

INTERSECTION



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I truly appreciate all of the committee members working very hard for the Chapter in order to serve the profession as well as the members. We have gone through a busy and fruitful half term particularly in the Practice and Government Liaison sub-committee. The Chapter has assisted MGBC in the organisation of the GBI (M) "Towards Sarawak Green Transformation" workshop. This workshop will function as a catalyst to influence or lead the authorities to realize the importance of GBI in promoting sustainable design.



The Chapter has also made an appointment to meet the Minister of Works, YB Baru Bian, in September 2018 in Kuala Lumpur. The main objective is to share with the YB on the current practice of architectural services in Sarawak.

There are two main events that are currently in the works by the Chapter. Due to the success of Cardboard City last year, this year we have requested extra funds from the Council to organize a bigger event this year - Cardboard City: "Re-imagining the Future." The event will be launched on the 20th October 2018 and will take place over 2 days. Members are urged to support and visit this creative and meaningful project, which aims to promote architecture amongst the younger generation as well as to attract more graduates to participate in PAM events.

This year, the committee decided to substitute the BTS (Building Trade Show) with a special "Sundowner Networking Night" on the 3rd November 2018. This 'Networking Night' aims to promote interaction amongst PAM members and industry partners. In order to show our appreciation for the support we have received from our industry partners, we urge all PAM members including Corporate Members, Graduate Members, Associate Members and Student Members to attend and participate actively in this event.

Other than assisting in the review of government policies and new planning systems, the Chapter is often invited by the authorities and tertiary institutions to judge competitions such as the Kuching Festival School Garden & Landscape competition as well as attend design critiques for school accreditation programmes.

The Chapter also wishes to thank and congratulate the success in organizing the 1-day seminar "Cladding Fire Incidents, What Went Wrong?" to the Organizing Chairman, Ar. Chai Si Yong and the emcee Ar. Noraini Narodden. Even though it was not a free CPD Seminar, it attracted more than 100 participants.

Last but not least, we wish to congratulate Dato Sri John Lau Kah Sieng, whose practice Arkitek KDI Sdn Bhd won the Best QCLASSIC (Quality Assessment System in Construction) Achievement Award 2018 in the Residential category with a project value exceeding RM 100 million in a ceremony held in Kuala Lumpur recently.

I look forward to seeing and catching up with all members in the coming events – in particular the "Sundowner Networking Night!"

Thank you.

Ar. Bong Joon Hin
PAMSC Chairman 2018 - 19

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EDITOR'S LETTER

Hello.

By the time most of us receive this issue of Intersection, we will truly be well into the last quarter of 2018. I believe that I speak on everyone's behalf when I say that I am both in awe and slightly terrified at how fast time has flown by. What looked like a small pile of work on my desk at the start of the year is starting to look like a mountain now! Some of us may be experiencing a sudden 'rush' to push work out – projects long overdue that have stayed far too long in some bureaucratic process, projects on the brink of taking off but can't quite yet, projects under construction experiencing delays due to a plethora of reasons, or projects that may have halted suddenly; only to be notified that they are under 'reconsideration.' Whatever it is, for many of us there seems to be an urgency to push the old and implement the new as we steer towards the not-so-far end of 2018.

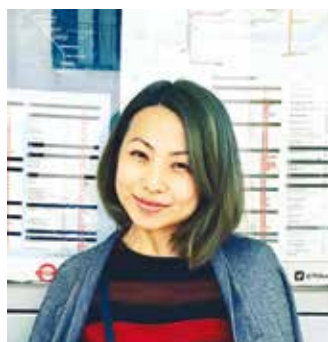
In this issue of Intersection, we explore different aspects of the built environment from different angles. We acknowledge the successful launch of the long-awaited book - **The History of Architecture in Sarawak Before Malaysia**, which no doubt will become an important source of historical reference for architecture in our State. We dive into how architects can collaborate more with others in **Engineering the Built Environment**, as well as read into the insights of a resident architect in **Why I Keep a Site Diary**. On the other side of architectural practice, we feature a newly renovated office space for architects in **Office of Layers @ Kuching** by MNSC Architects.

We catch up with the on-goings of the hardworking sub-committees through their reports, especially from the Practice and Government Liaison sub-committee, who work tirelessly to mediate between authorities in order to improve the profession. The upcoming **PAMSC Sundowner** on the 3rd November 2018 will serve as a networking night between fellow architects and industry partners, and we feature the upcoming theme for **Cardboard City 2018** in conjunction with World Architecture Day – **Reimagining the Future**. To add to our popular **Postcards from the Edge** segment, we feature **Chee Ko**, a Kuching-born architect who co-runs **RMJM Red** in Hong Kong. If you think you've seen Chee before, you may recall his twin brother Yow Ko, who contributed to the same segment in the last Intersection issue. The architecture force runs strong in their family.

We have received some very kind feedback from our previous issue, and we thank you for your continuous support. We hope we can live up to every issue, and with that I would like to thank everyone on the Intersection editorial team for their contribution. I would like to especially thank Chen Hui Joo – it would not be possible to get this publication together without her.

We will continue to work hard to bring interesting articles to our future publications, so please send us your letters, feedback and contributions.

Ar. Tina Lau Kor Ting



THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE IN SARAWAK BEFORE MALAYSIA BY DR JOHN H.S. TING - pg 5



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POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE : RMJM RED, CHEE KO - pg 20



PAMSC COMMITTEE 2018-2019

Nama Penerbit:

Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter

Lot 7915, 2nd Floor, Queen's Court, Jalan Wan Alwi,
93350 Kuching, Sarawak.

Tel: 082-457182 Fax: 082-451180

Nama Pencetak:

Bahagia Press Sdn Bhd

Lot 225 Section 49, Jalan Padungan Utara,
93100 Kuching, Sarawak.

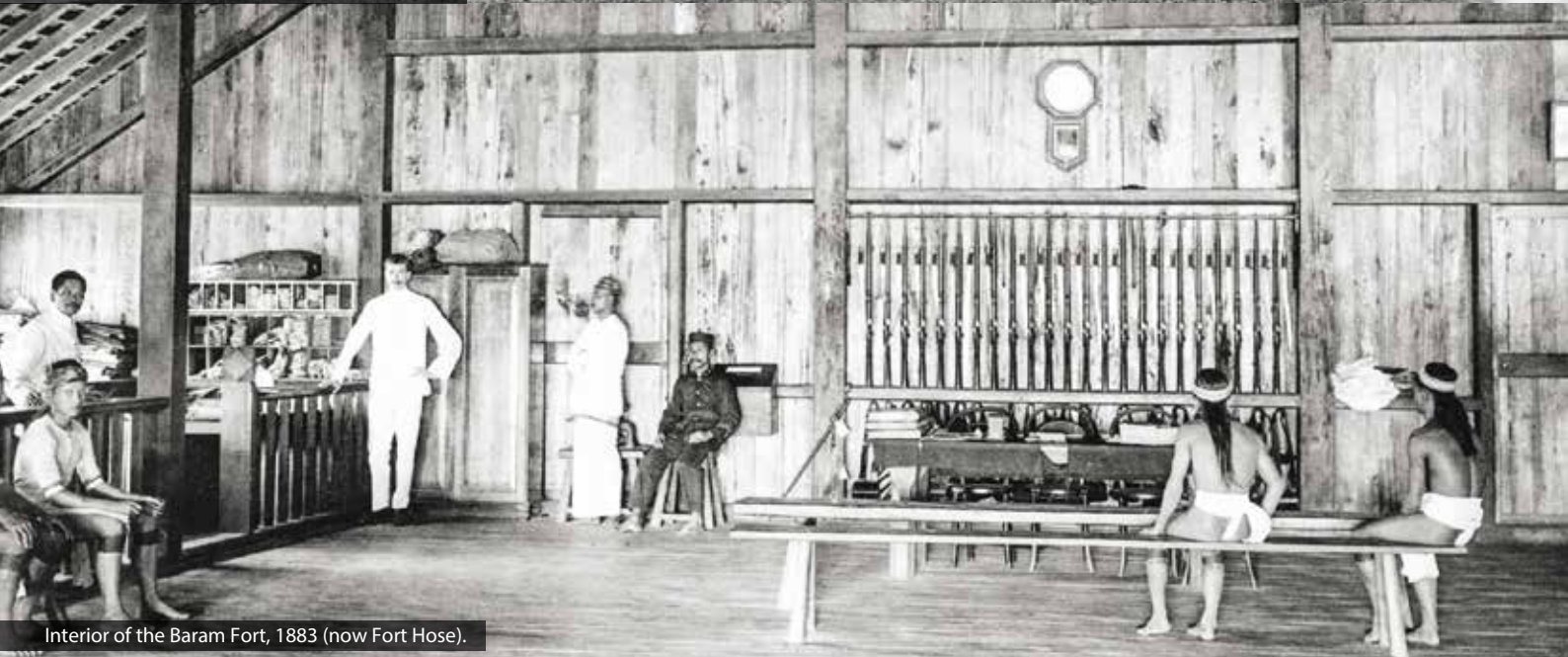
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Fax: 082-231939



Kuching Astana, Courthouse (original wing and first extension) and Dispensary, 1886.



Front of the Baram Fort, 1883 (now Fort Hose).



Interior of the Baram Fort, 1883 (now Fort Hose).

THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE IN SARAWAK BEFORE MALAYSIA

BY DR JOHN H.S. TING

After many years of hard work by the author Dr John Ting, the first ever book by PAM Sarawak Chapter was launched at Datum KL on the 6th July 2018. The book started as a project which was initiated by PAM during the presidency of Ar. Lee Chor Wah in 2009. He encouraged not only PAM but all the Chapters to produce books as a way to record the history of architecture and architectural achievements in various regions in Malaysia. PAM Sarawak Chapter took up the challenge, and although it has taken a bit longer than expected – we now finally have the fruit of the labour.

After taking up the challenge to produce the book – a Book Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of then Chapter Chairman Ar. Ng Chee Wee. Other committee members include Ar. Hubert Kueh, Ar. Mike Boon and Ar. Stephen Mong. The Committee decided early on to produce a book on the history of architecture in Sarawak, as there had been no precedence published on the subject. It was to be an authoritative reference book on architectural history in the State– and also serve as a catalyst for more research and studies to be carried out by others.

The search for a suitable author finally settled on Dr John Ting – a Sarawak-raised architect who is now an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Arts & Design at the University of Canberra. John was at the time conducting his doctoral research on architecture during the Brooke era which dovetailed nicely with the Committee's intention for the book.

Originally, the intention was to cover architectural history in Sarawak up to the 20th Century. The task proved to be too daunting, and in the end it was decided to cover the period just before the formation of Malaysia – hence the title of the book. The period after Malaysia will hopefully be covered in a future book. The 200 page book spans a total of 6 chapters. Chapters 1 and 2 cover early architectural history up to the eve of the Brooke Rule. Chapter 3 covers Sarawak architecture under James Brooke's Reign, Chapter 4 covers Sarawak under the Brooke Rajahs, Chapter 5 covers Sarawak architecture in the early 20th Century, and finally Chapter 6 covers the British Colonial Period up to 1963.

The book contains many rare photographs and drawings of historical buildings in Sarawak, some of which have since been demolished. Many of the photographs came from museum archives as well as personal collections of the photographers. Sources for the drawings include municipal council archives and the Jabatan Kerja Raya. There are also specially commissioned drawings and maps which help to illustrate and clarify the content of the book. Altogether there are over 200 historic photographs, diagrams and drawings in the book, all of which have been properly credited to the source.

Copies of the book will be sent for placement in libraries throughout Malaysia e.g. The Malaysian National Library, The Sarawak State Library – as well as universities and tertiary institutions with architecture studies. It is hoped that this book will become a useful reference for students as well as professionals who are interested in the architecture of Sarawak.

The book was made possible with the strong support and grants from Pertubuhan Aitek Malaysia and Think City. The book is now available for sale at RM 150 per copy from PAM Sarawak Chapter, The Brooke Trust at Fort Margherita, The Museum Café & Shop at Main Bazaar and The Raneef of Sarawak Gift Gallery at Wayang Street.

Text by **Ar. Ng Chee Wee**



Capitol Cinema, Thompson Road, Kuching, 1950s.



Fort at Kuching, from the landside, constructed about 1844.



Kuching Fort in 1875.

Dr. John Ting is an Australian architect, researcher and educator. He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Canberra, and he has previously taught at the University of Melbourne and at RMIT University.

John's architectural practice experience has included commercial and residential projects in Australia and Malaysia. He has worked for firms in Melbourne, Singapore and Malaysia, as well as leading his own firm. He is currently consulting on architectural and conservation projects in Victoria, Australia and Sarawak, Malaysia.



ENGINEERING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



The following is an excerpt from my talk at the Engineering Conference 2018 organised by UNIMAS. It has been edited slightly to fit into the context of this newsletter.

When I was invited to speak (when I invited myself) to speak at this conference, I was looking forward to speaking to students, from the architecture and engineering faculties. I thought that we could discuss ways to better integrate the two disciplines; from both an academic and practice points of view. (**unfortunately, there were hardly any students enrolled in the conference, but this is the subject of another article that I will write soon*)

Then again, I thought – perhaps it does not matter. We are all teachers at heart, if you are a parent; you are teacher, if you are an elder brother or sister; you are a teacher. Are we all students as well? Do we learn from our children, our students and the younger members of our team? For many, the answer is ‘yes’.

Teaching institutions are starting to realise that learning is not top down. It can be bottom up, or even sideways. In fact one of the best ways is ‘sectional’ – as in a vertical studio – where students from years 1 to 4 or 5 work on a common project. Everyone has an equal right to share ideas and execute them to a common goal. The cross pollination is very effective as everyone starts learning from everyone, including the tutors.

How does this fit into this engineering conference? Think for a moment about how the typical project flow chart is structured. In many cases, it is still based on a traditional top-down way of communicating information and ideas. The architect or project manager is placed at the top of the pyramid and lines connect downwards to the other members of the team; the engineers, surveyors, site coordinators and so forth as the project progresses to site. For the initial stages of a project, this type of flow chart is outdated as it implies that the design process is linear. It is not. It also implies a hierarchy in the quality of design thinking, which is not beneficial to the project.

Traditionally, this is accepted and the architect is regarded as the right person to lead this task. The other consultants are appointed much later, when the scheme is more ‘concrete’, as it were. By then, there is often not much innovation can be provided (or expected) from the other consultants. They are left to fill in the blanks; determine column sizes, air changes, and to satisfy statutory requirements.

With a more participatory approach, all key consultants and end-users are brought together in a series of collaborative design events or discussions to understand the project brief and begin to develop conceptual design solutions, as well as programmatic and functional requirements. Many ideas will be weeded due to lack of support by others involved, limited resources, cost, and implementation issues. The approach enables teams to gain organizational support for process changes and collectively recommend those that would yield the greatest cost savings or best outcomes. This will ultimately reduce the number of ‘surprises’ when the project goes to site.





Examples of our built projects are used here to demonstrate this approach of participatory design implementation. The captions for the photographs describe how we engage with our fellow consultants and builders to achieve a certain objective.

These are a few simple ways to get started:

- Convince the client to appoint the engineers and surveyors early in the project – *this optimises team members' input. In a self build project, the builder should also be part of the initial design team.*
- Involve the client and the end-users in the design development process – *make them stakeholders in the project; their knowledge about work-flow, administration, and so forth will minimise waste (in time, space and material). In return, owners gain a sense of ownership of the eventual design product.*
- Streamline communication and production, work from a common platform - *if integration systems and processes such as BIM are not possible, simpler protocols such as CAD cross referencing of drawing files would suffice in the coordination and review of services and structures.*
- During construction, include the builder and his team in the design discussion - *start seeing them as specialists instead of subcontractors. Use their expertise to test ideas, make prototypes to confirm decisions.*
- Be open to alternative ideas and methods – *buildings have long construction periods and new systems and products come into the market, or becomes affordable. The design process does not need to stop when the project goes to site.*

For the best design and product outcome, the process should be participatory. There are excellent examples of this method of designing such as the Lean-led design (for healthcare facilities) and AGILE (for software design). It does not have to be complex, just start by asking your engineers for their opinions at the beginning of the project. And listen to your plumber.

Text by **Ar. Wee Hii Min**

CAPTIONS:

1. IN THE SUNWAY SITE OFFICE - the roofing that turns down to become the rain screen is preforated; partly to allow cross ventilation but mostly to reveal the silhouette of the structure behind.
2. THE BRICK - seen from this angle, it is used as an architectural element, as part of the external enclosure.
3. THE BRICK - but seen from this angle, it is clear that the brick is also a structural element_ as piers to hold up half of the roof_ a blurring of architectural and engineering boundaries.
4. IN THE PLAY HOUSE - theory was put to the test (and passed) when the stair treads got a helping hand from the pencil-thin rod welded to its underside.
5. IN THE OPEN HOUSE - the first floor beams were up-turned and concealed in the walls of the bedrooms, the slab soffit is then skim-coated as the ceiling for the living rooms below.
6. A VERTICAL STUDIO IN ACTION - Christie (to my right) detailed the brick lace wall, we are listening to the brick-layer (not seen) and the builder_ Christie's father.
7. CELEBRATING STRUCTURE - the translucency of the perforated steel reveals its functions both as cladding and structure.





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WHY DO I KEEP A SITE DIARY?

There are many reasons for keeping a Site Diary. As an architect who has been practising architecture in an office environment which is more design-orientated, the keeping of a site diary is a very fragmented experience. You come to site periodically as required by a building contract – to verify claims, periodic inspections, respond to site problems, resolve discrepancies between drawings and on-site scenarios. Sometimes, you may come to site just for a change of environment. The site becomes a friendly place, where the realities of construction enable one to question theories and intellectual concepts that can potentially confine and hold back architects.

There is something unique about every site. It is the birth place of a design concept. Drawings are an interpretation of that design concept which is used as a piece of instruction, until that concept is fulfilled to become a physical reality. The site can be compared to a 'labour room' where realities are born out of concepts. By designing, concepts are further limited to a particular mode of expression. By building, we take that limitation further until every piece of stone, tile, glass, timber, concrete mix and paint colour are quantified through specifications. Every construction detail and materials are deliberated. Construction through quantification and specification is the final act of that long and laborious process where concept is brought into reality. Could this be what Louis Khan refers to as "silence to light"? From silence to light is the journey of that long process.

On site, one can no longer talk on broad and loose terms. Measurements, angles, sizes and gradients are no longer haphazardly pronounced. The site workers such as the brick layer, glazier, concreter, carpenter, painter and tiler – even the clerk of works and engineers – they are all concerned with quantities and precise measurements. The architect's role on site is to mediate the site realities with the design intention, not forgetting his intellect and stance on geometry, proportions and symmetry.

A day on site will normally involve a number of various activities - participating in endless discussions with different people, encountering unforeseen construction problems whilst trying hard to resolve them. Apart from that, your senses are overwhelmed with the sounds and smell familiar to construction sites – the rhythmic poundings of the driving piles, the welding of steel, the earthy smell of soil and concrete, labourer's sweats, heated discussions between workmen and their supervisors – all under the scorch of the red-hot sun. However, when the end of the day arrives and all activity stops and comes to a stand-still, I bask in the quietness as I come back to my desk to perform my last act of the day – to reflect and record all that has happened on site.

The site diary is my impression and my reflection of the day. It is not just the quantification of the day's activities - it is also a record of my unheard inner voice, trying at this moment to make his presence felt by pronouncing subjective and objective assessments. It releases my inner emotions and tensions. Like the site which is being stilled by the coming of the night, I am being calmed by my reflections on the day's impressions. This reflection enables me to stay centred and to find reason in the events that have occurred on site that day – how they have been built and why they look the way they are. The making of architecture is considered as the sincere act of building, and the site diary helps to record and make sense of that act of building.

Text by **Ar. Louis Tiong Ik Chiong**



Designing and setting out and details of floor finishes (corridor of Female Hostel, 7th Miles Health Inspector's College).



Colour scheme for Atrium of Academic Block (7th Miles Health Inspector's College).



Detailing of surface colours (corridor of Male Hostel, 7th Miles Health Inspector's College).

Ar. Louis Tiong Ik Chiong has been a practising architect for more than 30 years. He has worked as a Resident Architect for 2 projects – one of which is the Sarawak Energy Berhad building (Menara SEB) which is the first silver-rated GBI certified green building in the State. He now purposes that in the process of making a built environment for the habitation of life, in whatever form and for whatever nature and through whatever means in achieving it - we must build with purpose, meaning and beauty.



OFFICE OF LAYERS @ KUCHING



Located on the first floor of an intermediate commercial shop-house unit in Saradise, Kuching – an architecture office is the fruition of passionate design combined with persistent spatial experimentation. Essentially an extraction and continuity from the previous home-based office, the office used to be a work-live place located in the architects' house. Reverting back to its original function as a pure family space, the office 'layer' has been separated from the house and now exists independently.

Unlike a typical workplace, the office has been designed to instill the essence of a home. Shelves and other reusable furniture were transported from the previous home-office, not only minimizing wastage and saving costs but also adding some sentimental value to the new office. An inviting Indonesian-designed lounge set welcomes one upon entry to the office, and a homely pantry situated close-by is reminiscent of the setup from the old home-office.

Flexibility is highlighted with the use of a large pivoted steel door in the centre of the space. The dark coloured metal door stands as a leading feature in the workplace as it separates the meeting room from the lounge when it is closed, then when it is swung open it invites one to a spacious, open area. An unhindered visual connection from the front to the rear is introduced when the meeting room is not in use, as well as a larger space when there is a need to accommodate more people during a larger office event.

The other space divider is constructed of steel framed glass panels that quietly draw a boundary between the lounge and the office, whilst maintaining visual continuity. The three core spaces – the office, lounge and meeting room – are connected when the large steel pivot door is rotated open. The use of cove lighting across the workplace further unites the spaces, as well as rendering a glare-free, comfortable illuminated space for a work environment.

While the beauty of natural finishing is communicated by cement rendered walls, the office celebrates the use of technology as well. At the shopfront, a one-piece motorised sunscreen magnificently spans across the large glazing, serving to control the amount of daylight penetrating into the office space. At the other end, a window blind cum projector screen is hung where the meeting room is. These two screens thus manipulate the inside-outside visual connection, and coupled with the pair of interior space dividers, they offer a sense of spatial layering to the entire workplace.

The architects used materials to further explore the impact of materiality on spatial character. Parquet timber flooring is extended throughout the office, giving extra warmth to the space and contrasting harmoniously with the cool, cement rendered walls. Plywood has been added to the architects' material



palette – arrays of customized plywood shelving adorn the office walls. The plywood boards that were rejected from the shelves were handpicked and treated, then welded to steel frames to form work desks and standing tables for discussion. The heights for the standing tables can be adjusted lower to form work desks when necessary.

So this is another phase, and a new milestone for the architects' works of design and refurbishment to their own dwellings and workplace. Choice materials and furniture contribute to its unique character as a homely yet contemporary workplace. As a forward-looking design team, spatial arrangement and layering are carefully planned for the new office, with flexibility considered in anticipation of future growth.

This is an office layered away from home, and an office of layers.

Text by **MNSC Architects**



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THE CARDBOARD PAVILION COMPETITION

RE-IMAGINING THE FUTURE
CARDBOARD CITY

Architecture plays an important role in inspiring everybody, especially the younger generation. We aim to reach out for creative designs from the public through this interactive family event. The competition brief is to design a Cardboard Pavilion to house creative learning activities for children and inspire them through architectural spatial experience.

The theme for this year's Cardboard City 2018 is **"Re-imagining the Future"**. In conjunction with World Architecture Day, we organised a competition to build a Cardboard Pavilion. We received a total of 21 entries from Malaysian architects, graduates and tertiary students.

There are two (2) stages of judging - for Stage 1 participants submitted four (4) A3-size presentation boards and the judging occurred on the 10th August 2018 at the PAMSC Centre. The judging criteria of the design proposals were based on creativity, design concept and approach. The judging process was done casually and there were no disputes over the results. The jury was able to cover every aspect of the judging criteria. Five (5) finalists were shortlisted and they will proceed to Stage 2.

The five (5) finalists are the following in no particular order:

Finalist 1: Limkokwing Institute of Creative Technology (Borneo Campus)
Theme: Breaking the Screen

Team Members:

Joanne Ho Chui Ying
Nelson Lai Soon Chuen
Wee Xin Lei
Keith Eugene

Finalist 2: University College of Technology Sarawak (UCTS)

Theme: Illusion

Team Members:

Goh Eng Teng
Sheryl Tin Sing Hui
Wendy Lim Yee Ping
Sia Chai Hui
Fong Kah Eng
Meygan Chien

Finalist 3: Collaboration

Theme: Infinite Loop Pavilion

Team Members:

Yeo Khee Liang
Sim Ee Kwang

Finalist 4: Collaboration

Theme: To Infinity and Beyond!

Team Members:

Liaw Kheng Boon
Lo Wei Meng
Ting Siaw Ning
Roland Wong Teck Yih

Finalist 5: Limkokwing Institute of Creative Technology (Borneo Campus)

Theme: Ambience

Team Members:

Chin Kuan Wei
Tiong Jing Jing



Stage 1 judging process - Ramsay admiring the presentation boards, Ivy & Ming Ngi discussing the technical details and Samantha enjoying the process.



Ivy: "Are you sure this can be built!" (not serious)



Jury members (front, from left) - Ivy Jong, Ramsey Ong, Ming Ngi & Samantha Yap; INTODESIGN Lab team (back from left) - Siok Pheng, Tay & Suan.

The Jury Panel is composed of the following:

Ar. Ivy Jong (PAMSC Committee)

Ar. Lau Ming Ngi (PAMSC Committee)

Mdm. Samantha Yap (Interior Designer)

Mr. Ramsay Ong (Artist)

Moderator: Lam Choi Suan (Organizer)

For Stage 2, the five (5) finalists will build and install their cardboard pavilions at 1:1 scale. They will be judged based on their quality of workmanship, innovation, technical solution, spatial qualities and overall aesthetic. The finalists have been notified and have been given a period of 9 weeks to construct their designs. They will install their pavilions at the venue of the exhibition from the 17th to 18th October 2018, and the judging will occur on the 19th October 2018. The winner will be announced on the 20th October 2018 and all five cardboard pavilions will be shown in the exhibition from the 20th to 21st October 2018.

Cardboard City 2018 – Reimagining the Future will be open to the public from the **20th October to the 21st October 2018**, from 10am to 6pm. It will be held at the Dewan Serbaguna at the **Kompleks Belia dan Sukan Negeri Sarawak**. We hope that all members will participate in this event and bring their friends and family as well.

See you at The Cardboard City 2018!



A glimpse of the 5 shortlisted entries.

Text by **Lam Choi Suan**



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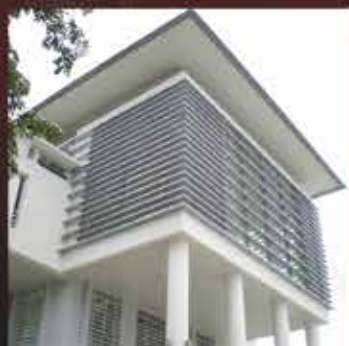
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We would like to invite you to join us on **Saturday, 3rd of November 2018 at 7:30pm** at our first PAMSC Sundowner. Since we have not had the opportunity to catch up over the usual bi-annual Building Trade Show and Gala Dinner, this year we would like to spend some time getting to know our industry partners over dinner and drinks. Included in the program for the night will be entertainment, with some exciting prizes to be won, such as a Microsoft Surface Go tablet and Samsung Gear Sport smart watch.

We look forward to seeing you at our PAMSC Sundowner 2018 !



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SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

EVENTS - CPD SEMINARS

MAPEI - Defects in Waterproofing and Tiling Works for Buildings; Why They Happen and How to Prevent Them

Mapei Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. held their talk on "Defects in Waterproofing & Tiling Works for Building: Why They Happen and How to prevent them." on the 11th August 2018 at their Kuching Office. The two speakers for Mapei were Engineer **Mr Yong Wai Kit** and **Ms. Alisonn Bong**.



malaysiaGBC & GBI S'wak Roadshow was held on the 18th August 2018 at the Pullman Hotel

A road show was held to introduce Green Rating Tools to Sarawak.

This event was attended by 195 people from various professions and representative from local government agencies.

It was organised by malaysiaGBC and GBI with PAMSC as ground support.

Prof. Dr. Sim Kui Hian gave the opening address. He conveyed that the Sarawak Government is very much in favour to embark on a credible Green Rating Tool for the state.

After this successful and well received roadshow in Kuching, expectations from those attending the roadshow is that malaysiaGBC and GBI will be able to organize a GBI facilitator course in Kuching in the near future.

We will keep you posted !



Professor Dr. Sim Kian Hui gave the opening address. He purposely worn a green tie for the occasion!



malaysiaGBC speakers from left to right : Ar. Serina Hijjas, MGBC President Ar. Chan Seong Aun presenting a token of appreciation to PAMSC; represented by Ar. Ivy Jong. MGBC immediate past president Ir. Ahmad Izdiyar Supaat and Ar. David Ong is on the right respectively.



PAMSC presenting a token of appreciation to Tn. Nor Hisham Mohammad, Director of Bomba Sarawak, one of the supporters for the event.

Fire safety seminar: "Cladding Fire Incidents- What went wrong?" was held at Pullman Hotel on the 18th of August 2018. 100 people attended from various professional bodies, BOMBA and local government agencies. Speakers were **Mr. Debapratim Dinda** from ROCKWOOL Asia (India), **PPjP Ir. Wan Mohammad Zaidi Wan Isa** from Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia Putrajaya (HQ) and **Engr. Tay Hao-giang**, Vice President of the Institute of Fire Engineers Malaysia Branch.

The event was sponsored by ROCKWOOL Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., iMetal Sdn. Bhd. & the Kaisu Group of Companies.

Reported by
Ar. Ivy Jong

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SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRACTICE & GOVERNMENT LIAISON

COURTESY VISIT TO MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HOUSING SARAWAK, YB DATUK PROF. DR. SIM KUI HIAN

Date: 13th June 2018 (Wednesday)

Time: 10 am

Venue: Wisma Bapa Malaysia

1. Review of Sarawak Ordinance (SBO) 1994
 - Briefing the Minister about the process of reviewing the SBO and currently awaiting for review by MLGH & SAG.
2. Joint Technical Consultative Committee (JTCC) Meeting
 - Briefing the Minister on the latest dialogue session with MBKS on Jan 2018.
 - PAMSC suggested to call for the next JTCC Meeting.
3. Building Plan e-Submission
 - Briefing the Minister about PAMSC involvement in e-SPA by SPA.
 - PAMSC is supporting online application for Building Plan Submission & Approval, Commencement of Work and Occupation Permit (OP).
 - PAMSC would like to be involved in the working committee during the early stages rather than participate as a stakeholder only.



PAMSC Chairman, Ar. Bong (accompanied by the usual suspects from Practice & Government Liaison Sub-Committee) presented the latest issue of Intersection Newsletter to YB Dr. Sim during the courtesy visit to the Ministry.



EXECUTION OF DIGITAL ECONOMY INITIATIVES - GREEN BUILDING INDEX (GBI)

Date: 26th June 2018 (Tuesday)

Time: 9 am

Venue: Bilik Mesyuarat Tingkat 1,
Kementerian Pembangunan Bandar
dan Sumber Asli, MASJA.

The Sarawak Multimedia Authority has given a budget of RM 500,000 to the State Planning Authority and KKTP to carry out a preliminary study of the possibility of implementing or incorporating GBI into planning submissions.

PAMSC was called in to give a talk on current GBI markings and certifications. Ar. David Ong represented PAMSC to give some understanding and preview of GBI markings and certifications to those present.

En Faisal (DBKU Architect) and KKPT were requested by SPA to lead this research with the assistance of GBI KL. Study tours will be arranged in the near future.



DIALOGUE SESSION WITH MEMBERS ON ESPA & CUSTOMISATION OF AUTOCAD

Date: 28th July 2018 (Saturday)

Time: 9 am

Venue: PAMSC

After several discussions and test sessions for eSPA with the Ministry of Urban Development & Natural Resources (MUDeNR) and SAINS, the PAMSC Committee felt that it was necessary to call a dialogue session with members to brief them on eSPA as well as to get their feedback before the system goes online. The following points were taken during the dialogue session and they will be compiled in a official letter to MUDeNR directly:

- In general, members support the concept of an online SPA submission system (eSPA) that is efficient and will make the process of submission and approval more transparent.

- Members feel that it is unnecessary to submit CAD format drawings at the preliminary stage before they are approved in order to protect the privacy and confidentiality of their clients.
- There are strong objections on the plugins for the customisation of CAD drawings which only support Autodesk AutoCAD format drawings, as proposed by the system. This is because Autodesk AutoCAD is not the only software in the market and it would appear that a monopoly is trying to be created by the enforcement of such rule.
- Instead of CAD format drawings, eSPA should consider the submission of PDF drawing format files only. This is because PDF files cannot be tampered with easily and it can be protected by digital signatures. This will help to protect the privacy and confidentiality of projects in their infant stages.



Ar. Chiew shares an opinion during the dialogue session that was attended by over 50 participants; most of whom are SPA Qualified Persons.

- eSPA should clearly indicate the timelines for each stage of the process and make this known to the public and Qualified Persons.
- For at least 12 months, sufficient training and test sessions should be provided to all Qualified Persons before the system is fully implemented.

GRADUATES, EDUCATION & BIM [GEB]

ST. JOSEPH'S PRIVATE SCHOOL CAREER GUIDANCE TALK

Date: 29th June 2018 (Friday)

Time: 12 noon

Venue: St. Joseph's Private School, Kuching

Organised by the Old Josephians' Association (OJA), the purpose of this career talk was to give Form 4 & 5 students a brief career orientation before they complete their secondary school education. Attended by 25 students from St. Joseph's Private School, a brief career talk on Architecture was presented.

Reported by
Ar. Andy Ngu



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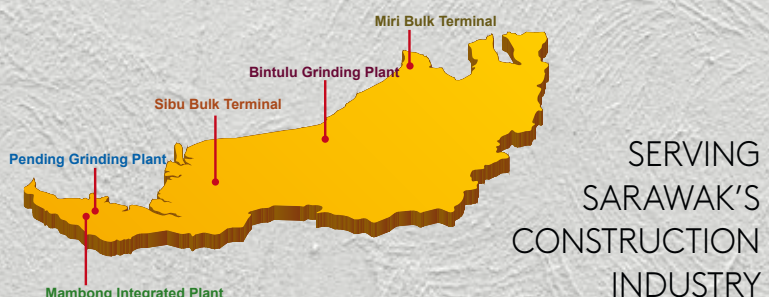
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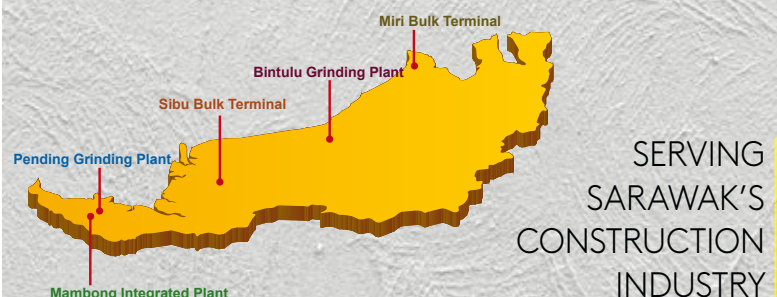
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KUCHING FESTIVAL SCHOOL GARDEN & LANDSCAPE COMPETITION 2018

Date: 6th & 7th August 2018

Venue: Participating Primary & Secondary Schools

Organised by Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan (MBKS), PAMSC was invited to join the jury to judge the competition. The competition was held in conjunction with the Kuching Festival with the purpose of encouraging schools to keep and maintain gardens in their school compounds. The judging process took 2 days and the jury went through a total of 21 primary & secondary schools. The winners of the competition demonstrated exceptional levels of effort and commitment from students, teachers and principals. There were some schools that lacked the interest and commitment to their gardens and landscaped compounds as they chose to focus on more academic and sporting activities. Some schools lacked the fundamental knowledge of taking care and maintaining their gardens, as well as the selection of suitable plants and trees.

One of the judging criteria was the incorporation of innovative recycled materials in the gardens. We saw this in most of the schools and some were very well-executed and thought of. We found that the primary schools took more interest in their gardens, and the winning schools made full use of their pocket spaces to inject more greenery into the school compounds. The secondary schools lacked creativity and efforts in their gardens, and perhaps this is a reflection on the schools' focus and interests.

Text by **Ar. Lau Ming Ng**



POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE : RMJM RED, CHEE KO

Hello people,

You may have read my twin brother Yow's postcard from the last Newsletter. I can only hope that my contribution will be half as charming. I was born in Kuching and despite not having lived there long I am strongly connected to Sarawak through family and friends. Our family moved to Australia in the 70's and the Australian way came to be fused to my brother and I. For the record as much as I enjoy a Sausage Roll or a Whopper I would never choose those over a Laksa or Char Kuey Teow.

Upon graduation I stayed on in Perth, Western Australia and worked firstly with ALDA Architects and then with Troppo Architects on housing and resorts in Australasia. Life was idyllic in Perth but I needed chaos and moved to the Eastern coast to work for large-scale firms such as Bates Smart and Cox. This prepared me to see how big firms operated and how people worked together within large entities.

In 2006 I received a job offer with the Australian firm Hassell in Shanghai. I found myself in the deep end having to lead teams as opposed to being a member of a team. I spoke very little Mandarin at first but I started to improve gradually.

At Hassell I was part of the design team that competed for the Alibaba Headquarters Competition in Hangzhou. At the time I had no idea how big a deal Alibaba would become - they were renting two stories of office space in some generic office block. I had no idea that Jack Ma who sat opposite me at the final presentation would achieve all that he has achieved today. Despite having little idea about Alibaba I was so happy on hearing about the win that I punched the wall in the conference room and yelled out "C'mon!" in typical Aussie fashion. My Chinese colleagues thought a fight had broken out.

Although Shanghai was an intense place to work and live in, Hong Kong felt like a place that could be both comfortable and connected - a good place to set up camp. My wife and I have called Hong Kong home for the last 10+ years and our daughter is now 2 years' old.

I joined a UK firm called RMJM in Hong Kong and worked there for 7 years before getting the opportunity to co-set up the RMJM Red Studio. The studio's focus market is China and we work on master planning and architectural design services for many types of projects of different scales. Our projects are a combination of Office Towers, Shopping Malls, Convention Centres, High-Tech campuses, Transport Hubs, Hospitality and Residential developments. A good portion of our work is won through the competition process. We compete with large international firms such as Aedas, RTKL, Schmidt Hammer Lassen and Zaha Hadid. The design team is from all corners of the world and we have been operating for 5 years now.

Making things China-Proof is always in the back of the mind when designing in China. You can design the most innovative details, but then it gets built and you wish that you had simply specified a common detail from the Chinese Book of Standard Details. We have also learnt that we should not rely on silicone to be from a reliable source and quality. Apparently, when shipments of 'Dow Corning' silicone arrive in China it gets cunningly swapped for inferior Chinese silicone before it arrives on site. The outcome of this is that glass starts falling out from tall towers (not any of ours thankfully) and now the planning authorities won't approve any glazing that doesn't rely on mechanical anchors to secure the glass.

We know that there will always be a push for things to happen more quickly - but for all the pushing and pressuring, the project will always find a natural normal pace. We have been pushed to make miracles happen by designing and documenting large projects in a matter of weeks, only to see the approval process slow to a snail's pace due to bureaucracy and mismanagement. So we now try to do things at our own pace - even if we have to put our foot down at times, or dodge and weave to buy more time.



Alibaba Headquarters, Hangzhou.



China Construction Bank, Ningbo.



Langfang Mixed Use, China.

The thing that bugs me about State Owned Operations is the 2 mantras that drive decision-making - 1) "Good enough is good enough" and 2) "Will my superiors approve?" Most projects in China start off with the grandest of visions but fail to reach their potential due to this mindset. For a people who have gambling in their veins, the safe bet is the one that's overwhelmingly commonplace. However, there are also many people in the industry who are fearless and demonstrate true leadership. Although a lot has been achieved in China, I can only imagine how much better things would be if the system encouraged brave forward thinking.

Clients have learnt that they can get architects to do a tonne of work with limited compensation just for a shot at securing a project. It's a problematic trend that I believe is driven by project managers trying to impress their superiors by organising extravagant presentations at a tiny cost. We have learnt the hard way that many competitions are predetermined and the designer had been selected before the competition was even announced. Although we resist doing competitions, we try to be selective about them as we find that they keep our design team's skills sharp and they give us a chance to secure high profile projects.

Aussie firms were always somewhat contradictory in nature to me. I felt there was a strong "boy's club" mentality where you had to fit in to do well, but at the same time I felt they were egalitarian as well. If your work was good it would be recognised. In Asia, large firms tend to be focused on power structures - the client is the real boss and I'm still surprised by the manner in which we get summoned to meetings and pushed to work under unrealistic timeframes. Hierarchy is seen as a fundamental tool to getting things done.

As an architect I now associate architectural work in Australia with tangible scale and speed. We worked on buildings for people and we did it in a considered way and pace. In China, we design city block after city block, rolling out usable floor plate akin to a factory line. When I moved to China in 2003 the construction industry was all chaos and fumbling. These days the chaos is somewhat organized - but even through the chaos, remarkable buildings and cities find a way to come out of the ground.



Shenzhen Bay Mixed Use, China.

Well, that's my perspective on things out here on the edge. I'm sure that there is much about the industry that is universal regardless of geography but the distinctions are there. Maybe one day I will get a chance to work in Sarawak. Thanks for reading and wishing you all the best in your endeavours.

Regards,
Chee Ko



RMJM Red was co-setup in 2013 by **Mr. Tean Chee Ko** and is founded upon over 18 years of experience in the field of architecture and masterplanning. The company is a Registered Practice with The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) and prides itself in its diverse portfolio of projects in sectors spanning Commercial, Hospitality, Retail, Residential and Civic. Chee was born in Kuching, Sarawak and migrated to Australia at a young age. He is a Registered Architect in Australia as well as a Professional Member of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA).