapter for the new term.

I would like to whole heartedly thank you all for supporting our events and being involved in PAMSC endeavors in one form or another. I would especially like to thank our out-going Chairman Ar Bong Joon Hin aka James Bong, all our past chairmen who have helped in steering the ship and our fabulous PAMSC team and secretariat for their hard work, passion and commitment.

As I have reminded Ar Bong, he will not be 'let off' easily! We have a 'mantra' amongst the PAMSC Chapter - "...you can check out anytime you like but you can never leave." And so the party continues.

I look forward to working with everyone for the betterment of our architectural profession.

Thank you Team Intersection for yet another splendid publication. I hope our members enjoy the updates and issues covered as much as I do.

Ar. Ivy Jong
PAMSC Chairman 2019 - 2020

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EDITOR'S LETTER

Hello, welcome to our first Intersection of 2019!

Like most of us I would imagine, I started off 2019 with high hopes of being on top of things for once. I vowed not to be overwhelmed and practiced stringent techniques to be more efficient; responded to emails immediately, delegated work I didn't have time to do myself and kept daily lists to keep my tasks in check. Suffice to say it didn't last very long as my plans didn't really factor in surprises. In the end, I realised that perhaps it was worth taking a little longer to do certain things that mattered more; pondering and questioning, reiterating and analysing. Over time I realised that one gets better at doing this, faster even, and it always results in better outcomes, and possibly, fewer regrets or what-ifs.

At this year's **PDF:2019**, we were reminded by the talented speakers at the Design Forum that by sticking to one's guts and instincts, exceptional designs can be built to empower the weak, improve lives and co-exist with the environment. Appropriately themed "*Future from the Past*", we have provided an overview of the Design Festival that was not only catered for architects, but for students and members of the general public as well.

We are further reminded how architects can piece together simple materials like concrete and glass to create elegant and sophisticated forms such as the **Concrete Pavilion @ Kuching** by MNSC Architects. Ar. Wee Hii Min seeks to refresh our collective memories in **The (Incomplete) Tenets of Architecture in the Tropics** on the importance of thresholds in tropical buildings. We feature a **Community Project: A Toilet Block at Kampung Kudei** where we show how generous contributions by volunteers can make a huge, positive difference to a rural community. In a new segment called **Archi-Travels**, I contribute a piece based on my recent travels to Japan, where I visited the famed **Fuji Kindergarten** by Tezuka Architects, a building filled with conviction and honesty for what it was designed for in the first place.

This year for Intersection, we aim to present a more balanced publication that not only focuses on *building* architecture, but on the *practice* of architecture as well. Thus, we are pleased to feature our first **PAMSC Practice Notes** in this issue, prepared by the Practice & Government Liaison Sub-Committee, and it will remain as a regular segment in our newsletter from now on. We report on the ongoings and activities of our hardworking sub-committees, which I hope will highlight just how much work our PAMSC committee & co-opt members have done over the past year. One to mention would be the **Green Building Index Facilitator Course** that was held in Sarawak for the first time in 2018 and can be found under the Events & CPD sub-committee report.

2019 is also the year where we welcome our new PAMSC Committee for 2019-2020, led by none other than **Ar. Ivy Jong**, our first female PAMSC Chairman. The new committee is a relatively young team, a mixture of more experienced members with new ones. Thus, we will be introducing each and every one of them in our next issue, so please stay tuned.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Intersection editorial team for their patience, support and guidance over the past year. It is a team effort and never the fruits of a single person's labour. I would especially like to thank Chen Hui Joo, without whom none of us would get anything done, Min & Ivy for their honesty and suggestions, and Si Yong & the secretariat for their instant 'done' whenever anything is asked for. We invite contributions, suggestions and comments from all.

Ar. Tina Lau Kor Ting



PDF2019: PAMSC DESIGN FESTIVAL - pg 4



CONCRETE PAVILION @ KUCHING - pg 8



COMMUNITY PROJECT : A TOILET BLOCK AT KAMPUNG KUDEI - pg 16



Group photo of the first PAMSC Committee Meeting of 2019 - 2020.

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PDF2019: PAMSC DESIGN FESTIVAL

For the past ten years, the Malaysian Institute of Architects Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC) has held a Design Forum in March where local & foreign architects and designers have been invited to present their projects and ideas on a Saturday morning.

This year marked the beginning of a new format for the PAMSC Design Forum. It has been re-branded as **PDF:2019** - a PAMSC Design Festival which took place over a weekend from **22-24 March, 2019**. In addition to the Design Forum, it was expanded to include a Graduates Thesis Competition, exhibitions and guided visits to significant buildings in Kuching. The venue for PDF:2019 was the Waterfront Hotel in Kuching.

According to the Organising Chairman, Ar. Wee Hii Min, "The primary main objective of **PDF:2019** was to make good architecture and design accessible to the local community. Part of its accessibility was the diversity of the programme - the Graduates Thesis Competition provided young local architects with exposure for their work while giving architecture students a preview of good school projects."

PDF: 2019 DAY 01 - GRADUATES RE:WIND COMPETITION PRESENTATION

On Day 1, there was a presentation of the Graduates **Re:Wind** competition shortlisted candidates to a jury consisting of local architects and international speakers from the Design Forum.

SHORTLIST - PART 1 CATEGORY (UNDERGRADUATES)

Wong Hui En, Phyllis Law Tze Cin, Look Yik Yeong, Tan Hsuan Lin, George Lee Kang Zheng

PART 2 CATEGORY (GRADUATES)

Christine Ting Tien Nee, Erik Yek Ung Hieng, Sean Chew Seng Huat, Alvin Thia Kee King, Lily Ting Shu Chi

WINNERS - PART 1 CATEGORY (UNDERGRADUATES)

Grand Prize : Tan Hsuan Lin, Runner Up : Look Yik Yeong, 1st Finalist : George Lee Kang Zheng, 2nd Finalist : Wong Hui En, 3rd Finalist : Phyllis Law Tze Cin

PART 2 CATEGORY (GRADUATES)

Grand Prize : Sean Chew Seng Huat, Runner Up : Lily Ting Shu Chi, 1st Finalist : Erik Yek Ung Hieng, 2nd Finalist : Alvin Thia Kee King, 3rd Finalist : Christine Ting Tien Nee



Wong Hui En
(P1 Category, Finalist)



Phyllis Law Tze Cin
(P1 Category, Finalist)



Christine Ting Tien Nee
(P2 Category, Finalist)



Erik Yek Ung Hieng
(P2 Category, Finalist)



Sean Chew Seng Huat
(P2 Category, Grand Prize)

PDF: 2019 DAY 02 - DESIGN FORUM



Teoh Chee Keong - These spaces 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.



Blue canvas building - **Chat** equates the makeshift structures of the construction sites and temporary structures of migrants to the vernacular architecture of the past, because they suited life in the tropics and local culture. The blue plastic walls can be 'peeled back' to create a window for the inhabitants who would do most of their activities on the floor.



Shao Lyn and her team help urbanites ease into planting their own food



Wendy Teo - The Instrument at Rainforest Fringe Festival 2018 by Borneo Art Collective.



Studio and residence of **Palinda Kannangara** in Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka.

Day 2 marked the opening of the Design Forum, with 6 speakers which is 2 more from last year. This year's theme was **'Future from the Past'** which aimed to stimulate discussion about how our past guides our present as we design for the future. The Graduates Re:Wind competition entries were exhibited at the Waterfront Hotel for public viewing. A mini building expo was held as well; where building materials, systems and services from local industry partners and suppliers were exhibited.

Teoh Chee Keong who is an Assistant Professor from UCSI University started proceedings with the 'Story Gallery' at the Sungai Buloh Leprosy Control Centre (also known as the Valley of Hope). The adaptive re-use project in the former Dewan Orang Ramai initially started as his students' project, and was later developed and finalised in collaboration with professional architectural designers — such as Shin Chang & Penny Ng from MentahMatter, and Ng Seksan & Wong Jeh Tat from Seksan Design. Part of this project included extensive research into the history of one of the largest Leprosy Centres in the world, which included the oral histories of the former inhabitants. In his presentation, Teoh implied that architecture is merely a background to the stories, which takes centre stage.

Similarly, **Chatpong Chuenrudeemol** from CHAT Architects, Bangkok, derived inspiration (and no small amount of joy) in telling the audience about 'Bangkok Bastards' – a term he coined to describe the non-architect designed buildings in his city, such as temporary housing for migrant construction workers. Chat explained that although the buildings are anonymous, they have a certain elegance and serve a need in the city. They also reflect much of the local Thai culture and lifestyle. Chat demonstrated how he derives ideas from these makeshift structures in his projects, which though permanent exhibit fleeting glimpses of fantasy and escapism.

In contrast, **Sangeet Sharma** from SD Sharma & Associates, a well-known firm in Chandigarh – remains guided by Le Corbusier's legacy in his home town. Sangeet's father, S.D. Sharma, had worked closely with Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret – much of the practice's work is steeped with what Sangeet calls 'humanistic modernism'.

Wendy Teo from the Borneo Art Collective and **Low Shao-Lyn** from Eats Shoots and Roots were the two guest speakers for the Design Forum. Their contributions provided a slight departure from the steady dose of architecture. As expected, their presentations were very well received. Although both speakers spoke about different products and outcomes; Wendy and her interest to document the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Borneo, and Shao-Lyn's mission to empower urban folk with the skills and tools to grow their own food – they are guided by the belief in collaborative work, and operating outside their comfort zones. Wendy summed it up by saying that she is inspired by the idea of '*Berjalai*' - conversing (and learning) with the world.

Palinda Kannangara ended the Forum with a comprehensive tour of his projects; his soft spoken delivery was sometimes difficult to hear from the back of the hall, but the drawings and photos of his buildings spoke volumes. His spaces are understated yet commanded attention, they are quiet yet expressive – perhaps guided by Buddhist doctrines and the firm hand of the architect. One had to look (and listen) carefully to see that Palinda's buildings are modern and yet fitted in the ancient landscape of his country. He told us that his slides were a draft for a monograph.

The Design Forum ended with a Q&A session followed by the announcement of the **Re:Wind** winners.



Sangeet calls his work humanistic modernism.



PDF: 2019 DAY 02 - GRADUATES RE:WIND EXHIBITION AND MINI BUILDING EXPO

The expo was planned like a visit to a gallery, so we had booths from our industry partners interspersed between sections of exhibition spaces from forum speakers, local universities and the Re:Wind competition shortlist. I believe the response was good as the hall was bustling with people during the breaks. We also had an overwhelming turnout during the presentation to juries by shortlisted candidates of the Re:Wind competition. I think it was an exciting process for our young local graduates to experience.

Emmeline Ong

PDF:2019 Graduates Exhibition and Re:Wind Organiser



PDF: 2019 DAY 02 - PECHA KUCHA

Held in over 1,000 cities around the world, **PechaKucha 20x20** is a global phenomenon. PechaKucha 20x20 is a simple presentation format where you show 20 images, each for 20 seconds. The PechaKucha 20x20 format follows the art of concise presentations. It's also a great way for the most inexperienced speaker to talk about their work in public for the first time. People can present about things they love, which is key to a great PechaKucha Night.

This is the fourth year PechaKucha Night Kuching is held, and the 7th volume was carried out in conjunction with the **PAMSC Design Festival 2019 - PDF:2019**. It was held on March 23, 8:20pm at The Granary Kitchen & Bar, Jalan Wayang.

Tickets were limited as the venue could only accommodate 200 people. Those interested to buy their tickets had to book early to avoid disappointment. The response from the public was overwhelming and we had sold out of tickets 2 days before the event.

The line-up of speakers this round were - Chef Jasbir Kaur of Masterchef Asia fame, Joyce Khoo from SOOL Productions, Marilyn Ang from Flint & Steel and STAM, April Lau from ALKY Designs, entrepreneur Jacqueline Ng from GIN & JACQUI, agile innovation coach Gabriela Roa, graffiti artist Dewi Miyo, tattoo artist Arth Akal and renowned designer and architect Edric Ong. In addition, four architects who spoke at PDF:2019 also presented – Sangeet Sharma, Wendy Teo, Edric Ong and Chatpong Chuenrudeemol.

PechaKucha Night is strictly for content and not profit, and any charges to the public are solely used to cover the cost of running the event. All PKN organisers must have a regular day job and they run PechaKucha Nights only for the inspiration, love and fun of it.

Organisers IDC Architects hope to unveil some hidden talent and quirks from Kuching, and to show something uniquely Sarawak.

More information about past or upcoming PechaKucha Night Kuching events can be found at Facebook or Instagram at "PechaKuchaKCH". All presentations are uploaded to the global PechaKucha 20x20 website <https://www.pechakucha.com/>



Edric Ong



Chatpong Chuenrudeemol

PDF: 2019 DAY 03 - SITE VISITS



Mosque by the River



Concrete House



Chemsain Building

95 participants made up of architects, students and members of the public set off at 8:30am on Day 03 of the **PDF:2019** from the Waterfront Hotel to visit local buildings of significance. The theme of the Design Festival "Future from the Past" influenced the site visits. With this exchange of ideas about how our past has guided our present as we design for the future, we wanted to show the public how architects are able to inject traces of their history and culture into their work. Whether it is a conscious act to relate the end-users and their cities, or a sub-conscious response from their past experiences.

In the end, we narrowed it down to 6 completed works (some on-going) and the visits were divided into 4 groups: Group 01 visited the **Mosque by the River** by Sim Orita & Muhammad Architects and **Eden on the Park Residences** by IDC Architects; Group 02 visited the **Concrete House** by Design Network Architects and **Chemsain Office** by JRC Architects; Group 03 visited the **Museum Sarawak** by Arkitek KDI; and Group 04 visited **Makmur II Office Tower** by NBL Architects.

Apart from a guided tour by the Project Architect, each site visit was hosted by the building owner as well. The Site Visits ended at 12 noon and everyone gathered at The Commons at The Old Courthouse for a lunch hosted by ALCOM.

Special thanks must be mentioned to the building owners for taking the time to openly showcase their buildings to the public.



ALCOM (Aluminium Company of Malaysia Bhd) hosted a lovely lunch at The Commons (Old Courthouse) to bring the day's site visit to a memorable end.

As with most successful events, there was a strong team working behind the scenes. Like our guest speaker Wendy Teo, we too believe in the power of collaborative efforts and since late last year, we have put together a new team of young architects guided by Ms Emmeline Ong, Ar. Thang Suh Chee and Ar. Lau Ming Ngi.

IMetal was our main sponsor, with other industry partners such as Nippon Paint, MML Tiles, SIKA, Davco, Maxtrack, Alcom and LCS Group of Companies who made this event more accessible and worthwhile for everyone. 9 CPD points could be collected from the **PDF:2019** weekend, making it fruitful for members travelling from Miri, Bintulu and Sibul to attend all of the events.

PAMSC has uploaded YouTube videos of the events – please visit our website for more details.

We have grown accustomed to the familiar figure of Ar. Ng Chee Wee on stage as the organiser of the PAMSC Design Forum for more than a decade.

Last year was Chee Wee's last stint as the organiser of the PAMSC Design Forum and the Chapter would like to record our thanks and appreciation for his tireless efforts in creating a platform for local architects to present their works, for foreign architects and designers to share their ideas with our local community.

He has set a high benchmark for the incoming team to follow, as we continue your legacy.

Thank you, Chee Wee.

Ar. Ivy Jong
on behalf of the PAMSC Committee 2019-2020



CONCRETE PAVILION @ KUCHING

Set in a matured suburban neighbourhood of Kuching City, the **Concrete Pavilion** sits on a triangular site surrounded predominantly by 2-storey high row houses. The structure is designed based on the client's request for an extended pavilion from the adjacent main family home with a soft link via the main garden. In addition to hosting family gatherings and stay-over guests, the house also accommodates rooms for leisure activities such as a child rumpus, BBQ areas, a steam room, a swimming pool as well as an entertainment room.

Resembling a concrete fortress with occasional openings, the overall building mass is shaped by the outline of the triangular site in relation to the contextual constrains of neighbour proximity as well as the sun path. The deliberate interweaving of the public and private programme across semi-outdoor spaces serves to amplify the occupant's sense of locality and awareness of the external environment without compromising comfort in the tropical climate. Walls are carefully oriented to maintain internal privacy along visually-exposed elevations while generous openings are crafted towards desired views and greenery.

Text by **MNSC Architects**

PROJECT TEAM

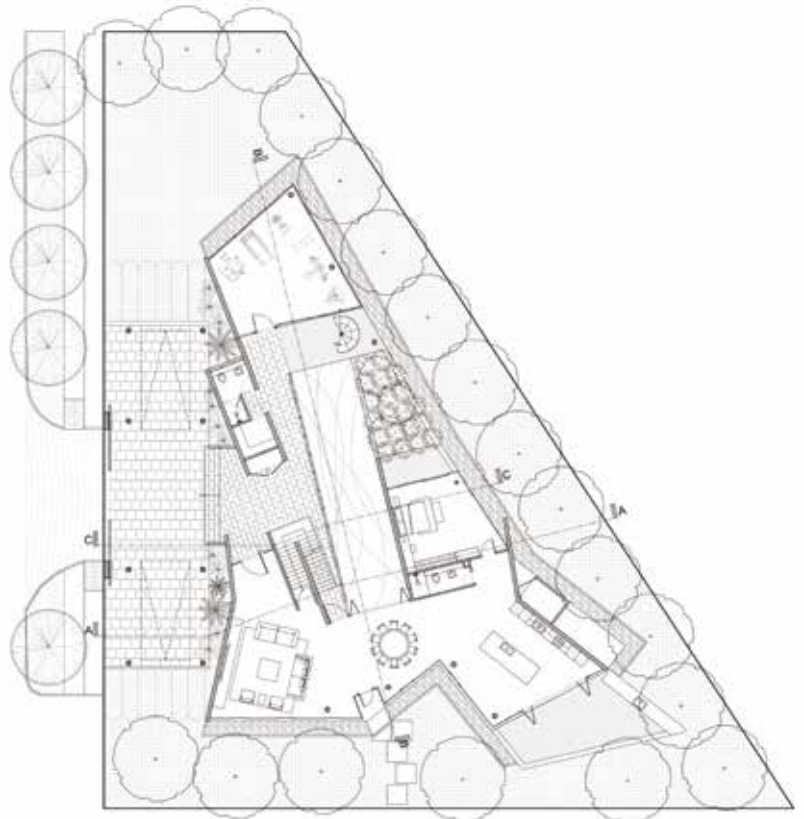
Client:	Mr Tan
Architect:	MNSC Architects in collaboration with Design Network Architects S/B
C&S Engineer:	Perunding J.L Maju
M&E Engineer:	Perunding JYS S/B
Contractor:	Liew Kuet Chen



An intersection of acute structural angles and contemporary building materials typifies the north-eastern elevation.



The foyer view of the lap-pool with the vertical concrete backdrop.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

0 2 4 6m



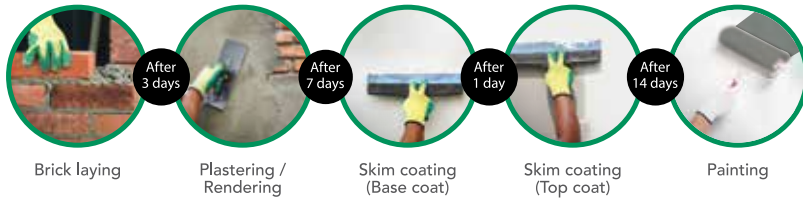


The steel staircase and translucent glass screen leads to the first floor entertainment wing.



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THE MERDEKA INTERVIEWS: BUILDING INDEPENDENCE

PAMSC organised a presentation on the 13th April 2019 at the PAMSC Centre for the The Merdeka Interviews, a major publication on the architecture of independence in Malaysia written by Dr. Lai Chee Kien and Ar. Ang Chee Cheong. The Merdeka Interviews was published by PAM as part of the Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival in 2018. It was first launched on the 2nd April 2018 and almost 900 copies have been sold via distribution and bookstores. The presentation was open to the public and admission was free.

Between 2001 and 2006, architectural historian Lai Chee Kien conducted a series of interviews with key architects, engineers and artists who contributed to the landscape of Kuala Lumpur and its' outskirts at the time of Independence. The ten projects – Merdeka Stadium, Merdeka Park, University of Malaya, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Stadium Negara, Muzium Negara, Parliament House, Masjid Negara, Tugu Negara and Subang Airport – endowed the capital city with key structures for a functioning nation, and created fervour towards the sense of citizenship in Malaysia.

In collaboration with architect Ang Chee Cheong, The Merdeka Interviews brings together for the first time in a single volume, 17 interviews which reveal not only the protagonists' roles and work in shaping these architectural icons - but also the milieus, circumstances and larger historical contexts during which they practised. The publication of these interviews is relevant and timely, as we look back in time to discover the courage and spirit that forged a nation of peoples from multiple origins in the first decade of Independence, and their endowments on the landscape of Kuala Lumpur today. As a group of voices, it tells not only a history of the nation's architecture and buildings at its birth, but altogether the story of Malaysia.



DR. LAI CHEE KIEN (right) is Adjunct Associate Professor at the Architecture and Sustainable Design Pillar, Singapore University of Technology and Design. He is a registered architect and graduated from NUS with a M Arch. by research [1996], and a PhD in History of Architecture & Urban Design from the University of California, Berkeley [2005]. He researches on histories of art, architecture, settlements, urbanism and landscapes in Southeast Asia. His publications include Building Merdeka: Independence Architecture in Kuala Lumpur, 1957-1966 (2007) and Recollections of Life in an Accidental Nation: Alfred Wong (2016). His 2015 work, Through the Lens of Lee Kip Lin: Photographs of Singapore 1965-1995, was awarded the Singapore Book Award for Best Non-Fiction Title in 2016. The co-authored work Building Memories: People, Architecture, Independence; won Book of the Year 2017 in the same series.

AR. ANG CHEE CHEONG (left) is an independent architect, writer and curator based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He maintains an interest in art, culture, media and technology, and in projects that intersect new domains and ideas. His architectural projects range from the residential scale to high rise mixed developments. He was Director of the Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival (2011, 2017, and 2018) and oversaw the expansion of the programme into a public event. Currently, he edits the Architecture Malaysia (AM) magazine and organises a monthly free public design lecture series.



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THE (INCOMPLETE) TENETS OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE TROPICS: THRESHOLDS

Ever since visiting India with PAMSC, I have wanted to put this on paper – as a reminder to myself which I can share and build from. In India, I was reminded of the work of people such as Laurie Baker, Jane Drew (who worked with Le Corbusier in Chandigarh) and Maxwell Fry. These architects drew from their experience of building in India and published many books which have become prescribed reading for architecture in the tropics. Many of us were familiar with their books and lessons during our university education, but seem to have forgotten them in our actual built work.

In four consecutive articles under the broad headings of **Shade, Permeability, Thresholds and Materiality** – this is an attempt to refresh our collective memories. Hopefully, as we progress we will come up with more headings and examples. Many of the tenets deal with the climate, but they are the most effective when melded with aspects of local culture and lifestyle. In this article, we see the significance of the *'threshold'* in tropical buildings.

The Cambridge Dictionary defines the *'threshold'* as "the floor of an entrance to a building or room" while the Longman Dictionary has this definition - "the level at which something starts to happen or have an effect" and "at the beginning of a new and important event or development." These common definitions regard the threshold as a separation or connection element located between different spaces. In architecture however, it takes on physical, psychological, emotional, social and cultural meanings.

In its first and simplest form, it represents the physical boundary between the inside and outside - as part of the door construction; with a hole in the centre for a shot bolt, with a physical divider to change from one floor material to another, or a step to emphasise the act of crossing over.

In local cultures, this is often where we take off our shoes to enter the house, crossing the public realm into the private. In the traditional Malay house, there is sometimes an earthen pot of water with a scoop for washing our feet before climbing the steps to the *'anjung'* or entry verandah. It can be seen as part of a ritual to remind us that we are entering into another sanctum - that we should adjust our tone and temper our behaviour. More poetic than a door mat. Some believe that thresholds have protective powers against unwanted visitors.

And there is more to it - consider the door swinging into a room; whether the door opens into the room or facing the adjacent wall determines the level of privacy for the person inside the room. The door left ajar extends the function and meaning of the threshold. It maintains connectivity with the space and people outside the room while retaining a level of privacy – for naps on warm tropical afternoons when the door is left ajar for breezes to enter.



Diagram showing how the threshold to a room changes with the door swing.





The threshold as a planning element is more common than we think – the five-foot way is designed as a thoroughfare if one were to regard the entire street. But from the point of view of the individual shop, it is can be seen as a soft (and permeable) border between two realms - the street (public) and the shop (private). It can take on different functions depending on the time of the day and/or business. Often these devices are enlarged to suit the scale and type of the building it serves; becoming a forecourt which functions also as preparatory space for the task to come – allowing time for the visitor to prepare.

Successful thresholds for buildings in the tropics are the interstitial space between the outside and the inside, designed specifically for our climate - for the eyes to adjust to the light, for perspiration to evaporate slightly or to put away our umbrellas before entering the building. This can be in the form of a naturally ventilated lobby or a shaded verandah such as the '*serambi*' of a Malay House.

Often these thresholds serve as spaces for social and communal activities - successful for this purpose because of their organic nature, they are less formal thus encouraging interaction. They give the notion of 'colonising' an auxiliary space to extend the meaning and function of the original space. This *blurring of boundaries* is an important aspect of tropical design as it allows a flexible interpretation of space depending on the time of day, the weather and the activity itself. It invites nature into the built environment.

Perhaps the designers of our public buildings need to adopt this manner of thinking more stringently, and to remember that the threshold between the inside and outside, between work and community, between heat and comfort, between public and private is NOT defined by 12mm of tempered glass. They must remember that its relationship with the street and the public will be enhanced by the quality of its threshold - it must be accessible to the public, it must say something about the space they are about to enter, and because we are in the tropics, it must have **shade**.

And this is the topic of our next conversation.

Text by **Ar. Wee Hii Min**



CAPTIONS:

1. Part of a ritual to remind us to adjust our tone and temper our behaviour.
2. The door left ajar extends the function and meaning of the threshold.
3. High Court Building, Chandigarh. Photo courtesy of Ar. Chai Si Yong.
4. It is also written in ancient Chinese folklore that a high threshold (門檻) can prevent a zombie (僵尸) from entering the house. (Chinese Doorway) Photo courtesy of Mary Leonard.
5. The 5-foot way can be seen as a soft and permeable border between two realms; the street and the shop. Photo courtesy of Jerome Lim.
6. The tree court in the front of the Masjid is one of the thresholds between the street and the prayer hall – a quiet space and shade from the trees in preparation for prayer. (Masjid Wan Alwi).
7. Thresholds into public buildings can be used for social and community facilities. (Sibu Heritage Centre)
8. The street is invited into the building; making it a lobby, a forecourt, a thoroughfare and public space. (Hong Kong Shanghai Bank – photo courtesy of Fosters and Partners)



PAMSC PRACTICE NOTES

REF: PAMSC/SUB/PRACTICENOTES/2019(1)

DATE: 23th APRIL 2019

We are pleased to issue the practice notes based on the discussion by the **Joint Technical Consultative Committee (JTCC) Meeting Bil.1/2018 dated 1 Aug 2018, and JTCC Working Committee Meeting Bil.1/2018 dated 28 November 2018** for your kind reference.

NO.	SUBJECT MATTER	POINT OF DISCUSSION	Proposed action/solutions
1.	General	<p>1.1 Circular issued by MLGH in August 2017 on 'Guidelines to Assist in the Interpretation and Application of Certain Provisions of the Building By-Laws, 1994' commenced on 1st September 2017 and applicable to all Councils.</p> <p>Highlighted issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Balcony projection [By-Law 29] (b) Minimum areas in rooms in residential building – habitable room to include living room [By- Law 35] (c) Height of rooms not applicable to attic floor unless converted into habitable room [By-Law 37(1) & (2)] (d) Building operation and temporary permits and security deposit [By-Law 15(1)(b) to (f), By-Law (3) and By-Law 44] (e) Fences and boundary wall abuts the street or back-lane including public open space. Measurement of height from higher platform or adjoining property [By-Law 75] (f) Refuse chutes not compulsory for all types of building [By-Law 95(1),(2), (3), (4), (5) and (6)] (g) Change of use F building [By-Law 96(1) and (2)] 	<p>Copy of the circular can be downloaded from the PAMSC Website.</p>
2.	E-Submission for Building Plans	<p>2.1 E-Submission for Building Plan is already in the module for Electronic Local Authority Version 2.0 (eLA2) developed by SAINS for MLGH. However, the module needs to be improved and fine-tuned for all Councils. Some salient points for the module include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Omit/reduce usage of paper (b) All correspondence will be through email (c) Tracking system to monitor on submission time frame (d) No advance software/hardware needed – PDF files only. (e) Possible to integrate with eSPA system by L&S. (f) Bomba still requires hardcopy for the time being (g) BDA chosen as pilot project 	<p>SAINS to liaise with stakeholders (PAMSC, ACEM, SHEDA etc.) to discuss further on fine-tuning the E-Submission system for Building Plans.</p> <p>Suggest the E-submission system to standardise the following for all Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission procedures • Checklists • Drawing format • Processing time
3.	Direct/Separate submission & checking of BP by different departments	<p>3.1 Separate submission to Bomba & L&S for approval & checking on plans should be concurrent with both departments. (i.e. Bomba only requires some of the BP drawings for their checking & endorsement, however they still receive the complete set of BP drawings which are not applicable)</p> <p>3.2 Direct submission to Bomba is permissible under SBO S8(2)(b). Council only keep the final approved copy by Bomba.</p> <p>3.3 Direct submission to L&S/SPA is not allowed for the time being.</p>	<p>Concurrent submission & checking can be incorporated into eLA2 system for BP Submission and possible to integrate with eSPA.</p>
4.	Standardisation of submission procedures, format & checklist	<p>4.1 Standardisation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Checklist for Building Plan Submission (both Councils & L&S) (b) Checklist for OP Application and Pre-inspection (c) Title blocks for submission 	<p>MLGH is looking into standardising checklists and formats for all BP & OP processes throughout all Councils. Some of the considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of drawings required for submission • Simplify process of OP inspection • As-built drawings in A3 size (part drawing)

		4.2 Entrance culvert & ramp 4.3 Matters that need not to be referred back to L&S for comments during BP resubmission for non- strata titled development. 4.4 Public building or area that requires disabled access / requirements will be redefined.	MLGH to issue circular to all Councils To follow guidelines circulated by L&S.
5.	Definitions & Clarifications	5.1 F&B or Entertainment (karaoke, pubs & etc.) is allowed on floors other than Ground Floor, except for shop houses due to: (a) Safety (b) Noise (c) Enforcement difficulties 5.2 Serviced Apartments (strata titled) shall be considered as hotel developments mainly due to the commercial nature of the development.	For information.
6.	Standardisation of Circular Referencing	6.1 Circulars issued by MLGH/Councils often bearing different reference numbers, making it difficult to trace.	Standardised process of issuing circulars to be made readily available to be downloaded easily from websites.
7.	Utilities Connections before OP	7.1 Complicated procedures (SEB & Water Board) in regards to connection for utility services before OP.	Discussion with relevant service providers to simplify the process.
8.	Review of SBO	8.1 The Proposed Review of the SBO has already been sent out to all stakeholders for feedback. This will be revisited and the proposal will be revised to consider stakeholders' feedbacks.	MLGH to arrange for discussion on SBO review.
9.	Next Meeting	JTCC Meeting Bil. 1/2019 was scheduled early for 2019. Pending confirmation by MLGH.	

Thank you.

Prepared by:

Ar. Chai Si Yong

Practice & Government Liaison Sub-Committee 2018-2019



TRAFALGAR



COMMUNITY PROJECT: A TOILET BLOCK AT KAMPUNG KUDEI

PROJECT AND CONSTRUCTION TEAM

Siew Ling, Si Yong, Min, Nelson, Melanie, Alvin, Asri, Angie, Harvey, How Ping, Louis, Lek Heng, Jobly, Rayner, Helena, Jean, Sam, Jonathan, Leong, Chiew and the children at Kampung Kudei.

Project Cost:

3 days of sweat equity and generous contributions from local partners.

Project Duration:

3 Saturdays in March/April 2019.

Project Specifications:

Mainframe - AMCAN AMTRUSS LGS System

Roof & Walls - AMCAN Polyorb in DURATHERM Steel

Steel Doors - Nyet Kiong Steel Fabrication

Steel Purlins - Kian Chiong

Floor Tiles - Grade Empire (MML)

Sanitary Fittings - Ban Hong Enterprise & Kaisu

Sliding Door Hardware - TITAN

Septic Tank - Weida

Project Background:

The site is in a squatter area, next to the community hall which is used by a group of volunteers to help the local children with their school work. The community hall lacked a toilet, so a pastor approached Siew Ling for help, who in turn contacted Min and Si Yong, who in turn reached out to local suppliers and contractors who readily offered to help.

The site had its challenges – it was wet and difficult to access. Thus, a steel structure was the preferred solution for its lightness in weight and speed of construction. AMCAN provided the steel framing; complete with shop drawings and a construction supervisor. The floor slab was cast on a steel roof form work.

Volunteers from local architecture schools and practices had minimal if not no construction experience, so it was fortunate that we had Jobly and Rayner from Habitat for Humanity who were seconded to the project as site coordinators. There was also valuable assistance from retired builder, Nelson Yeo. The project was built over 3 Saturdays, and the official handing-over was on the 4th of May 2019.

In view of such a positive response from our local partners, PAMSC has set up a new Sub Committee for CSR work this term headed by Ar. Tay Buang Chuan, who will be aided no doubt by a whole host of volunteers and contributors. The Sub Committee's first task is to set up an SOP to coordinate future projects of this nature.

Reported by
Ar. Tay Buang Chuan



Construction period: 3 Saturdays.



The floor structure being prepared for final connection to the steel columns.



Some of the nicest details were improvised from surplus materials.



The littlest helper.



It was hard and dirty work but no one complained.



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SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRACTICE & GOVERNMENT LIAISON

SUB-COMMITTEE DISCUSSION (1/2019) – AGENDA FOR JTCC MEETING BIL. 1/2019

Date: 7th January 2019

Venue: PAMSC Centre

As requested by the Ministry of Local Government & Housing (MLGH), PAMSC as the secretariat for the Joint Technical Consultative Committee (JTCC) had a discussion among sub-committees to plan the agenda for the upcoming JTCC Meeting (to be chaired by the Minister) that was scheduled before Chinese New Year 2019. The points of discussion and agenda submitted for the consideration of the MLGH were as follows:

1. e-Submission

- SAINS to present based on discussion with PAMSC

2. Accredited Checker

- For specific building type - landed residential houses
- Workshop to confirm procedure

3. MS1184

- Workshop to confirm the details & procedure

4. Request for utilities to be connected before OP

- Invite service providers (SEB & Water Board) to discuss further

5. Standard Operation Procedure for tenant's renovation works in shopping complex

- To confirm the details & procedure
- Bomba, L&S(HQ), Councils, Licensing, DOSH & etc.

6. Clearances for OP

- As-Built / Amendment to approved drawings
- Clearances (Sokongan) from Bomba and L&S

7. Review of Sarawak Building Ordinance 1984

- To conduct final stakeholder's input before gazette
- Fire barrier walls for long houses
- Ideas competition



Sub-Committee Discussion 1/2019 on agendas for JTCC Meeting Bil. 1/2019.

BENCHMARKING VISIT TO MALAYSIAN GREEN BUILDING CONFEDERATION (MGBC), GREENBUILDINGINDEX SDN BHD (GBI), SETIA ALAM SDN BHD HQ, CITY COUNCIL OF PENANG ISLAND (MBPP) & PENANG GREEN COUNCIL (PGC)

Date: 21st - 24st January 2019

PAMSC as one of the committee members for the Execution of Sarawak Digital Economy Initiatives: Green Building Index (GBI) was invited to participate in a 3-day Benchmarking Visit to the Malaysian Green Building Confederation (MGBC) & Greenbuildingindex Sdn Bhd (GBI) in Kuala Lumpur, Setia Alam Headquarters in Shah Alam, and City Council of Penang Island (MBPP) & Penang Green Council (PGC) in Pulau Pinang. PAMSC represented by Ar. Chai Si Yong & Ar. David Ong together with 30 participants from the Ministry of Local Government & Housing (including the Permanent Secretary), Local Councils, Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA) and other relevant agencies attended the 3-day Visit.

On Day 1, the group visited the PAM Centre at Jalan Tandok, Bangsar after a briefing & dialogue session with MGBC & GBI. After lunch, they travelled to Shah Alam to visit the Setia Alam Show Gallery & Headquarters. They departed for Penang in the evening.

On Day 2, the group was warmly received by MBPP and PGC in the Komtar Building. After visiting the PGC Office on the 42nd floor of the Komtar building, the group visited the Setia Spice Convention Centre. After lunch, some members of the group including PAMSC representatives attended a courtesy call to MBPP Mayor, Dato' Ar. Yew Tung Seang. Lastly, they visited the Chowrasta Wet Market at Georgetown before returning to Kuching on Day 3.



Briefing & Dialogue Session with MGBC & GBI at PAM Centre, Jalan Tandok, Bangsar.



Group photo with MBPP Mayor Dato' Ar. Yew Tung Seang.

MEETING ON COMPILATION OF THE SPA CIRCULARS & PLANNING GUIDELINES AND REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL STANDARDS (DCS)

Date: 20th February 2019

Venue: Level 3, Wisma Sumber Alam, Petra Jaya

In June 2018, PAMSC & the Malaysian Institute of Planners Sarawak & Sabah Chapter (MIP) paid a visit to the Ministry of Urban Development & Natural Resources (MUDeNR) to propose a recompilation of SPA Circulars & Planning Guidelines. After more than 6 months of follow-ups and discussions together with MIP, MUDeNR finally requested PAMSC to present a proposal & methodology for the compilation including the review of the Development Control Standards (DCS).

A joint-proposal by PAMSC and MIP to set up special committees under the ministry for these tasks were accepted during the meeting. The meeting also agreed that PAMSC and MIP would be the joint-secretariat for the special committees. PAMSC and MIP will be appointed officially into the committees.



PAMSC represented by Ar. Philip Chang, Ar. Peter Wong, Ar. Stephen Liew & Ar. Chai Si Yong attending a discussion with MUDeNR on the compilation of the SPA Circulars & Planning Guidelines and Review of the Development Control Standards.

SARAWAK ENERGY STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT ON THE NEW SESCO'S CONNECTION CHARGES GUIDELINES 2019

Date: 28th February 2019

Venue: Borneo Convention Centre, Kuching



PAMSC represented by Ar. Stephen Liew, Ar. Wong Ming Ming & Ar. Chai Si Yong
Attended the stakeholders engagement by SEB.

PAMSC was invited by Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB) to attend the Stakeholders' Engagement on the new SESCO's Connection Charges Guidelines 2019 that had been recently approved by the State Government. Ar. Stephen Liew, Ar. Wong Ming Ming & Ar. Chai Si Yong attended the presentation where salient points regarding the new guidelines were presented.

MEETING ON EXECUTION OF SARAWAK DIGITAL ECONOMY INITIATIVES: GREEN BUILDING INDEX (GBI) BIL. 1/2019

Date: 28th February 2019

Venue: Level 2, MLGH Office, Bangunan Baitul Makmur



GREEN BUILDING INDEX (GBI) PROJECT: MEETING ON SARAWAK GBI GOVERNANCE AND DIRECTION

Date: 11th April 2019

Venue: Level 2, MLGH Office, Bangunan Baitul Makmur



Following the first Green Building Index Facilitator (GBIF) Course jointly organised by PAMSC and Malaysia Green Building Confederation (MGBC) that was held from the 7th to 9th March and the subsequent GBIF exams carried out from the 5th to 6th April 2019 – the Ministry of Local Government and Housing (MLGH) called a meeting with relevant stakeholders to look into ways of moving forward with the Framework and Governance for Implementation of Green Building Index (GBI) in Sarawak. Implementation of GBI is part of the Chief Minister's Sarawak Digital Economic Initiatives and PAMSC will be involved in the on-going processes headed by the MLGH.

1-DAY LAB ON URBAN RENEWAL/REJUVENATION INITIATIVES FOR KUCHING & MIRI CITY

Date: 12th April 2019

Venue: The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching

The Ministry of Urban Development & Natural Resources (MUDeNR) called for a discussion on the 8th March 2019, chaired by the Head of Planning, Encik Wan Sofian, to brainstorm ideas for the Lab. PAMSC and the Malaysian Institute of Planners Sarawak & Sabah Chapter (MIP) were invited to share their ideas and to list down the relevant agencies to be invited to the Lab, including Land & Survey, Local Councils, Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (ILAM) and others.

The Lab was held on the 12th April 2019 at The Waterfront Hotel. It was attended by participants from the Ministry and various agencies including NGOs. PAMSC and MIP presented some ideas and strategies for urban renewal and rejuvenation, especially on urban spaces before participants were divided into four groups for further discussion. These groups were headed by the Local Councils namely MBKS, DBKU, MPP & MCC. Presentations by each group started at 4:00pm and lasted over 1.5 hour with closing remarks by the Permanent Secretary of MUDeNR. The group will continue working on their proposals for the upcoming lab in June 2019.



Opening remarks by the Permanent Secretary of MUDeNR, Datu Dr. Hj. Wan Lizozman Wan Omar.

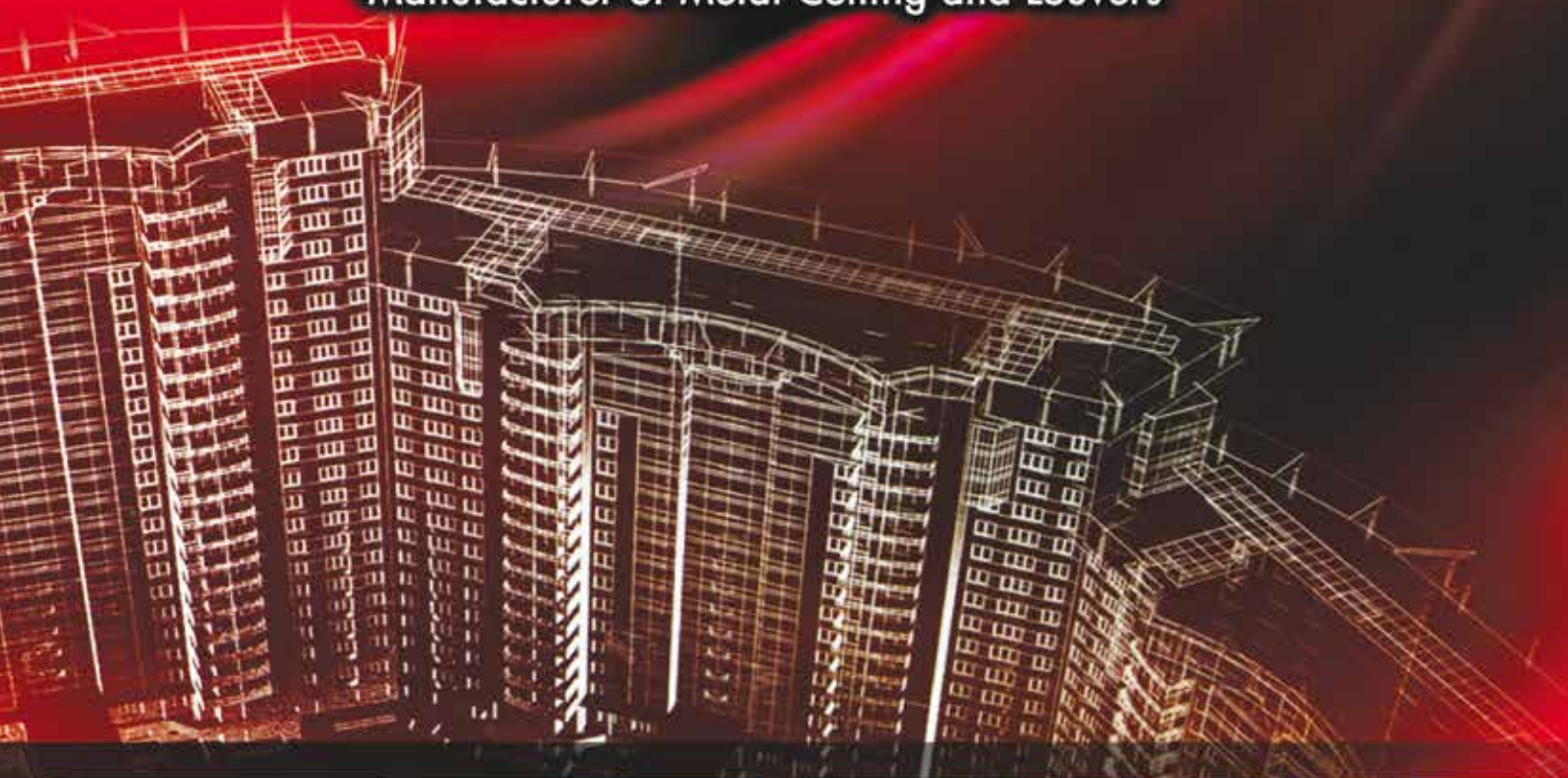


PAMSC was represented in each discussion group - Ar. Stephen Liew (MBKS Group), Ar. Chiew Chung Yee (MCC Group), Ar. Law Kim Chui (MPP Group) and Ar. Chai Si Yong (DBKU Group)



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QUALITY ENSURED:



SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

EVENTS & CPD

GREEN BUILDING INDEX FACILITATOR COURSE SARAWAK

The first Green Building Index Facilitator (GBIF) Course in Sarawak was held from the 7th to 9th March 2019 at the CIDB Convention Centre. It was organized by the Malaysian Green Building Confederation (MGBC) and PAMSC, together with the Green Building Index (GBI) and supported by the Ministry of Local Government and Housing (MLGH). The 3-full day course was attended by 155 participants from the private and government sectors.

The speakers from MGBC were - President : Ar. Chan Seong Aun, Vice President : Ar. Serina Hijjas, Immediate Past President : Ir. Ahmadzidihar Supaat and Board member : Ir. Ng Yong Kong.

PAMSC was represented by Ar. Ivy Jong, Ar. Chai Si Yong and Ar. David Ong.

Reported by
Ar. Ivy Jong



Seated Left to right : Ar. Chai Si Yong, Ar. Ivy Jong, Ar. Serina Hijjas, Ar. Bong Joon Hin, Tuan Haji Abu Bakar Sepawi of MLGH and Ar. David Ong.



Presentation of Token of Appreciation to Encik Bakrie Zaini Permanent Secretary to Ministry of Local Government and Housing and Malaysia Green Building Confederation (MGBC) Vice President Ar. Serina Hijjas.



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SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

GRADUATES, EDUCATION & BIM [GEB]

EDUCATIONAL TALK SERIES 2019

Co-Organized By:



MACKINTOSH & STUDIO TEACHING - SHARING BY ALAN HOOPER

Professor Alan Hooper, a qualified Architect and Educator. Alan has been a Programme Leader and Senior Lecturer at the Mackintosh School of Architecture/Glasgow School of Art since 2004.

Alan became a full-time academic in 2004. During the next four years his students won a number of prestigious national and international prizes, and in 2003 he was awarded the RIBA Bronze Medal Tutor Award.

Alan represented Scotland at the 2014 Venice Biennale leading a team from Glasgow School of Art to present research on the impact of the 20th Century Modern Movement on Glasgow's predominantly 19th Century urban grid.

Alan is currently undertaking a Masters in Education at GSA.

Seeing Mackintosh

On Friday 22.05.2014 the Mackintosh Building at Glasgow School of Art was engulfed in flames, the fire destroying the school's iconic timber library, and the roof destroyed. A second fire on Friday 13.06.2019 destroyed both the reinstated work and the remainder of the school.

This lecture argues that the building's significance is in a large part due to Mackintosh's ability to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. The lecture aims to explore Mackintosh's transformation of the built into the precious through the metaphor of architectural alchemy.

The title of the lecture Seeing Mackintosh is a reference to John Berger's 1972 seminal text 'Ways of Seeing' which poses that 'if we can see the present clearly enough we can ask the right questions of the past'.

The Hidden School?

Studio is both a place and a mode of teaching, learning (by doing), simultaneously an academic space and a social space. A space where students develop ways of BEING, SEEING, THINKING AND MAKING.

This talk poses the fundamental questions: What constitutes the invisible layers of an architectural process? What role does the physical studio environment play in the development of a 'studio culture'? Issues of historical studio space within European schools of architecture and the challenge posed to synchronous learning experiences by the rise of virtual learning environments.

Where Dewan Iyer-utara, Level 1, Pusat Islam Tun Abdul Razak (P7A3) (Kuching) Malaysia Sarawak UNIMAS Sarawak, 16th March 2019

When

Programme

8.30am	Registration
9.00am	Seeing Mackintosh
10.30am	Tea Break
11.30am	The Hidden School
12.00pm	Dialogue session
1.00pm	Programme End

Price Free Admission

Close registration at participating by 15th March 2019. Open to Sarawak, Kalimantan, PMA Students and Public. Limited to 100 PAX. CPD Points have been applied.

EDUCATIONAL TALK SERIES 2019 : MACKINTOSH & STUDIO TEACHING BY DR. ALAN HOOPER

PAMSC and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) co-organised a talk by Professor Alan Hooper, a qualified Architect and Educator from the Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow, Scotland as part of the Education Talk Series in 2019. It was held at UNIMAS on Saturday, 16th March 2019 from 8:30am to 1:00pm.

Professor Alan Hooper is the Program Leader at the Mackintosh School of Architecture (MSA), also known as the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland. Since becoming a full-time academic in 2004, he has been awarded with the RIBA Bronze Medal Tutor Award and his students have won multiple prestigious national and international prizes. He represented Scotland at the 2014 Venice Biennale, leading a team from the Glasgow School of Art to present research on the impact of the 20th Century Modern Movement on Glasgow's predominantly 19th Century urban grid.

It was Professor Alan Hooper's first talk in Sarawak and he spoke about the historical significance of the Glasgow School of Art designed by Scottish architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh that had been engulfed in flames twice in 2014 and 2018. The second part of Professor Hooper's talk was about 'The Hidden School', where he shared his experiences on studio-teaching within European architectural schools and the challenges posed to synchronised learning experiences by the rise of virtual learning environments.

At the end of the talk there was a dialogue session. The talk was open to the public and it was free admission.

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Chit Chat & Tips for LAM Part III Oral Examination with Ar. Adrianta Aziz

Date: Sunday, 21st April 2019
Venue: The Lounge at The Hills, Kuching
Time: 11:00am to 2:00pm

A casual, round-table style conversation about the LAM Part III Oral Exam between Architects and Graduates was held on Sunday, 21st April 2019. Fifteen Graduates consisting of 2019 candidates and interested participants attended and it was conducted in a laid-back manner where there were back-and-forth questions and answers between Graduates and Architects. The answers given by the Graduates were discussed, where the Architects pointed out positive aspects of the answers as well as the shortcomings. Ar. Adrianta Aziz was joined by Ar. Noraini Narodden, Ar. Peggy Wong and Ar. Felix Wee from PAMSC.

Graduates were asked to take note on their choice of clothing attire for the interview, their gestures and facial expressions, as well as their manner in answering. Nervousness is the most common problem, and the Graduates were advised to study in groups and practice together. If there are any requests from exam candidates, PAMSC is willing to organise an Oral Exam mock-up session. Please sign up or register you interest with PAMSC.

Reported by
Ar. Hajah Noraini Narodden

SEBINA CULTURE VOLUME 1 : WELCOME TO THE MACHINE

From the 18th to 20th of April 2019, the architecture society of Institut Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Samarahan, **Archizone 7**, held their first ever internal workshop. Architecture students from different semesters participated including representatives from the alumni as well as the current batch doing their practical training.

This event was held in conjunction with the retirement of one of UiTM's most respected senior architecture lecturer, Ar. Raja Azman Shah, who has taught in the architecture field for more than 30 years and finally ending it with a sweet note in UiTM Kota Samarahan. As a token of appreciation to their admirable mentor, the concept of the whole event was based on one of his favorite bands, Pink Floyd. Hence the title of the workshop, "Welcome To The Machines" - the theme was reflected in the poster, the event logo as well as the ideas for the workshop activities.



The main objective of the event was to essentially unite people and strengthen the bonds amongst the studios through teamwork and effective communication, whilst creating memorable moments of one of the most important phases in life that we would look back upon one day and cherish. Apart from that, this event also served as a "preface" to the 31st Student Architectural Workshop that will be held in August this year. In other words, this event will help prepare workshop-bound students by giving them an idea of how the annual architecture workshop will be, but on a smaller scale.

The first 2 days of the workshop was filled with activities such as tele-matches and there were a total of 5 competitions that aimed to test participants' creativity and design-thinking, along with their technical and practical sensibilities. There were 5 groups altogether, and each group had to carry the identity of a machine of their choice and compete with one another. The main competition was the "Light and Sound Pavilion" where the groups were tasked to design a pavilion that played with light and sound elements at a 1:1 scale, using only recyclable materials, such as boxes, plastic, etc. Another competition was the Tower challenge, where teams had to design a tower made out of paper that could withstand a given weight, and the Egg Carrier challenge, where they had to design an egg carrier with a parachute that would ensure the safety of the eggs even if they were dropped from certain heights.

The final day was the judging day of all the competitions and also the most anticipated slot of the event. There was a dialogue between Ar. Raja Azman Shah and Ar. Adrianta Aziz, one of his student from his days in Manjung, Perak. They were also joined by the student representatives of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). These two architects were also a part of the panel of judges including a representative from PAMSC, Ar. Noraini Narodden. The title of the talk was BEYOND; Reality and Fantasy that explored the following statement: "the trance of illusion is replaced by a practical conclusion."

After the insightful dialogue between the architects, a prize giving ceremony took place right before a video screening that the students had prepared specially for their dear lecturer that touched everyone's heart. It was, according to his students, heartbreaking to bid farewell to such an inspirational mentor.

Overall, Archizone 7's first big event was a success and hopefully, there will be more of these events in the future that would allow collaboration with other universities in Sarawak so that the Architecture Society in Borneo could grow stronger in leaps and bounds.

ARCHI-TRAVELS : FUJI KINDERGARTEN, TOKYO



We set off early from our hotel at Shinjuku-ku to catch the train to visit the **Fuji Kindergarten** in Tachikawa designed by Tezuka Architects. Even though we had arrived in Tokyo late the night before, the kindergarten is only open to the public twice in a year. It so happened there was an Open Day that coincided with our trip. After 2 train changes and a 15 minute walk from Tachikawa Station, we arrived at the Fuji Kindergarten where there was already a large crowd forming. Visitors from around the world had come to visit - educators, tourists, curious parents - there was even a small group from Malaysia!

The tour started with a video presentation in Japanese, followed by a short speech from the principal. After that we were free to walk around the grounds and the building. The entire building is a ring where all the classrooms look into the central courtyard. There is no play equipment in the courtyard; instead the building resembles one large playground itself. Children can play and run around the roof area, where there are skylights that bring natural light into the classrooms. Existing trees are scattered throughout the classrooms, and they form small courtyards where there are nets for the children to lie on and play around the trees on the roof level. They also provide children with a porthole to peek at their classmates from above or below in the classrooms.



There is a strong sense that the building has been designed purposefully to suit a child's scale. The ceiling height in the classrooms is low for normal standards - the roof height is only 2.1 metres tall. However, one hardly feels any discomfort when they are inside the classrooms. This is because there are large sliding doors that are kept fully open when the weather or season permits, allowing constant interaction and seamless connectivity with the outdoors and natural elements. This close connection between the levels enables the children to access the roof easily as they only have to climb a set of stairs. There is also a slide from the roof deck where the children can slide down from the roof to the ground in the central courtyard.

Interestingly enough, there are no walls that divide the classrooms. Instead, there are light-weight timber boxes that can be stacked to create shelves for storage or display. Instead of imposing physical boundaries normally found in schools, the building has been designed to form a continuous, uninterrupted flow of space that encourages free play and learning from the environment, not just inside a classroom. The school follows the Montessori Method, an educational approach where children are given the freedom to learn via discovery from their surroundings instead of in a traditional classroom.

Fuji Kindergarten shows that architecture and design can work hand-in-hand with the school in order to provide a built environment where the children can interact with and learn from as well. It shows how our built environment can have an enormous influence on how we learn, play, work and live. Outstanding design outcomes are not judged only by construction quality or fulfilling budget constraints. Rather, if the result of a well-designed building has a positive effect that benefits the inhabitants of the space, both current and in the future, that alone defines what a successful piece of architecture or design is.

Written by **Ar. Tina Lau Kor Ting**



CAPTIONS:

1. The roof is only 2.1 metres from the ground; children run on the roof several times in the day as well as play in the central courtyard.
2. The sliding doors to the classrooms are kept open most of the time; children can learn about the seasons from observing the outdoors that is within their reach.
3. There are no full-height divisions between classrooms; instead there are timber boxes that are stacked to form shelves for display or storage.
4. The low roof height means that children only need to climb 1 set of stairs to reach the roof where they can slide down to the central courtyard.
5. Existing trees on site were kept and are scattered across classrooms in courtyards.
6. An aerial view of the timber roof deck.

Earlier this year, Tina spent 10 days in Japan as part of the Aoyama Design Forum (ADF) where she spent the majority of it walking an average of 22,000 steps a day visiting places of interest in Tokyo. The above is a short excerpt from the report she had prepared for the ADF of the research trip.